

National Social Report

Denmark

April 2014

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1. Introduction

1.1. Equal opportunities

The Danish society is characterised by a universal approach to welfare aimed at providing equal opportunities for all citizens. The Danish welfare system is based on a platform of sound government finances, high employment rates and a well-functioning labour market combined with an efficient and well-functioning public sector.

The Government is working to improve the living conditions for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, provide equal opportunities for all children and adolescents and reduce the steadily growing number of citizens in active employment who rely on transfer incomes.

Additionally, the Government strives to ensure that everyone is guaranteed high-quality health care treatment and that inequality in health is reduced. Everyone, regardless of financial resources, should have equal access to high-quality health care services.

1.2. Cooperation between central and local actors

The overall responsibility for the welfare area is vested in various ministries in Denmark, including the Ministry of Children, Gender Equality, Integration and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Employment and the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education.

The Danish ministries cooperate with the five regions and 98 municipalities which have primary responsibility for social services and for the general health of the citizens.

The municipalities have full authority, service and funding responsibility in the social area. This means that the individual municipal council has the overall responsibility for identifying and assessing the citizen's needs for a service or facility, the responsibility for ensuring that relevant services and facilities are available to citizens and the responsibility for funding the services and facilities. The municipalities comply with their service responsibility by using their own services and facilities and cooperating with other municipalities, regions or private actor facilities. The municipalities are also responsible for offering users and their relatives both the general and the specialised advice they are rightfully able to claim by law. It can be noted that since 1 October 2012, the Authority 'Udbetaling Danmark' has taken over a number of transfer payment tasks from the municipalities and the Danish state including family benefits, maternity/paternity benefits, state-funded old-age pension schemes, disability pension schemes, international pension schemes and housing benefit schemes.

In addition, the regions assist in the provision of safe and appropriate technical aid. The regions comply with their responsibility, by using their own services and facilities and by cooperating with municipalities, other regions or private facilities. The regional services and facilities are funded by the municipalities through tariff payments.

In connection to the preparation of the Danish National Social Report 2014, the Government has consulted the members of the Danish EU Committee on Employment and Social Affairs.

2. A decisive impact on the eradication of poverty and social exclusion according to the EU2020 social inclusion target

As part of the EU2020 Strategy, the Danish Government has set the target of reducing the number of people in households with low work intensity by 22,000 persons by 2020. The Danish target reflects the view that strengthening of social inclusion can be achieved through a broad range of initiatives in the social, employment and education sectors.

In the period from 2008 to 2011, the number of people in households with low work intensity rose from 347,000 to 480,000, mainly because of the financial crisis. Trends in the number of people in households with low work intensity are sensitive to business cycle fluctuations. From 2011 to 2012, the number of people in households with low work intensity decreased from 480,000 to 464,000. In the future, the number is expected to decline further, as the market situation improves.

In the context of poverty reduction, the Government set up an Expert Committee on Poverty in May 2012. The work of the Expert Committee resulted in the recommendation of a specific economic poverty line, supplemented by risk indicators of poverty and social inclusion, on 7 June 2013.

The Committee also proposed an annual report on economic poverty supplemented by deprivation studies at regular intervals. The Government recognises the Committee's recommendations. Accordingly, an actual definition of an economic poverty line has been introduced in Denmark, and the Government expects to be able to present the first poverty line in the first half of 2014. The work involves developing a method to study deprivation among children and adults which is expected to be presented in 2014.

Initiatives described in Sections 3, 4 and 5 are additional to the initiatives described in the 2012 National Social Report and the 2013 Strategic Social Report in general.

The overall macro-economic framework of the Danish economy is described in the 2014 National Reform Programme, Chapter 2. The specific initiatives made to meet the Danish social EU2020 targets are described in the following Section 3 of this Report and in Chapter 3.5.2 and 3.5.3 of the 2014 National Reform Programme.

3. Recent reforms in social inclusion policies

As part of its efforts to improve conditions for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, the Government released a number of national social 2020 targets comprising quantifiable goals on 12 September 2013. The Government's specific 2020 targets are as follows:

- At least 50 per cent of socially disadvantaged children and young people must have completed an upper secondary school education or equivalent by the age of 25.
- The disadvantaged children's reading and mathematics proficiency needs to be improved.
- The share of 15-to-17-year-old disadvantaged adolescents who commit and are convicted of a crime must be reduced by at least 25 per cent, corresponding to a maximum share of 9 per cent.
- The number of breakdowns in child placements must be reduced by at least 30 per cent, corresponding to a maximum share of 4 per cent.
- The number of homeless people in Denmark must be reduced by at least 25 per cent. This represents a level of no more than 4000 people.
- The share of citizens who return to a shelter or a care home within the first year after being assigned to their own home must not exceed 20 per cent.
- The share of women in need of more than one stay at a women's crisis centre must be reduced by at least 30 per cent, corresponding to a maximum share of 25 per cent.
- The share of citizens who are drug-free or have reduced substance usage after completing a substance abuse programme must be increased to at least 50 per cent.
- The number of drug-related deaths must be reduced to and maintained at a level of no more than 200, representing a reduction of at least 30 per cent.

With the national social 2020 targets, the Government is setting highly ambitious goals for social policy in Denmark where the country is measured by whether the assistance granted makes a difference and contributes to improved social conditions. The decisive factor is not to allocate more funds, but that the social work makes a concrete difference to people and families.

3.1. Equal access to resources, rights and services, preventing and addressing exclusion and fighting all forms of discrimination

The Government strives to facilitate a Danish society where the individual person's opportunities and rights are broadened rather than limited. Therefore, the Government works to ensure equal opportunities and rights for all citizens and has taken the following initiatives:

- **New disability-policy action plan.** On 4 October 2013, the Government published the disability-policy action plan entitled 'A Society for Everyone'. The inter-ministerial action plan paves the way for the future Danish disability policy, presents the Government's visions for the area and, moreover, contains a string of new activities and initiatives in a variety of

policy areas. The overall vision of the plan is to support a development towards a more diverse and inclusive society. Particular focus is given to six themes, each of which is capable of supporting this development:

- Citizenship and participation
- Education
- Employment
- Innovative solutions, new technology and improved accessibility
- Coherence and quality
- More knowledge and improved effect

- **Establishment of an anti-discrimination unit.** In 2013, the Danish Government established a national anti-discrimination unit to combat discrimination and ensure equal treatment in relation to citizens of non-Danish ethnicity and people with disabilities. The unit is charged with reducing discrimination and strengthening equal treatment and will, among other elements, identify the scope and nature of discrimination in relation to "new Danes" and people with disabilities, organise campaigns and coordinate local initiatives in municipalities and in the labour market. An aggregate amount of DKK 17.5 million has been set aside for the unit and its planned activities.
- **Supplementary child allowance to breadwinners undergoing training or education.** Family breadwinners undergoing practical training or education have, in certain periods, been eligible to receive a supplementary child allowance which will lift their total income to a level equivalent to the comparable state education grant with a family allowance. The target group for the supplementary child allowance is students undergoing practical training who are either single parents or breadwinners living together with a recipient of state education grant or educational assistance. The legislative amendment was enacted on 4 July 2013 and came into force on 1 January 2014.
- **Eldercare policy package.** On 28 January 2014, the Government presented an eldercare policy package under the heading "Living Life all Life". The package follows up on the recommendations by the Home Care Commission and entails initiatives in three areas:
 - Targeted and effective preventive care
 - Placing citizens' needs first for improved and more systematic rehabilitation
 - Higher quality and more coherence in initiatives for the weakest older peopleThe Government is currently undertaking negotiations of the package with the Danish Parliament.
- **Permanent allocation boost to eldercare.** Under the Finance Act Agreement for 2014, an annual amount of DKK 1 billion was allocated to eldercare in order to give the area a permanent boost. The appropriation will enhance the quality of eldercare on a broad scale,

e.g. by paving the way for better practical assistance and personal care, improved conditions in nursing homes and a strengthened rehabilitation effort.

- **Improved calculation of social pensions and housing benefits.** A bill is expected to be introduced to make the calculation of social pensions (old-age pensions and anticipatory pension) and housing benefits simplified and in better accordance with the actual conditions. These pensions and benefits will thus be calculated on the basis of up-to-date income information available in existing tax registers. The bill will lift an inappropriate administrative burden from the citizens, who will therefore no longer be obliged to find and send income information to the authorities. The higher degree of automation in the calculation will improve the conditions, particularly for the weak citizens, because correct payment of benefits will depend less on whether the citizen remembers to provide the information or is able to comprehend the rules.

3.2. Supporting people entering into the labour market

The Danish Government's initiatives to support active labour market participation are described in detail in Denmark's 2012 National Social Report, sections 3.1, 3.2 and 4.1. The following policy initiatives are complementary in this respect.

Initiatives for parents in need of day-care facilities for pre-school children:

- **Guaranteed day-care availability.** The municipal council of the individual municipality must provide guaranteed day-care availability. Guaranteed day-care availability means that the municipal council of the individual municipality is obliged to offer a place in an age-appropriate day-care facility to all children from the age of 26 weeks to school age. The guaranteed availability of day-care was introduced in 2005 and implies that all children are guaranteed a place in a day-care facility from the age of 26 weeks, enabling both parents to participate on the labour market.
- **Availability of day-care facilities.** When a child is admitted to a day-care facility under the municipal allocation service, the municipality grants a subsidy to the cost of the place, while the parents pay a co-payment amount. The parents' payment for a placement in a day-care facility must not exceed 25 per cent of the gross operating costs per child for operating the individual day-care facility, or of the average gross operating costs per place for operating similar day-care facilities in the municipality, while the municipality pays the remaining share of costs.

Initiatives to encourage active labour market participation of disadvantaged people:

- **Committee on Social Enterprises.** The Danish Government recognises and supports social enterprises for their innovative approach to identify methods to upgrade the skills of disadvantaged people and bring them into employment and, in that manner, contribute to ensuring that more disadvantaged people gain a permanent foothold on the ordinary labour market and a more dignified life. Therefore, a fast-working 'Committee on Social Enterprises' was set up early 2013, responsible for presenting recommendations for how to establish, operate and develop social enterprises in Denmark in an easier and more attractive way.
- **Bill on the Registration Scheme for Social Enterprises.** One initiative aimed at supporting the development of social enterprises is the establishment of a special registration scheme that can define, legitimate and regulate the sector and contribute to creating a common identity for social enterprises in Denmark. The Bill on the Registration Scheme for Social Enterprises in Denmark was introduced to the Danish Parliament late February 2014. Furthermore, in the Spring of 2014, the Government will publish its decision concerning the continued work on the recommendations from the Committee on Social Enterprises.

3.3. Investing in children and young people

The following initiatives have been introduced with the purpose of optimising measures for the inclusion of children and young people:

- **Higher quality of accommodation facilities and foster families for children and young people.** The Government has launched a reform to ensure improved supervision and development of, for instance, accommodation facilities, residential institutions and foster families for disadvantaged children and young people ('The Supervision Reform'). The Bill on Social Supervision providing a new system for the supervision of social facilities was enacted on 4 June 2013 and came into force on 1 January 2014.
- **The Preventive Measures Package.** The Government has allocated DKK 70 million a year in 2014-2017 for a wide range of initiatives to ensure the early provision of assistance to disadvantaged children. As part of their implementation, the Government expects to introduce a bill in the Spring of 2014 which will emphasise the importance of early, preventive measures and offer the municipalities a wider scope for action. Additional initiatives include measures intended to make more municipalities use leisure-time activities for children and adolescents in the context of their preventive work. The initiative embeds the valuable experience gained from the 'Activity Green Card' pilot scheme described in the Strategic Social Report 2013.
- **The Abuse Package.** As mentioned in the Strategic Social Report 2013, the Government has allocated funds for a range of initiatives to protect children from abuse also called 'The

Abuse Package'. The legislative amendment implementing the initiatives was enacted on 14 May 2013 and came into force on 1 October 2013.

- **Effective efforts targeted children and young people who have committed or are at risk of committing criminal offences.** The Government has taken various initiatives to prevent and address juvenile delinquency and anti-social behaviour. A bill to support coherent efforts and a qualified knowledge base in the municipalities was enacted on 14 May 2013 and came into force on 1 June 2013.
- **Prevention of crime and anti-social behaviour among children and young people.** In line with the initiatives outlined above, the Government has appropriated DKK 32.9 million over a four-year period for an intensified effort to combat anti-social behaviour. As one of the steps taken to implement this effort, the Government expects to introduce a bill to the Parliament in March 2014 where the focus is on young people who have committed serious criminal offences. The legislative proposal will strengthen cooperation between professionals, parents and the young offender to help the young person back on track.

The following initiatives have been taken to enhance the quality of day-care facilities:

- **Quality of day-care facilities.** A number of initiatives have been taken to enhance the quality of day-care facilities. Firstly, in the agreement on the Finance Act for 2012, DKK 500 million was allocated to enhance the quality of day-care facilities from 2013 onwards. Secondly, under the auspices of the rate adjustment pool, up to 2015 an amount of DKK 60 million has been allocated for an out-reach consultancy unit, which supports the municipalities' transition to allow for increased inclusion in the area of day-care, school and leisure-time facilities. Finally, for the period from 2013 to 2015, an amount of DKK 40 million has been allocated to extend and expand the Bilingual Task Force, thereby ensuring that this will also advise day-care facilities. The Bilingual Task Force works to strengthen the language development of bilingual children.
- **The development programme Future Day-Care Facilities.** The programme is an extensive development, pilot and research programme in the day-care facility area. The programme focuses on qualifying and changing educational practice, for instance by supporting the educational staff in working in a more knowledge-based scenario and by providing them with knowledge and tools which enables them to handle the challenges that are present in the day-care facilities according to research findings and results of studies. DKK 25 million has been allocated to the development programme which runs until 2017.

3.4. Initiatives to combat homelessness

The National Homelessness Strategy implemented in the period 2009-2013 has proven to be efficient in lifting homeless people out of homelessness. In September 2013, the political parties behind the rate adjustment pool adopted a plan to embed and spread this experience to an additional number of municipalities in the period from 2013 to 2015.

In spite of the valuable results of the Homelessness Strategy, there has been an increase in homelessness in Denmark since 2009. Especially, there has been an increase in youth homelessness (18-to-24 year-olds). In this context, the Government has taken the following initiatives:

- **Rate Adjustment Pool Agreement 2014.** In the Rate Adjustment Pool Agreement for 2014, DKK 72.5 million has been allocated for strengthened efforts to combat homelessness, where special emphasis will be given to intensify the preventive and early initiatives targeted at disadvantaged young people who either live in homelessness or who are at risk of becoming homeless. Initiatives to combat homelessness among young people are also a priority area in the Finance Act for 2014.
- **Strengthened efforts to avoid homelessness among young people.** By the agreement of 26 November 2013 on the Finance Act for 2014, it was agreed that efforts to avoid homelessness among young people have to be strengthened since special initiatives are needed to address the problem of young people at risk of homelessness. Therefore, in the Spring of 2014, an annual amount of DKK 20 million in 2014-2017 was allocated. The agreement will make it easier for the municipality to grant temporary subsidies towards rent expenses extending approximately DKK 3.000 a month to young people under 30 years who receive cash benefits, educational assistance or rehabilitation and who are in a vulnerable housing situation. Strengthened efforts will provide stability in these young people's housing situation and thus reduce the risk of homelessness and contribute to ensuring that the young people keep their focus on embarking on an education program or employment.

4. Recent reforms to achieve adequate and sustainable pensions

Reference is made to the 2012 National Social Report regarding the retirement reform adopted in December 2011, as part of the commitment to ensure sustainable pensions. For instance, the reform entailed that the implementation of an already enacted gradual increase by 2 years altogether of the eligible age for public old-age pension and for voluntary early retirement pay was brought forward by 5 years. The applicable indexation of public old-age pension in accordance with the trend in life expectancy was not changed. The Parliament will decide on an adjustment of the public old-age pension age, the first time being in 2015. The adjustment will come into force as from 2030.

Furthermore, the reform for senior anticipatory pension was introduced, coming into force on 1 January 2014. The reform provides people with a long and current attachment to the labour market and with no more than five years remaining until public old-age pension age with a special possibility of applying to the municipality for anticipatory pension and have their application considered quickly.

In September 2012, the Parliament adopted a tax reform, which reduces the tax on work significantly. The objective was to strengthen public finances on a long term basis, as a result of an increased supply of labour among other factors, by reducing tax on work and by making it more attractive to have a job. The tax reform comprises the following measures as regards social pensions:

- A reduced increase of taxable rate-adjusted transfer payments, including social pensions, during the period 2016-2023, the reduced increase totalling 5.1 percentage points.
- Full compensation for old-age pensioners without any significant supplementary income for the reduced increase via a compensation allowance. Furthermore, the supplementary pension allowance will be increased by DKK 4,500 to DKK 15,900 a year as from 2013 and the pension supplement for old-age pensioners will be increased gradually in 2015 and 2016 by a total of DKK 750 a year (2013 level).

5. Accessible, high-quality and sustainable health care and long-term care

In May 2013, the Government presented the health policy initiative "*More Citizen, Less Patient. A Strong Health Care Sector*" with five main themes:

1. A coherent system of health care and long-term care
2. Increased equality in health
3. An improved emergency service and improved measures against cancer
4. Better quality and focus on results
5. A modern and efficient health care and long-term care system

The following selected initiatives all form part of health policy initiatives and are more or less related to social protection and social security.

The aim of the Government is that all citizens should meet a coherent health care and long-term care system, where the staff across sectors and professional groups works together on and with the individual citizen. The Government intends to modernise and rethink the role of general practitioners. It must be easier for citizens to get in contact with their general practitioners, and the general practitioners should cooperate with municipalities and hospitals to a higher extent. The Government will:

- **Rethink and strengthen general practice.** Citizens in all parts of Denmark should experience that the general practitioners are cooperating closely with the hospitals and municipal health services and facilities. The Government's aspiration is a new and modern general practice where the opening hours and accessibility of general practitioners match the needs of the citizens, where the general practitioners, to an increased extent, work together at general practitioner centres and where the citizens have a chance of assessing the quality of the general practitioners.
- **Strengthen health care agreements.** Five health care agreements are requested – one for each region – and they must include new mandatory key action areas and specific objectives. Furthermore, across the boundaries of key action areas, the health care agreements must ensure focus on inequality in health and active involvement of patients and their relatives.

5.1. High-quality health care and long-term care for everyone

The Government strives to reduce inequality in health. The Government aims to ensure that all citizens benefit from the services, facilities and improvements achieved on an on-going basis in the Danish health care and long-term care system regardless of the level of illness, income and education.

- **National goals for the health of the Danish people.** The Government has set national goals for the development of the health of the Danish people over the next 10 years. The national goals will provide the framework for and show the way to improved preventive measures across sectors. For the purpose of contributing to achieving the goals, the Government has allocated funds for a partnership strategy.
- **Strengthening of alcohol abuse treatment and quit-smoking assistance.** The Government attaches great importance to protecting particularly children and young people against the unhealthy effects of smoking and alcohol. The Government is especially focused on ensuring better help for families with alcohol problems who today often receive help at a very late stage. This being the case, the Government has allocated funds to strengthen the family-oriented alcohol abuse treatment to reduce or completely avoid the harm that, for instance, children in families with alcohol problems are at risk of being exposed to. On average, heavy smokers die 8-10 years earlier than their non-smoking peers, and the number of heavy smokers is three times as high among the low-skilled population. Hence, special measures are called for as regards the part of the population who smokes the most. The Government has therefore allocated funds to assist heavy smokers quitting their smoking.
- **Completion of an equality check-up of the health care and long-term care system.** Denmark has a lack of general knowledge of what the public health authorities can do to

foster greater equality in the health care and long-term care system. Against this background, the Government has allocated funds to give the health care and long-term care system and equality check-up and gather more knowledge about what is required to foster greater equality in health, so that measures become targeted and effective. The Government launches an on-going monitoring of inequality in health with reports on results being prepared annually.

- **Improvement of pregnancy, maternity and paternity care for new families.** Today, new families are discharged to their own homes earlier than just a few years ago. The majority of children and parents feel safe returning home. However, the number of new-born babies who are readmitted to the hospital during the first few weeks after having been born has also risen. With the initiative, the Government intends to strengthen pregnancy, maternity and paternity care with a special focus on vulnerable families.
- **Better usage of telemedicine, health IT and digitalisation.** There is a need for sweeping digitalisation of the health care and long-term care system where all procedures are supported digitally, where up-to-date patient information is shared by all relevant parties and where IT systems underpin better resource utilisation and efficient care pathways, both at the hospitals and in their cooperation with the rest of the system. In order to meet this need, the Government has presented a new overall digitalisation strategy for the health care and long-term care system.
- **Coherent health care solutions.** Within the health budget framework, the Government has earmarked an amount of DKK 250 million for the regions and of DKK 300 million for the municipalities in 2014 to fund coherent health care solutions and targeted treatment where the health staff work together across disciplines and authority boundaries.
- **Strengthening of professionalism in municipal nursing care.** The Government intends to give the municipalities and municipal nursing care better and more systematic possibilities of utilising the professional competencies in general practice and at hospitals. In this way, professionalism will be strengthened in municipal nursing care through closer cooperation across hospitals, general practitioners and municipalities.

5.2. Accessible and inclusive health care and long-term care

The Government aims to ensure better access to services for the citizens. In this context, the Government has taken the following initiatives:

- **The right to assessment and identification of needs and to treatment of psychiatric patients.** The Government intends to set up more modern psychiatric health services and

place them on an equal footing with the rest of the health sector. Patients suffering from mental and physical illnesses must enjoy similar rights and have the same access to treatment of high professional quality. The Government has introduced a bill for a new right to assessment and identification of needs and to treatment of psychiatric patients, which places the psychiatric health care services on an equal footing with the rest of the health sector. The bill is set to be enacted in the summer of 2014.

- **Partnerships to reduce the use of force.** With the 2014 Finance Act, it has been agreed to set a target that the use of force in the psychiatric health services should be reduced by 50 per cent. Thus, with the 2014 Finance Act, a permanent grant has been allocated to form partnerships with the regions to meet the target. For instance, the funds may be spent on regional initiatives on patient involvement, competency development and dissemination and implementation of methods that have proven successful based on national and international experience. The implementation of the specific goals for reducing the use of force requires a more detailed assessment made by the relevant parties to ensure that the specific goals are realised on a professional basis.
- **A better physical environment in psychiatric health services.** The 2014 Finance Act allocates DKK 100 million for extra facility initiatives to support the physical environment in order to reduce the use of force in psychiatric health services.
- **Ensuring stronger involvement of patients and their relatives.** Active involvement of patients has a positive effect on both the results of treatment and the satisfaction of patients. Therefore, the Government will strengthen the involvement of patients and their relatives in the Danish health care and long-term care system. The Government intends to set up partnerships with, e.g., the Danish patient societies on the continued work to strengthen the involvement of patients and their relatives in the Danish health care and long-term care sector.
- **Strengthening initiatives aimed at citizens in need of rehabilitation.** It is the Government's goal that all patients discharged from the hospital and with a need for rehabilitation receive the necessary and timely rehabilitation. This requires consistency in initiatives between the regions and the municipalities. The communication between hospitals and municipalities must be improved, e.g. through the rehabilitation plan, so the municipalities are able to have a better idea of the need of the individual citizen for rehabilitation. Therefore, the Government intends to enhance hospital competencies in terms of describing the need for rehabilitation of the group of patients with a comprehensive and complex need for rehabilitation.

5.3. Sustainable health care and long-term care

- **Transparency reform – greater focus on quality and results.** The Government considers the transparency of results and best practice in treatment to be a material factor for promoting quality and efficiency and thus for obtaining more and better health for the means available. In this context, Denmark focuses actively on applying the data and transparency of results in a far more proactive manner than has previously been the case. On that agenda, focus is on the patient. With the reform, the Government aims at creating greater and more systematic knowledge about quality and best practice, as well as achieving better management of the health care and long-term care system based on improvements in the overall health of the population, a high level of patient involvement and lower expenditure per capita. The aim is that accessible health data should provide a platform for transparency and dissemination of best practice as well as management and priorities in the health care sector on the basis of key goals and results.

6. Thematic focus: access to social services for young unemployed people

6.1. Cash benefits for young unemployed people

The general goal of the Danish employment policy is to have young people with no education embark on an education programme and young people with an education find employment. Moreover, the goal is for young people with no education and with no qualifications for directly embarking on and completing an education programme to have their skills upgraded so that they can enrol in and complete a general education programme.

The initiatives aimed at young people are managed by the job centres in the employment system. The job centres cooperate with other administrative units of the municipalities, including youth guidance centre (Ungdommens Uddannelsesvejledning) and educational institutions. A large number of municipalities have established youth teams and youth units which ensure broad and interdisciplinary initiatives aimed at young people, so they do not have to go from one administrative unit to the next.

Young cash benefit recipients under the age of 30 with no education will receive an education order supporting the systematic work performed to identify young people's wishes for an education and have them apply for admission to an educational institution and embark on an education programme. Active services must be provided, supporting education-oriented initiatives such as counselling and identification of wishes, on-the-job training or wage subsidies, including the use of mentors.

As a result of the cash benefit reform, young people under the age of 30 and with no qualifying education are no longer entitled to cash benefits. Instead, they will receive educational assistance – a new service on a par with the state education grant. For young education-ready people, the

assistance is similar to the state education grant, meaning that the young people have no financial incentive to receive educational assistance instead of completing an education.

Education-ready people are young people assessed to be able to embark on an education programme within one year and who are expected to complete the education programme on general terms. Activity-ready people are young people who are not directly assessed to be able to embark on and complete an education programme. The reason for this may be academic, social or health-related problems.

As education is the goal, activity-ready people must – like the education-ready people – receive an education order on day one. To begin with, an education order for activity-ready people does not entail an order to embark on an education programme, but will, on the other hand, extensively comprise activities and services that may help them be able to embark on and complete an education programme. Activity-ready people may be in need of a longer process with such activities and services before being ready to complete an education programme.

Activity-ready young people are entitled to an allowance on top of their educational assistance if they request an activity. Like other young people, they will receive educational assistance, but they will receive an allowance for the time they spend on an activity.

In the Danish system, an individual contact process is planned and completed in consideration of the interests and needs of the individual young person. Young cash benefit recipients under the age of 30 are contacted within one week and will be offered active services within one month.

The range of tools available in initiatives aimed at young people consists of three types of schemes:

- **On-the-job training.** On-the-job training is applied as identification and upgrading of skills for a general education programme or employment for, for instance, young people who, offhand, do not have the qualifications needed to embark on or complete a general education programme or start on a job. The on-the-job training period is typically 13 weeks.
- **Wage subsidies.** Employment with subsidised wages with a public or private employer is normally used for stronger unemployed people, as a short-cut to a permanent job on standard terms. The period of subsidised wages may be up to one year. For a person to have a job with subsidised wages with a private business, the condition is that the person has been unemployed for a prior period of at least six months.
- **Counselling and upgrading of skills.** This tool covers everything from short counselling and identification programmes, particularly planned projects and training/education programmes, including a traineeship, as part of the programme and Danish lessons. General education programmes are also included.

Furthermore, the Government focuses on ensuring enhanced initiatives for people having difficulties reading and writing. Today, the job centres are under an obligation to assess the need to perform a reading and writing test in their first interviews with a young person. If the test shows that the young person is in need of lessons to upgrade his or her proficiency in reading, writing and arithmetic, the job centre may arrange dyslexia lessons or preparatory adult education.

A mentor may be assigned to a young person, if he or she needs support to continue the active services and/or general education programme. The mentor may be an employee of a business or an educational institution where the business or educational institution relieves the mentor of his or her job for a period against payment, or the mentor may be an external consultant or an employee of a job centre.

Cash benefit and educational assistance (see the Act on an Active Social Policy, Consolidation Act No. 190 of 24 February 2012 as amended)¹. DKK per month	
<i>Cash benefit</i>	
Under the age of 25, living at home	3,324
Under the age of 25, living away from home	6,889
Age of 25-29, living at home	3,324
Age of 25-29, living away from home	6,889
<i>Activity allowance on top of cash benefit</i>	
Age of 25 or above, living away from home	3,800
Age of 25 or above, living at home	7,365
<i>Educational assistance</i>	
Under the age of 25, living at home	2,524
Under the age of 25, living away from home	5,857
Age of 25-29, living at home	2,524
Age of 25-29, living away from home	5,857
<i>Activity allowance on top of educational assistance</i>	
Under the age of 25, living away from home	1,032
Under the age of 25, living at home	800
Age of 25-29, living away from home	4,832
Age of 25-29, living at home	8.165

The above box shows the rates applicable to different recipients of educational assistance and cash benefits. Education-ready people are exclusively entitled to educational assistance, whereas activity-ready people will also receive an activity allowance for the periods during which they are active.

6.2. The right to social pensions of young unemployed people

People qualify for the right to social pensions (public old-age pension and anticipatory pension) based on the number of years of residence in the Kingdom (Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland) during the qualifying period from the age of 15 to old-age pension age. Public old-age pension and anticipatory pension do not depend on contributions made, tax paid or labour market attachment. Young unemployed people thus enjoy the same rights as the rest of the population in terms of qualifying for the right to social pension.

People between the age of 40 and old-age pension age may be eligible for anticipatory pension. People between the age of 18 and 39 may be eligible for anticipatory pension if it has been substantiated or due to special circumstances, it is quite obvious that the working capacity of the applicant cannot be improved. It is a condition for being eligible for anticipatory pension that the working capacity of the person has been permanently reduced and that the reduction is so severe that the person, notwithstanding the possibilities of support under the social security and other legislation, including employment in a flex job, will be unable to provide for him or herself by means of a remunerated job.

People receiving anticipatory pension make contributions to the Labour Market Supplementary Pension Scheme. The recipient of anticipatory pension pays one third of the contribution, the other two thirds being paid by the state. Recipients of anticipatory pension may make voluntary contributions to a supplementary labour market pension scheme. The recipient of anticipatory pension pays one third of the contribution, the other two thirds being paid by the state. Contributions to the Labour Market Supplementary Pension Scheme and the supplementary labour market pension scheme allow recipients of anticipatory pension to qualify for the right to a supplement on top of their public old-age pension.

People covered by Community Law may qualify for the right to Danish social pensions on the basis of periods of residence or employment in Denmark.

6.3. The right to unemployment benefits of young unemployed people

In the Danish system, an individual contact process is planned and completed in consideration of the interests and needs of the individual young person. All young people under the age of 30 will be called in for a first interview at the job centre within one month of unemployment. Subsequent follow-up interviews will be conducted at least every three months.

Young recipients are entitled to and under an obligation to participate in an activation scheme after 13 weeks of unemployment. In some municipalities, young people are enrolled in an activation

scheme already from the first day of unemployment (immediate activation). For every six months of unemployment, young people are entitled to receive offers of and under an obligation to accept activation schemes.

The tools available in initiatives aimed at young cash benefit recipients are also available to insured unemployed people. When a person is insured and unemployed, the person's unemployment insurance fund calculates the unemployment benefit. In 2014, the maximum amount for payment of unemployment benefits is DKK 815 a day for insured members in full-time employment and DKK 543 a day for insured members in part-time employment. An insured member in full-time employment with a monthly income of at least DKK 21,320 is entitled to DKK 815 a day. New graduates entitled to unemployment benefits will receive the amount for graduates. In 2014, this rate is DKK 668 gross a day for insured members in full-time employment and DKK 445 gross a day for insured members in part-time employment.

6.4. Health care for young people

The Danish Health Act states that all citizens must enjoy equal access to the health care and long-term care system. All Danes should have equal access to high-quality health care services. In this context, the Government aims at reducing inequality in health. The Government will therefore improve preventive measures and aim at ensuring that all citizens benefit from the services, facilities and improvements achieved on an on-going basis in the Danish health care and long-term care system – regardless of the type and level of illness, income or education.

During the period 2012-2013, the Danish National Board of Health published 11 preventive measure packages for the municipalities with professional recommendations for municipal health-promoting and preventive high-quality measures. The packages address alcohol, physical activity, hygiene, the indoor climate at schools, food and meals, mental health, overweight, sexual health, sun protection, drugs and tobacco. The publication *Anbefalinger for unge* (Recommendations for young people aged 16-24) of December 2013 offers a full overview of the recommendations of the preventive measures packages regarding young people in municipal arenas such as job centres, social services departments, family sections, health centres and treatment centres for alcohol and drug abusers. As in the preventive measures packages, the recommendations have been divided into the following categories: framework, services, facilities and information and early detection.

The Government has decided to give the health care and long-term care system an equality check-up and collect more knowledge about what is required to foster greater equality in health so that measures are targeted and effective. Against this background, the Government has launched an on-going monitoring of inequality in health, with reports on results being prepared annually. The Spring of 2014 will see the publication of *Ulighed i sundhed – kroniske og langvarige sygdomme* (Inequality in health – chronic and long-term illnesses), which focuses on the inequality in the

prevalence, labour market attachment and mortality of people suffering from chronic and long-term illnesses.