



# Careers education and guidance in Denmark

**This fact sheet gives an overview of the main careers education and guidance services in Denmark, as well as the two study programmes available to guidance counsellors from all sectors.**

Guidance service	Activities and target groups	Responsibility and administrative control	Provided by
<p><b>“Ungdommens Uddannelsesvejledning” (45 Youth Guidance Centres)</b></p>	<p>Guidance activities in relation to the transition from compulsory to youth education. The guidance activities take place at schools and at the Youth Guidance Centres, including both individual and group guidance sessions. The aim is to develop young people’s skills, including their ability to search for and make use of information about education and career. The Youth Guidance Centres give special priority to young people with special needs for guidance and provide outreach services for youngsters outside education and employment.</p> <p><b>Target groups:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- pupils in compulsory school from form 7 to form 9 (10) (guidance activities take place at the pupils’ school)</li> <li>- young people under the age of 19 not involved in education, training or employment</li> <li>- young people aged 18-24, especially those with a special need for guidance</li> </ul>	<p><b>Centre managers:</b> daily management and responsibility</p> <p><b>Municipal councils:</b> overall responsibility and control. Provide funding and define framework for the centre’s activities</p> <p><b>The Ministry of Education:</b> supervision and inspection</p>	<p>Guidance practitioners at the Youth Guidance Centres</p>
<p><b>”Studievalg” (7 Regional Guidance Centres)</b></p>	<p>Guidance activities in relation to the transition from youth education programmes to higher education (HE). The centres provide information about HE programmes and possible career opportunities after HE. Services include online guidance, individual and group guidance sessions, “cafés”, workshops and career fairs. Activities take place at schools and at the Regional Guidance Centres.</p> <p><b>Target groups:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- students in youth education programmes</li> <li>- young people and adults outside the education and training system who wish to enter a HE programme.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Centre managers:</b> daily management and responsibility</p> <p><b>The Ministry of Education:</b> provides funding and has overall responsibility and control</p>	<p>Guidance practitioners at the Regional Guidance Centres</p>
<p><b>Careers education in primary and lower secondary schools</b></p>	<p>Activities include orientation about education and training, occupations and the labour market. The aim is that the pupils acquire a broad knowledge about educational and occupational opportunities. Careers education is a compulsory topic taught from form 1 to form 9. It is not taught as a separate subject but has to be integrated as an interdisciplinary topic in connection with other subjects such as Danish, civics or history.</p> <p><b>Target group:</b> all pupils in primary and lower secondary schools.</p>	<p><b>School principals:</b> daily management and responsibility</p> <p><b>The Ministry of Education:</b> overall responsibility and control</p>	<p>Teachers</p>

<b>Guidance at universities</b>	<p>Guidance in relation to university education (i.e. long-cycle higher education programmes) and subsequent job opportunities. Activities include group and individual guidance sessions and workshops, focusing on entry into university, and the completion of study programmes. Furthermore, an increasing number of universities have established special career guidance centres, which provide career guidance for students at the end of their studies.</p> <p><b>Target groups:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- primarily students at the universities</li> <li>- people who wish to enter a university programme.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The universities:</b> daily management and overall responsibility</p>	<p>Guidance counsellors and students at the university</p>
<b>Vocational guidance at the public Job Centres (91 centres)</b>	<p>Activities include information for unemployed people about job opportunities and labour market conditions, guidance related to job-hunting, assessment of competencies and prior learning etc. Guidance takes place at the Job Centres.</p> <p><b>Target groups:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- all individuals over the age of 18 (employed and unemployed) who contact the service for information or guidance</li> <li>- unemployed who are contacted by the job centres in order to develop a personal action plan.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Managers of job centres:</b> daily management and responsibility Most Job Centres are based on state- municipality cooperation. 14 centres are run solely by the municipality.</p> <p><b>The National Labour Market Authority and the directors of the 4 regional public employment services:</b> overall responsibility and control</p>	<p>Vocational guidance counsellors, job consultants</p>

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## Training of guidance practitioners in Denmark

In Denmark, guidance practitioners have many different professional backgrounds. The majority of them are teachers; others are social workers or have experience from the social, educational and/or labour market sector. With the 2007 amendments to the Act on guidance, it is now a requirement that guidance practitioners in the educational system complete the diploma programme in educational and vocational guidance. Alternatively, guidance practitioners with extensive experience in the field can apply for assessment and recognition of their competencies and prior learning.

### Common training programme for guidance counsellors at diploma level

This diploma level programme is available to guidance practitioners from all sectors. 5 Centres for Higher Education across the country offer this further training programme on a part-time basis. It is equivalent to 12 months full-time studies and 60 ECTS points. Minimum entry requirements are:

- a completed short-cycle (2-year) higher education programme
- 2 years of relevant working experience.

The programme consists of the following elements:

Three obligatory modules

- 1: Guidance and the guidance practitioner
- 2: Guidance and society
- 3: Guidance and the individual.

Two other modules where students can choose among several topics, such as:

- Decision-making in theory and practice
- Development, quality and management in guidance
- Guidance for young people with special needs

The last element of the programme is the final project.

### Master of Education in guidance counselling

The Danish University of Education offers this master's programme on a part-time basis. It is equivalent to 12 months full-time studies or 60 ECTS points. The entry requirements for the master's programme are:

- a completed relevant medium-cycle or long-cycle higher education and
- at least 2 years of relevant working experience.

The study programme consists of four modules:

Module 1: Theory of guidance counselling

Module 2: Guidance counselling and the society

Module 3: The practice of guidance counselling

Module 4: Master project.

### Further information about guidance in Denmark

Information about guidance services in the Danish education sector:

<http://eng.uvm.dk/Uddannelse/Educational%20and%20vocational%20guidance.aspx>

The Job Centres: [www.jobnet.dk](http://www.jobnet.dk)

For more information about careers education and guidance and training of guidance practitioners, please contact Euroguidance Denmark at: [euroguidance@iu.dk](mailto:euroguidance@iu.dk)

Euroguidance Denmark is part of a European network supported by the European Commission through the Life Long Learning Programme. One of the main aims of the Euroguidance network is to support the development of a European dimension in educational and vocational guidance and to promote mutual awareness and cooperation between guidance services in Europe.

More information is available at: [www.iu.dk/euroguidance-en](http://www.iu.dk/euroguidance-en)