The Danish Government

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Content

1. Opening Statement **7**

2. Highlights **9**
2.1 Review Process 9
2.2 Policy and Enabling Environment 9
2.3 Progress on SDGs 10
2.4 Leave No One Behind 10
2.5 COVID-19 and Recovery Efforts 11
2.6 Efforts Going Forward 11

3. Introduction **13**

4. Method and Preparations **17**
4.1 Background for Denmark's Second VNR 17
4.2 Preparation of the Review 18
4.3 Main Messages from the Peer Dialogue 20

5. Policy and Enabling Environment **25**
5.1 Organisation of Efforts to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals 25
5.1.1 Organisations of Efforts at the National Level 26
5.2 Stakeholder Engagement 27
5.2.1 Parliament 27
The Danish Parliament Folketinget 27
5.2.2 Expert Panels 29
The 2030 Panel 29
Council for Corpotate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development Goals 33
5.2.3 Civil Society 33
Global Focus and the Danish 92 Group 33
The Danish Youth Council (DUF) 39
5.2.4 The Private Sector and Organisations 43
The Confederation of Danish Industry 43
Global Compact Network Denmark 51
The Danish Chamber of Commerce 57
The Danish Agriculture & Food Council 60
5.2.5 Academic Institutions 63
The University of Southern Denmark 63
UNESCO 64
5.2.6 Regions and Municipalities 65
Danish Regions 65
Local Government Denmark 66
The SDGs in Danish Municipalities 68
Gladsaxe Municipality 69
The City of Copenhagen 72
Sønderborg Municipality 73
Guldborgsund Municipality 74
Vejle Municipality 75
Aarhus Municipality 76

5.3 National Frameworks and Institutional Mechanisms ... 76
5.3.1 Domestic Policy ... 77
5.3.2 International Policy ... 77
5.3.3 Monitoring and Review Mechanisms ... 77
5.3.4 Structural Issues ... 78
5.4 Means of Implementation ... 78
5.4.1 Sustainable Development in Budgets and Funding ... 79
5.4.2 Progress – New Policy Initiatives in the Action Plan ... 79
5.4.3 The Global Level ... 84
5.4.4 Partnerships ... 86
Notes ... 87

6. Denmark's Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals ... 91
6.1 The Government's Assessment of Present Fulfilment and Progress Towards Fulfilment of the Targets ... 91
6.2 Reading Guide ... 92
6.3 Civil Society's Assessment ... 93
6.4 Denmark's Performance 2017-2021 According to the SDG Index and Dashboard ... 128
6.5 Externalities and Spillovers ... 129
Notes ... 131

7. Leave No One Behind ... 137
7.1 Sustainability for All ... 137

8. Recovery after COVID-19 ... 149
8.1 Consequences of COVID-19 in Denmark ... 150
8.2 Background for the Recovery and Resilience Plan ... 151
8.3 Elements of Denmark's Recovery and Resilience Plan ... 153
8.4 International Efforts ... 155
8.5 Next Steps ... 156

9. Conclusion and Efforts Going Forward ... 159

Annexes ... 161
Statistical follow-up on the 2030 Agenda Denmark ...
COVID-19 and its influence on some aspects of sustainable development in Denmark ...

1. Opening Statement

Globally, Denmark ranks high in fulfilment of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and promotion of the 2030 Agenda. The importance of the goals cannot be overstated. They are the touchstone of the world's collective fight for a more just and sustainable future.

As a nation, Denmark can be proud of its results. We can be proud of our welfare state, strong institutions, and unique partnerships. Combined, they enable us to chart a wide variety of paths in sustainable development that can inspire other countries. Nevertheless, our position as frontrunner does not permit us to grow stagnant. We have yet to fulfil all of the goals, and we need to ensure that we do.

With this second Voluntary National Review, Denmark reports on progress since presenting its first review in 2017 at the High-Level Political Forum in New York. The report takes a few new approaches to documenting Denmark's progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. It includes assessments of Denmark's position by both the Danish government and civil society, as well as insights into how various actors of Danish society have worked to support the Sustainable Development Goals.

Efforts to fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals are backed by the Danish Parliament, the private sector, organisations, academic institutions, municipalities and regions, and civil society actors. They are all critical to the process. The anchoring of the goals is clear in Denmark's second Voluntary National Review, where actors spanning Danish society have provided input about on-the-ground efforts and recommendations. Their contributions have been welcome additions to the creation of this review.

I am proud of how Danish society is collectively taking action towards realising the Sustainable Development Goals. Together, we are taking the necessary steps to ensure socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda represents our commitment to keep up our efforts. Above all, the generational contract – that we must pass on a better world than the one we received – must be honoured.

It is important that we take a critical look at our progress, and that we highlight the areas where continued hard work is required to reach our goals. We must address a variety of imbalances and inequalities in our society and ensure that we leave no one behind in the process. The government has presented a national action plan for follow-up on the Sustainable Development Goals that includes new policy initiatives. An example is the policy of screening all new bills for their impact relating to the goals.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this report. The process has been instructive, and I hope that Denmark's second Voluntary National Review can inspire others to take further action. We have worked to create an inclusive and transparent report that is attentive to the challenges we face, particularly those relating to climate efforts and responsible consumption and production. This approach reflects Denmark's commitment to upholding its global responsibility for a better future.

Familiar challenges lie ahead, and new ones will emerge. But we are well equipped to address and overcome these challenges together.

Nicolai Wammen
Minister for Finance

1 NO POVERTY
2 ZERO HUNGER
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
4 QUALITY EDUCATION
5 GENDER EQUALITY
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13 CLIMATE ACTION
14 LIFE BELOW WATER
15 LIFE ON LAND
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

2. Highlights

Denmark hereby presents the second Voluntary National Review. This chapter provides highlights from the report. Globally, Denmark is at the forefront of sustainable development according to the SDSN and has successfully implemented numerous Sustainable Development Goals. However, there are still important challenges to face. Further action is needed.

2.1 Review Process

The VNR is coordinated by the Ministry of Finance and prepared by combined work of all ministries and stakeholders in the Danish society. A significant improvement of the second VNR relates to the inclusion of two independent assessments of the progress on each SDG by government officials as well as civil society actors. It also includes chapters written by actors of the parliament, civil society, the private sector, organizations, academic institutions, municipalities, and regions. Another new element of the VNR is a peer review process, where Norway and Kenya have supported Denmark in the VNR preparations by reviewing the draft report and engaging in a peer dialogue on good practices and valuable recommendations.

The review also builds on newly established institutional mechanisms and research. Monitoring of the development of the SDGs has improved significantly, especially as a result of the efforts by Statistics Denmark, who, among other things, launched a unique statistical database in 2018 that provides a necessary tool for the follow-up of the SDG implementation.

2.2 Policy and Enabling Environment

The VNR is based on two fundamental principles of transparency and involvement, which is reflected in the scope of stakeholder engagement. The VNR demonstrates how parliament, civil society, the private sector, organizations, academic institutions, municipalities, and regions continue to integrate the SDGs into their core strategies.

First, the report includes a chapter written by the 2030 Network, providing information on working with the SDGs in the **Danish Parliament**. The 2030 Network has, among other things, appointed the advisory board, the 2030 Panel, encouraged the establishment of the Parliamentary Working Group on the SDGs, and was responsible for an important exchange of knowledge at the conference "A Decade of Action" in 2020.

Second, two chapters are included in the section **Expert Panels**, where the 2030 Panel and the Council for Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development Goals describe their work with the SDGs. As the 2030 Network, the 2030 Panel has a particular focus on the green SDGs and the Leave No One Behind-agenda. In collaboration with Statistics Denmark, the 2030 Panel created national Danish indicators in the baseline project "Our Goals" in 2020.

Third, Global Focus and the Danish 92 Group present an overview of key changes and lessons learned from **civil society's** perspective. The chapter includes examples of civil society actors who have contributed to awareness-raising and implementation of the SDGs, and it highlights the importance of different areas such as Leaving No One Behind and policy coherence. This is supported by the strong voices of the Danish Youth Council, who among other areas emphasize education, partnerships, and youth involvement.

Fourth, the implementation of the SDGs in the **private sector and organisations** is described in chapters by the Confederation of Danish Industry, Global Compact Network Denmark, The Danish Chamber of Commerce, and the Danish Agriculture & Food Council. The chapters provide evidence of increased awareness of and focus on sustainability in the Danish business community, where climate partnerships are evolving, and there is a particular focus on responsible consumption and production (SDG 12).

Furthermore, increased awareness is supported by **academic institutions**, where chapters by the University of Southern Denmark and UNESCO describe how research and education contribute to sustainable development.

Lastly, Danish Regions and Local Government Denmark present cross-cutting effort in **regions and municipalities**. The Municipality of Gladsaxe is the first Danish municipality to prepare a Voluntary Local Review (VLR), a summary of which is presented in the report. Furthermore, the report includes chapters by five Danish municipalities working actively with the SDGs through e.g. sustainability in mega-events in Copenhagen and Denmark's only Centre for Sustainable Development Goals in Sønderborg.

The SDGs are increasingly anchored among actors in society, of whom the Government has received knowledge, inspirational material, and valuable recommendations for the preparations of the new national action plan and the VNR as well as specific input for policy initiatives. Several meetings, hearings, and conferences have provided platforms for necessary mutual exchange and increased awareness. Denmark is committed to an ambitious follow-up nationally as well as internationally, and this requires a united effort.

2021 includes the launch of a new national action plan on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The action plan includes new policy initiatives targeting important areas in need of change, in particular SDGs 12 and 13 on responsible consumption and production as well as climate action. As an example, several initiatives focus on expanded cooperation between the private and public sector focusing on the achievement of sustainable and socially responsible value chains. Furthermore, the anchoring of SDGs in policymaking is strengthened through the decision that all legislative proposals must undergo a screening process with respect to their impact in terms of the 2030 Agenda.

2.3 Progress on SDGs

Denmark is in a strong position in relation to many SDGs, especially in terms of health and well-being, education, sustainable energy, peace, justice and strong institutions. Denmark's key challenges relate to responsible consumption and production as well as climate action, and further attention is, in particular, needed for the improvement of life in the ocean and life on land. As a nation with an ambitious green agenda, Denmark feels significantly responsible contributing to the green transition as well as assuming global responsibility and collaborate on long-term sustainable solutions with other countries.

2.4 Leave No One Behind

The SDGs are not fulfilled until they are fulfilled for everyone. While the Danish welfare state constitutes a good starting point for equal opportunities, some vulnerable groups are still less able or even unable to participate in society.

While the agenda is receiving increasing attention, more remains to be done. The Danish Government is working actively with the agenda, where initiatives include, but are not limited to, improvement of labour market conditions for vulnerable groups, due diligence, and LGBTI rights. Denmark is committed to not only include, but also empower. An example of this approach is the initiative "Children First", which seeks to ensure better conditions for equal opportunities in childhood.

2.5 COVID-19 and Recovery Efforts

The theme of HLPF 2021 is "Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development". Therefore, the report includes a designated chapter on COVID-19 and recovery efforts in Denmark.

The foundation of Denmark's Recovery and Resilience Plan is to utilize the need to stimulate the economy to support and frontload investments in the green transition. While the funds will help stimulate the economy and support jobs and companies in the short run, they will also contribute to speeding up the green transition in the medium to long run. This effort is crucial to meet Denmark's ambitious climate target of lowering greenhouse gas emissions in Denmark by 70% in 2030.

2.6 Efforts Going Forward

Denmark is making notable progress on many of the SDGs, but there are still significant challenges that must be addressed, particularly in relation to SDGs 5, 12, 13, 14 and 15. Several of these SDGs are addressed in the national action plan. In 2022, a progress report will review the progress following the action plan.

Denmark is committed to design and implement sustainable solutions both socially, economically and environmentally. Both large and small steps have been taken, and these will be followed by even more in the coming years, where the Government continues to integrate sustainability in political initiatives, and stakeholders in society continue to contribute on all levels.

3. Introduction

2015 was a landmark year in the international community's fight for a better and more sustainable world. In September of that year, Denmark chaired the session that adopted the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs aim to establish a common vision and direction for the UN's 193 member states in their efforts for a more equal, just and sustainable world, with a particular focus on social, economic and environmental issues. Denmark shares the vision of a sustainable future and is well-positioned to achieve the 17 SDGs. This position of strength brings great responsibility, even for a country as small as a Denmark.

In 2017, Denmark submitted its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) to the UN. The report presented broad insights into Denmark's efforts to achieve the SDGs and highlighted the enormous commitment among stakeholders in Danish society. Denmark's second VNR takes a major step forward in terms of reporting, providing a thorough and well-founded assessment of Denmark's progress towards achieving each of the 17 SDGs. This assessment is divided into two sections: one containing the Danish Government's assessment of progress on each of the 17 SDGs, and another containing assessments of progress written by representatives of civil society. Although Denmark has had a head-start in pursuing the SDGs, much more can undoubtedly be done. Many of the underlying targets require action. The presentation of assessments by both the Government and civil society actors is reflective of the strong civil society in Denmark, and illustrates that an ambitious joint effort is the best way forward.

Words are backed up with action in the national action plan, launched in June 2021, which outlines the national initiatives launched in support of the 2030 Agenda. This 2021 VNR presents an extensive overview of policy initiatives focusing on fulfilment of the SDGs, bringing to light the national action in Denmark. The 2030 Agenda and financing of sustainable development efforts are also reflected in Denmark's annual Finance Acts and budget negotiations, as well as in the Danish Government's strategies and initiatives.

Denmark's second VNR also attests to how the SDGs are becoming increasingly anchored in Danish society. The report presents overviews, assessments, cases, initiatives and advice on efforts to implement the SDGs by the Danish Parliament, the private sector, organisations, academic institutions, municipalities, regions and, not least, civil society, an absolutely crucial participant in Denmark's pursuit of the SDGs. The report includes an appendix prepared by Statistics Denmark that provides statistical insight on efforts relating to the SDGs. All of the above attests to both existing and potential opportunities for unique collaborations between various actors in Danish society.

The SDGs concern everyone in society and they are not fulfilled until they are fulfilled for all. The principle of Leave No One Behind is thus a high priority in Denmark. The 2021 VNR features a chapter on this agenda, highlighting efforts relating to vulnerable groups in Denmark, including a series of focused initiatives carried out under the auspices of various ministries to support the fulfilment of specific targets.

The 2021 VNR also features a chapter on recovery after COVID-19, including a description of the challenges relating to the pandemic and fulfilling the SDGs, and an overview of the elements in Denmark's Recovery and Resilience Plan. One cornerstone of the Danish recovery plan is support for massive investments in the green transition

– investments that are essential for reaching the target of a 70% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

Denmark commenced a valuable peer review collaboration with Norway and Kenya in 2021. This collaboration involves the mutual exchange of knowledge, comments and recommendations specifically relating to the first draft of the report, which the governments of Norway and Kenya have had the opportunity to read. Denmark appreciates the comments and valuable recommendations on the VNR, which have been very useful in the process and will be very useful in future work. Denmark also regularly exchanges knowledge and experience with other countries, which has supported the establishment of "good practices" in the preparation and authoring of this review. These practices are reflected in the structure of the 2021 VNR and also provide a strong basis for preparation of the next VNR.

In addition to the above, the report provides insight into the preparations ahead of the review, the organisation of efforts relating to the SDGs, implementation, and follow-up activities. The structure of the report follows the UN's official guidelines and the principles described in Article 74 of the 2030 Agenda.

Denmark has a long and strong tradition of developing and designing long-term sustainable solutions. Denmark's second VNR focuses on the country's strengths and potential for further development, making it an important instrument in efforts to fulfil the SDGs. As a nation with an ambitious green agenda, Denmark has a special responsibility to support and showcase sustainable development nationally and internationally. Denmark's second VNR also provides an opportunity for greater focus on the barriers to progress in economically, socially and environmentally sustainable development. Going forward, the VNR will increasingly serve as an instrument for Denmark to further accelerate implementation of the SDGs.

4. Method and Preparations

4.1 Background for Denmark's Second VNR

In 2017, Denmark published its first Voluntary National Review. With its second VNR in 2021 – a more transparent and inclusive report – Denmark is following up on developments and progress in efforts relating to the 2030 Agenda and the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Denmark's second VNR is based on official UN guidelines, which have inspired the report's structure and provided a framework for preparing a consistent and transparent account of the implementation of the SDGs at the national, regional and global levels.

Denmark's second VNR largely focuses on developments at the national and sub-national levels. Civil society actors, the private sector, organisations, academic institutions, municipalities and regions have contributed cases and insights regarding their work in support of sustainable development and the SDGs. Large parts of Denmark's VNR are based on the national action plan for implementation of the SDGs. In the national action plan, all ministerial areas have conducted assessments of Denmark's efforts and progress on each individual target within their respective area. In the action plan, the Government presents concrete political initiatives that aim to strengthen Denmark's implementation of the SDGs and focus on the Leave No One Behind Agenda.

The Danish VNR draws on existing data and knowledge from studies and reports prepared by a number of independent bodies. One example of valuable knowledge sharing is the "Our Goal" report by Statistics Denmark and the 2030 Panel, published on 1 September 2020. In Denmark, it has been deemed essential to find concrete and tangible data that can report on progress in implementing the SDGs over time, and that this data be easily accessible. In 2018, Statistics Denmark also launched an SDG data platform where users can access Danish statistics regarding progress on 232 indicators pertaining to the 169 targets. This platform has contributed to a sound, data-driven basis for Denmark's second VNR and provides a statistical basis for assessment, making it easier to monitor and follow up on Denmark's efforts to implement the SDGs.

In addition to the official UN guidelines on the structure of the report, Denmark's VNR is based on the principles outlined in Article 74 of the 2030 Agenda. These principles have been instrumental throughout the preparation of this report, leading to important considerations about the data on which the report builds and the extent of stakeholder involvement. As a result, Denmark's VNR is rooted in an ambition of openness, inclusion and transparency, with the involvement of a diversity of stakeholders being a high priority. The VNR was also prepared on the basis of widely available and transparent statistical assessments carried out by Statistics Denmark, which is reflected in the statistical annex.

4.2 Preparation of the Review

The Danish Ministry of Finance has been responsible for coordinating and collecting contributions to Denmark's second VNR. In November 2020, the ministry set out an overall plan for the preparation of the report and discussed the plan of inviting stakeholders as participants in the VNR process. All ministerial areas were involved in the preparation process, from planning the authoring of the report to concrete follow-up on efforts pertaining to each of the 17 SDGs. To ensure a report that presents a broad and nuanced review of Denmark's work with the SDGs at various levels of society and within various areas of focus, extensive stakeholder involvement was deemed necessary.

As part the preparation process, the Danish Ministry of Finance engaged in dialogue with the Danish 2030 Network, which is the Danish Parliament's inter-party network for efforts to achieve the UN's SDGs. The Danish Ministry of Finance was also in close dialogue with the 2030 Panel, a panel appointed by the 2030 Network consisting of 24 members who either represent key actors in Danish society or possess special knowledge about the implementation and fulfilment of the UN SDGs nationally and globally. Through dialogue, the Panel contributes to public debate and national policy development, while playing an important role in raising national awareness of the UN's 17 SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. The 2030 Panel supports the 2030 Network's parliamentary work by providing critical and constructive feedback, knowledge and analysis; through ongoing dialogue with the Danish Ministry of Finance, the Panel has provided valuable input in connection with the Danish Government's action plan and the VNR report.

Denmark's second VNR and the new action plan establish a clear ambition and intention to translate words into actions and concrete policy initiatives. Stakeholder engagement has been crucial in this regard, as Denmark's efforts are rooted in the belief that the best results are achieved through collective and cooperative efforts. The SDGs will not be achieved until they are achieved for all, which requires broad adoption of the SDGs and strong awareness of them throughout Danish society. Therefore, it was essential to involve civil society organisations, businesses, academic institutions, municipalities, regions and parliamentary networks throughout the VNR process. It was also a high priority to ensure a transparent and open assessment of Denmark's progress in efforts to achieve the SDGs, both from the perspective of the Danish Government and civil society.

Denmark has a tradition of strong civil society organisations and actors. It was therefore important to develop a plan for the meaningful involvement of relevant actors in the follow-up process. Meetings were regularly conducted with these actors regarding the Government's action plan and the national VNR report. These meetings aimed to give space and voice to relevant actors outside the Government and to strengthen the dialogue and cooperation on sustainable development between the Government and civil society. A significant part of this work is reflected in the report, where the stakeholders have contributed independently prepared reviews and cases. See chapter 5 for more on stakeholder engagement and their individual contributions.

In connection with follow-up efforts at the sub-national level, the Danish Ministry of Finance established contact through Local Government Denmark with a number of municipalities that are particularly active in efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda and the UN's SDGs. On November 9, 2020, the Danish Ministry of Finance held a preliminary meeting with Local Government Denmark, after which the Ministry engaged in dialogue with the municipalities regarding the possibility of preparing Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) offering any advice and support along the way. An excerpt of Gladsaxe Municipality's VLR – the first-ever VLR from a Danish municipality – is presented here in Denmark's second VNR. Besides Gladsaxe, five other Danish municipalities are represented in the report, where they have contributed insights regarding their work with the SDGs.

Core elements of the preparation process

Coordination network of ministries

Stakeholder coordination

Ministries work to assess progress on the 17 SDGs

Statistical follow-up process by Statistics Denmark

Stakeholders invited to contribute to the VNR

Civil society actors invited to assess progress on the 17 SDGs

Meetings with stakeholders regarding input for the action plan and the VNR

Hearing on Leave No One Behind

Hearings on the action plan

Peer review with Norway and Kenya

Approval process by the Government

Sustainable Development Conference 2021

"Exam Preparation" Event at The People's Meeting

4.3 Main Messages from the Peer Dialogue

In pursuit of the goal of an open and inclusive follow-up process, the Danish Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark established contact with the Norwegian Government and initiated a collaboration and dialogue regarding the preparation and content of the report. The aim here was to exchange experiences and provide an opportunity for comments and recommendations on each other's reports, thus illuminating strengths and weaknesses, and ultimately improving the quality of both countries' reports. Furthermore, contact was established with the Kenyan Government, who presented a VNR in 2020 and expressed interest in reading and commenting on the first draft of the Danish VNR.

The main messages from the dialogue are presented below. Denmark greatly appreciates the comments and valuable recommendations on future work.

Box 4.1

Norway's main messages to Denmark

Norway is grateful to be given the opportunity to collaborate with Denmark throughout the VNR-process resulting in this peer review. Denmark has provided Norway with excellent support in the preparation the VNR-report, and we highly appreciate the insight and experience that has been shared in the process.

The following comments are based on the first draft of Denmark's VNR-report.

- Denmark's second VNR is logically structured in accordance with the VNR-handbook. This provides the reader with a good structure for reading the report and enables them to easily navigate to the topics they are most interested in.
- The report provides a comprehensive overview of how Denmark works towards achieving the 2030 Agenda, and how far the country has progressed since the first VNR-report.
- Norway is impressed by how the Danish society as a whole works together to ensure progress on the SDGs. In particular, it is interesting to read about how the 2030 panel and the Expert Councils had a positive effect on implementing the 2030 Agenda.
- Denmark has successfully integrated views and recommendations from civil society, business organisations and other stakeholders in the report. This provides valuable knowledge and a more in-depth perspective on how Denmark works towards the SDGs.
- Engagement with stakeholders is key to a meaningful VNR-process, and Denmark demonstrates that it is prioritised, especially by including the assessment of the progress on each goal from civil society.
- Norway welcomes how Denmark included how much local and regional governments contribute to the SDGs, and we would take the opportunity to congratulate the municipality of Gladsaxe with the completion of their first Voluntary Local Review.
- Denmark includes a chapter on Leaving no one behind (LNOB) which provides the reader with an informative overview of Danish policies. The list of policy initiatives clearly shows that LNOB is a priority in the country's work towards the 2030 Agenda. Norway would however for the next VNR recommend that the digital aspect of LNOB is also addressed.
- The chapter on the recovery after COVID-19 is thorough and it is interesting to read how the recovery plan is connected to achieving the SDGs. This is something everyone should consider. Norway recommends expanding this part in Denmark's next VNR in order for lessons learned and best practice to be shared further.

Norway would like to thank Denmark for being an excellent partner in the VNR-process and to send our congratulations for delivering an inclusive and thorough VNR-report.

Box 4.2

Kenya's main messages to Denmark

- First, we thank the Government of Denmark for the honour bestowed on the Government of Kenya together with Norway to review their 2021 Voluntary National Review. We consider this process important as it provides an opportunity for the members states to share experiences and also for mutual learning which is critical in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

- We congratulate the Government of Denmark and the technical staff for the comprehensive VNR document.

- Denmark is perceived a good performer in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and is placed at top positions in several SDGs ranking. This could be attributed to the high level of SDGs awareness where according to the VNR, 3 out of 4 Danes (75%) are aware or heard about SDGs. The SDGs awareness is critical for their implementation as it creates genuine ownership and support. It is recommended that the VNR include an analysis of what Denmark government has done to achieve this high level of awareness within a very short time where the awareness level has increased from 16% in 2017 to 75% in 2020. This would be a good practice to be replicated by other member states. The civil society has done a commendable job in awareness raising as outlined in the report and which other civil societies internationally can benefit from.

- The Government of Denmark has a strong commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda which is evidenced by the National Action Plan for the implementation of the SDGs. This action plan is a strong instrument to strengthen coordination of all the stakeholders in SDGs process. We consider this a good practice as the Agenda puts more emphasis on multistakeholder partnership. It is recommended that an elaboration of its preparatory process which is important for ownership, how this action plan is aligned to the mandates of the ministries and how it is monitored to ensure stakeholders adhere to its implementation be included in the report. It is also important to show how it is linked to the finance bill and budget negotiations to ensure adequate funding.

- Denmark has a long history of sustainable development. The integration of sustainable development into Denmark's annual finance act and budget negotiations is something worth emulating by the international community as a good practice. This is in line with the 2030 Agenda which emphasises on domestic resource mobilization to implement the Agenda.

- The Government is committed to working with other stakeholders in the implementation of the SDGs. Specifically, the implementation of the SDGs has benefited from close working relationship with Danish parliament. This is well reflected in the different structures that have been put in place to advance this course. Owing to the critical role of parliament in advancing the SDGs through financing and legislative functions, the VNR could benefit more from highlighting the level of interaction between this parliamentary engagement on SDGs and the Government specifically the Ministry of Finance which is the SDGs Coordinating entity in Denmark.

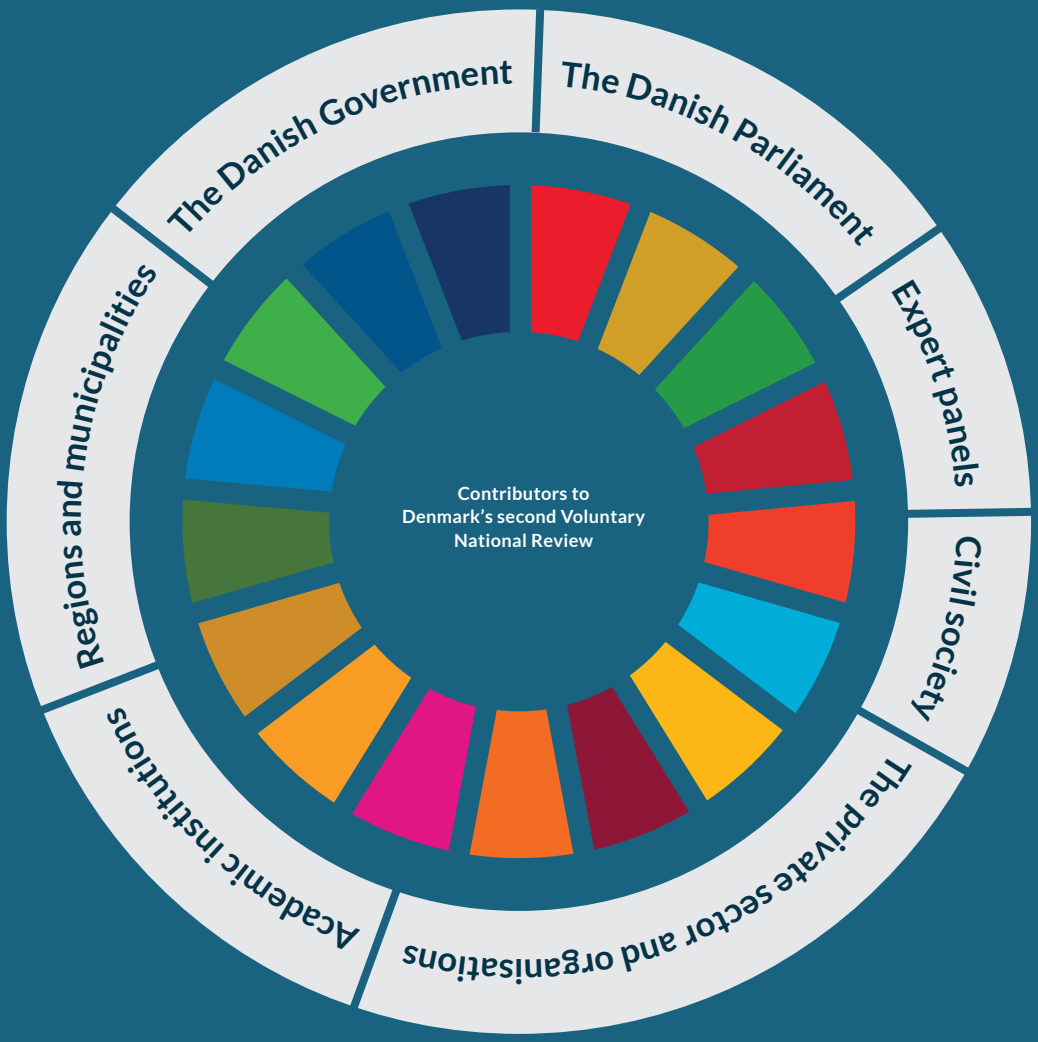
- The approach of capturing in the VNR how the private sector, civil society, parliament, academic institutions, municipalities and regions integrate the SDGs into their core strategies is a clear indication that the Government is willing to let the voices of other stakeholders be heard which is quite commendable. Owing to the many stakeholders working on SDGs, the VNR could give a detailed description on how these stakeholders were identified, the methodology used by the Government in engaging these stakeholders both in the implementation and the review process.

- The integrated nature of the SDGs requires that we move away from “silo approach” to integrated approach. Although Denmark has an action plan which guides the stakeholders in SDGs implementation, trade-offs and policy incoherencies may still be a challenge in Denmark as there is no evidence on how these have been addressed. For example, the achievement of the targets according to the VNR report is at the inter-ministerial level but there is no elaboration of how horizontal coherence (between ministries) is ensured. This is also the case between ministries and local government (vertical coherence).

- Leaving no one behind is one of the key principles of the 2030 Agenda and require that those who are furthest behind and most excluded are identified and prioritised. The Government of Denmark is putting in place a number of initiatives to mainstream the principle of leaving no one behind in the implementation of the SDGs which is a clear indication that leaving no one behind is at the heart of the Government development priorities. The programmes are focusing on both the national level and the international cooperation. The VNR report would benefit more by providing a description of the methodology used to identify those being left behind and the reasons, where they are located and their specific needs. This may include availability of adequate disaggregated data. Comparison with 2017 VNR could give the trend on how the Government of Denmark is progressing in ensuring that no one is left behind.

- The 2021 Denmark VNR is the second having prepared the first in 2017. Considering that the review process is an instrument that help countries to identify challenges in implementing the SDGs and develop strategies to address them as well as lessons moving forward, in future VNRs, Denmark could consider emphasizing on the progress made from the previous VNR, challenges and gaps identified in the last VNR and how they have been addressed.

- We like the presentation in the statistical annex with graphs which makes it easier for the reader to see the trends in the indicators. However, there is numerous data on quite a number of indicators that Denmark does not collect . It would have been better to explain why the data for these indicators are not collected and whether there are plans to collect the data moving forward to enable Denmark report on those indicators.


The Danish Government
The Danish Parliament
Expert panels
Civil society
The private sector and organisations
Academic institutions
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Contributors to
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5. Policy and Enabling Environment

5.1 Organisation of Efforts to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals constitute an ambitious agenda. To achieve results and reach the goals, the effort and contribution of each and every one of us is vital. Businesses, civil society actors, municipalities, schools, investors and many others are working actively and diligently on the Danish implementation of the SDGs. Businesses use the SDGs as a management tool to attract investors and customers. UNESCO SDG schools are sprouting up and putting global citizenship and sustainability on the agenda, and civil society organisations are working hard to ensure that women in developing countries know and can exercise their political and social rights. At the parliamentary level, great efforts are being made to implement the SDGs in everyday work. Municipalities are developing organisational strategies that are focused on sustainability and based on the SDGs, and the Danish Parliament has appointed working groups tasked with ensuring a broad and inclusive debate on the SDGs. As a result of these efforts, the SDGs are already broadly rooted in Danish society. Meanwhile, the Danish Government continues to present new initiatives to ensure even broader implementation of the SDGs in the public and private sectors, and throughout the population at large. Together we have the power to create results – both in Denmark and internationally.

Box 5.1

Contributors to Denmark's second Voluntary National Review

- **The Danish Government:**
  All ministries
- **The Danish Parliament:**
  The 2030 Network
- **Expert panels:**
  The 2030 Panel
  The Council for Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development Goals
- **Civil society:**
  Global Focus and the Danish 92 Group
  The Danish Youth Council
- **The private sector and organisations:**
  The Confederation of Danish Industry
  Global Compact Network Denmark
  The Danish Agriculture & Food Council
  The Danish Chamber of Commerce
- **Academic institutions:**
  The University of Southern Denmark
  UNESCO
- **Regions and municipalities:**
  Danish Regions
  Local Government Denmark
  Gladsaxe Municipality
  The City of Copenhagen
  Sønderborg Municipality
  Guldborgsund Municipality
  Vejle Municipality
  Aarhus Municipality

5.1.1 Organisation of Efforts at the National Level

In Denmark, the Danish Ministry of Finance is responsible for coordinating national implementation and follow-up on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The Danish Ministry of Finance coordinates with the other ministries, which are responsible for integrating the SDGs into national policy within their respective areas of responsibility. This coordination is rooted in the Danish Government's commitment to integrating efforts in support of the SDGs and sustainable development into its everyday work and national policies. The Danish Ministry of Finance is also responsible for coordinating and preparing the Danish Government's action plan. The action plan is the Government's national strategy for efforts to implement and achieve the SDGs. The action plan establishes a framework for efforts pertaining to the sustainability agenda and supports the ambitions underlying the SDGs. As part of the action plan's preparation, each ministry maps out Denmark's performance in relation to each of the 169 SDG targets and provides insights into policy work aiming to support the Leave No One Behind agenda.

Responsibility for following up and implementing the SDGs lies with the individual ministries. The 169 SDG targets are divided into the relevant areas of responsibility. Due to frequent overlap between the ministries' areas of responsibility and interests, efforts to implement and achieve the targets are carried out at an inter-ministerial level. By virtue of their implementation responsibilities, the ministries have proposed a series of policy initiatives to overcome Danish challenges pertaining to some of the targets. For example, in February 2020 the Danish Ministry of Culture joined the Addressing Climate Change Impacts on Cultural and Natural Heritage initiative, which supports SDG target 11.4: Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

The role of the Danish Parliament in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the UN's 17 SDGs has only grown stronger by the year. The 2030 Network, a forum for a broad and inclusive debate on the SDGs, was founded in March 2017. The 2030 Network is tasked with promoting the SDGs, ensuring they are a natural part of the work of all Danish members of parliament, and monitoring national and international implementation of the SDGs. As the SDGs concern everyone, the network is broadly rooted among all parties represented in the Danish Parliament, and membership is open to every member of parliament. The network is therefore a platform for collaboration in support of the SDGs between the Danish Parliament, Danish businesses, civil society organisations, and a number of other actors. 2017 also saw the founding of the 2030 Panel, which serves the 2030 Network in a cross-sectoral advisory function. The members of the 2030 Panel are appointed by the 2030 Network, but the panel is not subject to political instructions and is thus able to make independent decisions. The 2030 Panel and the 2030 Network meet numerous times each year. The mission of the panel is to support the 2030 Network's political work through dialogue, knowledge sharing and analytical input.

Parliamentary efforts in support of the SDGs were further bolstered in 2018 with the appointment of a parliamentary working group under the auspices of the Parliamentary Finance Committee. This working group was established to consolidate parliamentarian responsibility and coordination efforts relating to the SDGs, and to ensure the progress and alignment of efforts to achieve the SDGs. The term of this working group was extended in 2021. To ensure continuity and stability in its efforts, the working group is positioned under the auspices of the Parliamentary Finance Committee in acknowledgement of the broad nature of its work and the SDGs, which transcend the bounds of any one specific area of responsibility. The working group is responsible for ensuring the coordination of efforts by parliamentary committees pertaining to the SDGs, and for initiating dialogue on potential new solutions. The working group is authorised to submit recommendations to the Danish Government and Danish Parliament regarding future efforts relating to the SDGs.

In connection with Denmark's second VNR, there has been a special focus on stakeholder engagement to ensure the report was prepared in a transparent and inclusive process. From early on, many stakeholders have expressed interest in participating; the Danish Ministry of Finance has conducted numerous, ongoing meetings with stakeholders regarding both the VNR and the national action plan. The Danish 2030 Network and 2030 Panel have been particularly involved throughout the process. On 8 April 2021, the Minister of Finance met with the 2030 Panel to discuss the Danish Government's future implementation of the SDGs and efforts thus far on the VNR report and the Danish Government's action plan. On 20 April 2021, the Minister of Finance met with the 2030 Network to discuss input on parliamentary efforts relating to the SDGs. And on 21 April 2021, the Minister for Social Affairs and Senior Citizens met with the organisation Global Fokus for a hearing on recommendations from civil society actors on the Danish Government's action plan and the VNR report, with a special focus on the Leave No One Behind agenda. The

ongoing discussions and hearings with stakeholders have contributed extensive constructive input in connection with the preparation of the national action plan and Denmark's second VNR.

In continuation of the desire for an inclusive process in the Danish Government's efforts to implement the UN's SDGs, the Danish Ministry of Finance also established an electronic mailbox (verdensmaal@fm.dk), where stakeholders could send input on the Danish Government's action plan. This has given businesses, municipalities, regions, organisations and others with interest and knowledge in this regard an opportunity to contribute to the policy development process.

In 2020, the 2030 Panel and Statistics Denmark launched the "Our Goals" project, which serves as a supplement to the UN's 17 SDGs and puts them in a Danish context. This statistical tool gives Danish politicians, civil society organisations, businesses, researchers and others with an interest in the SDGs an overview of Denmark's progress in implementing the SDGs based on 197 new Danish points of measurement. In 2018, Statistics Denmark also launched an SDG platform that provides a statistical overview of progress in the efforts to achieve each target. This statistical basis enables stakeholders and the Danish Government to monitor the SDGs. It also enables politicians to assess whether the individual ministries' efforts towards fulfilling the targets are moving in the right direction. These improved assessment capabilities support policy work, making it easier to discuss progress in efforts to achieve the SDGs in different ministries. Statistics Denmark has also provided a thorough statistical overview of efforts to achieve the SDGs, which is presented in an appendix to this report. To further support the assessment of Denmark's efforts pertaining to the 2030 Agenda, progress reports are prepared to follow up on the targets in the Danish Government's action plan for implementation of the SDGs. The next report will be released in 2022.

In the work on Denmark's second VNR, there has been a clear ambition to strengthen stakeholder engagement and to reflect on past experiences and opportunities for improvement. Stakeholders were thus involved at a very early stage to establish a platform for dialogue and input throughout the process. The purpose of this involvement was to give stakeholders an inclusive and active role in the preparation of the VNR, thus fostering broadly rooted and national ownership of the 17 SDGs.

5.2 Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholders are taking active ownership of the SDGs. This will be clearly depicted in the following chapters written by stakeholders across the Danish society.

5.2.1 Parliament

The following chapter is written by the 2030 Network (early May 2021).

The Danish Parliament Folketinget

The more the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are embedded in the daily work of the Parliament, the stronger the foundation for progress. It is therefore key to ensure that the work is anchored in the Parliament – across parties.

Working with the SDGs in the Danish Parliament – across party lines

The Danish Parliament (Folketinget) is actively taking part in the implementation of the SDGs in Denmark. The 2030 Network was created in 2017. It is an All-Party Parliamentary Group for the SDGs with Members across all parties of the Danish Parliament. Currently, the network includes 74 Members out of the 179 Members of the Danish Parliament. The purpose of the network is to share knowledge and debate various relevant themes related to implementing the SDGs in Denmark. The 2030 Network has appointed 24 representatives from civil society, NGOs, organisations, the

business community, academia, etc., to an advisory board called the 2030 Panel. The panel advises the network in implementing the SDGs. The network and panel are in regular dialogue to ensure that the discussions in the network are updated and informed. In 2020, an important landmark was achieved. The "Our Goals" project (a baseline project [1]) was launched, encompassing 197 measuring points which translate the 17 SDGs into a Danish context. The indicators are based on more than 6,000 pieces of input from all parts of Danish society. Members of the 2030 Network have also worked actively to promote the creation of All-Party Parliamentary Groups in Greenland and in the European Parliament.

In 2018, the 2030 Network encouraged the Danish Parliament to establish the Parliamentary Working Group on the SDGs, which was established by the Finance Committee, and includes 16 Members of Parliament. The purpose of the Working Group is to focus on how to measure progress. Additionally, it assists all the various committees in Parliament in contributing to the implementation of the SDGs (by, for example, presenting a catalogue of ideas on how to work with the SDGs) and pursuing parliamentary control of the Danish Government in its work with the SDGs.

Both the 2030 Network and the Working Group on the SDGs are engaged in encouraging Members of Parliament to take an active part in implementing the SDGs and ensuring action is taken to reach the goals of the 2030 Agenda. This was, for example, the focus of a conference held in Parliament in 2020 called, "A Decade of Action".

The 2030 Network and the Working Group have had the opportunity to deliver input to the Danish Government's new action plan on the SDGs in the preparatory phase, and have had informal discussions with the Minister of Finance – who chairs the Government's SDG action plan.

Amongst the 2030 Network's various contributions was the stressing of an action plan focusing on action – especially in areas where Denmark is not at the forefront. This includes, for example, the "green" SDGs: SDG 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG 13 on Climate Action, and SDG 14 on Life Below Water, as well as the cross-cutting issue of lifestyle diseases, malnutrition, and inequality in general (and specifically in health). Moreover, the importance of the underlying principle of Leave No One Behind was accentuated.

How to strengthen the implementation of the SDGs in legislative work

In order to ensure progress, it will be essential to embed the SDGs in legislative processes, and to establish a proper review mechanism. Such a mechanism should involve some sort of Parliamentary scrutiny and input from a whole range of actors from civil society, local authorities, regions, NGOs, the business community, etc., who are relevant to achieving the goals. The mechanism should also include an annual ministerial account based on a review of progress from the Government. This would not only ensure momentum regarding the importance of progress towards the year 2030, but would also ensure that the Government and Parliament are engaged in a regular dialogue on how to promote the SDGs; especially where action is needed most. This will require that the regular reviews are based on clearly defined and broadly acknowledged indicators and benchmarks (preferably from the "Our Goals" project) and that actions are taken if there is a lack of progress or setbacks.

If we are to succeed, implementing the SDGs will require a broad and inclusive dialogue and involvement of various actors – from the Government to the Parliament, but also from regional, and local authorities, civil society and the business community – all over the world. The 2030 Network and the Working Group on the SDGs therefore encourage other parliaments to create All-party Parliamentary Groups or Networks and to reach out to relevant stakeholders to ensure continued progress towards 2030.

5.2.2 Expert Panels

The following chapters are written by the 2030 Panel (end of April 2021) and the Council for Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development Goals (early May 2021).

The 2030 Panel

The 2030 Panel is an advisory body established by the Danish Parliament's Cross-party Coalition for the Sustainable Development Goals, the 2030 Network. The 2030 Panel consists of 25 strong and diverse stakeholders designated by the 2030 Network as representatives of key players in the Danish society by virtue of their personal capacity and experience with implementation and fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) nationally and globally. Sara Krüger Falk, Director of Global Compact Network Denmark, is Chairman of the 2030 Panel.

The aim of the Panel is to anchor the SDGs broadly within the Danish society and to support and provide advice for possible SDG solutions that enable Danish politicians to act - faster and in knowledge-based partnerships. The diversity of the 2030 Panel ensures a broad perspective on the subject matter, although all panel members are not necessarily able to contribute to or have positions on all SDG subjects due to their different areas of expertise. This is also the case in the below-mentioned key changes/lessons learned in the Danish implementation of the SDGs, which the 2030 Panel wishes to highlight:

Key changes/lessons learned

Primary strengths of the Danish society
In a global perspective, *Denmark is perceived as a good performer in achieving the 2030 Agenda*, and several SDG-rankings place Denmark in top positions. Primary strengths of the Danish society are a strong sense of community, high level of trust, and a general agreement on the importance of sustainability. Regarding the structural aspects of the Danish approach to sustainability, Denmark has a universal healthcare and educational system, a social security system, cooperation among social partners, responsible businesses, clean and efficient energy production, and personal freedom.

Cross-sectoral dedication to the 2030 Agenda
In Denmark we have found a strong dedication to the 2030 Agenda in all parts of society, which is also evidenced by the very nature of the 2030 Panel. The education system from primary school up to the university level, have started incorporating the SDGs into their curricula. Civil society organisations have incorporated the 2030 Agenda into their strategies and are engaging a large portion of the Danish population in festivals, events, and debates. Kids and youth organisations are showing responsibility for and engagement in the 2030 Agenda as agents of change. The 2030 Agenda has had an increasing presence in Danish media. Thanks to this and other initiatives, three out of four Danes have heard about or seen the SDGs in 2020[2]. The Danish business sector has widely adopted the Sustainable Development Goals and is turning them into business objectives. Surveys show that up to two thirds of businesses in Denmark work strategically with sustainability - across sectors, sizes, and geography.[3] Companies are developing new sustainable solutions or bringing existing technologies, services and goods to new and underserved markets, or parts of the population, and they are working to improve the sustainability of their entire value chain. Also, Danish municipalities and regions have adopted the 2030 Agenda. All five regions in Denmark work with the SDGs and in a recent survey, nearly nine out of ten municipalities say they have decided to work with the SDGs.

Wide data coverage
Another Danish strength is a wide data coverage of different aspect of the Danish society that allows to measure and document the impact of different sustainability initiatives on society. This also implies that initiatives are continuously monitored by data published with a relatively short time lag. Furthermore, the Danish data system makes it possible to follow-up on initiatives across different sectors, as data are interlinked. To anchor the SDGs within a Danish context, and to support monitoring and assessment of the SDGs, the 2030 Panel has taken the initiative to create the *world's first supplementary national indicators for the SDGs.* The baseline project, "Our Goals", which comprises representatives from all stakeholder groups, is the product of extensive work owned by the 2030 Panel and implemented by Danish Statistic. The National Danish Indicators consist of 197 Danish indicators, that will serve as a supplement to the existing global SDG indicator framework. The national indicators will – together with the other indicators – be measured every year, and thus serve as a baseline as well as an indicator of the status on implementing the SDGs in Denmark. This gives the Danish Government and other actors working with the SDGs a unique opportunity to take concrete action towards ensuring full implementation of the SDGs in 2030. The project is unique in many ways. First and foremost, it is the world's first set of national indicators, hopefully serving as an inspiration to other countries. Furthermore, the project includes opinions from

different sectors, ensuring a broad ownership. Lastly, the national indicators make the SDGs even more relevant in a Danish context and thus hopefully engage more Danes in the work with the SDGs. It is the hope of the 2030 Panel that Denmark includes these national indicators in a robust monitoring model that ensures timely reviews of the SDGs and targets, and measures progress towards concrete objectives and specific and measurable targets.

"Build Forward Better"

The COVID-19 pandemic has plunged the world into an economic, health and social crisis. Recovery will be a key political challenge in the years to come, in Denmark as well as in the rest of the world. For the 2030 Panel, it is important that the way out of the crisis is not a "return to normal". Denmark should *seize this opportunity to accelerate political action and "Build Forward Better"*. The pandemic has forced us to change practices in many sectors and the Panel finds that we now have a golden opportunity to rethink and rebuild all sectors of the Danish society with regard for the SDGs. This requires that the SDGs play a role in their own right at the national political level and help set the agenda. Thus far, the Danish National Audit Office (Rigsrevisionen) concluded in an October 2020 report that this has not been the case in Denmark until now, i.e. during 2015-2020 and prior to the COVID-19-pandemic: *"Rigsrevisionen finds that, so far, the ministries' work with the SDGs has been based on their assessment that their general activities and policies already embrace the SDGs. Rigsrevisionen's study shows that the ministries have only in exceptional cases taken new initiatives or made particular plans to realise the SDGs. It is Rigsrevisionen's assessment that the ministries' and Statistics Denmark's reporting has not been well suited to inform the recipients of progress made against achievement of the SDGs in Denmark. As a consequence, neither the Government nor the public has easy access to information about Denmark's progress towards realising the SDGs."*[4] Fortunately, a new Danish action plan on implementing the SDGs is on its way, in which the Government has indicated new actions such as status assessments on all SDGs, legislative screenings, an annual progress report and increased focus on the Leave No One Behind agenda. It is the hope of the 2030 Panel that Denmark will seize this opportunity to "Build Forward Better" in light of the SDGs by launching an action plan containing real and concrete actions, and specific, measurable targets. With an ambitious action plan, Denmark will mark itself as an international frontrunner and hopefully inspire others to act alongside us.

The five P's of the 2030 Agenda

When taking a closer look at the five Ps of the 2030 Agenda, the 2030 Panel can conclude that Denmark is performing relatively well on People, Prosperity, Partnership and Peace. This is partly a result of some of the strengths of Danish society mentioned above, and partly due to the direction taken by Danish society in recent years. Regarding the fifth P, Planet, Denmark is performing well in some aspects; however, *other aspects could be considered challenging.* The Panel finds it positive that Denmark historically has been at the forefront of developing environmental policies, and that in 2020 the Danish Parliament adopted a Climate Law with broad cross-party support. The law targets a 70% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 relative to 1990 levels; and has a goal that energy production should be fossil-free by 2050. Nevertheless, the 2030 Panel finds that Denmark has faced challenges fulfilling SDG13, SDG14 and especially SDG12 as the nation's level of consumption and use of resources is very high. If everyone in the world had the same rate of consumption as in Denmark, we would need more than four times the global resources every year. Even though 95% of Danish consumers find it important that products are produced responsibly, it still needs to become a popular project. If Denmark is going to meet SDG12, it is therefore important to change the structural framework. Since the public sector is responsible for 17% of the Danish GDP, the public sector should take the lead in responsible consumption by setting high product standards, thereby encouraging the production of more sustainable products. Moreover, a framework should be created, ensuring that Danish companies abroad show social responsibility with respect for the UN's Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights, and the OECD's guidelines for multinational companies. Hence addressing the challenges Denmark faces in performing well on the fifth P, Planet, requires both strengthened waste management and recycling, reduced food waste, a focus on biodiversity, a reduction of CO2-emissions and responsible consumption. Gender equality is also an area for further improvement. Thus, the 2030 Panel finds it important that the Danish approach to implementing the SDGs addresses those SDGs where Denmark needs to pay particular attention and do better. Denmark has an opportunity to excel in the areas where there is need for improvement today, but to accomplish this it is important that the Danish objectives for achieving the SDGs are ambitious - also in a Danish context.

Leaving No One Behind

In accordance with the 2030 Agenda's Leave No One Behind principle, an ambitious SDG implementation should aim to give all an equal opportunity to participate in society without distinction of any kind, such as gender, race, ethnic origin, handicap, religion, belief, age, sexual orientation, residence, or other status. In a national Danish context, this requires active and ambitious actions to reduce

gender-related inequalities as well as inequalities for ethnic or religious minorities, people with disability and people on the margins of society due to very low income, homelessness, or other factors. Hence, it is the hope of the 2030 Panel that reducing inequality plays a central role in Denmark's implementation of the SDGs in order to embrace the ambition of leaving no one behind. As the Leaving No One Behind principle is a *principle*, it should cut across all SDGs and targets. This includes introducing systematic analysis in the Danish ministries, identifying which vulnerable groups are left behind, and which should be lifted. It also includes an increased focus on intersectionality and empowerment by systematically consulting marginalized groups as key actors who can contribute with valuable knowledge and insight into existing barriers, needs and relevant solutions.

The international perspective

The Panel finds it important that the Danish efforts to achieve the SDGs do not have a one-sided focus on domestic conditions, as climate change and environmental challenges and many other challenges have a cross-border nature. It is important that we achieve the SDGs within Danish borders, but we must also believe in the importance of contributing internationally and support other countries in achieving the SDGs. As of now, Denmark has a large impact on climate change, the environment, natural resources, and people in other countries through global value chains and procurement. Denmark imports a large amount of goods produced in other countries and therefore needs to focus on reducing production and the negative impact in global supply chains. Denmark's status as a small trading nation with an open economy means that Danish CO2 emissions related to consumption and imports far exceed the emissions that take place within Denmark's borders. If we are going to create a new sustainable reality, we must also deal with our impact on the climate and the social risks that arise from the goods and services that are in demand in Denmark but produced in the rest of the world. It is, therefore, the hope of the 2030 Panel that Denmark will promote sustainability in global value chains to be a leader of climate action and the SDGs, and that the Danish implementation of the SDGs will have a strong focus on bringing sustainable solutions to the countries that need them most as well as making Denmark a global advocate for the SDGs and ensuring the necessary financing for the 2030 Agenda globally. This includes adopting a holistic approach in implementing the SDGs and developing mechanisms that enable a horizontal perspective, where the SDGs and the implementation effort of each goal are held up against each other to identify synergies and contradictions.

Broad partnerships

It is a prerequisite for a successful implementation of the SDGs that all types of actors work together. In Denmark, there is a unique tradition of engaging with stakeholders, as for example in the Danish business community. Cooperation between companies and their stakeholders is increasingly recognized as necessary for realising the SDGs and the long-term profitability of companies. This may be a positive side effect from the Danish labour market model, which is based on a division of responsibilities between the Government, employer organisations and labour organisations. The Government collaborates with both sides of the industry on such aspects as unemployment benefits, occupational accident insurance and education. This collaboration, called tripartite negotiations, fosters a willingness and ability to engage in constructive dialogue across industry interests and is often considered a source of trust and cohesion in the Danish society. Moreover, the current Government's "Climate Partnerships" exemplify an open and strong culture of cooperation in Danish politics. It could very well be extended to include several types of actors and to other areas that support the SDGs, for instance partnerships on education, welfare, sustainable value chains and ethical trade, as well as gender equality. The 2030 Panel itself exemplifies the willingness to cooperate on the realization of the 2030 Agenda. The 2030 Panel hopes that this strong culture for partnerships will be further developed in the Danish SDG implementation, and that pilot projects and collaborations on responsible and ethical sourcing in sectors with special challenges are prioritised.

Inclusion of youth

The SDGs are a contract between generations – promising the Danish youth a better and more sustainable future in 2030. Whereas Denmark has a strong tradition of involving youth, the 2030 Panel finds that this could be further strengthened in relation to the SDGs. The SDGs will shape the future of the young generation, and thus the youth should play a central role in the implementation of the SDGs in Denmark. This could also ensure a broader support for the SDGs among the Danish youth population. Furthermore, a significant amount of Danes are volunteers in associations all around Denmark; incorporating them in the implementation will ensure broad public support for the SDGs.

Education

Across generations, people must be supported in gaining the skills and courage required for contributing to the sustainable solutions of the future. It is the hope of the 2030 Panel that the Danish implementation of the SDGs will focus on initiatives that support people's knowledge, actions, skills and

hopes - specifically by ensuring stronger teaching on sustainability. This is emphasized by a new study from the Nordic Council, which concludes that Denmark is lagging behind the other Nordic countries when it comes to a focus on sustainability and the SDGs in primary and lower secondary education [5]. Nevertheless, more than one million Danish students recently signed a pledge that called for more focus on sustainability in the Danish educational syste[6]. Moreover, several analyses have found that there is a great shortage of employees with green competencies in Denmark. This is partly due to the fact that almost 70% of the people in Denmark working with the green transition are from a group of employees who will be in short supply in the future, namely either skilled labour, unskilled labour, or people with a short higher education[7]. The 2030 Panel therefore finds it important that integration of sustainable development in the Danish educational system is prioritized and strengthened.

The 2030 Panel's contribution to realizing the SDGs

As stated earlier, the aim of the 2030 Panel is to anchor the SDGs within the Danish society and to support and provide advice for possible SDG solutions, as this will enable Danish politicians to act faster and in partnerships based on knowledge. However, along the way, the strong partnership, trust and compromises in the group have also given insights to the Government on actions and priorities, and have been a source of mutual inspiration among the members of the 2030 Panel.

The 2030 Panel plays a crucial role in mobilizing various stakeholder groups such as civil society, the private sector, academia, government organisations, trade unions, municipalities, regions, consumers, and young people. The dialogue around Danish challenges in implementing the SDGs has proven especially fruitful for all members of the 2030 Panel and the organisations they represent. The challenges that Denmark faces cannot be solved by government alone. We therefore need to create a space for dialogue and solutions. When looking at the challenge of waste going to landfills, we need to involve consumers, municipalities, regions and businesses in order to find solutions. Solutions will not reveal themselves without a better understanding of our various roles and positions. Hence, the Panel serves as a platform for dialogue around the challenges as well as a place where good cases can be shared, in order to be repeated and copied by others. We hope that this can inspire people outside Denmark. We also hope that a common approach can inspire better cross-border collaboration and the sharing of good cases.

The Panel has, among other things, launched the world's first open SDG development project that aims to establish an inclusive supplementary baseline of indicators on the status of the SDGs in Denmark. The so-called "Our Goals" project, carried out in collaboration with Statistics Denmark has been implemented to motivate, measure and facilitate political action towards the 2030 Agenda in a national context. Denmark is often ranked high on the SDG indexes, but in order for Denmark to raise the bar and improve annually, the Panel wanted to create a national baseline and dialogue on local challenges as well as solutions. The project involved a massive mobilization of citizens to define challenges at the local level. Indicators were selected based on accessible data that Statistics Denmark collects annually. All 197 Danish indicators can be revisited until 2030.

During COVID-19, the 2030 Panel has been an active voice to promote and motivate the "Building Forward Better" mindset politically and in the public debate. It is especially in times of crisis that we have the opportunity to rethink and choose new paths. The Panel's goal is to convince and qualify Danish politicians to dare to choose the sustainable path out of the crisis.

The Panel also works to promote the SDG agenda through:

- Inteaction and dialogue with ministers – especially the Minister of Finance, who is responsible for the SDGs - and civil servants.
- Spreading information on the SDG agenda and promoting ownership widely in the Danish society.
- Participation in SDG debates, events and campaigns.
- A specific working group on education whose purpose is to anchor knowledge and learning about the SDGs as a part of the Danish educational system.
- Identifying and distributing the yearly SDG award given to a person/corporation who has made an extraordinary effort to promote the SDGs in Denmark.

Council for Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development Goals

The Council for Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development Goals (The Council) was appointed in 2018. The Council is the official multi-stakeholder platform for discussions and support of corporate social responsibility and business-related actions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (the SDGs) by 2030.

The Council was launched with the purpose to actively contribute to better framework conditions in support of companies working strategically with corporate social responsibility (CSR) and the SDGs.

The Council's work is based on two tracks of objectives:

- Promoting social responsibility in Danish companies
- Promoting new sustainable business models and corporate social responsibility in global production

The Council has been mandated for a 4-year period and consists of company representatives and experts with a deep knowledge of the SDGs and sustainability, employer and employee organisations, as well as environmental and developmental organisations.

The Council has been given a mandate to instigate initiatives and give advice to the Danish Government within the area of the SDGs, corporate social responsibility, and new sustainable business models. So far in their work, the Council has focused on sustainable business models, the strengthening of corporate social responsibility in global supply chains, and the retention of vulnerable groups in the Danish labour market, related to SDG 8 on good jobs and economic growth as well as SDG 12 on responsible consumption.

The Council has published recommendations on how to enhance the value of corporate social responsibility reporting, as well as recommendations on the upcoming Danish Action Plan on the SDGs. Furthermore, there has been an explicit focus on knowledge sharing and dissemination as regards promoting vulnerable groups in the Danish labour market as part of the "Leave No One Behind" agenda. Finally, the Council has assigned financial support for SMEs working with SDGs through a grants scheme.

5.2.3 Civil Society

The following chapter is written by Global Focus and the Danish 92 Group (end of May 2021) followed by a chapter written by the Danish Youth Council (end of April 2021).

Global Focus and the Danish 92 Group

Since Denmark's previous Voluntary National Review in 2017, civil society organisations from the network organisations Global Focus and the Danish 92 Group have continuously pushed for a strong Danish contribution towards realising the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through a truly transformational agenda, both nationally and in Denmark's global activities.

A cornerstone in the contribution from civil society has been our focus on strengthening implementation mechanisms and accountability measures in Denmark as well as our annual assessment of the status of Denmark's SDG implementation, *"The Spotlight Report"*[8] .Our work has also centred around public engagement and awareness-raising activities, increased multi-stakeholder involvement, and – last but not least – strengthening Denmark's international contribution towards SDG implementation, especially in the Global South. Based on this experience, our overall assessment of Denmark's contribution to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in the period between July 2017 and now is as follows:

Key changes/lessons learned

- Overall, we find it **positive** that we have seen a substantial increase in the level of awareness and knowledge of the SDGs among the Danish population, with much of this being due to the

efforts of civil society. Moreover, we see an increased degree of commitment at the local level to the SDGs and their implementation in Danish municipalities. For example, local SDG committees involving participation from civil society have been established in the municipalities of Aalborg, Aarhus and Odense. Moreover, we also find it positive that the Government has divided the SDG targets between its ministries and we hope they will develop their work in accordance with their responsibilities. Finally, we find that SDG implementation has benefitted from a strong anchoring within the Danish Parliament in the form of a cross-party parliamentary network for the SDGs, *the 2030 Network*, and from strong multi-stakeholder involvement through the SDG advisory body, *the 2030 Panel*.

- However, we find it **problematic** that the overall approach towards the SDGs in Denmark might best be described as monographic: the SDGs are regarded as something external – something which existing policies and actions are mapped against – rather than a de facto agenda for necessary political and practical change. Denmark's first **action plan for implementation of the SDGs** was launched by the previous Government in March 2017. The action plan formed the basis of Denmark's first VNR process in July 2017, but has otherwise not been used by the Government or ministries in their policy planning or in their implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. This assessment is backed by a critical report from September 2020 published by the Danish National Audit Office (Rigsrevisionen), which audits Danish public accounts, regarding Denmark's efforts in implementing the SDGs. The report concludes that the general understanding behind the action plan was that Danish policies were already aligned with the SDGs, and this is why the plan did not contribute to any significant new, real, or transformational actions or policy changes. It is further problematic that Danish implementation of the SDGs has focused on areas and goals within which Denmark is already performing well, rather than identifying gaps and addressing issues that were – and still are – truly challenging. For nearly two years – since the national elections in June 2019 – Denmark has not had an action plan for the SDGs in place, and thus lacks a crucial management and accountability tool in the process of achieving the goals for all, leaving no one behind. As civil society we were happy that the Government in September 2020 announced the launching of a new action plan in 2021 and that a draft document was shared in May 2021. ***We welcome*** the effort to elaborate a national plan and to include civil society in the drafting. However, the draft document at this point is so open that it is difficult to assess whether it will become the necessary planning instrument for short and long-term implementation of the SDGs. While mentioning some of the challenges faced by Denmark, as required by civil society, it is at this point still unclear whether this will translate into actions based on a thorough 'gap analysis', which identifies the necessary political priorities. ***We recommend*** that the paragraphs on actions and initiatives yet to be written are formulated in a way that enables new and real action towards a transformational development of Danish society, based on the core principles of leaving no one behind in order to first reach those who are furthest behind, as stipulated by the 2030 Agenda. The plan must establish a clear leadership and identify responsibility bearers.

- We have seen an overall tendency towards a **silo mentality** in Denmark's implementation of the SDGs, especially in the separation between the national implementation of the SDGs (*through the national action plan*) on the one hand, and Denmark's international contribution to the SDGs (*through the strategy for development cooperation and humanitarian actions*) on the other. This has entailed missed opportunities for creating synergies or identifying potential areas of conflict and contradiction between the national and international levels. Moreover, the SDGs are poorly reflected in Denmark's global strategies within areas other than development cooperation, e.g. Denmark's Foreign Affairs strategy or its strategy for global climate action. In addition, the SDGs are not considered a target framework to be used in cooperation with other countries or in the Danish contribution towards their development. Therefore, ***we recommend*** that the connection between Denmark's national and international contributions to SDG implementation is clearly stated in the forthcoming action plan on the SDGs in order to avoid continued siloing in their implementation. This means that the action plan should not only refer to the content of the forthcoming *strategy for development cooperation and humanitarian actions*, but must include all of Denmark's global contributions to the SDGs. In addition, it must clearly specify how Danish SDG implementation at the national and international levels are connected, and how they support, reinforce – or contradict – one another.

- Over the last four years, we have witnessed a **lack of openness and involvement** from changing governments in SDG implementation. This creates an ambience of ambiguity and

uncertainty with regards to intentions, political will, and levels of commitment among key partners, including the Parliament, and the public. A major reason for this may be that the Ministry of Finance, which is the ministry responsible for SDG implementation, has not been very transparent or forthcoming with regards to the SDG implementation measures that have been taken within the ministry or by line ministries. For instance, the names of focal points assigned for SDG implementation are confidential, and this has severely impeded opportunities to engage in open debates with relevant people in the ministries. Moreover, since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in 2015, changing governments have made only limited use of the opportunity to involve and obtain important knowledge and input from non-governmental sectors and civil society. **However, lately we have witnessed a change in approach from the Ministry of Finance** in this regard, as civil society has been consulted on and has seen a draft version of the forthcoming action plan and been given the opportunity to include an independent assessment of each of the 17 SDGs and the overall lessons learned from the Danish SDG implementation in the main part of Denmark's official VNR report. This is very positive. We hope that this openness and involvement represents a permanent change in the ministry's approach towards civil society. The draft however was quite unfinished, with several empty chapters where concrete action was to be described. Therefore, ***we recommend*** prioritising the involvement of civil society and other non-governmental stakeholders in order to ensure vital expert contributions in relation to the action to be taken, to future planning and to reporting, in a systematized and regular dialogue and networking with civil society. Further, we recommend gathering input and recommendations from the annual civil society "*Spotlight Report*" on Denmark's SDG implementation and including them in an annual monitoring and evaluation cycle in the forthcoming Danish action plan on the SDGs, so that this cycle truly becomes a 'whole-of-society' approach.

- In recent years, the **Danish Parliament** has signalled in several ways that it has an interest in taking responsibility for the implementation of the SDGs; e.g. through its establishment of the cross-party parliamentary network for the SDGs, the 2030 Network. However, we find that changing governments have so far not sufficiently involved Parliament in the implementation of the SDGs. Whereas civil society in 2017 welcomed the announcement of an SDG impact assessment or "screening tool" for bills and other legislative measures as part of the action plan, we now find it disappointing that in 2021, four years later, Parliament still lacks such a thorough assessment tool to measure the impact of adopted laws on SDG implementation. However, we find it promising that in the spring of 2021, the Minister of Finance announced an extended version of the screening tool, which will be expanded to include all 17 SDGs and 169 targets and will focus on both positive and negative consequences of new legislation on the SDGs. Therefore, ***we welcome*** that it is mentioned in the draft action plan and we expect that the final version of the action plan will realise the promise of a new and comprehensive screening of all bills and legislative measures. Further, we expect that the Danish Parliament is guaranteed the possibility to assume its responsibility for implementation of the SDGs through necessary appropriations on the annual Finance Bill and co-responsibility for an annual monitoring cycle of Denmark's achievement of the SDGs.

- Both in national and international efforts, we find that Denmark has had a very limited focus on the principle of "**Leaving No One Behind**" (LNOB). For instance, the principle is not addressed in the 2017 action plan on the SDGs; it is only briefly mentioned in the VNR report from 2017 in connection with partnerships; and it is only addressed in one of Denmark's global strategies (*the strategy for development cooperation and humanitarian actions*). This lack of focus at the strategic level is reflected at the level of implementation. Therefore, ***we are satisfied with the focus on LNOB in the draft document for the forthcoming action plan and we recommend*** that it becomes the compass for whether Denmark is achieving the SDGs in 2030 or not. This focus must start with those who are most on the edge of systems, societies, and power – and priority must be given to the best possible inclusion and empowerment of those left behind or at risk of being left behind. This includes systematic analyses which place focus on intersectionality and concretise which groups are being left behind. These analyses must be supported in compliance with the LNOB principle, and should figure as part of the forthcoming action plan on the SDGs. Moreover, based on dialogue and input from some of the most marginalised groups, the Government should develop a specific action plan with adequate funding attached in order to secure the LNOB principle both globally and nationally. This LNOB action plan should include developing methods for concretising and operationalising the concept for ministries as well as collecting disaggregated data and

ensuring much greater involvement from, and the empowerment of, marginalised groups.

- Since 2015, we find that Denmark has not systematically integrated the principle of "**Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development**" (PCSD) in its implementation of the SDGs, neither in the 2017 action plan for the SDGs, nor by adopting a specific action plan for PCSD. In 2014, the Government adopted a plan for PCSD, but efforts to implement the principle of PCSD have continued only to a very limited extent in Denmark's subsequent implementation of the SDGs. This assessment is also the case when Denmark's efforts are held up against the UN's newly developed guidelines for reporting on global SDG indicator 17.04.01, which measures several relevant mechanisms to ensure PCSD. For example, Denmark has not committed itself at the highest political level to ensure PCSD; it has not set a timeline for achieving PCSD; and it does not have a dedicated budget or PCSD reporting mechanisms in place. Therefore, ***we recommend*** establishing the principle of PCSD at the centre of the forthcoming action plan on the SDGs and working systematically to integrate – and report annually on – all elements of the UN guidelines for global SDG indicator 17.04.01. This includes conducting systematic analyses into the consequences of policies and possible negative spill-over effects for developing countries.

- Even though **responsible business conduct (RBC)** is a significant part of the private sector contribution to the SDGs, we find that focus in recent years – including in Denmark – has primarily been placed on voluntary measures and product development as part of the green transition. These measures are positive, but also inadequate. Studies show that only a few large companies in the EU act in accordance with the UN Guidelines on Human Rights and Business and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises – including in Denmark – even though this year is the ten-year anniversary of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). For small and medium-sized enterprises, the figures are even lower. Therefore, ***we recommend*** that the Danish Government includes responsible business conduct in the forthcoming action plan on the SDGs by introducing a "smart mix" of measures to promote responsible business conduct, including legislation, sector initiatives and further guidance in this area. As part of legislation in this area, it is important to make it mandatory for companies and financial institutions to carry out Human Rights and environmental due diligence in accordance with the UNGPs and the OECD guidelines for multinational enterprises and to establish civil liability for significant harm done to people and the environment.

- Until now, no **mechanism for the evaluation, monitoring and follow-up** of SDG implementation has been established in Denmark. Therefore, ***we welcome*** the Government's initiative to publish an official annual status report on the national achievement of the SDGs and Denmark's international contribution, prepared by the line ministries. However, the draft document of the action plan does not include an explicit comprehensive monitoring system. ***We thus recommend*** that the forthcoming action plan on the SDGs also include an annual monitoring and evaluation cycle. The cycle must be inclusive in nature and the process must ensure dialogue with various stakeholders. At the same time, the cycle should help to strengthen coordination between all ministries and the Danish Parliament to ensure Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development. In addition to the announced status report, the cycle should at least include: 1. An annual shadow report prepared by an independent body. 2. An annual debate in Parliament based on the official annual status report as well as the shadow report, status reports and country recommendations from other actors (e.g. civil society, the Danish SDG multi-stakeholder advisory body the 2030 Panel, the EU and the UN). 3. Broad stakeholder involvement – both in the preparation of the official annual status report and in the annual debate. 4. Preparation of a VNR for HLPF every three years, with involvement from civil society.

- **Funding** is essential if we are to achieve the SDGs. Unfortunately, we did not find that the 2017 action plan on the SDGs was fully funded for implementation. Neither in the form of specific funding for activities supporting the SDGs nor through integration of the 2030 Agenda into the annual finance bill. Therefore, ***we recommend*** outlining a plan for financing Denmark's implementation of the SDGs – both nationally and abroad – which allocates specific funds for implementation of the forthcoming action plan and integrates the 2030 Agenda into the annual finance bill by requiring all ministries to identify which new actions they will take to achieve the SDGs and how they will address Denmark's real challenges. In a longer perspective, the SDGs should guide the redistribution of funds in the annual Finance Bill.

Civil Society's contribution to the SDGs
In addition to civil society's push for a strong Danish contribution towards realising the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs as a transformational agenda, one of our main contributions to the SDGs has been public engagement and awareness-raising activities:

Public participation and awareness-raising
Civil society organisations in Denmark have played an essential role in promoting the SDGs. From the adoption of the SDGs in 2015, there has been a broad variety of projects, campaigns, and awareness-raising initiatives for public participation and engagement.

The SDGs constitute an ambitious agenda, which can only be realised if everyone works together. This also requires broad societal awareness-raising about the SDGs, so that stakeholder groups can undertake their work on the basis of a holistic commitment to fulfilling the SDGs. If we want to see a large transformative change in our society, then civic engagement and public information are prerequisites, hence raising public awareness of the SDGs is a critical step for their implementation.

A study conducted in 2020 concluded that more than 75% of the Danish public has heard about the Sustainable Development Goals[9], while in 2017 the percentage was only 16%. The younger generation in particular has a greater awareness of the goals and what they entail.

Furthermore, a study conducted in 2018 shows that 50% of Danish NGOs use the SDGs in their communications and campaigning work [10]. 50% of the organisations also work with the SDGs in their efforts to inform and mobilise the public. The public as it is defined here covers a wide range of members, volunteers, and the wider population. It is especially the educational system and younger people in general who are the main target group of the informational efforts undertaken by the organisations[11].

Some examples of how Danish civil society has conducted public participation and awareness-raising campaigns include:

The SDG Square at the Danish Democracy Festival (Folkemøde) – Since 2018, Global Focus has hosted a large SDG event at the annual Democracy Festival (Folkemøde). The basic principles of the SDG Square are promoting cooperation, dialogue and placing focus on action. It is a cross-sectoral cooperation platform where partnerships are formed. It allows for concrete action to occur as a direct result of the debates and discussions on the SDGs which take place at the square. It is a place where dreams of a better world are born and realised through dialogue, debate, art, and culture.

SDG Academy – Since 2019, the Danish Youth Council and World's Best News have worked together to educate youth activists and leaders (16 to 30-year-olds) with the goal of developing them into SDG Ambassadors. The Ambassadors then returned to their communities and youth organisations with the intent to introduce the SDGs into municipal development plans and the strategic work plans of NGOs. In 2020 – during a year of COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions – the SDG Ambassadors taught almost 6,000 children and young people about SDG Action and implementation. The Ambassadors also established an SDG Hall on the Scouts and Youth Island (Ungdomsøen) outside Copenhagen Harbour.

Stories about the Global Goals – Between 2018 and 2020, Nyt Europa, together with partners such as the Danish United Nations Association (UNA-DK) and Global Focus, have created debate tournaments and podcasts with the intention to engage the general public and raise awareness across Denmark. This has involved inviting various stakeholders to give presentations, and the public to co-create sustainable solutions, in order to generate ownership of and participation in the SDGs. The initiative produces its own podcast series which has 18,000 listeners.

Global Goals World Cup (GGWC) - Is a large football tournament for all-women teams. Each team champions one of the SDGs and is ranked by the action taken for their goals both on and off the field. The teams are scored in four distinct categories: Action, Crowd, Style, and Football. Those victorious not only win the tournament, but also amplify calls to action and create an impact, both locally and globally. The GGWC pioneers the world of sports by building new networks fuelled by girls and women supporting each other in order to break down barriers, lead local efforts within sustainable development and amplify calls for action.

The World's Largest Lesson (Verdenstimen) – Every year, more than 45 organisations responsible for the Danish version of the World's Largest Lesson (Verdenstimen) and the Municipality of Copenhagen, invite students from local schools to a special live edition of the World's Largest Lesson. For the second event, which took place in 2020, Crown Princess Mary made an appearance together with the Minister for Development Cooperation, as well as selected students, teachers, and partners at Verdenstimen.

"World's Best Morning" – Every year in September, NGOs gather for a large nationwide morning event

in Denmark, where 2,500 volunteers hand out a newspaper with a selection of the World's Best News. Politicians from across the political spectrum, international ambassadors in Denmark, and other enthusiasts ranging from non-profit organisations to private sector companies support the event, which each year highlights one or more of the SDGs.

Online platforms – Websites have been developed to provide easy access to information. **Verdensmaal.org** is the official Danish SDG site gathering news on SDG implementation across Danish Society. **Verdensmaalene.dk** is an educational platform developed by ActionAid Denmark, UNDP, and Global High Schools, targeting teachers and students at secondary schools.

Focus on the SDGs in municipal elections – In connection with the latest municipal elections, UNA-DK and Nyt Europa collected SDG promises from local political candidates. For the upcoming elections, UNA-DK will assist municipalities in preparing for VLRs and local SDG implementation.

Focus on the SDGs in EU Parliament elections – Previous to the EUP elections, The Danish 92 Group organized a large public event and Nyt Europa organized a nation-wide debate caravan asking Danish EU Parliament candidates from all parties to present their priorities and ambitions for the Danish work in the EU, specifically on the SDGs on which Denmark, according to various sources, is performing least well.

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SDGs in a Nordic context –In collaboration with sister networks in Norway, Sweden and Finland, the Danish 92 Group has taken part in a series of events focused on Nordic aspects of the SDSs, including common Nordic challenges and solutions. Events included public workshops at Bergen University (Norway), workshops for civil society organisations in Oslo (Norway) and Helsinki (Finland), panel debates with MPs in Stockholm (Sweden), as well as an SDG dialogue meeting with a focus on young people in Reykjavík (Iceland).

Outreach in the educational sector – Since 2018, there has been a variety of inclusive and participatory outreach initiatives produced for the educational sector. These UNA-DK initiatives were carried out by young volunteers in the School Service, and through the utilisation of web-based platforms such as www.globalis.dk and the app-based 'SDGs at Stake'. Ungdomsbyen has developed the UNESCO SDG-Schools initiative and Nyt Europa has developed an interactive dialogue game based on the SDGs, to name just a few examples.

Senior citizens and the SDGs – The organisation Global Seniors has focused on engaging senior citizens in the SDG debate. This has been done through photo exhibitions of the 17 Goals, exhibited at libraries, town halls, and other public places. This has been combined with educational activities/lectures at senior citizen societies. Global Seniors have also been engaging with municipalities with regards to safe and sustainable cities which are able to accommodate the needs of older generations.

Other examples of how Danish civil society organisations have contributed to the SDGs include:
WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) – Supports civil society and local communities in Myanmar in promoting and strengthening Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) and to have them recognised as a conservation modality and official protected area category. This work will help preserve and protect biodiversity, local culture and traditional governance practices. WWF is thereby working together with local partners in order to contribute towards SDG15: Life on Land.

Danish Refugee Council – As a displacement organisation working in Denmark with operations in 40 countries, the DRC works to increase protection of and access to durable solutions for persons affected by displacement. The principle of LNOB is a core tenet in the DRC's engagement with both displaced and host communities aiming to leave no one behind and to reach those furthest behind first through, among other efforts, vulnerability-informed programming and rights-based advocacy. The DRC's work is guided by the inclusion of and specific reference to displaced populations, who, together with other vulnerable groups, are specific target groups of the 2030 Agenda, and who should be included in sustainable development.

KULU-Women and Development (KULU) – Has partnered with women's rights organisation MUSONET since 2008 to inform women and girls in Mali about their rights and to distribute birth and wedding certificates and ID documents in nine regions in Mali. More than 10,000 girls and women have received proof of their rights so far. The "Secure Girls' and Women's Rights in Mali" campaign ensures rights to legal identity, education, voting, as well as others, thus contributing to SDG 4, SDG 5, and SDG 16.9.

Global Seniors – Has been working actively with the SDGs since 2016, following a visit to the President of the United Nations General Assembly, Mogens Lykketoft, in New York. Global Seniors works to ensure the rights of the elderly globally and in Denmark – and it is actively using the principle of Leaving No One Behind to ensure these rights. Global Seniors is also engaged in international cooperation with related organisations in Scandinavia, Europe and globally.

Sex & Samfund – The SDGs constitute an overarching framework for all of the organisation's work and they are written into the general strategy. Internally, Sex & Samfund has focused on extending the SDGs from their international and political department and into the core of their entire organisation and management structure. This has broadly increased awareness of sustainability throughout the organisation, and such work has since been followed by an updated procurement policy and a climate policy which has recently been finalised. Sex & Samfund also made a film explaining how the SDGs have been incorporated into their sex education materials and how, by using these materials, everyone can help to achieve the SDGs.

Global Focus – Took on the role of secretariat for the cross-party parliamentary network for the SDGs, the 2030 Network, in the start-up phase of the network and has held the secretariat role for the multi-stakeholder SDG advisory body, the 2030 Panel, ever since the establishment of the Panel. One of the Panels main activities has been initiating the ambitious "Our Goals" (Vores Mål) project, which developed a catalogue of 197 Danish measuring points on the SDGs as suggestions for possible national supplements to the UN global indicators. By taking on these secretariat roles, Global Focus is contributing to a strong parliamentarian and multi-stakeholder anchoring of the SDGs in Denmark.

The Danish Youth Council (DUF)

Contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

In 2015, United Nations member states adopted the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs aim to create a better future for our planet and its people through sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda reaffirms that young people are key to achieving this aim: "Children and young women and men are critical agents of change and will find in the new Goals a platform to channel their infinite capacities for activism into the creation of a better world." With less than 10 years left until 2030, the strengthened focus on SDGs and a new Action Plan in Denmark are more important than ever. The 'Decade of Action' creates not only opportunities but also emphasizes how essential it is that Denmark take actions for sustainable development on a local, national, and global level and ensures that young people play a central role in implementing the SDGs.

Young people in Danish Society

Civil society among the youth constitutes a crucial role in the Danish society in terms of empowering future democrats, promoting mental health and well-being and building strong social relations. Danish youth organisations enjoy an enabling space and good structural conditions, as well as a long tradition of civil involvement and political influence. The youth organisations promote democratic communities based on core values such as participation, dialogue, volunteerism, inclusion, and influence. Furthermore, the youth organisations have long proven their effectiveness in including and empowering both vulnerable and marginalised young people, promoting a more inclusive and equal society related to the key principle of Leave No One Behind.

The youth of Denmark is characterized by being strongly committed to and highly engaged in ensuring the sustainable developments of their societies. Polls conducted by DUF show that Danish young people aged 16–25 are generally democratically minded and confident in democracy.

The majority of young Danes have a high degree of trust in their capacity to make a change. In 2020, more than 75% of young people between ages 16-25 agreed that they, "have an opinion about how Denmark or the World should develop". This is up from approximately 55% in 2017 and 2018. Similarly, the youth of Denmark are well-organized in civil society. Around 80% are current or former members of a youth organisation. DUF's member organisations, i.e.–Danish youth organisations, provide an enabling space and good structural conditions for young Danes to involve themselves with work promoting the SDGs based on core values such as participation, dialogue, volunteerism, inclusion, and influence.

However, some worrying trends remain. The Danish youth show a low degree of trust in core democratic institutions and limited participation in the political sphere. While young people's trust in democracy as a form of government has been steadily high throughout 2018-2020 (scoring approximately 3.5 on a 6-point scale where 6 = very high trust, and 0= very little trust), the Danish youth rank central

democratic actors such as politicians and the media lowest in trust score surveys (approximately 2.5 for both groups between 2018-2020). Moreover, young people in Denmark also have had a below-average participation in Danish elections between 2017-2020, as much as 5-10 percentage points fewer than other age groups - although some positive increases have been seen in the general election and European Parliament elections of 2019. The above suggest that some segments of the younger population struggle to make use of more traditional channels for democratic participation and influence in society.

Seen from the point of view of Danish youth, there are plenty of political themes that demand action. Since 2018, young people have ranked the climate and environmental area as one of the most important political topics by approximately 50% - with health care, immigration and educational policy being deemed important topics by 31%, 23% and 20% respectively.

SDG awareness and implementation

According to a survey conducted in 2020 by the company Advice for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 77% of the Danish population has heard about the SDGs. The conclusion is that young people know most about the SDGs, which could be seen as a result of the effort by many youth organisations, who since the adoption of the SDGs in 2015 have been promoting the goals and the agenda through campaigns, debates, and activities in locations throughout Denmark and online.

Within the youth sector, several organisations and NGOs have been addressing and adopting the SDGs in their strategies and activities for years, leading to further strategic interest and dialogue across the sector and among its volunteers. This commitment is evidenced by youth organisations engaged in development cooperation with partners in the Global South. Here, working with the SDGs is an effective way to hold duty bearers accountable. The commitment is also evident in Denmark, where an increased number of youth organisations have implemented SDGs in their work. For example, when 12 local departments in the Danish Youth Association of Science (UNF) started integrating SDGs in their strategy, or when LandboUngdom (the agricultural organisation for Danish youth) held their General Assembly with all their members under the theme of the SDGs. With less than 10 years until 2030, even though the awareness of SDGs is growing, the level of ambition needs to increase. In general, young people call for more action, if Denmark and the rest of the world want a more sustainable future for all. The UN has declared the next 10 years the 'Decade of Action'. This creates not only opportunities, it also emphasizes how essential it is that Danish youth organisations take actions for sustainable development on a local, national and global level.

DUF is responsible for the Danish Youth Delegates to the United Nations. As part of their work, the youth delegates travel across Denmark and do workshops on global agendas and the SDGs for young people. In 2019, DUF arranged a Sustainable Development Goals Tour across Denmark. This entailed making several stops for workshops or debates anchored by local youth organisations and politicians (on the municipality level), where everything centred around the SDGs and how to implement them at the local level or in the municipality. The youth delegates were also supposed to participate in a tour with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark through the Youth Democracy Festival (Ungdommens Folkemøde). The plan was to do workshops where young people would develop ideas and plans for a specific SDG and for how Denmark should work to reach the SDG. The Danish Minister for Development Cooperation was supposed to participate and hopefully make use of the ideas. Unfortunately, it was cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19. A planned second SDG tour was also cancelled in 2020. However, the intentions show a strong interest in advocating the SDGs to the Danish youth and make room for young people to participate in reaching the SDGs in Denmark and globally.

SDG initiatives in action

Youth are the changemakers of tomorrow and play a crucial role in achieving the SDGs. DUF promotes youth participation in organisations and in democracy because the young generation is the future. The SDGs are a framework for future generations, which is why young people can and should play an active role in achieving the SDGs in Denmark. Through DUF's member organisations, young people participate in society and influence the world they want to live in, where communities feel committed to one another. Through actions, events and initiatives, young people and youth organisations are showing the way forward, which has resulted in increased awareness of, commitment to and ownership of the 2030 Agenda. DUF has recently made an inspiration catalogue with 10 cases from youth organisations in Denmark on how to work with the SDGs and DUF is also represented in the 2030 Panel, the advisory board to the Danish Parliament's all-party coalition, the 2030 Network.

The Danish youth organisations are leading the way in engaging Danish youth. One example is when The Danish Red Cross Youth creates workshops for young people in schools around Denmark focusing

on social entrepreneurship. Danish Red Cross Youth works with the theme "From Sustainable Development Goals to Everyday Goals" and the aim is to empower children who can create a positive impact on a local, national and international level. The Danish Red Cross Youth focus is on seven SDGs: 3, 4, 5, 10, 12, 13, and 17.

The Danish roleplay organisation for young people, Bifrost, works with gender equality through SDG 5 and the Danish scout organisation, Spejderne, created activities around the theme "Build a Better World" and learning by doing. An example is a Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rethink activity focusing on SDG 9 and 12. These activities empower scouts to develop to their fullest potential, to become active citizens and come one step closer to building a better world.

DUF works with different projects and initiatives contributing to the implementation of the SDGs and strengthening a democratic society. In the project "School Election" (Skolevalg), young people engage in the democratic process, from discussing dilemmas to a concrete election. "School Election" is facilitated by DUF in cooperation with the Parliament and Ministry of Education and is a simulated election with more than 80,000 participating students. In 2019, around 500 schools hosted debates with young politicians to strengthen young voter participation. Furthermore, DUF is working through the "Day of Democracy" project (Demokratiets Dag), which visits vocational schools and production schools to ensure that young voters from non-academic programmes are also included and motivated to vote, as well as informed about the opinions of the different parties and clear on their own opinions. In 2020, around 4500 students participated in "Day of Democracy". Moreover, DUF works through public discourse and organisational work to ensure adequate funding and resources for youth civil society, thus working towards ensuring strong partnerships as outlined in SDG 17. Partnership for the SDGs is also the core of the collaboration between DUF and Lemvigh-Müller, where focus has been on SDG 6, 7, 12 and 13, and where Lemvigh-Müller has provided energy optimisation in cabins or houses of DUF's member organisations.

This year nearly 80 young people have been trained at the SDG Academy, which is a collaboration between DUF, World's Best News (Verdens Bedste Nyheder) and Tuborgfondet. After finishing the academy, the participants get the title "SDG Ambassador" and will be able to inspire and engage their peers in sustainable development and the SDGs.

International partnerships and engagement

Internationally, DUF contributes to the 2030 Agenda through a number of youth-led projects and partnerships. With funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DUF supports equal partnerships between Danish youth organisations and youth organisations in the MENA region, the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood countries and developing countries, to strengthen youth organisations and their influence and promote democracy as a way of life among young people.

2019 was the year the international SDG partnership was formed with youth councils in Ukraine (NYCU) and Zimbabwe (YETT). The aim of the SDG partnership is to promote legitimate, inclusive and democratic youth councils, to advocate for youth participation and become champions of the SDGs. The lesson from the SDG partnership is that partnerships for the goals (SDG 17) are essential if the world is going to be transformed for the better.

Between 2018-2020, DUF awarded approximately 139 grants to a range of international projects and partnerships, which are administered and implemented by DUF member organisations and their partner organisations in developing countries. This entailed a wide variety of issues and approaches. Regarding the 2030 Agenda, the guidelines for the international projects ensure that all DUF-funded projects address SDG 5.1, 5.5, 10.2, 10.3, 16.7 and 17.17. In addition, most projects address other goals and targets.

In addition to supporting the international projects of DUF member organisations, DUF is involved in promoting democracy and a democratic way of life through its own international projects. One example of that includes the New Democracy Fund, where DUF has been a partner since 2020. Through the New Democracy Fund, DUF works to support the strengthening of a democratic civil society and promote the people-to-people exchange of experience and regional networks in the European Neighbourhood countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. As part of DUF's work in this region, a Ukrainian-Danish Youth House is being established to function as a hub for democratic activism and capacity building of youth.

As mentioned, DUF also administers the programme for Denmark's youth delegates to the United Nations. It is the largest youth delegate programme in the world. Denmark has had youth delegates to the United Nations since 1972. In 2017, the programme was expanded to include High Level Political Forum and Third Committee meetings. In 2018, the programme further expanded into six youth delegates across three themes

and in 2021 another theme was added, making it four themes and eight youth delegates with two on each theme: 1) Democracy and partnerships, 2) Technical & vocational education and job creation, 3) Climate and environment and 4) Gender equality and SRHR (Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights). The youth delegates represent the Danish youth in international forums and inform Danish youth on global agendas. To validate their mandate as representatives for Danish youth, DUF has adopted policy papers on the SDGs and human rights, among other issues. This shows how the SDGs are a crucial and mainstreamed part of the work the youth delegates do, both in Denmark and at meetings with the United Nations.

Gaps and steps to be taken

The youth have a very special role to play in our common mission to create a sustainable world. Young people are living in a time when, for the first time, there is a global focus on the need to make radical changes if our planet and humanity are to continue coexisting. We are on the right track, but there are still gaps and steps to be taken. Young people continuously come up with great solutions and act on behalf of the future they want to be a part of. Locally, nationally, and globally, we are witnessing young people addressing the challenges of the world: the climate crisis, rising youth unemployment and attacks on democracy and human rights. Therefore, a strong youth involvement should also play a central part in implementing the SDGs in Denmark. Further, DUF suggests using youth panels to ensure meaningful youth involvement and to strengthen youth organisations to ensure further anchoring of the SDGs in Danish society.

Maintaining strong youth involvement

Youth involvement and engagement is a central part of the Danish strategy for implementing the SDGs. Among other things Denmark has appointed eight youth delegates since the first VNR in 2017. But there is still room and a need for further youth involvement. Young people in Denmark must be involved in the democratic processes on all matters and at all levels. They are the ones who stand to gain a brighter future if the right decisions are made and therefore, they deserve a seat at the table.

Youth panels

Perspectives, ideas, and knowledge from young people should be included and acknowledged in decision-making processes and political initiatives when relevant. For example, the Minister for Development Cooperation and the Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities have both established associated youth panels. The establishment of youth panels ensures that the Danish youth have an impact on decision-making processes concerning their future and are able to qualify decisions made by the Government and Parliament.

Strengthen youth organisations

The youth organisations already working actively with the SDGs must be strengthened to ensure further anchoring of the SDGs in Danish society. For example, ensuring that funding is available to support the SDG agenda and sustainability initiatives driven by young people. Youth organisations are the best available partners for raising awareness of the SDGs among the next generation and ensuring democratic legitimacy and interest in the 2030 Agenda framework.

Youth organisations can #BuildBackBetter

The global pandemic has been particularly challenging for young people and youth organisations in Denmark. Young people have experienced a radical change in their everyday lives, going to school online with limited social interactions. The number of lonely and mentally vulnerable young people increased in 2020 and 2021. The established youth organisations in Denmark can offer insights and ideas on how to improve well-being among children and young people, and offers a community and sense of belonging, which is a central part of building back better after the pandemic.

The Danish Youth Council (DUF)

The Danish Youth Council (DUF) celebrated 80 years as a democratic youth actor in 2020. That's 80 years as an umbrella organisation promoting democracy as a way of life and actively engaging young people in organisations and society - locally, nationally and internationally. DUF consists of 80 children and youth organisations. DUF's member organisations range from scouts to political youth organisations, voluntary social organisations, cultural organisations, environmental organisations, organisations for youth with disabilities and many more. DUF works across the political spectrum and highlights the interests of its member organisations for politicians and public authorities, ensuring a political and regulatory framework that enables voluntary youth organisations in Denmark.

DUF works to ensure that the Danish society lives up to the principle of Leave No One Behind. In terms of integration of immigrants, this poses a particular challenge, as much public and civil life is not inclusive towards immigrants, descendants of immigrants or religious minorities. For example, schools lack prayer rooms, making it difficult for religious minorities to receive a quality education, as outlined in SDG 4, without compromising their religious liberty. To this end, DUF is working to make society more inclusive.

In general, DUF supports young people and their well-being though initiatives focusing on mental well-being. Since 2019, DUF and Tuborgfondet have worked together on the project "All Youth Included" (Alle Unge med i Fællesskabet). The focus of the partnership is to engage more young people in democratic communities where they feel a sense of belonging and commitment. The ambition is to reduce inequality (SDG 10) and give all young people the possibility to actively engage in democracy, society, and organisations.

5.2.4 The Private Sector and Organisations

The following chapters are written by, respectively, the Confederation of Danish Industry (early May 2021), Global Compact Network Denmark (early May 2021), the Danish Chamber of Commerce (end of April 2021), and the Danish Agriculture & Food Council (end of April 2021).

The Confederation of Danish Industry

Making sustainability a sustainable business
The world today is characterized by complex challenges that affect the global economy and every single business and household. Risks such as climate change, inequality, geopolitical tensions and the current pandemic transcend borders and sectors. And many of these risks relate to global goals and unsustainable development. At the same time, the foundation on which most companies have based their business model is changing: Fossil energy sources, which are the foundation of industrialization, no longer lead to welfare and job creation, but to climate change with unmanageable environmental and economic consequences. Urbanization, that for decades led to economic growth, is now leading to rising inequality, health problems and pollution. As a consequence, sustainability is not just about showing responsibility for companies; it is increasingly a prerequisite for attracting investors and labour as well as meeting demands from consumers and customers in both the public and private sectors worldwide. Therefore, it is necessary for business leaders to be able to understand which risks and opportunities this development implies for each individual company's core business today and in the future.

Private sector commitment has been a critical enabler for Denmark's world-leading position on sustainability. Danish businesses are increasingly integrating the SDGs into their mindset and business models. Danish companies have many years of experience in providing sustainable solutions that contribute to solving global challenges. The SGDs match key strengths of Danish businesses, and in the areas of water, food, life science and renewable energy, Danish companies are particularly well positioned to deliver the required sustainable solutions. According to the 2018 IMD World Competitive Business Rankings, Denmark ranks first on companies' prioritisation of sustainable development. Danish companies are placed in the top three in relation to CSR, accounting practices and ethical standards, and Denmark is among the top 10 countries where public service partnerships support technological developments. This reiterates that sustainability is an integral part of the mindset of Danish businesses. And finally, businesses contribute with creativity, innovation and financial muscle. It is to a large extent up to companies to deliver the new solutions needed to ensure clean water, sustainable energy, and food for all. The goals cannot be achieved without engagement from the private sector and SDG 17 – Partnerships for the goals - is probably the most important goal as it constitutes the fundamental prerequisite for the achievement of the remaining 16 goals.

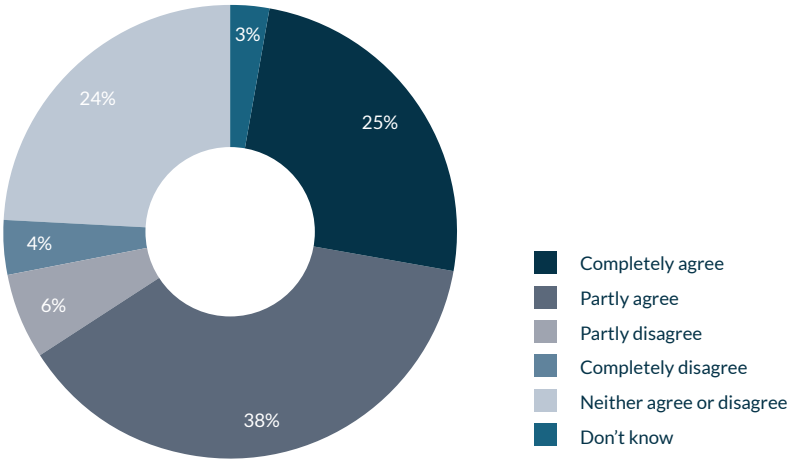
Sustainability as an important parameter of competitiveness
In March 2021, the Confederation of Danish Industry (DI) examined Danish companies' views on sustainability in business and industry, and the results were striking: Out of 801 companies surveyed, 63% answered that they fully or partially agree that sustainability is an important competitive parameter for their business. It is a significant result that underlines the importance of companies working actively and strategically to strengthen sustainability and to document and communicate about the results. Export companies in particular are experiencing increased demands and expectations regarding sustainability from customers and investors. Among the export companies, 67% are experiencing increased focus on sustainability from customers and investors. This applies to 49% of companies without exports.

Figure 5.1

Notice:
Out of 801 answers
Source: Confederation of Danish Industry - Company panel

Sustainability as a parameter of competitiveness

Sustainability constitutes an important parameter of competitiveness for my company today



Likewise, a significant majority - 60% of respondents - replied that they are experiencing increasing demands or expectations from customers and investors for their company to work with sustainability and responsible business conduct. Large companies are also experiencing demands and expect sustainability to a greater extent than the smaller companies: while 49% of the companies with 1-50 employees are experiencing increasing demands and expectations, this applies to 78% of the companies with 51 to 250 employees and 91% of companies with more than 250 employees.

Figure 5.2

Notice:
Out of 801 answers
Source: Confederation of Danish Industry - Company panel

Expectations of sustainability

Have you experienced that your costumers/investors are increasingly demanding or expectating that you work with sustainability and responsible business conduct?

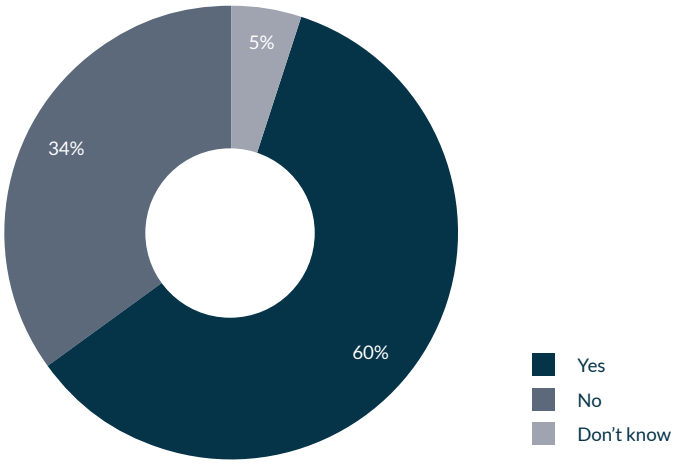
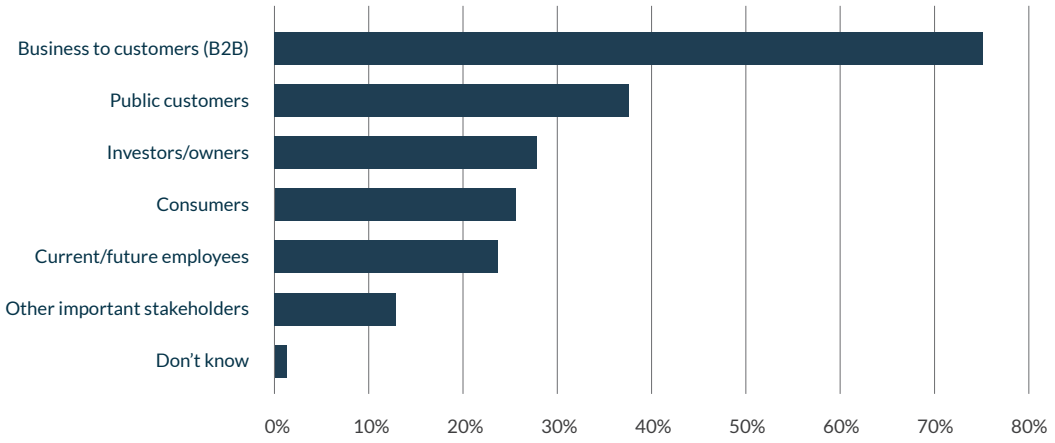


Figure 5.3

Source:
Confederation of Danish Industry - Company panel March 2021

Source of increasing demands/expectations
Especially business to business customers (B2B) have demands concerning sustainability.
From which group does your company experience increasing demands/expectations?



Almost 50% of the companies also demand sustainable and responsible company behaviour from their own suppliers: These are primarily requirements for the environment (68%), but also climate (46%) and social aspects such as workers' rights (59%).

These numbers emphasize how much greater the demand from B2B customers is compared to public customers, and thus the need for more green and sustainable public procurement in Denmark. This will hopefully be improved when the Danish Government strategy from autumn 2020 on sustainable public procurement is implemented. DI has encouraged the UN and the Danish Government to work for more sustainable procurement, including within the UN and the EU.

Guiding the companies from Philanthropy to Business

DI has launched several projects with partners to help businesses in their efforts related to climate and sustainability. The purpose is to inspire and motivate even more Danish companies to work strategically with the Global Goals and translate them into business results and more jobs. The demand from companies and the results of two of these projects (From Philanthropy to Business and ClimateReadySME clearly show how the private sector plays a crucial role in realizing the SDGs.

In 2018 the Confederation of Danish Industry and the Danish Industry Foundation launched a pioneering project, "The UN Sustainable Development Goals – From Philanthropy to Business", aiming to unite business and sustainable development:

Box 5.2

The UN Sustainable Development Goals – From Philanthropy to Business

21 companies representing a broad section of the Danish business community participated in the project, which transformed into a journey. And the team behind the project summed it up, "*To survive and thrive in the 21st century, a company does not need a sustainability strategy – it needs a business strategy based on sustainability*." As a part of the project, DI developed an online SDG portal for companies with advice, concrete tools and good cases to inform, inspire and encourage working strategically with the SDGs[12]. A team of researchers from Copenhagen Business School (CBS) followed the project over the two and a half years to evaluate it and extract learnings and the results[13]. These were among the main findings of the rapport "Turning the Sustainable Development Goals into business opportunities":

- "The SDGs are seen as highly relevant by the 21 companies. They all invested substantial resources in the DI SDG project. Many reported changes to their strategy and business model because of the SDG work and most reported that they would continue the SDG work full speed after the DI SDG project had ended."[14]

- "The 21 companies clearly engaged with the SDG agenda with a commercial mindset and expected that the SDGs would create business opportunities. They used the SDGs in essentially three ways: Some companies engaged with the SDGs to anticipate future regulation and social expectations and to pre-empt future regulations and requirements that threaten their product category and technology. Others used the SDGs as a lever to differentiate themselves in existing markets that increasingly place a premium on sustainability. A last group of companies used the SDGs as a vehicle for identifying and developing entirely new markets."[15]

- "While at present, SDG work has allowed companies to command a premium in the market or enter new markets only to a limited extent, most companies report that the share of their sales differentiated wholly or partly on SDGs and sustainability will increase substantially over the coming three to five years. A few companies could report that they already see tangible results from their SDG work in terms of identification of new markets and increased income."[16]

- "The project demonstrated that for SDGs to make a difference, companies need to mobilize all levels of the company. In particular, companies need to create close alignment between top-management and operational levels. With out top-management engagement it is not possible to link the SDG work to the core activities of the company and to transform the business model and business strategy. Moreover, the survey found that SDG work not only involves sustainability functions and top management but in many cases also sales and marketing and R&D functions."[17]

- "Based on the analysis of the experiences of the 21 companies, it is recommended that more companies engage with the SDG agenda as part of their business strategy. Their experiences indicate that this framework provides an excellent platform and language for transforming companies' sustainability activities into business opportunities. The SDG agenda potentially provides companies with a compass by which they can sense and seize future market opportunities and risks related to sustainability and, ultimately, transform their business accordingly. On the other hand, not all companies' businesses will benefit from the SDGs to an equal degree! The project demonstrated that the content and benefits of SDG work vary enormously among companies depending on the sector, end-markets, consumer sentiments, mind-sets, regulation and previous experience with sustainability work. Hence, companies considering engaging with the SDG agenda must carefully calculate the marginal costs and benefits, as well as opportunity costs, of engaging with this agenda."[18]

The SDG journey continued. DI and many of DI's member companies have continued to work strategically with the SDGs and, three years later, in 2021, a new project - ClimateReadySME - was launched with support from the Danish Industry Foundation, the Manufacturing Industry, and a number of competent partners including Axcelfuture, Global Compact Network Denmark, the University of Aalborg and Viegand Maagøe. The project sprang out of the fact that large companies are increasingly demanding an overview of their CO2 footprint along with concrete reduction plans. They are committed to reducing CO2 emissions throughout the value chain - including from subcontractors. As a consequence, large companies in Denmark and their customers are demanding that the subcontractors are conscient of their CO2 footprint. The participating companies receive free counselling on how to prepare a calculation of their CO2 footprint (direct and indirect, in the form of a strategy for CO2 reduction, including concrete recommendations, and recommendations regarding marketing and communication to existing and potential costumers regarding the reduction plans).

The continued enormous interest from businesses clearly shows that the Danish business community is taking the global challenges seriously, and that it has the ambition and determination to pursue major business opportunities in achieving the Global Goals at the global level.

Innovative Climate Partnerships pave the way

In autumn 2019, the Danish Government invited the Danish business community to participate in 13 so-called Climate Partnerships in various branches. The partnerships consisted of some of Denmark's most important and innovative companies and was headed by 13 chairpersons from Danish business. Their task was to formulate proposals on how the business community could continue to contribute to the target of reducing CO2 emissions by 70% by 2030, and to recommend which political decisions would be needed to support it. DI and many of DI's member companies contributed to this important public-private cooperation: DI was involved in all of the Climate Partnerships and headed the secretariat of five of them. On 16 March 2020, the Climate Partnerships submitted their reports with more than 400 recommendations. A number of these have already been incorporated into political agreements, while others are still outstanding. In connection with the one-year anniversary of the Climate Partnerships' reports in 2021, sector roadmaps were prepared providing a status of the work. The dialogue continues in the framework of the Green Business Forum.

This is a concrete example of how engagement of the private sector leads to action. Equally important is the fact that businesses and business organisations are a crucial part of the green transition and they are ready to take responsibility and engage actively to drive the green transition in Denmark, hopefully inspiring other countries around the World. DI has already started to explore new ways to create engaging partnerships in an international context inspired by the Climate Partnerships, e.g. with local partners in Africa.

The case for circular economy in Denmark and abroad

The key idea in a circular economy or bioeconomy is to keep materials in circulation for as long as possible to retain or even increase their value and reduce the impact on the environment. In Denmark, companies in various sectors have embraced circularity, using different strategies to increase their resource efficiency. Denmark has a long tradition as a food-producing country with sustainability as a core value. The ingredients industry has many of the skills and technologies, such as fermentation and purification, required to spearhead a circular bioeconomy, in which side streams from feed and food production are utilised. Waste materials from one production line can be used to produce other more valuable products, thereby contributing to value creation, innovation and mitigation of waste of raw materials and food. Some of the Danish companies that work strategically with circularity are Arla Foods Ingredients and Grundfos. Arla has a full range of high-value products based on whey – formerly a waste stream from the production of cheese. And the pump producer Grundfos is among the companies which take back used products, dissemble them and recycle the materials. While the ease of disassembly has not previously been a priority in the design process, the ambition is now to include disassembly to enhance circularity in future product. The use of take-back schemes is thus a way for businesses to make use of their discarded products and reuse parts or recycle materials. Additionally, businesses can use take-back schemes to gain valuable insights into future product designs.

DI has also made use of valuable Danish experience within recycling when working with foreign partners. In Kenya, where only 6% of plastic waste is recycled, plastic waste has been an increasing threat to the environment and to public health. Denmark has one of the best systems in the world when it comes to recollecting and reusing plastic bottles due to the for-profit company dealing with deposits and return, Dansk Retursystem. DI has been a partner of Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) for many years, so after close dialogue with DI and the Danish Plastics Federation, in 2019

KAM gathered the relevant local actors to develop a plan for a circular economy in the plastic sector[19]. KAM expects the plan to ensure that more than 50% of plastic is reused and that recycling will create new job opportunities in the private sector.

Lessons learned

- Set high ambitions: Denmark is a frontrunner in many areas, such as renewable energy, water and sanitation, life science, architecture and sustainable food production, but we continuously have to focus on the difficult areas such as less food waste, increased recycling, smaller carbon footprint and gender equality, especially in education, the private sector and top management.

- Be concrete: Make it clear where Denmark is challenged with respect to reaching the SDGs and how to handle specific targets, indicators and challenges.

- Engage in innovative partnerships: When actors from the private sector, civil society, the public sector, social partners and Government come together and people are engaged, great solutions can be found and structural changes can be made. This goes for carbon emissions, circular economies, descents jobs and practically all the SDGs.

- Create the right framework conditions and incentives: This includes increased focus on sustainable solutions in all areas of public procurement in Denmark and in international organisations, thus fuelling demand in the market and helping to build a foundation for companies to increase sustainability in products, production methods and services.

- Promote the SDGs among national and international partners and share your engagement, experience and good results: We need to join forces and help each other if we are to realize the SDGs by 2030!

Box 5.3

Case: Fischer Lightning

The lighting company Fischer Lighting has created the sustainable lamp "August" from old fishing nets. Before the company developed the solution, they tested both pocket wool, coffee grounds and old jeans. There is hard work behind the launch, but also a strong collaboration based on the Sustainable Development Goals. The lamp has won multiple prizes such as the 2018 Building Green Fair Product Award and the 2019 German Green Product Award.

Fischer Lighting participated in the project, "From Philanthropy to Business", from its beginning in 2018, and has incorporated sustainability throughout their business. The company has developed new, patented technology that makes it possible to install LED technology in existing lighting fixtures. With the Fischer ReDesign ® concept, which August is a part of, Fischer Lighting uses old fixtures, but creates an entirely new design based on salvaged light housings. This range honours the history and lineage of the original designer, and adds to the story with new techniques and technologies. In the re-imagination of these fixtures, Fischer seeks to honour the qualities of the original creators in the remix. Fischer Lighting's design principle is "design for disassembly". This means that all parts must be able to be disassembled and reused again and again. In this way, the lamp is the next step towards even more sustainable lighting.

Lars Elmvang, partner in Fischer Lighting, says: "*We must take the SDGs seriously. It should not just be a communication stunt, but make a real difference for the climate and human well-being.*"

Such high ambitions require strong partnerships with designers and suppliers. Fischer Lighting has collaborated with the architectural firm 3XN / GXN on the design of the August lamp. The ambition has been that everything should be included in a circular context so that nothing ends up as waste. In the development process, the lighting company was looking for recyclable materials. They tested both pocket wool, coffee grounds and old jeans, but ended up with a solution from Danish Plastix, which collects old fishing nets and converts the material into granules. But Fischer Lighting's work on sustainability is not just a philanthropic contribution to the environment; it also benefits the company's bottom line.

"*We see great potential in the market value of working with the SDGs,*" says Elmvang. "*Our sustainable lighting solutions are overall cheaper than buying new, so customers can both save money and do something extra good for the environment by choosing our solutions. Sustainability and profit go hand in hand for Fischer Lighting.*"

SDG 12, Responsible consumption and production, is at the heart of Fischer Lighting's business. By reusing material from fishing nets, they work to counteract plastic in the world's oceans while thinking of new business models for production as an alternative to the "use and throw away" culture.

"This involves both recycled plastic and recycling of the rest of the lamp parts. That way we get a fully closed chain, and that is what we are missing," says Hans Axel Kristensen from Plastix.

Fischer Lighting also works consciously with SDG 7, Sustainable energy, by optimizing the energy of their lighting solutions. In addition, the company develops circadian rhythm lights, which will promote health and well-being in schools, workplaces and in the care and health sector. The global goals thus play a major role in the development and production of Fischer Lighting's solutions.

"It takes hard work to translate the world goals into all stages of the business model. It is extremely important to have some enthusiasts who can drive the process, but it is all worth it - both for the bottom line and for a more sustainable future," concludes Elmvang.

Box 5.4

Case: Peter Larsen Kaffe

Coffee producer Peter Larsen Kaffe has a clear goal: By 2030, all waste related to the coffee plant must be gone. This means that the entire biomass of the coffee must be used, with no superfluous residual products in the coffee's long journey from farmer to consumer. It sounds like a classic story about resource optimization. But the story of Peter Larsen Kaffe's mission could, in principle, begin with the large refugee flows on the border between the United States and Mexico. Many of the refugees were coffee workers from Guatemala and Honduras who left the farms due to poor earnings and miserable future prospects. Millions of coffee farmers will follow in their footsteps in the coming years if nothing happens in the industry: The price of coffee beans has not changed for 20 years, which is one of the reasons why many leave the coffee industry, and only a few new producers join. It threatens the existence of the entire industry and Peter Larsen Kaffe, explains Lars Aaen Thøgersen, who is responsible for innovation at the company.

When Peter Larsen Kaffe joined the project "From Philanthropy to Business", the goal was to optimize efforts to save the coffee farmers of the future and thus also Peter Larsen Kaffe's own business. The company has already made great efforts in social responsibility, and the work with CSR initiatives and these initiatives are a natural part of the company's daily operations, where social responsibility as an integrated part of the core business - a business that is further strengthened by embracing and working with the SDGs.

"*The core of the matter is to analyse how we can use the SDGs to make the greatest possible impact and actually talk about what we can change in the world. Once you get that analysis done, and track down where you can contribute the most, you start to see that there is business in philanthropy,*" says Thøgersen.

The result of their work was a vision that embraces several SDGs: To provide more money in farmers' pockets, reduce their climate impact, reduce production waste, and give coffee farmers an extra opportunity to make money in order to increase living standards and improve the reasons to continue in the coffee industry.

But the journey didn't stop there for Peter Larsen Kaffe. They continue to explore new ways to use the coffee plants. The plants can, for example, be used for building materials, soft drinks or detergent. There are also obstacles: The big question for Peter Larsen Kaffe right now is to find out what makes most sense to produce, because it can't be too high-tech, as the coffee farmers should be able to produce and distribute it.

"*The big challenge is how we turn the plants into something that has value and can be sold. How do we create products that farmers can make money on, and how do we ensure that they get help to sell it?*" says Thøgersen.

Global Compact Network Denmark

The UN Global Compact Network Denmark (GCDK) is a business-led multistakeholder network of more than 460 businesses from a wide range of industries including the financial sector and organisations. GDCK's vision is to contribute to a more sustainable world by mobilizing businesses to work with social responsibility and sustainability. We support Danish businesses in working with sustainability as a means to create value for their core business using tools based on the Global Compact's Ten Principles (Human Rights, Labour Rights, Environment/ Climate and Anti-corruption) and the SDGs.

Many of the Danish signatories are including the SDGs in their COP (Communication on Progress) reporting which illustrate that they recognize potential in the SDGs – both as a means of meeting their social responsibilities and as an attractive business opportunity.

We are experiencing large interest from companies. More than 70 new Danish companies and organisations joined GCDK in 2020 despite the pandemic. The proportion of businesses that have committed to working with the 10 principles of the UN Global Compact in Denmark is the largest in the world calculated by commitments per capita.

Key changes/lessons learned
Private sectors play an essential role in the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The challenges addressed in the 17 goals can only be addressed in partnerships between the public and private sector as well as in partnerships with civil society, academia, and other important stakeholders.

The Danish business community welcomes the SDGs and recognizes that the SDGs address key challenges influencing all of us. Businesses are an important part of the solution to these challenges and solving them represents massive business opportunities. First and foremost, businesses need to reduce their negative impacts while working on finding new and better solutions. In a global perspective, Denmark is regarded as a high performer in the context of the 2030 Agenda, and several SDG-rankings list Denmark as a top performer. However, Denmark also needs to step up and improve in several areas. From our perspective this is where we should place special attention in Denmark.

Danish businesses are a key driver to achieve the SDG goals
Though Denmark ranks highly in the 2030 SDG Index [20], there are pressing challenges that need to be addressed. According to the most recent research from the OECD, Denmark is doing worse than in 2019. At that stage, Denmark was severely underperforming in relation to two goals and a third was added in 2020. GCDK has decided to highlight the SDGs where we have initiatives and where our members are contributing

- Goal 5.5: Gender Equality
- Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- Goal 13: Climate Action

The Danish business community acknowledges the important role it plays in finding solutions. Businesses can aide in finding new ways and solutions in areas where Denmark needs to improve. Global Compact Network Denmark addresses several of these areas in our activities with great engagement from our signatories.

The private sector's contribution to achieving the SDGs

Survey of Danish signatories to the UN Global Compact in April 2021
Global Compact Network Denmark experiences interest from the Danish Business community to support the SDGs. GCDK conducted a survey in April 2021 of Danish signatories of the UN Global Compact. Despite a deadline of only one week, 46 answered the survey. 61% of respondents gave concrete examples of how they are already working actively with the SDGs. They see the SDGs as an important tool to reach overall targets. Moreover, the survey reveals that the companies see the SDGs as part of a mega-trend and as a potential business opportunity:

"*From a business opportunity perspective, the SDGs tell us about mega-trends where we see a potentially enormous un-met demand and how we can contribute to meet that demand – while doing business*", according to Grundfos.

Strong dedication to the SDGs from Danish UN Global Compact signatories -Danish companies actively working with the SDGs to reduce negative impact
The Danish business community contributes to the SDGs in many forms from utilizing the SDGs as a framework to identify positive and negative impacts to integrating them directly into innovative business models and strategies. We have included several examples of Danish Global Compact

signatories who are actively working with the SDGs in their efforts to identify business opportunities, reduce their negative impact and drive sustainable development. The experience of the Danish business community shows that there are many ways of working with the SDGs.

SDG 5.5: Gender Equality in Denmark
On March 31, Denmark was ranked at 29th place overall according to the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2021, which is a setback from 14th place last year, and an even further setback from 2008, at which time Denmark was among the top ten countries. The report's overall documentation of a widening gender gap in Denmark represents an area of concern in relation to Denmark's contribution to SDG 5.5, which calls for women's equal representation, participation, and leadership in business globally.

One of the contextual findings that is of particular concern is that even though Denmark ranks at the top when it comes to women's educational attainment, the report mentions Denmark as an example of an advanced economy with an alarming 38% income gap to bridge.

- **Global Compact Network Denmark's initiative for Gender equality**
  Target Gender Equality is a gender equality program for participating companies of the UN Global Compact to deepen implementation of the Women's Empowerment Principles and strengthen their contribution to Sustainable Development Goal 5.5.

  Through facilitated performance analysis, capacity-building workshops, peer learning and multi-stakeholder dialogue at the country level, Target Gender Equality will support companies in setting and reaching ambitious corporate targets for women's representation and leadership, starting with the Board and Executive Management levels.

Box 5.5

Case: Xellia Pharmaceuticals' work with diversity targets

Xellia Pharmaceuticals focused on increasing the diversity of our workforce and managers at all levels. We aim to have >40% female managers, talents, and successors by 2025. We formalized our Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Team with representatives from all Xellia sites and held awareness training for leaders on unconscious bias to help overcome stereotypes and outdated beliefs. In addition, we became a signatory to the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEP) and have assessed the 7 Principles to guide us on the initiatives that we will embark on going forward. We expanded the scope of this team to also include other factors in addition to gender diversity.

See Xellia Pharmaceuticals website [21].

Box 5.6

Case: Novo Nordisk IT (NNIT) launched a podcast called Women in Tech

In 2020, NNIT introduced a podcast series Women in Tech, in which we invite women in the IT industry to talk about gender equality and their experiences in a male-dominated industry.

See NNIT's website [22].

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

Denmark is a wealthy nation with large consumption and high waste production levels. Denmark is one of the European countries producing the most waste per inhabitant. While important initiatives are being implemented, progress is moving too slowly. Denmark has a long way to go when it comes to achieving all of SDG 12, and we need a strong commitment from all relevant actors.

Denmark needs to improve waste reduction, reuse and recycling and view waste as a resource. While important initiatives are in place on waste sorting, many companies are calling for a clear incentive structure to handle waste responsibly and the official Climate Partnership for Waste, Water and Circular Economy is arguing for binding targets for reduction and reuse. As common challenges need common solutions, partnerships across value chains need to be the overarching factor for all improvements toward SDG 12.

- **GCDK project "Verdensmål i Værdikæden" funded by the Danish Industry Foundation**
  GCDK is project lead in the flagship project Verdensmål i Værdikæden, funded by the Danish Industry Foundation. The three-year project is a collaboration between GCDK and Danish Restaurants & Cafés. It aims to enhance the overall level of sustainability in the restaurant sector by using a value chain approach. The slogan of the project is that "common challenges require common solutions". More than 70 companies and organisations are collaborating to design, test, and mature sustainable solutions to challenges within the food, waste and packaging systems.

Box 5.7

Case: Schoeller Plast reduces consumption in production and looks for alternative raw materials in partnerships with Plastix

One of our major findings and developments is the search for new materials, and especially finding new resources that support the SDGs. Pursuing our goal to learn more across the supply chain has led to several tests in using old ghost nets from trawlers, which have ended their life in the ocean. We work with Plastix in Denmark in supporting this development and Plastix has helped and assisted in testing production possibilities. This is leading to new products that will support our company's future growth. It also supports us in creating new products that have a very positive environmental impact and enable us to minimize the CO2emissions from our production.

See Schoeller Plast's website [23].

Box 5.8

Case: The Danish clothing-tech company Son of a Tailor seeks to eliminate material waste throughout the fashion value chain

Son of a Tailor has created a sustainable business case around "made-to-order" production where clients can order customized shirts directly and made especially for them. Son of a Tailor is reengineering the fashion industry to be better for all parties involved. Our ambition is to put an end to opaque supply chains that are not only harming garment workers and the planet, but also end up delivering a product that does not meet customers' expectations regarding quality and fit. This means that SDG 12 is not only our focus, it is in our DNA. Developing processes and techniques that can inspire a systemic change in the fashion industry is what our business model is based upon. Respect for people and the planet is at the core of this endeavour. Therefore, we especially contribute to SDG 13 and SDG 8.

See Son of a Tailor's website [24].

Box 5.9

Case: Large-scale upcycling of industrial textiles

DFD upcy was established to reduce textile waste from the industrial laundry group, De Forenede Dampvaskerier (DFD). The objective is to upcycle, recycle or down-cycle 100% of all discarded textiles from their customers' textile solutions by 2025. Daily, roughly one ton of textiles is being discarded. As a business concept, DFD upcy supports SDG 12 by letting the textiles re-circulate back to the customers. This represents more resource-efficient textile solutions, which also enable customers to reduce their CO2 footprint by taking part in a circular economy.

See DFD's website [25].

Box 5.10

Case: The Danish global textile company Kvadrat, a champion of circular design

Our brand Really upcycles end-of-life textiles to create premium-quality engineered materials that challenge the design and architecture industries to rethink their use of resources and to design with circular economy in mind. The manufacturing does not involve the use of dyes, water or toxic chemicals, and generates only recyclable waste. The finished material is a closed loop solution and can eventually be re-granulated and formed into new boards and materials. A champion of circular design really encourages innovative concepts that prolong the lifespan of textile resources. Their ambition is a no-waste solution. They offer circularity and production primarily in Denmark, and transparency in what and where the products are produced, challenging designers and architects to innovate and to design for circularity within our cities, offices, and homes.

See Kvadrat's website [26].

Box 5.11

Case: Novo Nordisk's environmental strategy is built on circular economy principles

Our environmental strategy is built on circular economy principles where we minimize consumption across the value chain, turn waste into new resources, and design recyclable products. We aim to eliminate waste of resources and are continuously minimizing use of energy, materials, and water. We use 100% renewable power for our global manufacturing sites today and our target is to have zero CO2 emissions from our operations and transport by 2030. We share this mindset with our suppliers to minimize our impact from our supply chain and our target is to have our 60,000 suppliers using 100% renewable power when supplying us in 2030. We also take circular decisions when designing our products by applying a lifecycle assessment approach and we will launch take-back pilots to eliminate the waste impact from our products.

See Novo Nordisk's website [27].

SDG 13: Climate Action
Denmark is a leading country on the climate agenda and has strong political commitment to reduce emissions as illustrated by the new national Climate Law from 2020. However, Denmark still has a long way to go to meet the 2030 deadline and more action is needed to meet Goal 13, particularly from the private sector.

Many Danish businesses are highly engaged in the climate agenda. 62% are already working on reducing their greenhouse gas emissions, according to a survey by Global Compact Network Denmark and Arla in 2020. However, 30% have not yet started their climate impact reduction, and only 13% of Danish businesses are setting climate targets and measuring their own emissions. The lack of climate action is particularly evident in the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Many SMEs see very few commercial benefits from engaging in climate work and a vast majority are calling for political incentives, tools, and guidance to start reducing their emissions and set ambitious targets.

- **Global Compact Network Denmark's climate action initiative**
  In Global Compact Network Denmark, we are advocating for the use of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol through our global initiative, Science Based Targets. Science Based Targets is a collaboration between the CDP, the United Nations Global Compact, World Resources Institute, and the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) where businesses set validated climate targets that correspond with the latest science and the scenarios outlined by the Paris Climate Accord.

The initiative has enjoyed considerable success globally with more than 1350 companies committing. In Denmark, 34 companies – including some of the largest in Denmark – have joined the initiative, and Global Compact Network Denmark is running a peer learning group where companies can learn more about the initiative, its methodologies, and how to set targets. Global Compact Network Denmark has also joined the Industry Foundation-funded Climate-ready SME (Klimaklar SMV) in collaboration with the Confederation of Danish Industry where 50 SMEs learn to conduct climate accounting and join the Science Based Targets Initiative.

Globally, Global Compact is pushing to increase commitment to Science Based Targets, most recently with the launch of Climate Ambition Accelerator – a capacity-building program where companies on all levels learn about the Greenhouse Gas Protocol and Science Based Targets. The project will be rolled out in 25 local Global Compact networks across the globe, including in Global Compact Network Denmark, and aims to get hundreds of companies to commit to the Science Based Targets initiative within the first year.

Box 5.12

Case: SDG tools to improve sustainability in public and private sectors

NIRAS has developed a series of SDG tools that will help improve sustainability in both businesses and public institutions within a wide series of parameters. The first tool, SDG Capture, creates an easy overview of the interfaces between the UN Global Goals and virtually every conceivable project within municipalities, regions, industry, healthcare, utilities, transport, and construction, etc. SDG Initiator is a tool to help companies prioritize investments in sustainability when optimizing businesses, building new facilities, or developing new strategies. SDG Measure helps figure out how to build in a more sustainable manner, and it can measure all possible parameters and find out how, for example, solar cells, wood, or recyclable materials affect the sustainability of the building.

See Niras' website [28].

Box 5.13

Case: Grundfos Strategy 2025

With the purpose of pioneering solutions to the world's water and climate challenges and improving the quality of life for people, sustainability is an integral part of who we are and how we do business. It is naturally at the core of Grundfos' Strategy 2025. The strategy is essential for meeting our long-term 2030 water and climate ambitions to do whatever is in our power to help achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation and SDG 13: Climate Action.

See Grundfos' website [29].

SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals

The transformative potential of the SDGs can only be realized through collaboration and partnerships. Denmark has several strong examples of private-public partnerships in relation to the SDGs, such as the establishment of the 2030 Panel and the 13 Climate Partnerships.

We also see a large number of the UN Global Compact signatories engaging in partnerships across industries. Companies mention in our survey that they work actively with SDG17. We're also experiencing growing interest from the financial sector, where the focus on sustainable and responsible investments is creating new incentives for companies to act in a responsible and sustainable manner.

Box 5.14

Case: Bank Invest launched one of Denmark's most sustainable equity funds for private investors

The investment association BankInvest has launched several sustainable funds with specific goals to support the SDGs. This means that the investors' money will directly subsidize the SDGs. Additionally, these funds have undertaken ambitious CO2-reduction targets, compared to the rest of the world market, and they thereby contribute to the green transition. BankInvest was the first asset manager to shed light on this. Finally, BankInvest participates in several initiatives and partnerships with special attention on influencing the businesses we invest in to work more goal-oriented with CO2-emissions and other environmental considerations.

See BankInvest's website [30].

Box 5.15

Appendix 1: Overview over respondents working actively with the SDGs from our survey April 2021

Alfa
Arbejdernes Landsbank
BankInvest
BASF A/S
Bech-Bruun
Bluepack A/S
cBrain
Cerebriu
Christensen & Co Architects
Coloplast
Copenhagen Food Collective
Core One A/S
Danoffice IT
De Forenede Dampvaskerier - DFD
DEIF A/S
Demant
DSB
KMD A/S
Kvadrat A/S
Københavns Erhvervsakademi (KEA)
LE34 A/S
LF Vagt ApS
NNIT A/S
Novo Nordisk
Palsgaard A/S
PensionDanmark
Phoenix Design Aid
Plastindustrien
Qualiware ApS
ReSea Project
Schoeller-Plast-Enterprise A/S
Servicefirmaet Renell A/S
Shark Solutions ApS
SimCorp
Son of a Tailor ApS
Spar Nord
TDC NET
Tele Greenland A/S
VELUX
Xellia Pharmaceuticals
ALK
Danske bank
Grundfos

The Danish Chamber of Commerce

A pioneering country that is far from finished: This is how you could briefly describe Denmark's position in relation to the Global Goals. Despite historic progress and overall top performance in international comparisons, there is still room for improvement when it comes to Denmark's position in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the contributions of Danish companies. Placing weight on continuous improvement, the Danish Chamber of Commerce is focused on the transformation needed, the challenges yet to be solved, and the commercial opportunities that will arise from this.

From our perspective, these are the areas where Denmark still has a long way to go in implementing the SDGs:

- **Responsible production and consumption are of the essence.** Despite top rankings in international comparisons (Sdgindex.org), Denmark still has someway to go in improving performance on targets 12, 13 and 14 (respectively, Responsible consumption and production, Climate efforts and Life at sea). In this respect The Danish Chamber of Commerce advocates that Danish SDG and climate policies should not have a too one-sided domestic focus. Otherwise, we risk simply transferring the climate challenges beyond our borders.
- **Increased focus on sustainable imports.** Sustainable imports have traditionally not enjoyed the same focus as sustainable exports in the Danish sustainability discourse. Attention has been paid to how the SDGs can lead to new business opportunities for Danish businesses, which it is estimated will be worth up to 400 billion DKK in 2030 (Ministry of Foreign Affair: A World of Opportunities for Danish Businesses, January 2019)[31]. However, the supply chain and the way goods are produced, shipped and presented are also pivotal for improving SDG performance, and for ultimately realizing the export potential.
- **Speed up progress on women in top management and boards.** In a Danish context, across 14 industries, historic progress has been accomplished by Danish companies in regards to 12 out of 14 indicators in relation to sustainability. (Statistics Denmark: The Danish business sector and the sustainable development goals 2020)[32]. However, in some areas, the story is less clear-cut. For instance, the share of women in Danish top management and boards is still low. This is underscored by the Global Gender Gap Report 2021, where Denmark falls behind its Scandinavian peers. We need to pick up the pace and close the gender gap in Denmark's top management and boards, and we need to close the gender gaps in the Danish educational system.

- **Danish SMEs lag behind large enterprises.** Approximately one third of Danish companies with fewer than 250 full-time employees possess qualified knowledge of the SDGs. The corresponding figure for companies with more than 250 full time employees is approximately 80%. (Danish Chamber of Commerce: All aboard, 2019)[33]. Danish small and medium-sized enterprises constitute 98-99% of the companies and account for around 65% of the privately employed in Denmark. Hence, both as suppliers of solutions and as employers, these companies play a crucial role in realizing the SGDs in Denmark. The Danish Chamber of Commerce advocates targeted initiatives to include and activate SMEs in the 2030 agenda.

- **Despite COVID-19, companies and SDGs still need each other.** Achieving the SDGs is about ensuring economic and political stability. To this end, companies' know-how, knowledge and resources must effectively be brought into play. This mutual dependency between companies and the SDGs has been effectively underscored by the COVID-19 pandemic, accentuating the importance of a robust and sustainable global supply chain. As a business organisation and employers' association, the Danish Chamber of Commerce collaborates with a wide range of companies and industry actors, and uses this opportunity to work with and support the Sustainable Development Goals (The Future of Business - Mapping of the Danish Chamber of Commerce's work with the Sustainable Development Goals, 2019)[34].

The following are examples of how the Danish Chamber of Commerce has worked with the above-mentioned focus areas in 2020 and 2021:

Box 5.16

The soy and palm oil alliances

Under the auspices of the Danish Ethical Trading Initiative [35], a number of Danish Industry Associations, NGOs, unions and Danish companies have joined forces in alliances to advance the import of sustainable palm oil and soy. Both commodities are associated with significant environmental and social challenges, including deforestation. The alliances help Danish companies source responsible palm oil and soy. In addition, the alliances promote dialogue between Danish stakeholders as well as inform consumers about soy, palm oil and sustainability. The vision is that all palm oil and soy imported to Denmark will be produced responsibly and not contribute to deforestation or conversion of natural vegetation, and to contribute to continuous improvements in the responsible production of palm oil and soy globally. The Danish Chamber of Commerce is member of both the Danish Alliance for Responsible Soy [36] and the Danish Alliance for Responsible Palm Oil [37] and actively works to gain support for similar initiatives in other areas related to sustainable import.

Box 5.17

Alliance for Bio Solutions

Biotechnological solutions such as alternative proteins, biological alternatives to pesticides, biodegradable plastics, alternative materials for nylon in textile production, biological insulation materials and other building materials, climate optimization of agricultural production with enzymes and bacteria, and other biotechnological solutions hold great promise. These solutions have the potential to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by more than 4 billion tonnes CO2e by 2030, and become a Danish growth adventure. On top of climate action (SDG13), bio solutions can help advance sustainable agriculture (SDG2), clean water (SDG6), sustainable production and waste reduction (SDG12), and improve life below water (SDG14) and on land (SDG15). However, a number of regulatory issues need to be solved at both the national and European level in order to fully realize the potential of bio solutions. This is something the Danish Chamber of Commerce – alongside the Alliance partners – is working to ensure (New alliance will make Danish Biotech the next windmill adventure, 2021)[38].

Box 5.18

Climate reporting – working towards a common language

Danish companies can be pioneers in new climate solutions and pave the way for the green transition globally. An important starting point for this is a common understanding of how we should calculate and report on the effects of emissions and the environmental impacts of companies, nationally and internationally. A member survey from 2021 shows that 58% of companies do not find they have the resources or knowledge to conduct climate reporting today. There is no doubt that CO2 reporting first becomes a real market driver when it includes scope 3, i.e. the entire value chain. Conversely, this part is also by far the most complex and it leaves a lot of work to subcontractors down the value chain. Therefore, the Danish Chamber of Commerce works to ensure adequate help, support and incentives, when it comes to climate reporting. The first step it to make it attractive for companies to calculate and report on CO2 emissions. A member survey shows that 75% of companies believe that climate and environment should play a significant role in public tenders, but only 11% of public suppliers find that they do so today (Companies are ready for green requirements in public tenders, 2020)[39]. The second step is to ensure the practical support and guidance needed to conduct high quality climate reporting, hereunder with a focus on scope 3 emissions, and we do so through events, guides, alliances and political involvement (Nem Klimaguide - kom i gang med din CO2-beregning, 2020; Opgørelses- og rapporteringsmetoder for grøn omstilling, 2021)[40, 41]

Box 5.19

Combatting gender stereotypes in the Danish educational system

The Danish education system is characterized by massive gender gaps. Twice as many men as women do not obtain any education at all, and the share of women seeking work in certain sectors is very disproportionate. In general, men dominate areas such as engineering, craftmanship, IT and economics, and women dominate health and care professions. The gendered educational system in turn curbs the share of women in management and board positions in the affected sectors. The Danish Chamber of Commerce works for and publicly advocates for a Gender Commission for Education to map the causes of these educational gender gaps and come up with proposals to change the comprehensive gender stereotypes in the Danish educational system, ensuring an education system that gets the most out of our talent pool (Combatting gender stereotypes in the educational system, 2020)[42]. It is our belief that this will help to address a significant root cause of the lagging number of women in Danish top management and board positions.

Box 5.20

Founding the Diversity Pledge together with institutional investors

For two consecutive years, together with the thinktank Axcelfuture and the Danish Board Leadership Society, the Danish Chamber of Commerce has engaged a number of professional board members and CEOs on the subject of equal representation and diversity in top management and boards. The notion behind the board summits on diversity are that if Danish companies and boards do not take action on the gender gap, they might face political quotas. In 2021 together with PensionDanmark, a major labour market pension fund, the Danish Chamber of Commerce announced, and invited other institutional investors into, the development of the Diversity Code to consistently demand diversity from their company portfolios (The business community wants to create a common code, 2021)[43].

The Danish Food Cluster

By the Danish Agriculture & Food Council (DAFC), which represents the farming and food industry of Denmark including companies, trade and farmers' associations.

Key changes/lessons learned
Denmark is in many ways a global role model for sustainable food production and innovation. The Danish food industry has focused on sustainability for many years, but the introduction of the SDGs in 2015 created a common global reference and language that has been very helpful for formulating and fulfilling our goals.

Across the food value chain, collaborative efforts have promoted the most efficient use of natural resources. In many areas we have seen significant improvement based on a strong public-private partnership culture, close integration across the food chain from farm to fork, ground-breaking research and innovation, and an approach to production with a constant focus on resource optimisation. The independent Danish agricultural advisory system, based on the needs of farmers, is a cornerstone for ongoing progress and innovation. In general, we have learned that partnerships across the value chain contribute significantly to a more sustainable food system by generating new and more sustainable solutions and food products.

Primary producers invest heavily in precision farming technology to minimise their environmental footprint and maximise their yield. Food producers constantly explore new ways to reduce their consumption of water, energy and single-use plastic packaging. At a time when the global need for circular bioeconomy strategies becomes increasingly apparent, the Danish food cluster is already a frontrunner. Farmers, food manufacturers, technology providers, retailers and restaurants have a strong focus on transforming waste streams into valuable products. Food residues that cannot be used for human consumption are used for livestock feed, biogas production or agricultural fertilisers. Agenda-setting consumers are demanding healthy, safe and sustainable food.

Since 1990, the Danish food sector has both increased its production and reduced its environmental impact. At the same time, Denmark's food production can feed three times the size of the Danish population using the best available technology. Nevertheless, the sector constantly focuses on how to improve further.

From the Danish food cluster's point of view, the most significant improvements – but perhaps also the most susceptible of potential improvements – apply to these SDGs:

- **3: Good Health and Well-being:** The number of citizens with lifestyle diseases is increasing in Denmark. Among other things, this puts pressure on our healthcare system. It also requires food producers to take co-responsibility for citizens' health and to help curb unhealthy eating habits.

- **12: Responsible Consumption and Production:** Denmark's food industry is in many ways setting a strong example when it comes to resource efficiency. We must focus even more on resource-efficient production and on the connection between productivity, nutrition and sustainability. It requires food producers to optimise production, recycle even more products and materials, and recycle nutrients in future food production.

- **13: Climate Action:** Denmark's greenhouse gas emissions have dropped by 32% since 1990. Agricultural production consists of complicated biological processes that naturally lead to greenhouse gas emissions. Yet, Danish agriculture has been able to reduce its emissions by 16% since 1990, and at the same time increase its production by 21%. However, in order to reach climate neutrality, more initiatives are necessary.

The Danish Food Cluster's contribution to fulfilling the SDGs
The Danish Food Cluster contributes with healthy, safe, and sustainable food and solutions to Denmark and the world. Sustainable, productive and resource-efficient agricultural and food production will directly and indirectly contribute to the fulfilment of all 17 SDGs, as the agriculture and food sector reaches into many corners of society. The Danish agriculture and food sector is one of Denmark's most important strongholds and contributes to sustainable food production at both the national and global level. The sector's intensive and sustainable production – where we continue to produce more with fewer resources – is a crucial element in the progress made by the Danish food cluster. Our main contribution to the fulfilment of the SDGs can be summarised as follows:

#3: Good Health and Well-being
Food is a source of nourishment, enjoyment, togetherness and a wealth of good experiences. Good, healthy and safe food is an important element globally in preventing hunger and malnourishment.

It is natural that we as a sector care that people are learning about the food we produce, just as it is natural that we focus continuously on developing healthier and tastier food. The food industry is an oasis of healthy and nutritious food, e.g. meat, vegetables and other raw materials.

Our focus is on our international responsibility. In several developing and middle-income countries, the population and the authorities are struggling with malnutrition and low food security. The DAFC helps promote local, sustainable growth and development in the world with the use of Danish knowledge and innovations. One way to do this is via the sector adviser programme.

Box 5.21

Case: Food and Nutrition Camps

One example is a partnership with the participation of the DAFC for almost two decades, together with the youth organisation 4H and retailer REMA 1000, and several hundred volunteers involved in the non-profit Food and Nutrition Camps. During five busy days each year, we work to give Danish children food enjoyment, food courage, knowledge of where food comes from, and show them how to combine it.

Box 5.22

Case: Sector Advisory Projects

The DACF is involved in sector advisory projects in several developing and middle-income countries. Sector advisers act as a liaison between authorities and help to build knowledge and start projects locally in areas such as agriculture and food production. Through the projects, Danish authorities contribute to disseminating knowledge and competencies to the developing countries' authorities within agricultural and food production.

#12: Responsible Consumption and Production
The Danish Food Cluster has a tradition of innovation and is increasingly focusing on responsible and sustainable food production. We have taken many steps towards a more responsible production that saves our resources, promotes the circular bio economy and improves animal welfare.

Box 5.23

Case: Danish Protein Innovation

As the world's population grows, the global demand for sustainable protein is rising. Protein is not just protein. It is found in many different forms, in an abundance of foods, and is vital for both animals and humans.

The DAFC has co-founded the partnership "Danish Protein Innovation" consisting of companies, universities, research institutions and industry organisations. The partnership aims to promote and coordinate research and innovation to increase market-based and sustainable Danish production of protein for food and feed.

Box 5.24

Case: DRIP

The food industry has contributed to creating the water partnership DRIP, which consists of food companies, universities, technology suppliers and research institutes. The purpose of the partnership is to implement new solutions to ensure further industrial water savings of 15-30%.

#13: Climate Action

Food production affects the climate and, as a result, new and innovative solutions are necessary if we are to satisfy everyone's appetite while considering the climate challenges the world is facing. Therefore, the Danish food cluster has joined forces with the clear ambition to achieve the goal of a climate-neutral Danish food industry by 2050.

However, it is essential that we think bigger than Denmark. Climate change is a global challenge and everyone must act in line with the UN's global goals to limit world hunger, combat climate change and ensure sustainable production through partnerships. We already have one of the most climate-friendly food productions in the world. Good agricultural practices, innovative companies and efficient research have made Danish food production one of the most climate-friendly in the world today. Many examples can be given: manure that is transformed into energy, crop production residues that become proteins, cows that eat less but give more milk, etc.

Box 5.25

Case: Global Climate Task Force

Denmark accounts for 0.1% of the world's CO2 emissions. If we really want to solve the climate crisis, we must focus on cross-border collaboration. Therefore, the DAFC has created the Global Climate Task Force to develop specific initiatives aimed at minimising the global climate footprint.

Technologies, products and know-how from the Danish food cluster are key elements in reducing food production emissions throughout the world. With Danish breeding material, emissions from pig production could be reduced by up to a quarter. Or methane emissions could be reduced by up to 33% per litre of milk in some countries.

The Global Climate Task Force will deliver tangible recommendations in the form of e.g. political measures and general development opportunities.

5.2.5 Academic Institutions

The following chapters are written by the University of Southern Denmark (end of April 2021) and UNESCO (end of April 2021).

The University of Southern Denmark – research and education contribute to sustainable development

We create value for and together with society
A university must cooperate with its community, contribute to the promotion of growth, welfare and development in society, and exchange knowledge and competences with those around it. Therefore, the University of Southern Denmark's (SDU's) contributions to the SDGs are based on value creation for and together with society. We contribute to sustainable development through research, education and dissemination at the highest international level. This partly presupposes a prioritisation of basic research and partly a prioritisation of strategic research areas with focus on sustainability. Add to this the education of several thousand graduates with both core competences and knowledge of sustainable development as well as participation in the public debate about e.g. the green transition. Therefore, we have integrated our work with the UN's 17 SDGs based on a holistic approach. This means that we work with the SDGs in various arenas which must strengthen the university as a "living laboratory" where researchers, students and external partners can work with issues related to sustainability.

Research and knowledge sharing
The sustainable development expressed in the SDGs presupposes cooperation across subjects, disciplines, organisations and geography. But it also requires new knowledge and new solutions. An essential part of SDU's research takes place in cooperation with the surrounding world across various research environments and with focus on the so-called grand challenges. Our work with the SDGs is based on existing, strong research environments around e.g. sustainable tourism, demography, global health, active living, lifecycle engineering, global sustainable production and aquatic and marine environment. Our approach to the research area is to support the researchers, who have chosen to work with sustainable development, promotion of cross-disciplinary research projects with focus on sustainability, and the initiation of new strategic research projects focused on the SDGs.

Teaching and education
An education creates value and development. Sustainable development presupposes a continued education of people with high core competences, but they must be able to do something more. They must also have a talent for cross-disciplinary work, innovation and handling complex issues. Therefore, we have developed a common introductory course on the SDGs for all new students. The SDGs set the framework for students' work with complex global problems like poverty, inequality in health, the phosphorus crisis, innovation and economic growth or climate change challenges. We are also developing more optional subjects and Master's programmes focused on sustainability, social responsibility and ethics, which will improve students' qualifications within these subjects. Among other things, we implement case competitions in relation to co-curricular and extracurricular activities, where students work on sustainability challenges from companies, and we support initiatives from the students via the SDG pool for the promotion of sustainability at SDU.

People and organisation
According to other universities, up to 80% of a university's climate footprint is related to the behaviour of students and staff. It is therefore important for us to involve students and staff in our efforts to make the university more sustainable. We have established an SDG forum across the university, and sustainability committees at all faculties, where students and staff can bring forward ideas and suggestions for sustainable operation. Several of the initiatives that have been launched to make SDU a greener, healthier and more diverse university are rooted in suggestions from students and staff. They include suggestions for moving more during our workday at the university, better waste sorting, choice of more climate-friendly transportation methods, increased biodiversity at our campuses, etc. We will continuously follow the effects of these measures through preparation of a climate account, but several of the initiatives will also be followed and anchored in research as a "living lab".

UNESCO – World-class teaching of Global Goals

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Schools educate responsible global citizens.
80 Danish schools and youth educations are by June 2021 part of a worldwide school network that has committed itself to incorporating the Global Goals into their everyday school life. Thus, children from Haiti to Herning are taught global citizenship and sustainable development.

UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Schools is the name of the network, which in Denmark is financially supported by the Ministry of Children and Education, and a school of this kind is located in Herning. At Lindbjergskolen, the students will be educated to become responsible global citizens. A global view is therefore an important part of teaching. Lindbjergskolen is in partnerships with other schools, both in Denmark and around the world. In Herning, among other things, students exchange experiences and debate Global Goals with their Brazilian friendship class.

The school and the local community work together toward the goals
The teachers are determined to raise students' awareness of nature and sustainability. And they aim to enable the students to experience how even small actions can make a big difference.

The mantra is: Global Goals must be everyday goals. The impressive goals are transformed into concrete lessons about waste separation, food waste and recycling. In addition, Lindbjergskolen holds an annual Global Goals Week, where the local community is involved and where the students, among other things, give presentations to Herning Municipality's Global Goals Committee.

Being part of the network of UNESCO schools inspires Lindbjergskolen to set a direction for the school on everything from the organisational level to the annual plans. Being one of UNESCO's Sustainable Development Goals Schools brings authority and weight, and makes it easier to attract partners and create new collaborations.

Goal 5 on gender equality is given a place in hair stylist training
It is not only at the primary school level that Danish pupils have the opportunity to attend a Sustainable Development Goals school. Tradium in Randers, has also been designated a UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals School and houses both a vocational school and upper secondary school.

At Tradium, just like at Lindbjergskolen, it is essential to make the work with the Global Goals concrete for the students, and the goals relevant to each individual's education. Whether you want to be a hair stylist, mechanic or work in the service industry or the trades, the Global Goals and a sustainable education are integrated into the teaching. The mechanics visit companies that recycle tires. In the hair stylist classes, there are discussions about gender equality when reviewing different trends over time. And at the business school, the students discuss corporate social responsibility and are taught how to create a business that is environmentally and financially sustainable.

The Global goals also play a part outside of the curriculum: the cafeteria is launching initiatives that reduce food waste; the Global Goals are written into the school's procurement policy; students and staff practice carpooling; and recycling has been introduced everywhere at the school.

5.2.6 Regions and Municipalities

The following chapters are written by Danish Regions (end of April 2021) and Local Government Denmark (early May 2021).

Danish Regions' work with the SDGs

The OECD Programme's Territorial Approach to the SDGs argues that regions and cities play crucial roles in achieving the SDGs. The five regions in Denmark, governed by democratically elected politicians, demonstrate this. Their tasks include health, psychiatry and social services, public transport, education, environmental and nature protection and regional development, making the regions highly relevant for national SDG implementation.

How the regions contribute to the implementation of the SDGs
Today, the regions work within the framework of the national goals of the Danish health system. The national goals focus on, for example, high-quality treatment, mortality and patient safety, and healthy living years. These overlap with many of the indicators within SDG 3 on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for everyone, such as tobacco prevention and mortality from non-communicable diseases. The regions have implemented the national goals in their management of the health system and are free to choose the most suitable indicators. In relation to SDG 13 on climate action, the regions have set an ambitious aim of a reduction in carbon emissions of 75% from hospital operations before 2030, which is more ambitious than the national aim of 70%.

How the regions work with the SDGs
In recent years, work on the SDGs has flourished by voluntary initiative in each region, building on existing traditions and new activities. Today, all regions have a broad focus on how they can enhance sustainable development through their operations and tasks. Some regions have chosen to formulate explicit and targeted SDG action plans, while others have chosen to integrate the SDGs into existing development strategies and plans. In general, the SDGs represent a perspective that is taken into account in decision-making and procurement strategies, despite the challenges of meeting both the political and economic goals.

Partnerships for sustainable development
The regions have a special strength in relation to SDG 17 on partnerships. Within the wide range of regional development tasks, for many years the regions have been and still are the driving force in a great number of broad partnerships with authorities and organisations on joint solutions to complex issues within health, the environment, climate change, education and mobility. The regions involve citizens, municipalities and other stakeholders in the preparation of regional development strategies, and projects are almost always carried out in collaboration with external stakeholders. An example of the latter is a pesticide partnership in the region of South Denmark with the aim to protect groundwater.

The cross-cutting effort in the Association of Danish Regions
As an overlay on their concrete work, the five regions currently cooperate with their interest organisation, the Association of Danish Regions, to identify a number of common regional challenges and indicators related to the SDGs. The ambition is that the regions can set the direction together for regional solutions to global sustainability challenges via common regional indicators and the designation of focus areas. The intention, through quantitative and qualitative follow-up, is to become better able to explain how the regions as a whole address location-specific challenges and potentials for citizens in regards to access to healthcare and regional development.

Local Government Denmark

Denmark's decentralized public sector
In Denmark, the public sector is highly decentralized. The local political responsibility is anchored within 98 municipalities governed by a political city-council. The 98 Danish municipalities are responsible for delivering welfare and developing local communities within a number of public sector areas that are related to the SDGs, e.g. health care, social service, employment, primary schooling, child care and economic development.

KL – Local Government Denmark and the SDG's
KL - Local Government Denmark (KL) is the association and interest organisation of the 98 Danish municipalities In KL's view, it is very positive that the Danish Government has set such high ambitions toward achieving the SDGs. Sustainability is important in all areas of societal development, and the political landmarks must be both visionary and concrete in order to achieve the goals by 2030. It is crucial for progress that the work becomes tangible for the societal actors who can contribute to the fulfilment of the goals, and that both national and local political leaders succeed in engaging citizens and companies in the work. Broad partnerships are a prerequisite for success. In KL's view, the SDGs on *climate action*, *sustainable cities and communities*, *good health and well-being*, and *responsible consumption and production* are important and relevant goals in a Danish context. They are also areas where innovative and concrete Danish solutions could help inspire other countries' work with the SDGs.

KL supports the 98 Danish municipalities in their work with the SDGs in a number of ways. This includes communicating with municipal priorities concerning the SDGs at a national government level; participating in national-level collaborations to strengthen focus on the SDGs across Danish society; collecting and sharing knowledge and best practices between municipalities; spreading the use of the Danish SDG indicators; conducting surveys and supporting research on the SDGs, for instance co-founding a PhD study on local collaboration on the SDGs at the municipal level; and offering physical and digital platforms for dialogue such as conferences, webinars, networks, etc.

Figure 5.4

Note:
77 municipalities responded in 2020, 70 in 2019 and 59 in 2018 out of a total of 98 municipalities in Denmark.

Has the municipality decided to work with the SDGs?

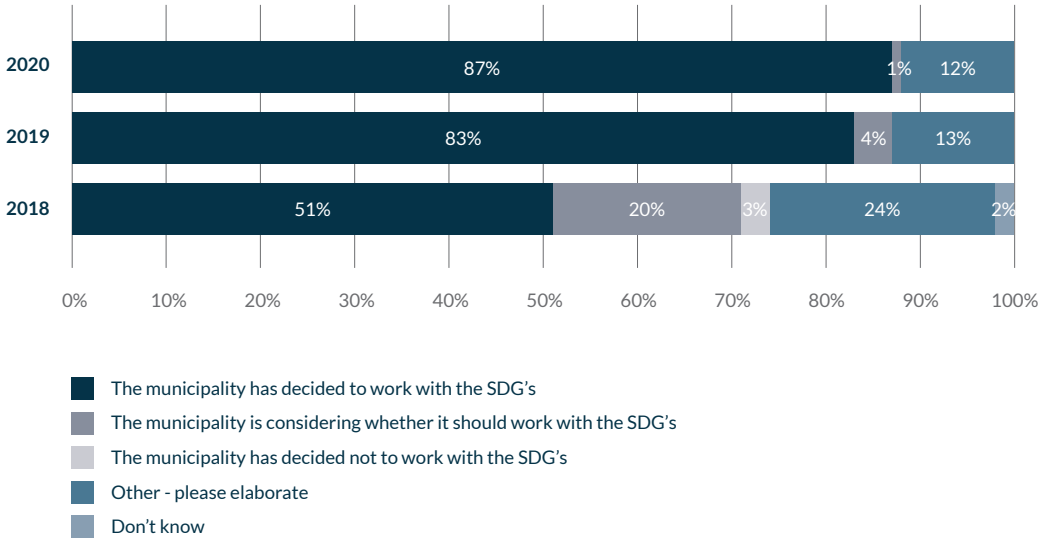
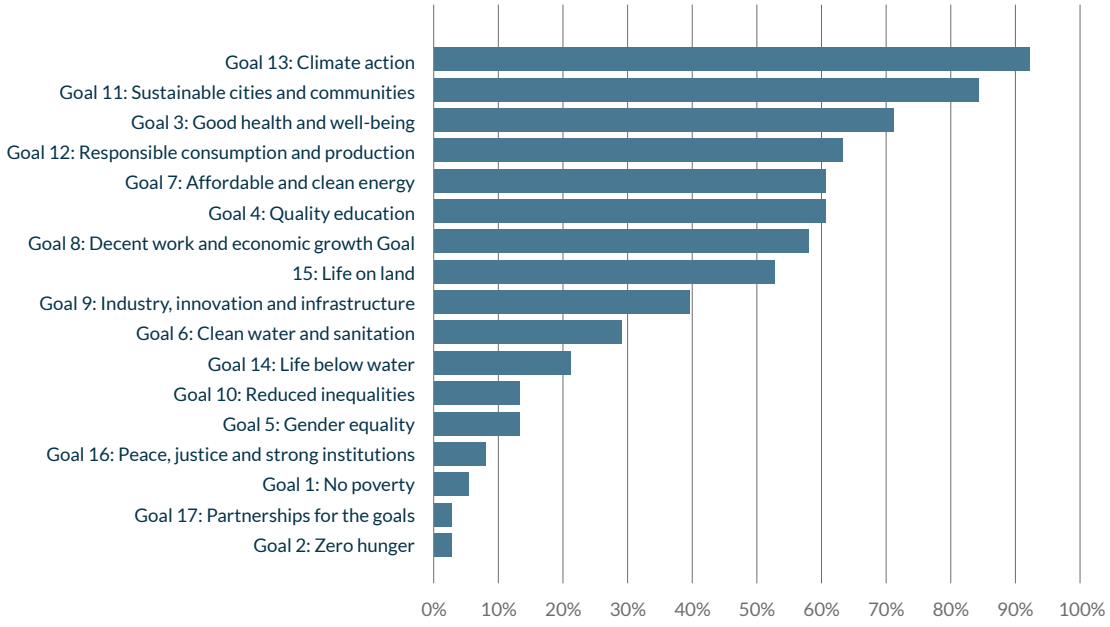


Figure 5.5

Note:
38 municipalities responded in 2020 out of a total of 98 municipalities in Denmark.

Indicate which SDGs the municipality has prioritized (2020)



How municipalities in Denmark work with the SDGs

Work with the SDGs is widespread among Denmark's 98 municipalities. Almost 9 out of 10 municipalities have decided to work actively with the SDGs. This is a significant increase in just two years from only half of the municipalities in 2018 (see figure 5.4). As such, there is a strong local political commitment to the SDGs and the majority of the Danish municipalities have anchored SDG decisions and initiatives within the municipal city council or set up special political committees specifically for the purpose. The three goals prioritized by most municipalities are those concerning *climate action, sustainable cities and communities, and good health and well-being* (see figure 5.5).

In order to make the SDGs an embedded element of the daily work across the many departments within the municipalities, 24% have implemented local SDG strategies or action plans while 74% have incorporated the SDGs into existing strategies.

Partnerships and broad societal commitment are viewed as necessary to achieve the SDGs and most municipalities have formed partnerships with companies and civil society organisations in order to achieve concrete SDG results in broad local collaborations. The SDGs have proven to be an excellent framework for dialogue and for engaging citizens, companies, civil society and public authorities to join forces to achieve goals shared by the local communities and the SDGs.

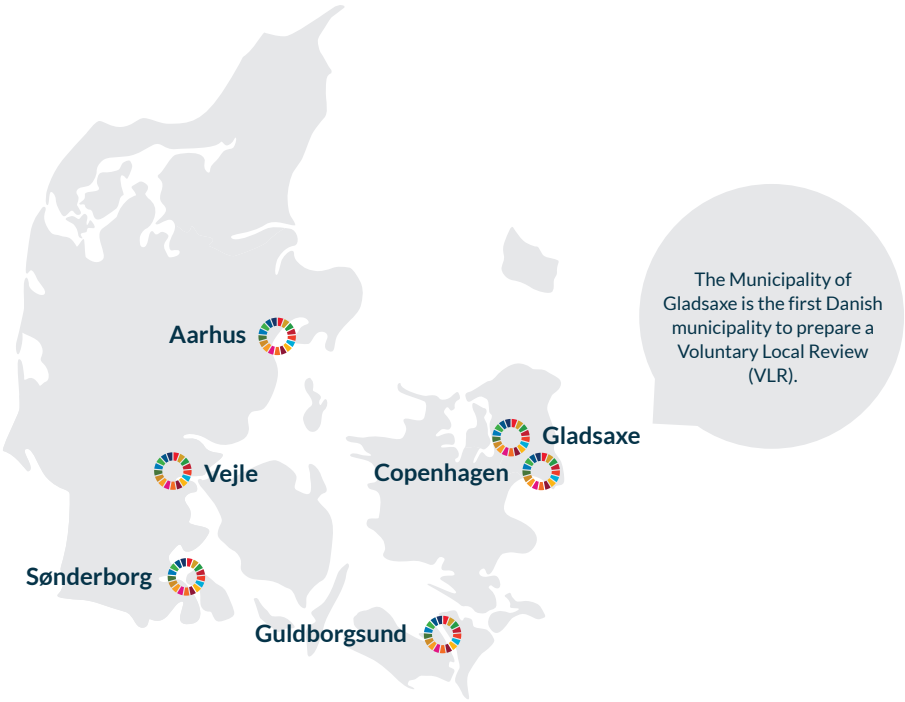
The SDGs in Danish Municipalities

This section provides an overview of the implementation of the SDGs in Danish municipalities. The Municipality of Gladsaxe is the first Danish municipality to prepare a Voluntary Local Review (VLR), which will be presented in a chapter. The Municipality of Copenhagen expects to prepare a VLR in the near future.

The following chapters are written by the Municipalities of Gladsaxe, Copenhagen, Sønderborg, Guldborgsund, Vejle, and Aarhus (all from the end of April 2021).

Figure 5.6

Danish municipalities contributing to the VNR



Voluntary Local Review from Gladsaxe

The Municipality of Gladsaxe is one of the frontrunners on the 2030 Agenda in Denmark, and was the first Danish municipality to deliver on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals by integrating them into the municipal strategy, Gladsaxe's Strategy 2018-22.

Gladsaxe wants to contribute to sustainable development globally by taking action locally, across sectors and in partnerships with external actors and civil society. Gladsaxe is a densely populated area at the core of the functional urban area of Copenhagen.

Sustainable development has been part of the City Council's vision for many years, as Gladsaxe is ambitious and has a vision of not only environmental, but also economic and social sustainability. In Gladsaxe, sustainability constitutes the link between the welfare and growth agendas of the municipality, and Gladsaxe has shown how the SDGs can reinforce the development of sustainable growth and welfare – in spearhead projects as well as small-scale actions and initiatives in practice.

An important lesson learned from Gladsaxe's approach is how sustainable development requires global political leadership and local actions. The message from Gladsaxe's Voluntary Local review is that cities, regions and municipalities have a unique opportunity and can play a crucial role for sustainable development in practice because they are close to the citizens and companies. Gladsaxe's case shows how the SDGs have contributed to a transformation from a classic welfare approach to a broader, holistic cross-sectoral approach addressing progress towards sustainable growth and welfare.

Gladsaxe's approach

What is unique about Gladsaxe's approach is that it is characterized by

- Clear strategic municipal planning with links to the SDGs.
- The SDGs are integrated into the core areas and contribute to linking the different sectors of government in the city strategy, which defines six goals for the city.
- Each goal is connected to activities and linked to the SDGs, which help raise the bar in the development of core tasks, services and activities.
- All administrative activities should be geared to reach these goals.
- The use of the SDGs is clearly grounded in the municipal priorities and interests.

The Voluntary Local Review from Gladsaxe

With the Voluntary Local Review, Gladsaxe wants to inspire other organisations by presenting their strategic approach to the 2030 Agenda in general and the Sustainable Development Goals in particular.

The aim of Gladsaxe's Voluntary Review is not to give an exhaustive review based on the complete reports on the quantitative data and qualitative cases, but rather to present the approach and give some examples from practice as well as data. This can be just as useful and inspiring to other municipalities, organisations, etc. as it presents a transformational strategic approach. For Gladsaxe, it has succeeded in mobilizing the organisation and local community in promising ways driven by political leadership, strategic management and local action within and outside the organisation.

Global Goals and Local Action in Gladsaxe - Gladsaxe's Strategy

The SDGs Goals were introduced during the development of Gladsaxe's municipal strategy for the political term 2018-22 and are now integrated into six cross-sectoral goals in Gladsaxe's Strategy:

1. Children shaping the future
2. Business-friendly city with job growth
3. Equal opportunities to succeed
4. Green and vibrant city
5. Lifelong health and well-being
6. Climate-conscious city

Gladsaxe considers all 17 SDGs important and interdependent and has started out with goals which contribute to raising the bar in the development of core tasks in the strategic focus areas.

Implementation

The strategy is the overarching strategic framework for the development of the municipality, and constitutes an important tool for the political and strategic management of Gladsaxe. The strategy is

being implemented with a systematic focus in three dimensions:

- **Political focus on progress and results**
  The strategy is the foundation for the economic dispositions in the budget. The Annual Report is based on the triple bottom-line. 2-6 indicators for each goal are used to measure progress and adjust our actions.
- **Systematic implementation within the organisation**
  All strategies, plans and decisions link to the strategy's vision and goals, which are integrated into the management processes and steering systems of the organisation. Knowledge sharing and inspiration through cases from all sectors are another important part of inspiring employees and leaders to act.
- **Participation and partnerships for local action**
  Partnerships with local companies and dialogue and innovation with citizens, associations, etc. are crucial to contribute to the goals and become a more resilient community.

Sustainable development does not emerge by itself

Gladsaxe addresses the SDGs as a mutual political and strategic leadership approach, where the shared goals are translated in ways which make sense within and across departments and units of the municipality. In this way, an organisational culture has been developed in which leaders and employees rethink the way they work and contribute to sustainable development in different ways by combining various professional perspectives. E.g. the city is regarded not only as a physical space, but also as the frame for sustainable activities, and there is a continuous search for sustainable solutions in all branches and services of the organisation – healthcare, learning environments, public construction, etc.

Every employee is encouraged to integrate the SDGs and sustainability into their tasks, so the agenda is not only about spearhead or large-scale projects; it's also about the small but important adjustment of activities, services and practices. Motivation is created by not micro-managing the details, but by developing visions of the future together and turning the ideas into action.

The 2030 Agenda is not only integrated as a top priority in the management systems and organisational culture, it is supported by local commitment within and beyond the organisation. Cooperation and co-creation with citizens and local companies is seen as crucial for progress towards a sustainable future. This cannot be achieved by a top-down approach. It has to be more of an integrative, circular approach, bridging perspectives from various branches within and outside the organisation through dialogue and cross-functional networks. This strengthens the capacity of the local community to respond to emerging changes in the environment and become a more resilient city.

Progress towards the goals

Every year a thorough report on the progression towards the strategic goals and targets based on both quantitative data on the indicators and qualitative cases is made for the City Council. The quantitative dataset is complemented by qualitative cases because a lot of sustainable activities and changes emerge which are not meaningfully reflected by the quantitative data.

The reports show that the goals have successfully been integrated into the core areas and services of the municipality. Since 2018, Gladsaxe has taken important steps towards the 2030 Agenda - both small changes and large-scale strategies which point to long-term sustainable development. For instance, in 2020, Gladsaxe has adopted a Sustainable Procurement Policy with high and specific economic, environmental and social sustainability demands on the suppliers due to an ambition to influence the suppliers to contribute to change on a larger, national scale together – and it works. In 2020, Gladsaxe also developed an ambitious Green Transition Strategy, and a Wastewater plan, and established the political strategic framework for the UNICEF Child Friendly City Initiative. To exemplify the Voluntary Local Review, Gladsaxe presents selected quantitative indicators and three qualitative cases:

- The Green Transition Strategy – for a climate-conscious city
- Circular procurement and construction – circular economy in practice
- Child Friendly Cities Initiative – children shaping the future

The strategy, targets and cases are presented in full length in the Voluntary Review from Gladsaxe.
The 2030 Agenda has also broadened into the local community with new partnerships and local initiatives and platforms for action e.g. the SDG House, networks with organisations, business conferences, local start-ups, etc. Even during the last year of pandemic-related lockdowns, the 2030 Agenda has been furthered locally by pursuing partnerships with and among local enterprises as well as among citizens and local actors. Not only, the strategic goal "Children shaping the future", paved the way for the partnership with UNICEF. Due to close dialogue with the private sector actors on the 2030 Agenda and the potential in new business models, new steps

have been taken such as a Green Restart for enterprises, and local enterprises have formed a network to cooperate on sustainability in practice. In the SDG House, local start-ups grow with the shared vision of contributing to one or more of the SDGs.

The SDGs make sense and inspire
Gladsaxe's Strategy provides a shared framework which points out the long-term strategic direction in a way, which leaves space for new ideas and initiatives on a smaller scale. The SDGs are seen as an opportunity to bring forward new synergies within and across sectors in the organisation and in the local community, and are integrated in all relevant contexts - from the large-scale projects, partnerships, policies and strategies to small, significant changes and actions such as using recycled devices, driving e-vehicles, using sustainable infill in soccer fields, etc.

Getting new ideas and changing behaviour is essential to translating the strategy into action. It is Gladsaxe's experience that working with the SDGs makes sense to leaders and employees. The SDGs offer a common language about our united efforts to make a difference together in practice. This way, new drivers have gradually emerged as Gladsaxe has translated the SDGs into practice as seen, for instance, in procurement, tenders and construction.

Sustainability has not only begun to manifest itself within the municipal organisation. Gladsaxe actively addresses the 2030 Agenda in all relevant contexts and encourage enterprises, organisations, local associations, and citizens to participate in working more sustainably. Thus, the strategy grows in the local community due to the municipality's focus on striking the balance between taking the initiative and inspiring local action, while leaving space for local initiatives among citizens and enterprises. Despite the lockdowns during 2020 and 2021, Gladsaxe has succeeded in initiating actions which have inspired children, youth and adults to make a difference. The strategy and the 2030 Agenda have become no less relevant during the COVID-19 pandemic; in some respects they might even have become more urgent. The vision of sustainability and the SDGs motivate and create a sense of community around contributing to the most important agenda.

A strategy growing within the organisation - and beyond
The development in Gladsaxe shows a strategy growing within the organisation and beyond – as the mutual ambition of the political leadership in the City Council; as a shared frame of reference for initiatives and actions in practice within the municipal organisation; and as a platform for ideas and initiatives in the local environment. An approach to implementation enhancing the creation of public value by contributing to sustainable development through partnerships and action at all levels.

For Gladsaxe, participating in this review is a great opportunity to contribute to achieving the SDGs and to bring attention to the challenge of getting the 2030 Agenda to grow locally, and to initiate a virtuous circle in the community with partnerships for action which are crucial to deliver on the 2030 Agenda.

Gladsaxe concludes its Local Voluntary Review with three recommendations for integrating the SDGs into the political and strategic management and development of a city and municipality in order to translate them into a vibrant strategy which makes a difference locally:

- Include all areas of the organisation – not just one branch
- Integrate the SDGs into core operations – not as an add-on
- Be specific and get started

The City of Copenhagen – Sustainability in Mega-events

Every day, the City of Copenhagen is helping to meet the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

Copenhagen is committed to being a city for people. That is why social, climate, environmental and economic sustainability are all high on the city's agenda. This has made Copenhagen a national and international frontrunner.

The City of Copenhagen has set ambitious climate goals, e.g. the goal of becoming the world's first carbon-neutral capital by 2025. Large cities around the world look to Copenhagen for inspiration from the sustainable solutions it has implemented to achieve this goal. The City of Copenhagen has extensive cycling infrastructure, regulations requiring a high percentage of social housing in new urban residential developments, a harbour clean enough to swim in, and public schools where academics, life skills, democratic education and citizenship are high on the agenda. As the population of Copenhagen continues to grow, the city is committed to maintaining its strong social cohesion and diversity.

In its 2020 follow-up on the action plan for the UN SDGs, the City of Copenhagen confirms its continued prioritisation of the SDGs and efforts to create sustainable cities for all. The city approaches sustainability in the broadest sense, encompassing social, economic, cultural and environmental sustainability.

Sustainability in mega-events in Copenhagen
In its follow-up on the action plan, the city is taking a closer look at sustainability in mega-events in Copenhagen. This examination confirms the active and ongoing efforts to improve the sustainability of large sporting and cultural events in the city. By setting sustainability requirements, the City of Copenhagen creates important incentives for the development of innovative and sustainable solutions. Copenhagen aims to be an international leader and shining example in regards to this agenda.

Copenhagen's co-hosting of the UEFA European Championship in 2021 is focused on the SDGs. Concrete initiatives have been launched to improve equality by supporting the growth of girls' football, reduce the consumption of single-use plastic, minimise food waste, improve infrastructure and showcase sustainable tourism. The hosting of the UEFA European Championship is an excellent example of how the city can shape the framework for more sustainable mega-events and support efforts to fulfil the SDGs. This same dynamic applies in the case of Copenhagen's hosting of the Tour de France Grand Départ in 2022.

Box 5.26

What do the 17 SDGs mean for cities?

In 2050, 70% of the world's population is expected to live in cities. A sustainable world thus begins with sustainable cities. All of the 17 SDGS are relevant for large cities – and with SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, cities play an integral role in meeting the goals by 2030. This certainly applies in Denmark, which is a world leader when it comes to decentralisation. Municipalities and regions administer 64% of public expenditures, ranking Denmark third in economic decentralisation according to international figures from the OECD. As a public authority with close ties to the everyday lives of citizens, and given the clear intention of the SDGs to promote involvement and inclusion, cities are uniquely positioned to contribute to realising the SDGs in Denmark, and to ensure citizen involvement.

Efforts by cities relating to the SDGs are voluntary. Only countries are obliged to follow up on the UN-defined indicators for each of the SDGs. It should also be noted that not all of the indicators are relevant for a more developed city such as Copenhagen, which has already established indicators for many of the city's policies. The City of Copenhagen values its collaborations with Danish municipalities and regions, the Danish Government, and international world cities to share solutions and inspire the realisation of a more sustainable world by 2030.

The City of Copenhagen wants to ensure that future events include a focus on sustainable development so that we ensure positive international branding of Copenhagen and bring the sustainable solutions of more local businesses into play. Going forward, the city's Finance Administration will work to ensure that event organisers are required to focus on sustainability when applying for funding from the City of Copenhagen, including applications to the city's mega-event funding pool. In this way, the Finance Administration will actively collaborate and share knowledge regarding sustainability with businesses and suppliers in the event industry.

Sønderborg Municipality pursues the UN Sustainable Development Goals in its everyday work

Sønderborg Municipality has been working towards the SDGs for many years. These efforts previously went under the general heading of "sustainability", but now the SDGs set the agenda. Sønderborg City Council has an ambition to translate the global goals into local goals and actions.

Sustainability policy approved
Sønderborg City Council recently approved a 2021-2024 Sustainability Policy and associated baseline. The 17 SDGs form the common thread in the new sustainability policy, which builds on the elements, "sustainability, resilience and action". The associated baseline defines the status, challenges and goals of Sønderborg Municipality for each of the 17 SDGs and selected targets. The baseline was prepared as part of the "Our Goals" project, in which Sønderborg Municipality was one of the host cities. The national recommendations from that project serve as the basis for Sønderborg Municipality's baseline.

Carbon neutral by 2029
ProjectZero is Sønderborg's vision for reducing the area's carbon emissions to zero by 2029 by converting the energy system, building new skills and creating green jobs. The baseline for emissions is the 2007 figure of nearly 700,000 tonnes of CO2, corresponding to 9.2 tonnes per capita.

Through learning, awareness campaigns, urban development, energy renovations in housing and business development, the Sønderborg area is focusing on efficient energy usage and renewable energy supplies based on the area's own resources. Efforts to improve energy efficiency relate to buildings, lighting, devices, manufacturing equipment, transport, etc. Renewable energy sources harvested in the Sønderborg area include wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal energy and heat. The solutions must be smart, based on public involvement and rooted in data, and they must support the efficient use of resources.

Since 2007, these efforts have already delivered a 44% reduction in carbon emissions from the Sønderborg area.

Focus on lifelong sustainability
To ensure a sustainable future for coming generations, Sønderborg Municipality is focusing on sustainability, citizenship and lifelong learning for all, and that begins in day care. In 2016, the municipality became Denmark's first member of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities. VidensBy Sønderborg (Knowledge City Sønderborg) works to build qualifications in day care institutions and primary and lower secondary schools in Sønderborg Municipality with a focus on SDG 4 "Quality education".

Denmark's only Centre for Sustainable Development Goals
Kær Vestermark, located just north of Sønderborg, is home to a former military training ground that is now 134 hectares of nature preserve and 8,000 sqm of buildings. Sønderborg City Council decided to establish Denmark's first Centre for Sustainable Development Goals at this site. This knowledge and experience centre will offer learning and inspiration relating to sustainability and the SDGs. The vision is for the centre to serve as a meeting point for businesses, associations, educational institutions and visitors of all ages, where sustainable projects and innovative solutions are showcased and new ideas are born. The centre is a catalyst for sustainability, where the SDGs are translated into everyday goals.

Guldborgsund Municipality – The SDGs as a basis for policymaking

The City Council has decided to utilise the UN SDGs as a basis for policymaking in Guldborgsund Municipality. Therefore, we have an ambition to ensure that sustainability is naturally considered in all choices and priorities. We focus on initiating concrete actions, because only through concrete actions can we make a difference. Consequently, many initiatives have been launched – large and small. We have chosen an approach where we focus on all 17 SDGs, as we consider them interdependent and tools for interdisciplinary and holistic thinking.

Sustainable development must be fostered in collaboration with citizens, companies and civil society - no one can generate sustainable development on their own.

Concrete examples we would like to highlight:

- *We offer utility jobs to help people restart their working life.*
- *We are building an SDG School.*
- *We plant two trees every time we cut one down.*

John Brædder,
Mayor of Guldborgsund Municipality

Box 5.27

We offer utility jobs to help people restart their working life

We offer utility jobs to help unemployed citizens work with meaningful tasks similar to regular employment. The effects are significant, and the participants are motivated and gain competencies that help them apply for a regular job. They solve tasks such as:

- Clearing of brush
- Collection of waste on beaches
- Algae treatment and washing of Memorial stones
- Renovating table and bench sets in kindergartens
- Picking up tiles at schools, so they can be recycled elsewhere

We are building an SDG School
The SDGs will be integrated on every level, for instance:

- The school's building design, environment and connection with the surroundings and local community
- The interior design will focus on creating optimal learning and development opportunities
- The indoor climate and requirements for ventilation, moisture protection, with no harmful chemicals etc.
- The building materials, energy consumption and water consumption are guided by the SDGs
- The SDGs will be an integrated part in all teaching at the school

We plant two trees every time we cut one down
We have decided to plant two new trees every time we cut one down. It makes good sense because it helps to reduce CO2 emissions and at the same time ensures our citizens' access to forests and green spaces. We have also launched several nature restoration projects, for instance, in "Horreby Lyng" (photo), where we are restoring a bog. Bogs are a type of nature where many rare species and plants have optimal living conditions. To curb the European decline of raised bogs, we are restoring this vital habitat and creating good access opportunities for locals and tourists. The project is being carried out in close collaboration with the landowners.

Vejle Municipality

Vejle Municipality has actively pursued the SDGs for a number of years, and even played a role in their formulation and adoption in 2015. As part of the Resilient Cities Network (formerly "100 Resilient Cities") since 2013, and through the city council's resilience strategy, Vejle Municipality has long worked for social, economic and green sustainability. Resilience is about creating a municipality and a society that is prepared to handle any challenges that arise, and which can use these challenges as an impetus for development and improvement. Vejle Municipality's resilience work is based on five principles:

1) We pursue solutions with **added value**, e.g., climate solutions can also contribute to social sustainability.
2) We pursue **long-term solutions** and focus on prevention.
3) We examine problems from every angle and consider the **secondary consequences**.
4) We pursue **flexible solutions** that evolve in step with society and our knowledge.
5) We develop and drive solutions through **collaboration and partnerships**.

The UN SDGs and Vejle Municipality's resilience strategy are inextricably linked. The SDGs chart a necessary course, while resilience is the tool that moves us towards the goals.

Examples of SDG efforts in Vejle
Many of Vejle Municipality's initiatives and projects contribute directly towards one or more of the SDGs. This includes the Reflow project, which works towards SDGs 9, 11, 12, 14 and 17, citizen involvement efforts to reduce plastic consumption and increase recycling, and the construction of Denmark's first integrated day care and elderly care centre, which contributes to 15 of the 17 SDGs.

The new Resource Centre Vejle (RCV), scheduled to open in the autumn of 2022, will challenge traditional notions of the objectives and capabilities of a recycling depot. RCV will promote and support a circular economy by creating a physical framework that enables reuse; developing a business cluster focused on circular economy; and improving communication about reuse, recycling and sustainable construction.

RCV will not have the traditional containers of a recycling depot, into which users toss bricks, furniture, etc., often destroying goods that still had utility value in the process. Once RCV opens, bricks, furniture and all other categories of recyclable and reusable waste will be deposited into "resource rooms" and stored until they are retrieved for reuse by new owners. RCV's meeting point, the recycling square where visitors are welcomed, has a fully operational workshop and exhibition towers made of glass, in which recycled gold and upcycled products are showcased. An "information bridge" runs along the facades of RCV, showing visitors the path of the materials from trailer to resource room to processing in the production halls.

The centre focuses in particular on seven of the SDGs:

- **Eradicate poverty (#1):** RCV contributes to reducing poverty by creating opportunities for municipality residents to deposit, pick up, share and exchange goods to a much greater extent than previously. Associations in Vejle Municipality also have the opportunity to pick up clothing, furniture and other recycled goods to sell in their shops.
- **Health and well-being (#3):** Using environmentally-friendly products with a documented lifecycle ensures that users of the administration building are not exposed to hazardous chemicals.
- **Quality education (#4):** RCV will also serve as an educational environment that increases and promotes resource awareness and sustainability.
- **Sustainable energy (#7) & Climate action (#13):** RCV has a green roof that is also utilised for energy production. The green roof will help with rainwater management and increase biodiversity in the area.
- **Sustainable cities and communities (# 11) & Responsible consumption and production (# 12):** RCV is being built according to low-energy classification and DGNB Gold Certification requirements, which ensures sustainability in construction, operation and demolition. The strong focus on sorting and recycling will reduce environmental impact per capita in the municipality.

Aarhus Municipality – Responsibility in procurement

The political framework for working with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals
In Aarhus Municipality, we actively work to meet the local targets for Aarhus and to meet the global targets set by the UN. To these ends, we have established an overall political framework for the city's efforts relating to the SDGs.

Aarhus City Council explicitly addressed the SDGs in its budget re-views of the last two budget agreements. This strong signal reflects a desire to align our efforts with the SDGs. There must be a clear link between the goals set by Aarhus City Council for the city – the Aarhus Goals – and the SDGs.

The SDGs do not dictate developments and efforts in the city, but the City Council has sent a clear signal that the Aarhus Goals also represent an effort to work towards the SDGs. Wherever possible, the SDGs are considered in the development of the municipality's policies and plans.

A number of political committees have been established to further strengthen the link between these political goals and the everyday efforts of the municipality. These committees make recommendations inspired by some of the key goals of Aarhus and the world in terms of climate change, social responsibility, sustainability and a circular economy.

Responsibility in a 360-degree perspective
One concrete example of these efforts is the municipality's plan for 360-degree responsibility. Aarhus Municipality and Aarhus City Council are well aware that our purchasing budget of up to DKK 5 billion annually gives us real power to help society move towards fulfilment of the SDGs. We can make demands of our suppliers in areas such as pay and working conditions, emissions, anti-corruption and taxes, thus bringing us closer to reaching SDG 8 on decent jobs and economic growth, and SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production.

In 2019, the Aarhus City Council adopted a proposal on ensuring responsibility in the municipality's purchases. The Finance Committee appointed a four-member committee tasked with advising the purchasing department in order to "... exercise our influence as a buyer and investor to encourage businesses to demonstrate a high degree of responsibility, thereby contributing to the fulfilment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and acting in accordance with the belief that businesses which demonstrate 360-degree responsible conduct are usually good investments and reliable, value-creating suppliers."

In connection with the adoption of this proposal, the Aarhus City Council also adopted a standardised CSR appendix on "social responsibility in a 360-degree perspective", which outlines the municipality's requirements in connection with all tenders. The CSR appendix is intended as a starting point to be specifically adapted for each tendering process. The appendix brings together a range of requirements already stipulated by the municipality in our collaboration with businesses. By putting these demands in context, the appendix supports and significantly strengthens dialogue with our partners on these issues.

The aim of the appendix is to depart from merely controlling minimum requirements and instead encourage dialogue about how to best achieve the desired effects, thus serving as a positive influence on suppliers and subcontractors towards fulfilling many of the SDGs.

5.3 National Frameworks and Institutional Mechanisms

This chapter presents frameworks and mechanisms related to the Danish implementation of the SDGs.

5.3.1 Domestic Policy

The Ministry of Finance is responsible for the coordination of the national implementation of the SDGs. Efforts are mainly coordinated through the SDG working group and bilaterally between the Ministry of Finance and the line ministries. The Ministry of Finance has been chair of the group since the adoption of the last action plan in 2017 in order to ensure that sustainable development is integrated into domestic policy and the daily workings of the Government.

While the Ministry of Finance is responsible for the coordination, it is important to emphasize that policy expertise is located in the line ministries responsible for designing policies addressing the SDGs.

5.3.2 International Policy

The Ministry of Finance is responsible for the EU follow-up in order to maintain a holistic approach and create links to national follow-up. The Ministry of Finance coordinates with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and line ministries when relevant. The Government finds that the SDGs and human rights are interrelated in a mutually supportive way in which human rights can guide the follow-up on the SDGs just as the SDGs can contribute to the realisation of human rights and shape the Government's global engagement.

5.3.3 Monitoring and Review Mechanisms

Monitoring and follow-up on the progress on the SDGs is a key priority for the Government. Presenting and preparing a Voluntary National Review to the UN is a useful part of this process. The VNR showcases progress on implementing the SDGs, brings stakeholders together to reflect the efforts towards the 2030 Agenda across the Danish society, describes and explains the mechanisms set in place, and allows for new reflections on how to overcome challenges and accelerate the implementation. As an example, the Government is committed to prepare an annual progress report to evaluate the goals of the action plan.

Monitoring is not just a priority of the Government, but also of stakeholders. Therefore, developing the VNR in cooperation with the civil society, the private sector, organizations, academic institutions, municipalities, and regions is an essential improvement in terms of anchoring both the implementation, ongoing efforts and monitoring. As an example, Danish municipalities conduct local monitoring efforts, e.g. tracking progress on six cross-sectoral goals in Gladsaxe Municipality, and establishing local goals and visions for carbon neutrality in the City of Copenhagen and Sønderborg Municipality. The public focus on sustainability also serves as an indirect monitoring tool. As reported by the private sector, an increasing share of companies report that they experience increasing demands and expectations from consumers and investors for companies to work with sustainable and responsible business solutions. Furthermore, academic institutions bring important contributions through evidence-based research in various areas of sustainable development, e.g. as supported by the Southern University of Denmark.

Another significant contribution to review mechanisms is the "Our Goals" project by Statistics Denmark and the 2030 Panel. Together, they defined 197 national indicators that can be evaluated using data from national statistics and facilitated the adaptation of the SDGs to national, regional, and local needs.

5.3.4 Structural Issues

Achieving all Sustainable Development Goals requires a holistic approach, accounting for the interdependence between goals and spill-overs from actions. Therefore, it is not just a matter of achieving one goal at a time, then crossing it off the list and never returning to it. Every goal is important and must be achieved, but the achievement of one goal must not impede the achievement of another goal or another country's achievement of a goal. Ownership of the 2030 Agenda must therefore be anchored across all of society. This includes political leadership, ownership at the national, regional and local levels, as well as shared responsibility by all actors in society.

Therefore, it is important to be attentive to obstacles and structural issues, and to be realistic about the potential effects they might have on implementation efforts. Some challenges are well known and already being addressed, while others lack investigation or have not yet emerged.

Politically, there is a need for long-term strategic policies and initiatives in place of short-term economic and political considerations. Denmark has a strong tradition of developing long-term sustainable solutions, but greater emphasis is needed. Achieving the desired outcomes will require coordination of policy in different areas and between all levels of government, as well as between the public, private and voluntary sectors.

Procedural cooperation between ministries is of great importance, as it can be challenging to combine priorities and resources in the most effective way. Increased awareness, more clearly delegated responsibility between ministries in terms of specific goals, and the monitoring tool provided by the statistical database from Statistics Denmark have all contributed to significant improvements in this cooperation. Structural challenges must be solved through increased cooperation, knowledge sharing, innovation and awareness.

New challenges have arisen with COVID-19. The pandemic has highlighted the importance of the Leave no one behind agenda, as vulnerable groups face the toughest consequences. However, the need for economic stimulus also provides an opportunity to accelerate the green transition. Therefore, the Danish Recovery and Resilience Plan targets areas including, but not limited to, green research, green tax reforms, digitalisation and the resilience of the health care system, to ensure that Denmark builds back better and greener from the crisis. The Recovery and Resilience Plan is presented in Chapter 8.

In summary, structural issues in Denmark are particularly related to public and political coordination, but efforts to overcoming structural barriers are increasingly successful. For example, all legislative propoals must now undergo a screening process to assess its impact – positive and negative – relative to the 2030 Agenda. This requirement was expanded in spring 2021 to ensure that proposed legislation is thoroughly screened with respect to the 17 SDGs and the 169 goals. This is an important policy for anchoring the SDGs in legislation, as it helps avert unintended consequences and increases awareness among policymakers.

5.4 Means of Implementation

The following chapter presents means of implementation. The chapter highlights funding, new policy initiatives in the action plan, efforts at the global level, and partnerships.

5.4.1 Sustainable Development in Budgets and Funding

Sufficient resources are key to successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Resources must be dedicated to the development and implementation of policy, as well as tools for measurement and assessment of progress.

The implementation of the action plan and sustainable development in general is funded by budget allocations as approved by Parliament in the annual budget negotiations for the coming fiscal year. As such, every ministry and government agency is responsible for the allocation of sufficient resources. In case additional funds are requested, the Government will assess such requests on their merits and according to regular procedure.

International development assistance remains a key source of financing for those developing countries most in need. Denmark is among the few countries living up to the FN requirement of contributing 0.7% of GNI in official development assistance (ODA), *cf. figure 17.2.1 in the statistical annex*. The Danish ODA has been at or above 0.7% of GNI since 1978.

As an example of financing, Denmark increasingly uses public finds (ODA) to mobilise private investments as a means of increasing the private sector's contribution to sustainable development in developing countries. The central Danish development investment institution is the Investment Fund for Developing Countries (IFU). A core objective of IFU is to contribute positively to the development in developing countries and emerging markets through commercially viable projects. IFU administers the Danish SDG Investment Fund which offers advisory services and risk capital to private investors and companies. The work of the SDG Investment Fund specifically targets SDGs 1, 2, 6, 7 and 9: eradicating poverty, ending hunger, securing clean water, sustainable energy as well as industry, innovation, and infrastructure. The investment projects generate profits and thereby a return on investment, but they also have lasting positive environmental and social impacts in terms of job creation, economic growth, improved working conditions, etc.

5.4.2 Progress – New Policy Initiatives in the Action Plan

In June 2021, the Government has presented a new national action plan on the 2030 Agenda and the 17 SDGs. The targets of the action plan are mainly focused on domestic priorities and contribute to making the SDGs concrete and actionable. The action plan presents new policy initiatives to further incorporate the SDGs into the Government's efforts. The action plan does not constitute the entirety of the Government's contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, but highlights some of the essential and recent contributions. We want to contribute to strengthening the already strong anchoring of the sustainable agenda in Denmark.

The Danish Government is taking action to achieve its stated ambitions. Denmark has made great progress towards fulfilling many of the Sustainable Development Goals. But we must do even more to propel Denmark in a more sustainable and just direction.

The Government is committed to the principle that the SDGs are not fulfilled until they have been fulfilled for all. This understanding is the foundation for the UN's Leave No One Behind agenda. In Denmark, this is supported by further anchoring of the SDGs in the legislative process and even closer cooperation between the Government and the organisations that are important for achieving the SDGs by 2030. Therefore, the Government is strengthening the 2030 Panel and placing the SDGs higher on the agenda in the legislative process.

Two of the SDGs where Denmark faces the greatest challenges are SDG 13 on climate action and SDG 12 on consumption and production patterns. We are well aware of these challenges. We acknowledge our responsibility to take action on these fronts. The Danish Climate Act has charted a greener and more sustainable course for Denmark that can inspire countries around the world. New initiatives in support of this course will promote sustainable and responsible business models in Denmark and abroad.

The Government is also launching initiatives focusing on SDG 4, on equal access to quality education. All students, regardless of gender, social background or residence – must have opportunities to achieve their full potential. Therefore, two expert groups focusing on gender and mathematics, respectively,

have been appointed and tasked with analysing the causes of differences in skills between boys and girls, and to recommend measures in primary and secondary education.

This section presents new initiatives by the Government to further implementation of the SDGs. The Government will seek the approval of the parties in the Danish Parliament to implement the initiatives.

The Government will closely monitor progress and consider the need of new initiatives between now and 2030 to reach the goals.

The SDGs must be systematically incorporated into policy development and public administration

The Government, ministries, public agencies and institutions must be at the forefront of the sustainable transition. This requires that we think about the SDGs from the outset in everything from policy development and organisational administration, to purchases of computers and office chairs. We must also lead the way and show how sustainable development can be incorporated into policy and administration, thus doing our part to inspire Danes and the rest of the world to make sustainable decisions. Therefore, the Government wants to increase the involvement of the Danish Council on Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development Goals in the Government's efforts to fulfil the SDGs, and thereby foster closer partnerships with Danish businesses in support of the sustainable agenda.

This requires action:

Box 5.28

New initiatives All SDGs

- **The SDGs must be top of mind when developing new policy.** Starting with the 2021/2022 legislative session, the Government is expanding the scope of impact assessments of proposed legislation to include consideration of the SDGs. All bills must now be screened for their impact on the SDGs. For bills with significant and relevant impact on the SDGs, a separate section must be written into the bill detailing its impact on the SDGs and the 169 targets. The Government will thus ensure full consideration of the SDGs when developing new policy. The Government wants to ensure transparency in these impact assessments, and has therefore prepared a publicly available guide that details the assessment process.
- **Goals on sustainability in agencies and institutions.** The Government will introduce a requirement on goals for sustainable development in state agencies and institutions. These goals must be documented annually in a publicly available format. The chosen format is up to the given institution, but it could be an annual report, strategy, goals and results plan, website, etc. The new requirement will be accompanied by efforts to clarify the implementation process and informational materials to support compliance.
- **Public purchasing with a greater emphasis on sustainability.** The Government will make it easier to make responsible public purchases by strengthening the "*Responsible Purchaser*" digital tool with an increased focus on human rights, social dumping and an inclusive labour market. This will include an updated catalogue of requirements on socially responsible procurement, as well as additional guidance and inspiration materials.
- **Stronger secretariat for the 2030 Panel.** Through its own activities and in its capacity as a proactive partner of the Government, the 2030 Panel plays a crucial role in Denmark's efforts to fulfil the SDGs. The objective of the 2030 Panel is to support the 2030 Network's political work with analyses, feedback, knowledge-sharing and meetings with the network on specific issues. The Panel's work will remain instrumental in the years to come if Denmark is to reach its goals. The increased funding of secretariat services for the 2030 Panel supports, among other things, the parliamentary anchoring of the SDGs as well as the Panel's work on monitoring and implementing the SDGs both nationally and internationally. These resources will therefore support the parliamentary anchoring of the SDGs. The Government will also propose that the Panel arrange an annual follow-up on the Government's Progress Report, and that the Panel continue to prioritise the Leave No One Behind agenda, as the Panel's broad anchoring and resources provide a solid foundation for results in these areas.

Sustainable and responsible imports, and green value chains

The 70% goal has made efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions a vital focus. Since the adoption of the Danish Climate Act, major steps have been rapidly taken to fulfil the goal – and initiatives in the coming years will ensure that we reach it. We will show the world that we can transition Danish production without compromising on jobs, welfare or social balance. This will also support and create new Danish climate-based business opportunities in the global market.

The action plan includes a focus on greenhouse gas emissions associated with our consumption of imports from other countries, which exceed the total emissions within Denmark's borders. Much of the climate and social impact of Danish businesses is located abroad, as they collaborate, trade and manufacture across borders.

Given that Denmark wants to contribute to meeting the UN SDGs on climate, consumption, rights, poverty, etc., we must focus on our imports of goods, and on the value and supply chains of Danish businesses. The transition of the value chains must be green and social, i.e. reduce carbon emissions and environmental impact, without negatively impacting human rights or labour rights.

As much as possible, we must ensure that our consumption in Denmark does not have negative impacts on populations in other countries or on the conditions for future generations.

This requires action:

Box 5.29

New initiatives

- **A better base for engagement of businesses in the UN's sustainability agenda must be established.** The Government will launch a new public-private initative on sustainable value chains. Through knowledge sharing, market analyses and guidance, the initiative helps companies take greater responsibility for environmental and social effects of supply chains, and actively supports sustainable transitions in supply chains. The initiative strives to meet the demands and needs of the business community, including calls by the Climate Partnership for Trade for the establishment of a dedicated knowledge centre for sustainable value chains. The initiative will be closely coordinated with the two following initiatives, among others.
- **Advisory services will help to increase social focus.** The Government will establish two advisory initiatives to help businesses achieve more sustainable and socially responsible value chains. One of these initiatives will help Danish businesses launch due diligence processes to identify the local and global risks of violations in the value chain. The other initiative will provide advisory services in the relevant markets in Asia, Latin America and Africa, with an emphasis on labour conditions and supporting efforts to ensure that Danish businesses observe relevant guidelines, including those of the UN and OECD. The advisory services will include local partners for Danish companies.
- **Stronger guidance on setting ambitious climate goals in global value chains.** The Government will improve Danish businesses' access to knowledge, networks and concrete advice on working with climate reporting, climate data and ambitious climate goals. These efforts will focus in particular on emissions occurring outside of Denmark. Rooted in an understanding that carbon emissions in the value chain cannot be directly controlled by a single business alone, but must be addressed in partnership with suppliers and partners, the initiative will target the collaboration between Danish businesses and subcontractors through advisory efforts and cooperation with trade associations, NGOs, etc. An initiative is also being launched to support companies with reporting key figures and setting target figures for CO2e. This reporting will be uniform in format and available to the public.
- **New model for projecting the climate footprint of Danish imports.** The Government want to increase knowledge about the global climate footprint of Danish consumption, including the climate effect of products and goods consumed in Denmark but produced abroad. Therefore, a new climate model will be developed to project the global climate footprint of Danes' consumption. This effort can also strengthen the basis for future action.

Sustainable businesses, entrepreneurship and exports

Businesses are key players in our efforts to achieve the SDGs. At the same time, the SDGs offer great opportunities for Danish businesses. Therefore, it is important that the public sector supports the development of green and socially responsible business models. We must create good conditions for SDG-oriented entrepreneurship, so that innovative solutions to societal challenges relating to the SDGs can become a reality. We must make it easy for even the smallest businesses to document and calculate their climate footprint. This will facilitate and inspire measures to reduce carbon emissions, while improving opportunities for small businesses to compete with a green profile in the international market. And we must increase exports of socially and environmentally sustainable solutions from Danish businesses, so other countries can benefit from innovative Danish ideas in their green transitions.

The Government wants Danish businesses to be leaders in responsible, social and sustainable business operations.

This requires action:

Box 5.30

New initiatives

- **Export promotion and accelerator scheme to promote sustainable exports.** The Government will stimulate sustainable exports through an SDG export promotion initiative and by establishing a new partner-driven and sector-focused SDG accelerator scheme for Danish SMEs. The accelerator scheme will focus on the internationalisation of Danish companies' business models, including specific initiatives for SMEs involving workshops, networking activities, mentor schemes, etc., to explore global challenges and solutions based on the SDGs.
- **The Climate Compass charts a course towards a reduced climate footprint.** The Government will further develop and update the Climate Compass, giving businesses access to an up-to-date emissions calculation tool with improved guidance and updated emission factors. Businesses can use this user-friendly tool to estimate direct and indirect emissions from the value chain (scope 1, 2 and 3), and thereby document and calculate their climate footprint in a transparent, standardised and credible way. The Climate Compass also provides a basis for taking measures to reduce carbon emissions.
- **Micro-grants for SDG-oriented entrepreneurship among students.** Many students come up with good and feasible business ideas for solutions on societal challenges during their education. The Government therefore wishes to allocate funding to micro-grants targeted SDG-oriented entrepreneurship among students.

Popular anchoring of the SDGs to ensure change

The SDGs can only be achieved through collective effort. In Denmark, there is great interest in the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda among businesses and civil society. The demands of the Danish and global youth movements for climate action make it clear that younger generations are even more actively engaged in SDG efforts than their parents. This is a good thing. We must continue to support the foundation for popular anchoring of the SDGs, and we must ensure that more Danes have the necessary conditions to live and contribute to a sustainable lifestyle.

This requires action:

Box 5.31

New initiatives

- **Libraries anchor the SDGs.** The Government will strengthen activities by libraries to support and disseminate information about the SDGs, making libraries a key facilitator in the popular anchoring of the SDGs. The initiative includes SDG events at libraries, an SDG certification scheme for libraries, and competence development for librarians regarding dissemination of the SDGs.
- **Learning site disseminates knowledge about the SDGs.** The Government will develop a dedicated site at emu.dk (Denmark's learning portal) that provides inspiration to schools and educational institutions on incorporating the SDGs into teaching. The site will provide a broad introduction to the SDGs, covering topics from climate footprint and sustainable lifestyle, to human rights and gender equality.
- **Additional SDG schools.** The Government will increase funding for the network of Danish UNESCO SDG schools. This extra funding will provide for more members of the network, additional activities, and the development of teaching materials. The UNESCO SDG schools work to transform quality education into practice.

Access to quality education for all

Free and equal access to education and training is one of the most important tools for ensuring social mobility and equal opportunities for all. SDG 4 is about ensuring equal access to quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all. By 2030, efforts to ensure equal opportunities in education must be active at all levels of education, especially for children and young people in vulnerable situations. Denmark is committed to the Leave no one behind agenda, which includes working to ensure that no children or young people are left behind in the Danish education system.

This requires action:

Box 5.32

New initiatives

- **Mathematics across social divides.** The Government will appoint an expert group to focus on students' skills and motivation in mathematics. The expert group will prepare a report on the academic challenges correlated with socio-economic background, including causes and effective measures to address challenges.
- **Better learning across genders.** All students – regardless of gender– must have opportunities to achieve their full potential. Therefore, the Government will appoint an expert group to examine the causes of differences in learning and educational outcomes between boys and girls and provide recommendations on how the importance of gender can be reduced in relation to academic results in primary education.

As part of the action plan, the government will prepare a progress report in 2022 on progress towards fulfilment of the goals of the plan. The progress report will be made public and presented to the Parliament.

5.4.3 The Global Level

The Decade of Action: Denmark takes responsibility for promoting global development

Denmark has taken an international responsibility for fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals. We have done so because sustainable development requires international action and cooperation – and because someone should take the lead. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has proclaimed the decade from 2020 to 2030 the "Decade of Action". According to the UN's Global Sustainable Development Report 2020, no country currently fulfils the goal of meeting fundamental human needs within the biophysical constraints of Earth, and no country is on track to reach the goals by 2030 [1]. Although Denmark ranks among the top in international reports and indices when it comes to fulfilment of the SDGs – the Sustainable Development Solutions Network ranks Denmark second globally [2] – this does not mean that we are close to reaching the goals. We are simply closer than others. We must acknowledge that we, and the world, have a long way to go. The pace of progress and intensity of effort must be stepped up. Meanwhile, COVID-19 has negatively impacted all of the SDGs and global sustainable development, with particularly severe consequences for fragile countries and populations. By all estimations, for example, development in Africa has been set back by years.

The pandemic has reconfirmed that we live in a closely connected world, and that local events can have global consequences. To tackle global challenges such as climate change, instability and irregular migration, it is essential that we have a strong multilateral system that can drive global sustainable development, promote international peace and stability, and ensure respect for human rights. However, we live in a world where multilateralism is under pressure and the international order is in upheaval. To address global challenges and protect Danish interests, Denmark actively engages in binding international cooperation through the UN, EU, NATO, the WTO and the international financial institutions. There is a need for more countries to support a strong and effective multilateral system with the capacity to solve the global challenges standing in the way of a more sustainable and just world. Therefore, Denmark has announced its candidacy for a 2025-2026 seat on the UN Security Council, which plays a central role in international peace and security. In the coming years, Denmark will continue its efforts to strengthen the multilateral system and ensure that it contributes to the creation of a more sustainable world. [3]

The pandemic has illustrated how inequality creates fragile societies. The vulnerable are hit first and hardest. This creates imbalance in society and increases the risk of instability. To address these challenges, we must continue fighting globally and locally for societies that are economically, socially and environmentally sustainable. We also have a moral responsibility to uphold the SDG's core principle of "Leave No One Behind". This principle means that everyone on the planet must be part of sustainable development. It is a principle in alignment with the Danish welfare model, which promotes equality and equal opportunity for all. The SDGs apply to all of us – from Nakskov, Denmark to Nairobi and New Delhi. Denmark can make a difference, and we already are making a difference in a number of areas where extra efforts are needed to achieve the SDGs.

Development assistance

Development assistance is vital for the global fulfilment of the SDGs, and it is explicitly identified as a responsibility for developed countries in SDG 17 on partnerships. Historically, Denmark has been a strong player in development assistance. Every year since 1978, Denmark has met the UN goal of allocating 0.7% of GNI to development assistance. But for Denmark, it is not just a matter of giving a lot – it is about giving effectively and with quality in mind. That is why Denmark is often cited as one of the countries that gives high-quality development assistance. [4] To achieve the SDGs and address new challenges, Denmark has increased its focus on climate change, local efforts, young people and women, and the fight against increased inequality. We are also focusing our efforts in the areas and regions where the needs are greatest. Denmark has prioritised efforts in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly in fragile countries and regions that face serious challenges and are furthest from reaching the SDGs.

The green transition

Efforts to combat climate change and accelerate the green transition are key to fulfilling the SDGs. As a leading green nation, Denmark will take the lead in the global climate effort and the pursuit of a just global transition to sustainable societies that benefit populations around the world. Denmark only accounts for 0.1% of global emissions. As a small country, Denmark seeks to set a good example and take the lead in inspiring other, larger nations to change behaviours and translate green ambitions into global action for the climate, nature, biodiversity and the environment. Good examples of these efforts include Danish leadership in relation to SDG 7 on the energy transition and access to clean energy, and Denmark's climate diplomacy efforts for a global phase-out of coal. COVID-19

has further increased the need to ensure a global green recovery – "build back better and greener" – where Denmark can lead through the power of example, domestically and in its international climate engagement. The Government's long-term strategy for a global climate effort, "A Green and Sustainable World", charts a course for Denmark's coordinated international climate efforts spanning foreign development, trade and sector policy, as well as Denmark's collaborations with government and non-governmental stakeholders. The strategy includes a number of green partnerships with major emitters, which are crucial to fulfilling the SDGs (particularly SDG 13) and the Paris Agreement. Denmark has established 20 frontline posts dedicated to climate efforts, which will strengthen Danish climate diplomacy in countries that are major emitters, where they could benefit from increased use of Danish green technology. Technology holds great potential to reduce carbon emissions globally and help societies adapt to climate change. Increasing Danish exports of green technology has the dual benefit of creating Danish jobs and reducing global carbon emissions. The recovery of Danish exports has a clear green focus and will especially contribute to fulfilling SDG 7 through the commercial involvement of businesses.

Peace and security

Armed conflicts, instability and fragility are among the greatest regional and global obstacles to fulfilling the SDGs. Progress on SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions is therefore crucial to achieving a number of the other SDGs. Promoting stability and security in fragile situations and conflict zones is also a prerequisite for safety and security in Denmark. Therefore, Denmark has contributed to UN peacekeeping operations in Mali, the Middle East and other locations, and has continuously contributed substantially to NATO's international missions, including missions in Estonia, Kosovo and Afghanistan. At the end of 2020, Denmark took command of NATO's mission in Iraq, which will develop the Iraqi authorities' capacity to counter the threat of terrorism. Denmark has also contributed to relevant international operations that address the rising instability in the Middle East and the Sahel region, e.g. contributions to the US-led coalition to fight ISIL in Iraq and Syria, and is planning to contribute to the French-led Operation Barkhane in Sahel in 2022. Maritime security is also an important priority. Maritime efforts include the Danish leadership of the military and diplomatic organisations in the European EMASoH operation in the Strait of Hormuz, and the planned contribution of a frigate in the fight against piracy in the Gulf of Guinea. Conflict and instability can only be resolved through long-term, broad-spectrum efforts. Therefore, Denmark is utilising all of its security and foreign policy tools, including development assistance and humanitarian efforts, to prevent and manage crises and conflicts. Denmark is a candidate for a UN Security Council seat in 2025-26 and for the UN Peacebuilding Commission in 2023-24, and will use its broad humanitarian and development engagement to support and improve international efforts for peace and security. Denmark is also carrying out a number of peace and stabilisation efforts within the framework of the inter-ministerial Peace and Stabilisation Fund in Syria/Iraq, Sahel, the Horn of Africa, the Gulf of Guinea, Ukraine, Georgia and Afghanistan. Through these concrete efforts, Denmark is actively contributing to the fulfilment of many SDGs, including SDG 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 14 and 16.

Humanitarian initiatives

Effective humanitarian efforts are essential to achieving the SDGs. We must ensure that the positive results reach everyone, including those in the midst of a humanitarian crisis or who have fled to safer regions. In relation to its size, Denmark is a significant international humanitarian player, helping to drive agendas that seek to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian work for the benefit of the most vulnerable, and in ways that aim to reduce the need for humanitarian aid. We contribute to ensuring better cohesion between the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding efforts. The philosophy behind this approach is that we must do more than simply meet people's immediate humanitarian needs; coordinated efforts must contribute to sustainable, long-term solutions for people in crisis situations. Denmark is also committed to promoting the involvement of local resources in partner countries in humanitarian efforts, and to ensuring that these efforts contribute to the protection and involvement of women and girls. The humanitarian work contributes in particular to the fulfilment of SDG 1 on poverty and SDG 2 on hunger.

Human rights

Denmark is working to ensure implementation of the SDGs in line with the human rights-based approach and a commitment to "Leave No One Behind". A clear focus on the link between human rights and the SDGs is a key factor in supporting SDGs 10 and 16 on a free, equal and just society, and SDG 5 on equality. These efforts are especially carried out through our involvement in relevant UN forums. In the UN Human Rights Council, Denmark heads an inter-regional core group working to strengthen the mutually reinforcing links between human rights and the 2030 Agenda. Equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRSR) are key priorities in Danish development assistance and permeate all of our efforts to achieve the SDGs. With our long-held leading international position

in these areas, Denmark is working in particular to stop discrimination and violence against girls and women, to ensure the right of girls and women to decide over their own lives and bodies – including how many children they choose to have, when and with whom – and to give women and girls equal opportunities for education, jobs and participation in economic and political life. In long-term conflicts and crises, Denmark works to ensure the protection of girls and women from sexual and gender-based violence, and to ensure access to prevention and reproductive health services. Denmark will intensify its political leadership in the field of SRSR, continue taking new measures in the fight for women's and girl's rights, and lead the way internationally with ambitious goals and innovative solutions for getting other countries involved in these efforts.

5.4.4 Partnerships

Partnerships are essential to achieving the SDGs. They serve as vehicles of innovation, investment, implementing solutions, and leaving no one behind. The Government is committed to including actors across society in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, a commitment reflected in this report by the independent contributions from civil society, the private sector, organisations, academic institutions, municipalities, and regions.

One example of this is the "A Decade of Action – 10 Years Left" conference, arranged in collaboration by the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the SDGs (the 2030 Network), the Finance Committee's Parliamentary Working Group on the SDGs, and the 2030 Panel. The conference featured inspirational presentations by national and international speakers, sharing knowledge and awareness of the importance of the SDGs.

Active work with the SDGs by civil society actors is of tremendous value to implementation and follow-up efforts in Denmark and internationally, helping Denmark lift a heavier load and make a greater and more effective contribution to the global effort. This work is also essential to achieving the SDGs, as sustainable and long-term solutions to complex challenges require the exchange of ideas, knowledge, experience, capital, and goodwill.

As the coordinating unit, the Ministry of Finance has facilitated hearings and formal meetings with relevant stakeholders where new initiatives, challenges, and possibilities have been debated. These meetings will also continue after HLPF 2021.

During the preparations, great emphasis has been placed on exchange of good practices with other countries. Three channels in particular merit mention. First, Denmark has learned a lot from Nordic colleagues in workshops organized by the Nordic Council of Ministers. Second, the UN has facilitated webinars on different relevant topics concerning the VNR process, which has provided a platform for mutual exchange between all VNR countries. And third, engaging in a peer dialogue with Norway and Kenya has provided concrete recommendations for preparing a VNR.

The Nordic Council of Ministers arranged a virtual Study Trip to Finland in February, and in April, the Nordic countries met online for a workshop on VNR preparations. In this workshop, Sweden, Norway and Denmark presented the progress on their respective second VNRs, and Iceland and Finland shared lessons learned during the preparation of VNRs in 2019 and 2020, respectively. Furthermore, the workshop included discussions on finalisation and communication of the VNR report as well as the inclusion of the perspective of Leaving No One Behind.

Several webinars arranged by the UN have provided valuable platforms for exchange of good practices between countries in terms of VNR preparations. Denmark looks forward to the HLPF in July 2021 to present the second VNR, to be able to listen to presentations by other countries, to learn about different aspects of sustainable development in other parts of the world, and to be inspired by new ideas, practices and discussions.

The above are just a few examples of the many existing partnerships, and Denmark expects to build even more partnerships on sustainable development in the years to come.

Notes:

Sources

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The 2030 Panel:

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- 4. Danish General Auditor's office (Rigsrevisionen), Report on the Danish ministries' work with the UN Sustainable Development Goals in Denmark, Report no. 1/2020, abstract in English, page 4, available at https://uk.rigsrevisionen.dk/audits-reports-archive/2020/okt/report-on-the-danish-ministries-work-with-the-un-sustainable-development-goals-in-denmark. Full report in Danish available at https://rigsrevisionen.dk/revisionssager-arkiv/2020/okt/beretning-om-ministeriernes-arbejde-med-fn%e2%80%99s-verdensmaal-i-danmark
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6. Denmark's Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals

Although we are proud that Denmark is at the top compared to other countries, this does not mean that we have reached the finish line. It is essential that we take an honest look at where we are and acknowledge the areas where we are not making progress toward the goals. Therefore, the Government and Denmark's civil society actors have conducted assessments of progress in the implementation and realisation of the 17 SDGs in Denmark. The assessments by the Government are a result of contributions from all ministries. The assessment by civil society is written by Global Focus. Statistic information can be found in the statistical annex provided by Statistics Denmark.

6.1 The Government's Assessment of Present Fulfilment and Progress Towards Fulfilment of the Targets

The assessments were conducted at the target level and in a Danish context. Responsibility for the individual targets was delegated to the relevant ministries. In the case of a few targets, no concrete assessment was conducted because they are not relevant in a Danish context. One example of this is target 15.4: "*By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, to enhance their capacity to provide benefits which are essential for sustainable development.*"

Combined with the assessment of Denmark's progress toward the targets, this chapter cites examples of relevant agreements and proposals, as well as existing policies, legislation and initiatives, to provide a holistic presentation of each of the 17 SDGs. The assessments also describe Denmark's global efforts, and how these efforts relate to the targets that include lettered targets regarding the "means of implementation".

6.2 Reading Guide

The assessment of Denmark's fulfilment of the SDGs is visualised using a traffic light model to assess the progress (🔴 🟡 🟢) and arrows to indicate the trend (↑ → ↓).

The assessment of present fulfilment and progress towards fulfilment of each target is based on quantitative data or qualitative assessments of policies in the given area. The basis for assessing the degree of fulfilment and the emerging trend are outlined in *Table 6.1 and Table 6.2*. Targets in parenthesis, e.g. "(target 4.2)" refer to the target(s) impacted by the initiative.

Table 6.1

Assessment of present fulfilment

Traffic light	Assessment
🟢 Fulfilled	Sufficient policy and implementation, and/or fulfilled based on data.
🟡 Not fulfilled, but well-positioned	Sufficient policy in the area, but a lack of implementation and/or partial fulfilment based on data.
🔴 Not fulfilled	Absence of sufficient policy and implementation, and/or lack of fulfilment based on data.

Table 6.2

Assessment of progress

Description of arrows	Assessment
↑ Good progress	Good progress based on data and/or policy and political focus.
→ Stable	Stable fulfilment based on data and/or policy and political focus.
↓ Negative/poor progress	Negative/poor progress based on data and/or policy and political focus.

Civil Society's Assessment

6.3 Civil Society's Assessment

This chapter presents the assessment of Denmark's progress and current situation of implementation of the 17 SDGs, as seen by various Danish civil society organisations. The assessments are part of "the SPOTLIGHT report on Denmark's challenges in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals", which is produced annually primarily by members of the two civil society networks Global Focus and The Danish 92 Group. In the report, each SDG is assessed by a group of civil society organisations with a specific knowledge on the thematic area covered by the SDG in question.

In total 27 organisations have participated in the 2021 SPOTLIGHT report. They represent different stakeholders of Danish civil society, both small and big organisations, networks, organisations mainly working on development cooperation and nationally focused organisations. The networks Global Focus and The Danish 92 Group coordinated the process of the report and thus the assessments presented in this chapter.

The 2021 SPOTLIGHT report looks back at the general tendencies of the Danish implementation from Denmark's last VNR in 2017 until now, 2021. The assessments of each SDG were conducted in thematic working groups based on previous SPOTLIGHT reports and other relevant material. The groups also defined the overall tendency of Denmark's contribution within the period to the SDG in question, both at the national and international levels. This tendency is illustrated by a graph for each SDG, with a curve going up for a positive change, going down for a negative development and going straight for status quo.

The assessment of challenges for each specific SDG is followed by a series of concrete recommendations for political action.

Thus, the 2021 SPOTLIGHT report and consequently the assessments in this chapter provide clarity of the challenges for Denmark to meet the SDGs. The general conclusion on the tendencies of the implementation from 2017 to 2021 is that too little is being achieved too slowly - and that action is needed – now.

The Government's Assesments

End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

Denmark has an extensive social safety net that ensures a livelihood for all. As part of this safety net, the Government strives to ensure that all who are capable have an opportunity to participate in the working community. The government has a clear goal of combating poverty both nationally and internationally – particularly poverty afflicting children.

Assessment of targets

1.1 In Denmark, everyone has the right to social benefits and therefore no one lives in extreme poverty. ● ↑
1.2 A national poverty line is yet to be introduced. The aim of cutting the number of people affected by poverty in Denmark in half must be viewed in the light of the fact that Denmark has a highly effective social safety net. ● ↑
1.3 Everyone in Denmark has access to social security benefits. ● ↑
1.4 The target is assessed as fulfilled ● →
1.5 Denmark is rarely affected by major disasters. However, Denmark has maintained a continuous effort in the planning of emergency response and crisis management in the event of disasters, and a national crisis management exercise is conducted every other year. ● ↑

There is no extreme poverty in Denmark, defined as people living on less than USD 1.90 a day. This is due, in part, to Denmark's extensive social safety net, which ensures a livelihood for all and access to a wide range of services. Denmark also has a formalised and well-proven crisis management system. Based on assessments from crisis management exercises and the handling of major incidents, Denmark has a robust crisis management system and emergency response planning, and thus is resilient in the face of disasters. The preparations and measures in this area are subject to ongoing adaptation and improvements based on assessments. Denmark has thereby made great progress towards fulfilling the targets under SDG 1.

However, Denmark must continue to do more. There are still children in Denmark whose family's finances are tight, and who do not have the same opportunities as their peers. These efforts can relate to after school activities, arranging and participating in social events or activities, and participating in communities on an equal footing with their peers.

Denmark's international effort

One of the prime objectives of Danish development cooperation is to fight poverty. Through international cooperation and its development policy strategy, the Government supports the work towards target 1.a and 1.b. Denmark meets the UN goal of allocating 0.7% of GNI to development assistance, and Denmark's development cooperation activities contribute to helping those in greatest need. In development cooperation, the Government has a consistent focus on ensuring that the most marginalised groups have the same rights and opportunities as others. Efforts in this regard include working to end discriminatory laws, policies and practices. The Government is also working actively to support the most vulnerable groups and those who are subject to discrimination or other differential treatment.

In some of the world's poorest countries, Denmark supports new partnerships between public authorities, businesses, investors and civil society to foster responsible and sustainable growth and development. The Government will increase Denmark's focus on improving living conditions in refugees' neighbouring areas, which will benefit some of the most vulnerable people in the world while also preventing economic migration.

Selected initiatives

Improvements in continuing training
The Government's existing initiatives, which comprise a framework for contributing to society, grant unskilled recipients of unemployment benefits over the age of 30 the right to enrol in a vocational education programme within a field with good job prospects, and while studying receive 110% of the standard unemployment benefit in 2021 and 2022. In addition, an expansion of the regional training scheme gives job-ready cash benefit recipients better opportunities for continuing training, and funds have been earmarked to further help people with disabilities obtain employment.

A national poverty line
The Government wants to introduce a new national poverty line. This will be a step in the right direction towards eradicating poverty, particularly child poverty. The new poverty line will be actively utilised as a tool in social policy development, and will be instrumental in following up on SDG target 1.2.

Everyone must have a place in the working community
The Government is working actively on initiatives to fulfil target 1.3 on social security systems and target 1.4 on equal rights to economic resources and access to basic services, etc. It is a priority of the Government to ensure that there is room for everyone in the working community, and that there is a fair distribution of growth and prosperity. All citizens of Denmark have access to a social protection system and the Government strives to ensure that all people in Denmark, marginalised or not, have the same right to economic resources and services. For example, people struggling with social or psychological challenges or disabilities are eligible to receive benefits and help provided by the Social Services Act, and all people have the same free and equal access to universal health care.

Climate proofing of Denmark
The extended social safety net in Denmark provides protection for people who suddenly and unexpectedly find themselves in a vulnerable or marginalized position. This also applies in the event of extreme climate-related events, which is the subject of target 1.5. Efforts to develop a new comprehensive climate adaptation plan commenced in 2020, and are expected to be completed in 2022.

Social welfare tax exemption card
The social welfare tax exemption card is an initiative where socially disadvantaged citizens have the right to earn up to DKK 20,000 tax-free per year without any deduction from their social benefits. The tax exemption card gives the most vulnerable citizens better opportunities to participate and contribute to the community and achieve improved quality of life through a stronger connection to the labour market. While improved quality of life for vulnerable citizens is the main objective of the initiative, reducing poverty may very well be a long-term effect of the initiative.

Action plan to reduce homelessness 2018-2021
An action plan to reduce homelessness was adopted in 2018. The target group in this action plan is homeless people and young people at risk of homelessness. The action plan aims to improve support services for homeless people and those at risk of homelessness through increased use of the Housing First strategy in Denmark's 98 municipalities.

Young people at risk of homelessness
In 2020, the Government allocated funds to prevent homelessness among young people exiting foster care and penal institutions. The project aimed to ensure sufficient support and housing for the target group as they exited these systems.

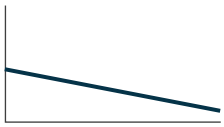
Civil Society's Assesments

Targets in focus:
1.3

Progress 2017-2021:

Nationally

Internationally



Organisations participating in this assessment:
Oxfam IBIS, Global Seniors, European Anti-Poverty Network Denmark (EAPN).

Nationally

Denmark still does not have an official poverty line. Statistics Denmark calculates an annual measure for relative poverty which includes low-income families without assets, students excluded. The report shows that relative poverty increased from around 200,000 persons in 2015 to 242,000 in 2019. The unemployment benefit was reformed in 2016 in such a way that the benefits of immigrant families in particular fell below the low-income threshold. At the same time, many asylum seekers came to Denmark (10,000 compared to only 800 in 2019) with the new government also bringing in financial compensation to the most severely affected families with children. One in six Danish state pensioners is not far from the line representing 60% of society's median income, which is the official threshold used by the EU to establish risk for relative poverty. Immigrants and refugees who have lived in Denmark less than 40 years receive a fractional pension, which is calculated based on how long they have been in the country. Despite additional support, they fall into the poorest group of pensioners.

Recommendations

- The Danish government must define a threshold for poverty or risk of poverty.
- The Danish government must use a future benefits system to prevent people from falling into poverty. Consideration should also be paid to differing housing costs between and within regions, and to the number of children in families.
- The Danish government must equate fractional pensioners with Danish pensioners to a greater extent.

Internationally

Globally, extreme poverty fell from 15.7% in 2010 to 10% in 2015 and 9.2% in 2019. However, the World Bank predicts that the number of people in extreme poverty will increase by 150 million people in 2021 as a result of the crisis. Poverty is particularly high in low-income countries and in countries with conflicts. In 2019, 736 million people were living in extreme poverty at global level, 413 millions of these in southern Africa. Almost half (46%) of those living in extreme poverty are children under the age of 14. In 2019, the number of elderly people (+65) was 703 million, of which two-thirds live in low-income countries. 20% of the elderly people in these countries are in receipt of a pension from their state. The amount received is rarely enough to lift elderly people out of poverty. Many of the world's elderly work to support themselves and their families, but because of the toll on their bodies and chronic illnesses, they are at risk of becoming financially dependent on their immediate family. However, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, many countries have introduced extraordinary support to elderly citizens in the form of pension advances, the payment of one-off cash benefits and foodstuffs (41%). These payments were generally small and are no longer made, despite the continuation of the crisis. Over one-third of workers in Sub-Saharan Africa live on less than USD 1.9 per day. Work thus does not guarantee a reasonable standard of living.

Recommendations

- The Danish government must support the UN's proposals to establish a global fund for a social security net which can guarantee protection to the vulnerable and socially excluded, including children and people with disabilities. This security net must build on a rights-based approach.
- The Danish government must work to ensure that the elderly are guaranteed a decent and universal state-financed pension which treats men and women equally.
- The Danish government must contribute towards building capacity around the development of social security net systems in low-income countries.
- The Danish government must take the lead and work to suspend the debt repayments of developing countries so that such countries can use state resources for their recoveries and to eradicate poverty.

The Government's Assesments

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

The Government is committed in its efforts to promote sustainable agriculture in Denmark. Agriculture must contribute to the goal of a 70% reduction in total greenhouse gas emissions and a doubling of organic agricultural output by 2030. Hunger and food insecurity, which are also themes under SDG 2, are not considered existing challenges in Denmark, but it is important to help combat both of these problems in developing countries.

Assessment of targets

2.1 In Denmark, everyone has the right to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round. ● ↑
2.2 Young children's weight development is stable and is monitored by a health visitor during the child's first year of life. There is a focus on nutrition among young girls, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and the elderly. There is also a focus on the rising incidence of overweight and obesity in Denmark. ● →
2.3 It is assessed that the general rules on access to land and other significant production resources are handled in existing legislation. ● →
2.4 The goal of sustainable agricultural practices and food production is generally part of the goals in the forthcoming Common Agricultural Policy for the EU ● ↑
2.5 Denmark is actively working on the conservation of agricultural seed, cultivated plants and livestock. ● →

Danish agriculture has successfully reduced its environmental impact through regulations and the adoption of environmental technologies and production methods. For example, in the last 30 years Denmark has roughly halved the discharge of nutrients from agriculture and the pesticide load, and has reduced the wastewater discharge of nitrogen by approximately 80%.

However, intensive production does not leave much room for biodiversity. The impacts of agriculture on the environment, nature and the climate must be reduced further, and the conditions for biodiversity in the open landscape must be improved. With the Agreements on Pesticide Strategy of 2017 and 2019, a broad majority of the Danish Parliament adopted a series of initiatives that support more sustainable food production (target 2.4). **In Denmark, there is still great need for** promoting green transitions and sustainable agriculture, and for reducing the impacts of agriculture on the environment, nature and climate. This is despite the fact that regulation and technology have significantly reduced the environmental impacts of agriculture in a number of areas. **Therefore, Denmark is working on reducing the impacts of agriculture on the environment, nature and climate** through increased focus on precision agriculture, organic agriculture, bioeconomy, feed and food properties, space for nature reserves and biodiversity and the reduction of pesticide loads. Denmark has in recent years focused on bio-economy to increase the sustainable utilisation of biological resources. The industry can contribute to provide solutions to future challenges, e.g. by improving the quality of feed and food production, and by utilising residual products from feed and food production that would otherwise go to waste.

There is also a need in Denmark to address health challenges associated with unhealthy dietary habits, which is particularly related to target 2.2 on malnutrition. Obesity is one of today's biggest health challenges, and since 1987 the incidence of overweight and obesity has doubled. In 2017, 51% of Danes were overweight.

Denmark's international effort

An increase number of people worldwide suffer from hunger. Whereas 155 million people in 2019 lacked food, this figure is estimated to have grown to around 270 million people in 2020. People living in areas of conflict most often suffer from hunger, and conflict and war is the main cause of increasing food insecurity and hunger crises. Denmark supports humanitarian, development, and peace & stabilisation programmes, all of which contribute to improving food security. Apart from conflict, climate change and COVID-19 are the main causes of increasing food insecurity and hunger crises globally in 2020.

Denmark supports international efforts, including the UN World Food Programme, and in 2012 Denmark acceded to the Food Assistance Convention. Denmark also supports development of the agricultural and food sectors through bilateral development cooperation and through funding of activities by Danish civil society organisations. Denmark works to promote more extensive and effective partnerships and to fully utilise the potential of the global political platforms. We are also advocating increased investment in disaster prevention and climate adaptation to improve self-sufficiency and resilience to crises. These challenges are greatest in Africa. Denmark conducts wide-ranging efforts in Africa in the areas of relief aid and development cooperation.

As the Common Agricultural Policy for the EU includes measures aiming to ensure a stable food market in the EU, it is also expected to support the fulfilment of target 2.c on making food markets stable and providing access to information.

Selected initiatives

Fighting antibiotic resistance
The Government has set new goals for a reduction of antibiotic use in pig farming to counteract antibiotic resistance. The Government has also established the International Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance Solutions (ICARS) in Copenhagen, which collects knowledge and contributes in the fight against antibiotic resistance – both in relation to human health and livestock production (target 2.4).

Precision agriculture
In partnership with agricultural trade organisations, the Government is conducting a number of projects in the area of precision agriculture. Precision agriculture includes more precise operation of machines and targeted allocation of fertilizer, etc. These projects are exploring new cultivation technologies that hold potential economic improvements for farmers, while also benefiting the environment and nature, thereby contributing to the fulfilment of target 2.4.

Forthcoming action plan for sustainable agriculture
It is the Government's ambition to further accelerate the green transition in agriculture. Aims include a significant reduction of nitrogen runoff in aquatic environments and ensuring that the Danish agricultural industry contributes to the Government's goal of a 70% reduction in total greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. The Government also has an ambition to double organic agriculture by 2030, both in terms of total area, exports and consumption, and the Government expects to present an action plan to achieve this aim (target 2.4).

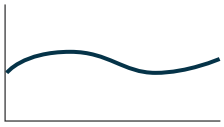
Dietary recommendations for health and climate
In January 2021, the Government introduced official dietary recommendations – "Good for health and climate". This marks the first time the Danish state has given advice on a healthy and climate-friendly lifestyle. Following the dietary recommendations reduces the risk of lifestyle diseases like cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes and cancer (targets 2.1 and 2.2).

Civil Society's Assesments

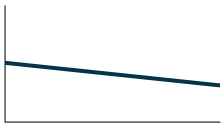
Targets in focus:
2.1-2.2 + 2.4

Progress 2017-2021:

Nationally



Internationally



Organisations participating in this assessment:
Oxfam IBIS,
Fødevarebanken

Nationally

In Denmark, at least 4–5% (i.e just under 100,000) of Danish households are affected by food insecurity. Such lacking or uncertain access to the acquisition of sufficient foods of an adequate quality is inextricably linked to economic factors. According to a study undertaken by the Department of Food and Resource Economics (IFRO), disposable household income is a key factor in this regard. It is therefore the case that people with low incomes and single parents are disproportionately affected by food insecurity. This is the case for somewhere between 31% and 48% of Danish recipients of transfer incomes such as cash benefits, disability pensions or unemployment benefits and up to a fourth of all single parents. Food insecurity and food budget cuts not only have consequences for physical health, but they also have an impact on general quality of life and on physical wellbeing. Despite the serious consequences, there has been no sustained focus on this problem and there remains an outstanding need to discuss solutions which might reduce food insecurity in Denmark.

Recommendations

- The Department of Food and Resource Economics (IFRO) must carry out regular studies into food insecurity in Denmark so that we have updated knowledge about the scope, causes and societal consequences of the problem.
- Denmark must support collaboration between the food sector and civil society organisations in order to ensure that fresh surplus food items can be safely and effectively redistributed to organisations for the socially disadvantaged. This might be through financial support, but also through a continuous focus on the legal framework conditions and administrative procedures which enable and support the donation of fresh surplus food items.

Internationally

Conflicts, inequality, climate change and a devastated food system mean that millions of people die from starvation each and every year. In 2020, 690 million people (approximately 8.9% of the world's population) were starving, which equates to an increase of approximately 60 million over five years. The COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated an already fragile food system and it is estimated that more people are at risk of dying from socioeconomic consequences such as hunger and poverty as a result of the crisis than of the actual virus itself. It is further estimated that 183 million people are going to starve in 2050 as a consequence of climate change. Denmark's support to multilateral organisations such as WFP, FAO and IFAD, which all work to combat hunger, has been stable over recent years, but as the Danish Minister for Development Cooperation makes clear, we are heading in the wrong direction with regards to SDG 2. There is a need for a more strategic and long-term approach which recognises that hunger is a product of poverty and extreme inequality and that it is therefore necessary to address structural problems. Inequality also manifests itself between the sexes as food insecurity is globally higher for women than it is for children and for men. It is also striking that the world produces enough food that nobody should have to go to bed hungry, yet one-third of all food produced globally is wasted.

Recommendations

- Denmark must continue to support the multilateral work to combat hunger and famine and it must develop a long-term and strategic approach to fighting hunger by seeking to reduce extreme inequalities and the underlying structural problems which are associated with gender inequality, conflicts and the climate crisis.
- Denmark must give funds to climate financing which is additional to its ordinary development aid and attach great importance to adaptation so that developing countries will have real possibilities to adapt to climate change and to ensure resilient food production.
- Denmark must actively recognise the role played by women in food production and strengthen their leadership in this area through reliable data and studies into how and why women are particularly vulnerable.

The Government's Assesments

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

Health for all and universal health coverage are cornerstones of the Danish welfare society, and easy and equal access is a foundational principle of a well-functioning health service. Inequality in health must be combated. Therefore, the Government has a focus on addressing chronic diseases, improving cancer treatment in Denmark, promoting mental health and well-being, and preventing tobacco and drug use.

Assessment of targets

3.1 In the span of 10 years, Denmark has had fewer than five cases of maternal mortality per 100,000 live births. ● ↑
3.2 Mortality in Denmark among children under five years of age is low, and has been decreasing over the last 10 years. ● ↑
3.3 There is no epidemic of AIDS, malaria or tuberculosis in Denmark, but there are still parameters that can be improved. ● ↑
3.4 With an increased focus on chronic disease and mental health, Denmark has achieved a significant reduction of mortality, but there is still room for improvement between now and 2030. ● ↑
3.5 Denmark is generally doing well with the prevention and treatment of drug and alcohol abuse. ● ↑
3.6 The number of people killed or injured in traffic has been stagnant since 2012. The number of people killed in traffic annually has been in the range of 170 to 200 since 2012. ● →
3.7 There is universal and free access to general practitioners and abortion, access to prevention for payment, and sex education in all primary schools. ● ↑
3.8 Everyone in Denmark has access to medical care and universal health coverage. ● →
3.9 Deaths due to air pollution and the impact of hazardous chemicals remain a challenge in Denmark. ● ↑

Denmark has been successful in addressing many of the targets under SDG 3. Examples include reductions in maternal and child mortality and traffic deaths, as well as universal access to health services. 2020 saw the lowest number of new HIV diagnoses in Denmark since the beginning of the HIV pandemic. Denmark is also well positioned in relation to prevention and treatment of drug and alcohol abuse, but there is still room for progress.

In pursuit of target 3.4, which Denmark has yet to meet, the Government will intensify its focus on reducing inequality in health in Denmark. The Government has introduced free psychological counselling for young people ages 18 to 24 with minor to moderate depression or anxiety, and the Government will further increase efforts in support of mental health and well-being with a 10-year plan for psychiatry.

Denmark's international effort

Denmark is a global leader in universal health coverage, as well as in sexual and reproductive health and rights. Denmark has much to contribute as a life science nation when it comes to delivering innovative health solutions and medicines.

Danish health authorities actively participate in international government collaborations aiming to help strengthen health services in partner countries, thus promoting access to health services and universal health coverage. The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for global health emergency preparedness and coordinated joint efforts, including the development of global norms and standards in the field of health based on research-based evidence. Denmark has contributed to development in the field of health through its participation in the WHO, and will continue to actively engage in the current discussions on strengthening the joint health emergency preparedness in the EU.

Denmark's nomination for a seat on the WHO Executive Board for the period 2021 to 2024 provides an additional platform for an active Danish effort to promote key Danish priorities for global health, including combating antibiotic resistance, chronic disease, promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights, increased global focus on mental health, etc.

Selected initiatives

Inequality in health
Socioeconomic position has an impact on citizens' living conditions and health. The Government is working to fight inequality in healthcare. As prescribed by the Leave No One Behind agenda, these efforts apply to everyone.

10-year plan for psychiatry
The Government will further increase efforts in support of mental health and well-being with the forthcoming 10-year plan for psychiatry. These efforts aim to reduce the number of people who suffer the serious consequences of mental illness and a lack of mental well-being (target 3.4).

Prevention of tobacco use by children and young people
The Government and a majority of political parties represented in the Danish Parliament have concluded an agreement on a national action plan that aims to prevent the use of tobacco and nicotine products by children and young people. Measures under the plan include standardised tobacco packaging, display bans and a stricter ban on advertising tobacco products (target 3.4).

Sexual and reproductive health and rights
Denmark is a strong proponent of sexual and reproductive health and rights when negotiating resolutions within the UN and in connection with Danish development cooperation (target 3.7).

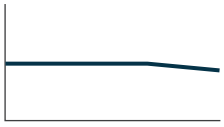
Denmark as a Life Science nation
Denmark has much to contribute as a life science nation when it comes to delivering innovative health solutions and medicines for the treatment of diseases (targets 3.4 and 3.8).

Civil Society's Assesments

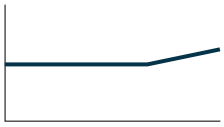
Targets in focus:
3.4 + 3.7-3.8

Progress 2017-2021:

Nationally



Internationally



Organisations participating in this assessment:
Danish Red Cross, Save the Children Denmark, The Danish Family Planning Association (DFPA), Global Seniors, KULU – Women and Development, DIGNITY.

Nationally

Between 2017 and 2020, children and young people have experienced growing isolation, mental vulnerability and unhappiness. Lockdowns resulting from COVID-19 have considerably increased the risk of loneliness and of physical and mental dissatisfaction within this group, resulting in far-reaching consequences, already visible today, for the mental and physical health of an entire generation. Obstetric care and midwifery are faced with a number of challenges which may have considerable negative consequences for many expectant mothers and new families. A particularly vulnerable group is pregnant undocumented migrants who are at greater risk of complications as they only have access to emergency healthcare; e.g. when actually going into labour or when they suffer from serious complications, and no access to preventive or routine check-ups with healthcare staff.

Recommendations

- The government must develop an action plan for loneliness, mental health and wellbeing among children and young people and address the consequences of coronavirus lockdowns, paying regard to all aspects of children's and young peoples' lives and placing focus on the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in society.
- Denmark must give obstetrics greater priority and this should include a guaranteed entitlement to good prenatal and midwifery care during childbirth. This must apply to all disadvantaged groups including undocumented migrants whose rights and access to healthcare services generally need to be improved and secured.

Internationally

Health has not generally been a priority in the period between 2017 and 2020 despite high inequality in access to health in the world's poorest countries. Such inequality will be exacerbated further by the coronavirus crisis and the most vulnerable groups in society will be hardest hit, such as refugees, internally displaced persons, girls, women and the elderly. Moreover, health is also crucial to the other sustainable development goals. Non-communicable diseases have been under-prioritised despite causing 71% of all deaths globally while almost 30% of the adult population in low and middle-income countries live with conditions such as diabetes, with the elderly in particular at risk. Mental health has also been under-prioritised despite a considerable increase in the number of people with impaired mental health, namely in countries which are affected by conflicts and catastrophes. In Africa, there are 1.4 mental health professionals for every 100,000 people; globally the figure is 9 per every 100,000. Only around 1% of total development aid for health is allocated to mental health. Mental health conditions and psychosocial dissatisfaction impair general health and undermine several of the sustainable development goals. Denmark is a significant player when it comes to sexual and reproductive health including sex education, access to contraception and free abortions. An overlooked problem is side effects caused by modern forms of contraception which are one of the most common reasons for not using contraception in the Global South.

Recommendations

- Health needs to be made a priority of development policy with focus placed on the broadening of a universal healthcare coverage which attaches equal importance to physical and mental health and which includes communicable diseases and mental disorders within the remit of primary health services. Such a prioritisation must focus on providing coverage to those who are especially vulnerable and marginalised, and investments will need to be made in national healthcare systems as well as local actors with a view to improving health preparedness and response.
- Denmark must continue to prioritise the sexual and reproductive health of girls, women and other marginalised groups. This should include better evidence, including with regards to forms of contraception. At the same time, mental health and psychosocial wellbeing should be reprioritised as key issues for Denmark. Both areas need to be prioritised alongside long-term and humanitarian efforts.

The Government's Assesments

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Free and equal access to instruction and education is one of the most important instruments in breaking negative social inheritance and ensuring equal possibilities for all. The Government has a strong focus on further enhancing the quality of education and day-care and on a high level of well-being throughout the education system. It is also the Government's ambition that, by 2030, as many 25-year-olds as possible will have completed an education, be enrolled in an education programme, or have employment. By 2030, at least 90% of 25-year-olds should have completed a youth education programme. To reach this goal, Denmark must cut in half the number of young people up to the age of 25 without any connection to an education programme or the labour market. The Government has a related goal of ensuring that more young people choose a vocational education.

Assessment of targets

4.1 Primary School is free in Denmark.
4.2 In Denmark there is equal access to day-care and preschool classes.
4.3 By law, there is equal access to prerequisite education for admission to higher education.
4.4 A political goal has been established to halve by 2030 the number of young people up to the age of 25 without any connection to an education programme or the labour market, so that more people can achieve financial success in their adult lives.
4.5 In Denmark equal rights to education apply to everyone. Discrimination according to sex, race, ethnicity or disability is generally prohibited by law.
4.6 All Danish children have the opportunity to learn reading, writing and arithmetic though the free schooling services.
4.7 In Denmark, financial support is allocated to SDG Schools, and initiatives to support education in democracy and citizenship have been launched.

With free education in primary school, upper secondary education and extended higher education, as well as a supportive state education grant system, Denmark has progressed far towards the fulfilment of SDG 4. Sustainability as a broadly defined concept is incorporated at multiple levels of education, from primary school level to upper secondary programmes. The object clause of the Danish Primary School Act states that the primary school must teach students the proficiencies that will ready them for further education. The clause goes on to state that teaching in primary schools must make the pupils familiar with Danish culture and history, give them an understanding of other countries and cultures, and contribute to their understanding of our interaction with nature. In this way, the spirit of SDG 4 is generally incorporated into the school and education system.

However, the Government wishes to do more. The Government's action plan for this SDG allocates funding for four new policy initiatives, including the appointment of two expert groups – one on mathematics and one on gender – increased funding for the UNESCO SDG schools, and the development of a new "SDG inspiration universe" on Denmark's online learning portal, emu.dk. The Government has an ambition of ensuring that Denmark is the world's best country to be a child in. This requires further improvements in the quality of daycare institutions and schools, and efforts to ensure the well-being of children. Likewise, an intensified effort for equal opportunity is needed in the educational system, as women still face barriers, particularly in the world of research.

Denmark's international effort

Efforts relating to education in developing countries are supported through Danish development cooperation and humanitarian aid. These efforts focus in particular on the education of girls and marginalised children, particularly in fragile states with humanitarian crises. In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government has accelerated support efforts and granted extraordinary contributions to partners. The Government is also acutely aware of the secondary effects of school closures, including the increased risk of violence and harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation.

Selected initiatives

Additional resources for municipal primary and lower secondary schools
The 2020 Finance Act allocates funding for general improvements of municipal primary and lower secondary schools, amounting to DKK 275 million in 2020, DKK 400 million in 2021, DKK 550 million in 2022 and DKK 807 million annually from 2023 onwards.

Tripartite agreement on apprenticeships
The Government and Denmark's labour and employer organisations reached a tripartite agreement in November 2020, allocating DKK 500 million annually, beginning in 2021, for new initiatives by AUB to promote and support apprenticeships.

More people must complete an education or be employed
Young people under the age of 25 who have not completed or are not in the process of completing a youth education programme will be offered guidance and follow-up through an outreach effort. The extended higher education programmes seek to support students whose parents did not take higher education through a number of initiatives, such as bridge-building programmes and targeted retention initiatives. These higher education programmes also have special initiatives to assist students with physical and mental disabilities. In addition to targets 4.3 and 4.5, these ambitions and initiatives relate to the Leave No One Behind agenda.

Minimum staffing requirements
Statutory minimum staffing requirements for daycare institutions will be introduced in 2024. This policy aims to ensure quality, as well as time and space for the individual child. The 2020 and 2021 Finance Acts allocate funding that increases during the period 2020 to 2030 to support the implementation of these minimum staffing requirements. The parties to the agreement have also earmarked funds to ensure more trained early childhood educators from 2023 onwards. From 2024 onwards, DKK 1.8 billion annually has been allocated to efforts to improve staffing and quality in daycare institutions (target 4.2).

Women in academia and research
Women's educational choices and career paths at the universities and in research environments is a key area of focus. Funding has been allocated for a dedicated talent development programme named after the renowned Danish scientist Inge Lehmann, which aims to improve the gender balance in research. Funding has also been allocated to strengthen the recruitment of women by STEM educational programmes.

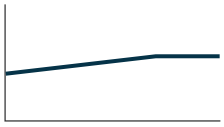
An increased effort in Social Education
The Government has introduced a quality plan for the Bachelor's degree in Social Education, which aims to improve the quality and the prestige of the programme. An evaluation of the Bachelor's degree in Social Education and the social education assistant programme has also been commenced.

Civil Society's Assesments

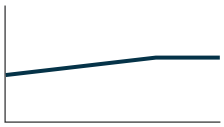
Targets in focus:
4.1 + 4.3 + 4.5 + 4.7 + 4.B

Progress 2017-2021:

Nationally



Internationally



Organisations participating in this assessment:
Oxfam IBIS, Save the Children Denmark, The National Union of Students in Denmark, The Danish Family Planning Association (DFPA), KULU – Women and Development, World's Best News, the education group in Global Focus

Nationally

Education has been impaired as a result of sustained cuts. Despite the abolition of the so-called reprioritisation policy, there is a need for targeted reinvestment following COVID-19 which has demonstrated the importance of education as a vector through which children and young people can receive social support, personal reinforcement and mental development. The Danish education system is still characterised by widespread inequality in that parental background and income are too often decisive as to how individuals fare. It is therefore shameful that the erosion of the Danish state education grant (SU) which followed the SU reform of 2013 impaired the opportunities for everyone to pursue an education and that Denmark has simultaneously made it more difficult for non-Danish speakers to study in Denmark as a result of its cuts to study programmes in English. Not all Danish children and young people are taught about the SDGs and sustainability despite the fact that educational institutions call for a higher political prioritisation of both. Sex education in primary school does not provide children and young people with the education they are entitled to. The study programmes for young people at the age when they start becoming sexually active feature only sporadic information on issues such as gender, body, sexuality, boundaries, etc.

Recommendations

- Denmark must invest in education and focus on combating inequality in education.
- The SDGs and sustainability must be taught at all levels of education and sustainable education must be introduced into the purpose statements of educational programmes.
- Children must be given the sex education they are entitled to and teaching on gender, body, sexuality and boundaries should be strengthened at secondary level.
- Education must be understood not just as learning but as a vector through which children and young people receive social support.

Internationally

Humanitarian crises and coronavirus have put great pressure on education and the expected cuts to public budgets will mean that even the current levels of (insufficient) financing are at risk of disappearing. COVID-19 is the biggest crisis that education has ever faced and it has demonstrated once and for all that education is also of great importance to the safety, nutrition and mental health of children and young people. In far too many places, students and teachers have been excluded from the decision-making processes for school openings and closures. During the school closures of 2020, more than 1.6 billion children and young people were sent home – with the poorest and most marginalised of them, including refugees and displaced persons, often left without access to distance learning. It is estimated that more than 30 millions of these children will never return to education. Girls are at particular risk due to an increase in the number of teenage pregnancies and child marriages and due to an inadequate level of access to sexual and reproductive health services.Aid is thus needed now more than ever in order to ensure the survival of public education systems. Denmark is a significant donor to the Global Partnership for Education and to Education Cannot Wait and has also recently joined Germany in supporting the UNHCR's DAFI programme, which helps refugees to access higher education. However, there is a need for Denmark to make education a strategic aid priority and to place focus on reaching those who are most marginalised and on supporting free, public education for all.Education has increasingly become a political battleground with students and teacher organisations becoming subjected to enormous pressure from repressive regimes. Denmark should make itself an ally of these students.

Recommendations

- Denmark must follow the EU by making education a strategic priority and spending 10% of aid (including humanitarian aid) on education.
- Denmark must prioritise education for the most marginalised.
- Denmark must support the development of stronger, more resilient and inclusive systems of public education which can secure continued learning during crises and catastrophes, including during the coronavirus pandemic and related school closures. Listen to young people, students and teachers at all levels of decision-making.
- Denmark must strengthen sex education at all levels as a prerequisite for achieving SRSR. Restrictive legislation which prevents teenage mothers and pregnant women from continuing in education must be removed.
- Establish a Students at Risk programme in Denmark in line with the one in Norway and Germany.

The Government's Assesments

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Equality between genders is fundamental for democracy, human rights and the prosperity of Danish society. The Government is working to improve equality between genders and to maintain a focus on equality in all areas. All discrimination of women and girls must be stopped throughout society, including in the labour market, nationally and globally, supported by concrete policies and legislation.

Assessment of targets

5.1 Denmark has a legal framework for equality, including the Equal Rights Act, which has the purpose of advancing, enforcing and monitoring equality. ● →

5.2 Denmark is regularly adopting new legislation, e.g. the new consent-based rape law and legislation against psychological violence. ● →

5.3 Foreign marriages entered into by minors are not acknowledged by Danish law, unless compelling arguments are present. Female circumcision has been a criminal offence in Denmark since 2003. ● ↑

5.4 It is estimated that unpaid care and domestic work is not widespread in Denmark, and the municipal social infrastructure is very well developed in the form of daycare guaranties, good parental leave schemes, and public elderly care services. ● →

5.5 In the past 10 years, the share of women in politics and leadership positions has been rising. This trend is especially strong in public workplaces, and also evident to a lesser degree in private workplaces and in politics. ● ↑ →

5.6 The framework in Danish law and the Danish health service ensure a high level of access to information, education and services regarding sexual and reproductive health. ● →

In general, both women and men have a high level of participation in the labour market, but the labour market remains very gender-segregated. Daycare and infrastructure are well developed and support a high labour market participation rate for both women and men. This contributes to the fulfilment of target 5.4 on recognition of unpaid care and domestic work, and the provision of public services. All genders must have the opportunity to contribute in the labour market, take part in decision-making processes, and shape the society the future. The Government is continuously working on promoting equality between genders and maintaining a focus on equality in all areas.

In spite of the high share of well-educated women in Denmark, there is still an uneven gender distribution at the management and board levels – and although parental leave can be divided flexibly between parents, women take the vast majority of the available leave. The Government prepares an annual report and action plan for equality, which includes cross-ministerial initiatives. The report and action plan provides an overview of the Government's initiatives, with aims ranging from economic equality between genders, to the prevention of physical and psychological violence, and ensuring equal opportunities in technological development.

Denmark's international effort

Denmark is at the international forefront in the fight for equality between genders and equal rights for women and girls – both at the state level and in international negotiations. Globally, we have generally witnessed great progress in equality between genders and in women's and girls' rights, yet there has been stagnation and even setbacks in many parts of the world. For instance, COVID-19 has aggravated existing inequalities and has had grave health and socioeconomic consequences for women and girls in developing countries, especially in terms of sexual and gender based violence, which has led the UN Secretary-General to call it a shadow pandemic. Thus, Denmark's strong international engagement for women's and girls' rights and opportunities is as important as ever. Equality efforts in developing countries are supported through Danish development cooperation and humanitarian aid. The effort has a particular focus on girls' and women's rights, including their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRSR), and is also being conducted in fragile states and regions experiencing humanitarian crises. Denmark gives DKK 755 million annually in development assistance to a number of international frontline organisations working with women's and girls' rights to their own bodies and for sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Selected initiatives

The Equal Rights Act

The Equal Rights Act aims to promote equality between women and men, including equal integration, equal influence and equal opportunities in all of society's functions. A number of other acts also prohibit discrimination and differential treatment in relation to pregnancy, parental leave, and equal pay (targets 5.1 and 5.c).

Technological equality

In March 2021, the Government adopted legislation committing public authorities to mail digital correspondence regarding a child to both parents if they share custody of the child. This is part of the Government's efforts to ensure that digital solutions support equality between men and women in parenthood. The Government has launched the campaign "digital violations have a cost" and is expecting to propose an initiative on social media, which among other things focusses on the regulation of social media and the strengthening of digital education of children and young people (target 5.b).

Efforts against physical and psychological violence

As a part of the Government's work with combating violence against women and girls, psychological violence was in 2019 made a criminal offence on equal footing with physical violence. The programmes for victims of different kinds of violence, including psychological, physical and sexual violence and human trafficking, are continuously being reformed within the integration, health and social systems. For example, a new consent-based rape law became effective as of 1 January 2021 and was followed up with a national information campaign. Additional funds have been allocated to crisis centres and ambulant counselling services for victims of violence (target 5.2). Moreover, the Government is taking targeted measures to fight negative social control and honour-related conflicts in ethnic minority environments through information campaigns, social services and special crisis centres for young people from ethnic minority environments (target 5.3).

Other initiatives

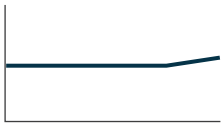
- Establishment of Lev Uden Vold (Live Without Violence), the national unit to combat violence in close relationships.
- Action plan against physical and psychological violence in close relationships.
- Strengthened outpatient treatment for women subjected to violence in close relationships.
- Intensified efforts to combat digital violations.
- Code of conduct for diversity in recruitment
- The "Aktion Fars Orlov" ("Action Paternal Leave") campaign

Civil Society's Assesments

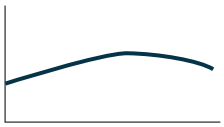
Targets in focus:
5.1-5.2 + 5.4-5.5 + 5.C

Progress 2017-2021:

Nationally



Internationally



Organisations participating in this assessment:
Save the Children Denmark, KULU – Women and Development, Danner, The Women's Council Denmark, Oxfam IBIS, Danish Refugee Council, The Danish Family Planning Association (DFPA).

Nationally

The number of women who are victims of domestic abuse has increased since 2017. Each year, approximately 12 women are killed by their partners and 38,000 are subjected to physical partner violence. In order to reduce those numbers, efforts must be made across all levels of society. The criminalisation of psychological violence in 2019 and the Police Agreement of 2020 are important tools, but in order to prevent domestic abuse and to intervene at an earlier stage, the authorities need to work more closely together while frontline staff such as municipalities and police forces require greater knowledge on violence.

The prevailing power imbalance is also reflected in continued economic gender inequality which, among other things, is driven by inequalities in the family distribution of housework and childcare, with women still performing on average one hour more of housework per day. This contributes to skewed representation in politics and the upper tranches of the corporate world, and to a labour market which is segregated by gender. Women and girls who are fleeing are particularly vulnerable but the absence of a gender perspective in the Danish asylum system and the suspension and reduction of the resettlement programme has curtailed their access to protection.

Recommendations

- Denmark must introduce designated parental leave for fathers and co-mothers.
- The government must develop a national action plan to reduce the extent of partner violence, cover all initiatives in Denmark and report on all government obligations.
- Frontline personnel must be provided with the knowledge and competencies needed to spot victims and respond to suspicions of partner violence.
- Denmark must ensure the protection of women and girls who are fleeing through gender-focused asylum, resettlement and integration initiatives.

Internationally

SDG 5 is still one of the most poorly financed sustainable development goals and there is a long way to go towards achieving global gender equality. This has been reinforced by COVID-19 which has led to an increase in sexual and gender-based violence, particularly partner violence, but also other rights violations such as child marriages. The pandemic has further restricted access to good health and financial security for women and girls and has set the world back when it comes to securing access to fundamental rights such as the right to decide over one's own body and life.

Women's and feminist organisations are still excluded from financing and influence, even if they are locally anchored and well-positioned to secure the political, financial, sexual and health rights of women. Despite the Grand Bargain's commitments to allocate 25% of humanitarian funding to local and national stakeholders, only 0.004 % of Denmark's development aid went to local women's rights groups within humanitarian contexts in 2019.Since 2017, the number of refugees and displaced persons has increased globally from 68.5 to 80 million with displacements lasting longer and longer. There is a lack of focus on gender, SRSR and equality within humanitarian efforts, with inequality broadening and displaced women and girls faring considerably worse in relation to the protection of their fundamental rights. Women must still have access to contraception, safe childbirth and abortions. Women and girls in particular are in need of protection against gender-based violence such as partner violence and child marriages, yet this is an area which remains underfunded at the global level. This means that lives are lost, and there is a risk that more of the most vulnerable will be lost between now and 2030.

Recommendations

- Denmark must take the lead in the fight for the rights and protection of women and girls, as well as their financial and democratic participation, with focus on the most vulnerable groups: i.e. LGBTQ+ persons, refugees and internally displaced persons.
- Denmark must take a feminist and intersectional approach to all of its global efforts and allocate a minimum of 15% to equality programmes in humanitarian contexts, including at least 4% to local women's rights organisations.
- Denmark must demonstrate global leadership in its international prioritisation and funding of efforts to protect and combat sexual and gender-based violence, including on "Women, Peace and Security".
- Denmark must integrate protection against gender-based violence into all Danish-supported humanitarian efforts and ensure lasting solutions for women and girls who have been displaced or forced to flee.

The Government's Assesments

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

There is universal and equal access to clean drinking water in Denmark. All people also have access to toilet facilities, sanitation and hygiene, and water consumption in Denmark is efficient compared to that of other countries. Since the drinking water supply in Denmark is based on a limited treatment of our groundwater, protection of that groundwater is a recurring theme in the Government's water policy. The Government has therefore chosen to continue the national mapping of groundwater and municipal planning to protect groundwater and prevent contamination as much as possible.

Assessment of targets

6.1 The vast majority of people in Denmark have access to drinking water at an affordable price. ● ⊖
6.2 The vast majority of people in Denmark have access to toilet facilities, sanitation and hygiene. ● ⊖
6.3 Wastewater in Denmark is treated at a high level. ● ⊖
Far too few of Denmark's marine areas are in good condition. ● ⊕
6.4 Water consumption in Denmark is efficient compared to that of other countries. ● ⊖
6.5 Denmark is active through the EU in water management, but has few water resources that cross national borders. ● ⊖
6.6 Denmark faces challenges in relation to pesticides and chemical pollution in groundwater. ● ⊕

Denmark has ensured universal and equal access to safe and cheap drinking water and sanitation, and has efficient and sustainable utilisation of drinking water.Likewise, Denmark has a long tradition of integrated planning of water resources, among other things through compliance with EU-regulation. Denmark has seen an improvement in the environmental state of its lakes and streams, and the quality of its bathing water is very high. Denmark prepares marine area plans that establish overall objectives, such as ensuring good conditions in streams, lakes, seas and groundwater.

However, Denmark faces a number of challenges in relation to pesticides and chemical pollution in groundwater. The Government's efforts pertaining to SDG 6 thus focus in particular on the quality of groundwater and the protection of ecosystems.The Government has a heightened focus on protecting groundwater and drinking water by reducing pesticide load, protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems, and supporting a water sector that invests in long-term and sustainable solutions.Danish drinking water supplies are based on limited treatment of groundwater, which also helps to ensure that there will be clean drinking water for future generations.

Denmark's international effort

Denmark is a global leader in efficient water supply and utilisation of wastewater through worldwide exports of intelligent, sustainable and efficient water solutions.

Moreover, Denmark supports the protection of water resources and water supply in developing countries, which includes funding and cooperation with a range of global and regional organisations, including the world's largest network organisation for water, Global Water Partnership.

These efforts contribute to fulfilling target 6.5 on the management of water resources. Denmark is working to ensure clean water and climate-adapted water resources in developing countries, particularly in Africa. This is being done through a number of multilateral, regional and bilateral channels, including the African Water Facility under the auspices of the African Development Bank and through the Global Water Partnership. These efforts contribute to fulfilling target 6.1 on providing access to clean drinking water and target 6.a on supporting water and sanitation in developing countries.

Selected initiatives

Agreement on Pesticide Strategy 2017-2021
Danish aquatic environments are primarily impacted by diffuse pollution (nutrients, organic matter and pesticides) from agriculture, but also point source pollution (nutrients, organic and chemical pollutants) from urban wastewater, industry and aquaculture. A broad majority of the Danish Parliament approved a 2017 agreement (with an addendum agreement in 2019) to maintain the pesticide tax and goal of reducing the pesticide load on groundwater. Based on this agreement, the Government instructed Denmark's municipalities to conduct risk assessments of protected areas surrounding public water supply wells to determine the danger of pesticide and nitrate seepage into the wells. These efforts are helping to reduce the risk of pesticide and nitrate contamination in groundwater (targets 6.3 and 6.6).

Clean drinking water
As part of the implementation of the Drinking Water Directive and prior to the implementation deadline of 12 January 2023, the Danish Ministry of the Environment will assess whether there is sufficient access to drinking water for everyone in Denmark, particularly vulnerable groups in the population. Under the Directive, Denmark is obliged to implement an action plan to improve the supply of drinking water if there is insufficient access (target 6.1).

Implementation of EU water legislation
The Government is working to restore water-related ecosystems based on the implementation of EU water legislation, including the Water Framework Directive (target 6.6). Denmark's pricing of water also contributes to heightened awareness among citizens and businesses regarding conscientious consumption (target 6.4).

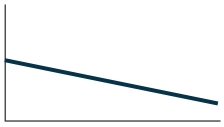
Danish adherence to the Drinking Water Directive (March 2019):
In March 2019, the environmental ministers of EU member states adopted a resolution to revise the Drinking Water Directive. Final agreement on the revised Directive was reached in December 2020, and the changes took effect on 12 January 2021. Among other things, the Directive sets limits on the concentration of certain chemicals released from taps and water pipes that are in contact with drinking water. The water utility companies must also inform citizens about the quality and price of drinking water. These companies must also reduce water waste and improve their efforts to inform citizens about water waste. The latter has been a key requirement pursued by Denmark, as climate change is expected to increase pressures on the drinking water resources of the future. Denmark is leading the way in terms of limiting water waste, and now the rest of Europe must follow suit.

Civil Society's Assesments

Targets in focus:
6.1 + 6.3

Progress 2017-2021:

Nationally



Nationally

The majority of the Danish population accesses drinking water from around 2,500 smaller and larger waterworks. This water often does not comply with limits set by the EU for the content of pesticides. This is confirmed by an expanded analysis programme in 2019 that found pesticide residues in 45% of active waterwork wells, while the limit was surpassed in 12.7% of the wells. This is an increase of approximately 10% compared to 2018. The Danish Environmental Protection Agency had not informed Denmark's municipalities about the EU rules and in a number of cases, drinking water with pesticide residues and other substances over the limit was illegally distributed to consumers. Many plants today use mixed drinking water containing pesticide residues. A statement to the Danish Parliament shows that over a five-year period, 46 waterworks in the country had supplied consumers with drinking water which contained values above the limit. Moreover, almost half of all households which extract their own groundwater, take up water which exceeds the threshold limit for pesticide residues.

Findings of approved pesticides in groundwater do not mean a ban on their use, as the authorities currently allow pesticides to be leached into the groundwater in average concentrations of 0.1 microgram/l per year, which corresponds to the limit value. This practice means that over time, all groundwater will come to contain ever greater levels of pesticide residues and that the sum limit of 0.5 micrograms/l will be challenged, when several pesticide residues appear in the same water sample. This means that the previously practiced precautionary principle is no longer applied. In 2020, a ban was imposed on the commercial use of pesticides in the vicinity of drilled wells (so-called BNBOs), but not in vulnerable extraction areas. The ban does not apply to BNBOs in urban areas, where private operators and authorities spray pesticides onto sealed areas where no degradation occurs, because the biologically active root zone has been removed. A screening for 415 pesticide residues uncovered pesticide findings in 20.3% of 263 wells. Including previously analysed samples, pesticide residues were found in 77% of the same wells and almost a third were over the limit. In other words, Danes can expect to find pesticide residues beneath the soil in all areas where such products have been used. Agriculture only uses pesticides which have been approved by the authorities. Hence, the high number of pesticide residue findings indicates that the approval procedure is not fit for purpose.

Recommendations

- The relevant authorities must take water samples from the pipeline networks from all waterworks so that they can respond rapidly to any contaminations uncovered.
- The government must introduce more restrictive regulations for the use of pesticides in areas where groundwater forms and it should establish Groundwater Parks – i.e. groundwater protection areas.
- The government must take responsibility for modernising the approval system and the approval of pesticides which end up in the groundwater must be stopped.
- The discovery of pesticide residues in the ground and drainage water by the Warning System must result in an immediate ban on sales in Denmark.
- The government must adopt a ban on the sale of pesticides to private individuals and introduce a ban against the private and official use of pesticides on sealed areas.
- The national monitoring programme should report analyses of drinking water in its annual reports; including both pesticide residues and other organic micropollutants.

Organisations participating in this assessment:
The Danish Society for Nature Conservation.

The Government's Assesments

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

Denmark's climate and energy policy is ambitious and contributes to the overall goal of ensuring access for all to reliable, sustainable and modern energy at an affordable price. As a leading nation for innovative green solutions in the energy system, energy efficiency solutions and renewable energy, Denmark has a responsibility to contribute solutions nationally and internationally.

Assessment of targets

7.1 All Danish households have access to cheap, stable and modern energy services. ● ↑
7.2 The energy agreement of 2018 allocates funding that charts a course towards reaching a renewable energy share of 55% by 2030. It is expected that this goal will be fulfilled. ● ↑
7.3 Energy efficiency efforts have been significantly intensified in recent years, which has helped Denmark to exceed the EU energy savings obligation by 27%. ● ↑

Since the 1970s, Denmark has carried out active energy efficiency efforts. In part due to these efforts, Denmark's gross energy consumption has remained relatively stable since the mid-1970s, since which time the economy has doubled. Denmark has made great progress in terms of integrating renewable energy into energy systems, while maintaining a highly stable electricity supply.

Denmark is well on its way, but has not yet fully reached the goal regarding the share of renewable energy and target 7.2 on increasing the global share of renewable energy. This requires a heightened focus on increasing the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix. Denmark's total RE share is expected to increase to 58% in 2030. From around the year 2027, electricity consumption is expected to be largely covered by production from renewable energy sources. Realisation of the energy islands will further increase RE production, which will then exceed the expected consumption in Denmark.

Denmark's international effort

Denmark's international efforts focus on upscaling renewable energy and increasing energy efficiency. In pursuit of these aims, the Government has entered into a green strategic partnership with India and will work to establish similar partnerships with other countries, while also developing new green action plans in collaboration with existing partnership countries. The combination of climate diplomacy and government cooperation will support the green transition and sustainable economic growth in the partner country, while strengthening the market positions and exports of green solutions for Danish businesses.

This will help bring Denmark closer to meeting target 7.a on improved access to research and investments in clean energy, and 7.b on expanding and upgrading energy services in developing countries. Denmark has also actively engaged in international dialogue and cooperation to ensure a green recovery in the wake of the Covid-19 crisis; these efforts include serving as co-organiser of a number of minister meetings on green recovery in collaboration with the IEA.

Selected initiatives

2020 Climate Agreement
With the initiatives from the 2018 Energy Agreement and 2020 Climate Agreement, Denmark is poised to make major investments in tomorrow's green technologies, e.g., Power-to-X, a major tender in new biogas production, and an ambitious expansion of green energy, including the launch of a new era in Danish offshore wind development with the world's first energy islands. Green energy from the energy islands will help to advance the green transition in Denmark and Europe beyond the year 2030. A large offshore wind farm off the island of Hesselø will be completed one year ahead of schedule, providing green electricity as early as 2027. The agreement also advances the expansion of renewable energy by continuing the technology-neutral procurement process, which supports builders of renewable energy. This will increase Denmark's share of renewable energy in total energy consumption between now and 2030 (target 7.2). The Climate Agreement also allocates significant funding for the phasing out of oil and gas boilers. Additional funding for this purpose is provided by the 2021 Finance Act. The overall effort to phase out oil and gas boilers are expected to reduce carbon emissions by 0.7 to 0.8 million tonnes in 2030.

Research and development in renewable energy
With the strategy "Green solutions of the future - Strategy for investments in green research, technology, and innovation", the Government charts a long-term direction for green research, development and demonstration in Denmark. This strategy serves as a basis for clear political priorities regarding future efforts and thereby supports the development of technologies that will contribute to fulfilling Denmark's climate goals. To accelerate the targeted development of future technologies, the Government has identified four green missions, two of which are within PtX and CCUS, respectively. As part of the agreement on the distribution of research reserves in 2021, funds have been earmarked for research, development and demonstration in support of these green missions. Furthermore, the Climate Agreement on Energy and Industry, etc., allocates DKK 202 million for test turbines from 2022-2024 to strengthen experimental and development activities in renewable energy (target 7.a).

Other initiatives
Technology-neutral procurement processes, test turbine programmes, Horns Rev 3, Kriegers Flak, Vesterhav North and South, Open Door scheme for offshore wind, Thor Offshore Wind Farm, and compensation schemes for neighbours of RE plants.

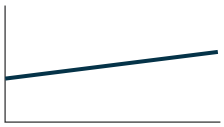
Civil Society's Assesments

Targets in focus: 7.2 + 7.B

Progress 2017-2021:

Nationally

Internationally



Nationally

The target of 70% reduction of emissions by 2030, stipulated in the Danish Climate Act and the latest energy agreement, mostly inform Denmark's energy policy. National efforts were marginally boosted by the Energy Agreement of 2020, but according to the Danish Council on Climate Change, current measures do not appear to be sufficient to meet the target set by the Climate Act. This is because a large proportion of the reductions between now and 2030 are based upon uncertain technologies such as carbon capture and storage (CCS). According to the Council on Climate Change, it will not be possible to guarantee the necessary reductions before 2030. Additional measures and ongoing reductions will be needed between now and 2030. The decision to end new oil and gas exploration in the North Sea is a necessary measure. However, the production end date of 2050 is not sufficient and there remain loopholes in the North Sea Agreement, which actually make it possible for production to be increased.

The new gas pipeline to Lolland and Falster and the Baltic Pipe will inevitably either end up as stranded assets or entail a breach of the reduction targets. These infrastructure projects thus constitute a risk to the green transition. The large proportion of bioenergy and the lack of targets for aviation and shipping also remain problematic. Staking success on negative emissions via CCS and bioenergy is a problematic approach, due to the uncertainty around feasibility; because of the intense need for resources; and because of the social risks involved. PtX entails risks in the form of fossil gases and biomass and because it increases the need for renewable energies which first and foremost must be used to meet existing needs for electricity and heating. Any future conversion to biogas must be evaluated in relation to leakage during handling and with regard to the emissions from, and the conversion goals of, agriculture, including the need to reduce animal production.

Recommendations

- Denmark must develop an action plan for reductions in the energy sector, total energy consumption and increased efficiency with a target of zero emissions by 2030.
- Denmark must ensure that CCS and other negative emissions are not included in the 70% target.
- Denmark must introduce supplementary accounts which provide a complete picture of emissions from biomass and set an end date for biomass, no later than 2030.
- Denmark must stop all possibilities to increase North Sea oil and gas production; develop a phase-out plan for existing North Sea production and cancel the Baltic Pipe and Lolland-Falster gas pipeline.
- The government must compose realistic estimates for future sea and land use for renewable energies, particularly with regards to SDG 15 and future measures for flexible energy consumption.

Internationally

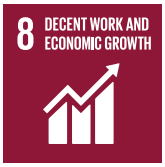
The development policy priorities for 2021 include a focus on renewable energies. New sustainability requirements have been adopted for Denmark's Investment Fund for Developing Countries (IFU) which restrict how much support Denmark can give to fossil-based energy projects internationally. However, Denmark still contributes to the Global Infrastructure Facility (GIF) which, among other things, supports the development of gas infrastructure. Denmark's export strategy for renewable energies is characterised by an excessive focus on middle-income countries, an expansion of bioenergy and insufficient focus on civil society involvement and the rights of indigenous peoples. The EU's energy strategy remains insufficient due to its low reduction requirements and increased use of fossil gases. The Energy Charter Treaty (ECT), which is a major international obstruction to the green transition, is currently undergoing a reform process, but the reform proposals put forward still seek to protect fossil fuel investments.

Recommendations

- Denmark and the EU must withdraw from the ECT.
- The EU must introduce stricter reduction requirements for CO2 emissions (minimum of 65% by 2030); ensure that emissions are calculated fairly; remove permits for new fossil gas investments and get rid of the blending requirement for biofuels in petrol and diesel.
- Denmark must develop an action plan for the technology transfer of renewable energies to low-income countries and exempt bioenergy from Danish export subsidies.
- Denmark must take the lead in cutting financial support for the GIF and ensuring that all support for energy projects must comply with a strict definition of renewable energy which excludes bioenergy, nuclear energy and large-scale hydropower.

Organisations participating in this assessment:
Global Aktion, Greenpeace.

The Government's Assesments



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

The Government's business policy aims to promote economic growth that is sustainable, inclusive and renewable. The Government is working to ensure high levels of employment, to increase opportunities for participation in the working community, for a just distribution of growth and prosperity, and to strengthen the framework for the Danish labour market model. A high rate of membership in strong labour unions and employer organisations is at the core of the Danish model, in which pay and working conditions are established through the negotiation of agreements by these parties without interference from the public authorities or the Danish Parliament. Therefore, the Government will strengthen the framework for this model, but not interfere in the specific dealings of the labour unions and employer organisations.

Assessment of targets

8.1 Denmark has a tradition of stability-oriented economic policy with a long-term planning horizon. This is reflected, among other things, in a relatively stable growth in GDP per capita. ● ⊖
8.2 Denmark has a well-qualified labour force. Diversification, technological upgrading and innovation have all contributed to the high level of value added per employed person in Denmark. ● ⊖
8.3 Denmark has a very formalised labour market, where there are good opportunities to start a business and good financing possibilities for companies. ● ⊖
8.4 Denmark has a very high consumption of natural resources, which the Government is seeking to address through an ambitious transition to a circular economy. ● ⊖
8.5 In Denmark labour and employer organisations contribute to decent work for all and actively share in the responsibility for the Government's social and labour market policies. The results are evident, for example, in the high employment rates for men and women, and the high share of people who participate in adult and continuing education programmes. ● ⊕
8.6 In Denmark, youth unemployment is low – especially compared to most other countries. However, there is still a group of young people who have challenges in completing their education and obtaining permanent employment. ● ⊖
8.7 The target is assessed as fulfilled. ● ⊕
8.8 Denmark is among the world leaders. We are constantly raising the bar, including the through the recent agreement between the Government, employers and labour unions on a reprioritisation of health and working safety measures. ● ⊕
8.9 It is estimated that Denmark is well placed in terms of fulfilling this target, including the establishment of a national strategy for Danish tourism in 2016, and the preparation of a new national strategy for sustainable growth in Danish tourism, which is expected to be finalised and presented in 2021. ● ⊕
8.10 9 out of 10 Danes conduct their banking online and there is access to bank branches in most of the country. ● ⊖

The Danish model, founded on the strong involvement of labour and employer organisations, is a major reason that Denmark has come far in its pursuit of SDG 8. The Danish model has also been decisive in the establishment of higher pay, better working conditions, and more security and prosperity than in many of the countries with which we compare ourselves.

Yet there is still potential for further development of the Danish labour market. The Government's effort for securing sustainable progress is important. However, it is also important that Danish companies take responsibility. The Government's policies can only do so much – there is a need for an engaged and active business community that also takes responsibility – not only the companies working locally in Denmark, but also the companies that are part of complex value chains across national borders. Danish companies are already doing a lot but more can be done. Responsibility is and must be a part of companies' core businesses. Therefore, the Government actively seeks to further advance the work companies are doing with CSR and the SDGs.

Denmark has a significantly higher consumption of natural resources than the EU average and has an unfortunate top ranking in Europe when it comes to generating large amounts of household waste. The Government has taken up the challenge of achieving sustainable consumption and production in Denmark, with an ambitious effort to transition towards a more circular economy.

Denmark's international effort

Denmark is working to establish new partnerships between Danish businesses, NGOs, local businesses in developing countries and other stakeholders to promote sustainable projects that can improve income and jobs in developing countries. Denmark is also working to promote sustainable economic growth through trade policy, which includes the advocacy of strong provisions on the environment, climate and labour rights in EU trade agreements.

Selected initiatives

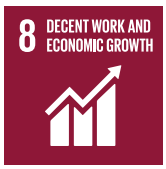
Stable framework conditions and social responsibility
Danish businesses hold a prominent position in global sectors such as life science, green technology, transport and foods, which is largely attributable to the successful development of good business ideas into worldwide businesses. The Government is working to ensure good and stable framework conditions for Danish businesses so that they can develop the solutions of tomorrow. Good framework conditions will strengthen productivity growth and innovation among Danish businesses. The Government is also actively working to support and promote efforts by businesses in the areas of social responsibility and the SDGs (target 8.4).

Digitalisation
The Government wants to support digital business and jobs of the future. The Government will prepare a comprehensive new digitalisation strategy to enable Denmark to fully capitalise upon technological opportunities. The Government is therefore establishing a digitalisation partnership for Denmark's digital future, consisting of executives and experts from the Danish business world, research community, and labour and employer organisations. The partnership will explore and make recommendations on how Denmark should take advantage of future digitalisation opportunities (target 8.2).

Exports: Restart after the Covid-19 crisis
A significant share of Danish businesses depends on being able to export their goods and services abroad, and Danish exports are essential for the Danish economy, Danish businesses, and achieving sustainable economic growth. In 2020, the Government entered a number of broad political agreements on export packages to support Danish exports in the light of the pandemic and the expected decline in international demand. Funding for these initiatives between now and 2023 amounts to DKK 2.5 billion.

Sustainable tourism
The Government has the goal of Denmark being one of the most sustainable tourist destinations in the world. In December of 2019, the Government began efforts to formulate a new national strategy for sustainable growth in Danish tourism under the auspices of the Danish National Tourism Forum.

Civil Society's Assesments

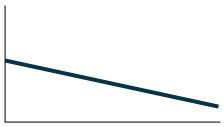


Targets in focus:
8.1 + 8.4-8.8

Progress 2017-2021:

Nationally

Internationally



Organisations participating in this assessment:
Amnesty International Denmark, the Danish United Nation Association, Global Seniors.

Nationally

From a global perspective, the Danish labour market model has ensured economic growth, a good work life, good framework conditions and high productivity. This has in general remained the case between 2017 and today. However, problems persist with regards to fulfilling SDG 8. Economic growth must be sustainable, but growth always means increased pressure on natural resources and a larger global footprint. Denmark's ecological footprint is already much too big. If everyone on earth consumed as much as the Danes, we would need four planets to cope. New atypical forms of employment and social dumping put pressure on salary and labour conditions and undermine the Danish labour market model in the long term.

Moreover, there is no equal access to the labour market. Despite rising employment and a drop in unemployment, youth unemployment remains twice as high as it is in other groups. This is the case in particular for people without qualifications. In general, far too many young people are neither working nor under education (NEET). At the same time, employers continue to discriminate on the basis of ethnicity, age, disabilities and other protected characteristics mentioned in the Danish Anti-Discrimination Act. Unemployed people aged between 50 and 65 have difficulties getting a new foothold in the labour market and this in combination with rigid rules on the transition from work life to retirement mean a loss of valuable workforce.

Recommendations

- Denmark must reduce its overall ecological footprint.
- The government and its social partners on the labour market must draw up a cross-sectorial national action plan to reduce the NEET figure.
- Denmark must ensure that atypical forms of employment are covered by collective agreements.
- Denmark must seek to combat social dumping, in part through expanded agreements on value chain responsibility and social clauses as well as tightened controls.
- Denmark must commission systematic studies into the occurrence of discrimination on the labour market.
- Legislation and agreements must ensure a smooth transition from the labour market to retirement in order to retain valuable workforce.

Internationally

If the goal of abolishing child and forced labour is to be reached, greater efforts are required – not just from governments but from the corporate sector as well. The problems are still widespread among the global value chains of companies. Investigations reveal that the number of Danish and European companies which act in accordance with international UN and OECD standards is still much too low. The Danish development policy strategy states that Denmark will: "promote more well-functioning labour markets in developing countries on the basis of labour rights and social dialogue" with framework conditions which also include a healthy workforce and the use of civil society organisations to support vocational training programmes. But Denmark's clear opportunity to act as a catalyst for well-functioning labour markets has been leveraged very little by changing governments. Denmark should create the necessary framework conditions through development support and simultaneously ensure that Danish companies and their subcontractors comply with ILO conventions and the UN's guidelines for human rights and business. Interventions will be crucial in order to create decent jobs for an ever growing workforce of young people of all genders, within both formal and informal sectors of commerce and business, and in order to limit migration.

Recommendations

- Denmark must promote a fundamental reconstruction of international financial institutions so that real economic activities on a global scale can be kept within the planetary boundaries and remain in line with people's basic needs.
- The government must make it mandatory for companies and financial institutions to exercise due diligence and establish criminal liability through the courts in serious cases.
- Denmark must allocate sufficient development aid to our partner countries in order to ensure the proper framework conditions for well-functioning labour markets.
- Development aid must be a catalyst for labour market legislation and social dialogue which promotes decent jobs and sustainable employment.

The Government's Assesments

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

The Government is working to ensure good and stable framework conditions for Danish businesses. The Government will strengthen entrepreneurship, which will contribute to securing the solutions and jobs of the future. The Government is particularly focused on decoupling economic growth from increased resource consumption, e.g. by improving resource efficiency and ensuring climate-friendly energy for industrial production. A central goal is to achieve a 70% reduction in Denmark's greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. As part of these efforts, the Government has established a close cooperation with the business community in the form of climate partnerships, whose purpose is to bring Denmark closer to the fulfilment of the SDG 9 on sustainable industry, a culture of innovation and infrastructure.

Assessment of targets

9.1 The target is assessed as fulfilled. ● ↑
9.2 Denmark is continuously working to improve the sustainability of industry, including through the climate partnerships and electrification efforts. This can be seen in Denmark's high share of green exports. The total value contributed to Denmark's GDP by industry is also increasing. ● ↑
9.3 The target is deemed to be fulfilled, as the vast majority of Danish companies are assessed as having good opportunities for financing. ● →
9.4 Industry in Denmark has become increasingly sustainable in step with the introduction of new environmental requirements. ● ↑
9.5 The Government has a goal of Denmark investing at least 1% of GDP in publicly-financed research. ● →

Denmark has come far in terms of fulfilling SDG 9, but more can and should still be done. The Government supports the use of green technologies and green fuels by restructuring various aspects of industrial energy consumption. For example, the Government is supporting green innovation through Denmark's leadership of an international mission to decarbonise shipping, as part of Mission Innovation. This mission will promote development throughout the maritime value chain of new ship technology, new fuels and new energy infrastructure in ports, as well as new regulation through international public-private partnerships. Denmark is jointly leading the mission together with the United States, Norway, the Mærsk Mc-Kinney Møller Center for Zero Carbon Shipping, and the Global Maritime Forum.

There are still industries and infrastructure in Denmark that can further improve their sustainability and efficient use of resources. The Government is therefore working on infrastructure that supports sustainable development; this includes a focus on climate-friendly materials and recycling, demands for sustainable infrastructure in tenders, and advocating new regulations that support carbon-friendly solutions.

Denmark's international effort

Green and sustainable solutions often require innovation. Therefore, Denmark has taken the lead in Mission Innovation, a global initiative comprising the EU Commission and 24 member states that aims to accelerate global innovation in clean energy.

Denmark is also working to improve developing countries' opportunities for developing and financing sustainable infrastructure projects, including through the Global Infrastructure Facility. In addition, Denmark supports projects through the Investment Fund for Developing Countries, which provides expert assistance and cheap loan financing to support the planning and execution of sustainable infrastructure projects in the poorest countries.

Selected initiatives

Electrification strategy
In continuation of the 2020 Climate Agreement for Energy and Industry, the Government will present an electrification strategy. This strategy will include scenarios for the role of electrification in relation to the 70% goal (target 9.2).

Climate partnerships
Thirteen climate partnerships have been established in different business sectors, including manufacturing, energy-intensive industries, energy and utilities, and land transport. The Green Business Forum is closely following the work of these climate partnerships and facilitating dialogue on the green transition between the Government, businesses and labour unions (target 9.2).

Green entrepreneurship
A strong culture of entrepreneurship is an integral part of a dynamic and innovative business community that can create new solutions and products, as well as new Danish jobs. This is particularly true in green industries. Therefore, the Government has established Denmark's Green Future Fund with a capacity of DKK 25 billion to help provide green entrepreneurs and businesses with risk capital for the development and distribution of green solutions (target 9.3).

Sustainable infrastructure
In the planning, construction and operation of infrastructure projects, the Government is focusing on reducing negative impacts on the surrounding environment via measures involving traffic safety, the environment, biodiversity and noise. This includes a focus on more climate-friendly materials and recycling, e.g. through the development of climate-friendly asphalt, and through requirements for suppliers in tenders. The Government is also focusing on expanding and upgrading cycling infrastructure to promote cycling as a sustainable and healthy mode of transport (target 9.1).

The Technology Pact
Through the Technology Pact, the Government supports projects that motivate Danes to work and educate themselves in efficient infrastructure and inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, with a focus on all target groups from primary school to continuing training (targets 9.4 and 9.5).

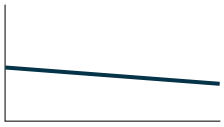
Civil Society's Assesments

Targets in focus:
9.1 + 9.4-9.5 + 9.A-9.B

Progress 2017-2021:

Nationally

Internationally



Organisations participating in this assessment:
Global Seniors.

Nationally

Denmark has a highly developed level of infrastructure and security of supply. The Danish business sector is oriented towards sustainable development, supported by research and innovation. Challenges in Denmark are concentrated on continued high levels of CO2 emissions and resource consumption and on inequality between urban and rural areas; e.g. within the transport sector. Since 2010, passenger traffic on the roads has increased by 14%. During the same period, the number of passenger cars on the road has increased by almost 20%. The share of total traffic represented by public transport (buses and trains) has fallen from approximately 12% to under 11%. Journeys by bicycle have fallen by approximately 20% since 2014. Price developments favour transport by car over public transport. Intentions to switch to more sustainable methods of transport have thus far failed. Following several years of decline, CO2 emissions from Danish companies have been rising since 2014. In 2014, CO2 emissions from all sectors were 63.5 million tonnes. In 2018, when the latest figures are from, emissions had increased by just under 4%. Significant emitters of CO2 such as shipping, aviation and the glass and concrete industry are emitting more CO2 than before. Emissions from energy supply, on the other hand, have fallen considerably. In the debate on the green transition in Denmark, much focus is placed on reducing CO2 emissions, reducing pollution and increasing the recycling of waste. But a real effort to restrict our overall footprint is lacking. Denmark is relatively high up in terms of expenditure on research and development with a total of 3% of GDP being spent on this. We are in fourth place in the EU. Public expenditure constitutes 1% of GDP (the highest in the EU) while expenditure from the public sector constitutes 2% of GDP. The bulk of public funds are spent on general science. More and more is being earmarked for green research. Denmark has a high rate of patent applications compared to other countries, namely within green technologies.Denmark is well covered by digital infrastructure – such as broadband and mobile networks. Broadband coverage (10Mbit/s) for private homes has increased from 96% to 98% since 2017. 98% of the country has mobile coverage although the networks are of different qualities and 10% of the network is overloaded.

Recommendations

- Denmark must develop a sustainable mobility plan for the conversion of the transport sector.
- Public transport needs to be reinforced through a modernisation of the railway infrastructure, coherent timetables and transport routes; by fomenting flexible transport options (buses, demand responsive transport, car sharing, etc) and by improving conditions for pedestrians and cyclists all across the country.
- Denmark must convert industry and innovation into circular production by establishing goals and plans for reducing the consumption of materials such as minerals, for example.
- The government must implement proposals from its 13 climate partnerships and raise the CO2 tax to DKK 1500 per tonne as recommended by the Danish Council on Climate Change.
- Denmark must ensure that all information and communication technologies create digital accessibility and develop user-friendly systems within all public services.
- The government must resolve to stop the public use of Facebook and other unregulated, private channels as primary sources of information.

Internationally

In recent years, Danish support to the development of industrial production and innovation in developing countries has been limited, with a large share going through the Investment Fund for Developing Countries (IFU). With the future focus of development policy resting on support to local areas and preventing migration, it will be necessary to consider new approaches in order to support innovative start-ups and SMEs in the world's poorest and most fragile states.

Recommendations

- Denmark must support SMEs and innovative start-ups
- Danish aid must strengthen locals NGOs and small business organisations, in part through a strengthening of the network around businesses in both the formal and informal sectors.
- The government must work with new ways of incorporating Danish technological knowledge, research and know-how on sustainability in relation to these companies.

The Government's Assesments

Reduce inequality within and among countries.

Denmark is one of the world's most equal countries. Seen from an international perspective, income differences are small and the share of the population in the low-income bracket is one of the lowest among OECD countries. However, there are still challenges in this area and it is the Government's clear ambition to fight inequality in both Denmark and the rest of the world. At the national level, the Government is working to ensure more equal opportunities for people with disabilities and to ensure that vulnerable children receive the right help early in life. Globally and in development cooperation efforts, Denmark has a strong focus on combating economic, political, social and climate-related inequality.

Assessment of targets

10.1 Seen from an international perspective, income differences are small and the share of the population in the low-income bracket is one of the lowest among OECD countries. ⊖ ⊖

10.2 Denmark has high voter participation across gender, age and disability, and a relatively large share of the population is politically active or participates in associations. ⊖ ⊖

10.3 Denmark has implemented legislation against discrimination of disabled people and people with mental health issues and particular social problems. However, Denmark still needs to take steps to reduce ignorance and prejudices about people with disabilities and to ensure greater inclusion in society. ⊖ ⊖

10.4 Income inequality, as measured by the Gini coefficient, has been growing in Denmark since the mid-1990s, as has the share of the population classified as low income. However, Denmark remains among the OECD countries with the least income inequality. Contributing factors in this regard are the high level of participation in the labour market and the universal social safety net. ⊖ ⊖

10.5 The target is considered to be fulfilled, as Danish financial institutions have increased their capital base with regard to high-risk exposures, and their share of non-performing loans has declined significantly. ● ⊖

10.6 Denmark is generally working to ensure strong and representative international organisations in which developing countries are ensured co-determination and influence. ⊖ ⊖

10.7 The target is estimated to be met by existing policies on the area, and future work towards fulfilment of the target is considered to be stable. ● ⊖

Denmark is one of the world's most equal countries, with a large degree of redistribution and a well-developed welfare society providing free access to education and health care. The Government is monitoring developments in inequality through an annual inequality report that broadly analyses inequality. Because of this, it is clear that more can be done in this area.

Inequality still exists in Danish society and inequality can have major consequences for the individual and for society in the shape of weaker association with the labour market, lower salaries, poor health and a shorter life expectancy.

Denmark's international effort

Global developments are moving in the wrong direction, as inequality is growing within and between countries. This includes economic, political and social inequality, as well as climate-related inequality, where vulnerable countries and populations are hit hardest by climate change. Denmark is addressing these trends in its development cooperation activities, with initiatives encompassing all areas of development cooperation, as well as country-specific initiatives. In this work, Denmark is particularly focused on equality, initiatives relating to democracy, and intensified efforts to manage the consequences of climate change.

Selected initiatives

Just and humane asylum system

The Government is working to ensure orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration. This is about fighting irregular migration and eliminating the business model of human traffickers by relocating asylum seekers to a third country, where their asylum application will be examined and any subsequent protection will be provided in that third country, and through controlled resettlement of refugees through the UN instead of spontaneous asylum application at the border (target 10.7).

The "Children First" reform

The Government and a broad majority of political parties represented in the Danish Parliament agreed in May 2021 on the "Children First" reform, which will help vulnerable children and families earlier and better than today. The agreement allocates an additional DKK 2 billion in funding in the years 2022 to 2025, and once fully phased in will provide DKK 734 million in annual funding. The Government's measures include a proposed Danish Child's Act, which will ensure that the child's voice is even better heard, and that children and young people placed outside the home experience fewer changes of residence and more stability (target 10.2 and 10.3).

Right to fair adaptation

The 2018 law prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of disability was amended on 1 January 2021 to introduce a right to fair individualised adaptation in daycare institutions, primary and lower secondary schools, independent schools and private primary and lower secondary schools.

Action plan for the prevention of psychological and physical violence in intimate relationships 2019-2022

This action plan aims to improve and strengthen outpatient programmes for victims of violence and complements existing programmes in social services, the healthcare system and the judicial system to reach more women, men and children subjected to physical and psychological violence.

Children's rights package

A children's rights package for the period 2018-2021 was adopted to promote the inclusion and empowerment of children. One of the package's initiatives aims to expand the right of children to be involved in and heard regarding their case in the municipal child services system. Another initiative extends the opening hours of a direct hotline for children that provides advice and help. A third initiative aims to raise children's awareness of their rights, increase children's resilience and prevent abuse.

Promoting inclusion

The Rate Adjustment Pool agreement for 2018-2021 allocates DKK 96.6 million for a civil society strategy. The strategy will help to combat loneliness and promote participation in communities, so that vulnerable children, adults, the elderly and people with disabilities who are not part of the labour market increasingly participate in voluntary communities as volunteers.

Act prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of disability

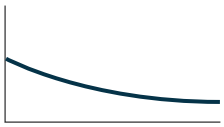
On 1 July 2018, legislation prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of disability came into force. The Equal Treatment Board is authorised to consider complaints regarding instances of illegal discrimination based on disability that occur outside the labour market.

Civil Society's Assesments

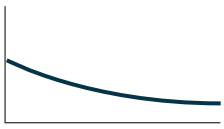
Targets in focus:
10.1 - 10.7

Progress 2017-2021:

Nationally



Internationally



Organisations participating in this assessment:
Global Seniors, ActionAid, Oxfam IBIS.

Nationally

The last four years have seen rising inequality and declining social mobility. It has not been possible to secure a relative increase in income for the bottom 40% of the population. On the contrary, there has been a decline in the income share from 22.3% in 2017 to 22.2% in 2019. At the same time, the richest 10% owns 47.3% of total net wealth while half of the entire population owns just less than 5%. There is still a high gender pay gap of 14.5%. Between 2017 and 2019, the number of children born into poverty fell from 64,500 to 59,700 but the benefits ceiling and the so-called integration benefit continue to keep children under the poverty line. Social inequality is exacerbated by rising discrimination. The Ghetto Package (Ghettopakken) from 2018 has been criticised by the UN for being discriminatory and the number of registered hate crimes has increased by 17% between 2018 and 2019. The government's rejection of common refugee policy solutions across the EU and its desire to undertake asylum processing in third countries are an obstacle to Denmark's promises of international collaboration. Age-based discrimination is widespread and the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed failures in civil society's ability to protect the most frail within its elderly population.

Recommendations

- The Ministry of Finance's calculation models must be restructured to ensure universal welfare and Denmark must draw up an action plan to tackle inequality.
- Denmark must abolish the benefits ceiling and the integration benefit and reestablish coverage for unemployment benefits.
- Denmark must also increase taxation on unearned incomes such as capital gains and inheritance.
- Denmark must abolish the so-called Ghetto Law and draw up an action plan to tackle discrimination.
- Denmark must resist initiatives which externalise asylum processing, work to ensure access to asylum in Europe by working in solidarity with the EU and introduce a more human refugee policy which encompasses the annual acceptance of 500 quota refugees.
- The government must work within the UN to strengthen the rights of elderly citizens through a binding convention on the elderly.

Internationally

Extreme inequality has not diminished over the last four years. A projection made by the World Bank suggests, that if income inequality increases by 2% per year, by 2030 there will be up to 860 million more people in the world living on less than USD 5.50 per day. We also know that there exists enormous inequalities between those responsible for climate change and those most affected by it, and that the world's richest 10% is responsible for more than half of all global CO2 emissions. In recent years, Denmark has placed greater focus on gender equality, which has been expressed via its membership to the UN's Human Rights Council. Unfortunately, there has been only little progress in this area on a global scale, and at the current rate we will not achieve true gender equality until the year 2099. The world's rich are still significantly under-taxed and there has been a lack of wealth redistribution, both of which have hindered attainment of SDG 10. Tax havens, including those within the EU, are a central factor in tax planning. Danish MPs agree that the battle against tax havens is an important one, however the list unfortunately remains incomplete. It is problematic that global decisions continue to be taken in the OECD, which does not include developing countries as members. However some improvements have occurred; for example, developing countries were consulted in the BEPS process.

Recommendations

- Denmark must use its development policy strategy to focus on the battle against inequality and poverty and on how the effects of climate change are felt unequally.
- Denmark's work to create gender equality must be given greater priority over the course of the next ten years if SDGs 5 and 10 are to be met.
- Denmark must continue to fight tax havens, in part by working to improve criteria for the European Union's tax haven blacklist.
- Denmark must continue to work for full public country-by-country reporting of all companies.

The Government's Assesments

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Mixed cities and a cohesive Denmark are the basis and goal of many initiatives launched by the Government in recent years. The Government has set out to reduce the environmental impact of cities, ensure access to public transport, ensure access to green areas for all citizens, and preserve cultural heritage. These initiatives build on many years of effort that have made Danish cities generally safe and secure for all. Furthermore, nearly everyone living in Denmark has access to housing of a good standard and access to basic services such as water, sanitation and electricity. A solid basis thus exists for Denmark to meet SDG 11 on inclusive, safe, robust and sustainable cities and local communities.

Assessment of targets

11.1 The housing stock of Denmark generally consists of suitable and safe homes, and the standard of housing is generally high. ● →
11.2 Denmark has generally come far towards reaching this target, but continues efforts to ensure even more accessible and sustainable transport systems. ● ↑
11.3 With regard to involvement, the target has been fulfilled for many years already, including in connection with municipal and local plans. Sustainability is increasingly part of the municipal planning process. ● ↑
11.4 Much of Denmark's natural and cultural heritage is protected, and a number of initiatives have been launched to ensure further protection. ● →
11.5 Denmark has regulations and measures to protect against damage from natural disasters. ● →
11.6 Waste: Nearly all waste in Denmark is collected and processed. ● ↑
Air pollution: Air pollution in Denmark's cities is declining. ● ↑
11.7 There is public access to nature in private and public areas. The national government and municipalities work continuously to establish access to outdoor spaces and recreational areas. ● →

Denmark has already come far in its work towards SDG 11. The Government has an ambition of safe cities with a varied mix of housing types and diverse demographic composition throughout Denmark. It is important that the cities create environments where people meet across economic, social and ethnic divides, as these encounters foster a sense of cohesion on which the welfare society is based.

Denmark's cultural heritage is facing great challenges due to climate change, but this cultural heritage can also be part of the solution. Denmark has some of the world's leading practices in the field of ancient monuments when it comes to monitoring erosion-threatened sites along the coasts. By exploring sustainable solutions to the present climate challenges from the perspective of cultural heritage, and by raising awareness and understanding of the traditional craftsmanship and materials that are required for sustainable maintenance of the existing building stock, cultural heritage can contribute to climate-friendly and sustainable solutions.

Transport companies in Denmark are focused on providing good ticket products at affordable prices that are suited to passengers' travel patterns. Efforts are also being made in Denmark to increase the accessibility of rail transport, and to provide alternative transport options for persons with severe physical disabilities, as well as blind and visually impaired people who are not able to use public transport in Denmark without assistance.

Denmark must also be a cohesive country where people can live, work and obtain education in all parts of the country. Realising this ambition is made more difficult by the ever-growing divide between rural and urban areas. Therefore, the Government will launch a series of initiatives to counteract centralisation in Denmark.

Denmark's international effort

Denmark participates in international housing cooperation, e.g. through UNECE, the Committee for Housing and Land Administration.

As part of the efforts to protect and preserve Denmark's natural and cultural heritage, Denmark participates in UNESCO's conventions, European conventions and directives, and other forms of international cooperation.

Denmark has a significant involvement in advancing EU regulations on air pollution, and participation in international agreements. There are three overarching political frameworks for international cooperation to reduce air pollution: the Air Quality Directive, the NEC Directive and the LRTAP Convention.
There is a strong focus internationally on waste and circular economy, and Denmark is engaged in these efforts.

Selected initiatives

Housing prices in Denmark
As a tool for ensuring socioeconomically diverse cities and lower housing prices, Danish municipalities have the right to require 25% social housing in new residential development, which means the construction of affordable housing for citizens with normal and low incomes. New urban development areas have been established in Copenhagen, and additional land expansions are planned by filling the Port of Copenhagen. This expansion creates new opportunities for housing, as the physical size of the city grows in step with the population. The ongoing adjustment of the housing supply in Danish cities improves the availability of affordable housing (target 11.1).

Education throughout the country
The Government is committed to ensuring good educational opportunities throughout Denmark – not just in the big cities. This helps to create better balance and local development. In late 2020, the Minister for Higher Education and Science approved 41 new education programmes and courses. Of these, 27 are located outside of the large cities. In their efforts, the educational institutions have ensured that there is a local need among businesses and employers for the new educational programmes and courses.

Protection and preservation of the world's natural and cultural heritage
In Denmark, both the national government and municipalities make substantial contributions to protecting and preserving the world's natural and cultural heritage. At the international level, these efforts include participation in UNESCO conventions, European conventions and directives, and other forms of international cooperation. In the field of culture, national preservation efforts are carried out under the Danish Museums Act and the Building Protection Act, while municipal planning is a key instrument in efforts to preserve world heritage sites (target 11.4).

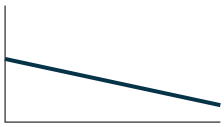
Civil Society's Assesments

Targets in focus: 11.1-11.3 + 11.7 + 11.A + 11.C

Progress 2017-2021:

Nationally

Internationally



Organisations participating in this assessment:
Global Seniors.

Nationally

Denmark's cities are generally well-functioning, with most inhabitants enjoying a good quality of life. There are plans and initiatives in place to promote sustainability and reduce climate impact. However, there are also challenges, especially with regards to urban and rural disparities, pollution and congestion in cities, as well as unequal housing conditions. The population in Denmark has increased by 300,000 since 2010, especially in and around larger cities. Copenhagen has grown by 20% over the period and this growth is expected to continue. Housing prices are rising in the cities and there is a lack of affordable housing for ordinary people. Many homes in rural areas are unoccupied and these houses have barely increased in value for a number of years. The standard of housing in Denmark is generally good and continuously improving. However, there are still 20,131 dwellings without a toilet or shared toilet, 22,913 with shared bathroom facilities and 41,801 completely without access to a bathroom. A further 141,500 properties do not have a room for every occupant. At least 61% of the total housing stock has energy label D or lower, while 33% have E or lower, which is to say non-sustainable in terms of energy consumption. The largest cities are beset by congestion and air pollution. Even if electric cars will one day replace polluting vehicles, this will not alleviate the issue of congestion. Public transport is competing for place and space against an increase in private cars, at the expense of children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Green spaces in large cities are under pressure as a result of densification and increased construction. The distance to recreational green spaces is often greater than what constitutes a reasonable walking distance. This requires transport by bike, car or public transport and impedes children, the elderly and people with disabilities from enjoying easy access to green spaces. There are no requirements regarding green spaces in connection with new constructions.

Recommendations

- Denmark must build more public housing in places where there is a housing shortage and renovate or demolish uninhabited houses in rural areas.
- All Danish homes must be brought up to at least energy label C and everyone must have a dwelling with its own toilet and bathroom, and at least one room per occupant.
- Denmark must create coherence in its public transport schedules, make public transport cheaper and power its public transport using renewable energies.
- Denmark must impose higher CO2 taxes on polluting vehicles and establish more spaces for electric vehicles.
- Denmark must introduce a congestion charge for cars in larger cities and improve conditions for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Denmark must include natural spaces which are accessible by foot as part of its urban and national planning and establish requirements for proximity to green spaces/natural areas for all new developments.

Internationally

Denmark does not place enough focus on smaller cities and their role in creating sustainable local communities, reducing pressure on regional capitals and providing alternatives to migration. SDG 11 has not been prioritised within Danish development policy despite the fact that more than half the world's population is now urban. By 2050 this will have increased to 6.5 billion people (two-thirds of the entire global population). Climate change is putting cities under increasing pressure and the nearly one billion people who already live in precarious conditions are most severely impacted. More and more cities and settlements must therefore implement integrated policies and plans for inclusion, resource efficiency, adaptation to climate change and disaster resilience. Support must be granted to the least developed countries in the form of financial and technical aid so as to avoid slums and to build sustainable and robust buildings using local materials.

Recommendations

- In its development policy, Denmark must place much greater focus on urban development in smaller cities and support the construction of inclusive and secure urban communities which provide access to adequate housing and help prevent the formation of unsafe slums.
- Denmark must ensure and support access to political and economic participation for vulnerable groups and place greater focus on strengthening both local authorities and grassroots organisations in the most disadvantaged urban areas.
- Internationally, Denmark must support a redoubled focus on inclusive urban development.

The Government's Assesments

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Denmark has an ambition to be a frontrunner in responsible consumption and production. Embracing this challenge, the Government has introduced an ambitious plan that will accelerate Denmark's transition to a more circular economy. Measures to support the transition to a circular economy include various initiatives under the June 2020 Agreement on a climate plan for a green waste sector and circular economy, the Government's strategy for green public procurement from October 2020, and the March 2021 political agreement on a nationals strategy for sustainable construction. These efforts are combined in the Government's Action Plan for a Circular Economy, which includes goals to reduce waste and improve the utilisation of natural resources, as well as increased and better recycling.

Assessment of targets

12.1 Denmark has an action plan for circular economy. ● ↑
12.2 Denmark consumes a large amount of natural resources. ● →
12.3 Denmark generates large and relatively stable amounts of food waste. ● →
12.4 Denmark has signed the relevant international agreements, but has relatively large amounts of hazardous waste and insufficient sorting. ● ↑
12.5 Denmark generates large and relatively stable amounts of household waste per capita. ● →
12.6 Denmark introduced mandatory CSR reporting for large companies in 2010 and is continuously working to strengthen companies' CSR reporting. The number of companies subject to the reporting requirement is defined by law and has been stable at around 1,100 companies since the introduction of the requirement. ● →
12.7 In October 2020, Denmark adopted a strategy for green public procurement. ● ↑
12.8 The Danish Environmental Protection Agency provides information on the sustainable use of nature, including through eco-labelling schemes. Denmark also conducts information campaigns about sustainable lifestyles. ● →

Denmark is a frontrunner when it comes to green public procurement and environmentally sound handling of chemicals and waste products. Denmark also has one of the world's lowest rates of landfill use for waste disposal. However, there may still be room for improvement in terms of increased recycling and reducing waste.

Denmark has a significantly higher consumption of natural resources than the EU average and has an unfortunate top ranking in Europe when it comes to generating large amounts of household waste. The Government has taken up the challenge of achieving sustainable consumption and production in Denmark, with an ambitious effort to transition towards a more circular economy.

Denmark's international effort

In the EU, Denmark is working for an ambitious implementation of the European Commission's new action plan for a circular economy introduced in March 2020. Denmark is actively advocating a quantitative goal for waste reduction that supports target 12.5 on reducing waste volumes by 2030. Denmark has also been a member of the Friends of Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform since 2010 and is working internationally to phase out ineffective subsidies for fossil fuels, and aims to put this topic on the WTO's agenda. These are important contributions towards reaching target 12.c on phasing out harmful subsidies. Denmark is also part of the international initiative Champions 12.3, which aims to increase efforts to reduce food waste at a global level.

Selected initiatives

Recycling
To increase recycling, reduce the incineration of waste and lower carbon emissions from the waste sector, in June 2020 the Government entered into the Agreement on a climate plan for a green waste sector and circular economy. The agreement includes measures for increased and more streamlined waste sorting and requirements to reduce loss in the recycling of plastic waste. Waste inspection will be improved and risk-based to prevent the incineration of recyclable waste. Conditions for the recycling sector will be changed so that future investments will be made in recycling plants rather than incineration. Capacity will also be reduced at Danish incineration plants so that Denmark reduces its imports of plastic waste for incineration (targets 12.1, 12.2 and 12.5).

Environmentally friendly design
The Government is working to promote a more circular economy through the Eco-design Directive and the Swan and Flower eco-labels. Eco-labels help to raise awareness and understanding of sustainable production and consumption in a life-cycle perspective.

Sustainable building and production
In March 2021, the Government entered into a political agreement on a national strategy for sustainable building, which aims to bring about increased quality, durability and health in the building sector, as well as a focus on lower resource consumption, thereby promoting solid sustainable buildings with a long service life, building processes with lower waste of materials, eliminating poor building practices, and implementing energy consumption requirements.

Combating food waste
Denmark has long worked with the prevention and reduction of food waste. Public-private partnerships have been established in this area, and legislation has been amended in an effort to reduce food waste. Awareness campaigns have been conducted to ensure consumers' understanding of date marking, as well as the options available to business for donating food. Denmark has an official food waste day, which includes a digital awareness campaign conducted on that day. Furthermore, ONE\THIRD – a think tank on prevention of food waste and food loss – was established in 2019. ONE\THIRD oversees the implementation of Denmark's voluntary agreement on reduction of food waste, which invites food industry representatives to sign a pledge to reduce their food waste by 50% before 2030.

Green public procurement
In autumn 2020, the Government introduced a strategy for green public procurement that requires the purchase of eco-labelled products in selected categories and the use of total cost as the economic price parameter. Additional measures include the introduction of a competence development process, a Charter for Good and Green Procurement, and continued development of guidelines, requirements and tools for green procurement. The strategy also includes an initiative on a common national food policy based on the official dietary guidelines – good for health and the climate. A model for calculating the climate impacts of public purchases is also being developed, which will provide a basis for setting a reduction target in late 2021.

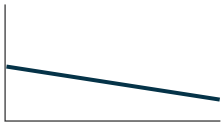
Political agreement on Strategy for Circular Economy (Sep. 2018):
The strategy consists of 15 initiatives within the following six focus areas: 1) Strengthen companies as a driver of the circular transition; 2) Support circular economy through data and digitalisation; 3) Promote circular economy through design; 4) Change consumption patterns through circular economy; 5) Create a well-functioning market for waste and recycled raw materials; and 6) Get more value out of buildings and biomass.

Civil Society's Assesments

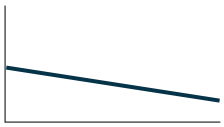
Targets in focus:
12.1-12.2 + 12.4-12.8

Progress 2017-2021:

Nationally



Internationally



Nationally

In Denmark, we consume natural resources at such a rate that it would take four Earths for the entire population to live like we do. Denmark's greatest challenge is our consumption, measured as ecological footprints, which must also encompass renewables, mineral-based and fossil fuels. In December, the government presented a draft action plan for a circular economy 2020–2032, which unfortunately focused too little on the reuse of products and too much on recycling materials. It said virtually nothing about reducing consumption. A Dane produces more waste than any other EU citizen, according to Eurostat. In 2020, the current government presented a strategy for green public procurement, but the strategy primarily consisted of vague ambitions with regards to CO2 and contained very little reference to environmental and natural resources, with no mention whatsoever of socially responsible public procurement. According to the Danish Consumer Council (Forbrugerrådet Tænk), 19 in 20 Danish consumers expect products and goods to be manufactured responsibly. Moreover, seven in ten consumers are prepared to pay more for products which are produced responsibly, especially if they can access credible information about the item. Without the active involvement of all citizens, it will not be possible to overhaul society's consumption habits. The SDGs must therefore be incorporated into formal education, but also disseminated through informational campaigns aimed at encouraging citizens to adopt more sustainable lifestyles and shopping habits, to recycle more and to reduce their consumption.

Recommendations

- Denmark must develop and implement an action plan for responsible consumption and production as part of a broader action plan for the SDGs.
- The government must present an overall strategy for a sustainable public procurement policy which incorporates all aspects of sustainability and applies at all levels: to the state, the regions and the municipalities.
- Denmark must use economic instruments to regulate behaviours, with a social balance.

Internationally

The majority of Danish businesses are still lagging behind when it comes to corporate social responsibility in several sectors. It is expected that the problem will be addressed through legislation at EU level, but this does not absolve the government of responsibility for the efforts and actions of Danish companies and financial institutions. According to a new Voxmeter survey conducted by Amnesty International Denmark, seven in ten Danes believe there is a need for legislation on responsible corporate conduct.

Recommendations

- It must be made mandatory for companies and financial institutions to exercise due diligence and they must be subject to criminal liability through the courts in serious cases.
- Denmark must stop its import of palm oil, soy and wood from non-sustainable producers and its import of irresponsibly traded fish and seafood.

Organisations participating in this assessment:
The Danish Society for Nature Conservation, Amnesty International Denmark, the Danish United Nation Association.

The Government's Assesments

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Denmark is working ambitiously on the national and international stage to combat the climate crisis and its consequences. Denmark strives to be a leading nation in the green transition and the Government has already adopted legislation that will ensure a 70% reduction of the country's greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and climate neutrality by 2050. Since the formation of the current Government, Denmark has taken measures that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 9.1 million tonnes CO2e in 2030. Internationally, Denmark utilises its positions of strength in connection with our commitment to the UN Climate Convention and Paris Agreement, Danish and EU-based climate diplomacy, government cooperation with other countries, export promotion efforts, green development assistance and more. With these measures, Denmark is making substantial contributions to fulfilling SDG 13.

Assessment of targets

13.1 Denmark has regulations and measures to counter the impacts of climate change, even though these remain partially unknown. ⊖ ⊖

13.2 The goals of the Danish Climate Act are among the most ambitious climate goals in the world. The Act ensures a sweeping transition in all sectors towards 2030 and 2050, and puts action behind the ambition of Denmark being a leading green country. The latest projections show that Denmark is expected to have reduced its emissions by 55% in 2030 compared to 1990. The Government will also take initiatives to ensure further reductions to the coming years. ● ⊕

13.3 A range of Danish efforts pertain to this target, and new projects and initiatives are regularly under consideration to further efforts towards meeting the target. ⊖ ⊕

Denmark is among the world leaders when it comes to incorporating climate initiatives into political decisions and planning. These efforts are supported by the Climate Act enacted in 2020. With an extensive transition effort across sectors, Denmark is on the right path towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the targets of the Climate Act.

To reach the 70% goal, however, it is still necessary to further reduce emissions by approximately 10 million tons CO2e by 2030. Therefore, significant development efforts are necessary to bring technologies with great potential to reduce emissions closer to the market and lower in price.

Denmark's international effort

Through development cooperation and climate assistance, Denmark provides bilateral and multilateral support to developing countries in their green transitions and adaptation to climate change. Denmark's climate-relevant development assistance in 2019 amounted to DKK 2.1 billion and is expected to increase in the coming years. Development cooperation efforts actively support the Paris Agreement, while also contributing to the fulfilment of target 13.b on support mechanisms for planning and managing climate change. Furthermore, Denmark has doubled its contribution to the Green Climate Fund, which now amounts to DKK 800 million from 2020-2022, to support reduction and adaptation projects in developing countries, thus contributing to the fulfilment of target 13.a on the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Selected initiatives

The Danish Climate Act

The Danish Climate Act, passed on 18 June 2020 by a broad majority of the Danish Parliament, establishes the framework for Denmark's national climate-related efforts. The Climate Act contains a legally-binding target of a 70% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990, and a long-term goal of climate neutrality by 2050 in support of the 1.5-degree target of the Paris Agreement. With the adoption of the Climate Act, Denmark has further integrated measures to fight climate change through national policy (target 13.2).

Information and citizens panel

The Government has taken a number of initiatives to ensure broad involvement of Danish stakeholders and further raise awareness about counteracting climate change, both of which contribute to fulfilling target 13.3. The Government initiated Denmark's first citizens' panel on climate change, launched a number of initiatives relating to food, and maintained its support of the Youth Climate Council, which works to inform and engage Danish youth in climate change efforts. The Government has established 13 climate partnerships to involve the private sector in efforts to reach the Danish climate goals.

Green tax reform

In December 2020, the Government entered into an agreement with the Liberal Party, the Social Liberal Party, the Socialist People's Party, and the Conservatives on a green tax reform, which between now and 2030 will introduce higher taxes on emissions of climate-damaging greenhouses gases. The reform establishes a basis for a green transition of Danish businesses and will be carried out in two phases. The structure of the reform provides time for businesses to invest in and develop sustainable solutions, so as to protect and preserve Danish jobs and competitiveness.

Climate adaptation

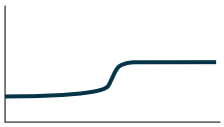
The Government has introduced new rules on climate adaptation by wastewater management companies, which will ensure the initiation of more projects. The work of developing a new comprehensive climate adaptation plan also commenced in 2020. This plan will be released in 2022, and will help to ensure that future climate adaptation efforts are managed with holistic consideration of groundwater, cloudbursts, coastal areas and watercourses (targets 13.1 and 13.2).

Civil Society's Assesments

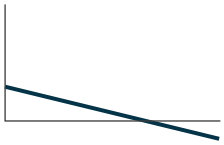
Targets in focus: 13.2 + 13.A

Progress 2017-2021:

Nationally



Internationally



Organisations participating in this assessment:
Care Denmark, Danish Refugee Council, WWF Denmark.

Nationally

From 2017 onwards, climate change has moved higher and higher up the agenda for both people and politicians. The Danish Parliament has passed a binding climate act which stipulates a 70% reduction of emissions by 2030 and climate neutrality no later than 2050. It has also given considerable political power to the Council on Climate Change and entered into an agreement to stop new oil exploration in the North Sea. This is a breakthrough for climate action. However, the government has not yet developed a long-term climate action plan, which specifies how the 2030 target is to be achieved. Several agreements reached in 2020 on e.g. energy, waste and transport, are expected to contribute about one-third of the necessary reductions ahead of 2030. The government is thus adopting a so-called 'hockey-stick' strategy, which relies on as-of-yet unproven technological solutions to enable significant emissions reductions shortly before the 2030 deadline. Such a strategy is highly uncertain, potentially expensive and incompatible with the 1.5 degree target of the Paris Agreement. Moreover, Denmark also needs to develop climate action plans for specific sectors, such as agriculture among others. Finally, Denmark has not yet taken responsibility for its climate impact abroad which, we are directly responsible for as part of our overall footprint and which includes emissions from air travel and the production of imported goods such as soy proteins.

Recommendations

- Denmark must follow a linear reduction path towards 2030 in accordance with the original calculations and aim for climate neutrality by no later than 2040.
- The Danish government must develop a long-term climate plan with binding milestones which covers all sectors and illustrates how the 2030 and 2040 goals will be achieved.
- A general climate tax must be introduced and gradually stepped up to DKK 1500 per tonne CO2 by 2030.
- The government must integrate efforts to reduce Denmark's overall footprint in the global climate strategy.

Internationally

Denmark must live up to its global responsibility and take the lead in the battle against climate change. Between 2017 and 2021, Denmark has not lived up to its international responsibility in relation to climate finance. At COP15, Denmark committed to provide new and additional climate aid as a part of the overall commitment made by rich countries, with Denmark's fair share amounting to DKK five billion per year. Denmark currently provides around half that amount and since 2015, almost all of the climate finance is taken from the development aid, which is set at 0.7% of GDP, meaning that that the world's poorest are left to pay for Denmark's international climate efforts. This makes it difficult to consider Denmark as a pioneer country in the green transition. The close relation between climate change, natural resources and conflict exacerbates existing challenges for especially vulnerable groups, such as refugees and internally displaced persons, indigenous peoples, etc, who often live in the areas which are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. According to the UN, 40% of all violent conflicts over the last 60 years are rooted in access to scarce and dwindling natural resources. Denmark has failed to sufficiently integrate this context into its international efforts. Moreover, Denmark has not taken a position on how developing countries affected by climate catastrophes should be helped. This must be done with full respect for human rights, which is crucial in order to break down the silo mentality which exists between the Paris Agreement and the SDGs.

Recommendations

- Denmark must contribute DKK five billion per year in new and additional climate aid, which is to say an amount on top of the 0.7% of GDP given as international development aid.
- Ahead of COP26, Denmark must work to agree on an action plan, which ensures that global climate finance, as agreed, is balanced between climate change adaptations and reducing emissions. To help correct the existing imbalance, 70% of Danish climate aid should be allocated to climate change adaptations in the poorest countries.
- Danish aid for climate change adaptations should place focus on displaced and vulnerable population groups and the importance of safeguarding healthy ecosystems, thereby reducing the risk of conflict and increasing climate resilience.
- Denmark must work to establish an international disaster relief fund with several sources of funding, which can be used when poor countries are affected by climate disasters.

The Government's Assesments

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Denmark is working actively to ensure the sustainable use of marine environments. To ensure that future generations can also benefit from marine resources, it is important to achieve and maintain good environmental conditions in marine ecosystems. Through Denmark's marine strategy, marine area plans, Natura 2000 plans, and the country's first sea plan, the Government is working to preserve and ensure sustainable use of the seas and their resources. Denmark is also contributing to SDG 14 through its engagement in international efforts relating to the marine environment and sustainable management of the seas, as well as the EU Common Fisheries Policy.

Assessment of targets

14.1 Generally good environmental conditions have not been achieved in the Danish marine areas. 🔴 ➔

14.2 Regulations are in force to ensure the protection and restorations of ecosystems, but threshold values to support ecosystem-based administration have not been established. Such threshold values could be used to assess the extent to which good environmental conditions have been achieved, and to set environmental targets that support efforts in this respect. 🟡 ➔

14.3 Sea acidification is increasing. 🔴 ↓

14.4 The goal has not be reached for all stocks, but the fish stocks primarily harvested by Danish fisheries have been gradually improving over the past 10 years. 🟢 ↑

14.5 Nearly 20% of Danish coastal and marine areas are designated as protected areas, and the Government has proposed similar designation of additional areas. 🟢 ↑

14.6 The EU Common Fisheries Policy sets out rules for the awarding of state subsidies to the fisheries sector. 🟢 ➔

14.7 Not relevant in Denmark.

Efforts to achieve good environmental conditions in Danish waters are primarily conducted through Denmark's implementation of EU regulations such as the Water Framework Directive, the Marine Strategy Directive and the nature directives. Efforts under the regional maritime conventions HELCOM (Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission) and OSPAR (Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic) also contribute to reaching this goal.

Denmark's primary challenges relating to SDG 14 are the impacts of nutrients, invasive species, fisheries and underwater noise. Establishing good environmental conditions in the Danish marine areas will require national and international efforts. It may also take many years to establish good environmental conditions due to natural conditions in the seas.

Denmark's international effort

Denmark is working in other international forums as well to shape the framework for efforts relating to marine waste, protected waters outside of national jurisdiction, and new global nature goals, including a goal of 30% protected areas in the world's oceans and seas. These efforts contribute to fulfilling targets 14.1, 14.2 and 14.5. Denmark is also working to achieve a good marine environment through the regional maritime conventions, HELCOM and OSPAR, and to protect the Arctic marine environment through PAME under the auspices of the Arctic Council. Denmark is also engaged in the EU Strategy for Ocean Governance, whose objective is to work for better and more sustainable marine management globally. This strategy focuses on collaboration with developing countries to ensure a healthy and good marine environment that protects the oceans as a common resource.

Selected initiatives

Combating plastic pollution

Somewhere between 70% to 90% of marine waste consists of plastic. Denmark is therefore working to reduce plastic waste in marine environments. This includes the adoption of a plastic action plan and the implementation of the EU Single-Use Plastics Directive. In addition, EU member states, including Denmark, have committed to work for a global agreement on plastic. Together with France and the Netherlands, Denmark has also taken the initiative for the European Plastics Pact, which aims to stop unnecessary use and increase recycling of plastic (target 14.1).

Fishing

Denmark works within the EU Common Fisheries Policy's framework to support sustainable fishing, better utilisation of resources, and ecosystem-based fishery management. The landing obligation contributes to a more sustainable utilisation of fish stocks. Denmark is introducing electronic monitoring on fishing vessels in the Kattegat to ensure compliance with the landing obligation. Denmark also supports coastal fishing through a special voluntary scheme that makes gentle coastal fishing more attractive (targets 14.4, 14.b. and 14.6).

Protected areas

Denmark has designated nearly 20% of its coastal and marine areas as protected. The Government has also proposed the designation of six new marine bird protection areas and 13 new marine strategy areas. In the marine strategy areas, fishing with bottom trawling gear, the extraction of resources such as oil, dumping, and the erection of wind turbines are prohibited. Under the proposal, parts of 12 of the marine strategy areas will be designated as strictly protected, which means a ban on all fishing. With the new designations, approximately 30% of Danish marine areas will be protected.

Green shipping

Denmark works in international forums and through strategic sector collaborations to strengthen efforts in green shipping, which includes making ships more energy-efficient so that they emit fewer harmful particles, and by implementing and developing the Ballast Water Convention in the IMO (target 14.1).

Denmark decided to cease the issuance of new permits, effective 1 January 2019, for the extraction of raw materials in the northern Øresund

The existing permits expire no later than 2025, after which time the northern Øresund will be kept free of raw material extraction, thus benefiting the marine ecosystem.

Adoption of Marine Strategy II (April 2019):

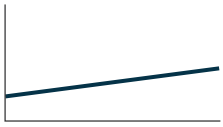
Marine strategies must contribute to achieving good environmental conditions in the sea. These strategies must be updated once every six years. The first part of the strategy from April 2019 defines "good environmental conditions" and assesses the current status of Danish marine areas. The strategy also sets 68 specific targets for improving the environmental conditions of Danish marine areas. The overall objective of the Marine Strategy Directive is to achieve good environmental conditions in all marine areas, but this was not achieved by 2020.

Civil Society's Assesments

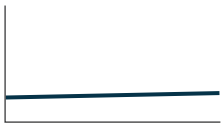
Targets in focus: 14.1-14.3 + 14.5-14.6

Progress 2017-2021:

Nationally



Internationally



Organisations participating in this assessment:
The Danish Society for Nature Conservation, Global Seniors, Our Fish, WWF Denmark.

Nationally

The seas around Denmark are not in a good state. For example, seven out of eight marine habitat types have a 'considerably unfavorable conservation status'. Even if 18% of the sea has been designated as marine protected areas, only 1.4% is actually protected against bottom-trawl fishing operations and only 0.02% (21.8 km2) is covered by a complete fishing ban. The extraction of rocks and gravel is permitted in sensitive marine areas. Moreover, the seepage of plant nutrients and pesticides from agriculture constitute a great threat to the marine environment, particularly within inland Danish waters. The consequences include, among others, areas with extensive oxygen depletion and unhealthy cod stocks in the Baltic Sea, Kattegat Strait and the North Sea. Nevertheless, catch limits for cod, herring, eel, etc, have been set at higher levels than what researchers recommend. There is a lack of management plans for critically endangered marine stocks in the Baltic Sea and inadequate fishery controls using video surveillance. We possess the necessary knowledge and technology to take development in the right direction. In 2021, there are several points of impact which Denmark can use to secure a more sustainable and eco-system-based management of marine resources. These include the Maritime Spatial Plan (Havplan), the River Basin Management Plans (Vandområdeplanerne) and the Action Programme of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

Recommendations

- Denmark must raise its level of ambition and secure marine governance which is efficient and eco-system-based through the Maritime Spatial Plan.
- 100% of Danish waters must be managed sustainably, 33% subject to special protections and 10% untouched.
- Denmark must fulfil the objectives for marine protection so that protected marine areas do not merely become 'paper parks', and it must oblige fishers to collect and recover lost fishing equipment (ghost gear).
- Nitrogen, phosphorous and pesticide emissions from agriculture must be reduced in order to revitalise the ocean.
- Sensitive coastal areas and vital fishing habitats must be protected, in part by reviewing the Danish Executive Order on Trawling (Trawlbekendtgørelsen).
- Electronic fishery controls must be extended to ensure compliance with international agreements and obligations.

Internationally

It is estimated that a total of one billion people, primarily in developing countries, are dependent on fish as their primary source of income and protein and that many more are dependent on fish as an important supplement to their diets. Nevertheless, the Danish development policy strategy and international efforts give little priority to the conservation of the world's marine ecosystems. The global marine environment is challenged by resource extraction, climate change, acidification, pollution and plastic waste. 94% of the world's fishing stocks are either overfished or fished to maximum capacity . Mangrove forests, coral reefs and seagrass meadows are among the most endangered ecosystems on the planet . Due to a globally increasing focus on 'blue growth', international small-scale fishing movements fear that their ability to subsist on marine resources will be further undermined. Within the EU context, Denmark has blocked other countries from introducing fishing restrictions in protected areas. At the same time, the EU's free-trade agreements mean that small-scale fishing operations in developing countries lose control over fishing resources when the EU buys access to their waters. The EU's biodiversity strategy and the forthcoming UN biodiversity conference CBD COP-15 will have a major impact on how we manage and protect our seas and oceans in the future. In this regard, it is important to designate protected marine areas, to ensure the access of small-scale fishing operations and indigenous peoples to marine areas and to increase the proportion of marine protected areas under strict protection to at least 30%.

Recommendations

- Denmark must work within the EU to ensure that fishing restrictions are set in line with scientific advice, within the EU and in marine areas shared with third parties, and to ensure a strengthened EU position in UN negotiations on a treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean's biodiversity in areas outside national jurisdictions.
- Strong institutional frameworks must be secured globally through a CBD COP15, which must have decision-making powers and funding to pursue biodiversity efforts at sea.
- Denmark must work for the EU to raise import requirements to promote sustainably caught and traceable fish products.
- Danish development aid must support projects which ensure and promote biodiversity.

The Government's Assesments

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reserve land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Denmark is continuously working in support of protection, restoration and sustainable use of ecosystems and forests, and to promote and improve biodiversity. This is done through national legislation, EU directives, and a number of international UN conventions on the climate, biodiversity and desertification. Approximately 60% of Denmark's land mass is used for agriculture. The Government wants more wild nature, more untouched forest and more cohesive designated areas where nature is allowed to exist with less human interference than today.

Assessment of targets

15.1 Much of Denmark's natural areas are in less than favourable condition. The nature and biodiversity package aims to improve the conditions for nature and biodiversity. 🔴 ↑

15.2 There is a political focus on sustainable forestry, e.g. by establishing untouched forests. 🟡 ↑

15.3 The Danish Ministry of the Environment has mapped out contaminated sites in Denmark and a prioritised effort is being made to clean up these sites. 🟡 →

15.4 Not relevant for Denmark.

15.5 The Danish red list was updated in 2019. A comparison with the previous red list from 2010 showed a decline in the red list index value. This indicates that species in Denmark have become more endangered in the period 2010-2019. As part of the nature and biodiversity package, a strategy for the management of endangered species will be developed. 🔴 →

15.6 Denmark has ratified the Nagoya Protocol. 🟢 →

15.7 Denmark has implemented the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora through the CITES Regulation in the EU. The Convention is implemented by monitoring and regulating trade in endangered species. 🟡 →

15.8 Denmark has adopted legislation and allocated resources to combat and monitor invasive species. 🟡 →

15.9 Denmark primarily contributes to implementing the UN's strategic plan for biodiversity through the EU Biodiversity Strategy. Statistics Denmark has largely implemented the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) in the Green National Accounts, with the exception of ecosystem accounting. 🟡 ↑

The Government supports the European Commission's biodiversity strategy, whose aims include the establishment of more protected areas in the EU. The Government is also actively working for an ambitious agreement on new global nature goals under the UN Biodiversity Convention (UNCBD), including a goal of 30% protected land areas globally. The Government also supports an EU goal of 30% protected areas, of which one-third are to be strictly protected. In December 2020, the Government entered an agreement with the Social Liberal Party, the Socialist People's Party, the Red-Green Alliance, and The Alternative on a nature and biodiversity package that will promote nature and biodiversity in Denmark, contribute to stopping the disappearance of wild ecosystems by establishing protected forests and national parks, and initiate the preparation of a strategy for the management of endangered species.

As a small country with a dense population and intensive land utilisation, Denmark is continuously working to optimise the utilisation of resources and land in a sustainable and environmentally-friendly way. One challenge faced by Denmark is that much of the country's natural areas under the jurisdiction of the EU Habitat Directive are in an unfavourable condition. This is the case for many forests, meadows and coastal areas.

Denmark's international effort

Denmark is active in the international fight against deforestation, including the Amsterdam Partnership, which aims to support initiatives that promote responsible production of agricultural commodities – such as soy, palm oil and cocoa – without deforestation, which contributes to fulfilling target 15.2 on deforestation.

Globally, Denmark is an active participant in the UN Biodiversity Convention and has ratified the international agreement on access to and use of genetic resources – an agreement that protects biodiversity by ensuring fair distribution of benefits. This helps to fulfil target 15.6 on access to genetic resources. Denmark is also active in international cooperation to combat trafficking in endangered animals and plants under the CITES Convention, protect migratory species under the Bonn Convention (CMS), and protect wetlands under the RAMSAR Convention. These efforts help to fulfil targets 15.1 on ecosystems, 15.5 on biodiversity and 15.7 and 15.c, both of which deal with poaching and protected species. Denmark's primary contribution to target 15.9 on implementing the UN's strategic plan for biodiversity is through the EU's biodiversity strategy.

Selected initiatives

Denmark's nature

In December 2020, the Government reached an agreement with the Social Liberal Party, the Socialist People's Party, the Red-Green Alliance, and The Alternative on a nature and biodiversity package (targets 15.1, 15.2 and 15.5). Denmark's national forest programme from 2018 maps out challenges and opportunities in forestry and sets goals and a direction for sustainable development of Denmark's forests, including goals for total forest area and biodiversity. Forests currently cover nearly 15% of Denmark's total land mass, and the Danish Forest Act aims to promote sustainable forestry and increase the total forest area.

Framework for nature management

As a small country with a dense population and intensive land utilisation, Denmark is continuously working to optimise the utilisation of resources and land in a sustainable and environmentally-friendly way. A significant framework for Danish nature policy is the Danish Nature Conservation Act, as well as the EU nature directives and the EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species, including the Birds Directive, the Habitat Directive and the Water Framework Directive (targets 15.1, 15.5 and 15.8).

International responsibility

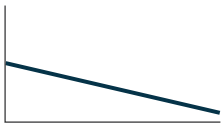
The Government supports the conservation of the world's biodiversity and nature areas, and works to ensure that 30% of the world's land areas are protected to ensure biodiversity globally (target 15.5). Denmark is active in the international fight against deforestation, including the Amsterdam Partnership, which aims to support initiatives that promote responsible production of agricultural commodities – such as soy, palm oil and cocoa – without deforestation (target 15.2).

Civil Society's Assesments

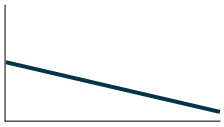
Targets in focus:
15.1-15.2 + 15.5 + 15.9

Progress 2017-2021:

Nationally



Internationally



Organisations participating in this assessment:
The Danish Society for Nature Conservation, WWF Denmark.

Nationally

Danish nature is under continued and persistent pressures. Recent developments in the state of Danish biodiversity indicate predominantly negative trends. This can be seen both from the updated Red List of Danish species, which reveals the extent to which certain species are endangered, and also from the latest reports submitted to the EU regarding implementation of the EU's Habitats Directive. This shows that only 5% of habitat types have a favourable conservation status, 95% have an unfavorable status, while the status for all ten forest types are 'highly unfavourable'. Many goals and SDG targets should already have been met by 2020, but in reality they are far from being reached. The loss of biological diversity in Danish nature is due primarily to the intensification of agriculture and forestry, e.g. in the form of drainage and cultivation, but also to construction and infrastructure which has gradually pushed untouched nature further back. Efforts to protect and manage Danish nature have thus far not been sufficient to curb the loss of biodiversity and have in no way managed to put current negative developments back on to a more positive track. Increased political awareness and the concrete initiatives implemented by changing governments will hopefully benefit nature in the long run. Among the positive elements that we are still waiting to see the effects of are the designation of untouched forest, a ban on the fertilisation and spraying of Section 3 areas and the promise of 75,000 hectares of untouched forest and a total of 15 natural national parks on the latest Finance Act.

Recommendations

- Denmark must set national goals for biodiversity which, at a minimum, match the EU's targets and new global biodiversity goals after 2020.
- There is a need to develop a Danish biodiversity strategy and action plan which follow the guidelines of the Biodiversity Convention.
- Denmark must increase its efforts to improve the state of nature, designate more and bigger contiguous wild natural areas, where nature looks after itself, and where a minimum of 30% of the land area is protected nature, and designate much more untouched woodland;
- Denmark must reestablish natural hydrology and ecosystems as well as the functions that larger animals have had in the landscape;
- Coherence must be improved in Danish nature via the establishment of small nature areas.

Internationally

Denmark's contributions to international biodiversity have been characterised by inadequate reporting and insufficient allocating of resources to relevant international agreements and conventions, first and foremost the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and IPBES (UN platform for biodiversity and ecosystem services). An exception to this, however, is Denmark's financial contributions to the IUCN, which were resumed in the Finance Act in 2020 and retained in 2021. It is positive that in 2020, the government expressed its clear support for the EU's Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and its joint declarations on an ambitious global agreement for biodiversity (post-2020), which are expected to be adopted at the CBD's 15th Conference in October 2021. However, Denmark has largely failed in its nationally binding obligation to meet the CBD's Aichi targets, which reached their deadline in 2020, and both current and new national and international political resolutions continue to be insufficient.

Recommendations

- Denmark must formulate clear and measurable ambitions and priorities for international efforts and collaborations around biodiversity and increase its efforts for, and participation in, those international agreements to which Denmark is a signatory: e.g. CBD, IPBES, CITES and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Denmark must increase its funding for development aid in order to fulfil SDG 15.
- Joint EU and UN goals for biodiversity must be integrated into a national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP) which should include a plan for the withdrawal of harmful subsidies, funding, sector integration, land use, species management, etc.

The Government's Assesments

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

In Denmark, the Government is continuously working to ensure a safe and secure society, and an accessible and effective judicial system. Therefore, the Government has an ambition to reduce case processing times in criminal cases, and launched a study to examine whether the rules on court fee waivers and free legal aid in civil cases ensure that everyone has access to help or legal assistance in the judicial system. The Government will also increase the penalty for threats that seek to prevent others from exercising their free speech and participating in public democratic debate. A core priority of the Government is ensuring the safety and security of Danes. The Government is tirelessly working to combat violence, organised crime and terrorism through measures such as bringing police closer to communities, enhanced investigative powers, more severe penalties for terror and terror-related activities, and more effective policing of economic and organised crime.

Assessment of targets

16.1 Denmark maintains a focus on safety and security in the country, as illustrated in the latest initiatives in the multi-year agreement. ● ↑
16.2 The overall assessment is that Denmark has satisfactorily fulfilled the target, both currently and on an ongoing basis. ● ↑
16.3 There is a continuous focus on citizen's legal rights in Denmark. ● ↑
16.4 Efforts to combat money laundering and financing of terrorism in Denmark have been significantly strengthened in recent years. ● ↑
16.5 Since 2015, Denmark has been one of the world's two least corrupt countries. ● →
16.6 There is transparency in public budgeting, and citizen satisfaction with public services has been measured as high. ● →
16.7 Transparency and democratic participation are assessed as being high. ● →
16.8 Denmark is generally working to ensure strong and representative international organisations in which developing countries are ensured co-determination and influence. ● →
16.9 In Denmark, everyone is given a legal identity through birth registration. ● ↑
16.10 It is assessed that overall, Denmark has satisfactorily fulfilled the target, both currently and on an ongoing basis. ● ↑

Denmark has a strong position in terms of SDG 16. Since 2015, Denmark has been one of the two countries in the world with the least corruption, and there is a continuous focus on the civil rights of Danish citizens, as most recently illustrated by an initiative to improve the efficiency of the criminal justice chain. Denmark has an ongoing focus on maintaining the existing level of safety and security. This is supported by the intensified efforts to combat the financing of terrorism and money laundering, which have been significantly strengthened in recent years.

It is the Government's goal to continue efforts to develop an even more specialised and effective effort in this area, where the authorities stay in front of developments in crime and organised crime methods, thus fulfilling target 16.4 on fighting organised crime and illegal flows of money. The Government is also focused on strengthening efforts against human trafficking in Denmark.

Denmark's international effort

Through coordinated efforts, Denmark supports conflict prevention and peace and state-building in fragile and conflict-affected countries. The Peace and Stabilisation Fund is a key Danish tool for addressing issues such as attacks on local populations, irregular migration flows and breeding grounds for extremism. Denmark also consistently contributes to UN peacekeeping missions, particularly in Africa and the Middle East, thereby providing active support for the UN's reform agenda to improve the quality and effectiveness of the UN's peace work. In January 2020, the Government presented a proposal on foreign combatants that strengthens police and municipal efforts to prevent radicalisation, significantly increases the penalties for terror and terror-related activities, and authorises the legal system to ban foreign combatants from entering Denmark and prohibit contact with persons in Denmark. The proposal thus contributes to Denmark's fulfilment of target 16.a on the prevention and combating of violence, terrorism and crime.

Selected initiatives

Security and safety package
The package consists of 16 initiatives aiming to increase security and safety in public spaces, including initiatives to improve police investigation powers, e.g., increased video surveillance in public spaces, and initiatives to further protect society from explosives (target 16.1).

Action plan to combat anti-Semitism
The Government has begun efforts on an action plan to combat anti-Semitism, which will be finalised and presented in 2021. This plan will ensure a holistic approach and the necessary measures to combat this problem (target 16.1).

Reform to bring police closer to communities
In December 2020, the Government and a broad majority of political parties in the Danish Parliament reached an agreement on the police and prosecution service budget for the years 2021 to 2023. The agreement includes a reform that brings police closer to communities, ensuring greater visibility and accessibility of police throughout Denmark, an intensification of efforts to combat serious economic, organised and IT-related crime, and more efficient processing of criminal cases (targets 16.1 and 16.3).

New national investigation unit
As part of the new multi-year agreement, the Government is establishing a national investigation unit that brings together the most specialised police and prosecution competencies to strengthen investigations of organised crime, including human trafficking and smuggling (targets 16.2 and 16.4).

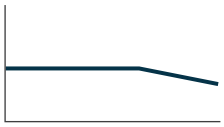
Security for all Danes
In October 2020, the Government launched a number of initiatives aiming to address behaviours that negatively impact people's sense of security (target 16.1).

Civil Society's Assesments

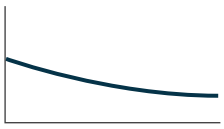
Targets in focus: 16.1-16.3 + 16.10

Progress 2017-2021:

Nationally



Internationally



Nationally

The freedoms of certain population groups are restricted in Denmark, as exemplified by the recent ban on face coverings in public places. The new Danish act on the administrative revocation of citizenship and the repeal of the act's sunrise clause make it possible to deprive Danish citizens with dual citizenship of their Danish citizenship without trial. Draft bill L189, presented to the Danish Parliament at the beginning of 2021, and referred to as the Security Package (Tryghedspakken) will restrict future freedom of assembly, as the police will be able to exclude everyone from an area where individuals have demonstrated intimidating behaviour. The exact meaning of the term 'intimidating behaviour' is not defined in the draft bill and it is feared that it will encompass the freedom of assembly of minority groups.

Recommendations

- Denmark must lift the ban and change the penal code to allow face coverings in public.
- Denmark must abolish restrictive legislation and respect freedom of assembly for all.
- Denmark must develop a clear plan for its use of the WPS Agenda within the Danish context.

Internationally

Denmark's development aid is increasingly allocated to 'fragile' countries. While it is positive that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has established a unit for Migration, Communities and Fragility, the human and financial resources allocated to this area are still insufficient. The conflict prevention and peace-keeping efforts funded by Denmark do not sufficiently take account of the relationship between conflict and climate change, which is necessary in order to better address the structural causes of instability which lead to forced displacement. Both Danish development policy and foreign policy have given greater priority to strengthening civil society's room for manoeuvre on a global scale. This takes the form of funding pools for civil society organisations in danger, increased funding for the UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights and action within the UN to better include civil society, as well as increased criticism of governments which disrespect freedoms of expression, assembly and association. The launch of Denmark's national action plan for Women, Peace and Security is an important step in the direction towards more ambitious goals in this area, but there is a lack of dedicated resources to implement the plan. A lack of regard for the 1325 agenda in domestic policy, for example in relation to female asylum seekers, is also a weak point. While the number of children who are subject to violence and serious abuse has increased globally over recent years, not least due to the rising number of conflicts which last longer and more severely affect civilians than before, Denmark has downgraded its focus on prevention, response and accountability in relation to violence against children in conflicts. UN peacekeeping operations play a critical role in maintaining international peace and security. While Denmark has contributed a considerable number of soldiers and police officers to these operations over the years, the number of Danish soldiers has fallen considerably and Denmark does not currently contribute any police officers at all.

Recommendations

- Denmark must increase its multi-lateral engagement with a focus on the 1325 agenda, Children and Armed Conflict and the R2 agendas and with regards to managing the causes of fragility. This should include a high level of synergy with climate adaptation efforts. This requires investment both internally to relevant ministries but also in the form of external aid to peacekeeping and security initiatives.
- In its candidacy to the UN's Security Council, Denmark must similarly place focus on the above mentioned agendas and strengthen its contribution to the UN's Sustaining Peace agenda, including through support to locally-led conflict prevention and peace-building initiatives.

Organisations participating in this assessment:
Oxfam IBIS, Danish Refugee Council, Save the Children Denmark, RIKO, the Danish United Nation Association, New Europe, KULU - Women and Development.

The Government's Assesments

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnerships for sustainable development.

Strengthening global partnerships is a critical prerequisite for achieving a more sustainable world by 2030, and Denmark is working ambitiously to achieve SDG 17 Denmark's ambition is to play a key role in international development policy. Although we are a small country, we are a major donor and we can bring about major changes when we engage in partnerships and inspire other countries with innovative solutions. Therefore, the Government will continue to support international partnerships and alliances between governments, businesses, cities, financial institutions and civil society actors, and we will explore innovative financing solutions and solutions to concrete development challenges.

Assessment of targets

17.1 Denmark contributes to the target through development cooperation via bilateral country programmes and through the IMF and World Bank. ⊖ ⊖

17.2 Denmark is fulfilling its promise to contribute at least 0.7% of its gross domestic product in development assistance for developing countries. ● ⊕

17.3 A priority of Danish development assistance is to mobilise additional capital for investment in developing countries. ⊖ ⊖

17.4 Denmark contributes to the fulfilment of this target through its multilateral engagement. ⊖ ⊕

17.5 A priority of Danish development assistance is to support initiatives that promote investment in the least developed countries, including through private-sector initiatives in country programmes. ⊖ ⊖

17.6 It is not possible to make a data-based assessment of Denmark's progress in relation to this target.

17.7 Danida Market Development Partnerships (DMPD) promote commercially-oriented partnerships between companies, civil society organisations and business organisations to create local economic development and employment. ⊖ ⊖

17.8 It is not possible to make a data-based assessment of Denmark's progress in relation to this target.

17.9 As part of Denmark's extensive development cooperation, Denmark is working with capacity building in support of national implementation of the SDGs. ● ⊕

17.10 The WTO is facing major challenges, but Denmark is working actively within the framework of the EU in support of reforming the WTO and entering into new trade agreements. ● ⊖

17.11 Denmark is primarily working via the Aid for Trade programme, and through the EU, including through the GSP scheme, which provides duty-free and quota-free access for the least developed countries. ⊖ ⊖

17.12 Under the EU Generalised System of Preference (GSP), the least developed countries are granted duty-free and quota-free access to the EU. ● ⊕

17.13 As a small and open European economy, Denmark has followed a fixed exchange rate policy in relation to the Euro for nearly four decades. This has served as a basis for stability and growth-oriented policy across changing governments. ● ⊕

17.14 Denmark has prepared a new action plan for the SDGs. ⊖ ⊖

17.15 There is a focus on conducting development cooperation activities in Denmark's priority countries with respect for the given country's own priorities. ● ⊕

17.16-17.17 Denmark has a strong tradition of cooperation with various actors nationally and internationally. ⊖ ⊖

17.18 Denmark works with capacity building through strategic frameworks for bilateral cooperation, cooperation between public authorities, and multilateral institutions. ⊖ ⊖

17.19 Under the scheme for cooperation between public authorities, Statistics Denmark is working to build capacity for the production of reliable statistics in selected developing countries. ⊖ ⊕

Denmark has supported agreements and schemes that make the EU the most open market for developing countries, especially for sub-Saharan African countries. But stronger economic relations between the EU and developing countries are needed. Market access alone is not enough. Therefore, Denmark has supported a focus in the forthcoming new partnership agreement between countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific on improved framework conditions for investment, trade promotion, regional integration, human rights and sustainability – and that development assistance from the EU supports these aims.

To achieve the SDGs, however, there is a need for stronger economic relations between the EU and developing countries. Market access alone is not enough. Therefore, sustainable trade, growth and investment are all part of the forthcoming post-Cotonou Agreement with 79 developing countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific , which supports the part of target 17.11 on increasing the exports of developing countries. The forthcoming agreement emphasises that trade cooperation must include consideration of people and the environment to ensure responsible and inclusive sustainable growth.

Denmark's international effort

As a credible and respected partner that lives up to its international responsibility, Denmark is a leading nation that inspires other countries and larger economies to follow suit. Denmark will continue to support international partnerships and alliances. By combining knowledge, innovation and technology across sectors, Denmark ambitiously seeks out new solutions to global challenges.

Selected initiatives

Government cooperation between South Africa and Denmark
South Africa and Denmark have a government collaboration on sustainable water supply. Southwestern Africa is very dry, and water supplies are increasingly unpredictable due to increased water consumption and climate change. Experts from the Danish Environmental Protection Agency are helping to address these challenges, and Danish businesses are offering solutions. Denmark has extensive experience with sustainable groundwater management and a number of technologies that can support it. Government cooperation activities are implemented in 18 countries, with the participation of 13 different Danish authorities (target 17.6).

0.7% of GNI in assistance to developing countries
Denmark's development assistance amounts to 0.7% of GNI, placing Denmark among a small group of leading nations that meet the UN's 0.7% goal (target 17.2).

Denmark's Green Future Fund
In 2020, the Government established Denmark's Green Future Fund, with the aim of contributing to the green transition in Denmark and in the rest of the world. Funding for the Investment Fund for Developing Countries was increased by DKK 1 billion, which will be used for investments and loans for projects in developing countries that support the establishment of sustainable development. The fund mobilises private sector green financing, thus supplementing private actors and helping to build the necessary bridges between green projects and private sources of financing (targets 17.5 and 17.17).

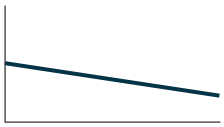
Active public-private partnerships include
The Sustainable Development Goals Fund, Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals (P4G), the Getting-to-Zero Coalition for carbon-neutral ships by 2030, the Climate Investment Coalition for green investments, and climate development partnerships with businesses and civil society actors (target 17.17).

Civil Society's Assesments

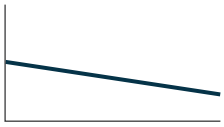
Targets in focus: 17.1-17.2 + 17.4 + 17.14

Progress 2017-2021:

Nationally



Internationally



Nationally

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, the OECD assessed that the funding gap to attaining the SDGs was in the order of several trillion US dollars. The pandemic has necessitated funding to an even greater extent than before. Denmark is one of the few countries to meet its obligation to give at least 0.7% of GDP as development aid. Danish aid is still given as grants rather than loans, which is both positive and important. Several countries and international institutions give aid as loans, which puts recipients further into debt and can contribute towards pushing them into bankruptcy. On the other hand, it is concerning that Denmark's aid contributions are at their lowest level in 40 years, at a time when the need is greatest, and as countries such as Norway and Sweden have raised their aid contributions. It is also concerning that in recent years, Danish aid has been subject to an increasing focus on the promotion of short-term national interests rather than the funding of the SDGs. With regards to climate aid, it is disappointing that Denmark has interpreted the DAC rules in such a way that no further aid is given over the existing 0.7%. Denmark has instead opted for a greening of its existing aid contributions. This shifts focus away from the current unequal burden of responsibility for the climate crisis and also risks shifting focus away from the fight against poverty and inequality. Moreover, it is reprehensible that over-reporting occurs in relation to climate aid. As a result, Denmark is far from complying with its obligations under the Paris Agreement.

Recommendations

- Denmark must raise its aid spending to 1.0% of GDP, with 0.7% being earmarked for general development and 0.3% being earmarked for climate aid.

Internationally

In 2015, Denmark committed to doubling its aid for taxation and national resource mobilisation, through the Addis Tax Initiative, before the end of 2020. But Denmark is far behind in achieving that goal. In 2020, only a tenth of the amount committed was given. Moreover, Denmark has increasingly channelled money for the tax build-up through the IMF, which historically has prioritised VAT rates that are higher than progressive tax reforms. Institutions have also maintained public-sector cuts even during the pandemic, which undermines development in central social areas, such as education. Many countries lack emergency liquidity. Extraordinary support is needed to ensure that all countries have the requisite financial leeway to attain all 17 of the SDGs. The solution is a number of different initiatives, such as the IMF issuing new special drawing rights (as was the case during the financial crisis) which can give all countries, including developing countries, a boost and the economic power to better invest their way out of the crisis.

Recommendations

- Denmark must comply with the obligation in the Addis Tax Initiative to double aid for taxation and to utilise its experiences in helping to build progressive tax systems in developing countries.
- Denmark must work to establish a global debt mechanism with the capacity to handle all debt, including finding solutions for debt forgiveness, deferrals and restructuring.
- Denmark must exert pressure to avoid policies in the IMF and the World Bank which prescribe cuts to the public sector, increase inequality and reduce the ability of countries to achieve the SDGs.
- Denmark must advocate for and exert pressure on the IMF to issue new special drawing rights.

Organisations participating in this assessment:
Oxfam IBIS, ActionAid, the Danish United Nation Association.

6.4 Denmark's Performance 2017-2021 According to the SDG Index and Dashboard

Globally, Denmark ranks among the top performers in terms of sustainable development. In the 2020 Sustainable Development Report published by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (https://www.sdgindex.org/), Denmark ranked second of 166 countries, following and followed by our Nordic colleagues in Sweden and Finland, respectively. This is the same ranking as in all reports since 2017 except 2019, where Denmark ranked first. The 2020 edition reports an overall SDG index score for Denmark of approximately 85, which according to the methodology corresponds to an achievement of 85%of the way to the best possible outcome across the 17 SDGs on average.

While Denmark ranks high on a global scale, the reports highlight several SDGs where further action is needed. In the 2020 report, SDGs 12, 13, and 14 are emphasised as presenting particularly major challenges. Thus, while Denmark is making notable progress on many of the SDGs, additional focus on environmental challenges is needed, specifically in relation to consumption and production patterns. The reports also indicate that climate action and life below water both especially require more work to achieve a positive trend.

In all reports since 2017, responsible consumption and production has been identified as a major challenge for Denmark, which reflects the importance of heightened efforts to adress this SDG in particular.

On the other hand, Denmark is at the forefront of SDGs 1, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, and 17. Denmark's progress on eradicating poverty (SDG 1) and reducing inequalities (SDG 10) is accentuated among many global actors.

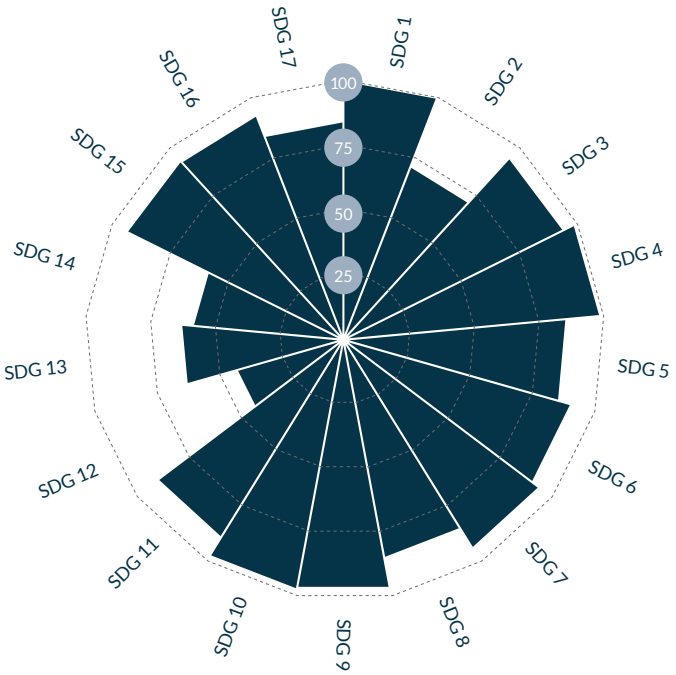
The 2020 Europe Sustainable Development Report (https://eu-dashboards.sdgindex.org/) ranked Denmark third among European countries, while citing many of the same challenges. Both reports highlight positive trends, particularly in relaiton to SDGs 5, 6, 11, and 14, illustrating the progress being made in Denmark.

The progress with respect to each SDG is shown in Figure 6.1. The figure reflects Denmark's overall good performance in relation to the SDGs but also clearly shows where action is needed.

Figure 6.1

Source:
Based on: Sustainable Development Report 2020

Denmark's Average Performance by SDGs



6.5 Externalities and Spillovers

In the national follow-up on the SDGs, it is important to consider how measures could potentially cause spillover effects or externalities for other countries. Spillover effects and externalities are costs or benefits incurred by a third party as the result of a given action, and which are not considered in the decision-making process. These effects are therefore not reflected in the market price. To internalise an externality, it is necessary to compensate for the effects by incorporating the cost or benefit into the market value, which can be achieved through the tax system, for example.

Negative spillover effects typically impact poorer countries as a result of the actions of wealthier countries. The report by the Sustainable Development Solution Network finds a clear trend of international spillover effects in four categories: environmental, socio-economic, security and finance & governance. Negative spillovers may reduce the global impact of a national initiative, as a portion of the effect is offset by the impacts in another country. Therefore, it is essential that wealthy countries take responsibility and avoid negatively impacting the ability of other countries to fulfil the SDGs.

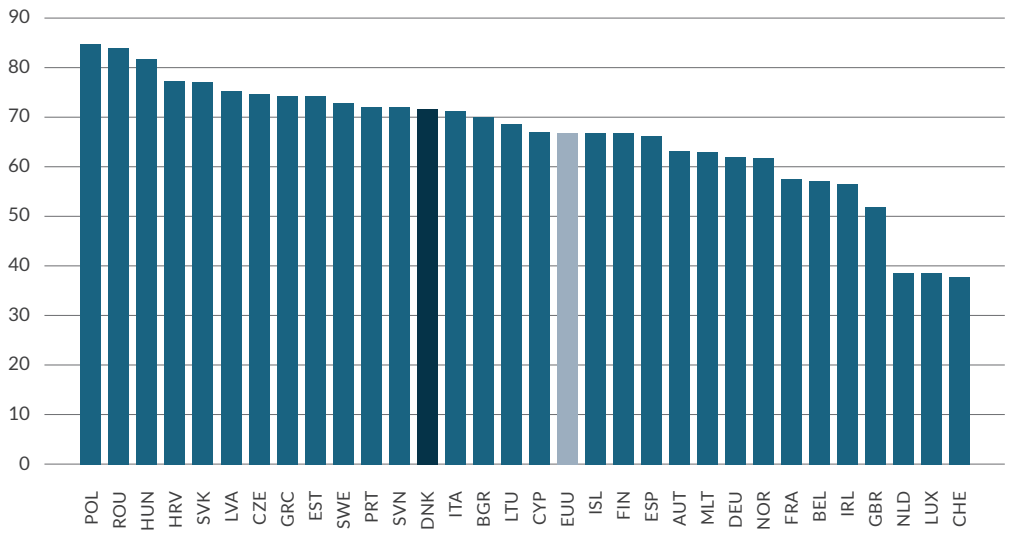
Estimating spillover effects poses a number of challenges. The The Europe Sustainable Development Report 2020 assesses the spillover effects of each European country on three parameters: environmental and social impacts in trade, economy and finance, and security. A positive score indicates that a country causes more positive than negative spillover effects. In the report, Denmark achieves a score of 71.7 compared to the average for EU countries of 66.9, *cf. figure 6.2*. This score is the result of positive effects from activities such as development assistance, while negative effects are particularly related to climate-damaging import behaviour.

Figure 6.2

Note:
100 (best) to 0 (worst)

Source:
Based on: Europe Sustainable Development Report 2020

Spillover index



It is important that Denmark accounts for negative externalities and spillover effects. This is particularly relevant in relation to Denmark's global climate ambitions, as it is in every country's interest to ensure that national efforts are not associated with a high leakage rate. Greenhouse gas emissions are increasing abroad and declining domestically, but possibly disproportionately. This is therefore a good indicator for assessing the true impact of climate policies in a global perspective. International cooperation and commitment to pursue an ambitious climate agenda and live up to a global climate responsibility are essential to reduce the leakage rate. In this regard, the EU plays a central role with the expansion and establishment of climate policies in the EU and in cooperation with the rest of the world.

Negative spillover effects are also particularly relevant in relation to the Leave no one behind agenda. Some initiatives may have undue negative impacts on some of the most vulnerable and marginalised groups in society. Therefore, it is imperative to calculate and minimise the potential secondary effects of new initiatives, ensuring that they are also socially sustainable. Examples of such efforts include the due diligence scheme and the focus on sustainable value chains in production. SDG 12, responsible consumption and production, is one of the areas where Denmark faces the greatest challenges. It is extremely important to ensure that efforts to fulfil SDG 12 do not have negative secondary effects on other countries or certain groups. One means of avoiding negative secondary effects is through the promotion of sustainable value chains in which businesses commit to upholding employer and employee rights.

Denmark is committed to a more sustainable future. For everyone. The next chapter focuses on Leaving No One Behind.

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LEAVE
NO ONE
BEHIND

7. Leave No One Behind

7.1 Sustainability for All

Realising the vision of a sustainable future requires economically, socially and environmentally sustainable development for everyone. The UN's 2030 Agenda is built on a commitment to Leave No One Behind. The SDGs will not be fulfilled until they are fulfilled for all. As part of the Leave No One Behind agenda, member states have committed to eradicate poverty, discrimination and exclusion, and to reduce the social and economic inequalities that leave certain marginalised groups behind. In Denmark, the Government is working across all ministerial areas to ensure that vulnerable groups are included in sustainable development. *The Leave No One Behind* agenda is first and foremost about bringing opportunity to those furthest from the advances being made, and empowering them to participate and benefit together with the rest of society. This endeavour must not be confined to national proclamations and strategies, but must be evident in practice.

The Danish welfare state, with its well-established social safety net, free education for all, and high degree of equality between men and women, is an excellent starting point for equal opportunity. However, vulnerable groups in Denmark are still subject to discrimination and do not have the opportunity to participate in society on equal terms with the rest of the population.

As we develop and progress as a society, we cannot allow anybody to be left behind. Although inequality in Denmark is relatively low from a global perspective, there are still challenges and inequities to be addressed and rectified. This requires concrete solutions and an awareness of the need to not only involve, but to *empower* vulnerable groups in society. These solutions cannot be developed overnight. They require visionary, long-term political strategies and targeted implementation.

The Leave No One Behind agenda requires us to involve and listen to those the agenda is actually about. *Nothing about us without us* must be a guiding principle in the search for concrete solutions. In the process of preparing Denmark's second VNR and the national action plan, a focus on stakeholder involvement resulted in valuable contributions from a range of actors in Danish civil society. One example of this is the organisation Globalt Fokus (Global Focus), which in April 2021 contributed an independent analysis of the extent to which Denmark's international efforts live up to its Leave No One Behind promise. The main points of this analysis were presented in a hearing on 21 April 2021, where the Minister for Social Affairs and Senior Citizens met online with Global Focus and a number of member organisations to discuss some of the challenges faced by Denmark in relation to the Leave No One Behind agenda.

"A Just Direction" – a letter of understanding between the Social Democrats, the Social Liberals, the Socialist People's Party and the Red-Green Alliance – emphasises the importance of fighting inequality, as well as Denmark's special responsibility to help people in need. The letter of understanding thus lays out an ambition to improve opportunities for people with disabilities, help the most vulnerable people in society, ensure equality, and provide a good start in life for all children and young people. Leave No One Behind is thus not only relevant in efforts relating to the SDGs, it is a foundational element of the Government's policies and aims.

Challenges still lie ahead, but the Government is dedicated to the Leave No One Behind agenda. A number of Danish ministries contributed to this

chapter with examples of their concrete efforts and political initiatives with a focus on involving and strengthening vulnerable groups in Denmark.

Equality in health services

Health for all and universal healthcare coverage are core elements of the Danish welfare society, where easy and equal access to healthcare services is a fundamental principle. Welfare is for everyone, but we have a special responsibility to help the most vulnerable in the society. Compared to the rest of the population, inequality in health services is particularly high among people with mental illnesses. Statistics show that people with mental illnesses have a significantly shorter life expectancy and a higher suicide rate than the rest of the population. The following section presents two concrete initiatives that aim to improve equality in the healthcare sector.

10-year plan for psychiatry
The Government will present a 10-year plan for psychiatry that sets a long-term direction for psychiatric services throughout the healthcare and social sectors. The plan will include a focus on inequalities in psychiatric services. The 10-year plan for psychiatry aims to significantly improve prevention and treatment, including an increased focus on the prevention of mental vulnerability, improved cohesion between regions and municipalities, efforts for children and young adults, and targeted efforts for people with a combination of substance abuse issues and mental illness. The initiative is closely linked to target 3.4 on reducing mortality from non-communicable diseases and improving mental health.

Action plan on tobacco
The Government has already developed an action plan to combat tobacco use by children and young people. In December 2020, a broad majority of the Danish Parliament adopted legislation that will implement the action plan. The Government has also significantly increased taxes on tobacco products.

Better access to the labour market for vulnerable groups

The Government is working to ensure equal opportunities and rights for all, regardless of sex, sexual orientation or gender identity. A core focus of these efforts is to improve the access of vulnerable groups to the labour market, such as initiatives targeting those with little or no connection to the labour market, and measures to improve women's access to leading positions in the business world. Work is also being done to ensure that businesses protect human and labour rights in global value chains. The Government has a goal of increasing employment among people with major physical disabilities, who are among those that face the biggest barriers to the labour market. Active employment efforts for vulnerable groups are based on consultations between unemployed persons and caseworkers in job centres, as well as participation in employment, social and health initiatives that can pave the way to a job or education. The job centre consultations aim to identify the individual process that will best bring about job and education opportunities for the individual. This is done to ensure that no one is left behind in the labour market or in society, and to contribute to fulfilling the SDGs, particularly SDG 10 on reducing inequality.

Citizens who are unable to obtain or retain employment on normal conditions, due to a permanent and significantly reduced ability to work, have the opportunity for flexi-jobs. Flexi-jobs account for the individual's reduced ability to work, and the municipality subsidises the pay to compensate for the reduced ability to work. Municipalities can also offer mentor support to help citizens sustain educational and employment efforts or retain an existing job. Schemes to compensate for disabilities include personal assistance and assistive technologies that

can support efforts by citizens with disabilities to obtain and retain employment.

The Government is also carrying out targeted efforts to ensure that women have equal access to the labour market. The latest annual report by the Danish Business Authority shows that, from 15 August 2016 to 15 August 2020, the share of women elected by general meetings to the boards of listed companies increased from 15.5% to 20.6%. Clearly, progress is coming too slowly for women in corporate management in Denmark. This is particularly true in ethnic minority groups, of whom fewer women than men are employed, and more girls and women are held back by negative social control mechanisms. The following section presents a number of concrete initiatives aiming to improve gender equality in the Danish labour market and to address the employment challenges faced by particularly vulnerable populations.

Initiative to increase the number of women on boards and in corporate management

The Government expects to propose a bill during the forthcoming 2021-2022 session of the Danish Parliament that tightens requirements for targets and policies for the under-represented gender, in order to increase the number of women on boards of private companies and in corporate management. The bill, expected to take effect on 1 January 2023, will bring Denmark closer to fulfilling target 5.5 on ensuring women's full participation in leadership and decision-making, and target 5.c on adopting and strengthening policies and enforceable legislation for gender equality.

Increased employment for people with major disabilities

The Government is committed to ensuring that more young people with disabilities have the opportunity to realise their potential and participate in work environments. Therefore, the Government will focus on how to best help more young people with disabilities complete an education and achieve an independent adult life where they experience being a part of a community and contributing to society on an equal footing with other adults. The Government has set a goal of 13,000 people with a disability being employed by 2025, and the Government has allocated DKK 128.4 million between 2019-2022 for 11 initiatives that will contribute to increased employment for people with disabilities. The initiative is linked to target 8.5 of full employment and decent work with equal pay. The initiatives also support the Government's social mobility goal of increased participation in employment or the education of people with a disability.

The Danish Council on Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 8 and the Leave No One Behind agenda are part of the work carried out by the Danish Council on Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development Goals. The Council focuses, among other things, on an inclusive labour market, including business initiatives that can help develop and utilise the resource potential among vulnerable citizens on the fringe of the labour market. The Council's work is particularly linked with target 8.5 on full employment and decent work with equal pay.

Cabi

Funding under the auspices of the Danish Council on Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development Goals has been allocated to support Cabi, a non-profit network and knowledge centre that works for a socially responsible labour market. This funding enables Cabi to actively support businesses' social considerations in recruitment and sustainable business development. Cabi's work for the Danish Council on Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development Goals relates to target 8.3 on policies to support job creation and growing enterprises, and target 8.5 on achieving full employment and decent work with equal pay.

Homelessness and vulnerable adults

Adults in socially vulnerable positions include adults currently facing or at risk of social problems such as homelessness, substance abuse, mental illness, prostitution or violence in intimate relationships. For some, this is a limited social problem without economic, educational or employment consequences, while other socially vulnerable adults find themselves struggling with a variety of social problems all at once. Some of Denmark's most vulnerable groups are those who live in homelessness.

People with disabilities are generally assessed as being at higher risk of being a vulnerable group in society because they have relatively less education and lower employment rates, and thus do not have the same opportunities to support themselves economically. This is partly due to the fact that they require the adaptation of certain services in order to participate equally in society, and because they often face prejudices and discrimination. In the social and elderly services areas, efforts are being made to ensure that people with disabilities have the same opportunities to be part of society and realise their dreams and potential. Equal treatment sometimes requires that people are treated differently based on their situation and needs. Therefore, Danish law is designed to compensate people with disabilities for the barriers to their participation in society on an equitable footing with everyone else.

The following section lists a number of initiatives for adults in socially vulnerable positions that aim to improve quality of life and the ability to live an independent life in society on equal terms as other citizens.

Development and Investment Programmes
Annual funding of DKK 60-70 million is allocated to the adult section and the children and youth section of the Development and Investment Programmes, respectively. These programmes work for systematic and effective development and implementation of social interventions. Both programmes, which address disabled services and policies, constitute the ministry's ongoing work to ensure that vulnerable groups in society receive effective social and disability assistance that contributes to their personal resources, life opportunities, well-being and inclusion in society. Building on the best current knowledge, this work focuses on the effects and needs of municipalities, which are responsible for the vast majority of social interventions. The initiative contributes to meeting target 10.4 on fiscal and social policy that promotes equality.

Housing First
The number of homeless people in Denmark must be reduced and efforts for the homeless must be improved. The Government intends to achieve these aims through increased use of the Housing First approach. With the agreement allocating a reserve between 2021-2024 for social, health and labour market measures, the Government has prioritised funding to follow up on the study of Housing First and experiences from the current action plan to fight homelessness. The initiative will contribute to fulfilling target 1.2 on reducing poverty by half, target 1.3 on implementing social protection systems and target 10.2 on promoting universal social, economic and political inclusion.

Strengthened efforts against violence in intimate relationships
It is the Government's ambition to strengthen efforts to prevent and address violence. With the 2020 Budget Act and the agreement allocating a reserve between 2021-2024 for social, health and labour market measures, the Government has improved opportunities to help people, especially women, affected by violence in intimate relationships. These agreements strengthen outpatient counselling for victims and perpetrators of violence, and introduce psychological counselling and increased capacity in Denmark's crisis centres for women. The initiatives relate to target 5.2 on ending all violence against and exploitation of women and girls, target 10.3 on ending discrimination and creating equal opportunities, and target 10.4 on fiscal and social policy that promotes equality.

Exit prostitution
The Government wants to improve well-being and reduce prostitution activities among vulnerable people. Therefore, the agreement allocating a reserve between 2021-2024 for social, health and labour market measures directs funding to an exit programme for people who want to exit prostitution, or who seek counselling regarding their experiences. This initiative relates to target 1.2 on reducing poverty by half and target 1.3 on the implementation of social protection systems.

Transition to adult life
In December 2020, the Danish Parliament passed legislation requiring municipalities to initiate preparations for the transition to adult life when young people with a disability turn 16 years old. This is because the transition to adult life is particularly difficult for young people with disabilities, as it involves important changes and decisions relating to education, housing, support and assistance according to relevant legislation. The new law took effect on 1 January 2021. The initiative is particularly related to target 10.3 on ensuring equal opportunities and ending discrimination, and target 10.4 on fiscal and social policy that promotes equality.

Vulnerable children and young people, and child poverty

The Government is committed to fighting for children's rights, well-being and right to be heard. In the area of children and education and the area of social services, great efforts are being made to ensure the best possible conditions for all children and young people, with a special emphasis on vulnerable children and young people. This includes children with physical or mental challenges, e.g. children with disabilities, ADHD, dyslexia, parents with alcohol abuse issues, etc. While dealing with social challenges, some families find it hard to make ends meet, which ultimately affects the children. The Government supports municipalities and schools in their efforts to ensure well-being and learning for all children and young people, as this is seen as the basis for being able to complete further education and live an independent life. There is a continuous focus on groups of children and young people at risk of not achieving academic or broad personal development, including social development and well-being in the school's academic and social communities. Research and studies show that children and young people with reduced functional capacity, and other vulnerable children and young people, are at a heightened risk of below-average academic performance. They more frequently receive dispensation from taking the lower secondary school examinations, they have higher absence rates, and they more frequently change schools. There are also signs that children and young people with reduced functional capacity have lower well-being in some areas than other children and young people. This is particularly true in relation to bullying, concentration in class, academic performance, and a sense of belonging in school. Children and young people with behavioural and developmental disorders are particularly likely to experience poor well-being.

The Danish Consolidation Act on Social Services stipulates that municipalities have a general obligation to monitor the living conditions of children and young people under the age of 18, as well as expectant parents within the municipality. Municipal supervision must be conducted so that the municipality discovers as quickly as possible any cases where there is a need for special support for a child or young person under the age of 18, or where it can be assumed that a need for special support for a child might arise immediately after birth. If the municipality has reason to believe that a child or young person needs special support, the municipal administration must conduct a child protection examination to clarify the needs of the child or young person. This examination must lead to a reasoned decision on whether there are grounds for implementing special support measures and the nature of such measures.

The municipality's duty to initiate support and assist vulnerable children and young people is centred around the child or young person's need for support, regardless of the reason. Therefore, the assessment of whether to initiate measures must be a concrete assessment of the individual child or young person's and family's situation, and all support must be planned according to that assessment. It is important to provide support at an early stage and on a continuing basis, so that, as far as possible, problems affecting the child or the young person can be remedied in the home or in the immediate environment. Article 46 of the Danish Consolidation Act on Social Services stipulates that the purpose of providing support to children and young people with special needs is to ensure that they

have access to the same opportunities for personal development, health and an independent adult life as their peers.

Changing governments over time have maintained a continuous focus on the efforts to support these groups. The following section lists some concrete initiatives launched and planned by the Government to support especially vulnerable children and young people.

National poverty line
The Government intends to reintroduce a national poverty line, marking an important step towards eradicating poverty and child poverty in particular. The new poverty line will be an active tool for social policy development, and will be instrumental in following up on SDG target 1.1 on eradicating extreme poverty and target 1.2 on reducing poverty by half.

Initiative to address dyslexia
An initiative launched in 2019 focuses on improving early identification and support for students with dyslexia. A political agreement reached in September 2020 allocates DKK 30 million to improve the identification and support of students with dyslexia. This initiative is closely linked to target 4.6 on teaching reading, writing and arithmetic to all.

Improving well-being for LGBTI people in primary and lower secondary schools and in upper secondary education programmes
As part of the action plan to promote security, well-being and equal opportunities for LBGTI people, the Government initiated the development of materials to provide guidance and inspiration to primary and lower secondary schools and upper secondary education programmes. The Ministry of Children and Education, in collaboration with the Ministry of Employment's Department of Equal Opportunity, is currently preparing these materials for teachers and school administrators. The materials focus on the challenges that students with LGBTI identity may encounter, ways to support their well-being, and the promotion of openness and understanding among classmates. The first part of these materials was recently released on emu.dk. The second part will be released during 2021. The initiative brings Denmark closer to meeting target 4.5 on eliminating all discrimination in education, target 4.7 on education for sustainable development and global citizenship, and target 10.3 on ensuring equal opportunities and ending discrimination.

Initiative against negative social control
A bill was recently adopted to strengthen efforts against negative social control, including the prohibition of religious marriages of minors and increased penalties for forcing people to remain married or in marriage-like relationships. The Government has also allocated DKK 40 million in the Budget Act for initiatives against social control in ethnic minority environments where girls and women are particularly vulnerable. These funds will be used for further training of professionals, including job centre staff, better equipping them to address the problem and help more people gain employment. The initiative contributes to the fulfilment of target 5.3 on eliminating forced marriages and genital mutilation, and target 8.5 on full employment and decent work with equal pay.

Children First
In May 2021, the Government and a political majority presented the reform "Children First". The reform allocates DKK 2 billion in the years 2022-2025 and DKK 734 million annually once fully phased in. The reform includes the preparation of a brand new Danish Child's Act, which will ensure that children's voices are heard and that their wishes and needs are given top priority. The reform also includes measures to ensure more stability and continuity for children placed in care, and to give

children and young people placed outside the home a better transition to adult life. These measures support the aim of creating a strong basis for completing further education and achieving an independent adult life. The reform also includes a greater focus on preventing child neglect in minority families to improve the protection of children from social control and extremism. This includes an initiative to establish "rights schools" in vulnerable housing areas with the purpose of ensuring that children know their rights, regardless of ethnic background. The initiative is related to target 4.4 on increasing the number of people with relevant skills for financial success, target 10.2 on promoting universal social, economic and political inclusion, target 10.3 on ensuring equal opportunities and ending discrimination, and target 10.4 on fiscal and social policy that promotes equality.

Legislation and crime

Denmark faces a number of challenges relating to crime committed on the basis of prejudice or hatred for certain groups. Victims of hate crimes are most often from minority groups, including LGTBI people and people with disabilities. Efforts are being made to deal with hate crimes in the criminal justice system. Unfortunately, in Denmark today, people with disabilities are subjected to threats, as well as physical and psychological violence, because of their disability. Many associations for disabled people have reported incidents in recent years in which their members have been threatened with or subjected to violence. The Danish Ministry of Justice has engaged in dialogue with a number of relevant interest groups on possible measures to strengthen efforts against hate crimes. One important issue that arose from this dialogue is the fact that crimes based on the victim's disability are not currently considered hate crimes under the Danish Criminal Code. Therefore, the Minister of Justice has proposed a bill that will revise the criminal code to strengthen protection from crimes committed on the basis of the victim's disability.

Denmark is also facing challenges relating to other types of crime. The Government has a clear ambition to reduce the number of victims of sexual crimes and to significantly expand the support available to victims. Efforts are also being made in the justice system to improve the conditions for victims of sexual assault. This includes better guidance through the justice system, improved counselling and better support.

The following section lists a number of concrete initiatives to address the problem of hate crimes against vulnerable minority groups and the problem of inadequate support for victims of sexual assault.

Bill on expanding legal protection from hate crimes

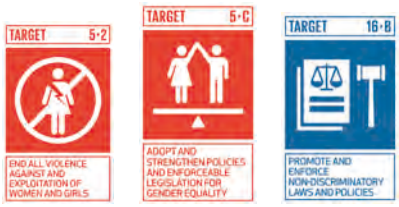
The word "disability" was by Act no. 154 of April 20 2021 added to article 81(6) of the Danish Criminal Code, thereby expanding the definition of aggravating circumstances. With this amendment, it will be considered an aggravating circumstance if a criminal act is based on the victim's disability. The initiative is closely linked to target 16.b on the promotion and enforcement of non-discriminatory laws and policies as well as target 10.3 on ensuring equal opportunities and ending discrimination.

Addition of "gender identity", "gender expression" and "gender characteristics" to Article 266(b) of the Danish Criminal Code

As part of its efforts against hate crimes, in autumn 2021 the Government will propose a bill that aims to strengthen protection of LGBTI people against discrimination, hate crimes and hate speech. The bill includes a proposal to make explicit the protection of transgender and intersex people from hate crimes and hate speech by amending the Danish Criminal Code to include the terms "gender identity, gender expression or gender characteristics" in Articles 81(6) on hate crimes and Article 266(1) on hate speech. The initiative also includes strengthening the protection of people with disabilities against hate speech. Relating to this initiative, an amendment of Article 266(b)(1) of the Danish Criminal Code on hate speech has been proposed to include the word "disability". The initiative is closely linked to target 10.3 on ensuring equal opportunities and ending discrimination as well as target 16.b on the promotion and enforcement of non-discriminatory laws and policies.

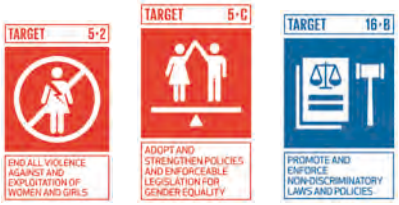
Better protection against discrimination of LGBTI people

The Government intends to submit bills on strengthening and emphasising the protection of LGBTI people against discrimination. Specifically, the bills include a revision of the Gender Equality Act to ban discrimination outside the labour market based on sexual orientation, and revisions of the Gender Equality Act and the Discrimination Act to explicitly ban discrimination based on gender, gender expression and gender characteristics. The initiative is closely linked to target 10.3 on ensuring equal opportunities and ending discrimination as well as target 16.b on the promotion and enforcement of non-discriminatory laws and policies.



Better support and guidance through the justice system for victims of sexual assault

In the 2021 Budget Act agreement, the Government, Social Liberal Party, the Socialist People's Party, the Red-Green Alliance, and The Alternative have agreed to provide better support and guidance through the justice system for victims of sexual assault. The agreement grants victims of sexual assault the right to counsel from a lawyer prior to reporting the assault to the police, as well as further counsel after filing the report. These initiatives will supplement the existing right to an appointed a lawyer after reporting the case to the police. It is hoped that the agreement will provide greater security and clarification for the victims. The initiative is closely linked to target 5.2 on ending all violence against and exploitation of women and girls, target 5.c on adopting and strengthening policies and enforceable legislation for gender equality, and target 16.b on the promotion and enforcement of non-discriminatory laws and policies.



Consent-based rape provision

Alongside the measures for better support and guidance for victims of sexual assault, last year the Danish Parliament adopted a consent-based rape provision that makes it a criminal offence to have sexual intercourse with a person who does not consent. The ambition of the consent law is to change society's understanding of what constitutes rape, and this is an important step on the road to gender equality in Denmark. The initiative is closely linked to target 5.2 on ending all violence against and exploitation of women and girls, target 5.c on adopting and strengthening policies and enforceable legislation for gender equality, and target 16.b on the promotion and enforcement of non-discriminatory laws and policies.

Sustainability with room for all

Sustainable development is only sustainable when it is open and available to all. This applies when building sustainable housing and green areas in cities, working to reduce food waste, and taking measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Government is thus working hard to ensure that vulnerable populations are involved in the green transition and the execution of sustainable initiatives.

The green transition towards a 70% reduction of Danish greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and climate neutrality by 2050 requires massive, fundamental changes in Danish society. The Danish Climate Act stipulates that climate efforts must take into account a number of guiding principles, including consideration for employment and maintaining a strong welfare society in which cohesion and social balance are maintained. This will ensure that the green transition towards the 70% goal is also a socially-balanced and cost-effective transition. Extensive efforts are being made to make Denmark a leading country in the areas of climate, energy and utilities, and the environment through efforts to execute a smart and ambitious green transition that does not move jobs or emissions abroad, and which does not increase pressures on the social balance. The Ministry of the Environment has launched a number of initiatives in relation to vulnerable groups, particularly in relation to access and enjoyment of nature.

The Government's leave no one behind philosophy is also evident in its "2020 goals for the socially vulnerable", which support and facilitate initiatives to ensure good and healthy food for socially disadvantaged people. Many Danish food businesses, including large retail chains, support the distribution of surplus food to socially disadvantaged people via donation. The donated food is received by a network of local, regional and nationwide volunteer organisations, which redistribute it to socially disadvantaged people. It is also used to prepare meals on a daily basis, e.g. for people with substance abuse problems, homeless people, etc. The donors and recipients have kept the Government informed about barriers to donation that have emerged along the way. These include legal, infrastructure and network-related issues requiring action. Current efforts in the food, agriculture and fisheries sectors seek to identify and reduce these barriers to donation. There has also been a need to develop tools to help donors and recipients with interpreting regulations of various kinds (taxation, food regulations, etc.). Such guidance is considered essential to facilitating the work of both donors and recipients, and to ensuring continued donations.

Under the auspices of the interior and housing authorities, efforts are ongoing to expand the supply of housing and to build safe and affordable housing. Two different vulnerable groups are addressed in these efforts. The first group consists of economically vulnerable people in low-income households. The other group is those who are vulnerable due to illness, old age or disability. To ensure a broad supply of housing, municipalities have the authority to issue permits for the construction of social housing. This includes family housing, youth housing and elderly housing. The Danish state provides support for the financing of this housing. Low-income households are also eligible for rent support benefits. In new residential areas, municipalities can require that social housing constitutes a certain share of new housing in the area. There is also a nationally mandated housing guarantee for elderly persons referred to an assisted living complex. For the homeless, municipalities can exercise their right to place vulnerable persons in social housing ahead of any waiting lists and/or build special housing with state funding.

The following section presents a number of concrete initiatives that aim to ensure that the most vulnerable populations are included in the green transition and the fight for sustainable development.

Analysis of the green transition's impact on households

When deciding which measures should be taken to meet the 70% goal, the relevant factors extend beyond the costs for the Danish state and the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Consideration is also given to how implementation of the measures will impact businesses, households and Danish employment. This initiative brings Denmark closer to fulfilling target 13.2 on integrating climate change measures into policies and planning.

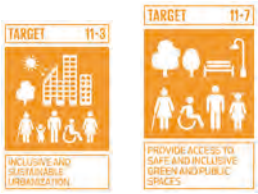
Guidance on donations

In 2019, the Government established the ONE THIRD think tank on the prevention of food waste and food loss, which brings together stakeholders from across the food supply chain to facilitate and launch initiatives to reduce food waste. Under the auspices of ONE THIRD, a working group has been launched to develop a guide on the donation of surplus food from supermarkets. In 2021, the think tank will expand the scope of the guide to cover more industries. The working group will also collect and compile input from food businesses, industry organisations, NGOs, etc., on barriers to donation. This information will then be used to coordinate contact with relevant actors, e.g. public authorities and universities, and develop solutions that reduce or eliminate the barrier in question. This initiative is closely tied to target 2.1 on universal access to safe and nutritious food, and target 12.3 on halving global per capita food waste.

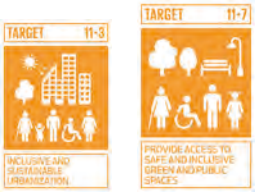
Increased supply of social housing

It is important to the Government that cities have a supply of affordable housing, as this is critical to ensuring inclusive and mixed cities. The Housing Agreement of May 2020 includes an exploration of how new and affordable social housing can be realised by utilising funds in Nybyggerifonden (The New

Housing Construction Fund). A working group has also been appointed to develop recommendations on ways to promote joint construction initiatives and co-housing schemes, including initiatives and schemes involving social housing. These initiatives brings Denmark closer to fulfilling target 11.1 on safe and affordable housing.



Increased accessibility for the elderly and people with disabilities
The Housing Agreement of May 2020 allocates funding to make housing in the social housing sector accessible to the elderly and people with disabilities, and a working group has been appointed to develop recommendations on how to use this funding in a way that maximises the availability of accessible social housing. This initiative is closely tied to target 11.3 on inclusive and sustainable urbanisation, and target 11.7 on providing access to safe and inclusive green and public spaces.



Udinaturen.dk
More than 1,000 handicap facilities have been established by the Nature Agency, which includes an improvement in accessibility. The website udinaturen.dk (outinnature.dk) and all guides to trekking provide information on accessibility in outdoor public spaces. This initiative brings Denmark closer to meeting target 11.3 on inclusive and sustainable urbanisation, and target 11.7 on providing access to safe and inclusive green and public spaces.

"Frisk i Naturen"
The "Summer in Nature 2020" agreement between the Government, the Social Liberal Party, the Socialist People's Party, the Red-Green Alliance, and The Alternative allocates funding for "Frisk i Naturen", a partnership between the Danish Environmental Protection Agency and SIND – the Danish Association for Mental Health – to help mentally vulnerable people get outside and enjoy nature. This initiative is linked to target 3.4 on promoting mental health.

Vulnerable groups and Danish development cooperation

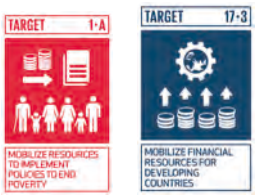
Building on a fundamental commitment to human rights, Denmark's development cooperation and humanitarian efforts support the ambition of leaving no one behind. In our bilateral and multilateral engagements and our collaboration with civil society – a critical partner for reaching the most vulnerable groups – Denmark is known as a proponent of human rights globally, not least the rights and equality of women and girls. The human rights-based approach, which includes consideration of the Leave No One Behind agenda, is an integrated part of the Danish guidelines on the preparation of programmes, projects and country engagements in development cooperation. Fragile countries in conflict require special effort. In these countries, the entire population is left behind when the state is unable to deliver on needs such as security and access to basic services like health care and education. We cannot reach everyone; but there is a focus on reaching those in greatest need.

Denmark has a focus on vulnerable groups globally – particularly women, girls and young people – and people living in areas impacted by climate change, conflict, instability and fragility, not least refugees and internally displaced persons. One concrete tool is the Danish action plan for sexual and reproductive health and rights, which aims to maximise the impact of our efforts for the rights of women and girls globally. Promoting mental health and the fight against inequality in healthcare are high priorities in the Government's international health activities. In business-oriented activities of this nature, the Government is particularly focused on supporting the ability of businesses to protect human rights and labour rights in global supply chains.

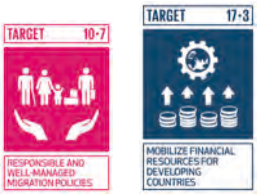
Denmark's ambition is to address the factors and structures that cause vulnerability in developing countries, and to provide support for groups with the greatest need. Denmark thus pursues the Leave No One Behind agenda both bilaterally and multilaterally in developing countries, and by working for international standards that ensure a solid basis for the promotion and protection of rights for marginalised and vulnerable groups. The following section lists a number of concrete initiatives aiming to support the most vulnerable groups in connection with Denmark's international efforts.

Due diligence
Due diligence is about identifying, preventing, mitigating and accounting for current and potential negative impacts on society. Due diligence is a means of operationalising the SDGs. Working actively with due diligence processes means that businesses examine the entire value chain and ensure that all parameters are included in risk assessments. Due diligence helps businesses identify potential negative impacts on people and the environment, and to plan an effective response. The Government welcomes the introduction of mandatory due diligence at the EU level and the European Commission's announcement of a bill to this effect in 2021. This initiative is closely linked with target 13.2 on integrating climate change measures into policies and planning.

Fighting sexual and gender-based violence
In 2021, Denmark took lead of the global initiative, Call to Action, which brings together 92 partners, including countries, donors, UN organisations and civil society organisations. For the next two years, Denmark will spearhead the initiative's agenda on prioritising and fighting sexual and gender-based violence in humanitarian crises, where women and girls have limited access to basic health services and are particularly vulnerable to assault, rape, and child marriage. The initiative is closely linked to target 5.2 on ending all violence against and exploitation of women and girls, target 5.3 on stopping forced marriages and genital mutilation, target 16.1 on reducing violence everywhere and target 16.2 on protecting children from assault, exploitation, trafficking and violence.



Social safety net in Africa
An effective social safety net can be an important tool in securing the livelihoods of poor and vulnerable populations. Since 2011, Denmark has supported the social safety net in Ethiopia through the "Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP)", which annually protects up to 8 million people from extreme poverty and food insecurity. In addition, Denmark has supported an urban safety net in Kenya and Ethiopia as part of the COVID-19 assistance packages to ensure economic recovery in a socially inclusive manner. This initiative brings Denmark closer to fulfilling target 1.a on mobilising resources to implement policies to end poverty and target 17.3 on mobilising financial resources for developing countries.



Focus on durable solutions for refugees, internally displaced persons and affected communities
Denmark is focused on promoting more inclusive, durable solutions for vulnerable groups among forcibly displaced persons and affected communities. We do this internationally through partnerships with organisations such as UNHCR and the World Bank, and through strong engagement in policy development and implementation. This is reflected operationally in crises in locations such as Burkina Faso, Mali, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Jordan, Lebanon, and Afghanistan, where humanitarian and development instruments are utilised to support the most vulnerable individuals and groups. This initiative is closely linked to target 10.7 on developing responsible and well-managed migration policies, and target 17.3 on mobilising financial resources for developing countries.

Focus on global health
The COVID-19 pandemic has further illustrated the need for universal access to health coverage for the most vulnerable groups in society. More than ever before, Danish contributions to development in the area of health are critical to addressing the global challenges of managing future health threats. With the establishment of ICARS, Denmark is working to address the global challenge of antibiotic resistance, including a particular focus on helping to strengthen efforts in low- and middle-income countries. This initiative is closely linked to target 3.c on increasing health financing and supporting health workforce in developing countries.

8. Recovery after COVID-19

Since March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has greatly impacted societies around the world. The health crisis has led to lost lives, bankrupted businesses, ruined many people's life work, caused families to lose their income, and set back the green transition. These consequences have made it difficult to fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals.

Denmark has coped relatively well during the crisis, but COVID-19 remains a major challenge and the crisis continues to greatly impact all areas of Danish society. The impacts, such as increased unemployment and school closures, have been especially severe for vulnerable groups. The Government has therefore taken a series of initiatives to support vulnerable groups. A coordinated and focused effort is more important than ever to ensure that Denmark continues to work for the implementation of the SDGs, including improvements in the conditions for the most vulnerable groups in society.

There is good reason for optimism and hope for the future. The share of Danes who are vaccinated against COVID-19 has continued to grow since the vaccine roll-out commenced in December 2020. The latest figures show that the Danish economy continues to perform surprisingly well and will make it through the pandemic better than expected. Denmark's expansive fiscal policy, including assistance packages and stimulus efforts, has helped to maintain thousands of Danish jobs.
Stimulus efforts have also been launched at the EU level, including the NextGenerationEU recovery instrument, which will help European economies get back on their feet after the pandemic. Denmark's Recovery and Resilience Plan, which was announced on 30 April 2021, will help fund a series of agreements between a majority of the Danish Parliament and the Government that will help maintain Danish jobs and ensure that Denmark emerges from the crisis greener and more digital. The recovery plan allocates funds for the agreements on green road transport, green tax reform, and the Government's digitalisation partnership.

8.1 Consequences of COVID-19 in Denmark

COVID-19 has had large consequences for many parts of society. Table 8.1 presents a reduction in both wages, employment, and labor market affiliation in 2020, while unemployment increased. In the second statistical annex, Statistics Denmark highlights some areas of sustainable development affected by COVID-19.

The pandemic continues to impact implementation of the SDGs in countries around the world, and has directly impacted the process of preparing this VNR. The lockdowns have placed particular challenges on stakeholder engagement, as communication could not be carried out as planned. Almost all meetings have been virtual, which is unfortunate, as there are many benefits of meeting in the same room and engaging in less restricted exchanges of experiences and ideas. Yet despite the virtual format of these meetings, stakeholders expressed strong support of the process and interest in participating. Therefore, the virtual format is not assessed as having any significant impact on the process. All of the planned meetings and hearings were conducted successfully, providing essential platforms for exchanging knowledge, inspiration, and constructive input on the action plan and VNR.

Table 8.1

Source:
Economic Review, December 2020

Key figures from Economic Survey, December 2020

	2019	2020	2021	2022
GDP growth (percentage)	2.8	-3.8	2.8	3.1
Inflation (percentage)	0.8	0.5	1.2	1.6
Nominal wages, growth (percentage)	2.5	2.1	2.4	2.6
Employment (thousands)	3,003	2,979	2,995	3,021
Employment growth (thousands)	37	-23	15	26
Unemployment (thousands)	104	133	126	119
Unemployment growth (thousands)	-4	29	-7	-7
Unemployment (percentage of workforce)	3.4	4.3	4.1	3.8
Workforce (thousands)	3,105	3,111	3,118	3,137
Labor market affiliation (percentage)	82.9	82.3	81.6	81.3

8.2 Background for the Recovery and Resilience Plan

The EU Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2021-2027 established a €750 billion recovery instrument to help European economies get back on their feet after the pandemic. The vast majority of funding in the NextGenerationEU recovery instrument is distributed via a recovery facility from which member states can apply for funding for their recovery plans. To access these funds, the recovery plans must contribute to growth, green transition and digitalisation. Denmark is currently expected to be eligible for DKK 11.6 billion from the recovery facility.

The recovery facility has a consistent focus on initiatives that support the green transition. Sixty percent of the funds in the Danish recovery plan will be used on the green transition, which exceeds the EU minimum requirement of 37%. Green investments include initiatives that will provide immediate reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, as well as initiatives that will form the basis for significant future reductions. Denmark has one of the most ambitious climate goals in the world, committing to a 70% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, and the recovery plan will contribute to reaching this goal.

By investing in green jobs and green growth, the recovery plan will help restart the Danish economy after the pandemic and help address climate challenges. To restore the economy, it is essential to secure existing employment and create new jobs by increasing demand. Therefore, the recovery plan includes initiatives that contribute to job creation in the short term, as well as investments in technologies with the potential to create even more jobs in the future.

Additional investments under the plan involve the digitalisation of private enterprises and the public sector, which will help keep Denmark at the forefront of digital solutions.

The recovery plan prioritises seven areas that will strengthen the Danish economy while ensuring a greener and more digitalised society as we emerge from the crisis. The distribution of funds in the Danish recovery plan and the anticipated impacts on greenhouse gas emissions can be seen in Table 8.2. Furthermore, figure 8.1 and 8.2 shows the distribution of costs in the recovery plan by component. The initiatives are detailed in section 8.3.

Table 8.2

The Danish Recovery Plan

	DKK billions	Share of total funding (%)	CO2e reduction 2030 (million tonnes)
1.1. COVID-19 government efforts in the field of health	0.2	2.1	-
1.2. Green transition of agriculture and environment	1.3	11.4	0.1
1.3. Energy efficiency improvements, green heat, CCS	2.0	17.6	0.1
1.4. Green tax reform	3.9	33.7	0.5
1.5. Green transition of road transport	1.6	14.0	2.1
1.6. Digitalisation	0.7	5.7	-
1.7. Green research and development	1.8	15.5	-
Initiatives, total	**11.6**	**100**	**2.8**

Note:
CO2e reduction is the total effect of the combined national stimulus funds and recovery funds.

The reductions are estimated separately and therefore the estimated effect can overlap.

Source:
Denmark's Recovery and Resilience Plan

Figure 8.1

Source:
Denmark's Recovery and Resilience Plan

Green and digital share of costs in Denmark's Recovery and Resilience Plan

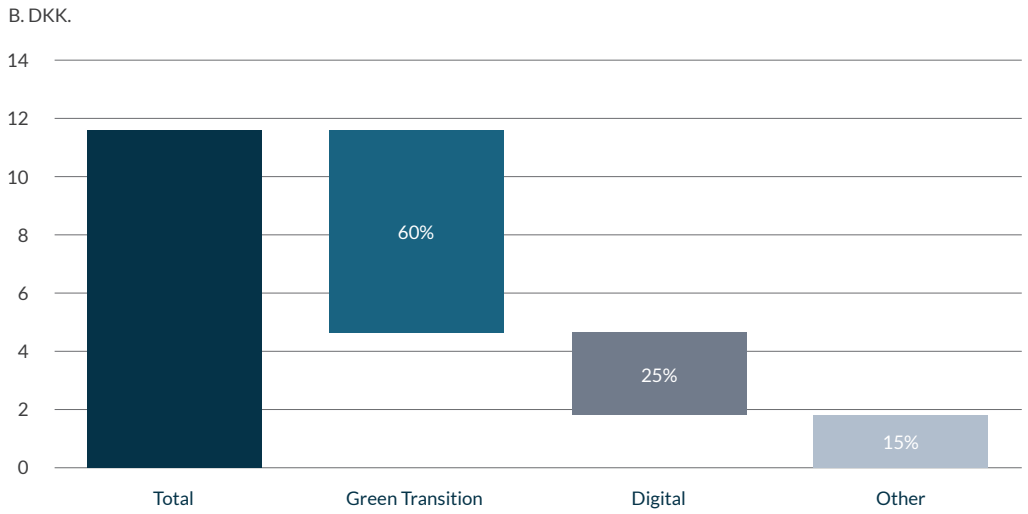
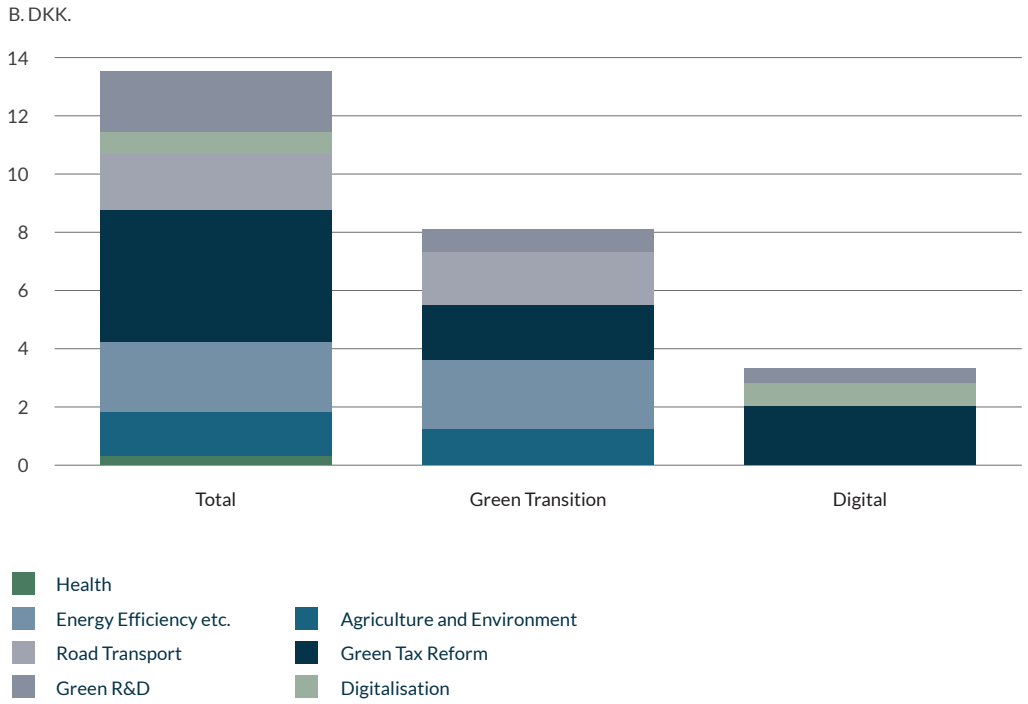


Figure 8.2

Source:
Denmark's Recovery and Resilience Plan

Costs in Denmark's Recovery and Resilience Plan by component



8.3 Elements of Denmark's Recovery and Resilience Plan

The Danish recovery plan will secure the Danish economy after more than one year of dealing with the challenges of the pandemic. The plan also helps to support a better and greener recovery. The Government has prioritised the following seven areas, which will help to achieve Denmark's climate goals, create more jobs, increase digitalisation and improve health services. The recovery plan thus also contributes to fulfilling a number of the SDGs.

Box 8.1

Health and resilience of the health system

The COVID-19 pandemic brought heightened uncertainty about the supply chain of critical medicines and medical equipment. The recovery plan will strengthen public health and make the health system more resilient to unexpected crises such as COVID-19. Denmark will build up stocks of critical medicines and medical equipment to reduce vulnerability in the supply chain. Denmark will also take measures to strengthen digitalisation of the health system. For example, a strategic digitalisation initiative that builds on experiences from the COVID-19 pandemic will ensure that new technological and digital solutions are used to create a more resilient and sustainable health system that is more cohesive and closer to citizens. This will help to improve the protection of vulnerable groups.

Box 8.2

Green transition of agriculture and environment

The recovery plan allocates funding to support transitions to organic farming, ceasing farming of peatland with high carbon content, and massive investments in green research. As approximately one third of all greenhouse gases in Denmark are produced in the agricultural sector, the initiative will be of great importance to the effort to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. The initiative also allocates funding for the clean-up of a number of major contamination sites, thus eliminating the risk that these hazardous chemicals will spread further in nature. The initiative builds on the latest technologies and green research, which will contribute to fulfilling a number of SDGs.

Box 8.3

Energy efficiency, green heat and CCS

By increasing energy efficiency, Denmark can reach both the EU's and its own climate goal in a cost-effective way. The initiative accelerates the transition from oil and gas heating to electric heat pumps, district heating and energy renovations in private sector and public buildings. In addition to helping achieve climate goals, investments under the initiative – e.g. improving the energy efficiency of buildings – will also stimulate the economy and promote job creation. Investments will also be made in feasibility studies in CCS, which may eventually play a central role in the green transition. The initiative thereby contributes to fulfilling a number of the SDGs.

Box 8.4

Green tax reform

As greenhouse gas emissions from the industrial and service sectors account for approximately one-fifth of Denmark's emissions, a tax on greenhouse gases will be one of the most cost-effective means of reducing emissions. A model that can function in practice has not yet been finalised, but it is expected to be implemented at a later date. The first phase of the green tax reform will increase the energy tax, giving businesses an immediate incentive to reduce their energy consumption and thus their greenhouse gas emissions. A clear signal will be sent to businesses that a tax on greenhouse gases will be introduced at a later time. The green tax reform also includes an investment window that gives businesses the opportunity to carry out a green transition of their production activities so that they are ready for the introduction of the uniform tax on greenhouse gases.

Box 8.5

Green road transport

In December 2020, the Government entered into an agreement with the Danish Parliament on a green transition in road transport, with a goal of 1 million electric vehicles on Danish roads in 2030, which in turn will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector. The agreement includes massive investments in green infrastructure and technology, cycle paths and car-sharing schemes. Greater incentives to choose green vehicles will include the restructuring of car registration fees and ensuring a low electricity tax in connection with charging electric vehicles. These initiatives from the recovery plan will contribute to fulfilling a number of the SDGs.

Box 8.6

Digitalisation

A vital component in the recovery of Europe's economies after COVID-19 is unleashing the potential of increased digitalisation of both the private and public sectors. A new digital strategy will promote the digital transformation across sectors to strengthen welfare, equality, growth, employment and the green transition. Specifically, the strategy will improve connections between the regions and create new digital export opportunities for Danish SMEs. The strategy builds on the recommendations of a digitalisation partnership comprised of representatives of the Danish business community, labour and employer organisations, the Government, and other key actors.

Box 8.7

Green research and development

Denmark is already a leader in green solutions and technologies. The recovery plan funds additional investments in new green technologies, including research in CCS, green fuels for transport and industry, and reuse of plastic and waste through circular economy practices. These technologies hold great potential, and the initiatives can thereby contribute to the green transition, promote digitalisation and support and create new Danish jobs in the green sector.

8.4 International Efforts

The world is more closely connected than ever before. Therefore, the consequences of COVID-19 affect the entire world. Supply chains have been broken and trade has declined. The consequences are also felt in Denmark, which is a small, open and export-oriented economy. Danish businesses are greatly dependent on a fast and effective economic recovery – not just in Denmark, but globally. It is therefore important to take a national and global approach to the COVID-19 recovery.

Exports to EU countries are particularly important for Danish businesses. 500,000 jobs – approximately one in every six Danish jobs – depend on exports to the EU's internal market. It is clearly in Denmark's interest that the COVID-19 recovery is fast and effective in the rest of the EU. The NextGenerationEU recovery instrument is helping to make the recovery a success.

The requirement that funds from the instrument are used on digitalisation and green transition will create significant export opportunities in areas where Danish businesses are among the world leaders. The requirements of the EU recovery instrument will also contribute to fulfilling a number of the SDGs.

8.5 Next Steps

The wide-ranging consequences of COVID-19 pose new challenges to efforts to improve inclusion among vulnerable groups in society. It is more important than ever that we stand together to strengthen Danish society, so that we can emerge from the crisis stronger, greener and more just.

The recovery plan will strengthen the Danish economy so that Denmark emerges from the pandemic better and greener. The plan will bring massive investments in the green transition, which will create jobs. The initiatives in the recovery plan ensure equality across regions, industries, sectors and households. Through investments and reforms, the recovery plan will bring Denmark closer to fulfilling the SDGs and strengthen the Danish economy while ensuring that no one is left behind.

9. Conclusion and Efforts Going Forward

Denmark's second Voluntary National Review has mapped out Danish efforts to implement the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda. The report has clarified Denmark's broadly anchored commitment to sustainable development, as evidenced by the contributions of various actors in Danish society. Denmark's second VNR thus lays the groundwork for strengthened cooperation between the Danish Government, the Danish Parliament, civil society, the private sector, organisations, academic institutions, municipalities and regions, and other actors.

The report includes assessments – by both the Government and civil society actors – of progress on the individual targets underlying each goal. The Government tasked Denmark's ministries with assessing the country's progress towards fulfilling each of the 17 SDGs identifying which targets are particularly challenging for Denmark, and proposing political initiatives that can accelerate progress. Based on the assessments of the Danish Government and civil society, the report proposes new focus areas and initiatives; following up on these assessments is a top priority on the Government's agenda.

In the short and medium term, Denmark looks to adopt new policy initiatives in connection with the SDGs, implement the action plan and prepare annual progress reports. Denmark's VNR is closely aligned with the Government's national action plan for implementation of the SDGs. This action plan includes newly defined Danish targets and presents new policy initiatives that place efforts towards the SDGs in a Danish context. Denmark has taken big and small steps in the right direction, which will be followed by additional steps in the coming years as the Government continues to integrate sustainability into political initiatives. Sustainable solutions must be implemented in a broader range of contexts and areas than ever before. The time to act is now.

As the report shows, Denmark is making excellent progress on many of the SDGs, including those relating to health, quality education for all, eradicating poverty and reducing inequality. However, there is still great potential for additional progress, particularly in relation to SDGs 5, 12, 13, 14 and 15, where Denmark faces significant challenges. Several of these SDGs are addressed in the national action plan, which proposes a number of political initiatives aimed at meeting the challenges faced by Denmark in its efforts to implement the SDGs. A progress report will be prepared in 2022 to follow up on the goals in the Government's action plan for implementation of the 17 SDGs.

Denmark will also continue to issue periodic reports on national and international progress. In the meantime, Denmark will maintain its efforts to implement the SDGs and 2030 Agenda. The national action plan, national targets and new political initiatives will form the basis for these efforts. It is also the Government's ambition going forward to ensure that the sustainable agenda serves as the foundation for the development and implementation of new policies. Denmark can thereby continue to uphold its responsibility for the global sustainability agenda, work for Build Back Better in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, and ensure that no one – especially those in vulnerable population groups – is left behind in the process.

Annex

Statistical follow-up on the 2030 Agenda Denmark

Statistical follow-up on the 2030 Agenda Denmark

Statistical annex to the Voluntary National Review for Denmark

STATISTICS DENMARK

Statistical follow-up on the 2030 Agenda Denmark

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Symbols:

»	Repetition
-	Nil
0 0,0 }	Less than half the final digit shown
•	Not applicable
. .	Available information not conclusive
. . .	Data not available
*	Provisional or estimated figures
—	Break in a series, which means that data above the line are not fully comparable with data below the line
/ /	Break in a series (in diagrams)
i.sk.	Not seasonally adjusted
sk.	Seasonally adjusted
r	Revised figures

Due to rounding, the figures given for individual items do not necessarily add up to the corresponding totals shown.

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Preface

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda six years ago, Statistics Denmark has embraced the work on the follow-up on the Agenda, both in a national and international context. We are the national focal point on data for the 2030 Agenda and have developed our presentations and tools in close collaboration with national stakeholders. We are also a visible and committed partner to the international statistical activities addressing the Agenda.

This statistical annex is one of the results of Statistics Denmark's work on Sustainable Development Goals and chapter 6 presents all the global indicators that can be followed-up by using existing Danish data. In parallel to the statistical follow-up on the global indicators, Statistics Denmark has been involved in the compilation of additional sustainable development indicators that were directly relevant for Denmark, i.e. taking full account of the Danish circumstances, characteristics, and production/consumption patterns. This work has resulted in the 'Our Goals' report that is introduced in chapter 4.1. We have also compiled a statistical publication on the development in the Danish business sector's contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals since 2010. Information on this publication can be found in chapter 4.2.

The present document is the second statistical annex to the Danish Voluntary National Review, the first one was prepared in 2017. It shows a picture of the Danish follow-up on the Sustainable Development Goals six years on after the adoption of the Agenda. The report is based on the data from the Danish National Reporting Platform that is the main and most up–to-date data source on the Danish follow-up on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Statistics Denmark, July 2021

Birgitte Anker, National Statistician

Contents

1. Introduction ... 5

1.1. Short on some basic structures of danish society ... 5

2. Our approach ... 6

3. Short on challenges ... 7

4. Complementary initiatives ... 7

4.1. "Our goals" project – identifying danish indicators measuring progress towards the 2030 agenda ... 7

4.2. "The danish business sector and the sustainable development goals" – publication from statistics denmark ... 9

4.3. Involvement with decision-makers ... 10

5. Way forward ... 10

6. Statistics ... 11

6.1. On data from administrative sources ... 11

6.2. The indicators and figures ... 11

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere ... 12

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture ... 15

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages ... 22

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all ... 33

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls ... 39

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all ... 45

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all ... 49

Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all ... 51

Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation ... 60

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries ... 68

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable ... 74

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns ... 78

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts ... 84

Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development ... 85

Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, ... 86

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels ... 92

Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global ership for sustainable development ... 98

1. Introduction

This statistical annex accompanies the second Danish Voluntary National Review, the first one was conducted in 2017. During the four years since the last Voluntary National Review, Statistics Denmark has developed a system for follow-up on the Sustainable Development Goals and conducted various projects improving the statistical information on various aspects of the 2030 Agenda. These initiatives provide strong evidence of a broad public debate on sustainable development and input to decision-making.

The figures presented in this annex build on the Danish National Reporting Platform that is the main source of statistical information on the Danish progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. The Platform was developed by Statistics Denmark with a broad involvement of different stakeholders, and it contains regularly updated information on the Danish follow-up on Sustainable Development Goals.

The present report addresses three purposes: (1) it provides statistical information for the Danish Voluntary National Review during the High Level Political Forum in July 2021; (2) it illustrates the development of the indicators during a ten-year period (2010-2019); and (3) it provides evidence for a broad public debate.

1.1. Short on some basic structures of Danish Society

Denmark is a small country with a well-educated and ageing population of 5.8 million inhabitants (25 per cent of the population is 60 years or above). The employment rate is high – 75 per cent (2019) – and nearly as high for women (73 per cent) as for men (77 per cent). Two-thirds of the labour force works in the private sector and one-third in the public sector. The Danish welfare state is universal and comprehensive. It gives free access to health care and education to the highest level, social services and care for families with children and the elderly as well as social benefits for the unemployed, the disabled and the elderly, including a universal state old-age pension for all citizens. The welfare system is governed by the state and run by 98 municipalities (health care is run by five regional bodies). Municipalities are also responsible under state regulation for the provision of water, electricity and sanitation as well as for the environment and physical planning. All water provision comes from ground water and major parts of the production of electricity are sustainable, based on electricity from windmills. Furthermore, parts of the heating come from biomass.

These basic structures are important in relation to the description of the SDGs in a Danish context. The fact that the majority of Danes work and that there is a universal state old-age pension and benefits for unemployed and disabled persons is important in economic terms. The fact that all Danes have free access to health care, education, and social services for families with children and for the elderly and that all households have access to water, electricity, heat and sanitation plays an important role for a variety of the sustainable development goals.

2. Our approach

The data and figures in this report reflect the Danish Sustainable Development Goals platform, which is the major source of statistical information on the 2030 Agenda in Denmark. The platform, and hence this report, primarily builds on data from Statistics Denmark and to a large extent on administrative data, but also on contributions from other governmental organisations producing statistics. The main intention of this report is to show the development in the indicators over time, and this is done for all the indicators when possible.

Due to the global nature of the 2030 Agenda, statistical information on some of the indicators cannot be produced in Denmark. This is due to the fact that some of the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda, such as electrification, free access to schools or safely managed drinking water services have already been fulfilled. Nor are other indicators, having a 'global' character, such as 'number of countries' presented in this report.

In 2020, the UN Statistical Commission endorsed a revised set of 247 indicators (231 unique) based on the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators.

The below table illustrates the follow-up on the indicators in Denmark, i.e. categorises the indicators according to the following criteria:

- Number of indicators with Danish data (number of indicators within each goal that can be monitored with Danish data);
- Not available – number of indicators where information currently cannot be obtained;
- Non-statistical – indicators for which follow-up is not within the domain of Statistics Denmark;
- Not relevant for Denmark – indicators that do not apply to Denmark.

Table: Data availability for the SDG follow-up in Denmark

	Sustainable Development Goals	Indicator with Danish data	Not available	Non-statistical	Not relevant for Denmark	Total number of indicators
1.	No poverty	2	2	9	-	13
2.	Zero hunger	8	1	5	-	14
3.	Good health and well-being	16	1	11	-	28
4.	Quality education	7	1	4	-	12
5.	Gender equality	8	-	6	-	14
6.	Clean water and sanitation	5	1	4	1	11
7.	Affordable and clean energy	2	1	3	-	6
8.	Decent work and economic growth	10	-	6	-	16
9.	Industry, innovation and infrastructure	10	-	2	-	12
10.	Reduced inequalities	6	3	4	1	14
11.	Sustainable cities and communities	4	2	8	-	14
12.	Responsible consumption and production	5	5	3	-	13
13.	Climate action	-	5	3	-	8
14.	Life below water	1	7	2	-	10
15.	Life on land	6	-	6	2	14
16.	Peace, justice and strong institutions	6	3	14	1	24
17.	Partnerships for the goals	10	6	5	3	24
	Total	**106**	**38**	**95**	**8**	**247**
	Per cent	**43**	**15**	**38**	**3**	**100**

3. Short on challenges

A complete statistical coverage of all the indicators supporting the SDGs is an extensive and long-term task. There are many factors influencing this situation, both at the international and national levels. At the national level, a good example is the fact that indicators are defined within a global framework, which is why it can be difficult to apply indicator requirements to national circumstances. Furthermore, the number of indicators necessitates a substantial effort in order to provide a satisfactory coverage, address the existing data gaps, and a far-reaching coordinative work among governmental agencies and other data providers.

There are also indicators that can be difficult to classify as statistical indicators in a strict sense. These are indicators regarding assessment of legislation or policies, and the answer to those can be 'yes' or 'no'. Here, unless the question regards some factual matters, the assessment of whether Denmark is compliant with this type of indicators lies beyond the mandate of Statistics Denmark. Therefore, the assessment provided builds either on international assessments or on a dialogue with relevant national organisations.

4. Complementary initiatives

Besides statistical follow-up on Sustainable Development Goals, Statistics Denmark is very involved in other activities promoting the 2030 Agenda and the numerical follow-up on it. Statistics Denmark is involved in various dialogues on the 2030 Agenda with a very broad range of stakeholders, including civil society, governmental organisations, municipalities and academia. Here an observer role in the 2030 Panel can be emphasized, the 2030 Panel being an advisory body established by the Danish Parliament's All-party Coalition for the Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, Statistics Denmark has established a Partnership for SDG data consisting of a wide range of stakeholders. The purpose of the Partnership is to exchange ideas on how the statistical follow-up can best reflect the societal development and needs.

During the last 1.5 years, Statistics Denmark was particularly involved in three projects:

- 'Our Goals' that defined a set of sustainable development indicators relevant for Denmark.
- 'The Danish business sector and the Sustainable Development Goals' with a focus on enterprises and the business sector in Denmark.
- Ministerial focused web site in collaboration with the Finance committee of the Parliament.

4.1. "Our Goals" project – identifying Danish indicators measuring progress towards the 2030 Agenda

Introduction

Parallel to the global outlook of the 2030 Agenda, the Agenda also encourages a more regional or national follow-up to address challenges and situations under country-specific circumstances. To address the challenges of the 2030 Agenda in a Danish context, the Danish Parliament has created the Danish Parliament's All-party Coalition for the Sustainable Development Goals called the 2030 Network, which aims to provide advice on the 2030 Agenda and its related sustainability matters to all members of the Danish Parliament. To support its work and to get a fuller picture of the 'sustainability landscape' in Denmark, the 2030 Network established an advisory body called the 2030 Panel, which consists of national experts in their respective domains.

It became apparent that even though the SDG indicators provide a good global picture, they do not completely cover the Danish challenges and ambitions in the 2030 Agenda. For this reason, the 2030 Panel commissioned a task of defining sustainable development indicators that were directly relevant for Denmark, i.e. taking full account of the Danish circumstances, characteristics, and production/consumption patterns. Furthermore, the ambition was to base the selection of the indicators on a broad input from Danish society, including civil society, the private sector, academia, government agencies, and the 'average Dane'.

Statistics Denmark was chosen to coordinate this task, and the organisation to execute the project was selected based on a tender. The tender and the project were supported by six foundations: Ramboll Foundation, Realdania, Lundbeckfonden, Nordea-fonden, Spar Nord Fonden, and the Danish Industry Foundation. In the process, Statistics Denmark received a number of applications from major consulting houses and was assisted in the selection by a legal adviser to the Danish government to ensure full transparency and legality. As a result, a consortium under the leadership of Deloitte became the executor of the project, which was subsequently named 'Our Goals'.

The "Our goals" project

The overall aim of the project is to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by adding indicators that are relevant for achieving the 2030 Agenda in a Danish context. The selection of the indicators built on a number of criteria, such as relevance, measurability, availability, trustworthiness, acceptance, and resources. They were selected by a broad range of stakeholders in Danish society and have been reviewed by experts and academia.

In order to ensure targeted and efficient communication, stakeholders were grouped into civil society, academia, government, municipalities, private sector (companies and associations/organisations) and the subsequent outreach was tailored to those groups. To enhance the understanding of the interrelationship between the goals, they were grouped into three clusters: our life (goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 16), our planet (goals 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, and 15'), and our society (goals 8, 9, 10, 11, and 17).

Based on various inputs, such as workshops and digital hearings, a first raw list of measuring points was identified. This raw list was subsequently circulated among stakeholders for consultation. Against this background, a revised list of measuring points was created and discussed with subject matter experts in Statistics Denmark and researchers attached to the project. This resulted in a 'net' list of measuring points that went out again for consultation. The results from the second consultation were again processed by subject matter experts and researchers, and the final list of measuring points was created. This process was repeated for all three clusters.

The project has spanned over 11 months of work, 23 debates and workshops, 17 debates on National Radio, a dedicated digital collaboration platform, 52 experts and the processing of more than 6,000 inputs from corporations, organisations and citizens. The result is a broadly anchored proposal for 197 Danish measuring points with information on their statistical development during a period of 10 years. Furthermore, 'Our Goals' also include proposals for 457 additional measuring points to be followed-up at a later stage.

"Our Goals" in the coming time

"Our Goals" is intended to appeal to a broad range of users, such as civil society, academia, the private sector, government agencies, schools and the population in general. Users can follow and implement society's progress towards the 2030 Agenda on a broad range of subjects. They can raise awareness on – or adapt to topics where Denmark is not on track to the 2030 Agenda.

One of the main aims of the project is also to serve as input for the update of the 'National Action Plan for the 2030 Agenda' by the Danish Government. The 'Our Goals' report was therefore officially handed over to the Danish Minister for Finance at a parliamentary conference on sustainability. The minister has expressed an interest in the results and willingness to incorporate the report into the Danish Action Plan.

The report can be found here.

4.2. "The Danish business sector and the Sustainable Development Goals" – publication from Statistics Denmark

For many years, corporate social responsibility (CSR) has been in focus. The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 has drawn new attention to the measurement of enterprises' impact on sustainability. Additionally, there is wide agreement among various stakeholders that the goals of the 2030 Agenda cannot be achieved without the involvement of the private sector. There are numerous initiatives designed to shed light on the activities of the private sector in relation to sustainability, including companies' own measurements, in an international context often referred to as Environmental, Social and Governance reporting (ESG-reporting). Complementary to this, existing statistics can clarify the development in various aspects of the private sector's contribution to sustainability, such as employment, the economy, development activities, environmental matters, working environment and gender equality.

This publication describes a number of these aspects statistically, thus providing a view across industries and across the SDGs. The primary purpose is to show the tendency of the development, but also to provide information about the high or low importance of various industries in the given context. By doing so, Statistics Denmark would like to provide knowledge about the effects of sustainability efforts in enterprises, in industrial and trade organisations, and in relevant authorities. Further, we want to contribute with knowledge for anyone with a general interest in business and sustainability and to inspire to similar analyses in other countries.

The publication is mainly inspired by a publication from UNCTAD: "Guidance on core indicators for entity reporting on contribution towards implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals" and describes the following themes: employment and the economy, transition to more sustainable production, greenhouse gases and energy consumption, water consumption and waste production, safety and health, gender equality and equal pay. Indicators in the areas are compiled for 14 types of industries, namely groups A to N in the ISIC-classification of business activities.

To a wide extent, the statistics included in the publication are based on data reported by the enterprises to Statistics Denmark or to administrative registers. Other statistics rely on data on the procurement of goods and services by Danish enterprises, in some cases supplemented with calculations of distribution by industry. In this way, there is a difference between what individual enterprises include in their own assessments and what can be compiled statistically for groups of enterprises. Accordingly, statistics cannot replace extended reporting by enterprises, but can be used for benchmarking. We have only used official statistics in this publication. Since new data is released on a continuous basis, it is possible to keep track of developments in the years to come. The main indicators are to be found on the SDG-platform and will be updated as newer results are produced for the statistics behind the indicators.

The report can be found here.

Overview: Positive or negative tendency in data in terms of the SDGs, by industry

Indicator	Total	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	Mining and quarrying	Manufacturing	Energy supply	Water, sewerage and waste	Construction	Wholesale and retail trade	Transportation	Accommodation and food serv.	Information and communication	Financial and insurance	Real estate activities	Knowledge-based services	Business services
Employment	↑	→	↑	↑	↓	↓	↑	↑	→	↑	↑	→	↑	↑	↑
Value added	↑	→	↓	↑	↓	→	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑
Research expenditure	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	↑	→	→	↓	↑	→	→	→
Environmental goods and serv.	↑	↑	-	↑	↑	↑	↑	-	-	-	-	-	-	↑	-
Donations	↑	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greenhouse gases/value added	↑	→	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Energy consumption/value added	↑	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Water consumption/value added	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Volume of waste/value added	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	↓	↑	→	↓	↑	↑
Accidents at work, frequency	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Sickness absence, men	↓	-	→	↓	→	→	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓
Gender distribution, reg. jobs	↓	-	↓	↑	↑	↑	→	→	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓
Gender distribution, senior management	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
Equal pay, regular jobs	↑	-	→	↑	↑	→	↑	↑	↑	↑	→	↑	↓	↑	↑

↑: Positive tendency ↓: Negative tendency ↓: Neutral/uncertain -: No information.
Note: The overview does not cover all indicators. More information and details in the individual chapters.

4.3. Involvement with decision-makers

Statistics Denmark supports members of the Danish Parliament with information about the SDGs and contributes to considerations about various initiatives that can enhance the Danish follow-up on the SDGs. Statistics Denmark participates in the meetings and assists various standing committees of the Danish Parliament in discussions on how to address the work on the SDGs from their respective domains. Furthermore, in order to ensure a quick overview for the Danish ministries, Statistics Denmark has elaborated a website allocating the SDG goals and targets to the areas of responsibility of individual ministries.

5. Way forward

A lot has happened since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the first Danish VNR report. At this moment, we feel that we can allow ourselves to be a little proud. Compilation of data for this report can be conducted quite fast, as it builds on extensive and up to date data from our Sustainable Development Goals platform. The data from the platform can easily be transformed to the needs of this statistical annex or similar reports. Nevertheless, there is still much to be done. To a higher degree, the platform and the subsequent statistical annexes shall be tailored to address user needs and quickly and responsively respond to various enquires. Furthermore, the dissemination of information and the visual aspects of the platform are some of the focal points in the coming time.

Statistics Denmark is also investigating the incorporation of data from unofficial data providers into the statistical follow-up on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Here, there is an ongoing dialogue in order to ensure, how Statistics Denmark and other data providers can jointly ensure the best contribution to and the communication of the statistical aspects of the 2030 Agenda.

6. Statistics

6.1. On data from administrative sources

Statistics Denmark produces most social statistics, a lot of business statistics and major inputs to economic statistics based on data from administrative sources.

At the core of the statistical production system are: The Civil Registration System, the Danish Building and Housing Register and the Central Business Register – based on unique identifiers for the population in Denmark, all buildings for housing and commercial use, and all businesses in Denmark.

The core registers can be supplemented by a huge variety of information on e.g. the population's education, labour market participation, and use of public services, like health care and social services as well as enterprises' recruitment of staff. All based on the use of the unique identifier attached to all entities in the statistical production system – this constitutes an agile and flexible production system for statistics.

All in all, the administrative data is disaggregated in its nature and facilitates disaggregation of statistics in general and particularly in order to follow up on the important pledge of 'leaving no one behind'. The detailed and disaggregated data from administrative sources can also be used to produce statistical time series and to follow developments year by year.

The majority of the indicators presented in this report are based on data from administrative sources with detailed data in any given year and consistent time series illustrating a development over a ten-year period (2010-2019).

6.2. The indicators and figures

This last section of the report presents the current statistical follow-up on the SDGs in Denmark.

Existing Danish statistics are the data source for the presented indicators.

In order to make the report as readable as possible, it was decided to present the data as figures with time series, where possible. The presented figures match the requested UN definition for the indicators. Some of the indicators are only presented in a descriptive way. This regards predominantly indicators/targets that can be perceived as accomplished from a Danish perspective.

Finally, for easy navigation in the text, the prevailing colour in the figures corresponds to the colour associated with the described goal.

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Target 1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than $1.25 a day

Indicator 1.1.1
Proportion of the population living below the international poverty line by sex, age, employment status and geographic location (urban/rural)

After adjustment for price development and international price differentials, the limit for extreme poverty in Denmark is approximately DKK 14 per day. Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics on extreme poverty. However, all people in Denmark has the right to receive social benefits that exceed extreme poverty. Therefore, Statistics Denmark estimates that very few people, if any, live in extreme poverty	0%

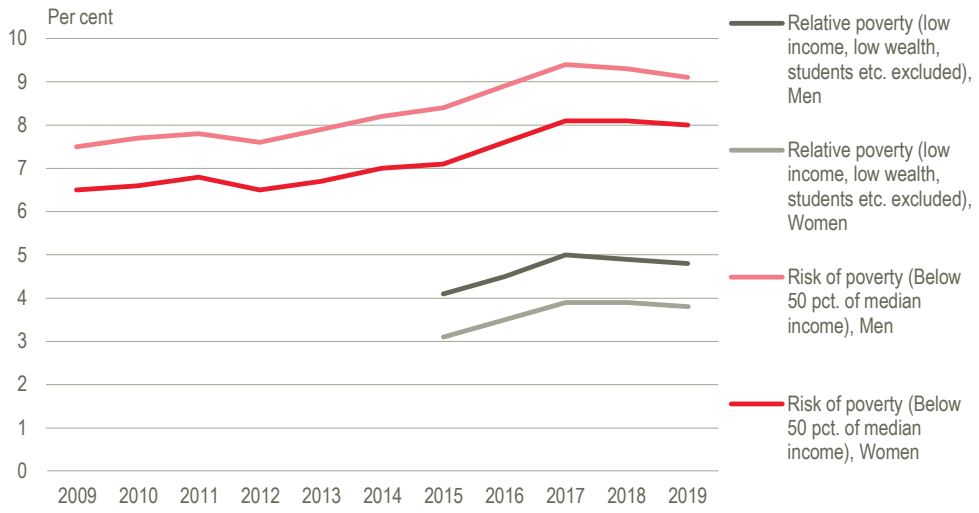
Target 1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

Indicator 1.2.1
Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age

Risk of Poverty is the classic indicator of the share below 50 per cent of the median income. The Danish indicator for relative poverty uses the same income threshold, but excludes students and households with net wealth above the same threshold. They are chosen as indicators for measuring economic social exclusion.

Relative poverty rates have been growing during the 2010s. This has in part been driven by lower income for young people between the age of 18 and 30. Another large contribution to the growth from 2015 has been from the large immigration of mostly Syrian refugees combined with the reintroduction of lower cash benefits for refugees and the cap on total cash benefits received in 2015 and 2016 respectively. Rising employment rates and lower immigration numbers are contributing factors to the slightly lower rates in 2018 and 2019.

Figure 1.2.1: Risk of poverty and relative poverty rates



Indicator 1.2.2
Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

Indicators on national poverty are all presented under indicator 1.2.1. Statistics Denmark is awaiting the results of an on-going work on creating a new national poverty indicator in the Ministry of Social Affairs. If a national poverty definition is decided upon, this will be presented under 1.2.1 and any of our current indicators that do not overlap the official definition will be presented in 1.2.2.	n/a

Target 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

Indicator 1.3.1
Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable

All citizens in Denmark have access to a social protection system (social security benefits).	100%

Target 1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance

Indicator 1.4.1
Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services

It is estimated that at least 99 per cent of Danish Households have access to running water within 30 minutes, sanitation facilities, basic hygiene, electricity waste collection, roads, basic healthcare and education. In recent years, an annual IT-survey has shown that 93 to 98 per cent of Danish households with 16-74 year olds have access to the internet.	100%

Indicator 1.4.2
Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure

The citizens' equal access to land rights is ensured by the Danish Registration of Property Act of 1927. However, continuous and official statistics on the perception of land rights are not being compiled.	✓

Target 1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

Indicator 1.5.1
Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population

Disaster means serious disruption of the functioning of a community or society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts that exceed the affected community or society's ability to cope with the disaster without outside assistance. Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics on the number of dead, missing and affected persons in connection with disasters. However, Statistics Denmark estimates that very few people die or go missing due to disasters.	0%

Indicator 1.5.2
Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP)

Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator.	n/a

Indicator 1.5.3

Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

According to the Danish Emergency Management Agency, Denmark does not systematically comply with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030a. However, many of the sub-elements of the Sendai framework are used as part of Denmark's prevention of disasters and risks.	÷

Indicator 1.5.4

Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies

According to the Danish Emergency Management Agency, there is no general national strategy for disaster risk reduction for municipalities to follow. However, many municipalities prepare their own e.g. prevention and climate adaptation strategies.	÷

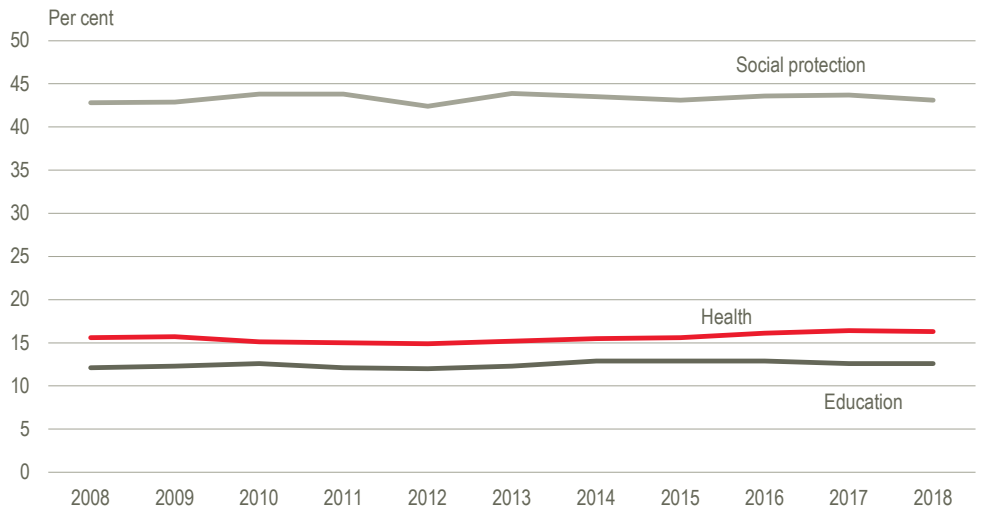
Target 1.a Ensure significant mobilisation of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions

Indicator 1.a.2

Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)

The figure shows that the proportion of total government spending used on education and health is relatively stable over time. In the timespan covered by the figure, between 14.9 and 16.4 per cent of total spending is used on health services and between 12.0 and 12.9 per cent is used on education. The proportion used on social protection is also stable over time despite the fact that it is affected by economic recessions and economic growth. The proportion for social protection varies between 42.4 and 43.9 per cent in the time span covered by the figure.

Figure 1.a.2: Proportion of total government spending used on education, health and social protection



Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Target 2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round

Indicator 2.1.1
Prevalence of undernourishment

Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator. However, organisations such as Ældresagen, which is a Danish national organisation of senior citizens, point out that elderly people admitted to hospital risk being undernourished. Data is available on the extent of underweight in Denmark. It is estimated that 2.4 per cent of the population was underweight in 2017.	n/a

Indicator 2.1.2
Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)

Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator. However, Statistics Denmark estimates that food insecurity is not common in Denmark.	0%

Target 2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons

Indicator 2.2.1
Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age

To the best of our knowledge, there are no such statistics for 0-5 year-old children, since general practitioners are not obligated to report data on height/weight for children older than one year. Data (from the general practitioners) is available from the Danish Health Data Authority's database on children aged 0-1.	n/a

Indicator 2.2.2
Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height >+2 or <-2 standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight)

To the best of our knowledge, there is no database on the extent of malnutrition in Denmark. Health visitors and general practitioners register this information, but aggregate data is not available.	n/a

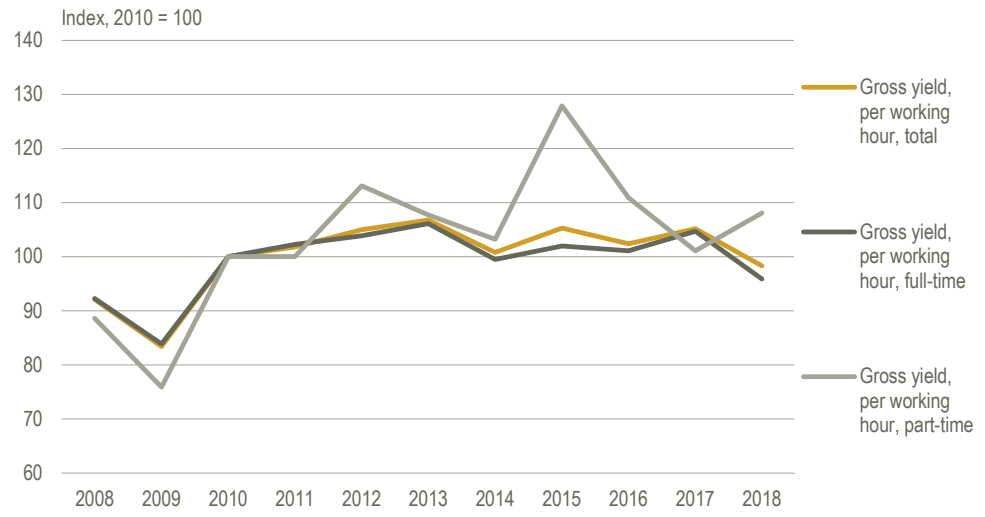
Target 2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment

Indicator 2.3.1
Volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size

The Danish farmers' productivity has increased in the recent ten years measured as gross yield pr. working hour adjusted for inflation by about ten per cent since 2010. This is a normal tendency in agriculture, where new technology is introduced and where small and less productive farmers currently stop their activities, leaving behind the land and livestock to bigger farms and thus allowing for big scale advantages to take over. The productivity might fluctuate quite considerably from one year to another so the increased productivity is a long term trend. Interesting enough, the increase in productivity for part time farms has been biggest. There is

no certain explanation for that but maybe the scope for better productivity has been biggest for small farms.

Figure 2.3.1: Gross yield per working hour

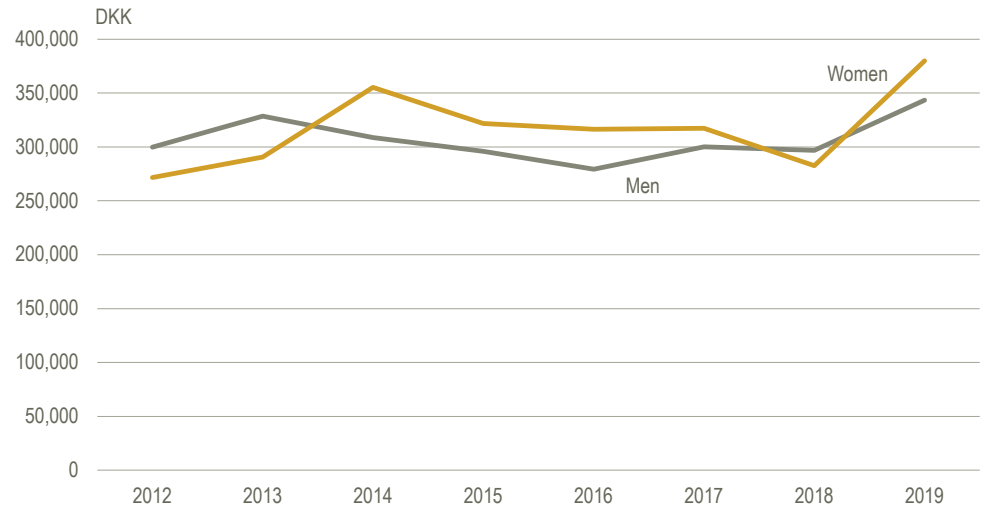


Indicator 2.3.2

Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status

In the last ten years, small farmers and fishermen have experienced an increase in income of 14 per cent from 2012 to 2019. The income might consist of both farm income and income from non-agricultural work, for instance from wage earner jobs outside agriculture. The income rise has been significantly bigger for women with 40 per cent against 15 per cent for men. The reason for this development is unknown but maybe better job opportunities and lower unemployment simply have favoured women in particular.

Figure 2.3.2: Average income of small-scale food producers

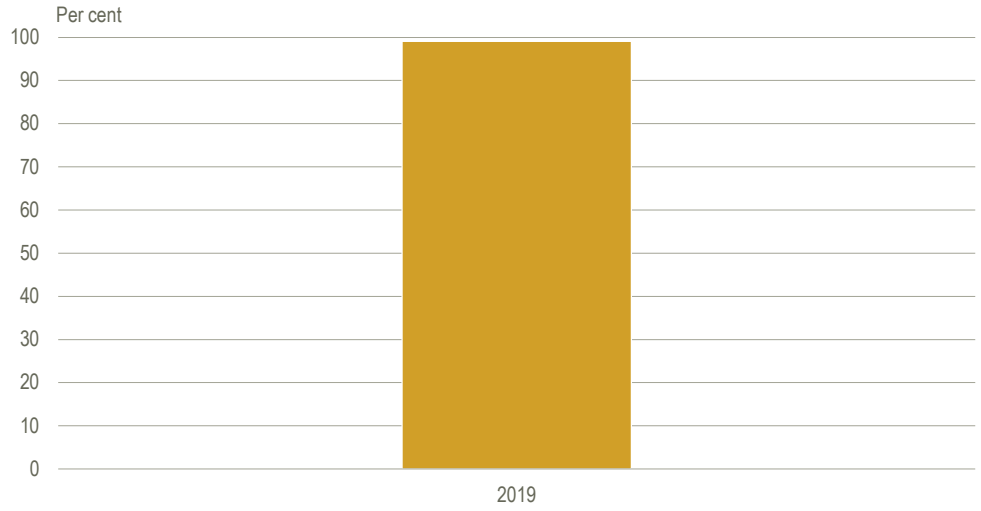


Target 2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality

Indicator 2.4.1
Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture

The indicator consists of 11 sub-indicators divided into three main dimensions: economic, environmental and social. In Denmark, the indicator has been calculated for 2019. It has only been possible to calculate 10 of the 11 sub-indicators. Denmark does not have surveys targeted directly at obtaining information for this indicator, which is why existing data sources have been used to make estimates in combination with expert judgement. In 2019, the proportion of the agricultural land area under productive and sustainable agriculture is estimated to be 99.1 per cent, which is within the category "Desirable" by the UN definition.

Figure 2.4.1: Proportion of the agricultural land area under productive and sustainable agriculture



Target 2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed

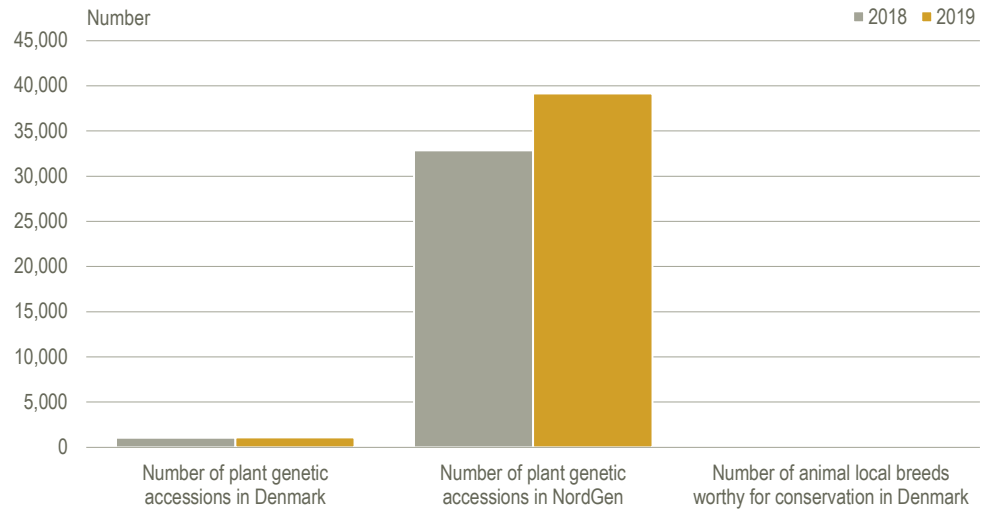
Indicator 2.5.1
Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium- or long-term conservation facilities

Conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture is processed by conserving the material either as seeds or as vegetative material, that is as living plants. Denmark's plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, which can be conserved as seeds, are conserved in the joint Nordic seed gene bank in the Nordic Genetic Resource Center, NordGen, and are considered as common Nordic material. In 2019, NordGen had 39,164 accessions, which was 19 per cent higher than in 2018. There are two central national clone collections with a total of 1,103 accessions in 2019 of vegetative material of fruit and berries, one at Pometet at the Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences, University of Copenhagen, the other at the

Collection of Vegetables at the Department of Food, University of Aarhus. Compared to 2018, the collection increased by 6 per cent.

Conservation of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture includes both conservation of living animals and cryo-conservation of material in gene banks that is as frozen semen, eggs or embryos. In Denmark, conservation work with the old Danish breeds of livestock is focused primarily on preserving viable populations. The living animals of the Danish old conservation-worthy animal genetic resources are primarily preserved by private owners / breeders or public institutions such as museums. In Denmark, 12 animal species within animal genetic resources for food and agriculture are considered worthy for conservation. Included in the 12 animal species are 25 Danish local domestic animal breeds, which are divided into 5 cattle breeds, 2 pig breeds, 2 sheep breeds, 1 goat breed, 3 horse breeds, 6 poultry breeds including chickens, ducks, geese, pigeons, 1 rabbit breed, 4 dog breeds and 1 bee race breed.

Figure 2.5.1: Number of plant genetic accessions and animal local breeds worthy for conservation



Indicator 2.5.2
Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk of extinction

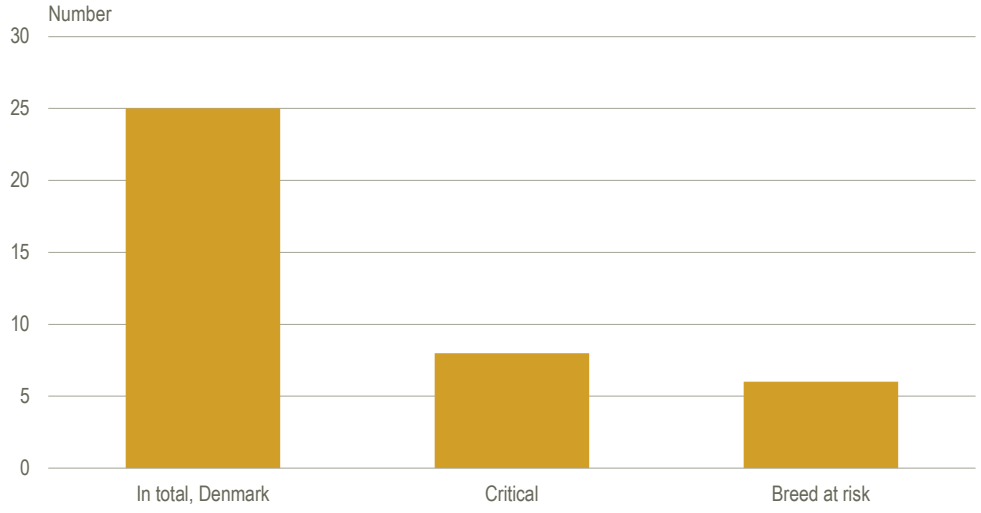
Working with conservation of livestock breeds requires a certain critical mass compared to the number of animal breeders involved – just like the size of the population is the one parameter that is most important to establish the risk overview. If the work of conservation for certain breeds is less than the critical mass, it will be very difficult to re-establish the breed and the genes will be lost forever.

Compared to FAO's risk classification, the size of the population has been set for 2018 figures. Of the 25 local Danish breeds of livestock, 8 breeds are classified as critical of extinction and 6 local Danish breeds of livestock are classified as breed at risk. However, it has to be noted that due to lack of information on the size of the population of breeds it is not possible to classify all local Danish breeds of livestock according to the FAO classification and as such it is not possible to calculate the true proportions within the risk classification. The indicator is therefore visualized as number of breeds and not as proportions.

The indicator is not fully in compliance with the UN definition which requires that data has to be based on the most updated figures in FAO's Global Databank for Animal Genetic Resources (DAD-IS). The Danish figures in DAD-IS are not

adequate, which is why this indicator is based on information from the Danish Agricultural Agency only.

Figure 2.5.2: Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk of extinction

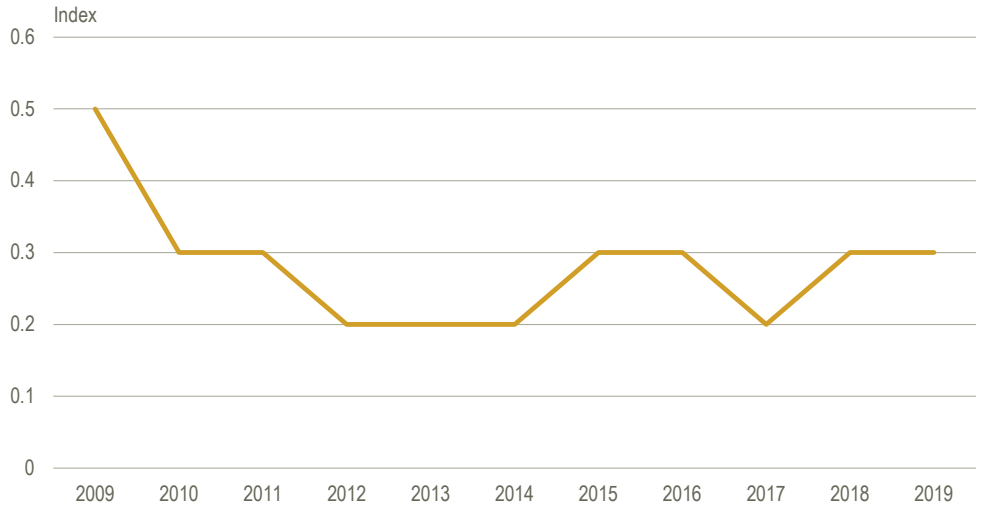


Target 2.a Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries

Indicator 2.a.1
The agriculture orientation index for government expenditures

The figure shows that the agriculture orientation index for government expenditures has decreased from 0.5 in 2009 to 0.2 in 2012. Since 2012, the index has been relatively stable. This means that the government support to agriculture has decreased from 2009 to 2012 adjusted for the relative importance of agriculture calculated as the value added share of GDP. Since 2012, the government support to agriculture has been relatively stable.

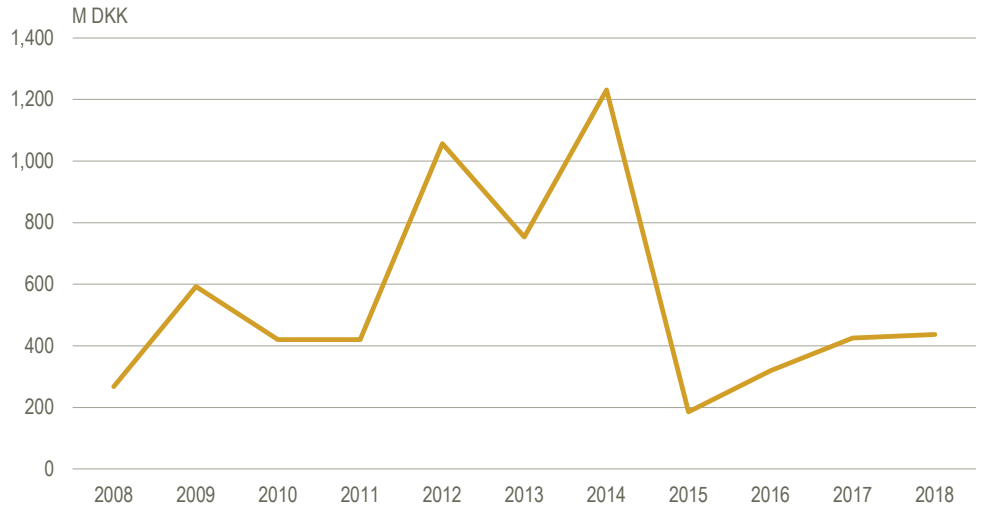
Figure 2.a.1: The agriculture orientation index for government expenditures



Indicator 2.a.2
Total official flows (official development assistance plus other official flows) to the agriculture sector

The total official flow from all donors to the agriculture sector in developing countries is – as the figure shows – highly volatile. The amounts vary between 267 million DKK and 1,231 million DKK. The variation is due to the fact that the aid to the agriculture sector in developing countries is only a small part of total development aid and is therefore very sensitive to e.g. the introduction and closure of schemes. The development in total official aid is very stable on the contrary.

Figure 2.a.2: Total official flow from all donors to the agriculture sector in developing countries



Target 2.b Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round

Indicator 2.b.1
Agricultural export subsidies

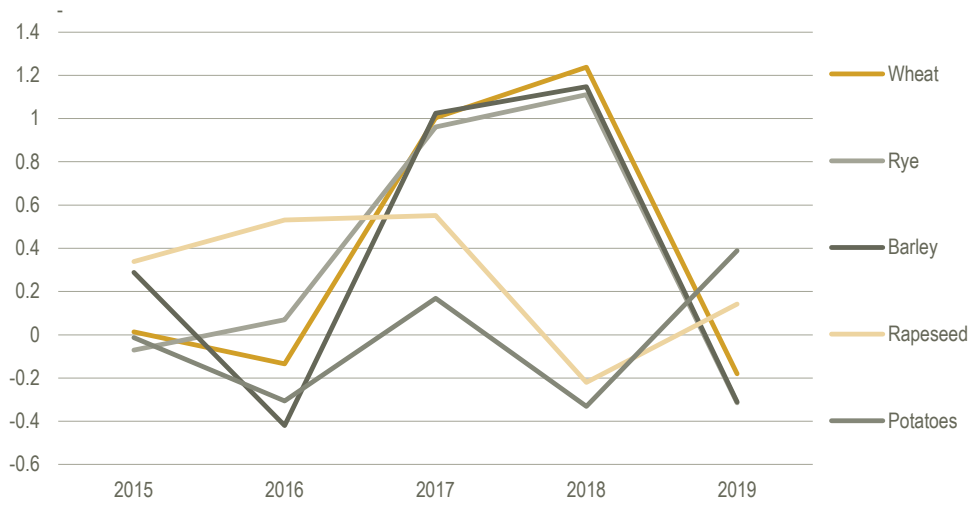
Denmark has no agricultural export subsidies.	0%

Target 2.c Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility

Indicator 2.c.1
Indicator of food price anomalies

The indicator of price anomalies (IFPA) should not be the only source of information for analysing market dynamics. It may be a guide to understand the market dynamics and whether a food price in a particular market at a given time is abnormally high or low. In Denmark, IFPA has been calculated for five agricultural food items: wheat, rye, barley, rapeseed and potatoes using monthly prices in DKK per 100 kg. If IFPA is between -0.5 and 0.5, the prices are assessed to be “normal”, and if IFPA is between 0.5 and 1, the prices are assessed to be “moderately high”, and if IFPA is above 1.0, then prices are assessed to be “abnormally high”. Taking into account the drought in 2018, which affected the prices, the development in prices may be assessed to be normal in the past five years, indicating that market dynamics are working as expected.

Figure 2.c.1: Indicator of food price anomalies



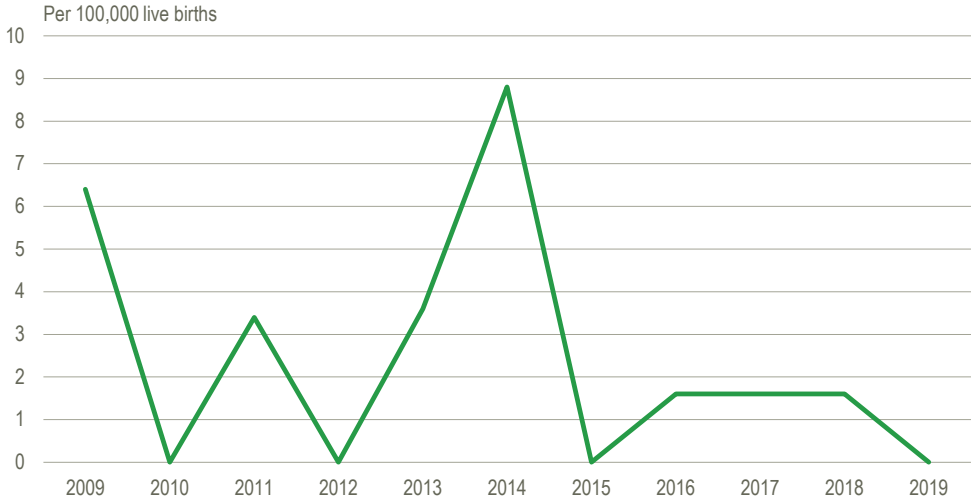
Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Target 3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births

Indicator 3.1.1
Maternal mortality ratio

There are major variations from one year to the next, since the number of women who die in connection with pregnancy and birth is very low. In the last ten years, 16 women in total have died in connection with pregnancy or birth. Being well below the maximum limit, Denmark thus meets the maternal mortality ratio target of a maximum of 70 deaths per 100,000 live births.

Figure 3.1.1: Number of women who die in connection with pregnancy and birth



Indicator 3.1.2
Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

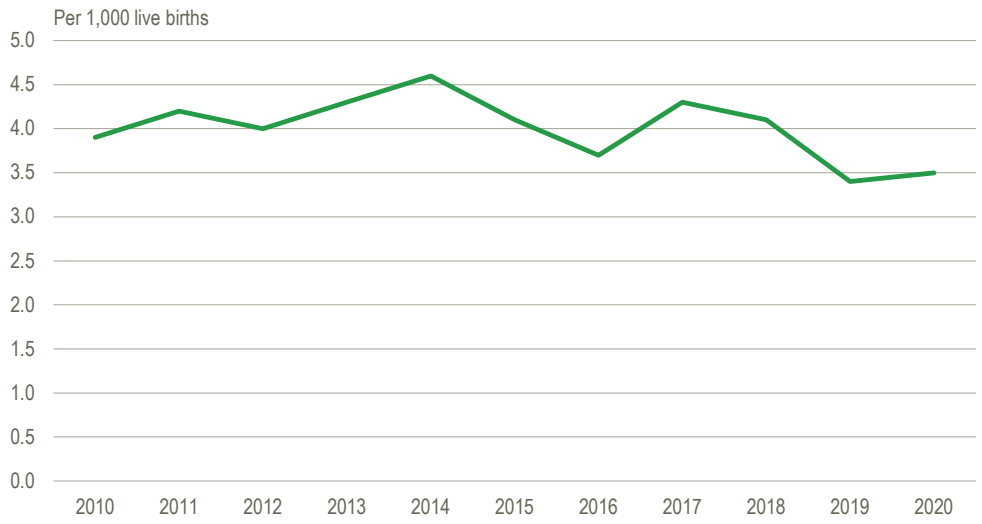
According the Danish Health Data Authorities, Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics about births with assistance from health care professionals. However, the authorities estimate that the figure is very high.	100%

Target 3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births

Indicator 3.2.1
Under-5 mortality rate

The under-5 mortality rate has been very stable over the last ten years. All of the years, the rate was below five children per 1,000 live births. Being well below the maximum limit, Denmark thus meets the under-5 mortality rate target of a maximum of 12 deaths per 1,000 live births.

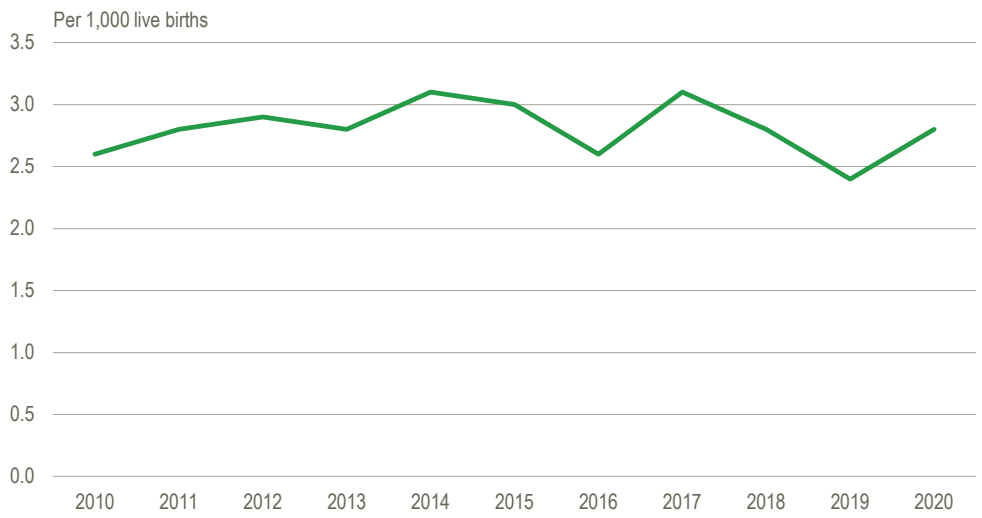
Figure 3.2.1: Under-5 mortality rate



Indicator 3.2.2
Neonatal mortality rate

The neonatal mortality rate for infants within the first 28 days of their lives has been very stable for the last decade. All of the years, the rate was approximately three children per 1,000 live-born children. Being well below the maximum limit, Denmark thus meets the neonatal mortality rate target of a maximum of 25 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Figure 3.2.2: Neonatal mortality rate

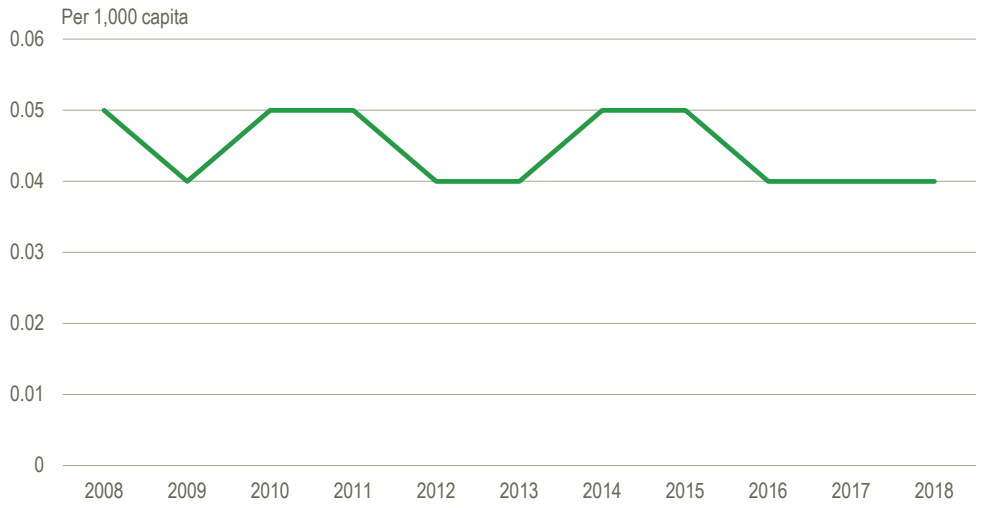


Target 3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases

Indicator 3.3.1
Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations

The share of new HIV infections was at a stable level throughout the period.

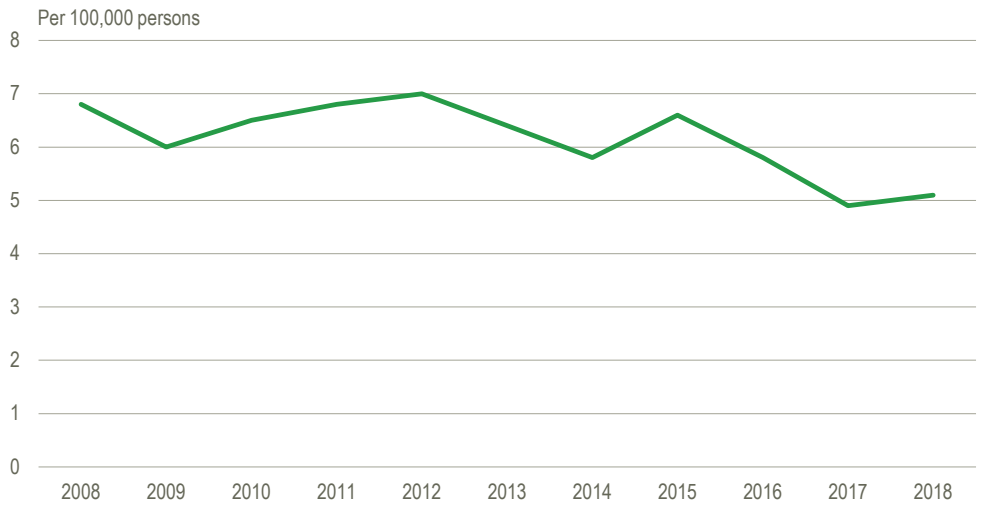
Figure 3.3.1: Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population



Indicator 3.3.2
Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population

There is a decreasing trend in the incidence of tuberculosis over the period.

Figure 3.3.2: Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population



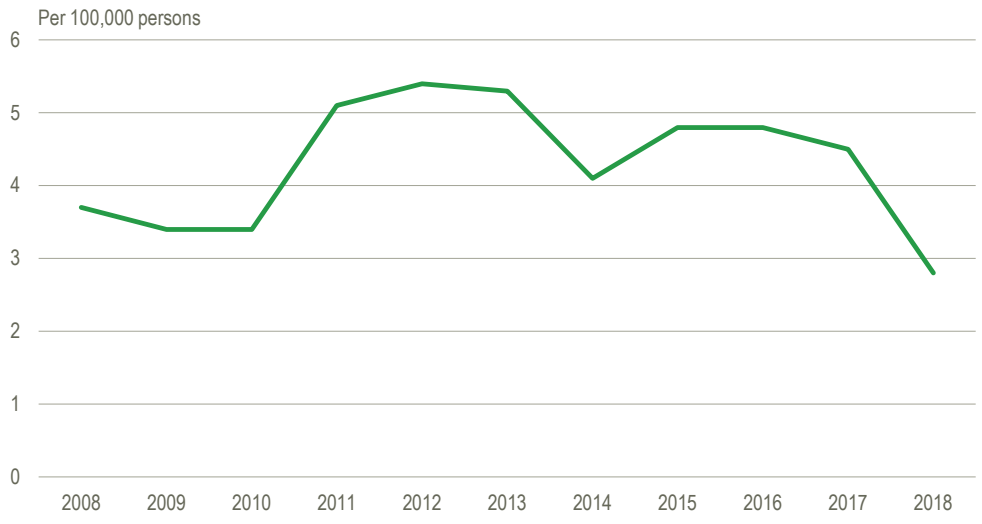
Indicator 3.3.3
Malaria incidence per 1,000 population

According to Statens Serum Institut (SSI), approximately 80-100 new cases of malaria are recorded in Denmark each year. These are due to travelling in malarious areas.	100%

Indicator 3.3.4
Hepatitis B incidence per 100,000 population

After a period from 2011-2017 with a Hepatitis B incidence of 4.5-5.4 per 100,000 persons there is a decrease in 2018 to 2.8.

Figure 3.3.4: Hepatitis B incidence per 100,000 population



Indicator 3.3.5

Number of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases

In general, neglected tropical diseases are non-existent in Denmark. The diagnosed diseases are found among foreign travellers or returning tourists.	0%

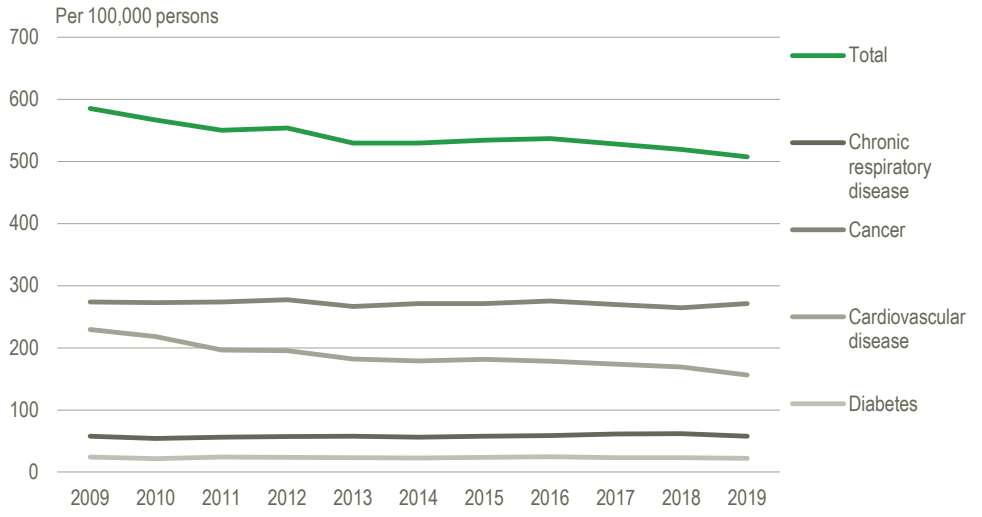
Target 3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being

Indicator 3.4.1

Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease

Over the last ten years, the mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease has dropped by 13 per cent. In 2009, the rate was 585 per 100,000 persons, and in 2019, it had dropped to 508 per 100,000 persons. The aim is to reduce this by one third by 2030. In this way, Denmark has made some progress towards this aim.

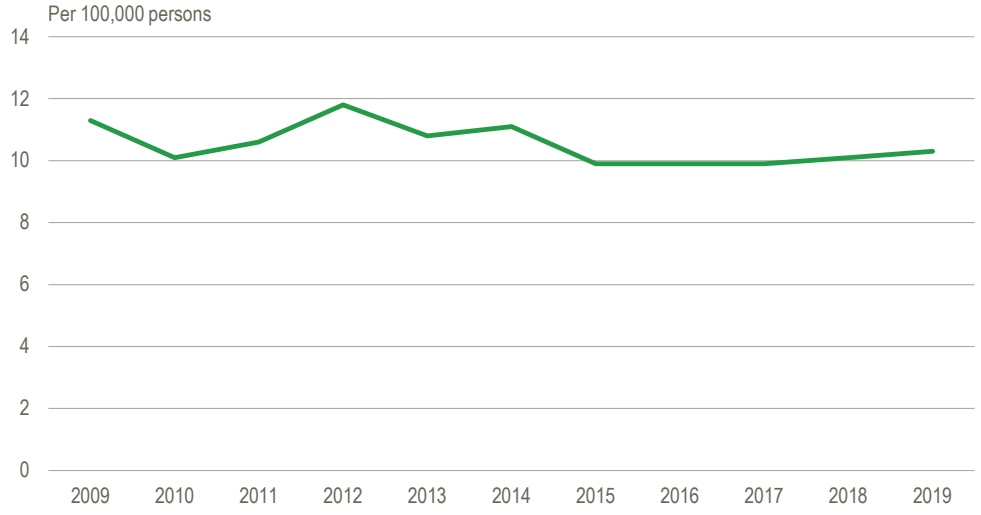
Figure 3.4.1: Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease



Indicator 3.4.2
Suicide mortality rate

The suicide mortality rate has been at a very stable level in the last ten years. All of the years, the rate was in the range of 10 to 12 per 100,000 persons.

Figure 3.4.2: Suicide mortality rate



Target 3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol

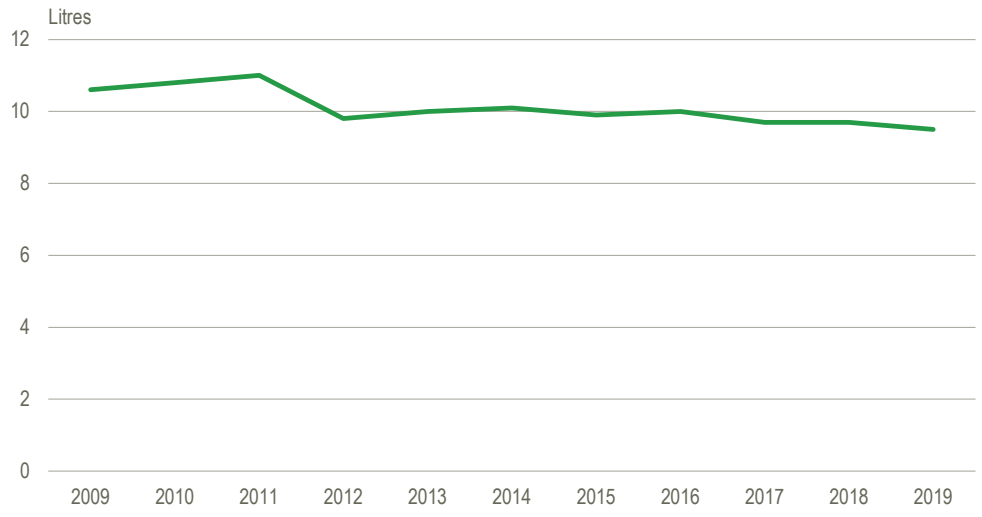
Indicator 3.5.1
Coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psychosocial and rehabilitation and aftercare services) for substance use disorders

According to the Danish Health Authorities, continuous and official statistics are not compiled on the coverage of treatment interventions for alcohol and substance use disorders in Denmark.	n/a

Indicator 3.5.2
Alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol

The figure shows a decline in the consumption of alcohol by Danish citizens above the age of 18, from 10.6 litres per persons in 2009 to 9.5 litres per person in 2019. I.e. a reduction of 1.1 litres per person over a period of ten years. Especially from 2011 to 2012, there was a large drop in the alcohol consumption which was, most likely, due to rather large increases in the tax rates for beer and wine.

Figure 3.5.2: Consumption of alcohol by Danish citizens above the age of 18

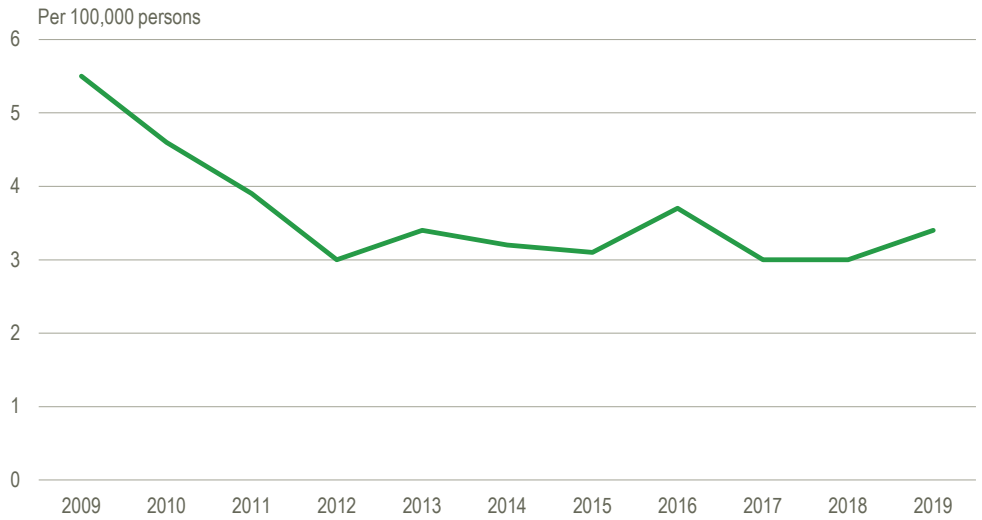


Target 3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents

Indicator 3.6.1
Death rate due to road traffic injuries

In the last ten years, the death rate due to traffic injuries declined by 38 per cent. In 2009, the rate was 5.5 cases per 100,000 persons, and in 2019, it had dropped to 3.4 cases per 100,000 persons.

Figure 3.6.1: Death rate due to road traffic injuries



Target 3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

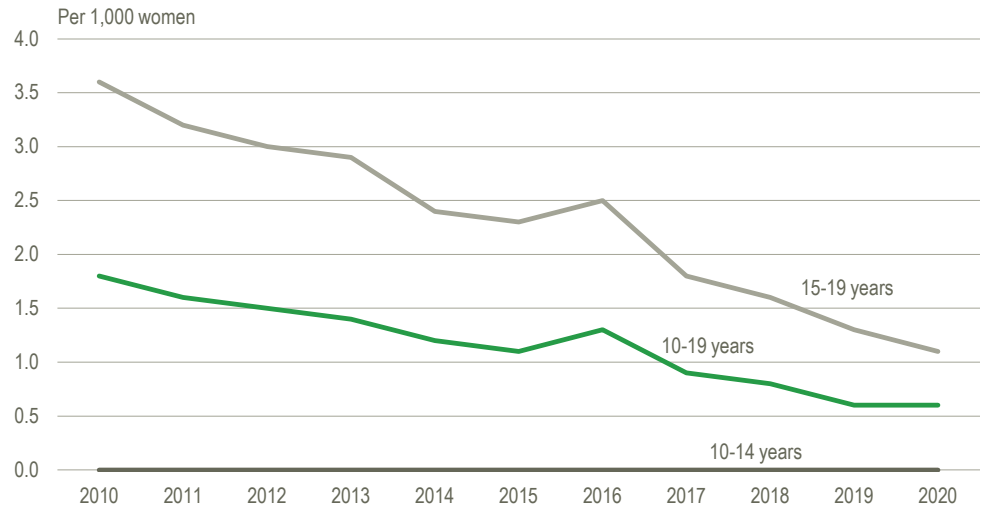
Indicator 3.7.1
Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods

Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics on women's need for family planning. However, all citizens in Denmark have access to free medical assistance and abortion as well as free access to modern contraception against payment.	100%

Indicator 3.7.2
Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group

The share of adolescent women aged 15-19 who have had a child in the last ten years has declined by 69 per cent. In 2010, the share was 3.6 per 1,000 women, and in 2020, it had dropped to 1.1 per 1,000 women.

Figure 3.7.2: Adolescent birth rate per 1,000 women



Target 3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

Indicator 3.8.1
Coverage of essential health services

Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics on essential health care services (the fourteen tracer interventions). However, all citizens in Denmark have free access to essential health care services.	100%

Indicator 3.8.2
Proportion of population with large household expenditures on health as a share of total household expenditure or income

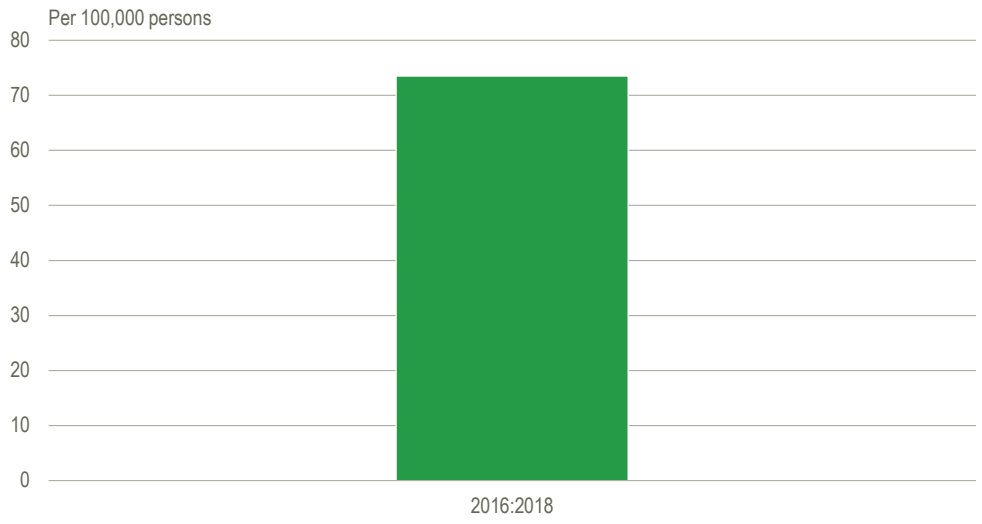
Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator. However, Statistics Denmark estimates – on the basis of the National Household Budget Survey – that few people, if any, pay more than 10 per cent of their household expenses or income on health care services.	0%

Target 3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

Indicator 3.9.1
Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution

The mortality rate due to air pollution is currently available for 2016-2018 and is 73.5 cases per 100,000 persons.

Figure 3.9.1: Mortality rate due to air pollution



Indicator 3.9.2

Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) services)

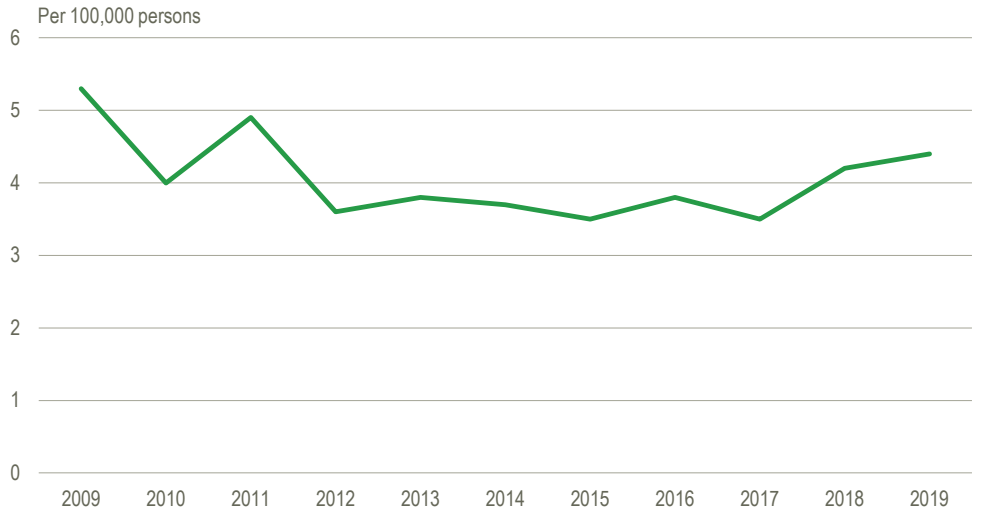
Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics on the mortality rate directly attributable to unsafe water or unsafe sanitation. However, Statistics Denmark estimates – on the basis on statistics from the World Health Organisation and Global Health Observatory – that very few people, if any, die as a direct consequence of unsafe water or unsafe sanitation.	0%

Indicator 3.9.3

Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning

The mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning has been at a very stable level in the last ten years. All of the years, the rate was between 3.5 and 5.3 per 100,000 persons.

Figure 3.9.3: Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning

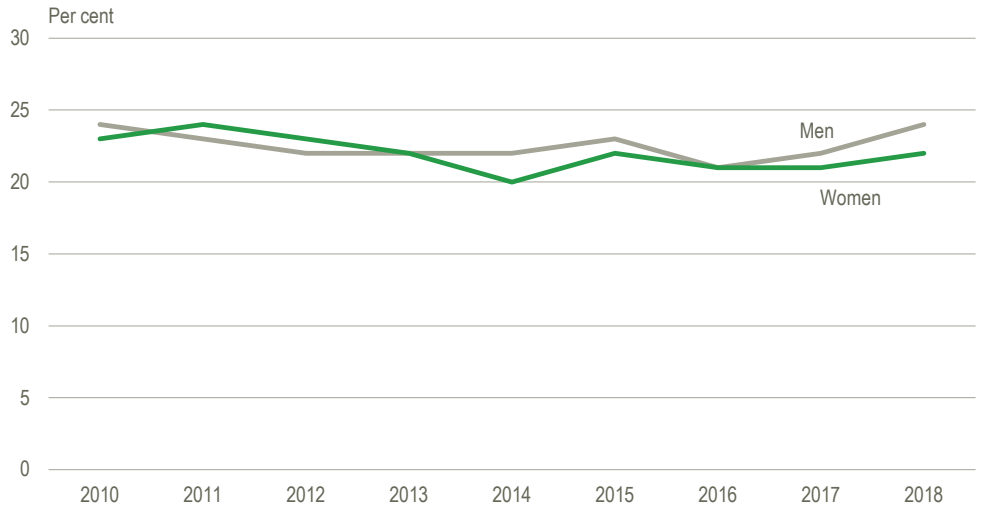


Target 3.a Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate

Indicator 3.a.1
Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older

The prevalence of smoking is at a similar level for men and women, though 1-2 per cent point higher for men except in 2011 and 2012. There was a marginally decreasing tendency from 2011 to 2014. Since 2016, there was an increase especially for men.

Figure 3.a.1: Prevalence of smoking

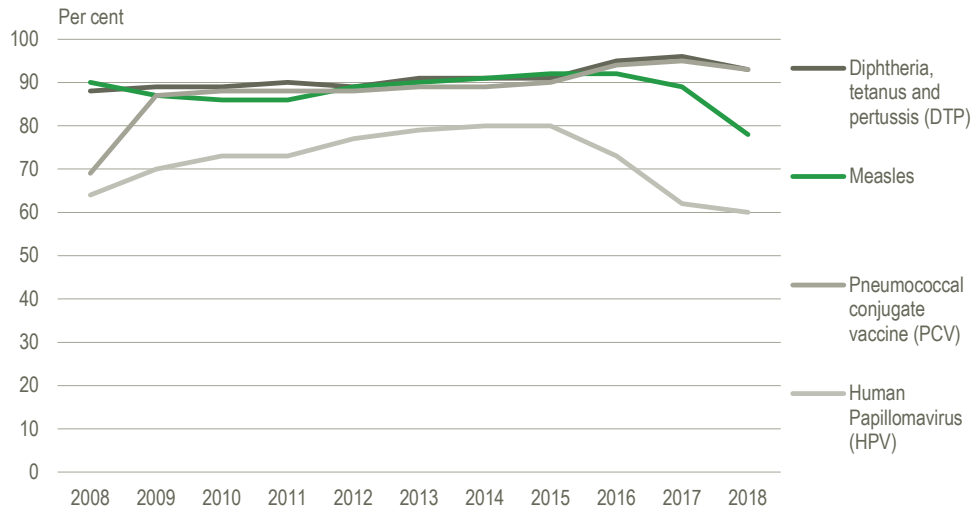


Target 3.b Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all

Indicator 3.b.1
Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national programme

Generally, the proportion covered by vaccines is high and above 90 per cent. This is not the case for HPV, which furthermore decreased from 2015 and is only 60 per cent in 2018. The proportion covered by measles vaccination decreased from 2016 and was 78 per cent in 2018. This is expected to be due to some groups' scepticism about this particular vaccination.

Figure 3.b.1: Proportion covered by vaccines

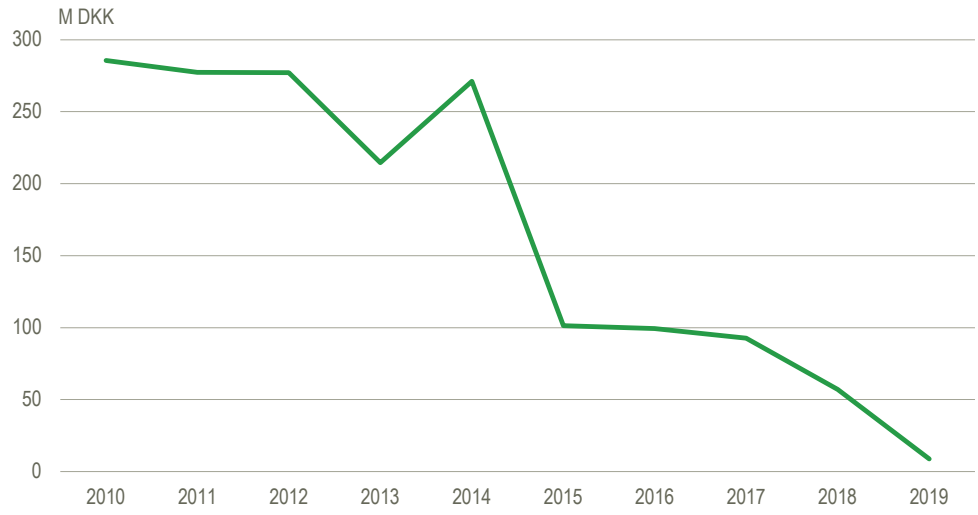


Indicator 3.b.2

Total net official development assistance to medical research and basic health sectors

The figure shows the net Official Development Assistance (ODA) from Denmark to the medical research and basic health sectors. The large decline from 2015 onwards is primarily due to a large fall in the basic health care category, which is defined as basic and primary health care programmes, paramedical and nursing care programmes, supply of drugs, medicines and vaccines related to basic health care, and activities aimed at achieving universal health coverage. The large decline in ODA to medical research and basic health sectors is mainly due to less public sector aid, but also less aid from NGOs and civil society is a significant factor in the decline.

Figure 3.b.2: Total net official development assistance to medical research and basic health sectors



Indicator 3.b.3

Proportion of health facilities that have a core set of relevant essential medicines available and affordable on a sustainable basis

Note that there may be health factors creating periods of peak demand during which the stock of medicine may be insufficient.	100%

Target 3.c Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States

Indicator 3.c.1
Health worker density and distribution

In Denmark, there is an even distribution of health workers throughout all regions. Waiting time may occur for certain types of hospital treatment, and some municipalities occasionally experience a shortage of doctors, but in case of acute need, everybody can be referred to immediate medical audit.	✓

Target 3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

Indicator 3.d.1
International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness

According to the WHO, the average value for 13 core capacity indicators from 2010-2017, is 90 per cent in Denmark.	100%

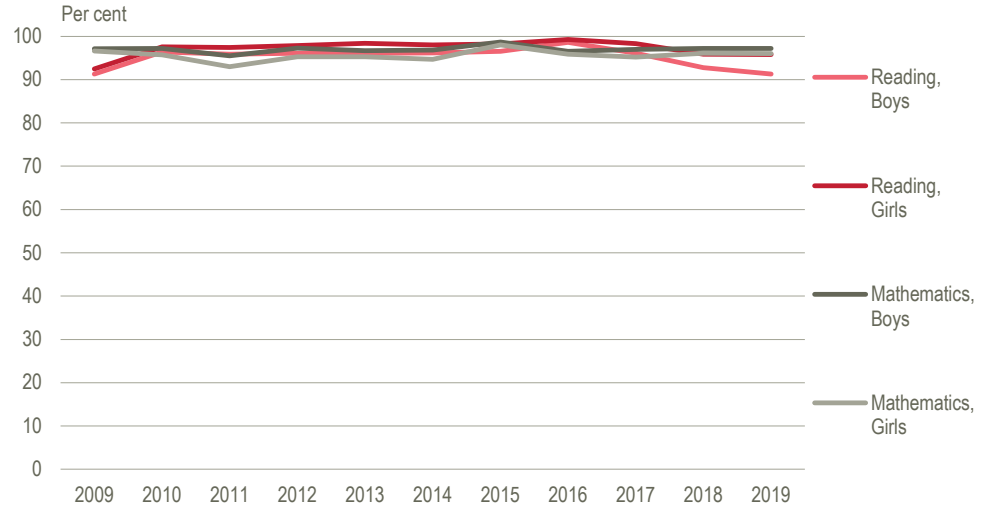
Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Target 4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

Indicator 4.1.1
Proportion of children and young people (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex

Data pertaining to the final examinations of pupils who have completed grade 9 in Danish primary schools in 2009-2019 show that over 90 per cent of all pupils achieve at least a minimum proficiency level in reading and mathematics respectively every year. Furthermore, the proportion is generally stable through the entire period with minor yearly fluctuations. Throughout the period, the proportion of girls achieving a minimum proficiency level in reading is between 0.7 and 4.5 per cent points higher than that of boys. In contrast, the proportion of boys who achieve a minimum proficiency level in mathematics in the period is between 0.5 and 2.5 per cent points higher than that of girls.

Figure 4.1.1: The final examinations of pupils who have completed grade 9 in Danish primary schools



Target 4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education

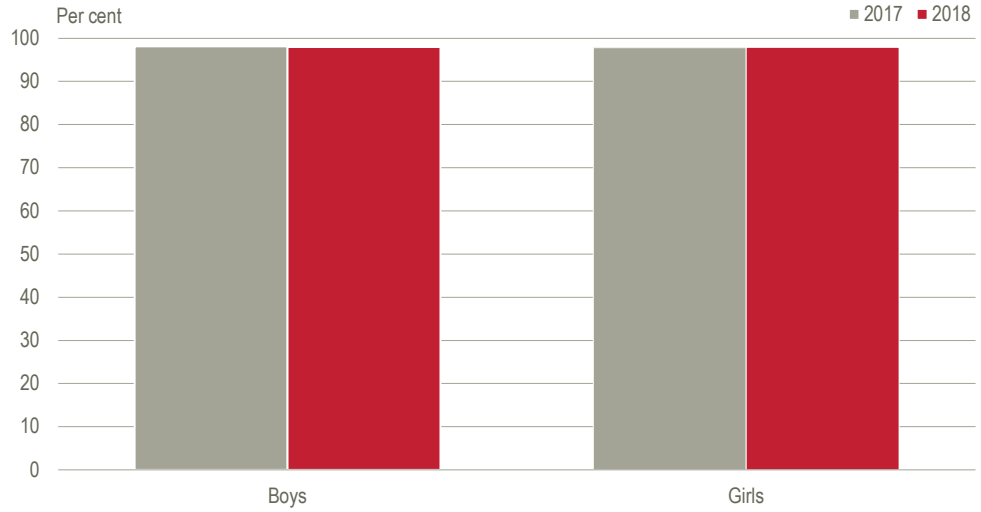
Indicator 4.2.1
Proportion of children aged 24-59 months who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, by sex

Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator. However, childcare in or outside the home is available for all children in Denmark. Family day care and childcare institutions are under supervision and subject to care quality requirements, and competent professional individuals follow the children's well-being and learning.	n/a

Indicator 4.2.2
Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex

In 2017, the participation rate for children in day-care facilities was 98 per cent for boys and 98 per cent for girls. In 2018, the numbers where similar. In general, Denmark scores high on indicator 4.2.2: participation in organized learning for both boys and girls, and the numbers have not change in the period of observation.

Figure 4.2.2: Participation rate for children in day-care facilities



Target 4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university

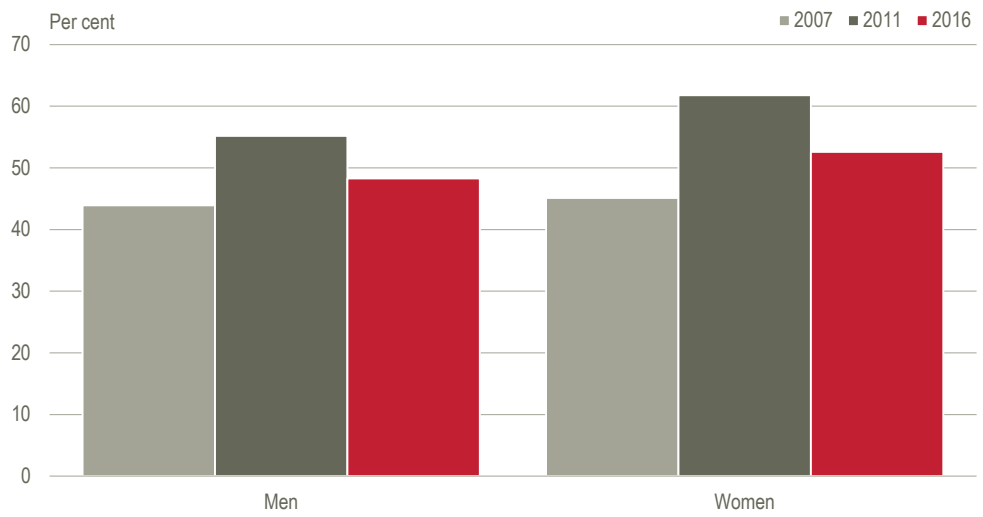
Indicator 4.3.1
Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex

The share for participation in formal or non-formal continuing education for both men and women between the age of 25 and 64 has increased from 2007 to 2016. The share of women who participated in formal or non-formal continuing education has increased from around 45 per cent in 2007 to around 53 per cent in 2016. The equivalent share for men was 44 per cent in 2007 and 48 per cent in 2016.

However, the share for participation in formal or non-formal continuing education has decreased from 2011 to 2016. This applies for both men and women between the age of 25 and 64.

The share of women who participated in formal or non-formal continuing education has decreased from around 62 per cent in 2011 to around 53 per cent in 2016. The equivalent share for men was 55 per cent in 2011 and 48 per cent in 2016. Formal education is education programmes that lead to publicly approved exams or qualifications. Non-formal education is e.g. courses, seminars and workshops.

Figure 4.3.1: Participation in formal or non-formal continuing education



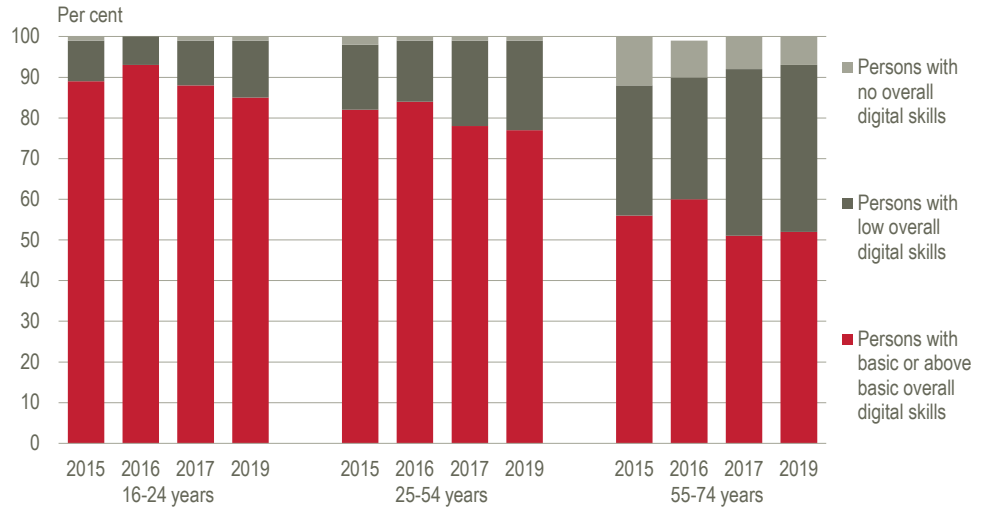
Target 4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship

Indicator 4.4.1

Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill

Danes' digital skills are fairly high, in particular in the younger age group (16-24 years) where four out of five people have basic or above basic digital skills. The level of digitals skills decreases with age. Denmark performs well and above the EU average on digital skills, regardless of age. The country's performance is influenced by several factors, among others a number of recent national initiatives to enhance the digital skills and digital literacy of citizens. Obligatory digital public services are also considered as main drivers for improved digital skills.

Figure 4.4.1: Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills



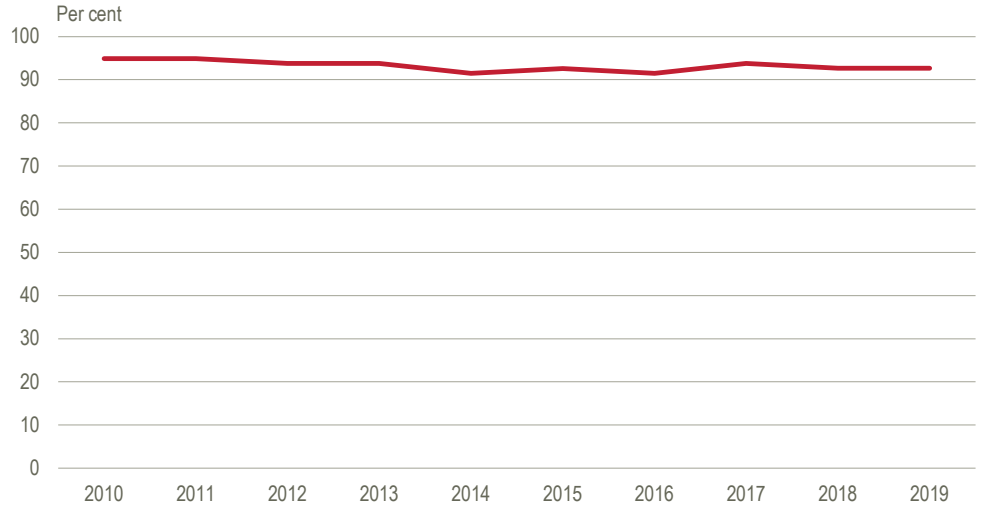
Target 4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations

Indicator 4.5.1
Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status, indigenous peoples and conflict-affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated

Access to education in Denmark is free and equal for men and women. Yet there is a difference in the level of education between men and women. This indicator describes gender disparities in education and is calculated as the proportion of 35-year-old men with a professional qualification relative to the proportion of 35-year-old women with a professional qualification.

Throughout the period, the proportion of women with a professional qualification has been higher than that of men. This tendency increased from 2010 until 2014 but from 2016 the tendency has declined

Figure 4.5.1: Proportion of 35-year-old men with a professional qualification relative to the proportion of 35-year-old women with a professional qualification



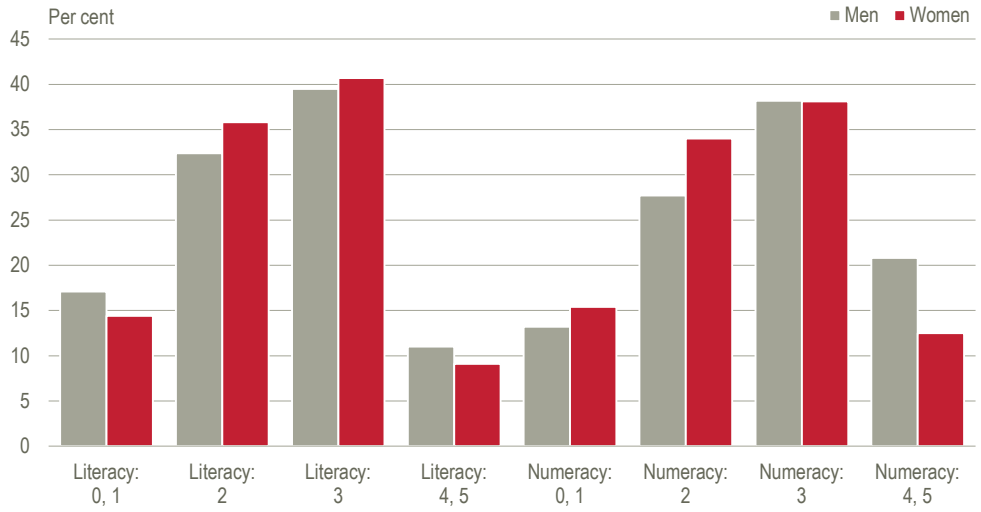
Target 4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy

Indicator 4.6.1
Proportion of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex

This indicator describes the skill levels in reading and arithmetic using the results of the first round of PIAAC, which was conducted in Denmark in 2011-2012. PIAAC (The Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competences) is an OECD study of 16-65 year olds' skills in reading, arithmetic and problem solving with information and communication technology (IT). The skills are measured on a scale from 0-500, and reading and arithmetic skills are divided into six levels.

The majority have a skill level of 2 or 3 in both reading and arithmetic. Within reading, there are more men than women with a low level (0.1) and a high level (4.5), while within arithmetic there are most women with a low level and most men with a high level. The proficiency level for both reading and arithmetic is higher for the youngest part of the population.

Figure 4.6.1: The skill levels in reading and arithmetic using the results of the first round of PIAAC



Target 4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

Indicator 4.7.1
Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment

There are no official data available to illustrate this indicator. However, there are around 50 educational institutions that are member of the UNESCO SDG schools network.	n/a

Target 4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

Indicator 4.a.1
Proportion of schools offering basic services, by type of service

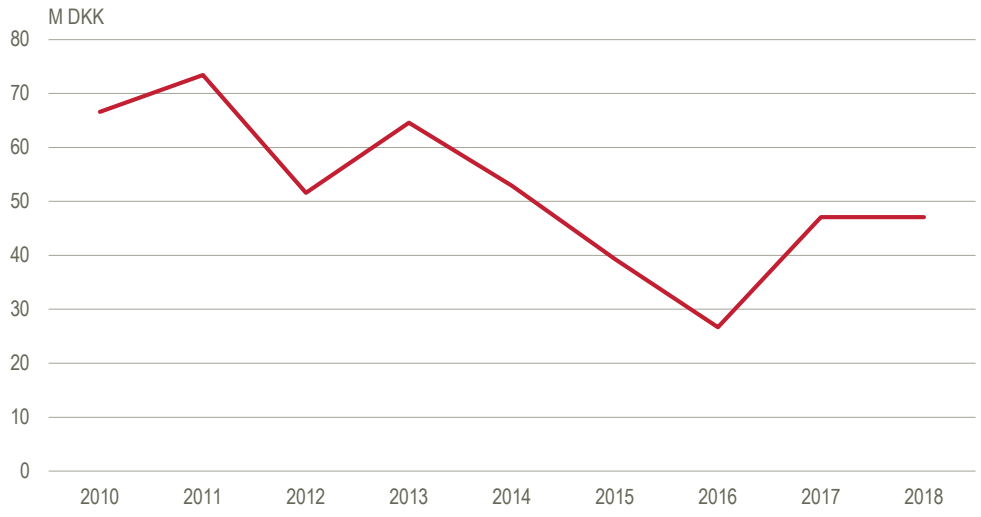
Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics on whether pupils in schools have access to electricity, internet, computers, infrastructure and materials for persons with disabilities, basic drinking water facilities and single-sex toilet facilities.	n/a

Target 4.b By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries

Indicator 4.b.1
Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships by sector and type of study

The financial aid awards for individual students and contributions to trainees varies between 27 million DKK and 73 million DKK. This is a little fraction of the total official development aid and therefore sensitive to year to year variations in e.g. the introduction and closure of schemes. This can be seen as relative large variations from year to year in the figure.

Figure 4.b.1: The financial aid awards for individual students and contributions to trainees



Target 4.c By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States

Indicator 4.c.1

Proportion of teachers with the minimum required qualifications, by education level

There are no official data available to illustrate this indicator.	n/a

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Target 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

Indicator 5.1.1
Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex

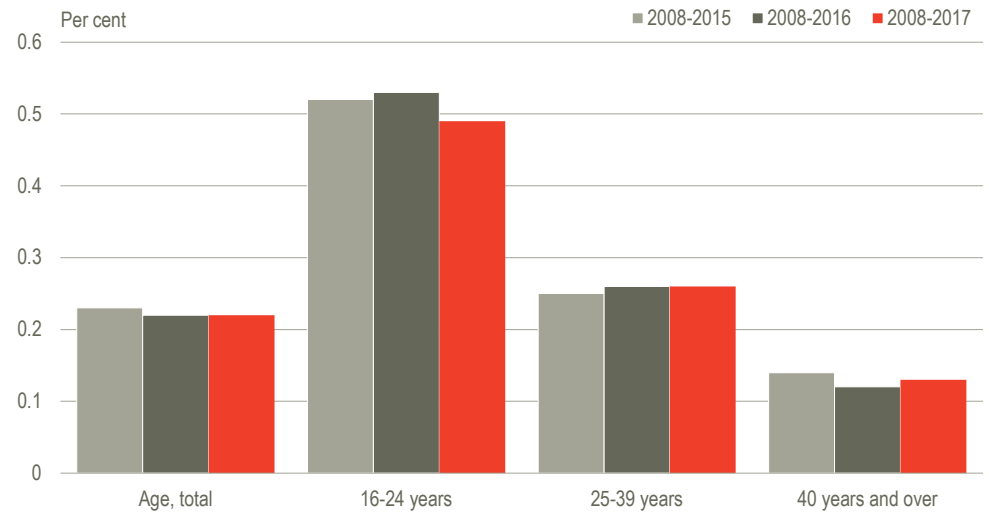
Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator. However, a legal framework does exist (especially in the Danish Act on Gender Equality from 2000), which serves to promote, enforce and monitor equality in Denmark.	✓

Target 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

Indicator 5.2.1
Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age

Over the years, from 2008-2017 the overall proportion of women subjected to violence by a current or former partner has been steady around 0.22 per cent. Most women subjected to violence are 16-24 years old.

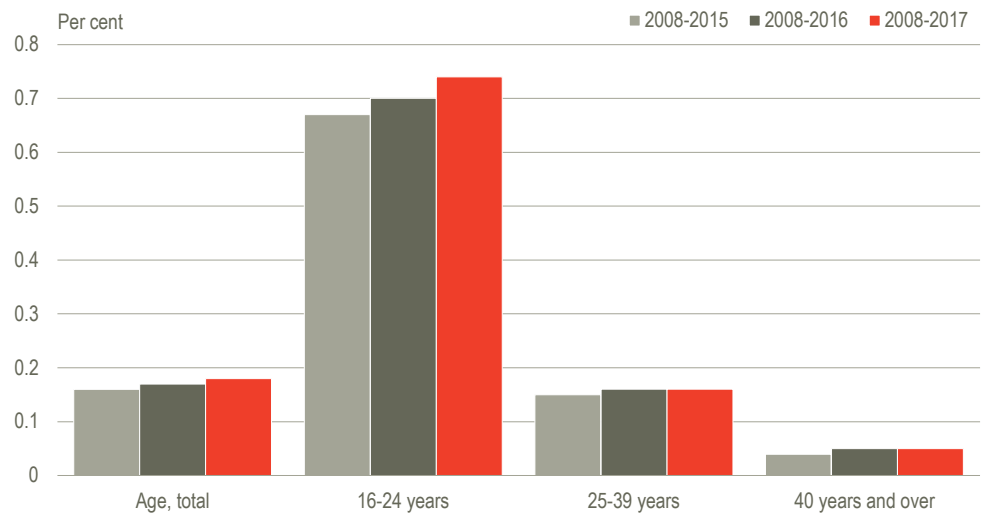
Figure 5.2.1: Proportion of women subjected to violence by a current or former partner



Indicator 5.2.2
Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence

Over the years, the overall proportion of women subjected to violence by persons other than their partner has been under 0.2 per cent. Most women subjected to violence are 16-24 years old.

Figure 5.2.2: Proportion of women subjected to violence by persons other than their partner



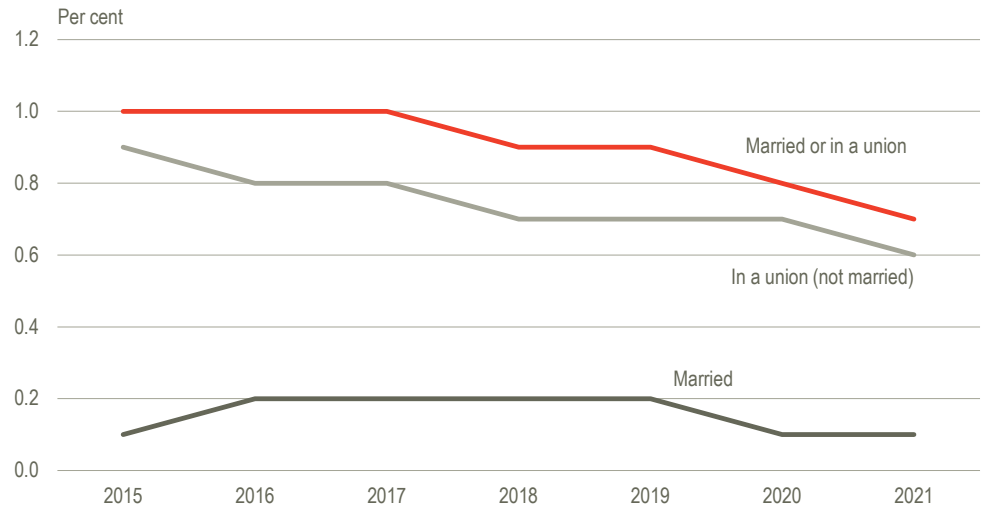
Target 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

Indicator 5.3.1

Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18

From 2015 to 2021, 0.1 to 0.2 per cent of the 20-24 year-old women were married before the age of 18, and 0.6 to 0.9 per cent were in a union, with a tendency towards a lower share of women who had either been married or in a union before the age of 18.

Figure 5.3.1: Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 18



Indicator 5.3.2

Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age

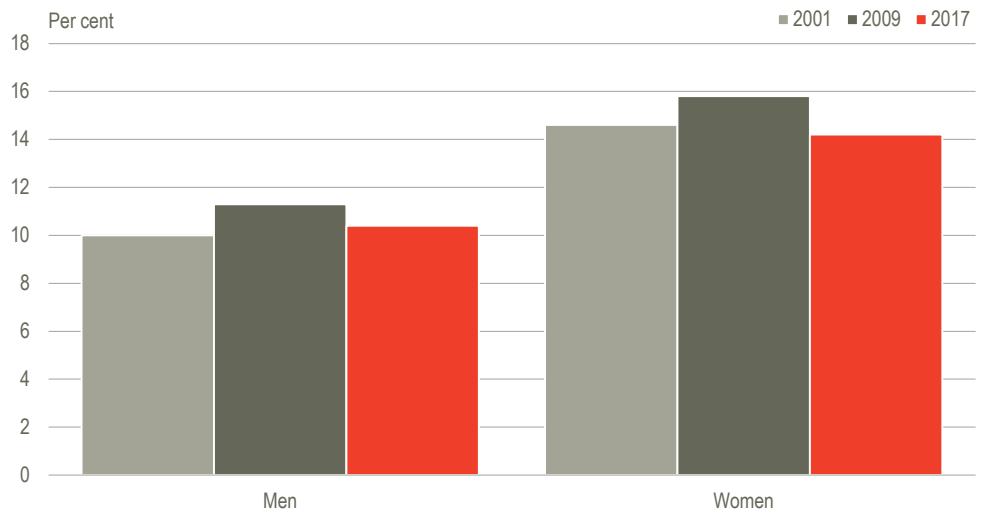
Circumcision of girls and women is a punishable offence in Denmark. The extent of women being circumcised in Denmark is not known.	n/a

Target 5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

Indicator 5.4.1
Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location

Women spend more time on unpaid domestic and care work than men. However, where women spent almost half again as much time as men in 2001, this difference had decreased to women spending well over a third more time in 2017.

Figure 5.4.1: Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work

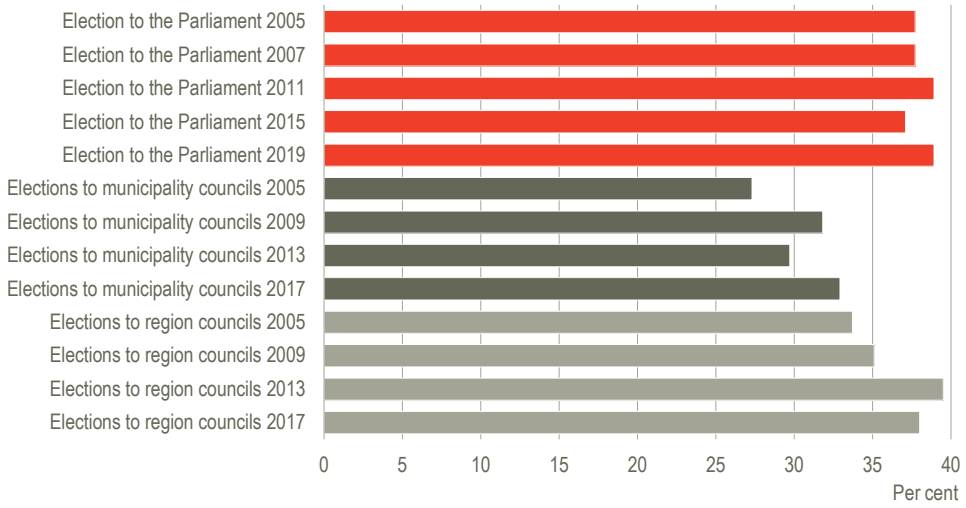


Target 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

Indicator 5.5.1
Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments

In the last five general elections, the share of women elected to the Danish Parliament was 37-39 per cent. In the last four local government elections, the share of women was rising, although we saw a small decline in the last election in 2017. The level is very similar to that of the general elections. The share at regional elections is somewhat lower, but none the less increased from 28 per cent in 2005 to 33 per cent at the latest elections. No definite aim has been specified for this indicator.

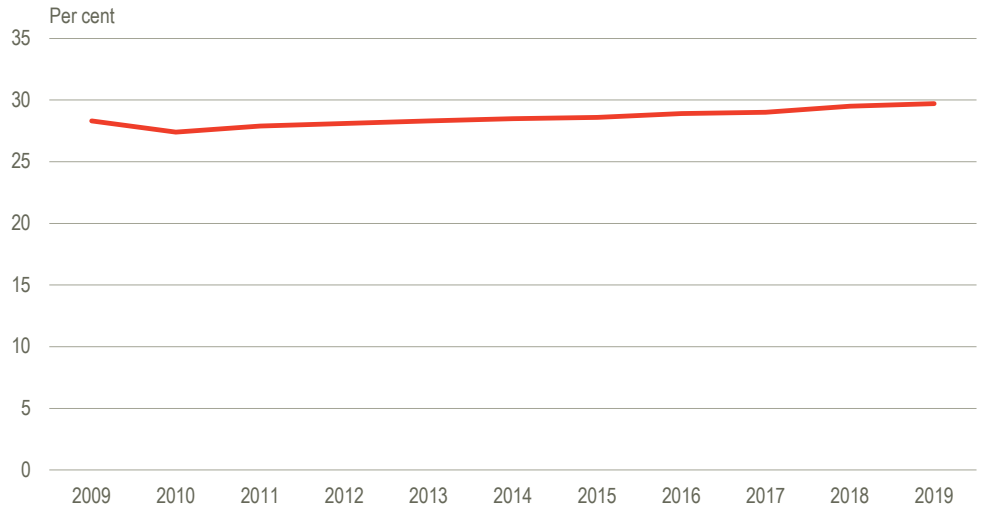
Figure 5.5.1: Proportion of seats held by women in the Danish Parliament and local governments



Indicator 5.5.2
Proportion of women in managerial positions

The proportion of women in management work has been rising slightly over the past 10 years. The decrease from 2009 to 2010 is due to changes in the definition of management work and thus 2009 and 2010 are not comparable.

Figure 5.5.2: Proportion of women in management work



Target 5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

Indicator 5.6.1
Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care

Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics on women's perception of their choices in connection with this indicator. However, the free and equal access to medical assistance gives women access to consult a doctor and to obtain information about sex, contraception and reproductive health services, such as abortion.	n/a

Indicator 5.6.2

Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education

Denmark has laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to sexual and reproductive health care, incl. free access to abortion. Health and sex education is mandatory in basic school, but it is not mandatory in youth education nor in the teacher training programmes.	✓

Target 5.a

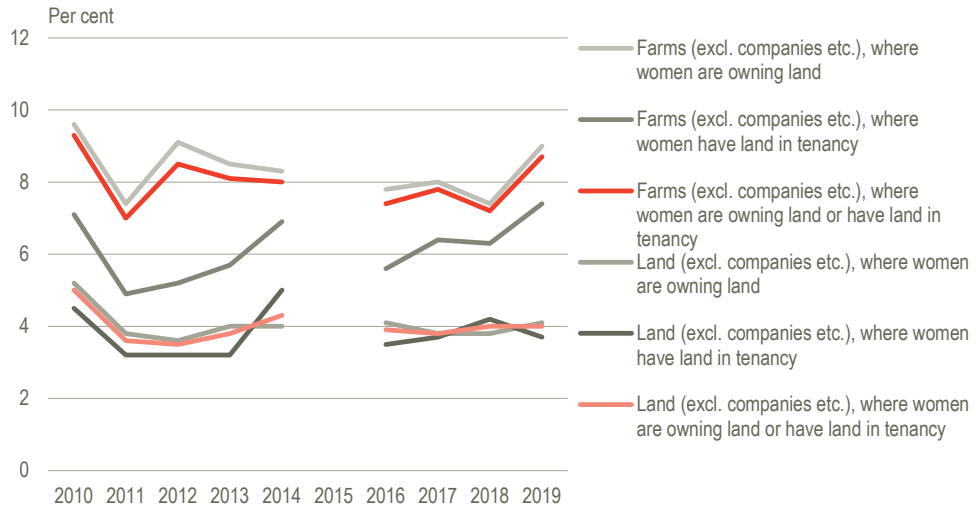
Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

Indicator 5.a.1

(a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure

The agricultural sector has a pronounced dominance of men. Only about 9 per cent of the Danish farmers are women, a share that has not changed considerably during the period 2010-2019. Moreover, the farms lead by women are smaller, so agricultural land possessed by female farmers constitutes only 4 per cent of the total land. Again, this share has not changed much over the years. In total, there were 2,600 female farmers in Denmark in 2019. However, it should be noticed that it is quite common for the wives of farmers to assist their husbands in the farm work, and also there are female agricultural workers, so more than just 2,600 women are involved in farm work.

Figure 5.a.1: Proportion of farms and land where women are owning land or having land in tenancy



Indicator 5.a.2

Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control

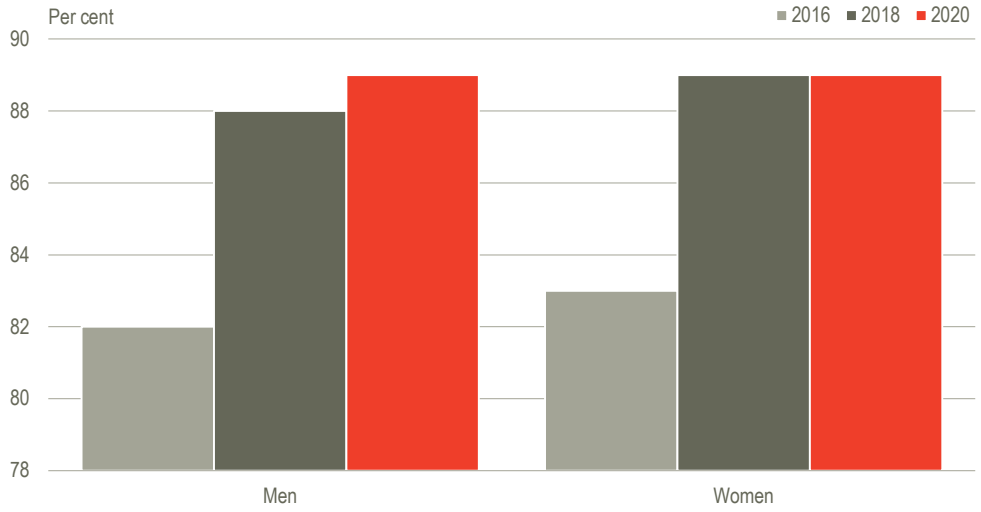
Denmark has a legal framework that guarantees equal rights for women (the Danish Act on Gender Equality). Denmark does not compile official statistics on a number of the sub-indicators in the methodology of the indicator.	n/a

Target 5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women

Indicator 5.b.1
Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex

Mobile phones with access to internet are considered essential to promote the use of information and communication technologies and enable users to reap the benefits provided by those technologies. E.g. location services, on-the-go access to information, mobile payments, etc. In Denmark nine out of ten citizens use a smart phone with internet access. There is no gender difference between mobile phone users in Denmark. The proportions of men and women using smart phones have increased from around 80 per cent in 2016 to 89 per cent in 2020.

Figure 5.b.1: Proportion of men and women who own a mobile telephone



Target 5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

Indicator 5.c.1
Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment

In the underlying methodology, Denmark only complies partly with the conditions of the indicator.	÷

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Target 6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

Indicator 6.1.1
Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services

Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator. Statistics Denmark estimates that most people live with a safely managed supply of drinking water. However, small private waterworks exist, which are subject to less control.	100%

Target 6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations

Indicator 6.2.1
Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water

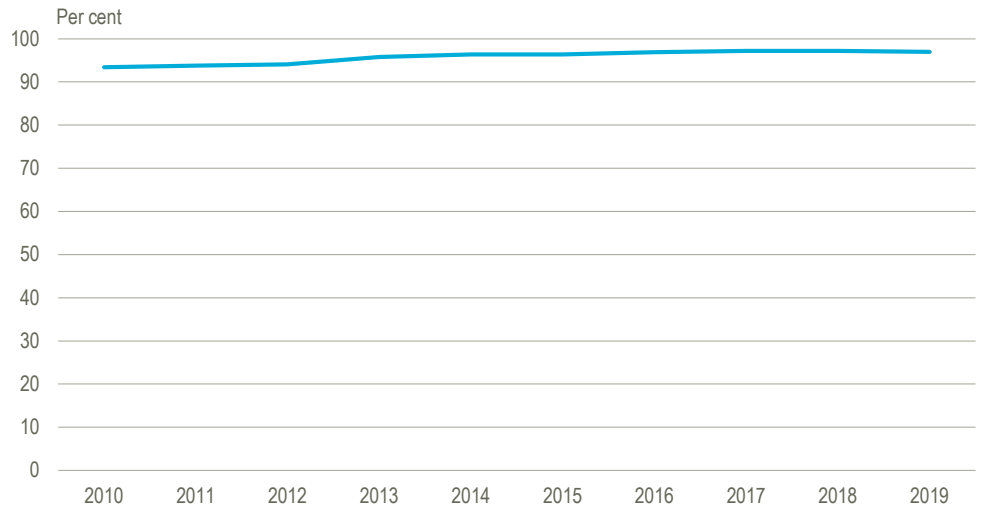
Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator. However, Statistics Denmark estimates that everyone or nearly everyone uses safely managed sanitation facilities in Denmark.	100%

Target 6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally

Indicator 6.3.1
Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated

Data from urban sewage systems are from a database with total information on general treatment of waste water in Denmark. Data about individual solutions for treatment (mostly in rural areas) are from the Building and housing register. Not safely treated waste water is primarily from scattered buildings using septic tanks with drain to surface water. The figure shows that there has been an increase in safely managed waste water since 2010, from an already high level above 93 per cent in 2010 to 97 per cent in the past four years.

Figure 6.3.1: Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated

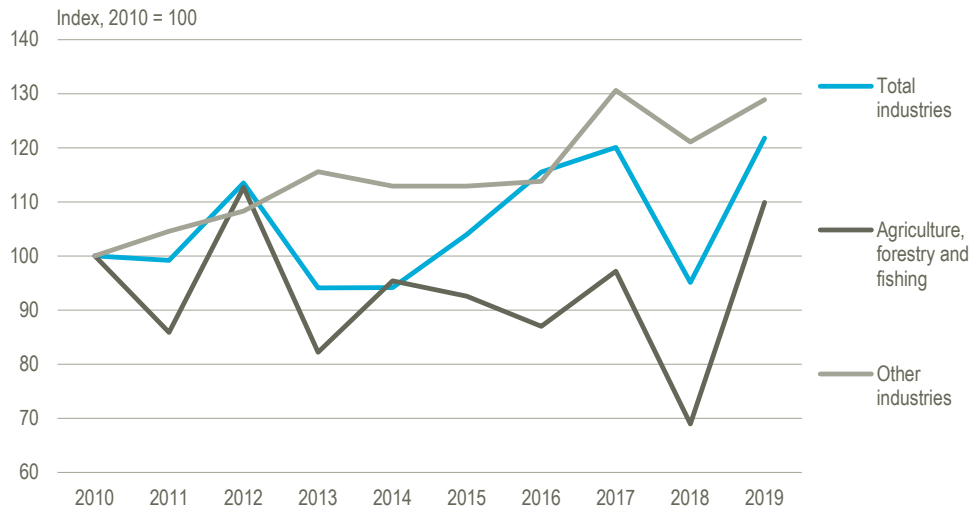


Target 6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity

Indicator 6.4.1
Change in water-use efficiency over time

There have been large fluctuations in the water use efficiency – measured as the use of water compared to value added – in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries industries and for industries in total. For agriculture, etc., the large fluctuations can be explained by fluctuating irrigation needs due to climatic conditions and crop selection. During the dry summer 2018, water use efficiency dropped significantly for agriculture. For the other industries, there has been a slight increase in the water use efficiency over the period 2010-2019.

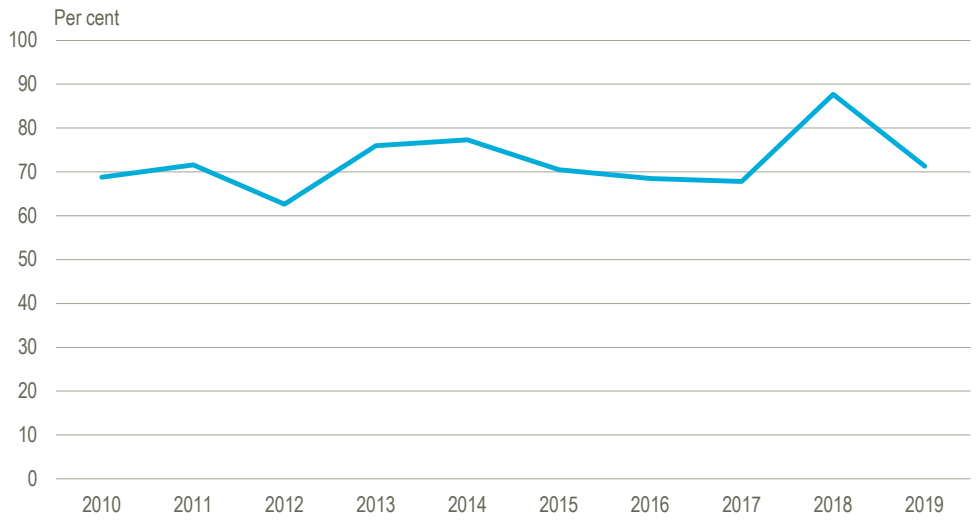
Figure 6.4.1: Water use efficiency



Indicator 6.4.2
Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources

The utilisation rate of the available groundwater resource has varied between 60 and 90 per cent in the period from 2010 to 2019. Please notice that the surface water is not included in the calculation of the indicator. A utilisation rate below 100 per cent entails a sustainable consumption of the ground water resource. The high utilisation rate in 2018 was due to a higher need for irrigation in agriculture, as a result of a dry summer.

Figure 6.4.2: The utilisation rate of the available groundwater resource

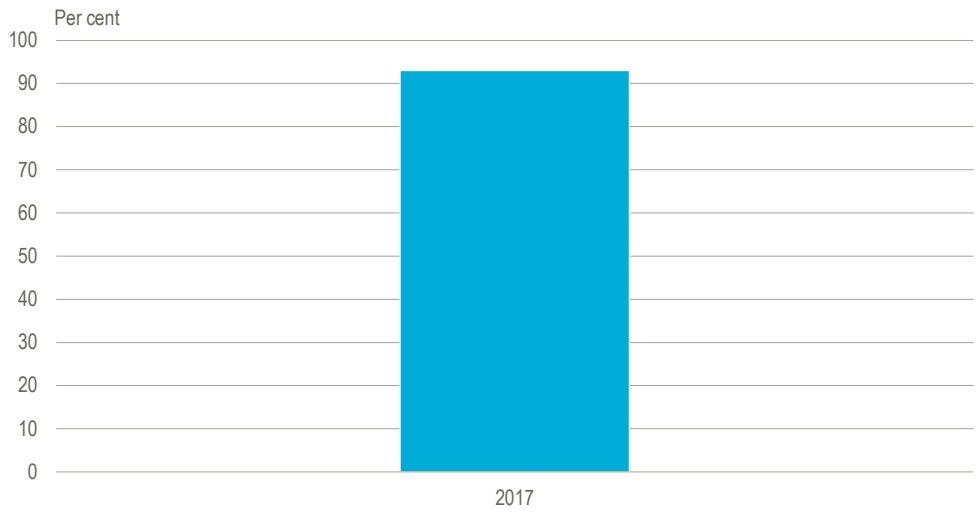


Target 6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate

Indicator 6.5.1
Degree of integrated water resources management

For this indicator, data is currently available for one year, namely 2017. In 2017, the degree of integrated water resources management implementation was 93 per cent. Denmark thus has a very high degree of implementation of the integrated water resources management.

Figure 6.5.1: The degree of integrated water resources management implementation



Indicator 6.5.2
Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation

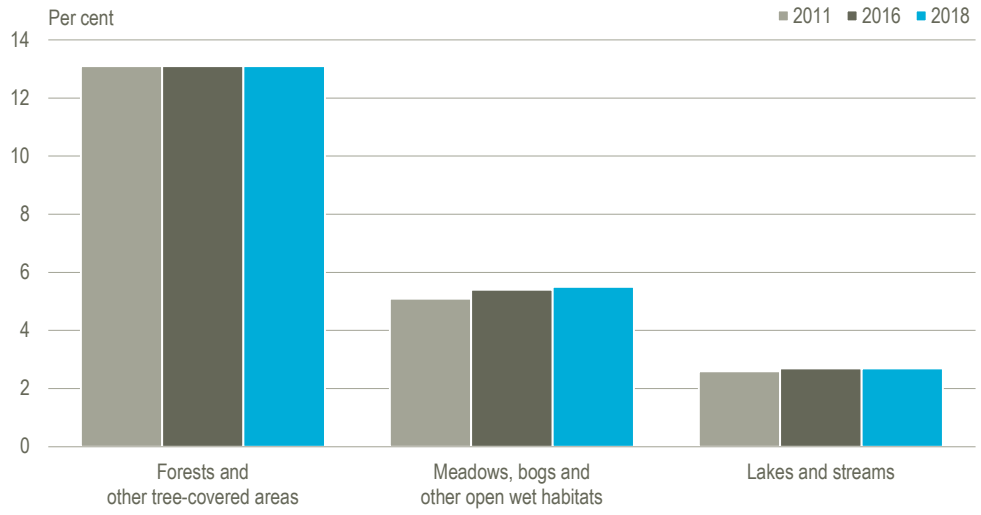
The indicator is not about Denmark, as there are no transboundary basin areas.	n/a

Target 6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

Indicator 6.6.1
Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time

In 2018, water-related ecosystems like forests, wetlands and lakes represent a larger proportion of the total area, compared to 2011. While the share of forests is unchanged in the period, the share of wetlands has increased from 5.1 per cent in 2011 to 5.5 per cent in 2018. The share of lakes and streams as a proportion of the total area also increased from 2.6 per cent to 2.7 per cent in the years 2011-2018. The increase in water-related ecosystems is due to conversion of former agricultural land.

Figure 6.6.1: Proportion of water-related ecosystems of the total area



Target 6.a By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies

Indicator 6.a.1
Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan

Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator.	n/a

Target 6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management

Indicator 6.b.1
Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management

All municipalities in Denmark must prepare plans for water supply and waste water disposal systems. In the underlying methodology, Denmark complies only partly with the conditions of the indicator.	100%

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Target 7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services

Indicator 7.1.1
Proportion of population with access to electricity

Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator. However, The World Bank estimates that all citizens in Denmark have access to electricity.	100%

Indicator 7.1.2
Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology

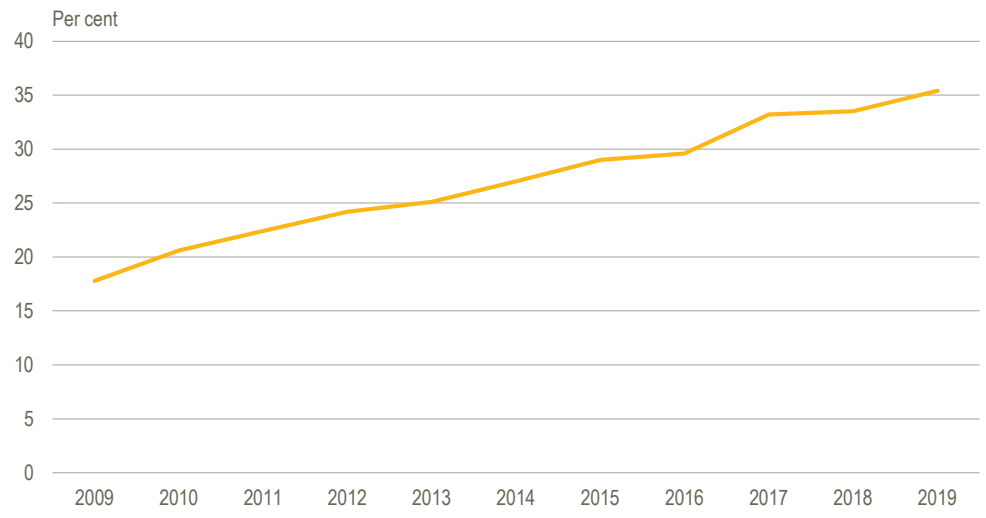
As a high income country, it is assumed – in accordance with the methodology of the indicator – that Denmark uses fuels and technologies that do not result in indoor air pollution.	100%

Target 7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix

Indicator 7.2.1
Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption

For this indicator, we use the renewable energy share of the total primary energy consumption as a proxy. The share has almost doubled since 2009, so that renewables in 2019 account for 35.4 per cent of the total primary energy consumption. In the Danish case, the change towards a greener energy system accelerated in 2009. Based on our observations, the difference between renewable energy's share of total primary energy consumption and total final energy consumption is that the latter share is 1-2 per cent higher.

Figure 7.2.1: The renewable energy share of the total primary energy consumption



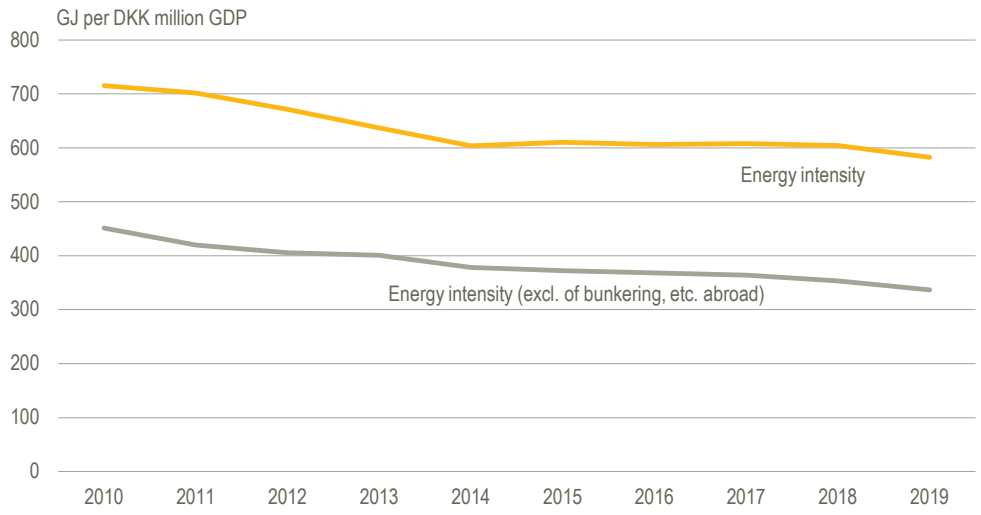
Target 7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency

Indicator 7.3.1
Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP

The Danish economy is characterized by having a large shipping industry, which accounts for 42 per cent of the total use of primary energy used for Danish economic activities. In the below figure, the energy intensity measured as primary energy in

relation to GDP is shown for both the total of Danish economic activities as well as the total of Danish economic activities exclusive of the fuel that Danish-operated ships, aircraft and lorries bunker abroad. Compared to 2009, the energy intensity has improved with 19 per cent or with 25 per cent if the bunkering abroad is disregarded. The development has been driven by both a decrease in the use of primary energy as well as economic growth.

Figure 7.3.1: The energy intensity measured as primary energy in relation to GDP



Target 7.a By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology

Indicator 7.a.1

International financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy research and development and renewable energy production, including in hybrid systems

The data on source IRENA is not available.	n/a

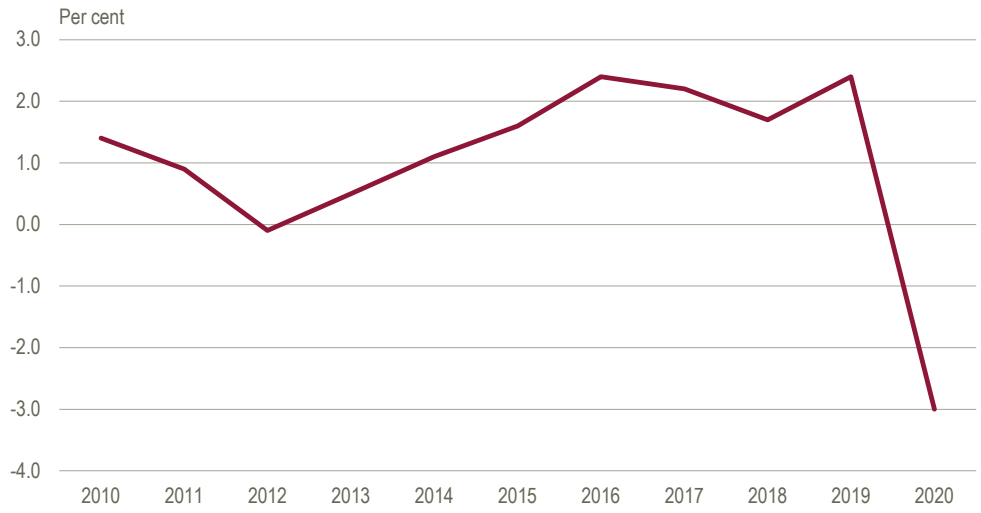
Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Target 8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries

Indicator 8.1.1
Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita

Following the Great Recession from 2007-2009, there has been a steady increase in GDP per capita for ten straight years, except for a slight decrease in 2012. This steady increase in GDP per capita means that the growth of the economy has outpaced the growth of the population. In 2020 there was a significant drop in the economy due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Figure 8.1.1: GDP per capita

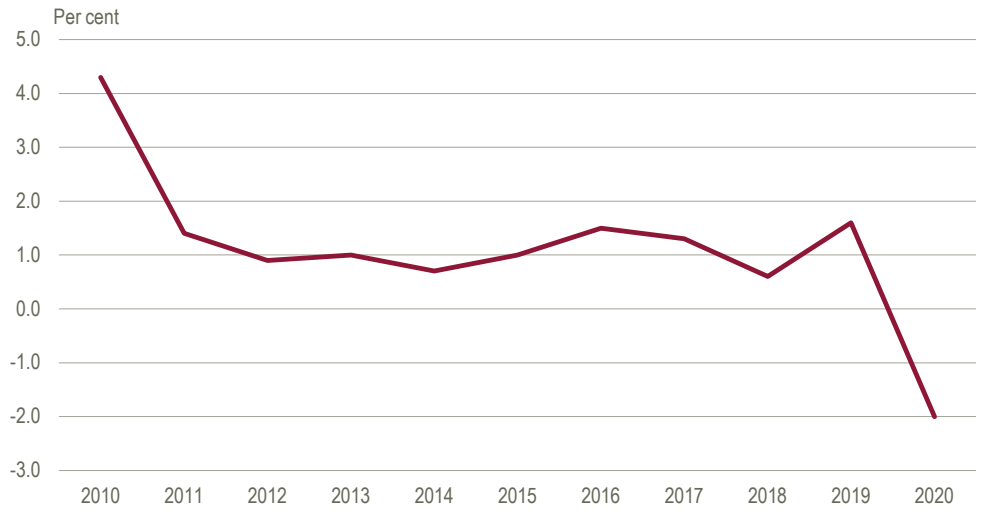


Target 8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors

Indicator 8.2.1
Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person

Following the Great Recession, there was a steep increase in the growth rate of real GDP per employed person in 2010, and in the following years there was a further steady increase until 2019 at an average of 1.1 per cent. This was higher than in the period from year 2000 up until the Great Recession, where the average annual growth was 0.8 per cent. In 2020, the year of the COVID-19 crisis, there was a negative growth of -2.0 per cent in GDP per employed person.

Figure 8.2.1: GDP per employed person



Target 8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

Indicator 8.3.1
Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex

Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator.	n/a

Target 8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead

Indicator 8.4.1
Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP

The resource footprint is an indicator of the amount of resources extracted from nature both in Denmark and abroad for the goods and services used in the Danish economy. Within the period 2010 to 2016, the resource footprint per GDP and per capita have increased with 20 per cent and 12 per cent, respectively. The resource footprint per capita has increased with 2 per cent in 2016 compared to 2015, while the footprint per GDP has declined by 0.5 per cent in the same period.

Figure 8.4.1a: The resource footprint

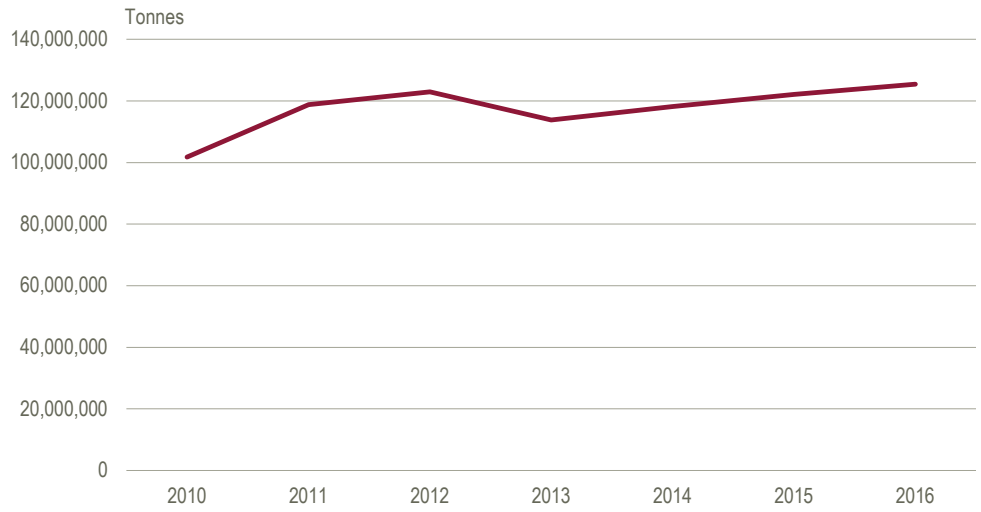
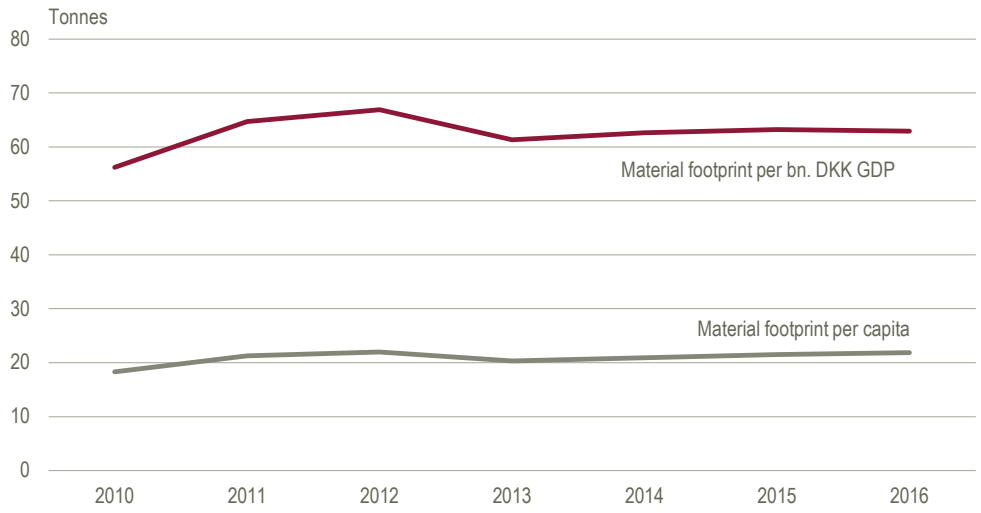


Figure 8.4.1b: The resource footprint per capita and resource footprint per GDP



Indicator 8.4.2

Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP

The figure shows that, with the exception of the decrease from 2012 to 2013, the Danish domestic material consumption has been rising in the period 2010 to 2019. This indicates a general increase in the consumption of materials in the Danish economy. Within the period 2013-2019, the domestic material consumption has increased with an average of 3 per cent per year. It should be noted that this indicator is highly influenced by the business cycles and economic activities related to construction, which is immediately reflected in domestic material consumption.

The domestic material consumption per GDP is an indicator of the amount of materials that are necessary to produce the Danish gross domestic product. After a big increase in the period 2010-2012, the domestic material consumption per GDP has shown a stable development of about 66,000 to 67,000 tonnes per DKK billion GDP in the years 2013 to 2019. In 2019, the domestic material consumption per GDP was 67,400 tonnes per DKK billion GDP, which was an increase of 4 per cent and 1 per cent compared to 2010 and 2018, respectively.

Figure 8.4.2a: The Danish domestic material consumption

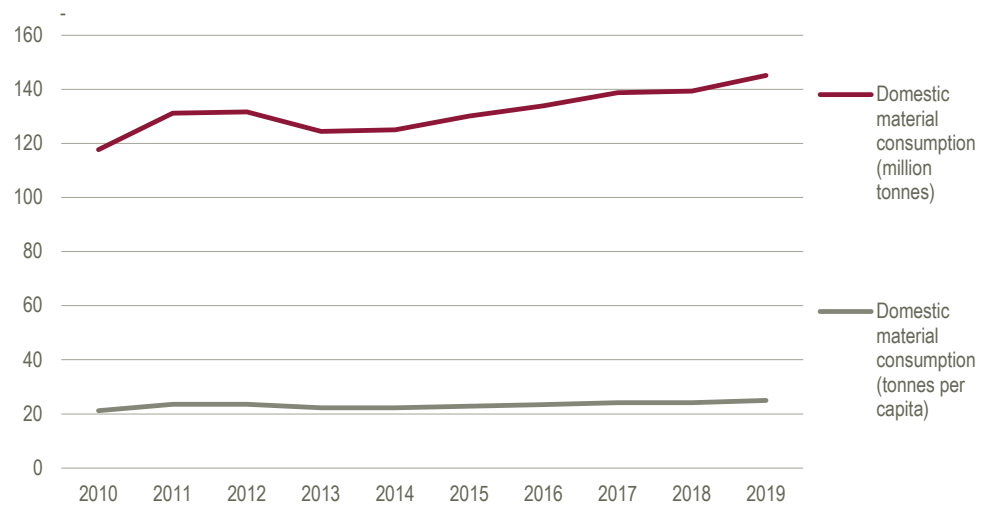
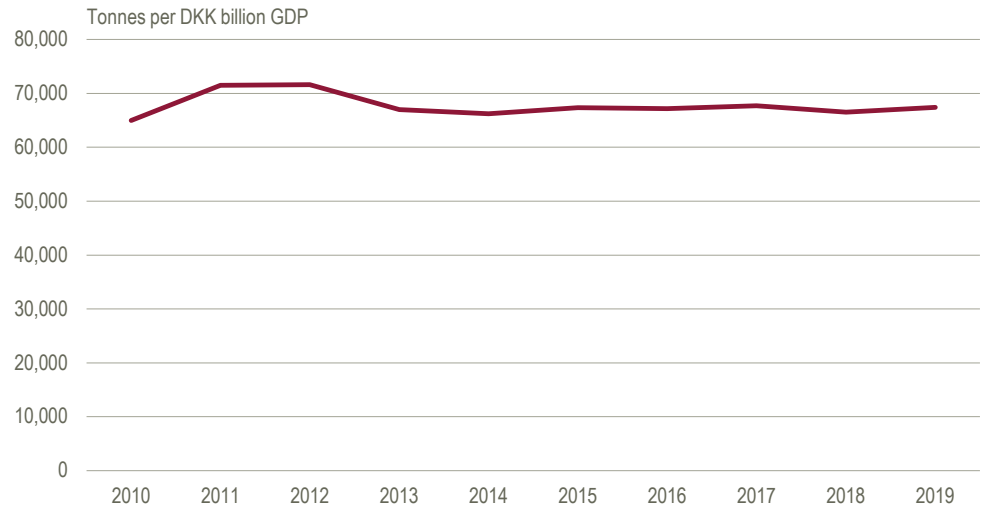


Figure 8.4.2b: The Danish domestic material consumption per GDP



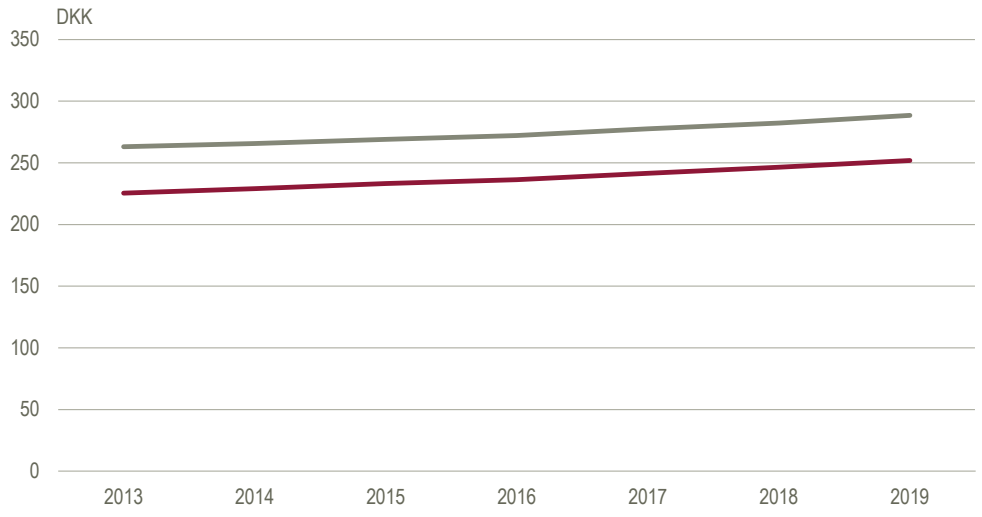
Target 8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

Indicator 8.5.1
Average hourly earnings of employees, by sex, age, occupation and persons with disabilities

The gender pay gap is the difference between the average annual earnings between women and men. In 2019, the gender pay gap was 12.7 per cent in Denmark, which means that women earned 12.7 per cent less per hour than men. In Denmark, the gender pay gap has consistently been narrowed through the years, and in 2019 it was 1.7 per cent points less than in 2013, where the gender pay gap was 14.3.

The primary reason behind the gender pay gap becoming narrower has to do with the nature of how it is calculated. As the level of average earnings of women and men increases per year, the per cent difference in earnings decreases subsequently, whilst the monetary difference in earnings per hour remains pretty much the same. In 2013, men in average earned about 37.7 DKK more per hour than women, and in 2019 this difference was about 36.5 DKK.

Figure 8.5.1: The gender pay gap



Indicator 8.5.2

Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

The total unemployment figure for Denmark has been slightly decreasing since 2010 for the majority of age groups. In the beginning of the period, unemployment for women was lower than for men, which was reversed towards the end of the period. The relation between the unemployment rates of men and women should also be seen in the light of the fact that more men than women have jobs that are influenced by business cycles.

For both women and men, the highest unemployment is found in the youngest age groups 15-24 and 25-34 years, both groups over the average, as opposed to all the other age groups.

Comparing the presented figures to the EU-average for both men and women, Denmark has a lower unemployment rate. The unemployment rate increased in 2020 for both men and women due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 8.5.2a: Unemployment rate for men

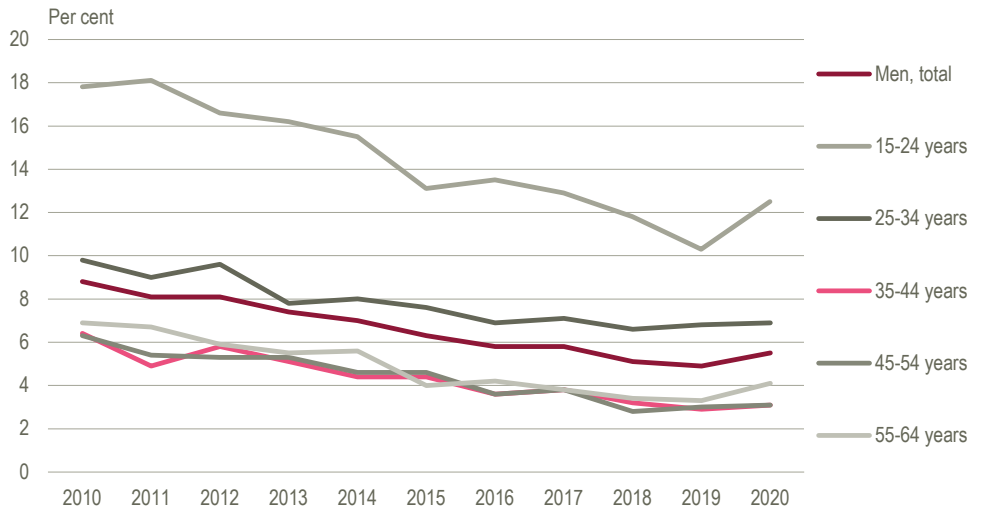
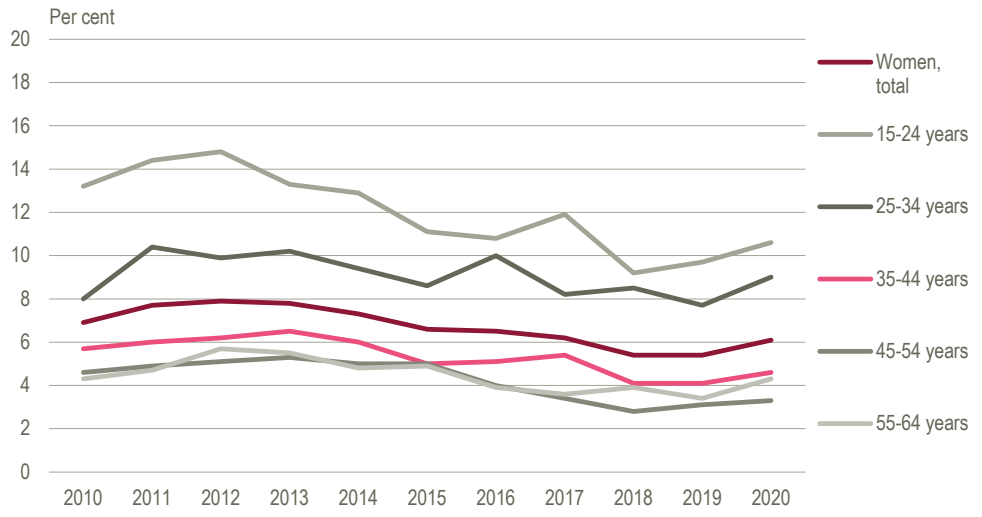


Figure 8.5.2b: Unemployment rate for women

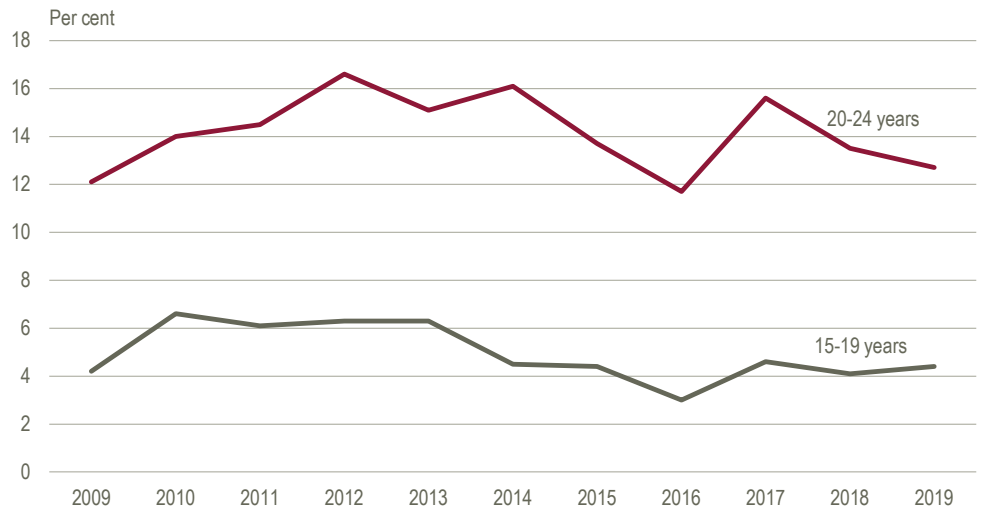


Target 8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

Indicator 8.6.1
Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training

The proportion of young people who are neither in work nor in education was increasing in the period 2009-2014. After 2014, the development has been slightly declining, however, with a peak in 2017.

Figure 8.6.1: Proportion of young people who are neither in work nor in education



Target 8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms

Indicator 8.7.1
Proportion and number of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age

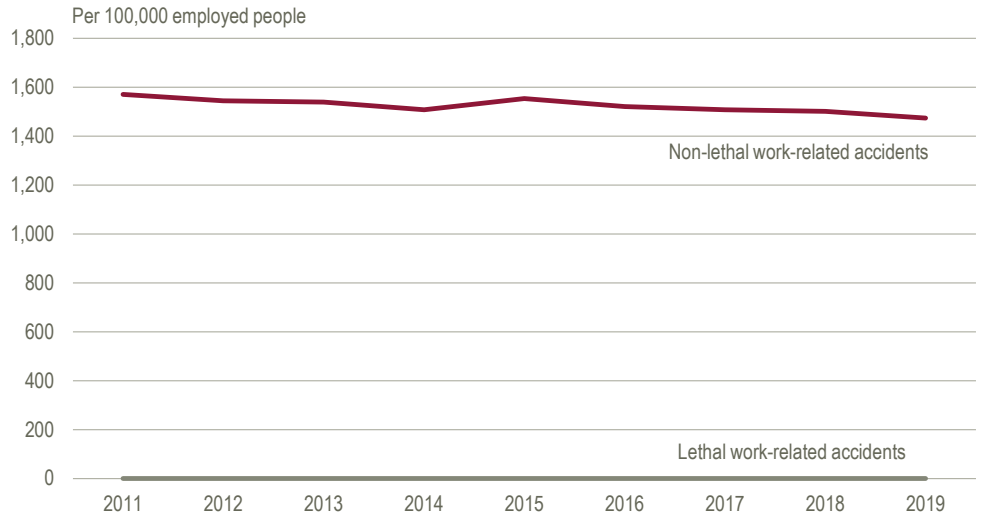
Child labour includes both ordinary pay and household work. Statistics Denmark does not have information on household work. Out of the total number of 5-17 year olds in Denmark (855,982) at the end of November 2018, 1,114 (0.1 per cent) had wage work with a number of hours as specified in the definition of the indicator. 507 of them are in the age group 5-11 years, where a large proportion have held jobs in the cultural professions (singing, dancing, acting or as extras).	n/a

Target 8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment

Indicator 8.8.1
Fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries per 100,000 workers, by sex and migrant status

The proportion of occupational accidents in relation to the number of employees has been declining since 2011. This applies to both fatal and non-fatal occupational accidents. From 2014 to 2015, however, there was an increase in non-fatal occupational accidents, but subsequently the proportion fell again.

Figure 8.8.1: Proportion of occupational accidents in relation to the number of employees



Indicator 8.8.2
Level of national compliance with labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status

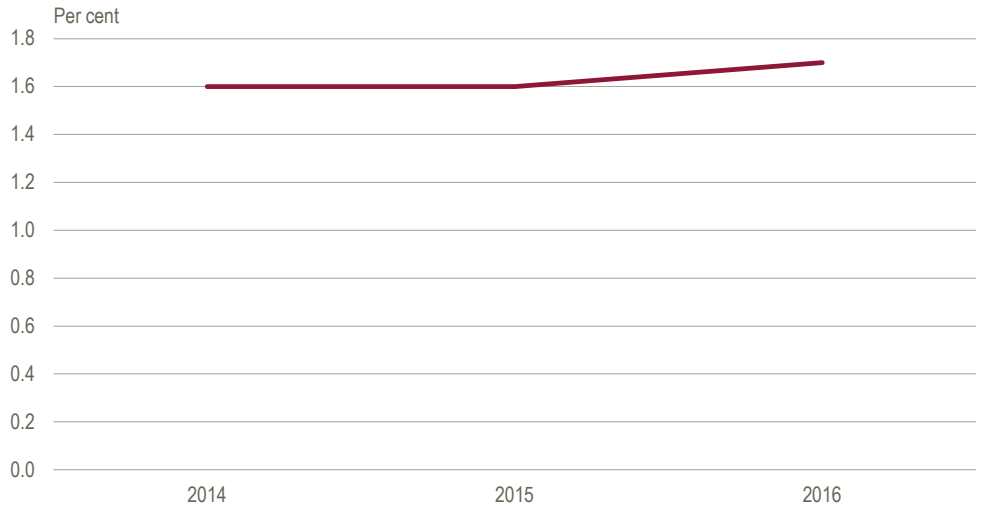
In Denmark, freedom of association is enshrined in the Constitution. There is no procedure for registration of trade unions and employers' association and the State does not keep any registers of trade unions or employers' associations. Similarly, there are no registers for collective agreements. In Denmark, wages and working conditions are primarily regulated through collective agreements concluded by the social partners at branch or company level. For example there is no statutory minimum wage in Denmark. All employees in the public sector are covered by collective agreements, whereas 74 per cent of employed persons in the private sector are covered. For members of the Confederation of Danish Employers, DA, 87 per cent of the employees are covered. Foreign workers employed in Denmark are more or less covered by collective agreements to the same extent as Danish workers.	n/a

Target 8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

Indicator 8.9.1
Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate

The growth in tourism per cent of GDP is driven by a growth in the number of bed nights in commercial accommodations like hotels, camping and rented cottages that saw a 10 per cent increase from 2014 to 2016.

Figure 8.9.1: Tourism per cent of GDP



Target 8.10 Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all

Indicator 8.10.1
(a) Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults and (b) number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults

It is the assessment that everyone in Denmark has access to banking and financial services. In Denmark, nine out of 10 people manage their daily banking business over the Internet. Digitisation, bank mergers and streamlining of the banking sector in Denmark have caused the number of bank branches affiliated with Danish banks to fall from approx. 2,500 in the early 1990s to about one quarter of that figure today. Similarly, the number of ATMs has been declining in recent years.	100%

Indicator 8.10.2
Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider

Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator. However, there are no or few legal and institutional limitations on opening a bank account in Denmark. Therefore, Statistics Denmark estimates that everyone or nearly everyone has a bank account.	100%

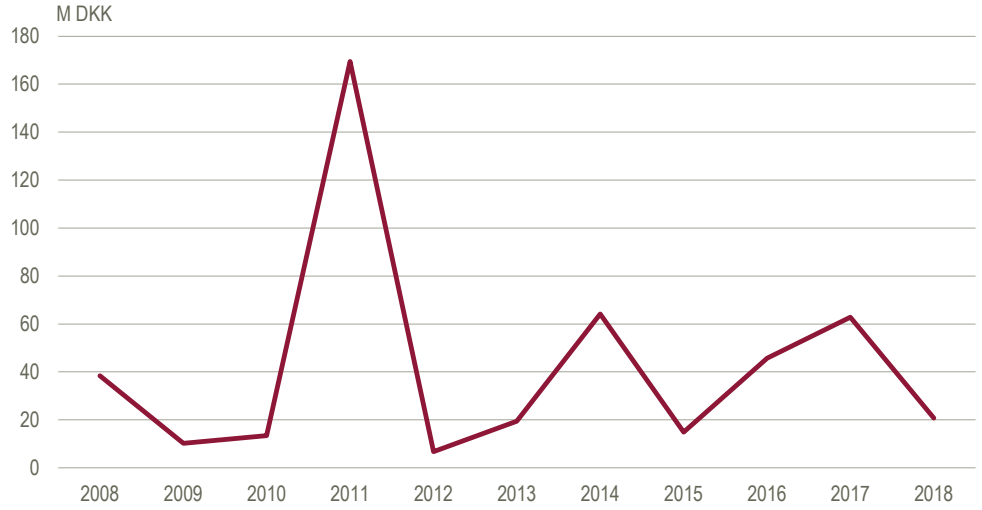
Target 8.a Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries

Indicator 8.a.1
Aid for Trade commitments and disbursements

The official development assistance and flows to developing countries regarding aid for trade is on average around 40 million DKK. In 2011, however, the amount was 169 million DKK. This is a little fraction of the total official development aid and

therefore sensitive to year to year variations in e.g. the introduction and closure of schemes. This can be seen as relatively large variation from year to year in the figure.

Figure 8.a.1: The official development assistance and flows to developing countries regarding aid for trade



Target 8.b By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization

Indicator 8.b.1

Existence of a developed and operationalized national strategy for youth employment, as a distinct strategy or as part of a national employment strategy

Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator. However, Statistics Denmark estimates – on the basis of the Danish parliament's "agreement on better pathways into education and jobs" – that a national strategy for youth employment does exist.	✓

Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Target 9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all

Indicator 9.1.1
Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road

Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator. However, Statistics Denmark estimates that the number of persons living more than 2 km from an all-season road is very low.	100%

Indicator 9.1.2
Passenger and freight volumes, by mode of transport

The first figure shows the passenger transport volumes measured by passenger-kilometres (pkm). Pkm is a measurement that takes into account both the distance travelled and the number of passengers. Between 2010 and 2019, the total passenger transport measured by pkm increased by 25 per cent. The most common mode of transport is by road with a 55 per cent share of passenger transport in 2019. Road passenger transport increased by 13 per cent from 2010 to 2019. The second most common mode of transport with a 39 per cent share in 2019 is aviation. Transport by aviation increased a staggering 51 per cent from 2010 to 2019. The only mode of transport with a decline was rail, dropping 2 per cent during the decade. The increased aviation transport has probably been fuelled by the decreasing prices of air transport, making both short and long holiday travels by air more common. The shift towards road transport and less rail transport is likely a result of the priorities in infrastructure investment benefitting the road traffic infrastructure as well as decreased taxation on vehicles.

The second figure shows the transported volumes by mode of transport measured by tonnes. 63 per cent of all freight was moved by road in 2019, and maritime transport stood for 33 per cent of freight volumes. The remaining modes, rail, aviation and pipelines, accounted for only a minor share of the transport. The maritime transport saw a 15 per cent increase from 2010 to 2019, whereas road transport only increased by 1 per cent in the same period. The reasons for the shift in mode is not clear. Increased trade with overseas countries, increased cost of road transport due to congestion and a general wish to move to transportation viewed as more environmentally friendly can be explanations.

Figure 9.1.2a: The passenger transport volumes measured by passenger-kilometres

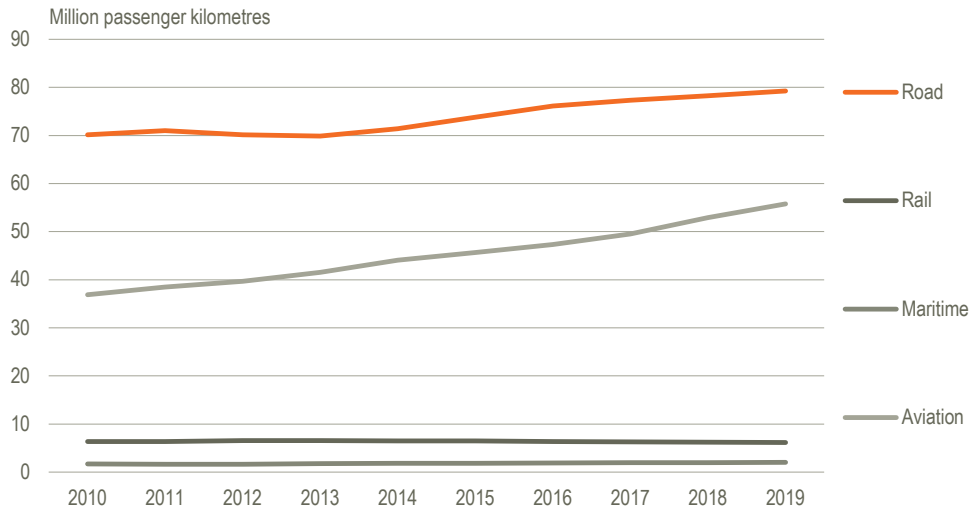
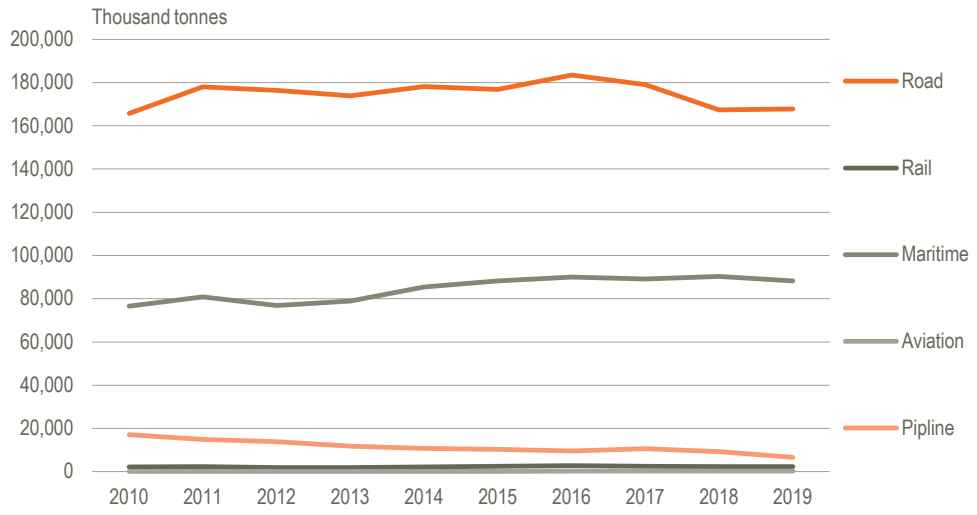


Figure 9.1.2b: The transported volumes by mode of transport measured by tonnes

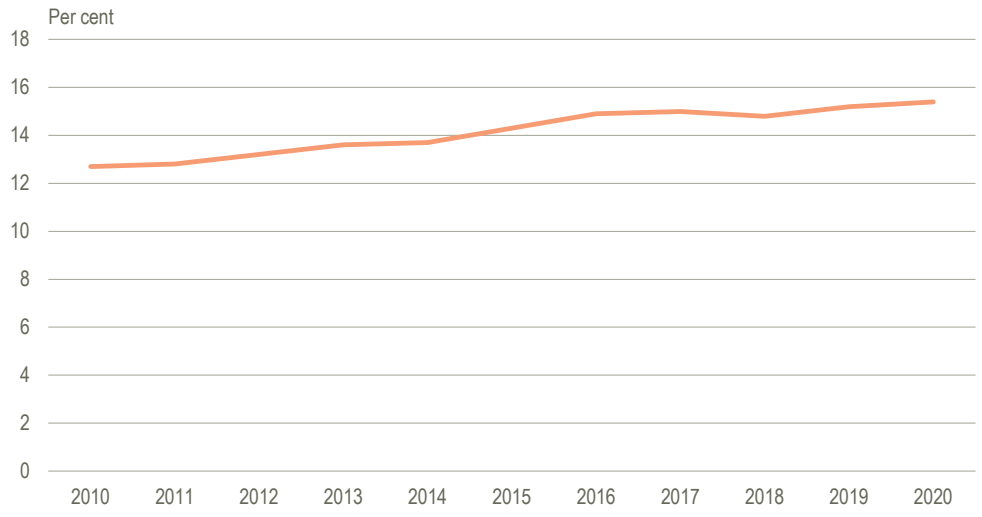


Target 9.2 Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries

Indicator 9.2.1
Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita

As shown in the figure, the share of value added from manufacturing has increased slightly during the last 10 years, from about 13 per cent of the total value added to over 15 per cent.

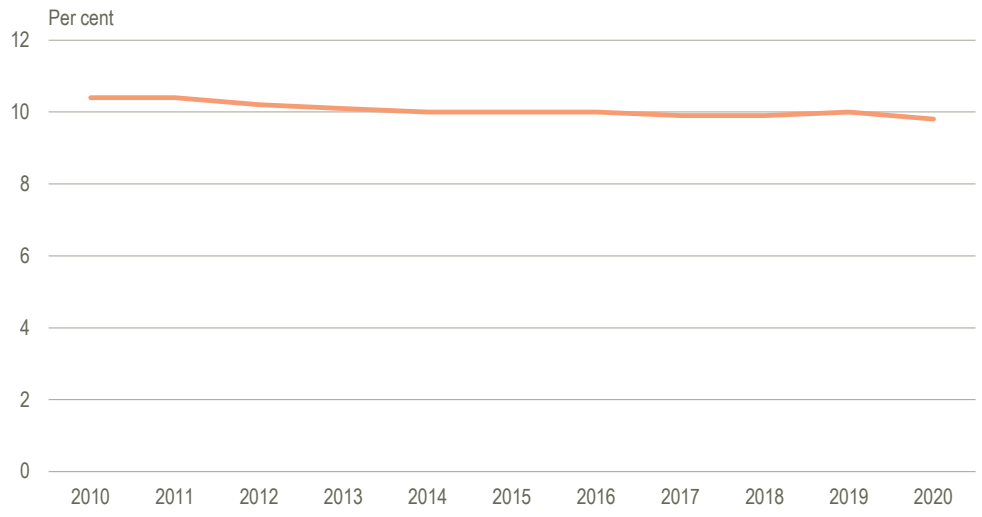
Figure 9.2.1: Proportion of value added from manufacturing



Indicator 9.2.2
Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment

Between 2010 and 2019, the number of employed persons – in full time equivalent – has remained steady measured as the total labour input of hours worked. The share of total labour input in the manufacturing industry has decreased slightly from around 12 per cent to a slightly lower level. Stated per capita, the value added from manufacturing is about DKK 54,000 per capita (approximately USD 8,650) in current prices. Adjusted for inflation, the value added per capita from manufacturing has increased 35 per cent in the last decade.

Figure 9.2.2: Proportion of total labour input in the manufacturing industry



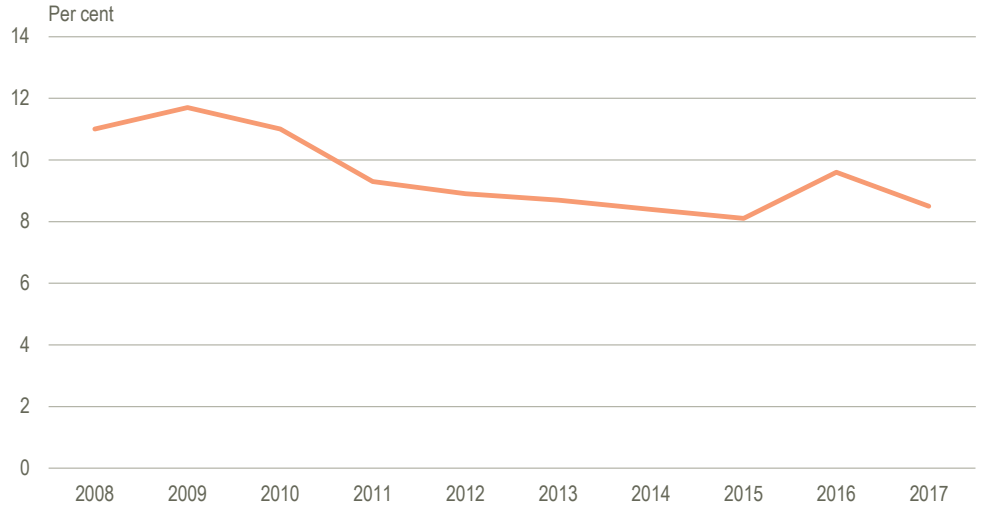
Target 9.3 Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets

Indicator 9.3.1
Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added

There has been a declining trend throughout the period 2009 to 2017, however, with a slight increase in the year 2016 in the share of the small industrial enterprises' value

added to the total value added in the industry. Small enterprises mean enterprises with less than 20 persons employed.

Figure 9.3.1: Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added

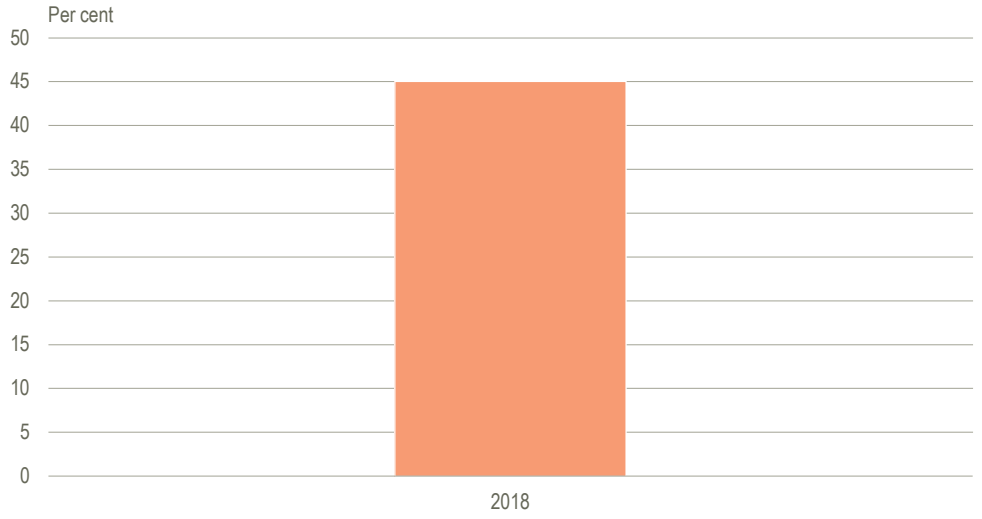


Indicator 9.3.2

Proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit

The level for small and medium-sized enterprises seeking to obtain finance is estimated at around 45 per cent in 2018. These statistics include information on whether the enterprises have sought to obtain a loan and whether they actually obtained it, but give no information on existing loans. Hence, the estimate is based on a combination of this information and assumptions regarding e.g. the duration of loans and credit.

Figure 9.3.2: Proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit

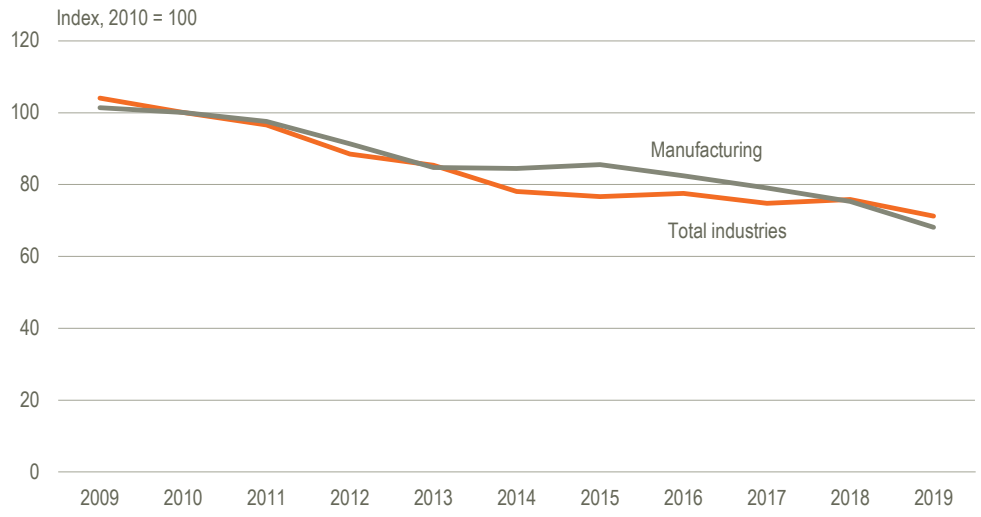


Target 9.4 By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities

Indicator 9.4.1
CO2 emission per unit of value added

The CO2 emission (exclusive of emissions from biomass) per unit of added value has decreased for the manufacturing industry as well as for all industries in total from 2010 to 2019. The drivers causing the decrease are mainly improved energy efficiency and introduction of renewable energy that is considered to be CO2 neutral.

Figure 9.4.1: CO2 emission per unit of value added

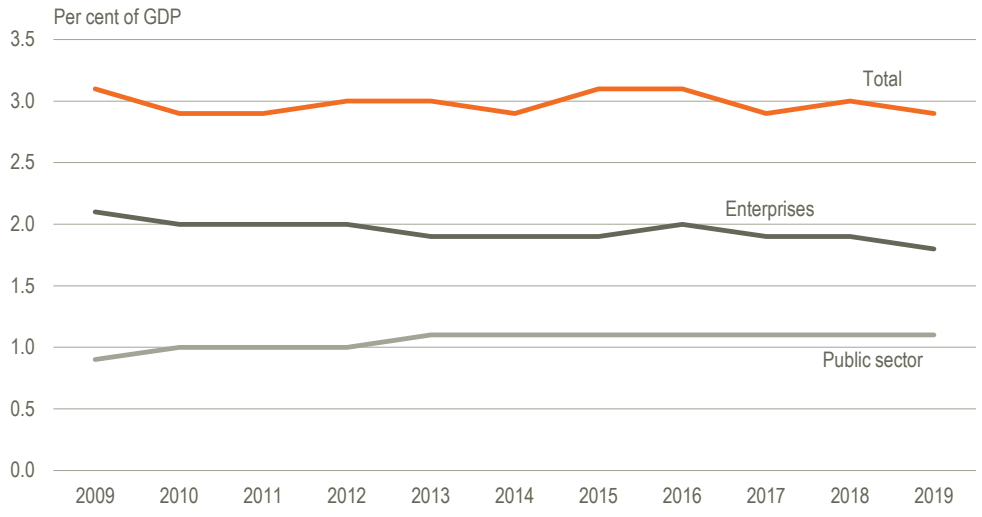


Target 9.5 Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending

Indicator 9.5.1
Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP

Since 2009, the share of expenditures for research and development (R&D) in Denmark has been about 3 per cent of GDP, and the split between the business sector and the public sector has been quite stable. The expenditures are mainly paid by the business sector. In 2019, the business sector's share was 1.8 per cent of GDP and the public sector's share was 1.1 per cent of GDP. The three per cent is a common target for members of the European Union. Regarding EU comparison, the R&D expenditures in Denmark are higher than the EU average of about 2 per cent of GDP.

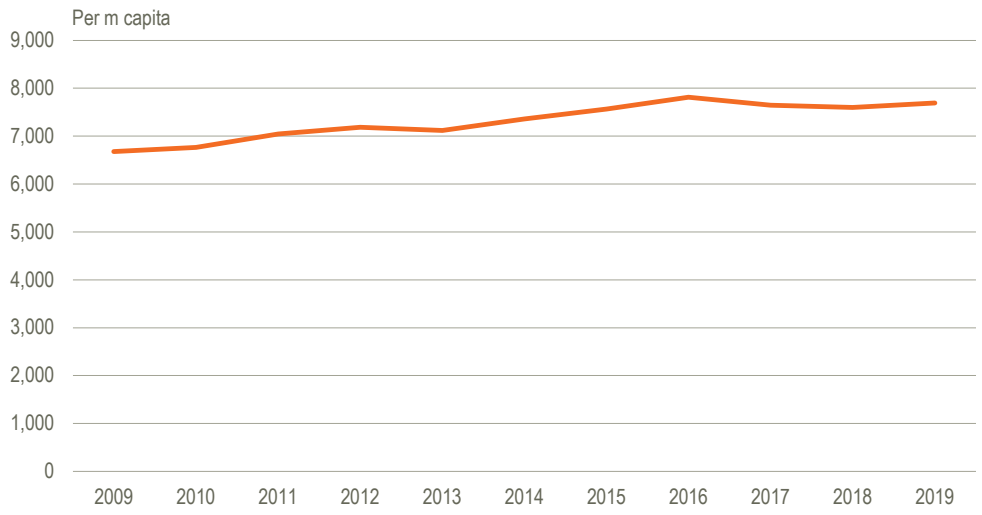
Figure 9.5.1: Proportion of expenditures for research and development



Indicator 9.5.2
Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants

There has been an increase in the number of researchers since 2009, both for Denmark and the EU. In recent years, the number of researchers per inhabitant has been about twice as high in Denmark as the EU average. From 2007 onwards, the difference between the EU and Denmark has narrowed slightly.

Figure 9.5.2: Researchers per million inhabitants



Target 9.a Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

Indicator 9.a.1
Total official international support (official development assistance plus other official flows) to infrastructure

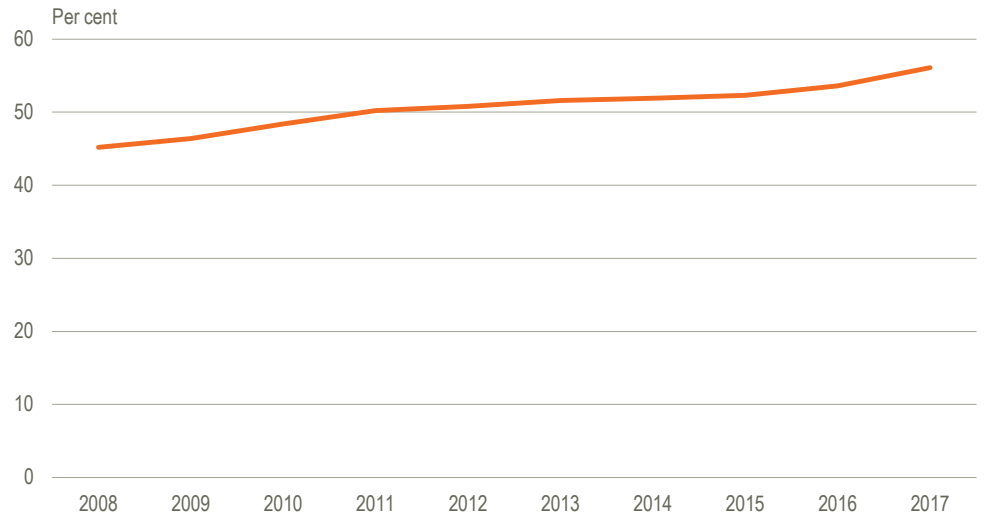
Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator.	n/a

Target 9.b Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities

Indicator 9.b.1
Proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added

There has been an increasing trend throughout the period 2008 to 2017 in the share of value added by intermediate and high-tech industrial enterprises in relation to the total value added in the industrial sector. By intermediate and high-tech industrial enterprises is meant enterprises engaged in the manufacture of chemical products, pharmaceutical raw materials and preparations, weapons and ammunition, computers, electronic and optical products, electrical equipment, machinery and equipment, motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers, means of transport, other transport equipment (excluding building of ships and boats), medical and dental instruments.

Figure 9.b.1: Proportion of value added by intermediate and high-tech industrial enterprises in relation to the total value added in the industrial sector

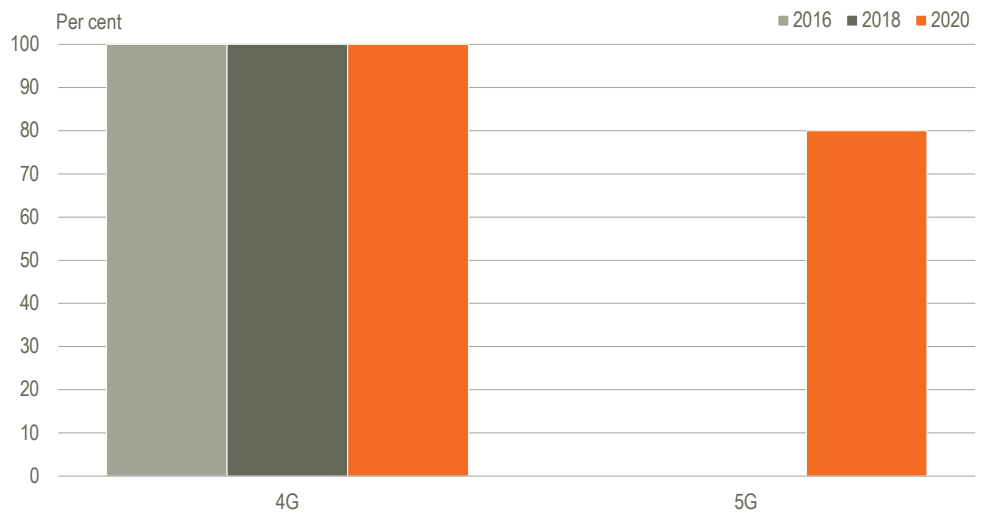


Target 9.c Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020

Indicator 9.c.1
Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology

Universal access via mobile internet to information and communication at affordable prices is very widely available in Denmark. Denmark is considered as one of the top EU-countries as regards connectivity and ICT infrastructure. Average 4G and 5G coverage and mobile broadband take-up are among the best in the EU. In 2020, four out of five households were covered by 5G mobile networks, which is the highest proportion in the EU.

Figure 9.c.1: Proportion of population covered by a mobile network



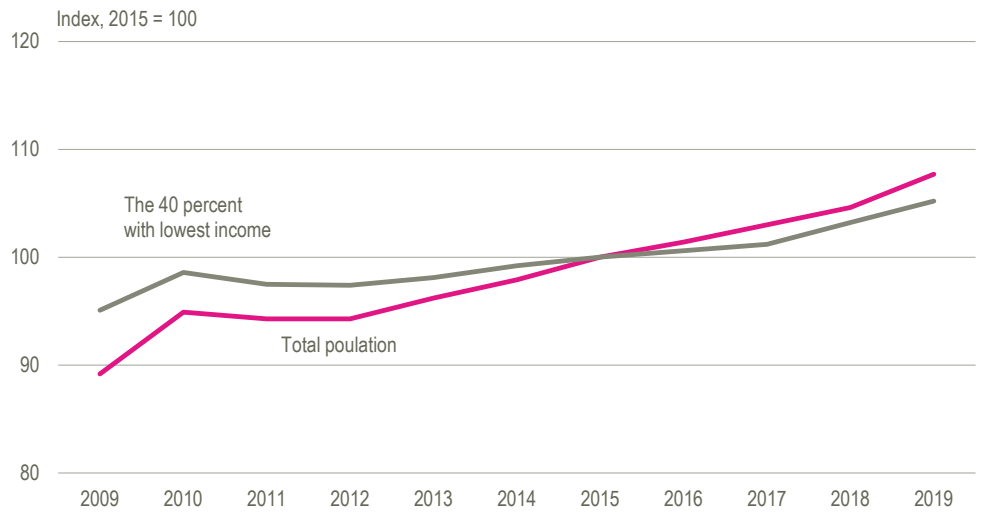
Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Target 10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average

Indicator 10.1.1
Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population

Income inequality has been rising in Denmark in the last decade. Some of the driving factors are higher wealth income, which is very concentrated among top income groups, and low income growth in the younger age-brackets, among other things caused by increased education attendance rates. The education attendance rates have been levelling out in recent years. Reforms aimed at increasing the supply of labour have lowered taxation on income. Finally, some types of cash benefits have been lowered – primarily for unemployed immigrants and refugees in Denmark.

Figure 10.1.1: Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population

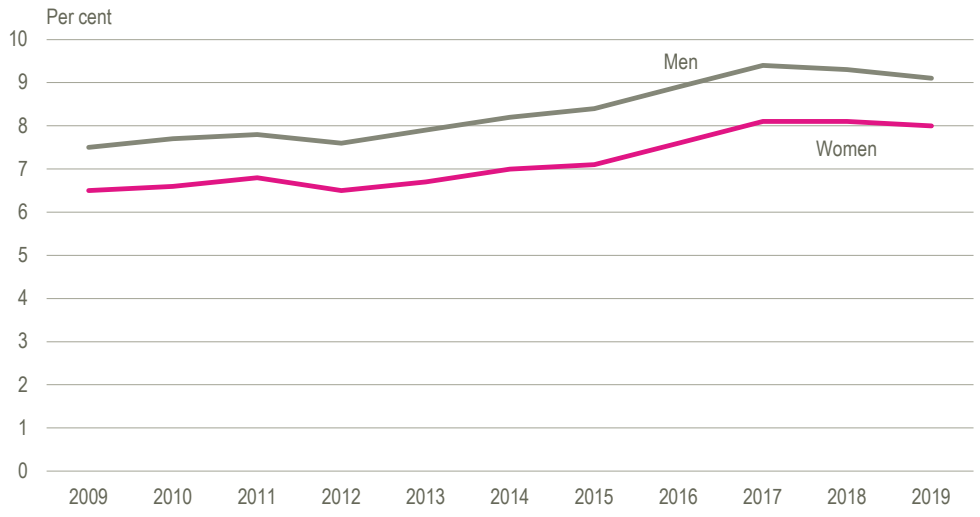


Target 10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

Indicator 10.2.1
Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

Risk of poverty is the classic indicator of the share below 50 per cent of the median income. The relative poverty level has been growing during the 2010s. This has in part been driven by lower income for young people between 18 and 30. Another large contribution to the growth has been from the large immigration of mostly Syrian refugees combined with the reintroduction of lower cash benefits for refugees and the cap on total cash benefits in 2015 and 2016 respectively. Rising employment rates and lower immigration numbers are contributing factors to the slightly lower rates in the last two years.

Figure 10.2.1: Proportion of men and women living below 50 per cent of median income



Target 10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

Indicator 10.3.1
Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law

Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator.	n/a

Target 10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality

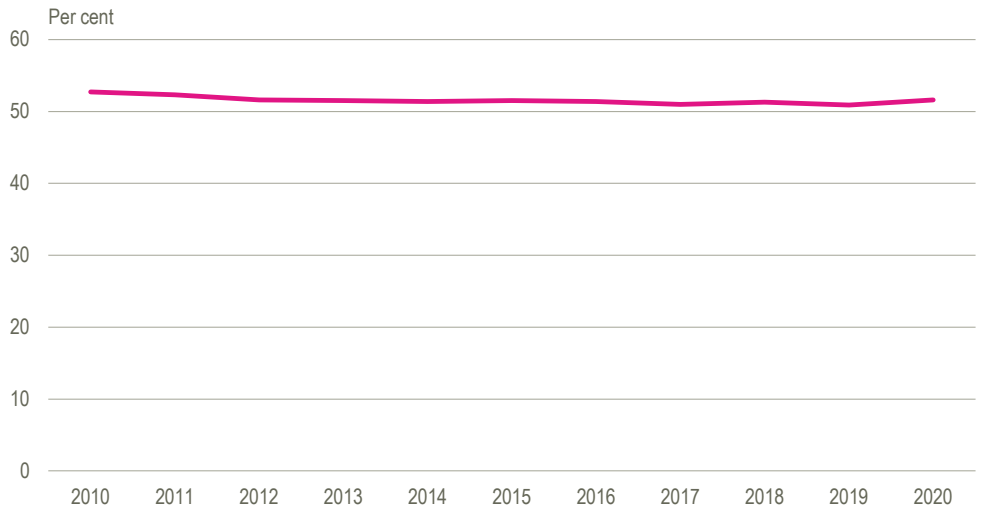
Indicator 10.4.1
Labour share of GDP

The purpose of labour share of GDP is to show the relative share of GDP which accrues to workers as compared to the share which accrues to capital in each reference period. In periods of economic recession, this figure provides an indication of the extent to which falling output reduces labour income relative to profits. If labour income falls at a greater rate than profits, the labour income share will be expected to fall. Increased production and GDP often lead to improved living standards, depending on the distribution of real income and public policy among other factors, which are reflected in this indicator.

In the period before and after the Great Recession, the compensation of employees' share of GDP fluctuated. At first it rose steeply to around 55 per cent and then dropped down to 53 per cent. In the following years, the share declined further to the current level of 51 per cent. In a long-term perspective, the labour share has remained constant at a level around 50-52 per cent since the 1980s.

The 2020 increase in labour share during the COVID-19 crisis is somewhat misleading, as company owners were significantly subsidised by the government. The labour share of the gross factor income indicates no increase in labour share.

Figure 10.4.1: Labour share of GDP



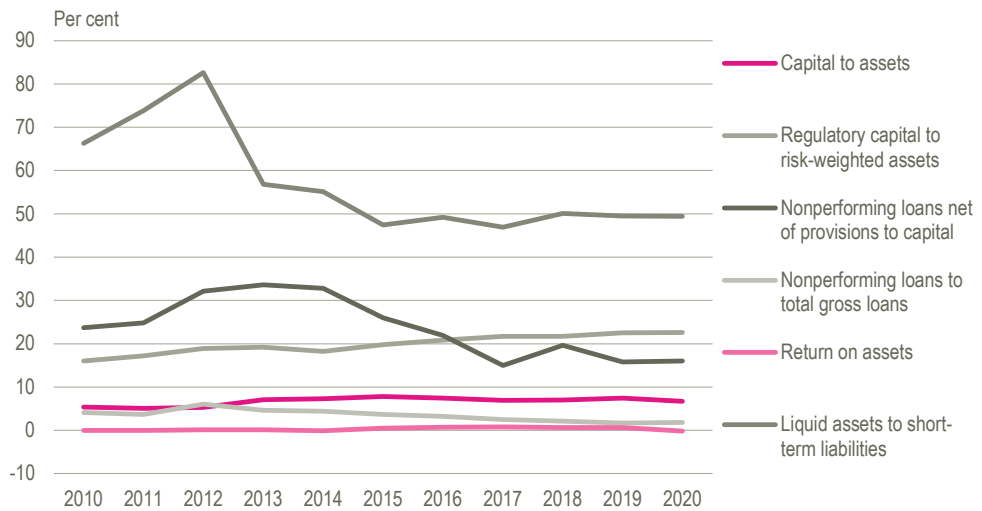
Target 10.5 Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations

Indicator 10.5.1
Financial Soundness Indicators

Financial soundness indicators (FSIs) provide insight into the financial health and soundness of a country's financial institutions. The FSIs are based on data collected by the Danish Financial Supervisory Authority and follows the guidelines form the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Data is published by the Danish Central Bank (Danmarks Nationalbank). The dashboard provides an overview of selected key indicators relating to the financial sector.

The two indicators relating to nonperforming loans show a significant decrease in the share of nonperforming loans since the financial crisis, which indicates a healthier financial market than a decade earlier.

Figure 10.5.1: Financial Soundness Indicators



Target 10.6 Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions

Indicator 10.6.1
Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations

The indicator is not about Denmark, since the indicator is assessed at the institutional level.	n/a

Target 10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

Indicator 10.7.1
Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of monthly income earned in country of destination

There are currently no available data on the costs of obtaining jobs for migrant workers in Denmark.	n/a

Indicator 10.7.2
Number of countries that have implemented well-managed migration policies

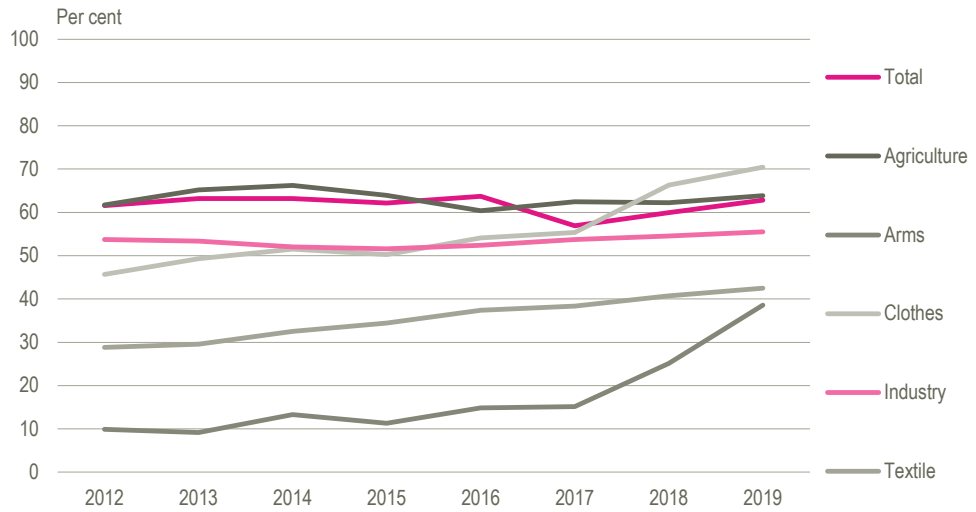
Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator. However, migration policies are incorporated as a well-managed part of the national legislation and the public administration.	✓

Target 10.a Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements

Indicator 10.a.1
Proportion of tariff lines applied to imports from least developed countries and developing countries with zero-tariff

The figure shows the development in the share of imported goods where no tariffs were payed. Therefore, a total equal to 62.9 per cent means that no tariff was paid on 62.9 per cent of the imported goods that year. Note that imports have been accumulated so that all types of income countries have been included. For the total, the share of no-tariff paid imported goods is stable in the period 2012-2019, and it has only grown by 1.3 per cent points. Agriculture and industry are also stable in the period, while for oil the share has been constant throughout the period. When it comes to arms, the share of no-tariff paid imports has grown from 9.9 per cent in 2012 to 38.6 per cent in 2019. Clothes is another sector, which has experienced high growth, more precisely it grew 24.7 per cent points over the 7-year period.

Figure 10.a.1: Proportion of imported goods where no tariffs were payed



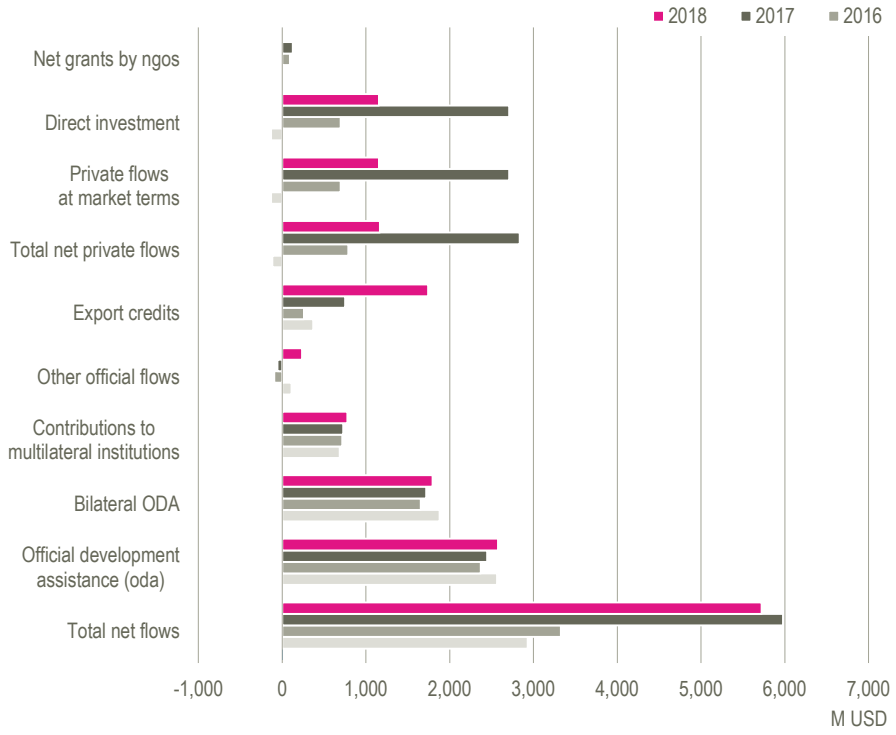
Target 10.b Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes

Indicator 10.b.1

Total resource flows for development, by recipient and donor countries and type of flow (e.g. official development assistance, foreign direct investment and other flows)

Within the goal of reducing inequality among countries, this indicator shows the official flows to states where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries and African countries, in accordance with their national plans and programs. Total resource flows for development, by recipient and donor countries and type of flow comprises three types of flows: Official Development Assistance (ODA), other official flows (OOF) and private flows. The idea is to quantify the overall expenditures that donors provide to developing countries. For Denmark, the official development assistance has been stable in the period covered, as a result of the stability of flows in both bilateral ODA and contributions to multilateral institutions. Direct investment, which is the main component of private flows, is more volatile than the official development. It increased in 2016 and especially in 2017, and it fell in 2018. The contribution of total net private flows overcomes the official development assistance in 2017, being the main contributing component in the total net flows in 2017. Overall, total net flows increased 13 per cent in 2016, almost 80 per cent in 2017 and decreased 4 per cent in 2018.

Figure 10.b.1: The official flows to states where the need is greatest



Target 10.c By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent

Indicator 10.c.1

Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted

According to the Central Bank of Denmark (Nationalbanken), there are no official statistics of transaction costs as a share of international remittances.	n/a

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Target 11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

Indicator 11.1.1
Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing

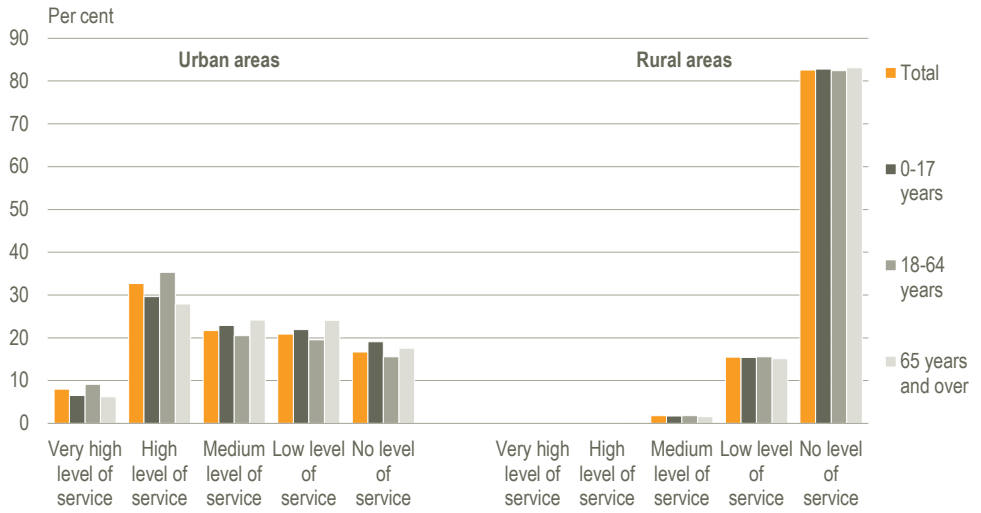
Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics on whether people in Denmark live in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing as specified in the methodology of the indicator.	n/a

Target 11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities, and older persons

Indicator 11.2.1
Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

The level of access to public transport is defined as the frequency of the possibility for boarding a train, bus etc. within 500 m from a person's residence. In general, the level of access to public transport service in the urban areas is medium to very high. In a large urban area as the Greater Copenhagen Region the level is usually high to very high – especially in the central parts. Also in other big urban areas, access to public transport is at a high level. As a rule of thumb, the smaller the urban area, the less access it has. However, almost every urban area in Denmark with at least 200 inhabitants has some level of access to public transport. Contrary to the urban areas, the access to public transport in rural areas is nearly everywhere predominantly poor or non-existing.

Figure 11.2.1: Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport

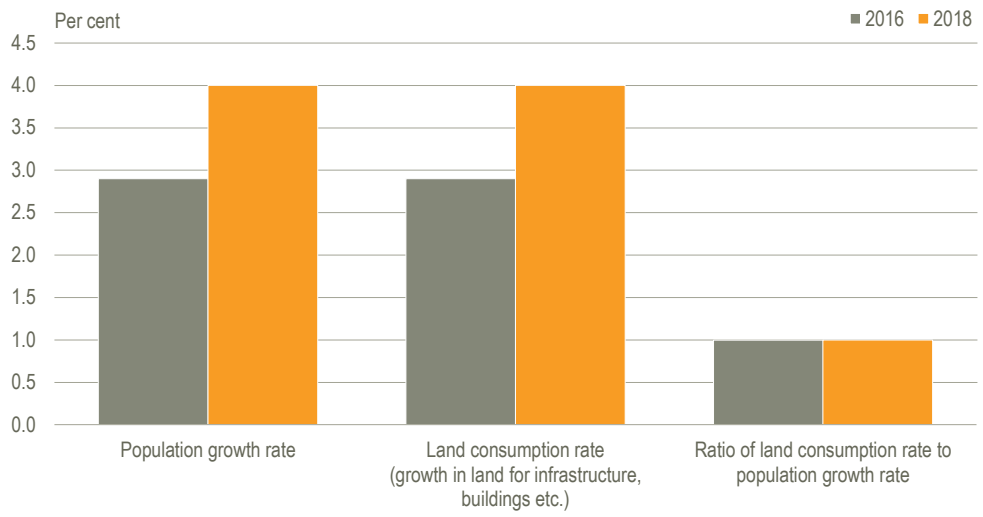


Target 11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

Indicator 11.3.1
Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate

Denmark has seen population and land consumption grow at similar rates, for both reference periods covered by data. This means that the amount of land used for infrastructure, buildings etc. has increased by the same rate as the population has grown.

Figure 11.3.1: Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate



Indicator 11.3.2
Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically

Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator.	n/a

Target 11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations

Indicator 11.5.1
Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population

Disaster means serious disruption of the functioning of a community or society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts that exceed the affected community or society's ability to cope with the disaster without outside assistance. Denmark does not compile statistics in this area using this definition. However, Statistics Denmark estimates that dead or missing persons due to disasters never or hardly ever occur. Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics on the number of persons affected by disasters.	n/a

Indicator 11.5.2
Direct economic loss in relation to global GDP, damage to critical infrastructure and number of disruptions to basic services, attributed to disasters

Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator.	n/a

Target 11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management

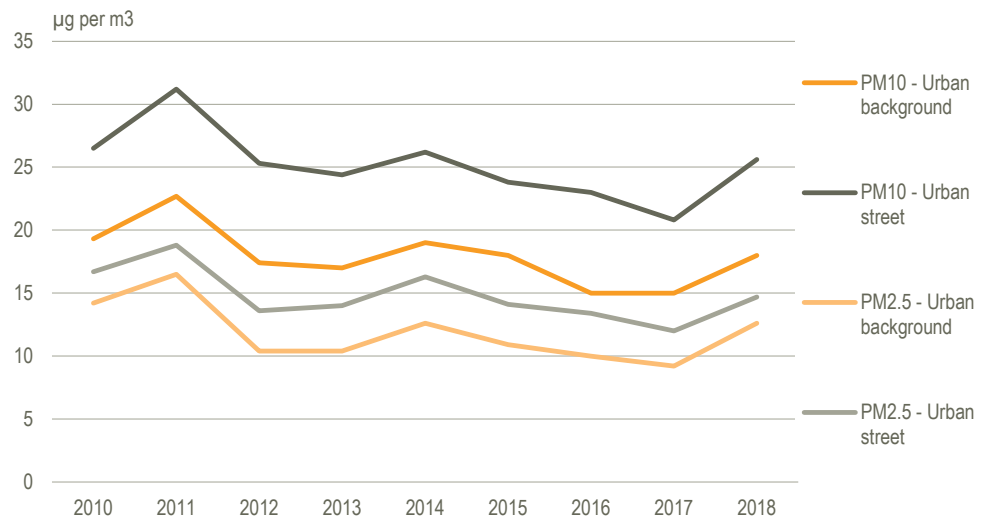
Indicator 11.6.1
Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated, by cities

Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator. However, Statistics Denmark estimates that all or nearly all waste is collected and managed sufficiently in Denmark.	100%

Indicator 11.6.2
Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)

For this indicator, we see a general decrease of air pollution in cities in Denmark. For 2018, there is an increase for all levels of particulate matter.

Figure 11.6.2: Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter in cities

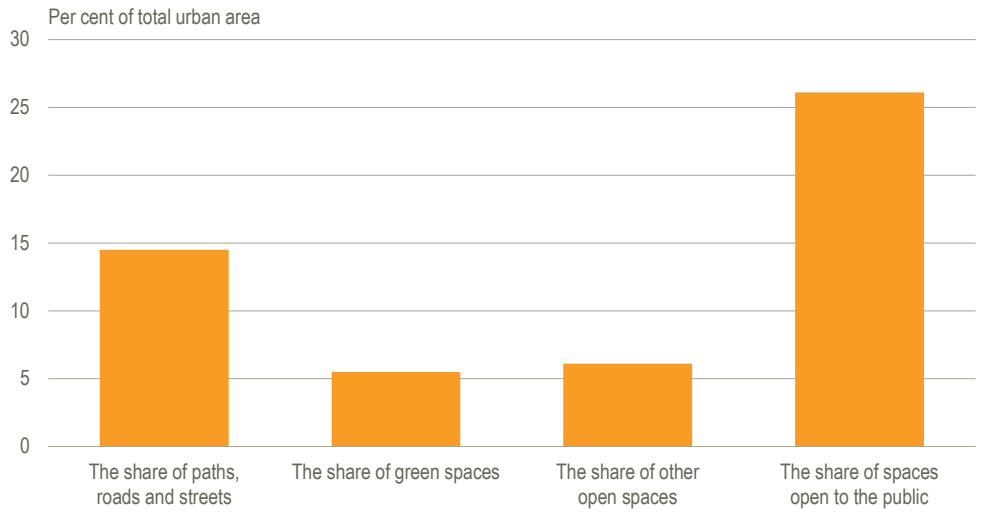


Target 11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

Indicator 11.7.1
Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

The average share inside the Danish urban areas that are open for public use is approximately a quarter. Of this street areas account for 60 per cent, green areas (parks, woods etc.) for 20 per cent, and other open public spaces (school yards, areas around libraries, town halls, sport centres etc.) for 20 per cent. These shares are relatively constant inside urban areas in all parts of Denmark. However, in proportion to the population density in urban areas there are differences in the amount of open public space that each single inhabitant has at his/her disposal. Thus, in the municipalities of the Greater Copenhagen Region, each inhabitant has less than 100 m² at his/her disposal on average. This is contrary to more sparsely inhabited municipalities where each member of the urban population often has more than 200 m² of open public space inside the urban area.

Figure 11.7.1: The average share inside the Danish urban areas that are open for public use



Indicator 11.7.2

Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months

Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator.	n/a

Target 11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels

Indicator 11.b.1

Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

According to the Danish Emergency Management Agency, Denmark does not systematically follow the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030a. However, many of the sub-elements of the Sendai framework are used as an integral part of Denmark's prevention of disasters and risks.	÷

Indicator 11.b.2

Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies

According to the Danish Emergency Management Agency, there is no general national strategy for disaster risk reduction for municipalities to follow. However, many municipalities prepare their own e.g. prevention and climate adaptation strategies.	÷

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Target 12.1 Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries

Indicator 12.1.1
Number of countries with sustainable consumption and production (SCP) national action plans or SCP mainstreamed as a priority or a target into national policies

Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator. However, Denmark has a national strategy for sustainable development.	✓

Target 12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources

Indicator 12.2.1
Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP

The resource footprint is an indicator of the amount of resources extracted from nature both in Denmark and abroad for the goods and services used in the Danish economy. Within the period 2010 to 2016, the resource footprint per GDP and per capita increased by 20 per cent and 12 per cent, respectively. The resource footprint per capita increased by 2 per cent in 2016 compared to 2015, while the footprint per GDP declined by 0.5 per cent in the same period.

Figure 12.2.1a: The resource footprint

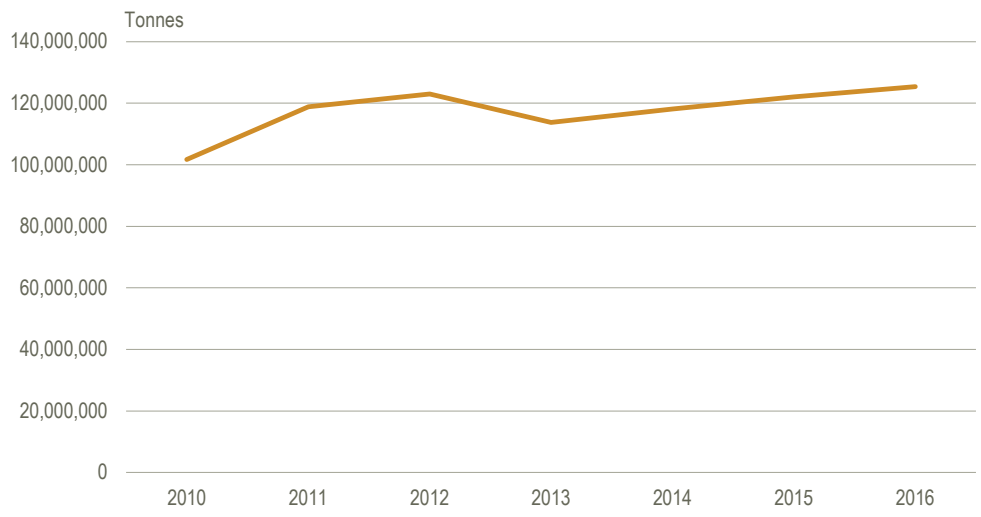
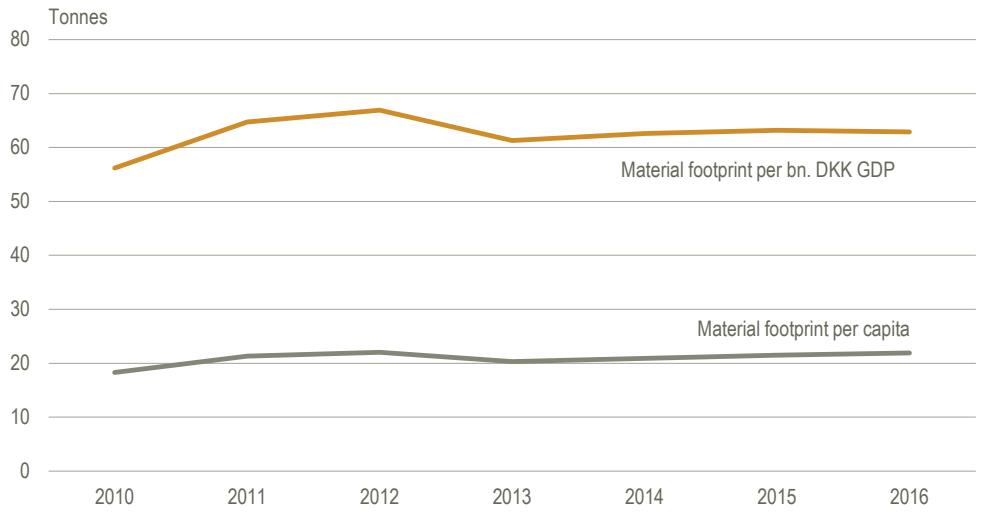


Figure 12.2.1b: The resource footprint per capita and resource footprint per GDP



Indicator 12.2.2

Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP

The figure shows that, with the exception of the decrease from 2012 to 2013, the Danish domestic material consumption has been rising in the period 2010 to 2019. This indicates a general increase in the consumption of materials in the Danish economy. Within the period 2013-2019, the domestic material consumption has increased with an average of 3 per cent per year. It should be noted that this indicator is highly influenced by the business cycles and economic activities related to construction, which is immediately reflected in domestic material consumption.

The domestic material consumption per GDP is an indicator of the amount of materials that are necessary to produce the Danish gross domestic product. After a big increase in the period 2010-2012, the domestic material consumption per GDP has shown a stable development of about 66,000 to 67,000 tonnes per DKK billion GDP in the years 2013 to 2019. In 2019, the domestic material consumption per GDP was 67,400 tonnes per DKK billion GDP, which was an increase of 4 per cent and 1 per cent compared to 2010 and 2018, respectively.

Figure 12.2.2a: The Danish domestic material consumption

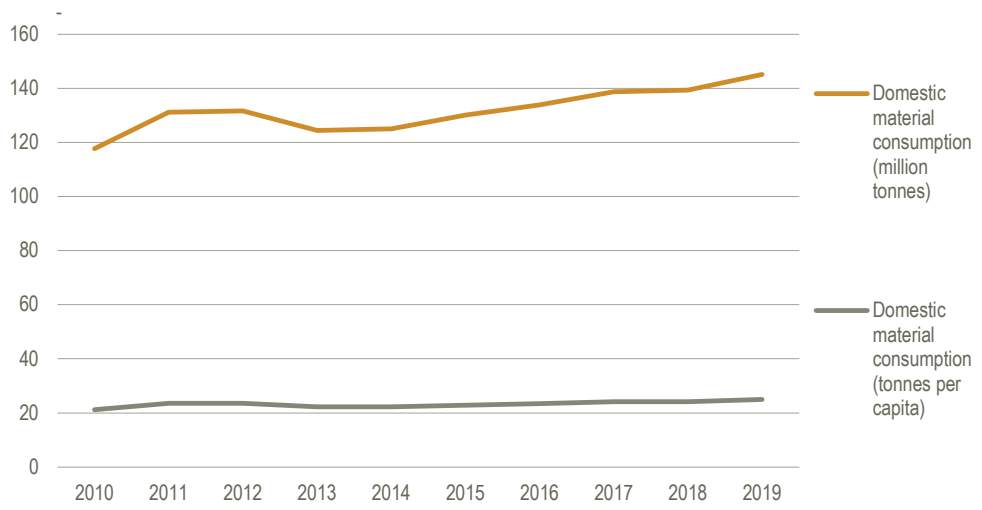
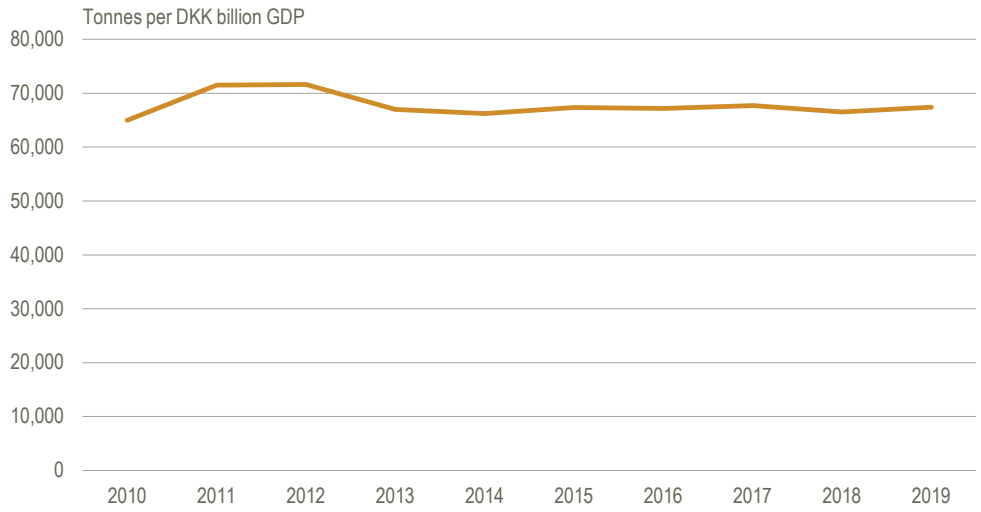


Figure 12.2.2b: The Danish domestic material consumption per GDP



Target 12.3 By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses

Indicator 12.3.1
Global food loss index

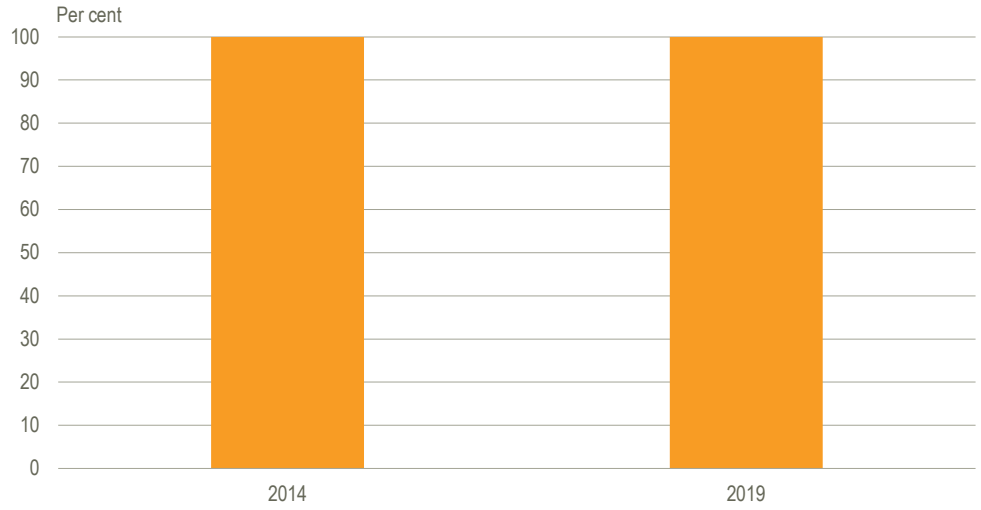
Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator.	n/a

Target 12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

Indicator 12.4.1
Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement

Denmark has a high level of commitment to multilateral agreements on hazardous waste and chemicals. The indicator is a transmission score showing Denmark's degree of compliance with commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by multilateral agreements on hazardous waste and other chemicals. The agreements include the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions and the Montreal Protocol. For the two reported years Denmark has a score of 100 per cent.

Figure 12.4.1: Denmark's degree of compliance with commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by multilateral agreements on hazardous waste and other chemicals



Indicator 12.4.2

(a) Hazardous waste generated per capita; and (b) proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment

The amount of hazardous waste per inhabitant in Denmark has ranged between 94 kg and 104 kg in the period of 2011 to 2019. The development in hazardous waste per capita decreased in 2011 and 2012, but increased again in 2013 and 2014. Since 2014, is has been relatively stable. The construction sector generates a significant share of the hazardous waste, and a part of the development can be explained by activities in this sector.

Most of the hazardous waste is recycled, although the share was decreasing in the period of 2011-2017. In the same period, the share of hazardous waste for incineration was growing and the share for deposition was more or less stable. After 2017, there has been an increase in hazardous waste for materials recovery, while the shares for incineration and deposition are decreasing. The increase in materials recovery from 35 to 44 per cent in the period of 2017 to 2019 primarily comes from waste generated in the construction sector and households.

Figure 12.4.2a: The amount of hazardous waste per inhabitant

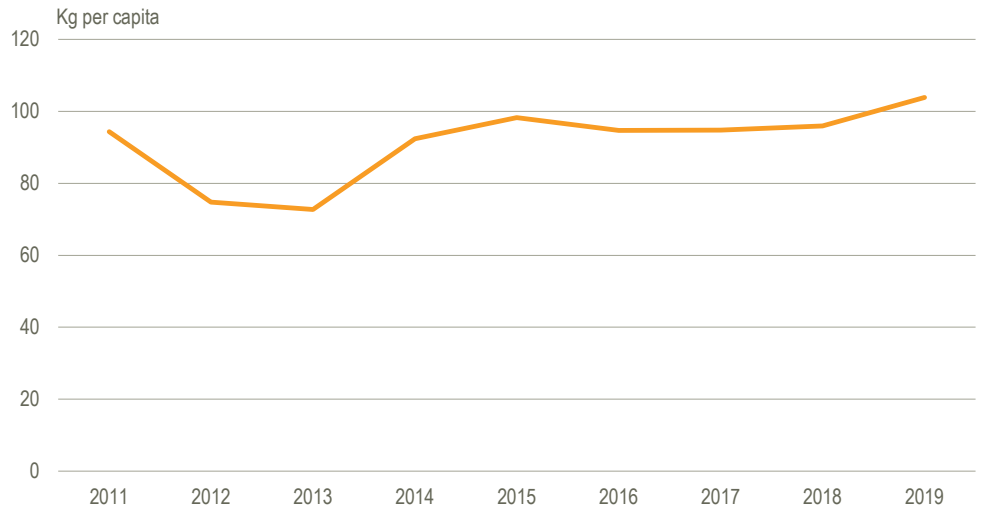
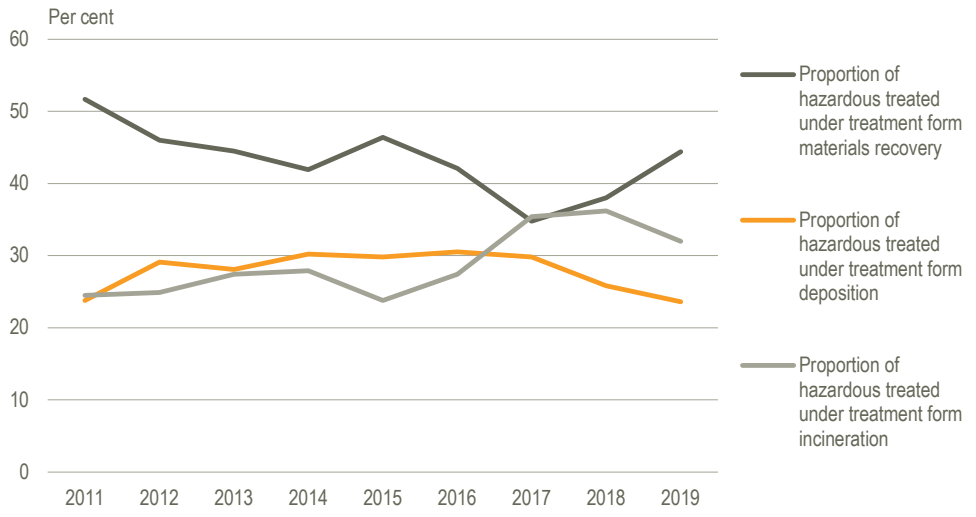


Figure 12.4.2b: Proportion of hazardous waste



Target 12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

Indicator 12.5.1
National recycling rate, tonnes of material recycled

In Denmark, 72 per cent of the waste was collected for recycling in 2019. The recycling rate has increased from 62 per cent in 2011. In terms of quantities, there has been an increasing trend from 7.0 million tonnes in 2011 to 9.1 million tonnes in 2019. A significant part of the increase comes from the construction sector, as well as more containers and collection of household waste.

Figure 12.5.1a: The Danish recycling rate

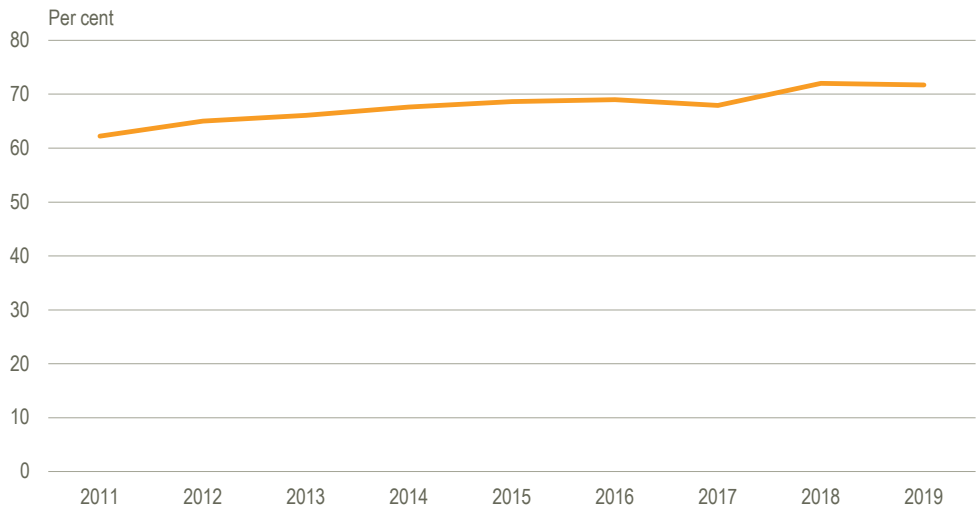
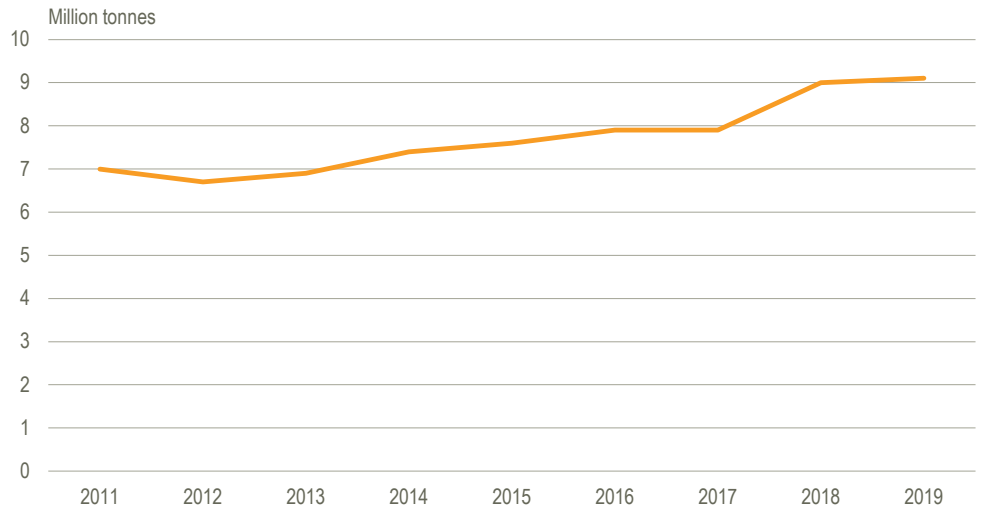


Figure 12.5.1b: Waste collected for materials recovery



Target 12.6

Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle

Indicator 12.6.1

Number of companies publishing sustainability reports

There is no accurate estimate on the number of companies publishing sustainability reports. Danish companies of a certain size (the so called enterprise classes "Large C" and "D") are obliged to include Corporate Social Responsibility in their annual reports. This includes reporting on environmental and climate initiatives, so it can be assumed that these companies should be counted as publishing sustainability reports. There are approximately 1100 companies in those classes, so this can be considered a lower limit for this figure. Statistics Denmark is looking into whether there are sources that can be used to produce a more accurate estimate.	n/a

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Target 13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

Indicator 13.1.1

Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population

Disaster means serious disruption of the functioning of a community or society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts that exceed the affected community or society's ability to cope with the disaster without outside assistance. Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics on the number of dead, missing and affected persons in connection with disasters. However, Statistics Denmark estimates that very few people die or go missing due to disasters.	0%

Indicator 13.1.2

Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

According to the Danish Emergency Management Agency, Denmark does not systematically follow the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030a. However, many of the sub-elements of the Sendai framework are used as part of Denmark's prevention of disasters and risks.	÷

Indicator 13.1.3

Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies

According to the Danish Emergency Management Agency, there are no general national strategies for disaster risk reduction for municipalities to follow. However, many municipalities prepare their own e.g. prevention and climate adaptation strategies.	÷

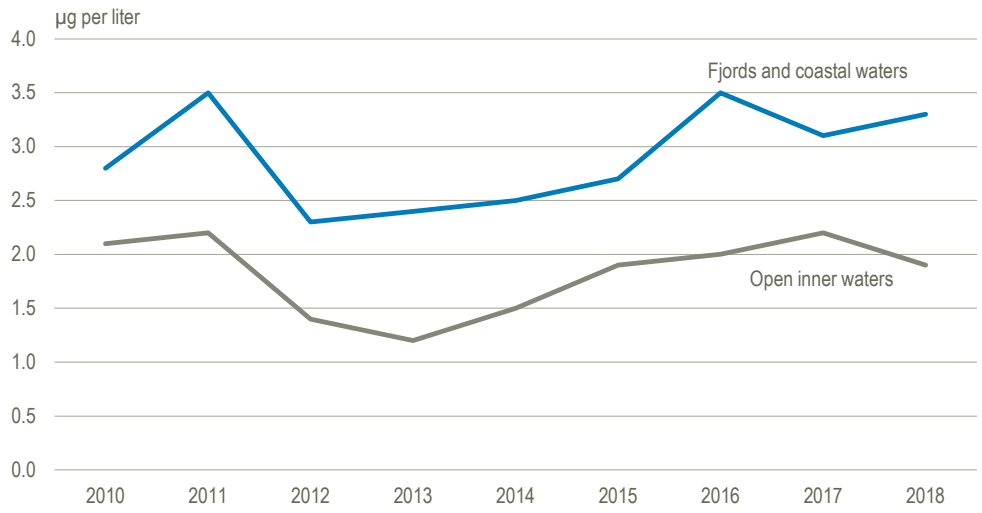
Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Target 14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution

Indicator 14.1.1
(a) Index of coastal eutrophication; and (b) plastic debris density

Chlorophyll concentration is an indicator for eutrophication of coastal and open inner waters. Since 2012, there has been a general increase in chlorophyll concentration in Danish coastal and open inner waters. The increase for open inner waters stopped in 2018, when the concentrations decreased.

Figure 14.1.1: Chlorophyll concentration in inner waters



Target 14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans

Indicator 14.2.1
Proportion of national exclusive economic zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches

Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator.	n/a

Target 14.a Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries

Indicator 14.a.1
Proportion of total research budget allocated to research in the field of marine technology

Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator.	n/a

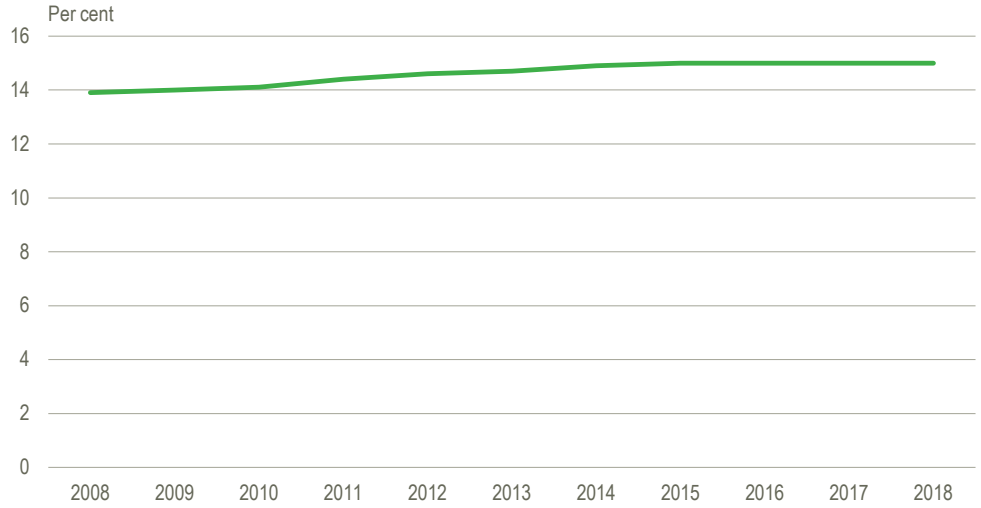
Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Target 15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

Indicator 15.1.1
Forest area as a proportion of total land area

The Danish forestry area has increased slightly during the recent decade and does now constitute about 15 per cent of the Danish territory. This development is policy induced on the assumption that an increased forestry area is a measure which can combat CO2 emission and secure richer biodiversity at the same time. Most of the Danish woodland is used for production of timber and wood for energy. Primary forestry – sometimes labelled nature forest – accounts for a very small share.

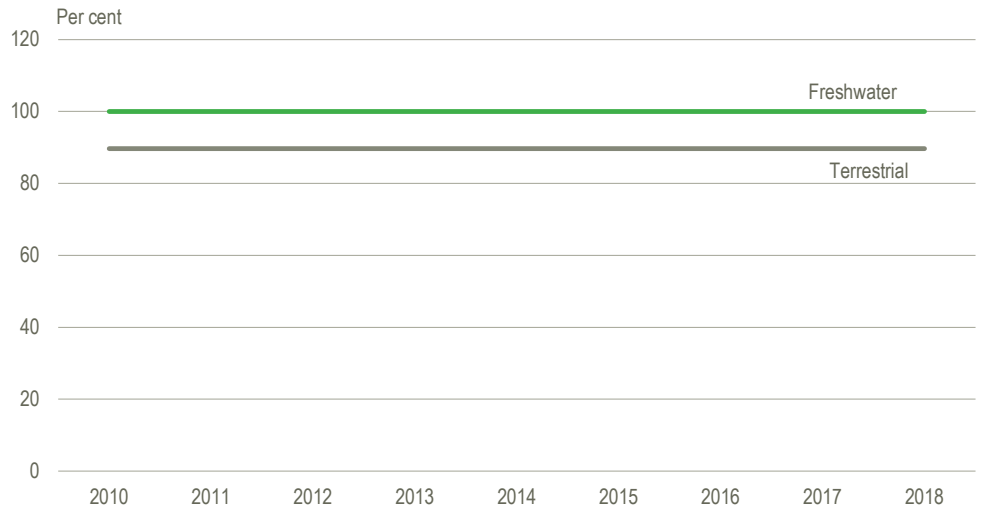
Figure 15.1.1: Proportion of forest area



Indicator 15.1.2
Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type

The share of protected important sites for biodiversity has been unchanged in the years 2010-2018. The share is 100 per cent for freshwater ecosystems, and 89.7 per cent for terrestrial ecosystems.

Figure 15.1.2: Proportion of protected important sites for biodiversity



Target 15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally

Indicator 15.2.1
Progress towards sustainable forest management

The indicator consists of five sub-indicators of which Denmark has been able to provide the two first sub-indicators: 1) Forest area annual net change rate and 2) Above-ground biomass stock in forests. With regard to the two indicators, the wooded area has increased every year in the last decade. Sub-indicator two shows a similar growth in the biomass stock, which indicates a sustainable management of the Danish forests. Both developments are positive in terms of combating CO2 emissions and for obtaining richer biodiversity. With regard to the remaining indicators: 3) Proportion of forest area located within legally established protected areas and 4) Proportion of forest area under a long term forest management plan, data does not yet exist. As regards 5) Forest area under an independently verified forest management certification scheme, sources seem to exist, but data analyses are pending.

Figure 15.2.1a: Forest area annual net change rate

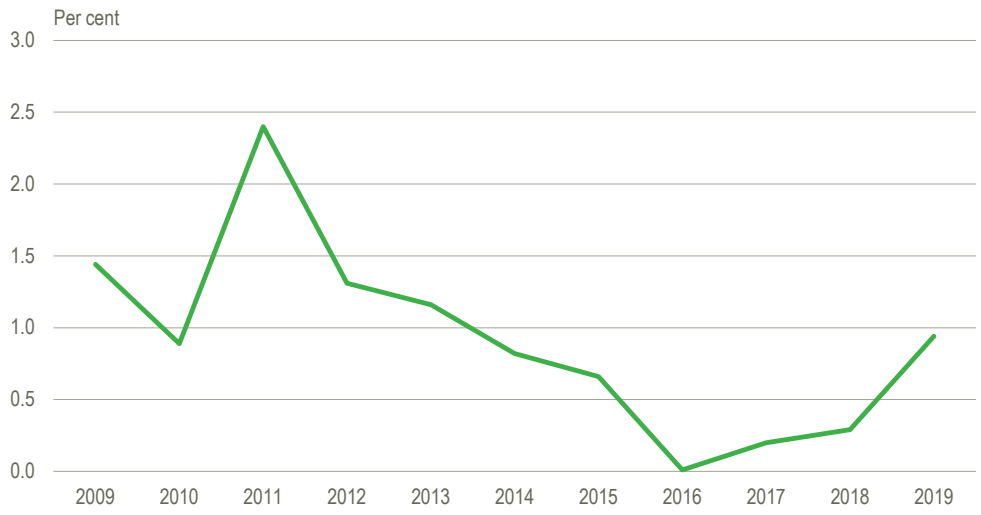
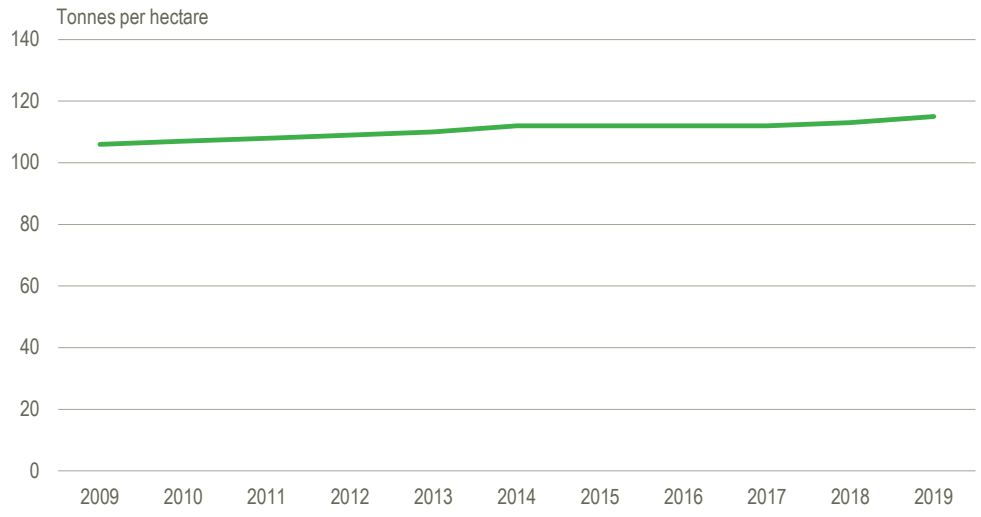


Figure 15.2.1b: Above-ground biomass stock in forests



Target 15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world

Indicator 15.3.1
Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area

Denmark does not yet have the methodology and data to make a compilation of this indicator possible in line with the definition. However, it is assessed that the productive and biological potential value of the land overall is kept over time. Part of the open land has currently changed to urban use, e.g. buildings and roads.	0%

Target 15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development

Indicator 15.4.1
Coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity

The documentation for the indicator does not define Denmark as a country with mountain areas.	n/a

Indicator 15.4.2
Mountain Green Cover Index

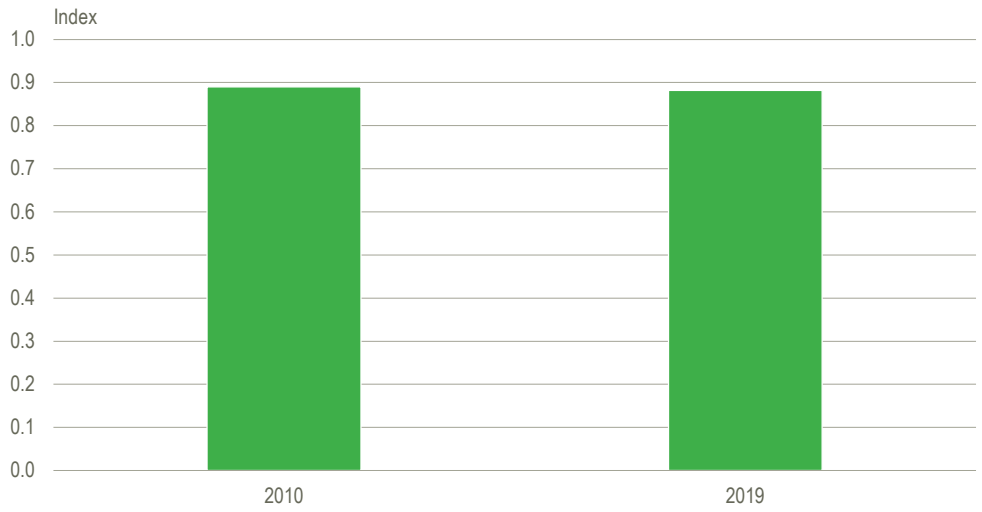
The documentation for the indicator does not define Denmark as a country with mountain areas.	n/a

Target 15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species

Indicator 15.5.1
Red List Index

The Red List is a register of plants, animal and fungal species, which are under threat to become extinct. The indicator, which is only calculated with longer intervals, is compiled at Aarhus University using the UN-definition (which is also used by IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature). The criteria for calculation are met as accurately as possible. The latest compilation of the indicator/index from 2019 is based on 5,523 species. The figure expresses to which extent the threatened species are protected, as a figure close to 1 means a high level of protection and a value closer to zero means low level of protection (regionally extinct).

Figure 15.5.1. The Red List



Target 15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed

Indicator 15.6.1
Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits

Denmark joined the Nagoya Protocol in 2014 and – according to the Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark – Denmark complies with the International Treaty on PGRFA.	✓

Target 15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products

Indicator 15.7.1
Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked

Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator. The CITES-section in the Danish Ministry of Environment refers to EU's regularly updated overviews of CITES-related seizures reported by Member States of the EU.	n/a

Target 15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species

Indicator 15.8.1
Proportion of countries adopting relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species

Denmark follows the common EU rules supplemented by national rules for controlling invasive species.	✓

Target 15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts

Indicator 15.9.1
Progress towards national targets established in accordance with Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

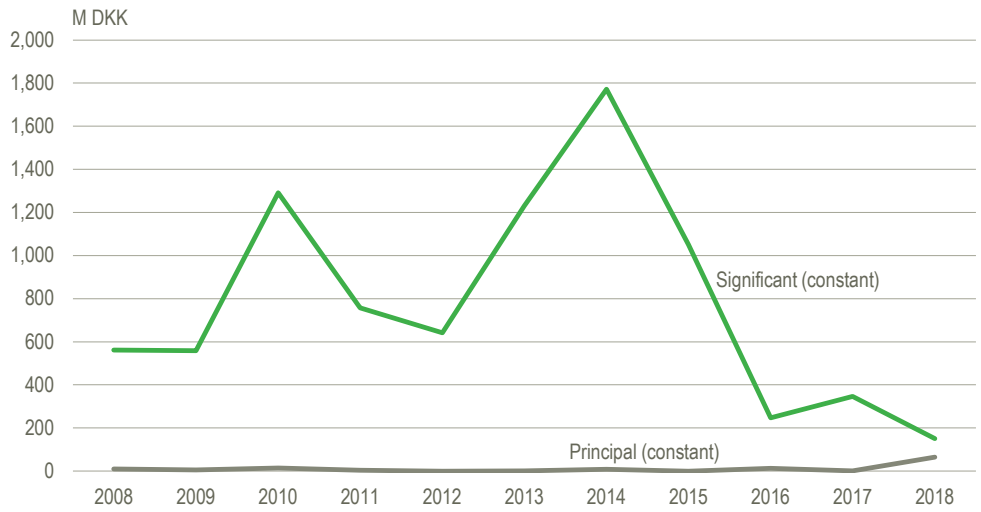
Sub-indicator (a), national targets in accordance with Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAP) and the progress reported towards these targets: "Denmark's primary contribution to implementing the UN Strategic Plan for Biodiversity is through the EU Biodiversity Strategy. Consequently, Denmark does not prepare national statements on progress in meeting the individual Aichi Targets. In addition, Denmark's national biodiversity strategy is being revised. Consequently, at present, no targets have been established at national level in a revised national biodiversity strategy" (Sixth Danish Country Report – Convention on Biological Diversity 2019, p. 3). Sub-indicator (b), integration of biodiversity values into national accounting and reporting systems, defined as implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA): Denmark has implemented SEEA Central Framework, but not yet SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting. In relation to biodiversity values, EEA is more relevant.	n/a

Target 15.a Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems

Indicator 15.a.1
(a) Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and (b) revenue generated and finance mobilized from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments

Denmark has increased its contribution to countries and territories on the DAC list of ODA recipients and to multilateral institutions in two periods. From 2009 to 2010, Denmark increased its contribution by 130.8 per cent. Contributions then decreased by 50.3 per cent from 2010 to 2012. The largest Danish contribution occurred in 2014 with 1,772.34 m DKK. In 2016, the contribution decreased by 86.1 per cent compared to the level in 2014. The latest activity registered was in 2018 with a contribution of 150.65 m DKK. Hence, Danish ODA flows have fluctuated quite substantially during the years with present levels being among the lowest registered.

Figure 15.a.1: Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and revenue generated and finance mobilized from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments

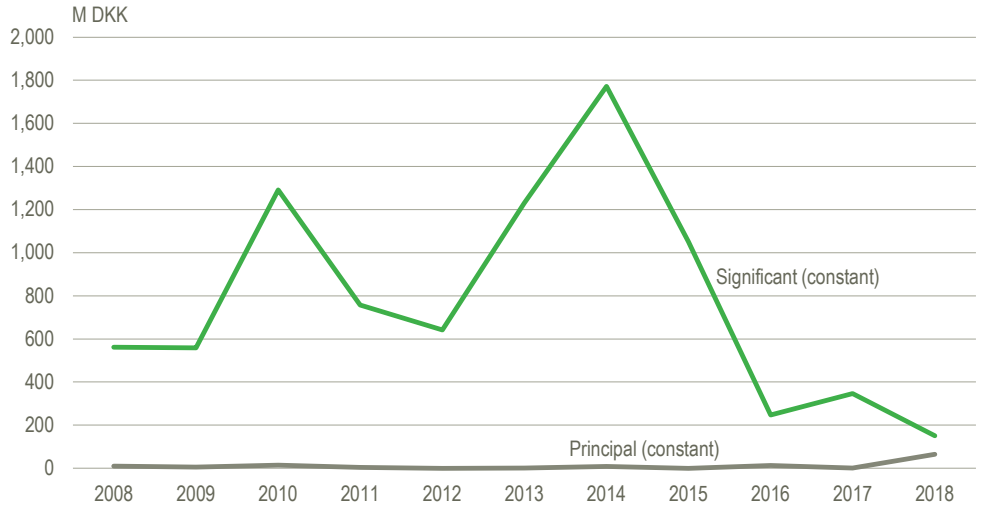


Target 15.b Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation

Indicator 15.b.1
(a) Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and (b) revenue generated and finance mobilized from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments

Denmark has increased its contribution to countries and territories on the DAC list of ODA recipients and to multilateral institutions in two periods. From 2009 to 2010, Denmark increased its contribution by 130.8 per cent. Contributions then decreased with 50.3 per cent from 2010 to 2012. The largest Danish contribution occurred in 2014 with 1772.34 m DKK. In 2016, the contribution decreased with 86.1 per cent compared to the level in 2014. The latest activity registered was in 2018 with a contribution of 150.65 m DKK. Hence, Danish ODA flows have fluctuated quite substantially during the years with present levels being among the lowest registered.

Figure 15.b.1: Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and revenue generated and finance mobilized from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments



Target 15.c Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities

Indicator 15.c.1
Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked

Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator. The CITES-section in The Danish Ministry of Environment refers to EU's regularly updated overviews of CITES-related seizures reported by Member States of the EU.	n/a

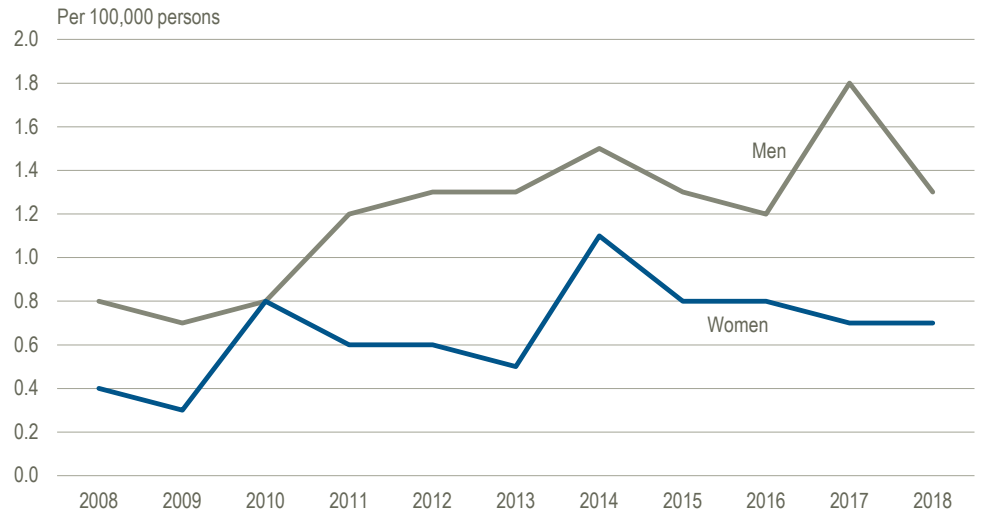
Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Target 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

Indicator 16.1.1
Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age

Since 2011, the proportion of victims of intentional homicide has been more or less steady (except for 2014 regarding female victims and 2017 for male victims). In Denmark, there is approximately 1.5 male victims and 0.7 female victims per 100,000 persons yearly.

Figure 16.1.1: Proportion of victims of intentional homicide



Indicator 16.1.2
Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause

Statistics Denmark estimates that the number of deaths due to conflicts between armed groups and the state – according to the methodology – are estimated to be zero or very low.	0%

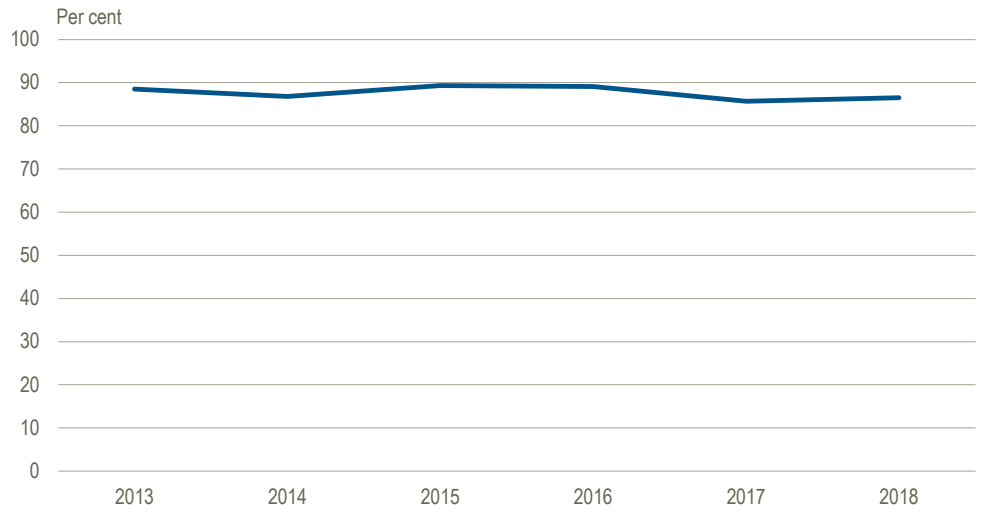
Indicator 16.1.3
Proportion of population subjected to (a) physical violence, (b) psychological violence and (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months

Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator. Information about victims of physical violence or forced intercourse aged 16-74 (only women) within the last 12 months figures in the annual Victimization Survey by the Ministry of Justice's Research Office. Other forms of sexual violence and psychological violence are not included.	n/a

Indicator 16.1.4
Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live

The indicator is calculated by the Danish National Police, and data indicates that more than 85 per cent feel safe walking alone around the area they live in. Over the years, the proportion varies from around 86 to 89 per cent.

Figure 16.1.4: Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live



Target 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

Indicator 16.2.1

Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month

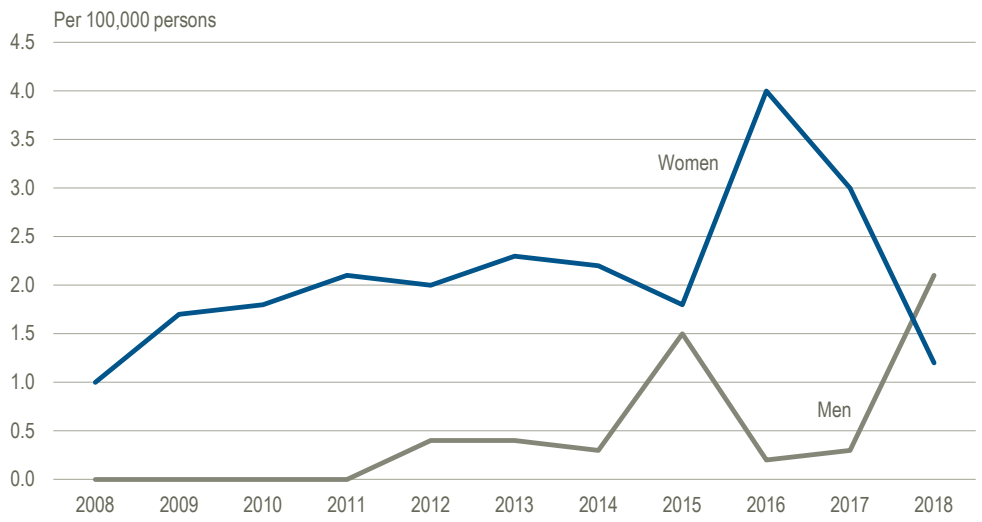
Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator.	n/a

Indicator 16.2.2

Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation

The increase in male victims of human trafficking in 2015 is due to a large number of detected victims recorded as trafficked "for other purposes". In 2018, the increase in male victims is due to a large number of detected victims recorded as trafficked for "forced labour, servitude and slavery". The increase of female victims of human trafficking in 2016 is due to a large number of detected victims recorded as trafficked for "sexual exploitation".

Figure 16.2.2: Number of victims of human trafficking



Indicator 16.2.3
Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18

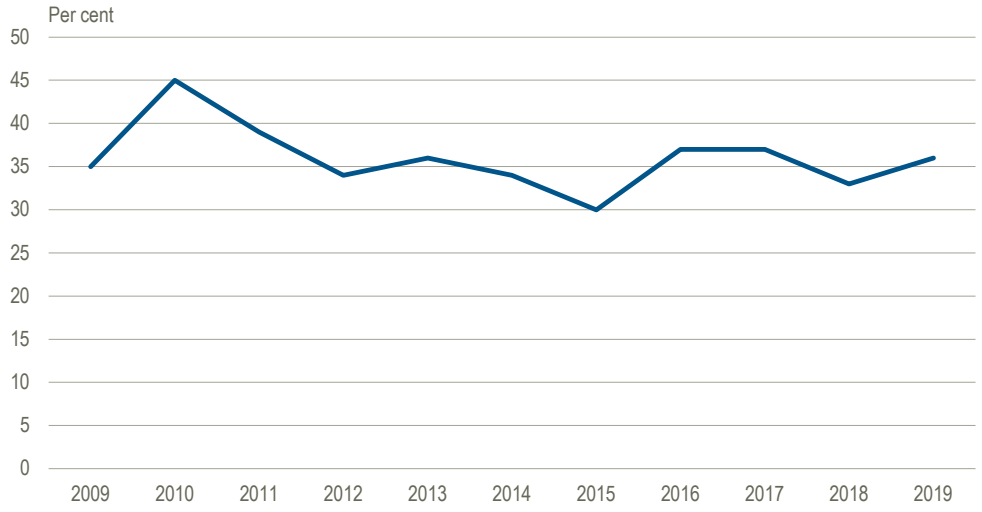
Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator.	n/a

Target 16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

Indicator 16.3.1
Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms

The indicator is calculated by the Ministry of Justice's Research Office and indicates that the number of victims of violence who have themselves reported the incident to the police in proportion to all victims of violence varies throughout the years 2009-2019 from 33 to 45 per cent.

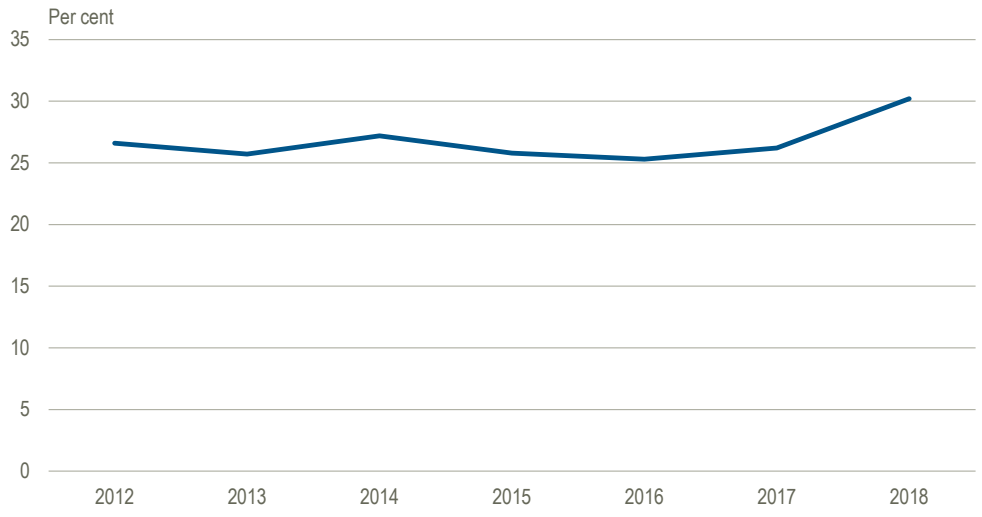
Figure 16.3.1: Proportion of victims of violence who have themselves reported the incident to the police



Indicator 16.3.2
Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population

The indicator is calculated by the Danish Prison and Probation Service and indicates a significant increase in the proportion of people arrested or held in remand custody in proportion to all inmates in 2018 compared to previous years.

Figure 16.3.2: Proportion of people arrested or held in remand custody



Target 16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime

Indicator 16.4.1

Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars)

It is considered that illegal activities and money laundering are the most relevant sources of illicit financial flows in Denmark. The balance of payments and GDP/GNI includes only explicit estimates of illegal activities and there are no explicit estimates of the impact of money laundering. As the estimates of illegal activities are not public, a Danish estimate is not available.	n/a

Indicator 16.4.2

Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments

Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator.	n/a

Target 16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

Indicator 16.5.1

Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months

Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator. However, according to the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) from Transparency International, Denmark has a very low level of corruption compared to other countries (in 2019). The index measures the perceived corruption in the public sector through companies and experts. Therefore, Statistics Denmark estimates that the number of people that have paid – or been asked to pay a bribe to public officials in Denmark is very low.	0%

Indicator 16.5.2

Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months

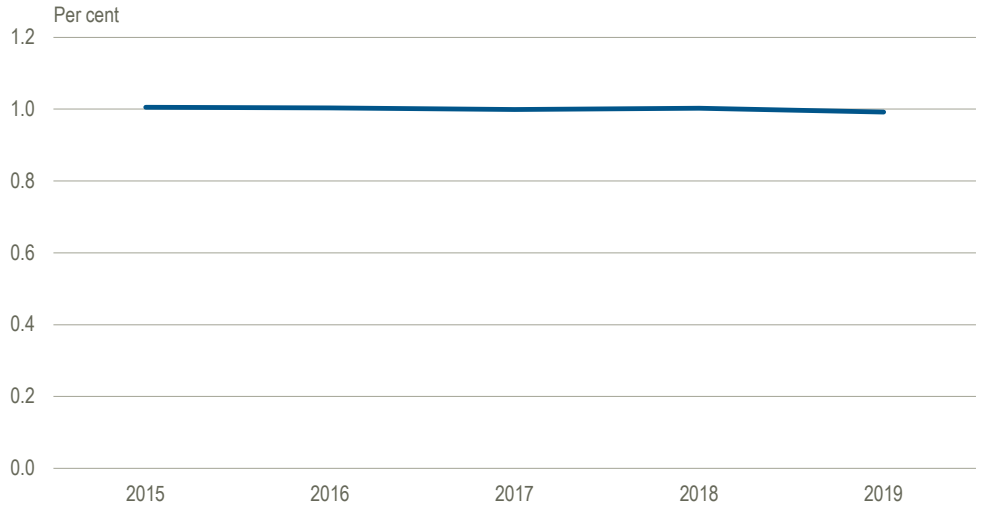
Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator. However, according to the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) from Transparency International (in 2019), Denmark has a very low level of corruption compared to other countries. The index measures the perceived corruption in the public sector (through companies and experts). Therefore, Statistics Denmark estimates that the number of firms that have paid – or been asked to pay a bribe to public officials in Denmark is very low.	0%

Target 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

Indicator 16.6.1
Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)

The figure shows that the general government total expenditure is nearly identical to the original approved budget. If the figure is investigated in detail, it can be seen that in 2015, total expenditure is slightly higher than the approved budget. Since 2015, the development in the figures can be interpreted as a slow development towards slightly lower actual expenditure than the original approved budget.

Figure 16.6.1: General government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget



Indicator 16.6.2
Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services

Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator.	n/a

Target 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

Indicator 16.7.1
Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions

Statistics Denmark does not have register-based information on whether you are disabled. In Denmark, studies / analyses of the connection of persons with disabilities to the labour market are sometimes carried out. One of the actors in the area is "The National Research and Analysis Center for Welfare". However, no information has been obtained enabling the formation of the indicator.	n/a

Target 16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance

Indicator 16.8.1
Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations

The indicator is not about Denmark, as the indicator is assessed at the institutional level.	✓

Target 16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration

Indicator 16.9.1

Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age

In accordance with section 3 of the Danish Act on the Civil Registration System, all children are registered in an official personal register. Statistics Denmark estimates that all or close to all children are recorded in the register.	100%

Target 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

Indicator 16.10.1

Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months

Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator. However, Statistics Denmark estimates that the number of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates who are exposed to killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention or torture is zero or very low.	0%

Indicator 16.10.2

Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information

According to the Danish Union of Journalists, section 77 of the Constitutional Act gives any person the right to speak in public, and Denmark complies with international agreements in this area. Furthermore, laws and guarantees are implemented through the democratic reading in the Danish parliament and trial before the courts.	✓

Target 16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime

Indicator 16.a.1

Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles

According to the UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights, Denmark complied with the Paris Principles on 8 August 2018, see https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/NHRI.pdf	✓

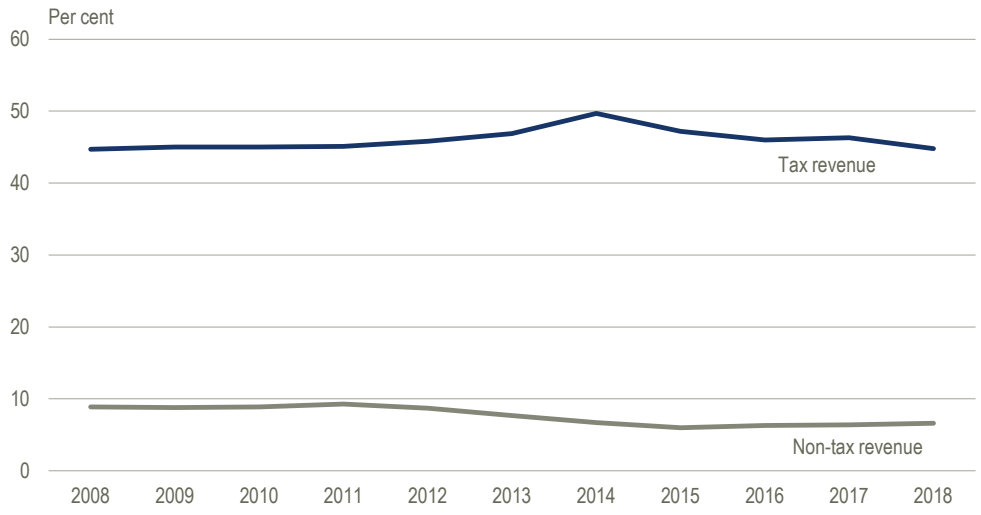
Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Target 17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection

Indicator 17.1.1
Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source

From 2008 to 2014, the proportion of the tax revenue in relation to GDP increased slightly and from 2014 onwards, there was a slight decrease. This development is a result of both developments in GDP and the revenue from taxes. Since 2011 the non-tax revenue has declined slightly. This is among other things affected by decreasing revenue from oil-related activities. However, the structure of general government revenue is relatively stable in the time span of the figure.

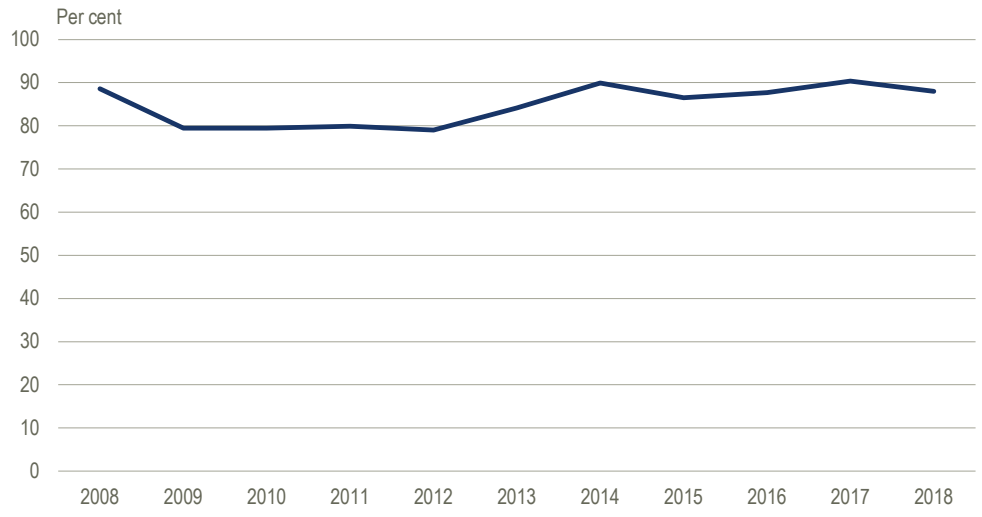
Figure 17.1.1: Proportion of the tax revenue in relation to GDP



Indicator 17.1.2
Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes

The indicator shows that the main income from the general government is domestic tax revenue. The proportion is relatively stable despite being affected by recessions during which the government has financed part of the expenditure by running a deficit. This can be seen in the figure in the years following the financial crisis.

Figure 17.1.2: Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes



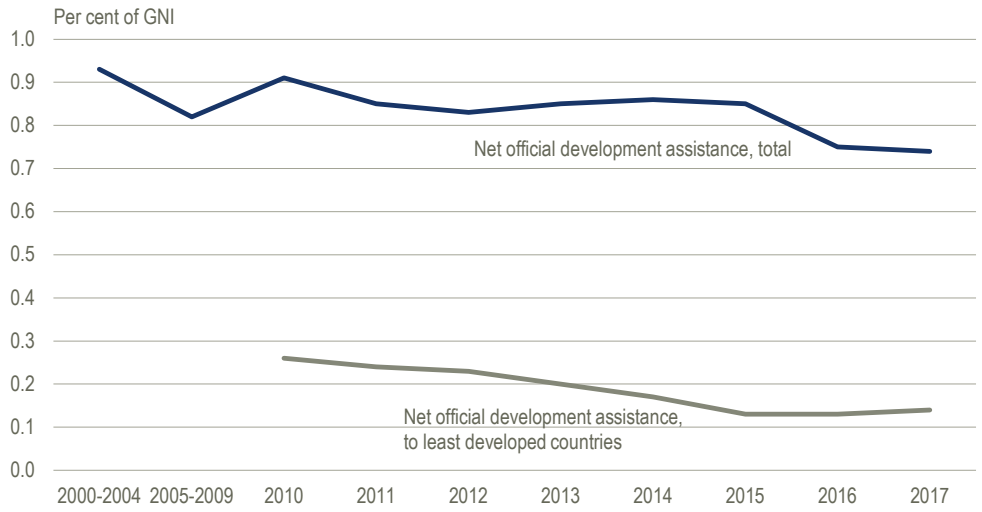
Target 17.2 Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance (ODA/GNI) to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries

Indicator 17.2.1

Net official development assistance, total and to least developed countries, as a proportion of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee donors' gross national income (GNI)

The Danish net official development assistance has been over or at 0.8 per cent of the Danish gross national income. Denmark has consistently provided at least 0.7 per cent of its GNI as ODA since 1978. The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for policy, co-ordination and implementation of Denmark's development co-operation. Denmark ranked fourth among DAC member countries in relation to its ODA/GNI ratio in 2019. The net official development assistance to least developed countries has since 2010 been on a constant level.

Figure 17.2.1: The Danish net official development assistance

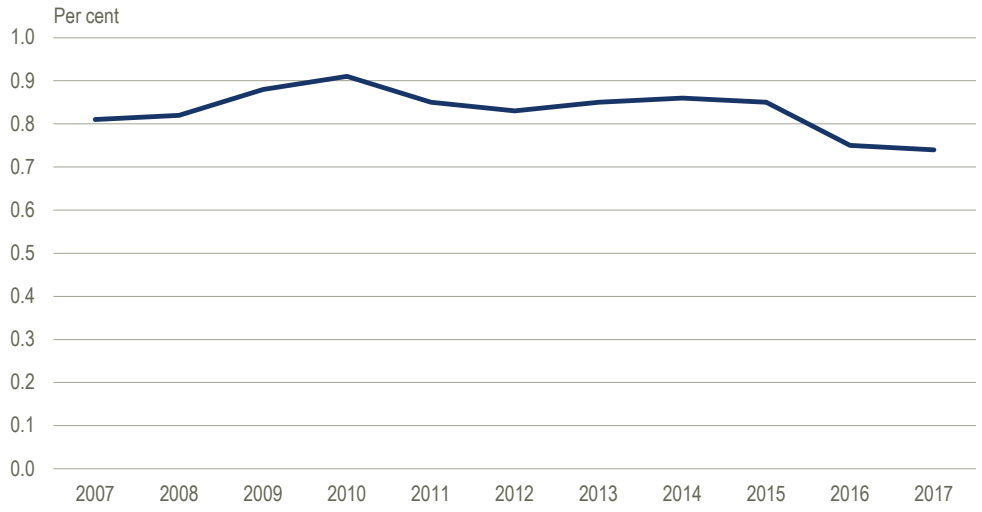


Target 17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources

Indicator 17.3.1
Foreign direct investment, official development assistance and South-South cooperation as a proportion of gross national income

The foreign direct investments in developing countries have been relatively stable since 2007. However, there is a slight tendency of decreasing direct investments starting in 2010. On average, the foreign direct investments amount to around 0.83 per cent of gross national income.

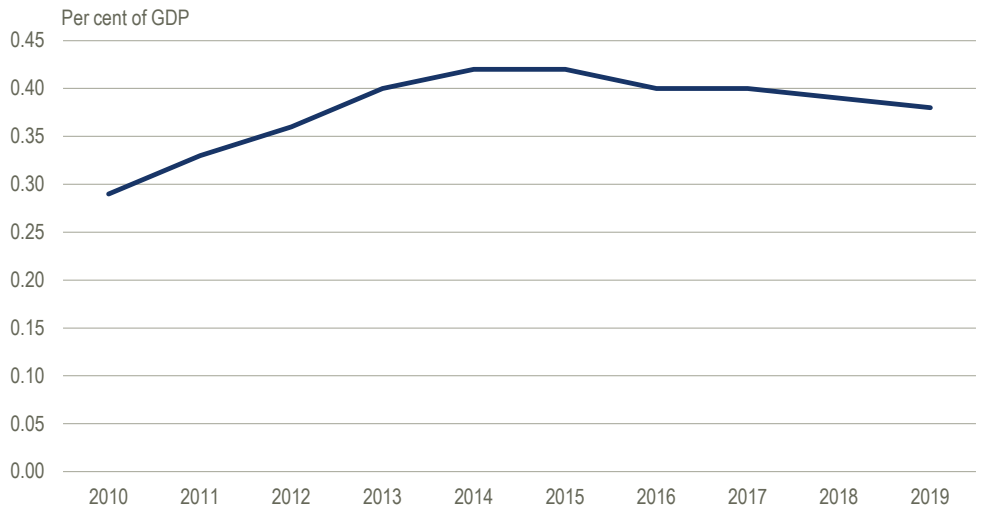
Figure 17.3.1: The foreign direct investments in developing countries



Indicator 17.3.2
Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP

The ratio "Personal remittances received as a per cent of GDP" only includes compensation of employees that Danish residents received from work in other countries. Other current personal transfers (as e.g. presents and inheritances) are not included in this ratio due to the poor quality of the available data sources.

Figure 17.3.2: Personal remittances received as a per cent of GDP



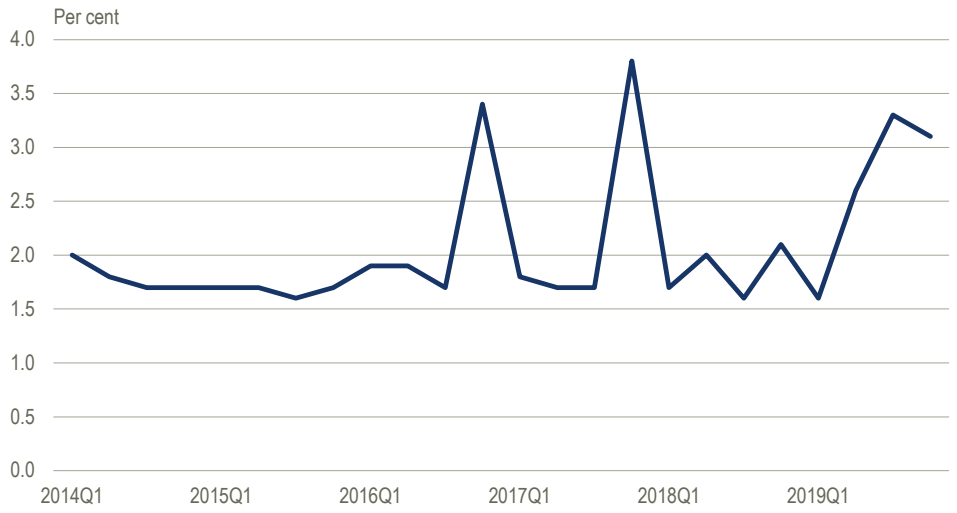
Target 17.4 Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress

Indicator 17.4.1
Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services

Within goal 17, the indicator targets long-term debt sustainability. The idea is to assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring.

For Denmark, the indicator is very stable over the period 2014Q1 to 2019Q2, where deb service is around 1.5 to 2 per cent of exports of goods and services. Only for single periods as 2016Q4 and 2017Q4, the indicator is out of that interval, with values of 3.4 per cent and 3.8 per cent respectively. In both periods, the value of the indicator increased due to an increase in the closing balance sheet of loans and trade credits. The same explanation applies to the evolution of the indicator in 2019Q3 and 2019Q4, where the indicator increased to 3.3 per cent and afterwards, fells to 3.1 per cent.

Figure 17.4.1: Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services

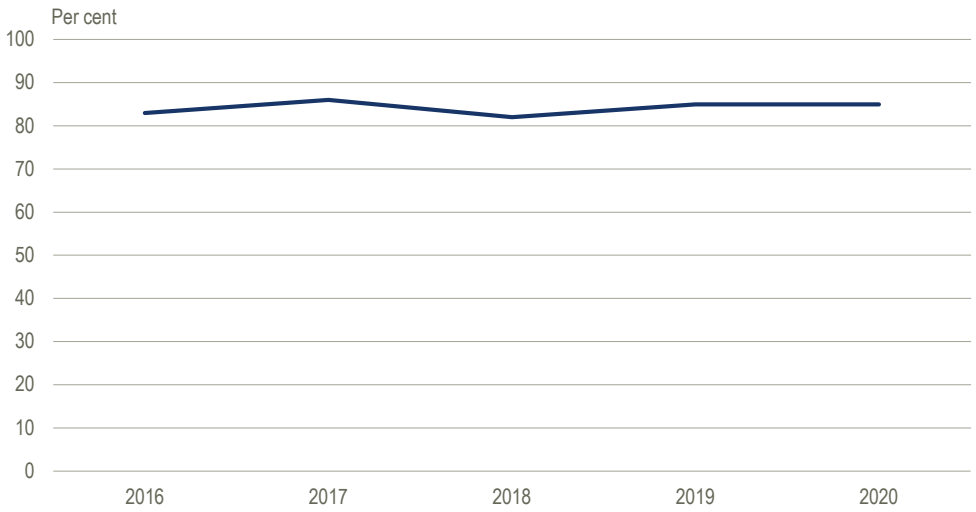


Target 17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism

Indicator 17.6.2 (renumbered to 17.6.1 in the revision of indicator)
Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed

The take-up of fixed broadband is high in Denmark, one of the highest in the EU. The national broadband target for 2020 is for all households and businesses to have coverage with speeds of minimum 100 Mbps download / 30 Mbps upload. By 2019, this was achieved for 93 per cent of all households and businesses.

Figure 17.6.2: Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions

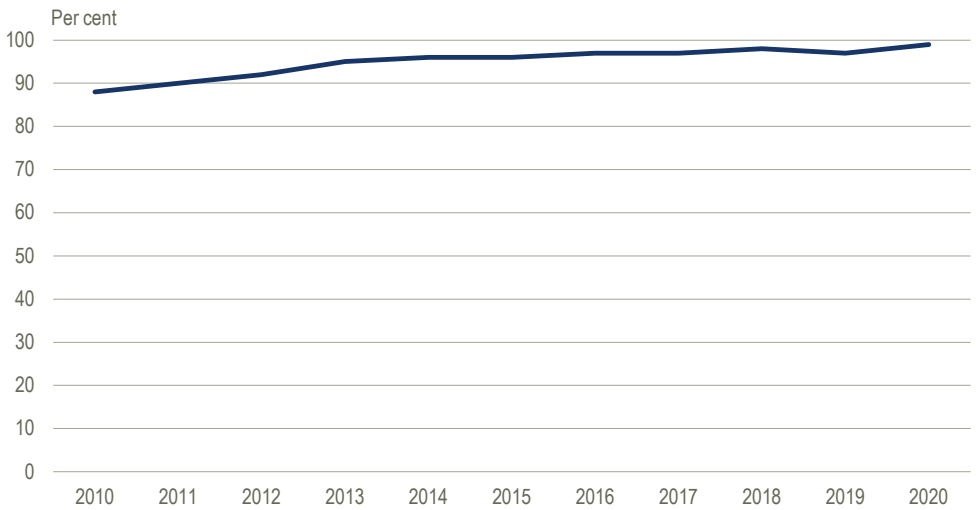


Target 17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology

Indicator 17.8.1
Proportion of individuals using the Internet

Denmark has more internet users than any other EU country. Only one per cent of Danes between 16 and 74 years do not use internet. For the whole EU, this share is 13 per cent in 2020. The proportion of non-users is highest among the elderly. Still, internet use has since 2012 been higher among older people in Denmark compared to the EU average for people of 16-74 years. The share of older people not using internet is 6 per cent in Denmark compared to 39 per cent in the EU as a whole.

Figure 17.8.1: Proportion of individuals using the Internet

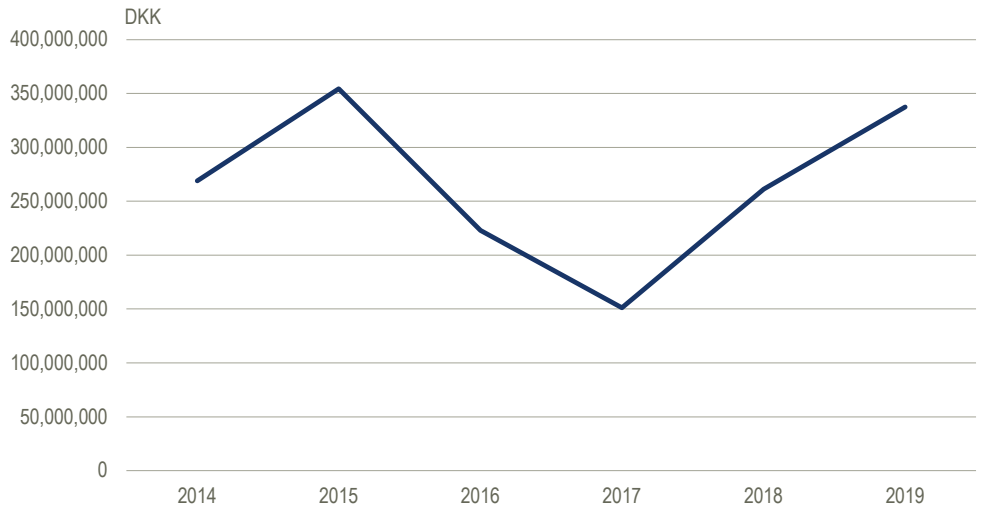


Target 17.9 Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation

Indicator 17.9.1
Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries

A substantial reduction in the approval of new research projects in 2015, and to some extent also in 2016, resulted in a substantial decline in total disbursement related to SDG 17.9 in 2016 and 2017. As the approval of new research projects was back to normal from 2017 and onwards, the total disbursement to SDG 17.9 is now back to its previous level.

Figure 17.9.1: Dollar value of financial and technical assistance committed to developing countries



Target 17.10 Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda

Indicator 17.10.1
Worldwide weighted tariff-average

The indicator is not about Denmark, as the indicator is assessed at the institutional level.	n/a

Target 17.11 Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020

Indicator 17.11.1
Developing countries' and least developed countries' share of global exports

The indicator is not about Denmark, as the indicator is assessed at the institutional level.	n/a

Target 17.12 Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access

Indicator 17.12.1
Average tariffs faced by developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States

The indicator is not about Denmark, as the indicator is assessed at the institutional level.	n/a

Target 17.13 Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence

Indicator 17.13.1
Macroeconomic Dashboard

The indicators provide an overview of the Danish economy and are calculated by Statistics Denmark on the basis of data from national accounts, government finances, the balance of payments and Danmarks Nationalbank's financial statistics. The indicators are thus in accordance with the principles of the International National Accounts Manuals ESA2010 and SNA2008, the Balance of Payments Manual BMP6 and the guidelines for financial statistics. The dashboard provides an overview of selected key indicators relating to macroeconomic stability.

Among other things, the dashboard shows that prior to the COVID-19 crisis, the Danish economy saw economic growth of more than 2 per cent for five consecutive years and a surplus on the balance of payments' current account for ten consecutive years. Moreover, the overall stability of the economy is reflected by a decrease in the Government debt (EMU debt), a decrease in nonperforming loans as well as an increase in capital to assets ratio over the last decade.

Figure 17.13.1a: Macroeconomic Dashboard

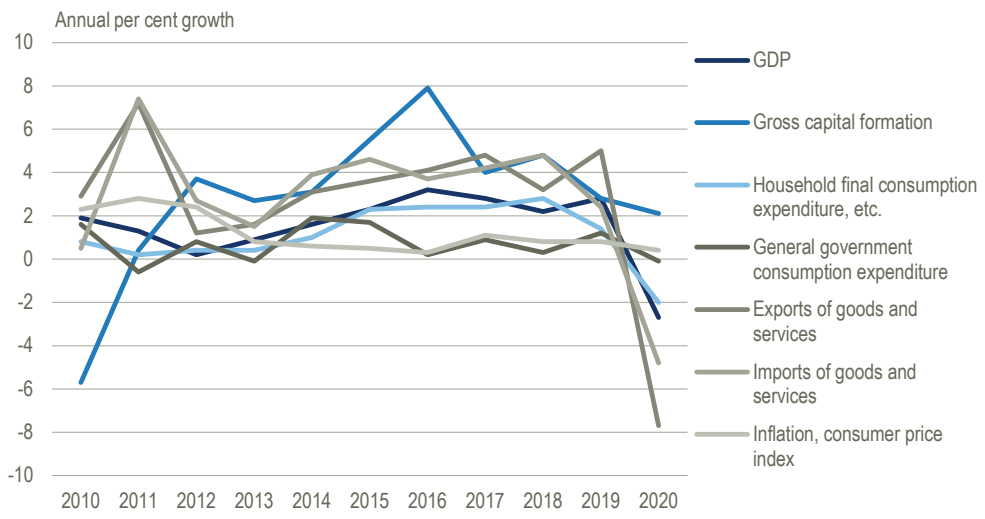
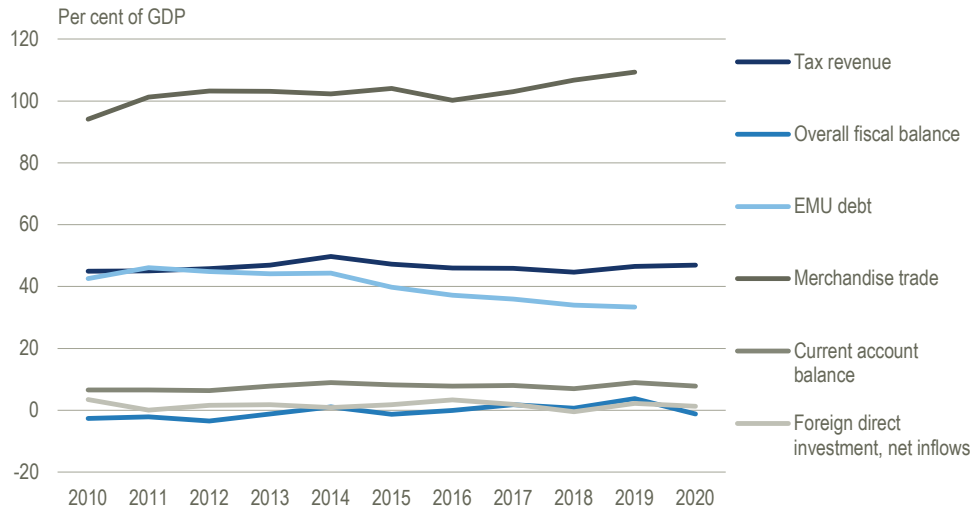


Figure 17.13.1b: Macroeconomic Dashboard



Target 17.15 Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development

Indicator 17.15.1
Extent of use of country-owned results frameworks and planning tools by providers of development cooperation

Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator.	n/a

Target 17.16 Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries

Indicator 17.16.1
Number of countries reporting progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the sustainable development goals

Denmark does not compile continuous and official statistics in accordance with the methodology of the indicator.	n/a

Target 17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

Indicator 17.18.2
Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

Statistics Denmark follows the recommendations on organisation and management of quality given in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP). CoP is structured on The Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics compiled by the UN.	✓

Indicator 17.18.3
Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding

Every year, Statistics Denmark prepares a work plan for the production and financing of official Danish statistics. In 2014, 68 per cent of the statistics were financed through the Danish Finance Act, whereas 32 per cent were financed through grants.	✓

Target 17.19 By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries.

Indicator 17.19.2

Proportion of countries that (a) have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years; and (b) have achieved 100 per cent birth registration and 80 per cent death registration

Denmark registers all new-born children and deaths in a civil registration system, in which population and housing censuses as well as registrations of births and deaths are made on a continuing basis.	✓

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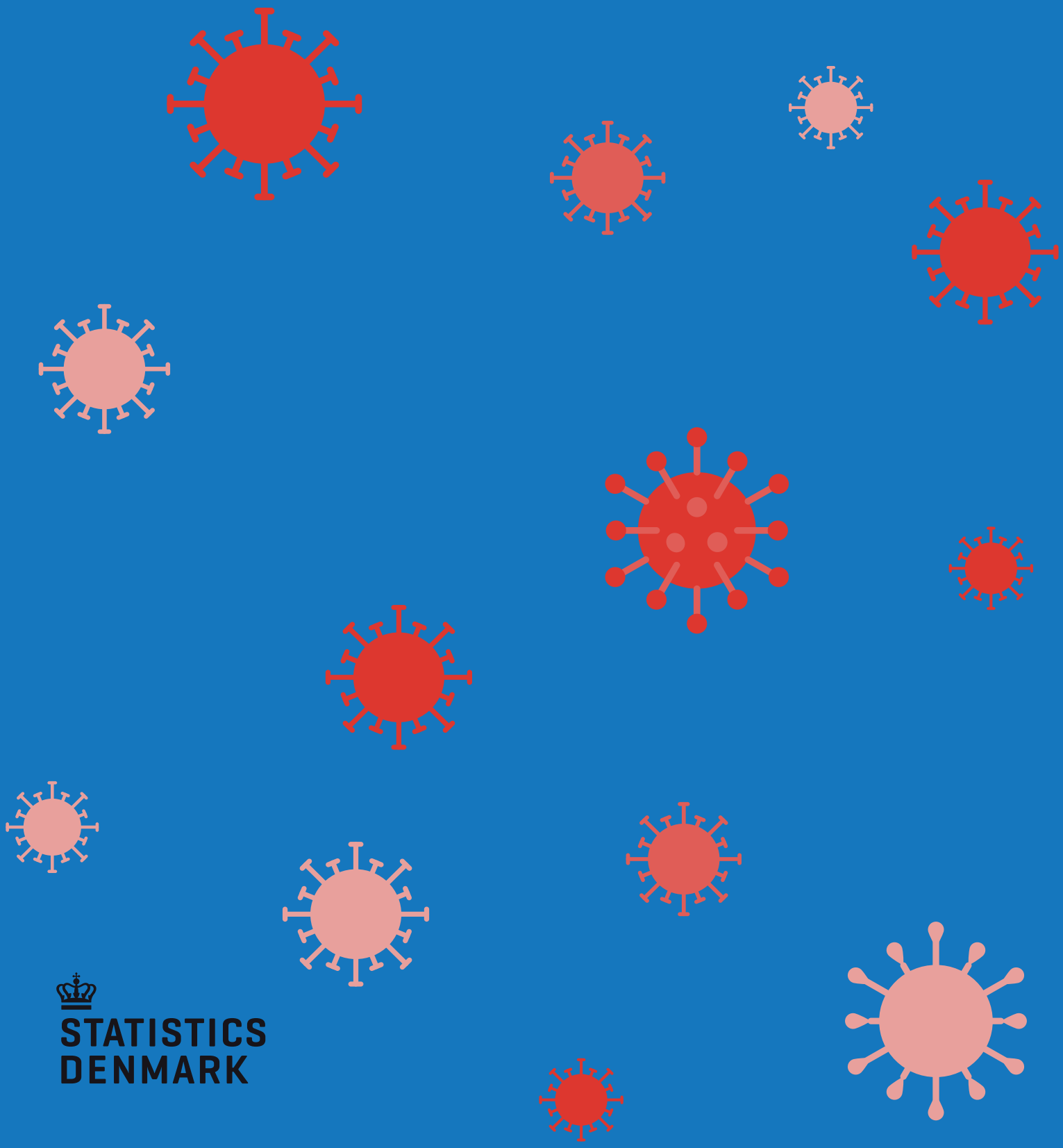
Annex

COVID-19 and its influence on some aspects of sustainable development in Denmark

COVID-19 and its influence on some aspects of sustainable development in Denmark



STATISTICS DENMARK

COVID-19 and its influence on some aspects of sustainable development in Denmark

STATISTICS DENMARK

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Symbols:

»	Repetition
-	Nil
0 0,0 }	Less than half the final digit shown
•	Not applicable
. .	Available information not conclusive
. . .	Data not available
*	Provisional or estimated figures
—	Break in a series, which means that data above the line are not fully comparable with data below the line
/ /	Break in a series (in diagrams)
i.sk.	Not seasonally adjusted
sk.	Seasonally adjusted
r	Revised figures

Due to rounding, the figures given for individual items do not necessarily add up to the corresponding totals shown.

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Preface

COVID-19 has influenced our societies in many unexpected ways. As statisticians, we are constantly trying to capture the effects of the pandemic both on a national and on a global scale. In this task, we are facing various challenges, data availability being one of the most prominent. Here, statistics building on new data sources and methods can provide more timely indicators for economic and social trends during COVID-19 than usual publications. In Statistics Denmark, we call this type of statistics experimental statistics, because sources, methods and documentation may deviate from the standard and develop along the way.

The COVID-19 situation is currently creating a substantial demand for real-time data to illustrate its impact on society. Experimental statistics are not part of the official production of statistics but can be very valuable nevertheless, when you want a timely, innovative and reliable trend of development.

This publication uses experimental statistics to illustrate how and to what extent the Danish follow-up on sustainability has been influenced by the pandemic. To this aim, we have decided to focus on four themes: mortality, economic relief packages, poverty, and CO2 emissions. With the present publication, we aim to show a current snapshot picture of the situation and, as time progresses, develop statistical tools in order to improve the information on the pandemic and its influence on Danish society.

Statistics Denmark, July 2021

Birgitte Anker, National Statistician

Contents

PREFACE **3**

CONTENTS **4**

1. INTRODUCTION **5**

2. OUR APPROACH **6**

3. COVID-19 AND SELECTED AREAS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT **6**

3.1 MORTALITY 6

3.1.1 General description of the topic and the underlying figures 6

3.1.2 Situation/development in figures before the outbreak of COVID-19 6

3.1.3 Development in mortality during the COVID-19 pandemic 8

3.1.4. Data quality 9

3.2 ECONOMIC RELIEF PACKAGES 9

3.2.1 General description of the topic and the underlying figures 9

3.2.2 Situation/development in figures before the outbreak of COVID-19 9

3.2.3 The development in 2020 and 2021 9

3.2.4. Data quality 12

3.3 INCOME LEVELS AND INEQUALITY IN 2020 12

3.3.1. General description of the topic and the underlying figures 12

3.3.2. Situation/development in figures before the outbreak of COVID-19 14

3.3.3. The development in 2020 and 2021 14

3.3.4. Data quality 15

3.4 CO2 EMISSIONS 15

3.4.1 General description of the topic and the underlying figures 15

3.4.2 Situation/development in figures before the outbreak of COVID19 16

3.4.3 The development in 2020 and 2021 16

3.4.4 Data quality 16

1. Introduction

Producing a quick statistical overview of the impacts COVID-19 had and still has on our societies is a challenge. Data may not yet be available because of the short span between the incident and the current date, and the existing data should be subject to quality assurance procedures, which are time consuming.

For this reason, and in order to respond to a huge demand for data, Statistics Denmark has decided to use experimental statistics in order to illustrate the impact of the COVID-19 in the best possible way. Experimental statistics are statistics that are in development, so methods and sources may change in the process towards the final form of the statistics based on experiences, e.g. in the form of feedback from users.

The purpose of experimental statistics is to respond to user requests for timely indicators of the development of society. Using more and more new sources and methods, we can create timely statistics in areas where the official and quality-checked statistics often have a time lag of months or perhaps years. Publishing the statistics in a preliminary form allows us to get feedback from the users, before we have found the final form, and thus gives us a more relevant product. At the same time, it gives the users an opportunity to become familiar with the statistics.

Attention should be drawn to the fact that experimental statistics differ from the rest of Statistics Denmark's statistics. In general, any statistics published by Statistics Denmark are official statistics. However, experimental statistics are not regarded as official statistics until they have been thoroughly tested to the point where they obtain a permanent form and a new status as official statistics.

It appears from the individual sets of statistics whether they have experimental status. The statistical documentation explains specifically what the experimental status of the individual set of statistics involves. It could be e.g. that the methods are not quite thoroughly tested, that new data sources are being tested, or that in its preliminary form, it only covers part of the intended area.

Statistics in this report rely mainly on experimental statistics.

2. Our approach

Monitoring the impact of COVID-19 on the Danish follow-up on Sustainable Development Goals is a challenging task at the moment. Establishing causal impacts not only requires comprehensive data frameworks and reliable time series, the findings should also be corroborated by an academic theory in a given field. The interlinkages between goals, targets and indicators are still not yet fully investigated in a statistical sense, which makes it even more challenging to draw conclusions.

Data availability is also an important factor here. Data transmissions have a predefined frequency and many indicators build on annual or even less frequent data transmissions, which makes it challenging to illustrate the up-to-date development/impact.

In order to make the best of the situation, Statistics Denmark has decided on a two-fold approach for monitoring the impact of COVID-19 on the follow-up on Sustainable Development Goals. Firstly, data availability was one of the criterions. Secondly, it was decided to delimit the areas investigated to four domains: mortality, relief packages, income levels and inequality, and CO2 emissions.

The chapters on the investigated areas will build on the following structure:

1. General description of the topic and the underlying figures
2. Situation/development in figures before the outbreak of COVID-19
3. The development in 2020 and 2021
4. Data quality

3. Covid-19 and selected areas of sustainable development

3.1 Mortality

3.1.1 General description of the topic and the underlying figures

Denmark has a population of 5.8 million people. A quarter of the population is less than 20 years old and another quarter is 60 years or older. There is a fairly even distribution of men and women.

The vast majority live in urban areas, which means that there is a maximum of 200 meters between houses and that the urban area houses at least 200 people. For Denmark on the whole, the population density is 136 persons per km². It varies a great deal from one area to the next, depending on the type of area. E.g. the Greater Copenhagen Region houses 4,569 persons per km². In rural districts there are only 17 persons per km².

3.1.2 Situation/development in figures before the outbreak of COVID-19

Life expectancy at birth for girls and boys has been rising for many years. In 2020, life expectancy at birth was 79.5 years for boys and 83.6 years for girls.

Mortality in Denmark is at a very stable level of approximately 10 dead per 1,000 inhabitants per year. In general, more people die in the winter than in the summer. This is primarily due to seasonal diseases among elderly people. In Denmark, the average age of persons who die is around 78 years.

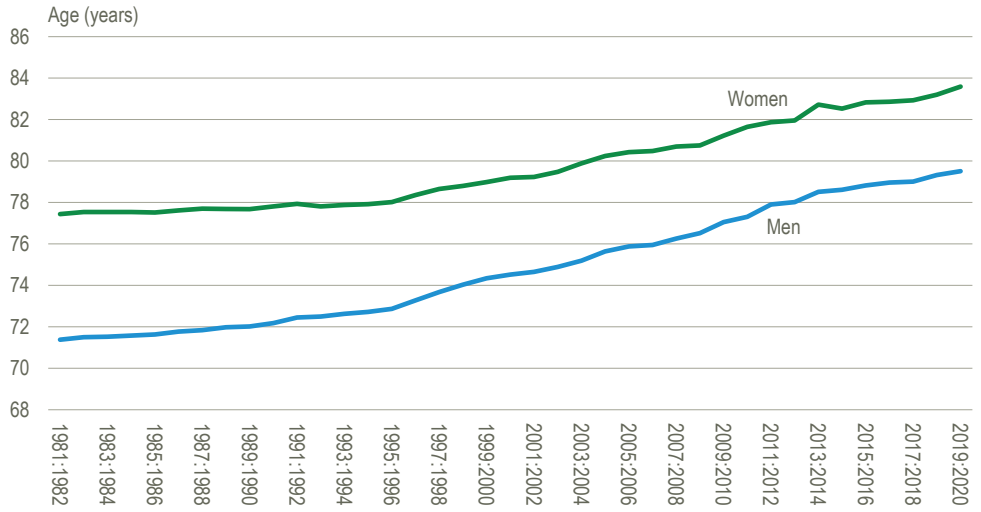
Population in Denmark 1 January 2021 by sex and age

	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
		number			per cent	
Total	**2 904 857**	**2 935 188**	**5 840 045**	**100**	**100**	**100**
0-9 years	313 103	297 107	610 210	11	10	10
10-19 years	348 549	331 491	680 040	12	11	12
20-29 years	397 273	381 467	778 740	14	13	13
30-39 years	354 174	342 505	696 679	12	12	12
40-49 years	374 633	374 191	748 824	13	13	13
50-59 years	402 277	398 889	801 166	14	14	14
60-69 years	328 751	338 832	667 583	11	12	11
70-79 years	272 754	301 943	574 697	9	10	10
80-89 years	100 102	136 546	236 648	3	5	4
90 years and more	13 241	32 217	45 458	0	1	1

Population in Denmark 1 January 2021 by city size and population density

	Number of people	Per cent	Area (km2)	Population density
	number	per cent	km2	per km2
Total	**5 840 045**	**100**	**42 947**	**136**
Greater Copenhagen Region	1 336 982	23	293	4 569
100,000 inhabitants and more	582 889	10	228	2 558
50,000-99,999 inhabitants	416 956	7	230	1 813
20,000-49,999 inhabitants	752 167	13	391	1 922
10,000-19,999 inhabitants	406 303	7	245	1 660
5,000-9,999 inhabitants	414 596	7	298	1 390
2,000-4,999 inhabitants	547 335	9	398	1 374
1,000-1,999 inhabitants	295 541	5	243	1 217
500-999 inhabitants	211 332	4	208	1 017
250-499 inhabitants	144 089	2	189	764
200-249 inhabitants	38 192	1	52	739
Rural areas	685 057	12	40 172	17
Without permanent residence	8 606	0	.	.

Figure 3.1.1 **Average life expectancy at birth**



3.1.3 Development in mortality during the COVID-19 pandemic

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen a little excess mortality of 2 per cent if we compare 2020 with the average of the preceding five years. For the first four months of 2021 overall, the mortality was 2.5 per cent lower than for the same months in 2015-2019.

Compared with 2015-2019, mortality in the different age groups shows 6-10 per cent lower mortality in 2020 for persons aged 50-69 years, and 9-15 per cent lower in the first four months of 2021. For persons in the age groups 70-79 years, 80-89 years and 90 years and over, there was an excess mortality of 2-7 per cent in 2020. In the first four months of 2021, mortality was 1-6 per cent lower for persons aged 80-89 years as well as 90 years and over.

Up to and including April 2021, Denmark has registered 2,469 deaths with COVID-19. With 817 deaths in January 2021, we reached the highest number of deaths in one month. This is followed by December 2020 with 490 deaths and April 2020 with 353 deaths with COVID-19.

Figure 3.1.2 **Average life expectancy at birth**

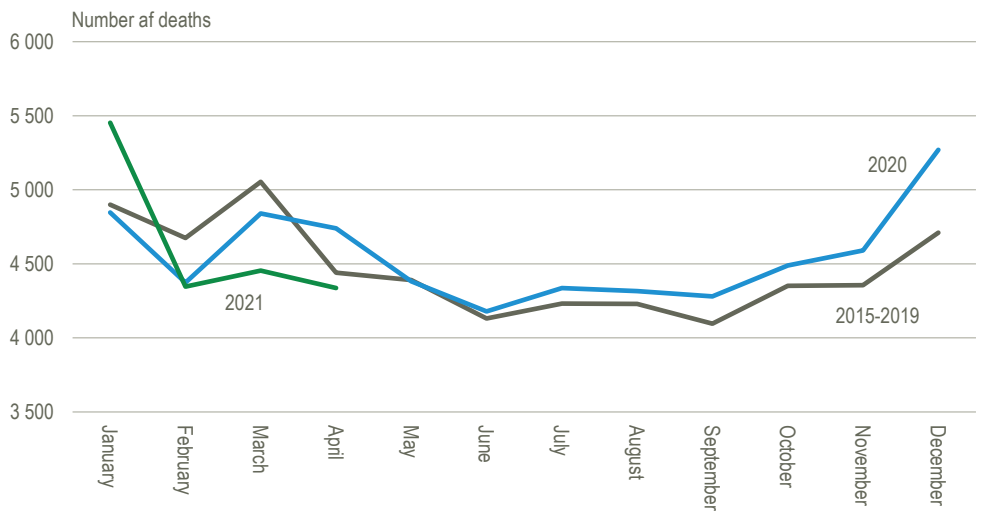


Figure 3.1.3 **Number of deaths with COVID-19 per month**

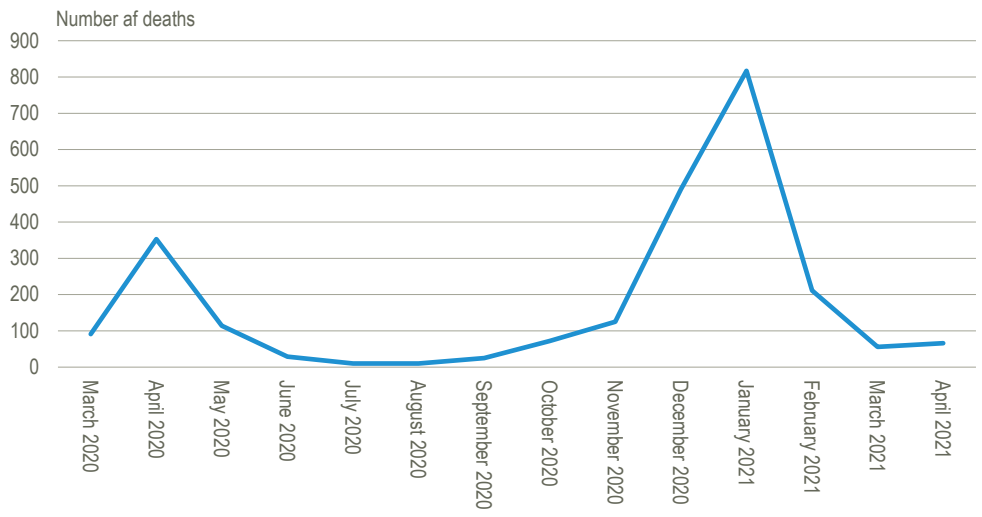
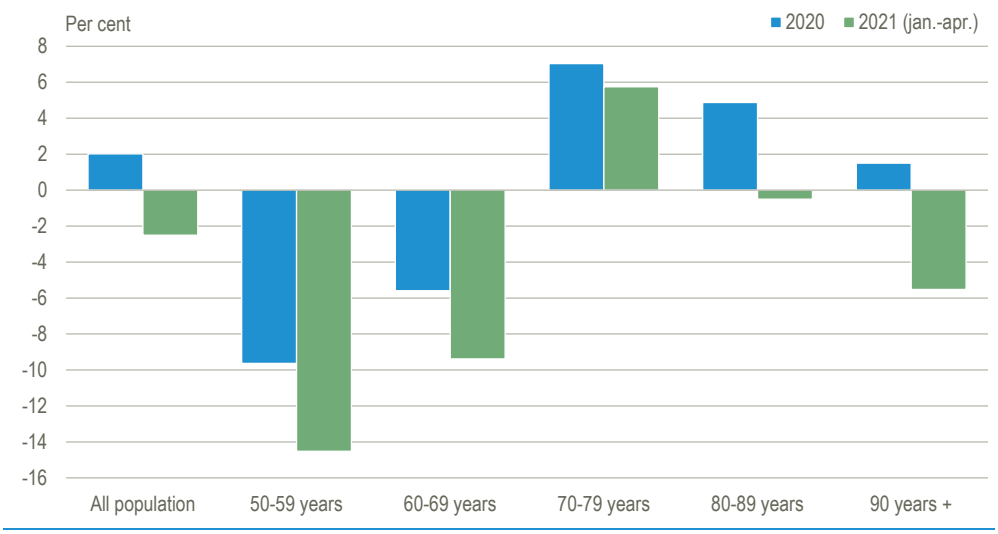


Figure 3.1.4 **Excess/lower mortality compared with 2015-2019**



3.1.4. Data quality

Data for mortality is based on regular and updated information from administrative registers. The population registers in Statistics Denmark are updated daily and data quality in this chapter is high and corresponds to other population statistics produced by Statistics Denmark.

3.2 Economic relief packages

3.2.1 General description of the topic and the underlying figures

In order to compensate businesses and their employees for lost turnover due to lockdown and other limitations in the Danish economy and society in response to COVID-19, the Danish Parliament launched a number of relief packages in March 2020. These relief packages are still in force but are expected to lapse in July 2021.

This section describes the use of the three most important relief packages:
1) compensation for wages and salaries,
2) compensation for fixed costs and
3) compensation for lost turnover for smaller enterprises (up to 25 employees).

3.2.2 Situation/development in figures before the outbreak of COVID-19

Not applicable as there were no economic relief packages that could be compared to the COVID-19 situation.

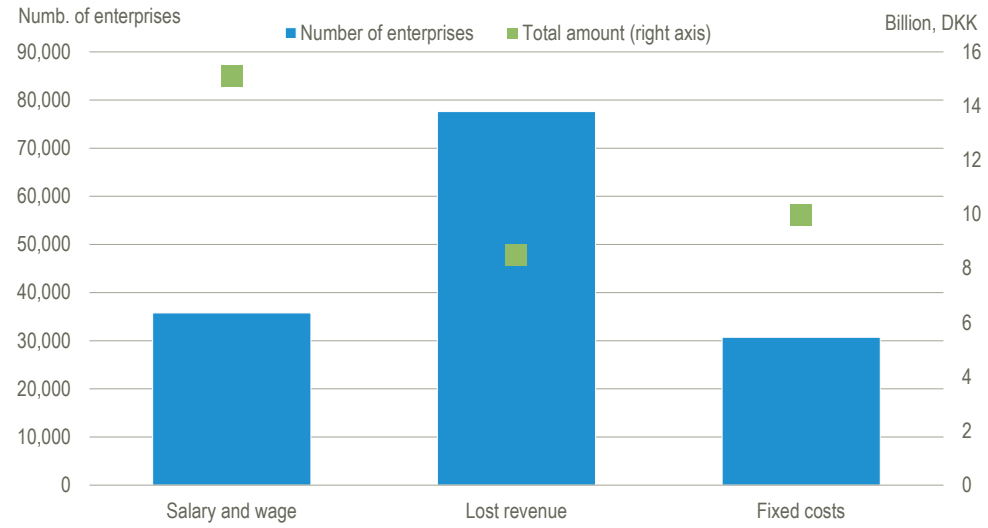
3.2.3 The development in 2020 and 2021

Danish COVID-19 Relief Packages

- At least 98,529 companies have received one or more types of compensation from the three main relief packages addressing compensation for wages and salaries, fixed costs or lost revenue for smaller enterprises (up to 25 employees). That is around 29 per cent of all active enterprises in the private sector in Denmark.
- 10,792 companies have received compensation from all of the three biggest relief packages.
- The total amount of compensation from the three biggest compensation schemes is 33.6 billion DKK equaling 1.4 per cent of total GDP (2,323 billion DKK)
- The highest amount is allocated to the relief packages for wages and salaries; 15.1 billion DKK

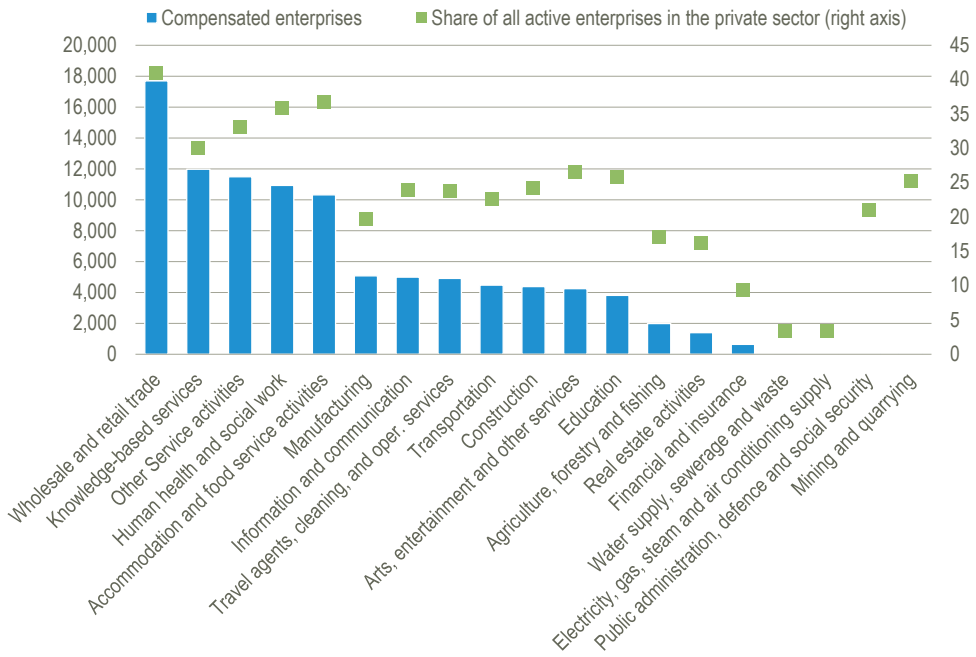
- Most of the compensated enterprises – small ones with less than 25 employees — have received compensation for lost revenue; 77,600 companies, cf. figure 3.2.1.

Figure 3.2.1 **Overview of compensation**



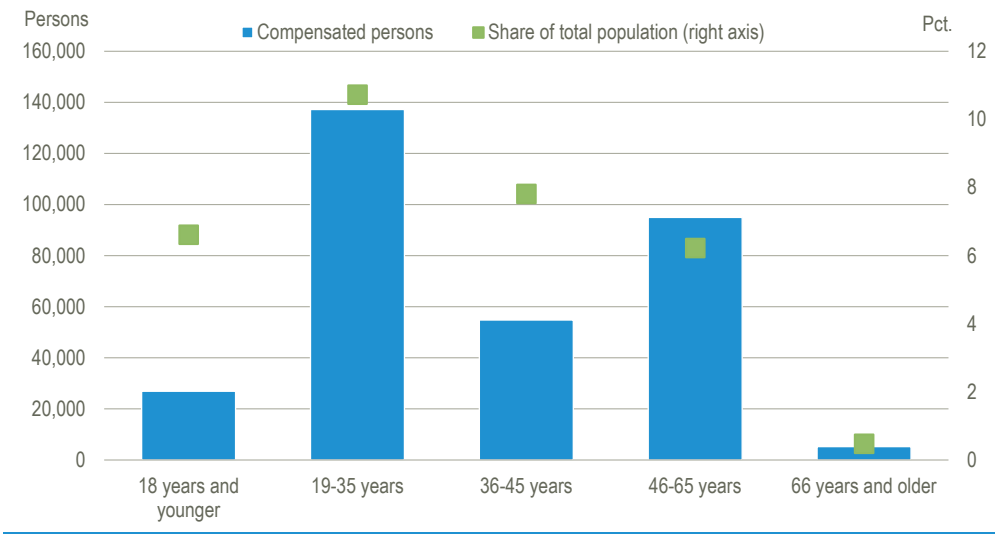
- Around one third of the compensated enterprises are engaged in trade and transportation, equaling approx. 45 per cent of all enterprises in this activity grouping, followed by business services accounting for around 15 per cent of the compensated enterprises, which is more than every fourth enterprise in this activity grouping, see figure 3.2.2.

Figure 3.2.2 **No. of compensated enterprises broken down by activity grouping and share of total population in the activity grouping**



- Around 310,000 employees or 6 per cent of the population aged 13 years or more have received salary or wage compensation due to lockdown, nearly half being female employees.
- Mainly employees aged 19-35 years (accounting for 45 per cent of all compensated persons) have received compensation, equaling 11 per cent of all persons in this age group.

Figure 3.2.3 **Salary or wage compensation for different age groups**



Impact of the relief packages

The purpose of this chapter is to provide a preliminary estimation of the impact of the relief packages, as it is too early at this point to assess the full impact of the COVID-19 crisis and the compensation schemes for the business sector and the employment in this respect. A lot of enterprises have earned less money than under normal circumstances, and it will take years before the final impact can be estimated, for example counted in number of lost jobs and bankruptcies.

At this stage, the usual short-term indicators for business development can provide an early indication of the situation and the immediate impact of the relief packages. The following main observations can be made on this basis:

- The overall number of employees has not decreased drastically. However, in the spring of 2020, a decrease of 2-3 per cent compared to same period in 2019 was observed. In concrete figures, about 60,000 persons lost their jobs. The decrease was highest in the private sector. Since the summer of 2020, when the relief packages came into force, the number of employees has been around 1 per cent lower compared to 2019. However, possible shifts from fulltime to part-time jobs may underestimate the decrease in employment.

- For some types of industries, the number of employees has shown a high decrease, in particular in the beginning of the crisis. For Accommodation and food service activities, figures show up to a 25 per cent decrease and for Arts, entertainment and other services up to 20 per cent lower employment can be observed. Furthermore, Travel agents, cleaning and operational services are also clearly affected.

- The unemployment rate went up significantly from in the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis. An increase of up to 80 per cent compared to the situation in 2019 in net employment was observed, affecting about 55,000 individuals. The increase was slightly higher for men than for women, most probably caused by the employment structure, with the highest share of men in the private sector.

- Also, the initiatives to assist persons through training and special jobs to return to the labour market were strongly affected in the spring of 2020,

where job activation fell by about 60 per cent, equivalent to 10,000 persons, compared to 2019. The level has gone up again, but is still lower than in 2019, in particular for persons under social assistance.

- The number of enterprises adjudicated bankrupt was slightly lower from March to December 2020 than during the same months in 2019. On the other hand, there were approximately twice as many bankruptcies from January to February 2021 than in the same months in 2019. The sharp increase in the number in the beginning of 2021 was observed in a majority of business types. However, banks and creditors may have been hesitant to file for bankruptcies in the present situation, where the value of assets can be considered lower than under normal circumstances.

3.2.4. Data quality

Denmark receives compensation data from the Danish Business Authority every week. This is preliminary data, and the figures are based on data received in early May 2021. Data received from the Danish Business Authority is matched with data in the Statistical Business Register at enterprise level in order to enrich the administrative data with information about activity class, location and size class. Furthermore, data concerning the reimbursed employees is matched with data in the Population Register to enrich the administrative data with information about age and gender.

3.3 Income levels and inequality in 2020

3.3.1. General description of the topic and the underlying figures

Many service and cultural industries have been severely impacted by the lockdowns in response to COVID-19. However, preliminary data on incomes indicates that the introduction of new COVID-19 benefits has contributed significantly to the reduction of the effects of the economic lockdowns on the income levels of the Danish households.

Preliminary income data actually shows that personal wages and transfers subject to taxation for people above the age of 18 grew by 4.2 per cent from 2019 to 2020, while wages and transfers for the 40 per cent with the lowest income grew by 2.75 per cent. However, in this context, it is important to know that the preliminary income data available for 2020 at this stage only covers wages and transfers. Thus these results are by no means final – please read the last section on the data quality as well.

This chapter starts with a brief overview of the COVID-19 benefits introduced during the pandemic. Then we take a look at the SGD indicator 10.1.1 on income levels and income inequality and finally look at some preliminary data for 2020.

Overview of COVID-19 related transfers

Benefit	Long description	Effect included in the preliminary income data?
Wage compensation	Employers who temporarily had to send their workers home without the ability to work, but did not dismiss them, could get compensation for up to 90 per cent of wages or DKK 30,000 per month per employee.	Yes
Compensation for self-employed persons	Self-employed persons impacted by lockdowns have been compensated for losses in revenue due to forced lockdowns. Compensation could cover up to 90 per cent of their loss, however with a maximum of DKK 30,000 per month.	No
Early payouts of funded holiday payments	Due to a change in the legislation concerning the system of holidays with pay in Denmark, savings accrued in the transition period were frozen until retirement age. This amounts to 5 weeks of wages total. The equivalent to 3 weeks of wages out of these mandatory frozen savings was paid out to employees in the autumn of 2020 as an initiative to get the economy going. The payouts amounted to more than DKK 45 billion to 1.748 million persons in the tax year of 2020. The payouts are subject to taxes. It was possible to decline the payout and save it for the day of retirement. This may have been preferable for employees that either already had ample funds in their bank accounts or who would be facing high tax rates due to progressive taxation rates. Furthermore savings equivalent to 2 weeks of wages can be paid out in the 2021 for those who opt in.	Yes
Cheque for non-employed persons	Beneficiaries of social transfers in April 2020 received a tax free cheque of DKK 1,000. Most of these have been paid out during the autumn of 2020.	No
Prolonged period on unemployment benefits	For unemployed persons, the COVID-19 lockdown period does not count towards the maximum of 2 years a person can receive unemployment benefits. Thus, it prolonged the period for which an unemployed person can get these benefits. Fewer persons transfer from unemployment benefits to social benefits (or no income).	Yes
Easier access to unemployment benefits for self-employed persons	Formerly self-employed persons that have closed their businesses and were not insured against unemployment can apply for unemployment benefits. Unemployment benefits are normally contributory – but this has been suspended temporarily for the self-employed. This could potentially lead to transitions from self-employment to unemployment benefits. There does seem to be very low take-up rates though.	Yes
Increased access to sick leave benefits	Immediate access to sick leave compensation for employers for COVID-19 cases.	Yes
Tax free gift cards	From March 2021: Private sector employers can give employees a tax-free gift card for 1.200 DKK. It can be used for restaurants, amusement parks, theatres and museums etc.	No
Coverage of fixed expenses	In lockdown periods, self-employed persons affected by lockdown have had their fixed expenses (such as rent) covered.	No
Cancelled events	From March 2020, organisers of cultural events receive compensation for cancelled events due to COVID-19.	No

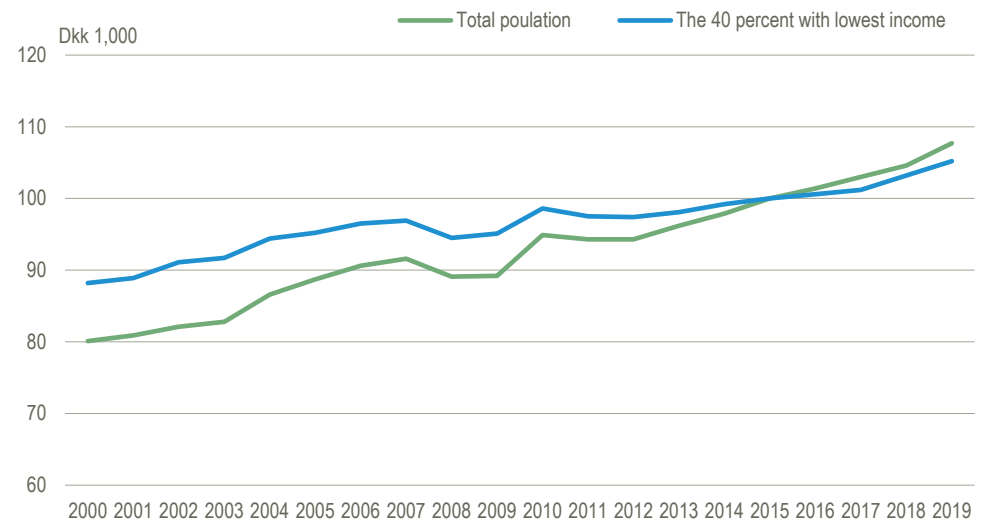
In addition, there have been postponements of deadlines for tax reporting, deadlines for VAT payments and various government subsidies (i.e. for re-training of employees) for the business sectors that have been affected the most by COVID-19. While many of these benefits and regulation adjustments do not directly affect income levels, they have been able to keep employment rates at a relatively stable level during the COVID-19 crisis up until this point.

3.3.2. Situation/development in figures before the outbreak of COVID-19

In 2019, the 40 percent with lowest income had an annual average equivalised disposable income of DKK 159,000 (roughly EUR 21,300). The average for the total population was DKK 288,000 (EUR 38,600).

Income has been growing in Denmark in recent years for most income groups. Since the millenium, the inflation-adjusted incomes among the 40 per cent with lowest income have grown in the respective years by 19.4 per cent, while income for the entire population has grown by 34 percent. The SDG indicator 10.1.1 shows that the bottom 40 per cent earned 22 per cent of the total of incomes. This is down from 25 per cent in the year 2000.

Figure 3.3.1 **Index (2015=100) of income levels on equivalised disposable income, fixed-prices.**



Income inequality has been on the rise in Denmark in the last few decades. One of the driving factors in recent years has been higher capital incomes, which are very concentrated among top income groups. Besides this, increased education attendance rates have greatly curbed income growth among young people. Looking at age-groups, incomes have actually declined among 15-24-year-olds, contributing to the increased income inequality. The education attendance rates have been levelling out in recent years. In addition to this, tax rates – mainly for employed and thus mainly for higher income groups - have been lowered on incomes to increase labour supply. Finally, some types of cash benefits have been lowered – this primarily lowers the income of unemployed refugees in Denmark. Combined with the large influx of Syrian refugees around 2015, this has contributed to the lower income growth in the bottom deciles in recent years.

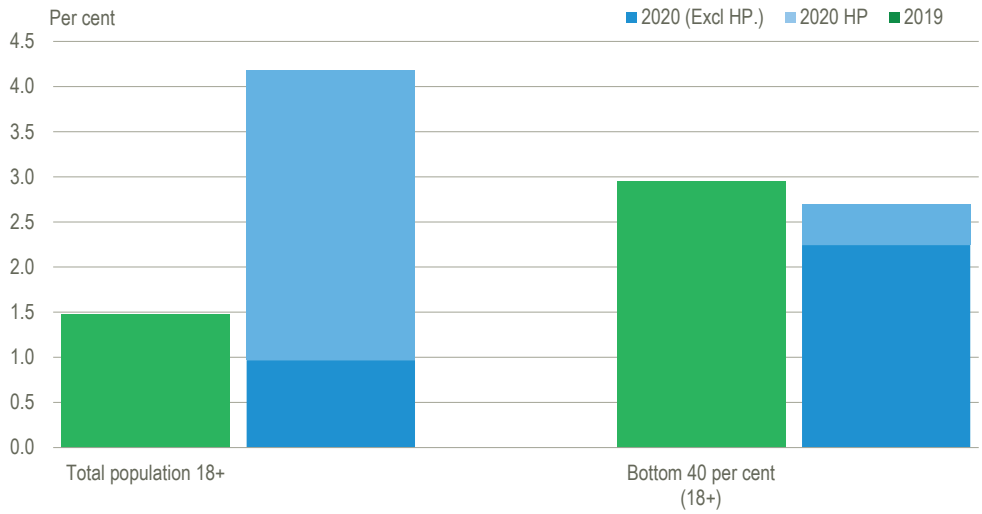
3.3.3. The development in 2020 and 2021

Preliminary income data shows that personal wages and transfers for people above the age of 18 grew by 4.2 per cent from 2019 to 2020. This is the highest level of growth recorded since 2008 in wages and transfers. However, this record breaking growth can be contributed in large part to extraordinary holiday payments as part of the COVID-19 relief effort. Without the holiday payments (HP) the growth in incomes was only 1 per cent.

Because of the change in the Danish system for a 'holiday year', the holiday payments that were paid out, were accrued in the period from September 2019 to August 2020 to people employed in that period. This is reflected in the low amount of holiday payments to the bottom 40 per cent measured on personal income. Few are employed in this group and thus the holiday payment does not contribute much to income growth for the bottom 40 percent. However, this group has benefited

from the cheque for a lump sum of 1,000 DKK as well as the prolonged period of entitlement to unemployment benefits. The one-off cheque is not included in the preliminary data as it is tax-free. This will further add to income growth for the bottom bracket once it is added to the input data.

Figure 3.3.2 **Growth in personal wages and transfers (18 years +)**



Note: The results in figures 3.3.1 and 3.3.2 are not directly comparable due to differing income definitions and population. The results in figure 3.3.2 are preliminary and cover only wages and transfers.

3.3.4. Data quality

It is important to note that the data shown for 2020 is based on personal wages and transfers subject to taxation only. Tax-free transfers (mainly Corona-check, housing- and family benefits), capital income and income for the self-employed are not included. Especially data on income for self-employed persons may significantly alter some of the overall conclusions, as small businesses in certain business sectors have been severely affected by lockdowns.

The uncertainty is also notable in 2019, where stock markets and growth in income for self-employed persons actually ended up ensuring slightly higher income growth for the overall population than for the bottom 40 per cent – despite the fact that the opposite was true when looking only at personal wages and transfers.

Furthermore the results in section 3.3.2 are based on equivalised net incomes, while section 3.3.3 results are based on personal gross incomes and only include wages and transfers. Thus, the results are not directly comparable and are still very uncertain.

3.4 CO2 emissions

3.4.1 General description of the topic and the underlying figures

The activities of the Danish economy result in emissions into the air. Attention is often focused on carbon dioxide (CO2) and other greenhouse gasses. The emission of greenhouse gasses contributes to the greenhouse effect and global temperature increases. Greenhouse gas emissions come from energy consumption as well as from agriculture and industrial processes etc.

A complete set of statistics for Danish greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 is not yet available. However, the Danish Energy Agency has published tentative numbers for 2020 for a share of total emissions, namely the CO2 emissions associated with energy consumption.

The tentative numbers in this section were published by the Danish Energy Agency in April 2021 (press release and data available: https://ens.dk/presse/stort-fald-i-energiforbrug-og-co2-udledning-i-2020).

Only CO2 emissions associated with energy consumption are included in the currently available data. The CO2 emissions from energy consumption are only a share of the total greenhouse gas emissions, which also includes emissions from agriculture and industrial processes etc. A complete set of statistics for Danish greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 will be published in 2022 by DCE – Danish Centre for Environment and Energy.

3.4.2 Situation/development in figures before the outbreak of COVID19

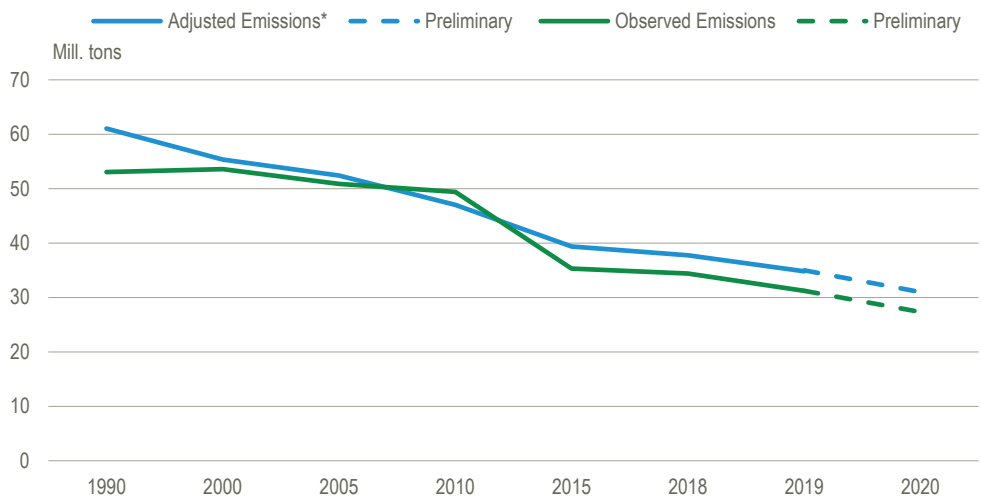
Emissions from Danish economic activities peaked in 2006 and declined every year after that until 2015. In 2016, emissions increased for the first time in a decade as a results of e.g. a cold winter and increasing activity in international transport operated by Danish companies. In 2019, emissions were 6 per cent above the 1990 level. Excluding the part of the Danish emissions that come from international transport, emissions had declined by 37 per cent since 1990. The emissions described are excluding emissions from burning biomass.

3.4.3 The development in 2020 and 2021

Figure bellows shows a large decrease in emissions derived from energy consumption, according to the first tentative estimates from the Danish Energy Agency. Adjusted for fuel consumption associated to net electricity imports and climate fluctuations, the CO2 emissions from energy consumption declined by 10.2 per cent compared to 2019.

The decrease in emissions from energy consumption can be explained by a large decline in use of fossil fuels such as oil, gas and coal. In particular, a large decline is seen in sales of fuel for air transport and other forms of transport in 2020. A part of the decline in fossil fuels can be explained by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 3.4.1 **Development in emissions derived from energy consumption**



* The adjusted calculations concern the impacts of annual fluctuations in the temperature and fuel consumption linked to net electricity trade
Source: Danish Energy Agency.

3.4.4 Data quality

The figure is available from the Danish Energy Agency and is based on tentative energy statistics.

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