

Danish Educational System

In Denmark compulsory education is completed after grade 9 or 10 where the comprehensive and non-selective schooling ends. The pupils can choose an additional year in grade 10 in Basic school. Afterwards they have to choose between the vocational and general track which means between the Gymnasium and the vocational track. Furthermore they have the chance to take a double education and choose a complete program in both tracks.

The general education is also called academic track which gives access to Higher Education and is taught only school-based. The Classical Gymnasium takes three years but also offers two vocational programs which are divided in a technical and a business program. Both vocational programs provide the same access to higher education but do not give certified qualifications for the labor market. The education lasts for three years as well and takes place at vocational colleges. It must be mentioned that all programs of the Gymnasium are restricted by requirements of certain subjects and grades in Basic school.

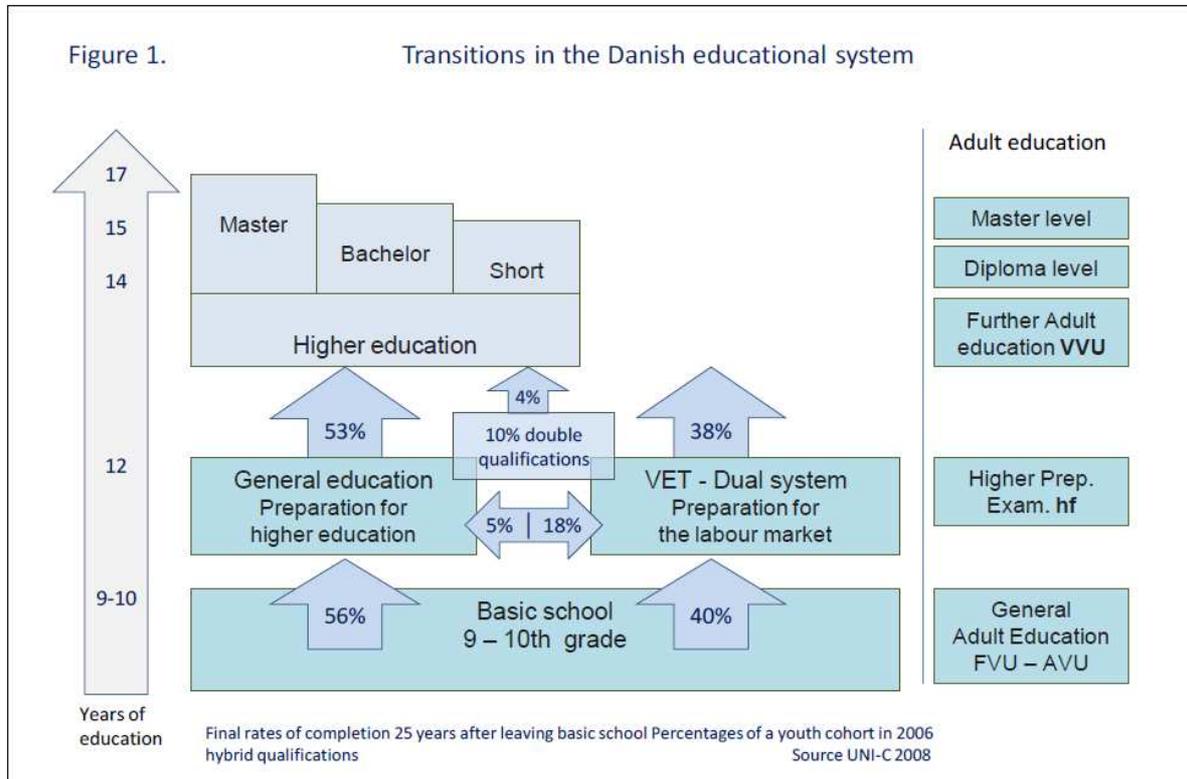
The pupils who choose the academic track can take a higher preparatory exam which takes two years. Every person who has completed 10 years of basic school can take this exam which can be considered as a bridge to higher education. It provides access to a number of tertiary programs and is equal to the ordinary Gymnasium. The education is the pathway from VET to HE and takes place in Adult Education Centers.

The vocational track is based on the dual system with strong roots in the traditional apprenticeship which in general takes three to four years in vocational colleges. There are four programs offered: technical, commercial, agricultural and social and health care. The scheme of Adult Apprenticeships leads to recognized vocational qualifications which give access to the skilled labor market, union membership and unemployment benefits. The dual programs are 1/3 school-based and 2/3 worked-based.

The Basic Adult Education (GVU) offers adults who are over the age of 25 recognition of prior informal learning, a plan to complete a VET in reduced time by shorter vocational courses (Labor Market Training, AMU) and they achieve the access to higher education. The Basic Adult Education is separated from the basic dual system but a parallel to the ordinary educational system.

Continuing the Adult Education (VVU) at tertiary level is taught at Folk High Schools. It counts positively in the so called quota two applications and the adults can gain access to the higher education without fulfilling all the formal qualifications. The VVU can also be

accessed through an assessment and accreditation of the “applicant” prior experiential learning.



Another part of the Danish educational system is the pathways from VET to the polytechnic. One-year preparation courses are an opportunity for skilled workers who want to progress to study engineering at a higher level, typically in the 3/1/2 year “practical” type of education for engineers.

The KVU is an ordinary short cycle higher education program which can only be attended with at least an initial vocational education; two years work experience or an exam from the Gymnasium.