

Denmark

In 2007, long-term immigration of foreign nationals accounted for 23 480, close to the 2006 level. Since 2006, Statistics Denmark has used a new calculation of the underlying demographic data in Denmark. While data are not comparable with earlier years, there was still an increase compared to the previous year. The 2007 figures define immigrants on an *ex post*-basis as persons who entered in a given year and stayed for at least 12 months.

Poland became the major country of origin in 2007, with inflows of 2 500, twice the 2005 level. Inflows from China declined to 700, half the level they had reached in 2002. Permits issued for EEA and Swiss citizens under freedom of movement continued to increase following enlargement to reach 14 600 in 2007, and a significant share are for employment.

The total number of residence permits granted increased by 25% in 2007 to reach 58 600. Most residence permits in Denmark were issued for employment, followed by education and family reunification. Labour migration continues to rise: residence permits issued for employment increased almost five-fold since 2004 to reach 19 300. Family and humanitarian migration rose less (about 20%), and levels are considerably lower than those reached around 2000.

The 3 648 naturalisations in 2007 were the lowest since tighter conditions for acquisition of Danish nationality were imposed in 2002.

The transitional legislation for citizens from the new EU countries (Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Czech Republic and Hungary) ceased on 1 May 2009. Employees from the new EU countries no longer require a work permit and are subject to the same rules as other EU citizens, and must apply for a certificate of registration with the state administration within three months of arrival in the country.

Specific labour shortages have led Denmark to maintain its focus on recruitment of qualified workers from abroad. In February 2008 the Government, the Danish People's Party, the Social Liberal Party and the Liberal Alliance concluded an agreement including initiatives to increase recruitment of foreign labour and new legislation came into force on 1 July 2008. The job card scheme was expanded to jobs that do not require a master's degree, and current green card scheme for job seekers from third countries was expanded. In parallel, an international recruitment plan, 'Denmark – a good place to work', also includes three initiatives on integration of labour immigrants and their families, covering orientation, language, and education for children.

The Ministry of Employment has introduced a scheme called "workindenmark" as a service towards both Danish companies and the labour immigrants. The scheme consists of 1) an internet portal; 2) three new service centres - situated in the three largest Danish cities: Copenhagen, Århus and Odense; 3) a job and CV bank in English; and 4) a hotline for labour immigrants from Poland. Through the scheme it is possible for Danish companies and labour immigrants to gain access to information on recruitment of labour immigrants as well as working and living conditions in Denmark.

In November 2007 the Government presented its third Platform 'Society of Opportunities', in which higher priority is assigned to the value-related aspect of integration efforts. The program mentions several concrete initiatives, e.g.: a comprehensive action plan designed to prevent extremist attitudes and the radicalisation of young people; and an update of the 2003 action plan against discrimination. A cross-ministerial task force on integration will also be created, to analyse problems and issues related to integration and present proposals to the Government regarding new specific initiatives in employment, education, housing and social integration.

A new Complaints Board on Equal Treatment, has since 1 January 2009 been responsible for all strands in the Danish antidiscrimination legislation (racial, social, national or ethnic origin, gender, colour of skin, religion or faith, political observation, sexual inclination, age or disability), and can award victims of discrimination compensation for non-pecuniary damages.

The Ministry of Refugees, Immigrants and Integration Affairs has a diversity programme for 2006-2011, including visits to companies where consultants will share good examples, give advice on diversity management and ensure use of efficient methods. 35 million DKK (EUR 4.7 million) has been allocated to the diversity programme.

For further information:

www.newtodenmark.dk
www.workindenmark.dk