Youth Integration into the labour market
Barcelona, July 2011
Jan Hendeliowitz
Director, Employment Region Copenhagen & Zealand – Ministry of Employment, Denmark
Chair of the OECD-LEED Directing Committee
Facts about Denmark

- Total population: 5.5 million
- Work force: 2.9 million
- Employed people: 2.8 million
- Employment rate: 76%
- Unemployment rate: 5.9% (Apr. 11)
- Youth unemployment 16-24 years: 5.1% (Apr. 11)
- Youth unemployment 25-29 years: 8.8% (Apr. 11)

source: www.Jobindsats.dk (Statistics Denmark)
Youth Unemployment within the EU, Dec. 2010

Source: Eurostat, Politiken 27th June 2011
Danish Unemployment – Age Groups

Percentage of labour force

Source: Ministry of Employment, 2011
Youth Employment Rates within the EU

![Graph showing employment rates for different EU countries between 2008Q2 and 2010Q2.](Image)
Education – Youth Statistics

Educational level of unemployed youth:

Youth on social welfare benefit:
- Five out of six do not have an upper secondary education
- Three out of four have primary school as highest completed education

Youth on unemployment insurance benefits
- Three out of 10 do not have an upper secondary education
Overall Targets of Employment Policy
Measures for the Youth

- Objective # 1
  
  *Job as quickly as possible: education as first priority*

- **Key Words in Danish Employment Policies (ALMP) for Youth**
  
  *Early and active intervention and education*
The Employment Policy for Young People - based on Four Target Groups:

Youth under 30 who receive Unemployment benefits or Social assistance

- Youth under 25 without upper secondary education (and without children)
  - (1) Not ready to enrol in an educational programme
    - Activation towards making recipients ready for ordinary education
  - (2) Ready to enrol in an educational programme at the upper secondary level
    - Activation towards compulsory enrolment in ordinary education

- (3) Youth under 25 without upper secondary education (and with children) or youth aged 25-30 (3)
  - Enrolling in an educational programme at the upper secondary level is not an obligation but is possible
    - Wage subsidy jobs
    - Further training
    - Guidance

- Youth under 30 with an upper secondary education
  - All active measures can be used to activate recipients
    - Wage subsidy jobs
    - Further training
    - Guidance
PES Services to Young Unemployed People

Job interviews:
- If aged 18-29, entitled to a job interview within one month and thereafter minimum every three months.

Activation measures
- If aged 18-19, activation within one month for a minimum length of six months.
- If aged 20-29, activation within three months for a minimum length of six months.
- If still unemployed, the job centre initiates a new activation measure maximum six months after the last activated period.

ALMP instruments:
- 1) Guidance and upgrading of skills and qualifications; 2) practical work-based training in enterprises; and 3) wage subsidised jobs.
Other services available

- The Job Centres can provide tests in reading/writing and maths and, if needed, provide courses in reading/writing and maths.

- The Job Centres can also provide a mentor for young unemployed people who can stay with their mentor during the training programme.

- Additional resources for increasing co-operation between youth guidance centres, educational institutions and the Job Centres.

- Early efforts for newly graduated persons from universities etc.

- A New National task force with expertise on youth employment measures will provide advice and support to job centres.
Vulnerable Groups in the Youth Population

- **No education beyond secondary school:** More than 60 per cent of all unemployed youth do not have an education beyond secondary school and are not engaged in an education.

- **Immigrants:** Young descendants from non-western countries receiving unemployment benefits represent the biggest group among the young unemployed.

- **Young men:** A larger percentage of young men are receiving unemployment benefits compared to women.

- **The weakest receivers of social welfare:** This group of very vulnerable young people with challenges besides unemployment has increased in recent years.

- **Young people aged 15 to 17 years without an ongoing education:** Approx. 50 per cent are receiving social welfare when they turn 18.

- **Young people with single parents and parents receiving unemployment benefits:** This group has an increased risk of long-term unemployment.
## Future Focus Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiatives:</th>
<th>Reasons:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ordinary education and mandatory obligation to engage in an education</td>
<td>63 per cent of the unemployed youth do not have an upper secondary education. Nevertheless, only 10 per cent leaving unemployment enter into education.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early and active measures focusing on 15 to 17 years without education</td>
<td>Increased risk of becoming unemployed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focus on young (single) parents on unemployment benefits</td>
<td>Increased risk of becoming unemployed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activation in the enterprises and mentor schemes for vulnerable groups</td>
<td>Only 20 percent of the vulnerable young unemployed are taking part in an activation scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More formalised co-operation across sectors</td>
<td>An increasing number of young require parallel support from a number of authorities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>