

Women entrepreneurship

Key findings: Denmark

Who wants to be an entrepreneur?

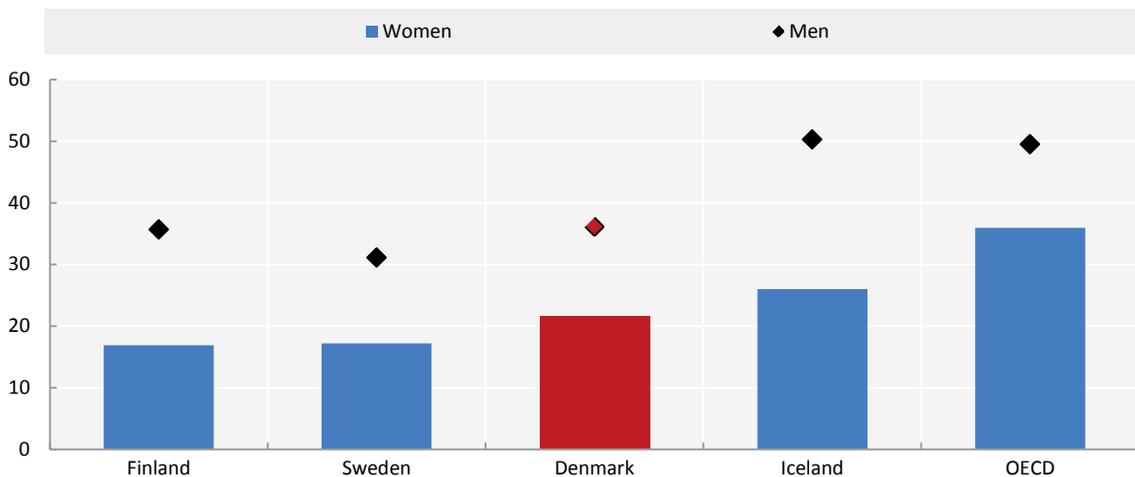
Entrepreneurship is crucial to economic development and to promoting social integration and reducing inequalities. *OECD Entrepreneurship at a Glance* presents an original collection of indicators that measure the state of entrepreneurship, providing an important reference for policy insights and policy making.

Perceived risks are higher for women

One important determinant of entrepreneurship relates to the relative risk involved, or rather assessment of risk. This is to a large extent determined by risk of failure but also reflects other factors, such as social security safety nets, access to finance, access to child-care, and indeed potential rewards; which helps to explain the significant differences across countries on how the entrepreneurial risk is perceived. One pattern, however, is remarkably consistent: **women, the world over, always appear less prone to taking the entrepreneurial plunge.**

Denmark is no exception to this pattern (see Figure 1), with 36% of men but only 22% of women expressing a preference for starting their own business rather than working for someone else. Although these shares lie close to those of other Nordic countries, they are well below the OECD average and very low compared to the countries with the highest values in this measure, such as the United States, where 57% of women and 70% of men declare a preference for the entrepreneurial risk.

Figure 1. How is the entrepreneurial risk perceived?
Percentage of individuals who agree with the statement "I would rather take a risk and build my own business than work for someone else", 2013

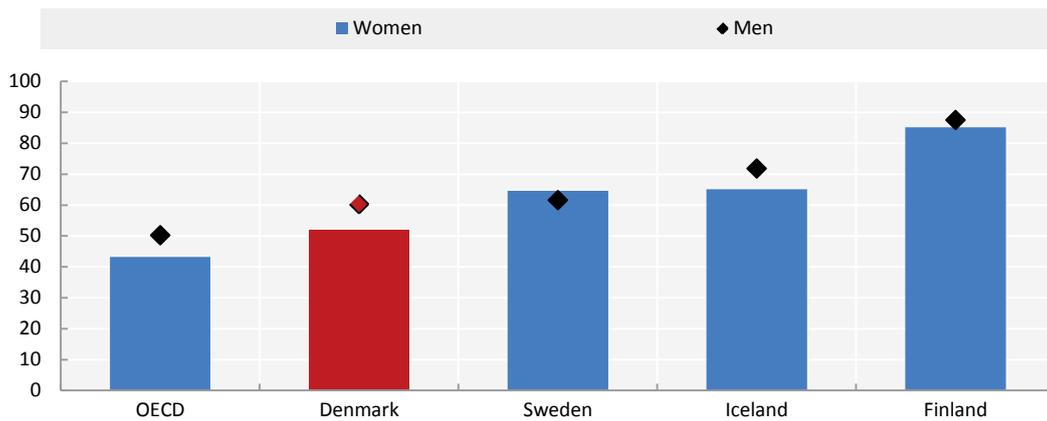


Source: *Entrepreneurship at a Glance 2016 - forthcoming*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

...reflecting perceived gaps in opportunities for: training...

Most countries in the OECD area exhibit a significant gender gap with regards to access to training to create and grow a start-up. A characteristic that is also true for Denmark (Figure 2), although the shares are above the OECD average.

Figure 2. Is it possible to access training on how to start or grow a business?
 Percentage of individuals who consider they have access to formal or informal training on how to start or grow a business, 2013



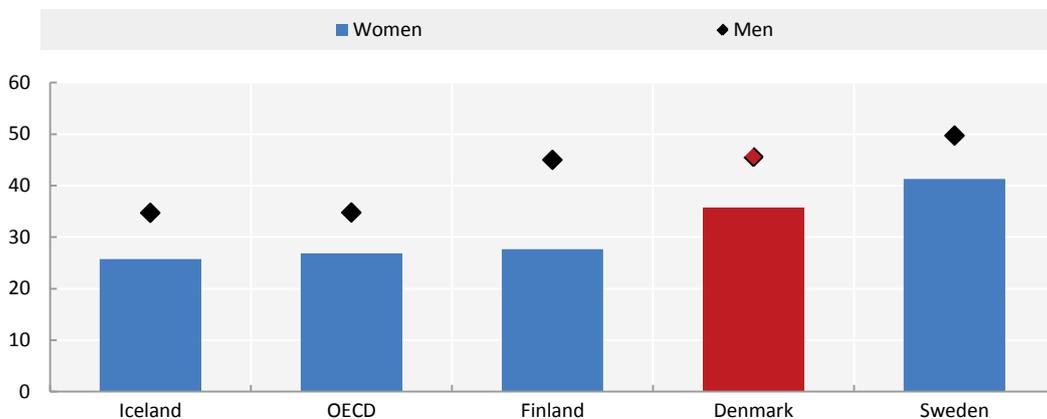
Source: OECD based on Gallup data.

...and finance

Similar gender gaps exist across the world regarding access to finance. Although the share of Danish women declaring that access to money is not a barrier to starting a business (36%) is above the OECD average (27%), it is well below the equivalent share for men (46%).

Figure 3. Is it possible to access money to start a business?

Percentage of individuals who consider they have access to money (own savings or any other source) they would need if they wanted to start or grow a business, 2013

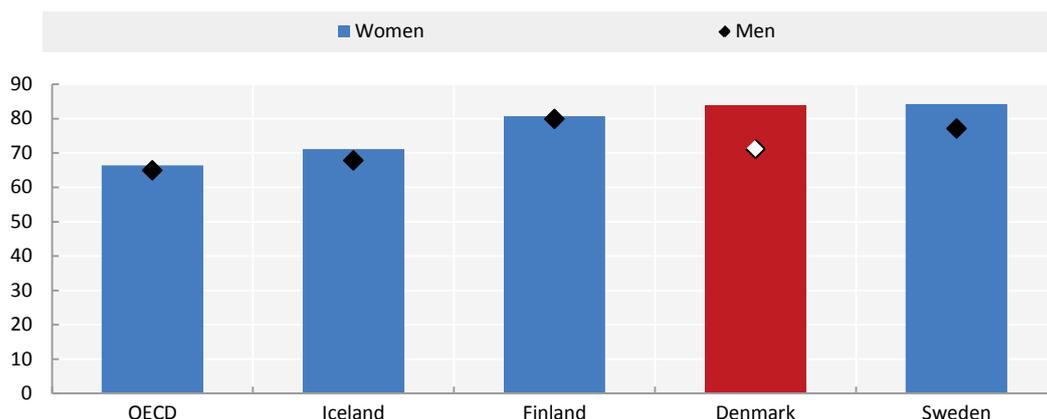


Source: OECD based on Gallup data.

But perceptions towards entrepreneurship show little gender bias

The gender gap in the willingness to take the entrepreneurial risk cannot be attributed to a general aversion of women towards entrepreneurship. Indeed, in Denmark a vast majority of women see entrepreneurs as positive role models for the youth, and, as in most other OECD countries, the share is larger than that of men (see Figure 4).

Figure 4. In my country, people who run their own business are considered good role models for youth
Percentage, 2013

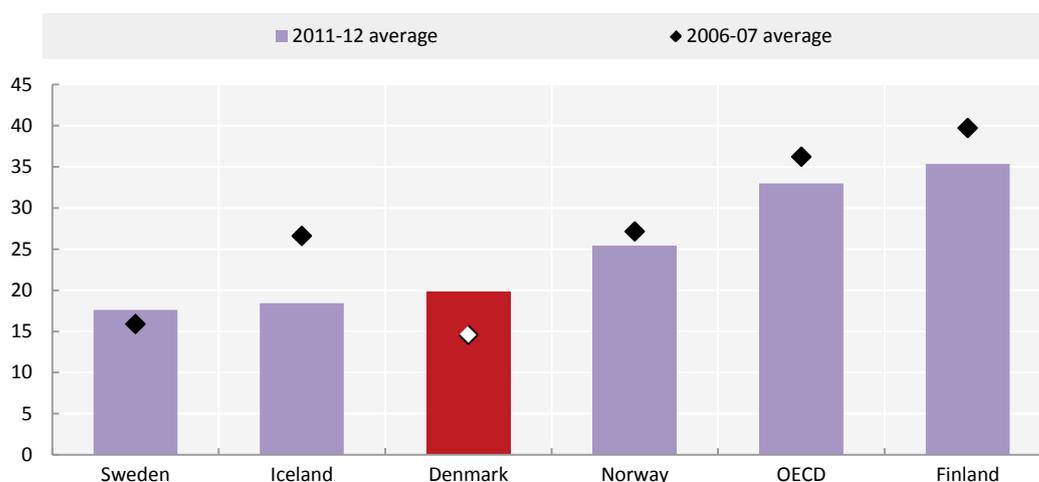


Source: OECD based on Gallup data.

...as well as lower rewards from entrepreneurship

Potential rewards are also an important determinant of risk assessment and in most countries. Earnings from self-employment are typically lower for women than men. Although the gap in 2011/12 (20%) was significantly smaller in Denmark than the OECD average (33%), unlike many countries the gap has increased in recent years (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Gender gap in self-employment earnings
Difference between male and female earnings as a percentage of male earnings



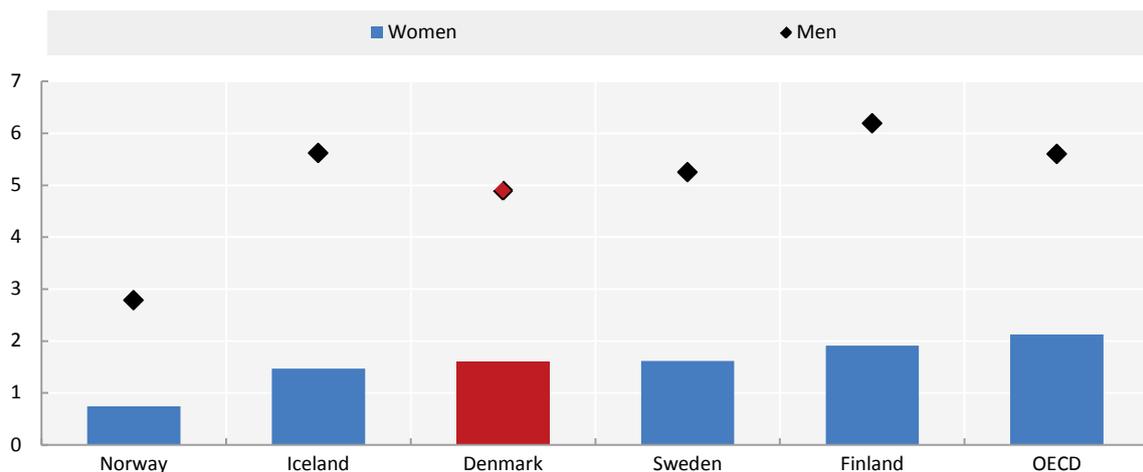
Source: OECD based on Labour Force Surveys.

Current trends in women entrepreneurship

Self-employment rates are often used as an important indicator of entrepreneurialism. The shares of employed Danish women who are self-employed with employees (1.6%) or are own-account workers (3.3%) are both among the lowest in the entire OECD area (Figure 6 and Figure 7).

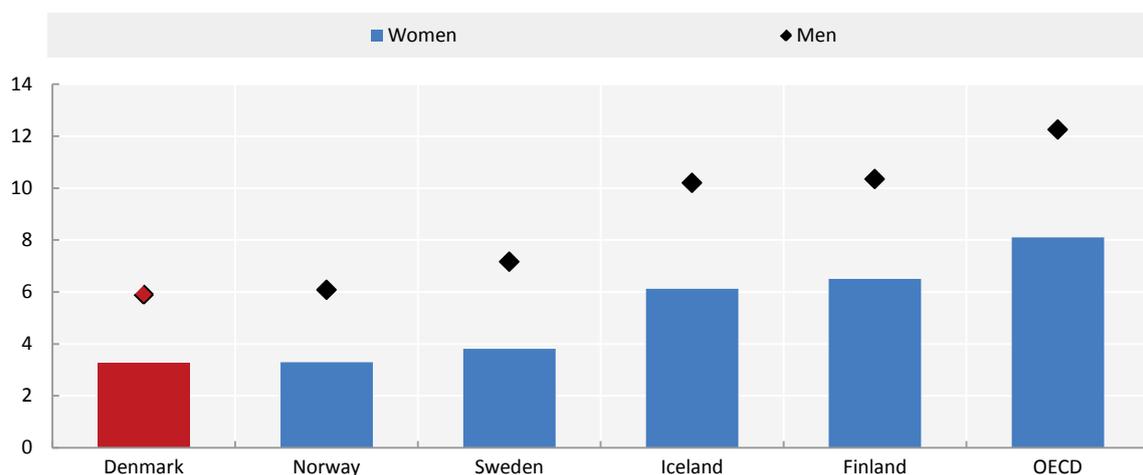
Although differences across countries partly reflect 'push', notably limited paid employment opportunities, as well as 'pull' factors, in most OECD countries the gap between the proportions of male and female entrepreneurs with employees (3.5 percentage points on average) is similar to the gender gap between the shares of own-account workers (4.1 percentage points on average). In Denmark, the share of male employers is three times higher than the share of female employers, while the share of male own-account workers is nearly double the share of female own-account workers.

Figure 6. Share of employed women and men who are self-employed with employees
Percentage, 2014



Source: *Entrepreneurship at a Glance 2016 - forthcoming*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

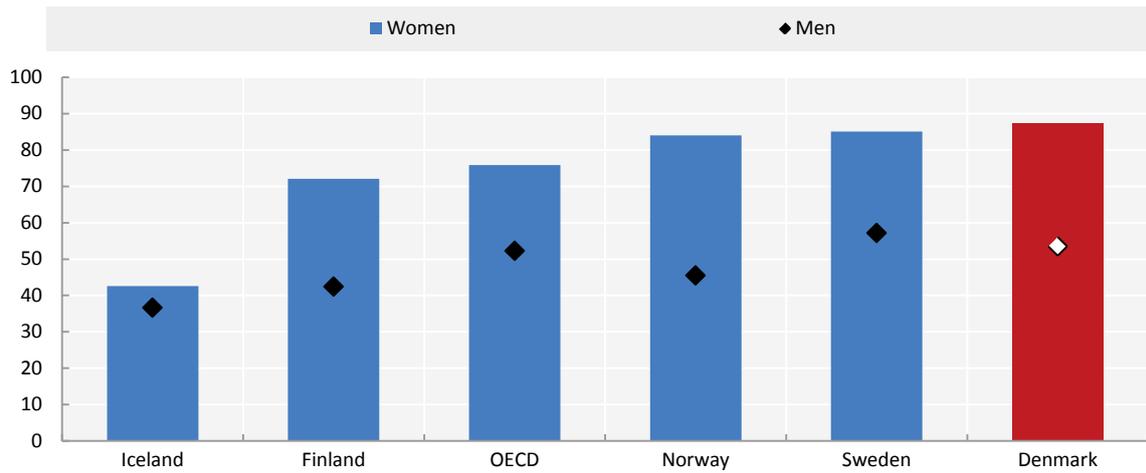
Figure 7. Share of employed women and men who are own-account workers
Percentage, 2014



Source: *Entrepreneurship at a Glance 2016 - forthcoming*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

Danish women entrepreneurs work predominantly in the services sector, as is the case in most OECD countries (see Figure 8). In many countries, however, evidence for young women entrepreneurs points to considerable diversity.

Figure 8. Self-employed whose activity is in services
Percentage, 2014



Source: OECD Gender Data Portal.

Further reading

Entrepreneurship at a Glance, OECD publishing, Paris. http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/industry-and-services/entrepreneurship-at-a-glance_22266941

OECD Gender Data Portal: <http://www.oecd.org/gender/data/entrepreneurship.htm>