



# DENMARK

OECD Global Action on Promoting Social and Solidarity Economy Ecosystems

In 2014, the Danish Parliament adopted the Act on Registered Social Enterprises, a component of the social and solidarity economy (SSE). In Denmark, **132 115 SSE entities** provided employment to **178 597 people** in 2021.

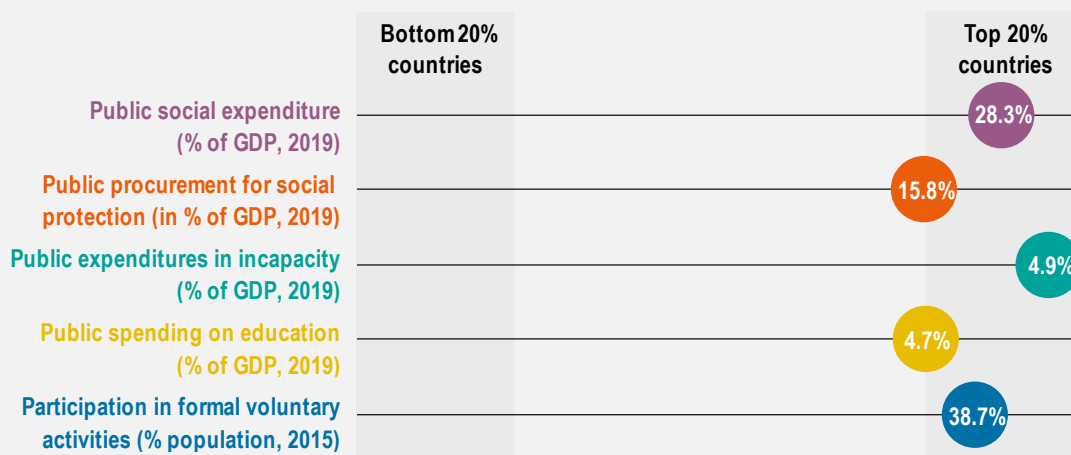
## SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Denmark is a unitary country and a member of the European Union. It is a high-income country with a very high human development level.

	GDP per capita	Labour force participation rate	Youth not in employment, education or training (NEET)	Poverty rate	Gini coefficient	Rural population	Stakeholder engagement for developing regulations
Denmark	USD 74 859	80.3%	10.9%	6.5%	0.268 / 1	28.1%	2.0 / 4
OECD	USD 53 937	73.2%	14.8%	11.0%	0.313 / 1	23.1%	2.1 / 4

Note: Data from Denmark refer to 2022, except for NEET (2021), poverty rate (2019), Gini coefficient (2019) and stakeholder engagement (2017). OECD data refer to 2022, except for poverty rate (2018), Gini coefficient (2020) and stakeholder engagement (2017). GDP per capita for OECD is an estimated value. See sources at the end of the document.

## Country position in selected social indicators



Note: For each indicator, the position of the bubble on the line represents the country's ranking compared to OECD and EU countries. Higher rankings are on the right. The panel of countries for the international ranking can vary from an indicator to another due to data availability. See sources at the end of the document.

## SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY ECOSYSTEM

### Definition of the social and solidarity economy in Denmark

The social and solidarity economy (or social economy) is not defined in any legal or official text in Denmark. The country has a registration tool for "socio-economic enterprises":

In order for an entity to be registered as a **socio-economic enterprise**, it must: have a **social purpose**, conduct **commercial activities**, be **independent of the public sector**, be **inclusive** and **responsible** in its work, and have a **social management of its profit** by using its surplus for: reinvestment in the entity, investment in or donations to other registered socio-economic enterprises, donations to organisations with a non-profit or charitable purpose, or a limited distribution of dividends or other form of profit sharing to the owners of the entity.

Note: For more information, please refer to the [Act on registered socio-economic enterprises \(2014\)](#), Chapter 2.

## Institutional frameworks



### Institutions

The **Danish Business Authority** is administering the **registration tool for social enterprises** – Registreret Socialøkonomisk Virksomhed (RSV) – that was introduced under the National Strategy for Social Enterprises.



### Legal instruments

The Danish Parliament adopted the **Act on Registered Social Enterprises in 2014**. Based on this act, social enterprises are able to register if they meet specific criteria.



### Stakeholder engagement

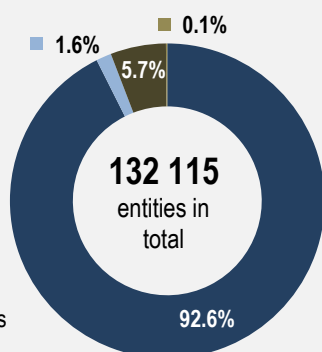
Many **municipal governments actively support SSE organisations** through awareness raising, funding and business support schemes.

## Main figures

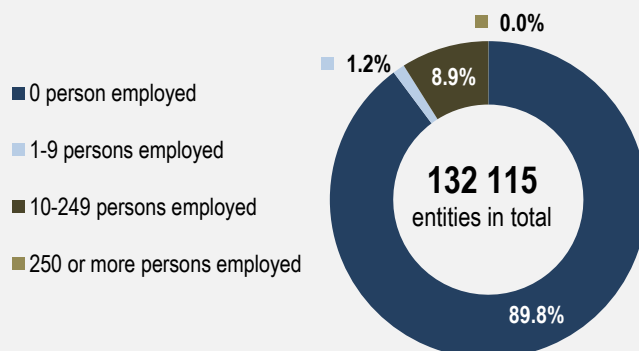
In Denmark, **132 115 SSE entities** provided employment to **178 597 people** in 2021. Majority of SSE entities (89.8%) are **small sized** with less than 10 workers. **Social services** had the highest share of employment with **29.3%**.

**SCOPE** In the absence of an official definition of the SSE, data on the SSE are provided according to a common understanding of what entities can be seen as part of the field. The data are based on Danish legal forms provided from the Central Business Register. Additionally, the 2014 Act on registered social enterprises defines the criteria to be recognised as a social enterprise. Most legal forms are eligible to be accredited by this voluntary legal status if they comply with a specific set of criteria. Data on social enterprises refer to registered social enterprises.

Number of SSE entities (2021)

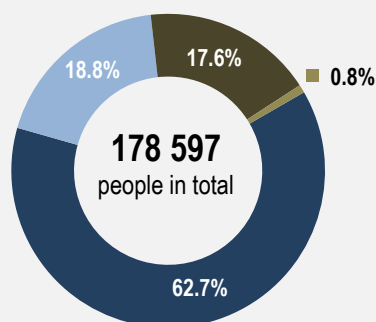


Breakdown of SSE entities by size of employment (2021)



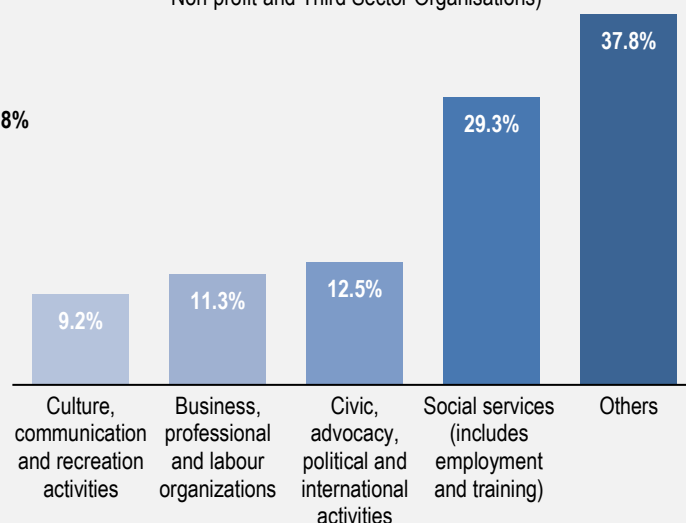
Note: 43 SSE entities have 250 or more persons employed.

Employment in the SSE (headcounts, 2021)



Sectoral employment in the SSE (headcounts, 2021)

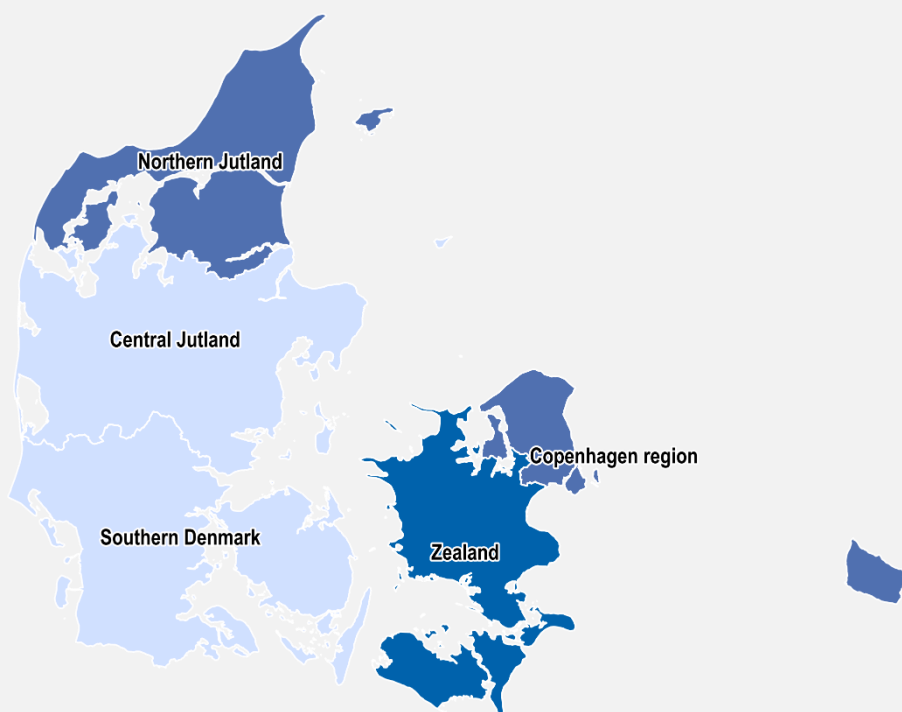
(Main broad sections of ICNP/TSO - International Classification of Non-profit and Third Sector Organisations)



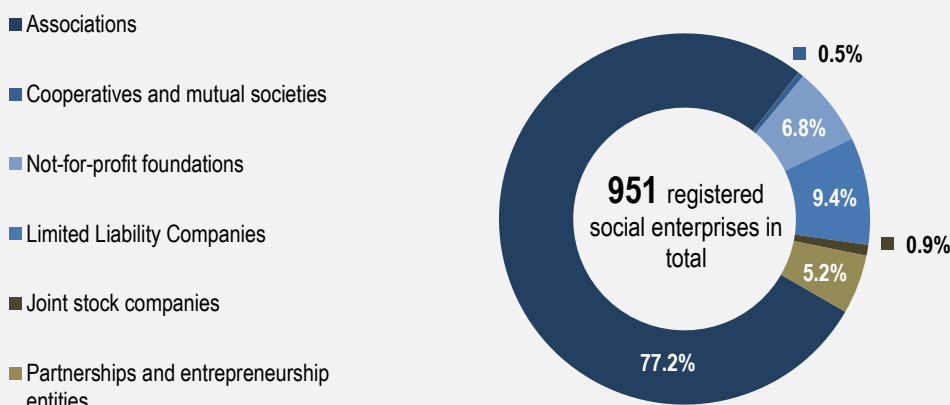
Note: In sectoral employment, others include real estate activities; trade activities; human health services; financial and insurance services; education services; philanthropic intermediaries and volunteerism promotion; professional, scientific, accounting and admin. services; community and economic development, and housing activities; environmental protection and animal welfare activities; agriculture, forestry and fishing; transportation and storage activities; religious congregations and associations; and unclassified activities.

**Employment in the SSE as a share of regional employment (FTE 2021)**

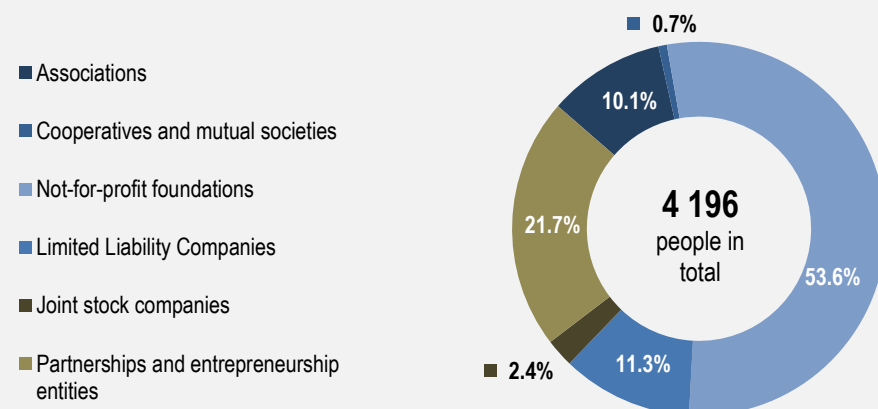
- Less than 2%
- Between 2% and 6%
- Over 6%



**Registered social enterprises by legal form (2021)**



**Employment in registered social enterprises (headcounts, 2021)**



ZOOM ON REGISTERED SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

**Legal frameworks**

Legal frameworks to support the development of the SSE can be adopted at the national and subnational levels. They can regulate the SSE as a whole, or specific legal entities of the SSE (such as associations, cooperatives, mutual societies, foundations and social enterprises).

**For the SSE**

*Not available.*

**For specific SSE entities at national level**

- Act on Registered Socio-Economic Enterprises (2014) - [Link](#)

Note: The list above is not exhaustive of all existing legal frameworks around SSE in Denmark.

