Work-related language learning in Denmark

Majority language learning (L2) for newly-arrived migrants

The 2010 Act on Danish Courses for Adult Foreigners stipulates that recently arrived workers and students are offered 250 hours of instruction in ‘Workplace-oriented Danish.’ After this course they can attend a three-year programme in Danish as a Second Language. Refugees are offered a five-year language programme. These programmes must assist learners to obtain generic skills and knowledge relevant to working life, education and citizenship. They are supported by local government and the Ministry of Education.

Work-related L2 provision for job seekers, unemployed

In addition to the 2010 Act on Danish Courses (see above), local government and the Ministry of Education support vocational training programmes known as AMU (Arbejds Markeds Uddannelserne) and Preparatory Adult Education.

Further information

Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science website pages on adult education and continuing training
Council of Europe surveys on member state policy and practice relating to the linguistic integration of adult migrants
European Web Site on Integration country information sheets
German government information service (Bundeszentrale für politischen Bildung/bpb) country profiles on migration in Europe and beyond
CEDEFOP VET in Europe project country reports
European Migration Network country fact sheets
Migration Policy Institute
Global Forum on Migration and Development Migration Profiles Repository

Denmark profile acknowledgement: Karen Lund (LfW Network member and LfW Workshop participant, 2015)

Participants at the Language for Work Workshop held at the ECML in Graz on 24-25 June 2015 were asked to prepare a brief review of policies and practice in their own country/region relevant to work-related language learning for migrant/ethnic minority workers and/or low-literate majority-language speaking workers. Reviews were completed for Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy (Emilia-Romagna), Kosovo, Macedonia, Malta, Norway, Romania (Bucharest), Sweden.