



MINISTERIET FOR
BØRN OG
UNDERVISNING

Guidance in the Danish educational sector

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Reform 2004

- A specific law on guidance
- The responsibility of guidance was moved from schools to a set of new independent and professional institutions at 3 levels
- A division on guidance in the ministry was established:
 - Policy issues in relation to guidance
 - Implementation of the guidance reform
 - Knowledge center for guidance
 - Responsible for guidance at national and regional level
- Change of media from paper to internet



Aims I

- The choice of education and career shall be of greatest possible benefit to the individual and to society
- The individual's interests and personal qualifications as well as the anticipated need for qualified labour and self-employed businessmen shall be taken into account
- Be targeted especially at young people with special needs for guidance
- Contribute to a reduction of drop-out rates



Aims II

- **Contribute to improving the individual's ability to seek and use information about choice of education and career**
- **Secure consistency and progression for each student**
- **Independent of institution- and sector-specific interests**
- **Improvement of the qualifications and competencies of guidance counsellors**

The Danish educational system

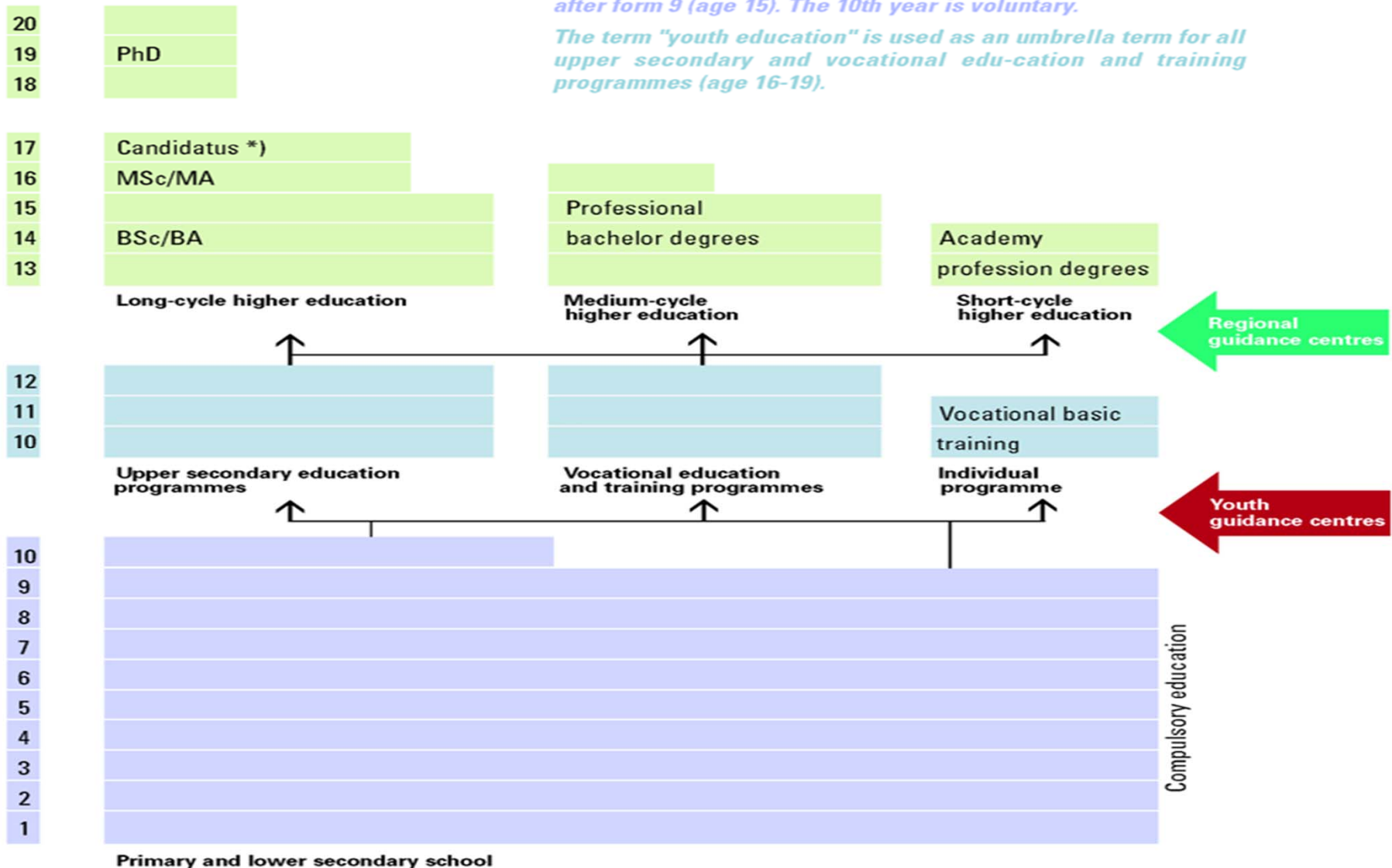


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No. of years

Compulsory education begins at the age of 7 (form 1) and ends after form 9 (age 15). The 10th year is voluntary.

The term "youth education" is used as an umbrella term for all upper secondary and vocational education and training programmes (age 16-19).



*) Some programmes last more than 2 years



51 youth guidance centres

- Guidance related to transition from compulsory to youth education
- Target groups:
 - Pupils in lower secondary education
 - Young people under the age of 25 outside education, training and employment
- Guidance for lower secondary pupils provided at schools
- Personal educational plans are used (compulsory)
- More resources for and focus on clients with special needs for guidance
- Responsibility of the municipalities



7 regional guidance centres

- Guidance related to transition from youth education to higher education
- Information about
 - All higher education programmes in Denmark
 - Possible job opportunities after completing a higher education programme
- Target groups
 - Pupils in youth education programmes
 - Young people and adults outside the education system wishing to enter a higher education programme
- Responsibility of the ministry
 - The centres are selected after a call for tender



National guidance portal

- "The Education Guide": www.ug.dk
- Contains
 - Information about education and training
 - Information about professions
 - Labour market issues
 - Possibilities abroad
 - Internet-based guidance tools
 - Links to guidance centres, educational institutions and the electronic admissions systems
- Responsibility of the ministry – the provider selected after a call for tender



E-guidance in relation to www.ug.dk

- From 2011 e-guidance is established providing opportunity for personal guidance through “e-channels”
- Primarily aimed at resourceful youths and their parents
- E-guidance will relieve the guidance counsellors at the centres
- E-guidance is offered as virtual communication: phone, online chat, sms and e-mail – and also through Facebook
- E-guidance is manned by professional guidance counsellors and cooperates with the youth guidance centres, the regional guidance centres and the national guidance portal www.ug.dk
- Responsibility of the ministry



Center of expertise for guidance

- Activities include:
 - Collecting examples of best practice
 - Initiating analyses, surveys and experimental activities
 - Coordination among different types of services
 - Quality development
- Virtual resource centre, including news service, journal and library:
www.vejledningsviden.dk - integrated in www.ug.dk
- Responsibility of the ministry



National dialogue forum

- Established by the Ministry of Education in December 2003
- Chairmanship of three people
- 3-4 annual meetings
- Individual members and representatives from organisations and ministries
- Purposes are:
 - to secure cross-sectoral dialogue
 - to develop the level of quality in Danish guidance
- The chairmanship gives advice to the minister based on discussions in the dialogue forum



Quality assurance system

- Contribute to achievement of the aims of the guidance reform
- Provide decision makers with a comprehensive view of scope, results and effects of guidance
- Promotes credibility and public confidence by reporting the results of guidance
- Serve as foundation for further development
- Common guidelines and method create basis for comparability between similar units
- Illustrate approach and methods for the guidance centres in their developing and measuring quality systematically



The monitoring system

- Productivity
 - Production statistics – contact with the users of guidance services
- User benefit
 - Nationwide surveys and questionnaires
- Effect
 - Effect on society – among these transition-, completion- and drop-out rates
- Data published on the internet



Recent changes in the Act on Guidance

- Following a political agreement from November 2009 a comprehensive piece of legislation was passed in the Danish parliament in June 2010
- The changes had effect from January 1st 2011
- Evaluation proces can lead to changes from 2013



15-17-year-old must be in education, employment or other agreed activity

- 15-17-y-o are obliged to be in education, employment or another activity
- The activities shall
 1. be in accordance with their personal education plan, which is made for every young person in collaboration between the young person, his/her parents and the guidance centre
 2. aim at that the 15-17-y-o sooner or later completes vocational or upper secondary education or gain foothold at the labour market
- The municipality/youth guidance centre must ensure that the personal education plan is complied with or changed
- The municipality is given the tools for this



Possible sanction

- The municipality can withhold the family allowance for 15-17 y-o's if they do not comply with the obligation to be in education, employment or another agreed activity and the family are not willing to cooperate
- The municipality can also choose to give the family allowance directly to the young person rather than the family



Assessment of 15-17-y-o's readiness for education

- When a young person is leaving compulsory education to vocational or upper secondary education, the youth guidance centre must assess whether the young person possesses the necessary educational, personal and social skills
- The assessment will be included in the educational plan
- Pupils/parents can demand that a negative assessment is tested by a youth educational institution if they do not agree with the youth guidance centre
- For young people, who are assessed not yet ready for education, the municipality must provide training or whatever needed to qualify for a positive assessment



Focused guidance on transitions in education

- The municipalities have to reach out for vulnerable young people in the transition from 9th and 10th form to the youth education in order to avoid quick drop-out (“hand held guidance”)
- Meetings between guidance centre and educational institutions
- Assignment of a mentor
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Municipal provisions for the 15-17-y-o

- The municipalities must offer young people who are not ready for education special courses aiming at uncovering the interests and competencies of the young person and prepare him/her for education
- The municipality can e.g. acquire special courses at a vocational school or a production school, utilise the youth school, short-term traineeships, folk high schools, private schools etc.
- The youth guidance centre can also provide special guidance sessions for these young people



Youth database

- The ministry has established a database with educational and employment status for all young people below the age of 30.
- The database is used by the guidance centre and the job-centres
- Information on the municipal effort aimed at the 15-17 y-o is also part of the database in order to make it possible to establish transparency of the municipal performance
- Timely statistics



Thank you

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