STATISTICS DENMARK

Documentation of statistics for Folk high school courses 2023

Statistics Denmark
Sankt Kjelds Plads 11
DK 2100 København Ø

STATISTICS DENMARK

1 Introduction

The purpose is to describe the participation of the population in adult education in the sense of folk high schools and independent prevocational schools. Courses fulfilling the requirements outlined in the Danish Folk high school law are included, but also non-financed courses of a general folk high school nature. The data is a part of Statistic Denmark's register of adult education and continuing training.

2 Statistical presentation

The Statistics gives a complete picture of the populations participation in folk high school courses as well as courses from the independent prevocational schools. Data are collected on number of participants as well as full-time equivalents. In addition data is also collected on the length of the courses. For the latest year, data based on calendar year only contains data for half a year. This is because data is published on school years so that the second half will become available once the next school year is published

2.1 Data description

The statistics in relation to the folk high schools and the cooking and textile schools is part of the Statistic Denmark's register of courses. This register gives a complete description of the populations participation in courses/single courses related to adult education, i.e. formal, external educations financed, administered and organized by a public supplier and takes place outside ordinary working hours. The activity of the cooking and textile schools (now known as independent prevocational schools) have been registered since the beginning of the 1970-ties and the activity of the folk high schools was introduced from the 1980-ties. At first only the long courses of 12 weeks or more was registered, but from 2011-12 the courses shorter than 12 weeks were included too.

2.2 Classification system

The data is distributed according to education area. Like the main register of adult education, it is also classified according to Statistics Denmark's education classification DISCED-15, which is a Danish version of the "International Standard Classification of Education". Further description of this classification can be obtained in about courses and adult education.

Long courses: courses that last 12 weeks or more. Short courses: courses that last less than 12 weeks.

Folk High Schools for Youths: folk high schools specifically targeted at student between 16 and 19 of age. Folk High Schools for the Elderly: folk high schools that have a special permission to only offer short courses. General and Grundtvigian Folk High Schools: Folk High Schools that do not belong in one of the two above categories. Independent prevocational high schools: boarding schools that are organized a lot like folk high schools except that their courses are more focused on vocational studies.

2.3 Sector coverage

The Statistic covers courses on folk high schools, within adult and continued education area.

STATISTICS DENMARK

2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Calendar year : A Calendar year last from 1. January to 31. December.

School year: A school year lasts from 1. august the year before to 31. July in the current year.

2.5 Statistical unit

Participants and full-time equivalents.

2.6 Statistical population

People who have participated in a folk high school course.

2.7 Reference area

Denmark.

2.8 Time coverage

Data is available from the school year 2005. Short courses are however first available from 2012

2.9 Base period

Not relevant for this statistics.

2.10 Unit of measure

Number of people

2.11 Reference period

01-08-2022 - 31-07-2023. For the latest year, data based on calendar year only contains data for half a year. This is because data is published on school years so that the second half will become available once data on the next school year is published.

2.12 Frequency of dissemination

Annually.

2.13 Legal acts and other agreements

The Act on Statistics Denmark, §6.

The statistic is not based on an EU regulation.

STATISTICS DENMARK

2.14 Cost and burden

Minor response burden primarily due to the usage of administrative registers.

2.15 Comment

General information about continued education can be obtained here. Further information can be obtained by contacting Statistics Denmark.

3 Statistical processing

Data are collected annually from the schools administrative systems and by manual reporting. Collected data are validated for institution, type of education, course length and personal ID number. In addition it is determined if pupils has been reported several times. After data has been validated it is divided into: type of folk high school, education area and courses length. annual equivalents are calculated based on the course length and number of participants.

3.1 Source data

Approved providers of adult education and training in the form of folk high school courses. All Danish folk high schools which are part of the list published by the folk high school association are included in the statistic.

3.2 Frequency of data collection

Annually.

3.3 Data collection

Reporting is either done through the folk high school's administrative system by a system-to-system solution or manually written excel sheets.

3.4 Data validation

Data is checked as regards correct institution ID, valid dates/period specifications, valid codes for type of course and personal ID number (CPR identification number). CPR number is checked against the CPR register, and CPR numbers are corrected as far as possible. In case the folk high school operates a system-to-system solution, certain filters are build to assure, that errors are corrected before data reach Statistics Denmark. In addition the numbers for the current year are compared to the last three years. This is done both as a total for each school, but also distributed on course weeks and education type. Finally, it is investigated if the same pupil has been reported several times to attend the same course at the same time. If this is found to be true then we remove the excess reporting.

3.5 Data compilation

Apart from data cleaning data are grouped together for various types of folk high schools: Full-time equivalents are calculated as the total amount of weeks, the pupils have attended school divided by 40.

3.6 Adjustment

No additional corrections are made apart from what is described in data validation and data treatment.

4 Relevance

The statistics are widely used by municipalities, counties, government departments, non-government organizations, the news media and private enterprises. No user satisfaction data has been collected.

4.1 User Needs

Areas of use: public and private planning, research, education, public debate and marketing.

4.2 User Satisfaction

1-2 times a year, a meeting is held in the Contact Committee for Education, where user representatives from selected ministries, labor organizations, interest organizations in the education sector have the opportunity to comment on the statistics.

4.3 Data completeness rate

Not important for this statistic.

5 Accuracy and reliability

The most important source of inaccuracy is insufficient registrations by the administrations of the folk high schools. Various control procedures catches up with this as far as possible. In addition there are small differences in the material delivered by the folk high schools. We are currently working on solving this issue.

5.1 Overall accuracy

The material is based on reporting from the high schools' student administration systems (about 80 per cent) and partly on specially designed excel templates. Student management systems com-it and Danish school data are adapted in cooperation with Statistics Denmark to validate data before reporting. For the type of data where data validation can occur at source, reliability is high. For data delivered as excel sheets (about 20 per cent), the possibility of typing errors is greater and validation at source less good. In case of significant fluctuations compared to previous years, the reporting officer is contacted to check for possible errors. After possible error correction reliability is considered good. It is assessed that the missing data have little influence on the overall picture.

5.2 Sampling error

Not relevant for this statistic.

5.3 Non-sampling error

Any missing registration in the data reported by the folk high schools will lead to a shortfall in the results. Generally there are very few missing registrations. All reported courses are checked concerning the end of course date to be within the specified period. If necessary data are to be included the following year if ended after the end date specified. The classification of courses into long and short courses, can be affected by changes in course structure without any change in course content.

5.4 Quality management

Statistics Denmark follows the recommendations on organisation and management of quality given in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP) and the implementation guidelines given in the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF). A Working Group on Quality and a central quality assurance function have been established to continuously carry through control of products and processes.

5.5 Quality assurance

Statistics Denmark follows the principles in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP) and uses the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF) for the implementation of the principles. This involves continuous decentralized and central control of products and processes based on documentation following international standards. The central quality assurance function reports to the Working Group on Quality. Reports include suggestions for improvement that are assessed, decided and subsequently implemented.

5.6 Quality assessment

The reliability of the statistics is considered to be good. Error records or missing updates to the administrative registry that are the basis of the reports are the main sources of uncertainty.

5.7 Data revision - policy

Statistics Denmark revises published figures in accordance with the Revision Policy for Statistics Denmark. The common procedures and principles of the Revision Policy are for some statistics supplemented by a specific revision practice.

5.8 Data revision practice

There may be revisions, eg. in relation to redeployment in high school category. However, this option is used very rarely. A minor revision in data has been conducted in association with the publishing of the new tables.

STATISTICS DENMARK

6 Timeliness and punctuality

The statistic is issued once a year, usually in the first quarter of the year including data from approx. 6 months after the end of the collection period.

In general the statistic is published in accordance with the announced time.

6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

The statistic is issued once a year, usually in the first quarter of the year approx. 6 months after end of collection period.

6.2 Punctuality

In general the statistic is published in accordance with the announced time.

7 Comparability

There are statistics on folk high schools in Denmark dating back to 1901, but the statistics are in their present form comparable from 2005 to the present. However, the short courses, under 12 weeks, are only included from 2012. There is no common international standard for statistics on folk high schools, but similar statistics can be found for Norway and Sweden. There are other statistics on folk high schools in Denmark, but there may be differences between definitions (e.g. the school year) and calculation methods (e.g. calculation on the basis of grants or actual activity) which may mean that there is no direct comparability.

7.1 Comparability - geographical

Eurostat and OECD do not have statistics on folk high schools. Statistics Sweden has a statistic on Swedish folk high schools but uses different categories that are not directly comparable. Statistics Norway has a statistic on number of pupils which falls some where between full-time equivalents and Participants. Statistics Norway only has statistics on long courses and it is not known if they use the same definition of a long course.

7.2 Comparability over time

In general the comparability over time is high. The statistic can be compared to the statistic done by the Ministry of Education; however, this statistic is carried out for the purpose of calculation of the financial support to the folk high schools. Courses that last less than 12 weeks have only been collected since 2012, because of this there will be a large spike in the total number of participants from 2011 to 2012. Courses that last 12 weeks or more can followed back to 2005. Statistics on folk high schools can be traced back to 1902 with 1901 as the first year in which data is collected. However data before and after 2005 are not necessarily comparable due to methodological differences.

STATISTICS DENMARK

7.3 Coherence - cross domain

Participants at folk high school courses are published in the Statistics Denmark's register of adult education and continuing training. The same classifications of educations as in the ordinary education statistics (full time educations) is used and it is therefore possible to make comparisons across the two areas.

However, there are some differences between the specialised folk high school tables (with the exception of VEUHOJ15) and the table for the total adult and continuing education area. The school year is defined for the folk high schools as August 1 to July 31, as this reflects the working method of the folk high schools. In contrast, for the total adult and continuing education area (statbank table VEU20), the school year is defined as 1 July to 30 June, as this fits best with the many different course areas it contains. In the tables for folk high schools, (statbank tables VEUHOJ11 and VEUHOJ21), age is measured on 30 September, while the total adult and continuing education area measures the age of 1 January of the specified year.

New versions of the tables have been published in the statbank for folk high school students (statbank tables VEUHOJ 11 and VEUHOJ21). The new tables use a less detailed, but more correct, breakdown by institution type than the discontinued tables (the statbank tables VEUHOJ10 and VEUHOJ20). There is also a smaller revision of the figures in the new tables.

The Ministry of Education has on several occasions published statistics on full time equivalents of students at folk high schools. This is done on the basis of the grants paid to the folk high schools. Statistics Denmark compiles the activity based on the reported duration of the individual courses. This does not give the same amount of activity at the folk high schools. This is due to differences in the scope of activity realized and the amount of subsidy paid, and that the accruals for reporting are different.

7.4 Coherence - internal

No comments.

8 Accessibility and clarity

The results are put into the Stat Bank: See under Education and knowledge

Researchers can get access to the detailed data of the register of adult education and continuing training by agreement with Statistics Denmark. Special analyses can be conducted by the Service Department of Statistics Denmark.

8.1 Release calendar

The publication date appears in the release calendar. The date is confirmed in the weeks before.

8.3 User access

Statistics are always published at 8:00 a.m. at the day announced in the release calendar. No one outside of Statistics Denmark can access the statistics before they are published.

STATISTICS DENMARK

8.2 Release calendar access

The Release Calender can be accessed on our English website: Release Calender.

8.4 News release

There is not a regular annual dissemination of these statistics in News relies from statistics Denmark.

8.5 Publications

Not relevant for this statistics.

8.6 On-line database

The statistics are published in the StatBank under the subject in the following tables:

- VEUHOJ11: Participation in long courses at folk high schools by field of education, age, sex, type of institution, points in time and unit.
- VEUHOJ21: Participation in short courses at folk high schools by field of education, age, sex, type of institution, points in time and unit.

8.7 Micro-data access

The statistics are individually based statistics stored in a register, i.e. Statistics Denmark's register of adult education and continuing training. Because of the relations to other personal related registers, the education register, the institution register and the business register the applications are enormously. Researchers can get access to the detailed data of the register of adult education and continuing training by agreement with Statistics Denmark.

8.8 Other

The data from this statistic are transferred to the register of adult education and continuing training as well as in the Statbank. Special tables can be supplied by the Service Center of Statistics Denmark.

8.9 Confidentiality - policy

We refer to the General politic of discretion and confidentiality of Statistics Denmark.

8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

The number of variables available in the database has been limited in order to protect individual privacy.

8.11 Documentation on methodology

Details available in the Education Manual (danish) Uddannelsesmanualen.

8.12 Quality documentation

Results from the quality evaluation of products and selected processes are available in detail for each statistics and in summary reports for the Working Group on Quality.

9 Contact

The administrative placement of these statistics is in the division of Population and Education, Social Statistics. The contact person is Asger Bromose Langgaard, tel.: + 45 2159 9646, and e-mail: ALG@dst.dk.