
Guidance in the Danish educational sector

Jørgen Brock
Division for Guidance,
Danish Ministry of Education

[**jb@uvm.dk**](mailto:jb@uvm.dk)

(+45) 3395 5685

Reform 2004

- A specific law on guidance
- Responsibility of guidance moved from schools to a set of new independent and professional institutions at 2 levels:
 1. Between compulsory school to youth education (53 youth guidance centres)
 2. Between youth education to higher education (7 regional guidance centres)

Reform 2004...

- A division on guidance in the ministry was established:
 - Responsible for guidance at national and regional level
 - Policy issues in relation to guidance
 - Implementation of the guidance reform
 - Knowledge center for guidance
- Change of media from paper to internet
 - Educational Guidance portal www.ug.dk

Aims I

- Guidance shall benefit both individual and society (**double aim**), and help young people to complete education
- Specific focus on young people in risk (support choice of and completion of education)
- Take account of individuals interests and competencies
- Contribute to a reduction of drop-out
- Support/help individuals to use Internet/sources of information

Aims II

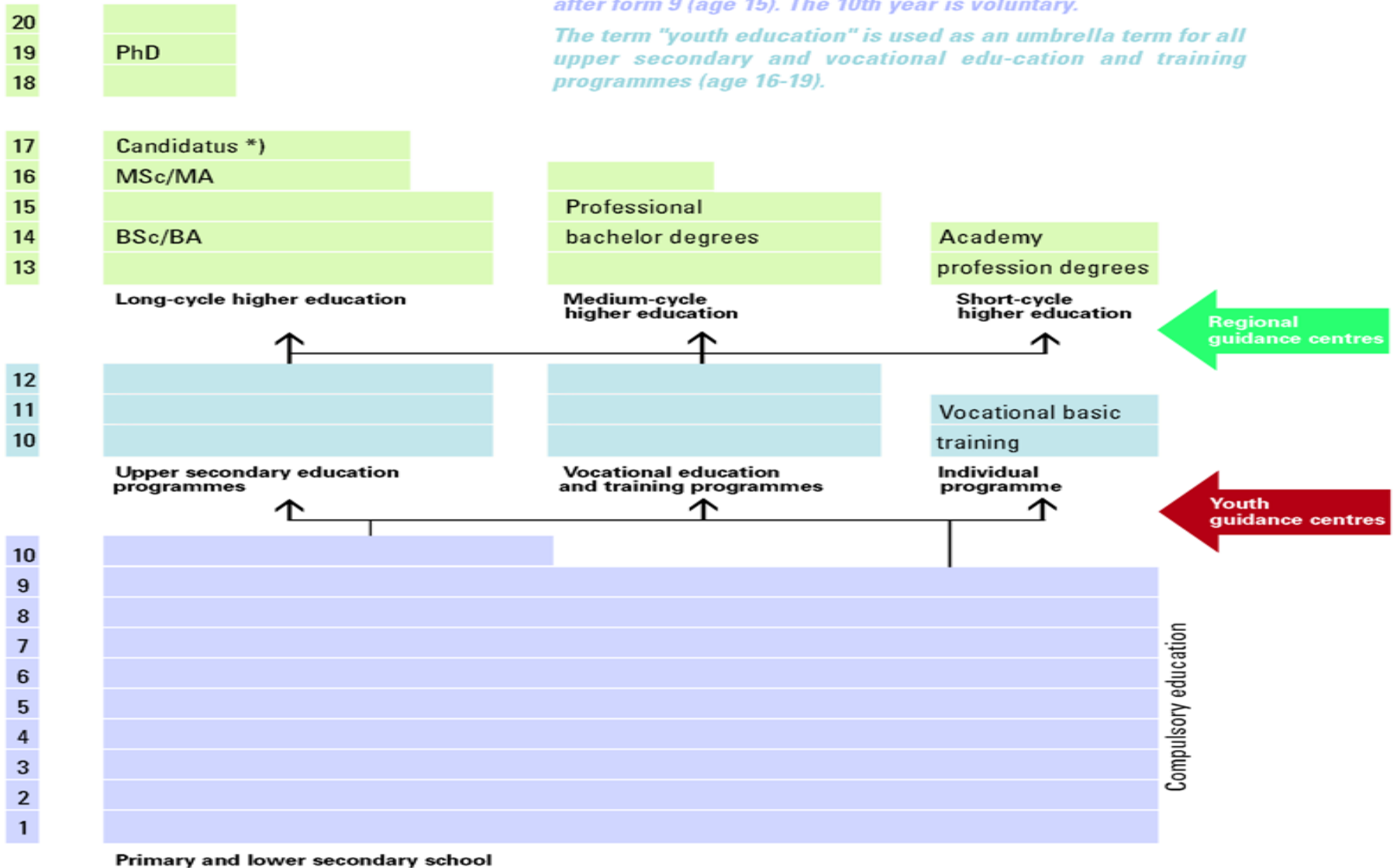
- Guidance must be independent of institution- and sector-specific interests
- Guidance counsellors must have the right qualifications (bachelor level)

The Danish educational system

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

Youth guidance centres (53)

- Guidance related to transition from compulsory to youth education
- Target groups:
 - Pupils in lower secondary education
 - Young people (under 25) outside education, training and employment
- Guidance provided at schools
- Personal educational plans
- Targeted young people with need for guidance
- **Responsibility:** Municipalities

Regional guidance centres(7)

- All higher education programmes in Denmark
- Possible job opportunities after completing a higher education programme
- Pupils in youth education programmes
- Young people and adults outside the education system
 - The centres are selected after a call for tender (4 years contracts)

National guidance portal

- "The Education Guide": www.ug.dk
 - Information about education and training
 - Information about professions
 - Labour market issues
 - Internet-based guidance tools
 - Links to guidance centres, educational institutions etc.
- Ministry of Education has responsibility

www.eGuidance.dk

- 2011 e-guidance is established - www.eguidance.dk
- Primarily aimed at resourceful youths and their parents
- E-guidance is offered - phone, online chat, webcam, sms and e-mail
- E-guidance - professional guidance counsellors www.ug.dk
- Responsibility of the ministry

Centre of expertise for guidance

- Initiating analyses, surveys and experimental activities
- Virtual resource centre
- News service
- Library etc.: www.vejledningsviden.dk
 - all integrated in www.ug.dk
- Responsibility of the ministry

National dialogue forum

- *3-4 meetings/year*
 - Cross-sectoral dialogue (*themes*: drop out, reform initiatives, changes in guidance, eGuidance, adult guidance etc.)
 - Advice to the minister
- Participants: Members and representatives from organisations (labour market, guidance, edu institutions, pupils/students, other ministries etc.) and personal appointed persons

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
- Serve as foundation for further development
- Common guidelines and method create basis for comparability between similar units

Monitoring

- 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

Initiatives 2010/2014 and forward

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 in accordance with their personal education plan
- The activities shall aim at that the 15-17-y-o 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

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
- It is used very seldom – more seen as last possibility for getting contact/dialogue

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

- Before a young person is leaving compulsory education to vocational or upper secondary education, the youth guidance centre - in cooperation with school - must assess educational, personal and social skills
- Academic, personal and social skills are being assessed in 8th grade
- This assessment is moved (2014) from 9th to 8th grade in order to give schools and guidance staff more time to help/support pupils who are considered yet-not-ready for youth education.
- Pupils/parents can demand that a negative assessment is tested by a youth educational institution if they do not agree

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.

Other initiatives to support educational aims

- New education programme (Combined youth education) for young people not ready for general upper secondary or VET programmes. 2 years period – aiming at local labour market or further education
- 10th grade targeted VET programmes
- Combination of 10th grade and VET programme

Diploma of Educational, Vocational and Career Guidance – for all guidance counsellors

Themes

- Guidance as profession - 10 ECTS
- Guidance – seen from individual perspective - 10 ECTS
- Guidance – from a society perspective - 10 ECTS
- Diploma/bachelorproject – 15 ECTS

Optional modules

- Elections and electoral processes - theories and practices - 10 ECTS
- Guidance at educational institutions -10 ECTS
- Special needs for guidance - 10 ECTS
- Innovation and quality in guidance environments - 10 ECTS
- Career guidance of adults - 5 ECTS
- Transition Guide - the primary school - 5 ECTS
- Intercultural Guide - 5 ECTS
- Mentor and mentoring - 5 ECTS
- Guidance in communities and group counseling - 5 ECTS

Challenges

- A larger number of pupils must enter and complete VET programme
- How can we change patterns of choice of education? (guidance, careers education, educational reforms etc.)
- Improve pupils' competences in compulsory school (*math, reading / writing*)
- More targeted guidance, more differentiated guidance

New VET reform 2015, including guidance

- Class based guidance for all pupils in grade 7-9/10
- Development of group-based guidance
- Targeted individual guidance for "special need" pupils
- Development of methods and activities for collective guidance
- Strengthening of careers education in compulsory school

Thank you for your attention!

- **Jørgen Brock**
- **Mail: jb@uvm.dk**
- **Phone (+45) 3395 5685**

- **Ministry of Education:**
- **www.uvm.dk**