

Strategic Social Report 2013

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1. Danish challenges in the competence areas of the social OMC

The estimated expenditure for 2013 is outlined in tables 2a and 7 of the 2012 Stability and Convergence Programme. The Government is currently drafting the 2013 Stability and Convergence Programme which will update the estimated expenditure for 2013. The 2013 programme will be submitted to the European Commission and published during the Spring of 2013.

1.1 – 1.4. Challenges of social inclusion, pensions, health care and long-term care

Chapter 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 of the National Social Report 2012 describes the challenges within the four policy areas. The long-term challenges for social inclusion, pensions, health care and long-term care have not changed since 2012, but are still highly influenced by the economic and social crisis in Europe combined with the future demographic challenges. Therefore, the challenges section has not been updated.

2. Danish reforms in 2013 to address the challenges

The following policy initiatives should be regarded as complementary to the 2012 National Social Report, the 2012 National Reform Programme and the upcoming 2013 National Reform Program.

2.1 Social inclusion

Chapter 4.5 of the 2013 National Reform Programme describes initiatives planned and taken within the area of social inclusion. The following initiatives are additional to these.

- **Efforts to protect children from abuse.** The Danish Government has allocated DKK 268 million in the period 2013-2016 to protect children and young people from abuse. The initiatives include strengthening children's right to be heard and to be protected, improving the municipalities' reaction to notifications on children who may be in need of special support and the establishment of houses for children who have been victims of abuse and who need highly qualified help from social authorities, the police and the healthcare system.
- **Activity-green card to vulnerable children.** 23 Danish municipalities give vulnerable children and young people an opportunity to join different kinds of leisure activities such as sports, music education, scout associations etc. The

children and young people with parents who do not have economic, social or personal resources to support their children are assisted in taking part in leisure-time activities. The Activity-green card initiative continues in the municipalities until 2014 with a shared financing from the Danish state of DKK 80 million in four years.

- **Homelessness and housing exclusion.** The Danish National Homeless Strategy (2009-2013) is targeted at improving the municipalities measures on persons suffering from homelessness. The different supporting housing methods (Housing First) in the Danish Homeless Strategy is continuously monitored. It involves both monitoring on individual level in terms of documentation of the effectiveness of methods and monitoring on national and municipal level. The strategy is financed by DKK 500 million public funding.

2.2 Pensions

On 1 January 2013, a reform of disability pensions and flex-jobs was implemented (National Social Report 2012 chapter 4.1) and presented in depth in February 2013 in the SPC. The following outlines the main aspects of the reform:

- **The rehabilitation model.** According to the new scheme, the disability pension is discontinued for persons under the age of 40, unless it is evident that they will never be able to take up work again. The primary tool is a new rehabilitation model. From 1st of January 2013, awarding of disability pension requires prior participation in at least one rehabilitation program and young people can participate in additional rehabilitation programs successively. Instead of disability pension, people with substantially reduced work capacity will be offered individually tailored rehabilitation and support measures for up to 5 years. The rehabilitation model will involve a close cooperation between the health sector and the relevant labour market institutions, as well as social services and the education sector.
- **New opportunities for those already receiving disability pension.** People already receiving disability pension are now eligible for support from the job center and given the opportunity to participate in different kinds of active labour market programs. They will also be given the opportunity to participate in a rehabilitation program if the municipality ascertains that the person can benefit from such an activity. They are allowed to retain their disability pension while participating in these activities.
- **Flex-jobs.** The flex job scheme of subsidized employment has been changed. Public subsidies are now more targeted towards people in flex-jobs with low wages and the lowest capacity to work. Flex-jobs will only be granted temporarily, initially for five years, with proper reassessment. The temporary focus

on flex-jobs will be strongest for young people: the aim being to move them back into regular jobs.

2.3 Health and long-term care

Efforts related to life expectancy and inequality in health:

- **Health promotion.** In order to support the local authorities' prevention and health promotion efforts, the Health Authority has launched new recommendations concerning the well-known determinants and risk factors including mental health. The recommendations describe in detail which health promoting and preventive efforts the municipalities should implement for the next 10 years. The Government has set up a new health prevention centre, which shall provide the municipalities with advice and guidance in implementing the "prevention-packages".
- **Preventive approaches against smoking.** Financial support is allocated to the national database on smoking cessation, in order to facilitate evaluation of which initiatives is more effective. A strategy for avoidance of smoking among vulnerable young people is implemented and supported by earmarked funding.

Efforts related to efficient and qualified health care and long-term care:

- **Commission on Home Care Services.** In the early summer of 2012, the Danish Government set up a Commission on Home Care Services. During 2013 the Commission will present its recommendations. Among other things the report will explore the possibilities of how preventive and rehabilitating measures can be used to enable the elderly to remain self-reliant and independent of help for as long as possible.
- **National action plan for dissemination of telemedicine.** A total of DKK 80 million has been allocated to completely or partially finance the initiatives of the action plan. The action plan is an initiative in the Danish e-Government Strategy 2011-2015. The results of the plan will form part of the work of future digitalisation reform of social welfare areas. With this action plan the government, municipalities and regions wish to speed up the present dissemination of telemedicine qualitative solutions.
- **Differentiated waiting times.** Differentiation of maximum waiting times on treatment according to needs. This means that the most severely ill persons will be treated first. For patients with less severe conditions the new maximum waiting time will be two months. Differentiating waiting times on treatments according to need will increase planning capacity and flexibility thus securing a better use of resources.

Efforts related to acute care:

- **Pre-hospital effort.** The pre-hospital effort, which previously only involved transport of people who were ill or injured, now also includes treatment. As part of the Budget Agreement 2013, DKK 41,4 million in 2013 and DKK 126,7 million from 2014 and forth have been set aside yearly for the establishment of a medical helicopter scheme. The helicopter scheme will consist of three helicopters placed in different regions, with the aim of increasing service for the population on islands and in fringe areas.
- **Acute care.** The Government have established a pool of DKK 50 million to strengthen acute care. The regions can apply to the pool and the money can be used for acute medical cars and ambulances in areas not located near the helicopters.