

DENMARK (Country Case Study)

[Denmark] Focal Point:		
A. Background		
1. Which UNCT members have collaborated on this case study?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ... • ... • ... 		
2. Which national partners (governmental and non-governmental) were involved in developing this case study and how?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ... • ... • ... 		
3. Does the case study illustrate one or several phases or levels?		
<input type="checkbox"/> Adapting SDG 16	<input type="checkbox"/> Implementing SDG 16	<input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring & Reporting on SDG 16
<input type="checkbox"/> National level	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional level	<input type="checkbox"/> Local level
B. Case Study (two options)		
OPTION 1 (pre-structured)		
4. Country context for the achievement of SDG 16		
<p>Denmark has a long history of strong representative democratic institutions with separation of the executive, juridical and legislative power and a tradition for engaging in the international society. This is why, when the SDGs were agreed upon in 2015, Denmark had advantageous preconditions for achieving both the national and international indicators set out in SDG 16.</p> <p>Nationally, Denmark had, for a number of years, been appointed the least corrupt country in the world and the levels of freedom of expression and believes were steadily high. This trend has continued throughout the following years rendering the Danish institutional setup strongly supportive of SDG 16.5 and 16.10.</p> <p>Internationally, over the past 40 years Denmark has lived up to the goal of spending 0.7 % of GNI in development aid and Denmark’s strategy for development cooperation and humanitarian action - The World 2030 - has the SDGs as its starting point. In supporting the establishment of global peace and security Danish contributions to peacebuilding and peacekeeping targets both the immediate needs and the roots to conflict.</p> <p>Building on this context Denmark has made great efforts to improve inclusion of civil society in the implementation of the SDGs and creating a multi-stakeholder approach to the 2030 agenda.</p>		

5. Efforts to achieve SDG 16

To Denmark, creating ownership of SDG 16 and including multiple actors at multiple levels in the task of fulfilling the SDGs has been important. Change is not made solely by government initiatives – it is achieved through collective action. On this basis, the Danish government launched an Action Plan for national implementation of the SDGs in 2017. The Action Plan was a result of a fierce ambition to ensure integration of sustainable development into domestic policy and the daily workings of the government and to ensure that the results are tangible. With the Action Plan, 37 measurable indicators were set out enabling continuous monitoring of the progress with the implementation of the SDGs. Nine of these indicators addressed SDG 16 targeting mainly SDG 16.A, 16.B, 16.1 through 16.5 and 16.10.

With the Action Plan, the Ministry of Finance was appointed key coordinator of the overall national implementation and ownership of the SDGs. The Danish Ministry of Finance has set out an agenda making the individual lines of ministry responsible for implementing the SDGs into their resort-areas. In order for the SDGs to be achieved on a national level, it is thus important to cooperate across municipalities, regions and government. This multilevel and decentralized approach to the SDGs ensure that the people with the proper expertise will be the ones driving the implementation of the SDGs.

Further, in order to promote participation and inclusion in this process, the Danish government has actively engaged civil society in achieving the SDGs, by making educational material about the SDGs available to the public as well as annual reports on the implementation of the SDGs by Statistics Denmark, promoting public assessment and debate of Denmark's implementation of the SDGs. This is a way for the government to learn and review its own work towards sustainable development, thus strengthening institutional setup through an independent knowledgeable civil society. This initiative is supportive of the implementation of SDG 16.6 and 16.7 creating effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels while ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making.

6. Results so far and Way Forward

Supported by the abovementioned institutional initiatives Denmark has maintained positive results creating ownership and implementing the objectives of SDG 16. Besides maintaining the positive trends set out in the context Denmark has thus continued its role as proponent on the international SRHR agenda; and in 2017, Denmark was appointed member of CSW 2020-2024. With the financial distention of 2018 Denmark has also increased the financial means of the police, increased actions taken to put criminals engaged in gang-related crime behind bars and taken steps towards eradicating violent extremism.

Inclusion of all stakeholders in the process of implementing the SDGs is a priority for the Danish Government. Civil society have made their own reports with policy-recommendations for the government. The reports are readily available to the public through the government's homepage.

Finally, increasing global interdependence renders the question of peace and security a matter of *international* concern. Denmark will thus continue to assume responsibility internationally and an important component in Denmark's ambitions for achieving SDG 16.1 through 16.4, 16.8 and 16.A is to promote international stability and continue contributing to peace through trade, investments and support of institutional building globally.

7. Lessons Learned

By including civil society and other stakeholders and independent statistical reviews of the government's efforts to implement the SDGs Denmark ensures that achieving the SDGs is a matter of collective concern and united efforts. The Danish lessons learned are that by including multiple stakeholders at multiple levels a solid foundation for achieving the SDGs is built. Collectively, the Danish context and efforts that have been made to support implementation of SDGs and peer review hereof thus renders the Danish institutional setup strong and supportive of peace, inclusion and justice that are the goals of SDG 16.