

Joint Declaration of Intent

on cooperation in the field of

Vocational Education and Training

between

the Ministry of Children and Education of the Kingdom of Denmark

and

**the Federal Ministry of Education and Research of the Federal Republic of
Germany**

The Ministry of Children and Education of the Kingdom of Denmark and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research of the Federal Republic of Germany, hereinafter referred to as “the Sides”,

- Recognize the importance of education as a key topic for their bilateral relations and in particular Vocational Education and Training (VET) and lifelong learning as a key factor for socio-economic development and social progress in general;
- Consider that the Kingdom of Denmark and the Federal Republic of Germany are like-minded countries in terms of VET and life-long learning and that promoting cooperation in the field of VET is mutual beneficial;
- Desire to further strengthen and intensify cooperation in the field of VET and to promote and enhance apprentices’ possibilities in both countries.
- Take into account the “Gemeinsame Erklärung der Bundesministerien für Bildung und Forschung der Bundesrepublik Deutschland und für Bildung des Königreichs Dänemark bezüglich der Vergleichbarkeit beruflicher Qualifikationen” signed in 2013 as well as the vital role of social partners and relevant stakeholders in vocational education and training in both countries.

The Sides jointly declare their intention to cooperate as follows:

I. Fields of cooperation

(1) The Sides intend to continuously work together in the following fields of cooperation in the area of VET such as:

1. Promoting mobility in VET.
2. Cooperation and exchange of information on internationalization in VET, in particular in the following fields:
 - a) Exploration of new approaches in VET to support the development of competences that support just and successful green and digital transitions, e.g. utilization of information technology (IT), artificial intelligence (AI) and other new trends and technologies in the field of VET;
 - b) Exploration of new approaches in vocational counselling and career guidance, including cooperation on career paths from apprenticeship to further training (upskilling) as well as promotion of permeability of education and training systems;
 - c) Mutual exchange and sharing between relevant stakeholders in the two countries aiming to enhance labour market relevance and quality of VET in both countries.

Further topics may be added upon the understanding of both Sides.

II. Forms of cooperation

(1) With the aim of mutual learning in the fields quoted in Section I., the Sides envisage the following forms of cooperation:

1. Overall exchange of information, experiences and good practices on VET issues.
2. Exchange of information/expertise on issues and events related to the competences and activities of the Sides.
3. Information visits and expert meetings.
4. Measures and projects of common interest.

(2) The Sides understand that any expenses arising in connection with the activities under this Joint Declaration of Intent will be borne by each Side individually in accordance with their national legislation and subject to the availability of relevant budget funds.

III. Coordination and implementation

(1) The Sides intend to provide relevant stakeholders with information on the contents of this Joint Declaration of Intent and to disseminate the results of the cooperation activities in both countries.

(2) The bodies in charge of the coordination and the implementation of the activities envisaged in this Joint Declaration of Intent will be:

1. The Ministry of Children and Education of the Kingdom of Denmark.
2. The Federal Ministry of Education and Research of the Federal Republic of Germany.

(3) The Sides intend to regularly hold policy dialogues and exchange information to assist and support the cooperation process and projects in the field of VET. Therefore, the Sides will set up a Danish-German Joint Working Group (JWG) that should alternately meet in Denmark and in Germany if possible or via video conference. The Sides intend to

encourage partnerships between Danish and German stakeholders such as organizations, chambers, social partners, education providers and companies in order to foster joint projects and activities.

(4) With the aim to prioritize and initiate activities under this Joint Declaration of Intent, the Sides will draft a Joint Action Plan.

(5) This Joint Declaration of Intent will come into effect on the date of its signature and will be applied for a period of four years.

(6) Each Side may end cooperation under this Joint Declaration of Intent at any time. It should inform the other Side in writing of its intention to end cooperation at least three months prior.

(7) Any dispute between the Sides arising from this Joint Declaration of Intent will be settled through consultations.

(8) This Joint Declaration of Intent is not meant to constitute an international treaty or to create any rights or obligations for any side under international law.

Signed in Berlin on 28th of May 2024 in duplicate in the English language.

For the Ministry of Children and
Education of the Kingdom of
Denmark

For the Federal Ministry of
Education and Research of the
Federal Republic of Germany

MATTIAS TESFAYE
Minister of Children and Education

Prof. Dr. SABINE DÖRING
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