

## Contribution of older persons to Sustainable development

### Question 1.C Good practices to ensure older persons' participation in, and contribution to sustainable development

Denmark has established Ældreråd (Councils of Older Persons) at municipal level to secure the inclusion of older people in issues related to municipal development.

The larger Danish organisations for older people are generally involved in the development of strategies related to older people. (DaneAge(Ældresagen), Danish Seniors)

### Question 2. What are the challenges faced by older persons for the realization of their right to contribute to sustainable development at national and international levels?

Ageism and age discrimination constitute serious obstacles to older people's access to employment despite a non-discrimination act in Denmark.

Older people are excluded from loans to sustain their own businesses, for example.

Digitalization. There is space for more inclusion of organisations and older persons for a broader debate about the consequences of digitalization of the society for older people.

The **Danish development aid** does not include older people:

Denmark's development policy strategy The World We Share<sup>1</sup> 2021-25 guides the work and the priorities of the work carried out by the Danish civil society. It does adopt a rights-based approach but age only features once in the strategy, which is in the section on Leave no one behind. Otherwise, age and older people is of no concern for the Danish development policy.

### Question 3. What data, statistics and research are available regarding older persons' contribution to sustainable development?

A common definition of 'working-age population' continues to be those aged 15 to 64.<sup>2</sup> This ageist definition reinforces the stereotype that people aged 65 and over are economically inactive, dependent, and frail.<sup>3</sup> In the Danish Statistics you can find information regarding employment of people over 65, however it is not part of the general statistics of how many people are employed distributed on age groups.<sup>4</sup>

International policy documents on ageing and development fall short in the protection of older persons' rights. This makes the need for a new UN convention on the rights of older persons even more pressing to ensure older persons are not excluded from sustainable development processes.

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<sup>1</sup> <[https://um.dk/~media/um/denmarks%20strategy%20for%20development%20cooperation%20the%20world%20we%20share%20\(1\).pdf](https://um.dk/~media/um/denmarks%20strategy%20for%20development%20cooperation%20the%20world%20we%20share%20(1).pdf)> 2021-2025

<sup>2</sup> The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development defines working-age as 15-64, <https://data.oecd.org/pop/working-age-population.htm>

<sup>3</sup> HelpAge (2021), Breaking through the 60+ ceiling: assessment of disaggregation of the SDGs indicators on older people using household surveys.

<sup>4</sup> Beskæftigede, AKU (interview) - Danmarks Statistik (dst.dk)

**Question 5. What mechanisms are necessary, or already in place, for older persons to lodge complaints and seek redress for denial of their right to participate in and contribute to sustainable development?**

Older persons have rights to lodge complaints and, but as mentioned above, there is a need for a comprehensive legally binding instrument at the international level that protects older people's right to participation in decision-making processes.