EQUALLY HAPPY & GREEN

Denmark is characterised by universal welfare services such as free healthcare and free education – like the other Nordic countries. The Danes have been named the happiest people in the world in several surveys and do have a lot to smile about; they get lots of fresh air by being one of the most bicycle-friendly populations on the planet. Modern design and great architecture is part of their daily lives, they consume a greater proportion of organic produce than any other people and their love of sustainability, nature and food has resulted in the New Nordic food movement. One of the most important things for Danes is to live a socially balanced life and prioritise time with their families and friends.

THE NORDIC MODEL

The small Nordic country has one of the world’s most flexible labour markets as it is based on a flexicurity system where the employers with relative ease can dismiss the workers, who in turn are secured by high levels of unemployment benefits. This is the result of decades of cooperation between employers and unions. An active labour market policy is another important aspect in the model.

The Danish workforce is characterised by having one of the world’s highest levels of education and being very mobile. There is also a great deal of equality in the Danish job market and society as a whole, as 78 per cent of Danish women work outside the home and in total men and women work almost the same number of hours. The Danes are constantly revising their model and pushing for reforms to ensure its continuing success. Combined with virtually non-existent corruption, a strong focus on innovation and one of the world’s best business climates, this provides reasons as to why many companies decide to invest in and establish themselves in Denmark.

QUICK FACTS

Denmark has topped the European Commission’s ‘Eurobarometer’ when it comes to well-being and happiness every year since 1973. Most recently, Denmark was ranked the second happiest nation in the World Happiness Report 2017.

Denmark is well on its way to reaching a goal of 50% clean energy by 2020, with data showing that 37.6% of the country’s electricity consumption was covered by wind in 2016.

According to the Corruption Perceptions Index 2016 by Transparency International, Denmark is still the least corrupt country in the world.

transparency.org
A GREEN NATION

Denmark has a long tradition of ambitious and active energy and climate policies based on broad consensus in the Danish Parliament, e.g. energy and environment often play a key role when new buildings and urban districts are planned, designed and built. The energy objectives of Denmark are to create security of supply, to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollution and ensure energy efficiency while creating a basis for commercial development both at home and abroad. The ambition is to significantly increase the harnessing of sustainable energy sources.

As the first country in the world, Denmark is leading the transition to a green growth economy by introducing a clear vision of becoming independent of fossil fuels by 2050. Ambitious? Yes. Impossible? No. That’s why Denmark dares to call itself State of Green. But as global resources are scarce reaching this goal requires a broad range of innovative technologies and an ambitious policy framework to support them. Denmark tirelessly works with other states, in the EU and through development assistance to push for the transition towards a global green economy.

THE ARCTIC

Climate changes present both new challenges and new opportunities in the Arctic. As a result The Kingdom of Denmark including the other two parts of the realm - Greenland and the Faroe Islands works with the other member states of the well-functioning Arctic Council and with other international actors to promote self-sustaining growth and development with respect for the Arctic’s people, vulnerable climate, environment and nature.

QUICK FACTS

The Kingdom of Denmark is centrally located in the Arctic. The three parts of the Realm – Denmark, Greenland and the Faroe Islands – share a number of values and interests and all have a responsibility in and for the Arctic region. The Arctic makes up an essential part of the common cultural heritage, and is home to part of the Kingdom’s population.