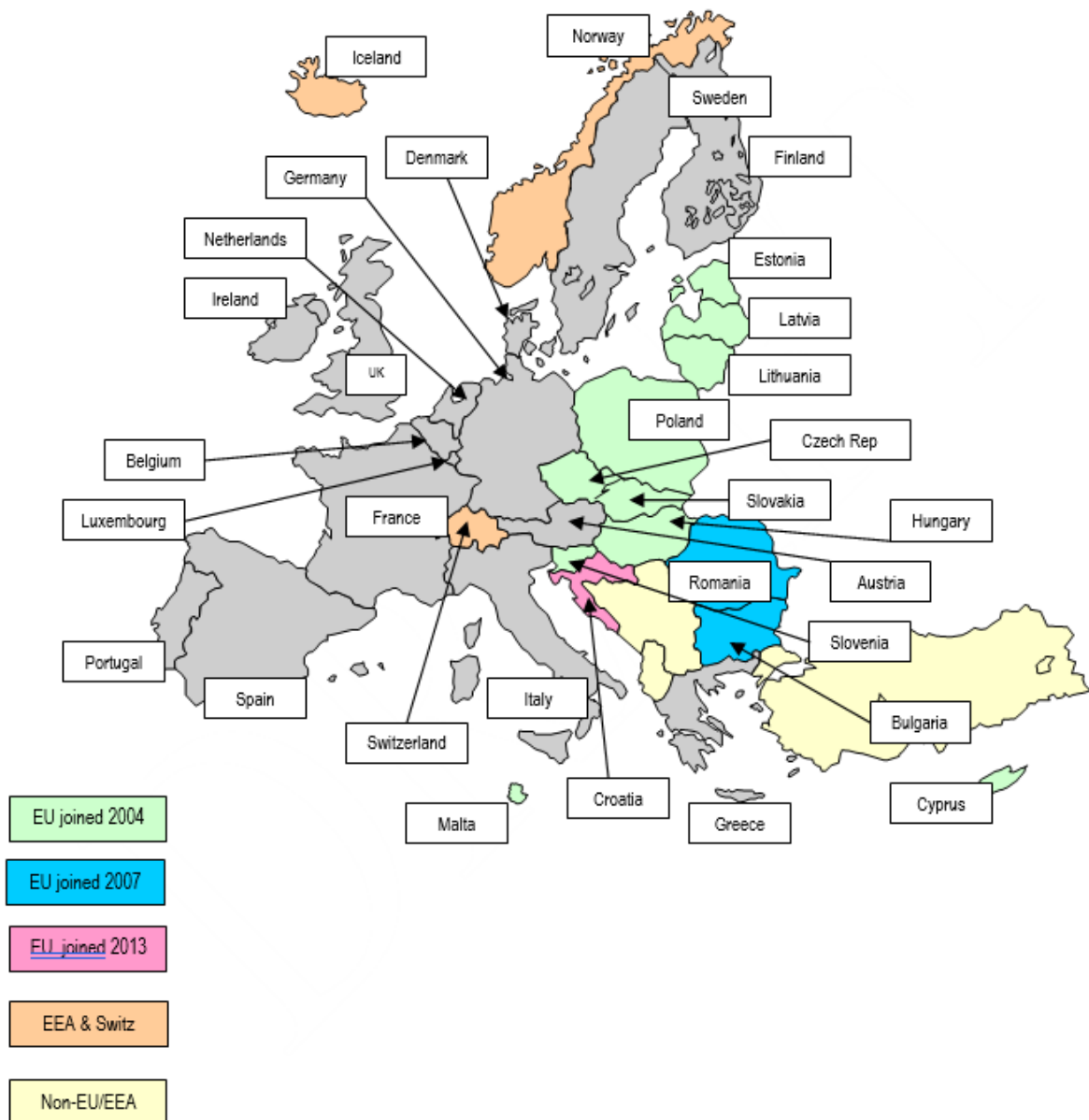


Council of European Dentists

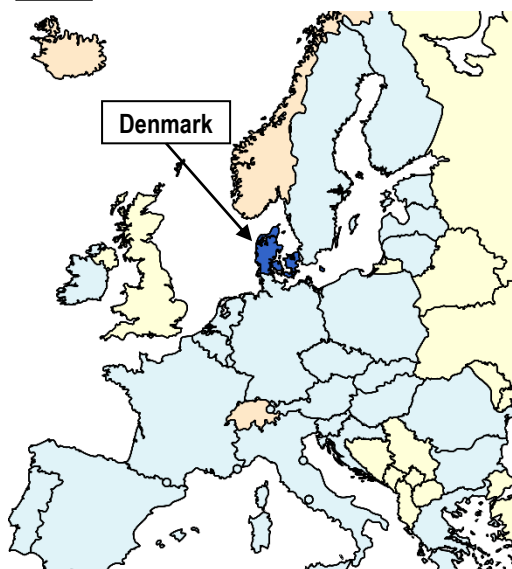
MANUAL OF DENTAL PRACTICE 2026

Denmark





Denmark



In the EU/EEA since	1973
Population (2024)	5 961 249 ¹
GDP PPP per capita (2024)	€50 188 ²
Currency	Danish Krone (DKK) 7.45 DKK = € 1
Official language(s)	Danish

Denmark has a highly decentralised National Health Service for service provision and public health, largely funded by general taxation. The national government remains responsible for areas relating to regulation, supervision, general- and quality planning.

Oral healthcare is provided free of charge by municipal dental services for children (0-20 since 2023, and 0-21 from 2025) and is partly subsidised for adults³.

Number of dentists (active)	4 964 (2025)
(Active) dentist to population ratio (per 100 000 inhabitants)	83.2
Members of Dental Association	5 412 (2024)

There are two specialist degrees recognised in Denmark – Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Orthodontics – and there is a well-developed system of dental auxiliary support for dentists (technicians and hygienists). Continuing education for dentists is not mandatory.

Date of last revision: 02 February 2026

Government and healthcare in Denmark

Denmark is geographically small country of 43,094 sq km.

It is governed as a constitutional monarchy with a unicameral parliament (Folketing) of 179 seats, whose members are elected for 4-year terms under a proportional representation system. The country is divided into three administrative levels: the state, 5 regions and 98 municipalities. Regions and municipalities endorse separate responsibilities and are not hierarchical.

Denmark has two dependencies: Greenland and the Faeroe Islands. They are both independent in health matters – but follow the Danish national legislation.

Denmark has a national health service funded by general taxation. There are few additional special taxes and very few private insurance contributions involved. Dental care for adults is only partly subsidised by the government (approximately 15%). The amount paid by the patients is dependent on the treatment –but in general the patients pay most of the treatment costs. Adult dental care accounts for 31% of all out-of-pocket payments for healthcare in Denmark. Voluntary complementary health insurance is purchased by around 42% of the population and can cover up to 50% of remaining dental care costs⁴.

The management of health care is highly decentralised, with the state holding regulatory, supervisory and fiscal functions, the individual regions running most services, planning and paying for primary care services and the municipalities responsible for some public health commitments, such as providing free dental care for children and youth up to the age of 21.

The Danish Health Authority is responsible for the administration of the legislation concerning dentistry.

		Year	Source
% GDP spent on all healthcare	9.5	2024	OECD
% of this spent by government	83	2024	OECD

¹ Country facts - EUROSTAT ([europa.eu](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat))

² Country facts - EUROSTAT ([europa.eu](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat))

³ European Observatory on Health Policies and Systems: [9789289059626-eng.pdf](https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/dental/oral-health/publications/9789289059626-eng.pdf) ([who.int](https://www.who.int))

⁴ Health Systems in Transition – Denmark: Health System Review 2024 ([who.int](https://www.who.int))

Education, Training and Registration

Undergraduate Education and Training

The general admission requirement to dental school is a secondary school education. For specific admission requirement prospective students are advised to contact the universities (University of Copenhagen, or Århus University). Foreign applicants must be skilled in Danish (written and spoken).

Year of data	2024
Number of schools	2
Student intake*	204
Number of graduates a year	134
Gender balance (% of female students)	79 %
Duration of studies	5

The dental education is 100% government funded and there is no tuition fee (including in some cases for EU foreign students, or students holding a residence permit). Students do have to pay for books etc. The education is a 2-cycle curriculum with a bachelor's degree (after first cycle of 3 years) and a master's after the second (two years). General dentists follow a mandatory 12-month clinical training year after completion of the graduate degree.

The education is accredited by the Danish Accreditation Institution.

Qualification and Vocational Training

Primary dental qualification

Having completed dental education, candidates receive an authorisation from the Danish Patient Safety Authority (Styrelsen for patientsikkerhed). The authorisation gives the right to work as a dentist under supervision. A mandatory 12-month vocational clinical practice year under supervision must be carried-out following completion of dental education to register as a self-employed dental practitioner.

Dentists educated outside Denmark (including dentists from the Nordic countries and the EU/EEA countries) must hold a Danish authorisation to use the title "dentist" in Denmark. The authorisation is issued by the Danish Patient Safety Authority upon completion of the application process, a Danish language test and payment of the application fee of DKK 3.508 (2024)⁵.

As a result of international agreements, different rules govern the recognition of qualifications obtained abroad, depending on the applicant's nationality, and where the education took place⁶. The Danish Patient Safety Authority issues the certificate. Please see more on <https://en.stps.dk/>

Diplomas from EU countries are recognised according to the EU Professional Qualifications Directive.

⁵ For more information, please visit the relevant website: [Dentist with an education from an EU/EEA country | The Danish Patient Safety Authority \(stps.dk\)](#)

Registration

Dentists receive authorization upon completing their education and are registered with the Danish Patient Safety Authority. Please read more at <https://en.stps.dk/>. The registration is free.

Dentists who wish to practice independently must also apply to the Danish Patient Safety Authority. The registration fee is DKK 3,508 in 2024.

Dentists who wish to be recognized as specialist dentists must apply to the Danish Patient Safety Authority. The registration fee is DKK 5,195 in 2024.

Dentists working in Denmark are advised to hold a membership of the Danish Dental Association, even though this is not mandatory. Contact info@tandlaegeforeningen.dk.

Language requirements

Foreign dentists must be skilled in Danish as all records must be written in Danish and dentists must be able to communicate with patients, relatives, hospital staff etc.

Non-EU nationals may have to have an oral and written language test in Danish, conducted by the Danish Patient Safety Authority before registration. Please read more at <https://en.stps.dk/>.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Continuing professional development (CPD) is not mandatory to retain authorisation as a dentist.

Specialist training requirements

Denmark and The Danish Health Authority only provide and recognise two types of dental specialists:

- Orthodontics (Ortho) (3 years)
- Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS) (5 years)

The requirements for applying to undertake specialist training are at least two years working experience (2880 hours). This includes a minimum of one-year full time (1440 hours) in paediatric dentistry for the speciality of orthodontics. There is no tuition fee.

For a specialist's degree in OMFS, 5 years of specialist training is required. The experience must be gained in departments of Oral and Plastic Surgery, Oral Pathology and Medicine, Ear, Nose and Throat, Neck Anaesthetics, Critical intensive care, Internal medicine and Orthopaedics.

For foreign dentists without Danish authorization there is a tuition fee of DKK280 000 (EUR 27 620 in 2024) in Orthodontics.

⁶ For the recognition process for non-EU nationals, please consult the following website: [Non-EU countries | The Danish Patient Safety Authority \(stps.dk\)](#)

Workforce

Dentists

Year of data	2025
Total Registered	8 808
In active practice	4 964
(Active) dentist to population ratio (per 100 000 inhabitants)	83.2
Percentage female	65%
Qualified overseas	NA

Denmark has witnessed a small decrease of an estimated 260 practising dentists in the overall active dental workforce from 2014 to 2022. This decrease is explained by the current imbalance observed between number of dental students and retiring dental practitioners.

Movement of dentists across borders

There is little movement of dentists in and out of Denmark.

Specialists

As written above, only oral surgery, orthodontics and Oral Maxilla-Facial Surgery are recognised specialties in Denmark.

Year of data:	2022
Oral surgeons ⁷	77
Orthodontists	175
OMFS	77

OMF surgeons and orthodontists may run their own practices but most specialists in Oral Maxillofacial Surgery work in hospitals. Most orthodontic specialists are employed in the Public Health System.

Patients are also able to consult a specialist without a referral and have free choice both of the dentist and specialist that they wish to visit. No formal extra fee is given to specialist treatment.

Many societies which represent special interests in dentistry exist. The Danish Dental Association can establish contact with these societies.

Auxiliaries

Year of data	2022
Hygienists	2471
Dental chairside assistants	NA
Dental clinical technicians	NA

There are 4 classes of dental auxiliaries, dental hygienists, dental chair assistants, clinical dental technicians (or denturists), and dental technicians:

Dental Hygienists

Dental hygienists undertake 3 years training (180 ECTS), obtaining bachelor diploma from a dental college (outside of university). 8 weeks of clinical and professional training is included in the study programme. Upon qualification they are authorised by the Danish Patient Safety Authority.

They may work in practice after graduation, but they must register to be able to own their practice, without supervision of a dentist, which is permitted in Denmark.

Hygienists can undertake basic diagnostics, patient examination including carrying-out x-rays for patient examination purposes, removal of calculus, root planning, polishing of dental restorations including removal of filling surplus, instrumental removal of plaque, polishing of teeth, insertion and removal of orthodontic appliances after instruction, providing advice on healthy diets and hygiene. Hygienists are mainly found in the fields of oral health promotion and disease prevention. Hygienists are allowed to administer local infiltration analgesia.

Dental Chairside Assistants (Nurses)

These may provide any kind of assistance to the dentist at the chairside. A 3-year training is carried out either on the School for Dental Assistants, Hygienists and Technicians, or in Technical Schools in several municipalities.

Dental chairside assistants provide support to the dentist or dental hygienist in relation to the treatment and care of patients, radiographs, oral hygiene and related-, and administrative tasks.

Laboratory Dental Technicians

The laboratory technician training takes 4 years. There is theoretical and practical training. There is no registerable qualification for dental technicians, so there is no list of registered dental technicians. Dental laboratory technicians work mostly in laboratories.

Clinical Dental technicians

Clinical dental technicians/denturists must undertake a 3 and a half-year bachelor's degree programme from a university dental school, under the Department of Dentistry and Oral Health.

Clinical dental technicians do not receive authorization upon completing their education. Clinical dental technicians can request a license from the Danish Patient Safety Authority after one year of work to be allowed to practice independently in a private clinical practice.

They may provide full removable dentures without the patient being seen by a dentist. However, for partial dentures, a treatment plan from a practitioner is required, and a patient presenting any pathological changes must be referred to a dentist.

⁷ Registered specialists

Greenland and the Faroe Islands

In **Greenland** all dental care is provided as a free public service, to children and adults. Public dental clinics are implanted in towns of more than 500 inhabitants. Villages are visited by a dentist at least once a year. All dentists, except one private practitioner, are employed by the Greenland government and there is a constant need for more staff. The demand for dentists in Greenland is likely to increase as old arrangements for free flights to Denmark for Danish nationals are phased out. However, new arrangements, including short-term contracts of three or six months, free accommodation and a free return flight should make working in Greenland more attractive to non-Danish dentists. Nearly all dentists work with Inuit staff, who act as Inuit interpreters also. Expenses from private dental clinics remain at the expense of the patient.

The Faroe Islands are governed as a single Danish municipality. As of today, the system in the Faroe Islands is the same as in Denmark as a whole. Dental services are provided in large majority by private dentists. Dental care is partly subsidised by Danish public services (approximately half the cost).

Other Useful Information

Main national associations

Dental associations and information centre	
The Danish Dental Association (Dansk Tandlægeforening)	Association of Public Health Dentists in Denmark
Tandlægeforeningen Amaliegade 17 Postboks 143 1256 Copenhagen K, DENMARK Tel: +45 70 25 77 11 Fax: E-mail: info@tdl.dk Website: www.tandlaegeforeningen.dk	ATO Peter Bangs Vej 30, 4th floor DK 2000 Frederiksberg DENMARK Tel: +45 33 14 00 65 Fax: Email: info@ato.dk

Competent authorities

Danish Health Authority	Ministry of the Interior
Danish Health Authority Islands Brygge 67 DK-2300 Copenhagen S Tel: +45 72 22 74 00 Email: sst@sst.dk Website: www.sst.dk	Health information website: www.sundhed.dk
The Danish Patient Safety Authority Islands Brygge 67 2300 Copenhagen S Denmark Tel: +45 72 28 66 00 Email: stps@stps.dk Website: www.stps.dk	

Publications

The Danish Dental Journal *Tandlægebladet* c/o The Danish Dental Association/ *Tandlægeforeningen*

Dental Schools:

Copenhagen	Århus
<p>School of Dentistry Department of Odontology Faculty of Health Sciences University of Copenhagen Nørre Alle 20, 2200 Copenhagen N Tel: +45 35 32 67 00</p> <p>Email: odont@sund.ku.dk Website: www.odont.ku.dk</p> <p>Dentists graduating each year: Number of students:</p>	<p>Department of Dentistry and Oral Health Faculty of Health Sciences University of Århus Vennelyst Boulevard 9, 8000 Århus C</p> <p>Tel: +45 87 16 74 00 Fax: +45 86 19 60 29 Email: ioos@au.dk For professionals: sikkerpost.patientdata@dent.au.dk Website: www.odont.au.dk</p> <p>Dentists graduating each year: Number of students:</p>