Skills for green jobs in Denmark: an update (2018)

Cedefop country report

In 2017, Cedefop and the ILO agreed to update the country studies produced for the report Skills for Green Jobs: A Global View (2011). Cedefop updated reports for six EU countries (Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Spain, France and the UK).

Report Executive summary

The issue of green skills still plays a significant role on the Danish skills agenda. However, the greening of skills is typically conceived as a process that cuts across occupations and sectors and should be integrated in a wider range of educational and training activities.

Furthermore, since 2010 the 'burning platform' of environmental concerns has been somewhat overshadowed by an increasing focus on the consequences of robotisation and digitalisation. The skills demanded by the fourth industrial revolution have come more in focus.

The greening of skills is also a question of changing attitudes at every level of the organisations and institutions involved in the process. A related challenge is the pace of technological change, which calls for a constant update of the qualifications of teachers and the physical facilities of vocational schools.

Against this background, two general policy recommendations are emphasised:

(a) consideration should be given to the creation of a national forum for skills analysis and coordination that has the competences to work across existing institutional boundaries;

(b) knowledge about the green (including the circular) economy should be integrated into all parts of the education system. This applies to elementary school, vocational and upper secondary education and relevant higher education.

Introduction

This report updates the Danish country report on ‘Skills for green jobs’, which was based on information gathered until the beginning of 2010. The main aim of the present report is therefore to inform the reader about recent developments with respect to green employment, the assessment of the skills needed for green jobs and the national efforts to fill the skills gaps in Denmark.

The focus of the report is on the VET system. However the provision of green skills in other parts of the educational system is also touched upon.
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Denmark

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