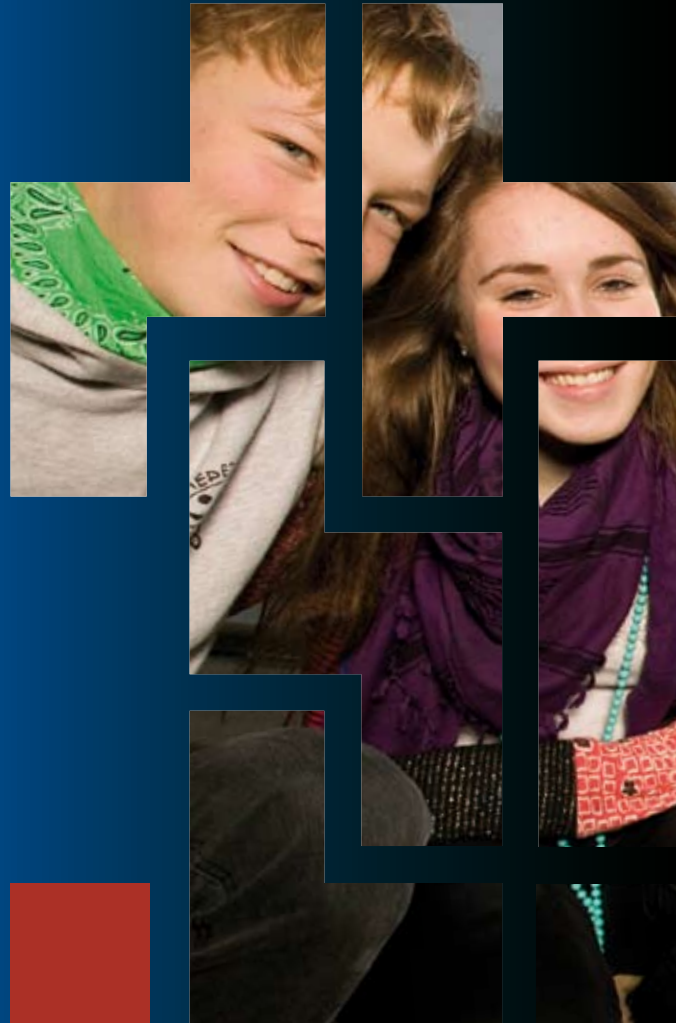


DUF – THE DANISH YOUTH COUNCIL
70 ORGANIZATIONS
AND 600,000 CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE TOGETHER



DUF
THE DANISH YOUTH COUNCIL

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DUF – supporting children and young people in community

DUF – The Danish Youth Council is an umbrella organization for 70 organizations working with children and young people in Denmark – a joint society of more than 600,000 children and young people.

- Voluntarism, youth and democracy are key words for DUF.
- DUF promotes renewal and development of organizations working with children and young people, so that they can continue to provide exciting and attractive leisure activities.
- DUF advocates on behalf of its member organizations and works actively to improve the framework for volunteer activities – for the benefit of children and young people.
- DUF promotes children and young people's active engagement in sustaining and creating democratic societies – nationally and internationally.

DUF – in short

■ DUF's members are 70 nationwide organizations, which engage children and young people in various social activities.

Youth politics, scouting, religion, environment, youth clubs, theatre, exchange and international projects are just a few of the areas that DUF's members work with.

DUF's secretariat has about 25 employees and is situated in Copenhagen. The secretariat offers courses for member organizations, supplies information on children and young people's conditions, supports the organizations' international work and advocates for the interests of member organizations towards politicians and authorities.

Furthermore, DUF distributes around 100 million DKK every year to projects for children and young people. This money comes from i.a. the Danish pools and lottery fund, EU and various ministries.



SERVICE AND ADVICE

DUF services the organizations

☐ Children and young people ask a lot of their leisure time and thereby also ask a lot of their organizations. When new demands are made and society changes, the organizations must renew themselves in order to continue to provide attractive leisure activities.

DUF therefore offers its 70 member organizations a professional service, providing inspiration and support in their work towards matching the needs of the children and young people of today and tomorrow.

DUF's member service consists of i.a. advisory services, courses and assistance in organizational development and project work. DUF ensures that the organizations are capable in areas such as financial management, administration and management. Besides this, DUF helps to develop the organizations' activities and structures. Via information material and the website www.duf.dk, DUF also provides inspiration and new information about the organizations' activities.

Fundraising, project development, integration and international co-operation are just a few of the topics DUF provides to. DUF's staff also visit member organizations to hold workshop on topics concerning on children and young people and organizational development. DUF also gets involved in the development process of its member organizations, and provides expertise on topics such as management, strategy development, coaching and communication.

Moreover, the member organizations can obtain a number of benefits via DUF – such as free meeting facilities and purchase discounts. DUF facilitates a number of networks that those active in organizations can take part in. This close co-operation with the member organizations means that DUF can gather and spread the associations' good experiences.



ADVOCACY

DUF promotes the interests of the organizations

■ The organizations promote children and young peoples active involvement in their leisure time, in society and in democracy. This is why DUF works to ensure good conditions and a solid economic basis for organizations working with children and young people, so that their work continues to be vibrant, energetic and varied.

DUF makes the work of organizations visible and increases the general awareness in society of the value of activities for children, young people and society. Young people involved in organizational activities achieve strong personal and technical competencies – benefiting businesses, education and democracy.

DUF takes an active part in public debates by means of for instance articles and information campaigns. DUF works towards a goal where children, young people and their parents all consider the organizations as the best place to spend their leisure time. At the same time, DUF advocates for the interests of the organizations towards politicians and authorities and is a sounding part in a number of areas where children and young people are affected by new legislation.

On the international front, DUF seeks to influence Danish development politics, to ensure that children and young people get high priority and that their voices are heard.



DEMOCRATIZATION

DUF makes young people active participants of democracy

Children and young people must experience democracy as relevant and as something they can influence. This is why children and young people should be encouraged to participate in democracy and in society, so that they become conscientious citizens.

DUF promotes children and young people's active engagement in shaping democracy – locally, nationally and globally – in order that they may achieve greater influence on their everyday lives. Among other things, DUF is working towards lowering the electoral age, so that 16 and 17 year olds get the right to vote and thus are included in democracy.

In connection to national referenda and elections – including general, local and European parliamentary elections – DUF promotes the involvement of young people and provides information on democracy and participation.

DUF also promotes debates about young people's conditions in Europe, as the European Union has an ever-increasing influence on the parameters for young people's opportunities.

Through courses, debate events, advisory services and financial support to the organizations working with children and young people, DUF also promotes the strengthening of young people's international involvement and participation in the development of democracy in e.g. the Middle East and Africa.



VOICE OF YOUTH

DUF advocates for the interests of children and young people

Children and young people should have influence on their everyday lives, and they should have good living conditions – both nationally and globally. DUF fights for the recognition of children and young people as an active resource in society – as the workforce of tomorrow, and global citizens and democratic partners, who add to the cohesion in society.

DUF supports a comprehensive youth policy that will create the framework for good conditions for the youth – i.a. when it comes to education, housing and leisure activities.

DUF also advocates for children and young people in Danish development politics, working towards improving the living conditions and rights of children and young people in developing countries.

On the European front, DUF is amongst others involved in the European Youth Forum – an umbrella organization, looking out for the interests of children and young people in Europe.



VALUES

DUF – it's all about involvement

■ DUF is a community of shared values. The central values are democracy, solidarity, dialogue and involvement. These values are central to DUF's work.

DUF encourages the involvement of children and young people and ensures their participation in everyday life. This provides them with a starting point for becoming active citizens. Organizational life is based on thousands of young people doing voluntary work to offer activities for children and young people. Volunteer work is built on enthusiasm, a sense of responsibility and solidarity.

Volunteer work is a valuable resource for society, providing children and young people with the opportunity to get together across cultural differences, educational systems and social backgrounds. DUF supports openness in activities, so that the organizations can encompass all children and young people. As an example, DUF supports the integration work carried out by the organizations, so that children and young people from different ethnic backgrounds to a greater degree can become part of collective activities.

Democracy and participation are also key words in DUF's international work. The international involvement of the member organizations leads to solidarity between Danish children and young people and their peers in other countries. At the same time DUF strengthens the children's and young people's global view and understanding of other cultures.



HISTORY

DUF is built on democracy and participation

✚ The fight for the participation of children and young people in democracy is the story behind DUF. A number of youth organizations and individuals founded DUF in 1940 in order to inform, involve and teach young people to be active participants in developing democracy. The foundation of DUF was a reaction against the Nazism and Fascism at that time.

The theologian and social critic Hal Koch was DUF's first chairman. Hal Koch (1904 - 1963) is particularly well known for his book 'What is democracy?' For Hal Koch, democracy was not just a form of governance, but first and foremost a way of life, where conversation is the central point. Dialogue – where argumentation can move opinions and defeat prejudice – is the very heart of democracy.

DUF's founders wanted a democracy which was built on information, participation and dialogue. Democracy is not to be taken for granted – each generation has to safeguard and renew the democratic values. This is where DUF plays an important role by supporting the involvement of children and young people in collective and social activities – both nationally and globally.



ECONOMY AND GRANTS

DUF is built on democracy and participation

■ DUF gives advices and other services to organizations working with children and young people, advocates in the interests of member organizations and organizes activities for children and young people.

DUF has about 25 employees working at the secretariat in Copenhagen and has an annual turnover of around 20 million DKK. The money is primarily spent on a wide number of activities, courses and initiatives for children and young people.

Furthermore, DUF distributes around 100 million DKK every year to initiatives for children and young people. This money comes from amongst others the Danish pools and lottery funds, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, EU and integration funds. When people buy pool and lottery coupons or scratch tickets, some of the proceeds go to support work with children and young people. DUF manages the pools and lottery funds intended for organizations working with children and young people.

The majority of the pools and lottery funds are given to running the nationwide organizations working with children and young people, but money is also given to innovative activities for children and young people.

DUF also supports initiatives that seek to integrate ethnic minorities into the organizations, so that children and young people from other ethnic backgrounds to a greater degree can become part of organization life and thus everyday democracy.

Furthermore, DUF supports the international work of organizations working with children and young people. DUF manages various funds intended to support the organizations' international involvement in developing countries, the Middle East and in Europe.



STRUCTURE

DUF is managed by its member organizations

■ DUF has 70 member organizations working with children and young people. The member organizations meet every year at a delegate meeting. At this meeting the associations adopt a work program and a budget. Moreover the member organizations elect a Board of Governors with a chairman and vice-chairman every other year.

Between the delegate meetings DUF is governed by the Board consisting of 17 representatives from the member organizations. The Board also appoints a number of committees who deal with various aspects of DUF's work.



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