Family reunification in Denmark

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Labour market ties of 16 to 64-year-old immigrants and descendants from non-Western countries and Danes, at 1 January 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Participation rate</th>
<th>Employment rate</th>
<th>Unemployment rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Immigrants from non-Western countries</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Descendants from non-Western countries</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danes</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>4%</td>
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</tbody>
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Source: The Immigration Database of the Ministry of Refugee, Immigration and Integration Affairs (managed by Statistics Denmark).
New conditions for family reunification since 2001

• Both spouses must be 24 years old
• The spouses aggregate ties with Denmark must be stronger than with any other country
• Exemption to the criteria of ties for 28-years old
• Financial security and restrictions of public assistance
• Declaration of integration
Proportion of immigrants and descendants from non-Western countries who married a person living abroad, by sex, 2001 and 2005

Far fewer new reunified with family – but still major challenges

- The number of residence permits for spousal reunification has decreased from 6,499 in 2001 to 2,498 in 2005 – a fall by 62%

- Therefore the main challenge is not newcomers, but foreigners already in Denmark

Residence permits for Denmark issued in 2001-2005