CHANGES IN DANISH EDUCATION POLICY AND HOW THEY AFFECT INTERNATIONALISATION

AARHUS
UNIVERSITY

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AU STAFF TRAINING WEEK
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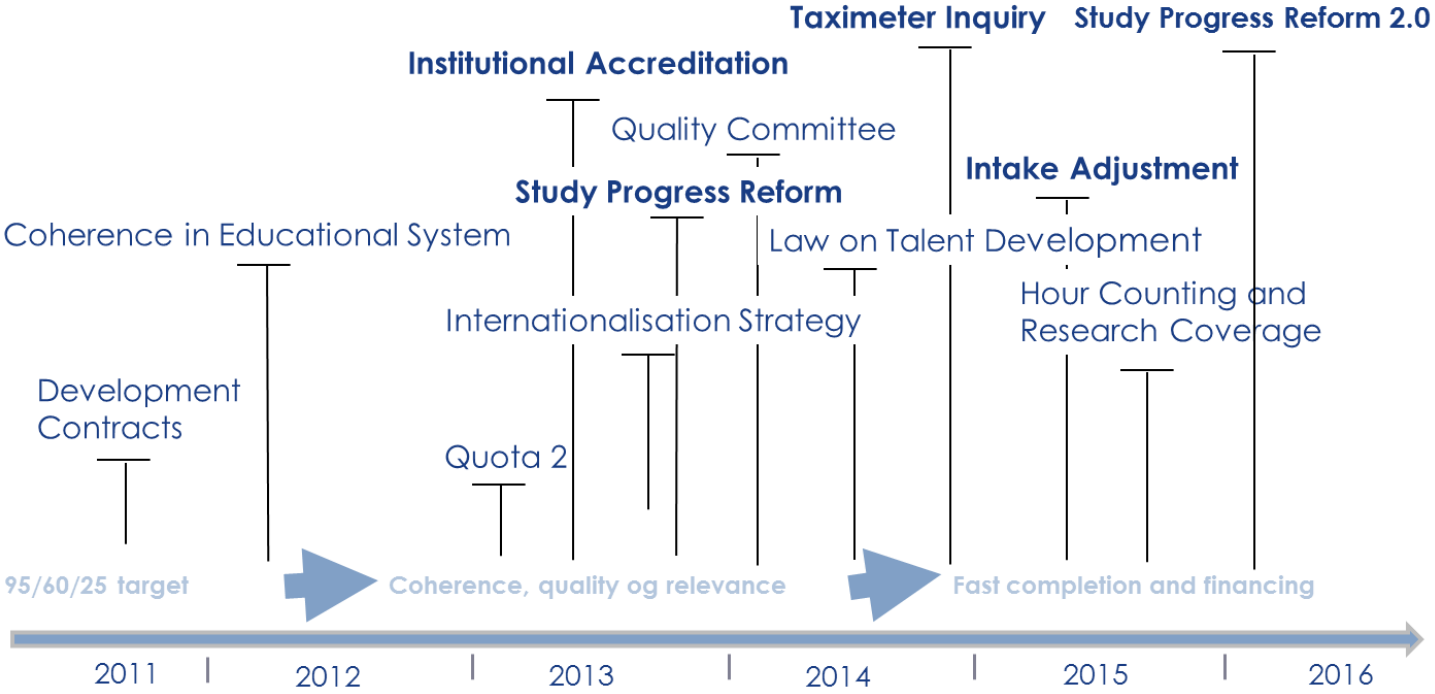
HIGHER EDUCATION IN DENMARK

- Publicly funded universities
- New university governance – from participants' democracy to professional management (2004)
- University mergers (2007)
- Curricular / Bologna reform (1999-2007)

EDUCATIONAL REFORMS IN DENMARK



THE POLITICAL AGENDA 2011-2012

- Expansion: To achieve the best educated generation ever

Upper secondary education	At least 95 %
Further education	At least 60 %
Higher education	At least 25 %

THE POLITICAL AGENDA 2012-2014

- Institutional accreditation
- Quota 2 – supplementing GPA
- Government Internationalization strategy
- Study progress reform version 1

GOVERNMENT INTERNATIONALIZATION STRATEGY

- 50 % of all students with a stay abroad – mobility window in all degree programs
- Focus vibrant international student environments
- Significant increase in joint and double degree programs
- Rise in mobility to new economies

THE POLITICAL AGENDA 2014-2016

- Law on talent development
- Taximeter inquiry
- Intake adjustment
- Hour counting
- Study progress reform version 2

FASTER COMPLETION TIMES – STUDY PROGRESS REFORM

Target

- Students must complete their studies faster

Means

- Changes in the Danish students' Grants and Loans Scheme
- Financial implications for universities that fail to cut average completion times sufficiently

STUDY PROGRESS REFORM – AARHUS UNIVERSITY

- AU will have to improve average completion times by 4.7 months by 2020
- Introduction of new rules for study progress and maximum completion times for degree programs
- Revision of study programs to identify where students are delayed
- 30 ECTS mobility windows in most study programs – but outward mobility under pressure

INTAKE ADJUSTMENT

- Context: Significant increase in university student intake
- Poor match with labor market demand
- Reduction of intake in “educational families” with consistent high unemployment 4-7 months after graduation
- Significant reduction in Arts and Humanities
- Criticism: Mechanistic approach + Are historical data a solid predictor for future labor marked needs?

QUALITY AND RELEVANCE: INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION

- Strong focus on quality and relevance
- Transition from program to institutional accreditation
- Assessment of the institution's overall quality assurance system
- Aarhus University is in the process of obtaining institutional accreditation

ACCREDITATON IS RELEVANT BECAUSE…

- Responsibility for the quality of degree programmes is clearly placed with AU
- Freedom for AU to organise quality assurance processes – for example through annual status reviews and degree programme evaluations every five years
- Freedom for AU to adjust degree programmes – without having to apply for external approval every time

SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE FOR INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION

2016

- 15 April: Submission of the self-evaluation report
- End of June: Selection of audit trails
- 31 October – 4 November: Second panel visit
- 1 – 2 June: First panel visit
- September: Documentation deadline for audit trails

2017

- March/April: Consultation on panel's accreditation report
- June: The Accreditation Council's final decision

FUNDING REFORM ON THE WAY (2017/2018)

- Reduction in student stipends and increase in loan coverage
- Less dependence on taximeter funding based on passed exams
- Performance funding
  - Quality
  - Relevance
  - Regional coverage
- Criticism: sub-optimization and less institutional differentiation

INTERNATIONALISATION: THE CURRENT POLITICAL AGENDA IN DENMARK

- Quality goals replace quantitative goals
- Strong government focus on value for money – from a strategic to and ad hoc approach
- Funding sets the agenda
  - Retention of international full-degree students (positive business case)
  - Exchange agreements required to balance
  - Decrease in financial support to mobility activities

EDUCATIONAL INTERNATIONALIZATION TARGETS AT AARHUS UNIVERSITY

AU Internationalisation Strategy 2014-2020

- Encourage more students to go abroad & provide mobility windows in study programmes
- Internationalise study programmes & establish more joint/double degrees
- Recruit the most talented students & develop a professional support structure
- Collaborate with high quality environments abroad

INTERNATIONALISATION AT AARHUS UNIVERSITY IN THE CURRENT POLITICAL CONTEXT

Challenges

- Crowding out effect: Political reforms require attention and resources on all levels
- Reforms affect student behaviour / inclination to study abroad

Ambitions

- Maintain current level of internationalisation
- Remain an attractive international university
- Provide opportunities for students to study abroad

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