

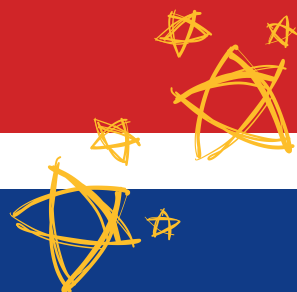


“EU and Your Vote”

~~~~~

A voter's guide to Danish local  
and regional elections.

~~~~~



Welcome

Purpose

Every four years, residents of Denmark vote in local and regional elections to choose who will manage local services like schools, healthcare, transport, and climate planning. Many of these decisions are shaped by EU policies and funding, even if the connection isn't always obvious.

This guide helps you understand how the EU influences your local community and why your vote on 18 November 2025 matters, whether you're a first-time voter or just want to make more informed choices.

Who are we

- Founded in 1994, AMIS has spent decades promoting inclusion across Europe.
- Today, in Denmark, we support:
 - Vulnerable groups
 - International communities
 - Local youth initiatives
- We believe everyone deserves a voice, especially in democratic participation.



Why can you vote in another EU state?

Your Voice across borders

- All EU citizens have the right to vote and stand as a candidate in local and European elections, even if they live in another EU country.
- This right exists because of EU laws (called directives) created in the 1990s. These laws make sure that moving to another EU country doesn't mean losing your right to vote.

When did it start?

- In the 1990s, the EU created rules that gave all EU citizens the right to vote where they live.
- The idea became official with the Maastricht Treaty in 1992, which created EU citizenship.
- EU citizenship gives people rights, including the right to vote in the country where they live, even if it's not their home country.

What does that mean today?

If you are an EU citizen living in another EU country

- You can vote in local and European elections.
- You can also stand as a candidate.
- You don't need to be a national of that country, just a resident.
- This right helps make the EU more fair, equal, and democratic.

How the Danish Election works:

Who can vote?

If you live in Denmark, you may have the right to vote in local and regional elections, even if you're not a Danish citizen.

You can vote if you are:

- A Danish citizen, or
- An EU citizen, or
- A citizen of Iceland or Norway, or
- A non-EU citizen who has lived in Denmark continuously for at least 4 years before the election day.

You must also:

- Be at least 18 years old on election day
- Be registered at your Danish address

When to vote?

In Denmark, you can vote either :

- On Election day, Tuesday 18 November 2025, or
- In advance from 7 October to 14 November 2025.



On election day, you must vote at the polling station shown on your voting card (valgkort), which you will receive by mail. Bring your voting card and valid ID (Yellow card) with you.

Early voting can be done in any municipality, usually at the Citizen Service Center or local libraries. You only need to bring valid ID and no voting card is required. Once you vote early, you cannot vote again on election day.

Who, How, Where, When?

Voting options explained

On election day, you will receive two separate ballots:

- One for the local council
- One for the regional council.

For each ballot, you have two ways to vote. You can either cast:

- A party vote by marking the party's name, which supports the party as a whole, or
- A personal vote by choosing a specific candidate from that party. Your personal vote helps decide which candidates from the party get the seats.



Two ways to vote

The way you vote depends on whether you choose early voting or vote on election day.

- During early voting, you do not get a printed ballot with names. Instead, you fill out a blank form where you write the name of the candidate you want to vote for. Your vote is then placed in a colored envelope (blue for the local election and yellow for the regional election) and sealed by the election official.
- On election day, the process is different: you receive a printed ballot paper listing all parties and candidates and simply mark an X next to your choice.



Election day checklist:

- Valid ID (health card)
- Voting card

What does the Regional Council do?

Regional council responsibilities

The regional council is the elected body that governs one of Denmark's four regions. It has between 25 and 47 members depending on the region's size. The council elects a president to lead and represent the region.

Regional councils are responsible for:

- **Healthcare:** Responsible for hospitals, emergency services, mental health care, and contracts with doctors and specialists.
- **Regional Development:** Oversees public transport, land use, and environmental planning across the region.
- **Education & Special Institutions:** Manages vocational schools and facilities for people with severe disabilities.
- **Business & Tourism:** Promotes regional economic growth and tourism.
- **Culture & Environment:** Coordinates cultural initiatives and environmental protection beyond municipal borders.



What does the Local Council do?

Local Council Responsibilities

- Denmark is divided into 98 municipalities ("kommuner"), each governed by an elected municipal council.
- They are chosen every four years by local voters, including you, if you are eligible. It usually has 19–31 members, depending on the size of the kommune.
- The council elects a mayor to lead and manage the municipality as its main representative.



Local Councils handle many services important to daily life, including:

- Schools and daycare
- Elder care and social services
- Roads, traffic and bike lanes
- Planning and housing
- Waste and environment
- Culture, sports and leisure
- Local climate plans and green initiatives



The Danish political environment

Overview of the multi-party system

Denmark has a vibrant multi-party political system, where no single party typically holds a majority, even at the local or regional level. This leads to the formation of coalitions; parties work together by agreeing on shared goals and policy plans and dividing responsibilities. This reflects Denmark's "forligskultur," a long-standing culture of cross-party agreement and compromise. Local councils often mirror this cooperative spirit, with independent candidates and local lists also playing key roles. The result is a diverse but stable political environment focused on consensus-building and practical solutions.

Key political parties in Denmark



Social Democrats (Socialdemokratiet)

- Letter : A
- Color: Red
- Ideology :
Centre-left social democracy. Focuses on welfare, equality, and public services.



Venstre - The Liberal Party (Danmarks Liberale Parti)

- Letter: V
- Color: Navy blue
- Ideology:
Centre-right, liberal conservatism. Supports private enterprise, lower taxes, and agrarian interests.



Green Left (Socialistisk Folkeparti)

- Letter: F
- Color: Red & Green
- Ideology: Democratic socialism and green politics. Emphasizes climate action, social justice, and welfare.



DANMARKS
DEMOKRATERNE

Denmark Democrats (Danmarksdemokraterne)

- Letter: Æ
- Color: Teal
- Ideology: National-conservative, focuses on Danish values, rural areas, and stricter immigration.



Liberal Alliance (Liberal Alliance)

- Letter: l
- Color: Navy blue with gold accents
- Ideology: Right-libertarian economic liberalism. Advocates lower taxes, smaller government, high personal freedoms.



Red-Green Alliance (Enhedslisten – De Rød-Grønne)

- Letter: Ø
- Color: Red (with green/orange accents)
- Ideology: Eco-socialism, anti-capitalism. Calls for radical reform in economy and environment.



Conservative People's Party (Det Konservative Folkeparti)

- Letter: C
- Color: Green
- Ideology: Center-right, supports free markets, personal responsibility, and traditional values.



The Social Liberal Party (Moderaterne)

- Letter: M
- Color: Purple
- Ideology: Social liberalism; liberal on social issues, pro-business on economics, environmentally conscious.



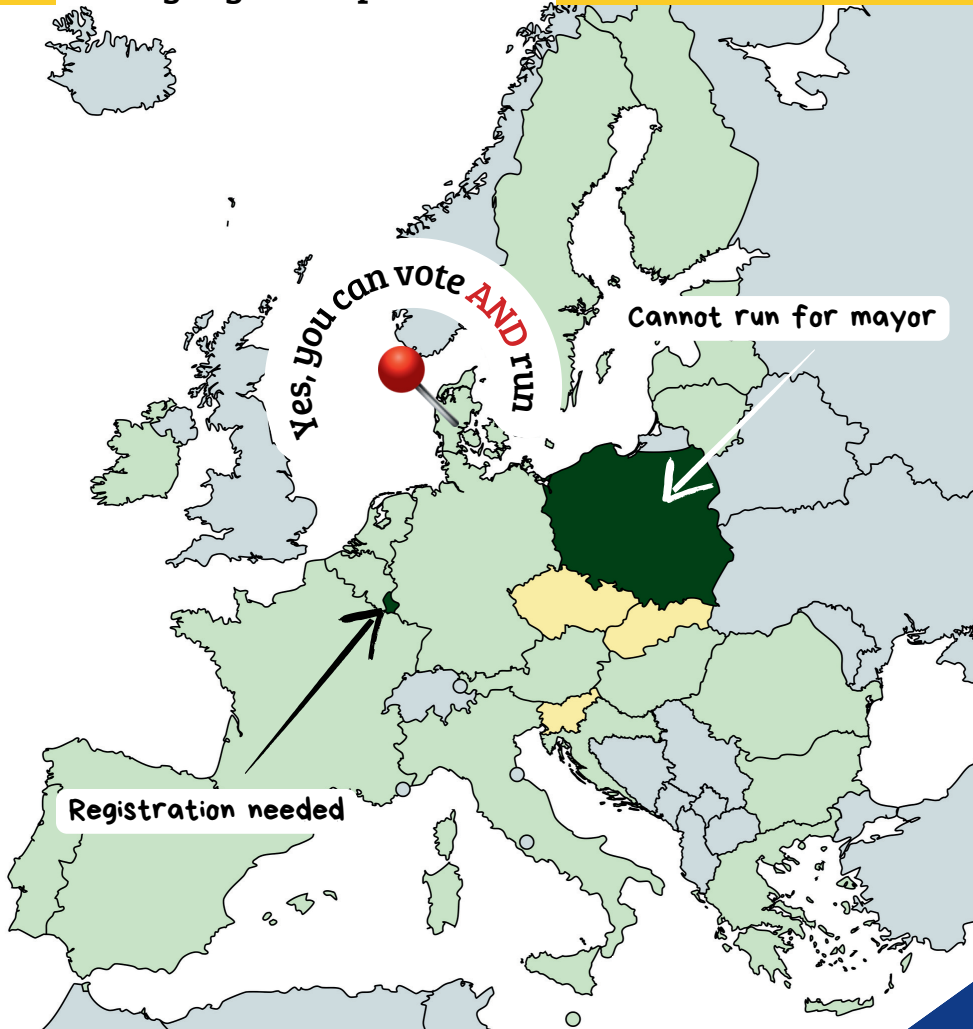
The Green Party (Alternativet)

- Letter: Å
- Color: Neon green
- Ideology: Green, progressive politics. Emphasizes sustainability, social innovation, and pro-EU stances.



Voting rights across European Union

Voting Rights Map of the EU



- Full political rights
- Voting rights only
- Limited/Restricted rights



Can I run as a Local Candidate?

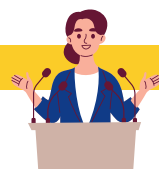
Who can become a candidate?

You can run for local or regional office if you are 18 years or older and have a legal residence in Denmark.

Are either:

- A Danish citizen, or
- A citizen of an EU country, Iceland, or Norway, or
- A non-EU citizen who has lived continuously in Denmark for at least 4 years before election day

How to become a candidate?



1. Check your eligibility

2. Decide how to run

- Run with a political party (they handle the paperwork), or
- Run as an independent or create a new local list.

3. Prepare your candidate list: Use official forms. Lists must include at least one candidate and can include up to four more than the number of seats available.

4. Collect voter declarations (vælgererklæringer): Minimum 25 eligible voters in the municipality must sign to support your list. In Aalborg, 50 signatures are needed. Each sponsor can only sign one list.

5. Submit candidate list and signatures : The paperwork must be handed in between 7 and 9 weeks before the election (between 16 September and 30 September 2025).

6. Await confirmation: The municipality reviews your documents and, once approved, your list/name will appear on the official ballot.

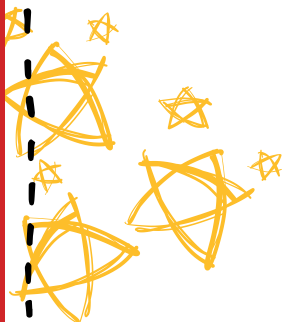
7. Begin your campaign: When approved, you're officially a candidate and can start campaigning.

The EU and your local area: What does it mean in practice?

How EU policies show up in your daily life?

- Better digital infrastructure and public services
- More opportunities for education, youth, and training
- Improvements in transportation and regional development
- Clearer food labels and ingredient information
- Safer products (toys, electronics, cosmetics)
- Freedom to travel, live, and work in any EU country
- Cleaner air, water, and better recycling systems
- EU funding for local roads, schools, and parks
- Worker protections like paid holidays and safe working conditions
- Protection against discrimination (based on gender, race, disability, etc.)

EU policies shape the safety of what you buy, how you travel, your job rights, and even your local parks and roads – helping make daily life smoother, safer, and more connected.



What is the EU?

What does it actually determine?

Introduction to the key EU Institutions

The European Parliament: Elected by EU citizens, the Parliament ensures your voice is heard at the European level and helps create laws that protect your rights and everyday life.



The European Council: Composed of heads of state and government, it sets the EU's overall political direction, guiding the big decisions that affect all member states.



The Council of the European Union: This council brings together national ministers who negotiate and adopt laws that balance the interests of their countries with the EU's common goals.



The European Commission: As the EU's executive body, the Commission proposes new laws and oversees their implementation, making sure policies work for all member countries.

The European Central Bank: The ECB manages the euro and works to keep prices stable, which helps maintain economic stability and confidence across the Eurozone.



The Court of Justice of the European Union: It ensures EU laws are interpreted consistently and fairly, protecting your rights across all member countries.

EU and its Priorities – 2024/2029

EU priorities

The European Council, representing EU Heads of State or Government, adopted a clear strategic agenda on 27 June 2024 to guide EU policymaking until 2029. It has set three main priorities to guide its actions and policies:

1

A Free and Democratic Europe

- Upholding European values such as democracy, freedom, and equality
- Protecting the rule of law and promoting civic engagement
- Ensuring a free and pluralistic media landscape

2

A Strong and Secure Europe

- Enhancing EU defence and security capabilities
- Strengthening resilience against crises and external threats
- Managing migration and border security effectively

3

A Prosperous and Competitive Europe

- Boosting economic growth and innovation
- Advancing the green and digital transitions
- Promoting social fairness and equal opportunities



Youth, Education and Future

Youth: Erasmus+, Guarantees & Skills

The EU supports young people in Denmark and across Europe through education, training, and job programs that help build skills and open new opportunities, locally and beyond.

Erasmus+ is a European Union program that supports education, training, youth and sport. It funds exchanges and learning opportunities for students, teachers and young people across Europe (and beyond):



- Students can study or intern abroad
- Youth workers can attend training
- Schools and organizations can partner internationally.

Youth Guarantee is an EU initiative to tackle youth unemployment. It promises that all people under 30 will receive:



- A job offer
- Further education
- An apprenticeship or traineeship (within four months of leaving school or becoming unemployed)

Local Upskilling Projects are community - based programs that teach new skills to people, especially adults or unemployed so they can get better jobs. Might include:

- Digital skills workshops
- Language or vocational courses
- Training in trades or green jobs



EU Funds in your municipality: Real projects

EU-Funded Projects in Aalborg

DYNAPORT

- Helps ships arrive just in time and coordinates in real time to reduce emissions and improve efficiency.
- Saves at least 10% fuel, speeds up berthing, and cuts waiting times.
- Coordinated scheduling through Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) leads to smoother arrivals, less anchoring, and safer navigation.



Norne CO₂ Reception Hub

- A large CO₂ reception terminal is being built at the Port of Aalborg to handle 15 million tonnes per year via pipelines or ships.
- Backed by the EU with fast-track approval, construction starts in 2025 and operations in 2027.
- This strengthens Aalborg as a decarbonization hub, connecting emitters to safe CO₂ storage and new business opportunities.



ACCSSION CCS Chain



- Aalborg Portland's €220 million CCS project captures 1.5 million tonnes of CO₂ each year and supplies heat to around 19,000 homes.
- It uses cryogenic capture technology, pipelines for storage, and reuses heat locally.
- The project helps meet climate goals, reduces emissions, and supports sustainable cement production.



EU Rights in Denmark

Your Rights as an EU Citizen

Healthcare:

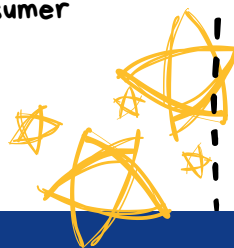
- Once you register and get a CPR number, you're entitled to public healthcare.
- EHIC holders (temporary visitors) can access necessary care.
- With a health insurance card, you get free access to GPs, hospitals, emergency care and more.

Movement:

- EU citizens can stay in Denmark up to 3 months without registering.
- For stays over 3 months, register with the Civil Registration System to get your CPR number.
- You can work or study without a permit.
- Family members can join you under EU rules.

Access to Services:

- Access to public education and universities.
- Eligible residents can receive social benefits such as unemployment benefits, family allowances, and pensions.
- Equal rights to rent/buy housing and access utilities.
- Right to open bank accounts, get loans, and consumer protections.



What is Denmark's role during its EU presidency?

Danish presidency at the European Council

From 1 July to 31 December 2025, Denmark holds the rotating EU Council Presidency, guiding key decisions on political, economic, and climate issues under the motto "A Strong Europe in a Changing World." Together with Poland and Cyprus, Denmark forms a Trio Presidency to ensure continuity and progress on EU priorities.



What Denmark will focus on:

- Security & Defense

Strengthening the EU's response to security threats and migration, while supporting Ukraine and advancing defense cooperation.



- Competitiveness & Economic Growth

Promoting innovation and a stronger Single Market, while supporting defence industry plans and Ukraine's economic integration.

- Green Transition

Promoting climate-friendly growth through clean energy, sustainable agriculture, and green innovation, showing that the environment and the economy can work together.

- Digital Transformation & Social Cohesion

Advancing digital infrastructure while promoting social inclusion and better opportunities for youth across Europe.



Where to learn about politics

Stay updated on politics and elections



Before casting your vote, it's helpful to follow political discussions and learn about the candidates. Here are some ways to stay informed in Denmark and the EU:

- ▶ Use election tools: Try online quizzes like DR's Kandidattest (dr.dk/nyheder/politik/kommunalvalg) to see which candidates or parties match your views.
- ▶ Read trusted news sources: Follow Danish and EU politics through websites like
 - DR Nyheder (dr.dk) – public news and analysis
 - Altinget.dk – detailed coverage of Danish politics
 - lwd.dk – news in English and other languages (Last Week in Denmark)
- ▶ Check party and candidate websites or social media for local updates, campaign events, and priorities.
- ▶ Attend local debates or info sessions at your library, youth center, or city hall.
- ▶ Visit valg.dk for official election info, how to vote, and who's running in your area.



Connect with us



info@amis.dk



<https://www.amis.dk/>



amis.danmark



AMIS - A More Inclusive Society



AMIS DK



Designed by: Zoe Gschliesser

Content by: Katarina Knauf and Clara
Majoli

Concept by: Narcis George Matache



Finansieret med tilskud fra EuropaNævnet. Ansvar for indholdet er alene tilskudsmodtagers.