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# DENMARK - A COUNTRY OF CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS

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DANES LOVE SOCIALISING IN ORGANISED CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS, AND THEY GENERALLY TEND TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS THIS WAY, RATHER THAN AT WORK. IN FACT, IN DENMARK MEMBERSHIP OF ASSOCIATIONS IS AMONG THE HIGHEST IN THE WORLD. SPORTS CLUBS, FOOD CLUBS, HOBBY CLUBS, CULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS, ETHNIC CLUBS, YOU NAME IT. THERE IS A JOKE, THAT IF TWO DANES SIT TOGETHER FOR FIVE MINUTES, THEY WILL START AN ASSOCIATION!

## ADVANTAGES OF JOINING AN ASSOCIATION

Clubs and associations are the perfect places to socialise for internationals. Here they can meet Danes and other internationals on a regular basis who share their interests. In addition, being a member of a club helps leave any stress behind and feel more relaxed and sociable. Everyone is welcome to join in and it is a fun way to get to know people and form friendships. For internationals living in Denmark, becoming a member of a club is a great opportunity to meet Danes outside the office and expand one's social network. To find out what associations are available in a particular area, internationals can ask at their local library or at the municipality's cultural and leisure administration.

## SPORTS CLUBS

The majority of associations in Denmark are sports clubs, which offer an excellent opportunity for experiencing Danish culture. Both outdoor and indoor sporting

activities take place all year round in Denmark and most people join to practise their favourite sport and stay fit. Two of the main umbrella organisations that make up for a large part of sports clubs in Denmark are DIF (Sports Confederation of Denmark) and DGI (Danish Gymnastics and Sports Associations). Together they represent more than three million members. Being a member of a sports club in Denmark is quite cheap, because most work is done by unpaid volunteers and municipalities cover part of the costs. In addition, many sporting facilities, including public swimming pools and indoor tennis courts, are available to be used by clubs.

## HOBBY CLUBS AND OTHER TYPES OF SOCIETIES

Hobby clubs are plentiful and a fun way to develop one's passions. Everything from knitting, role-playing and photography, to games, bird watching or playing instruments, can be found as organised clubs all

around Denmark. Political and religious societies, NGOs and charity organisations are also widespread.

## EXPAT CLUBS AND NETWORKS

Internationals in Denmark have access to a great number of voluntary expat organisations and clubs where they can get in contact with like-minded people or even meet other people from their home country. Many expat communities offer social events, practical information and fun activities. In addition, international families can learn more about life in Denmark through professional and social events arranged by their local municipalities. Expat in Denmark, International Community Aarhus and International House Copenhagen are the main free-of-charge platforms created to support international employees and their accompanying families by helping them settle down and expand their network.



### STATISTICS ON CLUB MEMBERSHIP IN DENMARK:

- \ There are more than 16,500 voluntary clubs and associations in Denmark
- \ About two thirds of Danes belong to one or more clubs or associations
- \ More than 60% of all voluntary associations are sports clubs
- \ 61 national federations are part of the Sports Confederation of Denmark.
- \ More than 90% of children under the age of 13 belong to a sports club. For teenagers, this figure is 60%
- \ Football is the most popular sports club with almost 350,000 members



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