



STRATEGY FOR UNESCO
– Danish priorities
2019-2022



DANISH MINISTRY
OF EDUCATION

STRATEGY FOR UNESCO
– DANISH PRIORITIES
2019–2022

January 2019

Editors: The Danish National Commission for UNESCO and
the Permanent Delegation of the Kingdom of Denmark to UNESCO

Contact:

Danish Ministry of Education

Frederiksholms Kanal 21

1220 København K

Tel.: (+45) 3392 5000

Mail: unesco@uvm.dk

ISBN 978-87-603-3193-0

Graphic design and illustrations: Henriette Mørk / www.henrietteforsk.dk

Photo page 2: Steen Brogaard

Photo page 6: Shutterstock

Print: PRinfoTrekroner A/S

The publication can be downloaded at
www.uvm.dk/internationalt-arbejde/unesco



DANISH MINISTRY
OF EDUCATION



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Danish
National Commission
for UNESCO

”UNESCO is everywhere in Denmark: World Heritage Sites, Learning Cities, Geoparks, Biosphere Reserves as well as the UNESCO Associated Schools Network and much more. Many more should know about the opportunities and resources that are available through UNESCO. This is why the Danish National Commission for UNESCO is launching five strategic priorities to ensure that more people benefit from UNESCO’s concepts and tools. We believe that the best results are achieved together. Therefore, we will mobilize more stakeholders, develop new partnerships and point out the needs for action. We want quality education, freedom of expression, democracy, gender equality and social inclusion to shape the life of all people. In other words, the Danish National Commission will make the UN Sustainable Development Goals our goals through extensive cooperation and dialogue on the many possibilities that UNESCO offers.”

– BO MANDERUP-JENSEN, CHAIRPERSON OF
THE DANISH NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO



HRH Princess Marie is Patron of the Danish National Commission for UNESCO and a visible ambassador for UNESCO’s work both in Denmark and internationally.

Contents

UNESCO in Denmark 4

UNESCO and the UN Sustainable Development Goals 7

UNESCO in Denmark and Denmark in UNESCO 8

Results are achieved together 9

Young people are agents of change 10

5 strategic priorities 10

Partnerships for the future 15

Quality education and global citizenship 21

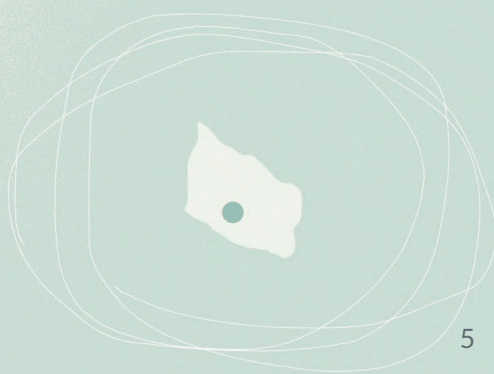
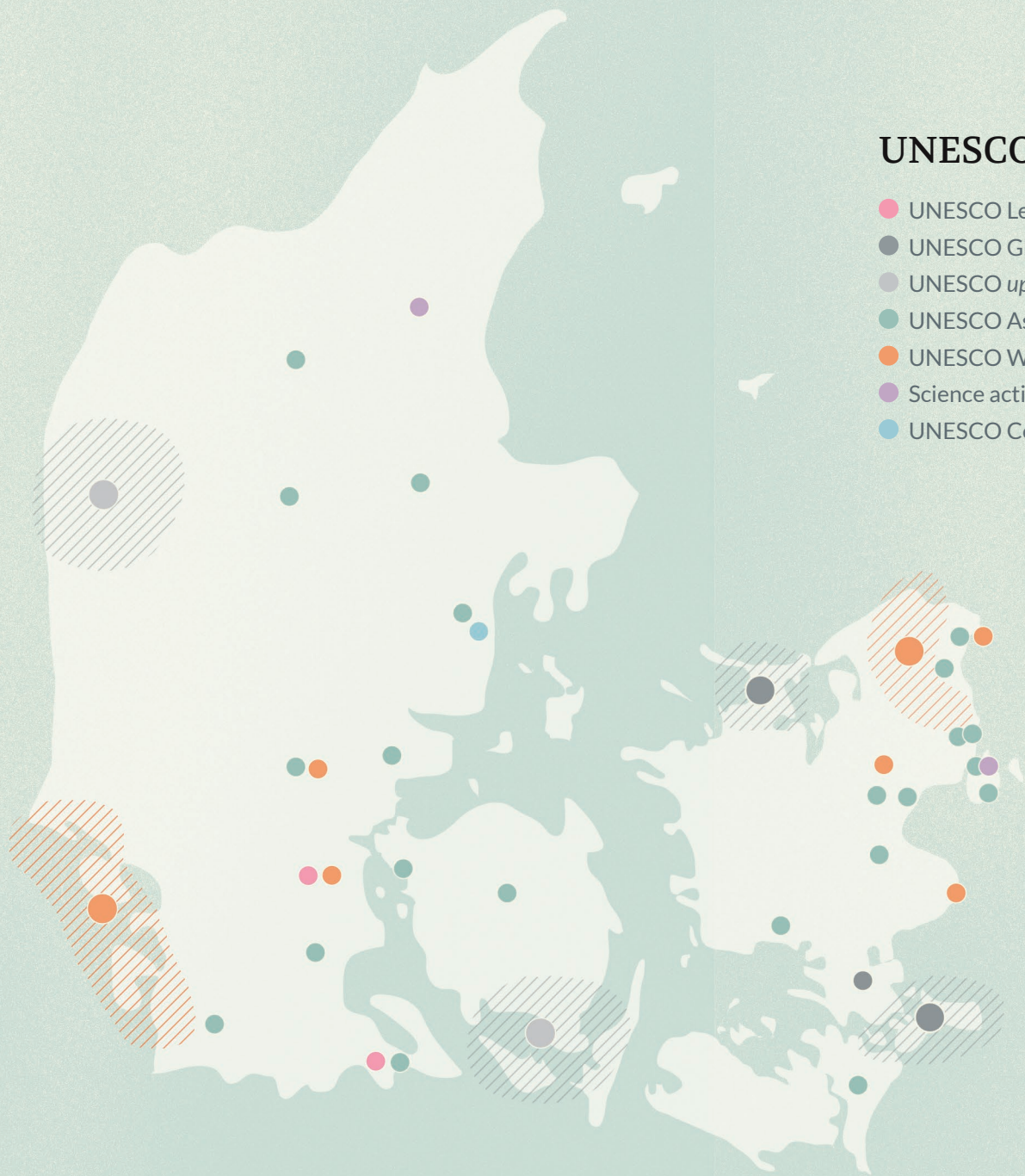
Freedom of expression and knowledge create democracy 27

World Heritage and local communities in development 33

Gender equality and social inclusion are cross-cutting 39

UNESCO in Denmark

- UNESCO Learning Cities and Creative Cities
- UNESCO Global Geoparks / Biosphere Reserves
- UNESCO *upcoming* Global Geoparks / Biosphere Reserves
- UNESCO Associated Schools Network
- UNESCO World Heritage
- Science activities
- UNESCO Collections



UNESCO and the UN Sustainable Development Goals

All United Nations Member States have agreed on 17 Global Goals (SDGs) to ensure a sustainable development of the planet approaching 2030. UNESCO has been appointed as UN coordinator of Goal 4 regarding quality education and supports the other Global Goals through collaborations in science, culture, communication, and information. The Sustainable Development Goals are universal and apply to all UN Member States – poor as well as rich. The Danish Government has made an action plan for Denmark's national and international follow-up on the Global Goals. The strategy of the Danish National Commission for UNESCO contributes to achieving the goals of the Danish Government and Danish UNESCO partners contribute with vivid and concrete examples of how the Global Goals are carried out in Denmark through UNESCO-related work.



UNESCO in Denmark and Denmark in UNESCO

Denmark's commitment to UNESCO follows two paths. One is directed at UNESCO-related activities in Denmark. The Danish National Commission for UNESCO aims to stimulate the general interest in UNESCO's values and objectives, create a platform for debate, and contribute to the democratic dialogue in Denmark. In addition, the National Commission advises the Danish Government on issues related to UNESCO and forms a link between government and civil society.

The second path of UNESCO's work concerns the global level, where Denmark seeks to influence the work of the organization and show responsibility. UNESCO provides Denmark with a platform for cooperation with governments of other countries on issues of global importance to ensure that we move in the same direction. To support this work, Denmark has a permanent delegation based at UNESCO's headquarter in Paris, which plays an important role in safeguarding the interests of Denmark.

The overall goal is to create a clear link between the work carried out nationally and globally.

Results are achieved together

This strategy reflects the strategic priorities of the Danish National Commission for UNESCO 2019-2022. The concrete efforts are undertaken in cooperation with our many partners who contribute with valuable knowledge and a great commitment to Denmark's work in UNESCO. The partners are ministries and authorities, civil society organizations, the private sector, research institutions, municipalities, regions and many more. The Danish National Commission for UNESCO strives to maintain and develop this commitment.

We wish to strengthen the interaction between the UNESCO-related work carried out in Denmark and Denmark's contribution to UNESCO's global work. We support UNESCO's reform agenda, which will enable the organization to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals more effectively, as well as create a higher level of efficiency and more transparency. The National Commission wants to contribute to the dissemination of best practices, knowledge and experience from the global level, for example via UNESCO reports to Danish stakeholders, and to bring Danish experiences to the global level.

The Danish UNESCO-related work should be viewed in the context of a number of other international cooperation forums, including the EU, the OECD, the Council of Europe and the Nordic Council of Ministers. The cooperation with the Nordic countries remains important and holds a great potential for sharing knowledge and experience and for coordinating and finding common ground on specific issues.

Young people are agents of change

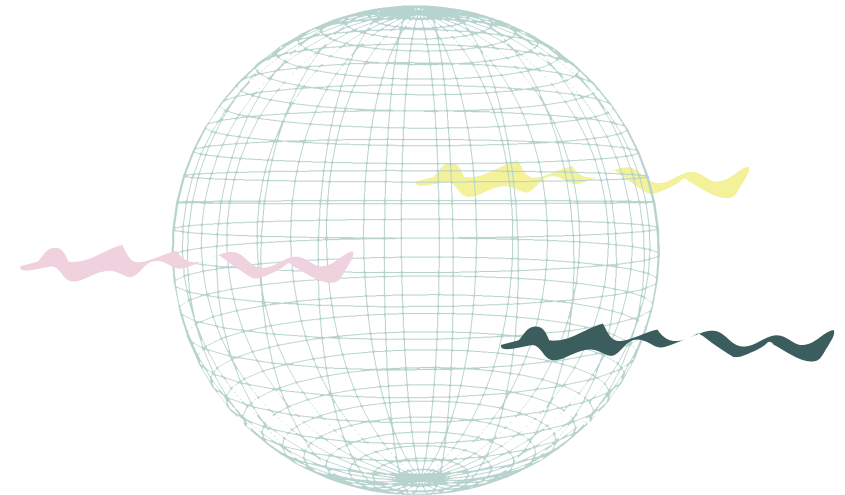
The Danish National Commission for UNESCO will promote an approach that recognizes young people as actors who can create change and sustainable development. Therefore, young people should systematically be involved whenever the National Commission is prioritizing future actions.

5 strategic priorities

This strategy forms the basis for an extended interaction between the many stakeholders involved in UNESCO-related activities. The strategy will be supported by a dynamic action plan with concrete activities that can be followed up upon.

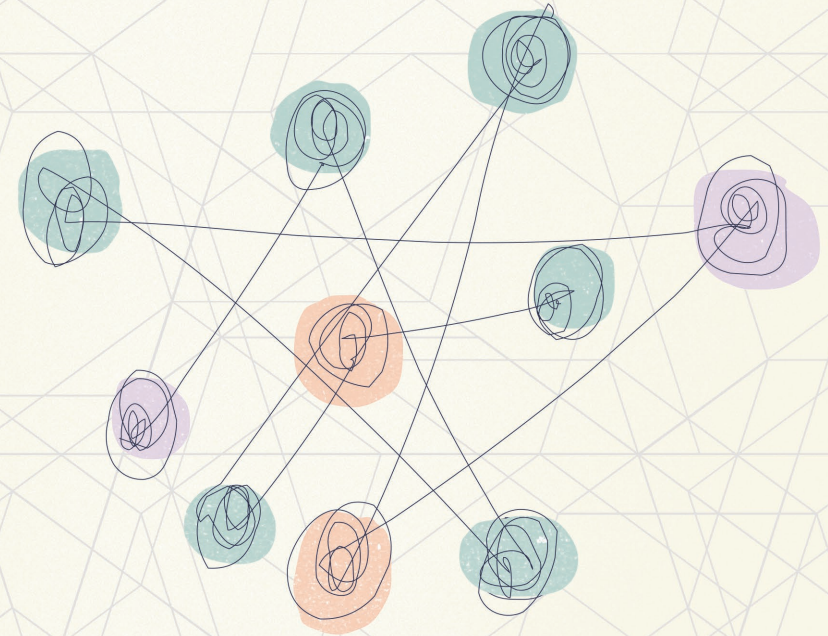
In the period 2019-2022, the Danish National Commission for UNESCO will focus on five strategic priorities:

1. Partnerships for the future
2. Quality education and global citizenship
3. Freedom of expression and knowledge create democracy
4. World Heritage and local communities in development
5. Gender equality and social inclusion are cross-cutting



“For more than 70 years, UNESCO has worked globally for freedom of expression, respect for the dignity and worth of every human being, quality education for all and the preservation of unique cultural and natural heritage. These are values that Denmark is known for around the world. But we cannot take them for granted. The world is changing rapidly and every generation must reinvent and defend fundamental freedoms and democratic rights. Denmark is among the top countries in the world when it comes to quality education for all. But there are still challenges, like leaving no one behind in completing an education, making vocational educations more attractive, and creating inclusive learning environments free from bullying. UNESCO and the UN Sustainable Development Goals can help us do better.”

- MERETE RIISAGER, MINISTER OF EDUCATION



Partnerships for the future





The challenges:

UNESCO's efforts in the areas of education, science, culture, communication and information call for a broad commitment. Therefore, we seek increased cooperation with civil society organizations, the private sector, private foundations, research institutions, municipalities, regions and national institutions. We will also consider the potential of a closer Nordic cooperation. An important dimension in all forms of cooperation and partnerships is to strengthen the voice of young people.

The National Commission sees a need for exchanging knowledge and for co-creation and coordination among the many UNESCO players regardless of sector. The National Commission will facilitate this by establishing an annual seminar for relevant stakeholders.

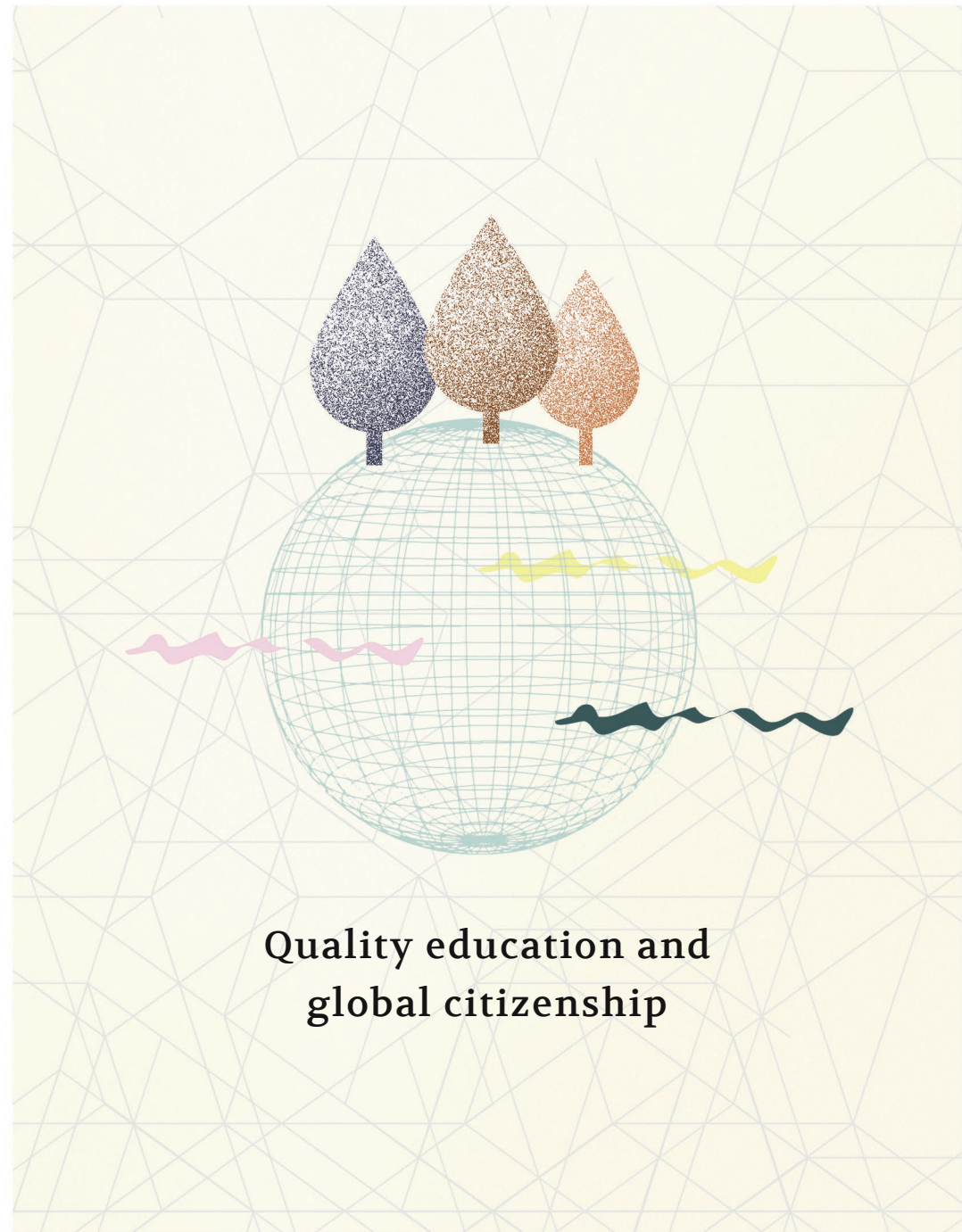
Partnerships for the future >

There is a need for better coordination, more visibility, and for creating synergies in joint initiatives. The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) provides a golden opportunity to highlight Denmark as a nation with significant maritime interests and to bring the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC) into focus. The celebration of the 50th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention in 2022 also offers a great opportunity to jointly draw attention to the value of the World Heritage.

We want to:

- show how UNESCO and Danish UNESCO actors contribute to fulfilling the UN Sustainable Development Goals as well as expanding the cooperation with all relevant players in relation to fulfilling the Danish Government's plan for the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- be a catalyst for opportunities, for expertise, and for ensuring that ideas for new initiatives and collaborations are brought into play – and for bringing relevant stakeholders together.
- mobilize resources and seek partnerships for UNESCO-related activities in Denmark and for projects with a global focus.

- strengthen the communication about what we do, why we do it, and what we achieve.
- strengthen the partnership with Danish UNESCO institutions such as the Danish Centre for Problem Based Learning in Engineering Science and Sustainability under the auspices of UNESCO and with the Danish UNESCO Chair in Cultural Rights to ensure that they serve as a resource in the implementation of the UNESCO strategy.
- encourage Danish actors to engage in the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.



Quality education and
global citizenship

Quality education and global citizenship >

The challenges:

Formal and informal lifelong learning supports us in reaching SDG 4: Quality Education. By 2030 all learners must acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.

Too few young people choose technical and vocational education and training (TVET) programmes. The National Commission believes that a focus on sustainability can create a new narrative about TVET as a gateway to industries that actively shows societal responsibility. A sustainable approach can raise the profile of TVET and ensure that both girls and boys will want to choose a TVET education. UNESCO's global network of vocational schools and the Danish Centre for Problem Based Learning in Engineering Science and Sustainability under the auspices of UNESCO at Aalborg University are assets in this context.

Solid and valid data is a necessity for policy development in the educational sector and ultimately for achieving the goal of quality education for all. An important global instrument is UNESCO's "Global Education Monitoring Report", which collects and translates data into policy analysis and knowledge on developments in countries worldwide. It is a challenge both to get the relevant data and to ensure that the results are disseminated and utilized.

The desire for reading and reading as a skill go hand in hand. There is a need to focus on the practice of contemplative reading in an increasingly digital society and to promote initiatives that create a desire for reading as well as competent readers regardless of gender and age.

All children and young people have the right to education, including displaced people and migrants. We have to meet this requirement both in Denmark and globally. UNESCO's educational conventions provide instructions on how to proceed.

We want to:

- help ensure that all children and young people are familiar with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This is done by using education as a driving force for democracy and sustainable development and in cooperation with relevant players, including the UNESCO Associated Schools Network and civil society organizations.
- explore how UNESCO can join forces with the Danish Science Education Strategy and promote a narrative of science education as important for the general education of children and young people and how it contributes to solutions to global challenges.
- inspire more Danish cities to become part of global city networks such as the UNESCO Learning Cities and UNESCO Creative Cities.
- support and strengthen the focus on sustainable development at vocational schools and of STEM* educations. This is done in cooperation with students, schools and universities as well as other relevant stakeholders.

*science, technology, engineering and mathematics

- support UNESCO in continuing to deliver quality data in the form of the “Global Education Monitoring Report” and to disseminate the results.
- support strategic as well as concrete activities which promote literacy and a desire for reading in cooperation with public libraries, schools and the civil society – e.g. in connection with the UN International Literacy Day celebrated annually on September 8.
- maintain focus on the right to education for refugee and migrant children in cooperation with the civil society organizations, the UN and other relevant educational players.



Freedom of expression and knowledge create democracy >

The challenges:

Freedom of expression – both in the media, when researchers create knowledge, and when artists express themselves – is the prerequisite for an open and democratic society. The same applies for equal access to information, culture and knowledge as a whole. Denmark is a strong voice internationally on freedom of expression. We wish to maintain a focus on the need to protect freedom of expression and the security of journalists, students, researchers, and artists in Denmark and around the world.

The democratic dialogue must be nurtured. Research, education and public information can help us ensure that the dialogue is based on facts and solid knowledge. Knowledge helps form us as human beings and pushes the world in a more sustainable direction. The aim is to produce and process knowledge and solutions that protect the planet, ensure cultural diversity, and improve people's living conditions.

The democratic dialogue is to a large extent digital. This requires access to information as well as competent and critical participants. New behavioural patterns are needed in order to avoid hate speech and cyberbullying. Gender discrimination is also a factor as data points to the risk of girls abstaining from participating in the public debate because they experience sexual harassment.

Artistic freedom is under pressure many places in the world. Denmark is a member of the 'International Cities of Refuge Network' (ICORN) that allows foreign writers and other artists who are persecuted in their native countries because of their artistic work to stay in Denmark. UNESCO highlights ICORN as an example of good practice that helps ensure artistic freedom.

We want to:

- actively promote UNESCO's global monitoring of artistic freedom of expression and relate it to a Danish context as well as investigate whether the experiences of protecting journalists can be transferred to artists and researchers who are facing similar challenges.
- work to strengthen UNESCO's monitoring of the right to science, culture and education as well as free scientific research. The Danish UNESCO Chair in Cultural Rights at the University of Copenhagen will produce and disseminate new knowledge and insights based on UNESCO conventions and recommendations.

- seek collaborations that strengthen digital literacy and promote participation in enlightened, critical and respectful democratic dialogue.
- emphasize the importance of equal access to information and a plan of action in relation to propaganda and misinformation.
- support an active Danish effort in UNESCO's International Program for the Development of Communication (IPDC) and a campaign to get Denmark elected to the program's expert council for the period 2019-2023.
- ensure that Danish media actors and relevant ministries prepare a national action plan for Denmark regarding the safety of journalists, as recommended by the "UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity."
- examine the potential of establishing more safe havens within the International Cities of Refuge Network or other initiatives that can guarantee artistic freedom and protect persecuted artists.



World Heritage and local communities
in development



World Heritage and local communities in development >

The challenges:

World Heritage is both nature and culture. World Heritage is a source of learning and experience, and contributes to an increased understanding of how our planet was created and how it has evolved. Likewise, World Heritage raises awareness of cultural diversity, linking the past to the present. Both the intangible cultural heritage and the shape of the landscape create the prerequisite for human interaction with nature and for the development of the traditions and values that are pivotal for our democratic society.

Cultural and natural heritage are important sources of learning and an asset in sustainable development of cities and communities. How can cultural and natural heritage contribute to the local development and how does it support a new narrative about the local communities' green transition? How can UNESCO World Heritage Sites maintain their visibility and a high degree of local involvement? And how do we involve children and young people in the conservation and use of natural and cultural heritage and demonstrate its relevance?

Cultural heritage is increasingly being used in strategic warfare. Denmark has ratified the UNESCO Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, and the work of implementing the convention must now be driven forward.

We want to:

- support the on-going work with World Heritage sites in Denmark carried out by Danish authorities.
- support networks and the exchange of experience among World Heritage Sites in Denmark.
- demonstrate how Danish World Heritage Sites, intangible cultural heritage, cultural properties, Danish Geoparks and Biosphere Reserves, as well as City Networks contribute – individually and together – to education for sustainable development and global citizenship.
- bring knowledge of the global world to Danish educational institutions through the UNESCO Collections at Moesgaard Museum and by distribution of UNESCO guides and teaching materials via relevant channels and Denmark's Educational Portal (EMU).
- demonstrate the importance of being a UNESCO designation for e.g. sustainable tourism, local identity and for the local economy. This can be done through e.g. research, reports, and showcases.
- engage in initiatives which make cultural heritage – both tangible and intangible – relevant to children and young people, and place it in a contemporary context.
- support Denmark's commitment to protecting cultural heritage during armed conflict, including cooperation with research institutions, museums, authorities and other players.



**Gender equality and social inclusion
are cross-cutting**

Gender equality and social inclusion are cross-cutting >

The challenges:

Gender equality and social inclusion must be systematically integrated in all actions of this strategy. Gender equality is at the basis of our democracy, and it is a fundamental human and civic right. The work does not only apply to girls and women, but also to boys and men and LGBTI people. Equal opportunities regardless of gender, sexual orientation and gender identity is a precondition that everyone must accept. The National Commission has a particular focus on gender equality in education, culture, media, and research.

Ensuring a balanced representation of voices in a pluralistic media landscape is a challenge that calls for action – also in Denmark.

Girls and boys, women and men must have the same opportunities and conditions when making educational choices. Globally, there is a need to promote equal opportunities for girls and women to choose an education and stress their right to be in control of decisions regarding their own body. In a Danish context, the challenges mostly concern the effect of gender and gender differences in the learning process of girls and boys and the completion of education.

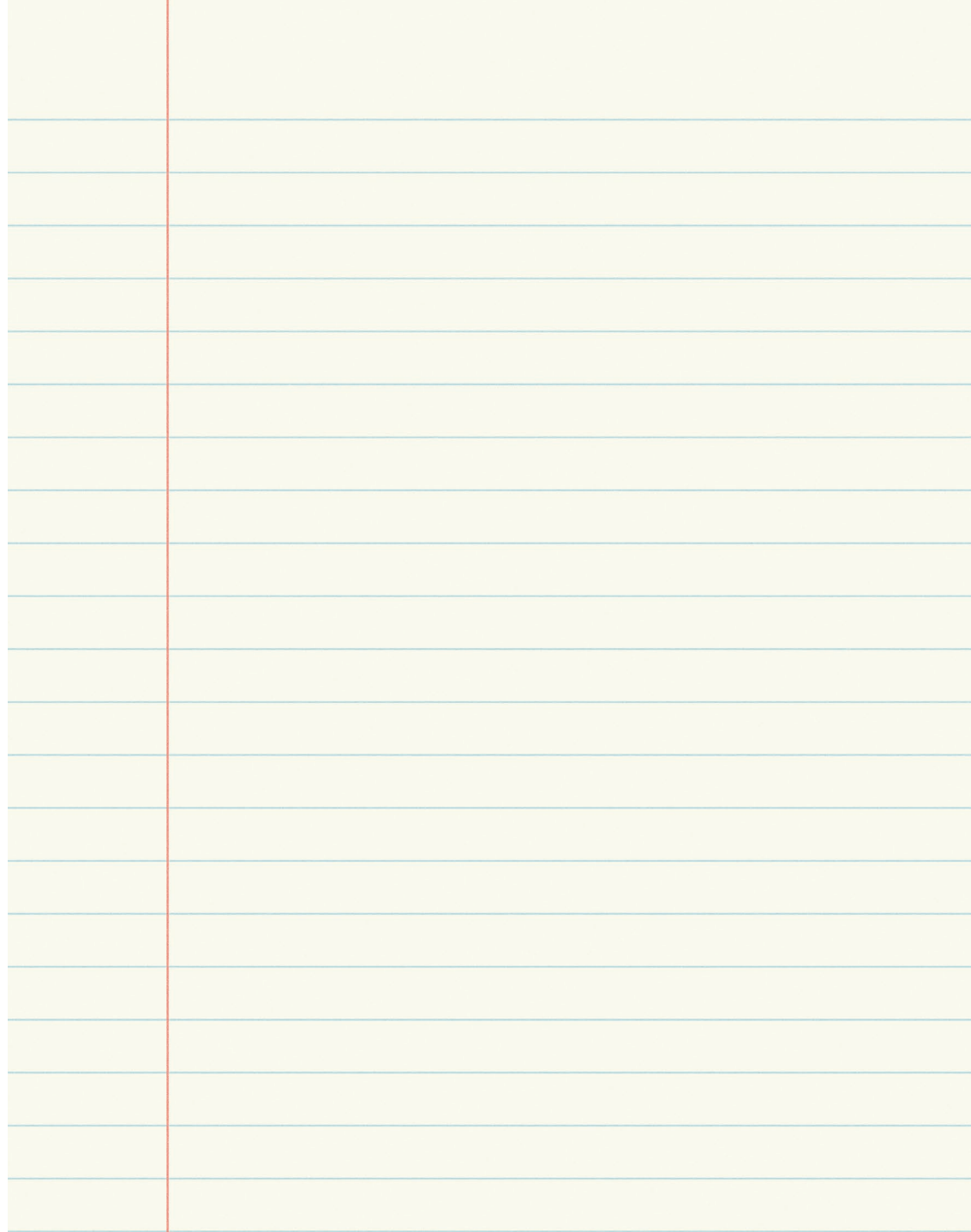
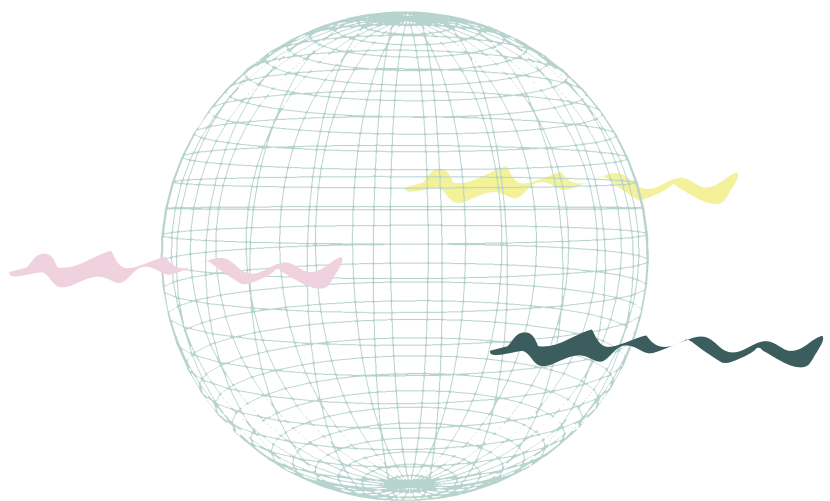
Good, inclusive learning environments free of bullying and discrimination based on gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation must be a fundamental principle.

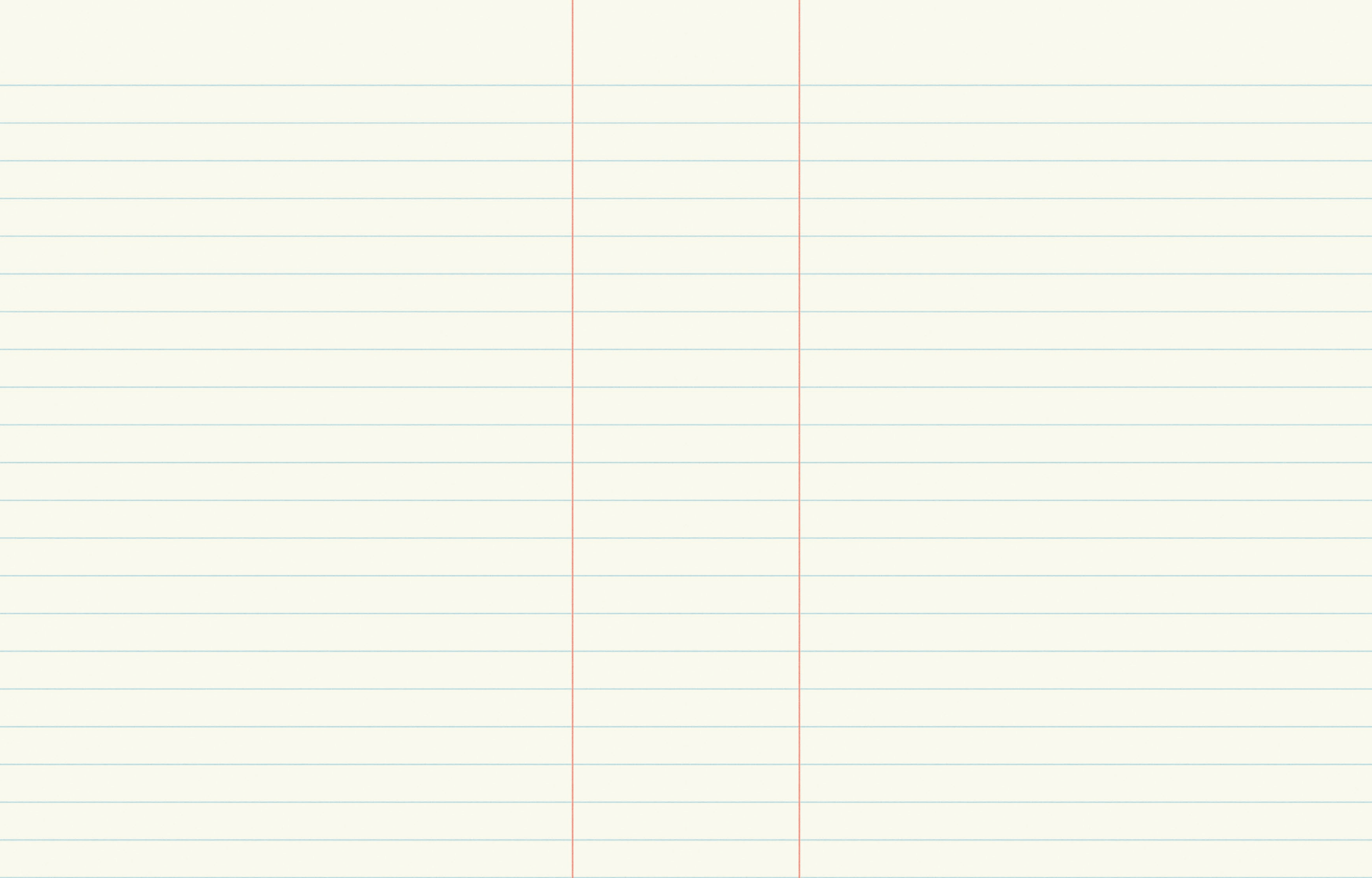
The science community must utilize all talents, and there is a particular need for more women in the field of research.

We want to:

- integrate a gender equality perspective systematically in the strategy's action plan.
- seek collaborations with Danish media stakeholders in order to strengthen the focus on gender equality through the choice of sources and resource people for stories, as well as speakers and panellists at conferences, and the like.
- maintain UNESCO's efforts to promote comprehensive sexuality education in developing countries. Denmark is actively working to ensure that UNESCO's "International Technical Guide on Sexuality Education" is applied in schools to improve sexual education.

- strengthen the focus on the effect of gender and gender differences on the learning practices of girls and boys.
- maintain UNESCO's monitoring of global trends and challenges in relation to violence and bullying based on gender, sexuality and gender identity in schools. Denmark has joined UNESCO's Call for Action, which is an important tool for promoting learning environments without discrimination both in Denmark and globally.
- support more women in choosing the research path. The L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Award is a recognized model that needs to be developed further, including the possibility of collaboration with other UNESCO concepts.





UNESCO is more relevant than ever:

By demonstrating our commitment to protect and promote humanistic values through education, science and culture, we can help promote cultural diversity and tolerance and counteract the rejection of scientific facts and threats against freedom of expression.

