

17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024 – Milan

TCA International - **Synergy of funds**

# **OPU – Danish training abroad programme for students in VET**

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# OPU – background

- Initiated in 1992 as response to lack of training opportunities in companies in Denmark for VET students
- VET legislation amended making it possible to approve work based learning in companies outside Denmark as a part of a national VET programme.
- Administration and financing of costs related to training abroad is handled by the Danish Employers Reimbursement Fund –AUB

# Structure of VET in Denmark

- VET in Denmark is structured as dual education combining school and work based learning
- Practical training in company with an apprenticeship contract is the main route to a VET qualification
- Contracts are signed after completion (usually) of a basic programme (20-40 weeks) at a VET school
- If no contract is signed in DK students may continue education at a training center attached to a VET school – conditions apply – or find workbased training abroad
- On average 2/3 of a VET programme takes place in a company – 1/3 at a VET school
- Typical duration of a VET programme is 3½-4 years

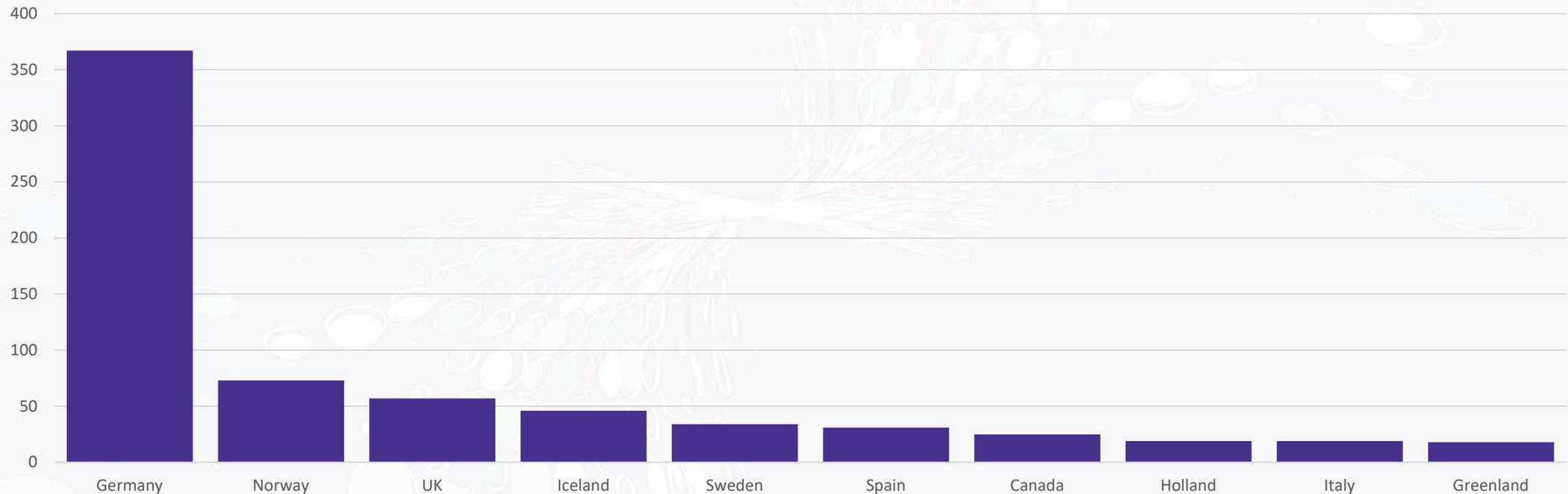
# OPU – training abroad

- Requirement: Completion of the basic programme
- Two types of placements abroad:
  - Placement by VET school (students without a DK contract). Must be a paid internship
  - Placement by company in Denmark (apprentices with DK contract)
- A shorter/single training period or the entire practical training abroad (minimum one month)
- School based part of the dual education takes place in DK
- OPU is world-wide

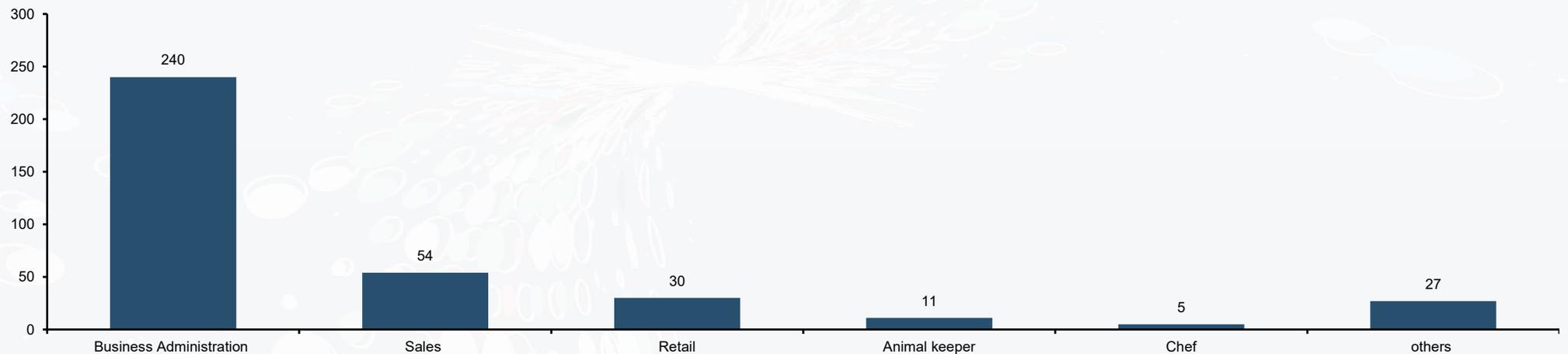
# VET students in mobility 2019–2021 supported through OPU

	2019	2020	2021
Placed by DK VET school	1150	976	788
Placed by DK company	206	85	48
In total	1359	1061	836

# Major destination countries for VET students with OPU support – 2021



# Main programmes of Danish VET students in Germany 2021 (supported by OPU)



# Financial support – placement by company

- Requirement: Written agreement between DK employer and company abroad
- AUB reimburses travel costs and moving expenses
- AUB reimburses difference between salary costs abroad and in Denmark
- Example:  
An apprentice in Denmark receives 1500€ per month and the salary in company abroad is 700€.  
The company in Denmark is obliged to pay the difference of 800 € to the apprentice. This amount is reimbursed by AUB

# Financial support – placement by VET school

- Requirement: An employment/training contract between the VET student and the company abroad and a pre-approval of the training arrangement by the VET school
- AUB reimburses travel costs and moving expenses
- AUB reimburses costs for visa, insurance and vaccinations
- AUB reimburses 50% of housing costs (with a limit)
- Maximum reimbursements of 4.300 € for a 12 month period
- In addition AUB pays an allowance to the student during school education in Denmark

# Synergy between OPU and Erasmus+

- Erasmus+ provides grants (as is well known) for visas, vaccinations, travel, and accommodation (rent and living expenses).
- OPU (school placements) provides students with grants for visas, vaccinations, travel, and rent abroad. (Danish law requires students to be paid when working abroad, but there is no minimum amount specified).
- OPU (placements) provides Danish employers with grants for the student's travel and wage reimbursement. (This does not cover the student's rent abroad or at home).

# Synergy between OPU, DK-US and Erasmus+

- DK-USA also provides grants for visas, vaccinations, travel, and accommodation (up to a maximum of 13,000 DKK per student for a 4-week stay and 8,000 DKK per student for a 2-week stay).
- Erasmus+ provides grants (as is well known) for visas, vaccinations, travel, and accommodation (rent and living expenses).

# Synergy between OPU, DK-US and Erasmus+

- Many Danish students' stays (long-term mobilities) are co-financed. Accredited VET institutions supplement OPU students with Erasmus+ grants as needed.
- For example, they may provide Erasmus+ individual support for 30 days to a student on a 90-day OPU placement, allowing them to use the individual support daily rate for 30 days to cover rent and food for the entire 90-day stay.

**Key point of attention: No double funding—the same expenses cannot be covered by multiple programs.**

# Challenges for expanding mobility through OPU programme

- Finding companies abroad willing to provide paid internships
- Obtaining visas for training (in some countries)
- Brexit
- Corona backlash
- Favorable situation for obtaining apprenticeships in many sectors in Denmark (currently)

**Thank You!**  
**Questions?**