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**EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES**

**Sixth periodical report**  
**presented to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe**  
**in accordance with Article 15 of the Charter**

**DENMARK**

# The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

## Denmark's Sixth Periodic Report

March 2023

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## Foreword

Denmark ratified the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages of 5 November 1992 (hereafter the Charter) on 8 September 2000. The Charter entered into force for Denmark on 1 January 2001. In connection with its ratification, Denmark identified German as a minority language in the sense of the Charter and declared that it should apply to German with respect to the German minority in South Jutland.

The German minority comprises approximately 15,000 people who reside mainly in the southern and western parts of South Jutland County. Most members of the German minority in Denmark are Danish nationals.

The protection of the German minority's fundamental rights in Denmark is above all safeguarded by the general provisions of the Constitutional Act of the Kingdom of Denmark and other legislation (national as well as international) governing equality before the law, freedom of religion and expression, freedom of association and assembly. In Denmark's view, the Charter is a significant tool in the further protection of national minorities. Denmark welcomes this opportunity to once again enter into a dialogue with the Council of Europe and to continue the constructive cooperation on the protection and promotion of languages used by traditional minorities.

The German minority in South Jutland falls under the remit of the Ministry of Culture. The Ministry of Culture is, therefore, the coordinator of the sixth Danish periodical report.

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## Introduction

Denmark hereby submits its sixth periodical report on the implementation of the Charter.

In the last evaluation and recommendations report of 2017 and the mid-cycle evaluation from 2020, Denmark was seen to fulfill most of the undertakings ratified by Denmark and continues to do good progress in terms of implementing the Charter. The German language was seen as in a rather favorable position with regard to education and cultural life. Denmark welcomes the evaluation and will continue this effort.

The evaluation gave a number of recommendations to be prioritized:

- Increase the level of radio broadcasting and provide television broadcasts in German, in co-operation with the German speakers.
- Take measures to increase awareness and appreciation of German as a minority language of Denmark throughout the country.

Additionally, the evaluation states that Denmark should consider expanding its instrument of ratification of articles 9 and 10 to include further provisions.

A status on these recommendations can be found in the sections below where thematically suited.

To the extent possible, the periodical report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements listed in the outline provided by the Council of Europe meaning that a section has been dedicated to each of the articles 6-14 of the Charter. The sections on Articles 8-14 will only include a status on the provisions ratified by Denmark.

As reporting on the Charter falls at the same time as reporting on the Framework Convention, the information in the two reports is cross-referenced to avoid repetition. In order to obtain a full picture of the Danish implementation of the Charter and the Framework Convention, the Council of Europe should therefore read the two reports together.

The periodical report has been prepared by the Ministry of Culture in cooperation with and based on contributions received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Housing and Elderly, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher Education and Science, the Ministry of Industry and Business, the Ministry of Immigration and Integration, the Agency for Digital Government, the Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration, the Danish Customs and Tax Administration as well as the Region of Southern Denmark, The Region of South Jutland-Schleswig and the four municipalities of South Jutland, Tønder, Haderslev, Aabenraa and Sønderborg. The German minority's secretariat in Copenhagen has been consulted in the process of writing the report.

The sixth Danish periodical report covers the period from February 2017 to December 2022.

### Delay in presentation of the report

The sixth periodical report is presented later than the required date of 1 January 2023. This is due to the Danish general election held on 1 November 2022 and the subsequent process of forming a Government. This means that from 5 October where the general election was called, until 15 December where the new government was formed, none of the Danish authorities were able to work on the report. The Ministry of Culture has kept the Council of Europe informed on the delay and progress in the finalization of the report. The Danish authorities regrets any inconveniences this may have caused.

## Article 6: Information

### Measures to provide information about rights and obligations pursuant to the Charter

Denmark takes its obligations and responsibilities towards the German minority very seriously. As the contact ministry for the German minority, the Ministry of Culture conducts ongoing dialogue with all relevant authorities including all relevant ministries and the four municipalities in South Jutland in order to safeguard and inform of the rights of the German minority pursuant to the Charter. Other relevant ministries and authorities also keep a continuous contact with the German minority. The Ministry of Culture can serve as an entry point, whenever the German minority is not able to find a relevant contact person. Read more in the section regarding Article 7.

The Ministry of Culture is in close and continuous contact with the German minority, especially through its Secretariat in Copenhagen. Meetings are held as often as possible in an informal and open manner. In 2022, the Secretariat received DKK 0.8 million in public funding from the Ministry of Culture.

All four municipalities in South Jutland are able to communicate in German with citizens, companies, associations and others who prefer this. There is always a German-speaking employee available to speak to members of the German minority. Employees at all levels in the four municipalities are aware of the rights of the German minority and informed about the Charter (and the Framework Convention) and the pursuant duties. All relevant information on the municipalities' websites is available in German.

The border region between Southern Denmark and Schleswig-Holstein has a special history. Today, there is a peaceful coexistence around the Danish-German border, and the national minorities are a natural part of the Danish-German cooperation in the Region of Southern Denmark. The Region of Southern Denmark is a public authority with a political leadership, and information on the region's website is available in German<sup>1</sup>.

### Awareness of the German minority in Denmark

In the latest evaluation report, the situation of German as a minority language in Denmark was deemed satisfactory. There was, however, a recommendation in terms of taking measures to increase awareness of the German minority and the German language as a minority language.

A small piece of information about the German minority has been available on Denmark's official website ([www.denmark.dk](http://www.denmark.dk)) since August 2014. This information has now been substantially expanded and given its own page<sup>2</sup> describing the history behind the German minority and underlining the importance of the peaceful co-existence in and around the Danish-German border.

In 2020 and 2021, Denmark celebrated and marked 100 years of unification between Denmark and South Jutland with around 800 events and activities. A survey (appendix 1), ordered by the Ministry of Culture after the celebration, showed how 24 % of all Danes – compared to 8 % before the celebrations – now listed the unification as an important national, historical event. In connection with the celebration, the Danish Prime Minister, Mette Frederiksen, held a speech in a DR1 programme called "*Vi fejrer Sønderjylland - Live fra Dybbøl*" (We are celebrating South Jutland – Live from Dybbøl). In the speech, the Prime Minister spoke directly to the German minority stating in German: "*Auch Ihr gehört zu Dänemark (You too, belong to Denmark).*" This statement was a clear signal from the Danish Prime Minister to all that the German Minority does belong in Denmark.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://regionsyddanmark.dk/de>

<sup>2</sup> <https://denmark.dk/people-and-culture/history/the-german-minority>

In her annual New Year's Eve speech on 31 December 2022, her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark also mentioned the Germany minority. She stated how the Danish-German borderland is a shining example of how different languages, cultures and traditions can live peacefully side by side, publicly underlining the importance of the two minorities on both sides of the border.

#### Undertakings chosen by Denmark under Article 9 and 10

In the evaluation report of 2017, the Committee of Experts states how the provisions under article 9 and 10 are seen as unambitious. Following the evaluation in 2017, the German minority also encouraged the Danish government to consider taking on further provisions under the Articles 8-13 of the Charter. In December 2021, a meeting was held with the (at the time) Minister for Culture where a mandate was given to the Ministry of Culture to coordinate this effort. In February 2022, the German minority handed in a comprehensive document explaining their specific wishes in this regard.

In the Joint Action Plan for Future German-Danish Cooperation, it is stated that it is the ambition of Denmark to take on further obligations of the Charter. The Ministry of Culture is – in cooperation with relevant authorities and the German minority – looking into which provisions to possibly take on and how Denmark can do so. The work is still ongoing. More information on this process can be found in the chapters below.

Despite there not being any conclusion, the process has in itself resulted in a number of thorough discussions and information sharing about the German minority and their rights as per the Charter (and the Framework Convention). In this process, the level of awareness has increased amongst all the relevant authorities about the German minority's rights. The German minority and the Ministry of Culture are also in close contact about this work and the dialogue is pragmatic and cooperative.

## Article 7: Objectives and principles

7.1.a: The recognition of the regional or minority languages as an expression of cultural wealth.

The evaluation report states that provision 7.1.a. is considered fulfilled by Denmark.

Denmark continues to fully recognise the German minority language as an expression of cultural wealth in South Jutland. The Danish-German borderland is a formidable example of how peaceful co-existence can be achieved between minority and majority on both sides of the border despite a history of war and conflict.

7.1.b: The respect of the geographical area of each regional or minority language in order to ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of the regional or minority language in question.

The evaluation report states that provision 7.1.b. is considered fulfilled by Denmark.

In 2007, Denmark implemented the so-called Structural Reform, which was a major reform of the Danish local government system. The Structural Reform contains the criteria for a new division of municipalities and regions and a new distribution of tasks between municipalities, regions and the state. In connection with this, legislation was provided to ensure the continued presence of representatives of the German minority in the local councils in South Jutland. This includes provisions for an official representative of the German minority party to the local council and to a standing committee, whenever the German minority party has not obtained election to the council.

The evaluation report underlines that this was a positive development. Denmark welcomes this assessment.

Currently, the German minority party, Schleswigsche Partei/Slesvigsk Parti, holds two seats in the 31-seat Aabenraa City Council. In Sønderborg City Council, the party holds three seats of the total 31 seats, and the first deputy mayor is a member of the German minority party. In Haderslev City Council, there is one representative from the German minority party. In Tønder City Council, there are four representatives from the German minority party, one of which is also the mayor of Tønder.

In the past few years, all four municipalities have made an effort to attract Germans to their municipalities. All four experience increased settlement in this regard. These new citizens from Germany often join the German minority in Southern Jutland. To strengthen the contact with all German-speaking citizens, including the German minority, the administrations of the municipalities' written and oral communication is increasingly in German. E.g., almost all documents produced by the settlement department are translated into German.

In 2022, Haderslev municipality's settlement consultant conducted information meetings for potential German settlers who are considering settling in Denmark. Here, the potential German settlers are informed in German about kindergarten, schooling, work, cultural and leisure facilities etc. in Haderslev Municipality. Furthermore, the participants have the opportunity to greet the municipality's mayor, who will participate in the information meeting with a presentation.



7.1.c: The need for resolute action to promote regional or minority languages in order to safeguard them.

And

7.1.d: The facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of regional or minority languages, in speech and writing, in public and private life.

The evaluation report states that provisions 7.1.c. and 7.1.d. are both considered *partly* fulfilled.

Both paragraphs concern the positive support and action for the benefit of German as a minority language, meaning the facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of German, in speech and writing, in public and private life. The evaluation report recommends an improvement of the German language's presence in the public administration and in the judiciary in South Jutland. Read more in the sections below concerning Article 9 (Judicial Authorities) and Article 10 (Administrative authorities and public services).

7.1.e.: The maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups using a regional or minority language and other groups in the State employing a language used in identical or similar form, as well as the establishment of cultural relations with other groups in the State using different languages.

The evaluation report states that provision 7.1.e. is considered fulfilled. However, Danish authorities do not find it relevant in a Danish context.

7.1.f. : The provision of appropriate forms and means for the teaching and study of regional or minority languages at all appropriate stages.

7.1.g. : The provision of facilities enabling non-speakers of a regional or minority language living in the area where it is used to learn it if they so desire.

7.1.h. : The promotion of study and research on regional or minority languages at universities or equivalent institutions.

The evaluation states that provisions 7.1.f., 7.1.g. and 7.1.h. are considered fulfilled by Denmark.

Denmark welcomes this assessment. Read more in the section covering Article 8 (Education).

7.1.i.: The promotion of appropriate types of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for regional or minority languages used in identical or similar form in two or more States.

The evaluation states that provision 7.1.i. is considered fulfilled by Denmark. Denmark welcomes this assessment.

Read more in the section covering Article 14 (Transnational exchanges).

7.2: The Parties undertake to eliminate, if they have not yet done so, any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of a regional or minority language and intended to discourage or endanger the maintenance or development of it. The adoption of special measures in favour of regional or minority languages aimed at promoting equality between the users of these languages and the rest of the population or which take due account of their specific conditions is not considered to be an act of discrimination against the users of more widely-used languages.

The evaluation states that provision 7.2. is considered fulfilled by Denmark.

All apparently, unjustified distinctions, exclusions, restrictions or preferences relating to the use German in South Jutland have been removed as far as this is reasonably possible. The Ministry of Culture and the German minority conduct regular meetings to discuss all matters and challenges the German minority might have. Together pragmatic solutions are sought.

Read more in the sections covering the Articles 8-14.

7.3: The Parties undertake to promote, by appropriate measures, mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country and in particular the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to regional or minority languages among the objectives of education and training provided within their countries and encouragement of the mass media to pursue the same objective.

The evaluation states that provision 7.3. is considered only *partly* fulfilled by Denmark. This is understood to pertain to the recommendations regarding better knowledge of the German minority in general and in the Danish media.

Read more in the section covering Article 11 (Media) below and the section covering Article 6 (Information) above.

7.4: In determining their policy with regard to regional or minority languages, the Parties shall take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the groups which use such languages. They are encouraged to establish bodies, if necessary, for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to regional or minority languages.

The evaluation states that provision 7.4. is considered fulfilled by Denmark.

The Contact Committee for the German minority (from 1965) consists of the Minister for Culture as the Chair, members appointed by each of the parties in the Danish parliament, and representatives of the Germany minority's central organisation, Bund Deutscher Nordschleswiger (BDN). The Contact Committee negotiates and discusses domestic policy affairs of interest to the German minority.

On the request of the German minority, the Ministry of Culture is exploring if and how the structure of the Contact Committee could be changed in order to secure an even closer contact between the Danish Parliament and the minority.

The four municipalities have also entered into a structured dialogue with the Germany minority and in particular BDN at the mayors' level. Meetings are conducted under the auspices of the Coordination Committee of Southern Jutland (Det Sønderjyske Koordinationsudvalg). Within this framework, the four mayors as well as city council members from these four communities meet with the German minority once a year to discuss and decide on a wide range of issues concerning the German minority. This can be

seen as a supplement to the government regulation of 2007 securing representation of the German minority in the four city councils mentioned above.

Sønderborg municipality also conducts their own meetings with BDN in a specific local contact committee. The meetings are held at least once a year to discuss a wide range of subjects concerning the German minority. Members of the local contact committee are representatives of the BND, Sønderborgs' mayor, first deputy mayor, city council members and municipal director.

## Article 8: Education

All provisions – except 8.1.diii and 8.1.g. – are considered fulfilled by Denmark. Provision 8.1.diii and 8.1.g are considered partly fulfilled with improvement.

### The German minority's schools

In Denmark, there is a number of schools for the German minority covering primary, lower and upper secondary education.

There are 13 German minority schools (private primary and lower secondary schools) regulated by the Private School Act. The schools offer education covering the voluntary preschool class and the 1<sup>st</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade. Furthermore, the schools can provide 1 year of education in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

The continuation schools ("efterskoler") are regulated by the Act of Continuation Schools and Independent Trade Schools. The continuation schools accommodate students in the 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grade. The teaching and social life is based on values such as civic education, enlightenment and democracy. The teaching must be of a general nature. Specific subjects or types of subjects can be eminent, but not on the expense of the general nature of the teaching. There is currently one continuation school for the German minority. This school received DKK 7.5 million in total national funding in 2021.

The schools must provide education for all students for which education is compulsory, as long as it measures up to that of the Danish Folkeskole. In every aspect of the everyday life, the schools must prepare the students for engaging in a society rooted in freedom and democracy. It is also the schools' task to help develop and strengthen the students' democratic cultivation as well as their awareness of and respect for basic human and civil rights such as gender equality.

The schools must be self-governing institutions. As independent institutions, the funds must only benefit the school services. The general management of the school must be handled by a board, which holds responsibility for the school and answers to the Ministry of Children and Education. There is no requirement for the schools' teachers to master the Danish language in spoken or written form.

The schools (the 13 private primary and lower secondary German minority schools and the one continuation school) have received state support of various types amounting to approximately DKK 100 million in 2021 from the Ministry of Children and Education. From the Ministry of Culture, the schools received DKK 17.7 million in the form of an operating grant in 2021. This does not include distribution funds or relief packages. The schools have had the same opportunity as other private schools in terms of these funds.

Deutsches Gymnasium für Nordschleswig situated in Aabenraa is an upper secondary education school for the German minority. It was built in 1959 as a private school. Today the school has approximately 200 students and meets the requirements set for both Danish and German Secondary Education Schools. The school offers the Danish Higher General Examination Programme (STX) and in addition a written confirmation that you have met the requirements for the German exam (Abitur). The school has received state support of various types amounting to approximately DKK 18 million in 2021.

The evaluation report of 2017 states that the school support scheme has been changed in Denmark so that German minority schools get the same amount of support as the regular Danish schools. The German minority schools do get a large amount of funding – however, the German minority has pointed out that it is not yet fully the same amount for either of the schools. The Danish authorities are looking into the matter without any conclusion as of yet.

## The teaching of German in Denmark

Danish governments have taken several initiatives over time to try to improve the status of foreign languages in the Danish educational system. In 2017, a national strategy was launched to increase the number of students studying foreign languages other than English. This included the foundation of the Danish National Centre for Foreign Languages, which seeks to support and strengthen foreign languages at all levels of the Danish educational system to make sure that more pupils and students choose foreign languages and improve their linguistic skills. The Centre supports initiatives at both strategic and classroom levels. For instance, the National Centre for Foreign Languages supported the inclusion of German as a subject in the national competition "Danish Championship in the subjects" aimed at 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Most recently, the Danish parliament agreed in December 2021 on providing additional funding worth DKK 40 million to improve the teaching of German and French at tertiary level. The funds are to be used for increasing the amount of teaching on degree programmes for students studying German and French, to support the university colleges in establishing internship places abroad for their Bachelor of Education programmes as well as for the universities to provide foreign language teaching as an extracurricular activity for students studying non-language subjects.

German is taught in primary school from the fifth grade. Schools have to offer German as a second foreign language. In some areas, it is possible for pupils to choose French instead of German. In 2020, 83 % of Danish pupils graduating from ninth grade had German in school. In general upper secondary, students have the possibility to choose to continue learning German at B-level (2 years) and A-level (3 years). It is also possible to study German at evening school or as a single course.

In general, the grades given in German are lower than in other foreign languages (English, French and Spanish). In general upper secondary, there has been a minor decline in students obtaining German at A-level from 8 % to 6 % since 2017, but also a minor increase in students obtaining German at B-level from 58 to 61 %.

In order to strengthen the onset of German in school, an additional weekly German class was added in the fifth grade from the school year 2020/2021.

At tertiary level, German is taught at several Danish universities at BA and MA level as well as for the Bachelor of Education programmes for primary and lower-secondary school teachers at the Danish university colleges. Like other foreign languages, the study of German has seen a decline in popularity in recent years. According to a 2021 rapport from the Danish National Centre for Foreign Languages, the number of students admitted to a BA degree in German at the Danish universities fell by 42 % between the admission years 2015/2016 and 2021/2022, while the number of students completing an MA degree in German fell by 14 % in the same period. Similarly, the number of newly qualified German teachers educated at the Danish university colleges fell from 183 graduates in 2014/2015 to 86 graduates in 2018/2019.

The Ministry of Education originally funded Grenzgenial, which is a digital platform providing free, up-to-date teaching materials for the German teaching in Folkeskolen for initially a two year period. When the responsibility for the German national minority was transferred from the Ministry of Education to the Ministry of Culture in 2016 the project was transferred as well. The Ministry of Education has since decided not to fund individual initiatives such as Grenzgenial since the establishment of the National Centre for Foreign Languages in 2017.

### German in the South Jutland Schools

In Tønder Municipality, German is mandatory for pupils from 0<sup>th</sup> grade to 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Within the framework of a special programme conducted together with Aabenraa Municipality, University College South Denmark/Institut für Minderheitenpädagogik efforts are undertaken to upgrade the qualifications of German-language teachers in the region. This work has been supported with a donation of EURO 200.000 from the A.P. Møller Foundation.

Tønder Municipality is also part of the Sønderjylland–Schleswig Cultural Agreement, where the parties behind the Region South Jutland-Schleswig develop run cross-border cultural activities for schoolchildren.

In 2015, Aabenraa Municipality introduced mandatory German-language education in all primary schools from the third grade. Within the framework of a special programme conducted together with Tønder Municipality, University College South Denmark/Institut für Minderheitenpädagogik efforts are undertaken to upgrade the qualifications of German-language teachers in the region. In addition, to strengthen bilingualism in the municipality, Padborg Transport Centre offers German classes for employees from companies located in the transport centre.

In Haderslev Municipality, German is mandatory for pupils from 5<sup>th</sup> grade to 9<sup>th</sup> grade. The purpose of the German class is, among other things, to develop the pupils' linguistic awareness of the German language, of foreign language understanding and at the same time strengthen their cultural and intercultural understanding through cultural encounters.

Haderslev Municipality is also part of the Sønderjylland–Schleswig Cultural Agreement, where the parties behind the Region South Jutland-Schleswig collaborate to develop and run citizen-friendly and involving cultural and leisure activities in the Danish-German border region. Finally, Haderslev Municipality is twin city with Lutherstadt Wittenberg in Saxony-Anhalt, and in extension of this set aside an annual pool to support visits to and from the municipality's twin cities, including Wittenberg.

Through Region South Jutland–Schleswig, the municipality's daycare centres and schools participate in a diverse range of cultural and linguistic discussion with an aim to increase participants' knowledge of German language and culture, as a supplement to and part of the open school. If parents do not want to make use of a municipal daycare school offer for their children, but instead want their children to receive a German-language offer, Haderslev Municipality provides information on its website about the possibilities to register for Deutsche Schule Hadersleben and Deutsche Kindergarten Hadersleben. In addition, the school administration provides information at newcomer events for German immigrants about the variety and possibilities for schooling in Haderslev.

The Municipality of Sønderborg has implemented a number of initiatives to support and promote the learning of the German language among its students. Since 2016, German classes have been mandatory for all students from 0<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade. To support teachers in this endeavor, the municipality has established a forum for knowledge-sharing among educators.

In addition, from 2019-2022, Sønderborg participated in a special program in collaboration with the Municipalities of Tønder, Aabenraa, and University College South Denmark/Institut für Minderheitenpädagogik. Through this program, the qualifications of German-language teachers in the region were upgraded, and new materials for teaching 'early German' were developed and made available online for free use by educators locally, regionally, and nationally.

Sønderborg has also taken part in the steering committee for neighboring languages within the Interreg-program, in order to support and develop interest in neighboring languages and to promote cooperation

among kindergartens and schools across the border. Through Region Sønderjylland-Schleswig, the municipality's daycare centres and schools participate in a diverse range of cultural and linguistic exchanges with an aim to increase participants' knowledge of German language and culture, as a supplement to and part of the open school.

Finally, the Municipality of Sønderborg is also part of the Sønderjylland-Schleswig Cultural Agreement, further demonstrating its commitment to promoting and preserving the German language and culture in its region.

## Article 9: Judicial authorities

The evaluation report deemed the provisions ratified by Denmark under article 9 as fulfilled. At the same time, it is stated that the number of chosen provisions is relatively unambitious.

The Danish Administration of Justice Act provides that the language of Danish courts is Danish. This means that an interpreter has to translate oral statements that are not in Danish and that documents written in a foreign language have to be translated. However, subject to Section 149(1), third and fourth sentences, of the Administration of Justice Act, the use of an interpreter may, in civil proceedings, be dispensed with if neither party requests it and the court considers that it has the necessary knowledge of the foreign language. It also follows from this provision that the use of an interpreter may be dispensed with in certain criminal proceedings if the court and the other parties to the proceedings have the necessary familiarity with the foreign language and the application of the foreign language is considered sound. Similarly, the translation of documents may be dispensed with if both parties so agree and the court considers that it has the necessary knowledge of the foreign language, cf. Section 149(2), second sentence, of the Administration of Justice Act.

Looking at the use of German before judicial authorities locally in South Jutland, the relevant court is the Sønderborg District Court, which covers four municipalities: Sønderborg, Aabenraa, Haderslev, and Tønder.

The Sønderborg Court occasionally receives requests for the use of German from parties belonging to the German minority. However, a large part of the German minority masters Danish to a full extent, and questions are often resolved in practice because the court has several German-speaking members among the staff, among these a judge and a court assessor. The German-speaking members of the staff may assist German-speaking citizens without giving rise to any concrete wish or need for interpretation services.

Neither the Court of Sønderborg nor the Danish Court Administration keeps a record of the extent to which German is used pursuant to the above-mentioned provision in Section 149(1), third and fourth sentences, and (2) of the Administration of Justice Act.

The court has not experienced a major demand for translation of pleadings, annexes and other documents into German, which may in part be due to the fact that the parties are not able to have documents translated at the expense of the State. The court notes that the translation of all documents in a case may incur large expenses and entail prolonged processing times.

There is currently no Danish initiative to commit Danish courts to allow German during court proceedings to a greater extent than described above. Neither is there any current initiative to change the regulation so that interpreting and translation services during court proceedings should be paid for by the Danish State for the German minority.



## Article 10: Administrative authorities and public services

The evaluation report deemed the provisions ratified by Denmark to be fulfilled. However, it is stated that the undertakings chosen by Denmark under Article 10 are relatively unambitious.

As mentioned above, the Danish authorities are looking into if and how Denmark can undertake more provisions under the Charter. The Ministry of Culture and the German minority are in contact on this matter in the attempt to find pragmatic solutions regarding the provisions under Article 10.

### Central services

#### *Digital solutions and guides*

The Danish national eID solution (MitID) has delivered a leaflet guide to the German minority on how to get a MitID as a citizen. The leaflet covers different options to get MitID and how MitID can be used. There is also information on where citizens can get help and information on the importance of keeping the MitID credentials safe. The leaflet is shared with BDN, which has redistributed it. The leaflet is also available on MitID.dk. In addition, MitID made guides about the transition from NemID to MitID. There were two video instructions with a German speaker. The videos guided you on how to get respectively the MitID app and the MitID code display by using your NemID. The videos were available online at MitID.dk.

It is now also possible to use foreign passports or ID cards to get MitID. This could potentially make the recruiting process for the German minority easier when hiring new teachers for the minority schools.

Moreover, the Agency for Digital Government is also responsible for the Danish eID Gateway, which facilitates digital cross-border authentication by using an eID from another EU or EEA country. The most important components of the solution are available in Danish, English and German.

#### *Danish Customs and Tax Administration*

The Danish Customs and Tax Administration offer comprehensive relevant information about personal tax issues and guides on how to change your annual settlement in German<sup>3</sup>. On the website, there are also an opportunity to access more detailed guides in German. An example is a guide concerning the tax scheme for taxation of researchers.

### Status on the administrative authorities and public services in the Municipalities

In Sønderborg municipality, employees at all levels are informed about the rights of the German minority. All contact with the municipality is possible in German. Digital solutions including the homepage and the self-service screen of the citizen service are available in German.

In 2017, the municipality of Sønderborg took the initiative to develop and implement a plan in order to contribute to the full implementation of the provisions in the two European Council conventions regarding the protection of national minorities in this municipality. The goal was to identify parts that were not fulfilled and to identify possible measures to change that. The municipality has made improvements in relation to the implementation of the provisions including 1) expansion of the municipal website so more public service pages are available in German (the new website was launched in September 2022 and now all information is available in German), 2) Renewals in the municipality's Citizen Service, where the entrance area's self-service screen can now be operated in German, and 3) Update of the municipality's intranet so that all employees are made aware of the conventions and its obligations.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://skat.dk/data.aspx?oid=3099&lang=de>

Aabenraa municipality has adopted a strategy for digital healthcare and welfare technology. Along with the strategy, the municipality has introduced a special technology (a communication platform) in nursing homes that allows staff to use video communication, messages, pictures, calendars etc. Depending on who is using the technology, they can change the language to German, benefitting both German-speaking employees and citizens. Various departments in Aabenraa Municipality employ German-speaking staff who are able to communicate orally and in writing with German-speaking citizens and companies. Moreover, various documents are translated into German, including contracts with companies, just as the municipality receives German-language requests for e.g. building permits and responds to these in German. From time to time, German associations in the municipality apply for permission to refer to themselves as public awareness-raising associations. The administration welcomes and processes such applications in German.

Haderslev municipality makes sure that employees can communicate in German orally as well as in writing. The municipality's website is translated into German. Haderslev municipality will handle your inquiry in German, if desired. In relation to the Children and Culture administration an interpreter will be present if the employees cannot answer an inquiry in German. For example, the administration provides information on the municipality's website about the possibility of using the German school and kindergarten, if citizens want to offer their children something different.

Tønder municipality makes sure that employees can communicate in German orally as well as in writing. All contact with the municipality is possible in German. Digital solutions including the homepage and the self-service screen of the citizen service are available in German.

#### Other public sector encounters

The Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration (SIRI) has a special responsibility regarding the German minority, as the German minority has the right to submit documents in the German language. At the branch office in Aabenraa (which closed in February 2022), a few Germans from the German minority were asked to translate their documents into English or Danish due to miscommunication. The issue was solved in the autumn of 2021. After the office in Aabenraa closed, applicants from the German minority had to submit their applications in either Aarhus or Odense for a period of time. The employees were informed of the right of the German minority to submit documents in the German. On 1 December 2022, offices were opened in Sønderborg and Esbjerg.

#### Bilingual place name signs

The Ministry of Transport is responsible for the regulation of road signs. The main legislative act concerning road signs is the executive order 'bekendtgørelse om vejafmærkning'<sup>4</sup>. In § 27 of the executive order regarding "the road sign (E55) Urban area", it is stated that a geographical name of a city can be specified in Danish, English or in a neighboring country's official language. However, it is the municipalities as road-authorities who decide in which language the road sign (E55) Urban area is indicated. City signs are, therefore, only in Danish in South Jutland.

In 2016, however, Denmark welcomed applications for street signs from specific institutions. In that connection, the German minority applied for and were given permission to have a motorway sign pointing towards the German minority's main attractions in the area (Knivsberg/ Knivsbjerg) in German.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.retsinformation.dk/eli/lta/2021/2511>

In 2018, Aabenraa Municipality adopted a service signage policy that gives foreign institutions the opportunity to use their official name in their own language instead of Danish. The German minority institutions in Aabenraa Municipality fall under the term "foreign institution" and can therefore use their names in German. In its signage policy, Aabenraa Municipality abides by an agreement made by the then County of Southern Jutland and the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein concerning cross-border signage. This means that Danish signs pointing towards e.g. Flensburg uses the German spelling, while German signs pointing towards e.g. Aabenraa uses the Danish spelling. As direction- and orientation signs are replaced or renewed, Aabenraa Municipality replaces Danish spelling with German spelling.

In Aabenraa and Haderslev, German-language signage pointing towards German cultural and educational institutions, such as libraries, museums and primary and secondary schools, are in place.

## Article 11: Media

The evaluation states that the situation concerning German on radio and television remains unsatisfactory because there are no television programmes in German and very few radio programmes. The situation concerning the newspaper, *Der Nordschleswiger*, however, remains satisfactory.

BDN receives grants from the Danish Finance Act earmarked information efforts conducted by the German minority. In 2022, the German minority received DKK 2.4 million<sup>5</sup>. This specific grant is meant for the German minority to create the information-content of their choice, including radio or television if they so choose. It is the understanding that the German minority is pleased with this grant and both the Danish authorities and the German minority believe this provision to be fulfilled on the basis of this grant.

It is also worth noticing that the citizens of southern Jutland has an opportunity to receive German channels with ordinary antenna devices at no extra costs. The Ministry of Culture is always ready to answer any of the German minority's questions or potential challenges regarding freedom of reception of radio or television broadcasts from Germany or if they experience any restrictions on freedom of expression or on free circulation of information in the German written press.

It is, however, possible for local/regional radio and television broadcasters to obtain subsidies for radio and television broadcasting. In 2021, the Radio and Television Board provides subsidies of DKK 49.3 million to the local/regional radio and television broadcasters. The Radio and Television Board makes public tenders where it is possible to apply for licenses, including subsidies for broadcasting of local/regional radio and television. The German minority can apply for a license to broadcast including subsidies on equal terms with other stations. The license and subsidies systems are based on objective, transparent and non-discriminatory criteria. Furthermore, versatility must be facilitated in order to provide a diversity of groups in the market, which also benefits national minorities. The Radio and Television Board has not received any applications to make local/regional radio or television in German.

When it comes to the funding opportunities of movies, The Danish Film Act provides the possibility of funding movies in foreign languages and of coproducing with foreign production companies. Likewise, the public service contracts between the Danish state and the public broadcasters do give the public broadcasters the possibility of buying or making audiovisual productions in German.

The newspaper of the German minority; "*Der Nordschleswiger*", annually receives a subsidy from the Danish media subsidy scheme. The subsidy is given to production of content independent of platform (printed/digital). Any new written media aimed at the German minority can receive subsidy on the same conditions as the newspaper *Der Nordschleswiger*. The subsidy to the written media granted via the Danish media subsidy scheme alters from year to year depending on the total of the newspaper's editorial costs. The total subsidy for the *Nordschleswiger* has varied from DKK 3.5 million in 2019 as the lowest and is in 2022 expected to increase to DKK 3.8 million as the highest.

In addition "*Der Nordschleswiger*" is granted DKK 0.25 million annually from the Ministry of Culture's part of "*udlodningsmidlerne*" for cultural purposes to increase the level of production and distribution of audio content (i.e. radio and podcast). The subsidy is given with regard to producing and buying airtime to broadcasting news programmes in German in the local radio in southern Denmark. The aim is to make the German minority able to produce and broadcast news in German in Southern Jutland.

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<sup>5</sup> Due to the Danish general election and subsequent formation of government, the overall Finance Act of 2023 has been delayed, including the decision on whether to continue this grant in and after 2023. The Finance Act is scheduled to pass in the first quarter of 2023.

## Article 12: Cultural activities and facilities

Denmark has made a note of the fact that in the latest evaluation report there were no recommendations for the area of cultural activities and facilities. Below follows a short status on some of the most important cultural activities in the four municipalities.

In Aabenraa municipality, the many brochures produced by the culture department, e.g. the art guide, the architecture guide and the homepage of the Frøslev Camp Museum, are translated into German. In addition, an evaluation concerning the Frøslev Camp Museum was published in German.

Once a year, the culture department conducts a German-Danish summer camp, and in that connection, all relevant information is published in both German and Danish. The summer camp has run for four years in a row and is a 6-day summer camp organized in Aabenraa Municipality for Danish and German children and young people aged 10-17. The purpose of the Summer Camp is to create good experiences and friendships between children and young people across the border. The main organizers of the camp are Aabenraa Municipality, Stadt Flensburg and Performance Academy Sønderborg. The two minority organizations, the other municipalities in Southern Jutland, municipalities in Northern Germany and various cultural institutions and networks on both sides of the border are partners in the project. The project has been supported by i.a. Interreg project KursKultur 2.0 and Region Southern Denmark.

All relevant information about this year's Tour de France, to which Aabenraa Municipality contributed, were translated into German. Moreover, a member of the German minority sits on the cultural council (Kulturelt Samråd) of Aabenraa Municipality.

In its Staff Communication Strategy, Aabenraa Municipality has stated the following to underline the importance of the communication with the German minority: *"Aabenraa Municipality is part of the Danish-German Border Region. We meet the German language and German culture every day in a variety of settings. We therefore communicate in German with citizens, companies, associations and others who prefer this – or we contact a German-speaking colleague, who is able to communicate in German".*

Tønder municipality hosted the finals of the Liet International 2022 European song festival for regional and minority languages. 28 songs were submitted for Liet International 2022.

On Sønderborg municipality's website<sup>6</sup> information about cultural and leisure activities are available in German. Sønderborg was Grand Départ finish town in 2022 and all relevant information about the Tour de France was translated into German. The Chairman of the Committee on Culture, Sport and Citizenship is a member of the German minority party.

The Region of Southern Denmark financially supports the implementation of Cultural Agreement Sønderjylland-Schleswig 2021-2024 with 1,043M kr. The aim of the Cultural Agreement is, among other things, for children and young adults in the border region to develop an understanding of its linguistic diversity through cultural heritage projects. In addition to the funding from the Region of Southern Denmark, The Cultural Agreement is financed by the municipalities of Southern Jutland, Kreis Nordfriesland and Kreis Schleswig-Holstein, Stadt Flensburg, the Danish Ministry of Culture and the German Ministerium for Bildung, Wissenschaft und Kultur in Schleswig-Holstein.

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<sup>6</sup> [www.sonderborg.dk](http://www.sonderborg.dk)

## Article 13: Economic and social life

The evaluation reports states that the provisions under article 13 are fulfilled – only 13.2.c. regarding the use of German in hospitals, retirement homes and hostels are considered *partly* fulfilled.

On 8 February 2016, the Minister for Education and the Minister for Social and Internal Affairs at the time sent a letter to the four municipalities in South Jutland with the purpose of underlining the need for awareness of the rights of the German minority. The mayors of the four municipalities replied the letter on 13 February 2016. All four municipalities have a clear focus on the German language in their contact with the German minority. The four municipalities also met with the German minority in order to discuss where there could be room for improvement. This included encouraging the German minority to send a full list of their challenges. The German minority has not sent such a list.

### *Health services and retirement homes*

Sygehus Sønderjylland (the hospital of Southern Jutland) offers information in German on their official website. This includes information and contact information in regards to emergencies, information on patient rights and general information about Sygehus Sønderjylland<sup>7</sup>. Anyone contacting any department of the Hospital of Southern Jutland can use German in the initial contact as well as during treatment. This applies to both patients and relatives. Patients and relatives will always be guided to a German-speaking member of staff upon initial contact.

The municipality of Haderslev focuses on the planning of the care centres, nursing homes, elderly care etc. so that it is possible to use other languages than Danish. The municipality of Haderslev is also aware that this needs to be more visibly clear.

In Aabenraa municipality, citizens can be met by German-speaking staff in nursing homes, group homes as well as within home care. The Social and Health Department employs German-speaking staff. In order to provide all German-speaking citizens in with vital information and high-quality service, all relevant communication about covid-19 measures has been translated into German since the beginning of the pandemic and published on the Municipality's website. This effort was praised in spring 2020 by the minority newspaper Der Nordschleswiger.

Sønderborg Municipality have employees at all levels are informed about the rights of the German minority. All contact with the municipality is possible in German. All relevant information on the website – including information about care centres for the elderly and nursing homes – is available in German.

### *Business and working life*

In Aabenraa municipality, the job and citizen's service centre has taken several initiatives across the administration to be able to communicate with German-speaking citizens living in the border region. All offices in the administration regularly receive inquiries in German, and all offices have employees who write and speak fluent German. For some of the employees, the ability to write and speak fluent German is a requirement for employment, as the Municipality strives to provide the same service to German-speaking and Danish-speaking citizens, respectively. The job centres has produced information material in German for cross-border commuters on sickness benefit. Moreover, the job centres translates relevant legislation and written instructions on sickness benefit into German.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://sygehussonderjylland.dk/akuthjaelp/bei-unfall> and <https://sygehussonderjylland.dk/patienter-og-parorende/patienters-rettigheder/meine-rechte-als-patient>

Business Aabenraa, who is tasked with promoting the local business community, has translated their website into German and employs German-speaking consultants in order to be able to support the Danish-German labour market in the area. Due to the large number of German citizens moving to Aabenraa Municipality, the administration also plans to translate private land sale contracts into German. Various departments in Aabenraa Municipality employ German-speaking staff who are able to communicate orally and in writing also with the German-speaking companies. Moreover, various documents are translated into German, including i.a. contracts with companies, just as the municipality receives German-language requests for e.g. building permits and responds to these in German

From time to time, German associations in Aabenraa municipality apply for permission to refer to themselves as public awareness-raising associations (folkeoplysende forening). The administration welcomes and processes such applications in German.

In Haderslev municipality, the job centres also have employees able to speak German with both citizens and companies. Haderslev Erhvervsråd (Business Haderslev) also employs German-speaking consultants to support the local labour market.

## Article 14: Transfrontier exchanges

The evaluation states that the provisions under article 14 are considered fulfilled by Denmark. Below follows a short status on some of the most important transfrontier exchanges.

### The Region of Southern Denmark

The Region of Southern Denmark cooperates with representatives of the minorities in the border region in various contexts. The special representative of the Region of Southern Denmark participates in DialogForumNorden, a forum for minorities and minority issues in Schleswig-Holstein, in which the German minority in Denmark is represented amongst others.

Since 2021, the Region of Southern Denmark has been a member of the network "MinderheitenKompetenzNetzwerk Schleswig Holstein/Denmark". Amongst other things, the network organizes visits from other minority groups in Germany and all of Europe to the border region, in order to display the special competences in the Danish-German border region, as well as the local minorities, and promote the good example of peaceful coexistence.

Between 2019 and 2021 The Region of Southern Denmark participated in the programming of the new Interreg-program Deutschland-Denmark. The programme is now active, running for the period 2021-2027. The promotion of cultural and linguistic cooperation is an important part of the program. Both the German minority in Denmark and the Danish minority in Germany participate in the Interreg Committee, which is the body responsible for running the programme. The Interreg Secretariat is a part of the Region of Southern Denmark and situated in Kruså.

### Region South Jutland-Schleswig

Region South Jutland-Schleswig was set up as a transfrontier cooperation body in 1997 and is the regional centre for cross-border cooperation between the municipalities of Tønder, Aabenraa, Haderslev and Sønderborg, the regional council of southern Denmark, the districts Schleswig-Flensburg and Nordfriesland, and the city of Flensburg. The overall objective of the cross-border cooperation is to improve the growth conditions and cultural cohesion in the region, which is already characterised by linguistic and cultural diversity among the majority and minority populations – the main focus areas are therefore cross-border language promotion (Danish, German, Frisian); cross-border cultural cooperation; cross-border labour market; and general cross-border cooperation and development. The cooperation takes place at political and administrative level. The German minority is directly represented in the regional council.

All four municipalities and the Region of Southern Denmark cooperates actively with Region South-Schleswig. The Region of Southern Denmark is co-financing the Region of Sønderjylland-Schleswig with DKK 1,9 million annually.

In December 2022, Region South Jutland-Schleswig was granted an application to administer a large people-to-people fund financed through the Interreg 6a programme "Deutschland-Danmark". The Citizens' Fund will strengthen mutual trust and understanding as well as the intercultural competences of citizens in the program area by supporting and co-funding German-Danish microprojects. Experiences from German-Danish cooperation projects strengthen the awareness of citizens that cultural differences and similarities offer an interesting cocktail of inspiration and belonging. This increases the attractiveness of the common cross-border region as a place to live and work.

Through the fund, micro-projects with a funding amount of up to EUR 100,000 can be supported through the citizens' pool, i.e. encounters between children and young people through the transport pool, and encounters and exchange of experiences between adults through the network pool.



Compared to previous micro-project pools, the fund aims to offer new thematic areas as a pivot for citizen-oriented projects. So far, support for German-Danish microprojects has been limited to culture, language, education, children, youth, leisure and sports. These are still important, but the fund can support projects in all areas that affect citizens' everyday lives, including nature and the environment, climate, science, health, society, social issues and politics. The broad range of topics allows for the involvement of new stakeholders and offers unique opportunities for interdisciplinary collaborations.

The German minority shares a place in the fund's granting committee with the Danish minority and both minorities are part of the fund's administrative steering group. Based on experience from previous projects, it is expected that institutions from both minorities will diligently apply for funds.

The municipalities of Aabenraa, Sønderborg and Flensburg participate in another cross-border collaboration, the so-called Cross-Border Triangle (Grænsetrekanten). Grænsetrekanten aims to create development and growth in the Border Triangle. The collaboration has been established with the aim of uniting the forces between the municipalities, exchanging information, harmonizing administrative processes with each other and developing concrete projects that support the purpose and bringing these projects to life. The collaboration focuses on the following general topics: Business development, Infrastructure, Tourism and Exchange of experience between the administrations. The work is organised with a political steering group that takes care of the overall management of the collaboration and the projects that are initiated. The political steering group meets three times a year. The German minority party represents Aabenraa Municipality with one out of Aabenraa's four seats and Sønderborg Municipality with one out of Sønderborg's three seats in the political steering group.

Action Plan for strengthened cooperation between Denmark and Germany.

On 26 August 2022, the Foreign Ministers of Denmark and Germany launched the Action Plan for strengthened cooperation between Denmark and Germany. The Action Plan is comprehensive, covering cooperation on foreign and security policy, international development, climate, energy and industry policy, digitalisation, health, food, agriculture and fisheries, transport and regional development and minority rights in the Danish-German border region.

The Action Plan also underlines the Danish ambition of taking on further obligations of the Charter in order to send a strong signal that the protection and care of minorities has a high priority. Denmark, Germany and Schleswig-Holstein believe that the joint Danish-German approach to minority/majority relations can be an inspiration to other border regions around the world.

The Action Plan covers ways to further strengthen national minority rights and enhance the cultural exchange between people in the region. Among other things, the Action Plan forms a joint working group that will look into cross-border cooperation with the aim of improving the already strong cooperation. The working group will also look into ways to strengthen cultural ties across the border through education. The implementation of the Action Plan will continue in 2023.

## Relevant links

The Ministry of Culture, [www.kum.dk](http://www.kum.dk)

Prime Minister's Office, [The Prime Minister's Office - \(stm.dk\)](http://ThePrimeMinister'sOffice-(stm.dk))

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark \(um.dk\)](http://MinistryofForeignAffairsofDenmark(um.dk))

The Ministry of Justice, [The Danish Ministry of Justice | Justitsministeriet](http://TheDanishMinistryofJustice|Justitsministeriet)

The Ministry of Interior, [Home \(im.dk\)](http://Home(im.dk))

The Ministry of Social Affairs, Housing and Citizens, [Home \(sm.dk\)](http://Home(sm.dk))

The Ministry of Health, [The Danish Ministry of Health | Indenrigs- og Sundhedsministeriet \(sum.dk\)](http://TheDanishMinistryofHealth|Indenrigs-ogSundhedsministeriet(sum.dk))

The Ministry of Transportation, [Ministry of Transport \(trm.dk\)](http://MinistryofTransport(trm.dk))

The Ministry of Education, [Frontpage | Ministry of Children and Education \(uvm.dk\)](http://Frontpage|MinistryofChildrenandEducation(uvm.dk))

The Ministry of Higher Education and Science, [Home — Uddannelses- og Forskningsministeriet \(ufm.dk\)](http://Home—Uddannelses-ogForskningsministeriet(ufm.dk))

The Ministry of Industry and Business, [Home \(em.dk\)](http://Home(em.dk))

The Ministry of Immigration and Integration, [In English \(uim.dk\)](http://InEnglish(uim.dk))

The Agency for Digital Government, [Agency for Digital Government \(digst.dk\)](http://AgencyforDigitalGovernment(digst.dk))

The Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration, [New to Denmark \(nyidanmark.dk\)](http://NewtoDenmark(nyidanmark.dk))

The Danish Customs and Tax Administration ([Individuals - Skat.dk](http://Individuals-Skat.dk))

The Region of Southern Denmark, [The Region of Southern Denmark \(regionsyddanmark.dk\)](https://regionsyddanmark.dk)

The Region of Region South Jutland-Schleswig, [Om os \(region.dk\)](https://region.dk)

Tønder municipality, [Toender.dk in English - Tønder Kommune](https://toender.dk)

Haderslev municipality, [Welcome to Haderslev - Haderslev Kommune](https://haderslevkommune.dk)

Aabenraa municipality, [English - Aabenraa Kommune](https://aabenraa.dk)

Sønderborg municipality, [Citizens | Sønderborg Municipality \(sonderborgkommune.dk\)](https://sonderborgkommune.dk)

The German minority's central organisation, Bund Deutscher Nordschleswiger (BDN)  
<https://www.bdn.dk/>

The Danish Institute for Human Rights <https://www.humanrights.dk/>

# Eftermåling: Danskernes kendskab til Genforeningen 1920

Kulturministeriet

Epinion – Juli 2020



Epinion

# Rapportens indhold

- 3 Hovedkonklusioner
- 4 Uhjulpet kendskab
- 5 Hjulpet kendskab
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- 10 Vidensspørgsmål
- 11 Kampagnekendskab
- 15 Danskernes historieinteresse og medievaner

# Danskernes kendskab til Genforeningen er steget markant, og mere end hver tredje husker at have set kampagnefilmen og/eller et opslag på sociale medier

## 1 Uhjulpet kendskab til Genforeningen er steget markant

Når danskerne bliver bedt om at opremse nationale historiske begivenheder mellem år 1800-2000 nævner knap hver fjerde (24 pct.) Genforeningen. Det er en markant stigning siden september 2019, hvor tallet var 8 pct. Kun første og anden verdenskrig, samt den Slesvigske Krig i 1864 nævnes af flere.

## 2 Tre ud af fire danskere kender hjulpet til Genforeningen

Tre ud af fire danskere (77 pct.) kender til Genforeningen, når de bliver hjulpet af en liste af historiske begivenheder, hvilket er 21 procentpoint højere end sidste måling. Det er særligt blandt de unge, at kendskabet er steget. Det er dog fortsat for mænd over 55 år, bosat i Sønderjylland, at kendskabet er størst.

## 3 Kendskabet til historiske begivenheder er generelt steget

Kendskabet til historiske begivenheder er generelt steget i perioden. Samtidig er forbruget af sociale medier og serier/film steget. Det er værd at bemærke, at der mellem før- og eftermåling potentielt er andre ting end kampagnen, der påvirker danskernes adfærd og interesser, og dermed potentielt også historiekendskabet. Nedlukning af Danmark ifm. corona er én faktor af potentiel betydning.

## 4 Mere end hver tredje husker at have set kampagnefilmen og/eller opslag på sociale medier

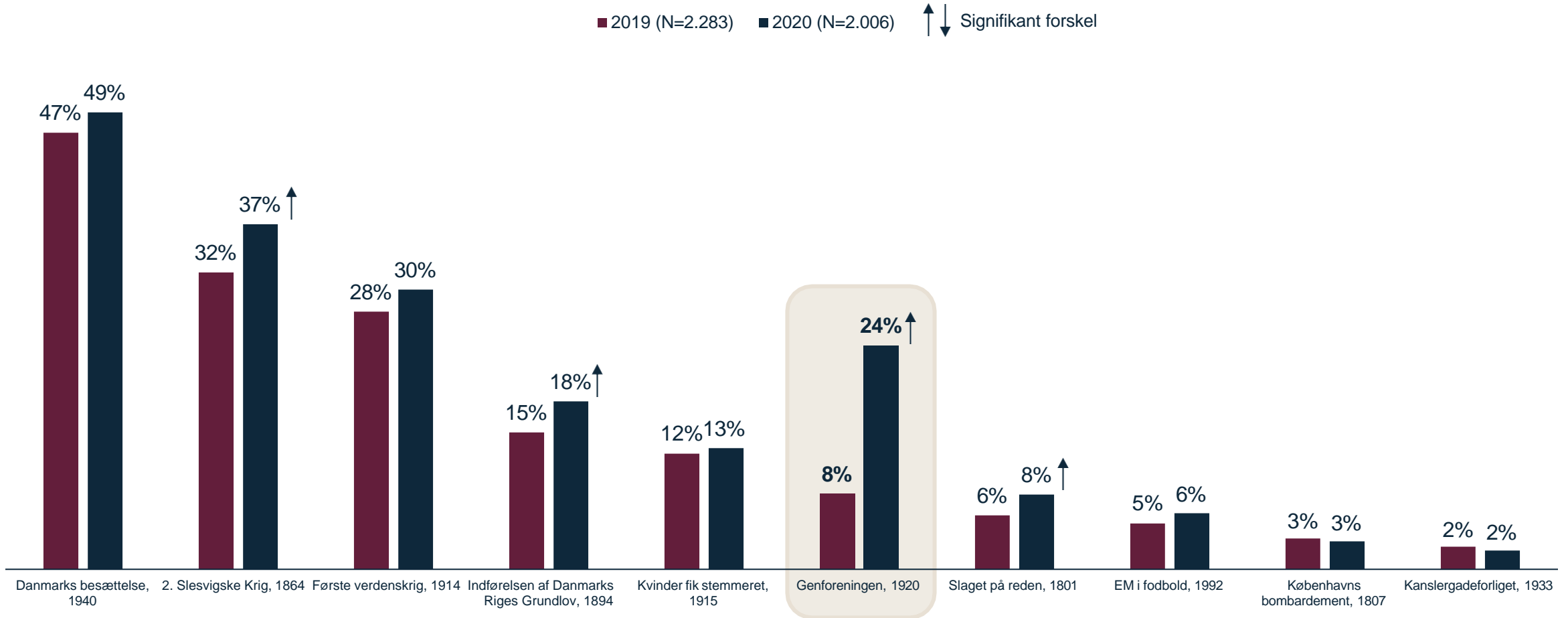
Knap hver tredje dansker har set kampagnefilmen med Bodil Jørgensen, og langt størstedelen (69 pct.) har set filmen i TV. 13 pct. af danskerne husker at have set indhold omkring Genforeningen på sociale medier. Blandt dem, der kan huske at være blevet eksponeret for kampagnen, kan 90 pct. huske Genforeningen i hjulpet kendskab. Blandt dem, der ikke genkalder kampagnen, husker 69 pct. Genforeningen.

## 5 Danskerne er generelt interesserede i historie, og der bruges mere tid på at orientere sig herom

Danskerne er fortsat interesserede i historie – kun 11 pct. angiver, at de slet ikke er interesserede, mens 88 pct. er enten en smule eller meget historieinteresserede. De fleste taler om historiske emner med deres venner, men siden sidste måling taler flere også med deres partner. Samtidig bruger danskerne samlet set mere tid på at orientere sig om historiske/samfundsmæssige forhold end de gjorde tidligere.

# Næsten hver fjerde dansker nævner Genforeningen, når de uhjulpet spørges til historiske begivenheder

"Hvilke danske historiske begivenheder i årene 1800-2000 kender du til eller har du hørt om? Notér venligst alle de begivenheder, du kommer til at tænke på"<sup>1</sup>.

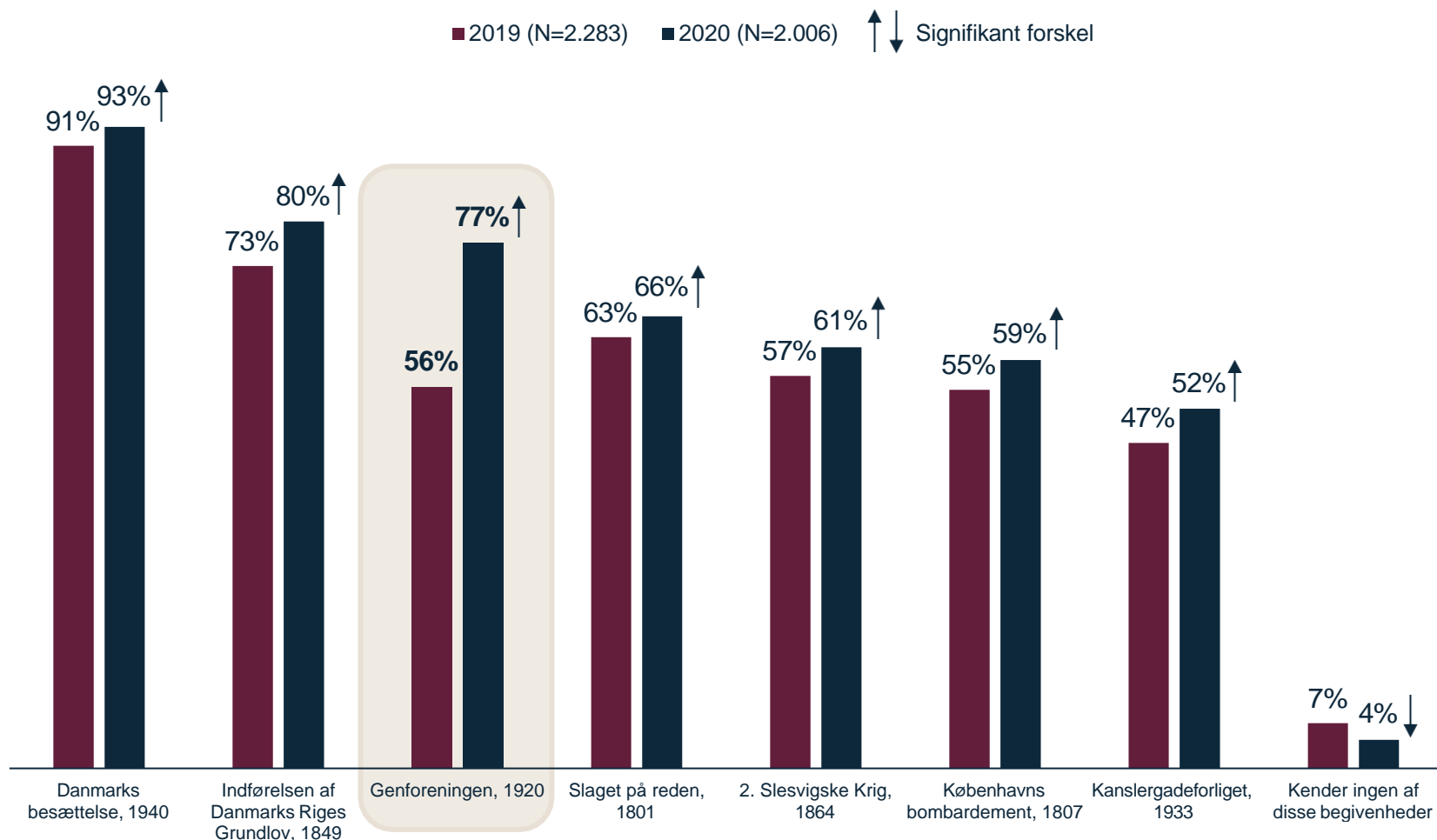


<sup>1</sup>: Alle kategorier fra spørgsmålet om hjulpet kendskab indgår i tabellen. Kategorierne "Første verdenskrig", "Kvinder fik stemmeret" og "EM i fodbold" er tilføjet, fordi mange nævner disse uhjulpet.

Kilde: Undersøgelse af Epinion for Kulturministeriet vedr. danskernes kendskab til Genforeningen i 1920

## Kendskabet til historiske begivenheder er generelt steget en smule – dog er kendskabet til Genforeningen steget hele 21 procentpoint

"Hvilke af følgende historiske begivenheder kender du til eller har du hørt om?" (Flere svar muligt)



### Målgrupper



Kendskabet er generelt steget i alle landsdele. Det højeste kendskab findes fortsat i Sønderjylland, hvor 84 pct. kender til Genforeningen. Den andel er til sammenligning 71 pct. i Nordjylland.



Der er fortsat flere mænd end kvinder, der kender til Genforeningen. Af mændene kender 80 pct. til begivenheden, mens andelen af kvinder er 73 pct.



Blandt aldersgruppen over 55 år kender 94 pct. til Genforeningen. Kendskabet er særligt steget for danskere under 35 år; hvor der før var 22 pct., der kendte til Genforeningen, er andelen nu 53 pct.



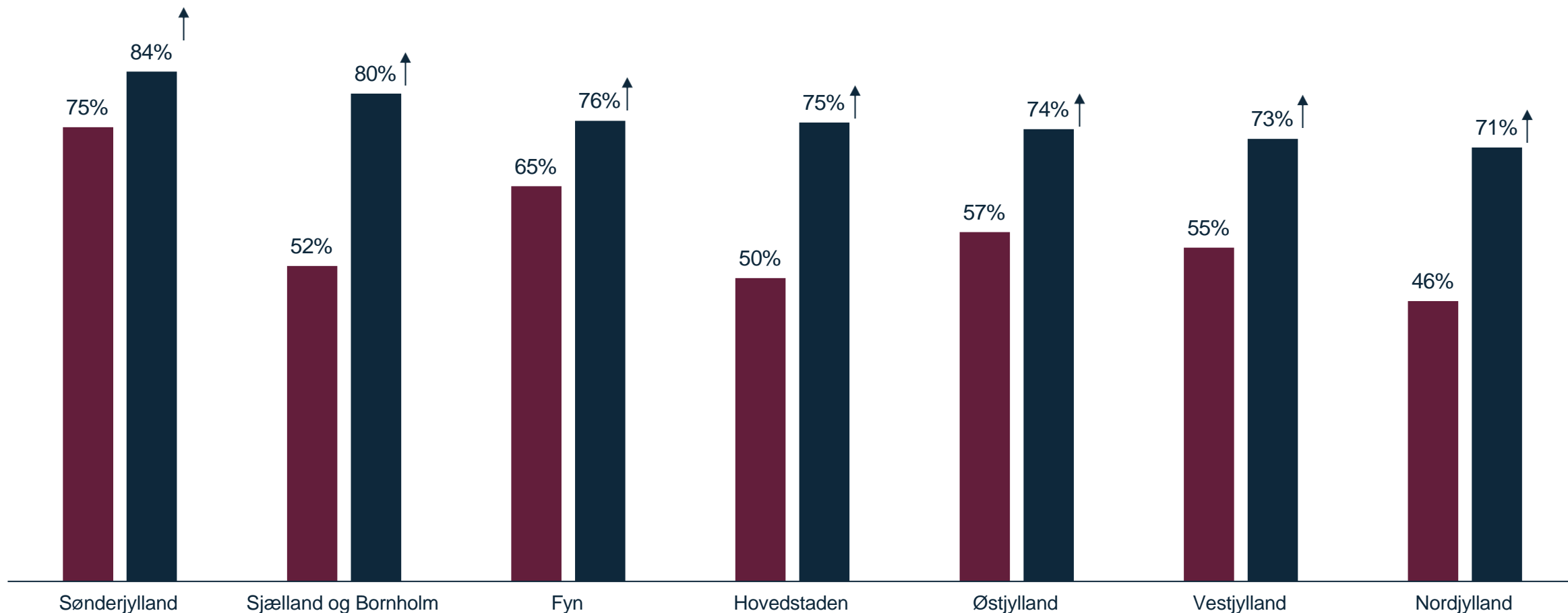
90 pct. af dem, der kan huske at være blevet eksponeret for kampagnen, kan huske Genforeningen. Blandt dem, der ikke genkalder kampagnen, husker 69 pct. Genforeningen.



## Den største stigning i kendskabet til Genforeningen ses på Sjælland og Bornholm med 28 procentpoint – Sønderjyderne har stadig det højeste kendskab

Diagrammet viser andelen af respondenter, som kender til Genforeningen ved det hjulpede kendskab.

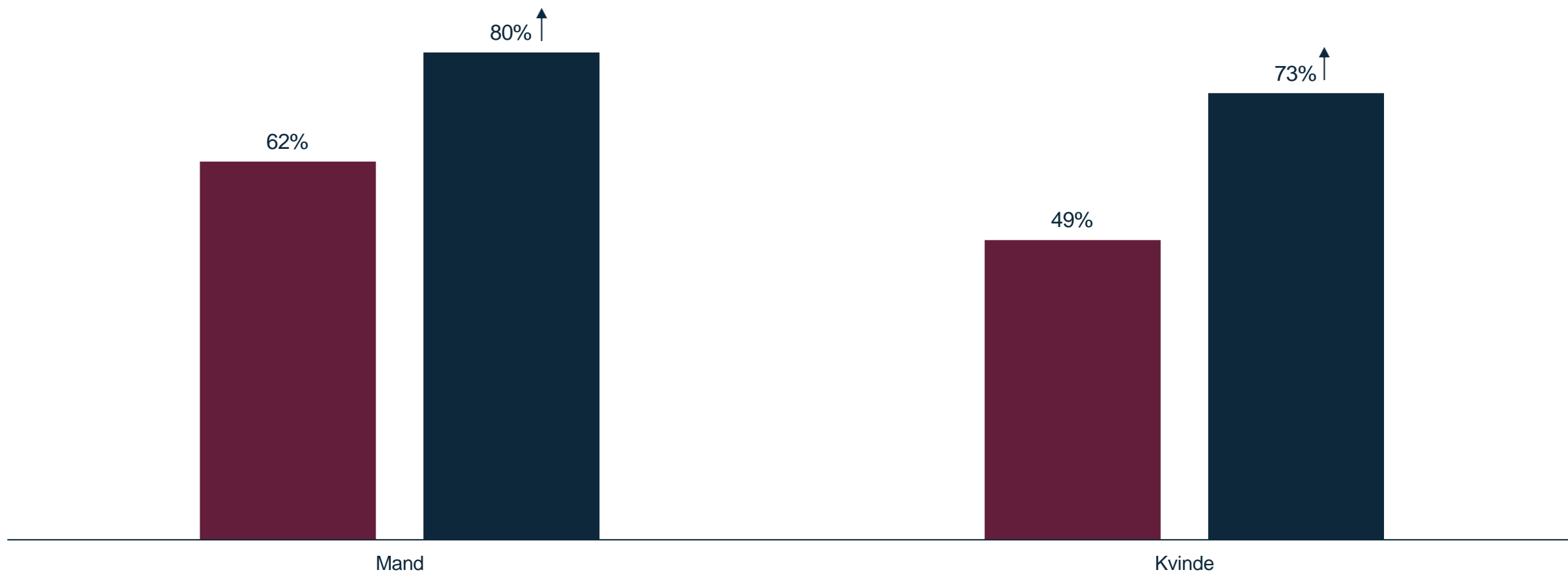
■ 2019 (N=2283) ■ 2020 (N=2006) ↑↓ Signifikant forskel



## Stigningen i kendskabet til Genforeningen er størst for kvinderne – der er dog fortsat flere mænd end kvinder, der kender Genforeningen

Diagrammet viser andelen af respondenter, som kender til Genforeningen ved det hjulpne kendskab.

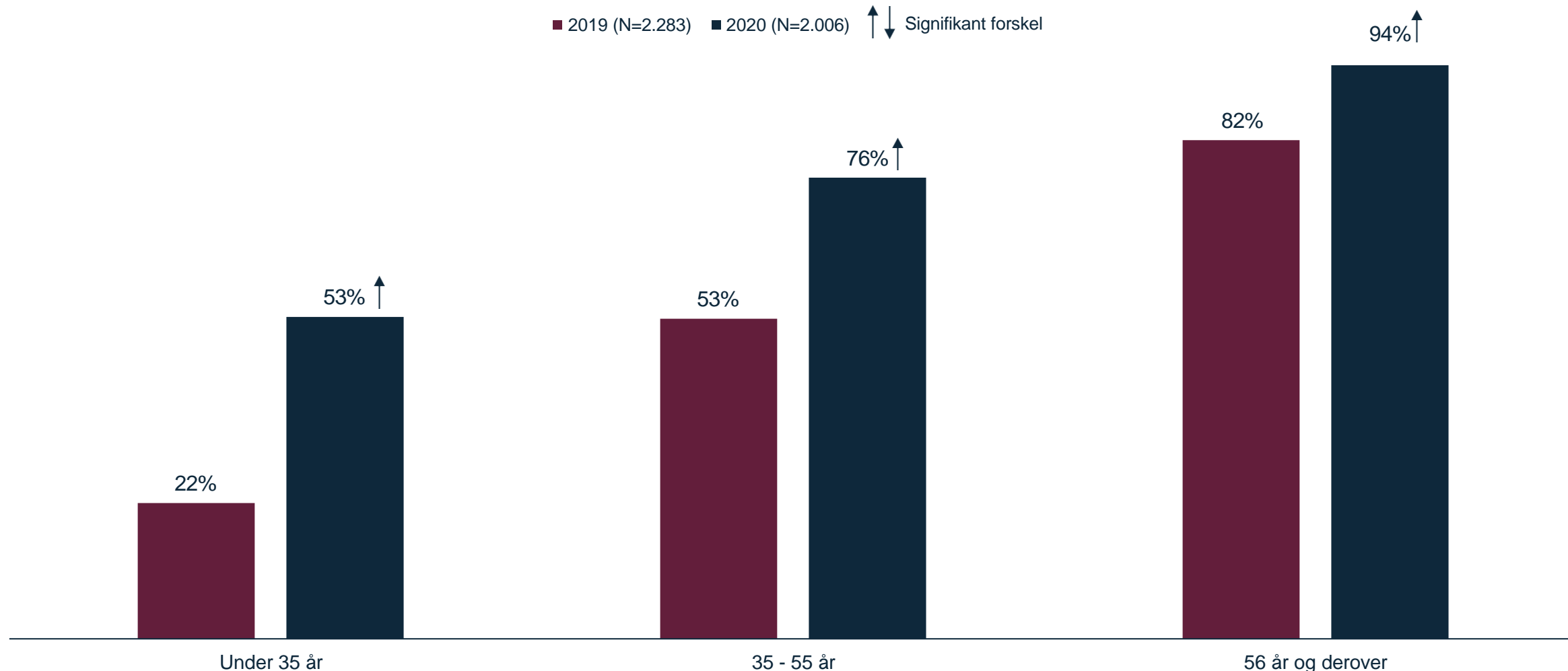
■ 2019 (N=2.283) ■ 2020 (N=2.006) ↑↓ Signifikant forskel



## For unge er kendskabet til Genforeningen steget med 31 procentpoint – det er dog fortsat for danskere over 56 år, at kendskabet er størst med hele 94 pct.

Diagrammet viser andelen af respondenter, som kender til Genforeningen ved det hjulpne kendskab.

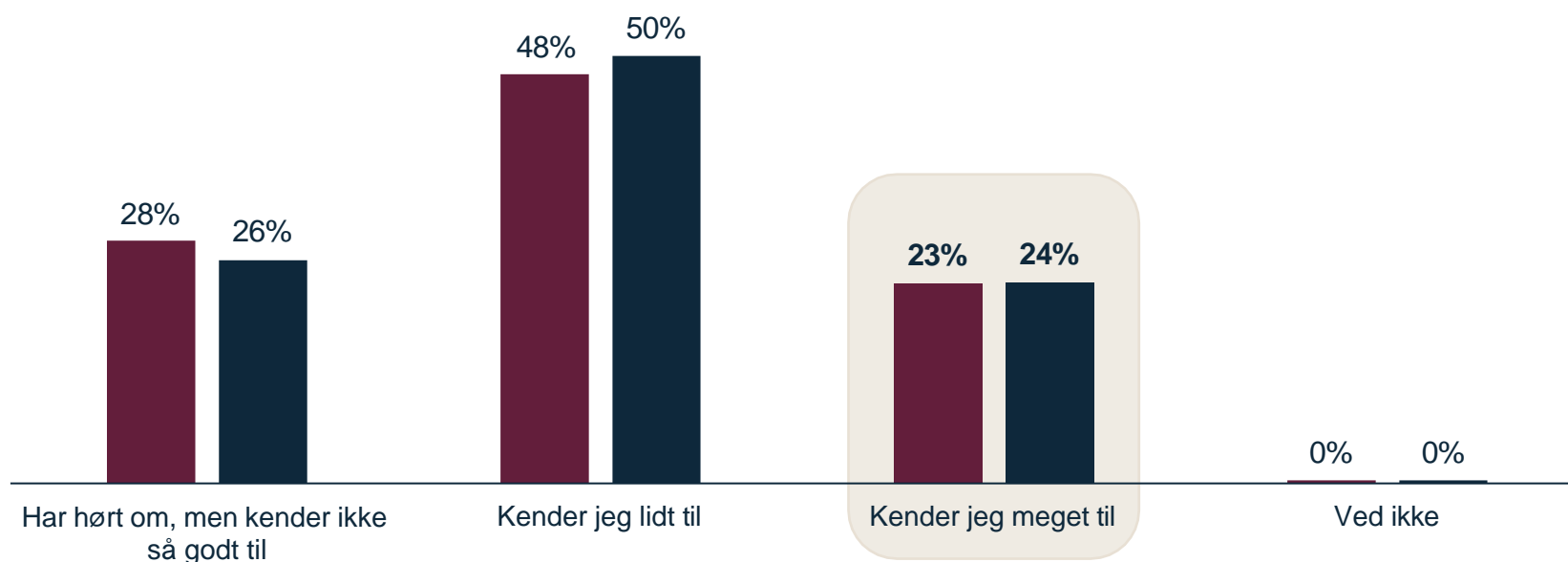
■ 2019 (N=2.283) ■ 2020 (N=2.006) ↑↓ Signifikant forskel



# Kendskabsgraden er uændret – det er fortsat knap en fjerdedel, der kender meget til Genforeningen

"Hvor godt kender du til den historiske begivenhed Genforeningen i 1920?"

■ 2019 (N=1.269) ■ 2020 (N=1.537) ↑↓ Signifikant forskel



## Målgrupper



Sønderjyderne er fortsat den gruppe med den højeste kendskabsgrad, hvor hver tredje kender meget til Genforeningen. Kendskabsgraden er lavest blandt nordjyderne, hvor andelen der kender meget til Genforeningen er 15 pct.



Flere mænd end kvinder angiver at kende meget til Genforeningen. Ud af alle mandlige respondenter angiver 29 pct., at de kender meget til begivenheden. Blandt kvinder er andelen 18 pct.



Hos aldersgruppen over 55 år angiver 30 pct., at de kender meget til Genforeningen. For aldersgruppen under 35 år gælder det 15 pct.

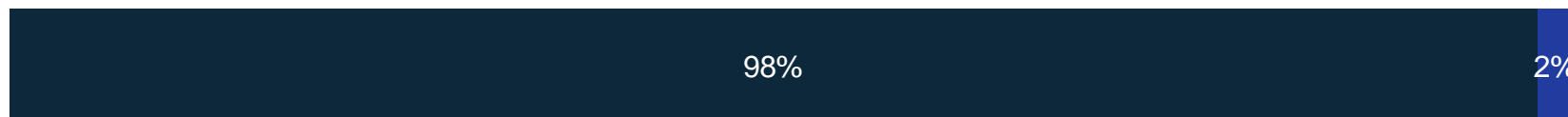


30 pct. af dem, der kan huske at have set kampagnen, angiver at kende meget til Genforeningen. Det samme gælder for 19 pct. af dem, der ikke kan huske kampagnen.

# Stort set alle, der kender til Genforeningen, ved også, at det er Sønderjyllands genforening med Danmark i 1920

"Når man i Danmark taler om Genforeningen, hvad refererer man så til?" (lukket liste med svarmuligheder)

98 pct. af de respondenter, som kender til Genforeningen, svarer korrekt



N = 1.537 danskere i alderen 18+, kender til Genforeningen

60 pct. af de respondenter, som ikke kender til Genforeningen, svarer korrekt



N = 469 danskere i alderen 18+, kender ikke til Genforeningen

52% i 2019

■ At Sønderjylland blev genforenet med Danmark

■ Andet

■ Ved ikke

↑↓ Signifikant forskel

## Målgrupper



Flest respondenter fra Sønderjylland svarer korrekt på spørgsmålet. 99 pct. med kendskab til Genforeningen på forhånd svarer korrekt.



Modsat målingen i 2019 er der ikke signifikant forskel mellem mænd og kvinder på, om man svarer korrekt på vidensspørgsmålene – hverken med eller uden forhåndskendskab. Dette skyldes særligt, at kvinderne er blevet signifikant bedre til at svare rigtigt på spørgsmålet. Mens 49 pct. af kvinderne uden forhåndskendskab svarede korrekt i 2019, svarede 61 pct. korrekt i 2020.



For danskere over 34 år, der kender til Genforeningen, er andelen, der svarer korrekt steget signifikant. Den største forskel ses dog blandt danskere under 35, som ikke angiver at kende til Genforeningen. Her svarer 54 pct. korrekt mod 39 pct. i 2019.

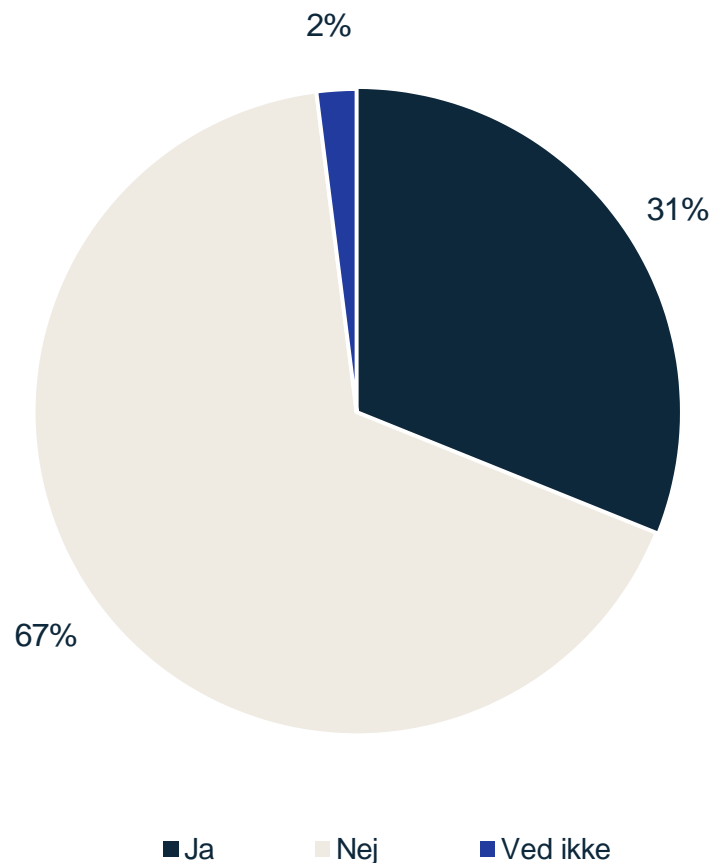


95 pct. af danskerne, der kan huske kampagnen, svarer korrekt. Det samme gælder for 85 pct. af dem, der ikke husker kampagnen.

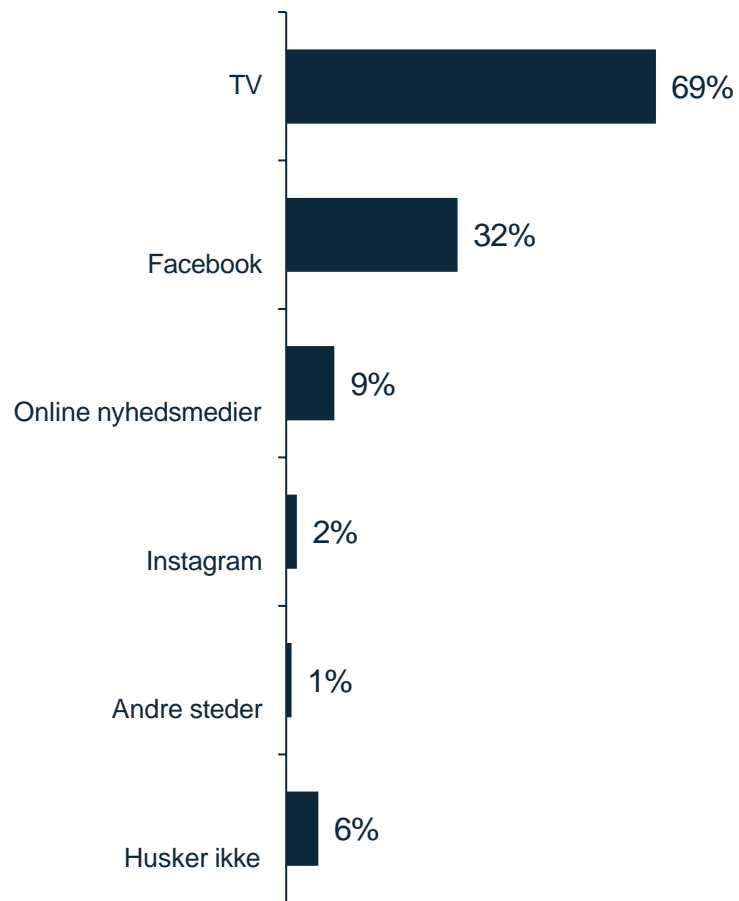
# Kampagnekendskab

# Knap hver tredje dansker har set kampagnefilmen med Bodil Jørgensen – størstedelen har set filmen i TV

"Kan du huske at have set denne eller lignende film inden for de seneste tre måneder?"



"Hvor har du set filmen henne?"



## Klip fra kampagnefilm

Vist i 46 sekunders længde i spørgeskema



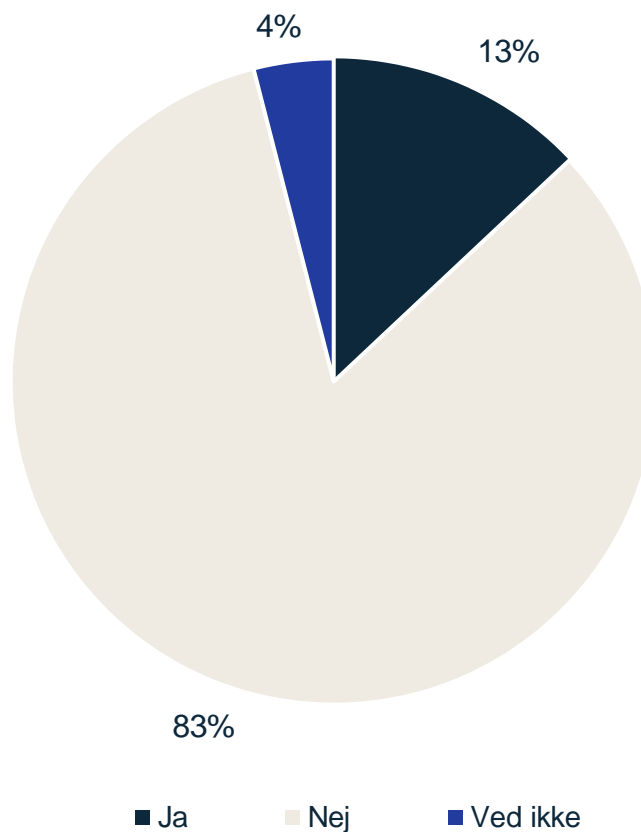
# 13 pct. af danskerne har set indhold omkring Genforeningen på sociale medier

## Klip af Facebook-opslag

Vist i læsbar størrelse i spørgeskema



"Har du set ovenstående eller lignende indhold omkring Genforeningen på sociale medier?"



## Målgrupper



Der er klart flest sønderjyder, der har set posts omkring Genforeningen på sociale medier. Godt hver femte (22 pct.) angiver at have set et opslag.

Også Vestjylland ligger over gennemsnittet med en eksponering på 15 pct. Eksponeringen er lavest i Østjylland, hvor ni pct. har set et opslag omkring Genforeningen på sociale medier.



Der er ikke signifikante forskelle mellem mænd og kvinder i deres erindrede eksponering for opslag på sociale medier.

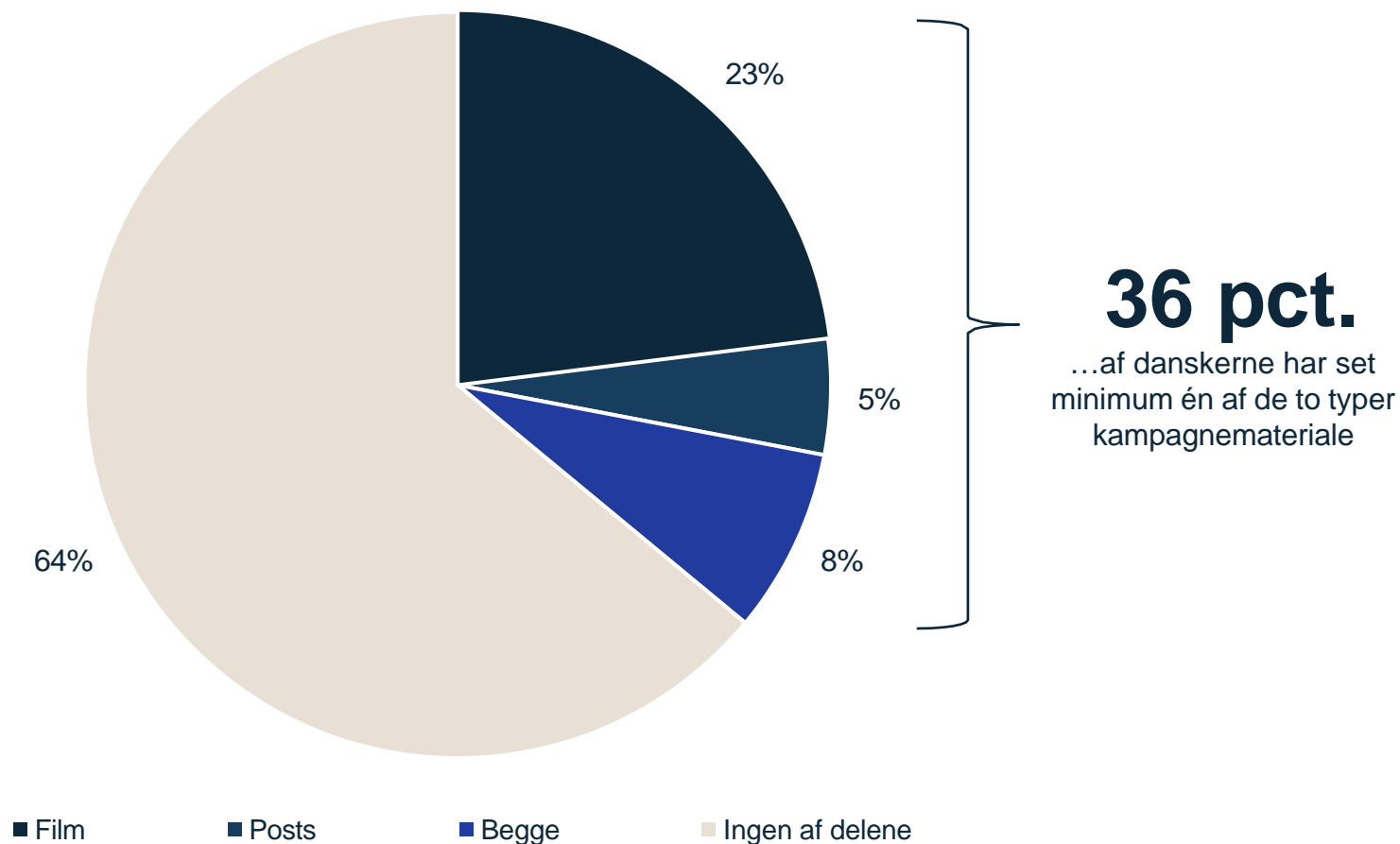


16 pct. af danskerne over 55 år har set et post på sociale medier omkring Genforeningen. Dette gælder for hhv. 10 og ni pct. af danskere under 35 år og mellem 35 og 55 år.



## Knap hver fjerde dansker har både set filmen med Bodil Jørgensen og et opslag om Genforeningen på sociale medier – 36 pct. har sendt minimum én af de to

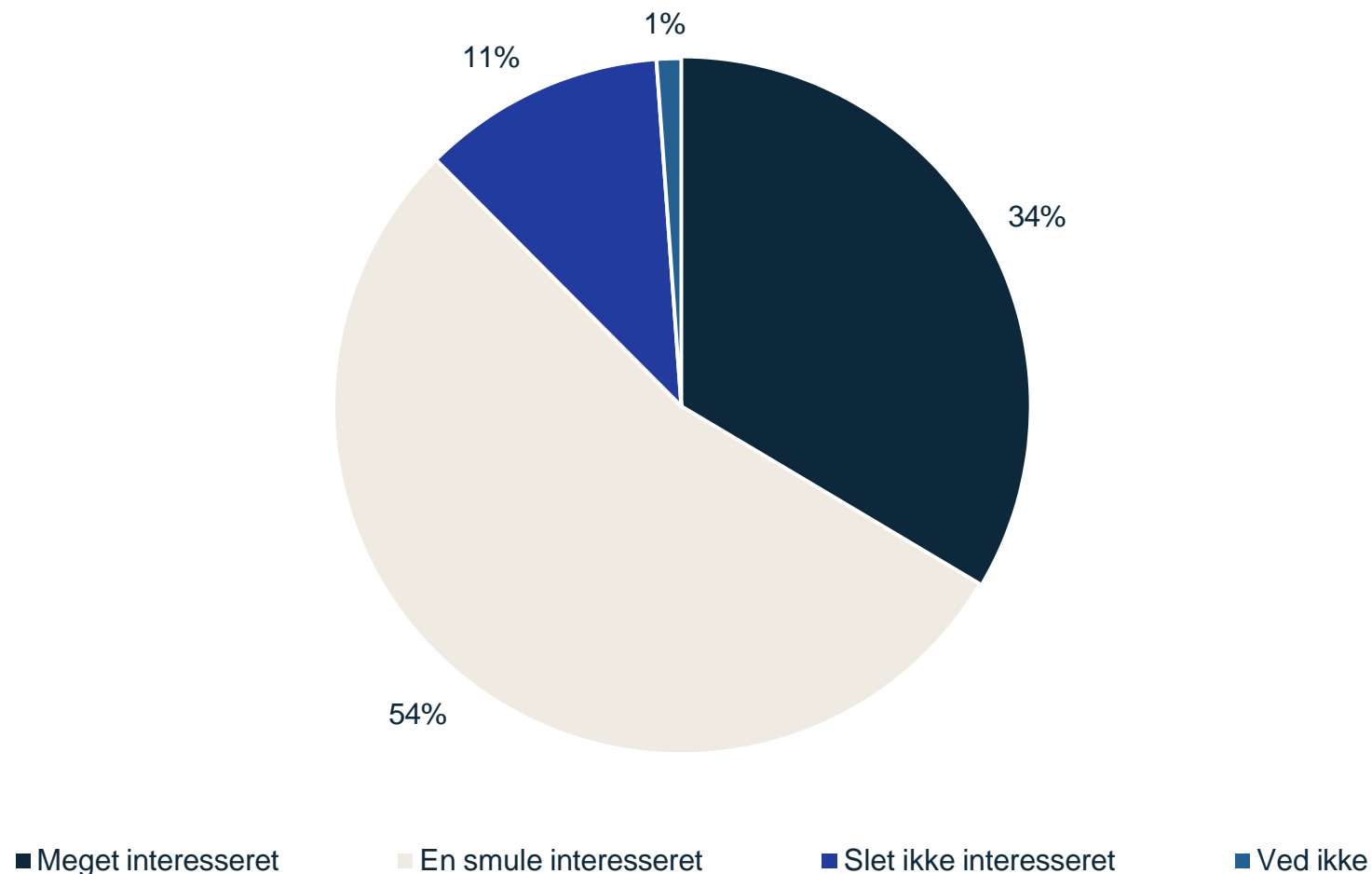
*"Kan du huske at have set denne eller lignende film inden for de seneste tre måneder?" "Har du set ovenstående eller lignende indhold omkring Genforeningen på sociale medier?"*



# Danskernes historieinteresse og medievaner i 2020

## Størstedelen af danskerne interesserer sig for historie

"Hvor interesseret er du i historiske emner?"



### Målgrupper



Vestjyderne er de mest historieinteresserede på tværs af de syv landsdele. Her svarer 38 pct. at de er meget interesserede i historie. De mindst historieinteresserede er nordjyderne. Her siger 28 pct., at de er meget interesserede i historie. Samtidig siger 14 pct. at de slet ikke er interesserede.



Mænd er fortsat mere historieinteresserede end kvinder. 43 pct. tilkendegiver at være meget interesserede i historie, mens det samme gælder 24 pct. af kvinderne.

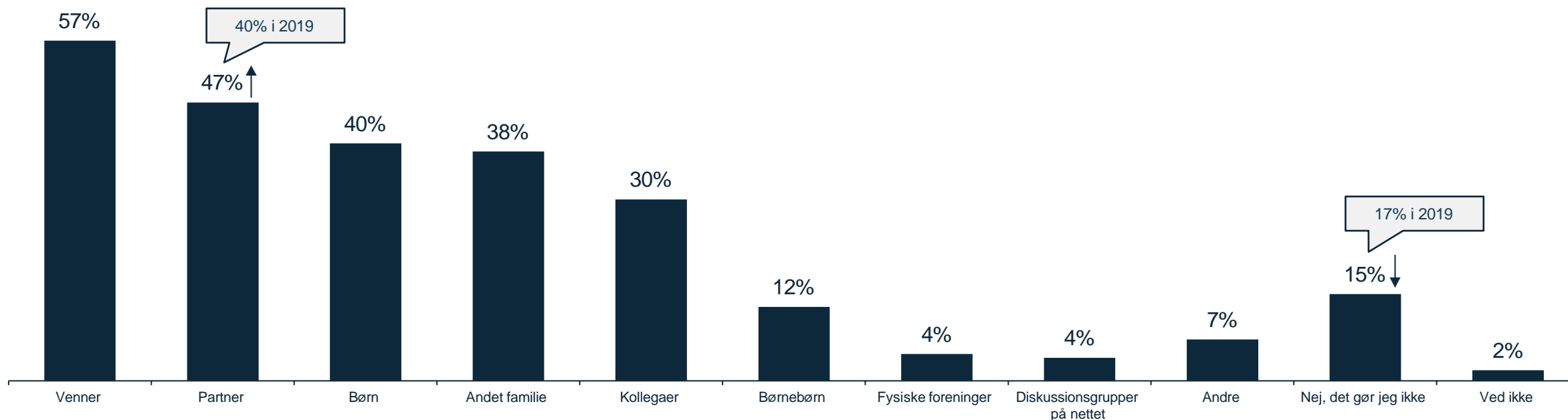


Danskere over 56 år er de mest historieinteresserede. Her svarer 40 pct., at de er meget interesserede og kun fem procent angiver slet ikke at være interesserede i historie.

Til sammenligning svarer 23 pct. af danskerne under 35 år, at de er meget historieinteresserede, og 22 pct. siger, at de slet ikke er interesserede i historie.

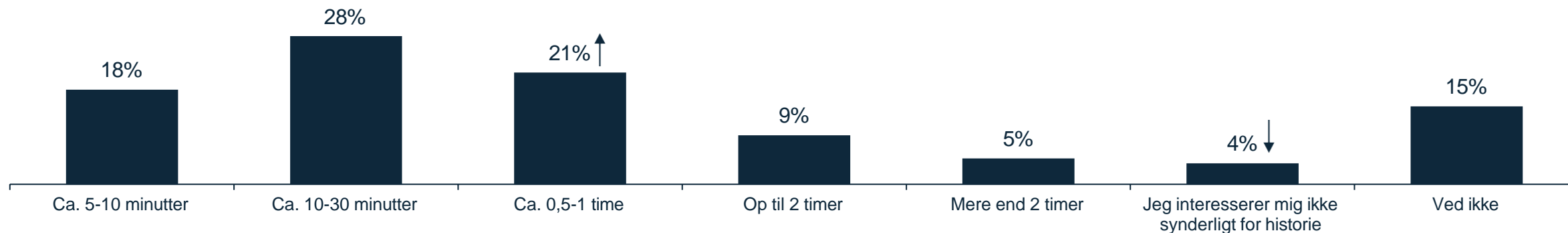
## Danskerne taler oftest om historie med deres venner – flere taler om historie med deres partner sammenlignet med tidligere

*"Taler du om historiske emner eller begivenheder med nogen af nedenstående?" (mulighed for at vælge flere)*



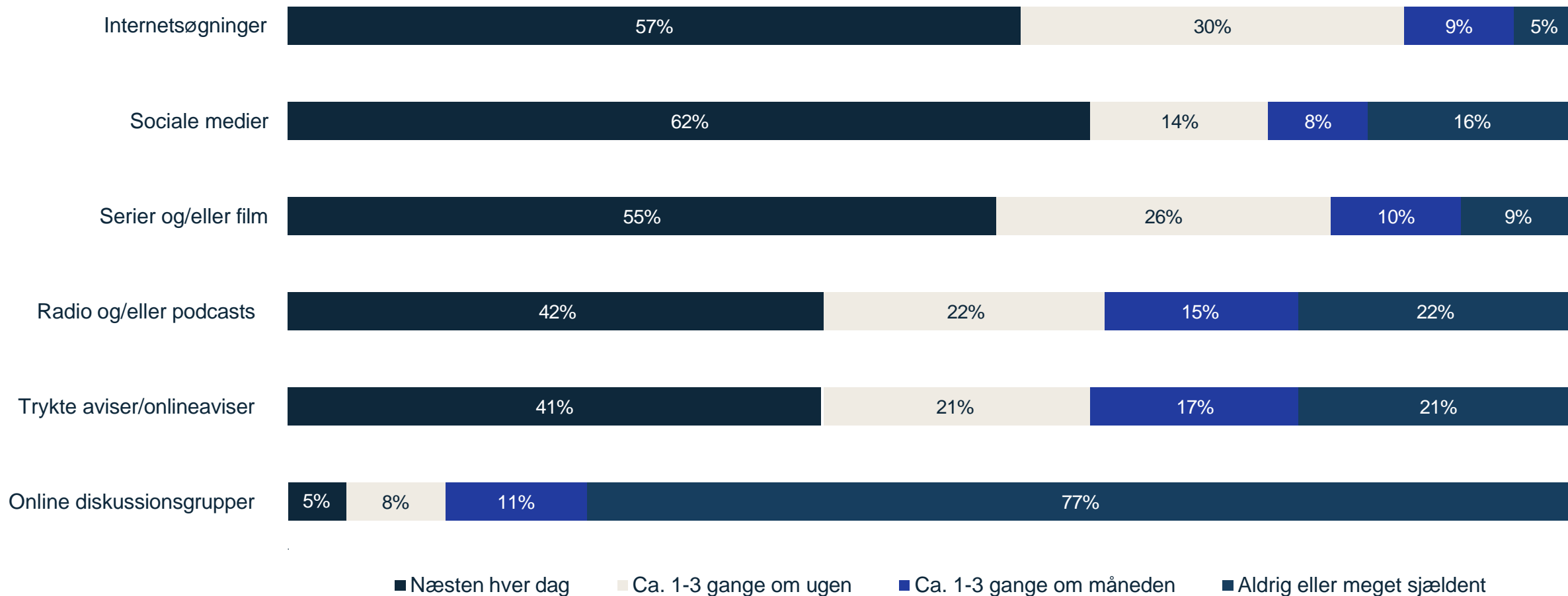
## Danskerne bruger samlet set mere tid på at orientere sig om historiske/samfundsmæssige forhold end tidligere

*"Hvor meget tid bruger du typisk ad gangen, når du orienterer dig om eller beskæftiger dig med historiske emner/samfundsforhold?"*



# Danskernes medievaner er fortsat digitale – endda er det daglige forbrug af sociale medier og serier/film steget sammenlignet med tidligere

"Hvor ofte anvender du generelt nedenstående medier og informationskilder?"



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