

DUF – The Danish Youth Council is a service and interest organization for children and youth organizations in Denmark. We promote the participation of youth in organizations and in democracy – locally, nationally and internationally.



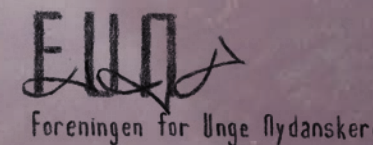
THE DANISH YOUTH COUNCIL



KONSERVATIV UNGDOM



NETVÆRKET AF UNGDOMSRÅD



Foreningen for Unge Nydanskere



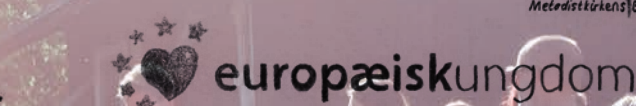
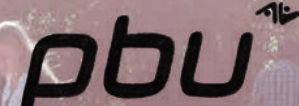
danmarks folkekirkelige søndagsskoler



Metodistkirken Børne- og Ungdomsforbund



Danmarks Kristelige Gymnasialbevægelse



radikal ungdom



BAPTISTERNES BØRNE- & UNGDOMSFORBUND



UNIONEN SAMMEN MED OS



>> RED BARNET UNGDOM <<



Sammenslutningen af Unge Med Handicap



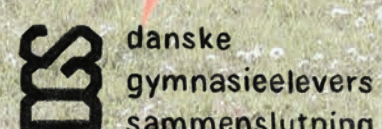
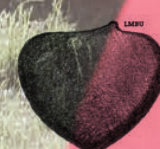
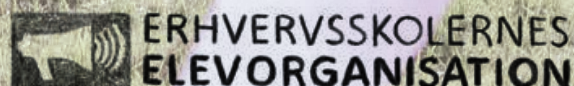
landforeningen for dramatisk virksomhed



De grønne pigespejdere



DANMARKS SOCIALDEMOKRATISKE UNGDOM



Sydlesvigs danske Ungdomsforeninger

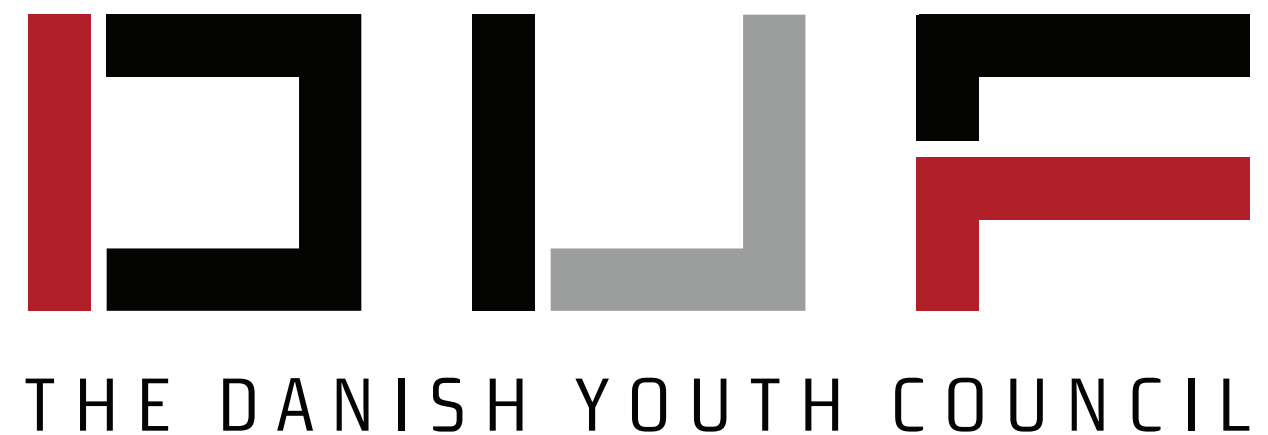


ISRAELSMISSIONENS UNGE



A struggle to secure the future of democracy – based on the belief that democracy is a way of life that must be reproduced in each new generation.

A vision of dialogue, mutual understanding and communities where people feel committed towards one another. This is the story of DUF, which was founded by Hal Koch in 1940.



DUF PROMOTES

YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN ORGANIZATIONS AND IN DEMOCRACY

DUF – The Danish Youth Council is an umbrella organization for a wide variety of children and youth organizations. DUF supports the interests of more than 70 member organizations.

In order to be part of DUF, an organization must be for young people under the age of 30 and aim to engage its members in the wider society. The organizations which make up DUF range from scouts to political youth organizations, voluntary social organizations, environmental organizations and organizations for youth with disabilities.

DUF's core values are participation, dialogue, volunteerism and influence. We promote communities where people are committed towards one another, and we actively engage young people in democracy, society and organizations; locally, nationally and internationally.

DUF ensures that the unique character of youth organizations are recognized, and we are committed to developing our member organizations so that they can create exciting and appealing voluntary activities for children and young people.

We work cross-politically to highlight the interests of youth organizations in relation to politicians and public authorities. DUF's safeguarding of these interests ensures the framework for voluntary youth organizations on a political level. We administer DUF's share of the Danish lottery funds and distribute approximately 140 million Danish kroner annually to Danish children and youth organizations.

FACTS

Thousands of members
DUF's member organizations encompass 5000 local branches, 600,000 members and 100,000 volunteers.

1940 The Danish Youth Cooperation is established with Hal Koch as its first chairman.

1946 The Danish Youth Cooperation is renamed Youth Organizations' Confederation to better represent the entire organized youth.



DUF UPHOLDS DEMOCRACY

Since its establishment in 1940, DUF has worked to strengthen youth participation in democracy and in organizations.

As a counter-measure to the extremism and radicalization which threatened European democracy – and which later led to the occupation of Denmark in 1940 – a series of youth organizations and individuals founded DUF to inform, engage and educate young people in democracy and political participation. The foundation of DUF was the first step in ongoing efforts to safeguard democracy, and it remains a part of DUF's core mission today.

Until 1945, the organization was called The Danish Youth Cooperation, and the first chairperson was theologian and social critic Hal Koch, who remained head of the organization until 1946. According to Hal Koch, community and dialogue between people was the core of democracy. This understanding of democracy continues to shape the work of DUF's member organizations.

Hal Koch viewed democracy not just as a system of government, but first and foremost as a way of life where dialogue was central. A dialogue which breaks down prejudices and where arguments move opinions. But democracy is not a self-evident truth, and each generation must acquire the democratic values anew. This mission is still very relevant, and DUF continuously works to counter radicalization.

DUF plays a crucial role in ensuring the best conditions for children and young people's democratic organizations and involvement in society, both nationally and globally so that democracy, dialogue and organizational life can continue to be supported.

1951 The organization is renamed DUF – The Danish Youth Council, and leads the way in international youth work.

1957 The voting age is lowered to 21 years of age and DUF plays an active role leading up to the referendum with a campaign to allow "rights and duties to go hand in hand".

FACTS

DUF is led by organizations
DUF's member organizations meet every year at a delegate meeting where they adopt a number of goals and DUF's budget. Every two years, the members elect a board consisting of a chairperson, vice chairperson and 15 members to lead DUF between the delegate meetings. The board outlines the range of DUF's work via a number of strategies.

DUF DEVELOPES YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

DUF has unique knowledge of organizational life and offers professional consultation to ensure that our member organizations maintain their relevance in society.

The wishes and needs of young people in relation to their spare time is constantly changing and continuously places new demands on DUF's member organizations. Organizations must adapt to changes in society and develop new initiatives, activities and structures, so they can maintain their relevance in society.

DUF conducts ongoing dialogue with our member organizations, sharing current needs and strategies. We make our knowledge of the conditions and challenges of organizational life available, so that each organization will be successful in recruiting new members, developing new skills and remain a relevant community for children and youth.

DUF provides advice on organizational, leadership and strategic development, integration efforts and international partnerships. We facilitate networks for leaders and volunteers, advise international volunteers to help them in creating sustainable international projects, and provide volunteers with tools to manage accounting, administration and project management in both national and international projects.

This close cooperation with member organizations means that DUF can gather and disseminate the positive experiences gained by organizations. We possess unique knowledge of organizational life, and we can always provide inspiration and new knowledge to national organizations, local branches and volunteers.

1963 Together with 13 other European Youth Councils, DUF establishes the Council of European National Youth Committees (CENYC) to strengthen cooperation across Europe.

1968 Dorte Bennedsen, daughter of Hal Koch and Church Minister, later Minister of Education becomes DUF's first female general secretary, 1971-1982.

FACTS

16 hours a month
Danish young people between the age of 16 and 25 spend an average of 16 hours a month on voluntary work in organizations.





DUF DISTRIBUTES

FUNDS FOR YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

Allocation funds play a crucial role for DUF and its members because it provides opportunities to involve young people in democracy and organizational life.

DUF's work is primarily financed by allocation funds as well as pool funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Allocation funds come from any surplus profit that is created when Danes buy lottery tickets or scratchcards.

DUF manages the distribution of allocation funds for youth-oriented purposes. The largest part of this distribution goes directly to national youth organizations that promote societal and organizational engagement. The organizations manage the funds themselves to cover day-to-day operations such as salaries and activities.

A smaller part of the allocation funds are given out through the InitiativeSupport, an initiative support program developed by DUF, to which both groups and individuals can apply for support. The funds are distributed in line with simple requirements: Projects must be innovative, children and youth-led, and based on voluntary participation.

FACTS

Allocation funds

Allocation funds, previously known as lottery funds, are the surplus which the National Danish Lottery annually return to the Danish society. In 2014, this amounted to around 1.3 billion Danish kroner. Allocation funds are distributed among several ministries, which in turn allocate them to a variety of causes in Denmark. The Danish Allocation Funds Act determines the purpose and the recipients of funds for each ministry.

1976 The Danish National Lottery Act is introduced and sets aside part of the national lottery funds for children and youth organizations. Funding for most DUF member organizations increases by a factor of four to five.

1979 Following 10 years of work, the voting age is lowered from 21 to 18 years. Once again, DUF plays a major role in the campaign to involve young people in the democratic process.



DUF TAKES CARE OF ORGANIZATIONAL LIFE

DUF is working on all political levels to provide its members with the best possible conditions for running their organizations.

DUF represents organizational interests at a national level so that member organizations have the financial and structural conditions that allow them the freedom to operate and create vibrant and varied organizational activities in Denmark.

DUF regularly speaks on behalf of organizations to politicians and public authorities and plays a consulting role in a range of areas where young people and children are likely to be affected by new legislation and regulations. In this way, DUF works to ensure the best possible legislation for our member organizations and their local branches.

At the local level, DUF works to secure optimal conditions for youth organizations and supports them as they work to be recognized by municipal authorities. We strive to create greater awareness of the value of our member organizations and to build strong relationships between municipal actors and local volunteers.

In addition, DUF influences Denmark's international development policy so that it recognizes the value of voluntary youth-to-youth development projects, prioritizes children and youth, and reflects their wishes and concerns.

1981 Inge Marie Nielsen becomes DUF's first female chairperson. Before assuming the post, Nielsen was active in Danish YWCA and a standard-bearer for the wing who wished to maintain separate boy and girl scout organizations.

1990 DUF celebrates its 50th anniversary, and the whole year is declared a year of celebration with a focus on the importance for society of voluntary youth activity.

FACTS

Religious organizations' rights
In 2014, DUF drafted a memorandum in cooperation with the law firm Horten, determining when religious activity is educational and covered by the regulations on support for voluntary public education.

DUF STRENGTHENS YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRACY

It is crucial for the future of democracy that young people are an active and integrated part of representative democracy. DUF works to engage all young people in democratic processes, strengthen their democratic self-confidence and give democracy a presence in their lives — globally, nationally and locally.

DUF encourages and challenges young people to participate in democracy and society, so that they become responsible citizens. At the same time, the democratically organized structures of DUF's member organizations empower young people with democratic self-confidence, an understanding of democracy as a way of life, and demonstrates the value of active participation in democracy.

DUF fights for democracy and young people's participation in parliamentary elections, local elections and European Parliament elections. At the same time, DUF creates the best possible framework for democratic dialogue, and supports platforms such as local community meetings, as a way to enhance dialogue between young people and decision makers, allowing young people to feel that democracy is accessible at both national and local level.

DUF implements various initiatives to increase the electoral participation among young people, among these also immigrant communities. DUF is working to lower the voting age to 16, so that young people can actively participate in the electoral process earlier. Internationally, DUF is focused on strengthening youth participation in developing countries, the Middle East and North Africa. The international engagement by DUF's member organizations creates mutual understanding across borders, and international partnerships between youth organizations help to promote democracy as a way of life.

DUF's work to promote the importance of democracy has made DUF a preferred partner for politicians, interest groups and experts when projects aimed at increasing young peoples' electoral participation and democratic involvement are launched.

FACTS

Increased voter participation

Since 2009, DUF has been a central part of efforts that have increased electoral participation among young people aged 18 to 29 by almost 10 percent.

1996 The European Youth Forum is established, today representing 99 national and European youth organizations across the continent.

1995 DUF signs its first program agreement with DANIDA, and DUF's first project in the Middle East is established.

1993 DUF's InitiativeSupport is introduced and everyone involved in children and youth work can apply for funding of their projects.







DUF ENSURES

A DIVERSE ORGANIZATIONAL LIFE

Organizational life is the backbone of Danish democracy. Denmark's democratic foundation and culture is shaped by and created through organizations where diversity is encouraged, where there is room for everyone and an understanding of individual needs.

The backbone of Denmark's organizational life is an understanding of equality between people in all communities, where people feel committed towards each other. In organizations, children and young people find positive communities, providing opportunities to develop individual skills. Youth organizations offer open-minded communities, strong social networks and unique friendships. Many of these organizations are also a significant factor in the successful integration of immigrants into Danish society.

Experiences with voluntary work in organizations are essential to our democratic culture and enhance youth's engagement in society. DUF's member organizations are a recruitment platform for political positions of trust and provide valuable skills to further young people's careers.

The international work of DUF's member organizations gives young people influence and leadership skills to promote dialogue and develop democratic organizations outside of Denmark.

Volunteer work is a valuable resource in society that allows young people to meet across cultural, educational and social backgrounds. DUF encourages diversity in our member organizations so that they can represent all children and youth. The task is to get as many children and young people as possible to participate in youth organizations.

2000 DUF is the instigator and co-founder of the Centre for Youth Research (CeFU).

2001 DUF's annual congress agrees that DUF must work to ensure that the voting age is lowered from 18 to 16 years.

2006 DUF creates the Youth Municipality Prize, a prize awarded each year to the municipality that has made the greatest effort to improve young people's conditions. Herlev Municipality is the inaugural winner.

FACTS

Tough battle for youth municipality prize
In 2014, 12 municipalities battled for the nomination as Youth Municipality of the Year 2015.



DUF CREATES SUSTAINABLE DEMOCRACY

Young people experience democracy in practice when they make decisions and take responsibility for themselves and other young people in communities.

DUF works to strengthen youth organizations, youth influence and to promote democracy as a way of life among young people in the Middle East, North Africa and developing countries.

DUF supports youth participation globally through dialogue and equal partnerships between young people across national, political, social and religious divides. Through counselling and training in areas such as project management, financial management and organizational development, DUF empowers young volunteers to lead international projects.

At the same time, the international partnerships provide tools to build strong, democratically founded organizations in Denmark and around the world, and play a crucial role in recruiting and retaining volunteers in Danish organizations. International projects constitute a platform where young people learn from each other – and jointly achieve a sustainable influence in society.

DUF is committed to dialogue as a tool to enhance mutual understanding between young people across national borders and political affiliations. DUF's Ambassadors for Dialogue program and DUF's cross-political network support broad, inclusive dialogue that breaks down barriers and creates stronger cooperation across political, religious and ideological divides.

The partnerships between Danish youth and youth from developing countries, the Middle East and North Africa help to develop democratic awareness and strengthen young people's participation in political life and society. These partnerships motivate young people to take responsibility and strengthen the rights of young people.

2006 DUF's Organization of the Year is awarded for the first time. The award recognizes organizations, groups or projects that strengthen organizational life. The Danish Guide and Scout Association in Køge wins the first year.

2009 DUF's Ambassadors for Dialogue project begins. The goal of the project is to promote understanding between young people in Denmark and the Middle East and raise awareness of dialogue as a value and method.

2011 The Danish Electoral Commission delivers its report containing 28 proposals to strengthen youth participation in democracy.

FACTS

143 grants in 23 countries
From 2012-2015, one third of DUF's member organizations have been engaged in international project work. 143 grants were approved which led to projects in 23 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Central America and Eastern Europe.



DUF SUPPORTS

PROJECTS FOR, WITH AND BY YOUNG PEOPLE

DUF administers several funds that support active young people's national and international projects.

DUF's InitiativeSupport is an initiative funding pool that supports exciting and experimental projects – for, with, and by children and young people. Projects must be innovative, children and youth-led and based on voluntary participation. Project funding is distributed both to established children and youth organizations, as well as to groups and individuals who are not part of official organizations.

From the funding pool known as Thematized Initiative-Support, national organizations and their local branches can seek support for major projects which thematically support DUF's strategic areas of Youth and Democracy and Youth and Organizations. In 2014, DUF awarded about 2,2 million Danish kroner to 40 projects through the InitiativeSupport.

DUF's two international funding pools, the Project Pool and MENA Pool, allow DUF member organizations to apply for support for international projects, based on equal partnerships between a Danish youth organization and a partner organization in a developing country, the Middle East or North Africa.

Funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the international funding opportunities strengthen youth organizations and young people's influence in their own societies.

2014 In collaboration with the University of Copenhagen, DUF sends approximately 200,000 text messages to first-time voters between 18 and 29 years of age, calling on them to vote in the European Parliament elections.

2015 Over 600 schools and 53,000 young people participate in the first national school election ever.

FACTS

Millions to youth projects

From 2011 to 2014, DUF's InitiativeSupport awarded over 7.5 million Danish kroner to a total of 196 projects for children and youth.

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Print

Johnsen Graphic Solutions

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DUF is a service and interest organization representing children and youth organizations nationwide. We work to promote youth participation in organizational life and democracy.

View and download the presentation folder at duf.dk/presentation

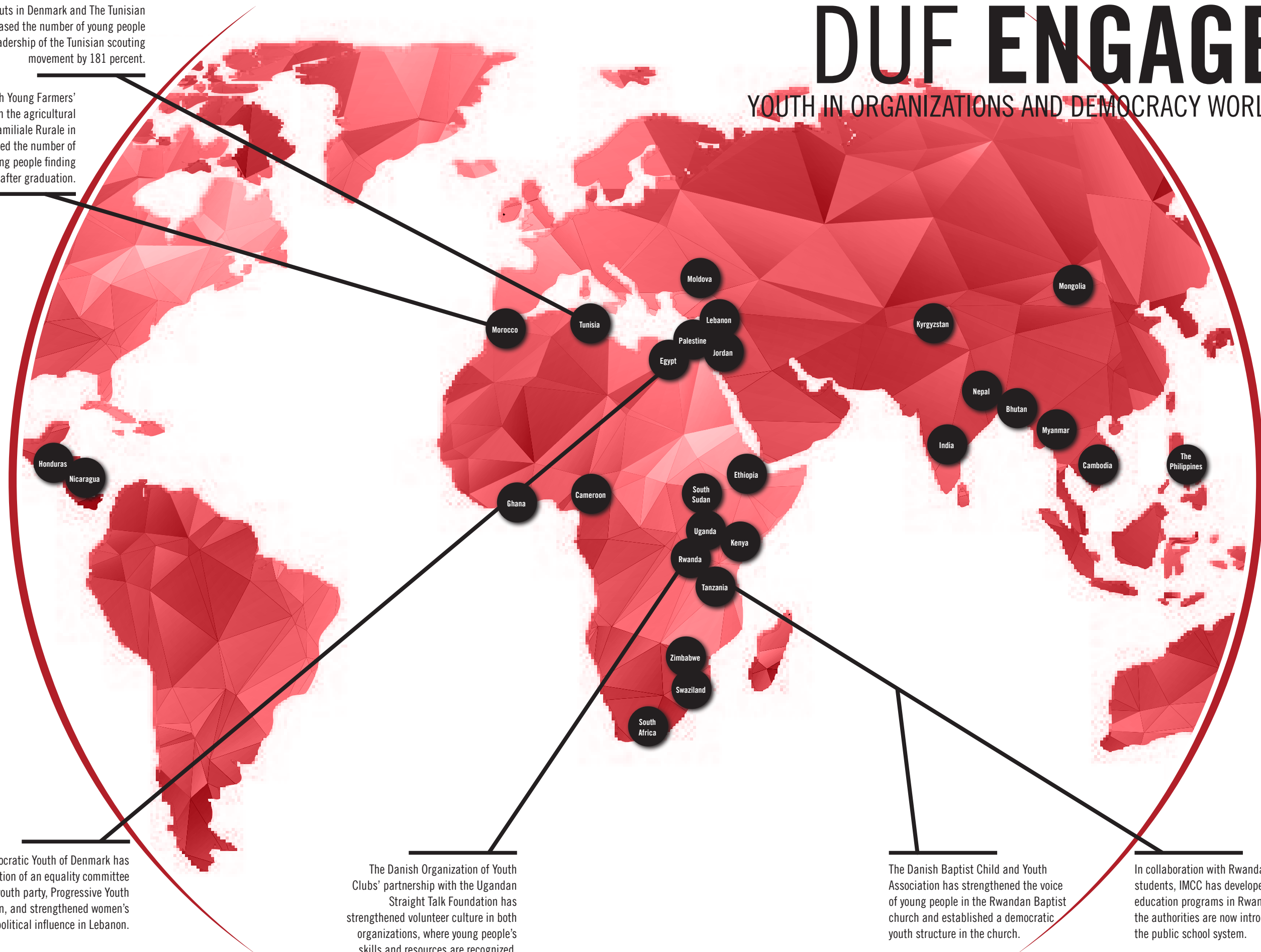


DUF ENGAGES

YOUTH IN ORGANIZATIONS AND DEMOCRACY WORLDWIDE

The YMCA-Scouts in Denmark and The Tunisian Scouts increased the number of young people in the leadership of the Tunisian scouting movement by 181 percent.

The Danish Young Farmers' cooperation with the agricultural school Maison Familiale Rurale in Morocco has tripled the number of marginalized young people finding employment after graduation.



The Social Democratic Youth of Denmark has supported the creation of an equality committee in the Lebanese youth party, Progressive Youth Organization, and strengthened women's political influence in Lebanon.

The Danish Organization of Youth Clubs' partnership with the Ugandan Straight Talk Foundation has strengthened volunteer culture in both organizations, where young people's skills and resources are recognized.

The Danish Baptist Child and Youth Association has strengthened the voice of young people in the Rwandan Baptist church and established a democratic youth structure in the church.

In collaboration with Rwandan medical students, IMCC has developed sexual education programs in Rwanda, which the authorities are now introducing into the public school system.

