

The Marginalisation of the Vocational Education System in Denmark

RSA Pemabo Research Network

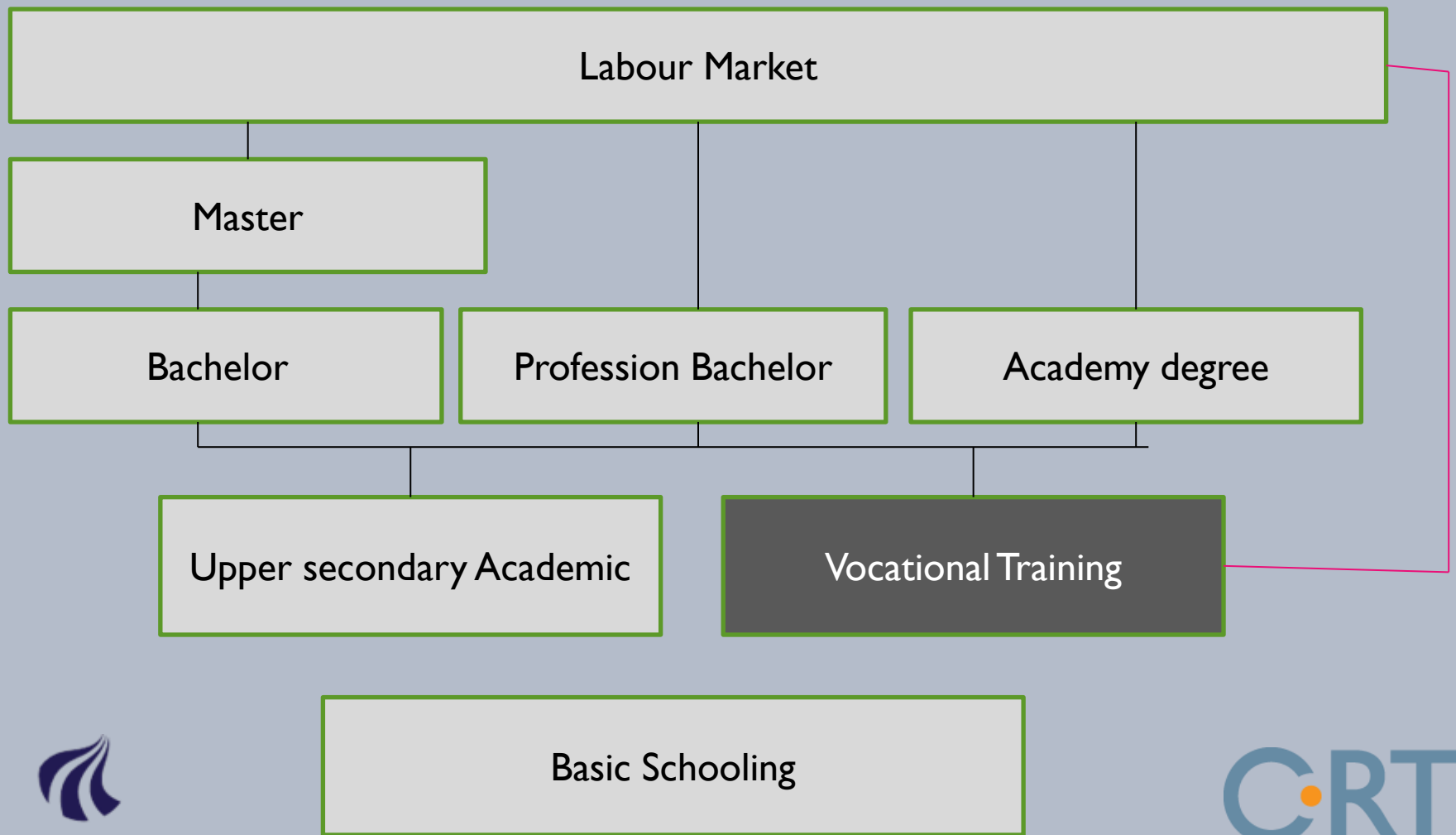
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What is the VET system?

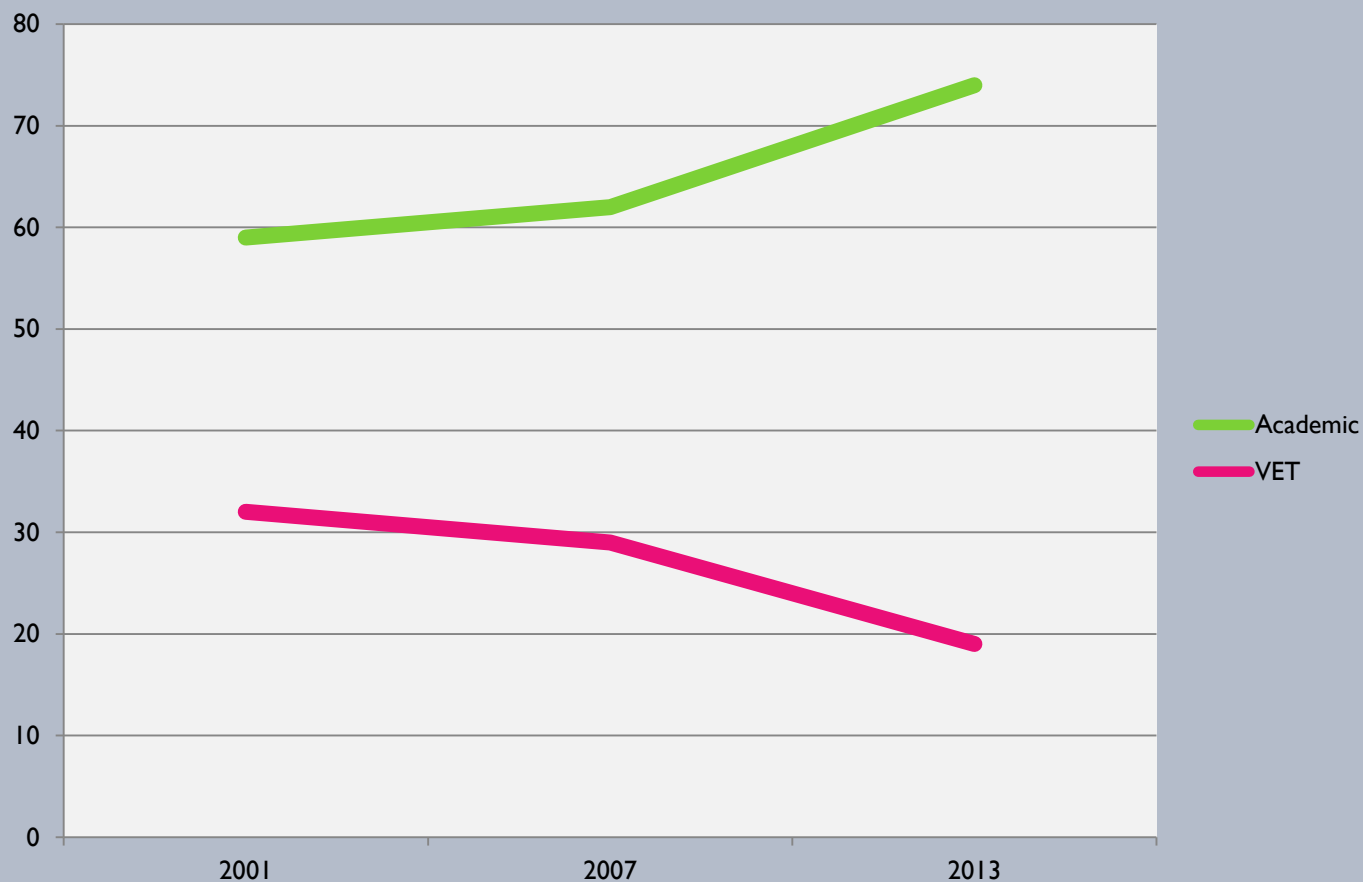


Indicators of crisis and de-valuation

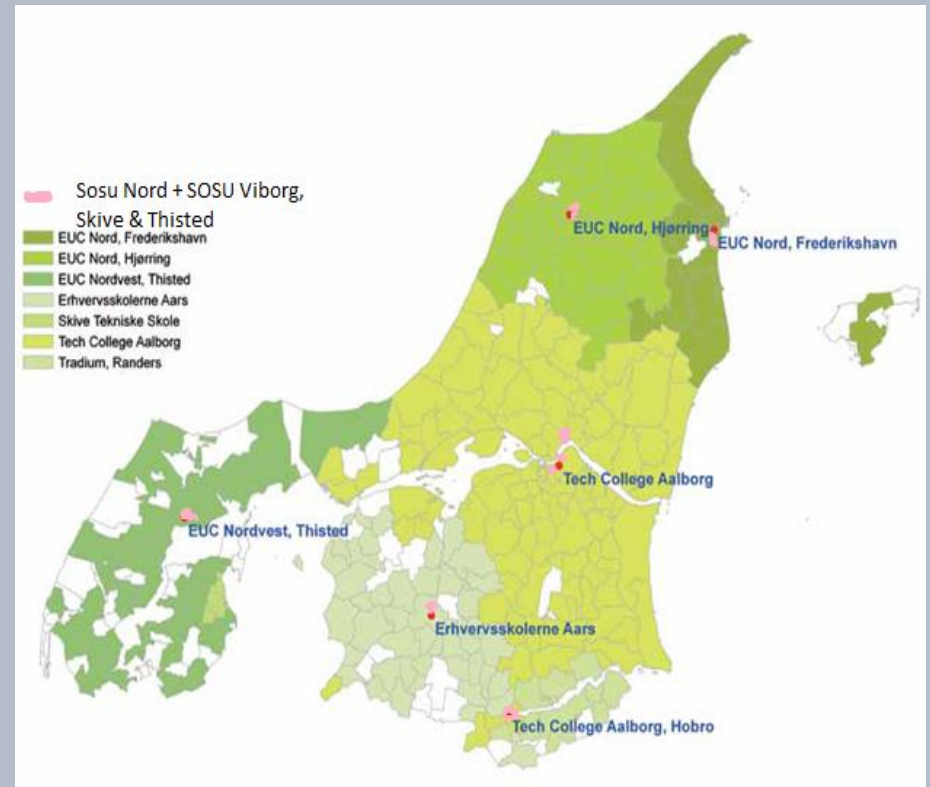
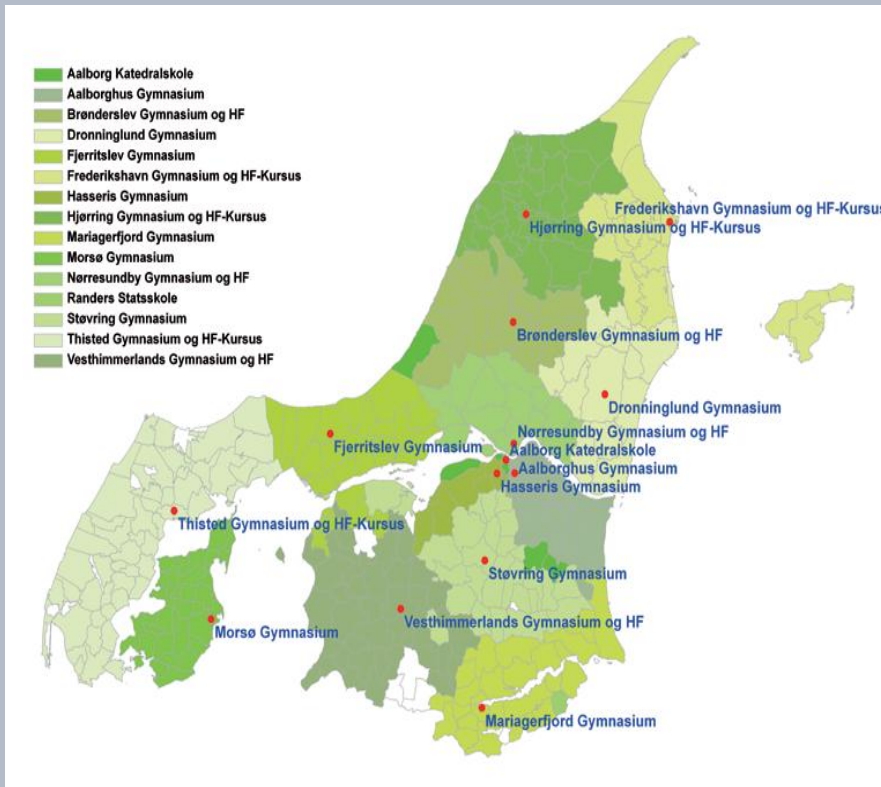
- Decreasing demand among youth for VET
- High drop out rates
- Fewer VET institutions across Denmark than Academic institutions
- Lack of apprenticeship positions
- National education goals focus on unskilled and higher education
- General discourse about the VET being for students who are not “bright enough” to attend the academic youth education



Youth choice of education



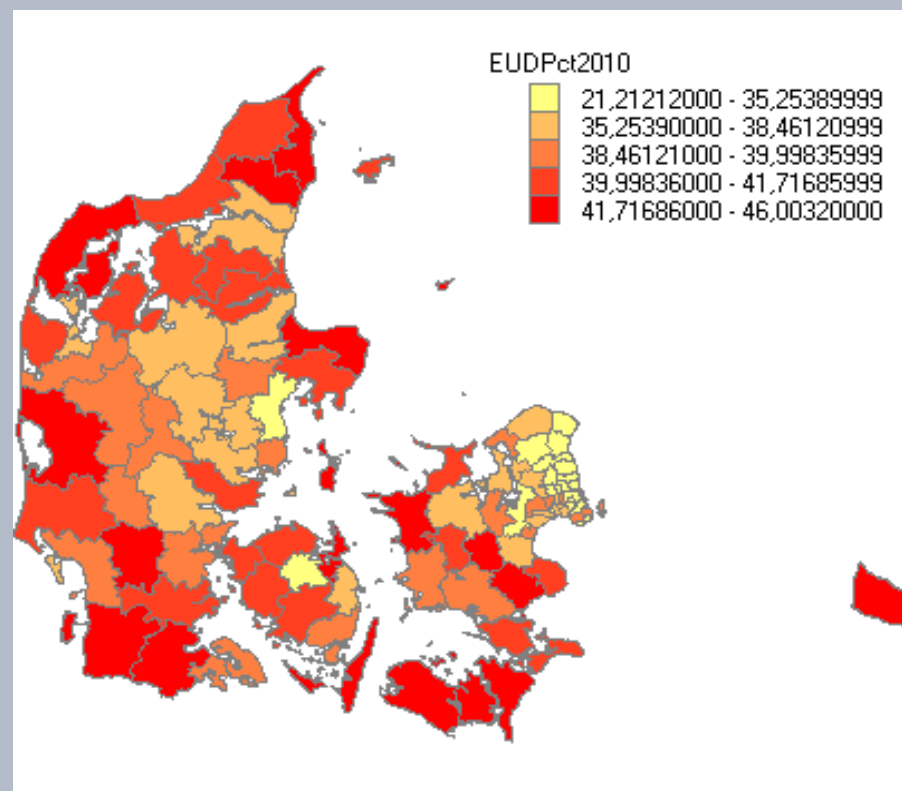
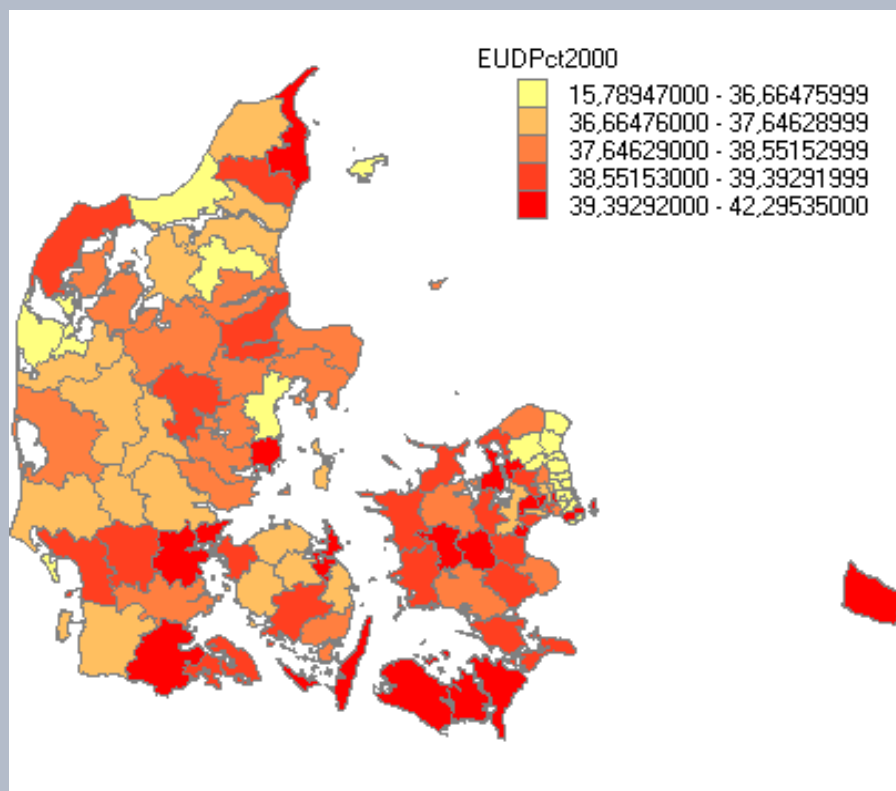
Distribution of Institutions



Peripheral Areas and the VET Crisis

- Local and regional labour market forecasts predict lack of Vocationally trained.
- VET-trained make up more than 40 % of present employees in non-metropolitan areas
- Neo-liberal management and control regime
- Ministry of Education & 50 Trade Committees function at national level, no regional level of governance and local level is weak
- Lack of national discourse about the role of VET-trained for local and regional development

Share of employed whose highest attained education is a VET



VET Reform 2013 (proposal)

“Denmark needs...talented young people, who can think creatively as well as practically to help maintain and create new jobs within manufacturing, construction and the service industries”

Positive:

- Goal: 30 % should obtain VET
- A combination Academic/practical VET “introduced”: EUX
- 50 training centres at schools to make up for lack of apprenticeships

Re-instating the VET?

Otherwise a completely a-spatial reform proposal



To sum up: perspectives

- National planning scale: An evenly distributed education landscape?
 - Institutions
 - Work placements
- Local and regional labour markets: how are they integrated in national and international labour markets? What is the spatial distribution of industrial production in the knowledge economy?
- Individual trajectories: mapping the education landscape and tracing **my** path through it
- What are the geographical effects of the coming VET Reform?
- What are the Spatial repercussions of High-road VET and Low-road VET?

