

Denmark – new rules for family reunification

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The new rule about family reunification was created with the purpose of facilitating the process itself, and encouraging individuals to follow the legal steps in order to avoid complications later. Most of the rules were reverted to the conditions prior to July 2011. As we see, the former legislation was in effect for less than a year, and then it was changed due to the high amount of complaints about it. The new family reunification rule in Denmark is in effect since 15th of May 2012. Most of the rules got simpler and the conditions can be fulfilled a lot easier now. If until now the required amount of points to be accepted was 120, since the new rule came in force, it had been reduced to 60.

Initially, the point system was suggested to be removed completely by the right-wing " Dansk Folkeparty", but this decision was not accepted by the government and it was negotiated to be at least lowered to 60 points. This applies only to individuals over 24 years of age. Anyone who is under 24, still has to achieve 120 points to be eligible for the family reunification. The criteria define eligibility based on the points system which include: education, work experience and language skills. Both spouses must have a connected affiliation to Denmark, and at least one of them should be a Danish citizen for at least 26 years.

Before the " Immigration Test" was required, but now it was eliminated and instead of the test, the immigrant will have to pass a Danish language test within 6 months from the date, when the reunification was granted. The applicant now will have to show a proof of 50000 kroner in his personal account prior to starting the process. This number has been reduced as well, as before 100000 kroner were required. There is an entire set of

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requirements for the spouse already living in Denmark as well, such as not being convicted in the past 10 years, assuming the financial responsibility for the partner, they must have adequate accommodation conditions, and must be at least 24 years old etc. This law is enforced, supported and conducted by the Danish Immigration Services, and it is closely supervised by its agents, who are conducting interviews and making the decision according to the law, based on the criteria mentioned above. Obviously, this rule is necessary in order to have an organized and accurate evidence of the status of all immigrants from this category, and it is also needed to be able to develop and follow a certain process to achieve this status.

Having taken a look around the EU, it is seen that lots of countries have to deal with a high number of illegal immigrants. The reasons could be the following: unclear way of presentation of the immigration or family reunification rules. Not to mention a rigorous approach of the authorities, which is pushed beyond the limits sometimes; so when the applicants meet the point of desperation, they will stick to any possibility to stay in that country, no matter if it is legal or not. In my opinion, this system used in Denmark is a reflection of their culture and approach towards foreigners and an effective way of dealing with them. Probably the best result of this approach is the number of illegal immigrants in Denmark, which is considered as one of the lowest in Europe at this moment. If we think about it, it is always better to help someone out in achieving something than trying to "throw him out of the door, so he will jump in through the window".