

Differences between educational systems in the Republic of Macedonia and Denmark

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Overview of the Two System

Republic of Macedonia

- Centralized education system
- Ministry of Education sets curriculum and standards
- Emphasis on theoretical knowledge
- Investment in education improving but still developing

Denmark

- Highly decentralized system
- Municipalities and schools have strong autonomy
- Focus on student-centered, project-based learning
- Consistently high public investment in education

Structure of Education

Republic of Macedonia

- Pre-primary: Optional
- Primary (grades 1–9): Compulsory, ages ~ 6–15
- Secondary (3–4 years): General (gymnasium) or vocational
- Higher education: Universities follow Bologna Process

Denmark

- Pre-primary: Strongly encouraged, universal childcare
- Primary + Lower Secondary (Folkeskole): Grades 0–9, compulsory
- Upper Secondary: Gymnasium, HF, HTX, HHX (multiple tracks)
- Higher Education: Universities + academies, also Bologna compliant

Teaching Methods & Classroom Culture

Republic of Macedonia

- More traditional, teacher-centered instruction
- Larger class sizes in public schools
- Assessment-based learning with regular testing
- Less emphasis on group work and independent projects

Denmark

- Student-centered learning
- Strong focus on collaboration, discussion, and creativity
- Flexible classroom environments
- Teachers emphasize critical thinking over memorization

Technology & Digital Literacy

Republic of Macedonia

- Technology usage varies by school
- Digitalization in progress
- Limited access in rural areas

Denmark

- Highly digitalized education
- Students use laptops/tablets daily
- Strong national focus on digital competencies

Inclusion & Student Well-being

Republic of Macedonia

- Support available but varies by region
- Inclusive education policy improving
- School psychologists and counselors not always present

Denmark

- Well-being is a core part of the curriculum
- Strong support services: psychologists, special educators, social workers
- Anti-bullying programs widely enforced

Grading & Assessment

Republic of Macedonia

- Numerical grades (1–5 scale)
- Heavy emphasis on exams
- University admissions based on Matura exam + grades

Denmark

- Numerical grades (7-point scale)
- Continual assessment + project work
- University entry depends on GPA + subject requirements

Conclusion

Republic of Macedonia:

- More centralized, traditional, exam-focused, still improving digital and inclusive practices.

Denmark:

- Decentralized, progressive, student-centered, highly digitalized with strong welfare support.
- Both countries differ in teaching philosophy, resources, and autonomy.