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Ministry of Science  
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# Creating Research Universities in Europe, The Danish experience

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# Content of the presentation

- Overview of universities
- Reform of university governance (2003)
- Globalization strategy
- Reform of institutional structure -  
University mergers (2006)
- 2009 evaluation



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# Overview of Danish universities



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## The Danish university sector (2008)

- 14,200 scientific personnel year equivalents
- 120,000 enrolled students
  - Humanities: 39,000
  - Social sciences: 41,000
  - Science and technology: 29,000
  - Health sciences: 11,000
- 6,300 PhD-students
- 3,900 students left Denmark to study abroad
- 6,100 foreign students arrived in Denmark



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## Funding in 2009

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<i>(M €)</i>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Basic grant	918	33 percent
Education performance funding	703	25 percent
Competitive research grants	605	22 percent
Government commissioned research	118	4 percent
Other (various income and special initiatives like museums)	432	16 percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,776</b>	100 percent

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# Reform of university governance (2003)



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# A new university governance - The University Act of 2003

- Public but self-governing institutions
- Boards with external majority
  - Board selects new board members (co-opting process)
- Rector appointed by the board
- University management appointed not elected



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# A Strategy for Denmark in the Global Economy

“Progress, Innovation and Cohesion Strategy  
for Denmark in the Global Economy”, March  
2006, [www.globalisation.dk](http://www.globalisation.dk)







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# The Globalisation Council

- Advising the Government on a strategy
- Comprising representatives of all sections of society
- Prime Minister in the chair
- 4 ministers present



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# Central objectives and the need for efficient R&D institutions

- Public research expenses to equal 1 percent of GNP in 2010
- Total Danish research expenses to meet Barcelona target of 3 percent of GNP in 2010
- By 2015, 50 percent of Danish youth obtain a higher education degree, and their average age at graduation is lowered



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# Reform of institutional structure University mergers (2006)



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# The merger process

- University merged on a voluntary basis
- A priori Government decision to merge government research institutions into universities
- Constructive dialogue with the boards of the universities and the government research institutions to reach the result



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## The primary aims of the mergers:

- to strengthen the institutional infrastructure of universities to handle increased appropriations
- to strengthen Danish research and university education – also in an international context
- to increase the universities' proportion of business collaboration and innovation
- to increase the universities' ability to attract international research funding, including EU funding
- to improve services for the public authorities



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# The result:

- Before the mergers Denmark had:
  - 12 universities and 13 government research institutions
- As a result of the mergers Denmark now has:
  - 8 universities and 4 government research institutions



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# 2009 evaluation



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# Evaluation themes

- Theme A: Fulfillment of the purposes of university mergers
- Theme B: Codetermination of employees and students
- Theme C: A free academic debate
- Theme D: Freedom in research
- Theme E: Elements of autonomy for universities