

## **The political role of Akademikerne**

The Danish Confederation of Professional Associations (Akademikerne) is an umbrella organisation for its member organisations. These organisations offer services to professional and managerial staff graduated from universities and other higher educational institutions. Akademikerne was founded in 1972 and has its main office in Copenhagen.

Akademikerne has no party political affiliations and according to its statutes, its objects are to "safeguard the common interests of its member organisations in economic, social, cultural, scientific and educational fields and in other fields which may have an impact upon the conditions of its members".

Akademikerne contributes with analyses networks and initiatives which can improve the level of knowledge in Denmark and Danish workplaces. One of the special characteristics of Akademikerne is that it operates as a sort of 'think tank' to link policy areas such as labour-market policy, research policy and education policy in order to enhance the inter-national competitiveness of Danish enterprises and the opportunities of graduates to influence developments in society.

Akademikerne submits its analyses to Danish political parties as well as ministers and ministries and advises the Danish government, parliament, regional authorities and municipal authorities.



Akademikerne is a member of the European organisation for professional and managerial staff, EUROCADRES, which provides access to political expert groups and negotiation forums at EU level.

Akademikerne works together with its member organisations – such as those directly representing medical doctors, economists, university teachers, architects, etc. - to promote job opportunities for the highly educated in the private and public sectors as well as in the international labour market.

Akademikerne has undertaken special responsibility to establish networks between universities and businesses to create new job openings for graduates.

This is contributing to a low level of unemployment amongst new graduates in Denmark.

Because of Akademikernes special educational profile, developments in Danish higher education programmes, including those at universities, have a particularly high priority in Akademikerne's political work to safeguard members' interests. Akademikerne is working to improve the quality of education, international cooperation between universities, and the competitiveness of graduates both nationally and internationally.



The Danish Confederation of Professional Associations

• Nørre Voldgade 106 • DK-1358 Copenhagen

Tel: 45 33 69 40 40 • <sup>K</sup>www.akademikerne.dk • e-mail: ac@ac.dk