Teach For All For Immediate Release

Teach First Danmark joins the Teach For All network

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Today, Teach First Danmark announced that it has joined the Teach For All global network. As an independent nonprofit organization, Teach First Danmark's mission is to recruit, train, and support outstanding individuals from Denmark and the Diaspora to commit to teach for a minimum of two years in underserved schools, and become leaders in the effort to increase educational opportunity throughout Denmark.

Teach For All is a global network of over 35 independent, locally-led and –funded organizations dedicated to expanding educational opportunity in their countries and around the world. Teach For Danmark will join the other Teach For All partner organizations in recruiting and developing diverse graduates and professionals to exert leadership through two-year commitments to teach in high-need classrooms and lifelong commitments to ensuring more students receive the excellent education all children deserve.

"I am thrilled to have Teach First Danmark join the Teach For All network," said Wendy Kopp, CEO and cofounder of Teach For All. "Teach First Danmark joins our global network of locally led, independent organizations that are tapping into the deep desire of the next generation to have an impact in their countries by expanding educational opportunity."

With a Gini-ratio at 27.5, the level of equality in Denmark is among the highest in the world. Even so, educational inequality is a rising problem in Denmark. One in six students leaves school without the reading, writing, or mathematics skills necessary for a successful secondary education or a life of opportunity. This educational inequity is partly driven by the continuing education gap between those students with an immigrant background and native Danes. Those with the most resources increasingly choose private schools over public schools, which in turn leads to still more schools with a high concentration of disadvantaged and ethnic students. This gap is wider than other Scandinavian countries including Sweden, Norway, and Finland according to OECD statistics. For this reason and others, the teaching profession in Denmark is suffering a loss of the prestige and respect it once held. Many talented teachers choose to leave the profession and the most talented graduates are not attracted to it. Teach First Danmark aims to reverse this trend by attracting more of the most competent young graduates to incite a love of learning in the children who most need it along with the belief that they are capable of realizing their dreams.

Jesper Bergmann, Teach First Danmark's Co-founder and CEO, is deeply committed to expanding educational opportunity in Denmark. Together with another co-founder and Chairman of the Board, Richard Bundsgaard, Jesper learned about Teach For America when studying at UNC Chapel Hill and was inspired by the organization's ability to attract bright, motivated students—an approach he believed could be successfully adapted in Denmark. In 2012, Jesper and Richard began working toward the creation of Teach First Danmark, and they intensified their efforts after Thøger Bundsgaard joined full-time in late 2012. In November 2014, Jesper became the organization's CEO, and in August, he oversaw the placement of their first cohort - an incredible group of 30 graduates selected among 330 highly qualified applicants.

"I'm very excited to be part of Teach First Danmark to recruit more of Denmark's future leaders and decision makers into the education system in order to make it more just for those who need it the most," said Bergmann. "We've already benefited greatly from existing knowledge and solutions from our partners in the Teach For All network and we're very excited to officially join Teach For All."

More about Teach First Danmark here.

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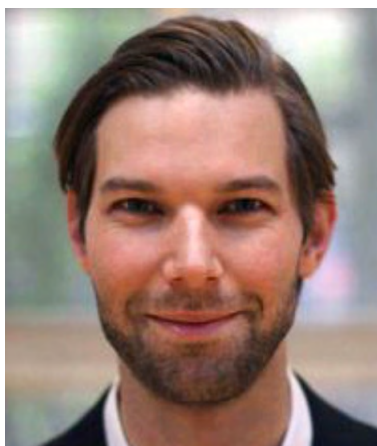miguel.rato@teachforall.org
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About Jesper Bergmann

Jesper Bergmann was born and raised in Holmegaard, a small village an hour south of Copenhagen. There he attended the local primary school and had several teachers who left a great and lasting impression and made school something to always look forward to. After graduating from high school and spending gap years saving up money to move to Italy and learn Italian, Jesper received his undergraduate degree in International Business from Copenhagen Business School and his graduate degree in economics and management of innovation and technology from Bocconi University in Milan. Prior to becoming the CEO of Teach First Danmark in November, 2014, Jesper worked for two technological startups.

About Teach For All

Teach For All is a global network of over 35 locally led and funded independent partner organizations with a shared vision for expanded educational opportunity in their countries. Each partner recruits and develops diverse leaders to commit two years to teach in their nations' high-need classrooms and to work throughout their lives to increase opportunity for children. For more information, visit TeachForAll.org and follow us on Twitter @TeachForAll

Jesper Bergmann, CEO, Teach First Danmark

Teach First Danmark logo