

Annex 3: Statistical information regarding the Faroe Islands

A. General measures of implementation

There is no statistical data available on training on the Convention for professionals working with and for children.

B. Definition of the child

In January 2015 the population of the Faroe Islands was 48,704 of which 12,402 citizens were under the age of 18.

Citizens in the Faroe Islands	0 – 17 years
Girls	6019
Boys	6383

Source: Statistics Faroe Islands

Population by gender and age groups. 1 Jan. 2015

	Males	Females	Total	Female in pct.
Total	25,161	23,543	48,704	48.3
0-6 years	2330	2186	4516	48.4
7-14 years	2949	2840	5789	49.1
15-17 years	1104	993	2097	47.4
18-24 years	2366	2052	4418	46.4
25-59 years	11031	9894	20925	47.3
60-66 years	2045	1911	3956	48.3
67 years +	3336	3667	7003	52.4

Source: Statistics Faroe Islands

C. General principles

C.1. Right to life, survival and development

Cause of death, number of deaths								
	Age	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Cancer	0-17	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Endocrine and nutritional disorders and metabolic diseases	0-17	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Diseases related to the nervous system and sense organs	0-17	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Heart disease	0-17	1	1	1	0	0	1	0
Other cardiovascular diseases	0-17	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Diseases of the digestive organs	0-17	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Diseases of the urinary and genital organs	0-17	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Some diseases that occur in the perinatal period	0-17	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Congenital malformations and chromosomal abnormalities	0-17	4	1	1	1	4	2	1
Symptoms and abnormal findings with ill-defined causes	0-17	0	0	1	0	0	2	0
Accidents	0-17	4	0	0	1	0	0	0
Suicide	0-17	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Crime and other forms of violence	0-17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Death certificates without medical information	0-17	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
All causes of death	0-17	11	2	6	3	5	8	3

Source: Danish Cause of Death Register

C.2. Respect for the views of the child

Child and youth organisations

The Faroese Youth Council represents 21 organisations working with children and young people in the Faroe Islands e.g. scout organisations, cultural and artistic organisations as well as political and religious organisations. The organisations represented in the Faroese Youth Council have approximately 4800 young members.

The Faroese Confederation of Sports organises 120 sports clubs with a total of 12800 registered members, of whom 9397 members are under 18 years.

Schools with independent student councils

No data is available.

Judicial and administrative proceedings

No data is available.

D. Civil rights and freedoms

D.1. Birth registration

Birth registration is required by law. All new-borns are hence registered.

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number of live births	675	667	614	642	581	619	626	639

Source: Statistics Faroe Islands

D.2. Access to appropriate information

In January 2015 there were 29 libraries in the Faroes.

D.3. The right not to be subjected to torture or other cruel inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

There is no reporting of torture of children in the Faroes. According to the Faroese criminal code § 157a torture is an aggravating circumstance when determining violations of the Criminal Code.

E. Violence against children

E.1. Abuse and neglect

Since the establishment of the Children's House in the Faroe Islands in 2013, the collection of statistical data on the number and type of sexual abuse and violence cases has improved significantly. Because the Faroese Children's House is organised according to the same framework as the Danish Children's Houses, Faroese data is comparable to Danish data.

In 2014, there were 29 registered cases of abuse.

20 of the 29 cases were considered concluded and closed in 2014. Of the 29 cases 35 percent were violence-related, 50 percent were cases of sexual abuse, while 15 percent involved both violence and sexual abuse.

F. Family environment and alternative care

F.1. Family support

2.8 percent of children between 0 and 17 received support from the Faroese Child Welfare Service in 2013. This is below average when compared to data from the other Nordic countries in 2012-2013.

The Faroese Child Welfare Service encompasses a range of services that typically consist of various home-based activities and assistance.

Childcare services

Childcare services are administrated by the local municipalities. The municipality grants a subsidy for the costs of day care. To ensure all children access to a day-care facility, an additional subsidy is given to parents whose income does not exceed a determined threshold.

Children in day-care

	2004	2008	2012	2015
Total	4338	4894	4911	4947
Kindergarten/nursery	2617	3158	3578	3681
After-school centre	669	1000	847	938
Day-care centre	1052	736	486	328

Source: Statistics Faroe Islands

Children in day-care by gender

	Kindergarten/nursery	After-school centre	Day-care centre
2004			
Boys	1241	327	496
Girls	1376	342	556
2008			
Boys	1625	505	384
Girls	1533	495	352
2012			
Boys	1852	404	265
Girls	1726	443	221
2015			
Boys	1956	454	167
Girls	1725	484	161

Source: Statistics Faroe Islands

F.2. Children without parental care

Comparable statistical data is collected on child welfare interventions with respect to gender and age. Based on the NOSOSCO report's comparison of this data, the number and rate of children brought into care in the Faroe Islands is lower when compared to other Nordic countries. However, this number is increasing. In 2012, 7 out of every 1,000 children between the ages of 0-17 were brought into care in the Faroe Islands:

80 percent were brought in foster care (placed in another family).

20 percent were placed in an institution (4 percent were placed in an institution outside of the Faroe Islands, typically in Denmark).

F.3. Family reunification

No disaggregated data available.

F.4. Illicit transfer and non-return

No data available.

G. Disability, basic health and welfare

G.1. Children with disabilities

The social security act gives parents the right to economical compensation to cover the high expenditure of minding a child with disabilities. In 2013 the number of parents receiving economical support for this reason was 285.

Children with disabilities attending regular schools

Please refer to VIII.A. regarding children with disabilities attending regular schools.

G.2. Health and health services

Infant mortality rate	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
In total	7.4	4.4	3.2	4.6	5.1	9.7	1.6	3.1

Source: Chief Medical Officer in the Faroe Islands

Under 5 mortality rate	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
In total	11.6	4.4	3.2	3.1	8.5	12.9	1.6	

Source: Danish Cause of Death Register

Children with low birth weight

Low birth weight %	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
In total	3.1	3.4	2.9	2.8	4.1	3.6	5.7	2.1

Source: Chief Medical Officer in the Faroe Islands

Children with seriously low birth weight

% of children with birth weight below 1500 g	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
In total	0.1	0.3	0.3	1.1	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.2

Source: Chief Medical Officer in the Faroe Islands

Percentage of children born in hospitals

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
In total	99.4	99.9	100	99.8	99.7	99.5	99.4	99.7

Source: Chief Medical Officer in the Faroe Islands

H. Education, leisure and cultural activities

H.1. Education, including vocational training

Literacy rates of children and adults

The aim is to have a 100 percent literacy rate among children and adults. However, Pisa results indicate that more than 18 percent of that have completed secondary school lack the necessary reading skills to attend higher education.

Enrolment and attendance

Education is compulsory for 9 years in the Faroe Islands between the ages of 7 and 16. The enrolment rates for primary and secondary schools are 100 percent.

Average teacher-to-pupil ratio

There are currently 7000 pupils and 700 teachers, giving a ratio of 1:10.

Non formal education system

No data available

Children who attend preschool education

Approximately 97 percent of all children are attending day care or kindergarten. Please refer to F1. for statistical data on children in day-care.

Both public and private schools provide optional preschool education, and a tenth year of education after the compulsory nine years is also available from the public school. The table below shows the number of pupils in public schools in the schoolyear 2012/2013.

Public School, Faroe Islands (2012/2013)			
Educational level	Boys	Girls	
Pre-school	47	49	
1. grade	402	348	
2. grade	365	365	
3. grade	387	355	
4. grade	378	349	
5. grade	347	317	
6. grade	392	380	
7. grade	344	351	
8. grade	370	335	
9. grade	401	348	
10. grade	265	231	
Special educational classes	18	1	

Public School (total)	3716	3429		
<i>Source: Statistics Faroe Islands (Ministry of Culture and Education)</i>				

I. Special protection measures

I.1. Refugee children

Immigration and Border Control remains under Danish jurisdiction¹, but negotiations on assuming responsibility of this area has been initiated between the governments of the Faroe Islands and Denmark. Therefore there are so far no children in the Faroe Islands with the status of refugees, asylum seekers, and unaccompanied refugee children.

I.2. Children in armed conflicts

The Faroe Islands do not have any independent defence forces or any compulsory military service and are not involved in any armed conflicts.

I.3. Administration of juvenile justice and children in conflict with the law

The crime rate in the Faroe Island is generally low. It is estimated to be 25 percent lower than in the other Nordic Countries.

Reported criminal offences	1995	2005	2010	2014
Reported criminal offences, total	1057	975	929	700
Sexual offences	40	28	24	25
Crimes of violence	63	71	82	90
Theft	425	477	421	275
Vandalism	370	275	250	208
Other offences	159	124	152	102

Source: Statistics Faroe Islands

Statistical disaggregated data is not available on detained persons or persons in conflict with the law. The number of persons in detention under the age of 18 is, however, low according to the Police and Prison Service. It is estimated to be fewer than five persons in the last five years.

Efforts are made to divert young people from prison and to keep them within the Child Welfare System. A criminal act may therefore lead to a variety of noncustodial orders, supervised by the Child Welfare System.

Serious criminal acts may lead to imprisonment. There is no youth prison or special institutions for persons under the age of 18 in the Faroes, but special measures are being taken in cases that involve juveniles. It is for example possible to divide the prison into separate units in order to keep certain criminals away from the young person.

It is also possible to transfer the person to a suitable institution in Denmark. This is however considered a serious intervention into a young person's life and such transfers are avoided unless the person wishes to be transferred.

Source: The Police and Prison Service in the Faroes

¹ Since the introduction of the Home Rule System in 1948, Faroese public authorities have taken over legislative and administrative power in almost all domestic affairs. And with the Takeover Act from 2005 the possibilities available to the Faroese public authorities to take over fields of affairs were expanded significantly. Some of the areas that can be transferred according to the law on devolution have not yet been transferred and are therefore areas of joint concern, for example Prison and Probation Service, Police and Prosecutorial Authority and related elements of the Criminal Justice System.

This means that these areas are being conducted by Danish authorities in the Faroe Islands. The substantive legislative authority is formally under Danish competence, but in practice the Danish authorities only amend or change legislation after receiving notice from Faroese authorities.

I.4. Economic exploitation of children

The general rule is that children under the age of 15 are not allowed to work in the Faroe Islands. However, children at the age of 13 are allowed to carry out light tasks that are specifically defined.

Labour force estimated Nov. 2014, employed by age groups and gender

Total	Males	Females	Total
	15 266	12 544	27 811
As a percentage of population:			
Total	83	76	80
15-19 years	52	68	59
20-24 years	88	76	83
25-34 years	90	86	88
35-39 years	96	94	95
40-44 years	100	88	94
45-49 years	99	87	93
50-54 years	94	89	91
55-59 years	94	88	91
60-64 years	87	69	78
65-74 years	48	31	40

Source: Statistics Faroe Islands

I.5. Drug and substance abuse

Please refer to VII.C. regarding measures to protect children from substance abuse

I.6. Sexual exploitation, abuse and trafficking

The Faroese Police has no indication that human trafficking is taking place on the Faroe Islands. Given the small size of the population (around 48,000 residents) and community, it is believed that it would be difficult to engage in the trafficking of human beings and prostitution without alerting the authorities.

Neither is it the Police's impression that there are any brothels in the country. The Crisis Centre shares the Police's views. The Centre also states that, if there is any trafficking and/or prostitution, it is very well hidden and not organised.