

# The Danish Water

*- written by Jørgen Olsen, coordinator for the Danish organization Genvej til Udvikling  
(= Short Cut to Development), member of Emmaus  
Jørgen Olsen is a member of Emmaus' world council  
for political actions and international solidarity 2012-2020  
- translated from Danish by Julie Hedegaard Jensen*

Since the water supply is a highly prioritized political focus point in the Emmaus movement, there will be given an overview of how the water supplies are distributed in Denmark.

- Generally, the water is of excellent quality, and not particularly expensive
- 25 % of the Danish people consume water from cooperatives
- 75 % of the Danish people consume water from the municipalities

Overall, the water from the cooperatives is less expensive than the water municipal, which can be explained by the structure of the cooperatives, since the board consists of volunteer workers.

Towards the end of the 19th century the Danish farmers were amongst the most educated farmers in the world, and the cooperative movement was strong and popular in most of the country. The management of the water supplies at that time is one of the most lasting and notable results of the movement. Today, the water distributed by the municipalities is the most expensive, because it is managed only by paid workers, but even so, there has not been any discussion about whether to leave the distribution in the hands of the government or big private companies.

Only one political party is against the state of the affairs around the water supplies in Denmark: Liberal Alliance.