

A hand holding a dandelion seed head against a sunset background with seeds blowing away.

THE ROCKWOOL FOUNDATION

Annual Report 2024



“In 2024, the ROCKWOOL Foundation has continued to develop and support research into a wide range of welfare areas and significant societal challenges.

In addition, we have launched a new unit tasked with focusing on solutions to one of the most pressing economic challenges of our time: productivity and competitiveness. The initiative is powered by increasing concern regarding the economic future of Europe, including Denmark’s standing in the global economy.”

Elin Schmidt

President, ROCKWOOL Foundation

Launch of the ROCKWOOL Foundation's Productivity & Prosperity Unit

The ROCKWOOL Foundation's newest unit was launched at the start of the year and tasked with researching solutions to one of the most pressing economic challenges of our time: productivity and competitiveness.

Europe is on the threshold of a new era in economic policy and productivity is crucial in ensuring prosperity in the future, as well as in tackling the challenges we are facing both nationally and internationally.

The objective of the unit is to assist in reinforcing the competitive strength and economic sustainability of Denmark and of Europe as a whole.

"Productivity is certain to prove crucial in the context of generating prosperity in the future, as well as with regard to finding people to handle the assignments that exist in both public and private sectors."

Jan Rose Skaksen
Chief of Research





Conference: Country versus Town – is Denmark splitting in half?

At a conference, new research from the ROCK-WOOL Foundation turned the spotlight on the current and future challenges that small societies, far removed from the larger towns, are facing with regard to depopulation and a rise in the proportion of elderly citizens.

Kaare Dybvad Bek, Minister for Immigration and Integration, shared his opinions on the topic, not

only as a government minister, but also as the author of the book entitled *Udkantsmyten* (The Myth of the Periphery), which centred on the importance of the provinces to society.

Albert Saiz, a professor at MIT and an expert in urban economics, presented his predictions regarding the future of Denmark against the background of international experience.

"We need to understand the nature of unhappiness in order to be able to apply a closely targeted and effective response. We must be able to differentiate between those problems that require acute intervention and those that are likely to resolve themselves."

Signe Hald Andersen
Chief of Interventions

Unhappiness among young people is not permanent

"Generation unhappiness" has been the codename for the present cohorts of young people, and for many years the consensus in the public debate has been that young people are unhappier than ever before. For this reason, numerous programmes and initiatives have been launched in an attempt to deal with this key societal challenge.

However, in the autumn of 2024 the ROCKWOOL Foundation published a study that painted a more finely shaded picture. Because even though a large number of young people are, in fact, unhappy, it is only a transitory phase for a large majority of them.

The study highlights the need for ensuring that the actions and initiatives taken by society are based on solid knowledge so as to make the most appropriate use of the funds available.

Is the punishment system in Denmark fair?

In April, the ROCKWOOL Foundation published the results from two new studies – the development in youth criminality and the use of alternative forms of punishment, namely: community service and electronic ankle bracelets.


Alternative forms of punishment are much cheaper than imprisonment, result in lower criminal recidivism and cause less disruption in relation to family and friends, for example.

Nevertheless, the fact that differences exist regarding who is permitted to serve “alternative” sentences challenges the concept of equality before the law. In practice, this means that different sentences may be handed down for the same type of crime, depending on who the perpetrator is. Convicted criminals who can be described as “resource-rich” are more likely to receive an “alternative” punishment than their less resource-rich counterparts.

A man with a beard and short brown hair, wearing a blue blazer over a light blue shirt, is pointing his right index finger towards a presentation screen. He is holding a small black object in his left hand. The background is a presentation slide with a line graph. The graph has a vertical axis labeled 'Percent change, 1970-2000' and a horizontal axis with years 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000. A yellow line shows an upward trend from approximately 10% in 1970 to 25% in 1980, then fluctuates between 20% and 30% until 2000. A black line shows a steady upward trend from 0% in 1970 to 10% in 1980, then continues to rise more steeply towards 2000. The text 'ROCKWOOL FOUNDATION' is partially visible on the right side of the screen.

“Research reveals that electronic ankle bracelets function well for short sentences of under three months.”

Lars Højsgaard Andersen
Research Professor



"It is a huge cause for concern that even the youngest users have so quickly adopted this new, strongly addictive substance. The wide reach of this substance is what I would term a game-changer in every aspect of our approach to dealing with and combating substance abuse."

Jeanette Østergaard
Research Professor,
Head of Development



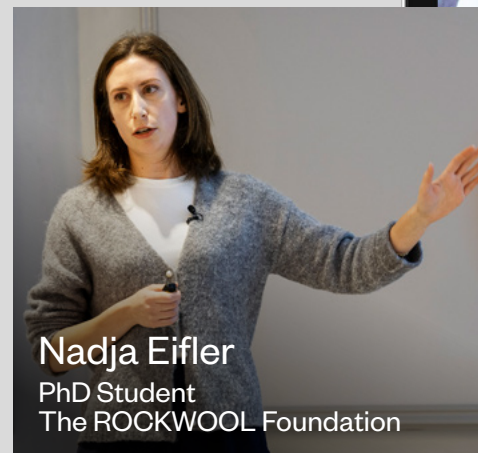
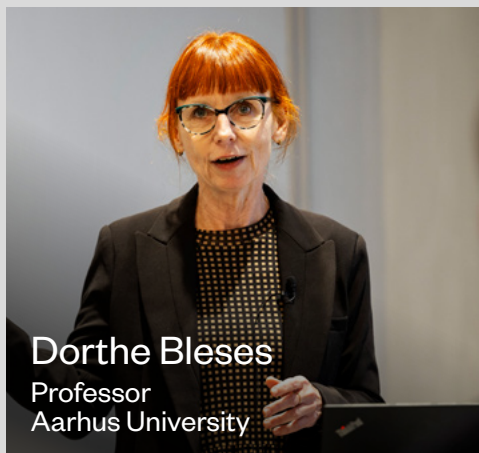
The opioid crisis – what are the facts?

In the run-up to the government's new political initiative to reverse the increasing abuse of opioids, the ROCKWOOL Foundation published a major study that revealed the use of opioids among 15–19-year-olds.

The figures were referred to on multiple occasions during the debate and showed, for example, that opioids have become the

second-most popular substance among the youngest users, exceeded only by hashish.

On the other hand, the study firmly established that only 4 percent of these young people had taken opioids within the past 12 months; so even though the development is concerning, there is not yet a large number of users in this age group.



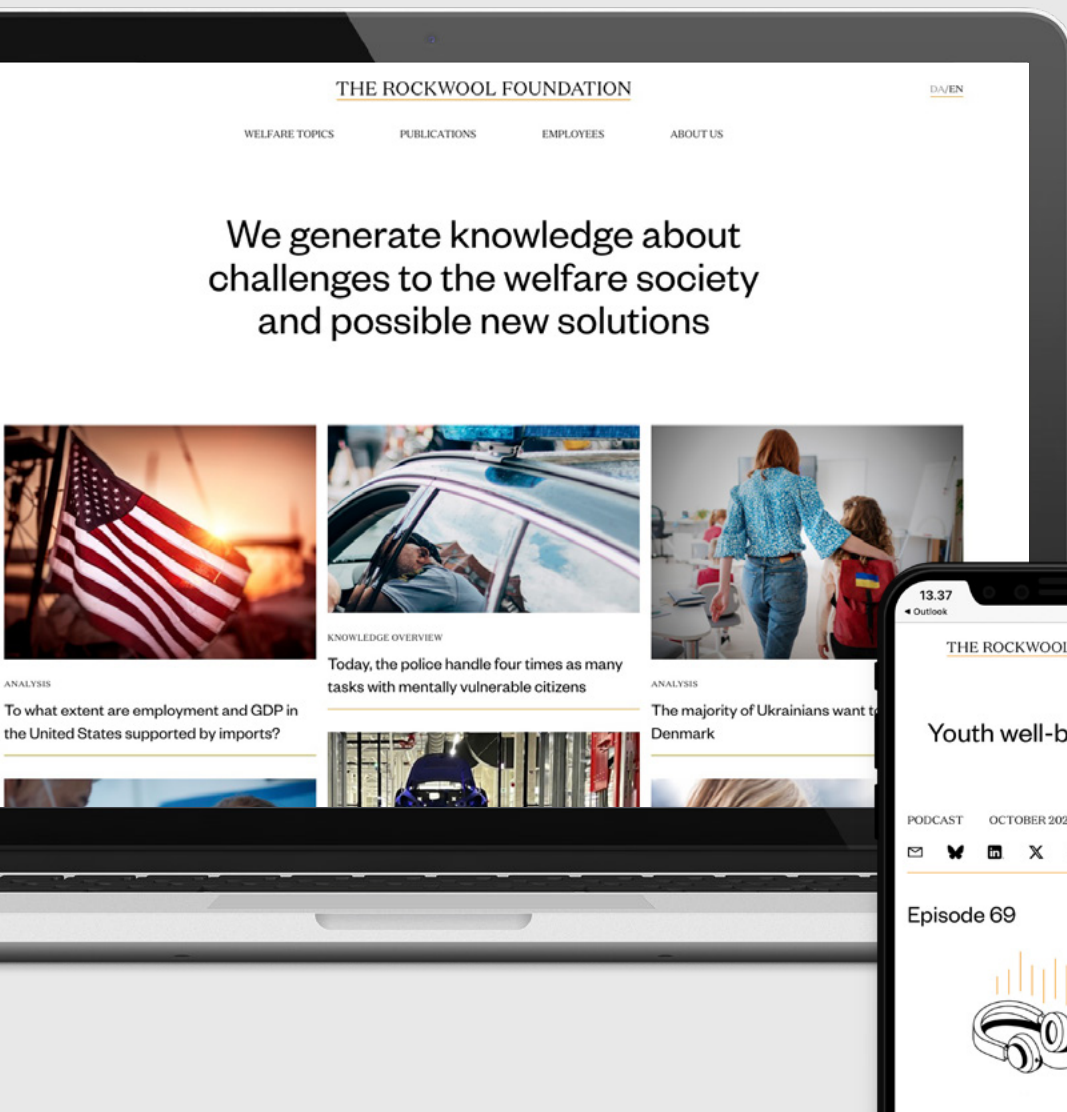
Conference on challenges facing men with regard to health and schooling

In October, the ROCKWOOL Foundation turned the spotlight on the fact that men are losing ground on women, particularly with regard to health and education.

Richard Reeves, researcher and award-winning author, talked about the educational challenges boys and men are facing, and made the point that while changes in traditional women's roles have been developing rapidly for decades, men have found it much harder to adapt.

Dorte Bleses, Professor at Aarhus University, talked about gender differences in children's language, while Svend Aage Madsen, PhD and psychologist, shared his knowledge of differences in health behaviour among elderly men and women.

The ROCKWOOL Foundation remains actively involved in this agenda, supporting an initiative under the leadership of Psychologist Svend Aage Madsen, PhD, which is intended to help reduce excess mortality among vulnerable men.



THE ROCKWOOL FOUNDATION

DAVEN

WELFARE TOPICS

PUBLICATIONS

EMPLOYEES

ABOUT US

We generate knowledge about challenges to the welfare society and possible new solutions



ANALYSIS

To what extent are employment and GDP in the United States supported by imports?



KNOWLEDGE OVERVIEW

Today, the police handle four times as many tasks with mentally vulnerable citizens



ANALYSIS

The majority of Ukrainians want to stay in Denmark



13.37

← Outlook

THE ROCKWOOL FOUNDATION

Youth well-being issues

PODCAST OCTOBER 2024

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Episode 69



Would you like to find out more?

Here, we have presented just a small selection of the publications and findings from 2024.

Stay up-to-date with publications and news from the ROCKWOOL Foundation. Reports, knowledge overviews, books and other releases are published online at

www.rockwoolfonden.dk

Podcasts are available via your preferred podcast app.

You can keep up with all the latest news by having our newsletter sent directly to your mailbox.

And you can follow us on the following social media platforms:



Financial KPIs 2024

Financial statement	tDKK
Revenues	292.671
Expenditure*	11.515
Profit prior to donations	281.156
Donations	262.153
Profit for the year	19.003

Capital at 31 December 2024

Equity capital	13.402.419
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* Incl. Board fees in the amount of kDKK 2.033 2.033



THE ROCKWOOL FOUNDATION

The ROCKWOOL Foundation
Ny Kongensgade 6
1472 Copenhagen K, Denmark

Tel. +45 33 34 47 00
Email: kontakt@rockwoolfonden.dk