

# DNRF and internationalization: Can we do better?

Thomas Sinkjær  
DNRF Annual Meeting, October 29 2010

## Philosophy of DNRF: Focus on people

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”If you let the best people grapple with the problems they are passionate about, we set the stage for real scientific breakthroughs”



# The DNRF Activities

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## The DNRF's primary means to strengthen Danish research:

Centres of Excellence (CoE)

## Other DNRF activities (with an international aim):

Niels Bohr Visiting Professorships

DNRF Professorships

International collaboration with  
Max Planck Society, NSFC, CNRS, NSF

International Talent Recruitment Program

## DNRF Main Panel Evaluation 2003

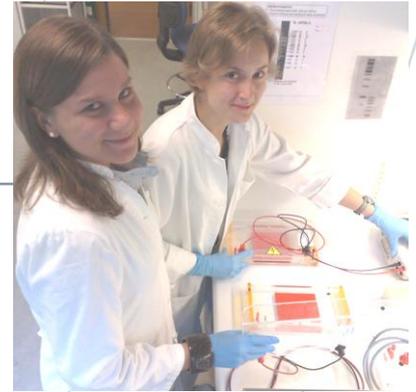
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“ Despite obstacles and rigidities in the system, the Foundation should seek to increase the attractiveness of the Danish system to foreign scientists and to encourage Danish scientists to gain foreign experience.”

*... and we tried to do so:*

# International Funding Instruments

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## Niels Bohr Visiting Professors

Visiting professors of high international standing collaborates with existing Danish research environments

## DNRF Professors

Attracting elite international researchers to permanent positions at a Danish university

## International Talent Recruitment Program

A talent-recruitment initiative launched in 2007 and 2008 targeted the Centers of Excellence wishing to strengthen the Centers' international recruitment efforts.



# Joint Funding Schemes

## Max Planck Society

Center for Geomicrobiology was established at AU as a joint venture between Max Planck Society and D NRF

## National Science Foundation (NSF)

New initiative with NSF focusing on education and training at the PhD levels

## Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)

A mobility program has been established with CNRS facilitating exchange between researchers at D NRF Centers and CNRS laboratories

## National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)

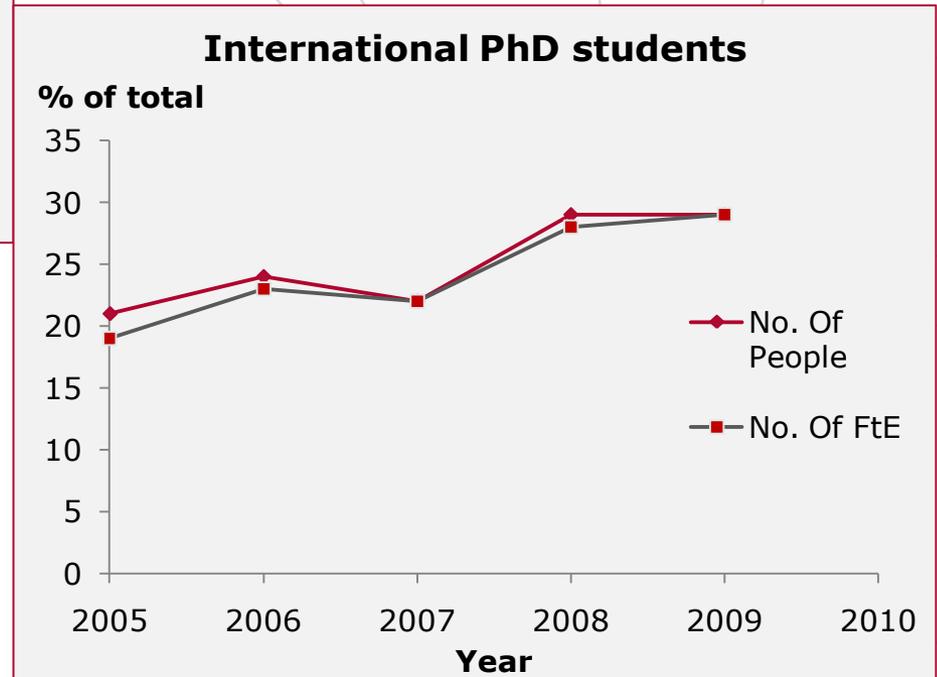
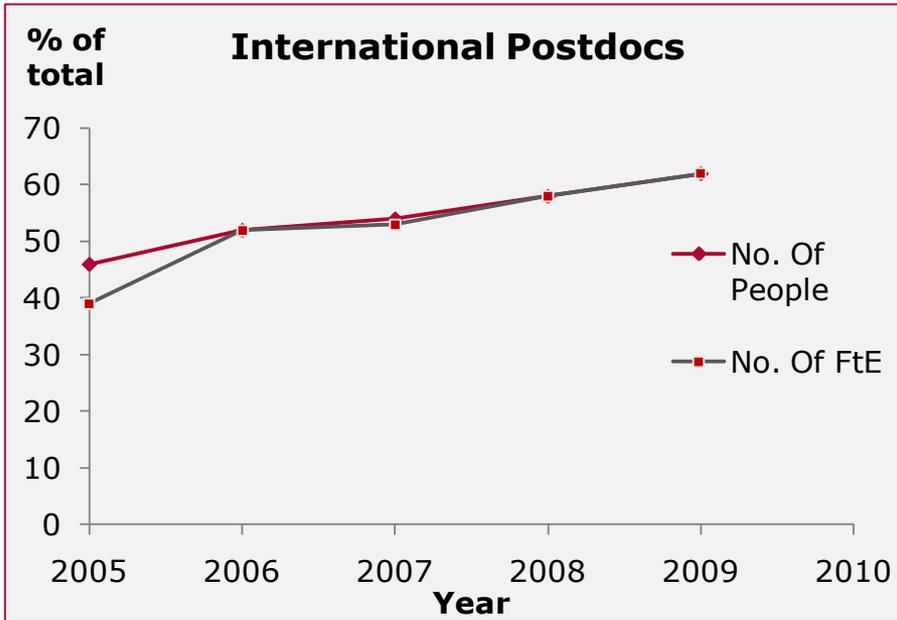
Co-funding and establishment of research centers with sites in Denmark and China

# Internationalization

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- Over time, 13 of 77 centers headed by foreign international top researchers
- ~ 30% of PhD students at D NRF centers are foreigners
- ~ 60% of post docs are foreigners
- ~ 22% of senior staff (incl. center leaders) are from abroad
- Our ambition: 40% of staff from abroad (including PhD students)

# International PhD students and postdocs at DNRFCenters of Excellence



# What DNRF thinks about internationalization

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- To increase the common pool of knowledge, the best researchers need to be able to meet and collaborate independently of national boundaries
- To improve and inspire, it is important that research institutions continuously encourage recruitment of the best qualified researchers from where ever they are located on the globe
- Excellent research is positively stimulated by a high degree of internationalization as the best people are working together
- Going abroad shows a researcher's passion and commitment and contributes to the creation of thriving and dynamic research environments
- Time spent abroad is decisive for many careers in research

# Niels Bohr Visiting Professor Dale Mortensen receives the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences

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“Research is ultimately a joint exercise, and very few researchers produce groundbreaking results all by themselves. It is therefore important to gather together competent researchers who can pool their resources, build on each other’s results and ask the key questions in a dynamic interchange.” (Dale Mortensen)

**17.30-18.00**

Aperitif and  
entertainment feature  
with pianist Rune  
Solvang

**18.00-21.00**

Dinner and coffee  
("Vestauranten")

