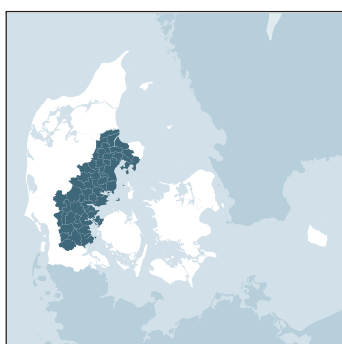


ness districts and public institutions, should be integrated with the opportunities for public transport services.

State initiative following up the 2006 national planning report

The Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Transport and Energy will encourage dialogue between the municipal councils in Sjælland, the regional transport company for Sjælland, the regional council and the state on the future urban development in Sjælland outside greater Copenhagen, including the interaction with development in Greater Copenhagen.



Eastern Jylland

National priority: initiating long-term spatial planning that can establish an overall urban structure and ensure coherent landscapes between towns.

Eastern Jylland is coalescing into a functional conurbation with substantial population growth and a division of tasks between the towns in the urban corridor from Kolding to Randers. In fact, in the long term these may be the contours of a new city region in Denmark with more than 1 million inhabitants. Maintaining open and coherent landscapes between towns within this urban corridor is in Denmark's national interest. Development in eastern Jylland is posing two prominent challenges for spatial planning.

Ensuring quality in the landscape. The landscape in eastern Jylland is of high quality with substantial variation and good accessibility. Urban growth must not take place at the expense of the clear, welfare-generating strengths. Development should be dense where it is allowed so that other areas can be free of development. The landscape should be planned inward towards cities and towns and thereby establish a framework delimiting urban growth.

Ensuring consideration for infrastructure. Commuting is increasing, and congestion may arise. New urban districts and housing should be located to ensure a basis for good public transport services, and the designation of new business districts along motorways should mainly be reserved for companies with a substantial transport component.

State initiative following up the 2006 national planning report

The Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Transport and Energy will initiate dialogue between the involved municipal councils and regional councils and the state on the future development of the urban corridor in eastern Jylland. The dialogue will focus on how to ensure coordinated and appropriate regulation of land use in the urban corridor in eastern Jylland based on the need for creating a new framework for development.

Town regions

National priority: spatial planning being based on a comprehensive approach that supersedes the individual municipalities so that town networks can create the basis for innovation, knowledge and service.

The Government of Denmark believes that the challenges facing spatial planning in town regions can be solved in a sustainable manner within the existing spatial structure. The initiatives that should be taken in relation to development in town regions can optimally be carried out based on local debate on development at the regional and municipal levels.

Ensuring that the relatively favourable development trends in the large towns can be maintained in the long term requires developing interaction between the main towns within each of the new administrative regions. Each regional council should cooperate with the municipal councils in the administrative region in striving to establish links between the main towns such that the regional spatial development plan reflects the desires and potential of the administrative region to agree on a division of roles between the towns. The regional spatial development plans are an appropriate instrument for this purpose, and the new preparatory committees between the regional councils and their respective municipal councils should be assigned a key role. The urban identity and architecture of the main towns will be an important aspect of developing the town regions.

Business clusters have been analysed in connection with this national planning report. The municipalities can benefit by basing their planning on this analysis.

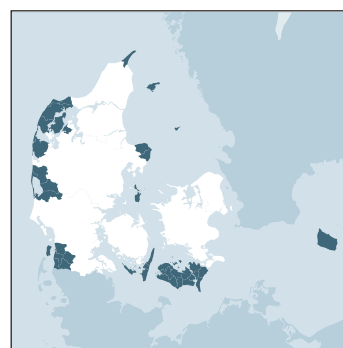
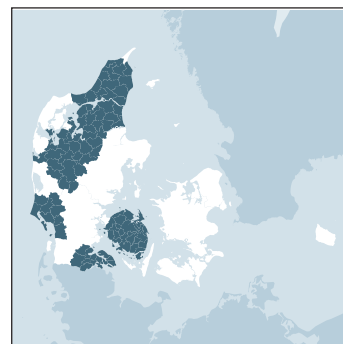
State initiative following up the 2006 national planning report

The Ministry of the Environment will initiate a project for developing a new settlement pattern in cooperation with municipal councils and regional councils so that the urban settlement pattern more accurately reflects the special qualities of the towns and the division of roles in a town network than the current hierarchical settlement pattern. One aim of this project is to inspire the regional spatial development planning.

Small-town regions

National priority: spatial planning in small-town regions emphasizing their natural qualities as an important potential for development as a supplement to efforts related to economic policy through such actors as the regional economic growth forums.

The national planning report defines small-town regions as the commuting catchment area for towns with fewer than 20,000 inhabitants that are relatively far from any larger town. The small-town regions may therefore have more difficulty in spurring economic growth than other areas of Denmark and need specific monitoring. All areas of Denmark should be attractive places to reside, live and conduct business.



Individuals and companies are increasingly focusing on valuable natural and landscape and townscape features. The more difficult prerequisites for economic growth in small-town regions may require them to innovate.

The small-town regions can also use their spatial starting-point as an advantage to strive for development through rural diversification based on their natural qualities and uniqueness, such as increased settlement, recreational experiences and tourism. Other options are efforts to protect landscapes, nature and the environment and accessibility to tranquil areas. Similarly, developing such sectors as food or converting disused agricultural buildings can provide new potential. Further, attractive holiday and leisure areas can be created that can contribute to supporting such initiatives as coastal tourism near towns without sacrificing valuable natural and cultural features.

The Ministry of the Environment would further like to investigate other methods than the current administrative framework for managing the often fluid boundaries between year-round residences and summer cottages in existing urban zones.

The Government of Denmark is monitoring how the municipal councils have used the opportunities to grant permits for building in villages and rural districts pursuant to the changes in the zoning provisions of the Planning Act in 2002. The Government of Denmark expects that this can increase activity in villages. The survey of the administration of the regulations on rural zones pursuant to the Planning Act that the Ministry of the Environment is carrying out in 2006 will more closely investigate how the municipal councils have granted permits.

State initiatives following up the 2006 national planning report

The Ministry of the Environment is initiating a dialogue project in one or more specific areas focusing on how a small-town region can actively incorporate its natural qualities and characteristic landscapes into a development strategy without ruining these valuable features. Key aspects could be surveying a municipality's existing natural, cultural and landscape features and the opportunities to use these aspects in local development.

The Ministry of the Environment is initiating a project to investigate the role of villages in the new municipalities, to analyse the barriers to their development and to discuss strategies for development based on the local distinctiveness of each village.

Annex

Denmark's reform of local government structure

A major reform of local government structure in Denmark will enter into force on 1 January 2007. The current 271 municipalities will be amalgamated and reduced to 98 municipalities. Typically, several small rural municipalities are being amalgamated under a nearby town or several towns are merging into one municipality, a polycentric municipality. The current 12 regional planning authorities (mostly county councils) are being abolished and replaced by five new administrative regions with popularly elected regional councils.

The new municipalities will comprise 2.8 municipalities on average; in some cases up to seven municipalities are being amalgamated into one, such as in the new Municipalities of Lolland, Sønderborg and Viborg.

Many of the urban municipalities in Greater Copenhagen, however, are maintaining their current boundaries and population size.

Some very large municipalities will be created in the parts of Denmark with the lowest population density. The Municipality of Ringkøbing-Skjern will be the largest in area at 1489 km². This is three times larger than the Municipality of Thisted, which previously was the municipality with the largest area.

Municipal planning

The Planning Act will be amended as part of the reform of local government structure. This will give the popularly elected municipal councils the key role in spatial planning in Denmark. The municipal councils will have the task of preparing a coherent and coordinated plan for land use in both urban and rural zones. The municipal councils will thereby assume responsibility for most of the planning tasks previously managed by the regional planning authorities.

Based on an overall assessment of development in the municipality, the municipal plan thus contains guidelines for many topics and considerations in both town and country. The topics are listed in §11a of the Planning Act, a catalogue of municipal planning tasks, and they correspond to the existing topics included in municipal plans and those previously included in the regional plans.

The municipal councils will have improved opportunities to establish objectives for development in the entire municipality and thereby ensure coherence in planning and an appropriate balance between development in cities and towns and protecting the qualities of the countryside.

The Ministry of the Environment is obligated to veto a proposal for a municipal plan if its provisions are not in accordance with regional, national and international interests. Examples include the designation of sites for development violating the regulations governing development in a zone within 3 km from the coast or if a municipal council designates land for developing a road that passes through an area significant for nature and the landscape.

Regional spatial development planning

Denmark's five new regional councils will be responsible for preparing regional spatial development plans for the administrative regions. Based on comprehensive assessment, a regional spatial development plan will provide an overall spatial strategy for the future spatial development of the cities and towns, rural districts and small-town regions in the administrative region and for nature and the environment, business, tourism, employment, education and culture. A regional spatial development plan is thus a completely new strategic planning instrument that will express what the regional council considers important for promoting economic growth and sustainable development in the administrative region. The regional spatial development plan will base its economic planning on the regional economic development strategies prepared by the regional forums on economic growth.

The regional spatial development plan will be a joint project between the municipal councils, business, the regional council and the other actors in the administrative region. The municipal councils will therefore explain how the municipal plan relates to the regional spatial development plan.

Compared with the current regional plans, a regional spatial development plan focuses more on an overall spatial strategy for regional development and will be much more oriented towards the future and action.

THE NEW MAP OF DENMARK

THE 2006 NATIONAL PLANNING REPORT



The 2006 national planning report: the new map of Denmark

– spatial planning under new conditions

After each new national election, the Minister for the Environment submits a national planning report to the Folketing (Denmark's parliament) that expresses the vision of the Government of Denmark for the future spatial development of Denmark. A draft national planning report was subject to public comment from 3 March to 21 April 2006. The final national planning report was submitted to the Folketing on 19 May 2006.

The 2006 national planning report focuses on the new conditions globalization poses for spatial planning and how spatial planning can contribute to making Denmark more competitive. It also discusses the reform of local government structure that will enter into force on 1 January 2007 and changes the division of tasks between the 98 new municipal councils, the five new regional councils and the state. The report thus proposes a method based increasingly on dialogue in which the municipal councils have clearly defined autonomy for local planning based on general principles.

The 2006 national planning report urges municipal councils, regional councils and other actors in spatial development to strive for quality in planning in towns, in the countryside and in the landscape and townscape. This includes good and well-functioning cities and towns for work and residence, open landscapes and coherent natural areas to explore and experience. The report thus discusses current trends and problems in relation to such topics as housing and economic development, urban and settlement policy and tourism.

The 2006 national planning report – in brief summarizes the full 2006 national planning report, which is available in Danish only. Both publications are available at the web site of the Spatial Planning Department (www.skovognatur.dk).