Denmark at a glance

Bounded by water apart from 64 km

Flat agricultural land

Population density 127 per km²

The large ”H”

Two new bridges and one more decided
Urban development since 1960

Characteristic development trends:

- Expansion (4 times)
- Urban sprawl
- Great distances required for daily functions
- High energy consumption
- Separation of urban functions
Population and urban structure

5.5 million inhabitants

5 largest cities are: Copenhagen, Århus, Odense, Ålborg and Esbjerg

1/3 lives in the Greater Copenhagen area
Commuting and the infrastructure

The flow of commuting in 2002
The 2006 National Planning Report
The new map of Denmark

5 types of settlement regions:
• Greater Copenhagen
• The rest of Zealand
• Eastern Jutland
• Town regions
• Small town regions
The new administrative map 2007

- From 271 to 98 municipalities
- From 14 counties and the Greater Copenhagen Authority (HUR) to 5 regions
- 7 new national environment centres
The local government reform

  27th. April 2004 The Government’s proposal
- May -June 2004 Political negotiations
- Autumn 2004 Legislation prepared (50 different acts)
- December 2004 Hearing
- December 2004 Municipalities’ proposals for amalgamation
- 8th. Feb 2005 Parliamentary election
- 24th Feb. 2005 Legislation proposals to Parliament
- June 2005 Legislation approved
- November 2005 Local government elections (new municipalities and regions)
- 2006 Transitional arrangement takes effect
The planning act reform 2007

Before

- National planning
- 12 Regional plans
- 271 Municipal plans
- 1300 Local plans p.a.

After

- Strengthened national planning
- 5 Regional spatial development plans
- 98 Municipal plans
- No change for Local plans

Transitional arrangement 2006 - 2009
The planning system 2007

National planning
Government policy:
• National planning report
• National interests
• National planning directives

Regional spatial development plans
The regional vision

Municipal plans
• Municipal planning strategy
• Regulation of land use
• EIA as supplement to the munical plans

Regional economic growth fora
Business development strategy

2009: Water resource plans
Natura 2000 plans

Regional raw materials plan
Transport planning

National sector interests

Local plans
Case work
Overview of national interests

- Every 4th. year
- Specific definition of municipal latitude
- No new stipulations but overview of legislation, national reviews and action plans etc.
- Prepared with other relevant ministries and in spirit of dialogue with the Danish Local Government Association (KL)
- The aim is to avoid vetoes
- The Minister for the Environment has a duty to veto plans, which are not in accordance with national interests
The Greater Copenhagen Region, special provisions in the Spatial Planning Act

The 2005 Regional Plan is replaced by Finger Plan 2007 + 34 municipal plans
Greater Copenhagen Region

1 mill. workplaces
1.8 mill. inhabitants

- Central cities: 1/3
- Inner suburban Ring: 1/3
- Outer suburban Ring: 1/3

Five provincial towns:

- Elsinore: pop. 35,000
- Hillerød: pop. 29,000
- Frederikssund: pop. 15,000
- Roskilde: pop. 46,000
- Køge: pop. 34,500
The 2007 Finger Plan

Specifik contents:

- 4 geographical zones are shown on a map, i.e. town fingers with potential for new urban areas and the extent of the green wedges.

- Makes adjustments to the station proximity principle.

- Municipal plans must contain provisions for phased development of new urban zone negotiated with the Ministry of the Environment.

- Reservations for transport infrastructure and the transport corridor etc.
The eastern Jutland urban corridor – following up on the National Planning Report

Dialogue project - concerning sustainable urban development:

- 1 mill. population – strong growth
- 17 municipalities, 2 regions, 2 ministries
- **Phase 1:** Analysis of functions
- **Phase 2:** Vision/Mission
- **Phase 3:** 3-4 alternative outline plans
- **Phase 4:** Conclusions
Urban policy initiative
by the Minister of the Environment

The compact town
The healthy town
The green town
The blue town
The 5 regional spatial development plans

- **New type of plan: The Regional Council’s vision**
- **Binds regional strategies together**
  - Business development
  - Employment and education
  - Nature and the environment
  - Public transport etc.
- **Maps**
  — but no precise land use reservations
The role of municipal planning

- Strategic Plan 2007 + Local Agenda 21
  - Visions and goals

  - Municipal Plan 2009
    - Regional activities
    - Central government activities
      - The Rural Development Programme
      - Water resource plans And Natura 2000 plans
From strategy to municipal plan

2007
- Strategy
- Public hearing and debate

2008 – 2009
- Main structure
- Guidelines
- Framework for local planning
- Public hearing and debate
Municipal plan 2009 – first generation

Old municipal plans

Old regional plan 2005

Municipal plan 2009

PLAN09
Policy for Retail Development

Goals:
- Shops in the core of the towns
- Variety of shops in small and medium sized towns
- Sustainable retail structure
- Access for pedestrians public transport

General limits:
- 3500 m² for general shops and
- 2000 m² for speciality shops
Urban policy principles
Brown field sites and new development

Aim: urban quality, density and reduced need for urban expansion
Designated sites in Municipal Plan
Reuse of brown field sites
Specific public/private regeneration partnership
Possibility for a future landowner-association
New development - mix of urban functions
Social regeneration projects
Avedøre Stationsby (special legislation)

Problems:
- criminality
- unemployment
- high degree of removal
- conflicts between ethnic groups
- increasing rents
- vandalism
- run-down public-areas
The local plans

Mandatory before large projects or substantial changes in surroundings

Implement stipulations of regional and municipal plans

Legally binding for property owners

Public participation
The urban-rural zoning system

- Urban zone
- Village delimitation
- Summer cottage area
- Local plan in rural area
A rural zone permit is required to parcel out land, construct buildings or change the land use.

**Purpose:**
- Prevention of random building and construction
- Protection of landscape assets
- Protection of recreational assets
- Protection of agriculture and forestry
- Support for the rules and framework of municipal plans
- Special rules for former farm buildings
Plan09: Partnership-programme 2006-09

Support to the municipal planning process. Aims at:

- Valuable urban environments and attractive landscapes
- Political ownership and commitment
- Specialist professional and innovative planning culture in both the public and the private sector

Facts

- The project is a partnership between The Realdania Foundation and The Ministry of The Environment
- The total budget framework 2006-2009 is 50 mio. kr.
On the road to the municipal plan 2009

Strategic Plan 2007

Visions and goals

Municipal Plan 2009

Regional activities

The Rural Development Programme

Central government activities

Water resource plans and Natura 2000 plans
26 demonstration projects in 40 municipalities

- Urban renewal
- Urban pattern
- Digital municipal plans
- Adaptation to climate change in the countryside
- Green space near towns
- Retailing in smaller towns
- Business alongside motorways
- Housing policy in the municipal plan
- Planning culture in the planning department
The urban planning paradox

Dense cities
- reduce the global environmental burden
- increase local environmental problems

Urban Sprawl
- increases the global environmental burden
- reduces local environmental problems
The site and the building
The town planner and the architect
The local plan delivers ”The site”!
The municipal plan delivers the policy and the framework!

The municipal planning department needs to master many disciplines

- Spatial planners and specialists deliver the competences
- Planning culture is a symbiosis of the actors’ sense of values, competences and interests
- Thus politicians become part of the planning culture
Thanks for your attention!

www.blst.dk
(The Agency for Spatial and Environmental Planning)

www.commin.org
(The Baltic Spatial Conceptshare)

www.plan09.dk
(An partnershipproject 2006-2009)

http://commin.org/upload/Denmark/Reform_of_the_Planning_Act.doc
(Article by Niels Østergård)