



THE STATE OF NATIONAL URBAN POLICY IN DENMARK

Name of national urban policy	No explicit national urban policy. Two urban development policies: <i>Danish Act on Urban Renewal and Urban Development</i> (2015) and the <i>Danish Planning Act (Vækst og udvikling i hele landet) [Growth and Development in all of Denmark]</i> (2015)
Date of national urban policy	2015
Explicit or partial	Partial
Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.)	Acts of parliament
Previous/secondary policies	<i>Ghetto Strategy</i> (2010)
Stage of development	Implementation
How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.)	No information available
Implementing body	Ministry of Business and Growth; Ministry of Immigration, Integration and Housing
Government system	Centralised
Type of national urban agency	General national planning authority
Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination)	No information available

Current national urban policy

Denmark does not have an explicit national urban policy framework, but two national policies guide urban development. The 2015 *Danish Act on Urban Renewal and Urban Development* serves as a tool for Danish municipalities to make targeted efforts in urban and housing policy, particularly related to the provision and renewal of housing (OECD, 2015; Government of Denmark, 2015a). The Ministry of Immigration, Integration and Housing is responsible for the overall implementation of the Act. The 2015 *Danish Planning Act* sets the framework for spatial planning and contributes to the implementation of urban policy. The Ministry of Business and Growth is responsible for the Act and establishes the overall guidelines for physical planning, while municipalities are responsible for implementation of guidelines and visions into spatial planning through municipal plans and local development plans (OECD, 2015).

As more than a third of the national population lives in the Greater Copenhagen area, national urban policies interact closely with policies in the Copenhagen metropolitan area (van den Berg, Braun and van der Meer, 2004).

Previous national urban policy and developments

In 2010, the national government created a *Ghetto Strategy (ghetto-strategi)*, which focused on improving housing and social integration in 29 urban areas (UN-Habitat, 2015). Urban development was overseen by the Urban Committee, which was formed in 1993 and brought together representatives from the various ministries that operate in the urban sphere. The Ministry of Urban Affairs was formed in 1998 but abolished in 2001 (UN-Habitat, 2015). Currently the Ministry of Business and Growth is the urban-specific ministry. Transport is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Transport and Building, and housing policy is under the Ministry of Immigration, Integration and Housing (Government of Denmark, 2016), and the Ministry of Environment is responsible for climate adaptation.

Areas covered by current urban policy

Sector	Sectoral representation in the <i>Danish Act on Urban Renewal and Urban Development</i> or in the <i>Danish Planning Act</i>
Economic development	Moderate
Spatial structure	High
Human development	Moderate
Environmental sustainability	Moderate
Climate resilience	Moderate

Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

The *Danish Act on Urban Renewal and Urban Development* includes the following characteristics (based on Government of Denmark, 2015a):

Criteria for national urban policies	Appears in the policy
Responds to population dynamics	
Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages)	
Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities	
Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space)	X
Promotes urban land-use efficiency	
Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change	
Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment)	
Promotes effective municipal finance systems	
Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors	X
Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.)	
Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data	

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