

Regional studies in Denmark are undertaken in a large number of institutional contexts, most of which are fairly small and often drawing on a range of disciplinary backgrounds, from economics and geography to planning, political science and cultural studies. The list below, *Regional Studies in Denmark*, therefore aims to be comprehensive, but suggestions for further inclusion are welcome and should be e-mail to Henrik Halkier on Halkier@ihis.aau.dk.

Public policy with regard to regional development has come to the fore in the wake of the regional governance reform implemented as of 2007, and as this involved a large measure of organisational streamlining, it is now possible to provide a comprehensive list, given below under the heading *Regional Development in Denmark*, of contact points to key actors in regional development in Denmark as an area of public policy.

Regional Studies in Denmark has a country representative (contact details below) who works closely together with counterparts in the other Nordic countries, something which resulted in a well-attended seminar in Norway on *New Nordic Regionalism* which focused on the ongoing reform processes of regional governance in the Nordic countries.

Should you need further information about regional issues in Denmark that cannot be readily found via the information and links below, you are welcome to contact the RSA country representative for Denmark



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Regional studies in Denmark

(in alphabetical order)

Aalborg University, Centre for Regional Development (CRU). An interdepartmental centre bringing together a large number of researchers within business economics, innovation, geography, regional policy and governance, and urban development. Longstanding emphasis on interaction with regional and national policy-makers. For more information, see www.cru.aau.dk or contact Jesper Lindgaard Christensen on jlc@business.aau.dk.

Aarhus School of Business, University of Aarhus. Longstanding interest in business development, innovation and entrepreneurialism. For more information, see Department of Management at www.asb.dk or contact Anne Bøllingtoft on anns@asb.dk.

AKF Governmental Research. Longstanding research interest in regional economics, including modelling, planning, demography and tourism. For more information, see www.akf.dk or contact Olaf Rieper on or@akf.dk.

Centre for Regional and Tourism Studies, Bornholm. A specialist research centre in the middle of the Baltic, focusing especially on island studies, rural areas and tourism. For more information, see www.crt.dk or contact Steen Schønemann on ss@crt.dk.

CBS, Copenhagen Business School. A rich research record with regard to clusters, innovation and knowledge processes. For more information, see Department of Industrial Economics and Strategy on www.cbs.dk or contact Peter Maskell on pm.ivs@cbs.dk.

DRUID – Danish Research Unit for Industrial Dynamics. A network established by researchers at CBS and Aalborg University, with a strong interest also in regional issues. For more information, see www.druid.dk or contact Jeanette Hvarregaard on druid@druid.dk.

Roskilde University. Regional research has mostly been inspired by perspectives from geography and business economics. For more information, see Department of Environmental, Social and Spatial Change on www.ruc.dk or contact Jørgen Ole Bærenholdt on job@ruc.dk.

University of Copenhagen. Following recent mergers comprising several research centres with a longstanding interest in regional issues, especially from the perspectives of geography and planning. For more information, see Centre for Forest and Landscape on www.sl.life.ku.dk or contact Niels Boje Groth on nbg@life.ku.dk – or see the Department of Geography on www.geogr.ku.dk or contact Christian Wichmann Matthiessen on cwm@geogr.ku.dk.

University of Southern Denmark. Regional interests are particularly pronounced in three research units with self-explanatory names: Department of Border Region Studies which can be found on www.ifg.dk or contact Karen Margrethe Pedersen on kam@sam.sdu.d, Danish Institute of Rural Research and Development which can be found on www.iful.sdu.dk or contact Flemming Just on fj@sam.sdu.dk, and the Centre for SME Research which can be found on www.sam.sdu.dk/cesfo or contact Andreas P. Cornett on cornett@sam.sdu.dk.

Regional development in Denmark

Since 2002 Danish regional policy has witnessed a period of intense change, contrasting sharply with the relatively constant picture presented in the 1990s where, after the termination of central government regional aid schemes, policies have consisted of Structural Funds programming and bottom-up initiatives tempered by attempts by central government to introduce a greater degree of coordination. The pace of change has picked up in earnest since the start of 2004 and has revolved around two closely-related central government initiatives which have profoundly transformed the organisational set-up for regional development in the coming years:

- A major reform of local government has been legislated for which, when it comes into force as of 1 January 2007, will reduce the number of local authorities from 275 to 98 and the number of intermediate-level units from 14 *Amt*er to five large regions.
- A new Business Development Act was passed by parliament (*Lov om erhvervsfremme*, L47 of 16 June 2005) which gave the new regions statutory responsibility for economic development and thereby raised the profile of this area of public policy significantly.

The new approach came fully into force at the beginning of 2007, and regional policy is now conducted throughout the country through statutory *regional growth fora*, partnership-based bodies which are responsible for strategy development and policy implementation.

The list below therefore comprises only relatively few entries, namely the main national-level bodies responsible for regional issues and the 6 growth fora (one of the administrative regions has established two growth fora, one for metropolitan Copenhagen and one for the peripheral Baltic island of Bornholm).

Ministry of Economic and Business Affairs is responsible for regional economic development issues. For more information, see www.oem.dk.

Ministry of the Interior and Health monitors regional development in general. For more information, see www.im.dk.

Ministry of the Environment is responsible for spatial planning. For more information, see www.mim.dk.
National Agency for Enterprise and Construction is the public body responsible for implementation of policies for regional economic development, including Structural Funds programming. For more information, see www.naec.dk which also comprises a knowledge-base (in Danish) with links to literature and statistics.

Statistics Denmark provides statistical information, much of which is free of charge and including breakdowns to the regional and/or local level. For more information, see www.dst.dk.

Bornholm Regional Growth Forum – see www.brk.dk (in Danish).

Capital Region Regional Growth Forum – see www.regionhovedstaden.dk (in Danish).

Mid Jutland Regional Growth Forum – see www.regionmidtjylland.dk (in Danish).

North Jutland Regional Growth Forum – see www.rn.dk (in Danish).

South Denmark Regional Growth Forum – see www.regionsyddanmark.dk (in Danish).

Zealand Regional Growth Forum – see www.vfsj.dk (in Danish).