
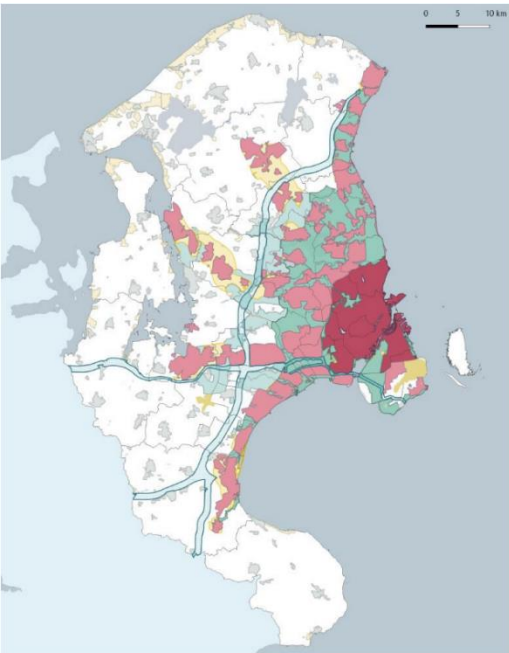


Fact sheet for planning levels

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Facts: Finger Plan 2019. National Planning Directive for the Greater Copenhagen Area

Legal basis

- Planning Act (*Planloven*) LBK nr. 1157 of 1 July 2020.
- The Finger Plan 2019 National Directive for Planning in Greater Copenhagen (*Fingerplan 2019 Landsplandirektiv for hovedstadsområdet planlægning*), BEK nr. 312 of 28 March 2019. The Finger Plan is issued as a national directive pursuant to the Planning Act

Competences

- §5j(1) of the Planning Act gives responsibility to the Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs (*Erhvervsministeriet*) to lay down the rules in pursuit of the Act's stipulated principles for planning in the Greater Copenhagen area. This competence was transferred to the new Ministry of Interior and Housing (*Indenrigs- og Boligministeriet*) in early 2021.
- The Finger Plan 2019 directive was prepared by the Danish Business Authority (*Erhvervsstyrelsen*) under the Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs in response to the Planning Act.

Binding force

- Statutory order with binding effect on the 34 municipalities that together constitute the Greater Copenhagen area.
- §5j (2) in the Planning Act specifies the four types of geographical areas that comprise the Greater Copenhagen area:
 - the inner metropolitan area (the palm);
 - the outer metropolitan area (the finger city);
 - the green wedges (area between the fingers); and
 - the rest of the Greater Copenhagen area.
- §5i (1) of the Planning Act specifies that municipal planning in the Greater Copenhagen area must be carried out in accordance with the four types of geographical areas that comprise the finger city structure. At the same time, urban development of regional significance must be coordinated with the expansion of the Greater Copenhagen area's overall infrastructure, with special regard to public transport services.
- Municipal planning within the Greater Copenhagen area must not conflict with the Finger Plan directive or other national planning directives for the area. This essentially means that local plans must not contravene either the municipal plans or national planning interests.

Tasks and content

- The Finger Plan 2019 directive sets out the overall framework for spatial planning in the Greater Copenhagen area. The municipalities that constitute the Greater Copenhagen area subsequently 'fill in' this framework with municipal and local plans.
- The Finger Plan is divided into two parts. The first part comprises the statutory order accompanied by maps displaying different spatial features of the metropolitan area at different scales. The second part consists of guidance to each of the provisions of the statutory order.
- The statutory order is comprised of the following eight parts:
 - the Greater Copenhagen area;
 - the main structure;
 - the core urban region (the 'palm of the hand' of the finger city);
 - the peripheral urban region (the city fingers);
 - the green wedges;
 - the rest of the Greater Copenhagen area;
 - across-the-board themes;
 - entry into force.
- The spatial structure of the Finger Plan is based on two spatial principles: i) the proximity-to-station principle based on the spatial logic of locating activities (such as public institutions, retail centres and housing complexes)

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adjacent to suburban rail stations, and ii) the green wedge principle aimed at preserving green areas and open spaces located between the development corridors (the fingers). The use of this principle has been recently expanded to secure green areas within the city and along the coasts (see below).

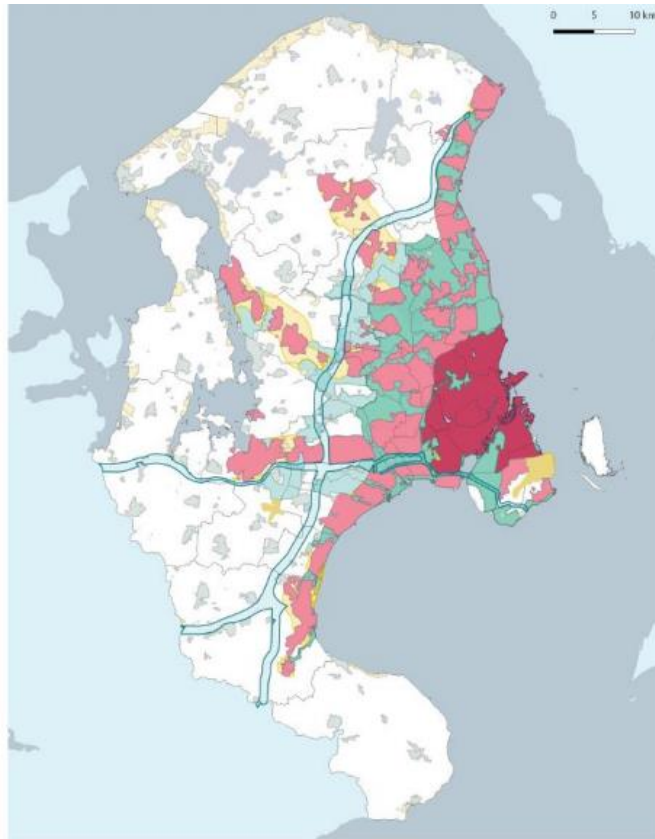
- The provisions in the Finger Plan stipulate that municipal planning must also ensure an order of priority when implementing urban regeneration and new urban development of regional significance. This implies that municipalities steer urban development via phases to balance the land/building supply and expected demand over a 12-year period. The idea behind this approach is to prioritise urban regeneration and expansion near train stations rather than establishing new urban zones.
- The Finger Plan directive was first issued in 2007 and has gone through a series of amendments in 2013, 2017 and 2019. The latest revision of the Finger Plan resulted in: (i) the extension of the city fingers, (ii) the expansion of the green wedges, (iii) the enlargement of the core areas around the S-train stations located at the 'fingertips', and (iv) the designation of new areas reserved for the transport and logistics industries.
- The Finger Plan spatial structure (its four geographical areas) is presented on a map scale of 1:500,000 (Danish Business Authority, 2019, p. 19). Other spatial features such as the green wedges and reservations for future transport corridors are presented on the same scale. The directive also contains several excerpts on map scales ranging from 1:100,000 (e.g. the future Ring 3 light rail) to 1:10,000 (e.g. an area for local development where land-use classifications are distinguished).

Process, duration, participation

- Each revised version of the Finger Plan builds on plan proposals (*forslag*), which are subject to a public consultation phase that lasts eight weeks.
- Prior to the proposal, the government invites the 34 municipalities in the Greater Copenhagen area to submit suggestions for the future amendment of the Finger Plan.

Details of the plan

Finger Plan 2019. National Directive for the Greater Copenhagen Area (Danish Business Authority 2019)



Det indre storbyområde	De grønne kiler	Andet
■ Håndfladen	■ Indre kiler og kystkiler	■ Transportkorridorer
Det ydre storbyområde	■ Ydre kiler	■ Lufthavne
■ Byfingre	Det øvrige hovedstadsområde	
■ Landområde	■ Byområde	
	■ Landområde	
	■ Sommerhusområde	

Legend:

Inner metropolitan area	Green wedges	Other
■ Palm	■ Inner and coastal wedges	■ Transport corridors
Outer metropolitan area	■ Outer wedges	■ Airports
■ City fingers	Rest of the metropolitan area	
■ Open area	■ City area	
	■ Rural area	
	■ Summer house area	

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Characteristics

Location of the area

- The Greater Copenhagen area comprises a total of 34 municipalities. The area covered by the Finger Plan comprises a total 3,033 km² and a population of 2.1 million inhabitants (Statistics Denmark, 2021).
- Per its definition in the Planning Act §5h, the Greater Copenhagen area includes all the municipalities of the capital region (except for the island of Bornholm) as well as six municipalities located in the contiguous Zealand region (Greve, Køge, Lejre, Roskilde, Solrød and Stevns).
- The capital region (*Region Hovedstaden*) is the easternmost and most populated administrative region of Denmark. The Zealand region (*Region Sjælland*) is the southernmost administrative region.

Initial situation

- The history of the Finger Plan dates back to 1947 when the plan entitled 'Outline Proposal for a Regional Plan for Greater Copenhagen' (*Skitseforslag til Egnspan for Storkøbenhavn*) was published. However, this original version of the Finger Plan or its subsequent twentieth-century adaptations were not legally binding on municipalities.
- The point of departure of the current Finger Plan 2019 is the Finger Plan 2007 directive, which was first issued by the Ministry of the Environment (*Miljøministeriet*) in compliance with a substantial amendment to the Planning Act in the context of the structural reform implemented in 2007 (see details in Galland 2012; Galland, Enemark 2013).

Particularities of the process

- The provisions in the Finger Plan stipulate that municipal planning must ensure an order of priority when implementing urban development and urban regeneration of regional significance. This implies that municipalities steer urban development via phases to balance the land/building supply and expected demand over a 12-year period. The idea behind this approach is to prioritise urban regeneration and expansion near train stations rather than establishing new urban zones.

The latest revision of the Finger Plan conducted by the Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs in 2019 resulted in: i) the extension of the city fingers, ii) the expansion of the green wedges, iii) the enlargement of the core areas around the S-train stations located at the 'fingertips', i.e. the five market towns of Helsingør, Hillerød, Frederikssund, Roskilde and Køge, and iv) the designation of three new areas reserved for the transport and logistics industries at Nivå, Greve and Høje-Taastrup.

Further information and links

Danish Business Authority (Erhvervsstyrelsen) (2019). Finger Plan 2019 (in Danish): <https://planinfo.erhvervsstyrelsen.dk/fingerplanen> (Accessed 17 January 2021)

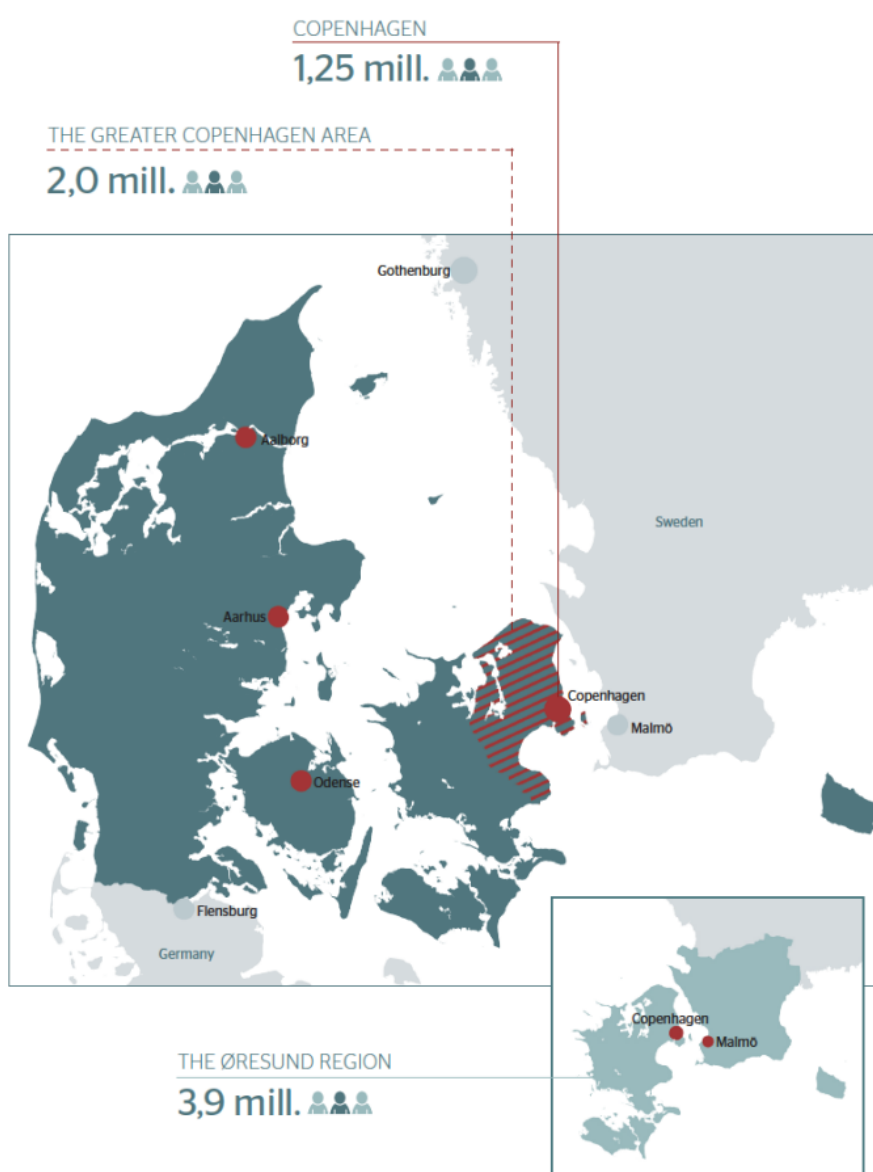
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Aalborg Municipality (1999): Fjord Catalogue: Fjord Coastlines in the Municipality of Aalborg. Aalborg: Technical and Environmental Department.

Aalborg Municipality (2013): General Structure 2013 – a Spatial Vision 2025 for Aalborg Municipality (Hovedstruktur 2013 – en Fysisk Vision 2025 for Aalborg Kommune). <http://www.aalborgkommuneplan.dk/hovedstruktur/default.aspx> (Accessed 19 January 2022)

Galland, D.; Hansen, C.J. (2012): The Roles of Planning in Waterfront Redevelopment: From Plan-Led and Market-Driven Styles to Hybrid Planning? *Planning Practice and Research*, 27(2), 203-225. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02697459.2012.661669> (Accessed 15 May 2021)

Plandata.dk (2021) Local plan 1-3-11. Local Plan for the Regeneration of Spritfabrikken in Aalborg (in Danish). https://dokument.plandata.dk/20_3522746_1498042380893.pdf (Accessed 18 May 2021)



Source: The Greater Copenhagen Region (Ministry of the Environment 2015)

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