

New Danish Regional Development Plans – An Effort of Combining Economy and Spatial Aspects for Urban and Rural Areas

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SUMMARY

The agreement between the liberal government and “*Dansk Folkeparty*” about a new structural reform in Denmark from June 2004 decides that the new regions shall make regional development plans.

The structural reform includes many reforms in the different sectors and among these also a planning reform. The new regions shall make “regional development plans” based on visions and strategies and based on business considerations

This paper will describe the regional development plan, which at the moment is being discussed in the national parliament as law suggestions, and an agreement is expected before the summer 2005.

The paper will try to outline the intentions of the regional development plans - as an effort of combining economy and spatial aspects, and as a possibility to integrate planning of urban and rural areas (1) as it is still too early to say whether this will success.

In part 2 an international perspective will be described from the newly held informal ministers meeting on spatial planning being held in Rotterdam November 2004.

At the meeting the ministers made the observation, that integrated spatial development approaches can enable regions and cities to exploit their potentials more effectively, which can develop the competitiveness of the regions in a positive way. The ministers also recognised the need for regions and Member States to identify their unique development potential and their position in the European territory, and to place spatial development strategies in a transnational and European development context.

In the last part of the paper (3) the author will discuss the combination of these aspects also considering the national level discussing how the regional development plan and the new tones from the European level go hand in hand. What is central when combining urban and rural planning? What could be the future tendencies in Danish planning, with the new planning reform being adopted through parliament during summer and under these new “planning tunes” coming from the ministers meeting in Rotterdam?