

Climate Adaptation, CO2 Reduction and More Nature in Rural Areas – New Roles and Challenges for Traditional Landconsolidation

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SUMMARY

Landconsolidation - the instrument and process in Denmark continues to develop. It takes place in interaction with society's modern requirements for future land use in the open country. A new concept for landconsolidation is developed these years and innovation and development projects under the heading "Multifunctional land distribution" are being implemented. Landconsolidation in Denmark is a voluntary project, where the participating landowners gain benefits and improvements in their own situation by participating.

This new concept of multifunctional landconsolidation means that the individual municipalities will play a more active role. It means developing local landscape strategies based on municipal land use planning and by involving the general local public to develop ideas and initiatives for change in land use.

The new role of municipalities and is a challenge. The municipalities must be more stakeholders in the land consolidation process. Danish municipalities have no strong tradition of being involved in the preparation of landconsolidations. Public land interests are mostly managed by state authorities and private foundations.

The new challenge is to implement multifunctional land distribution mainly through the purchase and sale of land, which combines agricultural production with, among other things, agricultural land, biodiversity, greenhouse gas reduction, climate change adaptation, ammonia challenge, nitrogen reduction, outdoor life and rural development.

The innovation will started by allowing municipalities and landowners to apply for state funds to have landconsolidation and associated purchase / sale of replacement land at no cost to the

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participants. It's called 'free land distribution' - as opposed to targeted land distribution with narrow project purposes.

It's declared in the national and state climate plan, that over a three-year period land distribution of up to approx. 6-7,000 acres and associated acquisition and resale of approx. 1,700 acres of farmland. Development projects will involve between 100 and 1000 hectares of land.

Organizationally, a multifunctional land distribution fund has been set up in the Ministry of the Environment and Food and this fund will manage the climate plan's allocated funds for multifunctional land distribution projects. In order to receive support for the implementation of multifunctional land distribution, the multifunctional project must support at least 3 of the following EU Directive interests and at least one of the national interests:

National interests which are in the nature of directive obligations / obligations under the EU burden-sharing agreement: 1) clean aquatic environment in lakes and streams, 2) protection of groundwater catchment inland to secure urban drinking water supply and 3) securing or expansion of Natura 2000 areas and 4) klimagasreduktion

National interests with high priority are 5) Climate adaptation, 6) nature and biodiversity, 7) afforestation, 8) development of organic agriculture. Other national interests are 9) outdoor recreation (including improved access), 10) rural development and the "driver" of the land distribution work, which is the improved arrangement of agricultural properties.

Experiences and results from the innovation period will influence an incoming land reform in Denmark.

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