

International strategy for the City of Copenhagen



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Introduction

Through its international work, the City of Copenhagen wants to create value for its citizens and to fulfil the special responsibility that comes with being the country's capital. The city wants to contribute positively to global developments and the realisation of the UN's 17 global goals – especially with regard to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Copenhagen is in the midst of historic population growth, and by 2050 there will be around 130,000 more Copenhageners. This is partly because more Copenhageners are being born, but also because the international community has become aware of Copenhagen and many immigrants are choosing to move to the city.

The population growth is putting pressure on the city in the form of an increase in traffic and a shortage of housing, while new roads, houses, schools, kindergartens and metro stations are being built across the city.

Although Copenhagen is undergoing rapid transformation, the city still needs to have room for everyone.

Copenhageners live and work differently and have differing requirements and preconditions for living a good life in the city.

Copenhagen must continue to be a city characterised by diversity, tolerance and a low level of social inequality where people are able to mix with each other regardless of their background.

A humane metropolis where the citizens have a high quality of life and the opportunity to thrive freely. In order to continue to create a sustainable and humane metropolis with good living conditions for all citizens, the City of Copenhagen must at all times provide citizens with the best services through new, innovative welfare solutions and sustainable urban solutions. In this way, the city can simultaneously lead the way in global responsible development and in the fight against the climate crisis.

This requires Copenhagen to be a learning city that allows itself to be inspired and to create new solutions in partnership with the outside world in order to resolve the challenges faced by cities and to impact on the framework conditions of cities.

This strategy sets the direction for the City of Copenhagen's international work and will help to realise the ambition of a metropolis that continues to be sustainable and humane when the COVID-19 pandemic has passed.

The international work takes its starting point in the city's challenges and is a means of achieving industrial and political goals. In this work, Copenhagen will seek out and generally prioritise international cooperation aimed at creating sustainable, liveable cities that contribute positively to the global efforts to combat the climate crisis.

The strategy is based on branding, knowledge gathering, influence and cooperation, as well as a number of specific principles for the City of Copenhagen's international work, which are presented at the end of the strategy.

What Copenhagen is aiming for

Copenhagen is part of a global community where citizens increasingly share challenges and solutions. As a result of the city's many years of engagement to create sustainable and liveable urban solutions, Copenhagen is today in a position where it is setting the tone in sustainable urban development. Copenhagen is known for urban development where green solutions go hand in hand with economic growth, job creation and increased quality of life. This position needs to be maintained and strengthened through knowledge sharing, branding, influence and cooperation.

Copenhagen aims to listen and reach out in order to understand and be inspired by international mega-trends, philosophies and state of the art. This is essential for resolving the city's current challenges and staying out in front going forward.

With its knowledge and proficiency, Copenhagen aims to influence national and international agendas and to take an active part in networks and political forums where the framework conditions of cities are discussed and negotiated. Copenhagen aims to take the lead when it comes to spotlighting urban challenges, and to actively share its insight and own experiences of developing and implementing Danish solutions. The sustainable urban solutions should not only contribute to sustainable development in Copenhagen – they should also contribute to sustainable

development of the world's cities and promote realisation of the UN's global goals.

Copenhagen's development should benefit the city's inhabitants, but it should also reflect the city's status as Denmark's capital and, in many respects, the face of the country to the outside world. Copenhagen aims to work with national partners and share its knowledge from international networks with the rest of Denmark.

This also means that Copenhagen aims to brand itself as an ambitious and sustainable city, to promote awareness of the city's positive urban solutions, and to also thereby support business exports and internationalisation, which are facing particular challenges as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

International cooperation is important for the Copenhagen business community's opportunities for exports and knowledge sharing, and Copenhagen aims to attract international investment and knowledge-intensive companies that can support employment, the green transition and general growth for the benefit of Copenhagen and Denmark as a whole.

The City of Copenhagen's efforts in relation to business are implemented in particular through its business strategy.



The UN's global goals

The City of Copenhagen is using the UN's global goals (SDGs) to improve and effect both existing and new sustainability efforts.

WHAT WE ARE DOING TO LEARN:

The work with the global goals is helping us to identify where the City of Copenhagen can take further action and contribute to the global conversation around operationalisation of the SDGs in the work of cities with social, economic and environmental sustainability.

The City of Copenhagen's action plan for the UN's global goals includes a mapping of the city's current contributions to realising the UN's global goals, such as the Climate Plan's goal of a CO₂-neutral Copenhagen by 2025, as well as a plan for the City of Copenhagen's strategic embedding of the global goals in its work going forward.

Cities, regions and international cooperation

With globalisation, metropolises, together with global companies and international organisations, have become important players on the international stage. Metropolises are turning to one another to seek out knowledge and alliances. Cities are being listened to, and they are increasingly participating in international decision-making processes and partnerships, which in the past was the preserve of governments.

In the green area in particular, the cities have greater reach with their ambitions and ability to act than many governments. The sustainability of cities is constantly being challenged, and they are also facing major consequences as a result of climate change and population growth.

There is a need for cities, businesses, knowledge institutions and international organisations to think and work collectively on shared solutions to these challenges.

An effective international ecosystem can lead to sustainable changes that create real improvements in the day-to-day lives of citizens that Copenhagen would not be able to bring about alone. The role and international impact of cities will only become greater in future, and for Copenhagen it is therefore essential to act internationally to provide the best protection of the city's interests.

C40 cooperation

Copenhagen is a member of the C40 city network, which works to ensure that the world's big cities meet the climate requirements of the Paris Agreement. As members of the network, the cities commit to complying with the Paris Agreement.

WHAT WE ARE DOING TO INFLUENCE AND INSPIRE:

As a green pioneer, Copenhagen participates in a large number of professional networks in C40, where the cities' experts come together to develop solutions and share best practice within areas such as energy efficiency, climate adaptation and construction. Copenhagen hosted the C40's 2019 summit, where the world's leading mayors met to share ideas and experiences in order to take a united lead in the fight against the global climate crisis. As the host, Copenhagen had invited all the Danish municipalities to attend the summit. On the initiative of Copenhagen, during the summit a large business forum was also arranged as the first C40 step towards the extensive involvement of private business in the fight against the climate crisis. Through its active participation in C40, Copenhagen is helping to ensure that cities have a powerful voice in international climate discussions.

The City of Copenhagen is also part of C40's Global Mayors COVID-19 Recovery Task Force, which is working to ensure that cities and economies can be rebuilt after the corona crisis in a way that improves public health, reduces inequality, addresses the climate crisis and supports new jobs.

WHO European Healthy Cities Network

The WHO Healthy Cities Network was established in 1988 and has since sought to engage with local political powers, build capacity, share experiences and contribute innovative solutions in the area of health promotion and disease prevention – including work with social inequality in health. The network consists of around 100 European member cities and 30 national networks bringing together more than 1,300 cities.

WHAT WE ARE DOING TO COOPERATE:

The network has its roots in “The Copenhagen Consensus of Mayors: Healthier and Happier Cities for All” and the UN’s global goals. The main starting point is that the work should cover the whole city. It should therefore be considered, within all policy areas, how tasks can be accomplished in a way that also benefits health and welfare as key elements of urban development.

Copenhagen’s participation in the network is a natural extension of the City of Copenhagen’s policies, including the Municipal Planning Strategy and the goal of a green, healthy and sustainable city, as well as the work with the Health Policy “Enjoy life, Copenhageners” and the cooperation agreement “Global city in flux” entered into with the National Olympic Committee and Sports Confederation of Denmark (DIF) and the sports association DGI.

Greater Copenhagen

Copenhagen must always do its utmost to be an attractive city and to lead the race to attract and retain international talents, businesses and investment.

DET GØR VI FOR AT SAMARBEJDE:

As part of Scandinavia’s most populous region, Greater Copenhagen, the City of Copenhagen is helping to create a strong, cohesive region that is attractive to live, work and do business in, which is essential for Copenhagen’s prospects for internationalisation.

Greater Copenhagen is a commercial collaboration between the Capital Region, Region Zealand, Region Skåne, Region Halland and the associated 85 municipalities. Together with the other parties, the metropolitan region of Greater Copenhagen is being developed to ensure sustainable growth, high employment and quality of life for the region’s 4.3 million inhabitants.



Principles for international work in the City of Copenhagen

The City of Copenhagen's international work takes its starting point in the city's challenges and is a means to achieving industrial and political goals.

- Copenhagen will seek out and generally prioritise international cooperation aimed at creating sustainable, liveable cities that contribute positively to the global efforts to combat the climate crisis.
- Copenhagen's partners are mainly involved in the international city networks of which the city is a part.
- Requests for international cooperations and delegation visits can be assessed in relation to these city networks as well as industrial, political and resource prioritisations.
- Copenhagen may enter into cooperation agreements with other cities in relation to specific industrial areas for a limited time period.
- Copenhagen may, as a capital city, choose to enter into specific cooperation relationships or activities based on clear national interests and demand from other Danish cities.
- When entering into binding international cooperations, it must be assessed whether the matter needs to be presented to the City Council for approval. The assessment should include whether the signing of the agreement falls within the framework of a matter already approved by the City Council.
- The City of Copenhagen will ensure that its citizen and company data is always adequately protected in connection with international cooperations. Relevant guidelines can be found in the City of Copenhagen's IT Security Handbook.

Mega-events in the city

Copenhagen is working actively to attract mega-events to the city in order to create experiences for citizens, ensure broad value creation in the city and spotlight Copenhagen as an international and professional host city.

TOUR DE FRANCE

Copenhagen will be the official start city when the Tour de France comes to Denmark. The opening stage of the Tour, on 1 July 2022, will be in the heart of Copenhagen with a spectacular single-start race through the city.

WHAT WE ARE DOING TO INSPIRE:

In addition to the actual holding of the cycle race, the event will be used, among other things, to highlight how everyday cycling can be the solution to the growing challenges of cities with trafficability, pollution and public health. As host, the City of Copenhagen will arrange both professional and public events focused on the cycle city of Copenhagen, many of which are expected to attract a lot of attention. In this regard, the host city programme is inviting citizens, businesses and organisations to propose events and be part of the city's Yellow Festival.



Organisation

In the City of Copenhagen, the Finance Administration will have the strategic and coordinating role in relation to the international work, cf. the City Governance Statute.

The international strategy constitutes the general framework and direction for the City of Copenhagen's international work. Each administration can draw up its own international agendas and focus areas with associated actions plans, potentially in conjunction with other administrations and organisations.

The Finance Administration may initiate cooperations across administrations within international areas such as knowledge sharing on international trends, EU work, visits by international delegations and systematic knowledge gathering.

World Capital of Architecture

In 2023, the City of Copenhagen will have the international UIA and UNESCO title "World Capital of Architecture".

The year of architecture will strengthen the City of Copenhagen's ambitions in the areas of sustainable urban development, liveability, construction and citizen inclusion. The year will be used to position Danish and Copenhagen architecture locally and internationally, and to thereby promote green Danish urban solutions.

WHAT WE ARE DOING TO LEARN AND INFLUENCE

The highlight will be the World Congress of the International Union of Architects (UIA) in July 2023, which is expected to attract 10-15,000 people from around the world. The congress will be used to discuss the UN's 17 sustainable development goals and how architecture can contribute to the achievement of the goals.



Strategic Sector Cooperation, EU projects and delegations

WHAT WE ARE DOING TO LEARN, COOPERATE, BRAND AND PROMOTE COPENHAGEN URBAN SOLUTIONS:

EU projects

Participation in EU projects is one way in which Copenhagen can help to create common solutions to universal social challenges together with other cities, businesses and knowledge institutions. The cooperations are arranged i.a. via the Greater Copenhagen EU Office in Brussels, of which the City of Copenhagen is a part.

As head of the EU project Cities Cooperating for Circular Economy (FORCE), Copenhagen cooperates with, among others, Hamburg, Lisbon and a number of universities and manufacturing companies to minimise waste of resources from the linear economy by developing sustainable and innovative solutions to waste management.

The project supports the implementation of the City of Copenhagen Resource and Waste Management Plan 2018 and the CPH 2025 Climate Plan to be a leader within the circular economy by developing new solutions and motivating companies to adopt them.

International delegations - Meet Copenhagen City

International delegations - Meet Copenhagen City Every year, Copenhagen receives more than 400 requests from a large number of cities around the world to visit the city.

Through the Meet Copenhagen City programme, the enquiries are handled in a way that ensures knowledge sharing and business involvement in the visits so that the international interest creates value for both the visitors and Copenhagen.

Strategic Sector Cooperation

The City of Copenhagen has close cooperations with Beijing and Buenos Aires as part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Strategic Sector Cooperation scheme.

The City of Copenhagen's experts are working closely with the two cities on climate adaptation, energy optimisation, wastewater management and circular economy.

This involves sharing of the latest knowledge in areas where Copenhagen, and Danish companies, in a global perspective, have especially strong expertise with major importance for the climate. The experiences so far have also shown that Copenhagen can certainly learn things from both Beijing and Buenos Aires.

