

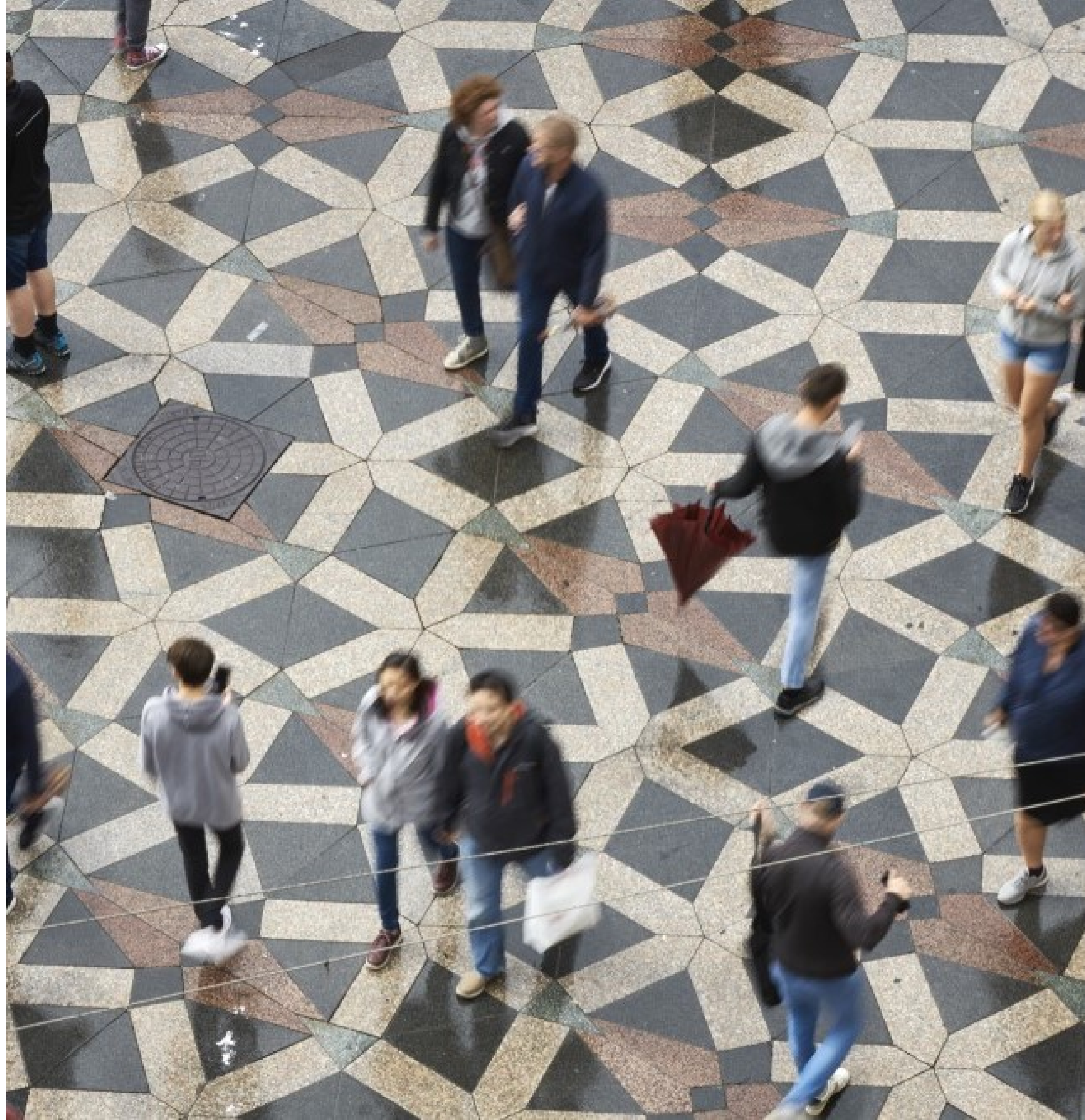
Nordic-Baltic II Meeting on Disability Policy and Practice

Tallinn

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Leif Olsen, Denmark

VIVÉ



Disability policy and current activities in Denmark

- I. A history of decentralization
- II. Disability policy
- III. Current activities

A history of decentralization

98 municipalities

5 regions

1 welfare state

Structural reform 2007

- *From 271 to 98 municipalities*
- *From 14 counties to 5 regions*

Municipalities with the responsibility

- *Finance / tax*
- *Service provision*
- *Capacity building*

Goals

- *Sustainable economy*
- *Sustainable quality of public services*

For more information [click here](#)



Disability policy

- According to the Act on Social Services aid is provided for persons with permanent impairment of physical or mental function. Social services are provided to **compensate** the needs following from reduced physical or mental function and improve the individual's social and personal level of function and potential development.
- The **municipalities are responsible** for providing support for the individual citizen. The municipalities make decisions in social cases based on specific individual assessments of the recipient's needs and circumstances. Furthermore, the municipal councils decide the level of services in the municipalities, the content of and the extent of the support, ***within the scope of the legislation.***
- The Ministry of Social Affairs and Senior Citizens has the overall responsibility for **coordinating the policies** regarding disabled people. But the other ministries share the responsibility for developing the policies. Therefore the policy area rests on **the principle of sector accountability**, meaning that all ministries must consider disability policy aspects when developing policies within their own scopes of responsibility.
- The Ministry of Social Affairs and Senior Citizens is responsible for policy development within the scope of social affairs. Responsibilities include providing the Minister and the Danish Parliament with **the best possible base for developing an effective social policy regarding disability.**

Link to more information:

[MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND SENIOR CITIZENS](#)

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Current activities

Legal certainty

In recent years, there has been a strong political focus on strengthening legal certainty in the field of disability, and a number of initiatives have been launched, in order to accomplish this.

Among these are concrete initiatives, from the autumn of 2021 - [link](#).

These initiatives focused on strengthening; trust, cooperation and involvement, and on improving the follow-up and supervision of the municipalities, and initiatives contributing to developing skills and competence and initiatives raising the quality of the casework in the municipalities – [link, page 6](#).

Evaluation of the specialized social area

In 2020, the Danish government initiated a broad evaluation of the specialized social area. Expectedly, the evaluation will be published this spring – [link](#).

The purpose of the evaluation is to create a national overview of the different target groups, as well as the social accommodation facilities and the structures characterizing the specialized social area.

The evaluation is the basis for establishing a new and stronger national structure for the social area – a national plan for specialization.

Recovery and rehabilitation

A main focus for The National Board of Social Services is to contributing to a knowledge based Social Policy enabling effective social services for the benefit of citizens. The goal is to make social knowledge work – [link](#).