



## LEGAL ASPECT

There is neither an article contained in the Danish Constitution nor any national law that grants Danish citizens a right to housing. This seems to reflect the Danes' desire to preserve their constitution's "liberal" character.

However, under paragraph 59 in the Danish Public Housing Act, local authorities have the right to allocate up to one in every four vacant dwellings in public housing to persons in need of housing (excluding those designated as youth residents or elderly housing). Each municipality assesses whether a person is eligible for allocation of a dwelling on an individual basis and in respect to general administrative law principles, such as equality and objectivity. A decision made by local authorities in relation to housing under paragraph 59 cannot be appealed by any other administrative authority. Paragraph 80 in the Danish Social Service Act also obliges local authorities to provide temporary shelter if a person or family is homeless.

Denmark has signed, but not yet ratified the Revised Charter and the Additional Protocol providing for a system of collective complaints.

Source : FEANTSA, 2012

## HOMELESSNESS

In Denmark, new needs in the realm of homelessness emerged in the wake of a number of economic and political developments, including the decline in unemployment, occasional shortfalls in public housing, and budget cuts for organizations dealing with alcoholism and drug addiction. The use of an expansive definition of homelessness has made it almost impossible to say with any certainty how many people are homeless in Denmark.

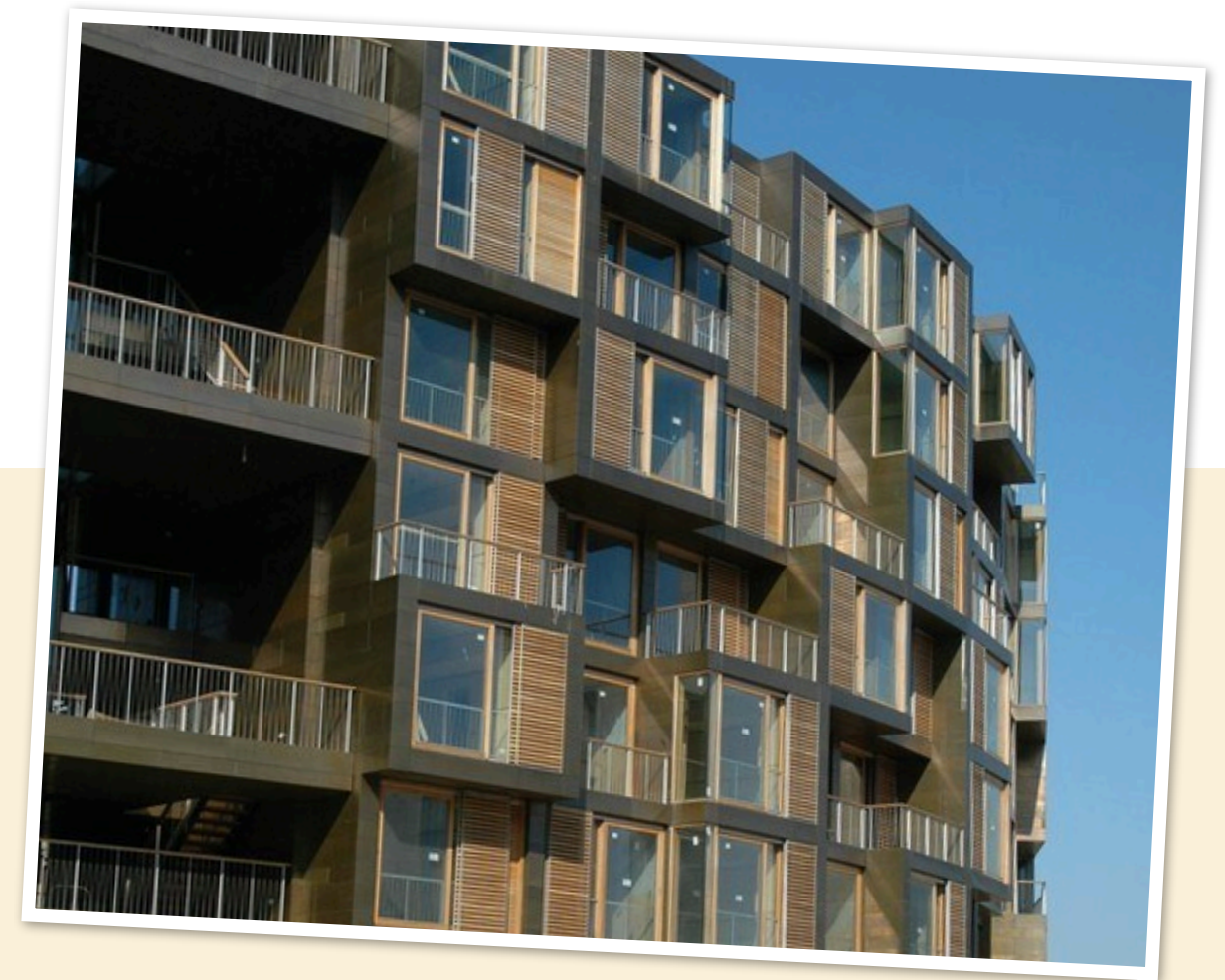
The latest legislative changes occurred in 1997, when the government initiated a social reform project that undertook to offer a serious solution to the problem of homelessness. Until 1995, anyone who lived in a homeless shelter was denied income allowances or pensions to which they would otherwise have been entitled. This changed, however, with the 1997 social reform legislation. **Any homeless person in today's society is entitled to income allowances or pensions in addition to a range of housing opportunities, which are received in exchange for rent.** A homeless person may choose between a room in a residence home, a bed in a shelter, a communal room in a housing association, an independent apartment, etc. (read more)

Source : FEANTSA, 2012

## COHOUSING

**Cohousing was born in Denmark. The first cohousing community was established in 1972 near Copenhagen** for 27 families by an architect and psychologist. Its origins lay in a 1967 article by Bodil Graae entitled "Children Should Have One Hundred Parents." Since then, the movement has expanded rapidly. Today, 7% of the Danish population lives in cohousing communities. Over time, the Danish experience has grown more sophisticated, as lessons have been learned from early mistakes. (read more)

Source : Habitat & Participation



## PROBLEMS

- According to FEANTSA, the country has approximately 5000 homeless people.
- the socio-economic status of public housing tenants is in relative decline compared to the rest of society: beginning in the seventies, this sector included a disproportionate share of very young and very old households, as well as of the unemployed and single-parent families.
- the growing concentration of underprivileged households in public housing projects dating from the sixties.
- the existence of a stock of 250,00 dilapidated housing units (generally in the private rental sector in city centers) that are underequipped and occupied by poor tenants.
- increased dependency of tenants on housing assistance: in the public housing sector, half of tenants receive assistance, which means, since rent is rising more rapidly than inflation, that they are paying one fourth of rents.
- the aging of the population has led to an increase in demand and need for obstacle-free housing and the rising number of elderly people in poor health requires security and alarm systems, as well as care-giving services.

## SEVERAL SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

SAND - KIRKENS KORSHAER - KOE-FOEDS SKOLE - MISSIONEN BLANDT HJEMLOSE - THE INDEPENDANT INSTITUTION OVERØRSTEGÅRDEN - UNDERFOR

## HABITAT WORLDMAP

BETTER UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT : [WWW.WM-URBAN-HABITAT.ORG](http://WWW.WM-URBAN-HABITAT.ORG)

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

