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Responses to guiding questions for the focus area on “accessibility, infrastructure and habitat (transport, housing and access)”

1. Housing

The regulatory framework regarding the Danish social housing sector is contained in two principal acts, the Consolidation Act on Social Housing etc. and the Consolidation Act on the Rent of Social Dwellings. In Denmark, publicly funded social housing is built and run by social housing organizations while municipalities have the full competence to decide on the construction of new social housing.

Social housing for the elderly (almene ældreboliger) is social housing that must be rented out to older people or people with disabilities. The municipal board has an obligation to ensure that social housing for the elderly is provided to the necessary extent.

Where care and service areas are attached to social housing for the elderly, the dwellings are termed care homes (plejeboliger). The municipal board has an obligation to offer housing in a care home or accommodation in a nursing home to older people in need within two months.

2. Accessibility

For new buildings and substantially remodeled buildings, requirements for level-free access to housing units on the ground floor, or alternatively instalment of elevators, have been in place since 1995. Furthermore, the Danish building regulation contains additional requirements to accessibility in public buildings. Requirements regarding accessibility applies generally and not in particular to the elderly.