

## **National Report (*DENMARK*)**

### **Overview of the regulatory framework and national system in the *ARCHITECT* sector**

Danish national report regarding architect profession is based on the contribution provided by *The Danish Architects' Association, The Danish Association of Architectural Firms (DANSKE ARK), The Union of Salaried Architects (Arkitektforbundet), The Danish Ministry of Climate and Energy, The Ministry of Employment, The Ministry of the Environment, The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Schools of Architecture, Design and Conservation, School of Architecture, Associate Professor, Mr. Sven Felding and Ministry of Higher Education/The Danish Agency for Higher Education*

#### **1. Definition**

*Please explain briefly how the profession is defined in your country. In particular, provide a succinct list of the activities covered by the profession. Where similar professions also exist within the same sector, list those professions and eventually describe how they differ from the profession in question.*

Architects offer advice on the architectural concept-, design- and quality management, technical solutions, timing, cost management/ budget and human, aesthetic, contextual and functional aspects of the project in scale from landscape and city planning, over building projects to interior and product design.

Architects provide advice on organizational- and regulatory conditions and requirements to be complied with in the design and implementation of a project. Architects can also give advice on tendering terms etc.

Architects provide advice on sustainability, accessibility, health and safety and ICT (Information and Communication Technology in public buildings). Architects can also offer advice about interior design, climate conditions and purchase of furniture and equipment.

Architects collaborate with other consultants, such as engineers and suppliers, in the design of the project. The architect may be responsible for relations with these contributors, other stakeholders, public authorities and contractors on the client's behalf. This includes, for example, process management, application for building permission and contracting.

Architects also conduct construction management and technical supervision during the construction phase.

The above formally applies to all projects, regardless of type, size and complexity. There is, in addition to the above activities, a variety of "other services" or "special services" architects can offer in relation to the specific project.

Along with FRI (the Danish Association of Consulting Engineers) DANSKE ARK (The Danish Association of Architectural Firms) has published a number of "Description of Services".

They include (random): • Building and Planning • Construction and Planning • Urban renewal • Product development • Client Consultancy • Health and Safety Coordination • As built (Supplement to "Building and Planning").

“Description of Services” defines in detail what architects and engineers must deliver to meet their obligations under the agreement. The “Description of Services” is entered on voluntary basis – but has the advantage that they are well known by (professional) clients as well as their advisors. Architects in higher education are involved in teaching and research. Architects in research institutions are involved in research.

Architects in the municipalities, regions, ministries and state agencies are involved in planning at local, regional and national level, in preparation and implementation of building legislation, in the preparation of the national and local architectural policy, in work concerning the national heritage, international cooperation, etc.

## **2. Historical background**

*Please give us a brief introductory outline of the historical background of the regulatory framework for this profession, as well as for the sector in general, national level by each country. Considering, for example, such topics as issues relevant professions in this sector faced at a given time and how safeguards emerged and evolved to meet these challenges.*

1754 The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Schools of Architecture<sup>1</sup> in Copenhagen is founded. 1771 Academy renamed to Painting, Sculpture and Building-academy. That same year, schools were required also to provide training to artisans. Crafts and artistic studies were thus united.

1857 Art and technique became separated again as artist training was transferred to the technically oriented education (now Copenhagen Technical School). 1886 Arkitektforeningen (Architectural Association) was formed by young architects. Many of them had received their training from technical schools and offices and had the artistic background as the link. The members described itself as M.D.A. (Member of Danish Architects' Association). 1879 Akademisk Arkitektforeningen (Academic Architects' Association) was formed as a professional organization of academically trained architects from The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts , Schools of Architecture in Copenhagen (later also for architects from Aarhus School of Architecture).

1910 Architectural Association 1886 changes its name to Dansk Arkitektforening (Danish Architects' Association). 1951 Academic Architects' Association and the Danish Architects' Association joins the Federation of Danish Architects Association/Academic Architects'

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<sup>1</sup> The Academy extended the field of its work by the time, so it also covers conservation (since 1974) and design (since 2012). Today the official name of the Academy is: “The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Schools of Architecture , Design and Conservation”.

Association abbreviated DAL/AA and the union Employed Architects Council (Ansatte Arkitekters Råd, AAR) is set up within this organization. 1960 Praktiserende Arkitekters Råd, abbreviated PAR, (Practising Architects' Council set up within the Federation of DAL/AA. 1965 Arkitektskolen Aarhus (Aarhus School of Architecture) is founded.

2004 DAL / AA divide in respectively The Danish Architects' Association (AA), the union: Ansatte Arkitekters Råd, AAR (Employees Architects Council) and the business association Praktiserende Arkitekters Råd, PAR (Practising Architects' Council). Employees Architectural Council (AAR) is renamed Arkitektforbundet (The Union of Salaried Architects). 2005 Practising Architect' Council (PAR) changes the name to the Danish Association of Architectural Firms (DANSKE ARK). 2012 Danish Residential Architects is established by the Homeowners' Knowledge Centre (Bolius) and DANSKE ARK. 2013 Practicing Landscape Architects Council (PLR) is dissolved and landscape architects offered membership of DANSKE ARK. 2014 DANSKE ARK is a member of Confederation of Danish Industry (DI).

The organizations represent the three interests in the sector: the overall architectural interest is represented by Danish Architects' Association (Arkitektforeningen), the interest of the business and the employers are represented by Danish Association of Architectural Firms (Danske Arkitektvirksomheder), and the interest of the employed architects is represented by The Union of Salaried Architects (Arkitektforbundet). This division of "caretaking", which in fact is consistent with, and maybe can be seen as a result of "the Danish Model", is a significant factor to explain the fact, that the Danish architect labour market is rather well regulated. The secession in 2004 can partly be described as a result of the existence of other professions in the building sector (e.g. Building constructor) and the emergence of new educations operating in the sector (e.g. the MSc in Architecture at Aalborg University). Danish Association of Architectural Firms (Danske Arkitektvirksomheder) and The Union of Salaried Architects (Arkitektforbundet) felt the need to be able to relate to these other professions, while Danish Architects' Association (Arkitektforeningen) felt the need to maintain their references to the EU directive.

### **3. Economic data**

*Where possible, provide economic figures related to:*

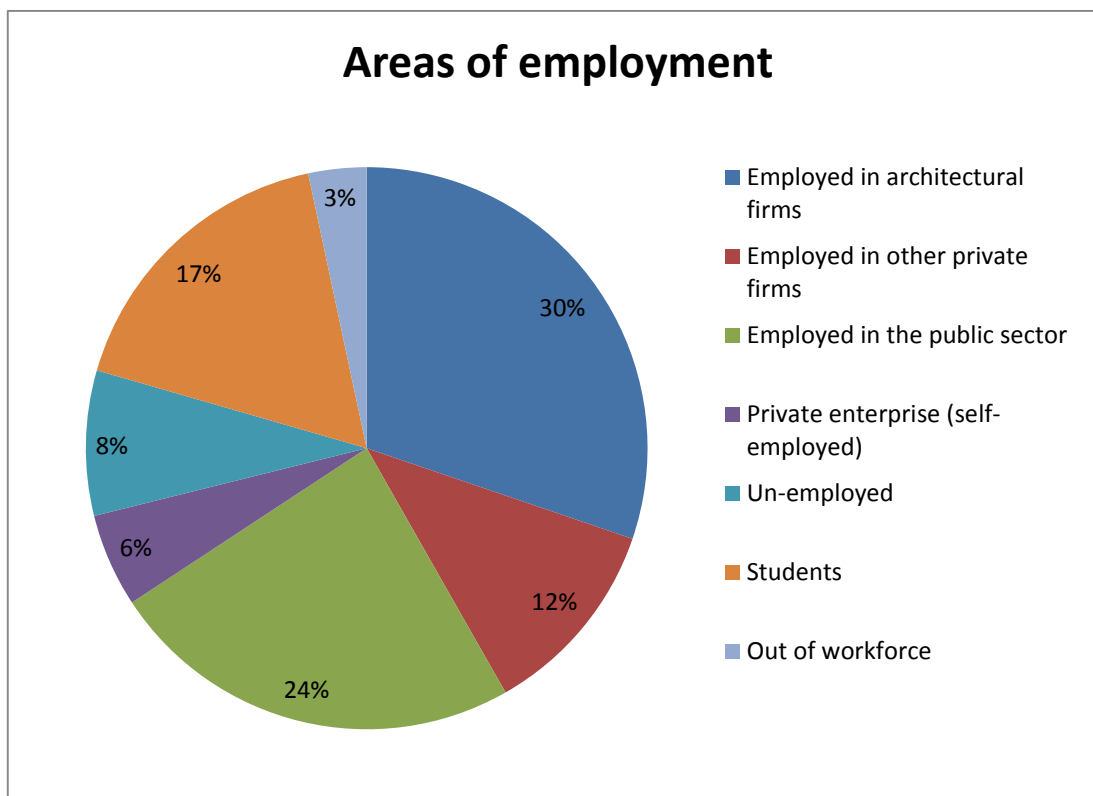
*(a) the selected profession and*

*(b) the sector, as defined at national level by each country.*

*It would be in particular useful to obtain the following information: level of employment, average wage (in euro), sector specific data (so for construction for example you may include data on building permits, construction costs), and importance of the sector in the economy. Both recent data and trends may help capture the relative importance of the profession and the sector at national level as well its evolution over time.*

## **Employment**

Arkitektforbundet has approximately 5.700 members. According to their estimations they represent approximately 75 percent of the total number of possible, relevant members. Our members fall into these categories:



## Unemployment

The Union has not an accurate registration about the un-employment level. The Union therefore refers to the figures registered in the official unemployment scheme<sup>2</sup> (i.e. Akademikernes) which is publicised by the The Danish Confederation of Professional Associations<sup>3</sup>.

At the moment (June 2014) there are 5.870 registered members with an academic architect-degree in Akademikernes. 338 of these are un-employed or participating in various activities connected to un-employment. This gives an overall un-employment rate of 5,8 percent. Historically the unemployment rate for academic architects is always rather high, mostly depending on the overall national and international economic situation.

October	Unemployment rate, Pct.
2004	17,5
2005	14,8
2006	9,7
2007	6,9

<sup>2</sup> The official unemployment scheme (i.e. Akademikernes): <http://www.akademikernes.dk/english> ).

<sup>3</sup>The Danish Confederation of Professional Associations: <http://ac.dk/politik/beskaeftigelse-og-arbejdsmarked/akademikernes-ledighedsstatistik.aspx>).

2008	6,8
2009	14,4
2010	11,8
2011	10,9
2012	11,6
2013	7,7

These high un-employment rates can to some extent be explained by a rather high un-employment among the newly educated academic architects. In June 2014 the unemployment rate for candidates with less than one year since examine was 42,5 percent. One explanation is that the young architects, compared to other academics, often have to wait a relatively long time, before they find their first job. Statistics Denmark is publishing a set of statistics describing data about the candidates from the architectural schools from the latest 10 years. Among other things, these data shows, that only a few years after their examine, the academic architects do not have a un-employment rate, that is much higher than other academics.

#### **Average wage<sup>4</sup>**

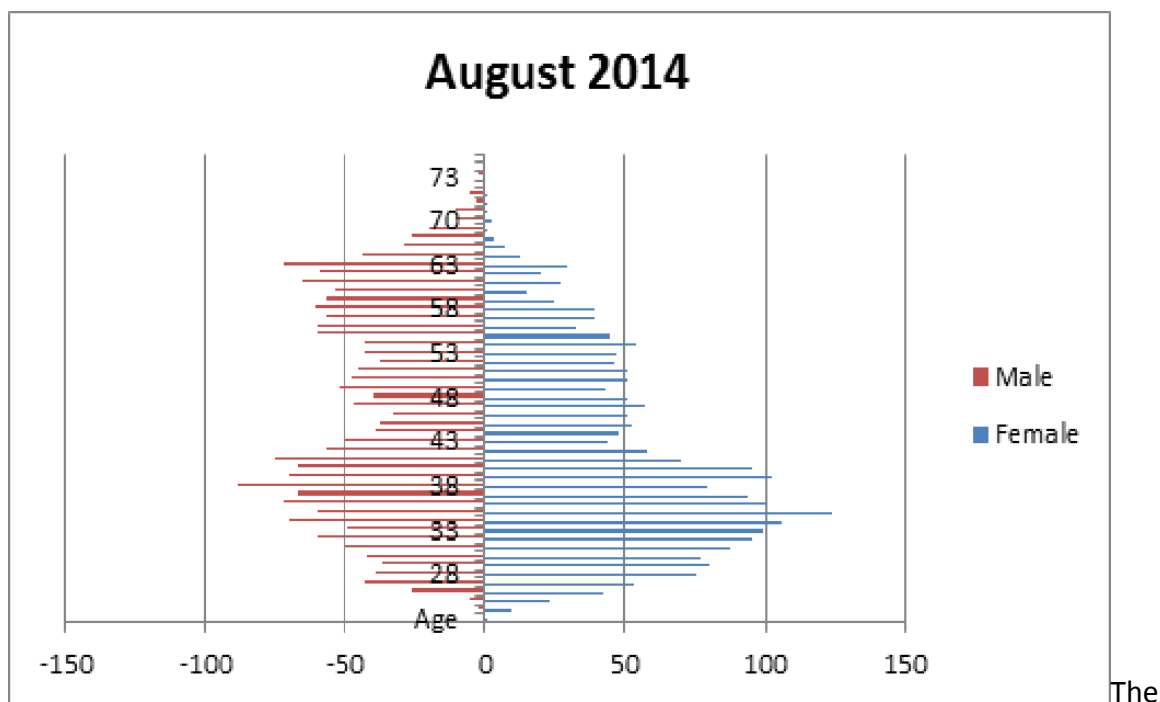
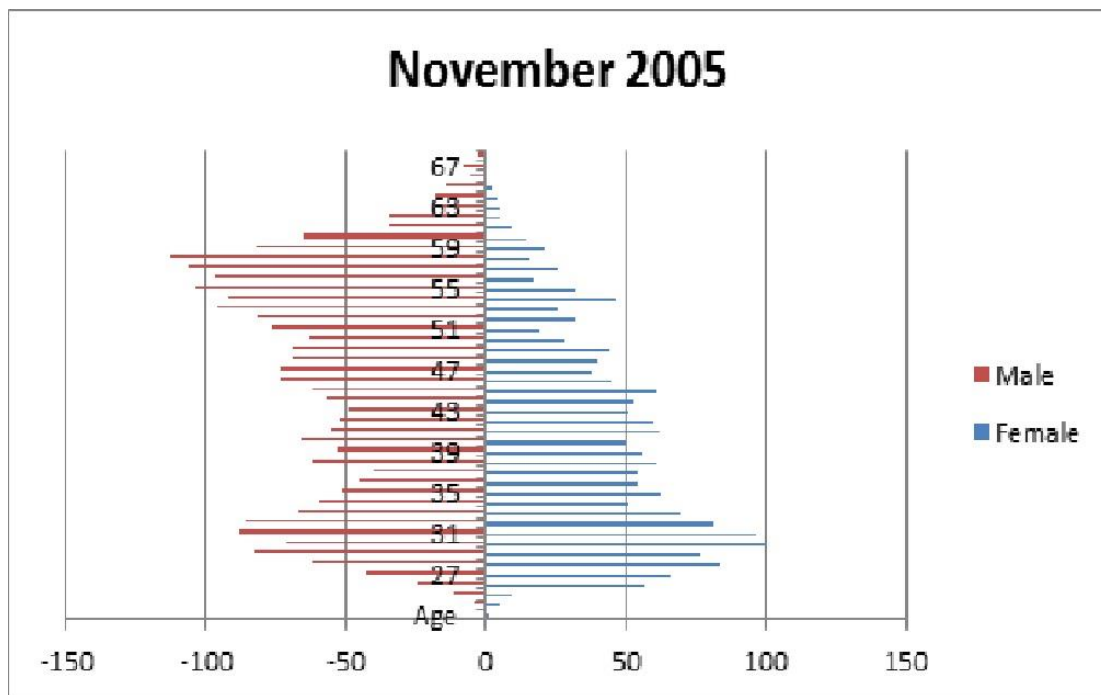
Monthly wage, Euro (approximately)	Average starting wage	Overall average wage	Average end wage
Employed in architectural firms	4.044	5.718	6.587
Employed in other private firms	3.952	5.270	7.641
Employed in the public sector	4.084	5.928	7.246

It is important to notice, that the working conditions for the employed in “other private firms” are due to individual negotiations, while the working conditions in architectural firms and in the public sector are regulated through general agreements between Arkitektforbundet and the employers’ organizations. This has the effect, that the overall working conditions (e.g. working hours, pension and maternity rights) in general would be better in these fields.

#### **The young and newly educated architects**

The gender composition in the architect workforce is changing dramatically, as the majority of the new candidates are female. In 2005 41 percent of Arkitektforbundets members were female, while in 2014 the female ratio has risen to 52 percent. Among the members under the age of 35 years, the female ratio is approximately 65 percent.

<sup>4</sup> Arkitektforbundets Wage Statistics: <http://www.arkitektforbundet.dk/cgi-files/mdmgfx/file-557-432760-10427.pdf>



The Danish Association of Architectural Firms informed that the unemployment rate for architects (less than one year after attaining their degrees) is 44.7%. 1-2 years after graduation, the unemployment rate has dropped to 32.8%. It continues to decrease the first years in the labor market. The overall unemployment rate for architects in April 2014 are 5.7% (Source: Architectural Association / AC's unemployment statistics May 2014). The average salary for architects is currently 40.000 kr./ month.

The Danish Association of Architectural Firms has no recorded data on the number of

building permits. The Associations website includes information on • Productivity in architect industry • Export Profile • Facts Danish architectural firms • Tendency survey • Construction costs • Employment Analysis/ Availability<sup>5</sup>.

#### **4. Internal screening and recent reforms**

##### *(a) Profession, selected for in-depth discussions*

*Please give us a brief resume of internal screening processes you have conducted into this profession. It would be interesting to include any issues you uncovered as well as the conclusions you reached. Have you recently adopted reforms (or are in the process of)? If yes provide a brief explanation of the process you have used (stakeholder consultation, impact assessment, scope of the reform).*

##### *(b) Sector specific information*

*Have you carried out internal screenings into similar professions covered under this sector? It would be interesting to include any issues you uncovered as well as the conclusions you reached. Have you recently adopted reforms (or are in the process of) in this sector for selected professions? If yes please list the professions concerned and provide a brief explanation of the process you have used (stakeholder consultation, impact assessment, scope of the reform).*

There has not been carried any reforms of the Danish architect profession. The profession is very well functioning non-regulated profession with no penal history.

There has not been carried any reforms of the Danish architect education out recently, since the education fully meets the minimum requirements set forth in the Professional Recognition Directive 2005/36/EC (reference academic year 1988/1989 in Annex V.7.1 of the Professional Recognition Directive).

#### **5. System in place to protect general interest objectives**

##### *(a) Profession, selected for in-depth discussions*

*Given that you do not regulate this profession please explain by way of which mechanism(s) the State has a control/view over the protection of the general interest objective (voluntary certification, ex-post control checks, rules of conduct, professional liability insurance etc.)? Explain the key principles and functioning of this system. Please also explain how these sector specific measures interlink with general legislation aimed at protecting the relevant public interest such as consumer or health and safety legislation.*

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<sup>5</sup> Please note that the information was last updated in 2012.

The architect profession is not regulated in Denmark and neither the function nor the title is protected.

**The Danish Building Act<sup>6</sup>** regulates construction, reconstruction, demolition and changes of the use of buildings, which means that the applicant must apply for a building permit if he wants to construct, reconstruct, demolish or significantly change his building. The Danish Ministry of Climate-, Energy- and Buildings is the regulatory authority and the municipalities are independent building authorities that have authorization to give building permit.

The main purpose of the Danish Building Act is to ensure the construction of safe buildings in Denmark. The general interests in The Danish Building Act consist further of following interests and measures:

- To ensure fire safety
- To ensure public health
- To ensure that buildings and undeveloped land get a satisfying quality in accordance with intentional use and to ensure necessary maintenance
- To ensure that building damages are being repaired
- To ensure accessibility for people with disabilities
- To ensure architectural quality in the buildings
- To ensure that productivity of the buildings increase
- To ensure that measures are implemented to counter unnecessary use of resources in the construction of buildings
- To ensure energy efficiency

On the basis of the building act the Danish building regulation<sup>7</sup> regulates the administrative provisions for the application process of building permit and contains functional requirements that must be fulfilled when constructing buildings. These functional requirements are based of (and are put into practice in accordance with) the general interests that stands in the building act.

Therefore the building regulation contains regulations about building control provisions, design, layout and fitting out of buildings, structures, fire safety, indoor climate, energy consumption and services. The regulations in the building regulation are only functional which ensures that the regulation can be used according to all different cases of building constructions.

The key principle in the building act is that it is always the owner of the building that is responsible to ensure that his building is in accordance with the building regulations.

The municipality is building authority in Denmark. The municipality is responsible to ensure that the building is in accordance with the law in general and the building regulations. This happens in two ways: a) when the municipality reviews and processes the applications for

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<sup>6</sup> The Danish Building Act text (DA): <https://www.retsinformation.dk/forms/R0710.aspx?id=133389>

<sup>7</sup> On the website [www.bygningsreglementet.dk](http://www.bygningsreglementet.dk) it is possible to read the building regulation in English.



building permits and b) if the municipality becomes aware of an illegality it must act to make sure that the illegality is legalized.

The municipality can give a warning or a fine to the owner of the building. The owner of the building is hereafter responsible to carry out any necessary actions to legalize the building.

Legalization can be achieved legally, which means that the municipality can make an exemption of the building act to the owner, or it can be achieved physically by carrying out amending works. The obligation to legalize the building is always the duty of the owner of the building, this because of the fact that the municipality only is able to give a fine/injunction/warning to a physical person.

But if the owner of the building changes (i.e the owner for instance sells his building without legalizing the building according to the injunction of the municipality) it is a principle according to the building act that the fact that the illegality in the building in such a situation still remains the new owner is obligated to legalize the building.

So the illegality is always objectively “attached” the building. If the owner of the building believes that the illegality of the building is caused by the firm that built the construction (i.e. the constructor, architect or engineer), the owner of the building may make a claim towards the construction firm (i.e. the constructor, architect or engineer) for compensation of his loss according to the civil law.

The building act and the building regulation will be a part of the assessment of the civil court whether the contractor has constructed illegally beside the regulations according to the civil law.

According to the building act the employer that constructs a new building for a consumer to live in, is required to take out insurance that covers any significant building damages that are caused by the construction of the building. The insurance is valid for 10 years. The subject of the insurance is the building and it is the owner of the building that is the secured part and therefore benefits from the insurance. The insurance covers the expenses to restore the damages. If the employer is a public institution there is no requirement to take out insurance.

**The Danish Working Environment Act<sup>8</sup>** applies to all work on the ground and, in particular, work performed for an employer; this includes workers who are employed as architects. Thus the architect sector is not a regulated profession in Denmark.

### **The Planning Act**

Denmark has a simple and clear spatial planning system with a strongly decentralized division of responsibility. The municipality councils are responsible for overall land-use regulation at the local authority level with legally binding guidelines for property owners.

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<sup>8</sup> The Danish Working Environment Act.: <http://engelsk.arbejdstilsynet.dk/en/Regulations/acts/Working-Environment-Act/arbejdsmiljoeloven1.aspx>

The regional councils prepare strategic plans for development in each region. The Minister for the Environment is responsible for protecting national interests through national planning.

The Act is intended to ensure that the overall planning unites the interests of society with respect to land use and helps protect the country's natural environment, so that the development of society is sustainable in respect of people's living conditions and the conservation of wildlife and vegetation.

In particular, spatial planning must ensure:

- a desirable development of the country as a whole and of the individual regions and local authorities, based on overall planning and socio-economic considerations
- the creation and conservation of valuable buildings, urban environments and landscapes
- the preservation of open coastal areas as an continued important nature and landscape resource
- the prevention of air, water and soil pollution and noise nuisance, and
- the involvement of the public in the planning process as much as possible.

#### Decentralized responsibility

The local councils have a great deal of responsibility for planning in both town and country. The local councils have to review their planning on a regular basis. In the first half of each 4-year election period, each local council has to present a political strategy for local authority planning and decide how the current plan needs amending. The plan then adopted forms the framework for preparing local plans and handling cases based on other legislation. Local plans are drawn up as needed. Major building or construction work cannot begin before the local council has adopted a local plan.

#### Public involvement

It is a fundamental part of the Planning Act that citizens should be involved in the planning process at all levels, local, regional and national. Before a local authority plan, a regional development plan, a national planning directive or a national planning report can be adopted, a proposal must be published together with its premises. Property owners, neighbours, non-governmental organizations, public authorities and others have at least 8 weeks to submit their objections, comments, proposals or protests.

The Planning Act sets minimum rules for public participation. The planning authority can decide whether it should distribute more material for discussion, arrange citizens' meetings, establish working groups, create electronic panels, etc. Local authorities have experimented with various ways of involving the public, NGOs and other organizations in the planning process. For example, several have adopted a policy of community democracy. Others have experimented with discussing strategy and development potential more informally before the formal planning procedure begins.

**Educational framework** consists of legislation on higher artistic education (DA - Lov om videregående kunstneriske uddannelsesinstitutioner<sup>9</sup> and relevant executive order<sup>10</sup> (DA - Bekendtgørelse om uddannelser ved de videregående kunstneriske uddannelsesinstitutioner under Ministeriet for Forskning, Innovation og Videregående Uddannelser) and accreditation law<sup>11</sup> (DA - Akkrediteringsloven) and relevant executive order<sup>12</sup> (DA - Akkrediteringsbekendtgørelsen).

The Danish architect education frequently undergoes an accreditation process to ensure, that the education meets the quality standards for higher education programs and higher education institutions set forth by the Danish government. The architect education programs are accredited without remarks.

The education is not regulated by law in context of definition laid down by the Professional Recognition Directive. The status of the academic degree “cand.arch.” follows the educational legislation, but have no influence to access to or exercise of the profession.

(b) Sector specific information

*Explain the system in place to protect the general interest objective for similar professions within the sector, especially where the mechanism significantly differs from the one applying to the selected profession.*

There is a certification system for structural engineers in Denmark. The purpose of a certification system for structural engineering is to ensure public health and security. This means that the employer of a building that is classified in high consequence class is obligated to hire a structural engineer that can draw up and sign a certified structural engineer’s declaration. The signed declaration must be accompanied with the structural documentation compiled by the structural engineer when the employer applies for building permit.

So the purpose with the Danish Certification System for structural engineers is to prevent failures in buildings that are classified in high consequence class and where failures seriously will endanger human life or have substantial economic, social or environmental consequences. It is typically complicated constructions such as shopping centres, hospitals, and schools etc. that requires a certified and signed declaration.

See furthermore the DK short template report about structural engineers in Professional Recognition Database.

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<sup>9</sup> Law on Higher artistic education <https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=160764> and

<sup>10</sup> Executive order on higher artistic education: <https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=160906>

<sup>11</sup> Law regarding accreditation: <https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=151871>

<sup>12</sup> Executive Order regarding accreditation: <https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=152480>

## 6. Institutional organisation

### *(a) Profession, selected for in-depth discussions*

*How is this regulatory framework/ control mechanism organised between the different entities, i.e. is this a centralised or rather a decentralised one? In the case of decentralised organisation can you provide additional information on the degree of independence of these regional/local entities and how the coordination is ensured? Who are the key entities involved in your national system described in the previous question? Please describe briefly their respective role.*

### *(b) Sector specific information*

*Please specify briefly the main entities and their respective role in supervision and enforcement for similar professions within the sector.*

The two schools of architecture in Denmark - The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Schools of Architecture, Design and Conservation in Copenhagen, founded in 1754 and Aarhus School of Architecture in Aarhus, founded in 1965 - are placed within the governmental hierarchy and are directly under the supervision and instruction of the Minister for Higher Education and Science<sup>13</sup>. Architects are educated according to the 11 points in the Professional Recognition Directive 2005/36/EC as amended with directive 2013/55/EU, Article 46 paragraph 2.

In general, membership in Danish trade unions and/or professional organisations is constitutional right, but not the obligation and is not requirement for access of any profession in Denmark. Majority of the professionals use the opportunity to become- and are members of relevant trade unions and professional organisations in Denmark.

## 7. Certification systems

*Are there voluntary certification systems within (a) the profession and (b) the sector under review in your country? If yes please explain their main characteristics, what proportion (approximate) of the professionals (and what are the professions) is certified and what is your general assessment of this system, in particular as regards the effects of such a scheme on market access?*

No governmental certification system for professionals is in place, as architect profession is not regulated by law.

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<sup>13</sup> Study program BA - Aarhus : [http://aarch.dk/fileadmin/filer/webmaster/PDF/studieordning\\_ba\\_2013\\_08102013.pdf](http://aarch.dk/fileadmin/filer/webmaster/PDF/studieordning_ba_2013_08102013.pdf)

Study program MA - Aarhus : [http://aarch.dk/fileadmin/filer/webmaster/PDF/Studieordning\\_ka\\_2013\\_24092013.pdf](http://aarch.dk/fileadmin/filer/webmaster/PDF/Studieordning_ka_2013_24092013.pdf)

Study program BA - Copenhagen:

<http://www.karch.dk/dk/Materiale/Studiekontorets+filer/Studieordning+for+bacheloruddannelsen+2014>

Study program MA – Copenhagen:

<http://www.karch.dk/dk/Materiale/Studiekontorets+filer/Studieordning+for+kandidatuddannelsen+2014>

For the purpose of matching the standards and to boost the competitiveness in other countries that request extra two or more years of professional practice on top of the 5 years education the Danish organisations and architectural schools are developing a voluntary 2-year post-graduate training scheme for building architects<sup>14</sup>.

The members of DANSKE ARK are private firms of consulting architects that are charged with architectural assignments and where the day-to-day management is undertaken by at least one person who has worked as a full-time architect for a minimum period of five years, including two years as a self-employed person or responsible leader. These persons at the senior executive level usually have an educational background from the national schools of architects or Polytecnic's. To qualify for membership of DANSKE ARK, the firms are also required to have a professional liability insurance to cover any claims for damages that might be advanced in conjunction with the assignments performed in compliance with the provisions of the General Conditions for Consultancy and Assistance 1989 (ABR 89). This means that assignments are covered for a period of five years from the date of handing-over. DANSKE ARK has about 800 ordinary and associated member firms, which - combined - employ about 5000 persons and account for about 85-90% of the aggregate building contract sums in Denmark.

## 8. Additional information

*Please use the following to include any additional information or data you consider helpful. You may also wish to include any particular challenges or opportunities you uncovered that could inform group discussions as well as support other countries during their own evaluation process. Any particular recommendation you would like to address to other countries?*

### **The Union of Salaried Architects (Arkitektforbundet)**<sup>15</sup>

The Union of Salaried Architects (Arkitektforbundet) is the union for academic architects (cand. arch.) and designers (cand. design) and others who on an academic level are occupied within architecture and design. (The 4. September 2014 Arkitektforbundet changes its name to "Forbundet Arkitekter og Designere"). Arkitektforbundet is a member-driven, democratic organization, independent from political parties. Arkitektforbundet works to give the members the best conditions in the labor market, employed as well as un-employed.

The members of Arkitektforbundet are working with architecture, design, urban planning, building applications, management and many other things. They are employed, self-employed, students, freelancers and managers. Arkitektforbundet is a member of the Danish Confederation of Professional Associations and has negotiated general agreements on the working conditions with the employers in the public sector and with The Danish Association of Architectural Firms.

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<sup>14</sup> Voluntary 2-year post-graduate training scheme for building architects:

<https://www.arkitektforeningen.dk/ARKITEKTERNES%20EFTERUDDANNELSE/%20%20Praksisorienteret%20kompetencefo rl%C3%B8b>

<sup>15</sup> The Union of Salaried Architects: <http://www.arkitektforbundet.dk/sw/frontend/show.asp?parent=280537&layout=0>

**The Danish Architects' Association**<sup>16</sup> is an independent association established in 1879 with the purpose of supporting and promoting architects and the architectural quality. The association organises about 7,000 qualified architects, who are entitled to use the title MAA (MAA means Member of the Architects' Association). The title "Architect, MAA" is restricted for the members of organisation. The title is internationally recognized title for those practicing professionally in the field of architecture in Denmark. Only architects graduated from one of the two Danish schools of architecture or from other schools of architecture acknowledged according to the EU directive 2005/36/EC can be accepted as members. The purpose of the association is to advance and develop the members' interests across geography, individual expertise and interests, to act on behalf of the members on legislative and regulatory issues and to ensure that the built environment is designed and managed by properly trained architects.

Established in 1960, **the Danish Association of Architectural Firms (DANSKE ARK)**<sup>17</sup> is the Danish association of private firms of consulting architects. DANSKE Ark's objective is to represent the commercial interests of practicing architects and, in its capacity as impartial consultant to building clients, strengthen the position, quality level and professionalism of its member firms. In the collective bargaining process DANSKE ARK negotiates the general agreements on pay and working conditions etc. of the technical staff who are in the employment of the member firms. DANSKE ARK negotiates fees and standards for architectural work with individual clients, private client organisations and public authorities. DANSKE ARK also participates in negotiations with public authorities on tax aspects, prices and profit legislation, regulations on competitive tendering, liability and insurance matters as well as building assignment procedures, quality assurance and other terms relating to the professional activities of the member firms. DANSKE ARK also contributes to the establishment of a platform for the export efforts of the member firms. At the international level, DANSKE ARK promotes - through its membership of the Architects' Council of Europe (ACE) - the interests of its member firms on a global scale and in relation to the EU, in particular. DANSKE ARK is also engaged in extensive co-operation with its sister organisations in the other Nordic countries. Moreover, together with the Danish Association of Consulting Engineers, the Danish Federation of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises, the Danish Construction Association, and others, DANSKE ARK is actively involved in committee work aimed at legislative initiatives and joint development projects of a professional and technological nature. DANSKE ARK issues instructive and informative publications of professional as well as general interest. DANSKE ARK is represented on a wide array of public and private committees and in Danish and foreign organizations with whom they share the same professional interests.

Participation in **Danish Housing Architects (Danske BoligArkitekter)**<sup>18</sup> requires formal training and experience in construction of private houses. All members are either the owner or employee of a company that is member of DANSKE ARK.

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<sup>16</sup> The Danish Architects' Association: [www.arkitektforeningen.dk](http://www.arkitektforeningen.dk)

<sup>17</sup> Danish Association of Architectural Firms: [www.danskeark.dk](http://www.danskeark.dk)

<sup>18</sup> Danish Housing Architects: <http://www.danskeark.dk/Medlemsfordele/Danske-Boligarkitekter.aspx>

**The Danish Ministry of Climate and Energy** is responsible for national and international efforts to prevent climate change, as well as energy issues, national geological surveys in Denmark and Greenland, meteorology and buildings. The ministry is responsible for the Danish Building Act. **The Ministry of the Environment** is responsible for administrative and research tasks in the areas of environmental protection and The Planning Act. **The Ministry of Employment** has responsibility for The Danish Working Environment Act. **Ministry for Higher Education/The Danish Agency for Higher Education** is an agency in the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education. The Agency handles tasks and legislation within the overall sector for higher education. The agency is also Danish national coordinator for Professional Recognition Directive, Danish LIMIC center, national contact point for the directive and is responsible for academic recognition and Danish NARIC center.