

Welcome to Central Denmark Region

Central Denmark Region

Regional Development

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Welcome to Central Denmark Region, the largest of the five Danish regions – covering 13,000 square kilometres. The region has a population of 1.2 m people. There are landscapes and cultural sights to suit every taste all the year round. The region also has a thriving business community with specific strengths within sustainable energy production, processing of foodstuffs, information technology and advanced manufacturing industry.

In addition, the university and research facilities are of a high international standard. The region is well served by a digital and physical infrastructure that covers highways as well as two international airports and Denmark's largest container harbour.

The region stretches from coast to coast across Central Jutland Peninsula. It offers a wide range of experiences. From the untamed North Sea in the West with endless kilometres of sandy beaches for nature lovers, swimmers, windsurfers and kite surfers to the hilly lake district in the heart of Jutland with its Himmelbjerget and on to city life in Aarhus, the second largest city in Denmark. Djursland lying even further to the East has a wide variety of landscapes and presents three experience centres with marine, domestic and exotic animals.

Come and see a part of Denmark where an interesting experience is never more than a short walk away – whether you are a tourist, a business traveller, an international partner, a scientist or a student.

1. *The highest points of Denmark are to be found in the Central Denmark Region. One of them being Himmelbjerget close to Silkeborg with its 147 metres. Though not particularly high, it is a very popular destination because of its highly attractive surroundings. The monument at the top was erected by the Danish people in 1849 to commemorate King Frederik VII's decision to grant them their free constitution.*
2. *The Danes call the part of the North Sea closest to the western coast of Denmark "Vesterhavet" (Western Sea). There are endless, white sandy beaches which are freely accessible to all. In fair weather Vesterhavet is a paradise for sunbathers, swimmers, windsurfers and anglers, and not forgetting builders of sandcastles. At other times, Vesterhavet can be ferocious with meter high waves crashing onto the*

beach – to the delight of those who revel in the forces of nature – and later for those who like to hunt for the coveted lumps of amber thrown up upon the shore.

3. *If you are interested in marine life, a visit to KATTEGATCENTRET Grenaa is a must. Situated close to Grenaa Harbour on the eastern coast of Jutland this giant salt water aquarium contains tropical sharks, seals, rays, jellyfish and a wealth of other sea creatures.*
4. *Djursland in the very East of the region offers a wide variety of landscapes, lush nature, beautiful scenery and gorgeous deciduous woodlands inviting to hiking and picnicking. From Djursland there is a ferry to the Isle of Anholt which boasts the only desert in Northern Europe as well as a rich bird and animal life.*

Special focus areas in business



The regional administration of Denmark is comprised of five regions. They are primarily responsible for the health sector including hospitals and general practitioners, but also the specialised social care and psychiatric sector. Also, of major importance is the area of Regional Development covering business, education, culture, natural resources, energy, environment and public transportation.

Each region has its own **Growth Forum**, which consists of representatives from the regional and municipal level, the business sector, the educational institutions and the social partners.

The 20 members of the forum prepare business development strategies and play an active role in allocating EU structural funds.

The Growth Forum of Central Denmark Region has decided to focus particularly on education and training, the development of skills and competencies, innovation

and research as well as entrepreneurial initiatives. The Growth Forum is continuously supporting and assisting new initiatives within the aforementioned focus areas.

These initiatives must also have a relation to one or more of the following sectors where the region sees itself as being particularly strong: **energy and the environment, foodstuffs, and health-related business.**

The region has world leaders like Vestas, Siemens and Grundfos in the energy and environment sector as well as many small and medium-sized businesses specialising in developing their own products or operating as sub-contractors.

The political awareness concerning climate changes and safety of energy supply has added pressure on the global market to develop efficient and sustainable solutions in energy and environment technology.

5. *Central Denmark Region is especially strong in the energy and environment sector. New initiatives focusing on sustainability are launched every year. Maabjerg Bioenergy is the largest biogas production plant in the Northern Europe. Next step will be to establish a second generation bio refinery, Maabjerg Energy Concept, consisting of a bioethanol plant making ethanol from straw, a larger biogas plant, that makes biogas out of liquid manure and molasses from the ethanol production, and a combined heat and power plant that burns waste products. The plant will be able to heat 20,000 households and provide 25,000 homes with electricity.*
6. *In Brædstrup District Heating Company near Horsens the 8,000 square metres of solar panels produce inexpensive power and sustainable heating for the*

local district heating consumers. The plant was the first in Denmark with solar panels in conjunction with a heat and power station. Next step is the Ring Søpark installation, which will optimize the interaction between user installations, distributing systems, and production plants – based on a large new residential development in Brædstrup. This will require heating from large terrestrial solar heating systems combined with roof integrated heating solutions – all of it being a part of the district heating network.

7. *Samsø, the renewable energy island of Denmark, has been energy self-sufficient since 2003, this includes offshore and onshore wind energy turbines. Next step is a more intelligent use of energy resources. Photo: Samsø Energiakademi.*



The Central Denmark Region has therefore a unique potential for being able to develop the **energy and environment technology sector**. A very unique case is the Danish island of renewable energy, Samsø, which has been self-sufficient in energy since 2003. The next goal, however, is a more intelligent use of energy resources – e.g. using excess electricity and hydrogen in the transport sector.

Central Denmark Region has a very important **foodstuffs sector** with large manufacturing, processing and distribution units, strong research and development activities, knowledge groups as well as a variety of

networking activities. As such the region has been approved the natural centre of the emerging national Danish Food Cluster.

The region also sees great development potential in the **health-related business sector**. The research undertaken at the region's educational institutions is amongst the best in the world. Based on the health sector, Central Denmark Region aims to further develop a business which is innovative and globally oriented. This it aims to achieve by increasing co-operation between business communities, the health and knowledge sectors and across borders of trade, industry and geography.

8. *One of the projects in Central Denmark Region generating new health-related business is the new University Hospital in Aarhus. Being the largest reorganisation of existing hospitals ever undertaken in Denmark this project offers a unique possibility to combine the efforts of researchers, developers, manufacturers and the health care sector. This will empower and innovate the business sector as well as provide the basis for new enterprises. The hospital is expected to be completed by 2020. The new hospital will have an area of 375,000 square meters, employ 9,000 people and be able to accommodate 100,000 admissions and 900,000 out-patient visits annually. Photo: DNU-konsortiet.*

9. *Every pig carcass from the Danish Crown slaughterhouse in Horsens is automatically photographed and ultrasound scanned and then the first carving is done by robots. Technology has provided the employees with a less physically demanding job.*

10. *CURAVIVO provides an interactive healing environment for patients in intensive care and patients in need for recovery and orientation. Through circadian light therapy, personal sound stimulation and cognitive training, CURAVIVO offers complete integration of all stimulation modalities in the intensive care unit. CURAVIVO is developed in close collaboration between the department of neurosurgery at University Hospital of Aarhus and four private companies (Cromaviso, Solutors, SoundFocus and VisioSign).*

11. *Freshwater Trout bu Ejstrupholm Fish Farm produces 3,000 tonnes of rainbow trout per year. This production is achieved without any kind of growth promoters, but by using the most recent technology to benefit both the fish and the environment. The farm cleanses, filtrates and recycles its own water no longer having to use water from the nearby stream.*

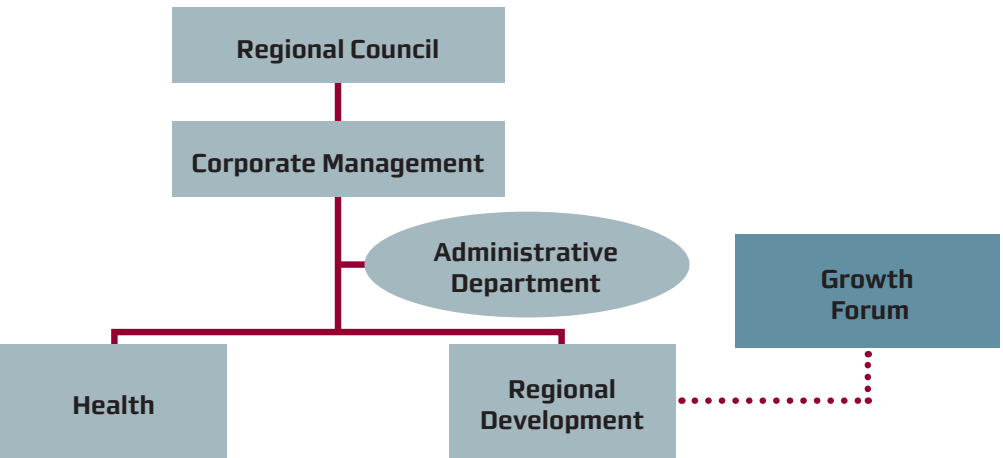
The politicians rule



The 41 members of the Regional Council meet once a month in the regional council hall in Viborg. The circular hall with a diameter of 30 meter is designed by the Danish architectural firm Schmidt Hammer Lassen while the artist Birgit Østergaard is behind the ceiling decorations that create a map of the 19 municipalities of the region.

The 41 elected politicians in the Regional Council are the highest political authority of the Region. Elections for the Regional Council are held every four years, with the next due in the autumn of 2017.

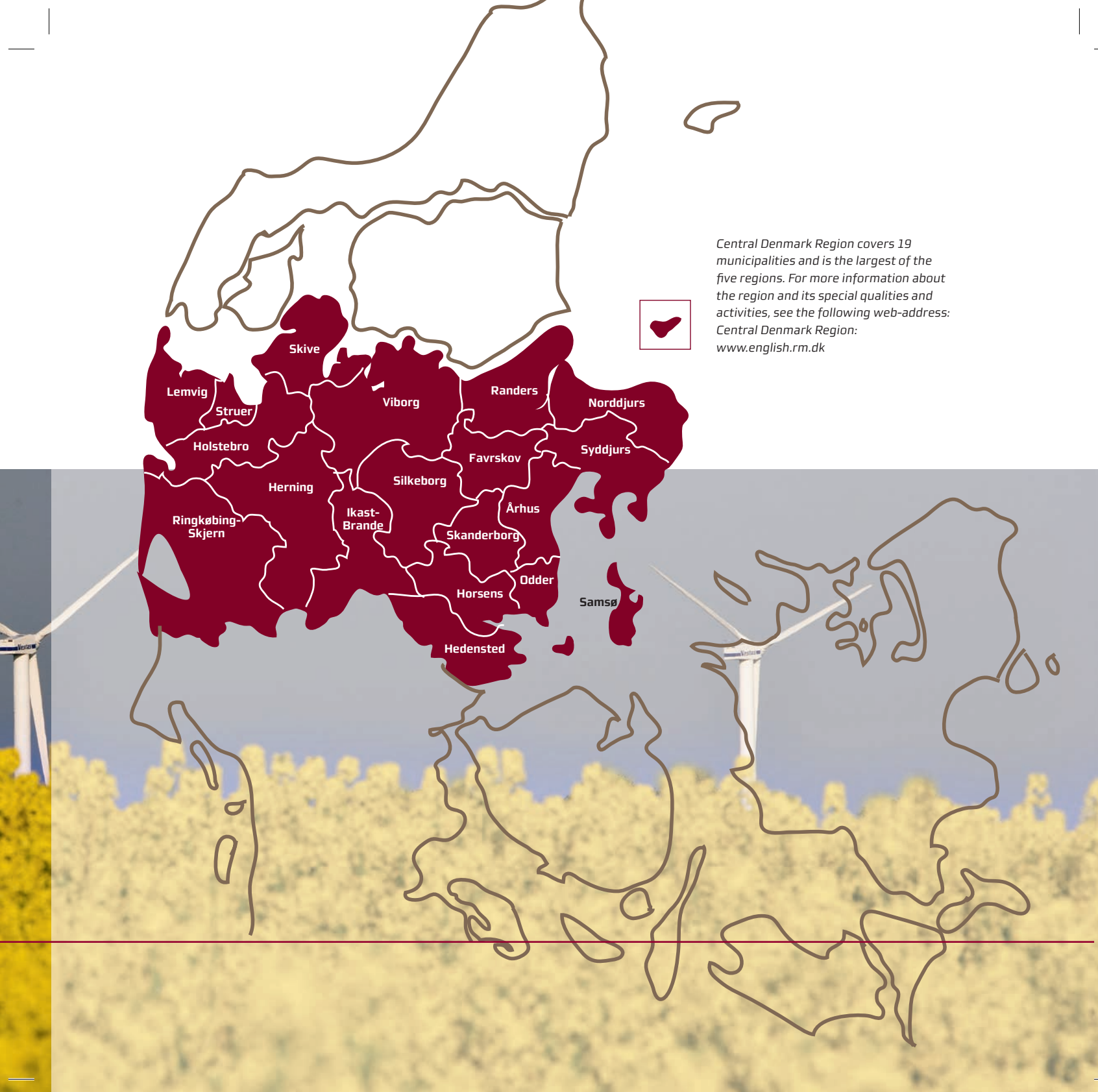
The council consists of eight parties at present: Socialdemokraterne (the Social Democrats, with 16 seats) and Venstre (Denmark's centre-right Liberal Party, 13 seats) as the largest parties followed by Dansk Folkeparti (The Danish People's Party, 3 seats), Det Konservative Folkeparti (the Conservative People's Party, 2 seats), Socialistisk Folkeparti (The Socialist People's Party, 2 seats), Det Radikale Venstre (The Danish Social-Liberal Party, 2 seats), Enhedslisten (The Danish Red-Green Alliance, 2 seats) and Liberal Alliance (The Liberal Alliance, 1 seat).



The primary responsibility of Central Denmark Region is healthcare, involving responsibility for hospital services, including psychiatry, general practitioners and specialist doctors. In addition, the region operates a number of specialised social care institutions. Furthermore, the region ensures and coordinates regional development in areas of nature, environment, business and tourism. Approximately 30,000 people are employed at various institutions and organisations under the remit of the Central Denmark Region.

As shown in the figure above the Growth Forum and the Regional Development Unit are connected.





Central Denmark Region covers 19 municipalities and is the largest of the five regions. For more information about the region and its special qualities and activities, see the following web-address: [Central Denmark Region: www.english.rm.dk](http://www.english.rm.dk)



Aarhus is Denmark's second largest city with more than 40,000 students and an international educational environment providing a sound foundation for lively restaurants, cafés and other meeting places within the city.