

Abstract Template



Henning Jensen

Organisation : Local Government Denmark (LGDK)

Short description:

Mayor of the Municipality of Næstved, Denmark,

Population of 80.000,

Budget aprox. 900 mio. Euro

Presentation title: Role of the Local and Regional Authorities in Creating Climate Resilient Societies

Executive Summary of your Abstract:

- An overview of the ongoing climate debates in the EU.
- The role of the local and regional authorities in relation to the European and international climate debate
- The local and regional requests to the European Framework for adaptation to climate change
- The future steps for the local and regional authorities towards creating climate resilient societies and sustainable economies

Abstract:

This presentation is mainly based on my role as a member of the Committee of the Region (CoR) and herewith my work as the rapporteur on the draft opinion of the CoR on the White Paper *“Adapting to Climate Change: Towards a European Framework for Action”*.

The point of origin in the presentation is the ongoing process of negotiations in relation to climate change in the EU. I will briefly sum up discussions and processes within the EU and the work I have been involved with as a rapporteur in the CoR.

The presentation will then relate to the existing European framework for adapting to climate change and discuss the role of the local and regional authorities. There are particularly four issues that I would like to bring into focus:

1. We need to develop a overall strategy that give the local communities **the strength to adapt** to the changes caused by climate change while simultaneously creating green sustainable growth
2. Overall long-term strategies should be developed through **broad cooperation between all the governmental levels** if successful implementation is to be ensured. Local and regional authorities possess hands-on knowledge regarding the impact of climate challenges and this clearly justifies the involvement.
3. Since the consequences are always local, the **local and regional authorities need to be involved** in the early stages of the process of developing future strategies for adapting to the climate changes.
4. Finally we should stress the need for the **right financial incentives** for action. Local and regional authorities should be supported in their efforts to develop proactive solutions when adapting to the climate changes.

The presentation will close by pointing out local and regional requests on future prospects of the European policies for adapting to climate change. The European-Commissions Working Programme for

2010 contains several climate change policies that holds a lot of promise. The local and regional authorities should be deeply involved if the policies should have any hopes of succeeding.

Resumé:

Mayor of the municipality of Næstved since 1988.

Member of the Committee of the Region since 1994.

Rapporteur on the draft opinion of the Committee of the Regions on the “*White Paper Adapting to Climate Change: Towards a European framework of action*”.

Recommended reading: www.naestved.dk, www.kl.dk, www.cor.europa.eu, www.lg-action.eu,