



# The Municipalities and INSPIRE – Any Connection?



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On the surface, the municipalities are neither data owners nor data systems managers in connection with Denmark's reporting of data to INSPIRE. However, if you dig a little deeper in the actual data reports, you will see that the municipalities are actually suppliers of data on an extensive scale, both through FOT and through Denmark's Area Information, [www.arealinfo.dk](http://www.arealinfo.dk). And there is no doubt that INSPIRE will provide a framework as well as inspiration for the Danish mapping under the auspices of FOT.

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## The Core Data Programme builds bridges between the municipalities and INSPIRE.

Offhand, the answer to the question in the headline is 'no'. This answer can be given because the municipalities are neither data owners nor data systems managers for any of the data sets that are included in INSPIRE's data catalogues.

Local Government Denmark is represented on the Harmonisation Committee (the Harmonisation Committee for Infrastructure for Spatial Information), which is responsible for the implementation of INSPIRE in Denmark pursuant to legislation. Naturally, this means that the municipalities know what goes on, but otherwise, they are not involved in committees that work with services and specifications for data related to INSPIRE.

And yet, not least in continuation of the Core Data Programme, there is a clear connection to the municipalities. With the Core Data Programme's selection of an extensive series of important themes for authoritative data, which are to be used across administrative levels by public authorities, the INSPIRE requirements as the highest administrative level and thus also the highest standardisation level will permeate all other levels.

So, even if the municipalities, according to official statements about INSPIRE, are neither data owners nor data systems managers, it is only fair to say that in practice, they are 'data suppliers' to a very great extent. Data from the municipalities are delivered via a variety of channels.



Within FOT, topographical data have been gathered and standardised across Denmark over the last decade, with the government and the municipalities as 'data suppliers', at least in relation to the users of data, both in the public and in the private sector. Until now, deliveries have been based on photogrammetric productions. If you read the FOT specification, unfortunately, it does not say that INSPIRE's requirements must be the basis for the specification of these data. However, there is no doubt that these requirements actually are the underlying foundational prerequisite, and that attention is given to ensuring that relevant data are produced so that they comply with INSPIRE's rules and requirements.

Due to FOT's nationwide status in both its data basis and its membership, the transition to the stage where FOT data can be used as an administrative basis has started in earnest. This means that in future, municipalities will become direct data suppliers of more data that are communicated to INSPIRE to a much greater extent than is the case now. In several subject areas, the municipalities will be in charge of updating as well as improving the quality of these data.

If you take a look at the list of reported themes in Denmark (e.g. by searching on the FOT website here: <http://inspire-geoportal.ec.europa.eu/discovery/>), FOT themes can be found for download from the FOTKort10 data set. Another survey will show that Denmark's reported themes to INSPIRE are largely based on FOT data.

In the Core Data Programme, FOT data have been selected as the best available geometric basis in several cases, and they will therefore also be included as 'suppliers' to INSPIRE in this respect. Once again, data with the authoritative stamp will no doubt be adapted to INSPIRE and the associated considerations. In that connection, intense negotiations are currently taking place about e.g. watercourses, where the municipalities clearly have an interest as primary managers. In this connection, it would be an obvious choice to take a look at the INSPIRE specification for transport networks (which also include water networks), and here, you can use the collegiate network that has been built around INSPIRE for further inspiration and knowledge sharing.

Other data sources for INSPIRE also reveal that the

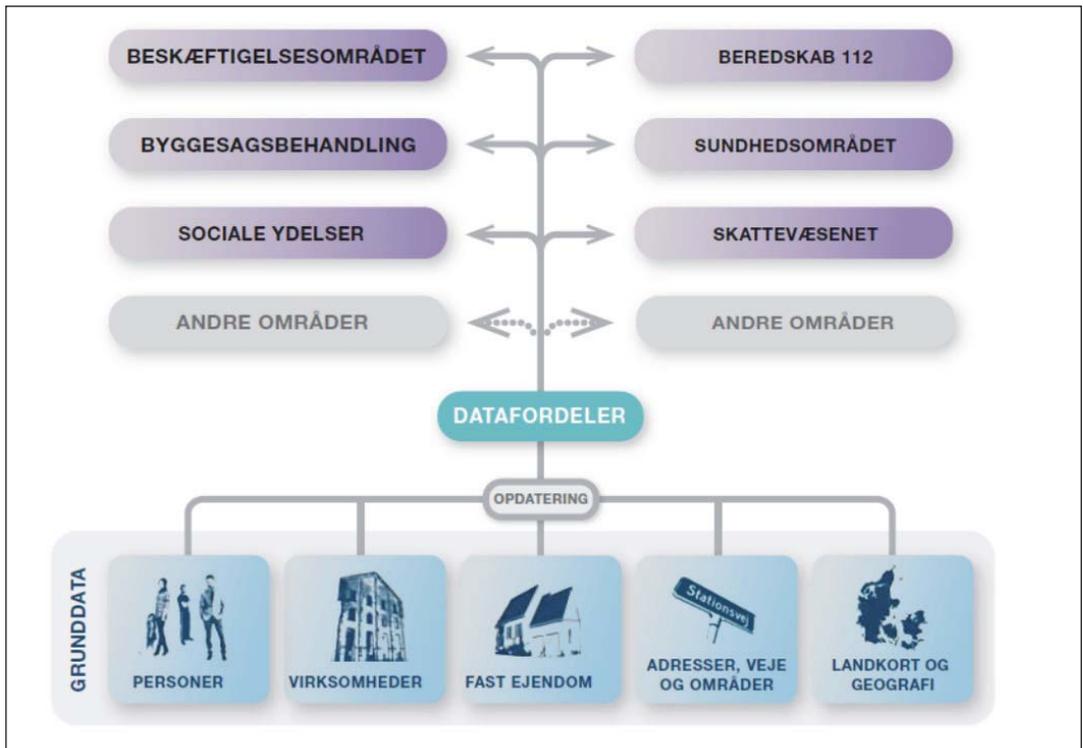


Figure 1. The Core Data Programme's basic idea of use of authoritative core data

municipalities are behind the Danish reports to a great extent. For instance, several themes from both Plansystem.dk and Denmark's Area Information originate from the municipal authority tasks.

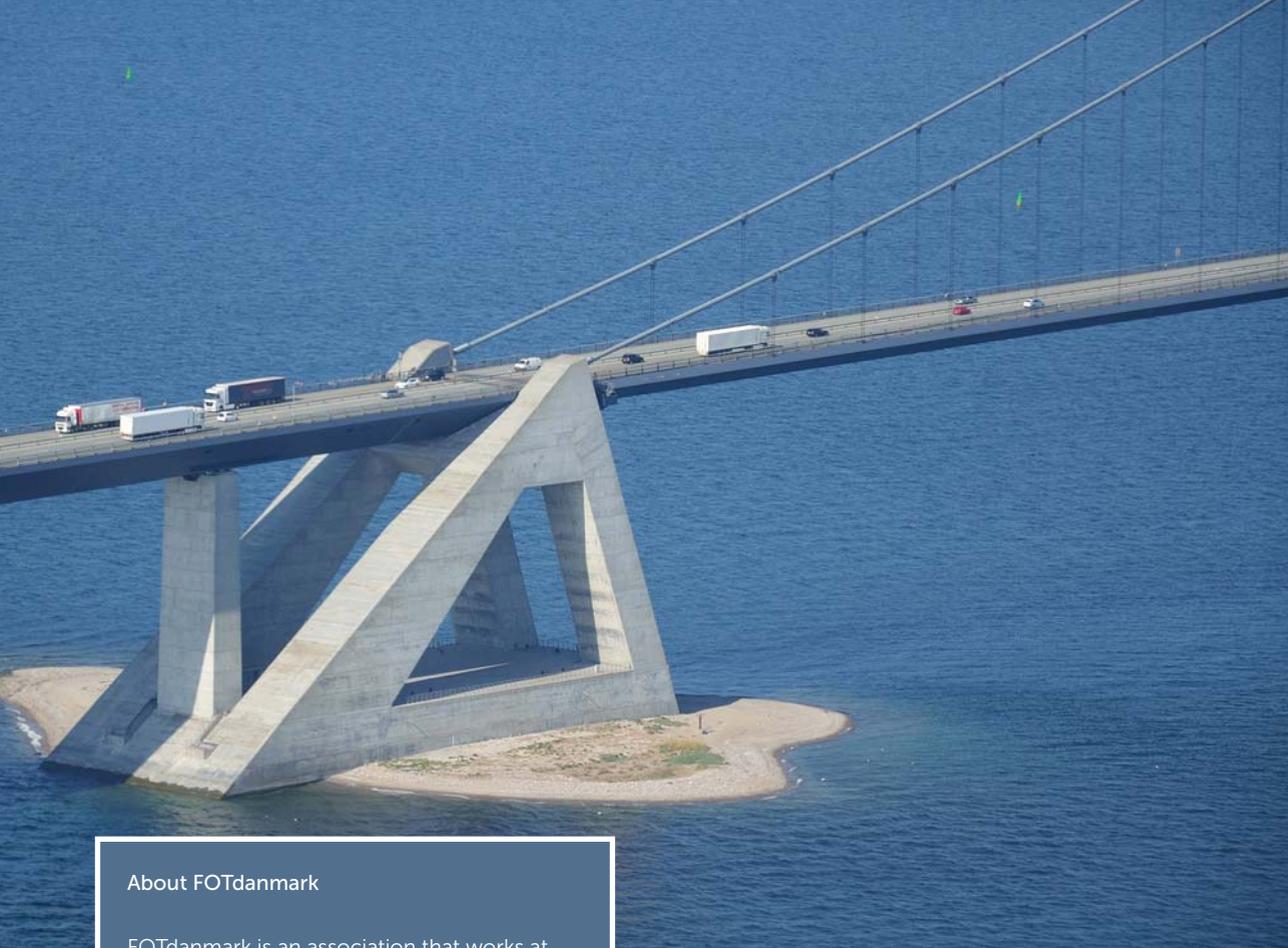
In conclusion, it can be said that the Danish implementation of INSPIRE is/will be highly dependent on FOT data. Not least in the light of the new FOT system support, which will accommodate the very different requirements posed by the individual subject areas about

day-to-day use and reporting of data, which will stress the FOT data's character as core data.

On the other hand, it is probably inevitable that the INSPIRE system will at some stage set out a more stringent framework for FOT, but perhaps not until the next great flood has hit Central Europe. The conclusion is also that FOT can and should use the INSPIRE network when knowledge is to be found about what others do regarding mapping / reference systems.



Figure 2. Front page on [www.fotlandanmark.dk](http://www.fotlandanmark.dk)



## About FOTdanmark

FOTdanmark is an association that works at creating a uniform digital mapping of Denmark for both the government and the municipalities. We do this by means of so-called FOT data, which are specified in detail within the association. Today, all 98 municipalities and the Danish government are members of the association. On 1 January 2013, the FOT data produced under the auspices of the association were released as free, authoritative data along with a number of other core data sets.

A nationwide digital mapping leads to great streamlining potentials when public authorities share data across all authorities and use FOT data in their digital administration, e.g. in the management of roads, watercourses and buildings. FOTdanmark helps provide a high and uniform quality of the mapping of Denmark. This is a prerequisite for the digital administration to be able to create increased value for the public authorities and for citizens in Denmark.

