



A Sustainable Strategic Plan

**City of Copenhagen
(Denmark)**
URB-INCLUSION Network

In the URBACT network URB-INCLUSION, Copenhagen aims to implement new solutions to reduce urban poverty. With a strong focus on the integrated approach and ensuring an ‘interconnection’ between policy measures, the network of 9 cities will support the re-design of decision making processes to promote an integrated and sustainable urban development strategies. The example below shows how Copenhagen has been engaged in integrated urban development for many years through the Copenhagen Finger Plan.

The Copenhagen Finger Plan

Copenhagen is an outstanding example of a city which has used strategic planning over a long period to plan the city and improve sustainability.

The strategic plan for Copenhagen was first developed in 1947. It used the analogy of the map with a hand (see Figure 1 below) to develop the ‘finger plan’ in which the core of the city is the palm and the city would develop along the fingers with strong radial public transport links, separated by green areas.

Figure 1 – Finger Plan



Later a sixth finger was added which now includes the axis to Malmo over the bridge. Although 70 years old the finger plan has proved to be a robust basis for sustainable development in the city. New employment opportunities have to be located within 500m of a tram or metro stop along the fingers. So, the economic combines with the social. Good access to employment by public transport helps disadvantaged groups get into work and reduces the need for commuting by car which is good for the environment and improves air quality for everyone.