



Housing markets in rural regions – Danish experiences

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Publication date:
2025

Document Version
Accepted author manuscript, peer reviewed version

[Link to publication from Aalborg University](#)

Citation for published version (APA):
Andersen, H. T., & Nørgaard, H. (2025). Housing markets in rural regions – Danish experiences. 349. Abstract from 30th European Society for Rural Sociology Congress , Riga, Latvia.

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Accepted**Title**

Housing markets in rural regions – Danish experiences

Authors**Abstract**

Rural housing is a broad and complex topic; demand and supply differs from region to region, so do the quality and amenities (heating system, bathroom etc.). Urbanisation has had a major influence on local rural housing markets; the long-term decline in agricultural employment has steadily imposed depopulation and weakened local housing markets. Industrial restructuring from manufacturing towards services has further added to this trend; in particular the credit crunch or financial crisis back in 2007/8 triggered a substantial deindustrialisation in rural districts. The outcome was a severe decline in housing demand for several years. A new conventional wisdom, that the future belongs to the metropolises, was established in the aftermath of the financial crisis: Well-educated, young people concentrated at large cities while old, less qualified labour remained or even moved to rural areas: The rural areas were narrated as a thing of the past. However, despite the success of this discourse, the realities are more complex: While several rural areas suffer from declining demand and depopulation, others have afterwards experienced growing in-migration, both national and international and consequently an increase in housing demands.

This paper aims at investigating local housing markets in rural Denmark, which includes type of areas and housing qualities. Moreover, the paper intends to uncover affordability of housing in rural districts. Finally, the paper examines recent changes in migration patterns, including employment status and educational level of the new rural migrants and how this influence demographic profiles and futures of rural regions.

Topic Areas

- 27. Rural housing crisis or rural housing in crisis? International perspectives on current housing challenges in the countryside

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Submission Format

Oral

Submission Date

28th Feb 2025, 2:51pm EET

Decision

Oral

Latest Update

28th Mar 2025, 12:17pm EET

Submission ID

619

Review Summary

Chair Feedback

30th European Society for Rural Sociology Congress

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