

Highlights of the Torup Smart Village Strategy

Denmark



About Torup

The small village Torup has a population of 356 inhabitants. It is located at the Northern coast of Zealand, 60 km to the north-west of Copenhagen, but somewhat isolated due to its location on a peninsula. The focus on sustainability makes Torup special. Over the years, it has been called 'ecological', 'organic' and 'sustainable' – this started 30 years ago with a group of people who moved to Torup to form a community based on organic principles. This community 'Dyssekilde' will now be a model for a large extension to the village 'Hvideland' also based on sustainable principles.

What also makes Torup stand out from other Danish villages is the culture and tradition of the village, which besides sustainable, is welcoming, democratic, openminded and enterprising. And in addition: the inhabitants of Torup don't just sit and wait for things to happen: they act!

Key challenges & assets

The size of the village and limited number of inhabitants are the main challenges for Torup, like for many other Danish villages. These make it difficult to ensure reasonable services and are often seen as part of a negative development. Torup has managed to change this development and is planning a large extension of the village, this in turn brings on a new challenge: to avoid dilution of the present culture of village.

Torup's main asset is its human and social capital: the inhabitants and their culture and traditions. This, combined with a very strong focus on sustainability built up over the last 30 years, gives the village a very attractive profile and ensures an increasing population.



Main objectives of smart village strategy

Objective 1: Increase population by extending the village

Objective 2: Sustain and improve local services

Objective 3: Torup Tools and Talents – support sustainability and involvement

Objective 4: Torup Sustainable Common Heating

What is smart?

Community Participation in Strategy Development

Torup has a strong tradition of involvement, participation, and democracy. Visible both in words and in stone: the Local council 'Torup Ting'. It captures ideas and trends of the village and is the village voice. It formulates the village's visions also in relation to the Smart Rural 21 strategy.

Links to other strategies

- ✓ The plans for extension of the village as part of the strategy is developed in close cooperation with Halsnæs Municipality.
- ✓ The Strategy aligns with the **Local Development Strategy of the LAG Halsnæs-Gribskov** in its view on smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth.
- ✓ The strategy also supports the **national vision** to reduce CO₂ emission by 70 % by 2030.

What smart actions are implemented and planned?

- ✓ Supporting and facilitating involvement and democracy by establishing Torup Ting, Torup Fonden and sub-groups of these.
- ✓ Ensuring local services such as kindergarten, school, shops and workplaces by private initiatives and crowdfunding.
- ✓ Formulating and presenting a local democracy charter, i.e. an agreement which spells out the complementary roles of local governance between Halsnæs Kommune and Torup Ting.
- ✓ Guaranteeing ownership of the development – the Hvideland extension – by purchasing the land and farm buildings – made possible by crowdfunding in the village.

A smart action that Torup is planning...

Torup is planning to develop and implement an app 'Torups Tools and Talents' to support sustainability re-use/recirculation – and, in addition, to strengthen social relations in the community and support involvement by facilitating sharing of human resources/services in various areas.



Photo credit: Jens Thofter

This strategy highlight has been developed in the context of the 'Preparatory Action for Smart Rural Areas in the 21st Century' project funded by the European Commission. The opinions and views expressed in the strategy highlight are those of the participant villages only and do not represent the European Commission's official position