

EUROPEANISA- TION OF THE NORTH

CASE STUDY OF DANISH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:
AALBORG, HJØRRING AND FREDERIKSHAVN

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ABSTRACT

This thesis wish to contribute to the extensive research field of Europeanisation literature, with a specific focus on EU-policies impacts to the local governments' levels.

With a theoretical basis in Europeanisation literature, the thesis conducts a case-study of three Danish local governments': Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn to undercover the complex and increasingly developing relationship, between the cases and EU.

Furthermore, the thesis works from three particular aspects, 1) to highlight the EU - local governments relationship 2) utilise Europeanisation literature theoretical framework to locate domestic change 3) evaluate if EU-policies matters.

The analysis differentiates between different conceptual tools, to observe how local governments' filters change and response to adaptation pressures created by EU-policies.

The conclusions made are drawn from empirical studies, where extensive interviews have been conducts from 16 individual- and grouped interviews from respondents in main-cases of Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn and shared political- and administrative organisations NordDenmark EU-Office and BRN: Business Region North Denmark. The obtained data and conclusions, challenge mainstream Europeanisation literatures constellations and determines that local governments' are increasing reshaping own political strategies to bend EU-requirements and programs to strengths local moderations initiatives and ambitions.

Furthermore, 'Europeanisation of local governments' are increasingly filtered by mediating factors and controlled by a shared political culture based, in traditional models of governance, while local governments' engage in EU-activities to exploit possible political, economic and networks opportunities.

1. INTRODUCTION

The European Union has since the 1990s increasingly developed its Regional Policy initiatives, involving local governments in the European integration process through a wide-ranging policy field of networks, policies and funding programs, all this to support local actors' efforts to deal with present challenges.

As expressed by Börzel and Risse “*The issue is no longer whether Europe matter, but how its matters, to what degree, in what direction, at what pace, and at what point of time.*” (2009:4). This is also true in a Danish context, where EU policy field impacts 47% of local council agendas in 2014 and at the same time, covers areas of environment, climate, energy and competition. But also more traditionally local and national issues are increasingly affected by EU regulations, i.e. issues of education, health and social inclusion (KL, 2014:3).

On this background, scholars have attempted to conceptualise and define the interaction between EU and Member States - both at state-, regional- and local level - through the process of Europeanisation – broadly speaking - the term should be understood as the impact of EU's politics and integration processes influencing or introducing change to domestic policy-structures.

However, Europeanisation literature remains inadequate and absent of a clear examination of the European Union's impact on local levels, especially in a Scandinavian perspective. To contribute to existing literature, I will conduct a case study of three Danish local governments: Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikhavn and offer empirical indications for *domestic change*¹ caused by ‘Europeanisation of local governments’. The purposes of this thesis can be described by three aspects:

¹ ‘Domestic change’ refers to alteration in local governments structures both at administrative, political and legal level. Furthermore, ‘changes’ to practices, norms, values and processes due to EU regulations (Börzel & Risse, 2009:6).

- 1) By highlighting the complex interaction between EU and local governments, and exploring Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn motivations and logics to engage with the European Union.
- 2) By utilising the theoretical framework offered by contemporary Europeanisation literature in order to examine 'Europeanisation of local governments' and highlight possible changes to local policy arrangements² caused by influence from EU-policies.
- 3) By evaluating whether 'EU-policy matters' and how local governments respond.

The three aspects build on Europeanisation literature discussions regarding EU's impact on domestic change (For further see: Héritier, 2001, Cowles. et al. 2001, Börzel & Risse, 2003a, 2003, Featherstone & Radaelli, 2003; Kallestrup, 2005; Graziano & Vink, 2007). For the purpose of this thesis, I will utilise Olsen's (2002) logics, by not theoretically attempting to create a definition of 'Europeanisation of local governments'. But instead focusing on developing, an understanding of the complexity and possible change introduced by EU-policies, as mentioned by Olsen:

"The issue raised is not what Europeanization 'really is', but whether and how the term can be useful for understanding the dynamics of the evolving European policy. That is, how it eventually may help us give better accounts of the emergence, developments and impacts of a European, institutionally-ordered system of governance" (2002: 922)

From this assumption, Europeanisation can be applied to an explanatory framework that accounts for change induced by EU. The local level becomes relevant as, they are implement institutions and increasingly involved in EU programs and politics.

²Arrangements refer to Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn own position in local politics, economy and strategies in relations to EU cooperation.

The thesis does not necessarily presume local governments to resemble each other, instead, Europeanisation can perhaps help show differential impact due to “(...) *domestic adaptation with national colors*” here understood as local governments³ (Cowles., et. al 2001: 1). Therefore, what impact does EU have on change and how are local governments responding and engaging with Europe.

Lastly, Europeanisation literature often views EU interactions with Member States in a top-down (downloading) and bottom-up (uploading) relationship⁴, where both actors engage in a feedback loop. However, due to limitations in time and space, I will only focus on a ‘top-down’ and ‘bottom’ perspective, in relations to my thesis understood, as examining ‘downloading’ of policies and its impact on local level, while contributing to a consideration of local governments motivations and preferences for engaging with the European Union.

A clarification, of above mentioned factors will be made in the methodology and theoretical chapter. Furthermore, a explanation of case selection is made in chapter 3, section 3.3.3.

1.1 PROBLEM FORMULATION

As elaborated above, the main incentive for this thesis is to utilise the concept of Europeanisation to examine domestic change between EU and local governments in Denmark. Therefore, I wish to refer to the following problem formulation:

How does Europeanisation impact domestic change in Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn?

³ Local governments is understood as ” *the organizations that provide public services in a particular town or area, controlled by officials chosen in local elections*” (MacMillan, n.d.). This definition covers mentioned cases, meaning that refers to local governments includes Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn.

⁴ The interaction between EU and its Members are often described as top-down / bottom-up relationship, where actors are involved in a feedback loop, where domestic actors ‘downloads’ EU policies, rules and norms and further ‘uploads’ own preferences and interests to the institutional building of EU. This is elaborated in chapter 2, section 2.1.

1.2 SUB-HYPOTHESES:

As the problem formulation includes a vertical and horizontal perspective⁵, I have created sub-hypotheses that will support and function as guidelines for different sections in the analytical chapter. However, this section will only outline the sub-hypotheses, as they will be explained further in the methodology chapter 3, section 3.7.

1. **‘Misfit’⁶ between EU-policies and Aalborg-, Hjørring- and Frederikshavn government arrangements creates domestic change.** *As Europeanisation applies adaptation pressures on the cases administrative- and political structures, means that the higher levels of misfit existing between EU-policies and domestic setting, vis-à-vis more change can be expected.*
2. **Europeanisation is a feedback to top-down EU policies and initiatives.** *Europeanisation creates domestic change, when policies originating from EU-level redirect politics, preferences and practices at the local governments in Aalborg, Hjørring or Frederikshavn*
3. **As EU policies and initiatives can create change at Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn.** *Local governments are developing an EU-related portfolio of policy interests and preferences, therefore from a bottom-perspective; the cases are driven by three motivations factors.*

⁵ Here *vertical* is understood as EU’s introducing regulations, programmes and practices and horizontal as local government’s implementation power and motivations for engaging in initiatives i.e. funding, networks and policies.

⁶ Misfit or ‘goodness of fit’ describes the degree of ‘fit’ or mismatch i.e. congruence between the amount of pressure for change generated by EU-institutions and domestic actors. For more see chapter 2, section 2.1.1.

1.3 THE THESIS PURPOSE and AIM

The literature field of Europeanisation is extensive and a useful concept in European research (Bulmer, 2007). Traditionally scholars have made a case-study approach examining EU's interaction with Member States at supranational level (Olsen, 2002: 922). Therefore, the role of local governments and its relations with the European Union is patchy, especially in a Danish context.

However, contributions have been made, for more see Damborg and Halkier (1998), Dosenrod (2004)⁷, Kallestrup (2005) and Kristensen (2012). However, while only the latter focuses on local levels; the other scholars seek to understand Europeanisation from national state perspective. From this, I wish to make a contribution to the field and examine EU impact and interaction with local governments.

To fill the gap, I seek to utilise existing Europeanisation literature to examine how locale – in this case North Jutland's local governments – is influenced by EU-policies. As recognised by existing literature, Europeanisation must not be mistaken as 'convergence'⁸, instead EU differential impact on Member States has been located and widely accepted in Europeanisation literature (Radaelli, 2003:33; Börzel & Risse, 2009:10; Meyer-Sahling & Stolk, 2014: 234). In order to discover this impact, Europeanisation literature often refers to two theoretical strands, relating to *rationalist* and *sociological* institutionalism⁹ by different propositions. They explain differential impact from EU through the hypothesis of 'fit' or 'misfit'

⁷ The contribution "*The Nordic Regions and the European Union*" is edited by Søren Dosenrod and Henrik Halkier.

⁸ As mentioned by Radaelli "*Europeanization is not convergence*" (2003:33). Convergence as a consequence to EU-policy has often been hypothesized by scholars in this field, as it would be expected since all public governances deals with implementing EU-policies and are involved programmers, they would experience similar adaptation pressures leading to uniformity. Therefore, convergence would be expected, as e.g. Danish local governments administrative, political and process structures should be identical – however as Börzel & Risse mentions "(...) *measuring convergence and is extremely tricky (...) What looks like convergence at macro-level may still show significant degree of divergence at the micro-level*" (2009: 16). Therefore Europeanization is convergence, because of diversity in consequences and process.

⁹ The two strands institutionalism; rationalist (see chapter 2, section 2.1.3) i.e. perceives actors as goal-oriented, who seek strategical interactions to empower own position and sociological i.e. describing actors as driven by social collective understanding to acceptable behavior to norms, values and practices within a policy making structure (see chapter 2, 2.1.4).

emerging from EU-policies and ‘mediating factors’ filtering domestic adaptation and change – the propositions will be returned to in chapter 2, section 2.1 - 2.1.6.

The theoretical approaches offered by Europeanisation, means I can locate and explain how variables inside selected cases filter EU-policies. The thesis has chosen a specific geographical area of Denmark, where the cases share certain similarities, e.g. shared EU projects and organisations i.e. *North Jutland EU-Office* and *BRN: Business Region North Denmark*, while having dissimilarities in compositions to areas of population-, business- and political ambitions and while the variables can have an effect on how cases response to EU. A more elaborated case description is made in chapter 3, sections 3.3.2 – 3.3.6.

1.4 SYNOPSIS

The thesis will be divided into five parts: 1) *Introduction* 2) *Theoretical platform* 3) *Methodology* 4) *Analysis* and 5) *Conclusion*. View figure 1.1 to get a complete overview of each part and chapter.

Under *Part I*, we find the *introduction*, which outlines the main reasons for further research; this is followed up by section 1.2 that outlines, discusses and introduces the central terms connected to section 1.3 or *problem formulation*. Furthermore, the thesis makes use of sub-hypotheses that guides and creates a framework for the analysis – this is seen in section 1.4.

Part II will create a *theoretical platform* and outlines the conceptual tools applied in the later analysis. This part presents a literature review and overview of current research within the study of Europeanisation – see section 2. The section *The conceptual tools of Europeanisation* describes the theoretical tools applied and used throughout the thesis – this section covers 3.to 3.5.2. Lastly, section 4 will elaborate the sub-hypotheses and explain their role and purpose.

Part III will describe and reflect on the method applied – see more in section 4, as it outlines purpose, aim and general considerations associated with the thesis. While the later *research design* will be central in clarifying how various elements of case study, data, interview design and theories will be conducted and how they interrelates.

Part IV contains the four analytical sections; here collected data will be linked to the theoretical platform and analysed. This part will be divided into sections 4.2 to 4.

Part V will cover the final discussion and conclusions. Section 5.1 to 5.2 will discuss theoretical observations and remain critical to the achieved results. The last section; *conclusion* will round off with the main results and make a perspective and consider whether there is basis for wider relevance for future research.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Europeanisation literature has different conceptualised mechanisms, where EU can impact domestic change. Here it is relevant to mention *institutional compliance*¹⁰ by Knill & Lemkuhl (1999, 2002), *mechanisms of policy adjustment*¹¹ from Schmidts (2002) and Bulmer & Radaelli's (2004) *three models of Europeanization*¹². However, the different approaches for change have common features in new-institutionalism reasoning (Börzel, 2003: 5). While mentioned approaches

¹⁰In an article from 2002, Knill & Lemkuhl defines Europeanization as EU-regulatory policy influence on domestic politics and institutions (2002: 256). Here European policy-making can impact domestic regulations and structures in three ways; 1) institutional compliance; where common EU-policy initiates domestic change by prescribing specific institutional principles, which domestic actors have to comply. 2) Europeanization of domestic actors opportunity structures i.e. changing their policy options and 3) Europeanization through changing national actors understandings and expectations, i.e. EU influence actors logic to introduce change.

¹¹Schmidt (2002) distinguishes between EU different adjustments pressures, i.e. three models of categorisation based on adjust pressures applied by EU – the degree of pressure is categorised by policies granularity and determines which mechanism or 'mediating factors' domestic actors can applied to adapt to change.

¹²Bulmer & Radaelli (2004) has developed three mechanisms to distinguish Europeanization; 1) 'goodness of fit'-hypothesis 2) regulatory competition and 3) policy-learning. This approach applies sociological and rational views to explain how EU's via. top-down can dictate regulations that influence domestic actors notion on appropriate behavior.

can individually suggest factors for change, I argue that their standpoints can be grouped together under two approaches: rationalist and sociological institutionalism.

This chapter will present the theoretical framework and how it is applied. I have chosen to derive my theoretical framework from Europeanisation literature and introduced two strands of rationalist- and sociological institutionalism, while incorporating domestic 'motivations factors' (see section 2.1.5) to examine 'Europeanisation of local governments'.

I will focus on a 'top-down' and 'bottom' dimensions. I do recognise both Europeanisations literature use of 'top-down' and 'bottom-up' perspectives and application of a wide-form of institutionalism. However, the undertaking of exanimating and locating, the 'downloading' of EU-policies and 'uploading' of local governments preferences to EU-level, is simply too extensive to be applied in this thesis.

Instead, I will include a 'bottom'-perspective that will offer indications for local governments arrangements, towards involvement in EU-policies and further the perspective can create explanatory support for examining, the top-down, i.e. 'downloading' of EU-policies and its impact on the Europeanisation-process. Therefore, the 'top-down' and 'bottom' perspectives will be described in this theoretical chapter.

This chapter can be divided into four sections:

- 1) I will define, theorise and explain advancement made in *Europeanisation* and its relations to local governments;
- 2) Explain the term *goodness of fit*, i.e. 'fit' and 'misfit' and its relations to rationalist- and sociological institutionalism, which describes *mediating factors* as filters for change;
- 3) Describe what constitutes *motivations factors* for local governments to engage with the EU;
- 4) Describe the *classifications of Europeanisation*, in order to distinguish between degrees of domestic change.

2.1 THE STUDY OF EUROPEANISATION

“Europeanisation is a fashionable, but contested concept (...)” (2002: 921) as maintained by Johan Olsen, the concept has many definitions and ‘faces’. The number of scholars contributing to exploration, conceptualisation and explanation in this research area is extensive¹³.

Europeanisation is a useful term for conceptualising change occurring, due to influence from EU-policies (Featherstone, 2003: 3). However, as pointed out by Olsen *“(...) the term is applied in a number of ways to describe a variety of phenomena and processes of change. No shared definition has emerged (...)”* (2002: 921).

In reviewing Europeanization literature, the concept can be characterised as fairly universal by covering many different issues of politics, policies and polity. Its interdisciplinary strengths, means it can be applied in several research fields. However, scholars have warned of dangers to ‘concept confusion’¹⁴ (Olsen 2002: 921, Featherstone, 2003: 31-32, Radaelli & Pasquier, 2007: 35).

While many efforts have been made, to reach one or few common and broad definitions, developments today, seems to have reached a shared understanding that a general definition would be an unnecessary constraint of the phenomena (Kelstrup et al, 2012: 375). However, if Europeanisation is applied to a research approach, it becomes essential to define the concept to ensure an adequate conceptual composition.

¹³For a few example see further: Ladrech (1994) Börzel & Risse (2003), Featherstone (2003) Radaelli (2003), Goetz & Hix (2000), Risse (2001), Bulmer (2007) Cowles, et al (2001) Bache & Jordan, (2008) Olsen (2002) Graziano & Vink (2007).

¹⁴ According to e.g. Radaelli; Europeanisation is danger of conceptual stretching, as it according to logic of concept and intension i.e. the assortment of properties referred by the concept and extension or amount of entities applied by the concept. Europeanisation literature is wide-spread and covers many subjects, thus high numbers of properties and entities are included. As Europeanisation is contains processes of identity, formation, cultural- and policy change, modernisation and European polices effect on Member States. Even through the concept is wide-ranging, it still high useful in explain how European policies are penetrating domestic system at different levels (Radaelli, 2003: 32)

An often-cited definition by Ladrech (1994), as he suggested that an organisation responds to change is determined by its perceptions to values and interests. This perception is embedded in their institutional design of norms and principles. Likewise he emphasises Europeanisation as a continuous process, where EU influences on national organisational logics have consequence for its political process and policy-making:

“Europeanization is an incremental process reorienting the direction and shape of politics to the degree that EC political and economic dynamics become part of the organizational logic of national politics and policy-making” (Ibid: 69)

The definition prescribes pre-existing of mediating factors, in domestic structures and their facilitating abilities to introduce changes, due to adaptation pressures. Ladrech works also relates to institutionalism conceptual alignment to the Europeanisation research field.

To further clarify Europeanisation and its relations to the political processes and policy formation – Radaelli offers a more detailed definition:

“Processes of (a) construction, (b) diffusion, and (c) institutionalization of formal and informal rules, procedures, policy paradigms, styles, ‘ways of doing things’, and shared beliefs and norms which are first defined and consolidated in the making of EU public policy and politics and then incorporated in the logic of domestic discourse, identities, political structures and public policies” (Radaelli, 2003: 30)

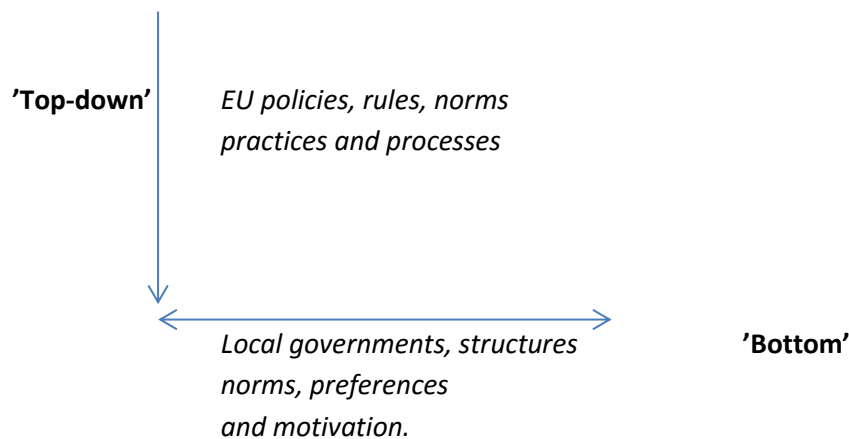
It points to changes in political behaviour, where Europeanisation includes domestic assimilation with for example; EU regulations, practices and politics.

The Radaelli interpretation is more detailed, than other contributions – yet still nonspecific. However, I have chosen this definition as it can be broken down into two factors explaining the process of Europeanisation in relations to local governments: 1) *the ‘European’ transfers of values, institutional structures, policy, norms and beliefs to domestic agents* 2) *the building and relocations of domestic capacities (values, rules, norms) to the establishment of common European ideas.*

His definition creates a feedback loop and relates how mediating factors and motivations factors filters domestic change.

As I have chosen to focus on a 'top-down'- and 'bottom'- perspective, my feedback loop becomes incomplete. However, elements from Radaelli explanation of 'downloading' EU policies, is appropriate to examine local change, while 'bottom' will consolidate how local governments are response, experience change and aligns preferences. i.e. motivations factors – as seen in figure 1.1

Figure 1.1 'Top-down' and 'bottom' interaction



2.2 Goodness of fit: the degree of 'fit'

The goodness of fit-hypothesis is an important element in Europeanisation literature, it can be described degrees of 'fit' or 'misfit', i.e. congruence between the amount of pressure for change generated between EU-policies and local governments (Kallestrup, 2005: 39).

The hypothesis presents two contrasting degrees of change, caused by EU-level induced policies.

2.2.1 Fit

High degrees of congruence or 'fit' are found when EU rules, standards and procedures correspond with those located at local level. Here there exists no adaptation pressure i.e. no change is expected to take place, as EU-policies 'fits' with already present values, norms and political arrangements.

2.2.2 Misfit

'Misfit' occurs when incongruence - or change - is expected; here mismatch is created between EU and local governments. The scenario creates a high degree of pressure for change. Studies in Europeanisation rely on change to occur, when 'misfit' is created, as this is often the beginning for any mechanism of change, as mentioned by Börzel & Risse:

"(...) the lower the compatibility between European and domestic processes, policies and institutions, the higher the adaptation pressure"
(Börzel & Risse, 2009:5)

Furthermore, the degree of misfit is distinguished in two forms:

- 1) *Policy misfit* is caused from mismatch, between EU regulations and already established local rules. It challenges local arrangements, in areas of political mismatch inducing regulatory standards. This form is also the most powerful form of 'misfit' (Börzel, 2003:7).
- 2) *Institutional misfit* is – in relation to Europeanisation - a challenge to local actors, as it induces change to their collective understanding of rules and procedures. Institutional 'misfit' can be understood as it more indirect and long-term.

However, goodness of fit has been questioned for its explanatory abilities (See Thatcher, 2002; 23 Radaelli, 2003: 44-46; Knill, 2001 and Héritier & Knill 2001: 288-289). Widely criticised for its static perspective, as scholars suggest misfit ignores other variables, in relation to the complexity of policy-making.

Héritier & Knill states that variables exposed to pressure, can change over time, i.e. even if EU policies ‘fit’ with national preferences. This empowers local actors to introduce other domestic standards and can thereby avoid ‘misfit’:

“European policy requirements and existing domestic arrangements is hardly sufficient to explain the domestic impact of Europe (...) [Concerning misfit] They can neither fully account for the varying degrees nor the directions of domestic adjustment patterns” (Héritier & Knill, 2001: 288).

Furthermore, some scholars argue goodness of fit works with imprecise concepts leading to conceptual confusion (Kallestrup et al, 2005:41). Nevertheless, most studies¹⁵ have ‘misfit’ as starting points for domestic change and identifies how mediating factors filters adaptation.

2.2.3 Application of goodness of fit

To examine how Europeanisation impacts local governments, ‘misfit’ must be applied as *“Europeanisation must be ‘inconvenient’”* (Börzel, 2003:1) for domestic change to occur. ‘Misfit’ gives an understanding for mediating factors’ role in filtering change. The two concepts of ‘misfit’ will be applied as follows:

- 1) *Policy misfit* refers to incongruence between policies – this concept will be applied in a wide-ranging understanding, as I have no intention of making policy-tracking analysis due to limitations. Instead policy misfit will contribute to areas, where local governments have experienced inconvenience, as new EU-policies have to be implemented; this can point to policy-areas, which have been problematic. This more open approach, allows me to examine different policy-areas, creating an overview of EU impact on local governments’ general experience.
- 2) *Institutional misfit*, i.e. pressure to collective producers, here - as with policy ‘misfit’ - pressure for change can create mismatch to local governments’ existing produces and rules. The extent to which local governments’ have experienced pressure to change administrative or po-

¹⁵ To see examples, please see: Héritier, 2001, Caparaso, & Jupille, 2001, Kallestrup, 2005.

litical structures, rules, strategies to correspond with EU standards, will be examined.

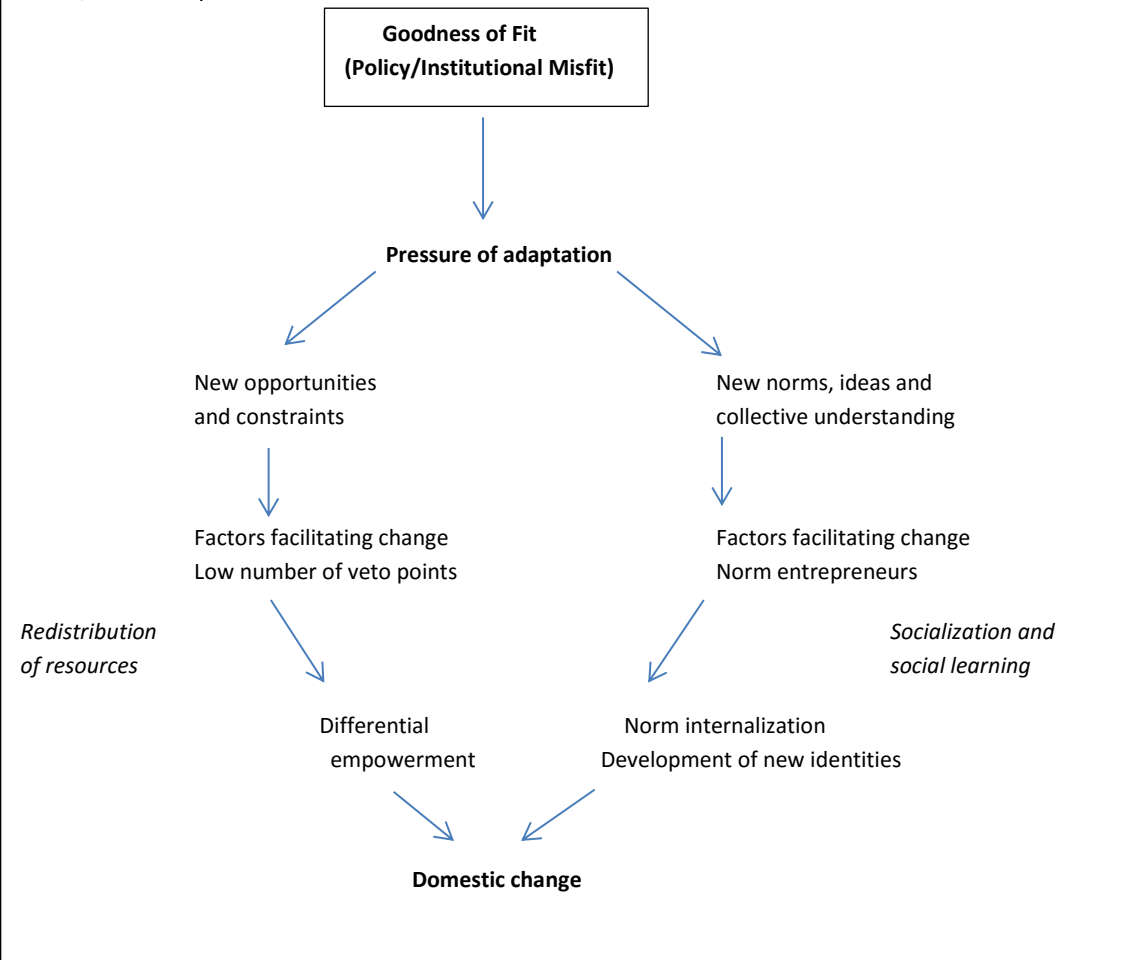
2.3 Mediating factors in Europeanization – the link to institutionalism

While ‘goodness of fit’ displays how domestic change begins, the role of mediating factors are needed to filter Europeanisation. The factors are intervening variables, facilitating change between EU and local governments

The factors differ depending on the theoretical approach applied. Therefore I have chosen to be inspired by Börzel & Risse (2003) and their approach in relating institutionalism with goodness of fit. According to Börzel & Risse; the two elements compliment each other, as domestic change can be achieved by two logics: 1) *rationalist institutionalism* or ‘logic of consequentialism’: “(...) *that perceive actors as “rational, goal-oriented and purposeful. Actors engage in strategic interactions using their resources to maximize their utilities on the basis of given, fixed and ordered preferences”* (Börzel & Risse, 2003: 63) and 2) *sociological institutionalism* or ‘logic of appropriateness’ guiding actors through collective understandings norms, values and social acceptable behavior.

Goodness of fit and institutionalism, can take place simultaneously and often describes different stages of change (Börzel & Risse, 2003:62; 2011:2). However, as misfit is often the starting point, it not a sufficient condition to induce change. Mediating factors under rationalist- and sociological institutionalism, describes different steps that filters domestic change (see figure 2.1).

Figure 2.1 Conceptualizing domestic change / three logics of domestic change (Börzel & Risse, 2003: 69)



2.3.1 Rationalist institutionalism

Rationalist institutionalism or 'logic of consequentialism' perceives actors as having a rational, logical fixed set of preferences and that seeks to maximise benefits by deploying different resources (Kallestrup, 2005: 43). When pursuing benefits, actors will engage in cooperation with others partners and exchange resources to achieve goals.

Actors are guided by shared assessments of strategies, interests and resources available. This cost-benefits approach is expressed by Börzel & Risse: "*Actors will engage in strategic interaction using their resources to maximize influence over outcomes, while trying to become as little dependent as possible on the oth-*

ers with whom they interact” (2003: 8). Actors, who exchange resources are entangled a rational expectation of own values and resources, while estimating the outcome, i.e. strategies and preferences of others.

Europe becomes an arena of opportunity and constraints, depending on the preferences actors bring. This sphere of opportunity and constraints presented to domestic actors; may result in a redistribution of resources that empowers some actors and weakens others. The ‘differential empowerment’ can results in changes to domestic structures, process and politics (Héritier, 2001: 10; Börzel: 2003: 8).

Even though, rationalist institutionalism holds valid explanatory conceptions to actor’s behavior filtering change, it has received criticism for its simplistic perception to human motivation and overlooking other important aspects (Kristensen, 2012: 38). It creates limits to actor’s preferences exogenously to empirical cases, where change and behavior is often multi-faceted and difficult to *ex ante* (Hall, 1996: 945).

However, the approach is useful, as it incorporates comprehensive appreciation of human behavior to determine, why change occurs. It operates with two *mediating factors* describing actor’s capacities to benefit and filter change. These factors will now be described (See also figure 3.1):

Multiple veto players; exists in policy-making structures as officials, politicians, media, NGOs or organisations that impedes or encourage change (Colwes et. Al, 2001:9). The distribution of power in administrative systems, combined with the number of actors involved in the decisions-making process, can determine the outcome of consensus needed to introduce change, as veto players represent the spectrum of preferences and interests. Furthermore, veto players’ acts from a rationalist standpoint and deliberately seek to optimise benefits (Ibid: 9).

In relations to EU, players will only ‘veto’, if implementation or programs are not aligned with own preferences (Héritier, 2001:5) Veto players can slow down or accelerate change by effecting local governments abilities

to achieve change and create empowerment (Börzel, 2003: 9). Yet, other mediating factors can remove barriers of veto players.

Facilitating formal institutions can determine local governments with “(...) *material and ideational resources to induce structural change*” (Cowles, et al 2001: 9). The presence of mediating institutions empowers local actors and promotes change.

The existence of public agencies and other complementary administrative institutions can assist actors to take advantages of EU opportunities¹⁶ and strengthen local governments’ with added resources. This is important, as absence in own resources or formal institutions, means some actors may have difficulties in gaining access and exploiting opportunities.

2.3.2 Application of rationalist institutionalism

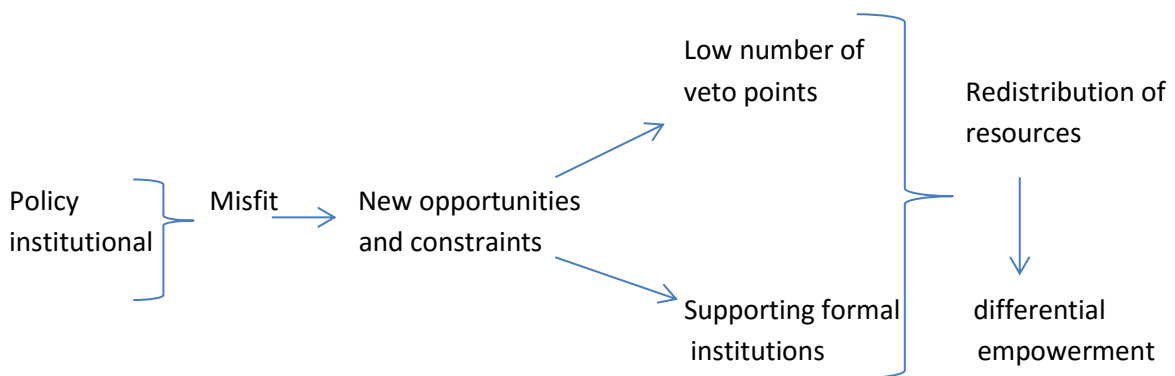
The approach offers two mediating factors, whose roles are important in filtering change. Here I will describe the role of veto players and formal institutions in relation, to the analytical chapter.

- 1) **Veto players:** The factor refers to local officials and politicians in administrative structures. Here I can assess which particular players have influence and how they participate in the Europeanisation process. Furthermore, I can observe how ‘power’ is spread across the cases, to determine the role of veto players and consensus building process in implementing EU-policies. As players seek to maximise and cooperate with others to achieve goals, I can determine different roles in and between local governments to find ‘differential power’ and if players are strong enough to veto possible change.

¹⁶Opportunities refer to EU initiatives i.e. funding, development and programs offered by EU, where local governments can apply for partnership

- 2) **Formal institutions:** The factors' ability to filter change through ideational resources; means it can strengthen and limit change. Here I will identify local governments own administrative resources and sub-cases, e.g. North Jutland's EU-Office, Business Region North. The strength of the sub-cases or 'institutions', shows if local governments have sufficient resources to introduce change and will determine political strategies and motivations for accessing EU opportunities. 'Europeanisation of local governments' will be present in sub-cases role to introduce change and resources added to them.

Figure 3.1: "The domestic Impact of Europe as a Process of Redistributing Resources" (Börzel, 2009: 10)



2.3.3 Sociological institutionalism

Sociological institutionalism - or logic of appropriateness - believes common collective understanding of social acceptable behavior, guides actors in policy-making structure. The understanding of social rules is embedded in the actors, while it effects how they define goals and recognises appropriate actions (March & Olsen, 1998: 4).

Here actors are continually asking themselves: "*What kind of situation is this? What kind of a person am I? What does a person such as I do in a situation such as this?*" (March & Olsen, 1998: 4). The motivation 'to do right' through social

expectations, means actors only pursue interests in the framework of appropriateness.

As EU institutions provide structure and meaning, actors are able to socialise into practices, through social learning and persuasion, while redefining their identity and interests accordingly (March & Olsen: 1998: 8). In context of 'fit' Börzel explains: "*This perspective generates expectations about the differential impact of Europeanization, since 'misfit' constitutes the starting condition of socialisation process*" (Börzel, 2003:10). If congruence is to be achieved, then match between: EU-level policies and local politics and arrangements needs to be attached to pre-existing structures.

However, sociological institutionalism has received critique for overlooking power clashes, between actors with opposite preferences. Actors in organisations can have opposite interests and will exit appropriate behavior, to target own ambitions and removing shared norms. (Hall, 1996: 948). But, sociological institutionalism also displays two mediating factors helping actors to adapt new norms (See also figure 4.1 page.).

Norm entrepreneurs - or change agents - operates at local level by persuading or motivating others, to redefine identities by learning new rules, norms and practices. The goal is to involve others in a learning process, here agents engage by using mechanisms of argument and persuasion to introduce change (Risse, 2000: 8). The factor can explain situations, where local governments is exposed to adaptations pressure and agents can ease change by involving others, in a learning process reshaping understandings towards new EU-policies. If the process is successful, then others will find it easier to redefine interests to new norms, values and practices in the future (Ibid, 2000: 9)

As identified by Börzel, there exist two groups of actors: *epistemic communities* and *Advocacy-networks*.

- 1) An **epistemic community** is a network of agents, who possess an “*authoritative claim to knowledge and a normative agenda*” e.g. think tanks or academic researchers (Börzel, 2009:11). By promoting scientific knowledge, agents attach new norms and values to pre-existing ones. The community influence depends on levels of uncertainty found in policy-makers towards a certain issue. Here, agents provide credible knowledge, so politicians and others can produce an opinion.
- 2) **Advocacy- or Principled issue networks** are groups of agents with shared values and beliefs, i.e. political partisan groups, NGOs and interest organisations. The network appeals to collectively common identities and norms by persuading others to reevaluate preferences. As elaborated by Börzel: “*Such a processes of complex or double-loop learning in which actors change their interests and identities as opposed to merely adjusting their means and strategies, occur rather rarely. While persuasion and social learning are mostly identified with processes of policy change, they can also have an effect on domestic institutions*”. (2003:6)

Cooperative informal institutions: is a consensus seeking political culture, encouraging cost-sharing and facilitate change towards adaptation pressure. Informal institutions create necessary consensus by providing social understanding of norms, value and behavior, which influences actors’ preferences and removes veto players. As a consensus culture makes veto players behavior appear inappropriate.

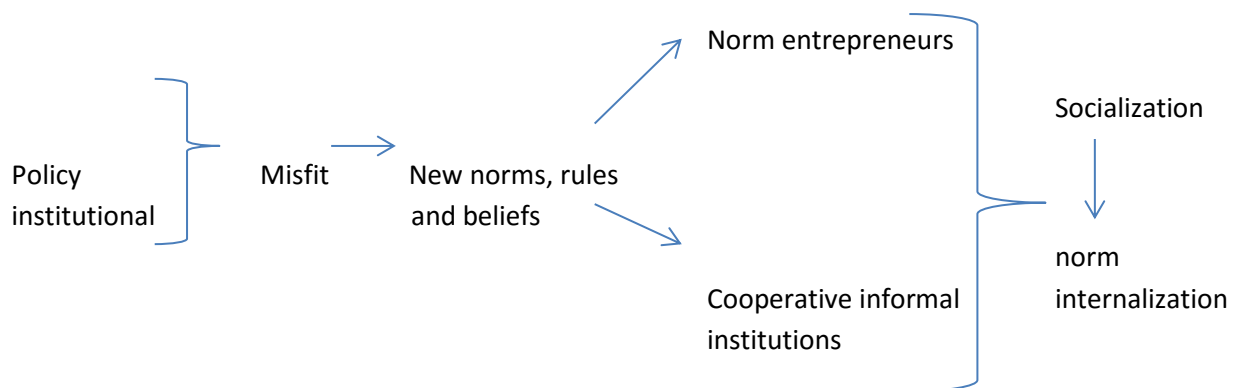
Héiriter (2001: 8) believes that in order to achieve consensus or change, the existence of informal institutions and political culture is necessary, as they utilise shared understanding for appropriate behavior, e.g. certain routines or practices that tackle challenges by creating new relations among actors.

2.3.4 Application of sociological institutionalism

Here mediating factors can explain change, through social learning that engages EU-policies and transfers it to local governments' collective understanding. The factors filter Europeanisation and their roles will be described here:

- 1) **Norm entrepreneurs:** as agents can introduce change through social learning. The pre-existence of EU-oriented agents are mediating factors for how policies are filtered to other agents. The number of agents, e.g. officials, consultants or politicians and their position in local governments political structure, can show how dialogue and social learning of EU-policies induce change.
- 2) **Informal institutions:** The pre-existence of political consensus culture can shape decision-making and collective behavior in the cases where traditions for cooperation and consensus can reduce veto players role. An understanding of informal institutions, i.e. local government's political culture, is important to understand the levels of fit or misfit to EU-policies requirements. The interviews will offer insight into the cases political culture and how it can filter change.

Figure 4.1 The Domestic impact of Europe as Process of Socialization (Börzel, 2003:12)



2.4 Motivations factors

Finding patterns of Europeanisation - as illustrated above, by two strands of institutionalism - can be difficult, as mentioned by Kallestrup (2005: 67) “*EU’s direct influence can be overestimated (...)*”. It is therefore important to asset other factors, besides adaptation pressures and EU-policies influence in top-down perspective. The role of local governments own arrangements to engage in EU-programs are equally important, as they constitute the ‘bottom’ perspective from describing, how local governments initiates change, as a result of preferences and motives.

The motives are constitutive factors and driving forces behind EU activities, the three examples will be outlined according to Wolffhardt et al principles (2005: 94)

- 1) **Europe as problem solver:** socio-economic benefits utilised by EU funding and programs, are driving forces behind domestic actor’s engagement. The regional policy opportunities provided from EU policies are both sources of economic funding and access to innovative networks. As mentioned by Wolffhardt et al: “*EU-programmes from large-scale Structural Funds schemes to small expertise centered networking projects, represent opportunities for gaining additional financial and conceptual resources*” (2001:94). Access to EU, allows local governments to solve own problems.
- 2) **Europe as stage, profiling & identity building:** The opportunities offered can be applied to proactively reorganising local government’s profiles to make distinctive identities. Governments often incorporate EU to own developments strategies and use transnational networks for various purposes, e.g. to attract investors or projects. Therefore by utilising EU, local governments can create a specific profile to match ambitions.
- 3) **Europe as alternative:** Again governments can utilise EU to obtain means to by-pas national frameworks, as Wolffhardt et al. explain “*hand in hand with this goes the prospect of enhancing the city’s own political position in the domestic system of government and vis-à-vis national ur-*

ban polices” (2005:94). Local governments can look to Europe, when a national entity fails to provide suitable solutions and instead feel EU can enhance their position or situation.

The factors reflect local governments preferences, understanding and ideas, the motivations factors relates to the two logics of institutionalist approach, as redistribution of resources and collective understanding are important in explaining domestic change in local governments.

2.4.1 Application of motivations factors

The ‘bottom’ perspective means, I am unable to locate local governments ‘uploading’ of arrangements to EU-levels. Instead, the factors help to understand arrangements of preferences and local government’s strategies towards EU. Further, they support mediating factors by categorising local strategies towards EU, as motivations factors can differ depending on each case and its mediating and motivations factors.

Interviews and empirical data will be used to present evidences for how actors experienced pressure and whether this drives their motivation for engaging and implementing change.

2.5 Transformation, accommodation or absorption

While institutionalism and motivations factors, have particular notions to how EU pressure can effect local governments, the Europeanisation literature also offers three outcomes to measure the direction of domestic change. Here I will use Börzel & Risse’s (2001:14)¹⁷ scope for change:

¹⁷ My reasons for choosing Börzel it based on her simple, but comprehensive classifications to Europeanisation, the three degrees incorporate more general classifications, as I believe ‘Europeanisation’ is fare from static, the degree of change should only offer an indication, rather than defined classifications. Other scholars relevant would be Radaelli, (2003:37), Cowles, et al, (2001: 15) or Vink & Graziano, (2007:15). Together they all cover degree of change and possible direction.

Transformation: entitles domestic actors are replacing own policies, practices and institutions with new and often very different policies. Actors are changing pre-existing features or collective understanding in policies – *here domestic change will be high.*

Accommodation: comes from pressure from EU-policies and adjustment of policies, processes and institutions, without adapting key features and core collective understanding. Here new policies are attached to pre-existing features, without altering them. – *here domestic change will be modest.*

Absorption: domestic actors include EU policies to own features – without altering any practices, policies or structures – *here domestic change will be low.*

The scope of change can observe ‘Europeanisation of local governments’ and is an explanatory framework to assess, how domestic change influence Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn.

3 METHODOLOGY

The methodology chapter will describe the framework applied. As I wish to examine ‘Europeanisation of local governments’, this chapter will explain how the theoretical framework will be utilised in the analysis chapter.

The methodological aim is to work from a theoretical interpretative perspective, meaning the theoretical aspect will be controlled and organised from the empirical-, data collection and analysis. The main aim is to incorporate different aspects accessible from Europeanisation literature, translated into three sub-hypothesis that functions as outlines for the empirical data and analysis.

The thesis will *not* test the sustainability of theories, but recognises the academic approval of the conceptual tools used. Furthermore, scale of Europeanisation applied to find similarities and classified ‘Europeanisation of local governments’ – see section 2.1.6 and 4.6. I view this tool as important to Europeanisation studies, as it improves the thesis’ analytical framework to what extent EU impacts local change. (Haverland, 2007: 64).

3.1 Research approaches

This section will present the methodological approaches relevant for answering the problem formulation. The sections will outline the framework in relations to analysis and describe both methodological- and general reflections over choice of approach and their outcome.

3.1.1 Case design

One of the main purposes of social science research is linking empirical data with theoretical approaches - the same applies for this thesis. Therefore, I believe the best way to answer a problem formulation is a combination of *multiple-case study* together with an *exploratory* approach, as this combination explores differences across and inside the cases, to identify comparable findings (Yin, 2009:20-21).

However, as ‘Europeanisation of local governments’ in Denmark is somewhat unexplored area of research, there exist no expected outcome. Here the exploratory approach will help to “(...) *describe an intervention and the real-life context in which it occurred*” (Yin, 2014:21). Nevertheless, since the cases contain similarities and as well as contrasts, the outcome will be a general conclusion on EU impact on change in Aalborg, Frederikshavn and Hjørring (Yin, 2014, 39).

Furthermore, I have chosen to categories the cases as *main cases* are: Aalborg, Frederikshavn and Hjørring and *sub-cases*: NorthDenmark EU-Office and BRN:

Business Region North¹⁸. The main cases are central elements in the case study, as they relate to the problem formulation. The sub cases are shared organisations created by local governments to coordinate EU- and local strategies. They are supportive explanatory elements shedding light on main cases strategies and arrangements towards EU. See a presentation of each case in section 3.3.2.

Furthermore, case study approach has the ability to provide comprehensive insights into complex topics, where many variables are interrelated (Lijphart, 1971:687). At the same time, this approach can be used to generate and review theories, concepts and conceptual tools related to the problem formulation, as explained by Robert Yin:

“A case study is an empirical inquiry that investigate a contemporary phenomenon in depth and within a real-life context, especially when the boundaries between phenomenon and context are not clearly evident”
(Yin, 2014:18)

Case studies’ ‘real-life’ approach, to examine issues is useable to observe Europeanisation’s impact on local governments, from a supportive theoretical framework. From this, I can create a comprehensive understanding of EU’s impact on change in different local administrative- and political areas.

Even though, there are similarities between the cases, there will be differences. However, the interaction, between cases means it possible to make an *explanatory building*, where pattern matching can create a common understanding of ‘Europeanisation of local governments’ (Yin, 2009:141) The advantages of applying comparative case study – or small N-research - is the selection of cases which shared characteristics, as it easier to test hypothesis.

¹⁸In an ideal situation, I would have liked to have involved Local Governments Denmark and Væksthus Nordjylland as additional sub-cases, as their role as economic and political organisations would have contributed offered comprehensive insight on main-cases of Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn. However, due to constraints in time and space, I have chosen to focus on the cases own organisations i.e. BRN and NorthDenmark EU-office.

Similar – and in comparison to the Europeanisation concept – small N-research have a minimal elements of ‘concepts-stretching’ as it can be operationalised due to comparability. However, scholars have argued that deliberate selection of cases can bring weakness to N-research, as absence of rules inquiry can lead to uncertain inferences. This limited validates findings and conclusions, as selection of cases involves linking many variables together to few cases. The problem of linking them together can bring uncertainty (Lijphart, 1971:686).

However, small N-research allows me to create an interpretative case study utilising conceptual tools. The framework created relates to the sub-hypotheses, as this approach was chosen because it creates limitations, because it brings focus to the case study. The three cases can be examined and explored under similar conditions, while a comparative - or explanation building - can be made.

3.1.2 Cases: Facts and background

The three main cases: Aalborg, Frederikshavn and Hjørring are chosen for two reasons:

- 1) They represent the three largest local governments’ in North Jutland, measured in area- and population size; see more in section 3.3.3 – 3.3.5¹⁹.
- 2) The cases are involved in shared organisations; NorthDenmark EU-Office and BRN: Business Region North Denmark. The sub-cases are important, as it evidently show that the three cases have identifiable EU interests that is organised together in two organisations.

However, this is where the similarities end, as the cases in terms of local challenges and political arrangements are different, as they differ in areas of EU inter-

¹⁹ The thesis recognises that Aalborg is undoubtedly the largest among selected cases, both economical and populations size. A more appropriate case study could be a comparison between e.g. Aarhus, Odense and Aalborg, i.e. cases of large urban governments with similar challenges. But such a study, would have been too extensive and I will not be able to make an equally elaborate analysis, because the challenges of transportation and time.

est and position towards the EU-system. The next section will outline general facts and background in relations to the cases.

3.1.3 Case: Aalborg

Total population: 205.407²⁰

Main figures:

- Aalborg is Denmark's third largest local government; in terms of population, while nearly 60% of inhabitants live in Aalborg city and it ranks sixth in relations area-size (Danmarks Statistik, 2015). Since the structural reform and merger of Danish municipalities in 2007²¹, Aalborg has experienced a 6.5% increase in population and the only local government in North Jutland, who has experienced a positive increase (Aalborg Kommune, 2014a).
- The populations highest completed education of 2014 (aged 15-69) shows that 10.1% of the total population has a bachelor or master, while 42.2% have a vocational- or higher education. On average 31.5% in Aalborg has a higher education (Danmarks Statistik, 2015).
- Figures from 2012 show that 20.3% of Aalborg's workforces are employed in *Health*, while 15.8% are employed within *Trade* and 10.3% in *Education* (Beskæftigelsesregion Nordjylland, 2014a).

²⁰ The populations figure for Aalborg municipality are from 2014 (Social- og Indenrigsministeriet, 2015)

²¹ The structural reform in 2007 created a new regional structure, where 14 regions were abolished and five new regions were created. At the local level, 271 local governments was reduced to 98. In 2004 the Danish government adopted a structural reform, which defined local and regional structures. The reform entered into force on 1 January 2007. The purpose of the reform was to maintain and develop a democratically governed public sector, where there is a solid foundation for continued development of the Danish welfare society (Kommunalreformen, 2007: 5)

Organisation:

Aalborg has a city council of 31 councillors from eight different political parties. The council is in charge of choosing its major, city manager and members of the seven committees.

The general frameworks for Aalborg are set in the Local Government Act. This means that Aalborg forms governance similar to intermediate government, with a divided administrative management, i.e. a government form, where each department has a politician as administrative officer, who the responsibility for a specific area. Meanwhile, law and acts are adopted by city council, which have the overall role to ensure a majority of members to approve them (Aalborg Kommune, 2014b)

The governance form in Aalborg, means that the distribution of responsibilities, e.g. strategies and coordination on EU-issues are assigned to the mayor's office under its Business Development department, which in cooperation with BRN: Business Region North Denmark and NorthDenmark EU-Office has the overall responsibility for a number of strategic areas concerning international development and cooperation (Aalborg Kommune, 2015)

3.1.4 Case: Hjørring

Population: 65.564

Main figures:

- Hjørring is the second largest local government in North Jutland, both in terms of population and area. After 2007 it merged with Hirtshals, Løkken-Vrå and Sindal (Hjørring Kommune, 2014a)
- In Hjørring 20.9% of the total population (aged 15-69) has completed a higher form education of 2014 (Social og Indenrigsministeriet, 2015).

- Figures from 2012 show that 20.4% of Hjørring's workforce are employed in *Health*, while 14.8% are employed within *Trade* and 10.7% in *Industry*. (Beskæftigelsesregion Nordjylland, 2014b)

Organisation:

The government organisations of Hjørring - both political and administrative - are divided into six departments, each with an area of responsibility. Furthermore, the general strategic for development in Hjørring is established in the Plan Strategy of 2015.

This creates a framework for how Hjørring should develop in all areas. This plan also focuses on the international aspect and how the cooperation should function at local, regional, national and international level and is coordinated in the Finance Committee (Hjørring Kommune, 2015a).

3.1.5 Case: Frederikshavn

Population: 56.965

Main figures:

- The current form of Frederikshavn was created after the reform in 2007 by merging with former governments of Skagen and Sæby, making it the third largest in North Jutland, both in area and population. (Danmark Statistik, 2015)
- The population highest completed education of 2014 (aged 15-69) who has a higher form of education is 16.9%. (Social og Indenrigsministeriet, 2015)
- Figures from 2012 shows that 17.4% of Frederikshavn's workforce is employed in *industry*, while 18.6 is employed in *health* and 13.7% in *trade*. (Beskæftigelsesregion Nordjylland, 2014c).

Organisation:

The organisation structuring of Frederikshavn is similar to the above case, meaning that city council has 31 members, one mayor, city manager and eight departments, who each have a specific area of responsibility. Concerning international strategy and coordination of EU engagement are assigned to Business and Energy. This department is involved in developing Frederikshavn's international effort and take advantages of the potential and growth created outside the local governments. (Frederikshavn Kommune, 2008)

3.1.6 Sub-cases

BRN: Business Region North Denmark is collaboration between eleven North Jutland governments. The project was created to combine efforts in future growth, development and challenges by working together at administrative- and business level.

Furthermore, the project wishes to create more coordination towards accessing a larger part of EU funding to development. This aspect is highly important for BRN, as the organisations mentions: *"The EU has allocated many resources to research, development and implementation of new knowledge through transnational projects – funds that North Jutland has not traditionally received"* (Business Region North Denmark, 2015). The governments in North Jutland wish to significantly strengthen efforts to increase EU-funds and other external funding for local businesses and public administrations.

North Denmark EU-Office is also a combined organisation for North Jutland, to generate funding and create international contacts for local businesses and public administrations. Furthermore, the aim is to contribute to growth and development of local projects, businesses and jobs through a broad range of services in lobbying. Most importantly, the EU-office has departments in both North Jutland and Brussels to promote interests of the region. The administrative responsibilities are

connected to the Mayor's department in Aalborg (NordDanmarks EU-kontor, n.d).

3.2 Interview design

This section will present my interview- design and guide. In the relationship between *structured-* and *unstructured interviews*, I have chosen the *semi-structured interview*, which places itself in the middle of the outer points, as before mentioned. According to Kvale and Brinkmann (2015) this form of interview tries:

“(...) To understand themes from everyday life from the interviewees' own perspectives. This kind of interview seeks to obtain descriptions of the interviewees' life-world in order to interpret the meaning of the phenomena described” (Kvale & Brinkmann, 2009: 45)

The interview is not completely open as it is performed in “(...) *accordance with an interview guide that focus on specific topic and can accommodate other suggested questions*” (Ibid: 45). Hence, it is therefore in the respondents own perspectives and stories, which I wish to use to interpret and analysis, while structuring it around certain terms and aspects. This means that the interviews will be semi-structured, as this form can neither be seen as: “*a regular everyday conversation or a closed questionnaire*” (Ibid: 45).

However, it is clear that my interviews will have narrow focus, i.e. local governments relations to the EU, and therefore I have designed the interview guides to create a ‘semi-structured’ framework around my ‘field of interest’. Please see Annex 1.0 for interview guides²² and Annex 2.0 for list of respondents and their position in local governments²³.

In an attempt to find a balance between my ‘field of interest’ and allowing my respondents the opportunity to answer as openly and honestly as possible, the thesis has chosen to apply “*The twelve aspects of qualitative interviews*” in the guide

²² The guides and actual interview was conducted in Danish – I chose this to make it easier for the respondents to understand my thesis and intent with the interview.

²³ The thesis has attached a CD’, containing interviews with respondents from Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn.

and design (Kvale & Brinkmann, 2009: 45-46). As such, the interview guide recognises the chosen respondents could show sign of 'ambiguity' manifesting itself through contrasting answers; hence this will be natural reflection of the complexity of the respondent's life-world and workings with sometimes highly technical as EU-policies.

Furthermore, as the EU is a highly complex entity, it is possible to expect the respondents might be uncertain towards certain topics, because it outside their sphere of interests or everyday workings. It is therefore expected some of the respondents may reply to topics outside their immediate knowledge. To disprove this, I have chosen respondents in comparable administrative areas to maintain the comparability basis. For example, all respondents are selected on previous experience with EU programs, or workings in certain policy areas that are highly affected by EU legislation. These areas are in: environment, innovation, business and energy.

This in turns, create the problem that respondents are could be 'pro-EU', due to their daily working with possible EU-policies. However, I believe it is necessary to involve individuals, who possess a certain amount of knowledge about political areas and have insight in EU funding and policies, as they can more easily reflect on European impact on their government.

Therefore, I see it as essential that the interview guide can assist with a 'focused aspect' to control the interviews and later explore possible contradictions relating them to specific terms and topics, chosen for the interview to cover.

Likewise, the interview guide shows signs of flexibility towards the respondents, as I have created a design that enables and allows for 'ambiguity' and openness, while focused on topics relating to EU-policies, vis-à-vis Europeanisation. This can be understood as questions concerning a specific area, based on, e.g. news articles regarding a policy area where the given case, has been engaged with the EU.

Furthermore, the questions are consistently designed as 'open questions', where the respondents can answer freely and allow me to sometimes asked openly into issues and topics, where may I already know the answer. However, this approach

is chosen intentionally to show 'deliberate naivety', whereby allowing the respondents to provide knowledge of a different perspective or aspects on a topic (Kvale & Brinkmann, 2009: 49).

At the same time, the interview guide has design a number of large, open main questions with several sub-questions. This allows me to ask more concrete into specific topics and control the conversation in a 'relevant' direction. As such the semi-structured form is seen in some 'structured open questions', while I am prepared to ask the respondent a series of sub-questions, to get more information or steer the conversation back on track (Ibid: 155-156).

Concerning the actual interview and how the guide will relate to it, I will constantly try and practice 'active listening' by making 'follow-up' and 'interpretive' questions, which is not included in the interview guide, however, only if the situation allows it (Kvale & Brinkman, 2009 155). But it ensures that I have the opportunity to make clarifying or even my own immediate moment of interpretations (Ibid: 155-156)

To practice this, I will try to be absorbent in the interview situation, meaning I will be aware and curious if the respondent gives small clues that might enable me to undercover my field of interest even further. Furthermore, I will not only focus on my interview guide, if a follow-up question can contribute to a new perspective (Ibid, 2009: 160)

Lastly - and as mentioned earlier - the thesis wants to incorporate different cases, characterised as main- and sub-cases. This means that interviews are conducted with two purposes:

Background interview: Here I will use sub-cases of NorthDenmark EU-Office, Business Region North Denmark, as a learning and information platform that contributes knowledge on how the main cases, wishes to engage with EU. The interviews guides are more open and as more follow-up questions, as I will try and seek as much information as possible.

Main interviews: This will be more structured and have a series of similar questions, as it is important each main cases are exposed to similar terms, as this makes it easier to locate patterns in relations to the analysis. However, each case obviously engage with the EU in various fashions, due to dissimilarity (as presented in section 3.2) and therefore questions will also be formed after each case own EU interests. These interviews will be more focused and structured around respondents own experiences in working and engaging with the EU.

3.3 Data: process and approach

As mentioned the data will be collected through semi-structured interviews, where respondents from the main- and sub cases are represented. Accordingly the data will originate from 16 interviews, accounting for the majority of the data collection – the number of respondents can be presented as:

Figure 5.1

Case:	Officials	Politicians	Consultants
Aalborg	3	2	
Frederikshavn	2	2	
Hjørring	3	1	
BRN: Business			2 ²⁴
Region North			
NorthDenmark			2
EU-Office			
	8	5	2
Total	16		

²⁴ The same person is represented in NorthDenmark EU-office- and BRN interview, as she has a double role in EU-management in both organisations.

As I wish to examine cases interests and reflections on creating strategies and engaging with EU, the cases own experiences are important to achieve insight and understanding of processes behind their actions.

Furthermore, relevant documents will contribute to higher level of validity and create a better understanding, than a thesis exclusively based on interviews. The documents will also help to get an insight and background knowledge of the processes cases have undergone in creating strategies towards the EU. Also, the documents will function as cross references to the interviews and offer an insight to local governments' official standpoints, strategies and approaches towards EU-policies, while interviews only express the respondents own reflections. Documents from the sub-cases: BRN and NorthDenmark EU-Office will also give insight to for local governments wish to interact with the EU.

The thesis wishes to obtain documents in form of work programs and plan-strategies from the main cases: Aalborg, Frederikshavn and Hjørring and sub-cases: BRN and NorthDenmark EU-Office

3.4 Document analysis

One of the most used approaches in social sciences is document analysis; as it is almost impossible to image empirical research without involving documents. The approach can be used to reveal processes in administrative- and political structures with focus on developments and changes in, e.g. norms and practices (Lyngaard, 2015: 153).

In document analysis, the type of documents collected depends on the problem formulation, while the analysis depends on applied conceptual tools containing certain variables. In relations to my thesis, documents from local governments can be categorised as policy papers, strategies or reports, describing how the local governments' wishes to develop in an international- or European context. The documents are insight to internal work processes and considerations - which com-

bined with empirical data from interviews – can give an overview of how local governments adjust according to EU.

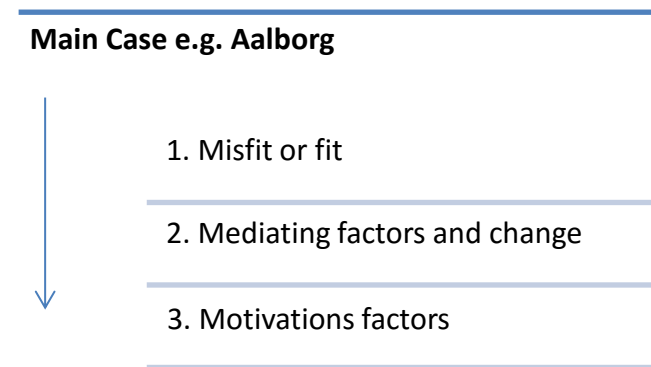
The documents will be collected via local governments own webpages or supplied by local officials, here it important to remember I can only access documents and insight into work processes that officials allows me to see.

Furthermore, using *content analysis* related to my problem formulation, I can examine how EU may create differential processes, in the various local governments and how this relates to the changes observed.

3.5 Sub-hypotheses – explanatory framework

This section will elaborate on the sub-hypotheses presented in chapter 1, section 1.4. The purpose is to explain and justify their relevance in relations to this thesis. Each hypothesis shown is related to a section the analysis, meaning the analysis will be structured around the theoretical framework represented in each hypothesis, shown as:

Figure 6.1



The sub-hypotheses are created through reflections, in relations to method, theory and problem formulation, as this approach make its earlier to create a comparative perspective by introductions each case to similar sets of terms. This insures the analysis focus on the overall problem formulation and not the individual cases.

Furthermore, the approach makes for a more focused analysis:

‘Misfit’ between EU-policies and Aalborg-, Hjørring and Frederikshavn government arrangements creates domestic change. *As Europeanisation applies adaptation pressures on the cases administrative- and political structures, means that the higher levels of misfit existing between EU-policies and domestic setting, vis-à-vis more change can be expected.*

This hypothesis is meant to highlight the complex interaction between EU and local governments, as mentioned, there must exist inconvenient for change to occur. Therefore to examine ‘Europeanisation of local governments’ and its impact to change, the experience of adaptation pressure and how local actors experience policy- or institutional misfit and their response is in focus.

Europeanisation is a feedback to top-down EU policies and initiatives. *Europeanisation creates domestic change, when policies originating from EU-level re-direct politics, preferences and practices at the local governments in Aalborg, Hjørring or Frederikshavn*

Here ‘mediating factors’ is used to examine how EU-policies and change can be filtered by local perspective in a ‘top-down’ perceptive. The hypothesis allows for me to compare EU policies, between the cases and observe how it affects local arrangements and strategies. The ‘mediating factors’ are important in describing the process and to initiate change, whereby clarifying to what extent, EU-policy matters.

As EU policies and initiatives can create change at Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn – local governments are developing an EU-related portfolio of policy interests and preferences – therefore from a bottom-perspective the cases are driven by four motivations factors.

The perspective illustrates the ‘bottom’-perspective and what motives local governments to engage in an Europeanisation-process. Furthermore, the hypothesis will can show, how EU-policies impacts local governments perception and strategies. The motivations factors allows me to compare, preferences and motives for each case and observe if EU-policies has a differential impact.

4. ANALYSIS

The analytical chapter will utilise, above mentioned theoretical and methodological elements, to offer a perspective on ‘Europeanisation of local governments’. The chapter can be divided into three sections:

- 1) A review of EU’s relations to local governments.
- 2) An examination of the sub-hypothesis framework, to observe misfit, change and motivations factors.
- 3) Classifications of Europeanisation and its potential impact, on local governments.

4.1 Local government’s relations to the European Union.

The Danish political system is characterised by historical traditions of local autonomy. The constitution §82²⁵ offers the right of local governments - under state supervision - to independently manage own affairs. This current framework means, local governments have – in wide-terms - freedom to organise own local politics. Therefore, the Danish political system creates an overall legislative framework, but how local governments address and administrate tasks and projects are individually controlled by local councils (KL, 2007).

²⁵ §82 prescribe: “*The right of local governments under state supervision independently control the affairs under statute*” (Grundloven, n.d.)

In relations to EU; local government's responsibilities are recognised in the European Charter of Local Self-Governments, which emphasises: "*The Charter commits the Parties to applying basic rules guaranteeing the political, administrative and financial independence of local authorities*" (Council of Europe, 1985). The convention establishes the principles of local self-government and that EU shall recognise this, in European legislation.

The convention defines local self-government, as authority right to control and manage a substantial part of public matters, on own responsibility and according to local interests within a statutory framework (Council of Europe, 1985).

As I refer to 'Europeanisation of local governments', as a recognition of the comprehensive relationship, between local governments and EU-policies. In many areas local governments are important 'testing grounds' for EU strategies (Hamedinger & Wolffhardt, 2010: 20). On the other hand, EU offers political opportunities, where local actors can gain from policies- and economical geared proposals concerning local developments. As will be elaborated later, local governments often consider the EU, as an innovative institutional environment, where new areas of policy, cooperation partners, funding can both be beneficial and constraining.

The notions of Europeanisation is closely linked to the advancement in local governments affairs and their increasing recognitions of internationalisation and its opportunities for development, as reflected by Jan Nielsen, project leader for SMART Aalborg:

What impact does the EU have on Aalborg's local political framework?

"The relationship between the national government, the central administration and the EU has change. It shifted, so that Brussels gets more and more important. Also, because the international dimension is very important, we can see in Aalborg that it not insignificant, what happens in e.g. Mexico or other places in the world." (22.55).

This entails a 'Europe matters' issue, where EU-policies offers opportunities, while local governments are becoming aware of its increasing importance and be-

coming more entangled in norms, partnerships, policies and programs. Here local government's involvement with EU can be identified on several levels:

- 1) Different funding programs, e.g. Horizon2020 and EU Structural Funds are available for local development and modernisations projects.
- 2) The implementation of EU regulations to local areas of administration- and political areas.
- 3) The involvement in international networks with other partners and engagement in mutual policy learning- and development processes through EU-programs (Hamedinger & Wolffhardt, 2010: 22-23).

The EU recognises regional policy as important aspects to its future, as mentioned in article 174-178 in the TFEU requesting “*economic, social and territorial cohesion*” (EU-Lex, 2014)²⁶ through sustainable development. EU programs and agendas have since the Single European Act of 1986 aimed to further integration and complete the internal market.

EU2020 Strategy believes, the local sphere is “*important to the views and needs of urban areas, as reflected in EU policymaking. As motors of growth, cities are important to EU's goal of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in its Europe 2020 strategy*” (EUR-Lex, 2014). The strategy is assigned € 450 billion euros in its Cohesion Policy for 2014-2020 and prepositioned in three funds: European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) European Social Fund (ESF) and Cohesion Fund (CF) (Regional Policy, 2015)

The EU is able to interact, with local levels in two ways: 1) *directly*, i.e. fiscal funds. 2) *Indirectly*, i.e. local governments role as implementing authorities. EU indirect impact can be divided into two areas: *legal-* and *political* impacts.

The *legal* impact occurs, when EU forms legal guidelines regulating local government's structural capacities, i.e. what common standards needs to be achieved.

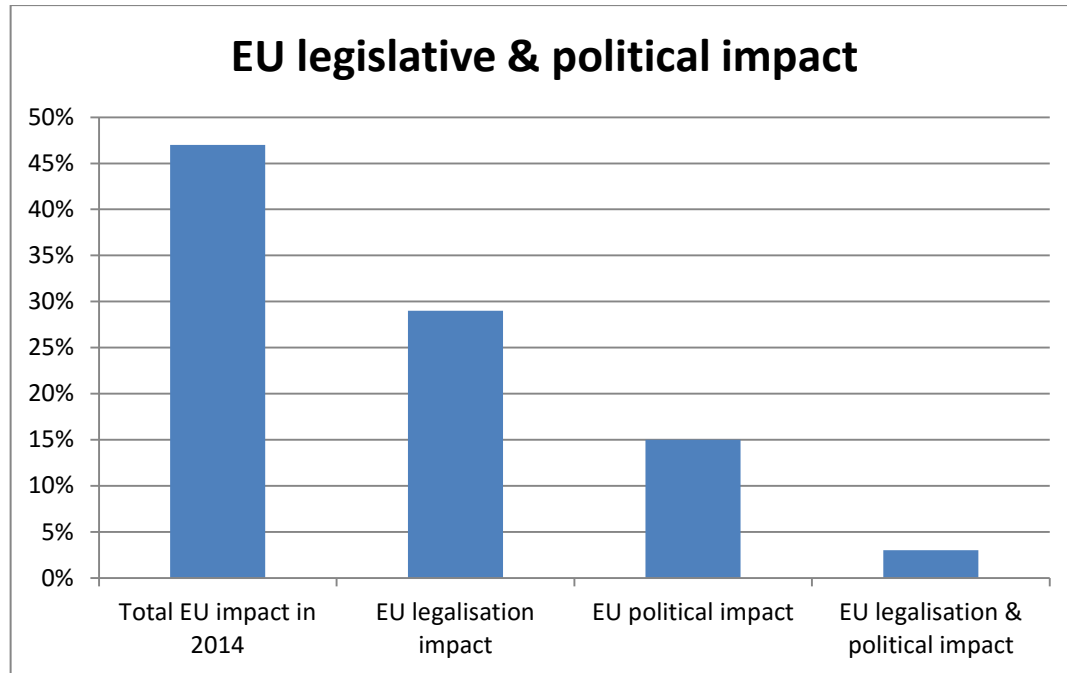
This form occurs, in a wide-range of legal areas and essentially has two consequences:

- 1) *EU legalisation sets, the framework for how local governments can administrate certain areas*, e.g. public contracts cases, where EU's requirements must be taken into account.
- 2) *Legalisation regarding how governments should solve tasks*: here EU legalisations create explicit demands. This form of regulations accounts, for the largest part of binding EU provisions, i.e. 29% of the total EU legalisations of 47% in 2014 (KL, 2014:3)

The *political* impact involves, EU's political- goals and targets and its conversion into Danish national goals and strategies, which later situates the framework for local government politics. The framework is made from recommendations allocated by European institutions reports and then translated to effects national- and local governments, an example is EU2020's Strategy (CoR, n.d.).

The EU2020 is a growth strategy designed to promote new jobs, development and economics benefits through smart, sustainable and inclusive transformation of the European economy (Europa-Kommissionen, 2010:2). EU2020 strategy has an important role, as it involves areas, where EU has no legal authority, but instead, Member States creates separate agreements or goals under an EU framework. Here EU impacts local governments indirectly, due to their role as implementing authority. The *political* impact consists of 17% of the total 53% legislative proposals (KL, 2014:10)

Figure 7.1 (KL, 2014: 9)



The EU have different 'tools' to impact local governments - both directly and indirectly - as it creates the framework and conditions for how Member States should achieve common goals. The majority and responsibility of implementing EU-policies falls on local governments, due to their implementation authority (KL, 2014:12)

4.2 'Misfit' between EU regulations and Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn government settings creates domestic change.

This section will examine, to what extent the cases experience 'misfit' or 'fit' between EU-level policies and local politics. The central focus is on local respondents, i.e. officials or politicians own experiences and understandings.

Among the cases, local respondents have been political challenged by EU-induced change to administrative- and political processes. There exists various examples, where change have indeed occurred, as a resulted of 'adaptation pressures' caused by mismatch to EU policies requirements or programs.

From a general Europeanisation perspective concerning, the assumption that ‘misfit’, between EU-policy and local governments politics or norms functions, as precondition for ‘Europeanisation’, i.e. change to local governments – can be confirmed.

However - as later elaborated later – there is a significant differential impact on how EU-policies and change is experienced. Meanwhile, there are also entire political areas, where cases seem to be similarly challenged, but where local actors own awareness of EU influence seems somewhat unknown. As mentioned by Benjamin Holst from the EU-Office:

What influence does EU have on local governments?

“It is huge. If all sides are known - I do not know - there is much of what you are working with in local governments, which are created the European Union” (1.01.00).

While ‘misfit’ should be political challenging, to local governments own arrangements and participation in EU-programs. In wide-ranging perspective, local actors seems to be aware of EU’s influence, however its exact impacts on their work are difficult to identify. As revealed by City Managers in Frederikshavn and Hjørring; Mikeal Jentsch and Tommy Christiansen:

How is Frederikshavn politically challenged by the EU-level policies?

Well, basically it is politically challenging that we put our councils and committees to make decisions, in cases that they would not have taken up, if there had not been a demand for it from the EU’s side (...) We are sitting behind a glass wall and we do not know where policies comes from, we can just see that something there” (25.17)

How is Hjørring politically challenged by the EU-level policies?

“Well, we are challenged every time there is any regulation that would like to standardise something, and this is typically what you want, when there is an EU directive or national legislation. (...) But whether it good or bad depends on whether it effects the goals we are working towards and it rarely does” (16.50)

This reflects a dilemma, where cases are aware of EU and its political impact, but there also exist a difference to what this consciousness consists of. The cases do not experience a specific pressure from EU, but possess an awareness of its regulatory effect and influence to their government. None of the cases emphasised any particular areas or issues, where they experience pressure from EU. Instead, they stressed more general observations of the administrative- and political reality.

The cases, actually offered few examples of ‘policy’- and institutional ‘misfit’. However, the respondents did highlight a few instances that offer possible indications, to why more examples are absence. But, before I present these, it is important to elaborate how ‘misfit’ interrelates with the cases.

The thesis applies two sets of ‘misfit’ – institutional- and policy ‘misfit’ – while the later refers to incongruence, between EU-policies and local domestic politics, e.g. compliance issues with EU regulation and norms. The institutional ‘misfit’, instead relates to ‘adaptation pressures’ to domestic processes, rules or social collective understandings (Börzel & Risse, 2009:5).

In relations to the cases, “typical” examples of policy ‘misfit’ are seen, when cases is pressured to change priorities through EU-programs. While, institutional misfit is viewable, when the cases adapts own goals to ‘fit’ European requirements and partnership principles found in funding programs. The two results from a wide-ranging concept to ‘misfit’ and is introduced through implementation and adaptation, to cases involvement in EU development programs.

The cases have through programs, embraced EU-level opportunities offered in various innovative policies and programs, while demonstrating the notion of ‘adaptation pressure’ forcing local governments to change own political- and administrative structures should be questioned.

On the other hand – and as elaborated later – ‘Europeanisation of local governments’ is often by choice, as local actors voluntarily and deliberately select to embark on programs, without any previous obligation or ‘pressure’ to do so. Hence, Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn are not acting from a strong incitement,

caused by ‘top-down’ pressure, but instead seek to benefit from opportunities linked to EU-initiatives.

This is viewable in increasing awareness developing in the cases, where local- officials and politicians have made a political strategical shift, from previously pursuing every available EU funding opportunities, to instead concentrating on own local needs and opportunities for development in partnership with the EU. As expressed by Hjørrings mayor, Arne Boelt regarding reshaping of political strategies towards EU:

How is Hjørring politically challenged by the EU-level policies?

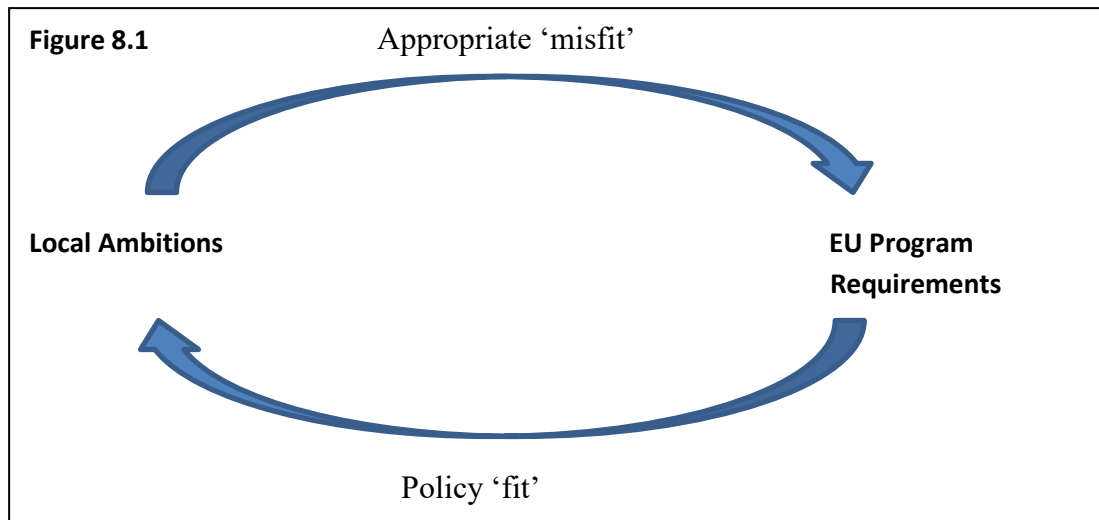
“You need to find the boxes that fit – and there have been some, who accuses us for only looking at what boxes we can afford. I can say that time is over in Hjørring - everything in this government starts with something that we would like to do - some problem or challenge - and when we, find something we really want, then we find something to help it, so it can get a boost” (22.55)

This reflects, not only Hjørring, but also includes the collective political transformation in Aalborg and Frederikshavn, where previous experiences with ‘misfit’ to EU funding criteria and own resources have been in conflict. As outlined by Frederikshavn City Manager Mikeal Jentsch:

How is Frederikshavn politically challenged by the EU-level policies?

“In the old days, the attitude was that, if there were some money, then we ran after it - no matter what – This has stopped. We have now begun to look for finance opportunities, when we have found a problem, we would like to solve” (11.08)

This shift indicates that cases are aware of EU possibilities, but also the consequences of entering programs or funding options in ‘misfit’ with own needs or motivation to engage.



The new agenda means ‘Europeanisation of local governments’ are increasing by choice and the cases deliberately engage with EU-policies, if it ‘fits’ with local political ambitions and ideas, as to reduce ‘misfit’ and create a mutual- economic, political partnership. As mentioned by Aalborg Chairman of Urban and Landscape Management, Hans Henrik Henriksen:

What influence does EU have on SMART Aalborg?

“What we can move on an agenda in Denmark or Aalborg - and if you take some of the major challenges, such as climate and transition to a new type of society, without fossil fuels - then you have to integrate the EU as a partner and we must be better to use the system. Because we cannot solve this from a national or local agenda” (33.55)

The concepts of adaptation pressure or ‘misfit’, should not - in traditional ‘Europeanisation literature’ sense - be denoted and understood as somewhat inconvenient adaptations pressure to domestic change. But, instead as local government’s reactions to new economic- and political situations, by taking advantages of new opportunities. After all when North Jutland, i.e. Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn choose to create common beneficial organisations as; NorthDenmark EU-Office or Business Region North Denmark, to coordinate and manage funding and political options. This can be viewed as a reaction to ‘misfit’ from EU-programs

requirements and own structural setting, as mentioned by BRN and EU-Offices consultant, Christina Knudsen:

How does the EU Office work together with other organisations?

“The local governments have put more focus on participation in EU projects, etc., but also the BRN has acquired an international focus, where mayors and city managers say ‘yes we want this, we must focus more on the EU, we must use the EU Office, we need to do more there’” (Christian Knudsen, 17.02)

The two concepts of policy- and institutional ‘misfit’ have different interrelations and by understanding their roles, this thesis can systematise local government’s relations vis-à-vis the EU. The cases have produced examples of ‘misfit’ that instigate change or propel local governments to more EU-level activities. Therefore, I will present examples of ‘fit’ and ‘misfit’ to highlight the evolving relationship between EU and local governments.

4.2.1 Example of policy fit & institutional misfit

Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn and EU have similar policy goals in, e.g. area-based local regeneration and development, enclosed in the framework of EU Regional Policy objectives (EU Regional Policy, n.d.)²⁷. As the cases own local institutions, do not traditionally conform to requirements specified by EU, local governments must engage in processes of implementing new policies and needs to adapt to new changes in structure, to correspond with EU policies. In these situations, considerable adaptation pressure for change will be created and introduced.

²⁷ The EU Regional Policy targets regions and local governments in the European Union and creates a framework containing Europe 2020 Strategy for regional development. It has a wide-ranging impact on many areas, e.g. overall goals in *smart*, development and investments in innovation and research, *sustainable* and moving towards a low-carbon economy and lastly *inclusive* or focus on poverty and unemployment reduction. The five targets of 2020 are: 1) Climate change and sustainability lowering carbon emissions by 20-30% 2) Research and innovation; 3% of EU’s GDP invested in R&D 3) Reducing unemployment 4) Focus on education; including lower risk of poverty and social exclusion. Here Member States operate within this framework and adopts national targets e.g. both Denmark and EU have set similar goals of -20% carbon emissions reduction and 30% renewable energy dependency. For a more overall view, see Figure 9.1 on page 63 (EU Regional Policy, n.d.)

However, the cases exhibits significant understanding for this form of adaptation and exploits, the policy ‘fit’ between own local ambitions and shared EU goals in, e.g. sustainable energy or regional development. The ‘appropriate’ institutional ‘misfit’²⁸ introduces new processes of modernisation to existing policies to which the cases deliberately undergoes a reshaping of own structures.

As cases and EU share similar policy goals, the institutional frameworks of EU largely corresponds with pre-existing local setting, as seen in figure 9.1 (see page 63.). Here goals are non-conflicting, while increasing the degree of policy ‘fit’ and lowering pressure for change i.e. ‘misfit’, as the cases can simply accommodate new EU-initiatives to local arrangements.

The area-based programs of SMART Aalborg, ‘Sustainable solution’ in Hjørring and EnergyCity in Frederikshavn are examples of local governments working with EU Strategy framework, i.e. conform to policy goals.

The programs initiated by the cases, reflects individual governments solutions to solve own local moderation issues and conform to EU, i.e. national requirements for sustainable development.

Aalborg has understood this principle, and when looking at the SMART-program is “(...) *an initiative to make Aalborg even more smart, digital and sustainable city*” (Aalborg Kommune, 2015b). Aalborg tries to create a city that can participate, in the EU-initiative of Horizon2020²⁹. The city has deliberately utilised the constellation of policy ‘fit’, to begin a modernisation practice where Aalborg knowingly reshapes own political arrangements, with support from EU funding and innovation possibilities. As mentioned by Chairman Hans Henrik Henriksen;

²⁸ Here ‘appropriate institutional misfit’ refers to Aalborg not being ‘pressured’ into institutional adaption, but instead as EU programs requirements for SMART city covers areas of renewable energy, integrating infrastructures and urban mobility, then Aalborg must adapt own setting to accommodate EU participation demands (Horizon 2020, 2015)

²⁹ SMART Aalborg is a digital and inclusive approach to develop a more sustainable and environmentally-friendly city. The project will to a much greater extent than previously, create partnerships between the local governments, businesses, educational institutions, e.g. Aalborg University and its citizens. The ambition is to apply for participation in the EU program Horizon 2020 and gain more funds for future partnerships and projects. The aim of Horizon 2020 program is that European cities must be smarter, more economical and more energy efficient. The program pushes for better cooperation in an interdisciplinary collaboration between energy, environment and transportation. (Aalborg, Kommune, 2015b)

regarding participation in Horizon 2020 and how own political arrangements had to adapt to EU requirements, i.e. an appropriate ‘misfit’ was created:

What influence did EU have on the SMART Aalborg project?

“Well, it's clear that when they put up some criteria, on how we should work - then it is clear, that that we have to adjust a lot. However, I would say that we have a tradition – as in the application to the Horizon – that we tried to look what we have on the ‘shelves’ and then seen how we can lift this into a context, so it fits to EU requirements”. (17.05)

The otherwise, ‘fit’ between EU-based innovation programs and Aalborg ambitions, means it benefits from the appropriate ‘misfit’ in requirements and ambitions. Aalborg has a long history of urban environmental sustainability development and is engaged in both the Covenant of the Mayors³⁰ and especially the Aalborg Charter Commitments³¹, emphasising that Aalborg has a long tradition in urban cross-sectoral sustainable development. The possibility of participating in Horizon2020 Smart City program, ‘fits’ with existing strategies and empowers Aalborg, as involvement in the EU-program could be seen a natural step, as mentioned by Jan Nielsen:

Why Aalborg entered into a partnership with the EU about Smart Aalborg?

“Well, we knew there were a lot of funds in the Horizon 2020 program, but also because we had a new mayor, who went around saying SMART city all the time. He saw that there is a competitive situation in Denmark and equally in Europe. This implies that if you are a university city, than you must also be a smart city. In a city with a lot of students, then you have to be a smart city” (15.58)

However, institutional ‘misfit’ occurs, when Aalborg tries to retain existing local arrangements, while bending the institutional program requirements of EU to ‘fit’

³⁰ The Covenant of Mayors is a European initiative, where local authorities voluntarily are invited to take the lead with regard to follow the EU energy and climate objectives - the so-called 2020 targets, which among other things involves 20% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions for the period 1990-2020. The Covenant has in recent years has positioned itself as one of the key initiatives on climate change in Europe with almost 5,000 participating local authorities.

³¹ The Aalborg Charter from 1994 is an environmental initiative approved by more than 3000 local governments across Europe, and which seeks to develop sustainable through an international network working towards innovative solutions to environmental issues (Sustainablecities.eu, 2015)

with their traditional local model. For Aalborg the possible participation in Horizon 2020, was an opportunity to develop the city in a mutual partnership, as mentioned by Jan Nielsen concerning adaption to EU-program requirements:

How much know-how does Aalborg have about EU and its possibilities?

“We have a discussion – where I am still unclear - whether we should to go for the things we want, and then find some funding opportunity in Brussels, which we can fit into the (...) or do we see what is in the current boxes and how we organise ourselves in relation to them and how we get the most out of it” (36.20)

Aalborg has found a mutual partnership with EU and attempts to take advantages its opportunities to develop.

In the case of Hjørring – it too faces challenges in sustainable conversion – and found a partnership, i.e. ‘fit’ between EU green agenda and own ambitions. The pioneering initiative ‘Sustainable Solution’³² takes advantage of the policy ‘fit’ to both reshape and conform with 1) EU obligations and goals made in, i.e. The Covenant of Mayors agreement and EU headline targets 2) national requirements (see figure 9.1) 3) Hjørring own sustainable framework plan (Hjørring Kommune, 2013). This ‘benign fit’ is described by project leader Martin Nielsen:

How is Hjørring involved in the EU-Office?

“It may seem to some, that we have a Danish government with some ambitions and ideas. But I can see that it comes from an overall objective of the European Union (...) The EU has these 2020 plans. So in that way we are affected by the EU” (5.21)

The appropriate institutional ‘misfit’ in EU goals and Hjørring adaptation process, meant it deliberately used EU to ‘fit’ and solve different issues fronting Hjørring moderations development plans. Here pressure for change was translated into a

³²Hjørring’s ‘Sustainable solution’ is innovative project meant to involve citizens in the sustainable conversion. Here Hjørring have made specific local projects to get its citizens to switch to sustainable energy. The project is a partnership contained in EU InterReg-program and includes both Swedish and Norwegian local governments and with the support from different international researchers (NordDanmark EU-kontor, 2014, 11)

positive project, where EU could assist in funding, a project that Hjørring were going to make anyway, as mentioned by Martin Berg:

How is Hjørring involved in the EU-Office?

Hjørring and other local governments are being pressured – the finances are disappearing and this is probably very pronounced in local governments located away from the big cities (...) And in relations to projects, there exist external financial possibilities and many different funding options - the state - the region - and the EU have some. It is not because; we want to change in order to fit with these funding programs. But we have to find alternative ways to find funding, because we have some tasks which need to be done. (5.41)

EU and Hjørring share policy goals and considerable pressure to conform, creates low levels of ‘misfit’, as local governments deliberately blends policies into own contexts and recognises that EU-programs can help them adjust to ‘misfit’.

In the case of Hjørring, even though EU had an profound impact in terms of creating a sustainable conservation agenda, the high policy ‘fit’ and low institutional ‘misfit’ could suggest a process of Europeanisation. Where Hjørring politics are reshaped by EU programs or policies, but the degree of change is continually low, as Hjørring benefits greatly from participating in EU projects, as mentioned by mayor Arne Boelt:

How much know-how does Hjørring have about EU and its possibilities?

“(...) Then there are also some projects that we should never have been involved in and where we have said that this we should never had agreed to. But in all, I think its counts for small part, where we can say that this was not good. But overall, I would said the rest have been a success and I think - I know - that it has lead Hjørring new places - than where we were in the past. And in particular, the ‘Sustainable solution’ project, but also within the whole sustainability area and strategy wise” (16.53)

The political challenges facing local governments, combined with national economic saving requirements, means surplus resources for new development programs are small and under pressure. The cases need to find external funding for new projects and creates a political strategy to accommodate, i.e. ‘fit’ or attach

EU-programs to pre-existing arrangement to develop. Hjørring evades ‘misfit’, as it can easily incorporate potential institutional implications, as cited by Arne Boelt concerning Hjørring strategy regarding EU-funds:

What opportunities can EU offer – which you are unable to find nationally?

“[Projects] My advice is always - both in Hjørring - but also to companies - if it's something that you were not going to do anyway - then you should leave it. Because the project becomes were too tiresome and bureaucratically. But if you are 110% sure, that you need make a cargo terminal in Hirtshals or something - well, then you should look for other possibilities to interplay with this and see who can cooperate along with it. So the project can be boosted and become even better, than what we could ourselves. And that what I believe EU funding should be used for” (22.55)

In the last example from Frederikshavn and its EnergiCity-project³³, the ‘fit’ between local ambitions and EU goals are equally matched. Frederikshavn has initiated a process of modernisation to secure economic growth, job creation and conversion to sustainability. Here, EU requirements for cross-sectoral participation in funding and policies initiatives correspond with Frederikshavn own ambitions, thus resulting in a degree of change, where ‘misfit’, remains low as it ‘fits’ requirements.

In relations to EnergiCity; visions for the project started in 2007, through general political consensus in the local council (Energiby, n.d.), i.e. project started before Frederikshavn signed The Covenant of Mayors-agreement in 2011. However, the advantageous of becoming frontrunner on sustainable development, meant Frederikshavn own agenda corresponded with EU and it could activate possible funding options, as mentioned by Mikeal Jentsch City Manager in Frederikshavn:

³³ EnergiCity is a local development project aimed at transforming the energy supply in Frederikshavn to 100% renewable energy. EnergiCity's role is to be innovative, facilitating and coordinated project to support ‘green’ growth and new local jobs in the energy sector (Energiby, n.d.)

How important are EU-funds for Frederikshavn and its projects?

“It started [EnergiCity] before EU funds had even entered. However, it just enables us to activate possible EU funds” (18.22)

This ‘fit’ between Frederikshavn and EU, meant it could retain existing traditions in institutional arrangements, while conforming with EU requirements to take advantages of both political- and economic opportunities, as expressed by project leader Poul Nielsen:

What influence have EU had on the project?

(...) It safe to say that what started the project was funding from the EU. It is absolutely certain that had there been no funding from the EU, then there would not have been a project (...) and it is EnergyCity that has kicked started a part of our growth strategy, which we have in our local government plans today. So they have had a huge impact (19.57)

The examples from Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn reflect a shift in local political- culture and awareness to EU impact on change. But, local adaptation indicates that cases response; by increasing focus on how own ambitions ‘fit’ with European goals. Furthermore, how appropriate ‘misfit’ can be utilised to reshape local structures, while maintaining pre-existing arrangements and adapting EU requirements to ‘fit’ traditional modes of local politics.

However, the interviews did undercover ‘classical’ examples of ‘policy misfit’ between EU-level policies and local governments arrangements.

4.2.2 Example of policy misfit

A case of policy ‘misfit’ is presented by Frederikshavn and its involvement in the EU program: Natura 2000³⁴. As indicated above, the interaction between EU and local government are not always static. In the case of Frederikshavn, it discovered

³⁴ Natura 2000 is a network of protected areas in the EU. The areas preserve and protect rare natural habitats, wild animal and plant species that threatened or characteristic of EU countries (European Commission, 2015c)

that involvement in EU-level programs is not always an advantageous endeavor, when the outset turns into a challenging process for both local- development and government.

This is particularly accurate, when an EU-program was motivated by added financial means and not with an innovative incentive – as the above examples shows – the experience of prolonged partnership and resource allocated program requirements, can turn to policy ‘misfit’, between EU and local actors.

The Frederikshavn area-based program of Nature 2000-project shows characteristics of this. As mentioned by Chairman of Planning and Environment Committee, Anders Sørensen:

What is Frederikshavn relationship with the EU?

When we can see EU's involvement, when they go in and funds entire nature restoration projects. Which we administrate- and where we from local governments aspect must recreate some natural areas for a relative large amount of funding (Sørensen, 13.44)

The EU has implemented “*Community environmental legislation*” (European Commission, 2015b) that is ensured by Member States - and especially, in partnership with local governments - in an effort to strength and ensure nature restoration in Europe. In Frederikshavn, local actors agree nature preservation is important and a priority. However, Frederikshavn feels ‘pressured’ to prioritises this program after EU-funding stops in 2018, as the program demands both political- and economic resources to secure nature restoration. If necessary Frederikshavn needs to allocate funding from other welfare areas, to maintain the program:

What is Frederikshavn relationship with the EU?

“I have nothing against these projects - but I know that in an economic pressures local government, where one must choose between maintaining nature restoration (...) and spend the money on direct services to citizens, then I know what we must priorities as a governments and I feel certainly obliged to pass it on, but I can also see that if it costs millions, then it comes way down on our list of priorities” (13.44)

The policy 'misfit' occurs, when Frederikshavn is challenged to own arrangements and ambitions. The EU regulations and sponsoring of nature preservation - is on the outset - in 'fit' with Frederikshavn own agenda, as it initially does not require any adjustment in local arrangements to participate, i.e. 'misfit' is low.

However, issues ensue when the EU-program expires and local governments have to administrate operational cost to continue the program and preserve possible progress made in the area, as stressed by Anders Sørensen:

What is Frederikshavn relationship with the EU?

"We say 'yes please' because the money is free (...) But, I can see out in horizon that it is going to cost money - and we must decide whether we want to spend money on it. The priority is not something we making right now because the EU, removes our rationality towards this issue" (16.49)

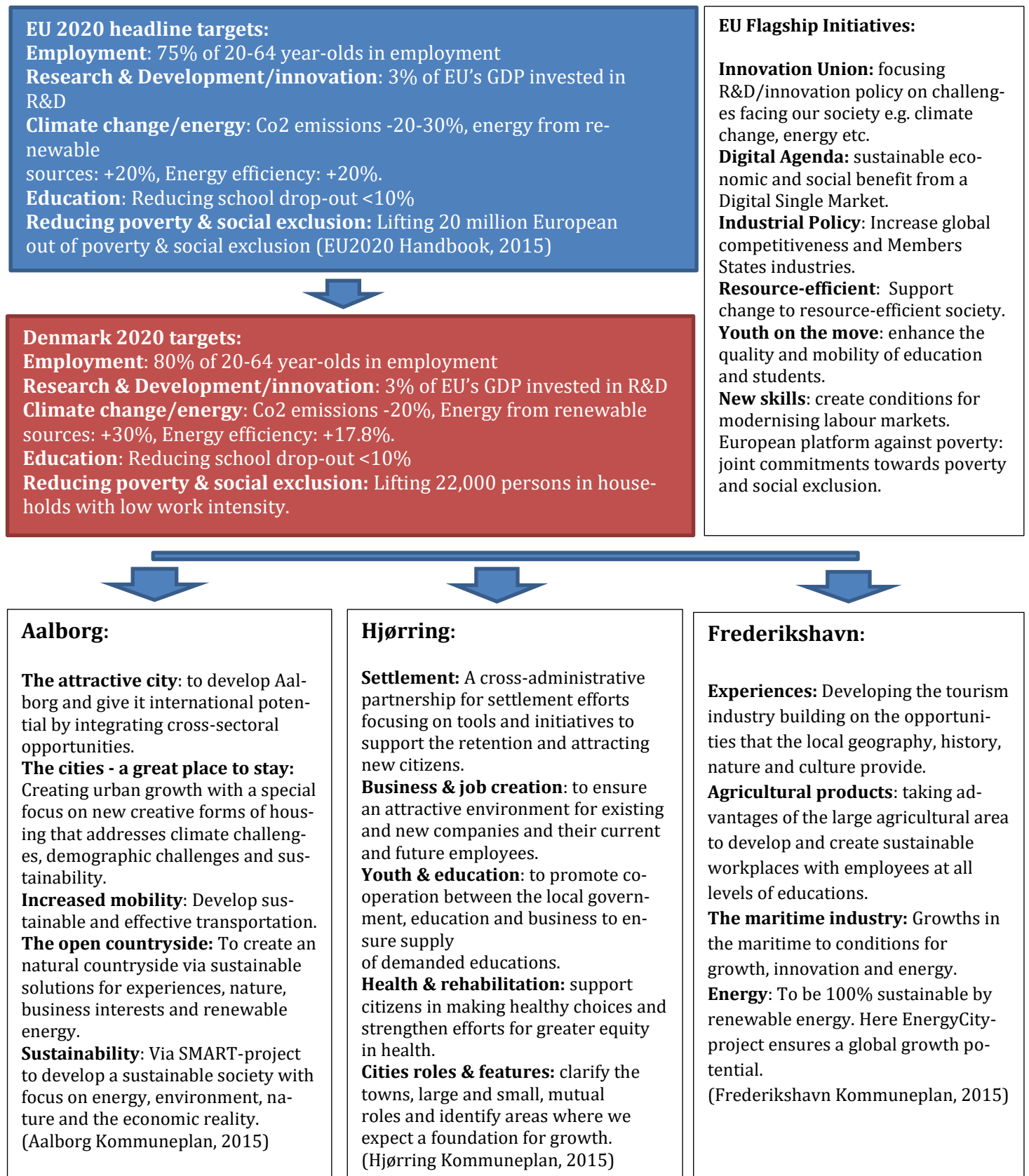
Even through, EU has a direct influence on Frederikshavn, via. regulatory legislation, the Nature2000-program is not an issue, as it 'fits' with local political ambitions. The 'misfit' occurs, when a local government becomes economic depends on EU for funding of programs and it afterwards challenges Frederikshavn to priorities differently in local arrangements.

The leading hypnotizes that: 'misfit' between EU regulations and Aalborg-, Hjørring and Frederikshavn government settings creates domestic change, can be confirmed. However, the interviews indicate local governments do not experience a specific pressure and 'misfit' in Europeanisation terms is more dynamic than expressed in literature.

The evolving relationship, between local governments and EU are beneficial as 'misfit' occurs, due to mismatch in policies and ambitions are low. Instead, local governments view the EU as an opportunity sphere; it can reshape and initiate a moderation process. The high level of policy 'fit' in mutual goals, means local governments can accommodate possible demands and adaptation 'pressures', as they can utilised the process of developing projects and the local community.

However, ‘misfit’ occurs when EU tries to dictate local agendas and effects resources. The case of Frederikshavn and Nature2000 illustrate programs, where local governments are indirectly forced to change priorities, against their own motivation, whereby creating pressure on local administration and finance.

Figure 9.1



4.3. Europeanisation is a feedback to top-down EU policies and initiatives. Europeanisation creates domestic change, when policies originating from EU-level redirect politics, preferences and practices i.e. at the local governments of Aalborg, Hjørring or Frederikshavn

This section will examine; whether mediating factors filters the ‘Europeanisation of local governments’. The section will also try to connect conceptual tools applied in the previous analysis section, to how mediating factors are involved in filtering the Europeanisation process in Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn. The analysis is based on above hypothesis.

As the cases has experienced ‘misfit’ between, one the hand; regulations, ambitions and EU-funding programs and on the other hand, ‘fit’ with pre-existing arrangements to local moderation processes. The cases provide, the initial impetus to achieve own ambitions and process for change, as shown in the previous section, cases are increasing reshaping their political strategies to avoid possible ‘misfit’ and instead involving themselves in projects that align with political ambitions. The cases are increasing trying to preserve, existing institutional arrangements and tries to bend requirements from EU to ‘fit’ with traditional political models.

This is aspect is important, as local government deliberately reshaping to ‘fit’ EU requirements and increasing seeking to take advantages of opportunities offered by EU-policies. The cases use EU to support own modernisation ambitions, while knowingly undergoing ‘adaptation pressure’ from funding programs, which encourages change through appropriate ‘misfit’.

However - and as expressed by most respondents interviewed – the cases does not experience a specific ‘pressure’. Instead, they show an understanding for a common set of EU rules, even if it creates ‘misfit’, among local arrangements and EU regulations.

Only when local governments' become entangled in EU regulations beyond own ambitions, does 'misfit' become an issues; as seen in Frederikshavn and the Nature2000-program. Most often rules are observed beneficial, because they protect and provide opportunities in an increasingly international environment; as mentioned by Arne Boelt:

What effect does the EU legislation have on local governments politics?

"[EU-rules] There are many things that can be annoying, but we cannot be without it. For example EU procurement policy and where things has to be so and so. If we did not have any of these things, then we might suddenly have Eastern European workers working here for complete insane wages (...). So therefore I believe the many laws and initiatives created in EU are there to protect us" (40.53)

The 'Europeanisation of local governments' can therefore be described as two elements:

1. Local governments' show an understanding for EU-level policies and possible 'misfit', as overall implementation of shared rules is beneficial and aligns with Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn interests.
2. Local governments' reshapes own political strategies to benefit from EU opportunities, by only engaging in programs that 'fits' EU requirements and local arrangements. The 'Europeanisation of local governments' are differentially located with each case ambitions and plans. This means local actors have a great responsibility in ensuring, the development of local areas, which create localised and differential ambitions. EU-policies therefore have a differential impact on the cases.

The two elements show Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn are increasing recognising EU-policies. While appropriate 'misfit' in the Europeanisation-process, is redirecting local- politics, arrangements and projects.

However, as EU and local governments' share similar policy goals; new policies align well with pre-existing traditions, whereby the degree of change, i.e. 'misfit' is low. Therefore the outcome of the Europeanisation process is determined by mediating factors and their role in filtering EU-policies.

The interviews points to aspects, where mediating factors filters the EU-level activity of local governments' and co-determine what the impact policies and programs have on local governments. The thesis has identified two aspects:

- 1) The pre-existence of leadership and 'mediating entrepreneurs' accelerating EU activities in local governments'.
- 2) The cases commitment to traditions, by looking 'inwards' and focusing on local strengths. Local elements emphasise that EU impacts are highly determined by conditions found in local arrangement.

The interviews indicate that assumptions made by rationalist and sociological approaches, are applicable to explain how mediating factors filter Europeanisation, i.e. change in the cases. To clarify this, I will explain the two aspects and how the factors interrelate.

4.3.1 The pre-existence of leadership and 'mediating agents' accelerating EU-initiatives.

The absence or presence of mediating factors are important to process high adaption pressure, as they can filter change or adjust local governments' to Europeanisation. The majority of my interviews indicate the presence of norm entrepreneurs combined with formal institutions are 'filtering' local EU-policies into local governments' arrangements.

The presence of norm entrepreneurs - i.e. officials and politicians - can be located, in particular departments involved with development and innovation, e.g. Business Development, Planning-, Environment or Technology- departments. Togeth-

er, they are creating collective understandings and a pre-vailing political culture, effecting how local governments' utilise 'misfit' to EU-policies. This I will return to later.

Among the cases, I have come across references to entrepreneurs, who are involved and have great insight into the European system, as mentioned by City Manager in Frederikshavn, Mikeal Jentsch:

How do Frederikshavn administrate EU cooperation?

"It is individual and department based, because it's a difficult system [The EU] to have insight in, so it's not everywhere in our administration, but there is certainly places, where the EU is an important part of the work" (9.45).

The attention to EU is changing, as local leaders have transformed political strategies, to involve an increasing number of entrepreneurs working with EU-projects, as elaborated by Christian Knudsen from the EU-Office:

How does the EU-office cooperate with local governments?

"[EU and local governments relations] (...) I would say it is developing, in the way that we have more contacts in the North Jutlands local governments', than we have had previously. It is because the EU Office has been transformed to an association and because the leadership from above has a different focus. On a management level there is a broader focus on the EU Office and so we have gotten more contacts in local governments" (12.56)

The 'typical' entrepreneurs are ones wanting to include a European perspective. Likewise, they wish to spread the European-effort to other local administrative areas, in order to evolve their own project. The entrepreneurs can be characterised as knowledge-based entrepreneurs, who tries to incorporate solutions to local challenges by seeking a European solution, as mentioned by both Benjamin Holst and Christina Knudsen from the EU-office:

What kinds of tasks do the EU-office do for local- governments and companies?

"[EU-programs] it has to some extent - but not only – dependent a lot of on enthusiastic people within the local governments. People who have an interests for the EU"

This is further explained and elaborated by Christina Knudsen:

"[Entrepreneurs] Yes, it can be very different - but it is obviously someone, who we have talked with previously - or someone who has a personal interest in the EU and can see that there could be opportunities for some funding. But often, when you have to make an EU-application, then it requires some form of entrepreneurs³⁵. Or someone, who has are embedded in the local government"

Here we see entrepreneur's importance should not be underestimated. The local officials or politicians, working on projects or positioned in local governments can be identified as someone, who filters a European issue. The entrepreneurs are important in the implementation process of EU-programs, as their expertise is necessary to create momentum and change. This corresponds with Christina Knudsen understandings:

How is EU administered in local governments?

[EU-programs] You could say it is not us, who must run with the 'ball'. It is the local government involved. We can provide information about options, but needs someone to 'bit on'. (...). But, it is the local government, who must implement the project afterwards and it should be a project that is relevant to them. So we are dependent on the existence of entrepreneurs.

The existences of entrepreneurs at local level can enable change, as they filter EU-policies in response to pressure for adaptation, likewise, they help define cases level of activities in EU-programs.

However, as stated by Cowles, et. al. (2001:11) "(...) *Institutions do not change institutions, actors do*". This implies EU might offer different opportunities, i.e. funding or reshape local arrangements in relations to 'misfit'. But in the end, local

³⁵ Here entrepreneurs is replaced by the Danish word; *Ildsjæle* – that can be translated into: a person exhibiting enthusiasm or great enthusiasm, i.e. in relations to this thesis: a norm entrepreneur.

governments' and entrepreneurs have to take advantages of the opportunities to create local change.

The ability to exploit EU opportunities depends on two aspects, 1) the level expertise of individual entrepreneurs and 2) their position in local governments. As mentioned by Aalborg City Manager, Jens Munk:

How much know-how does Aalborg have about EU and its opportunities?

"[Entrepreneurs] I actually think it becomes very person dependent - we can especially feel this in our City & Planning department, where Knud Markvard was former director, and he has always been very internationally oriented and that also includes Environment & Energy Management with Svend Pedersen".(10.35)

The respondents show a general understanding to entrepreneurs' importance, as top official and local politicians, express a correlation between individual entrepreneurs' level of international activities and local governments' involvement in EU-programs and policies. This is further elaborated by Jens Munk:

How much know-how does Aalborg have about EU and its opportunities?

"We could feel it, when Knud Markvard stopped and what kinds of expertise moved out of the government, because relatively few people worked with this area. So we have become more aware" (10.35)

Another aspect to entrepreneurs' role is advocacy-networks, i.e. groups where local officials and politicians can share similar interests and can exchange experience in EU-programs. The importance of these networks are found, both in local and European context and empower cases to induce change through collective values shared, between local governments' in North Jutland and Europe.

The empowerment through advocacy-networks makes it easier for entrepreneurs, who have positive European mindset, to gather and exchange in relations to new programs and in order to bring back knowledge to their own local governments. Local governments' are increasingly allocating resources to maintain and establish

shared forums to improve a collective understanding of EU. The importance of advocacy-networks is mentioned by EnergiCities Project Leader in Frederikshavn, Poul Rask:

How is Frederikshavn involved in BRN and the EU Office?

“Well, you can say that not all local governments are represented in the International Group of BRN. We have made an active choice that we want to do this. It is also a signal that we want an international outlook in the local government. It probably no everyone, who have seen the light or necessity in this. But we made an strategic choice to go into this group and use resources on it” (7.24)

The presence of entrepreneurs and their role in local governments contributes greatly, to an increase focus on EU and its opportunities. Their importance and role fits in accordance with section 4.3, i.e. 'misfit' and local governments' political shift, where involvement in EU-policies is by choice. This new local strategy and mediating factors role in reshaping it, will now be described:

4.3.2 The cases commitment to traditions by looking 'inwards' and focusing on local strengths

“There is no such thing as a Europe of regions or cities in the making; instead we have 'variable-geometry', Europe within cities and regions sometimes become actors or system of actions” (2010: 22). The quote from Les Galés, correspond with respondents outset to include EU programs, where local governments' are actors in a system of opportunities and where action depends on individual economic needs and conditions. As mentioned in section 4.3, the respondents emphasise a political shift bend EU-policies to pre-existing traditions and to boost local development, as stressed by Poul Rask from Frederikshavn:

Frederikshavn is one of North Jutland's largest local governments, can you tell more about the governments growth and development strategy?

“The wonderful thing about Frederikshavn - it is - I have been in 6-7 years, they have not always had a visible strategy on how we should create growth in relations to business development etc. Now we have analysed and looked on what we are fundamentally good at and what we have historically lived from and what we want to live by”. (2.58)

This shift is also seen in Aalborg and Hjørring and correspond with rationalist argumentations of local governments being “*rational, goal-oriented and purposeful*” (Börzel & Risse, 2003:9). The new mindset shows local governments’ having a cost-benefit rationalists approach, by looking ‘inwards’ and finding own strengths and strategical options of development.

Here Europeanisation is comprehended as an opportunity structure, where cases seek to strength own arrangement, in relations to rationalist economic motivations. The development of BRN and the EU-Office are formal institutions, where exchange of resources also correspond with a rationalist expectation of own value, while estimating the outcome and preferences of others.

In relations to EU, local governments recognise exchange of resources is necessary to empower their position. As mentioned by the mayor of Hjørring, Arne Boelt:

How is Hjørring involved in BRN and the EU Office?

“[BRN] (...) But I have been able to see that, even if you are many – thus, even if you a large or small – Even though we have come together all local governments in North Jutland, then we are still nothing in the EU. But, it is a recognition that if you come alone, then you are definitely nothing in EU” (8.20)

Here formal institutions have an important role in providing local governments’ with both ideational- and material resources to introduce change or access to EU opportunities. As alignment of interests can enhance exploitation of options and strength own strategies, as further explain by Arne Boelt:

How is Hjørring involved in BRN and the EU Office?

“It is natural to work in networks³⁶ and create an entirely different agenda. So now the whole agenda for cooperation in the BRN (...) we found, that we have to work together in network and have a certain size, because we are too small in relation to EU”

The presence of formal institutions and local governments’ rationalist approach to own strategies; implies they will only alter arrangements to fit EU-programs, if the outcome can empower their position.

However, sociological and rationalist approach can often complement each other, as the two approaches can interrelate at similar stages, in the Europeanisation process.

The approach of sociological institutionalism believes local governments’ possess collective understanding guiding their behaviour. As mentioned in section 2.1.4, the alignment between local governments- and EU norms determine, the possible outcome to attaching EU-policies to pre-existing local politics.

In cases of ‘misfit’ or veto barriers, local governments can adjust their understandings through new forms of social learning, created by entrepreneurs, formal institutions and consensus seeking political culture.

The similarities of political strategies in Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn has been created through a social learning process, where – as mentioned in section 4.3 – the cases have had bad experiences with EU-programs, because they were outside own interests and resources. My interviews recognised this consensus-oriented political culture established in BRN, as the cases could import similar international- and regional interests into the organisation, while maintaining own arrangements.

³⁶Here network replaces the Danish word; *klynger* – that can be translated into: collection or group of individuals or entites, i.e. in relations to this thesis: a network.

This made it possible to integrate a political leadership of 'burden sharing' and a collectively understanding that regional development is beneficial for everyone. As mentioned by the mayor of Frederikshavn: Birgit Hansen:

Frederikshavn is one of North Jutland's largest local governments, can you tell more about the governments growth and development strategy?

"(...) We must ensure - or we know - that we are a part of Denmark and therefore are we involved in BRN. Because we know that what is good for Aalborg, it is also good for Frederikshavn. And relations to having a mobile workforce, we can simultaneously pull some EU money home. So the whole strategy embraces all business and citizens. Because we have learned that together we will develop much better" (2.09)

The cooperation and establishment of BRN shows an understanding for burden sharing, as it can socialise involved partners to redefines their interests according to shared challenges.

The BRN and its social structure, also 'fit' with EU idea of cross-sectoral cooperation. Here EU has been catalyst for the development of shared norms, as involvement in EU-programs often force local governments into social structures and cooperation towards similar issues. As revealed by Hjørring's mayor Arne Boelt:

Do you feel a pressure from the EU that you need to work closer together?

"Well, we feel a pressure in relations to, where we must merge local governments; because they [The EU] demand that we must work together. Because, if you do not obtain a certain size, then you will not get into these EU projects. They do same with companies, where they want more companies to work together"

This pressure is recognised among the cases, as EU demands local governments to think more long-term and in partnership, in order be candidates for programs. The participation of cases in, e.g. BRN can lead to 'clustered' convergence, where the cases engage in partnership of shared norms and issues (Dyson, 2007: 419). The cases display similar political cultures and response to adaptation pressure, but

Europeanisation still has a differential impact, as strategies are associated with local issues.

The informal institutions and presence political consensus can explain the surprisingly shortage of veto-players and their possible effect on resisting change. The veto players seem to have been overcome by consensus elements and collectively understanding towards EU, where involvements in programs are politically beneficial.

However, as local politicians Anders Sørensen from Frederikshavn explains, the rational thinking of local politicians can be a barrier, as they are often more focused on re-election than involvement in long-term EU-policies. Here entrepreneurs can encounter resistance, because of veto players rationalist understanding towards own goals:

To what extent is there a difference between civil servants and politicians focused on the EU?

“(...) I think one of the mistakes is that you are not including politicians in these European networks, and therefore it does not become a political issue, but a only a officials task and where it is only officials, who are traveling to EU and talking to each other. Then, they agreed that it may be good idea, and when they come home to their local governments and talk with local politicians, then they forget the political aspect, because their proposal is local politically unpopular” (48.02)

However, even though veto players can be barriers for change; the respondents believed there generally exists are strong consensus culture at local level, where shared understandings towards appropriate behaviour removes barriers to EU-programs, as expressed by City Manager in Hjørring Tommy Christensen:

To what extent is there a difference between civil servants and politicians focused on the EU?

“It is my understanding – that in the working of local governments, the majority of the politicians have an introverted focus, because they discuss what we should do internally in Hjørring. But then we also have some politicians - this is primarily the mayor - who have the outward focus (...). They can obviously block [EU-policies], if they want to. But, I will say that Hjørring have a political understanding that's okay, because we aware that it important to look outwards and learn from others”

This political understanding is similar among the cases, whereby examples of veto players resisting change are low, as cases have developed strong informal- and formal structures.

This is based on a shared understanding towards ‘Europeanisation of local governments’ and how cooperative partnership attached to local traditionally arrangements are beneficial, not only to individual cases, but the whole region.

4.4 As EU policies and initiatives can create change at Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn – local governments are developing an EU-related portfolio of policy interests and preferences – therefore from a bottom-perspective the cases are driven by four motivations factors.

In this section, I will on the basis of described motivation factors - see section 2.1.5 - examine Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn own Europeanisation process, motives and consideration towards EU-involvement. The analysis is based on the above hypothesis.

The motivational factors display constitutive elements constructed at local government level and characterise their preferences and interests enhanced by own arrangements of political- and administrative structures. The factors drive EU activities and establishes local governments’ motivations to initiate Europeanisation,

whereby it can be said that without the factors, then no EU involvement³⁷ can materialise.

The cases reveal examples of the four motivational factors, which have shaped their arrangements towards EU-involvement. The factors initiation can overlap and operate simultaneously and interact with previous described mediating factors – see section 4.4.

The local governments have their own ambitions, i.e. projects displaying distinctive constellation of motivational factors and further contributes to each case individual profile. However, the cases do also present comparable motives and reflections in relations to motivations. The factors and how they interrelate will now be described:

4.4.1 Europe as problem solver

The socio-economic benefits accessible from funding and programs act as driving forces behind local government's outset to EU. The regional policy opportunities provided through EU-policies offers funding options and access to innovative networks, while EU programs utilise local processes of economic rearrangement and social change.

Europe is a 'problem solver', in the sense its regional policy provide the cases substantial funding, but also – and equally important – access to new methods of innovative ideas through international policy networks. The support from EU networks is mentioned by Frederikshavn City Manager Mikeal Jentsch:

³⁷EU-involvement refers to Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn activities in various EU programs. It contains the considerations and actions that local governments have made in the context of EU cooperation.

What opportunities the EU offers which you cannot find nationally?

“No, it is obvious EU offers new opportunities to learn and meet people, who we would not normally talk to. It's actually strange that when you go around in Europe, there are many places facing exactly the same challenges as us. And they have also given thought to how they would solve it and these are good places to visit. This is where EU offers opportunities - as opens a lot of doors, that before hard open. And it is crucial that we have gotten new partners across borders” (38.26)

My interviews show the opportunities provided by EU are important to officials and politicians, who are responsible for solving difficult local issues and subsequent needs to find the right solutions. Here EU opportunities from wide-ranging Structural Funds programs, to more small-scaled expertise focused networking projects, are becoming ever more important for the cases. As they embody new opportunities to boost additional economic and expertise resources.

As mentioned several times throughout the analytical chapter, the difficult financial reality facing Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn, has repeatedly been highlighted by respondents, as one of the most important reasons for local governments' allocating resources towards, EU as a problem solver.

Previous financial flexibility towards new 'experimental' projects, benefiting citizens and local businesses has increasingly been removed from local agendas and instead resources are concentrated around core welfare tasks. Instead Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn have to find alternative solutions to future problems. As reflected by Business Development consultant in Hjørring, Dorte Dietz:

What effect does the EU effect have on local governmental politics and problem-solving?

“[EU] it offers opportunities to do things that we otherwise could not – also because of course, it lies with our whole strategy. But in regards to money, they are not what it used to be. We have a very tight finance - and we are not even as critically scratched as other up here. But we have to priorities really tough - and as we cannot just turn up the tax etc - so it means 'the whipped cream' or the more exciting things. Well they must be almost entirely financed by EU”

The Europeanisation aspect is identified, as local governments reshape their arrangements to fund funding through a European outset. The EU opens new approaches to solving long-standing local issues, while facilitating a financial, social and political adaptation process.

In relations to modernisation restructuring, EU becomes are catalysts for developing local potential and to utilise own international ambitions by involving new policies and projects. The cases indicate that the EU activities in Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn correspond with EU as a support structure. As mentioned by Project leader in Frederikshavn; Poul Rask Nielsen

What role will EU have in the future development of Frederikshavn?

“If we maintain our four growth tracks and succeed in working with the EU Office towards getting more funding. Then you could said, our growth tracks matches 100% with those created and developed in the EU. So there is a good correlation between the programs the EU has and the needs we have in Frederikshavn. (...) Because there is not a mismatch between the things EU is doing and the demand we have. There exists complete synergy” (7.42)

The motivational factors mentioned, indicate a high degree of ‘fit’, between the prominent challenges confronting Frederikshavn and the solutions provided by EU. This point to a genuine ‘demand’ created by local governments and the useful ‘supply’ accessible by initiatives offered in a European context. While the cases might look to EU as a problem solver, the primary nexus is; only when EU-policies are beneficial for the local governments, will they try to permanently replace own arrangements, politics and strategies to EU involvement.

4.4.2 Europe as stage, profiling & identity building

The opportunities offered can be applied to proactively reorganise a local governments profile to construct a distinctive identity. In this section, I will consider whether Europeanisation opportunities can have an influence on local government’s motives for profiling and identity building.

The interviews suggest Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn are deliberately allocating resource to EU-involvement to reshape its international profile and create a certain 'profile'. The identity of 'international' or 'European' are significant pivot to reinvent local governments, as they are increasingly adapting to new challenges in their economic and political structure. The cases all describe a situation, where local businesses and increasing competition from abroad and nationally, are driving them into profile building in partnership with EU programs and networks. The EU opens doors, for local governments to evolve their strategies together with similar partners, as mentioned by City Manager Mikeal Jentsch:

What does Frederikshavn gain from being involved in a network?

"First of all, we benefits from being known in the system. It just gets much easier to move around in the system, when you are known as a credible partner (...) there are some programs and opportunities, partnerships, we now get invitation to, which we previously never got the chance to be a part of. This we do now" (39.26)

Developmental motives play a significant role, in cases commitments to the EU. In addition, to Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn viewing EU as a problem solver; it seems the profiling aspect is an added bonus, as 'to be known in the system' gives a boost to involvement in other beneficial programs.

The local respondents imply profiling, as an important aspect in efforts to obtain more funding – and especially access to – transnational networks. The rationalist aspect is evident, as cases orient themselves to possibilities of strengthening own position. The rationalist approach is reflected by Poul Rask, as Frederikshavn use EU to find partners and where profiling becomes an added bonus to its international strategy:

How significance is entrepreneurs for your EU engagement?

Regarding EU projects, I can see that - as for example with EnergyCity - that it – we have suddenly found some new 'playmates', as I would call it. Which I could not find here in Denmark - compared to what we are working with. Because, the other countries are sufficiently different so we so can get some inspiration. That is the best of it all. (12.30)

The involvement in EU programs is significant for local governments' social learning process, as Frederikshavn achieve gains from involvement in the EU-system. This is further elaborated by Poul Rask:

How significance is entrepreneurs for your EU engagement?

(...) We actually spent many resources to get on to the European stage, at the moment. I think, I have to go out and perform at a conference for the fourth time this year, where everything is paid. I believe that we are only asked to do this, if we have something to offer, but also because we are open to saying that internationalisation is important to us - not only to go out and dazzles ourselves - but because we know that those we meet at the conferences are relevant and interesting to us"

The interviews paint a picture, where local motives to maintain an EU-profiling, can be located in a rationalist understanding of governments awareness – which to a greater extent than previously - are comparable to understandings found in companies. Local governments are constantly seeking to develop, profit and optimise their services to local citizens. The respondents believe in the importance – and possible consequences - of increasing international competition, where the opportunity to participate in EU programs gives value, both to the cases themselves, but also to local companies getting exposure.

Here again, cases focus on local traditional strengths and seek to 'fit' them to a European context. This is seen in Aalborg, as it tries to utilise Aalborg University and incorporate its research to develop the city's international sustainable profile, while profiling the universities role in this development. As explained by Project Leader of SMART Aalborg, Jan Nielsen:

What does Aalborg gain from being involved in a network?

“[Euniversity-network³⁸] *In relations to EUniversity, it is interesting to find out what is it small and good universities can, what should they focus should be. And how do we exploit the situation and how do we exploit the university. How can the city capitalise on the situation, where there are a lots of students and researchers. This relation - if you do not grow it, then you cannot benefit from it. But when you work it, then we find out, who we really are and what it means*”

Aalborg – and also Hjørring and Frederikshavn – benefits from networks to gain innovative solutions and profile local businesses or institutions through involvement in EU-programs. The possibilities of exploiting a European stage, from a rationalist aspect is important for local governments’ to exposed particular local competences and show their best ‘practice’ in different fields.

4.4.3 Europe as alternative

Here local governments’ can use EU-policies to by-pas national frameworks. The cases can look to European solution, when national entities cannot provide suitable results and instead feels that EU can enhance their position or situation.

In this part, I will examine if local governments’ involvement in EU-policies can be characterised by desire to bypass the national state and improve their position, in domestic policy.

As mentioned in section 4.3 and reflected by majority of my respondents; it possible to conclude that EU-policies impact and interferences with local politics has little added value to the cases. On the other hand, local actors largely acknowledge the importance of shared European policies to protect small governments.

However, Hjørring presents a surprisingly adaptation to utilising EU opportunities as an alternative, to pressure the Danish government and create political awareness towards local political issues. This example, regards Hjørring resistance

against drilling and extraction of fracking³⁹, after the Danish Climate- and Environmental ministry in 2010 gave permission for exploration of oil and gas in Dybvad, Frederikshavn. The Danish government gave an ‘open-door produce’, where the applicant obtain exclusive license to prospect for gas. This permission also included Hjørring (Hjørring Kommune, 2015d).

The permission gave many frustrations – especially in Hjørring – as local actors felt neglected in the policy-process prior to approval. The local government wished to appeal to the European Commission, as it believed had not been consulted on the issue of drilling permits. A majority in Hjørring City Council sends an appeal to EU in 2015; on the basis that they did not believe the decision to permit fracking adhered to good governance (Nordjyske, 2015). This decision is mentioned by mayor, Arne Boelt:

Hjørring choose earlier this year [2015] to send a complaint to the European Commission, because of the belief that you had been informed in relations to the Danish government giving permission for fracking in North Jutland - Why did Hjørring choose to involve the EU in this matter?

“We held firm to a little hope, because all of our options were exhausted, and we could not get a proper answer from our own government, since they could not give a proper answer, but only a poor response. (...) But we found this little opening in relation to try and ask them down there [The EU]. This is not something Hjørring has used before, but this was a serious topic”

Even though, the appeal was not further pursued in a European context, the actual initiative to use European institutions to enhance a local government own domestic position, is very original in a Danish context as: *“In the Nordic consensus seeking democracies, where we are used to resolve conflicts amicably, rather than go to court, the EU system in many ways unfamiliar”* (Kelstrup et al., 2012: 242). Here, Europa as an alternative became a solution to compensate possible shortcomings descending from the Danish government and where explicit local issues, could be confronted in a national- and European context.

³⁹Fracking is an is a very controversial method for extracting natural gas from the underground. The method has met strong resistance, because it is believed it can cause environmental damage to local areas. (For more see: Ingeniøren, 2015)

The example shows local governments have more options, when they want to oppose legislations against own interest. This aligns with previous observations, where local governments increasingly view EU as an opportunity structure and involve themselves in an Europeanisation process by choice.

In relations to Hjørring, the political choice to involve a European institution in a national context is recognition of EUs political role, as mentioned by Tommy Christiansen:

Hjørring choose earlier this year [2015] to send a complaint to the European Commission, because of the belief that you had been informed in relations to the Danish government giving permission for fracking in North Jutland - Why did Hjørring choose to involve the EU in this matter?

“It was a political choice; from assessment on how to send the clearest political signal, because we through the process had been bad. There had been many talks among the state, politicians and parliament, because we felt absence of listening. So we asked ourselves, how we can make the most political noise – and this was by involving EU. As we are all ways keep aware, that we should involve the European Union. Because they are an essential part of Danish law”

The motivation is found in local governments’ wish, to enhance its position towards the Danish government, while the European structure is used to ‘protect’ local interest. This example shows Hjørring was prepared to accommodate the Danish governments and only EU as an extraordinary alternative to secure it rights.

4.5 The ‘depth’ to ‘Europeanisation of local governments’

Change in relations to Europeanisation can either be strong or weak. Therefore – and has described in section 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5 – I have distinguish between different degrees to ‘Europeanisation of local governments’ as to depict a scale of EU-level impact to change, resulting from cases involvement in programs and policies.

The classification scaled used is inspired by Börzel (2003) and her *Absorption, Accommodation or Transformation*. The classifications will only show a short comparative description and illustrations drawing on important main points from the case studies, as final conclusions, will be made in section 5. and 6.

Transformation *entitles that local governments replaces politics, practices and institutions with new and often different policies. Here the cases are changing pre-existing- or collective understanding to policies – here domestic change will be high.*

The respondents and evidences from the cases, show examples of comprehensive implementation of EU-policies or programs were infrequent. The Nature2000-programs in Frederikshavn display the only example of, definite ‘transformation’ introduced by EU-level policies. As Frederikshavn initiated an area-based program driven by funding opportunities to nature preservation, meant previous ‘fit’ turn to ‘misfit’ as allocation and discontinue of funding would drain on Frederikshavn own resources, if it choose to continue in the future. Here domestic change is high, as Frederikshavn experience high adaptation pressure to priorities a program in ‘misfit’ with own interests. This may force them to re-define arrangements to maintain the program.

In relations to Aalborg and Hjørring, the respondents expressed no evident indicating ‘transformation’. However, this is not to say similar examples do not exist, instead examples might be outside the political sphere of awareness in the two cases.

Accommodation: *Here local governments respond to pressure from EU-policy by adjusting policies, processes and institutions, but without adapting key features and collective understanding. Here new policies become attached to existing features, without altering them – here domestic change will be modest.*

This degree of classification describes the response from Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn adaptations to attached requirements from EU-programs. The 'fit' between local political strategies and programs, means cases deliberately engage in an Europeanisation process based on rationalist approach, as to strength own local ambitions through funding and innovative networks. The respondents gave clear indications of reshaping focus, to accommodate EU programs and to 'fit' local sphere of interest. This new feature to local governments was a step to avoid 'misfit' and instead find programs supporting local moderations process.

However, change is *modest*, as local governments only initiate an Europeanisation process, if it 'fits' with traditional local structures flexible enough to absorb new EU-policies to pre-existing features. This means local governments are positive set on partnership with EU, but only interested in engaging if solutions are suitable to local arrangements. This strategy is evident among the cases and indicates shared regional and sociological approach of understanding towards EU-programs.⁴⁰ However, this impact from EU-policies programs is also differential to each case, as retention to own ambitions, issues and future challenges differs. Therefore engagements in EU-programs are still chosen from a rationalist assessment to own issues.

Absorption: *local actors include EU-policies own features – without altering any practices, policies or structures – here domestic change will be low.*

Among the cases, respondents recognise that EU-policies have certain impact and altering effect on local structures and politics. The importance of shared European rules was highly appreciated, as they are beneficial to protect local interests from international competition.

⁴⁰ As further explain, in order to conclude regional reshaping of local strategies and collective understanding towards the EU – a more comprehensive case studies would be necessary, which inclusions of more local governments in North Jutland and more wide-ranging in other regions of Denmark. This would offer extensive classifications of 'Europeanisation of local governments' and demonstrate if this strategy is a general tendency.

The interviews show EU-policies often is outside local actors' interest sphere and respondents paid little attention to policies descending from a Danish- or European legislative, as local governments' are able to constantly adapt and absorb new policies to existing arrangements. Therefore, change is in most examples *low*, as local governments' are accustomed to incorporating policies into existing.

5. CONCLUSIONS

This thesis ends from where it started and agrees that “*the issue is no longer whether Europe matter, but how its matters (...)*” (Börzel & Risse, 2009: 4). With origins in experience made in relations to this thesis, I am in no doubt about the need and importance to study EU-policies impact on national, regional - and in my thesis - local arrangements.

I had a wish to contribute to an enhanced understanding of EU significance and impact on change to local government. The thesis was based on three wide-ranging aspects focusing on the complex relationships, between the EU and local governments and how EU-policies matters in an Europeanisation literature framework. Based on these aspects, I have constructed an inclusive problem formulation, containing three hypotheses and incorporating conceptual tools of *goodness of fit*, *mediating factors* and *motivations factors*. On the basis of these logics, I was able to create an analytical framework highlighting ‘Europeanisation of local governments’.

Before I make a *final conclusion* on Europeanisation impact on Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn, I will first present theoretical observations made in the thesis.

5.1 Theoretical implications

Based on the analytical chapter, vis-a-vis the degree of Europeanisation, it is necessary to derive some reflections on applied theoretical conceptual tools and methodology approach – described in chapter 2. and 3..

In the next, I will summaries main features of my thesis sub-hypotheses, i.e. conceptual tools in relations the empirical observations made. To test the sub-hypotheses, it is necessary to make *verifikation* and *flaksifikation*⁴¹ to confirm if applied conceptual tools were sufficient. With regards to theoretical verifying, I found Europeanisation concepts to be high interdisciplinary and non-static and where no common definition has emerged – for mere see section 2.1 - it therefore important to remember that verifying of theories should be seen, as an basis for further and subsequent research within ‘Europeanisation of local governments’.

Goodness of fit-hypothesis

‘Misfit’ between EU regulations and Aalborg-, Hjørring and Frederikshavn government settings creates domestic change.

Empirical observations

This thesis is able to confirm that ‘misfit’ is a necessary condition for change in local governments’. However, the concept as understood in general Europeanisation literature should be altered to support, the local political reality. The position of ‘adaptation pressure’ forcing cases to change local arrangements is questionable, as this pre-position is by no means static. The cases instead, showed significant ability to utilise and exploit ‘misfit’ to initiate a moderations process, through partnership with EU. Therefore *goodness of fit*-hypothesis cannot in its current stage, hold immediate or significant explanatory power, but needs to develop to sup-

⁴¹To verify if a hypothesis is true, where falsify an hypothesis is to show if it false. The two inter-relates and offers the possibility of creating a criteria for if a theoretical hypothesis can be considered sufficient in relations to the construct analysis – for more please see reference: Kommunikation AAU, 2007:2-6

port the dynamic relationship between EU-policies and local governments.

Results: This hypothesis can be *verified* (But, it needs to update its explanatory framework towards local governments')

Mediating factors-hypothesis

Europeanisation is a feedback to top-down EU policies and initiatives.

Empirical observations

The two strands of institutionalism - rationalist and sociological - and mediating factors filtering of Europeanisation are important to support and examine local political culture towards EU. The hypothesis could offer an understanding to why Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn contain a shared culture and how similarities – and dissimilarities – interplay.

However, rationalist and sociological has some constraints and have difficulties in explaining, how mediating factors evolved and what this implies to their specific identity. Here *historical institutionalism*⁴² would have been able to interrelate and explain the local institutions development from an historical perspective. This would have given a more comprehensive picture of Europeanisation evolving relationship with local governments' – both in an historical and current perspective.

However, the two strands applied made a positive link to the *goodness of fit*-hypothesis, as these two logics could explain change through local actors' empowerment of own positions or engaging in social learning processes – both logics has to a certain extent been identified.

⁴²Here historical institutionalism is able to explain actor's identities and preferences to show how institutions develop. This development can either occur slowly or rapidly depending on change i.e. EU-policies can intersect with existing local institutions. For more please see Cowles, et al, (2001:2), Vink & Graziano, (2007:13) and Featherstone, (2003: 13)

Results: This hypothesis can be *verified* (But, additional research should include historical institutionalism to create a more comprehensive picture of ‘Europeanisation of local governments’)

Motivations factors-hypothesis

As EU policies and initiatives can create change at Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn.

Empirical observations

The motivational factors were introduced to offer an alternative approach to observe local governments’ reasons – from a bottom-perspective - to be involved in an Europeanisation process. The factors describe and support main points from *goodness of fit*- and *mediating factors* hypotheses, as it show local governments engage in EU-programs to develop local arrangements and exploit European opportunities.

More factors could have been useful, as *Europe as problem solver*, *Europe as stage, profiling & identity building* and *Europe as alternative*, all cover similar motives, i.e. local governments’ development motivations through funding and innovative network. Here an additional factor could include EU-related activities in local governments to be a simple response to EU-level process, through domestic rules. As local governments are important implementation institutions, they are daily confronted with EU-legalisations translated to domestic rules. Here local governments could experience and develop a ‘natural’ EU-portfolio – not necessarily based on rational or sociological motives – but instead a slow process where local governments are unable to avoid European rules and therefore adapt accordingly.

Results: This hypothesis can be *verified* (However, more factors should be involved to create an inclusive framework involving motives outside rationalist- and sociological logics)

6. FINAL CONCLUSION

The thesis was based on a desire to make a comprehensive understanding of 'Europeanisation of local governments', i.e. EU-level policies impact on selected cases: Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn.

To create an explanatory framework, I wanted to establish an explanatory framework from the ensuring problem formulation:

How does Europeanisation impact domestic change in Aalborg-, Hjørring and Frederikshavn?

Based on the analysis in chapter 4 - and in relations to theoretical conceptual tools - the problem formulation has located a relatively clear and consistent pattern in the case studies. It can be concluded that Europeanisation or EU-policies has a strong impact and transferring adaptation pressures on local governments' arrangements. The Europeanisation process was identified at different levels that can be described as:

Throughout the thesis, I have referred to 'Europeanisation of local governments' as recognition of the wide-ranging relationship, between Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn and EU-policies. It was entailed that EU-matters on a legislative and political level, where EU interacts and influence 47% of local governments agendas.

However, the case show local actors did not experience a specific adaptation pressure, as would be expected from a traditional Europeanisation literature perceptive. Instead EU-policies were often outside local actors' interest sphere and there exist few examples of policy- or institutional misfit. Instead, the case studies suggest local governments' voluntarily and deliberately select to initiate an Europeanisation process, as to benefit from opportunities linked to EU-programs. The presence of shared political consensus and reshaping of strategies - where local governments exploits the policy fit and misfit between ambitions, traditional strengths

and shared EU goals - was utilised to introduce new processes of moderations and where cases deliberately reshaped of structures.

Misfit only became an issue, when local governments' engaged in EU programs outside own interests. Here cases are forced to change priorities against own motivations to satisfy European goals.

This shift in political awareness towards EU-policies was mainly initiated and driven, by the presence of entrepreneurs - i.e. official and politicians - who viewed EU on the basis of development and knowledge. The understanding towards EU has been significantly strengthened in Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn through the establishment of BRN and advocacy-networks, where local governments' can share similar interests and develop the EU partnership.

Lastly, motivational factors displayed constitutive elements constructed at local governments' level and characterised their preferences towards EU-involvement. Here, the cases looked to EU to compensate for the deficiencies from a nation context, whether it is financial support, innovative network opportunities or protection of local interests.

In comparison to previous Europeanisation literature arguments, the interaction between local governments' and EU is much more dynamic than previously estimated. The case studies show a political willingness to engage in an international environment and where Aalborg, Hjørring and Frederikshavn have initiated a process to find a balance, between own strengths and European opportunities. The interaction and Europeanisation process will increasingly develop, as a local governments' becomes more entangled in EU-policies.

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ANNEX 1.0

This annex contains interviews guides made in relations to conducted talks with local-officials and politicians. For an overview of respondents, please see Annex 2.0, page xx.

In order to meet the local respondents and give them a better understanding of my thesis, the interview guides were made in Danish. This also applies to the conducted interviews.

The subsequent sample guides in **Danish** guides are:

- NOTAT: Interviewguide NordDanmark EU-Kontor (see page, 103)
- NOTAT: Interviewguide BRN: Business Region North (see page, 106)
- NOTAT: Interviewguide Aalborg Kommune (see page, 109)
- NOTAT: Interviewguide Hjørring Kommune (see page, 112)
- NOTAT: Interviewguide Frederikshavn Kommune (see page, 117)

NOTAT

Europæisering af nordjyske kommuner – Interviewguide til NordDanmark EU-kontor

Formålet med specialet er at undersøge 'europæisering af nordjyske kommuner, heriblandt hvordan EU politiske- og økonomiske initiativer skaber forandring i den kommunale administrative- og politiske struktur og praktisk.

På denne baggrund har specialet udvalgt tre cases: Aalborg-, Hjørring- og Frederikshavn kommune, som undersøges ud fra følgende punkter:

- 1) At afklar forholdet mellem EU og nordjyske kommuner, herved at undersøge Aalborg, Hjørring og Frederikshavn motivation for at engagere sig i Europæiske politiske- og økonomiske initiativer.
- 2) Specialet anvender 'europæiseringsteorier' til at belyse forandringer, skabt i kommunale forhold pga. indflydelse fra EU.
- 3) Evaluerer betydningen af 'EU-politikker' for nordjyske kommuner.

De tre perspektiver skaber en analytisk ramme, som undersøger om EU skaber forandring på lokalt plan og hvordan nordjyske kommuner evt. tilpasser sig og engagerer sig i Europa.

Specialet udarbejder en analyse af nævnte cases, hvor kommunernes strategier, erfaringer og oplevelser med EU-politikker, sammenlignes for at skabe et samlet billede.

Derudover har specialet valgt at inddrage 'sub-cases', altså elementer som er vigtige for kommunernes samarbejde og forståelse af EU, her kan nævnes: *NordDenmark EU-kontor*, *Business Region North Denmark* og *Kommunernes Landsforening*

Rammer og indhold i interviewet:

Den følgende interviewguide angiver de hovedtemaer, som jeg gerne vil komme ind på under interviewet, og som interviewet vil være struktureret efter. Jeg vil spørge ind til vurderinger og holdninger i forhold til temaerne undervejs i interviewet, der former sig som en dialog om emnerne.

Der er mange emner, og jeg forventer ikke at nå lige grundigt omkring dem alle sammen. Men jeg lægger vægt på, at interviewene inden for denne ramme afspejler det, som optager interviewpersonen mest.

Interviewet kræver ikke nogen særlig forberedelse udover almindelig refleksion over temaerne.

Interviewet vil ligeledes blevet *optaget* og udtalelser refereret til under mit speciale – dernæst, vil optagelsen af interviewet blive vedlagt som bilag.

Interviewguide:

Interviewspørgsmål	Evt. uddybende spørgsmål
<p>Briefing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jeg præsenterer mig selv og hovedpunkter i mit speciale. - Interviewet optages på diktafon. Opgaven vil <i>ikke</i> indeholde en transskription og interview kan blive slettet, hvis dette ønskes. - Formålet med interviewet: At opnå viden omkring kommunernes motivation for at deltage/engagere sig i EU politiske- og økonomiske initiativer. Samt indblik i kommunernes interne arbejdsprocesser og synspunkter. - Dine udtalelser vil blive anonymiseret i det omfang du/I ønsker det. - Hvis der er spørgsmål undervejs i interviewet som du/I ikke ønsker at svare på er dette naturligvis i orden. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Skal dit/jeres navn anonymiseres? - Må jeg skrive din/jeres arbejdsplads navn?
<p>Informanten (Opvarmning)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kan du/I fortælle lidt om din/jeres baggrund, uddannelse og erhvervserfaring? 	
<p>Generelt om NordDanmark EU-kontors arbejde:</p> <p>Kan du/I fortælle om de typer opgaver I fuldfører for kommunerne og virksomheder?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvordan samarbejder I med kommunerne? - Kan I forklare processen fra en kommune kontakter jer til evt. EU-finansiering eller lignende? <p>Hvordan fungerer samarbejdet mellem EU-kontoret og kommunerne, ud fra jeres erfaringer?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvordan er rolle- /opgave fordelingen? - Hvordan koordineres jeres arbejde? Hvilke kommunale afdelinger samarbejder I med? - Hvordan vurderer du/I at EU-kontoret bliver opfattet i kommunerne? - Har kommunernes opfattelse/indblik i jeres arbejde ændret sig? - Ifølge jeres erfaringer, er kommunerne blevet bedre til at inddrage jer, når de skal løse egne problemstillinger? - Hvordan samarbejder I med andre organisationer? (Her tænkes bl.a. på Business Region North Denmark) <p>EU-kontoret og BRN har i partnerskab med Region Nordjylland, kommunerne og virksomheder, skabt 'Fundraising Forum' til fordel for projektudviklingssystem – Kan I fortælle mere om projektet?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvad er dens formål - Hvilken rolle har Nordjyske kommunerne i projektet? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvordan ser kommunerne, jer som samarbejdspartner til at opnå egne mål/strategier? - Her tænkes der bl.a. på om EU-kontoret anses som et supplement til kommunerne eget arbejde?
<p>Nordjyske kommunernes forhold til EU</p> <p>Hvilke udfordringer/opgaver kan du/I fornemme kommunerne er mest optaget af?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Har disse udfordringer/opgaver ændret sig? - Ifølge dine/jeres erfaringer, er kommunerne blevet bedre til at 'løse' disse problemstillinger? 	

<p>Ifølge jeres erfaringer, er nordjyske kommuner blevet mere EU-orienteret?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvor stor know-how har kommunerne om EU og dens muligheder? - Ifølge dine/jeres erfaringer; hvor vigtig er EU for kommunernes opgaveløsning? (<i>Her tænkes både på det økonomiske- og politiske område</i>) - Er nogen nordjyske kommuner bedre til at inddrage EU-løsninger end andre? (<i>Med EU-løsninger, tænkes der bl.a. funding muligheder/netværk</i>) - Ifølge dine/jeres erfaringer; hvordan adskiller kommunernes interesse i EU? (<i>Her tænkes bl.a. på Aalborg, Hjørring og Frederikshavn kommune</i>) - I hvilken grad bruger kommunerne, EU som et økonomisk redskab til at opnå egne målsætninger? - Ifølge dine/jeres erfaringer, er kommunerne blevet bedre til at inddrage EU-kontoret, når de skal løse problemstillinger? <p>Ifølge jeres årsrapport 2014, så har NordDanmark EU-kontor deltaget i flere store kommunale udviklingsprojekter – som ‘Holdbar Løsning’ i Hjørring Kommune. Er kommunerne blevet bedre til at samarbejde på tværs af kommune grænser om fælles problemstillinger?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvilken udvikling er der sket i samarbejde mellem lokale virksomheder og kommunerne, i bestræbelserne på at løse fælles lokale problemstillinger? - Har EU fået en større rolle, når kommunerne skal løse fremtidige opgaver? - Hvilken rolle kommer EU til at spille i fremtiden, for udviklingen af nordjyske kommuner? <p>InterReg er et EU initiativ som skal øge samarbejde over landegrænser om fælles projekter – Nordjylland er dækket af Øresundsområdet og Kattegat-Skagerrak. – Kan I fortælle mere om projektet?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvad er dens formål? - Hvilken rolle har nordjyske kommuner i projektet? <p>Hvilken opfattelse har I af kommunernes administrative- og generel opgaveløsning af EU-problemstillinger? (<i>Her tænkes bl.a. på indarbejdelsen af direktiver og EU-lovgivning</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ifølge dine/jeres erfaringer; hvilke syn har kommunerne på EU? (<i>Som samarbejdspartner eller ”modstander”</i>) - Har EU givet flere muligheder til kommunerne, når de skal løse opgaver? <p>Ifølge jeres årsrapport fra 2014, så har EU-kontoret fået større fokus på interessevaretagelse/lobbyisme – hvorfor har I ændret fokus?</p> <p>Ifølge dine/jeres erfaringer; Hvilken status har lokale aktører i EU systemet? Spiller de en større eller mindre rolle?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvilken status har nordjyske kommuner i EU? - Er EU blevet bedre til at varetage lokale interessere? Heriblandt kommunernes? - Hvor vigtige er EU’s netværk for kommuner? - Hvilken indflydelse har EU på kommunerne? (<i>Her tænkes bl.a. på det økonomiske- og politisk område?</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvilket fokus har Aalborg på EU’ - Hvilket fokus har Hjørring på EU? - Hvilket fokus har Frederikshavn på EU? - Er lokale virksomheder medvirkende til, at kommunerne har fået mere fokus på EU?
<p>Debriefing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Må jeg kontakte dig/jer efterfølgende, hvis jeg kommer på nogle yderligere/opfølgende spørgsmål? - Tusind tak fordi du ville medvirke i vores projekt. 	

NOTAT

Europæisering af Nordjyske kommuner – Interviewguide til Business Region North Danmark: BRN

Formålet med specialet er at undersøge 'europæisering af nordjyske kommuner, heriblandt hvordan EU politiske- og økonomiske initiativer skaber forandring i den kommunale administrative- og politiske struktur og praktisk.

På denne baggrund har specialet udvalgt tre cases: Aalborg-, Hjørring- og Frederikshavn kommune, som undersøges ud fra følgende punkter:

- 4) At afklar forholdet mellem EU og nordjyske kommuner, herved at undersøge Aalborg, Hjørring og Frederikshavn motivation for at engagere sig i Europæiske politiske- og økonomiske initiativer.
- 5) Specialet anvender 'europæiseringsteorier' til at belyse forandringer, skabt i kommunale forhold pga. indflydelse fra EU.
- 6) Evaluerer betydningen af 'EU-politikker' for nordjyske kommuner.

De tre perspektiver skaber en analytisk ramme, som undersøger om EU skaber forandring på lokalt plan og hvordan nordjyske kommuner evt. tilpasser sig og engagerer sig i Europa.

Specialet udarbejder en analyse af nævnte cases, hvor kommunernes strategier, erfaringer og oplevelser med EU-politikker, sammenlignes for at skabe et samlet billede.

Derudover har specialet valgt at inddrage 'sub-cases', altså elementer som er vigtige for kommunernes samarbejde og forståelse af EU, her kan nævnes: *NordDenmark EU-kontor*, *Business Region North Denmark* og *Kommunernes Landsforening*

Rammer og indhold i interviewet:

Den følgende interviewguide angiver de hovedtemaer, som jeg gerne vil komme ind på under interviewet, og som interviewet vil være struktureret efter. Jeg vil spørge ind til vurderinger og holdninger i forhold til temaanterne undervejs i interviewet, der former sig som en dialog om emnerne.

Der er mange emner, og jeg forventer ikke at nå lige grundigt omkring dem alle sammen. Men jeg lægger vægt på, at interviewene inden for denne ramme afspejler det, som optager interviewpersonen mest.

Interviewet kræver ikke nogen særlig forberedelse udover almindelig refleksion over temaerne.

Interviewet vil ligeledes blevet *optaget* og udtalelser refereret til under mit speciale – dernæst, vil optagelsen af interviewet blive vedlagt som bilag.

Interviewguide:

Interviewspørgsmål	Evt. uddybende spørgsmål
<p>Briefing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jeg præsenterer mig selv og hovedpunkter i mit speciale. - Interviewet optages på diktafon. Opgaven vil ikke indeholde en transskription og interview kan blive slettet, hvis dette ønskes. - Formålet med interviewet: At opnå viden omkring kommunernes motivation for at deltage/engagere sig i EU politiske- og økonomiske initiativer. Samt indblik i kommunernes interne arbejdsprocesser og synspunkter. - Dine udtalelser vil blive anonymiseret i det omfang du/I ønsker det. - Hvis der er spørgsmål undervejs i interviewet som du/I ikke ønsker at svare på er dette naturligvis i orden. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Skal dit/jeres navn anonymiseres? - Må jeg skrive din/jeres kommunes navn?
<p>Informanten (Opvarmning)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kan du/I fortælle lidt om din/jeres baggrund, uddannelse og erhvervserfaring? 	
<p>Generelt om Business Region North Denmark: BRN:</p> <p>BRN er et relativt nyt nordjysk projekt, kan du/I fortælle lidt om jeres arbejde og visioner? <i>(Her tænkes bl.a. på jeres Internationalt samarbejdes område)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kan du/I fortælle lidt mere om de opgaver I fuldfører for kommunerne og virksomheder? - Hvordan samarbejder I med kommunerne? <p>Hvordan fungerer samarbejdet mellem BRN og kommunerne, ud fra jeres erfaringer?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvordan er rolle- /opgave fordelingen? - Hvordan koordineres jeres arbejde? Hvilke kommunale afdelinger samarbejder I med? - Hvordan vurderer du/I at BRN bliver opfattet i kommunerne? - Ifølge dine/jeres erfaringer, er kommunerne blevet bedre til at inddrage jer, når de skal løse problemstillinger? - Hvordan samarbejder I med andre organisationer? <i>(Her tænkes bl.a. på Nord-Denmark EU-kontor)</i> <p>BRN og EU-kontoret har i partnerskab med Region Nordjylland, kommunerne og virksomheder, skabt 'Fundraising Forum' til fordel for projektudviklingssystem – Kan I fortælle mere om projektet?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvad er dens formål - Hvilken rolle har nordjyske kommuner i projektet? 	
<p>Nordjyske kommunernes forhold til EU</p> <p>Hvilke udfordringer/opgaver kan I fornemme kommunerne er mest optaget af?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Har disse udfordringer/opgaver ændret sig? - Ifølge jeres erfaringer, er kommunerne blevet bedre til at 'løse' disse problemstillinger? <p>Ifølge jeres erfaringer, er Nordjyske kommunerne blevet mere EU-orienteret?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvor stor know-how har kommunerne om EU og dens muligheder? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvilket fokus har Aalborg på EU' - Hvilket fokus har Hjør-

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NOTAT

Europæisering af Nordjyske kommuner – Interviewguide til Aalborg Kommune

Formålet med specialet er at undersøge 'europæisering af nordjyske kommuner', heriblandt hvordan EU politiske- og økonomiske initiativer skaber forandring i den kommunale administrative- og politiske struktur og praktisk.

På denne baggrund har specialet udvalgt tre cases: Aalborg-, Hjørring- og Frederikshavn kommune, som undersøges ud fra følgende punkter:

- 7) At afklar forholdet mellem EU og Nordjyske kommuner og undersøge Aalborg, Hjørring og Frederikshavn motivation for at engagere sig i Europæiske politiske- og økonomiske initiativer.
- 8) At anvende europæiseringsteorier til at belyse forandringer, skabt i kommunale forhold pga. indflydelse fra EU.
- 9) Evaluerer betydningen af 'EU-politikker' for Nordjyske kommuner.

De tre perspektiver skaber en analytisk ramme, som undersøger om EU skaber forandring på lokalt plan og hvordan Nordjyske kommuner evt. tilpasser sig og engagerer sig i Europa.

Specialet udarbejder en analyse af nævnte cases, hvor kommunernes strategier, erfaringer og oplevelser med EU-politikker, sammenlignes for at skabe et samlet billede.

Derudover har specialet valgt at inddrage 'sub-cases', altså elementer som er vigtige for kommunernes daglige arbejde og forståelse af EU, her kan nævnes: *NordDenmark EU-kontor*, *Business Region North Denmark* og *Kommunernes Landsforening*

Rammer og indhold i interviewet:

Den følgende interviewguide angiver de hovedtemaer, som jeg gerne vil komme ind på under interviewet, og som interviewet vil være struktureret efter. Jeg vil spørge ind til vurderinger og holdninger i forhold til temaanerne undervejs i interviewet, der former sig som en dialog om emnerne.

Der er mange emner, og jeg forventer ikke at nå lige grundigt omkring dem alle sammen. Men jeg lægger vægt på, at interviewene inden for denne ramme afspejler det, som optager interviewpersonen mest.

Interviewet kræver ikke nogen særlig forberedelse udover almindelig refleksion over temaerne.

Interviewet vil ligeledes blevet *optaget* og udtalelser refereret til under mit speciale – dernæst, vil optagelsen af interviewet blive vedlagt som bilag.

Interviewguide:

Interviewspørgsmål	Evt. Uddybende spørgsmål
<p>Briefing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jeg præsenterer mig selv og hovedpunkterne i mit speciale. - Interviewet optages på diktafon. Mit speciale vil ikke indeholde en transskription og interviewet kan blive slettet, hvis dette ønskes. - Formålet med interviewet: At opnå viden omkring EU indflydelse og kommunernes motivation for at deltage/engagere sig i EU's politiske- og økonomiske initiativer. - Dine udtalelser vil blive anonymiseret i det omfang du/I ønsker det. - Hvis der er spørgsmål undervejs i interviewet som du/I ikke ønsker at svare på er dette naturligvis i orden. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Skal dit/jeres navn anonymiseres? - Må jeg skrive din/jeres kommunes navn?
<p>Informanten (Opvarmning)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kan du/I fortælle lidt om din/jeres baggrund, uddannelse og erhvervs erfaring? 	
<p>Generelt om Aalborg Kommune</p> <p>Aalborg er Nordjylland største kommuner, kan du/I fortælle lidt om kommunens nuværende vækst- og udviklingsstrategi?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvilke udviklingsområder har Aalborg Kommune særlig fokus på? - Kan du/I fortælle lidt om den udvikling som Aalborg Kommune er inde i? - Hvilke projekter arbejder Aalborg Kommune på i øjeblikket? - Hvilke udfordringer står Aalborg Kommune foran i fremtiden? <p>Nordjyllands kommuner har to fælles partnerskaber: Business Region North Danmark: BRN og NordDanmark EU-kontor – begge partnerskaber arbejder bl.a. på at øge EU-samarbejdet -Hvordan er Aalborg Kommune engageret i disse projekter?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvordan koordineres jeres samarbejde? Hvilke kommunale afdelinger varetager sådan samarbejdet. - I hvor høj grad inddrager I BRN, når I skal løse egne problemstillinger? - I hvor høj grad inddrager I EU-kontoret, når I skal løse egne problemstillinger? - Hvordan administreres EU-kontakten i Aalborg Kommune? - Hvilke erfaringer har I med at samarbejde med BRN? - Hvilke erfaringer har I med at samarbejde med EU-kontoret? <p>Aalborg Kommunes forhold til EU:</p> <p>Ifølge Aalborg kommune hjemmeside, så har I gode erfaringer med at deltage i EU-programmer og ønsker at udvide partnerskabet – Hvor stor know-how har kommunen om EU og dens muligheder?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ifølge din/jeres erfaringer; hvor vigtig er EU for Aalborg Kommunes opgaveløsning? (Her tænkes både på det økonomiske- og politiske område) - Ifølge din/jeres erfaringer; hvilket syn har Aalborg Kommune på EU? (Evt. som samarbejdspartner eller "modstander") - I hvor høj grad inddrager I EU, når der skal løses kommunale opgaver? (Med EU-løsninger, tænkes der bl.a. finansierings muligheder) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Har disse udfordringer/opgaver ændret sig?

<p>der/netværk)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I hvilken grad bruger Aalborg Kommune, EU som et økonomisk redskab til at opnå egne målsætninger? - Ifølge jeres erfaringer, har EU fået en større rolle, når kommuner skal løse nuværende/fremtidige opgaver? - Hvilken rolle kommer EU til at spille i fremtiden for udviklingen af Aalborg- og Nordjyske kommuner? - Hvordan bliver EU indarbejdet i kommunens udviklings- og vækst strategier? - Har Aalborg Kommune har indgået samarbejde med andre lokale kommuner omkring fælles projekter? (Både i Nordjylland og andre steder i Europa) <p>Aalborg har med 'SMART Aalborg' startet et initiativ der skal gøre byen mere smart, digital og bæredygtig. – Hvorfor har Aalborg Kommune valgt at indgå i partnerskab med EU omkring dette initiativ?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvordan vil du/I karakteriser Aalborg Kommune samarbejde med EU omkring dette projekt? - Har Aalborg Kommune måtte ændre prioriteringer for at deltage i projektet? - Hvilken rolle har EU i dette projekt? - Har I mødt nogen problematikker i deltagelse af sådan programmer? - Hvad får Aalborg Kommune ud af at deltage i sådan programmer? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kan du/I nævne opgaver, hvor I har inddraget EU? - Hvis ja: hvilke projekter og hvad var deres formål? - Hvilken rolle har EU haft i et evt. samarbejde? - Er der andre projekter, som har været/er påvirket af EU?
<p>Mismatch og påvirkning mellem EU og kommunerne</p> <p>Ifølge KL, så fylder EU-lovgivning ca. 47% på dagsordenen i lokale kommuner. I hvilket omfang oplever Aalborg Kommune 'politisk' eller 'institutionelt' fit eller misfit⁴³ fra EU-lovgivning og processer?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvordan bliver Aalborg Kommune 'politiske' udfordret af policies med EU oprindelse? - Hvilke politiske og administrative områder oplever I mest 'pres' for at indføre ændringer (Her tænkes f.eks. på miljø-, planlægning-, udbudsområdet?) - Hvilken indvirkning/påvirkning har EU-lovgivning på de kommunale områder? - Hvilket område oplever I mest 'pres' fra EU? - Hvor stor indsigt har Aalborg Kommune, omkring de politiske og lovgivningsmæssige forhold, som sker i Bruxelles og hvordan de evt. kan påvirke jeres kommune? - I hvor stort omfang er EU i stand til at ændre på kommunale politiske områder? <p>Policy 'fit' eller 'misfit'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvor afhængig er Aalborg Kommune af evt. EU-lovgivning, når I skal forfølge egen målsætning? (F.eks. på miljø- eller indkøbs- og udbudspolitisk område) - Hvordan håndter embedsmænd / politikere i Aalborg Kommune evt. 'misfit' / problemer med EU-lovgivning? - Føler I jer i stand til at påvirke EU-lovgivning? <p>Institutionelt 'fit' eller 'misfit'⁴⁴</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvordan opleves dette 'pres' fra EU i kommunerne? - I hvilke politiske områder er dette tydeligst? - Og i så fald, hvilke områ-

⁴³ Graden af 'fit' eller 'misfit', defineres som hhv. overensstemmelse og uoverensstemmelse, som karakteriserer omfanget af det forandringspres, som integrationen i EU skaber for eks. Nordjyske kommuner.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvor vigtig er EU-samarbejdet for Aalborg Kommune? - Har EU været i stand til at påvirke på jeres rutiner, praksisser, orienteringer og prioriteringer? - Hvilke administrative kapaciteter har I til at håndtere EU-samarbejdet? 	<p>der har I måtte ændre rutiner og praksisser?</p>
<p>Kommunernes motivations for at engagere sig i EU</p> <p>Europa som problemløser:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ifølge jeres erfaringer, hvilke muligheder tilbyder eks. EU – som ikke kan findes via. nationale løsninger på Christiansborg? - Er danske kommuner blevet mere orienteret mod muligheder i Europa? - Hvordan bliver EU inddraget, hvis/når Aalborg Kommune skal løse en evt. problemstilling? - Har du/I kendskab til de forskellige regionale og lokale politiske netværk som eksisterer i EU-regi? <p>EU Funding programmer opstiller en række kriterier og krav til evt. ansøger for at modtage finansieringsstøtte til projekter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Har Aalborg Kommune i forbindelse med en ansøgning om støtte ændret på egne prioriteringer for at opnå støtte? <p>Europa som en udstillingsplatform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Har Aalborg Kommune gjort brug af EU som en udstillingsplatform / branding mulighed for at tiltrække mulige projekter og erhvervsliv? - Har I haft held med at tiltrække nye projekter, samarbejdspartner eller erhverv igennem partnerskab med EU? <p>Ifølge jeres erfaringer; Hvilken status har lokale aktører i EU systemet? Spiller de en større eller mindre rolle?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvilken status har Nordjyske kommuner i EU? - Er EU blevet bedre til at varetage lokale interessere? Heriblandt kommunernes? - Hvor vigtige er EU's netværk for kommuner? - Hvilken indflydelse har EU på kommunerne? (Her tænkes bl.a. på det økonomiske- og politisk område?) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvis ja: I hvor grad gør Aalborg Kommune brug af disse netværk? - Hvilke erfaringer har I med brugen af disse netværk? - Hvis nej: hvorfor gør Frederikshavn kommune ikke brug af disse netværk?
<p>Debriefing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Må jeg kontakte dig/er efterfølgende, hvis jeg kommer på nogle yderligere/opfølgende spørgsmål? - Tusind tak fordi du ville medvirke i vores projekt. 	

⁴⁴ Institutionelt 'misfit' antyder, hvordan EU kan påvirke kommunale rutiner, praksisser og orienteringer

NOTAT

Europæisering af Nordjyske kommuner – Interviewguide til Hjørring Kommune

Formålet med specialet er at undersøge 'europæisering af nordjyske kommuner', heriblandt hvordan EU politiske- og økonomiske initiativer skaber forandring i den kommunale administrative- og politiske struktur og praktisk.

På denne baggrund har specialet udvalgt tre cases: Aalborg-, Hjørring- og Frederikshavn kommune, som undersøges ud fra følgende punkter:

- 10) At afklar forholdet mellem EU og Nordjyske kommuner og undersøge Aalborg, Hjørring og Frederikshavn motivation for at engagere sig i Europæiske politiske- og økonomiske initiativer.
- 11) At anvende europæiseringsteorier til at belyse forandringer, skabt i kommunale forhold pga. indflydelse fra EU.
- 12) Evaluerer betydningen af 'EU-politikker' for Nordjyske kommuner.

De tre perspektiver skaber en analytisk ramme, som undersøger om EU skaber forandring på lokalt plan og hvordan Nordjyske kommuner evt. tilpasser sig og engagerer sig i Europa.

Specialet udarbejder en analyse af nævnte cases, hvor kommunernes strategier, erfaringer og oplevelser med EU-politikker, sammenlignes for at skabe et samlet billede.

Derudover har specialet valgt at inddrage 'sub-cases', altså elementer som er vigtige for kommunernes daglige arbejde og forståelse af EU, her kan nævnes: *NordDenmark EU-kontor*, *Business Region North Denmark* og *Kommunernes Landsforening*

Rammer og indhold i interviewet:

Den følgende interviewguide angiver de hovedtemaer, som jeg gerne vil komme ind på under interviewet, og som interviewet vil være struktureret efter. Jeg vil spørge ind til vurderinger og holdninger i forhold til temaanterne undervejs i interviewet, der former sig som en dialog om emnerne.

Der er mange emner, og jeg forventer ikke at nå lige grundigt omkring dem alle sammen. Men jeg lægger vægt på, at interviewene inden for denne ramme afspejler det, som optager interviewpersonen mest.

Interviewet kræver ikke nogen særlig forberedelse udover almindelig refleksion over temaerne.

Interviewet vil ligeledes blevet *optaget* og udtalelser refereret til under mit speciale – dernæst, vil optagelsen af interviewet blive vedlagt som bilag.

Interviewguide:

Interviewspørgsmål	Evt. Uddybende spørgsmål
<p>Briefing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jeg præsenterer mig selv og hovedpunkterne i mit speciale. - Interviewet optages på diktafon. Mit speciale vil ikke indeholde en transskription og interviewet kan blive slettet, hvis dette ønskes. - Formålet med interviewet: At opnå viden omkring EU indflydelse og kommunernes motivation for at deltage/engagere sig i EU's politiske- og økonomiske initiativer. - Dine udtalelser vil blive anonymiseret i det omfang du/I ønsker det. - Hvis der er spørgsmål undervejs i interviewet som du/I ikke ønsker at svare på er dette naturligvis i orden. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Skal dit/jeres navn anonymiseres? - Må jeg skrive din/jeres kommunes navn?
<p>Informanten (Opvarmning)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kan du/I fortælle lidt om din/jeres baggrund, uddannelse og erhvervs erfaring? 	
<p>Generelt om Hjørring kommune</p> <p>Hjørring er en af Nordjylland største kommuner, kan du/I fortælle lidt om kommunens nuværende vækst- og udviklingsstrategi?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvilke udviklingsområder har Hjørring Kommune særlig fokus på? - Kan du/I fortælle lidt om den udvikling som Hjørring Kommune er inde i? - Hvilke projekter arbejder Hjørring Kommune på i øjeblikket? - Hvilke udfordringer står Hjørring Kommune foran i fremtiden? <p>Nordjyllands kommuner har to fælles partnerskaber: Business Region North Danmark: BRN og NordDanmark EU-kontor – begge partnerskaber arbejder bl.a. på at øge EU-samarbejdet -Hvordan er Hjørring Kommune engageret i disse projekter?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvordan koordineres jeres samarbejde? Hvilke kommunale afdelinger varetager sådan samarbejdet. - I hvor høj grad inddrager I BRN, når I skal løse egne problemstillinger? - I hvor høj grad inddrager I EU-kontoret, når I skal løse egne problemstillinger? - Hvordan administreres EU-kontakten i Hjørring Kommune? - Hvilke erfaringer har I med at samarbejde med BRN? - Hvilke erfaringer har I med at samarbejde med EU-kontoret? <p>Hjørring Kommunes forhold til EU:</p> <p>I samarbejde med NordDanmark EU-kontor, så har Hjørring Kommune kommet med i EU's InterReg-program om at inddrage borger i grønomstilling – projektet hedder 'Holdbar Udvikling'. Hvor stor know-how har kommunen om EU og dens muligheder?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvorfor har Hjørring Kommune valgt at inddrage EU til at løse denne opgave? - Ifølge din/jeres erfaringer; hvor vigtig er EU for Hjørring Kommunes opgaveløsning? (Her tænkes både på det økonomiske- og politiske område) - Ifølge din/jeres erfaringer; hvilket syn har Hjørring Kommune på 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Har disse udfordringer/opgaver ændret sig?

<p>EU? (Evt. som samarbejdspartner eller "modstander")</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I hvor høj grad inddrager I EU, når der skal løses kommunale opgaver? (Med EU-løsninger, tænkes der bl.a. finansierings muligheder/netværk) - I hvilken grad bruger Hjørring Kommune, EU som et økonomisk redskab til at opnå egne målsætninger? - Hvilken rolle kommer EU til at spille i fremtiden for udviklingen af Hjørring- og Nordjyske kommuner? - Hvordan bliver EU indarbejdet i kommunens udviklings- og vækst strategier? <p>Hjørring Kommune valgte tidligere på året at sende en klage til EU Kommissionen, fordi man ikke mente man var blevet orienteret eller inddraget, da den danske stat gav tilladelse til skifergas i Nordjylland</p> <p>- Hvorfor valgte Hjørring Kommune at inddrage EU i sagen?⁴⁵</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvilken rolle mener I EU har i denne sag? - Hvad håber Hjørring Kommune at opnå ved at sende en klage til EU-Kommissionen? - Ifølge jeres erfaringer, har EU fået en større rolle, når kommuner skal løse nuværende/fremtidige opgaver? - Ifølge jeres erfaringer, hvilke muligheder tilbyder eks. EU – som ikke kan findes via. nationale løsninger på Christiansborg? - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kan du/I nævne opgaver, hvor I har inddraget EU? - Er der andre projekter, som har været/er påvirket af EU?
<p>Mismatch og påvirkning mellem EU og kommunerne</p> <p>Ifølge KL, så fylder EU-lovgivning ca. 47% på dagsordenen i lokale kommuner. I hvilket omfang oplever Hjørring Kommune 'politisk' eller 'institutionelt' fit eller misfit⁴⁶ fra EU-lovgivning og processer?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvordan bliver Hjørring Kommune 'politiske' udfordret af policies med EU oprindelse? - Hvilke politiske og administrative områder oplever I mest 'pres' for at indføre ændringer (Her tænkes f.eks. på miljø-, planlægning-, udbudsområdet?) - Hvilken indvirkning/påvirkning har EU-lovgivning på de kommunale områder? - Hvilket område oplever I mest 'pres' fra EU? - Hvor stor indsigt har Hjørring Kommune, omkring de politiske og lovgivningsmæssige forhold, som sker i Bruxelles og hvordan de evt. kan påvirke jeres kommune? - I hvor stort omfang er EU i stand til at ændre på kommunale politiske områder? <p>Policy 'fit' eller 'misfit'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvor afhængig er Hjørring Kommune af evt. EU-lovgivning, når I skal forfølge egen målsætning? (F.eks. på miljø- eller indkøbs- og 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvordan opleves dette 'pres' fra EU i kommunerne? - I hvilke politiske områder er dette tydeligst?

⁴⁵ <http://nordjyske.dk/nyheder/hjoerring-klager-til-eu-over-skifergas-ja/048f75ec-1d64-444e-a61a-eb947963bdf7/112/1513>

⁴⁶ Graden af 'fit' eller 'misfit', defineres som hhv. overensstemmelse og uoverensstemmelse, som karakteriserer omfanget af det forandringspres, som integrationen i EU skaber for eks. Nordjyske kommuner.

<p>udbudspolitisk område)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvordan håndter embedsmænd / politikere i Hjørring Kommune evt. 'misfit' / problemer med EU-lovgivning? - Føler I jer i stand til at påvirke EU-lovgivning? <p>Institutionelt 'fit' eller 'misfit'⁴⁷</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvor vigtig er EU-samarbejdet for Hjørring Kommune? - Har EU været i stand til at påvirke på jeres rutiner, praksisser, orienteringer og prioriteringer? - Hvilke administrative kapaciteter har I til at håndtere EU-samarbejdet? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Og i så fald, hvilke områder har I måtte ændre rutiner og praksisser? -
<p>Kommunernes motivations for at engagere sig i EU</p> <p>Europa som problemløser:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Er danske kommuner blevet mere orienteret mod muligheder i Europa? - Hvordan bliver EU inddraget, hvis/når Hjørring Kommune skal løse en evt. problemstilling? - Har du/I kendskab til de forskellige regionale og lokale politiske netværk som eksisterer i EU-regi? <p>EU Funding programmer opstiller en række kriterier og krav til evt. ansøger for at modtage finansieringsstøtte til projekter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Har Hjørring Kommune i forbindelse med en ansøgning om støtte ændret på egne prioriteringer for at opnå støtte? <p>Europa som en udstillingsplatform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Har Hjørring Kommune gjort brug af EU som en udstillingsplatform / branding mulighed for at tiltrække mulige projekter og erhvervsliv? - Har I haft held med at tiltrække nye projekter, samarbejdspartner eller erhverv igennem partnerskab med EU? <p>Ifølge jeres erfaringer; Hvilken status har lokale aktører i EU systemet? Spiller de en større eller mindre rolle?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvilken status har Nordjyske kommuner i EU? - Er EU blevet bedre til at varetage lokale interessere? Heriblandt kommunernes? - Hvor vigtige er EU's netværk for kommuner? - Hvilken indflydelse har EU på kommunerne? (Her tænkes bl.a. på det økonomiske- og politisk område?) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvis ja: I hvor grad gør Hjørring Kommune brug af disse netværk? - Hvilke erfaringer har I med brugen af disse netværk? - Hvis nej: hvorfor gør Hjørring Kommune ikke brug af disse netværk?
<p>Debriefing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Må jeg kontakte dig/ jer efterfølgende, hvis jeg kommer på nogle yderligere/opfølgende spørgsmål? - Tusind tak fordi du ville medvirke i vores projekt. 	

⁴⁷ Institutionelt 'misfit' antyder, hvordan EU kan påvirke kommunale rutiner, praksisser og orienteringer

NOTAT

Europæisering af Nordjyske kommuner – Interviewguide til Frederikshavn Kommune

Formålet med specialet er at undersøge 'europæisering af nordjyske kommuner', heriblandt hvordan EU politiske- og økonomiske initiativer skaber forandring i den kommunale administrative- og politiske struktur og praktisk.

På denne baggrund har specialet udvalgt tre cases: Aalborg-, Hjørring- og Frederikshavn kommune, som undersøges ud fra følgende punkter:

- 13) At afklar forholdet mellem EU og Nordjyske kommuner og undersøge Aalborg, Hjørring og Frederikshavn motivation for at engagere sig i Europæiske politiske- og økonomiske initiativer.
- 14) At anvende europæiseringsteorier til at belyse forandringer, skabt i kommunale forhold pga. indflydelse fra EU.
- 15) Evaluerer betydningen af 'EU-politikker' for Nordjyske kommuner.

De tre perspektiver skaber en analytisk ramme, som undersøger om EU skaber forandring på lokalt plan og hvordan Nordjyske kommuner evt. tilpasser sig og engagerer sig i Europa.

Specialet udarbejder en analyse af nævnte cases, hvor kommunernes strategier, erfaringer og oplevelser med EU-politikker, sammenlignes for at skabe et samlet billede.

Derudover har specialet valgt at inddrage 'sub-cases', altså elementer som er vigtige for kommunernes daglige arbejde og forståelse af EU, her kan nævnes: *NordDenmark EU-kontor*, *Business Region North Denmark* og *Kommunernes Landsforening*

Rammer og indhold i interviewet:

Den følgende interviewguide angiver de hovedtemaer, som jeg gerne vil komme ind på under interviewet, og som interviewet vil være struktureret efter. Jeg vil spørge ind til vurderinger og holdninger i forhold til temaanerne undervejs i interviewet, der former sig som en dialog om emnerne.

Der er mange emner, og jeg forventer ikke at nå lige grundigt omkring dem alle sammen. Men jeg lægger vægt på, at interviewene inden for denne ramme afspejler det, som optager interviewpersonen mest.

Interviewet kræver ikke nogen særlig forberedelse udover almindelig refleksion over temaerne.

Interviewet vil ligeledes blevet *optaget* og udtalelser refereret til under mit speciale – dernæst, vil optagelsen af interviewet blive vedlagt som bilag.

Interviewguide:

Interviewspørgsmål	Evt. Uddybende spørgsmål
<p>Briefing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jeg præsenterer mig selv og hovedpunkterne i mit speciale. - Interviewet optages på diktafon. Mit speciale vil ikke indeholde en transskription og interviewet kan blive slettet, hvis dette ønskes. - Formålet med interviewet: At opnå viden omkring EU indflydelse og kommunernes motivation for at deltage/engagere sig i EU's politiske- og økonomiske initiativer. - Dine udtalelser vil blive anonymiseret i det omfang du/I ønsker det. - Hvis der er spørgsmål undervejs i interviewet som du/I ikke ønsker at svare på er dette naturligvis i orden. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Skal dit/jeres navn anonymiseres? - Må jeg skrive din/jeres kommunes navn?
<p>Informanten (Opvarmning)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kan du/I fortælle lidt om din/jeres baggrund, uddannelse og erhvervserfaring? 	
<p>Generelt om Frederikshavn kommune</p> <p>Frederikshavn er en af Nordjylland største kommuner, kan du/I fortælle lidt om kommunens nuværende vækst- og udviklingsstrategi?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvilke udviklingsområder har Frederikshavn Kommune særlig fokus på? - Kan du/I fortælle lidt om den udvikling som Frederikshavn Kommune er inde i? - Hvilke projekter arbejder Frederikshavn Kommune på i øjeblikket? - Hvilke udfordringer står Frederikshavn Kommune foran i fremtiden? <p>Nordjyllands kommuner har to fælles partnerskaber: Business Region North Danmark: BRN og NordDanmark EU-kontor – begge partnerskaber arbejder bl.a. på at øge EU-samarbejdet -Hvordan er Frederikshavn Kommune engageret i disse projekter?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvordan er rolle- /opgave fordelingen? - Hvordan koordineres jeres samarbejde? Hvilke kommunale afdelinger varetager sådan samarbejdet. - I hvor høj grad inddrager I BRN, når I skal løse egne problemstillinger? - I hvor høj grad inddrager I EU-kontoret, når I skal løse egne problemstillinger? - Hvordan administreres EU-kontakten i Frederikshavn Kommune? - Hvilke erfaringer har I med at samarbejde med BRN? - Hvilke erfaringer har I med at samarbejde med EU-kontoret? <p>Frederikshavn Kommunes forhold til EU:</p> <p>Ifølge Frederikshavns 'Internationale strategi', så arbejder kommunen for at have et internationalt engagement og udsyn – Hvor stor know-how har kommunen om EU og dens muligheder?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ifølge din/jeres erfaringer; hvor vigtig er EU for Frederikshavn Kommune opgaveløsning? (Her tænkes både på det økonomiske- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Har disse udfordringer/opgaver ændret sig?

<p>og politiske område)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ifølge din/jeres erfaringer; hvilket syn har Frederikshavn Kommune på EU? (Evt. som samarbejdspartner eller "modstander") - I hvor høj grad inddrager I EU, når der skal løses kommunale opgaver? (Med EU-løsninger, tænkes der bl.a. finansierings muligheder/netværk) - I hvilken grad bruger Frederikshavn Kommune, EU som et økonomisk redskab til at opnå egne målsætninger? - Ifølge jeres erfaringer, har EU fået en større rolle, når kommuner skal løse nuværende/fremtidige opgaver? - Hvilken rolle kommer EU til at spille i fremtiden for udviklingen af Frederikshavn- og Nordjyske kommuner? - Hvordan bliver EU indarbejdet i kommunens udviklings- og vækst strategier? - Har Frederikshavn kommune indgået samarbejde med andre kommuner angående fælles projekter? (både i Nordjylland og andre steder i Europa) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kan du/I nævne opgaver, hvor I har inddraget EU? - Hvis ja: hvilke projekter og hvad var deres formål? - Hvilken rolle har EU haft i et evt. samarbejde?
<p>Mismatch og påvirkning mellem EU og kommunerne</p> <p>Ifølge KL, så fylder EU-lovgivning ca. 47% på dagsordenen i lokale kommuner. I hvilket omfang oplever Frederikshavn kommune 'politisk' eller 'institutionelt' fit eller misfit⁴⁸ fra EU-lovgivning og processer?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvordan bliver Frederikshavn Kommune 'politiske' udfordret af policies med EU oprindelse? - Hvilke politiske og administrative områder oplever I mest 'pres' for at indføre ændringer (Her tænkes f.eks. på miljø-, planlægning-, udbudsområdet?) - Hvilken indvirkning/påvirkning har EU-lovgivning på de kommunale områder? - Hvilket område oplever I mest 'pres' fra EU? - Hvor stor indsigt har Frederikshavn Kommune, omkring de politiske og lovgivningsmæssige forhold, som sker i Bruxelles og hvordan de evt. kan påvirke jeres kommune? - I hvor stort omfang er EU i stand til at ændre på kommunale politiske områder? - <p>Policy 'fit' eller 'misfit'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvor afhængig er Frederikshavn Kommune af evt. EU-lovgivning, når I skal forfølge egen målsætning? (F.eks. på miljø- eller indkøbs- og udbudspolitisk område) - Hvordan håndter embedsmænd / politikere i Frederikshavn kommune evt. 'misfit' / problemer med EU-lovgivning? - Føler I jer i stand til at påvirke EU-lovgivning? <p>Institutionelt 'fit' eller 'misfit'⁴⁹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvor vigtig er EU-samarbejdet for Frederikshavn Kommune? - Har EU været i stand til at påvirke på jeres rutiner, praksisser, ori- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvordan opleves dette 'pres' fra EU i kommunerne? - I hvilke politiske områder er dette tydeligst? - Og i så fald, hvilke områder har I måtte ændre ru-

⁴⁸ Graden af 'fit' eller 'misfit', defineres som hhv. overensstemmelse og uoverensstemmelse, som karakteriserer omfanget af det forandringspres, som integrationen i EU skaber for eks. Nordjyske kommuner.

⁴⁹ Institutionelt 'misfit' antyder, hvordan EU kan påvirke kommunale rutiner, praksisser og orienteringer

<p>enteringer og prioriteringer?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvilke administrative kapaciteter har I til at håndtere EU-samarbejdet? <p>Frederikshavn har netop indviet en større havneudvidelse, som er et væsentligt omdrejningspunkt for kommunen. – Har EU været involveret i projektet? (Her tænkes f.eks. på finansiering eller politiske muligheder)</p> <p>Frederikshavn kommune har med EnergyCity sat sig nogle ambitiøse mål om at omlægge tre byer til 100% vedvarende energi i 2015. – Har EU været involveret i projektet?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvilken rolle har EU i dette projekt? - Hvordan vil du/I karakteriser Frederikshavn Kommune samarbejde med EU omkring dette projekt? - Har Frederikshavn Kommune måtte ændre prioriteringer for at deltage i projektet? - Har I mødt nogen problematikker i deltagelse af sådan programmer? - Hvad får Frederikshavn Kommune ud af at deltage i sådan programmer? 	<p>tioner og praksisser?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvis ja; på hvilken måde og hvilken rolle havde EU i projektet? - Hvis nej; hvorfor har EU ikke været involveret og har I oplevet problemer med evt. EU-politikker? - Er der andre projekter, som har været/er påvirket af EU?
<p>Kommunernes motivations for at engagere sig i EU</p> <p>Europa som problemløser:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ifølge jeres erfaringer, hvilke muligheder tilbyder eks. EU – som ikke kan findes via. nationale løsninger på Christiansborg? - Er danske kommuner blevet mere orienteret mod muligheder i Europa? - Hvordan bliver EU inddraget, hvis/når Frederikshavn kommune skal løse en evt. problemstilling? - Har du/I kendskab til de forskellige regionale og lokale politiske netværk som eksisterer i EU-regi? <p>EU Funding programmer opstiller en række kriterier og krav til evt. ansøger for at modtage finansieringsstøtte til projekter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Har Frederikshavn Kommune i forbindelse med en ansøgning om støtte ændret på egne prioriteringer for at opnå støtte? <p>Europa som en udstillingsplatform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Har Frederikshavn Kommune gjort brug af EU som en udstillingsplatform / branding mulighed for at tiltrække mulige projekter og erhvervsliv? - Har I haft held med at tiltrække nye projekter, samarbejdspartner eller erhverv igennem partnerskab med EU? <p>Ifølge jeres erfaringer; Hvilken status har lokale aktører i EU systemet? Spiller de en større eller mindre rolle?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvilken status har Nordjyske kommuner i EU? - Er EU blevet bedre til at varetage lokale interessere? Heriblandt kommunernes? - Hvor vigtige er EU's netværk for kommuner? - Hvilken indflydelse har EU på kommunerne? (Her tænkes bl.a. på det økonomiske- og politisk område?) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hvis ja: I hvor grad gør Frederikshavn Kommune brug af disse netværk? - Hvilke erfaringer har I med brugen af disse netværk? - Hvis nej: hvorfor gør Frederikshavn Kommune ikke brug af disse netværk?
<p>Debriefing:</p> <p>Må jeg kontakte dig/er efterfølgende, hvis jeg kommer på nogle</p>	

yderligere/opfølgende spørgsmål?	
- Tusind tak fordi du ville medvirke i vores projekt.	

ANNEX 2.0

This annex will contain an overview of respondents. Here I will present their work-place, name and position.

NorthDenmark EU-Office

Benjamin Holst	Director
Christina Knudsen	Project coach

BRN: Business Region North Denmark

Vibeke Stroustrup	BRN Secretariat / Head of Department
Christina Knudsen	Project coach

Aalborg

Hans Henrik Henriksen	Chairman in City & Planning Management
Lasse Puertas Navarro Olsen	Chairman in Environment & Energy Management
Jens Kristian Munk	City Manager
Søren Gais Kjeldsen	Director in Environment & Energy Management
Jan Peter Nielsen	Project Manager for SMART Aalborg

Hjørring

Arne Boelt	Mayor
Tommy Christiansen	City Manager
Martin Berg Nielsen	Project Manager for 'Holdbar Udvikling'
Dorte Wolbye Dietz	Project leader for Business Development

Frederikshavn

Birgit S. Hansen	Mayor
Anders Brandt Sørensen	Chairman in Planning & Environment Management
Mikeal Jentsch	City Manager
Poul Rask Nielsen	Project leader for EnergyCity Frederikshavn