



# **ANALYSIS**

**The relation between EU and the Danish Municipalities**

KL - Local Government Denmark analyzed in 2014 the relations between the European Union and the Danish municipalities. The analysis examined EU influence on the municipalities as authorities and as employers. Overall the analysis shows a large degree of connection between the EU and the Danish municipalities – both as *authorities* and as *employers*.

The following contains:

1. Analysis of EU influence on the municipalities as authorities
2. Analysis of EU influence on the municipalities as employers
3. Methods

## 1. EU influence on the municipalities as authorities

40 municipal council agendas from 10 Danish municipalities (2 from each of the 5 regions, 1 large and 1 smaller municipality) were analyzed. The analysis showed that the EU affects almost 50 % of the agenda items in the Danish municipal councils.

427 of the 907 surveyed municipal council agenda items are affected by EU. Hence 47 % of the agenda items were under EU influence.

Figure 1

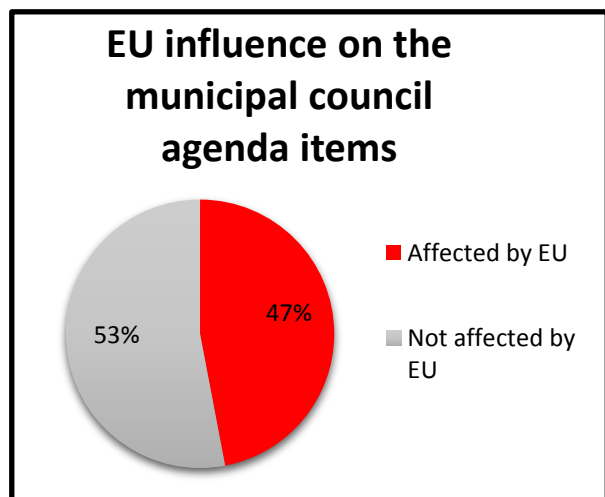


Figure 1 shows that the EU affects approx. 47 % of the items on the agendas in the Danish municipal councils.

Figure 2

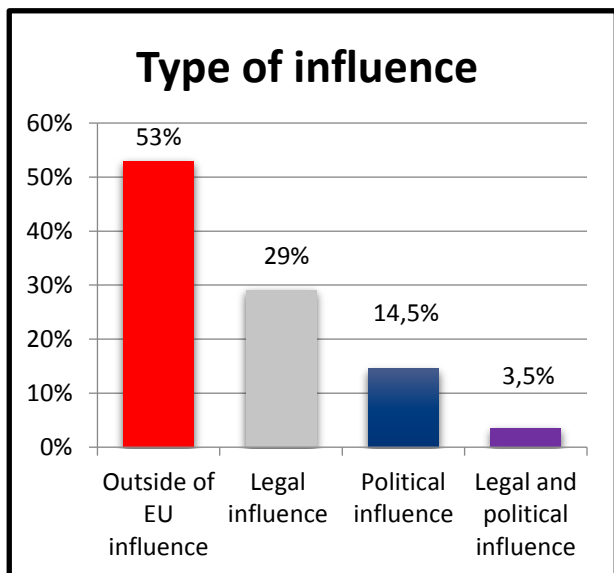


Figure 2 shows the type of influence.

EU has legal influence on 29 % of the agenda items and political influence on 14.5 % of the items. 3.5 % agenda items are under both legal and political influence.

The analysis distinguishes between legal and political EU influence. The analysis shows that the largest part of EU influence on the municipalities is legal influence in the form of EU regulation/directives. Especially areas like environment, waste and competition are affected legally by EU.

The political EU influence covers EU agreements or objectives that Denmark is bound to or is trying to achieve. EU agreements set the framework for how the municipalities perform certain tasks. Education, health, social inclusion etc. are influenced politically by EU.

## 1.2 EU's legal influence on the Danish municipalities

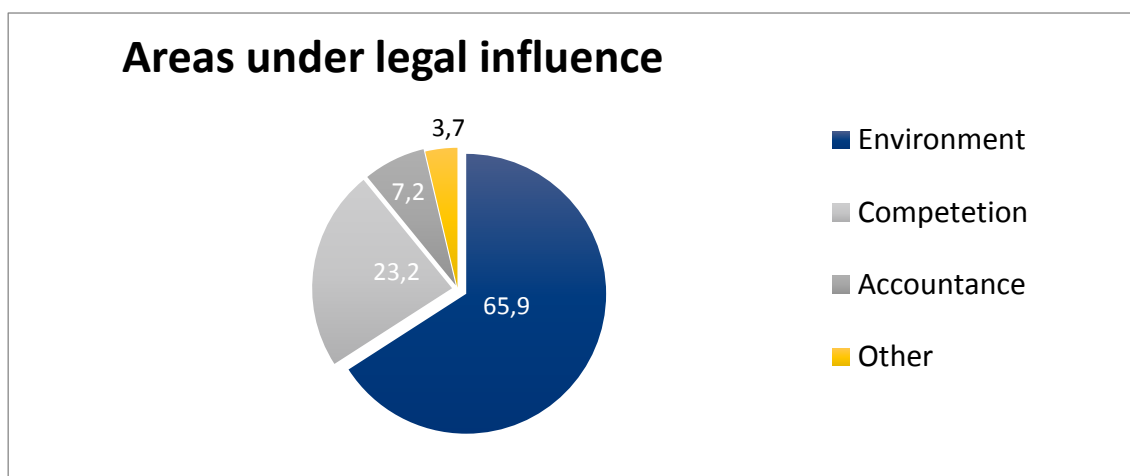
*29 % of the municipal agenda items are legally influenced by the EU.*

The EU has legal influence on a variety of areas of municipal relevance.

EU legislation decides how the municipalities manage specific tasks. This is exemplified by the public procurement directive that decides the procedures, thresholds and rules for public procurement, the procedures for Environmental Impact Assessments and drinking water quality that must apply to EU standards.

Particularly the areas of environment and competition are subject to EU legal influence. The distribution of the different areas of EU legal impact is shown in figure 3.

**Figure 3**



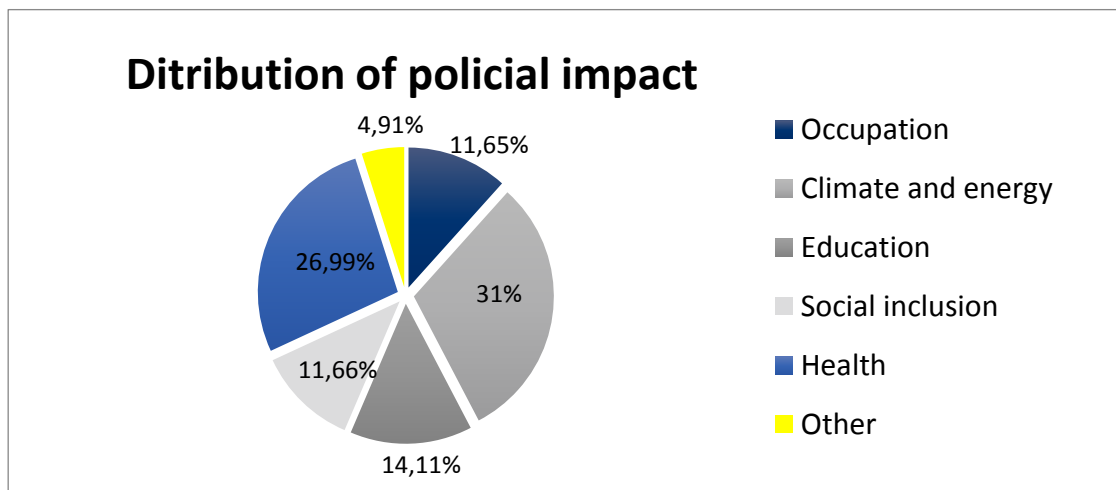
## 1.3 EU's political impact on the Danish municipalities

*14.5 % of the municipal agenda items are politically influence by the EU.*

The political impact contains EU policies, objectives and benchmarks. EU formulates different overall policies that are transformed into Danish national goals and strategies, which also sets the framework for the municipalities and their tasks. This is illustrated in EU recommendations and reports that affect the national plans and influences the municipalities – particularly through the EU2020-strategy.

Education, social affairs and climate are examples of municipal areas where decisions at European level have an impact on the municipal council's policy decisions. For example if a municipality is to implement specific initiatives because of the overall European objectives in areas such as education. The distribution of the different areas under political impact from the EU is shown in figure 4.

Figure 4



#### 1.4 2011 Analysis

KL - Local Government Denmark made the same analysis in 2011 that showed similar results.

The 2011 analysis showed that 51 % of the items on the agendas were under EU influence. 32 % of the items were legally influenced and 19 % were politically influenced.

## 2. EU's influence on the municipalities as employers

The analysis showed that 41 % of the Danish labor market law is based on either one or several EU directives (Figure 5). It also showed that 33 % of the municipal collective labor agreements that are bargained between KL - Local Government Denmark and the labour unions are based on an EU-directive or an EU framework agreement (Figure 6).

Figure 5

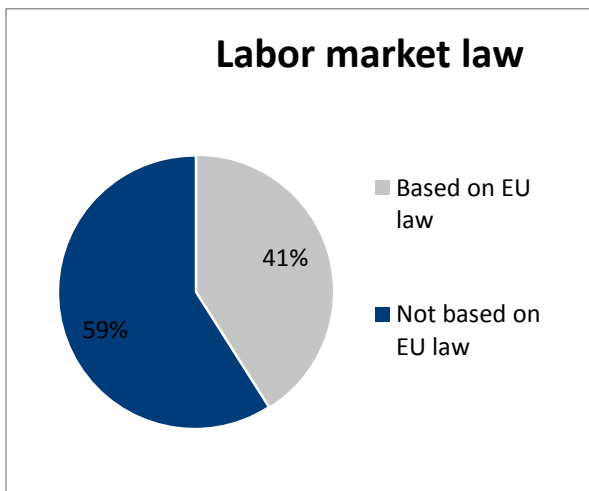
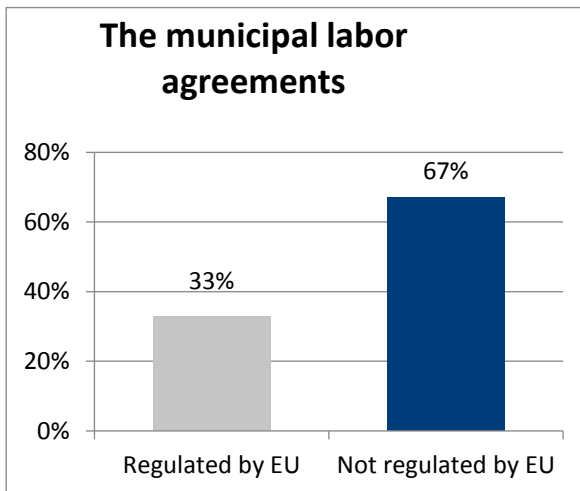


Figure 6



### 2.1 EU influence on Danish labor law

In Denmark 70 laws are regulating the labour market (not including consolidation acts), of which 29 are based on an EU-directive. Hence 41 % of the Danish labor law is based on several directives (figure 5).

Especially rules of employment are regulated by EU directives. E.g. maternity leave, employment contracts, working-time rules, holiday etc.

### 2.2 EU influence on the municipal labor agreements

The collective labor agreements that KL - Local Government Denmark bargain as employer's association on behalf of the Danish municipalities with the labour unions are also affected by EU.

The analysis shows that of 33 agreements 13 of them are based on either an EU directive or a framework agreement. Hence 39 % of the municipal collective labor agreements are based on and regulated by EU directives or EU framework agreements.

### **3.Methods**

The analysis examined a total of 40 municipal agendas from 10 Danish municipalities. There were selected 2 municipalities (one big and one small) from each of Denmark's 5 regions. The analysis examined municipal council agendas in 2013, one from each season. A total of 907 agenda items were analyzed.

EU influence on municipalities as employers was analyzed in two ways:

- A review of "The Labor market rules 2014" that contains national and international employment laws, rules and agreements.
- A review of the collective agreements that KL – Local Government Denmark has bargained and agreed on with labour unions.