

Fact sheet – basic data

What is basic data?

Basic data is fundamental information included in day-to-day case processing by the authorities. Basic data is especially important because it is used again and again across the entire public sector. It may be data about people (e.g. Civil Registration System number), companies (business registration number), addresses, real properties (e.g. cadastral numbers) and geography (e.g. digital maps and electoral constituencies) etc. Basic data can contain personal data which is and will be protected by the Act on Processing of Personal Data.

What is basic data used for?

Basic data is the foundation enabling the authorities to carry out their tasks correctly. Not least because an ever greater number of tasks has to be performed digitally and across units, administrations and sectors. Public authorities use basic data for many different tasks: collecting land tax, paying social benefits, planning climate change adaptation, for emergency services, etc.

What is the basic data initiative about?

Basic data is to be the public sector's high-quality common administrative foundation, which is efficiently updated at one single site and used by the authorities, individuals and private businesses. From 2013-16 efforts will in general deal with the following:

1. Basic data made freely available for all

From 1 January 2013, individuals, public authorities and private businesses will have free access to retrieve and use basic data from a number of registers (within the framework of the Act on Processing of Personal Data).

2. A total of nine registers will be improved and expanded up to 2015:

The Central Business Register, the Business Register, the Cadastre, the Danish Building and Dwelling Register, the Danish administrative and geographical boundaries, the Danish Elevation Model as well as the Place Name and Information Register. Furthermore, map data will also be included as basic data and a completely new register, the Register of Property Owners, will be established.

What are the advantages of freely available and improved basic data?

Open and improved basic data will create more value throughout society:

- *The authorities'* administration will be modernised
 - Less costs for administration and to buy data from other authorities
 - Efficiency improvements of about DKK 260 mill. per year from 2020
- *Businesses* will have less red tape to deal with and better opportunities for growth

- Less costs to buy data from the public authorities
- Better opportunities to develop new digital services and products
- *Individuals* will experience better public services
 - Fewer reports and notifications when forms in online self-service solutions are filled in automatically with the relevant and fully updated basic data.

What will happen technically?

- The basic data in all registers will be harmonised and converted to the same technical format. This will make it possible to combine data in different registers.
- More information will be added to the basic data registers so that they better support public administration processes.
- A common infrastructure will be established for stable and efficient distribution of public-sector data. Basic data will be distributed via a common public-sector technical solution; the Data Distributor. This will make the administration of the basic data registers easier and more efficient.

How is basic data administrated today?

Both the authorities and businesses spend vast sums every year on buying and administrating basic data. If the rights to public-sector data are too complex or too rigid, some authorities decide to collect the information themselves instead. This double registration is inefficient, expensive and increases risks of errors because the information is not necessarily updated at all places. Private enterprises also need basic data for their business or to further develop and sell their products, and therefore they have to buy information from the public authorities.

Financial benefits from open basic data

Once the initiative has been completely phased in, in 2020, there are expected savings for the public sector of about DKK 250 mill. per year as a result of lower administration costs.

Net effect – DKK mill.	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Mnistries	-108	-81	-50	-26	3	9	29	42
Municipalities	-24	24	79	143	165	169	174	175
Regions	1	11	23	33	43	43	43	43
Total effect for the public sector	-131	-45	52	149	211	221	246	260

With regard to the private sector, it has been assessed that the initiative may create returns of up to DKK 0.5 bn. In future businesses will no longer have to submit the same information to the public sector several times over, or spend resources on buying public data. Furthermore there is considerable growth and innovation potential because companies can easily and cheaply test an idea and ‘refine’ the digital raw material in open public-sector data into new products. It is expected

that, among others, the real estate and insurance sectors, the financial sector, telecommunications companies, GPS producers and entrepreneurs will benefit from the better and open basic data.

Even though basic data is freely available for everyone, of course it will still cost the public authorities to produce, maintain and quality-assure the basic data. Therefore financing basic data will be reorganised so that the authorities contribute to basic data via their appropriations (ministries) or block grant (municipalities).

Good basic data for everyone is part of the common public-sector digitisation strategy for 2011 to 2015 (eGOVERNMENT strategy 2011-2015), adopted by the government, Local Government Denmark and Danish Regions.