

HIA of a Danish policy document on closing down the ghetto areas

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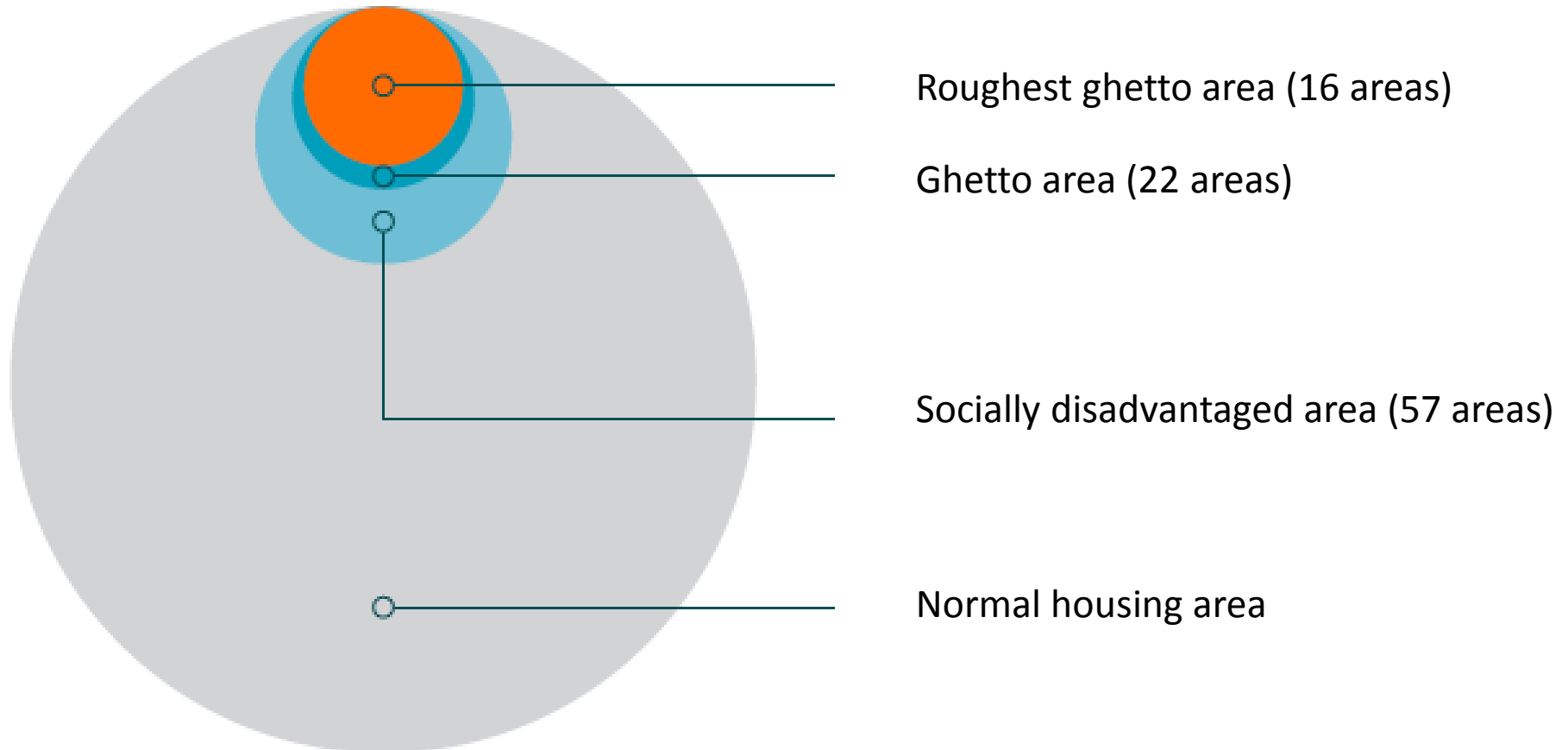
Context and objectives

- A rapid equity oriented health impact assessment of a policy document **Denmark: A *country of no ghettos in 2030?*** in one of identified ghetto areas
- Assess potential health impacts of the policy

One Denmark without parallel societies: No Ghettos in 2030

- Governmental policy, spring 2018
- Criteria for socially disadvantaged areas and ghettos:
 1. more than 50 % of residents are immigrants or descendants from non-Western countries,
 2. more than 40 % of residents off the labour market,
 3. more than 2,70 % of the residents are convicted,
 4. more than 60 % of residents (30-59 years old) only have primary school or less as their highest educational level, and
 5. the average income level for the age group 18-64 is less than 55 % of the average income in the region
- Socially disadvantaged fulfill 2 out of 5 criteria
- Ghetto fulfill criteria 1+2+3 or more than 60 % of residents are immigrants or descendants from non-Western countries,

Terms: 3 levels



One Denmark without parallel societies: No Ghettos in 2030

- **22 objectives within 5 key areas:**
 1. Demolition or conversion of socially disadvantaged areas
 2. More firm control of who can live in socially disadvantaged areas
 3. Enhanced police effort and higher punishments for crimes committed in ghetto areas to fight crime and create security.
 4. A good start in life for all children and young people
 5. The government will follow-up on the efforts against parallel societies.

Detailed List of the 22 areas

1. Demolition or conversion of socially disadvantaged areas

1. Physical conversion of residential areas
2. New opportunities for settlement in socially disadvantaged areas
3. Access to terminate tenants on the sale of public housing

2. More firm/strict control of who can live in socially disadvantaged areas

4. Stop municipal relocation of people who receive social benefits to socially disadvantaged areas
5. Flexible rental opportunities in socially disadvantaged areas
6. Lower benefits for residents living within ghetto areas
7. Stop relocation of people receiving integration beneficiaries to social disadvantaged areas
8. Financial incentives/ rewards to municipalities succeeding with integration efforts

3. Enhanced police effort and higher punishments for crimes committed in ghetto areas to fight crime and create security

9. Strengthened police effort in “especially (særligt)” socially disadvantaged areas
10. Higher punishment in certain areas (sharp (skærpet) penalty zone)
11. Criminals out of the ghettos

4. A good start in life for all children and young people

12. Mandatory daycare must ensure better Danish competencies before school start
13. Better distribution (of children) in daycare
14. Targeted language tests in grade 0
15. Penalties for poor performance in school
16. Strengthened parental responsibility through possibility to lose child allowances and individual parenting orders
17. Better distribution of students in gymnasiums (high schools)
18. Criminalization of re-acculturation trips (forced trips of young people to their parents homeland)
19. Tougher course against domestic violence
20. Early detection of vulnerable children
21. Tough punishment for breach of the special extended notification obligation

5. The government will follow-up on the efforts against parallel societies.

22. Three special ghetto representatives with the necessary skills

Methods



1. Focus group interview with key informants from one selected ghetto area; municipal representatives (4) and citizen representatives (4)
2. Rapid desktop equity focused HIA (Harris-Roxas 2011) as-framework method

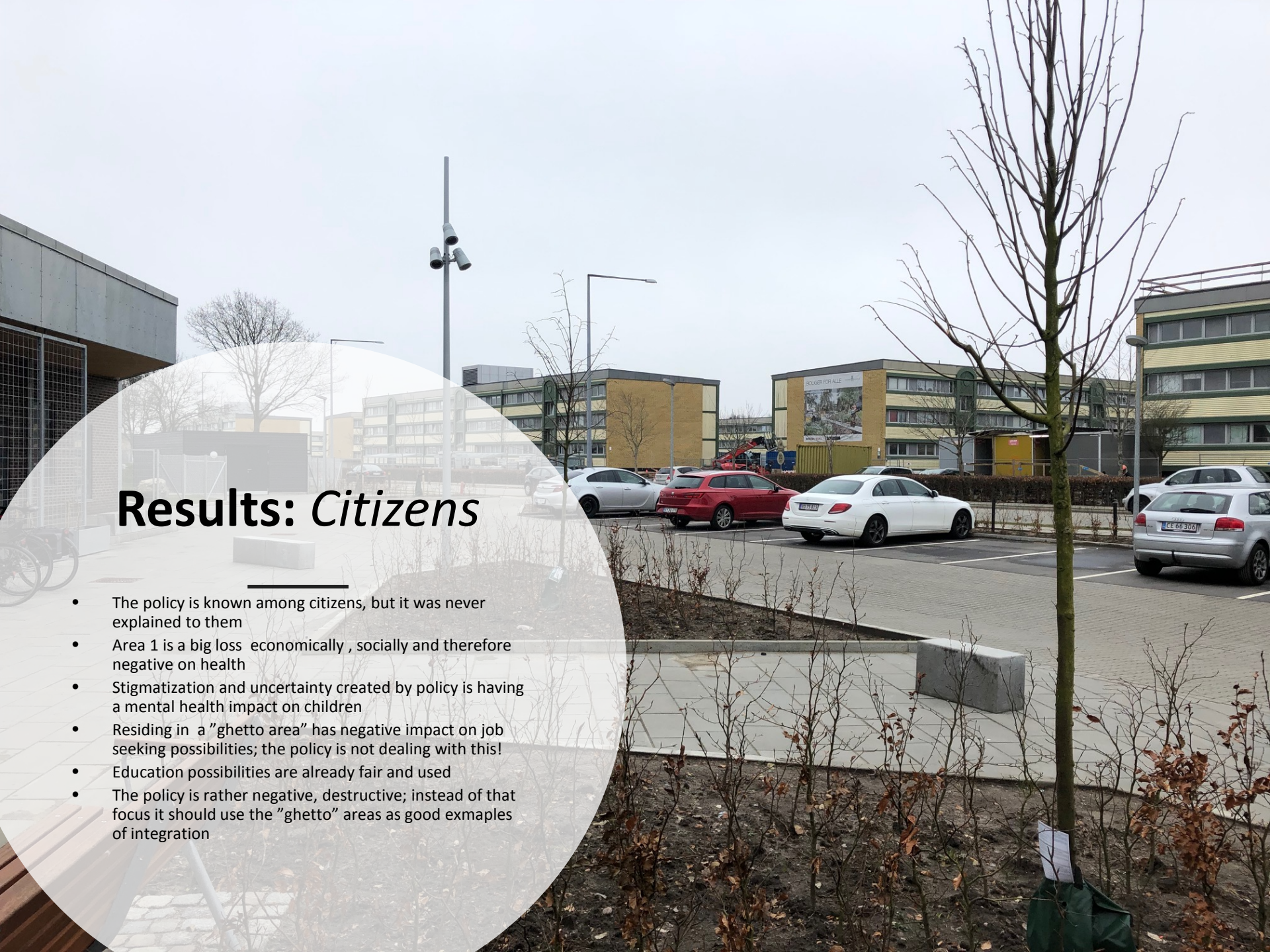
Results: *Theoretical*

- Area 1 – housing uncertainty (quality, social networks, personal economy)
- Area 2 – firm control on who can live in the neighborhood
- Area 3 - seems to be positive, but human rights (location based punishment?!)
- Area 4 – good start for life...
 - provides an opportunity for better education
 - Better education ► to better health



Results: *Municipal employees*

- The policy as such is rather stigmatizing – negative impact
- Area 4 has some potential for positive impact, but punishment should be replaced by motivation
- Interaction of five areas not thought over
- Area 3 is increasing inequalities and at some extent is against human rights of equal treatment

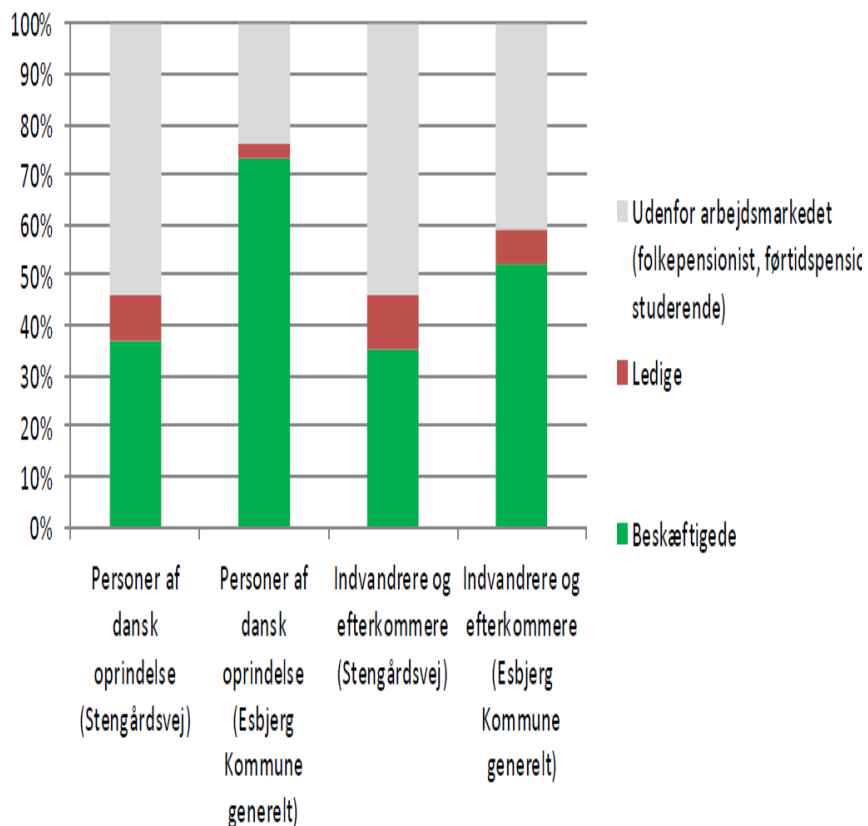


Results: *Citizens*

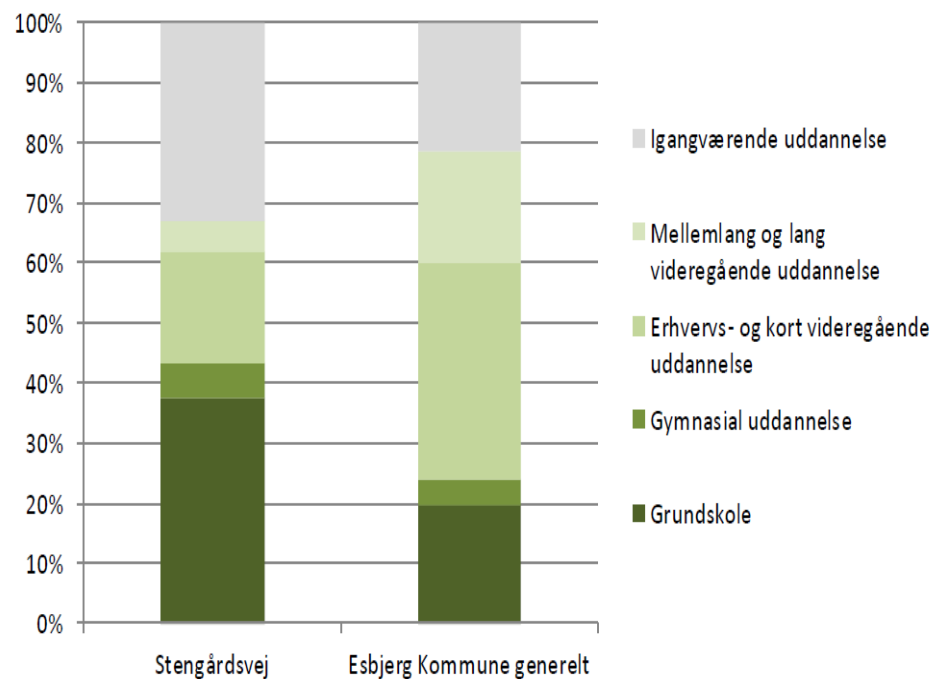
- The policy is known among citizens, but it was never explained to them
- Area 1 is a big loss economically, socially and therefore negative on health
- Stigmatization and uncertainty created by policy is having a mental health impact on children
- Residing in a "ghetto area" has negative impact on job seeking possibilities; the policy is not dealing with this!
- Education possibilities are already fair and used
- The policy is rather negative, destructive; instead of that focus it should use the "ghetto" areas as good examples of integration

Are there differences between "ghetto" and non-ghetto part of the city?

Beskæftigelse



Længste afsluttede uddannelse





Discussion

- Positive impacts via education, partially via crime reduction measures
- Negative impacts due to uncertain housing rules, stigmatization, job seeking possibilities,
- Human rights issues
- Poor communication, lack of citizen involvement

Conclusion

- The major failure is the “*Ghetto list and the classification*” itself
- Focus should be on integration and social cohesion instead of stigmatization
- The policy as such has few positive opportunities, but overall a rather negative impact on health is expected
- Mental health seems to be the most relevant health outcome
- Municipal employees are fulfilling many of health promotion tasks and contribute to well-being of population