

Abstracts

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Research and Technology Policies in Denmark. Politics and Institutions

Danish research and technology policies and politics have changed during the last years. In the early 1970s, policies were generally passive and not very resource demanding, in the early 1980s they became more differentiated and they are to-day an active and resource demanding area with political interest and priority. Technology policies concern technological infrastructure, research policies, diffusion activities, and innovation policies which during the latest years have been strengthened through technology programs. Whether or not the new technology policies change the industrial structures causing Denmark's external economic problems, they have no doubt changed the borderlines between state and market; instrumentally, institutionally and functionally. During the latest years, technology has gained status as a political problem, too. The definition of technology is broader than before, the political-administrative organization of technology policies have been altered, the traditional collective actors have lost influence in the political process, and the political parties have profiled themselves, although technology has not become a matter of political conflict.

Jan Annerstedt

Industrial Modernists

The program on technological development, put forward in December 1983, signaled the beginning of the new technology policies which became generally accepted in late 1986. The program on technological development was not the result of superior political deliberations. It set out as a minor initiative concerning information technology, but during 1983 it gained momentum and became an economic effort of hitherto unseen scale. In this process, a limited number of men with a common interest in the development and utilisation of information technology left their mark on the decisive papers and decisions. Through interplay with the Board of Technology and the Agency of Technology they succeeded in creating the necessary political support in the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Industry and by the Prime Minister. The accept of the program in Spring 1984 was the victory of the industrial modernists on the parliamentary level.

Peer Hull Kristensen

Firms in Industrial Policy.

Industrial Modernists and Industrial Craftsmen

Danish industry is strongly marked by a dual structure. On one side firms – often the larger ones – dominated by the culture of engineers, massproduction and formalized procedures of industrial innovation. On the other side the »industrial craftsman« dominated by the culture of handicrafts, skilled workers, selfdetermination and informal and personal relations in innovation processes. Politically the »modernists« have been fighting the »industrial craftsman« since the beginning of the nineteenth century. The changes in Danish technology policy in the 1980s is just one new victory of the modernists.