

Sustainable regional development

Øresund Region

The project

The Øresund Region comprises Zealand, Lolland-Falster, Møn and Bornholm in Eastern Denmark and Skåne in Southern Sweden, covering an area of 20,859 km². The region (Figure C.1) is home to businesses specializing in foodstuffs, life sciences, environmental engineering and information technology. There is also a strong tradition of social and environmental awareness, and according to Øresund Network, many international businesses have chosen to locate their operations in the Øresund Region.

Over 3.5 million people live in the region: approximately 2.4 million in the Danish region (total Danish population: 5.4 million) and 1.1 million in the Swedish region (total Swedish population: approximately 9 million), with a collective workforce of around 1.9 million people.

Economically this region produces approximately 20% of the regions' Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The improvements in the infrastructure were in an effort to compete economically with Stockholm.

Sustainability features

The aim to link two countries physically into an integrated economic region is innovative. This has been achieved through improvements to the transport infrastructure with the addition of the 16 km long road and metro rail link, comprising the 8 km long Øresund Bridge, 4 km long

(Figure C.2) man-made island and 4 km tunnel between Malmö and Copenhagen. There have also been recent underground rail links in Copenhagen to the Bridge and Kastrup airport, and the forthcoming City Tunnel between Malmö station and the Bridge. Västra Hamnen, the much acclaimed sustainable settlement, is also located in the region. The rail system has been a success while the volume of cars has been lower than anticipated, perhaps due to the steep toll charges (SKr500 – approx £38 or \$70 for a return journey).

Because the region crosses two countries, people are concerned about being taxed twice if they live in one country and work in the other. For the idea to succeed, communicating the tax breaks is of real significance for the governments concerned.

References and links

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Figure C.1
The Øresund Region.



Figure C.2
The Øresund Bridge linking Denmark and Sweden into one economic region.
(Source: Image: <http://encyclopedia.thefreedictionary.com/Oresund%20Bridge>)