



Further information on Øresund University and the Øresund Region:

(1) A brief description of regional characteristics

The Øresund Region is a cross-border region located in Northern Europe comprising the eastern part of Denmark (including Copenhagen) and the southern part of Sweden. It comprises a total of 3,5 million inhabitants, of which 2,4 million are Danish and 1,1 million are Swedish inhabitants. The Danish part of the region contributes with 48% of Denmark's GDP, and the Swedish part with 11,6% of Sweden's GDP¹. In 2001, the Gross Regional Product of the Øresund Region was USD 146 billion².

The main economic sectors are trade and transport, healthcare, financial services and energy (OECD, 2003). Additionally, the region has identified and focused on a number of areas of special interest: biotech/medicotech, IT, environmental/energy, food, design and logistics. Within these knowledge-intensive areas, formalised cooperation has been set up between universities, business and public authorities within so-called "platforms". The platforms together form the "Øresund Science Region" (see also (3)).

(2) A basic profile of the HEIs in the region and of the territorial focus

This section only deals with the universities in the region.

Special attention has been given to higher education with the creation of the Øresund University. There are 14 universities (four of these are situated in Southern Sweden, the remaining 10 in the Greater Copenhagen Area) in the Øresund Region, all of which are part of the Øresund University. In this manner, the Øresund University allows for cooperation within a number of areas within education and research. In total, the 14 universities comprise 140,000 students, 12,000 researchers, 6,500 Ph.D-students and accounts for the fifth-largest scientific output in Europe.

Some universities are specialised (the IT-University of Copenhagen, for instance) whereas others are more traditional, all-faculty institutions (University of Copenhagen, Lund university). Together, the 14 universities cover all academic disciplines.

The main languages for the universities are Danish in Denmark and Swedish in Sweden. There are, however, a growing number of courses and programmes being taught in English, and most research is now publicised in English. All the universities have international contacts, which include exchange of students and researchers as well as joint research programmes. Although the universities have their main focus on their respective countries, the increasing europeanisation of the higher education systems is also having an impact in the region.

¹ OECD, 2003: OECD Territorial Reviews: Öresund, Denmark/Sweden.

² <http://www.oresundnetwork.com>



(3) A brief history of HEIs' engagement in the regional development

The Øresund University has been involved in regional development from its very beginning in 1997. Since then we have developed contacts and co-operations with a number of regional partners, both short-term projects (for instance mapping the impact of the region building as a result of the Øresund Bridge, opened in 2000) and more long-term strategic partnerships (analysing potential areas of growth) with an emphasis on regional growth. Also, a number of analyses with regards to specific sectors have been produced. The Øresund University is a member of a number of regional organisations all working with the regionalisation process that is taking place in the Øresund Region.

The close co-operation with local business and industry and local and regional governments resulted in the creation of the “Øresund Science Region” in 2001, a project that was partly financed by the Interreg IIIA Øresund-programme. With the “Øresund Science Region”, four platforms were established within the areas medico-/biotech (“Medicon Valley Academy”), IT (“Øresund IT Academy”), Food (“Øresund Food Network”) and Environment (“Øresund Environment Academy”). Later, two more platforms within logistics (“Øresund Logistics”) and design (“Øresund Design”) has joined.

From Jan 1, 2005, Øresund Science Region has become a permanent structure in the Øresund Region financed by the partners involved (universities, local business and industry as well as local and regional governments). In addition, two new platforms will be added in the areas of logistics and design. The main tasks will be co-operation between the university sector, local business/industry and local and regional government. This will (among others) include strategies for technology transfer, cluster development, innovation and regional growth. The Board of Øresund Science Region will consist of representatives from all three sectors mentioned above.

(4) The scope and level of involvement of regional stakeholders in the project

The above-mentioned regional stakeholders (local and regional business and authorities) will be involved in the project.

(5) Ressources available for Further Information on the Region, if any (i.e. web-site, published report etc.).

- OECD, 2003: OECD Territorial Reviews: Öresund, Denmark/Sweden
- The homepage of Øresund Network, an organisation responsible for marketing the Øresund Region: <http://www.oresundnetwork.com>
- The homepage of Øresund University, a confederation between 14 universities: <http://www.uni.oresund.org>