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### DEMIFER

Demographic and migratory flows  
affecting European regions and cities

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DEMIFER Case Studies

**The Sydsverige National Area (Sweden)  
'Euro standard' in a cross-border region**

Prepared by

Giuseppe Gesano

CNR-IRPPS – Italian National Research Council

Institute of Research on Population and Social Policies

Roma, Italy



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## Key findings

- *History and its geographical position make the Sydsverige National Area (N.A.) to be a quite different region in the Swedish context. The landscape is intensively crowded with settlements, industries, and infrastructures next to vast open plains used for industrial agriculture.*
- *Demographics are not significantly different from the national average, apart from a higher international net migration, which is compensating a since-now lower share of foreign residents.*
- *Internal differences are important between the two counties that form the Sydsverige N.A. – Skåne län and Blekinge län – as well as among the three parts in which Skåne län is traditionally subdivided. The southwestern and central parts of Skåne län, also hosting the Malmö–Lund conurbation, are demographically ‘livelier’, younger in their population and attracting more migrants.*
- *The south-western and central parts of Skåne län fully participate to the Öresundregionen, a cross-border region that, through the Sund strait, links the southern part of Sweden with Zealand, the northeastern Danish island, which hosts the national capital city København and its Metropolitan area.*
- *The historical, contested links between the two Sund’s shores became closer in 2000, when the ‘Öresund Link’ was opened – a road-and-rail bridge-and-tunnel connecting the continental Europe to Scandinavia. The cross-border moves multiplied, both in daily commuting and changes of residence. Skåne län, and especially Greater Malmö, benefited the most.*
- *Because of economic (cheaper housing, cheaper cost of living, DKK/SEK rate of exchange, etc.) and environmental reasons, important numbers of Danish people moved their residence to Skåne län, though maintaining their pace of work in the København area. The opposite moves have been less frequent.*
- *Also the non-Danish foreign migrants preferred to settle in Sydsverige N.A. because of the Swedish policy being more open to immigrants. However, the resulting high presence of non-EU migrants may have caused ethnic riots in Greater Malmö and Karlskrona, recently.*
- *Although the economy in the area was and is still largely diversified by activity sectors and products, the Öresund region plays an important role in the EU knowledge-economy, especially in medicine, food, and life sciences. Historical and new universities federated with private foundations and firms in research and technological clusters, attracting highly qualified human capital.*
- *Because of their features and potentialities, the Sydsverige N.A. and the Öresund region can be a possible reference area for Europe in economic developments based on research and technical knowledge, as well as an efficient exemplum of inter-state collaboration for common strategies.*
- *The Sydsverige N.A. is the example of a positive economic structure and development coupled with a relative young population structure, which leads to continuous population growth. Even where both the natural population change and internal net migration are negative (Blekinge län), international net migration makes the population growth positive.*

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 General framework

The 'Lisbon Strategy' fixed the pillars of the Union's development in the knowledge economy, networking, socio-economic inclusion, and environmental sustainability. Forerunning cross-border areas may have some advantages in those directions, as well as they have some additional challenges due to their multi-centred governance. Checking the status and recent trends in one of these regions may be interesting to study the successes and problems in achieving the Lisbon targets, as well as to verify the possibility of recovering after the current financial and economic crisis.

Most of the Sydsverige National Area (N.A.) participates in the Öresundregionen, a cross-border region that links southern Sweden (with the Malmö–Lund conurbation) to Zealand, the large Danish island at northeast of the country that hosts the national capital city København and its Metropolitan area. From both a geographical and historical perspective the Öresund area is at the very centre of northern Europe. Starting from the year 2000 its position was strengthened by the opening of the 'Öresund Link', the road-and-rail bridge-and-tunnel that connects the Danish shores of the Sund to the Swedish ones.

Only in 1658 Denmark handed over the area now named Sydsverige to Sweden, but until 1719 it remained contested between the two reigns, also after serious rebellions by the local population. For geographical, cultural and political reasons, it has been considered a dominion of the Swedish reign for long time, while part of it – the Blekinge län – was transformed into a military area. Even recently, the Swedish government recognised special rights to the region.

These historical and cultural links may have favoured the interface between the two Sund's shores. However, different laws on migration and settlement, as well as in fiscal treatment of workers and resident people in Denmark and Sweden may have added to the differences in cost of living and to currency exchange in varying the advantages in crossing the strait over time. Anyway, the balance has always favoured Swedish shores in respect to the Danish ones for what regards population settlement of the Öresund residents. Also foreign migrants headed mostly to Sydsverige, in recent times. On the contrary, the Danish region Hovedstaden offers the high-level services characteristic of a national capital (e.g., an airport that works as the international airport for the whole area).

Structures for high-level education and research campuses are other aspects in common on the two shores. The Öresund is listed among the European top regions in research and development, especially in medicine, food, and life sciences. Part of those activities stems from the local rich agriculture and fishery, part from the tradition of old universities (e.g., the Lund University). Specific cross-border initiatives bring together regional authorities, businesses and universities operating in the R&D in different fields of science and technologies.

Opportunities for socio-economic development and networking seem largely prevail in this cross-border region. However, important discrepancies do exist between the two shores and within their hinterlands. Socio-economic inclusion is

far from being achieved. The same double-sided connections are suffering from the existing inequalities and differences in social policy. There is still more potential networking than the realised one, notwithstanding the valuable actions carried out by the Öresund Committee.

These features and the following potentialities make the Sydsverige N.A. and the Öresund region a possible reference area for Europe in economic developments based on research and technical knowledge, as well as an efficient example of inter-state collaboration for common strategies.

## 1.2 The DEMIFER classification of the Swedish Sydsverige N.A. and the Danish regions in the Öresund

The DEMIFER 'Case studies' have a twofold aim: they contribute to improve the knowledge on demographic and migratory flows focusing on the aspects of internal and international migration, and translate the output of the policy oriented activities into specific regional settings. The case studies bring together the various activities, connecting the implementation of the analyses, the development of the typology, the scenario building and the formulation of the policy implications. They also illustrate the results and impacts at a regional and sub-regional level. The selection of the NUTS2 regions that serve as case studies are based on the results of the DEMIFER activities 2 'Typology of regions and cities'. From each type defined in the typology at least one region or city, preferably the closest to the cluster centre, is selected to serve as case study. A total of 12 NUTS2 regions are selected, but obviously the case studies cannot cover the entire socio-economic diversity of the European regions.

The Swedish Sydsverige N.A. belongs to the cluster 'Euro Standard', which includes 79 ESPON regions [ESPON 2009]. Many North European NUTS2s are in this cluster, in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, Great Britain, but we also find regions of this group in the centre of France, northwestern and southern Germany and eastern Austria. It is the most populous cluster with about 130 million people, 25% of the ESPON total population. Almost all the regions belonging to this cluster show values of the classifying variables around the ESPON averages, but for the share of 20-39 yrs population, for which the cluster average is 2 percent points lower than the ESPON average (Table 1).

**Table 1 DEMIFER classification variables in the Sydsverige N.A. and its counties, reference areas and the cross-border Öresund region**

<i>Reference areas, National Area, Counties, Cross-border region</i>	2005		Average annual 2001-2005	
	Age Group 20-39 yrs	Age Group 65+ yrs	Natural pop. change	Net migration
	%	%	‰	‰
<i>ESPON Space</i>	<b>27.82</b>	<b>16.63</b>	<b>+0.33</b>	<b>+3.16</b>
<i>'Euro Standard' cluster</i>	<b>25.68</b>	<b>17.46</b>	<b>+0.01</b>	<b>+3.43</b>
<b>Sydsverige N.A.</b>	<b>26.08</b>	<b>17.81</b>	<b>+0.17</b>	<b>+6.03</b>
Skåne län	26.36	17.56	+0.38	+6.59
Blekinge län	23.88	19.95	-1.38	+1.78
<i>Danish Region Hovedstaden</i>	<i>30.07</i>	<i>14.46</i>	<i>+2.15</i>	<i>-0.18</i>
<i>Danish Region Sjælland</i>	<i>23.06</i>	<i>15.64</i>	<i>-0.45</i>	<i>+5.88</i>
<i>Öresund region</i>	<i>27.30</i>	<i>15.72</i>	<i>+0.97</i>	<i>+3.38</i>

Source: DEMIFER [2009] and elaborations of data from SCB database.



The 'Euro Standard' cluster is characterised by a natural change near zero (above or below) and generally, a positive net migration, but not particularly high. The share of elderly population (65 yrs and over) ranges from 15% to 20%. The share of the young labour-age population (20-39 yrs) ranges from 23% to 29%. The Swedish Sydsverige N.A. perfectly fits in the 'Euro Standard' cluster, though it registered in 2001-2005 a net migration rate that is among the highest rates in the cluster. Administratively, the region is subdivided into two counties: Skåne län, which fully participate into the cluster's features, the net migration rate excluded being much higher than the cluster average; and Blekinge län, with a considerably older population, so that its natural change was negative in 2001-2005, hardly opposed by a low net migration. Therefore, Blekinge län should be included in the cluster 'Challenge of decline'.

If we consider the whole Öresund region, which includes Skåne län and the two Danish regions Hovedstaden and Sjælland<sup>1</sup>, the inclusion in the 'Euro Standard' cluster is confirmed, although only the Sjælland regions does belong to it, while the Hovedstaden region is classified in the DEMIFER cluster 'Challenge of Transition' because of its younger population, higher natural change rate, and a net migration rate in the negative, though only slightly.

The advantage coming from the above said compactness of the 'Euro Standard' cluster centred on ESPON averages in the four demographic variables used in the classification turns out to be a problem because of the high number of regions in the cluster and the following important heterogeneity that differentiate them under several points of view. Actually, the cluster gathers both the northern Swedish national area Norrbottens and the southern Italian region Sicilia, the rich German region Oberbayern (+65% Purchasing Power Parities per inhabitant as compared to the EU average) and the poor Italian region Sicilia (-44%), the agricultural regions Basse-Normandie in France or Niederösterreich and Kärnten in Austria (more than 8% of the workers employed in agriculture), the industrial region Stuttgart in Germany (almost 40% in manufacturing), and several regions scattered all over the EU Western countries where the workers employed in the service sector are more than 80%<sup>2</sup>. Therefore, in order to use the Sydsverige case study as a paradigm for the 'Euro Standard' cluster it is necessary to specify some other elements that can qualify that area in the ESPON contest to identify similar areas.

### **1.3 Specification of the research questions and aims**

Cross-border regions (CBR) are widely present in Europe: the uneven histories in forming national states and centuries of wars have separated many highly connected areas by national boundaries. The number of CBRs was estimated at

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<sup>1</sup> In fact, the official definition of the Öresund region is the following «The Øresund Region includes the Danish islands Zealand, Lolland-Falster, Møn and Bornholm and the Swedish region Skåne» v. [http://www.oresundsregionen.org/?sc\\_lang=en](http://www.oresundsregionen.org/?sc_lang=en). The 2007 Danish Municipal Reform gathered the previous Copenhagen County and Frederiksborg and the municipalities of Copenhagen, Frederiksberg and Bornholm in the Region Hovedstaden, while the previous counties Roskilde, Storstrøm, and West Zealand formed the Region Sjælland: both the regions are classified as NUTS2. The Sydsverige National Area (NUTS2) includes two NUTS3 counties: Skåne län and Blekinge län, of which the latter one is not included in the official definition of the Öresund region.

<sup>2</sup> Data, referred to 2007, are drawn from the EUROSTAT database.

higher than 70 by a study in 2003 [Perkmann]. They are denominated in different ways and, often, a specific cross-border co-operation (CBC) supports them. They often share trans-national bodies that manage them for some aspects. The Öresund region is one of the oldest, most structured CBR. Skåne län forms its Swedish shore on the Sund strait (The Sound) that joins Baltic Sea to North Sea, while the Danish Zealand, with the national capital city København, is the southwestern part of the Öresund region. The relations between the two Sund's shores, which have been always very close, have become more and more intense since the year 2000, when a road-and-rail link, via tunnel and bridge, was opened between them [Matthiessen 2004]. The first research question is how much this new infrastructure has modified the human settlement in the Öresund region, with special attention to the consequences on the demographic flows involving the Sydsverige N.A..

Another research question comes from the kind of socio-economic development in the Sydsverige N.A.. The presence of important universities and private research centres makes this area one of the knowledge-economy poles in Europe [Carrincazeaux *et al* 2007]. It may be worthwhile to verify the effects of this feature on population typology and behaviour: in particular, possible effects in moving and selecting immigration flows should be checked.

The last research question comes from the co-presence of a highly developed area with a somewhat backward one in both the Danish Zealand (urban Region Hovedstaden vs. Region Sjælland) and the Swedish Sydsverige NA (Skåne län vs. Blekinge län). It may be interesting to study which consequences this doubled contrast has on the human settlement and demographic flows.

## **1.4 Outline of the case study report**

In Chapter 2, basic information on the regional morphology, connections, and human settlement (paragraph 2.1) and the historical and economic background are given about the Sydsverige National Area in connection to the cross-border Öresund region. Chapter 3 deals with the demographic situation in the area, analysed at the level of regions, counties and, whenever possible, of functional subdivision of Skåne län<sup>3</sup>: in paragraph 3.1 the demographic structure is studied, while the population dynamics is analysed in paragraphs 3.2, 3.3 (natural change), and 3.4 (migrations). Here, thanks to the Ørestat database, a thorough of flow analysis in the Öresund region is made by provenance, destination and citizenship. The presence and characteristics of foreign migrants in the various parts of the area are studied in paragraph 3.5. Paragraph 3.6 deals with commuting, which is a basic item in a cross-border area. The mutual connections between population and the socio-economic environment are outlined in Chapter 4, where after a short introduction on the main economic characteristics of the area (paragraph 4.1) working-age population and the workforce are analysed in their trends and composition (paragraph 4.2). The important item of education and research and development are studied in paragraph 4.3. Paragraph 4.4 gives some hints in the main relationships between the demographic change and socio-economic environment. Chapter 5 compares the DEMIFER scenarios with other population projections. Conclusions and some considerations about the generalisation of the case studied are drawn in Chapter 6.

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<sup>3</sup> Skåne län is subdivided functionally in three areas: South, North-East, and North-West.

## **2 Basic information on the Sydsverige N.A. and the cross-border Öresund region**

### **2.1 Regional morphology, connections, and human settlement**

«With the exception of the lake-rich and densely forested northern parts (Göinge), the rolling hills in the north-west (the Bjäre and Kulla peninsulas) and the beech-wood clad areas extending from the slopes of the horsts, a sizeable portion of Scania's terrain consists of plains. [...] Stretching from the northwestern to the southeastern parts of Scania is a belt of deciduous forests following the Linderödsåsen ridge and previously marking the border between Malmöhus County and Kristianstad County. Denser fir forests are found in the northeastern Göinge parts along the border with the forest dominated province of Småland. The two major plains, Söderslätt in the south-west and Österlen in the south-east, consist of highly fertile agricultural land»<sup>4</sup>.

«Most of the transport routes are concentrated to the western part of Skåne where the European E4 and E6 roads are situated. Together with the West Coast and Southern Main railway lines, they are the dominating transport routes in Skåne, linking important port towns and larger population centres together within as well as outside Skåne. The E22, crossing Skåne from southwest to northeast, links the Malmö-Copenhagen area with Kristianstad and on to important port towns in the county of Blekinge.» [Region Skåne 2004: 5].

Skåne län has three major public airports, Malmö, Ängelholm-Helsingborg and Kristianstad, while the Ronneby Airport in Blakinge län mainly operates with Stockholm. For international flights from Sydsverige, however, the Copenhagen Airport, beyond the strait, is much preferred: it takes 20 minutes to reach it from the centre of Malmö through the Öresund bridge.

The major ports in the Öresundregionen are Copenhagen, Malmö, and Helsingborg, which participate in the Baltic Ports Organisation. Ferry connections across the Baltic Sea operate from several smaller ports as well. The Baltic Sea and the Öresund strait remain one of the busiest routes in the world with 16% of the global traffic. They are also strategic routes for oil shipping.

At present, the most important connection in the area is the 'Öresund Link'. It is a combined two-track rail and four-lane road bridge-tunnel across the Öresund strait. The international European route E20 runs across the bridge and through the tunnel via the two-lane motorway, as does the Öresund Railway Line. Construction of the crossing began in 1995. The official inauguration took place on 1 July 2000. In 2007, 9.2 million vehicles and 35,5 million travellers crossed Öresund by car, train or ferry. The passenger car traffic increased by 18% in 2007. Passenger cars make up the main part (91%) of all traffic across Öresund, while truck traffic comprises 8% and bus traffic 1%. 76% of passenger car traffic is across the Öresund Link, while more than half (55%) of truck traffic is via the ferries between Helsingør and Helsingborg. 69% of all persons travelling over Öresund do so via the Öresund Link, either by car or by train. In 2007, some 9,7 million train passengers crossed Öresund – an increase of 25% compared to

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<sup>4</sup> Citation from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scania>

2006. Four of five train passengers live in Sweden and one of five in Denmark. The Öresund train serves mainly as a local means of transport in the region since 90% of the train journeys are regional. Around six out of ten train passengers commute to their studies or to work<sup>5</sup>.

Current population settlement in the area and in the Öresund region is shown in Map 1 at municipal level. Two large human aggregates face each other on the two Öresund shores: Stor-Malmö (Greater Malmö), which gathers 12 municipalities and about 650,000 in population, and Storkøbenhavn or Hovedstadsområdet (Metropolitan Copenhagen), formed by 18 municipalities with a total population of more than 1,2 million. Helsingborg, in the northwest of Skåne län and in front of the Danish Helsingør, is the only other municipality over 100,000 inhabitants in the area. Karlskrona, the county capital of Blekinge län, is only 63,000. The rest of resident population in the Sydsverige N.A. (about 550,000) is scattered over 24 municipalities, which number in population from about 80,000 (Kristianstad) and 7,000 (Perstorp).

## 2.2 Historical and economic background

«Skåneland, or Skånelandskapen, (Scanian provinces in English) are Swedish scientific denominations, used in historical contexts for the former Danish land in southern Scandinavia, which as the autonomous polity Scania joined Zealand and Jutland in the formation of a Danish state in the early 800s. As a cultural and historical region, it consists of the provinces Scania, Halland, Blekinge and [the island of] Bornholm. It became a Danish province, sometimes referred to as the Eastern Province, after the 12<sup>th</sup>-century civil war called the Scanian Uprising. The region was part of the territory ceded to Sweden in 1658 under the Treaty of Roskilde, but after an uprising on Bornholm, this island was returned to Denmark in 1660, under the Treaty of Copenhagen, in exchange for the ownership of 18 crown estates in Scania. Thenceforth, the Dano-Swedish border has remained unchanged»<sup>6</sup>.

«Following the Treaty of Roskilde in 1658 – but in direct contradiction of its terms – the Swedish government in 1683 demanded that the elite groups (nobility, priests and burghers) in Skåneland accepted Swedish customs and laws. Swedish became the only language permitted in the Church liturgy and in schools, religious literature in Danish was not allowed to be printed, and all appointed politicians and priests were required to be Swedish. [...] To promote further Swedish assimilation the University of Lund was inaugurated in 1666; the inhabitants of Scania were not allowed to enrol in Copenhagen University until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. [...] The population was initially opposed to the Swedish reforms, as can be ascertained from church records and court transcripts. The Swedes did encounter civil revolts in some areas [...]. The transformation of age-old customs, commerce and administration to the Swedish model could not be effected quickly or easily. In the first fifty years of the transition, the treatment of the population was rather ruthless. Denmark made several attempts to recapture the territories – the last in 1710, during which it almost recovered the entire Skåneland»<sup>7</sup>.

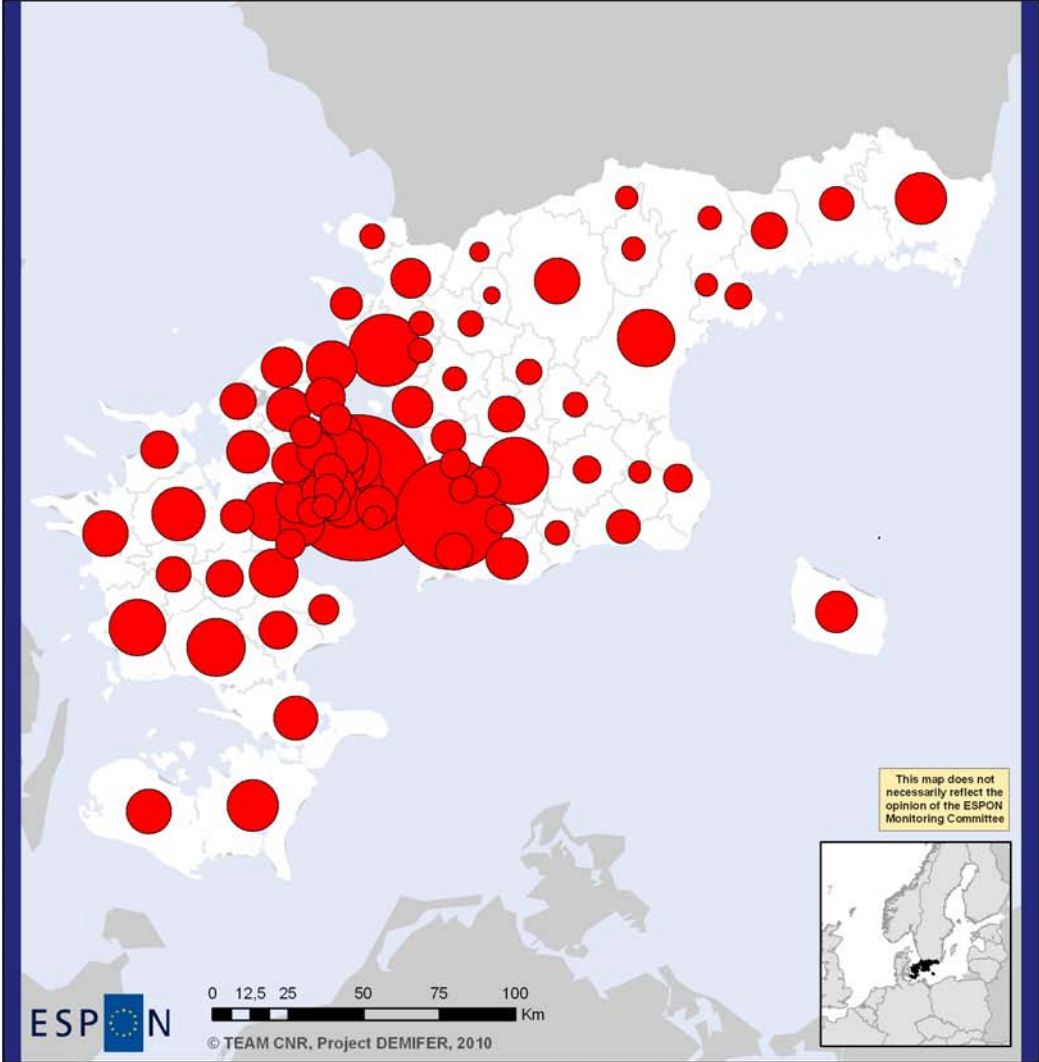
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<sup>5</sup> Drawn from <http://www.tendensoresund.org/en/traffic-across-oresund>

<sup>6</sup> Drawn from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sk%C3%A5neland>

<sup>7</sup> Drawn from <http://wapedia.mobi/en/Sk%C3%A5neland#1>

**Map 1 Municipalities by resident population in the Sydsverige N.A. and the cross-border Öresund region: 1/1/2010**

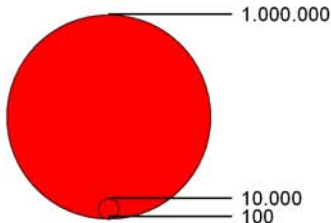


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Local level: LAU2  
Source: www.scb.se and www.dst.dk, 2010  
Origin of data: Statistics Sweden and Statistics Denmark, 2010  
© EuroGeographics Association for administrative boundaries

**Legend**

**Population 1.1.2010**



Source: Elaborations of data from the SCB and DST databases.

«In 1666 the University of Lund or Regia Academia Carolina was established as a means of further integration of the newly acquired provinces. However, there had long been plans to establish a university in Götaland and with the new borders Lund and Scania was chosen. The university was closed during the Scanian War, but reopened in 1682»<sup>8</sup>.

«The 1676–1679 war between Denmark and Sweden over Scania was devastating for the people of Scania. It ended in a draw, after much destruction of property and suffering for the civilian population. Scania, with the exception of Malmö, was soon under Danish administration. The turning point was the Swedish victories in the Battle of Lund in December 1676 and the Battle of Landskrona in July 1677. In the Treaty of Lund (1679) the provinces were returned to Swedish administration» [*ibid.*].

«Halland and Blekinge were successively removed from the Skåneland dominion and became fully integrated into the Swedish Kingdom, while the counties of Scania were joined into one county. By 1693, only Scania County was left a dominion, with a special, not fully integrated, status. It retained its autonomy with a parliament known as the Lantdag. Scania's status was changed on May 9, 1719, when it was divided into two counties, Malmöhus County and Kristianstad County, and became fully integrated. [...] On January 1, 1997, the two Scanian counties were joined into the present Skåne County and in 1999, a regional pilot project was introduced» [*ibid.*].

«Scania was, and still is, the granary of Sweden. A major modernisation of the agricultural sector started in the beginning of the nineteenth century. Enclosures, new crops and new technologies made the production grow rapidly. It became redirected from the domestic towards the international market and ever more commercialised. The proportion of the labour force working in agriculture remained stable, at around 85 percent, until the industrial break trough in the 1870s, despite the rapid population growth.» [Bengtsson *et* Svensson 2002: 3].

«The industrialisation of Scania in the second half of the 19th century might of course have changed the role of the human capital in the economy. The number of persons active in the agricultural sector started decreasing during the second half of the nineteenth century. A growing part of the population now earned their living from other sectors, i.e. industry, trade and communications [...] The rising productivity of labour in the agricultural sector made possible an urbanisation of Scania. The human capital investments made in agriculture facilitated the urbanisation since there was a need for educated workers in the urban commercial and industrial life.» [*ibid.*: 5].

«Scania, in the South of Sweden, has been a historically important national centre for agricultural production [...] and hosts some of the country's largest food processing industries. Functional food is defined as artificially developed food with added ingredients that demonstrate scientific evidence of positive health related effects. It is regarded as a novel technology with high growth and innovation potentials in a traditionally not very innovative industry. As such it provides a case in point of the notion of distributed knowledge bases by which the distinction between high-tech and low-tech becomes increasingly blurred.

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<sup>8</sup> Drawn from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scania#1658.E2.80.931680>

Several small, R&D intensive companies dedicated to functional food have emerged around the University of Lund. These companies collaborate intensively with the traditional large food companies for the actual production and marketing of functional foods as well as with regional research groups and organisations for scientific research.» [Asheim *et* Coenen 2005: 1186].

Half of Skåne is still classed as agricultural land. It is the major food production region in Scandinavia. The Skåne food cluster – from primary production and industrial processing to eating experiences and clinical trials of health effects in food products – is one of Europe’s most innovative and a world leader in functional food development<sup>9</sup>.

There is a total of over 100,000 companies in Skåne; approximately 700 of them employ over 50 people. Many are running successful export operations in Europe and other parts of the world within, for example, the manufacturing industry and the transport and service sectors. 60% of Scandinavian pharmaceutical research and manufacturing takes place in Skåne and Zealand in Denmark. To achieve desired synergy effects, these companies work together with researchers and students at universities and colleges of higher education as well as with the university hospitals in the Öresund Region, via the Medicon Valley Academy platform. There are several research villages and innovation parks in Skåne. The best known are Ideon in Lund, Medeon in Malmö, Campus Helsingborg and Krinova in Kristianstad<sup>10</sup>.

The other county included in the Sydsverige N.A., Blekinge län, experienced a similar history in passing from Denmark to Sweden but, since the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century when the naval basis of Karlskrona was built, most of the county has been secluded for military reasons. Few years after World War II, the Ericsson Company invested in a manufacturing plant in Karlskrona and, in the early 1960s, in other locations in Blekinge län. Its production spread from telephone equipments to office automation and information technology. Nowadays, other electronic companies also operate in the county.

Tourism is well developed on the coasts and in Blekinge’s archipelago, as well as in the interior of the Sydsverige N.A., along its lakes and in the countryside.

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<sup>9</sup> Drawn from [http://www.skane.com/pdf/invest\\_food\\_eng.pdf](http://www.skane.com/pdf/invest_food_eng.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> Drawn from <http://www.skane.com/cmarter/cmarter.asp?doc=1724>

### 3 The demographic situation in the Sydsverige N.A. and the cross-border Öresund region

The demographics of Sydsverige NA (about 1.4 million) are quite similar to the average of Södra Sverige<sup>11</sup> and to Sweden, but they are quite different from those of the two Danish regions belonging to the Öresund region (Table 2). The population in Skåne län and Blekinge län is older and the presence of foreign citizens is lower, especially when compared to the Danish region Hovedstaden; however, in the metropolitan area 'Greater Malmö' there more foreign residents (Danish people included) than in the København region (9.6 vs. 9.1), but in the population of Metropolitan Copenhagen 13% are foreigners (Swedish people included). In Map 2, the most recent rate of total population change is shown at municipal level.

**Table 2 Recent main demographics in the Sydsverige N.A. and its counties, in the reference areas and the cross-border Öresund region**

<i>Reference areas, National Area, Counties, Cross- border regions</i>	1/1/2010 resident population			2000-2009 average annual rate (‰)			
	Total (000)	≥ 65 yrs (%)	Foreign citizens (%)	Total change	Natural change	Internal net migration	International net migration
<b>SWEDEN</b>	<b>9,341</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>+5.3</b>	<b>+1.0</b>	–	<b>+4.3</b>
<b>Södra Sverige</b>	<b>4,060</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>+5.7</b>	<b>+0.6</b>	<b>+1.3</b>	<b>+3.8</b>
<b>Sydsverige N.A.</b>	<b>1,384</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>+8.3</b>	<b>+0.8</b>	<b>+1.6</b>	<b>+5.9</b>
Skåne län	1,231	18.1	3.8	+9.2	+1.1	+2.2	+5.9
Greater Malmö	647	16.1	9.6	+12.1	+2.9	[+9.2]	
Blekinge län	153	21.3	2.3	+1.3	-1.3	-2.9	+5.5
Öresund region	3,732	16.7	6.8 <sup>(a)</sup>	+5.9	+1.3	[+4.6]	
Danish Region Hovedstaden	1,680	15.2	9.1	+4.3	+2.4	[-0.5]	+2.4
Danish Region Sjælland	821	17.7	4.0	+4.3	-0.5	[+2.8]	+2.0

Note: <sup>(a)</sup> Neither Swedish nor Danish.

NB: Estimated values by difference in square brackets.

Source: Elaborations of data from the SCB and DST databases.

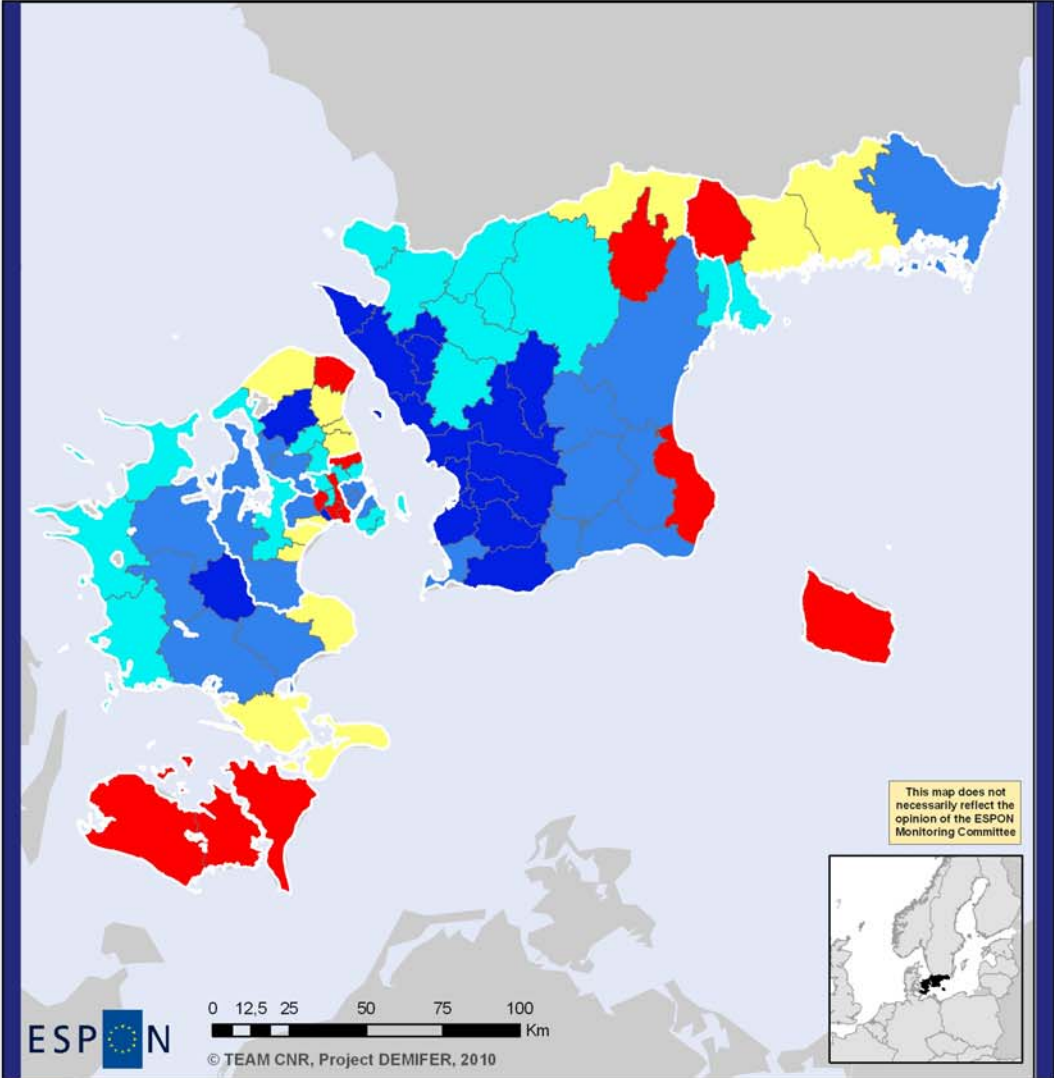
Population change and international net migration are higher on the Swedish shores of Öresund: Skåne län attracts immigrants from both other Swedish regions and abroad, whereas Blekinge län attracts only from abroad. Natural change is negative in the later county, in which more than 1/5 of the population is 65 years or older. The fast 2000-2009 increase of the population who resides in Greater Malmö (+12.1‰ a year, on average) is due mainly to immigration, though also its young structure contributes with a positive natural change.

Natural change is positive only in the Danish regions containing the national capital city København, where less than 1/7 of the residents is 65 years or older, whilst it is negative in Region Sjælland, where the population is older and foreigners are fewer. However, domestic immigration seems to have invested the Sjælland region, while the Hovedstaden region may have registered some population outflows towards Sjælland.

<sup>11</sup> Both Sweden and Denmark have undergone important changes in their administrative subdivision in the last ten years. At present, the Sydsverige National Area, together with two other NUTS2 regions, is part of the NUTS1 Södra Sverige (Southern Sweden). Sydsverige gathers two NUTS3 counties, Skåne län and Blekinge län. The Danish Zealand is divided in two NUTS2 regions: Sjælland and Hovedstaden, which comprises also the island of Bornholm in the Baltic Sea.



**Map 2 Municipalities by the average annual rate of population change in the Sydsverige N.A. and cross-border Öresund region: 2005-2009 (‰)**



Source: Elaborations of data from the SCB and DST databases.

### 3.1 Age structure of the population

The most conspicuous observation when looking at Table 3 is the general stability over time (from 1990 to 2010) of the share of population in large age groups. The share of young people (0-19 yrs) is 25% to 20% everywhere, though slightly diminishing. Labour-age population (20-64 yrs) maintains at near 60%, but the share is higher in Greater Malmö and the Danish region Hovedstaden, which contains the national capital city. In twenty years, population ageing has gained less than 1 percentage point in the 65 year-and-older population and a couple of points in the 80 year-and-older one, whereas in Greater Malmö and the København region the share of the 65+ year olds even diminished from 1990 to 2010<sup>12</sup>.

**Table 3 Structure of the resident population by age groups in the Sydsverige N.A. and its counties, in the reference areas and the cross-border Öresund region: 1<sup>st</sup> January 1990, 2000, and 2010 (%)**

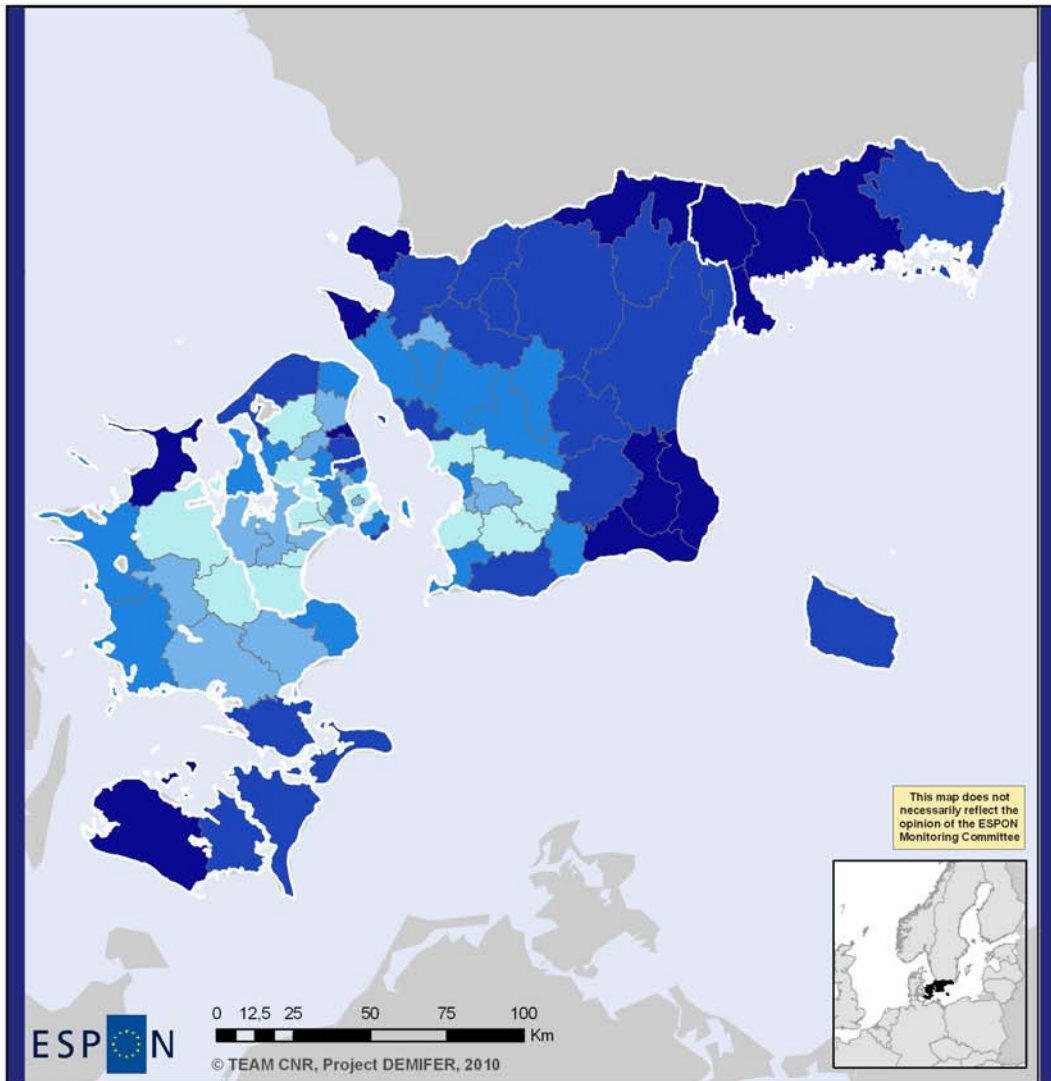
Reference areas, N.A. Counties, Cross-border reg.	0-19 yrs			20-64 yrs			65-79 yrs			80+ yrs		
	1990	2000	2010	1990	2000	2010	1990	2000	2010	1990	2000	2010
<b>SWEDEN</b>	<b>24,5</b>	<b>24,2</b>	<b>23,4</b>	<b>57,7</b>	<b>58,5</b>	<b>58,5</b>	<b>13,6</b>	<b>12,4</b>	<b>12,8</b>	<b>4,2</b>	<b>4,9</b>	<b>5,3</b>
<i>Södra Sverige</i>	<i>24,7</i>	<i>24,4</i>	<i>23,4</i>	<i>57,0</i>	<i>57,7</i>	<i>58,1</i>	<i>13,9</i>	<i>12,7</i>	<i>13,0</i>	<i>4,5</i>	<i>5,2</i>	<i>5,5</i>
<b>Sydsverige N.A.</b>	<b>24,2</b>	<b>23,8</b>	<b>23,1</b>	<b>57,2</b>	<b>58,2</b>	<b>58,5</b>	<b>14,0</b>	<b>12,8</b>	<b>13,0</b>	<b>4,6</b>	<b>5,2</b>	<b>5,4</b>
Skåne län	24,2	23,9	23,2	57,4	58,3	58,7	13,9	12,7	12,7	4,5	5,1	5,4
<i>Greater Malmö</i>	<i>23,8</i>	<i>23,8</i>	<i>23,3</i>	<i>58,9</i>	<i>59,9</i>	<i>60,5</i>	<i>13,0</i>	<i>11,7</i>	<i>11,4</i>	<i>4,2</i>	<i>4,7</i>	<i>4,7</i>
Blekinge län	24,7	23,2	22,3	56,1	57,6	56,4	14,4	13,8	15,2	4,8	5,4	6,1
<i>Öresund region</i>	<i>23,0</i>	<i>22,9</i>	<i>23,5</i>	<i>60,1</i>	<i>61,3</i>	<i>59,7</i>	<i>12,8</i>	<i>11,4</i>	<i>12,2</i>	<i>4,0</i>	<i>4,4</i>	<i>4,5</i>
<i>Danish Reg. Hovedstaden</i>	<i>21,2</i>	<i>21,6</i>	<i>23,2</i>	<i>62,2</i>	<i>63,6</i>	<i>61,6</i>	<i>12,7</i>	<i>10,6</i>	<i>11,2</i>	<i>4,0</i>	<i>4,1</i>	<i>4,0</i>
<i>Danish Reg. Sjælland</i>	<i>25,0</i>	<i>23,9</i>	<i>24,8</i>	<i>59,9</i>	<i>61,0</i>	<i>57,5</i>	<i>11,6</i>	<i>11,3</i>	<i>13,6</i>	<i>3,4</i>	<i>3,7</i>	<i>4,1</i>

Source: Elaborations of data from the SCB and DST databases.

The territorial distribution of the elderly population (Map 3) affects almost all the Blekinge's municipalities and the farthest municipalities in Skåne län and Danish region Sjælland. The population in both metropolitan areas is comparatively young, even in their core centre: the municipality of København has the lowest share of 65 year and over population (10.6%).

<sup>12</sup> In fact, because of cohort turnover and elderly survival the number of the oldest-olds (80 yrs and over) has increased significantly almost everywhere. We have also to expect an important increase of seniors in the next years because of the trespassing the 65<sup>th</sup> birthday by the after World War Two baby-boom generation.

**Map 3 Municipalities by the share of elderly population (65+ yrs) in the Sydsverige N.A. and the cross-border Öresund region: 1/1/2010 (%)**



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**Legend**

**Population 65 years and older 1.1.2010 (%)**

- less than 16.0 %
- 16.0 to 17.0 %
- 17.0 to 19.0 %
- 19.0 to 22.0 %
- more than 22.0 %

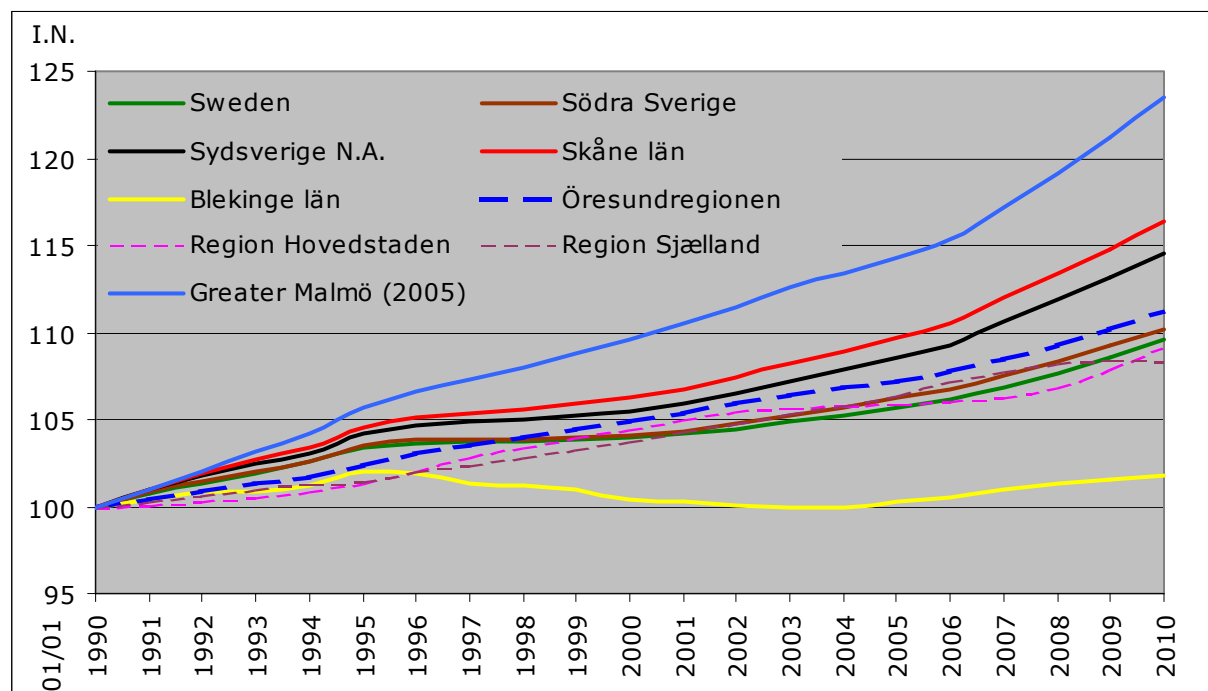
Local level: LAU2  
Source: [www.scb.se](http://www.scb.se) and [www.dst.dk](http://www.dst.dk), 2010  
Origin of data: Statistics Sweden and Statistics Denmark, 2010  
© EuroGeographics Association for administrative boundaries

Source: Elaborations of data from the SCB and DST databases.

### 3.2 Population change and its components

Resident population in the Sydsverige N.A. increased from 1.208 million in 1990 to 1.384 million nowadays (+14.5%). The fastest increase has been registered in Skåne län (+16.4%), whereas Blekinge län had the slowest one (+1.8%), suffering a drawback from 1995 to 2003 (Figure 1). The second half of the '90s was critical for population trends in Sweden, but at the beginning of the new century a spurt started. Skåne län, and especially its aggregate 'Greater Malmö', which have never stopped increasing its population during the last twenty years, have witnessed a constantly faster increase after the year 2000, when the Öresund link was opened, with an evident acceleration in the second part of the decade. Also the Danish regions of the Öresund region seem to have benefited from the opening of the bridge, though at a lesser rate of population increase and without large differences between the region of the capital city and Region Sjælland, which is much less urbanised.

**Figure 1 Total population trend in the Sydsverige N.A. and its counties, in the reference areas and the cross-border Öresund region: 1990-2010 (Index Numbers: Resident population 1/1/1990 = 100)**

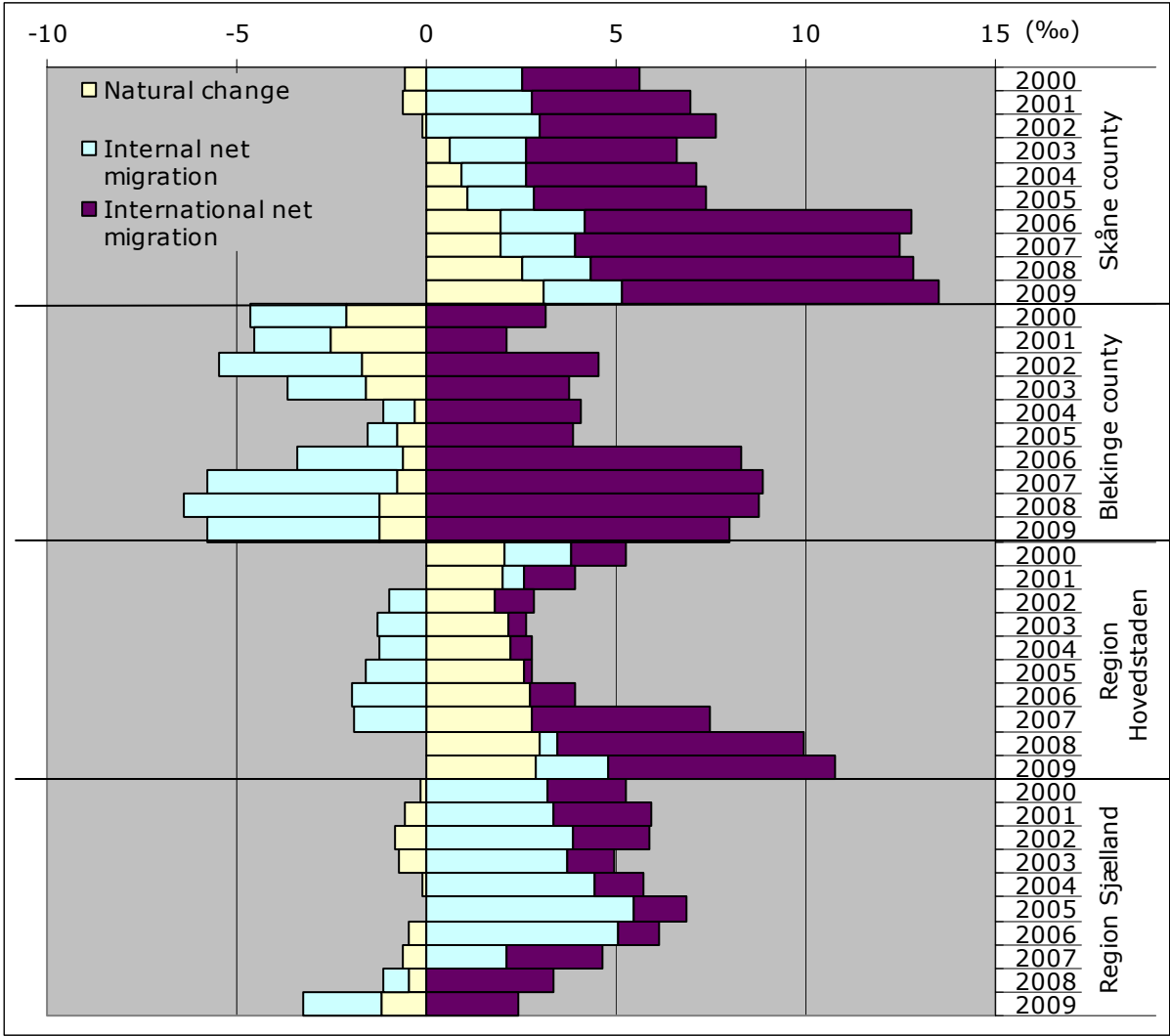


Source: Elaborations of data from the SCB and DST databases.

It is interesting to note that only three Swedish peripheral municipalities experienced a population decrease from 2005 to 2010, while several Danish municipalities around København (but not belonging to its metropolitan area) did. On the contrary, all the municipalities on the Swedish shore of Öresund experienced a very fast population growth (10‰ or higher a year) in this time period. The population in Metropolitan København has increased at an average annual pace of 3.8‰ (København municipality +6.4‰); the average annual rate of increase of the Malmö-Lund MA's population has been +8.0‰, with Malmö at +17.8‰. These different trends make us suspect either some important difference in recent socio-economic development on the two Öresund shores, or substantial flows that have moved part of the population towards Sydsverige.

In Figure 2 the three main components of population change in the three 'regions' of the Öresund region and in Blekinge län are shown for each individual year from 2000 to 2009. The increasing importance of international net migration in the two Swedish counties is evident<sup>13</sup>. However, it adds to a positive domestic net migration and increasingly positive natural change in Skåne län; it faces negative domestic net migration and natural change in Blekinge län. International net migration have been significantly positive only in the last three years in the Danish region Hovedstaden, from where a not-negligible internal net migration has flown away during the middle years of the decade. The nearby region Sjælland may have benefited from those outflows since it shows a positive domestic net migration. On the contrary, it has suffered negative natural change through the whole period, as also the Swedish Blekinge län has done.

**Figure 2 Main components of population change in the Sydsverige N.A. and the cross-border Öresund region: 2000-2009**



Source: Elaborations of data from the SCB and DST databases.

<sup>13</sup> See some explanation of the increase of immigration since 2006 to Sweden and Sydsverige in paragraph 3.4.

### 3.3 Natural change: fertility and mortality

As shown in Table 2, population natural change has been quite different in the three 'regions' of the Öresund region and in Blekinge län: the farthest ones in both countries experienced a negative change in the first decade of this century (more serious in Blekinge län,  $-1.3\%$  a year); the population of the Danish region Hovedstaden witnessed a natural increase of  $+2.4\%$ , the double of the one experienced in Skåne län, but in 'Greater Malmö' the natural change was  $+2.9\%$  a year on the 2000-2009 average. Are those different levels and trends due to differences in demographic behaviour or in population structure?

The birth rate is higher in the Danish region Hovedstaden (Table 4), where the share of women in childbearing age is higher (51% in 2010), and lower in Blekinge län and region Sjælland, where the potential mothers are less than 42% of total female population. The reproduction behaviour, on the contrary, is more favourable to births in Blekinge län and region Sjælland, where the current total fertility rate (TFR) approaches two children per woman and the average age of mothers at childbirth (AACB) is younger than 30 years or very close to this age. In the Danish region Hovedstaden TFR is significantly lower (1.72) and AACB is 1.5 years older. In Skåne län TFR (1.91) is more similar to the two 'high fertility' counties, while AACB (31.1) is delayed as it is in the København region.

**Table 4 Birth rate, Total Fertility Rate (TFR), and Average Age at Childbirth (AACB) in the Sydsverige N.A. and its counties, in the reference areas and the cross-border Öresund region**

<i>Reference areas, National Area, Counties, Cross-border region</i>	Birth rate (‰)		TFR (No)		AACB (yrs)	
	1990-1999	2000-2009	2000	2009	2000	2009
<b>SWEDEN</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>1.56</b>	<b>1.93</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>31.1</b>
<i>Södra Sverige</i>	<i>12.1</i>	<i>11.0</i>	<i>1.56</i>	<i>1.94</i>	<i>30.2</i>	<i>31.0</i>
<b>Sydsverige N.A.</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>1.54</b>	<b>1.92</b>	<b>30.2</b>	<b>31.0</b>
Skåne län	11.8	11.3	1.53	1.91	30.2	31.1
Blekinge län	10.9	10.1	1.62	2.01	29.9	30.1
<i>Danish Region Hovedstaden</i>	<i>13.0</i>	<i>13.0</i>	<i>1.67</i>	<i>1.72</i>	<i>30.2</i>	<i>31.5</i>
<i>Danish Region Sjælland</i>	<i>11.8</i>	<i>10.6</i>	<i>1.85</i>	<i>1.93</i>	<i>29.0</i>	<i>29.7</i>

Source: Elaborations of data from the SCB and DST databases.

Trends from the year 2000 to 2009 show an important increase in TFR everywhere, faster in Sweden and its counties (about  $+0.4$  children per woman in ten years), while in the Danish regions, where TFR was higher in the year 2000, the increase has been much smaller (about  $+0.1$ ). AACB has been delayed everywhere, especially in the København region, mainly for behavioural reasons. On the contrary, large part of the delay in the Swedish counties should be ascribed to the parallel increase in the late births of cadets, since the average age of mothers at their first birth (AACB1) only increased by 8 months against 11 months of the overall AACB in Skåne, and AACB1 even decreased in Blekinge.

Differences and trends in mortality depend either on population age structures or differences in survival. In Sweden and its counties here considered the lengthening of life span outweighed population ageing, so that their death rate slightly decreased (Table 5).

**Table 5 Death rate and Life Expectancy at Birth ( $\dot{e}_0$ ) by gender in the Sydsverige N.A. and its counties, in the reference areas and the cross-border Öresund region**

Reference areas, National Area, Counties, Cross-border region	Death rate (‰)		Male $\dot{e}_0$ (yrs)		Female $\dot{e}_0$ (yrs)	
	1990-1999	2000-2009	2000-2004	2004-2008	2000-2004	2004-2008
<b>SWEDEN</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>77.8</b>	<b>78.7</b>	<b>82.3</b>	<b>82.9</b>
<b>Södra Sverige</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>
<b>Sydsverige N.A.</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>
Skåne län	11.0	10.2	77.8	78.7	82.4	83.0
Blekinge län	11.9	11.3	78.3	79.1	82.9	83.0
Danish Region Hovedstaden	12.5	10.6	NA	75.3	NA	80.1
Danish Region Sjælland	11.8	11.1	NA	76.4	NA	80.7

Legenda: NA = Not Available.

Source: Elaborations of data from the SCB and DST databases.

The considerable decrease of death rate in the Danish region Hovedstaden, on the contrary, must be ascribed partially to the decrease in the share of elderly population and to an important increase in life expectancy at birth ( $\dot{e}_0$ ). However, it maintains differences of 3-4 years between Danish (lower  $\dot{e}_0$ ) and Swedish (higher  $\dot{e}_0$ ) areas, for both men and women<sup>14</sup>. Men in both 'backward' regions (Blekinge län in the Swedish part and region Sjælland in the Danish one) have higher  $\dot{e}_0$  than in the corresponding developed regions, probably because of the industrial past of the latter ones and the less polluted environment in the former ones, comparatively.

### 3.4 Net migration and migration flows

Migrations are a questionable issue in a cross-border region. Trans-national moves in the area add to domestic changes of residence in a nearly undistinguishable way. Long-distance interregional domestic migrations may cause more difficulties to migrants than the international cross-border ones. If possible, long-distant international migrants choose the whole cross-border region as their destination, but they settle down where the settlement conditions are easier, according to the two countries' immigration policies and local situations. Statistics on migrations should consider all these aspects from a cross-border perspective instead of separate counts for each of the countries involved. This is the case in the Öresund region thanks to Ørestat<sup>15</sup>: it elaborates the official Swedish and Danish data to produce a database focused on the cross-border area. Special statistics on cross-border commuters are also produced, so that the pattern of human mobility in the area is almost complete.

<sup>14</sup> Rodu *et* Cole [2004] stress the importance of low smoking prevalence in Sweden (19% among men aged 25+ yrs) when in Denmark the prevalence was 35% at the end of the last century; but this explanation would not work for female mortality differences. A quick inspection of the WHO data on 2001 causes of death at national level confirms mortality for malignant neoplasm of trachea, bronchus and lung and for bronchitis, chronic and unspecified, emphysema and asthma higher in Denmark than in Sweden for both genders, while for men there is chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, for women it is malignant neoplasm of breast. At the same time, mortality for acute myocardial infarction was higher in Sweden, especially for men.

<sup>15</sup> See <https://www.h.scb.se/orestat/website/index.aspx>. In our study, the only problem is that Ørestat does not consider Blekinge län as a part of the Öresund region. Therefore, Blekinge data will be missing in statistics drawn from the Ørestat database. Also the planned creation of a Nordic database on migration and commuting studies is to be mentioned: [www.statnord.org](http://www.statnord.org).

In Table 6 the general pattern of changes of municipality in the Öresund region is given. On the 2000-2007 average, the cross-border region has received an annual inflow of 76,714 immigrants (21.4‰ the average annual rate), of which about 1/4, respectively, came from the other Swedish counties (Blekinge län included) and other Danish regions, and 1/2 from other countries<sup>16</sup>.

**Table 6 Population mobility in the cross-border Öresund region<sup>(a)</sup>: 2000-2007 average annual rate and linear trend, and 2007 flows**

From	To	2000-2007 average annual rate (‰)				2007 flows (000)		
		Emigration		Net migration		In	Out	NM
		Rate	Trend <sup>(c)</sup>	Rate	Trend <sup>(c)</sup>			
Skåne län	All	51.04	+0.97	+7.50	+0.60	79.0	66.5	+12.5
	Skåne län	31.99	+0.50	-	-	41.2	41.2	-
	Hovedstaden	0.87	+0.13	+1.16	+0.20	3.7	1.7	+2.0
	Sjælland	0.17	+0.03	+0.19	+0.02	0.6	0.4	+0.2
	Other SE con.	13.78	+0.06	+2.25	-0.13	19.4	17.1	+2.3
	Other DK reg.	0.22	+0.03	+0.10	...	0.6	0.5	+0.1
	Other countries	4.01	+0.22	+3.81	+0.50	13.5	5.7	+7.8
Region Hovedstaden	All	80.99	+0.13	+1.62	-0.05	134.1	125.6	+8.5
	Skåne län	1.44	+0.24	-0.82	-0.15	1.7	3.7	-2.0
	Hovedstaden	49.33	-0.31	-	-	74.5	74.5	-
	Sjælland	10.98	+0.09	-2.36	-0.09	13.9	16.7	-2.8
	Other SE con.	0.48	+0.00	-0.04	+0.02	0.9	0.8	+0.1
	Other DK reg.	8.09	+0.17	+1.55	-0.30	15.2	14.1	+1.1
Region Sjælland	All	32.16	-0.77	+6.00	0.05	47.9	43.5	+4.4
	Skåne län	0.52	+0.07	-0.27	-0.03	0.4	0.6	-0.2
	Hovedstaden	17.49	-0.04	+4.79	+0.16	16.7	13.9	+2.8
	Sjælland	36.77	-1.60	-	-	20.9	20.9	-
	Other SE con.	0.22	+0.00	-0.06	+0.01	0.1	0.2	-0.1
	Other DK reg.	6.46	+0.08	-0.99	-0.08	4.4	5.3	-0.9
Other SE regions (b)	Skåne län	16.03	-0.07	-2.25	-0.13	17.1	19.4	-2.3
	Hovedstaden	0.44	+0.02	+0.04	+0.02	0.8	0.9	-0.1
	Sjælland	0.17	+0.00	+0.06	+0.01	0.2	0.1	+0.1
Other DK counties (b)	Skåne län	0.32	+0.03	-0.10	...	0.5	0.6	-0.1
	Hovedstaden	9.65	-0.13	+1.55	-0.30	14.1	15.2	-1.1
	Sjælland	5.47	-0.01	+0.99	-0.08	5.3	4.4	+0.9
Other countries (b)	Skåne län	7.82	+0.73	-3.81	+0.50	5.7	13.5	-7.8
	Hovedstaden	13.95	+0.41	-3.29	+0.47	15.7	27.9	-12.2
	Sjælland	6.35	-0.14	-2.52	-0.01	2.6	5.4	-2.8

Notes: <sup>(a)</sup> Blekinge län is not included in the Öresund region. <sup>(b)</sup> Rates calculated as immigration rates. <sup>(c)</sup> Linear slope.

Legenda: NM = Net migration; ... = Less than half of the minimum displayed.

Source: Elaborations of data from the SCB, DST, and Ørestat databases.

Apart from the heading of nationals towards the respective counties/regions in the Öresund region, 62% of the immigrants from other countries went into the Danish Region Hovedstaden, 24% into the Swedish Skåne län and the remaining 14% into the Danish Region Sjælland. The attractiveness of the capital city København and its Metropolitan Area fully justify those preferences. However, in 2000-2007, the immigration rate from other countries to Skåne län had been increasing at a much higher pace than in the København region.

<sup>16</sup> The table combines data from the Ørestat database with data from the SCB and DST databases. By subtracting the Ørestat data related to the movements with, respectively, other Danish regions or Swedish counties from the SCB and DST data on non-domestic migrations we obtained the migration flows to and from 'other countries'.



The migration outflows from the Öresund region have been equally intense: 60,581 a year, on the 2000-2007 average, 28% of which have been directed to other Swedish counties (Blekinge län included), 31% to other Danish regions and 41% to other countries. The annual emigration rate from the Öresund region (16.9‰, on average) has been about the same in the Swedish Skåne län (18.0‰) and the Danish Region Hovedstaden (19.2‰), while less people have moved away from the Danish Region Sjælland (10.5‰). Emigration towards other countries has been much more intense from the København region than from the other two regions, but in 2000-2007 it increased from Skåne län and decreased from the two Danish regions.

Skåne län maintains a higher net migration (+2.3‰) with the other Swedish counties than the Region Hovedstaden (+1.5‰) with the Danish regions outside the Öresund region, while the Region Sjælland registers a negative net migration (-1.0‰) with them.

The inter-municipality mobility internal to each region is higher in the Region Hovedstaden (49.3‰), where there is a Metropolitan Area of more than 1.2 million resident people, but the inter-municipality mobility is decreasing with time in 2000-2007, as it has been in the Region Sjælland, while in Skåne län the internal mobility increased, probably following the progressive extension of 'Greater Malmö'.

Finally, the three regions here considered exchanged some 36,000 migrants a year in 2000-2007: obviously, most of them were registered between the two Danish regions, with the prevalence of flows from Hovedstaden to Sjælland (17,883, on average) in respect to the opposite flows (14,031). Migrants to the Swedish Skåne län were much fewer (2,353 from Hovedstaden and 419 from Sjælland a year, on average), but they more than doubled the opposite flows and, in the time-period considered, they increased every year in number and rate, especially those from the København region.

The overall summary of the recent population mobility in the Öresund region gives Skåne län as the top absorbing region, since its net migration has been positive and, in general, increasing in respect to all the other aggregates. The Region Hovedstaden only gained population from abroad and the Danish regions outside the Öresund, but not-negligible flows have left the region of København to settle down in Sjælland or, crossing the Oresund, in Skåne län.

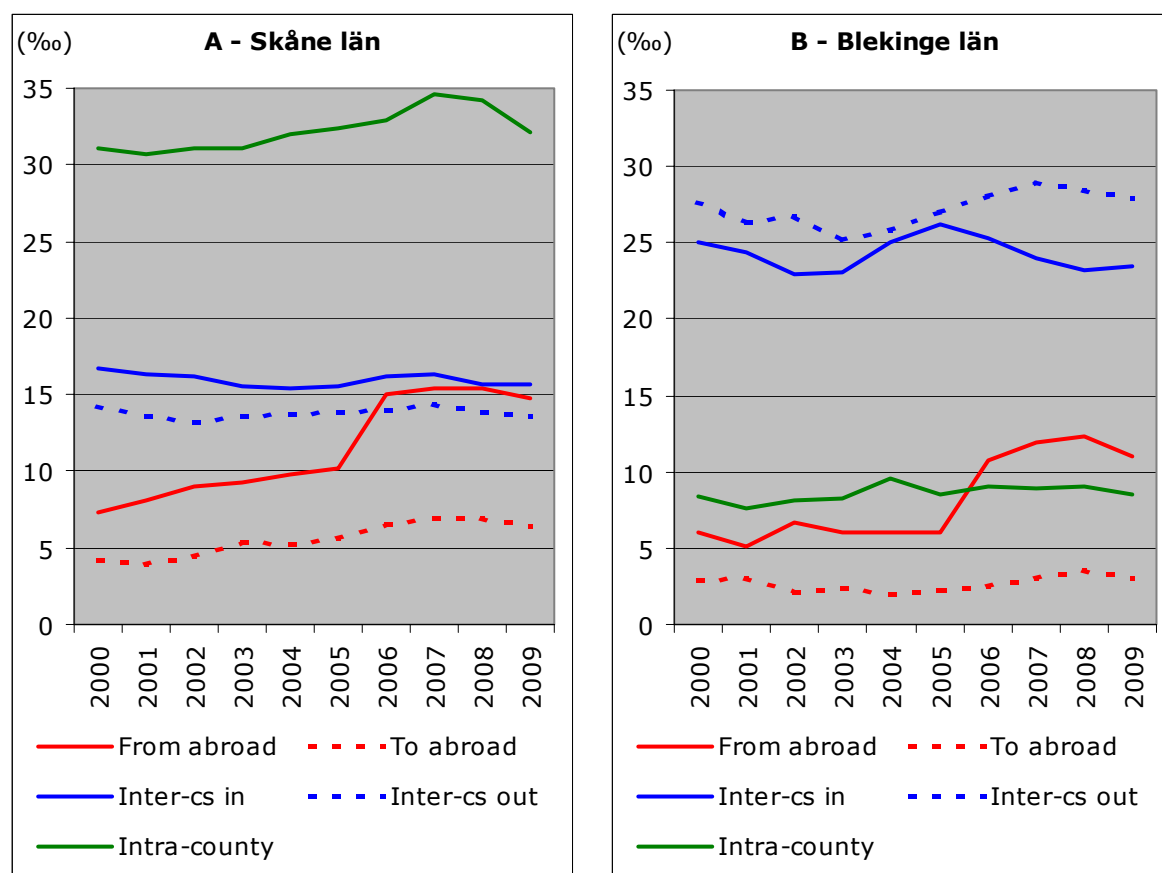
The Ørestat database allows us to separate the migration flows from the Danish regions in Zealand to three geographical aggregates of municipalities in Skåne län: North-East, North-West and South<sup>17</sup>. On the 2000-2008 average, about 3/4 moved to Southern Skåne and 1/5 to North-western Skåne. The share of migrants to Southern Skåne was the only one increasing in that time-period, though flows, wherever directed, had all been increasing in numbers. Southern Skåne, where about 730,000 reside, obtained 2,100 immigrants coming from the Danish Zealand yearly, on average, with a peak of 3,500 in 2007.

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<sup>17</sup> Skåne North-East is formed by 5 municipalities: Osby, Hasselholm, Östra-Göinge, Kristianstad, and Bromolla. Skåne North-West gathers 11 municipalities: Båstad, Högans Angelholm, Örkelljunga, Perstrop, Åstrop, Helsingborg, Bjuv, Klippan, Svalöv, and Landskrona. The remaining 17 municipalities, including the 'Greater Malmö' Metropolitan Area, belong to Skåne South.

Trends in population mobility in the two Sydsverige counties by type are shown in Figure 3. The different dimension and features of the two counties fully explain the different levels of intra-county and inter-county flows. In the small (only five municipalities) and, in comparison, backward Blekinge län changes of residence within the county are much less frequent than in Skåne län, while migration flows with other counties are higher and their balance has always been negative. International flows, however, are similar in the two counties, at least in their considerable and increasing positive balance (from +3‰ to +8‰ a year).

**Figure 3 Migration flows in the Sydsverige counties by type: 2000-2009**



*Legenda:* Inter-cs = Inter Swedish counties.

*Source:* Elaborations of data from the SCB database.

Also the slope of immigration rate from abroad is similar, with an important increase from 2005 to the higher levels since 2006. We find this change also in immigration statistic for Sweden as a whole. There is a set of reasons for that<sup>18</sup>:

- i) Temporary change in the 2005 Foreign Law, allowing asylum seekers whose claims had been rejected but who have been in Sweden for a long time to have their cases reviewed;
- ii) Specific active labour market policies, replaced in 2007, providing a general wage subsidy for those outside the labour force, with immigrants accounting for a third of the beneficiaries of this measure;
- iii) A new employment programme, "Step-In Jobs", begun in July 2007, offering new arrivals the opportunity to combine Swedish language training with a part-time job in their area of skills or the occupation for which they studied;

<sup>18</sup> See <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/43/17/44068162.pdf>

- iv) A major reform of labour migration policy, implemented by Sweden at the end of 2008, allowing employers to recruit from abroad with fewer restrictions;
- v) A new Anti-Discrimination Act, passed by the Swedish Parliament in June 2008, replacing a number of prior anti-discrimination and equal-opportunity laws;
- vi) A cohesive strategy for integration for the years 2008-2010 presented by the Swedish government in September 2008.

These general reasons probably contributed in re-directing asylum seekers and migrants coming to the Öresund region from the extra-EU countries towards the Swedish Sydsverige instead of the Danish Zealand<sup>19</sup>.

However, a considerable part of the inflows from abroad to Skåne län is from Denmark (about 1/4 in 2001-2008, with a peak of 29% in 2005) and, especially, from Zealand (22% on the 2001-2008 average, with a peak of 26% in 2005), with flows that more than doubled in the time period (Table 7). Also the flows from Skåne län to abroad almost doubled, and the share directed to Zealand increased. Specific reasons should be added in a more local perspective to explain the changes in intensity and direction of these cross-border migrations.

**Table 7 Immigrants/emigrants from/to abroad to/from Skåne län by provenance/destination and citizenship: 2001-2008 (%)**

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<i>Total imm. from abroad (000)</i>	9.2	10.3	10.7	11.3	11.9	17.7	18.4	18.6
From Denmark:	20.1	24.6	28.1	28.7	29.1	26.9	26.8	20.4
From Zealand:	17.2	21.5	24.2	25.5	26.0	24.2	23.7	18.0
Danish people	12.7	16.8	19.7	21.1	21.6	20.4	19.6	14.0
Swedish people	3.7	3.3	2.9	2.8	2.5	1.9	2.5	2.4
Citizens of other countries	0.8	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.9	1.9	1.6	1.5
From other countries	79.9	75.4	71.9	71.3	70.9	73.1	73.2	79.6
<i>Total emigr. to abroad (000)</i>	4,5	5,0	6,2	6,0	6,6	7,6	8,2	8,4
To Denmark:	19,7	19,7	20,9	26,7	27,5	24,4	30,8	35,1
To Zealand:	15,7	16,2	16,7	22,7	23,2	19,9	25,2	29,9
Danish people	8,1	10,4	11,4	14,2	14,4	11,8	13,5	16,1
Swedish people	7,0	5,1	4,5	4,8	4,3	4,2	5,3	6,3
Citizens of other countries	0,5	0,6	0,8	3,7	4,5	3,9	6,3	7,5
To other countries	80,3	80,3	79,1	73,3	72,5	75,6	69,2	64,9

NB: Percent values out of total immigrations/emigrations from/to abroad.

Source: Elaborations of data from the SCB and Ørestat databases.

The opening of the Öresund Link in the year 2000 almost immediately doubled the number of migrants from the Danish Zealand to Skåne län. Since then, that number increased continuously until 2007. The migrations of people of working age increased in a larger proportion, but also the share of children and school-aged people soon stabilized at considerable level, thus showing that a migration of young families took place<sup>20</sup>.

<sup>19</sup> «The Danish rules for the immigration of relatives from 2002 have contributed to an increase in the number of non-European emigrants from Denmark to Sweden, which is also seen in the migration flows between Zealand and Skåne. Among those moving in 2006 were 650 persons born in Asia and Africa. In 2001 this same group numbered only 80 persons. The number of Swedish born migrants from Zealand to Skåne has been approximately 300 persons per year during the same period.» <http://www.tendensoresund.org/en/migration-across-oresund>

<sup>20</sup> The demographic structure of the Danish population residing in Skåne län is much younger than all the other groups (Danish/Swedish/Other citizenships) residing on both shores of the Öresund.

Some of the reasons for that can be guessed from the data and news available:

- i) In recent times, the average selling price for single-family houses has more than doubled in København and its surrounding areas in respect to those in 'Greater Malmö'. The ratio was around 1.5 in 2004; from the end of 2005 to the beginning of 2007 it was over 2.0, and then decreased to 1.7 in 2008<sup>21</sup>.
- ii) Though statistical data are not available for correct comparison, many commentators report the advantageous cost of living and good social service in Sweden as reasons for moving from Zealand to Skåne<sup>22</sup>.
- iii) The SEK/DKK rate of exchange, which had been quite stable at around 0.81 from spring 2001 to spring 2005, went down in 2005. Then it recovered a little in 2006 but, since January 2007, it has been decreasing almost continuously, especially by the middle of 2008. Only since March 2009, when it fell down to -22% in respect to the 2002-2007 average value, the SEK/DKK rate increase, though it did not yet make up the preceding losses completely<sup>23</sup>.
- iv) Employees' earnings are higher in the Danish part of the Öresund region in respect to those in Skåne län. The overall difference is maintained at +30% from 2002 to 2007, higher for the professions in financial intermediation and construction, while only in real estate, renting and business activities are the average earnings 20% lower in Danish Zealand than in Skåne<sup>24</sup>.
- v) Unemployment is always higher in Skåne län than in Zealand. From 2003 to 2006 it increased in the Swedish part of the Öresund region and decreased in the Danish one. Since early 2007, unemployment trends have been parallel on the two shores (decreasing till the fall of 2007 in Skåne and the springtime of 2008 in Zealand, then increasing), but the levels maintained a gap of about 2 percentage points<sup>25</sup>.

People working in the Danish part of the Öresund region, and hence earning their salary in DKK, may have found it convenient to move their residence beyond the Strait, where they could gain purchasing power because of the differentials in earnings, trends in currency rate of exchange, and the costs of living. This move could have been particularly advantageous for the young couples, which had also to buy their first home. On the negative, they probably found commuting costs, considerably high<sup>26</sup>, and the different tax systems in the two countries an issue. In Denmark, incomes are taxed where they are produced, while Swedish municipalities tax the income of their residents. Thus, possible problems of double taxation arise for the Öresund commuters who reside in a Swedish municipality in Skåne län and work in Danish Zealand. Notwithstanding an

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In particular, the share of 0-5 year children was 12.3% on 1/1/2009 against an overall average in the Öresund region of 7.1% (see ahead paragraph 3.5).

<sup>21</sup> The average selling price for single-family houses is given in tables Bo12a/b and Bo11a/b of the Ørestat database. Here, we used prices computed in DKK.

<sup>22</sup> E.g., <http://www.skane.com/cmarter/cmarter.asp?doc=1721>

<sup>23</sup> Neither Sweden nor Denmark uses the Euro currency. The Swedish Krona (SEK) has been around 0.10 euros for a long times; the Danish Krone (DKK) is around 0.13 euros. Trends in the mutual rates of exchange can be seen at: [http://www.tititodorancea.com:80/z/sek to dkk exchange rates swedish krona danish krone.htm](http://www.tititodorancea.com:80/z/sek%20to%20dkk%20exchange%20rates%20swedish%20krona%20danish%20krone.htm)

<sup>24</sup> Average employees' earnings by industry are estimated in Euros as labour costs per month in table Lc02 of the Ørestat database.

<sup>25</sup> Unemployment rates are given in tables Lfs11a and LFS11b of the Ørestat database.

<sup>26</sup> The toll requested for a one-way crossing of the bridge is about 40 Euros for a standard car and 20 Euros by train from Malmö to København. Frequent passengers enjoy important fare reductions (around -75%). A monthly ticket costs 200 euros, approximately.

agreement signed in 1973<sup>27</sup>, problems on this issue are still present nor has a definite compromise been found yet [Eggert *et Genser* 2005].

The internal mobility in Skåne län is also interesting. From the Ørestat database it is also possible to divide this mobility into three county parts (Table 8), from which the central role of the southern part (which hosts 'Greater Malmö') and the growing importance of the northwestern part are evident. The northeastern part, on the contrary, witnesses low mobility both internal and from the other parts of the county. Immigration from the other Swedish counties, however, interests the three parts of Skåne län almost at the same rate, not changing too much during the period 2000-2008. In 2008, for instance, 1/3 of the immigrants from the rest of Sweden were aged 16-24 years – the university age-span – and this quota was almost the same in the three parts of Skåne län. An important share of elderly people (5-6%) also immigrated, especially to the two northern parts, probably drawn by the beauty of the seaside and countryside of the southernmost county in Sweden<sup>28</sup>. Map 4 tries to show the intensity of domestic and international net migration simultaneously at the municipality level: domestic losses from Blekinge län, but also from the outskirts of København, are evident, while international flows benefited almost all the Swedish municipalities.

**Table 8 Domestic mobility rates in Skåne län by sub-region<sup>(a)</sup> of provenance or destination: 2001-2008 (‰)**

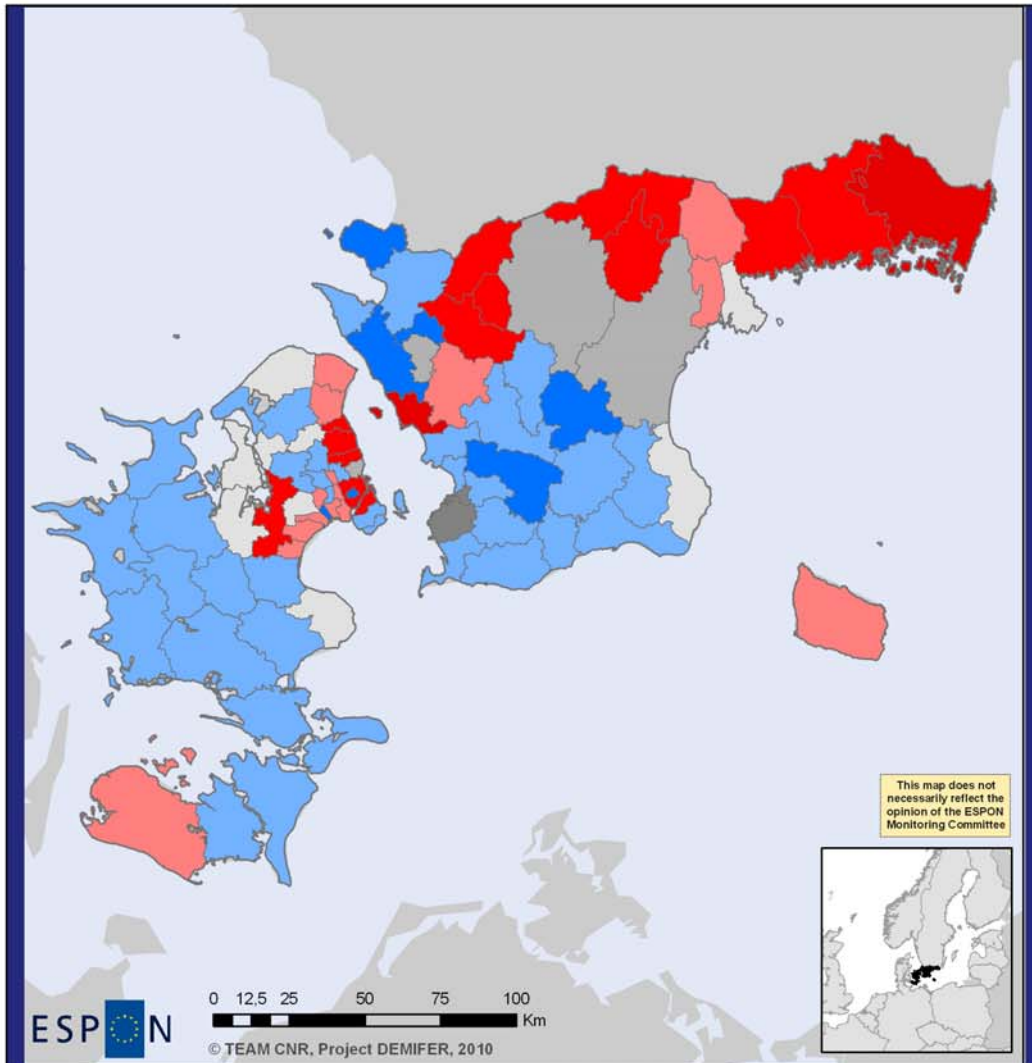
From	To	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
South Skåne län	South	28.4	27.8	27.9	28.2	29.1	29.8	29.6	31.1	29.9
	North-East	1.8	1.8	2.0	1.9	2.1	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.2
	North-West	3.4	3.4	3.7	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.7	4.0	4.2
	Outside	14.3	13.7	13.2	13.4	13.6	14.2	14.1	14.2	16.4
NE Skåne län	South	7.3	7.3	7.8	7.0	7.7	7.3	8.5	9.0	8.9
	North-East	9.8	9.2	9.5	9.0	9.3	8.8	9.6	10.0	10.4
	North-West	3.6	3.2	3.5	3.0	3.3	3.4	3.7	3.6	3.5
	Outside	15.5	14.3	14.1	14.5	14.7	14.2	15.2	16.2	14.8
NW Skåne län	South	7.5	7.3	7.4	7.0	7.5	8.2	8.8	9.4	8.8
	North-East	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.7	2.0
	North-West	21.7	22.5	22.0	22.4	22.4	22.5	23.1	23.9	24.6
	Outside	13.2	12.9	12.7	13.3	13.2	12.7	12.9	13.7	14.4
<i>Other</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>17.4</i>	<i>16.6</i>	<i>16.5</i>	<i>15.8</i>	<i>15.9</i>	<i>16.0</i>	<i>16.8</i>	<i>16.8</i>	<i>13.6</i>
<i>Swed.</i>	<i>North-East</i>	<i>15.0</i>	<i>15.2</i>	<i>15.4</i>	<i>14.7</i>	<i>13.6</i>	<i>14.2</i>	<i>14.1</i>	<i>15.4</i>	<i>16.2</i>
<i>cs</i> <sup>(b)</sup>	<i>North-West</i>	<i>16.2</i>	<i>16.4</i>	<i>15.8</i>	<i>15.5</i>	<i>15.2</i>	<i>15.3</i>	<i>15.9</i>	<i>15.5</i>	<i>13.2</i>

Notes: <sup>(a)</sup> For their definition see foot-page note no 17. <sup>(b)</sup> Rates calculated as immigration rates.  
Source: Elaborations of data from the SCB and Ørestat databases.

<sup>27</sup> See the agreement at [http://untreaty.un.org/unts/60001\\_120000/7/30/00013453.pdf](http://untreaty.un.org/unts/60001_120000/7/30/00013453.pdf) and the present situation at: <https://www.workindenmark.dk/Find%20information/Til%20arbejdstagere/Skatte regler/Graense gaengere%20Sverige.aspx>

<sup>28</sup> Actually, by 1/1/2009 about 20% of the Swedish resident population in the two less urbanised parts of the county were 65 years and over, 3/4 of which were women.

**Map 4 Municipalities by the average rate of national and international net migration in the Sydsverige N.A. and the cross-border Öresund region: 2005-2009 (DK 2006-2009) (‰)**



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**Legend**

**Internal (national) and international net migration**

- National < -1 ‰ / international < +5 ‰
- National < -1 ‰ / international > +5 and < +10 ‰
- National < -1 ‰ / international > +10 ‰
- National < +1 and > -1 ‰ / international < +5 ‰
- National < +1 and > -1 ‰ / international > +5 and < +10 ‰
- National < +1 and > -1 ‰ / international > +10 ‰
- National > +1 ‰ / international < +5 ‰
- National > +1 ‰ / international > +5 and < +10 ‰

Local level: LAU2  
Source: www.scb.se and www.dst.dk, 2010  
Origin of data: Statistics Sweden and Statistics Denmark, 2010  
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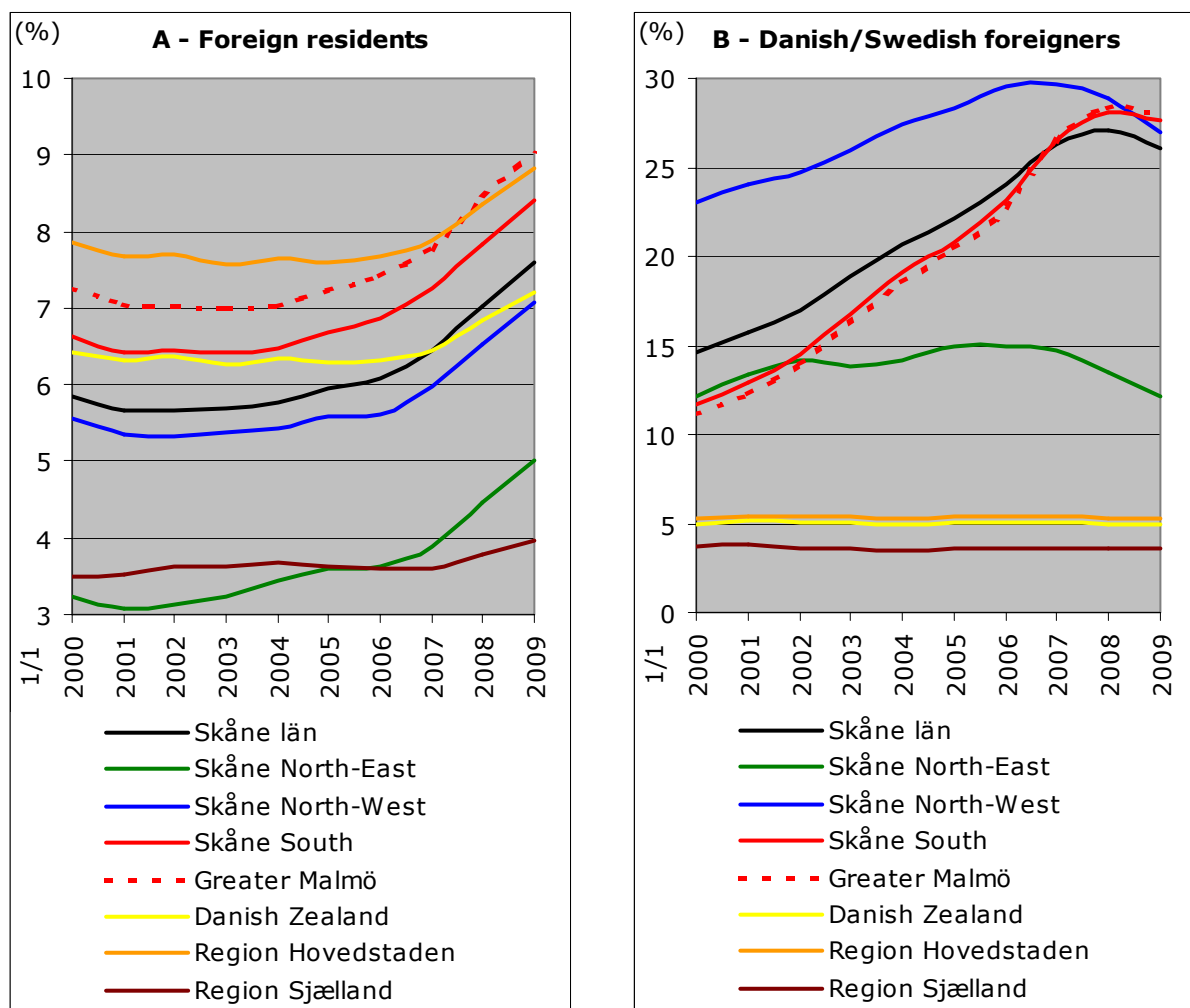
Source: Elaborations of data from the SCB and Ørestat databases.

### 3.5 The presence of foreign migrants: their provenance and characteristics

Cross-border migrants from the neighbouring country enlarge the presence of the foreign migrants in a CBR. For the reasons mentioned above they can hardly be considered as real foreign migrants. In the statistics, however, they are counted as such, thus twisting the characteristics of the foreign residents according to the particular features that a cross-border migrant population may have.

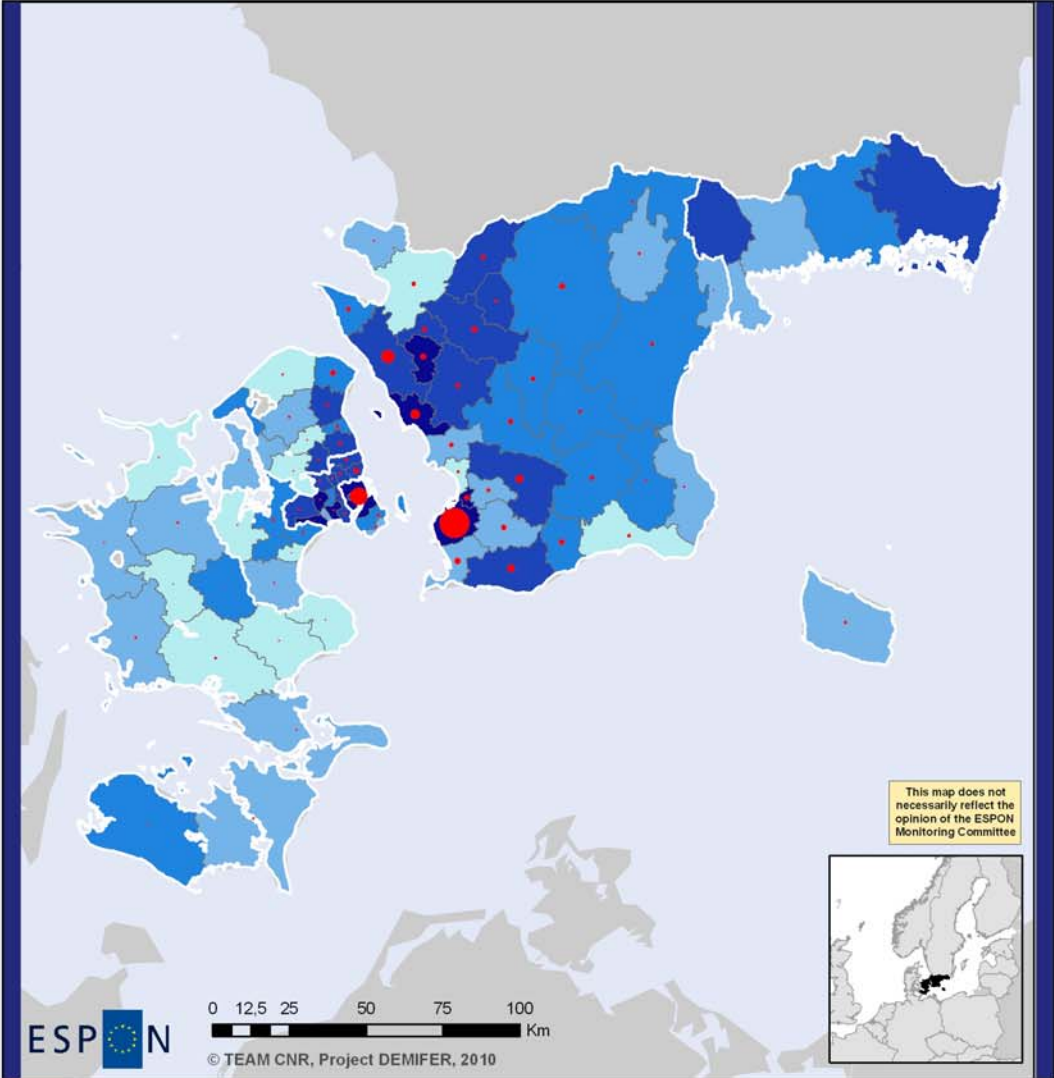
The presence of a foreign resident population on the Swedish shore of the Öresund gained a couple of percent points after the opening of the Öresund Link, only one point in the Danish Region Hovedstaden (where it was already at the highest levels in the area) and practically null in Sjælland (Figure 4-A). The 'Greater Malmö' Metropolitan Area reached the maximum level of 9% of foreign resident population, but also in the northwestern part of Skåne län the share of foreign residents became important.

**Figure 4 Share of the foreign resident population (A) and of Danish/Swedish foreigners (B) in the cross-border Öresund region: 2000-2009 (%)**



Source: Elaborations of the Ørestat database.

**Map 5 Municipalities by the share of foreign resident population in the Sydsverige N.A. and the cross-border Öresund region: 1/1/2010 (%)**



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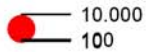
Local level: LAU2  
Source: xxx, year

Origin of data: xxx, year

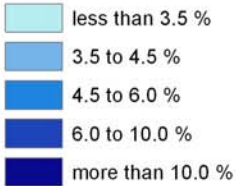
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**Legend**

**Swedish/Danish residents**



**Foreign resident population 1.1.2010 (%)**



Source: Elaborations of data from the SCB and Ørestat databases.



A great contribution to those increases in Skåne län came from the increase in the share of foreign citizens from Denmark (Figure 4-B), which almost doubled from 2000 to 2008, especially in the area around Malmö. Only the northeastern part of the county seems to have been less involved in the increase of residents coming from Denmark. In most recent years, though the number of the latter keeps increasing, their share in the foreign resident population is decreasing because of the larger immigration from other countries attracted to Sweden from the above-said interventions in migration policy. The effects of the opening of Öresund Link on the residence of Swedish citizens in the Danish Zealand seem non-existent. Their quota in the foreign residents there has maintained around 5% and their number only increased by +15% from 2000 to 2009.

As reported in Table 9, at the beginning of 2009 more than 1/4 of the foreign migrants who resided in Skåne län were Danish citizens (some 24,000), but they were 1/8 in the northeastern part of the county. On the Danish shores of the Öresund, on the contrary, only 1/20 of the foreign residents were Swedish (less than 9,000). The citizens from other ESPON countries were about 1/3 almost everywhere. In the Danish regions, the share of migrants from other European countries and from Asia was higher.

**Table 9 Foreign resident population in the cross-border Öresund region by citizenship: 1/1/2009 (%)**

County parts, Cross-border regions	Number (000)	Denmark /Sweden	Others ESPON	Others Europe	Asia	Rest of the world	Not known
<b>Skåne län</b>	149.7	26.8	32.3	7.6	19.9	8.2	5.2
North-East Skåne län	8.4	12.1	36.1	7.0	29.6	6.4	8.8
North-West Skåne län	22.7	27.0	34.1	8.5	18.0	4.8	7.7
South Skåne län	61.3	27.6	32.2	7.4	19.4	8.9	4.5
Greater Malmö	57.4	27.9	31.2	7.4	19.7	9.2	4.5
<b>Danish Zealand</b>	179.2	4.9	33.9	21.9	25.6	12.6	1.1
Danish Region Hovedstaden	146.7	5.2	34.5	20.8	25.2	13.2	0.9
Danish Region Sjælland	32.5	3.6	31.2	26.8	27.0	9.7	1.7

Source: Elaborations of data from the Ørestat database.

The demographic structure of the foreign resident population has to be analysed separately for the migrants coming from the neighbouring country and from elsewhere (Table 10). Following the data drawn from the Ørestat database referred to the beginning of 2009 important twists by gender are present in the cross-bounder migrants: in favour of males in the Danish population residing in Skåne län (nearly 1.5 males per woman in the overall population and more than 1.6 in the working-age population); in favour of women among the few Swedish people who resided on the opposite shore (about 0.7 men per woman). The men/women ratio was much more balanced everywhere for the citizens from other countries.

Also their age-structure was fairly similar between the regions considered and it is regular for immigrant populations. But this is the case neither for the Swedish population residing in the Danish Zealand, which is quite aged, nor for the Danish population residing in the different parts of Skåne län. Its southern and northwestern parts host a younger Danish population with a considerable share of 0-15 year-old children. On the contrary, some more mature and elderly people from Denmark seem to have chosen the North-East Skåne län as their region of residence.

**Table 10 Demographic structure of the foreign resident population in the cross-border region Öresund by citizenship: 1/1/2009 (%)**

Counties, County parts, Cross-border regions	M / F		Age group <sup>(a)</sup> (yrs)				
	0-ω	16-64	0-15	16-24	25-34	35-64	65+
<i>Danish / Swedish citizens</i>							
<b>Blekinge län</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>
<b>Skåne län</b>	<b>146,5</b>	<b>162,6</b>	<b>18,9</b>	<b>9,6</b>	<b>23,0</b>	<b>40,2</b>	<b>8,3</b>
North-East Skåne län	163,8	186,8	9,6	5,8	9,9	52,8	21,9
North-West Skåne län	144,6	157,0	15,9	9,6	14,1	46,8	13,6
South Skåne län	146,2	163,4	20,5	9,8	27,0	37,1	5,6
<b>Danish Zealand</b>	<b>69,1</b>	<b>71,6</b>	<b>7,1</b>	<b>13,5</b>	<b>23,0</b>	<b>43,7</b>	<b>12,6</b>
<i>Foreign citizens from other countries</i>							
<b>Blekinge län</b>	<b>135,0</b>	<b>144,6</b>	<b>15,4</b>	<b>14,3</b>	<b>31,0</b>	<b>32,6</b>	<b>6,7</b>
<b>(All foreign citizens)</b>							
<b>Skåne län</b>	<b>104,6</b>	<b>105,6</b>	<b>16,2</b>	<b>13,0</b>	<b>28,9</b>	<b>35,8</b>	<b>6,1</b>
North-East Skåne län	103,0	102,7	21,9	14,3	24,6	34,1	5,1
North-West Skåne län	104,7	106,1	17,7	13,2	25,8	36,2	7,0
South Skåne län	104,8	105,9	14,7	12,6	30,7	36,0	6,0
<b>Danish Zealand</b>	<b>96,8</b>	<b>96,4</b>	<b>14,9</b>	<b>15,0</b>	<b>25,9</b>	<b>38,7</b>	<b>5,5</b>

Notes: <sup>(a)</sup> Young age groups for Blekinge län are the following: 0-14, 15-24. NA = Not Available.  
Source: Elaborations of data from the SCB and Ørestat databases.

### 3.6 Cross-border commuting

The importance of the Öresund Link in the area cannot be understood unless the trends and numbers of cross-border commuting are analysed. The number of people moving daily for work or educational reasons across the Strait (via the Öresund Link or ferry-boats) is about 20,000 (Table 11). Most of them reside in Skåne South, while very few come from Skåne North-East or from the Danish region Sjælland, the farthest areas from the Öresund Link.

**Table 11 Number and average annual rate of change of the cross-border commuters in the Öresund region by residence/work area and period**

Area of		Commuters (No)		Average an. rate of change (%)		
Residence	Work	2000	2007	1997-2000	2000-2005	2005-2007
<i>From Sweden to Denmark</i>						
Skåne North East	Danish Zealand	63	185	-2.5	+13.0	+26.3
Skåne North West	Danish Zealand	1,074	3,146	+3.2	+9.7	+37.5
Skåne South	Danish Zealand	1,873	14,474	+20.0	+30.0	+44.2
<b>Skåne län</b>	<b>Danish Zealand</b>	<b>3,010</b>	<b>17,890</b>	<b>+12.2</b>	<b>+23.9</b>	<b>+42.7</b>
Skåne län	Reg. Hovedstaden	2,931	17,262	+12.4	+23.5	+43.2
Skåne län	Reg. Sjælland	79	628	+6.7	+36.0	+30.6
<i>From Denmark to Sweden</i>						
Danish Zealand	Skåne North East	6	19	-12.6	+28.5	-4.9
Danish Zealand	Skåne North West	105	159	+16.7	+15.3	-13.8
Danish Zealand	Skåne South	170	445	+23.2	+24.0	-5.6
<b>Danish Zealand</b>	<b>Skåne län</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>+19.2</b>	<b>+21.2</b>	<b>-7.9</b>
Reg. Hovedstaden	Skåne län	270	570	+20.6	+20.7	-9.3
Reg. Sjælland	Skåne län	11	53	-2.9	+30.1	+13.7

Source: Elaborations of data from the Ørestat database.

From the year 2000 to 2007: the number of cross-border commuters multiplied by five; the flow of people residing in Skåne län and working in Zealand by six; and the opposite flow by two. The timing of those increases is also interesting, because it confirms the progressive involvement of further areas in Skåne län by the settling of Danish people who maintain their work in Zealand.

## 4 The socio-economic environment and population in the Sydsverige N.A. and the cross-border Öresund region

### 4.1 Main economic characteristics

In 2007, the Öresund region produced some 113,000 million Euros as regional GDP, which was more than 1/4 of the national GDPs of Sweden and Denmark all together. Separately, the Skåne län's GDP was 12% of the Swedish GDP (13%, when also Blekinge län is included in the NUTS2 Sydverige); the GDP produced in the Danish Zealand was 47% of the Danish GDP, with Region Hovedstaden contributing 36% and Region Sjælland 11%.

Differences in the economic level within the Öresund region are still important with the GDP per capita being at +20% of the area average in Region Hovedstaden and -17% in Region Sjælland, while both the Swedish counties were at -8% in 2007. From 1998 to 2007, however, the latter ones reduced the gap; the former ones increased it.

Economic trends in the Öresund region have been almost similar to the national trends in the 1998-2007 time period. From this point of view, the opening of the Öresund Link does not seem to have produced any differential spurts to the local economy. Region Sjælland, instead, suffered a slower increase of GDP per capita, especially up till 2003.

The presence of a national capital city, the functioning of two Metropolitan Areas developed on the two shores of the Strait but now strictly linked to each other, the surviving of wide agricultural areas, and the development of tourist sites make the Öresund region a very composite region from an economic and productive point of view (Table 12).

**Table 12 Share and index of change in the added value in the Sydsverige N.A. and the Öresund region by economic sector and region: 2007 and 2000-2007**

Economic sector and branch	2007 share (%)			Index of 2000-2007 change <sup>(a)</sup>		
	Syd-sverige	Hoved-staden	Sjælland	Syd-sverige	Hoved-staden	Sjælland
Agriculture etc.	1.4	0.3	2.8	0.62	0.79	0.69
Energy	2.7	2.1	1.9	1.18	1.08	0.77
Manufacturing	17.5	13.3	24.6	0.85	0.96	0.91
Construction	4.8	4.5	9.5	1.27	0.96	1.00
Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and household goods, hotels and restaurants; transport and communication	17.7	34.6	19.3	1.03	0.99	1.06
Financial, real estate, renting and business activities	21.7	26.7	17.6	1.12	1.09	1.15
Public and personal services	34.4	18.5	24.4	1.00	0.94	1.04
TOTAL <sup>(b)</sup>	100.0	100.0	100.0	+36.7	+39.0	+37.3

Notes: <sup>(a)</sup> Ratio between specific and total 2000-2007 changes. <sup>(b)</sup> 2000-2007 % of total change in italics.

NB: Basic data are given separately in current prices, million SEK or DKK.

Source: Elaborations of data from the SCB and DST databases.

Agriculture maintains its importance mainly because it gives inputs to the food industry, which is especially present (but declining in importance) in Skåne län and Region Sjælland<sup>29</sup>. Manufacturing is still an important slice of the regional economy in Sjælland and Sydsverige, but in the latter one it lost importance in the 1999-2007 time-span. On the contrary, on the Swedish shores, the output from 'Construction' has grown faster than the average increase and in 2007 it contributed for about 5% to the total GDP in Sydsverige. It is even more important in Sjælland, where activities in the service sector seem lacking (61% in 2007). The service sector contributes to the regional GDP for about 4/5 in the region of København and 3/4 in the Sydsverige N.A.; the largest contribution however, comes from the 'Public and personal services' branch in Sydsverige and from a comprehensive group of trades and private services in Hovedstaden.

The effects of the opening of the Öresund Link in 2000 might be deduced from the importance assumed in Sydsverige N.A. by the branches 'Financial, real estate, renting and business activities' and 'Construction', whose contribution to the regional GDP particularly grew in Skåne län. Actually, between 2000 and 2007 the number of sales of single-family houses increased by +31% in the county and +68% in 'Greater Malmö': the demand for housing by the Danish cross-border migrants to Skåne län could have inflated the relevant branches.

Also employment in the branches 'Financial, real estate, renting and business activities' and 'Construction' increased in Sydsverige N.A. faster than the average 2000-2007 change (Table 13). In this region, as well as in the Danish Region Sjælland, employment in manufacturing and agriculture is not negligible, while in the region of København agriculture and industry, if considered together, use less than one employee out of seven.

**Table 13 Share and index of change in employment in the Sydsverige N.A. and the Öresund region by economic sector and region: 2007 and 2000-2007**

Economic sector and branch	2007 share (%)			Index of 2000-2007 change <sup>(a)</sup>		
	Syd-sverige	Hoved-staden	Sjælland	Syd-sverige	Hoved-staden	Sjælland
Agriculture etc.	3.2	0.7	3.7	0.82	1.00	0.81
Energy	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.83	0.91	0.67
Manufacturing	15.3	8.4	12.3	0.81	0.85	0.83
Construction	6.3	4.4	7.5	1.19	1.04	1.04
Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and household goods, hotels and restaurants; transport and communication	21.9	27.2	25.3	1.00	0.95	1.07
Financial, real estate, renting and business activities	14.0	22.9	12.2	1.19	1.17	1.31
Public and personal services	38.6	35.9	38.4	1.03	0.98	0.97
TOTAL <sup>(b)</sup>	100.0	100.0	100.0	+7.4	+3.7	+4.4

Notes: <sup>(a)</sup> Ratio between specific and total 2000-2007 changes. <sup>(b)</sup> 2000-2007 % of total change in italics.

Source: Elaborations of data from the SCB and DST databases.

<sup>29</sup> More specific data on regional GDPs have been calculated from tables of the Ørestat database.

A thorough analysis that compared the features of the manufacturing sector in the Danish and Swedish parts of the Öresund region «reveals that the Swedish part is more knowledge-and-labour-intensive than its Danish counterpart. The Danish part of Öresund is significantly more research-intensive but both parts have large S-sectors [Sheltered sector, corresponding to mature and stagnated phases of the product life cycle].» [Lundquist *et* Winther 2006: 124].

## 4.2 Working-age population and the workforce

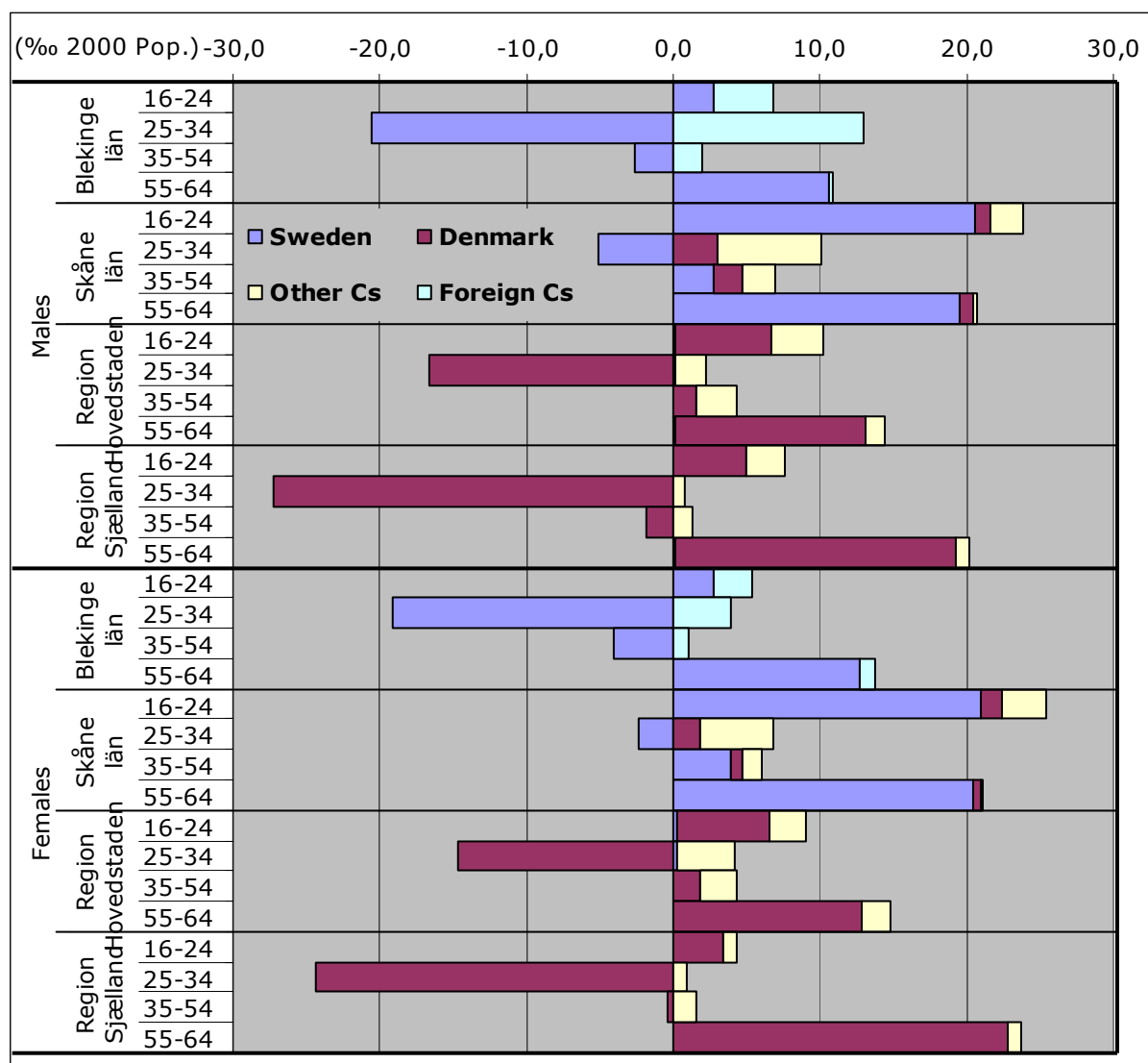
By the beginning of 2010 almost 2/3 of the population who reside in the Öresund region were of working age (16-64 years), a little less in Sjælland. In the last ten years they increased from 2.34 million at the beginning of the century to the current 2.46 million (+5.3%). Half of the increment of +123,000 came from the Swedish population and half from citizens of other countries, the Danish people of working age being increased by less than +3,000. Skåne län registered the largest increment in the working-age population (+83,000 or +10.5%), Region Sjælland the smallest (+1,100 or +0.2%). Also in the Blekinge län, if included, the working-age population has only increased by +400 (+0.4%) since the beginning of this century. It is interesting to note that Danish people of working age decreased in both the Danish regions of Öresund (-2,500 in Region Hovedstaden and -5,400 in Region Sjælland), while they increased of +10,700 in Skåne län. Swedish people in working age increased everywhere, especially in Region Hovedstaden, in relative terms. The working-age population from other countries increased the most in Skåne län (+45%) and around +35% in the two Danish regions.

In the 2000-2009 time-period the population aged 25-34 years suffered the passage of the small cohorts born after the 1973 Oil Crisis who replaced the large cohorts born before. The effects are evident in Figure 5 in every region, but the loss was particularly important in Region Sjælland, while in the Swedish counties it was reduced by the inflow from outside – the two Swedish regions across the Strait, and/or rest of Denmark, and/or other countries. As usual, the foreign people mainly contributed to the young working-age groups, but in the Denmark regions they gave also not-negligible positive input to later ages, as well as it happened in Skåne län for the Danish citizens.

More than 3/4 (currently decreasing) of the 16-64 year population is employed: 78% of men (80% in Region Hovedstaden and 75% in Skåne län) and 73% of women (76% in Region Hovedstaden and 70% in Skåne län). The unemployment rate increased in the Öresund region from 5.0% to 6.7% in the last three years. It is considerably different on the two shores: 8.6% in Skåne län in 2009, against 6.1% in Region Hovedstaden and 5.3% in Region Sjælland. In comparison to the respective countries, the labour market in the three regions in Öresund seems to be a little better on the Danish side and a little worse on the Swedish side.

The structure of the employed population by economic sector gives a post-industrial picture of the region but for the Region Sjælland, where about 4% still work in agriculture and 22% in the industrial sector (Table 14). Also in Skåne län the employment in the industrial sector is still important (23%) but it considerably decreased since 1994.

**Figure 5 Components by citizenship of the rates of change in working-age population by gender and age in the Sydsverige N.A. and the cross-border Öresund region: 2000-2009 (‰)**



NB: Rates are calculated out of the initial size of the population in the relevant gender-and-age group. For Blekinge län, Foreign Cs include Denmark.

Source: Elaborations of data from the SCB and Ørestat databases.

**Table 14 Structure of the employed population by economic sector in the Öresund region and reference areas: average 1994, 2000, and 2007 (% of total working population)**

	Agriculture, etc.			Industrial sector			Service sector		
	1994	2000	2007	1994	2000	2007	1994	2000	2007
Skåne län	3.2	2.5	2.0	26.0	25.6	22.8	70.8	71.9	75.2
Region Hovedstaden	0.8	0.7	0.6	18.3	16.3	15.0	80.9	83.0	84.4
Region Sjælland	5.7	4.6	3.7	24.5	24.0	21.9	69.9	71.4	74.4
<b>Öresund region</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>78.4</b>	<b>80.5</b>	<b>82.6</b>
Non-Öresund Sweden	2.3	1.8	1.7	25.9	25.3	23.7	71.8	72.9	74.6
Non-Öresund Denmark	6.8	5.2	4.1	28.7	27.9	25.2	64.5	66.9	70.6

Source: Elaborations of data from the Ørestat database.

On average, people working on the Swedish shores of the Öresund region seem to be engaged in higher level professions than on the opposite shore (e.g., employees in elementary occupations are 1/4 in the Danish regions but only 1/10 in Skåne län), but this fact may depend on possible differences in the classification of professions between Sweden and Denmark.

Commuters residing in Skåne län and working in Zealand are more concentrated in 'Transport, storage and communication' and 'Letting and sale of real estate, business activities, etc.' than the workers resident on the Danish shores. In Region Hovedstaden they are also more present in 'Wholesale and retail trade'. On the contrary, their share is less than half in the professions related to 'Human health activities, social institutions, etc.'.

### 4.3 Human Capital and R&D structures

A cross-border region is an area where the human capitals of different countries confront each other and, possibly, find the most appropriate placing in the two different economies and labour markets. From Table 15, it is evident that the movers to other regions within the Öresund are more educated than the stayers. Compared to the national average of the relevant country, the population living in the Öresund regions are more educated, as well as the foreign migrants are. The large presence of universities in the area and the important share of R&D in the local economy justify both the results<sup>30</sup>.

**Table 15 Share of the graduated or post-graduated population by gender and citizenship in the Öresund region and reference areas: 1/1/2009 (% of 15-74 year-olds)**

	Males				Females			
	Danish	Swedish	Other	Total	Danish	Swedish	Other	Total
Skåne län	39,3	22,2	34,6	23,1	41,9	29,5	40,9	30,2
Region Hovedstaden	30,6	47,0	29,0	30,6	34,8	52,8	29,2	34,5
Region Sjælland	18,6	40,1	22,9	18,7	23,9	40,9	24,0	23,9
<b>Öresund region</b>	26,6	22,3	30,1	25,4	31,2	29,6	32,2	30,7
<i>Non-Öresund Sweden</i>	27,7	20,6	31,5	21,2	37,0	28,8	36,0	29,2
<i>Non-Öresund Denmark</i>	21,0	39,0	26,0	7,3	25,0	41,6	26,1	23,6

Source: Elaborations of data from the Ørestat database.

The importance of the 'knowledge economy' in the area is widely discussed. A functional 'food cluster' in Skåne län is identified in «a handful of dedicated functional food firms in and around the cities of Lund and Malmö. [...] A knowledge intensive embryonic cluster is taking shape under the wings of the traditional food industry.» [Asheim *et* Coenen 2005: 1182]. «Both Lund University and the Swedish Agricultural University in Alnarp (located between Lund and Malmö) have indeed aligned parts of their education and research activities to the historical presence of the food industry in Scania.» [Coenen *et* Asheim 2005: 27].

<sup>30</sup> A UE Regional policy project states that «Öresund Science Region uses and develops the Öresund Region's unique strengths: a highly educated population and market-leading technology, 12 universities, 6 science parks, 2000 companies and some 12,000 researchers. These strengths are reflected by the region's large number of researchers and high-technology companies.»: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/projects/practices/details.cfm?pay=DK&the=45&sto=1369&region=ALL&lan=7&obj=ALL&per=ALL&defL=EN](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/projects/practices/details.cfm?pay=DK&the=45&sto=1369&region=ALL&lan=7&obj=ALL&per=ALL&defL=EN)

The 'biotechnology cluster' in the Öresund region is viewed as a «container of different research bases, embedded in two national innovation systems, which makes functional proximity subordinate to relational proximities and triggers future empirical research in a larger scale.» [Coenen *et al* 2003: 25], but «the proximity dependency of different learning and innovation activities is contingent on the nature of the learning process and the kind of knowledge required [...] makes the biotech industry in Øresund an interesting case since it involves quite complex learning processes with different kinds of knowledge flux.» [*ibid*: 23].

We must recall that the EURODITE research [2007] puts the Sydsverige N.A. in the cluster 'North High-Tech Regions' (main characteristics: High private and public research (average of 4,5% of GDP); Specialisation: mechanics, electronics (low on chemicals); High technology and scientific activity; High Educational level; Low services (manufacturing); and main complementarities: Very High S&T; T&I in electronics; Very High educational level [*ibid*: 40]), while København with its region is among the 'North Scientific Regions' (main characteristics: High Public Research / Scientific Activity; Low private Research; Low Manufacturing / HTMT; Specialisation Food, Wood industries; and main complementarities: High S&T (life sciences); KIBS, Non market services; Medium/High educational Level / HRST [*ibid*: 41]).

#### **4.4 The socio-economic environment and demographic change**

Demographic change in a cross-border region and in its internal areas largely depends both on the functioning of the social and economic environment as a whole and the mutual relationships that exist within the area. While the former one stimulates or depress migrations from or to the 'rest of the world', internal imbalances may arouse temporary or permanent population moves. Both kinds of migrations, however, contribute in modifying the regions' demographic pattern and their demographic trends, also for what regards the natural change.

The migration and family policies carried on by the national and local authorities that rule the area can condition migratory and reproductive choices relevantly, though less than the socio-economic patterns do. We already pointed out the larger inflows of immigrants from 'third' countries into the Swedish counties in Sydsverige, following the better acceptance that Sweden has reserved to foreign migrants during the last five years in respect to the Danish migration policy. Also the existing differentials in family welfare may have induced young people from Denmark to settle their residence on the Swedish shores of the Öresund region. Both moves contributed in sustaining birth rate and reducing mortality in Skåne.

The general demographic pattern, however, shows a relatively high fertility and a relatively low mortality all over the cross-border area, though there are some problems in Denmark in this latter regard. The social pro-family policies and the effective health services and assistance that are common in Nordic countries produce fairly positive demographic trends. Especially the political measures aimed at reconciling family and economic work lead to higher numbers in reproduction and high labour participation rates also by women.

On the other side, the forerunning economy, fostered by research and innovation also managed by bilateral bodies, maintains the labour demand high in the area and the salary levels favourable to investments in family formation and housing.



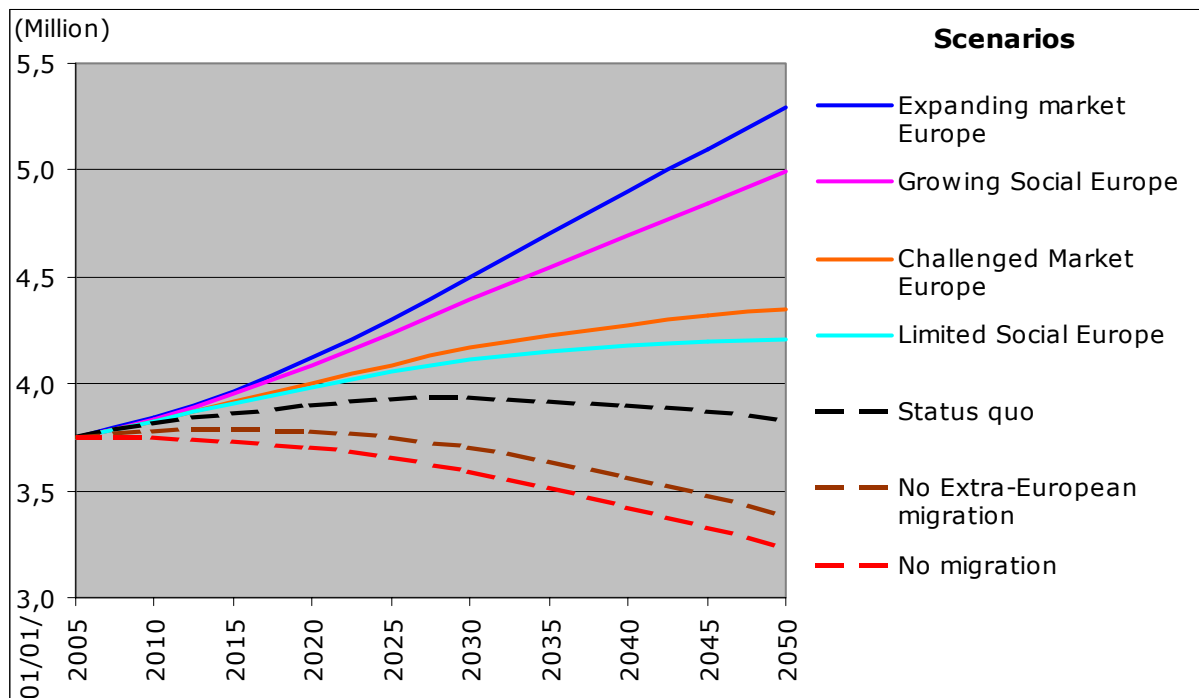
## 5 Population forecasts in the Sydsverige N.A. and the cross-border Öresund region

Population forecasts are particularly questionable in a cross-border area because of different statistical bases and hypothesis adopted by the national statistical bureaus involved and because of the changing relations between the regions that compose the cross-border area.

### 5.1 The DEMIFER scenarios

DEMIFER scenarios foresee very different futures for the Öresund region<sup>31</sup> in a time-span of only 45 years (Figure 6). The 'Status quo' – which seemed to be quite lively according to the 2000-2009 data (see Table 1) – hardly makes the population grow till 2030, when the population should begin a slow decline. The important contribution of immigration flows to the region's demographics is highlighted by the two 'No migration' scenarios: in 45 years the Öresund region could lose 10-14% of its inhabitants if inflows from outside were cut. Under all the 'policy' scenarios population should grow, on the contrary, by around +500,000 in the 'low' ones, by up to +1.54 million in the 'high' ones, starting from the 3.75 million in 2005.

**Figure 6 Population trends in the Öresund region<sup>26</sup> according to the DEMIFER scenarios: 2005-2050**



Source: DEMIFER scenarios.

Quite surprisingly if compared to the current trends, natural change is supposed to become rapidly negative in the region as a whole, except for in the two 'high' policy scenarios. From the births side, the hypotheses about reproductive behaviour – either by the residents or the new immigrants – seem to be more

<sup>31</sup> Here, also the Blekinge län is included in the Öresund region.

effective than the alternative changes foreseen in the number of the 15-49 year-old women. The same holds for mortality, since population ageing should be much faster and important under 'policy' scenarios than the reference ones.

In a multifaceted cross-border region it is also interesting to appreciate the differentials in population trends between its different parts. The role of the Sydsverige N.A. in the region should be challenged only in case of the no-migration hypothesis: in this case, the share of population residing on the Swedish shores of the Öresund should remain at 35% of the whole. In the case of no migration from non-ESPON countries, that share should grow by a couple of percent points from 2005 to 2050, probably following the current trend of moves from the Danish Region Hovedstaden to the Swedish Skåne län. Sydsverige should benefit from all the other scenarios, 'Status quo' included, by gaining 5-6% percent points in the share of the Öresund population residing on the Swedish shores.

## **5.2 EUROSTAT and DST forecasts**

SCB, the Swedish Central Statistical Bureau, seems not to produce population projections at regional level, while the Danish one, DST, does. From EUROSTAT, standard population projections are available at NUTS2 level.

For the Swedish region Sydsverige EUROSTAT foresees a 2010-2030 increase in total population of about +16% (+7.2‰ per year), while the population of the Danish regions Hovedstaden and Sjælland are supposed to grow at an annual pace of +2.8‰ and +3.7‰, respectively. Therefore, the population in the Öresund region (here including also the Blekinge län) is projected to increase from the current 3.85 million to 4.25 in 2031 (+10% or +4.6‰ per year). The comparable data in the DEMIFER projections range from the -2.2‰ per year in the 'no-migration' scenario to the +8.0‰ in the 'Expanding-Market-Europe' scenario, with the 'Challenged-Market-Europe' scenario (+4.2‰ per year) being the most similar to the EUROSTAT projection for the Öresund region as a whole.

In the EUROSTAT projections, the share of Öresund total population residing on the Swedish shores would increase by +2 percentage points, from 35.7% to 37.7%. In the DEMIFER scenarios, the increase in the share of Öresund total population residing in Sydsverige ranges from +3.1 percentage points in the 'positive' policy scenarios to +0.3 in the 'no-migration' scenario, while the 'Limited-Social-Europe' (+2.3) is the most similar to the EUROSTAT projections.

At 2030, DST foresees a trend for the residing population in Zealand very similar to the EUROSTAT projections, but different trends are projected for the two NUTS2 regions composing it – Hovedstaden and Sjælland. Region Sjælland, in particular is supposed to reduce its recent increase, which is exclusively due to the moves from the most external outskirts of København, so that its population is supposed to increase at an annual pace of +0.6‰. Region Hovedstaden, on the contrary, is supposed to recover from the present migratory stagnation and to grow at an annual pace of +3.7‰ till 2030.

## 6 Conclusions and generalisation of the case study

The Swedish Sydsverige case study shows the importance of two pillars in the Lisbon European policy: i) the socio-economic inclusion of different areas that, in this case, also belong to different EU countries; ii) the development in knowledge economy, networking, and environmental sustainability. Whereas the first pillar is at the basis of integration of EU regions, high-level collaboration in R&D is the only winning strategy in the global competition and for recovering from the crisis.

Sydsverige, and especially its southwestern shores from Malmö to Helsingborg, have been able to profit from both the opening of the 'Öresund link' and the economic utilisation of the local potentialities in knowledge and technologies. Some favourable differentials in families' economic and social life made it convenient for number of Danish people working in the København metropolitan area to cross the bridge and settle their residence in the Swedish Skåne län. On the other side, cross-border cooperation, but also the economic utilisation of research ideas and results obtained in the local universities and research centres, made the area be listed among the European top regions in research and development, especially in medicine, food, and life sciences.

The following effects on population distribution and trends are not free from problems. The population seems able to maintain the equilibrium necessary to further developments, also by stimulating the inflow of selected migrants according to the labour market needs. Other immigrations happen, however, and in times of economic crisis and welfare restrictions the presence of high number of unemployed foreign people may have caused some riots in the urban context.

From the point of view of the cross-border integration between the two Öresund shores, the *de facto* achievements seem to be ahead in respect to those in policy and regulations. The same use of different currencies on the two sides of the Sund (and both different from the Euro) makes the relationships dependent also from their rate of exchange. The different rules in taxation add to make people's choices difficult in settling. Also differences in welfare and family policy may have driven people according to variable advantages over times.

An increasing integration among the participating countries and regions is hence required in cross-border areas. There, the real spirit of the Union can be touched.

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