

**STRING**

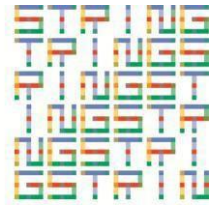
STRING POLITICAL FORUM, 28.05.18

**APPENDIX 4 – STRING STATEMENT ON OECD REPORT**

<b>Recommendation</b>	The Political Forum is recommended to approve the statement on the OECD report and to sign it at the Political Forum.
<b>Budget</b>	N/A
<b>Next steps</b>	Once signed, the statement will be published on the STRING website.

STRING is a political cross-border partnership between Akershus County Council and Østfold County Council in Norway, Region Halland, Region Västra Götaland, Region Skåne and City of Malmö in Sweden, the City of Copenhagen, the Capital Region of Denmark and Region Zealand in Denmark and Schleswig-Holstein and the City of Hamburg in Germany.





**STRING**

## **STRING welcomes the OECD Territorial Review on the Megaregion of Western Scandinavia**

STRING welcomes the recent OECD Territorial Review on the Megaregion of Western Scandinavia.

The review will serve as valuable input when we develop our cooperation in the STRING network. It gives new insights on the importance of cooperation between metropolitan regions and further strengthens the case for the development of key infrastructure investments along the corridor from Hamburg to Oslo.

### **Governance**

In the review, the OECD has credibly demonstrated the importance of closer cooperation between our metropolitan regions in order to maintain and increase the competitiveness of our cities and regions and thereby create a fertile soil for economic growth and welfare. The OECD also recommends cross border cooperation at the national level to build infrastructure and harmonize regulations. Western Scandinavia as presented in the OECD review has shown a strong capacity to establish new positions in the fast transitioning global value chains in the last decade and has a lot of potential in areas that are important in the current STRING 2040 strategy.

### **Infrastructure**

Today shortcomings appear in certain parts of the infrastructure connecting the regions in the STRING network. When the Fehmarn Belt Fixed Link is completed, the freight traffic is expected to increase even more.

In line with the OECD recommendations, the STRING network will work intensively to get the necessary investments in rail infrastructure. The poor railway network on the route Malmö-Gothenburg-Oslo is in sharp contrast to our countries' ambitious climate targets and is preventing an additional integration of our labour markets. We assume that the affected nations will act more active in the future and that they are open to untraditional solutions. In our view, it is vital that we get a well-functioning railway network along the Oslo-Gothenburg-Malmö corridor in the coming years, in order to meet the projected increase of demand on transport following the construction of the Fehmarn Belt Fixed Link.

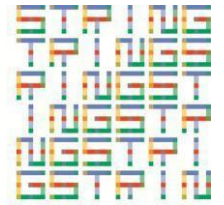
Cross border transport projects tend to fall outside national planning frameworks. In the review, the OECD therefore recommends the creation of cross-border transport commissions to help implement a better coordinated approach to cross-border transport planning. This is of course one of the main issues on the STRING network's upcoming agenda.

### **About the OECD Territorial Review on the Megaregion of Western Scandinavia 2018**

The review was produced by the OECD as part of the programme of work of the Regional Development Policy Committee. Eight regional and local authorities supported the review: the counties of Akershus and Østfold in Norway; the counties of Västra Götaland, Halland and Skåne in Sweden; the city of Oslo in Norway; and the cities of Gothenburg and Helsingborg in Sweden.

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## STRING

### STRING

STRING is both a political cross-border cooperation, as well as a geographical area. STRING as an organisation is a political crossborder partnership between Akershus County and Østfold County in Norway, Region Halland, Region Västra Götaland, Region Skåne and the City of Malmö in Sweden, the City of Copenhagen, the Capital Region of Denmark and Region Zealand in Denmark, Schleswig-Holstein and the City of Hamburg in Germany. These partners come together in STRING in order to create joint politics and initiatives to strengthen regional development by working together for a common agenda concerning infrastructure, green growth, cross-border barriers, science & research and culture & tourism.

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