

STRING – Facts and Figures

STRING

STRING – The organisationen

STRING is a political partnership between Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein in Germany, the Capital Region of Denmark, Region Zealand, and the City of Copenhagen in Denmark, as well as Region Skåne in Sweden. STRING is the driver

for a Northern European green growth corridor between Hamburg and the Öresund Region in a functional co-operation with the neighbouring regions. The STRING cooperation has a dedicated Secretariat based in Sorø, Denmark.

Contact

STRING Sekretariat

Alleen 15
DK-4180 Sorø
Danmark
www.stringnetwork.org

Jacob Vestergaard

Managing Director
jves@stringnetwork.org
Tel.: +45 2082 3459

Sven Fechner

Communications Officer/Journalist
bx6w@okf.kk.dk
Tel.: +45 5137 2365

Rebecca Elliott

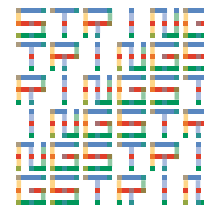
Project Advisor
aarr@stringnetwork.org
Tel.: +45 2494 3887

Stefan Rehm

Project Advisor
sr@pmb-rehm.de
Tel.: +49 (0)431 - 590 1849

Thomas Littmann

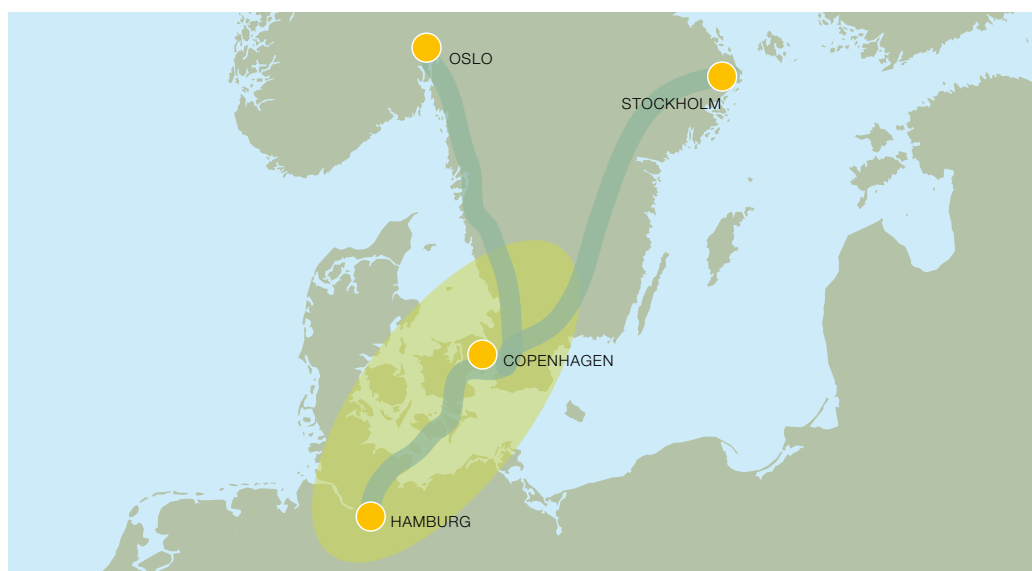
Senior Project Advisor
Thomas.littmann@sk.hamburg.de
Tel.: +49 (0)40 428 31 - 2528



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STRING – the Region



The STRING corridor will develop into a green cross-border European power centre and a strong strategic axis that will contribute towards knowledge, growth, welfare and sustainability in Northern Europe, including the Baltic Region. As a region, STRING will therefore form a corridor between and including the two metropolises Hamburg and Copenhagen-Malmö.

In geographical terms, the STRING Region will span from, and include, the Free Hanseatic City of Hamburg across the state of Schleswig-Holstein

and the Danish islands of Lolland, Falster and Zealand up to and including Skåne in Southern Sweden.

Copenhagen and its hinterland are on Zealand. Malmö, Sweden's third-largest city and the capital of Skåne, is on the other side of the Öresund. Copenhagen and Malmö are linked by the Öresund Bridge. Both cities are considered to form the core growth centre of the Öresund region. Together, Copenhagen and Malmö are the largest cohesive urban area in Scandinavia.

STRING in figures

Number of inhabitants (2013) **8,462 mio.**

Actively employed part of the population (2013) **4,512 mio.**

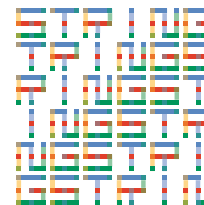
The Region's GDP (2011) **EUR 328,177 mio.**

The Region's GDP per inhabitant (2011) **EUR 39,420** (EU 28 average: EUR 25,100)

Unemployment (2013) **6.8 %** (EU 28 average: 10.8 %)

56 universities, **18** research institutions, **325,000** students, **70,000** scientific staff

Sources: Eurostat und Fehmarnbelt Business Council



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STRING – Five strategic milestones

Infrastructure

STRING focuses clearly on how the content of the overall infrastructure between Hamburg and the Öresund Region will be formed. STRING has set a general requirement that it will take no more than 2.5 hours to travel from Copenhagen to Hamburg by train. This will link the two major metropolises closer together, creating new cultural and economic synergies as well as a new Northern European power centre – that will benefit the entire region.

STRING is currently working successfully to bring together the German, Swedish and Danish transport ministers to discuss the planning of a cross-border, cohesive infrastructure in the STRING corridor.

Green growth

The green growth strategy has five focus areas, where the STRING partners have leading expertise and that has the potential for business development. These focus topics are:

- Green mobility
- Sustainable cities
- Energy-efficient buildings
- Renewable energy
- Resource-efficiency and waste management

Research and development

There are many opportunities for research and development collaboration among companies and research institutions in Denmark, Sweden and Northern Germany. The most recent example is the co-operation agreement signed with ESS, the neutron-based research centre that is being established in Lund, Skåne. The data centre will be based at the Niels Bohr Institute in Copenhagen while the X-ray facilities will be based at the DESY research centre in Hamburg.

Both facilities will be operational at around the time when the Fehmarnbelt fixed link opens in 2021. This will result in the world's leading region for materials research in this part of Europe.

Culture and tourism

Tourism creates jobs, international awareness, networks and a basis for strategic infrastructure such as airports, stadiums and congress centres. This tourism is the foundation for a value chain linking a wide range of sectors together in an effort to provide customers with a holistic product. Tourism therefore plays a key role in the region's overall growth strategy.

The tourist industry throughout the entire region will therefore be strengthened through knowledge sharing and co-operation – both now and after the Fehmarnbelt fixed link opens.

The STRING partners agree that the tourist industry plays an active role in stimulating increased integration and growth as well as new jobs in the wake of establishing the fixed link.

Cross-border barriers – and their removal

A key point in the cross-border integration process is the work on removing barriers and obstacles to free movement. Mundane but important aspects such as tax, social and employment issues, differences in legislation, rules and administration, or simply the lack of knowledge and understanding, can block an individual integration process.

STRING supports these efforts to break down barriers – in order to help ensure the best use of the massive investments in cross-border infrastructure.