

## **Event 02 May 2018**

Place : Malmö

Description of the discussions during the event (please follow the agenda items)

On 2 May, Region Skåne and Region Blekinge organized a dialogue conference on the European Union Cohesion Policy in Malmö, funded by the European Commission through CEMR.

The conference gathered around 80 participants from national, regional and local level. Among the participants were representatives from municipalities and regions, business, universities and colleges as well as the creative sector.

In order to get “most bang for the buck” the invitation was widely spread to all co-operatives locally, regionally and nationally in order to show the importance of the cohesion policy as an instrument for regional development. It is important to show the added value of the instrument and the importance of cohesion policy. The purpose of the day was to demonstrate the importance of the funds in order to be able to live up to the regional development mission and to show what discussions are taking place at local, regional, national and EU level. In order to reach a broader audience the plan was to publish a debate article in Skåne as well as Blekinge's regional newspapers. Unfortunately, our leading politicians changed their minds at the last minute due to "bad timing" in the relationship with national level.

The program as a whole is annexed. In summary comments were made from national, regional and local level as well as from the EU Commission.

In order to demonstrate the importance of cohesion for Skåne Blekinge, three project examples funded by the ESF and the ERDF were invited to share their experiences.

”SKAPA-projekten”, Projectmanager, Ms. Anna Strömqvist Vollan

The aim of the project is to reduce unemployment and increase the transition to work. Results from the project are an effect both on organization and not least on individuals. The project has had 800 participants from which 650 have gone to work or internship. EU support has been crucial for the success of the project that has led to a new way of working and a somewhat long-term, systemic effect.

”Agila Ängelholm”, Project manager Ms. Cecilia Nelander- Olsson och Communication director Ms. Karin Wettermark Jonsson

Working with horizontal principles have been very successful and permeated the project.

”Techtank” Cluster manager Mr. Jörgen Adolfsson

The journey began already in 2008 in conjunction with the vehicle crisis. Techtank is a cluster where you work together to strengthen companies in the industry as well as the region's competitiveness. The project (cluster) has worked extensively up until 2013 with skills development through the European Social Fund. Techtank was formed in 2014 using ERDF

funds. A lot of exciting things has happened since then. Through the project some 5000 employees have gotten a relevant education, new business has been created, test-beds have been attracted. The project has built a good platform for gathering different players. They have become a speaking partner for most industry companies in the region.

In the final panel discussion, the added value of cohesion policy was raised as "kitt" in the European cooperation project. Also the importance of a long-term perspective in order to measure results and success in all development work. Also the fact that the regional perspective is crucial when it comes to regional and local level development. We must also help to talk about the positive results of EU cooperation. For today's youth, boundless Europe is a matter of course and its opposite is no alternative. However, nothing is done by itself without continuous collaboration within the EU for this to be maintained.

In order to reach a wider audience and present cohesion policy, a debate article Blekinge was published in conjunction with the conference on the importance of cohesion policy for Skåne and Blekinge. During the event, a "tweet" was published under the "EUinmyregion" hunt.

A short film from the event is under production as part of the agreement with the financiers of the event. In addition, a film has been made to show the movement for youth towards the labor market made with the help from EU cohesion policy. The film will be published on Youtube and distributed via Skåne.com

Skåne Blekinge believes that the main added value of cohesion policy is:

Cohesion policy is an important tool for Skåne Blekinge to enable regional and local actors to meet common societal challenges such as climate change, sustainable transport solutions, employment and social inclusion with innovative solutions. The resources provided through EU funds and programs are crucial for Region Skåne and our collaborators to deliver results on regional development. The context is focused on economic, social and environmental challenges.

- to be a long-term policy that strengthens economic, social and territorial cohesion in the Union and is an important cornerstone of the European integration process.
- combining Europe's regions through cross-border cooperation and enabling common solutions across national borders
- that it is one of the most important policy areas at EU level that actively uses the multilevel principle, which, in turn, contributes to increased legitimacy for the EU.
- the mobilization of all political levels would be difficult to achieve with a nationally designed regional development policy.
- the regional level is crucial for meeting the challenges of globalization, migration, social exclusion and climate change.

What are the priority of the region in 2014-2020? And the budget allocated from ESI Funds?

The European Social Fund:

Strengthens and develops skills and training through

1. Skills development
2. Improved transition to work

### 3. Youth Employment Initiative

The Regional Development Fund:

Contributes to a more competitive Skåne Blekinge through

- cutting-edge research
- high-speed internet access
- smart transport and energy infrastructure
- energy efficiency and renewable energies
- business development

What are the results of the structural funds, the impact, the added value and shortfalls of the cohesion policy for European territories?

The structural funds are our region's most important tool for achieving regional development. A common strategy is very important along with a long-term budget focusing on creating jobs, improving welfare, increasing equality and better conditions for migration. At the same time, we must safeguard the subsidiarity principle that decisions should be made at the lowest possible level for the purpose. It is important for citizens' participation. It is crucial that a country like Sweden need EU cohesion policy even though we are net contributors to the EU. Cross-border cooperation has been found to promote trade. It benefits our companies across the country, which in turn creates a lot of jobs. Therefore, cohesion policy is needed for rich as well as for less developed regions. It's not just about contributions. It also creates long-term conditions for the local level to drive development work.

Common strategies are needed to determine what to develop. Agenda 2030 and the Europe 2020 Strategy are good examples of this. On the other hand, EU should not always regulate how or with what tools, development should take place. This needs to be up to local, regional, or national level to decide – this is the added value of the cohesion policy. The shortfalls are in the administration. The cohesion policy must be easier to access to become more attractive and become a genuine tool for change and regional development.

On which fund(s) will the debate focus on?

The European social fund and European regional development fund

Number of participants 72

Type of participants (see presence list)

- 10 Project beneficiaries
- 5 Citizens/Students
- 5 NGOs
- 10 Associations
- 40 Local/Regional Representatives
- 2 EU representatives
- Press 0 (no registered)

Media coverage

- List of media
- HD/Sydsvenskan

- (HD/Sydsvenskan) EU-frågor
- Kvällsposten
- Skånska Dagbladet
- Norra Skåne
- Kristianstadsbladet
- Ystads Allehanda
- Trelleborgs Allehanda
- Sveriges Radio Malmö
- Sveriges Radio P4 Malmöhus
- SVT Skåne
- TV4 Öresund
- Lokaltidningen
- Metro
- 24malmö
- TT
- Blekinge Läns Tidning
- Sydöstran
- Sveriges Radio P4 Blekinge

Promotion: on Region Skånes website

Website of

- Social media activities before, during and after the event (Tweets, Facebook, etc.)  
Twitter: 320 views from twitter account @CAHjelmborn, CEO at Skåne European Office during the event  
<https://twitter.com/CAHjelmborn/status/991643469088219136>
- Number of webpage views  
Both on [Region Skånes](#) and [Region Blekinges](#) webbpages.  
Due to GDPR, no records of views on webpages or lists of participants/invited.
- Video  
[CEMR You Tube channel](#)
- Press clipping after the dialogue indicated and number of articles echoed by media:  
no