

Schleswig-Holsteinischer Landtag • Postfach 7121 • D-24171 Kiel

An
die Vorsitzende des Europaausschusses
Frau Astrid Höfs, MdL

die Vorsitzende des Sozialausschusses
Frau Siegrid Tenor-Alschausky, MdL

den Vorsitzenden des Wirtschaftsausschusses
Herrn Hans-Jörn Arp, MdL

im Hause

Schleswig-Holsteinischer Landtag
Umdruck 16/3937

Ostseeparlamentarierkonferenz

Kiel, 2. Februar 2009

Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren,

die Ostseeparlamentarierkonferenz (BSPC) hat anlässlich ihrer 16. Jahreskonferenz im Jahr 2007 in Berlin die Arbeitsgruppe „Arbeitsmarkt und Soziales“ zu den Themen „Jugendarbeitslosigkeit“ und „Grenzpendler“ eingesetzt. Sie wird im Rahmen eines Dialogs und in Zusammenarbeit mit den Sozialpartnern einen Abschlussbericht auf der 18. BSPC in Nyborg, Dänemark vorlegen.

Der Schleswig-Holsteinische Landtag wird durch den Abg. Wolfgang Baasch in der Arbeitsgruppe vertreten.

Zu Ihrer Information übersende ich Ihnen im Auftrag von Herrn Baasch einen Zwischenbericht über den Stand der aktuellen Arbeiten. Durch die Grenzsituation mit Dänemark und die enge Zusammenarbeit Schleswig-Holsteins mit der Öresund-Region dürfte dieser von besonderem Interesse sein.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

J. Schmidt



Wolfgang Baasch, MdL · Landeshaus · Postfach 7121 · 24171 Kiel

Frau
Jutta Schmidt-Holländer

LE

Wolfgang Baasch (SPD)

Abgeordneter im
Schleswig-Holsteinischen
Landtag

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☎ (0431) 988-1313

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Kiel, 29.01.2009

bri-090130-schmidt-holländer-ag-labour
marketa.social.wfare-wb-mh-v.doc

Sehr geehrte Frau Schmidt-Holländer!

Hier ein kurzer Bericht über die Tagungen und die Unterlagen der Arbeitsgruppe „Labour Market and Social Welfare“ der Ostseeparlamentarierkonferenz.

Die letzte Zusammenkunft der Arbeitsgruppe fand am 21./22. Januar in Kopenhagen/Malmö statt. Neben Informationen über die Arbeitsmarktentwicklung und die Situation der Grenzpendler sowie über die Jugendarbeitslosigkeit in der Öresund Region wurde an dem Abschlussbericht der Arbeitsgruppe gearbeitet.

Zum Thema „Öresund Region“ habe ich die PowerPoint-Version des Vortrages von Herrn Mikael Starming (Direktor des Öresund Komitees) beigelegt. Ein interessanter Vortrag, auch in Bezug auf unsere Diskussion zum Thema „FehmarnBeltQuerung“.

Ein ebenfalls spannender Beitrag von Frau Eva Eilstrup (Infozentrum Öresund Direkt) über die Situation der Grenzpendler und der Jugendarbeitslosigkeit folgt, wenn ich die PowerPoint-Version ihres Vortrages habe.

Des Weiteren finden Sie im Anhang ein „MEMO“ in dem die Situation von Grenzpendlern und im Bereich der Jugendarbeitslosigkeit aus dänischer Sicht dargestellt wird. Bemerkenswert ist die Quote der Jugendarbeitslosigkeit von unter 2 Prozent. Die Entwicklung der Grenzpendler zwischen Dänemark und Schweden wird ebenso eindringlich dargestellt.

Der Halbzeitbericht der Arbeitsgruppe „Half-time report“ wurde diskutiert und in Bezug auf die Ostseeparlamentarierkonferenz im Jahr 2009 als Grundlage für den Abschlussbericht der Arbeitsgruppe weitergeführt. Für die nächsten Sitzungen der Arbeitsgruppe wurde vereinbart, die Angaben über die Zahlen der Grenzpendler und der Jugendarbeitslosigkeit zu präzisieren. Weitere existierende grenzüberschreitende Projekte (z.B. Arbeitsplätze von Frauen, Strukturen im Gesundheitswesen, Entwicklung der Kultur) die den Arbeitsmarkt bzw. die Jugendarbeitslosigkeit betreffen, sollten meiner Auffassung nach noch in die Diskussion des Abschlussberichtes eingebracht werden. Der „Half-time Report“ liegt ebenfalls bei.

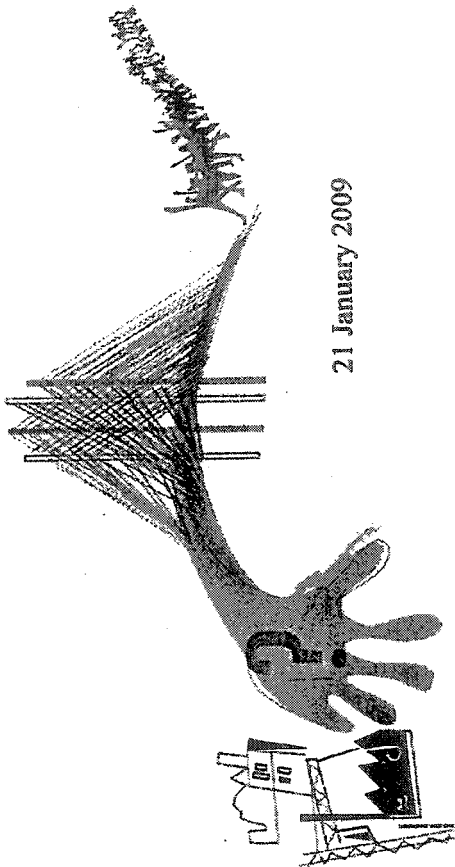
Der Abschlussbericht der Arbeitsgruppe „Labour Market and Social Welfare“ soll auf der Ostseeparlamentariertagung am 30.08. bis 01.09.2009 in Dänemark vorgelegt werden. Bis zur Ostseeparlamentariertagung sind noch eine, vielleicht zwei Tagungen der Arbeitsgruppe vorgesehen. Die eine feststehende Abschluss-Sitzung der Arbeitsgruppe ist für den 11. und 12. Mai in Berlin geplant.

Mit besten Grüßen

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'W. Baasch', written in dark ink.

Wolfgang Baasch

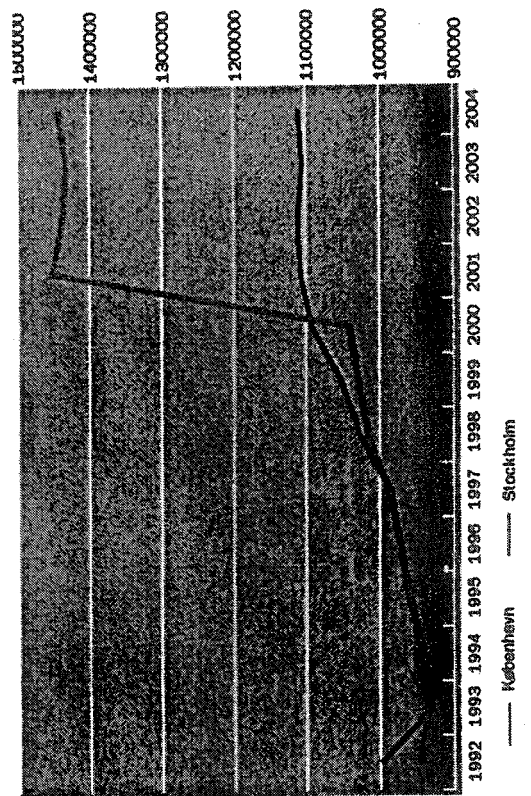
The development in the Øresund Region



Øi Population

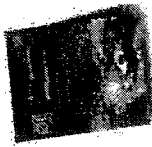
Øresund region (Zealand and Scania/Skåne)	3,65 million
Greater Copenhagen	1,90 million
Greater Malmö	0,98 million
Outer Øresund region	0,72 million
Other city regions in the Nordic area:	
Stockholm	2,25 million
Helsinki	1,24 million
Oslo	1,10 million

Øi Employment per labour market area



Gross regional product & localization

Marknad	Mdr EUR	Andel nordiska HK, %
Sverige	267,2	55,5
Norge	195,8	3,6
Danmark	188,0	31,8
Finland	143,5	1,5
Øresundsregionen	123,3	37,6
Sjælland	91,4	30,3
Jylland	78,0	0,7
Hamburg stad	77,1	-
Berlin stad	76,8	-
Stockholms län	75,7	42,0
V. Götaland	43,8	5,8
Skåne	31,9	7,3
Litauen	16,3	-
Lettland	9,8	-
Island	9,3	-
Estland	8,1	-
Norden inkl. Baltikum	838,0	92,5



Nordic Headquarters

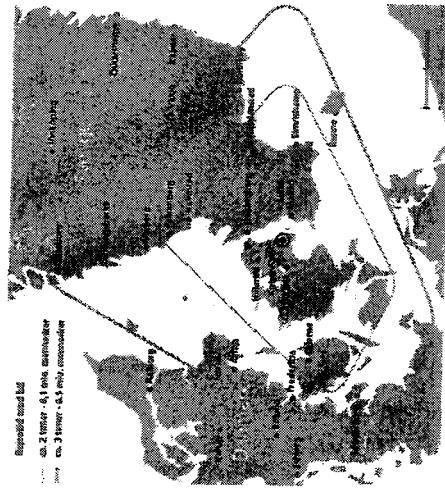
Scania Attracts more HQ's after the bridge.
Gothenburg loses.

Number of established/reorganised Nordic HQ per region and period

	Före 2000	2000 och efter	Totalt
Stockholm	23	26	49
Öresundsregionen varav København	19,5	27,5	47
varav Skåne	17	18	35
varav norra Öresund	1,5	8,5	10
Göteborg	2	5	7
Oslo	5	3	8
Helsinki	1	3	4
Odense/Vejle	1	1	2
Totalt	50,5	61,5	112



Copenhagen Airport: About 140
direct destinations around the world

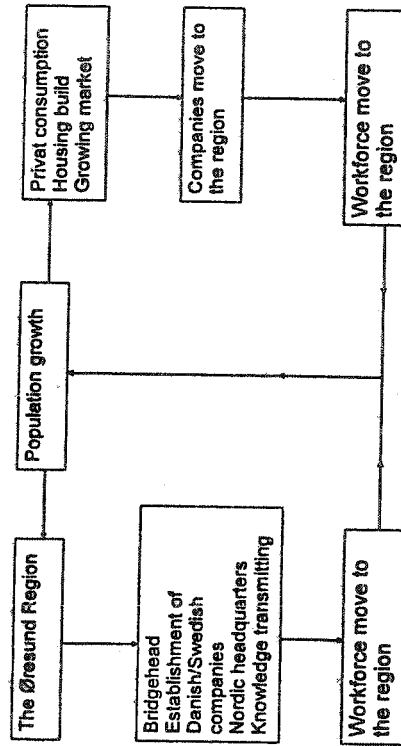


Northern European Metropol Regions

	YU INVADENT HÄNSERO	Invånare 2007 (1000-tal)	Syrskatta 2006 (1000-tal)	BRP 2006 (milj SEK)
Dresden/Leipzig	16 036	825	1 402	1 23
München/Region Hamburg	19 601	4 772	1 909	1 193
Berlin	892	3 309	1 572	725
Stockholm-Östra Södermanland	20 830	2 388	1 212	249

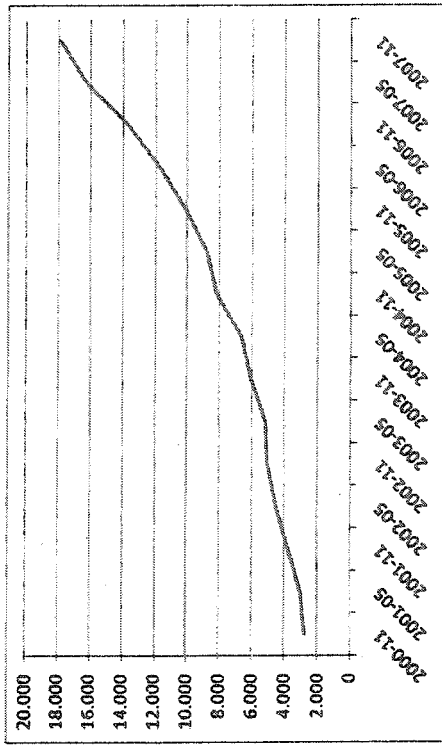


The regions cumulative potential

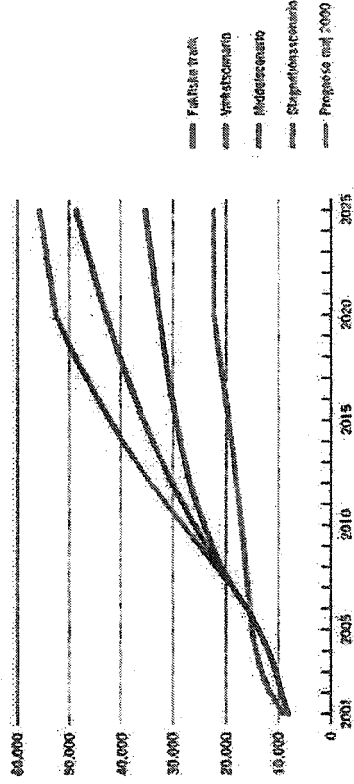




Commuters across the Øresund Bridge



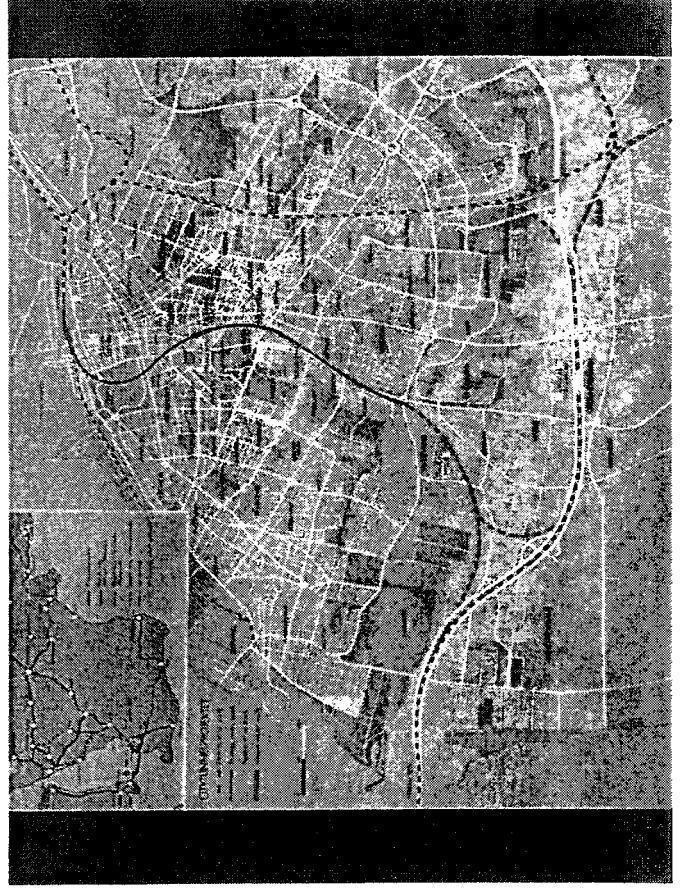
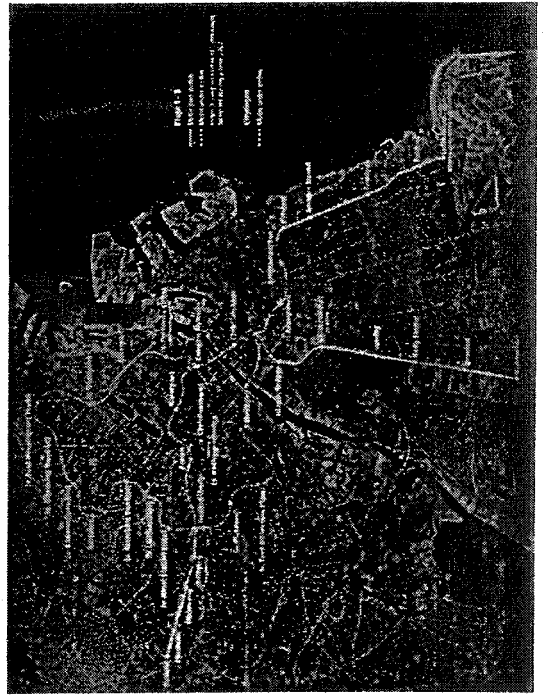
Expected daily traffic across the Øresund Bridge



Source: Øresundstrafik

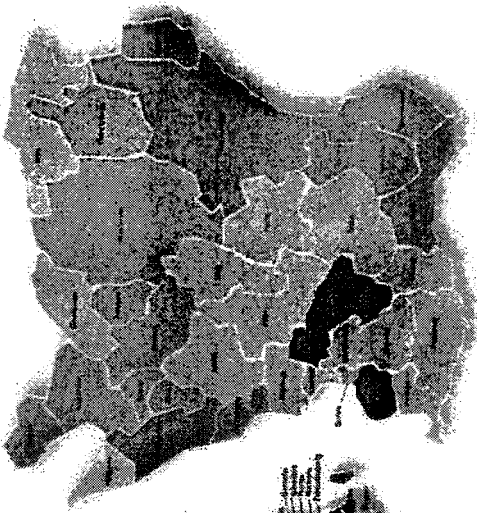


Metro increases interest in Amager

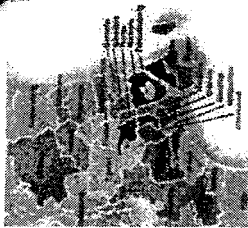




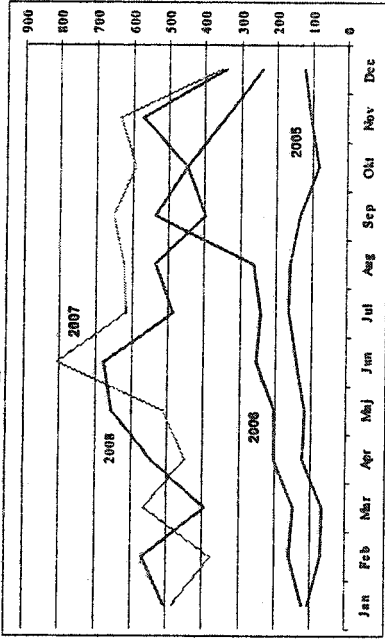
Malmö/Lund is Scania's businesscentre



- Metropolitan
- Regional center
- Local center
- Local center
- Local center
- Natural community
- Negative community



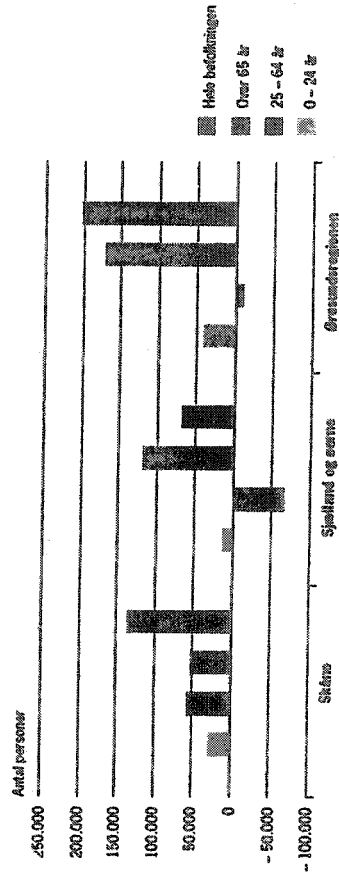
Swedes entering Danish job market 2005-2008 per month



2005: 1391 2006: 3494 2007: 6667 2008: 5798



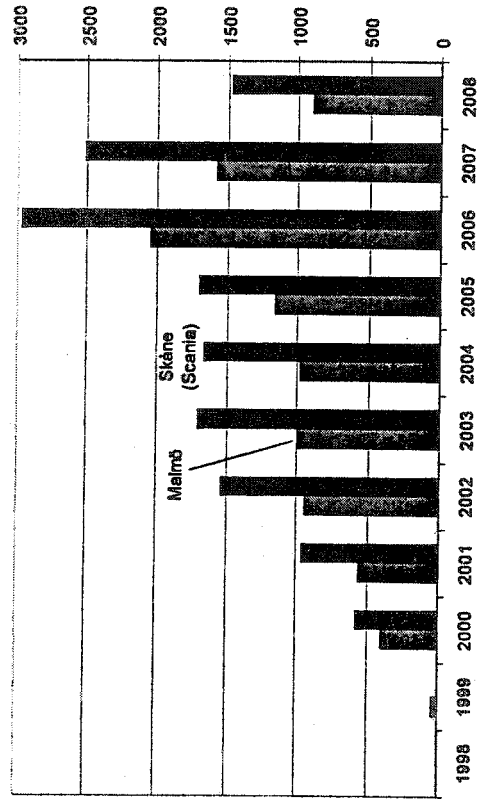
Population change from 2005 to 2020



Source: Øresundregionen



Change of municipality from Denmark to Malmö and Scania





Hyllie = New Ørestad

Hyllie gives Ørestad a new market close to home.

With Hyllie Denmark grows into Scania.

More than 50% of residents may be Danes.

Danish subsidiaries and Nordic HQs

Commuters working in Ørestad.



Danish establishments in Malmö/Scania 2005

- Ilva, Malmö
- Panduro Hobby HQ, Malmö
- Acadia Pharmaceuticals, R&D, (USA) biopharmaceutical company from Copenhagen to Medeon, Malmö
- Ejendomsselskabet CenterPlan, Malmö
- Årstiderne, Malmö
- Emmerys, Malmö
- Mette Lykken Bolig, Malmö



Danish establishments in Malmö/Scania 2006

- Søstrene Grene, Malmö
- Oil and fats producer Aarhus Karlshavn. HQ, Malmö
- Insurance group TrygVesta. SE branch Vesta Skadeförsäkring, Malmö
- Femilet A/S, Malmö
- Meditech company Unomedical. Subsidiary, Malmö
- Spar Nord Bank A/S. Subsidiary Finans Nord AB, Malmö
- Lån & Spar Bank/Sparbanken Finn create new bank, Konceptbanken, Lund
- Profile and work clothes concern Kwintet. HQ, Malmö
- Energi Danmark A/S, Malmö
- H.J. Hansen recyclingcompany, Malmö
- DanaWeb websider, Malmö



Danish establishments in Malmö/Scania 2008

- Vestas Northern Europe, hovedkontor Malmö
- Mercedes Benz Scandinavia, hovedkontor, Malmö
- Mjukvarubolaget Sonlinc, dotterbolag Malmö
- Elmåklärbolaget Energiförsäljning Sverige AB, hovedkontor Malmö
- DSB First



New HQ in Malmö 2004-2008

1500+ new jobs of which more than 600 originate from Denmark

2004	Hilding Anders	Helsingborg
2004	Securitas Direct	Linköping
2005	IMP - International Master Publishers	London
2005	Duni	Stockholm/Halmstad
2005	Acadia Pharmaceuticals	Köpenhamn
2005	TAT	Lund
2005	Invidio	Vallanda
2005	Panduro Hobby	Odense
2006	AerhusKerfaham	Århus/Kerfaham
2006	Kwintet	Odense
2006	A. Menarini	Florens
2006	Midelfart Soneason	Lund
2006	Brio	Osby
2006	Celer Medical	Lund
2006	Vesta Skedeforsikring	Köpenhamn
2006	Unomedical	Birkedal
2007	Teleca	Stockholm/Lund
2007	Biolin	Stockholm
2007	Sanitec	Bromölla
2007	Lentmännen	Enköping
2008	Vikvaktarna	Helsingborg, Birkedal
2008	Hilanders	Helsingborg
2008	Region Skåne	Köpenhamn
2008	DSBFirst	Köpenhamn
2008	DaimlerChrysler	Köpenhamn
2008	Vestas Northern Europe	Jylland

Mobile phone cluster in massive growth

- No 1 or 2 in Europe

Sony Ericsson, Lund:

3200 employees = 1/3 of global (1460 employees 2003)

Ericsson Mobile Platforms, Lund:

2000 employees including consultants

Nokia, Copenhagen:

1500 employees

Tactel, Teleca, Aspiro, Wayfinder, TAT and more



The Øresund Region creates jobs

Employment increase 1993-2006 (night population, %/year)

	1993-2000	2000-2006
Sweden	1,20	0,94
Stockholms County	2,36	0,71
V. Götalands County	1,44	1,24
Skåne	1,13	1,37
Skåne incl. Øresundcommuters	1,15	1,72

NB. The rapid increase 1993-2000 is a catch-up effect after the crisis 1990-1993.

The extra increase in Skåne compared to Sweden as a whole means 20,000 extra jobs



Summary

- About 20 000 daily commuters crossing Öresund (3000 commuters in 2000)
- Growth will continue. Around 45 000 in 2025?
- Shortage of labour in the region until 2020, especially in Copenhagen.
- Setup of Danish-Swedish and Nordic organizations. Buy two or four countries to the price of one! Growth of a "Scandinavian" metropolis.



Contact information:

Anders Olshov

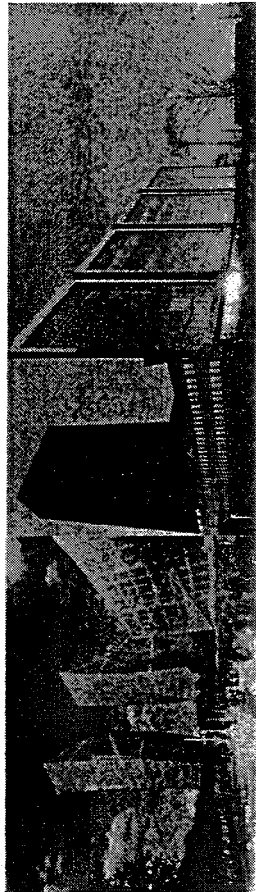
Managing director Øresundsinstittet

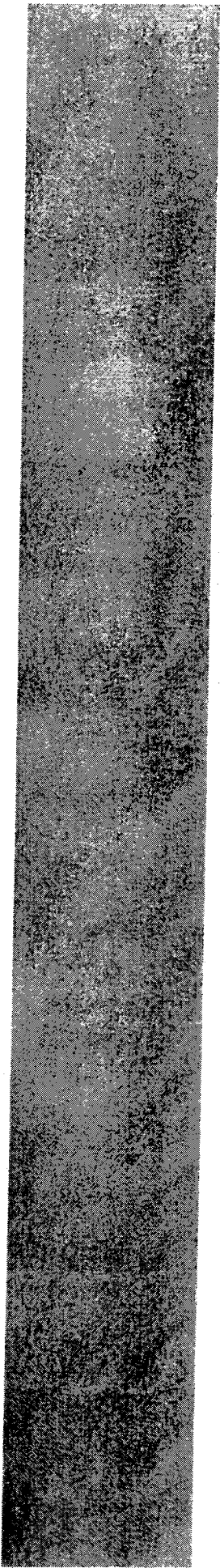
www.oresundsinstittet.org

anders.olshov@oresundsinstittet.org

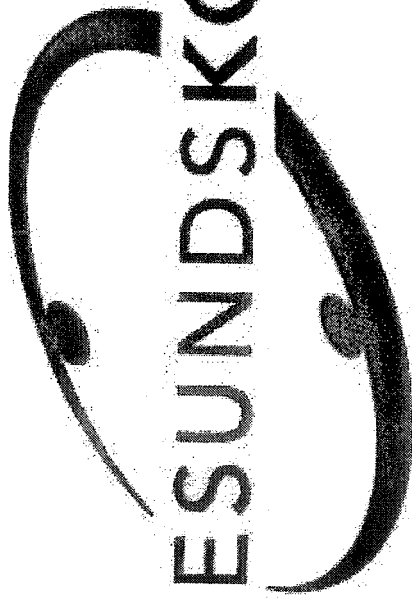
Tel: +46 40 305630

Mobil: +46 733 336660





ÖRESUNDSKOMITEEN



Øresund – The Human Capital of Scandinavia



The Öresund Region - 3,6 m inhabitants



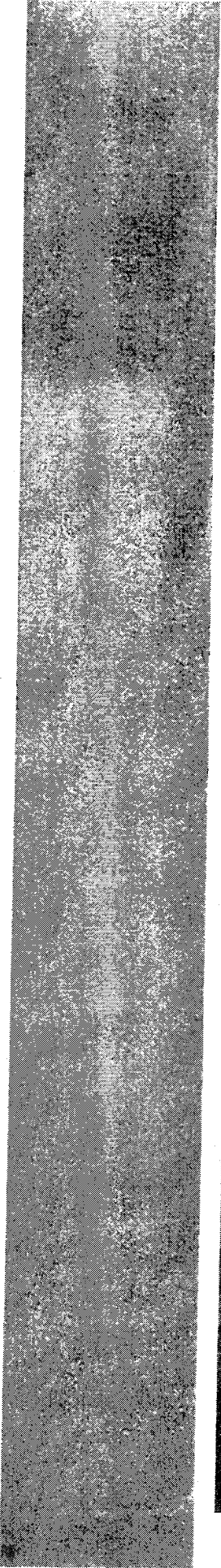
The members of The Öresund Committee

The Danish members:

- Capital Region of Denmark
- Region Zealand
- Copenhagen City
- City of Frederiksberg
- Bornholm Regional Municipality
- Greater Copenhagen Forum for local Municipalities
- Local Government Regional Council of Zealand

The Swedish members:

- Region Skåne
- The City of Malmö
- Helsingborg City
- The Municipality of Lund
- The Municipality of Landskrona



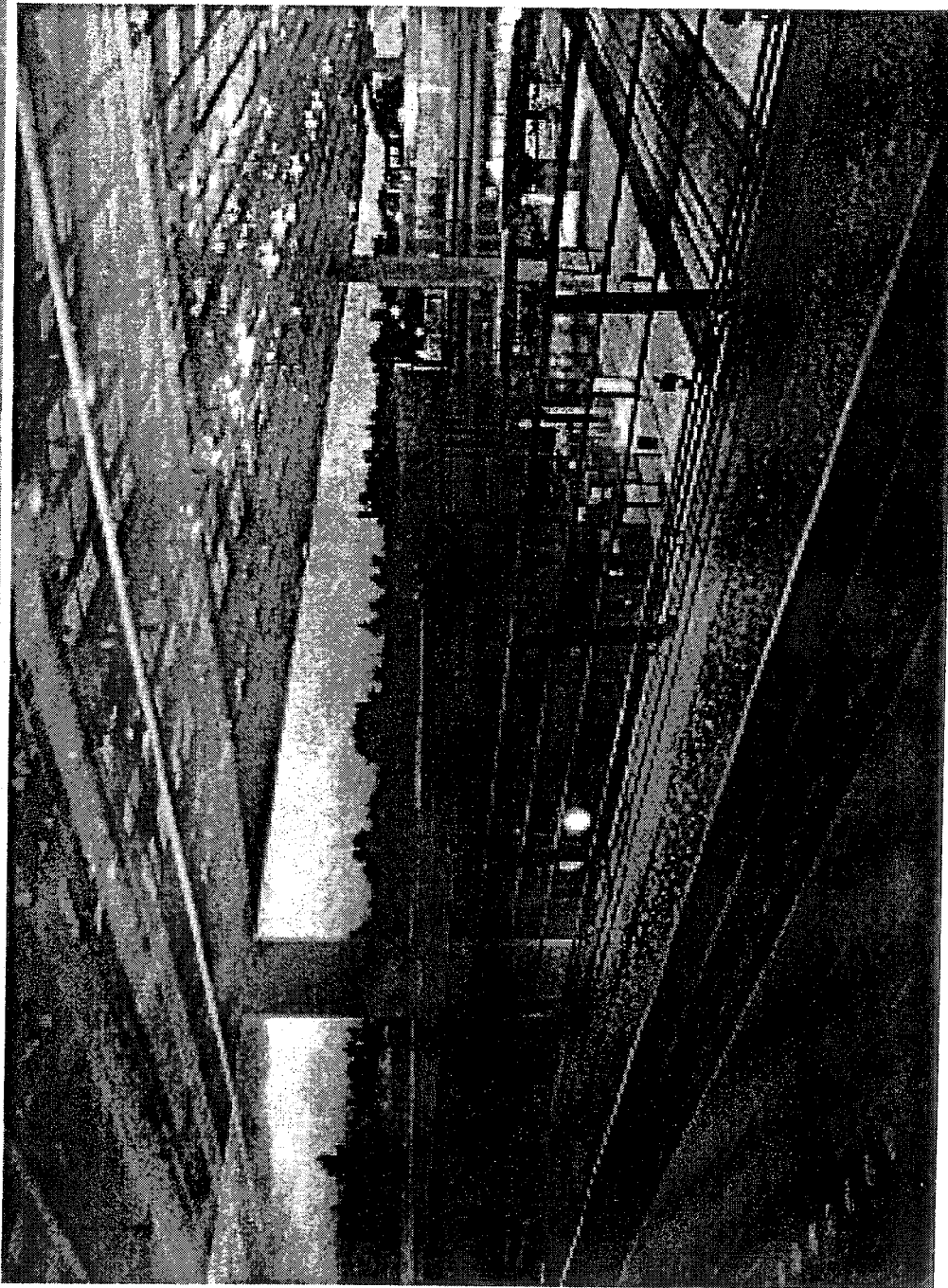
The Öresund Committee

- The platform for regional political cooperation in the Öresund Region
- Lobbying for Öresund interest at national and European level
- Meeting place and “embassy”

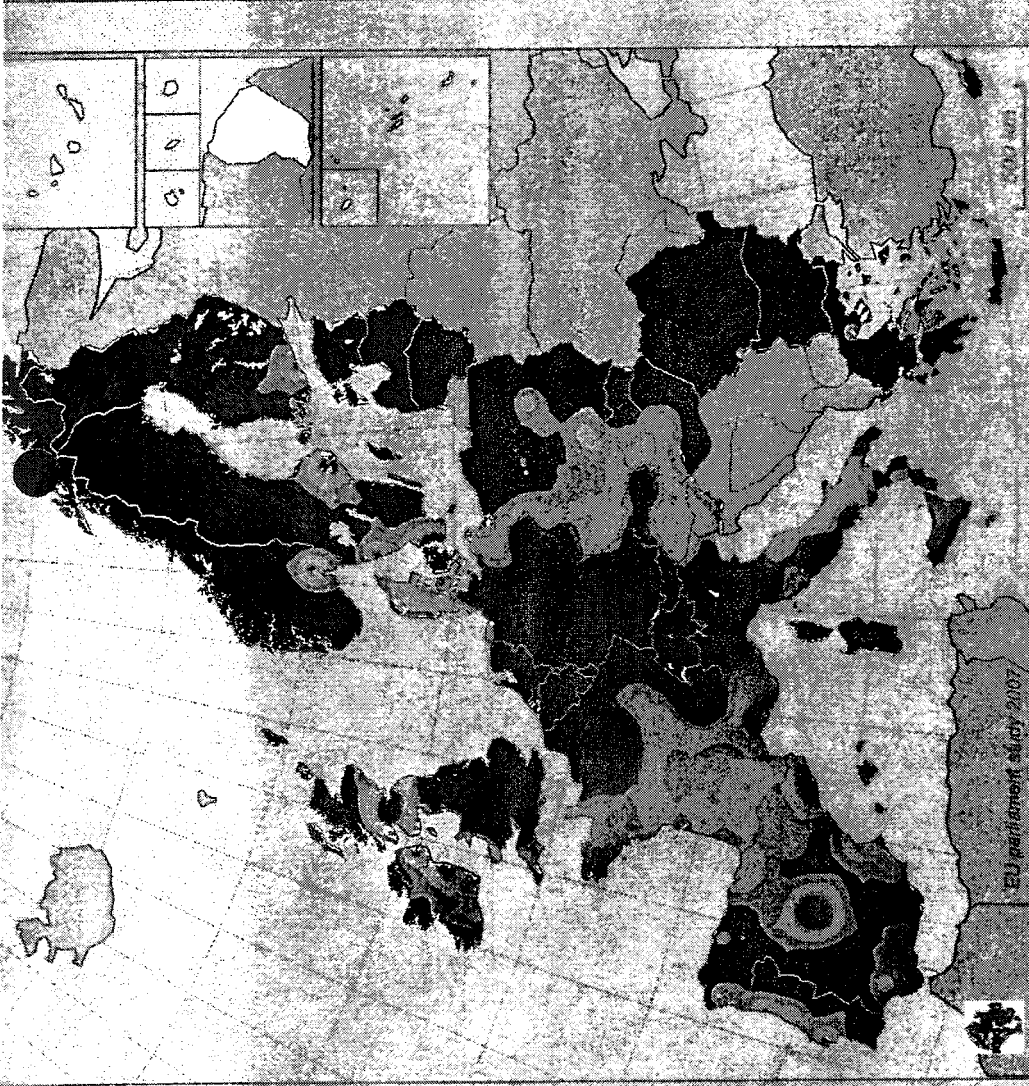
In 2008 we highlight three specific issues:

1. dismantling cross-border obstacles that inhibit the labour market.
2. investing in a new infrastructure for the region and analyzing the importance of tolls for the bridge across Öresund and transport costs for integration.
3. strengthening good relations at the grassroots level and promote social and association contacts and cooperation across Öresund and thereby establish a cultural metropolis.

Mobility



Potential Accessibility, 2004, in Europe

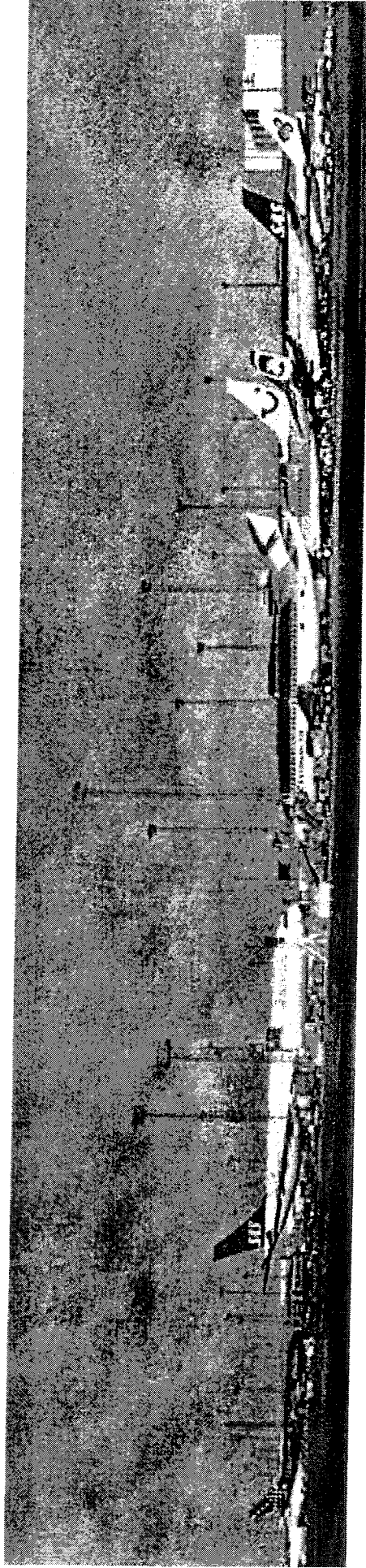


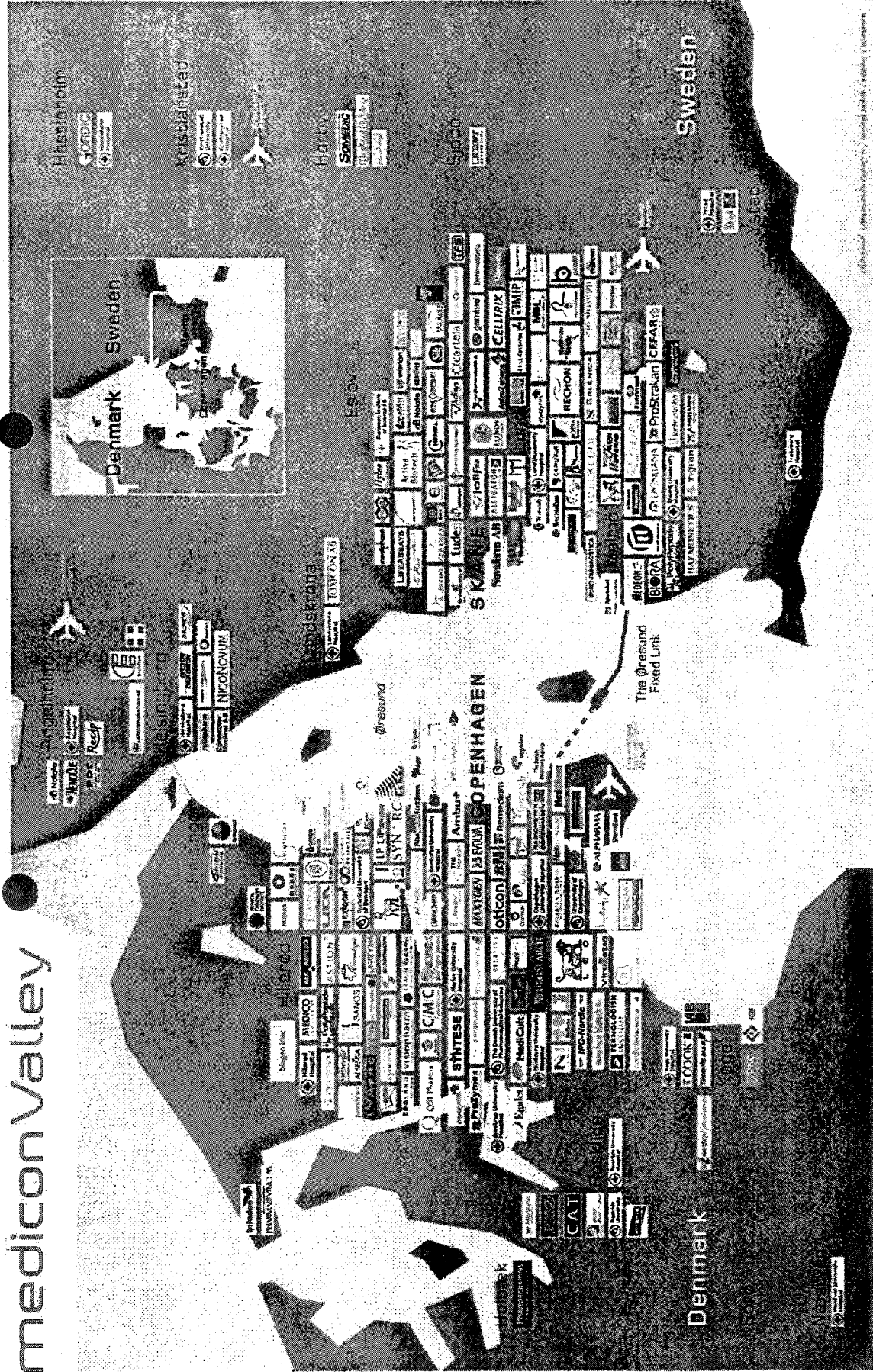
Potential Accessibility to GDP (2004)
(EU27+2 excl. CH and CY = 100 = 30,624)

Below average		Above average	
0 - 5	100 - 125		
5 - 10	125 - 150		
10 - 25	150 - 175		
25 - 50	175 - 200		
50 - 75	200 < ...		
75 - 100			



Kastrup – an important Hub





scalado vmg

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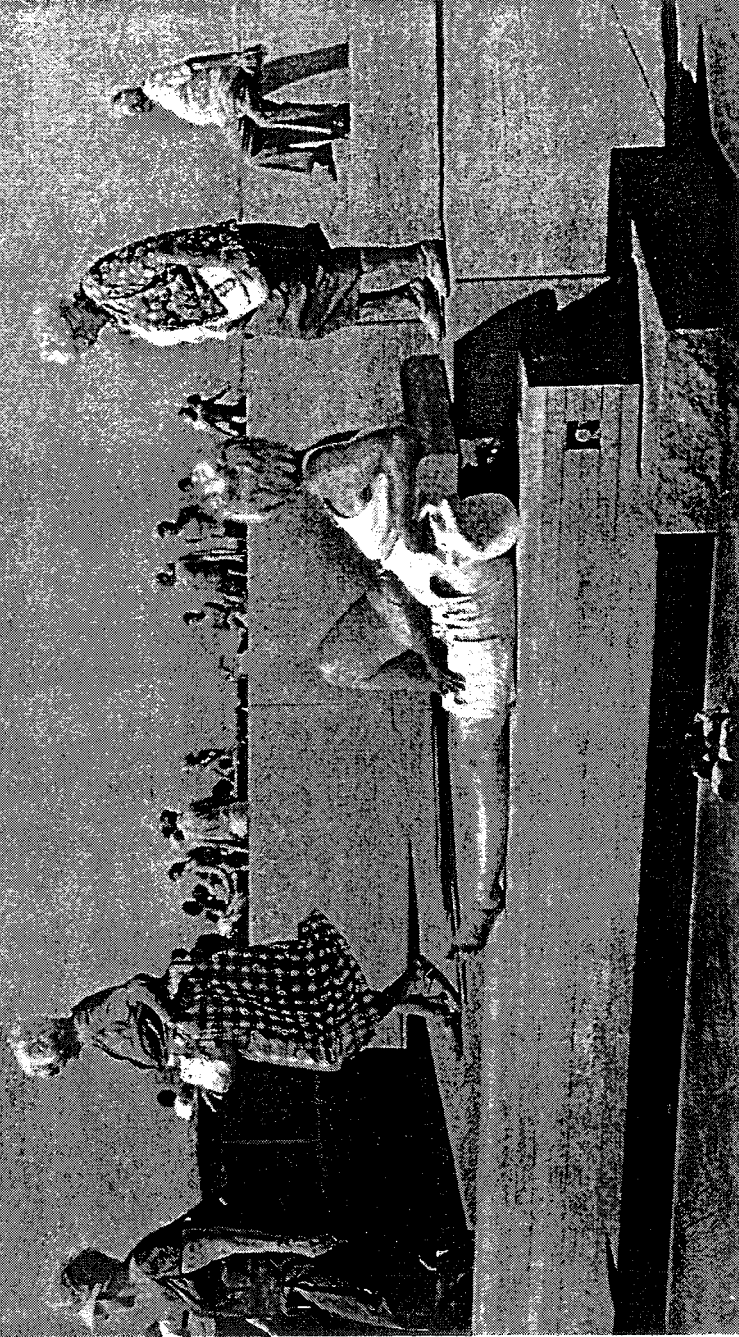
Microsoft

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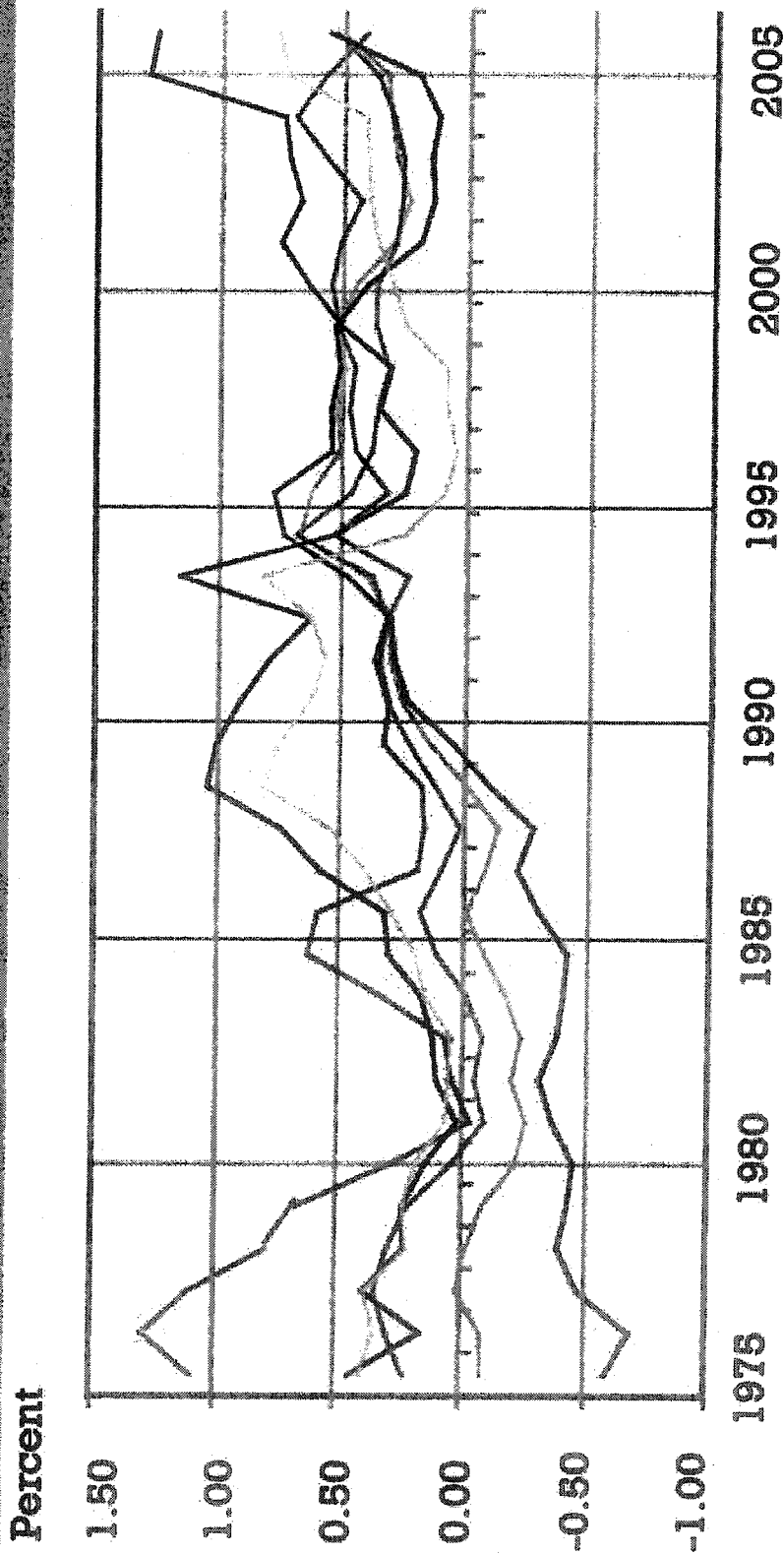
Microsoft

Microsoft

Demografi



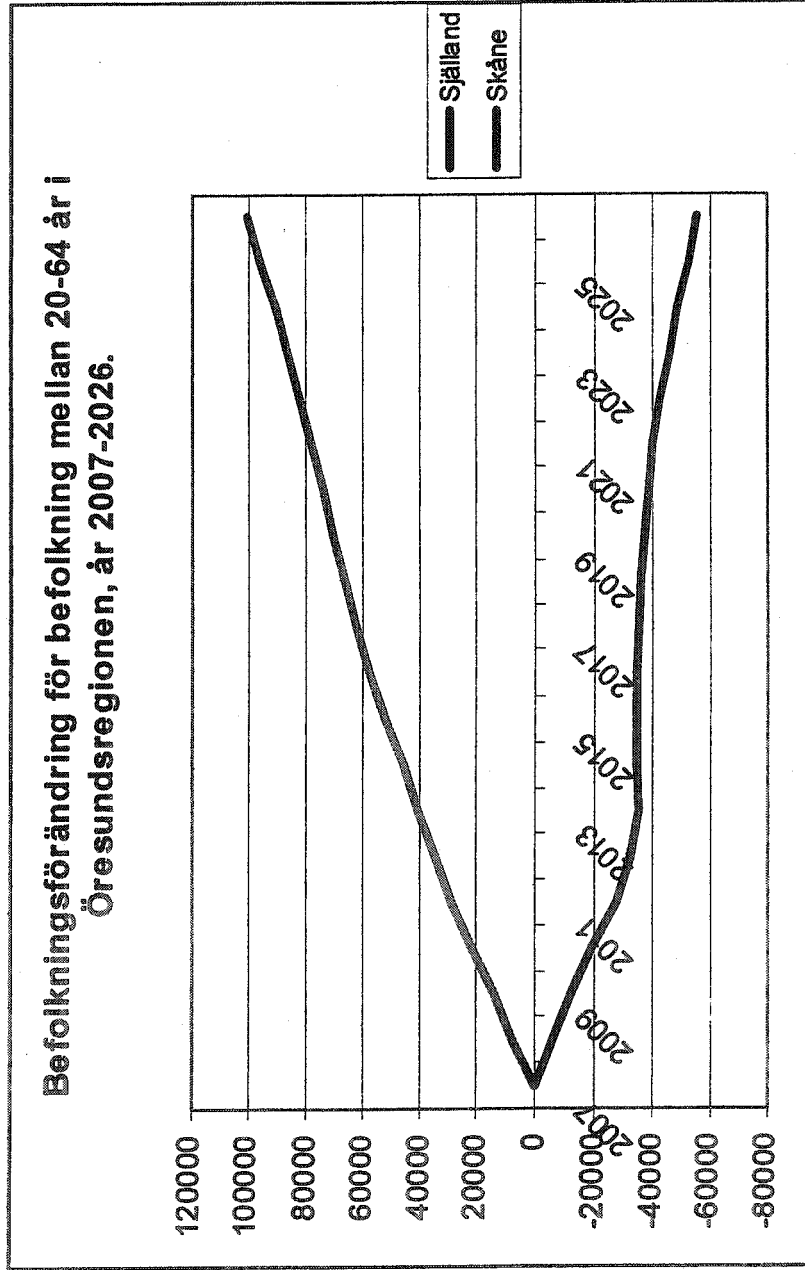
Age structure 1 of January 2007



— The Capital Region of Denmark — All of Denmark — Öresund SE
 - - - Region Sealand - . - Öresund DK All of Sweden
www.tendensoresund.org

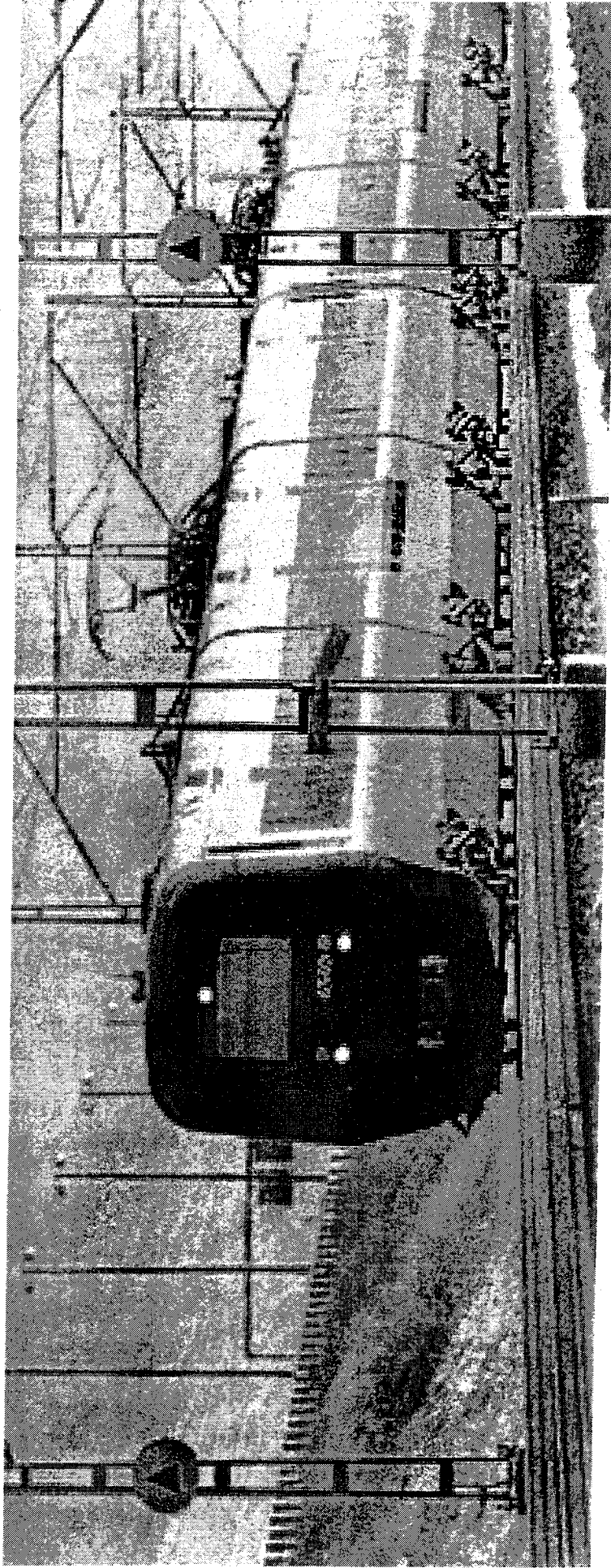


Demographic change and chance, inhabitants 20 – 64 year, until 2026

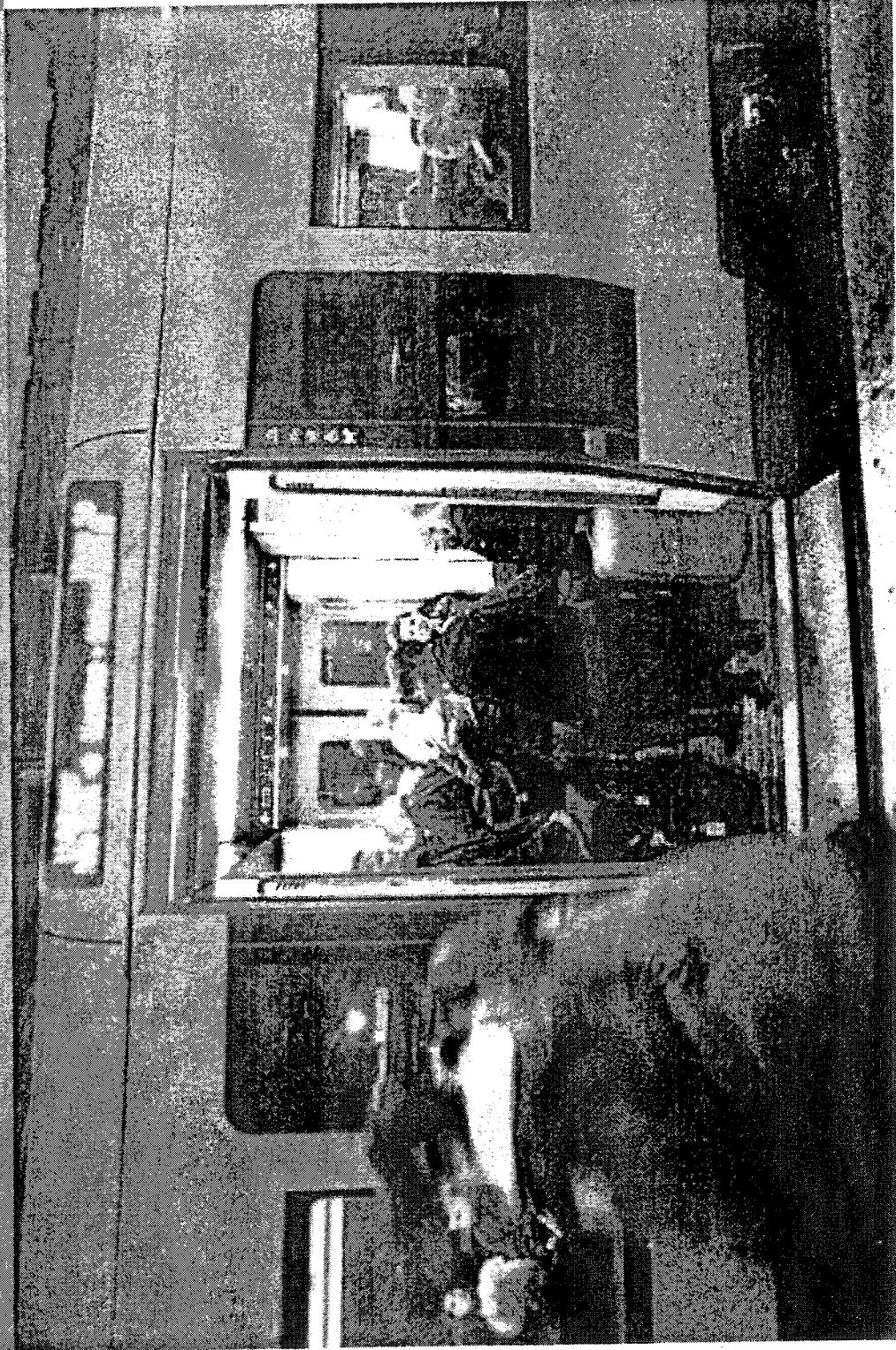


Källa: Danmarks statistik och Region Skåne

Commuting by train

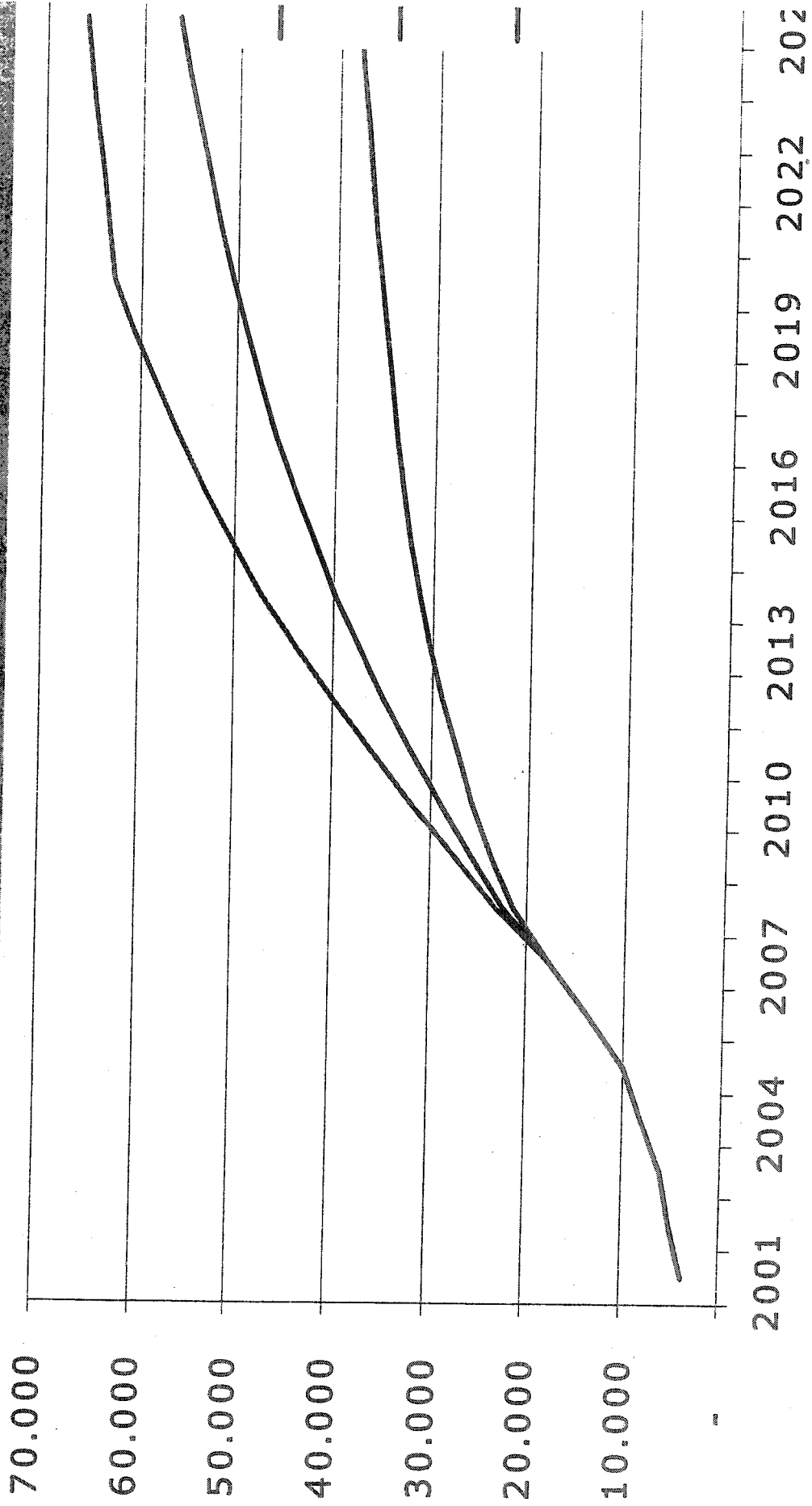


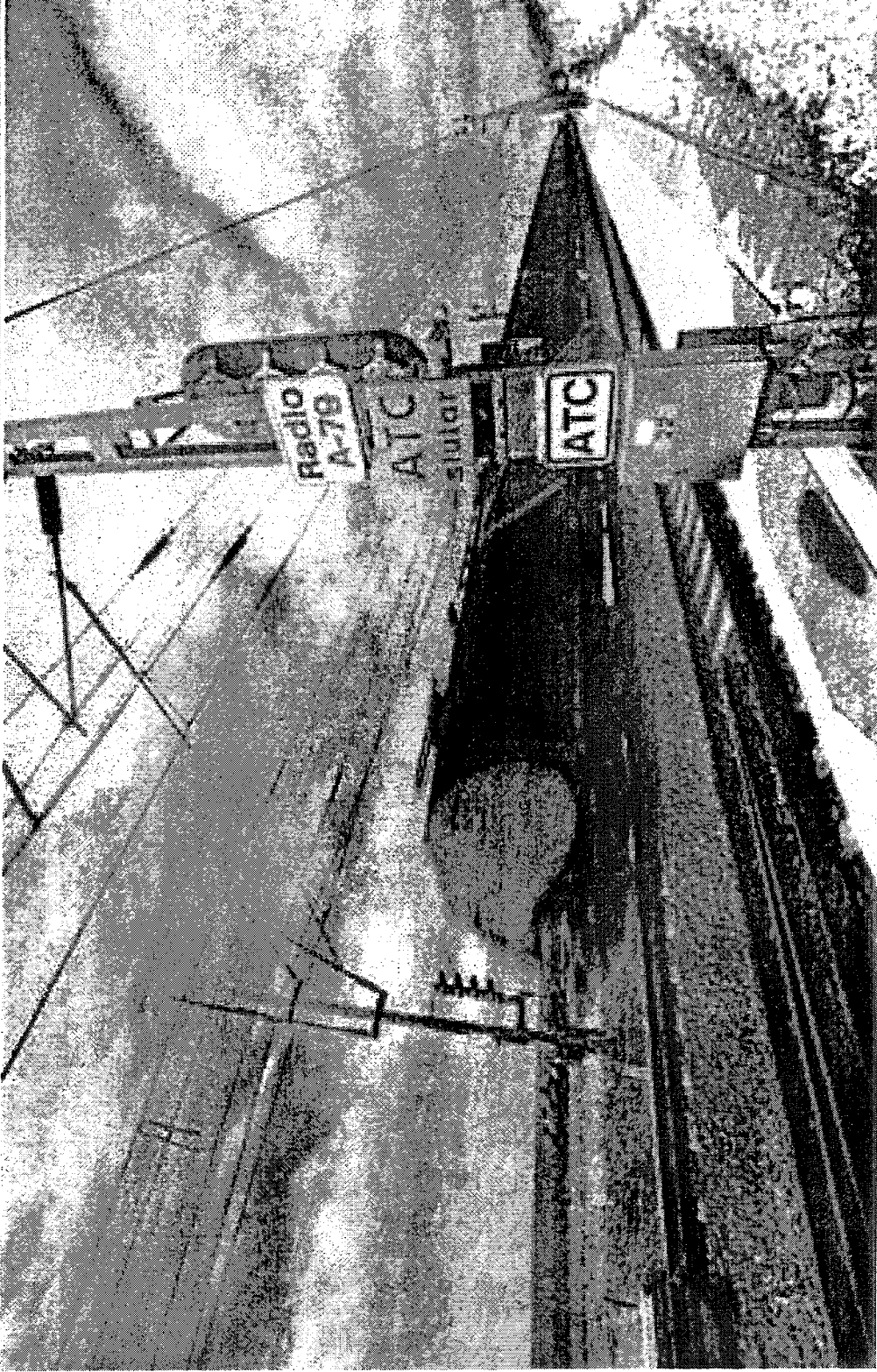
Capacity and Bottle-necks



Commuters on The Bridge 2001 – 2025

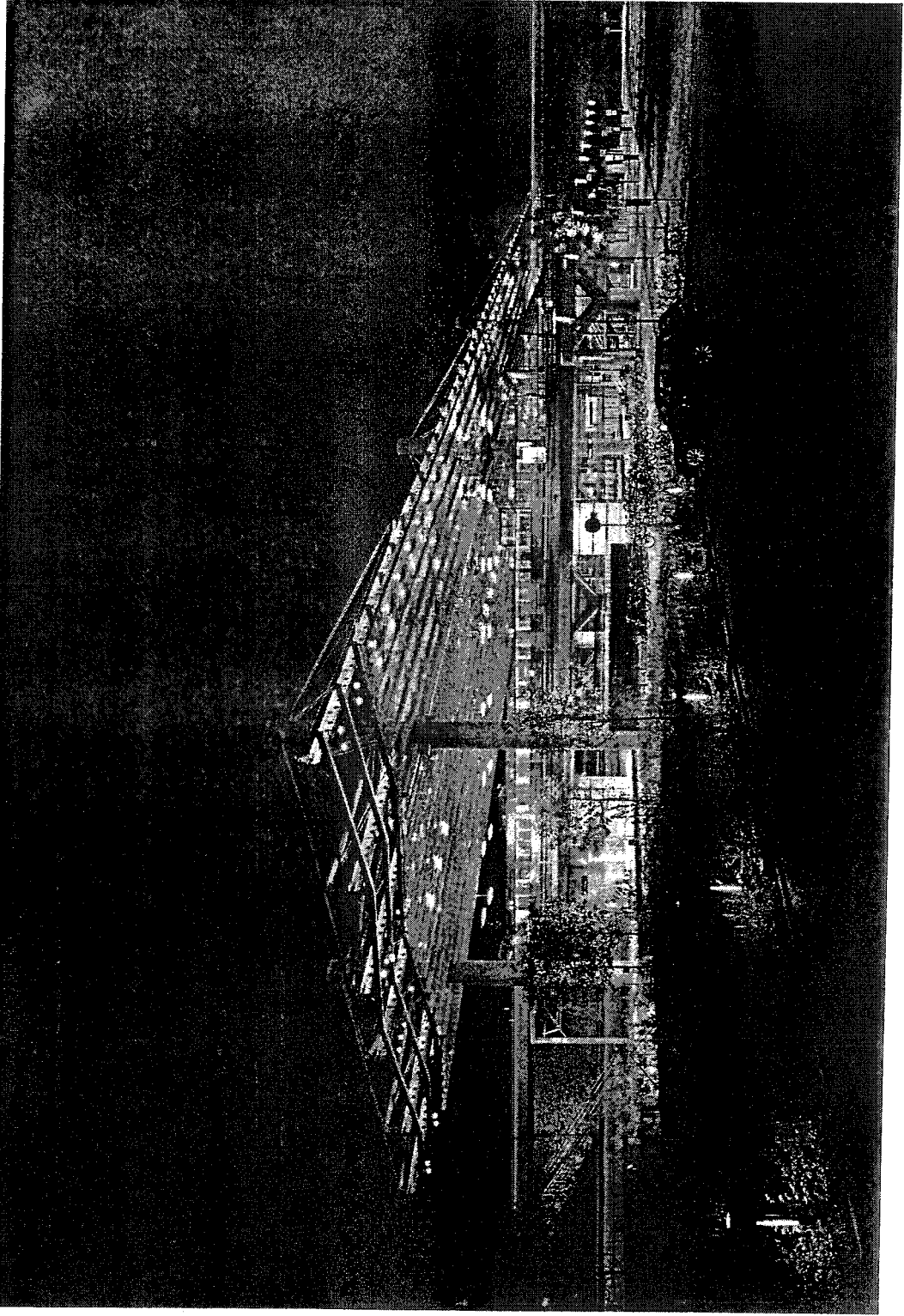
(car and train)





ØRESUNDSKOMITEEN

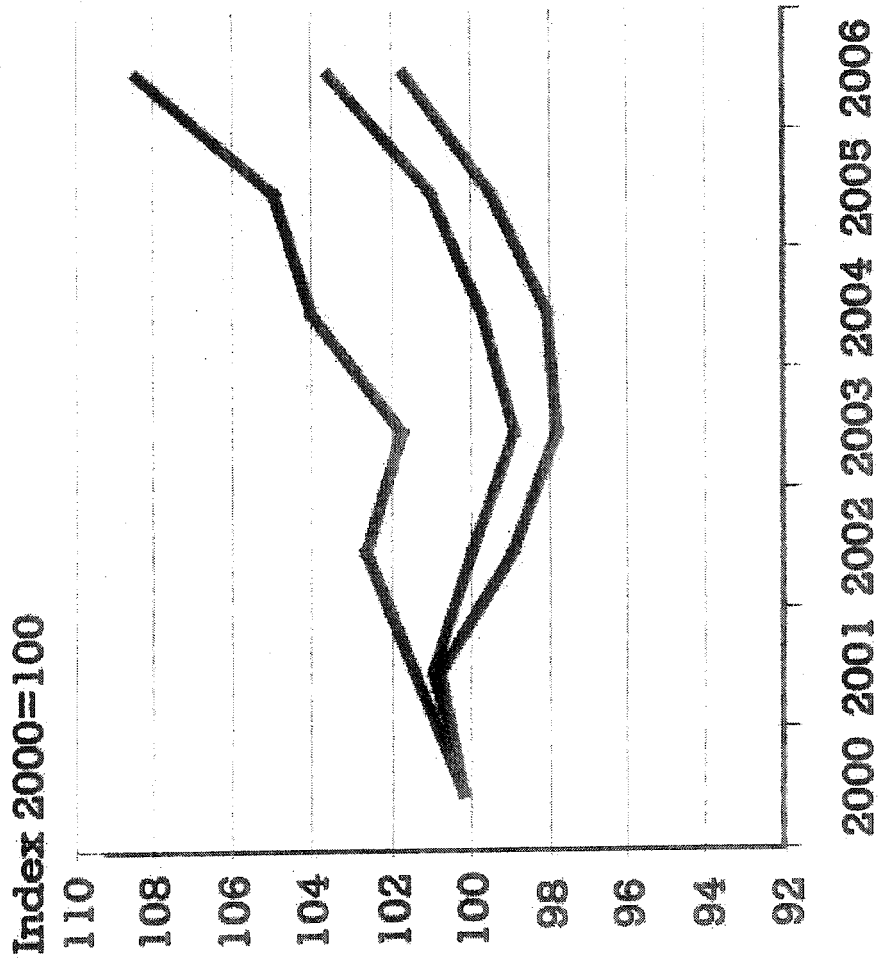
Elleberg station



Malmö Central, 2010



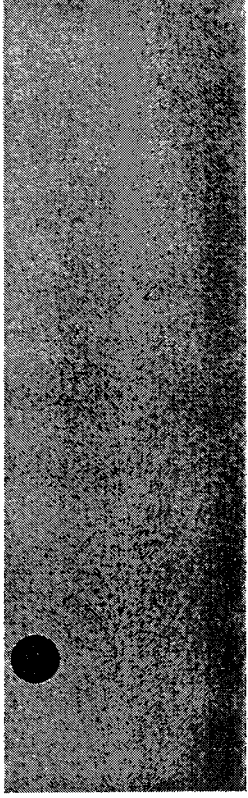
Employment trends 2000-2006



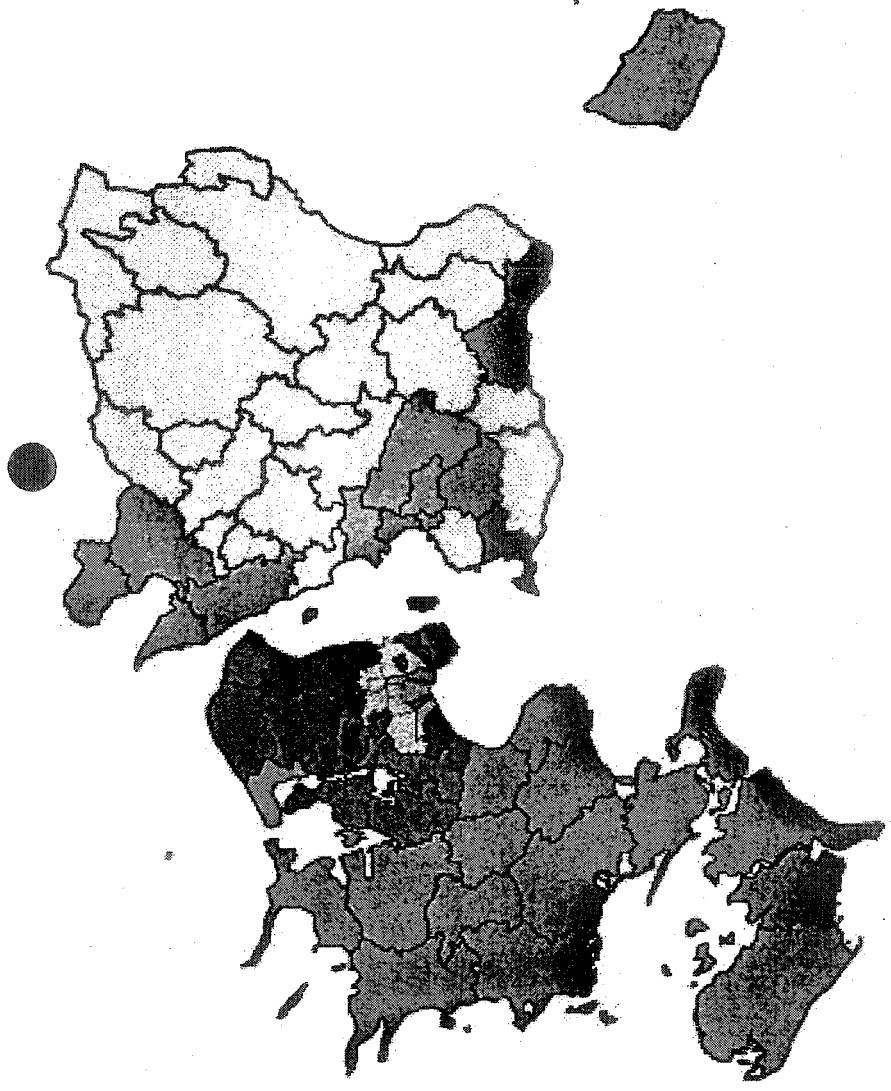
— Öresund DK — Öresund SE — Öresund

www.tendensoresund.org

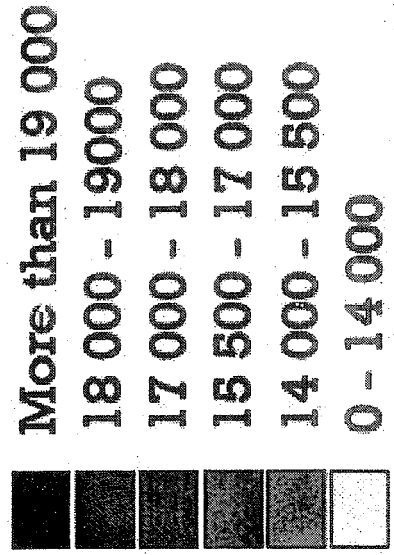




Average income after tax per person in EUR for 2004



Average income in EUR



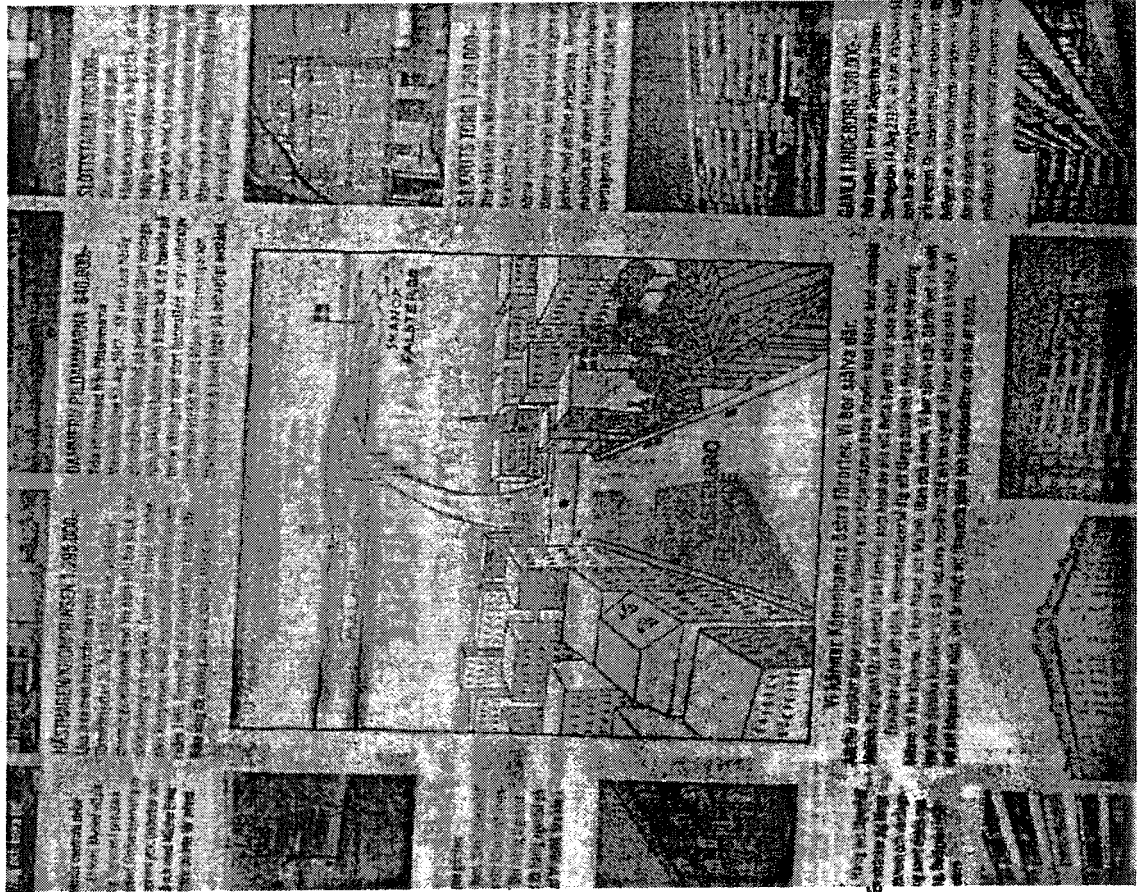
www.tendensoresund.org



From Project to Lobby

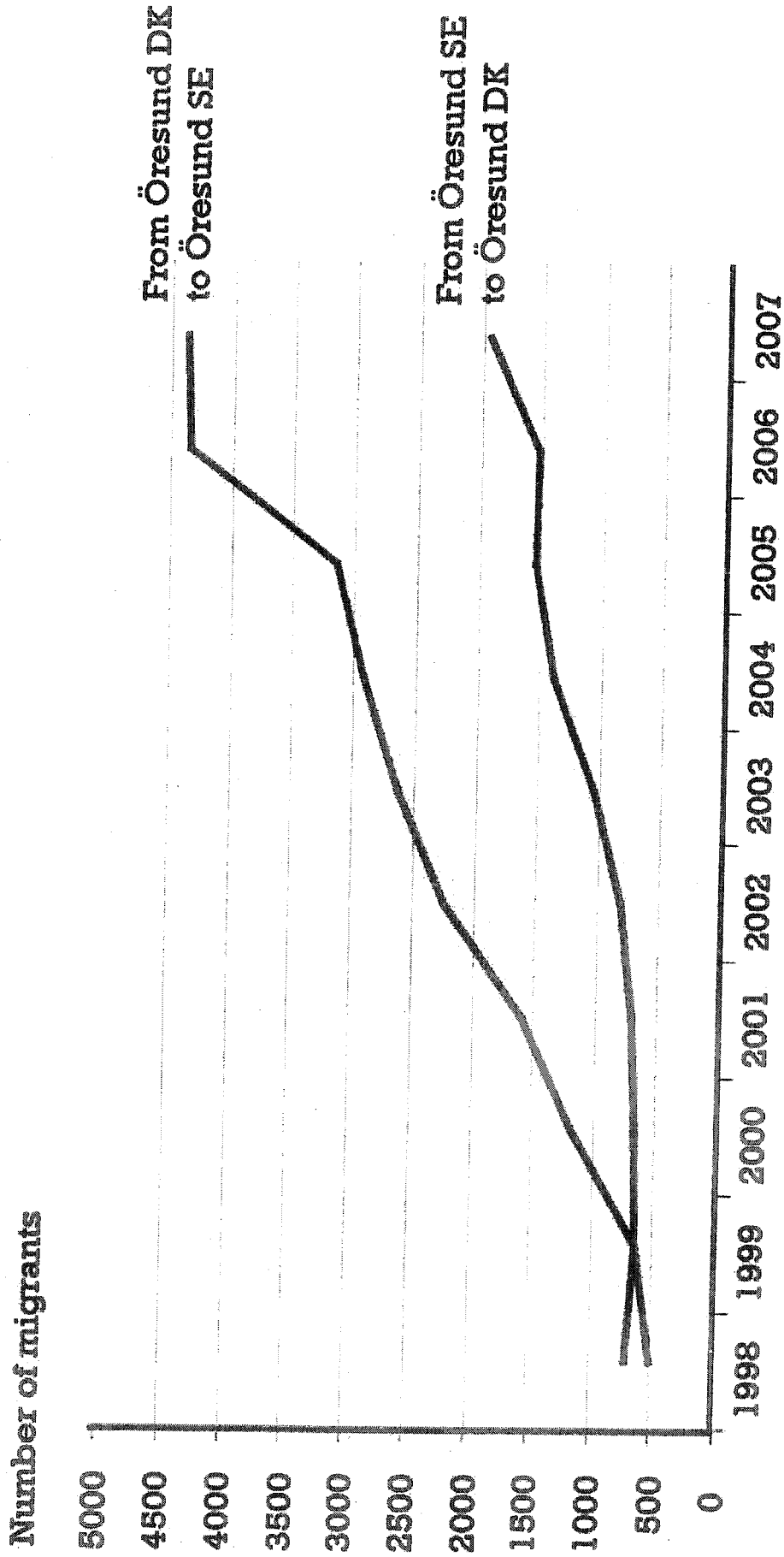


Migrants



Källa: Örebro

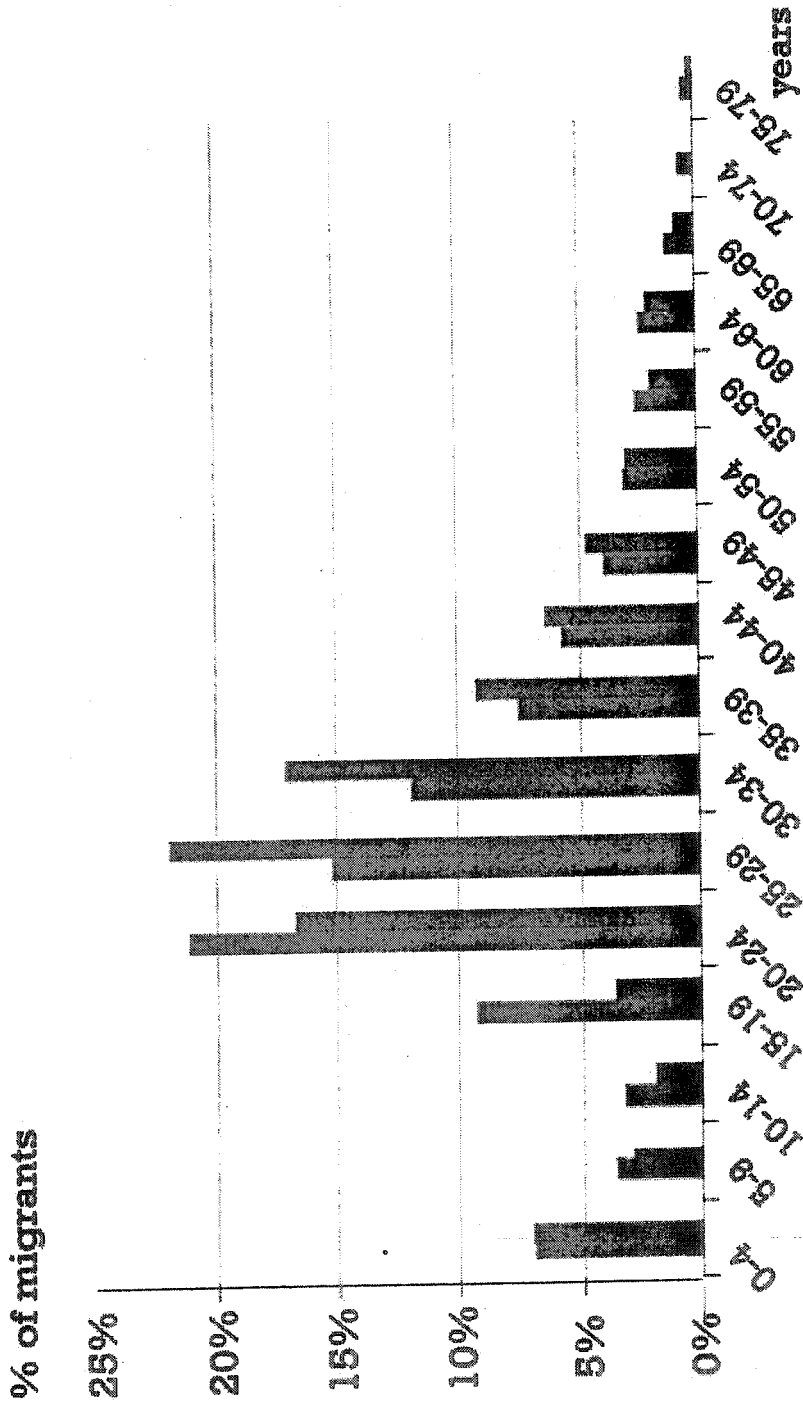
Migration flows through Öresund 1998-2007



www.tendensoresund.org

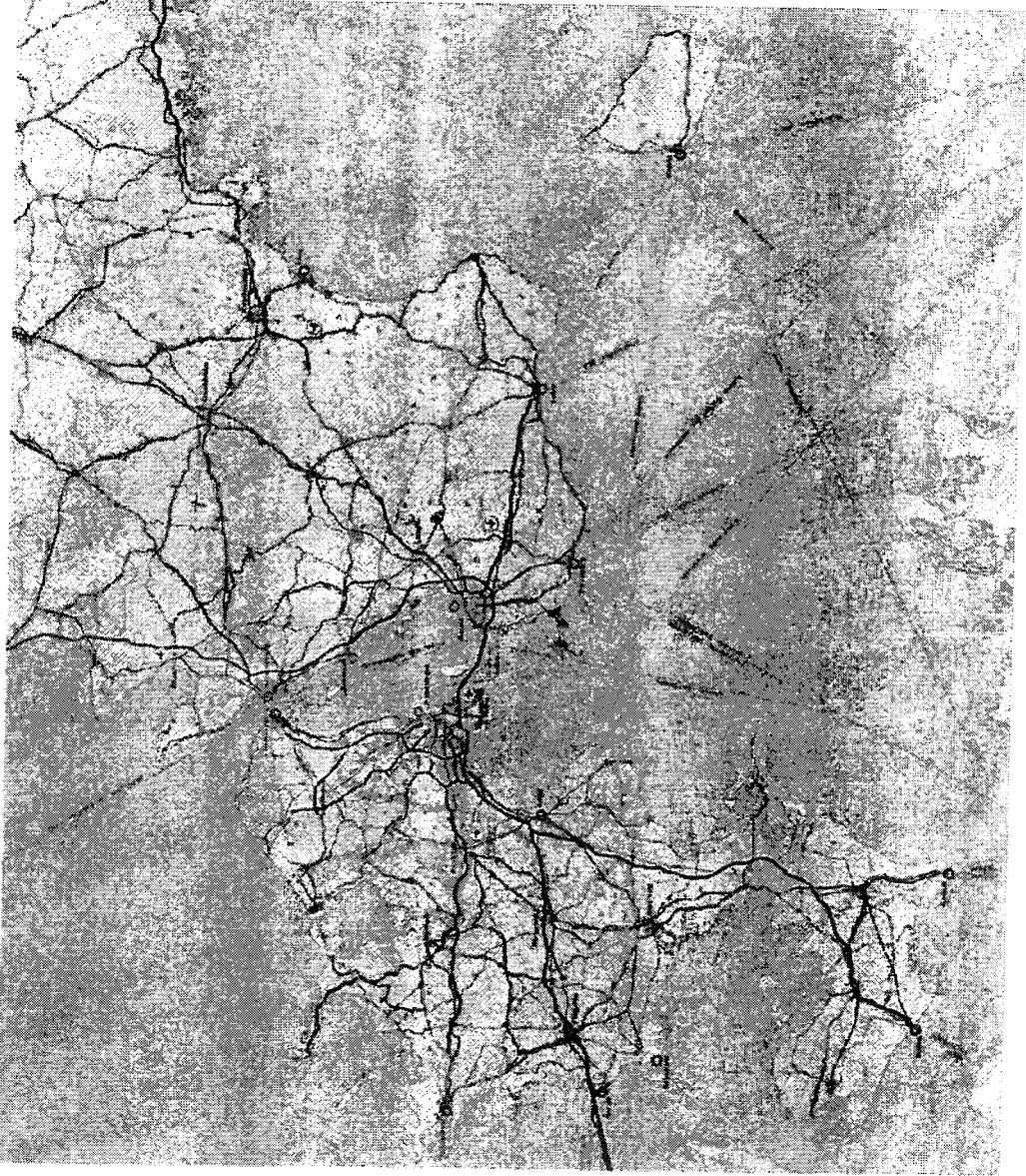


Number of migrants by age distribution (percent)

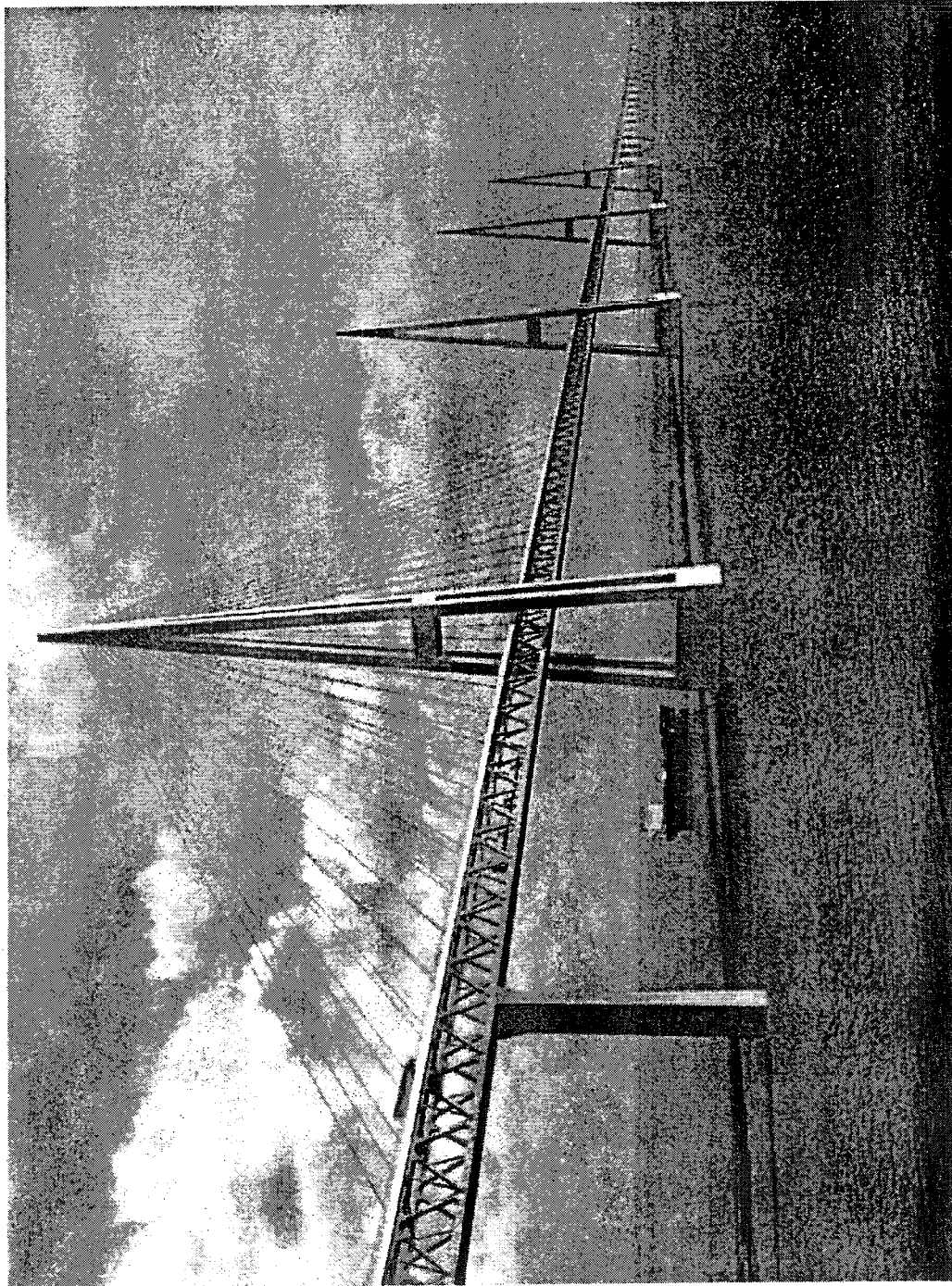


■ Migrants among municipalities in Öresund DK in 2007

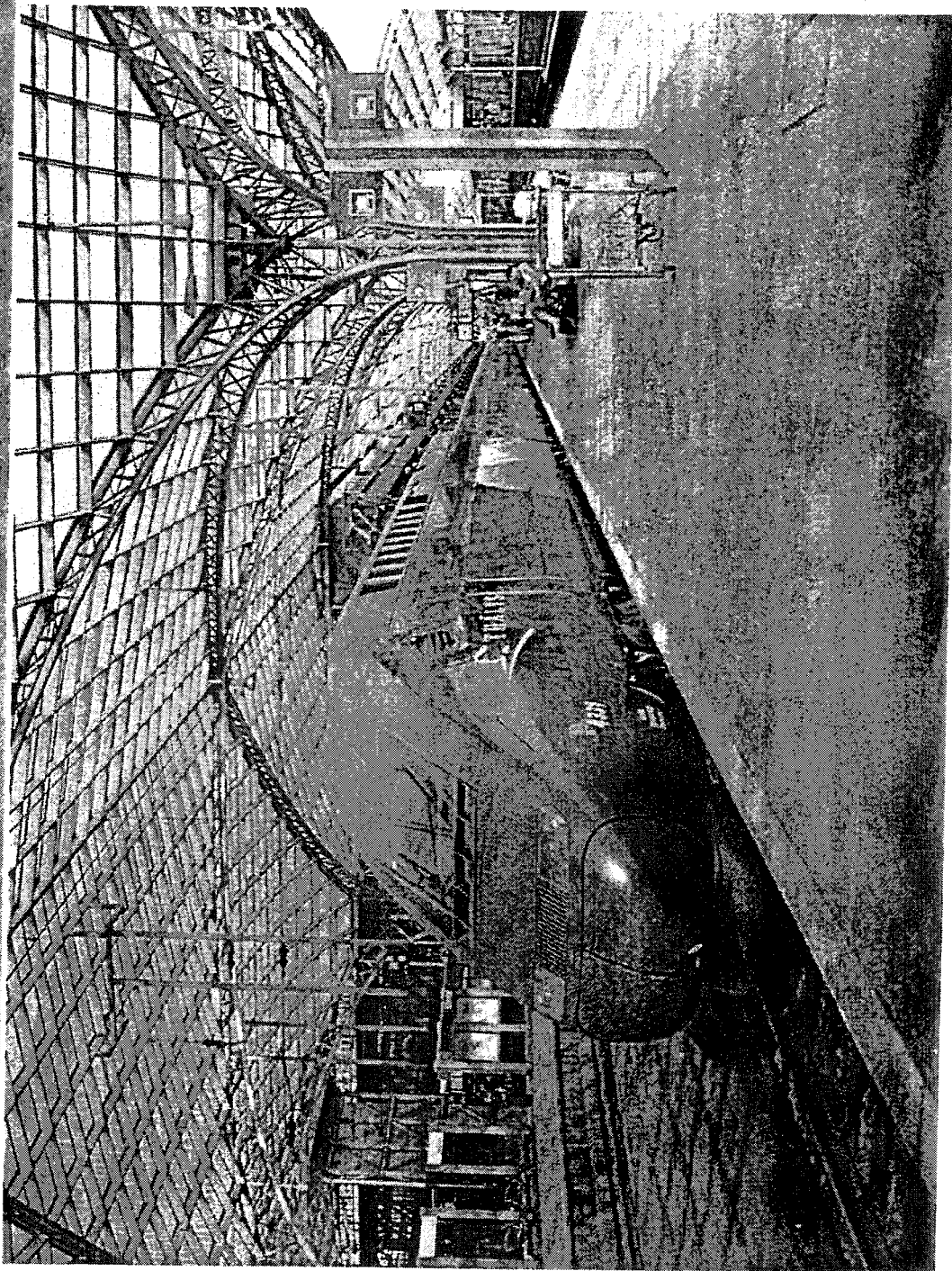
■ Migrants from Öresund DK to Öresund SE in 2006



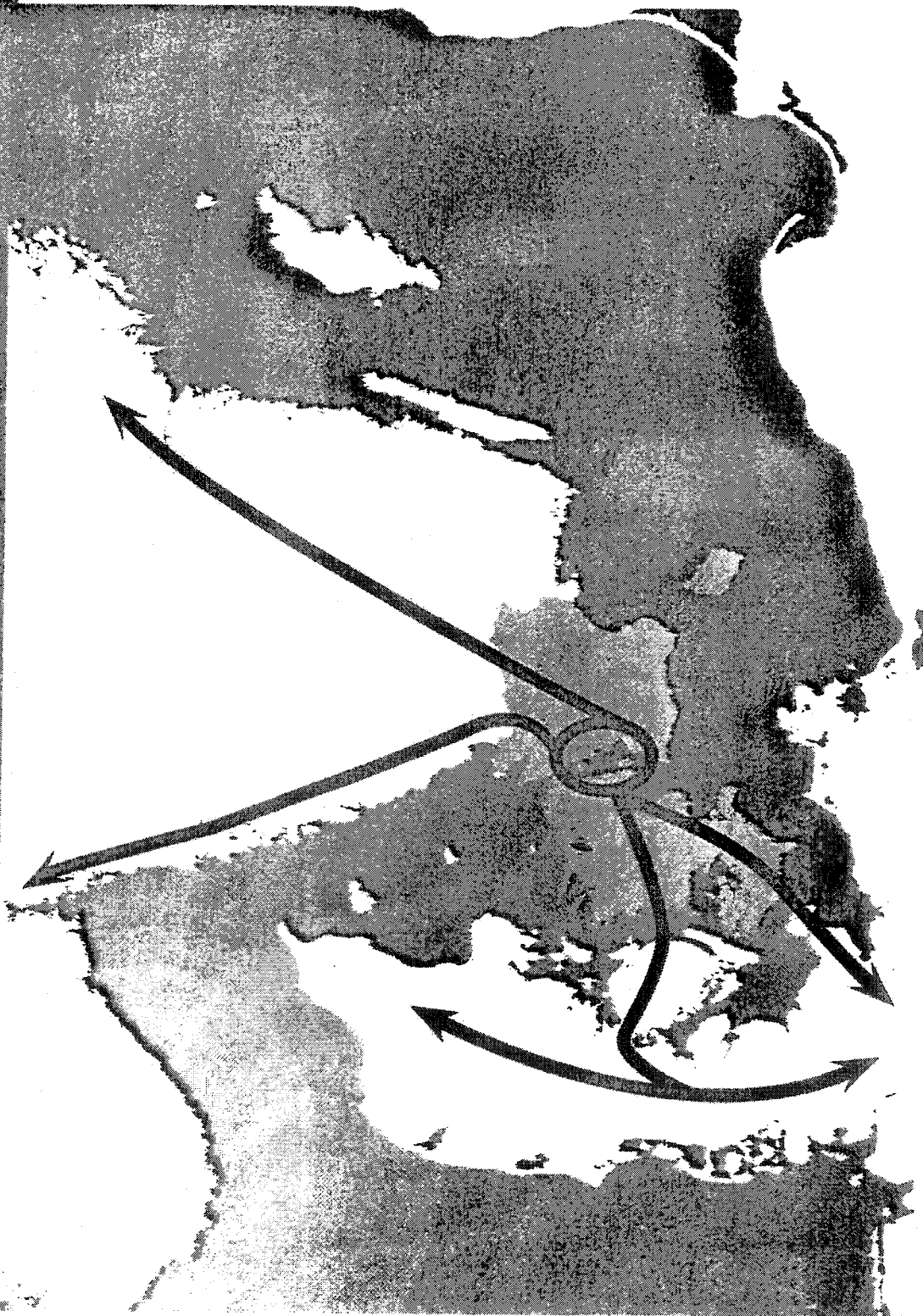
The Fehmarn Bridge, 2018



High Speed Trains



The Øresund Regionen is a International Hub



Priority and projects

Priority
 Project
 Priority and project

Arrived project
 Not project

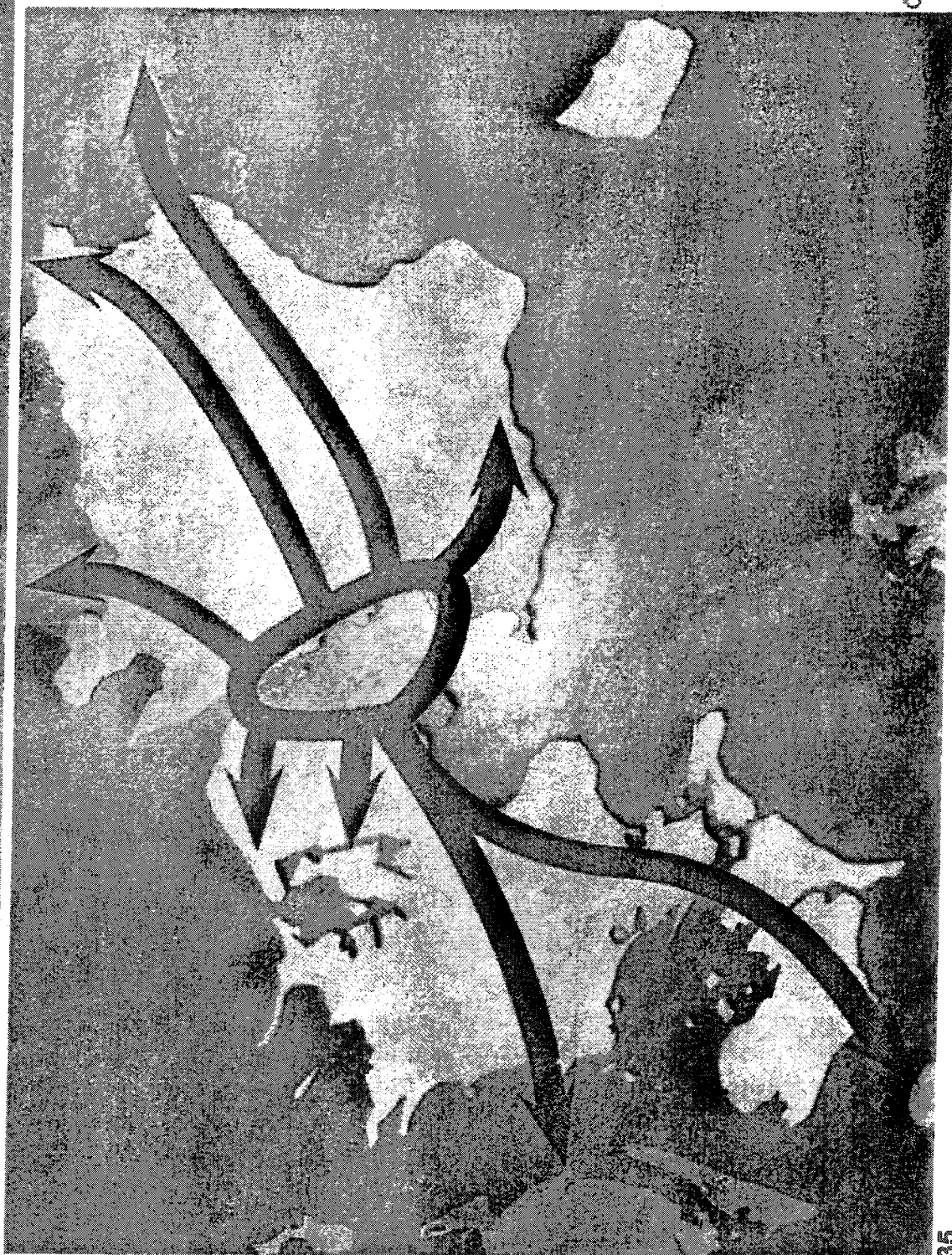
Trans-European transport network

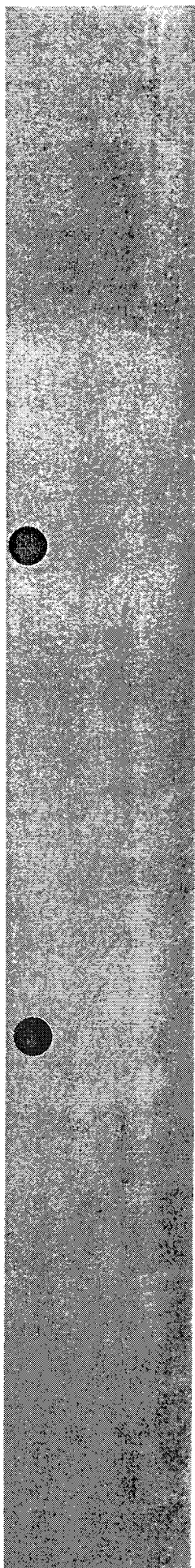
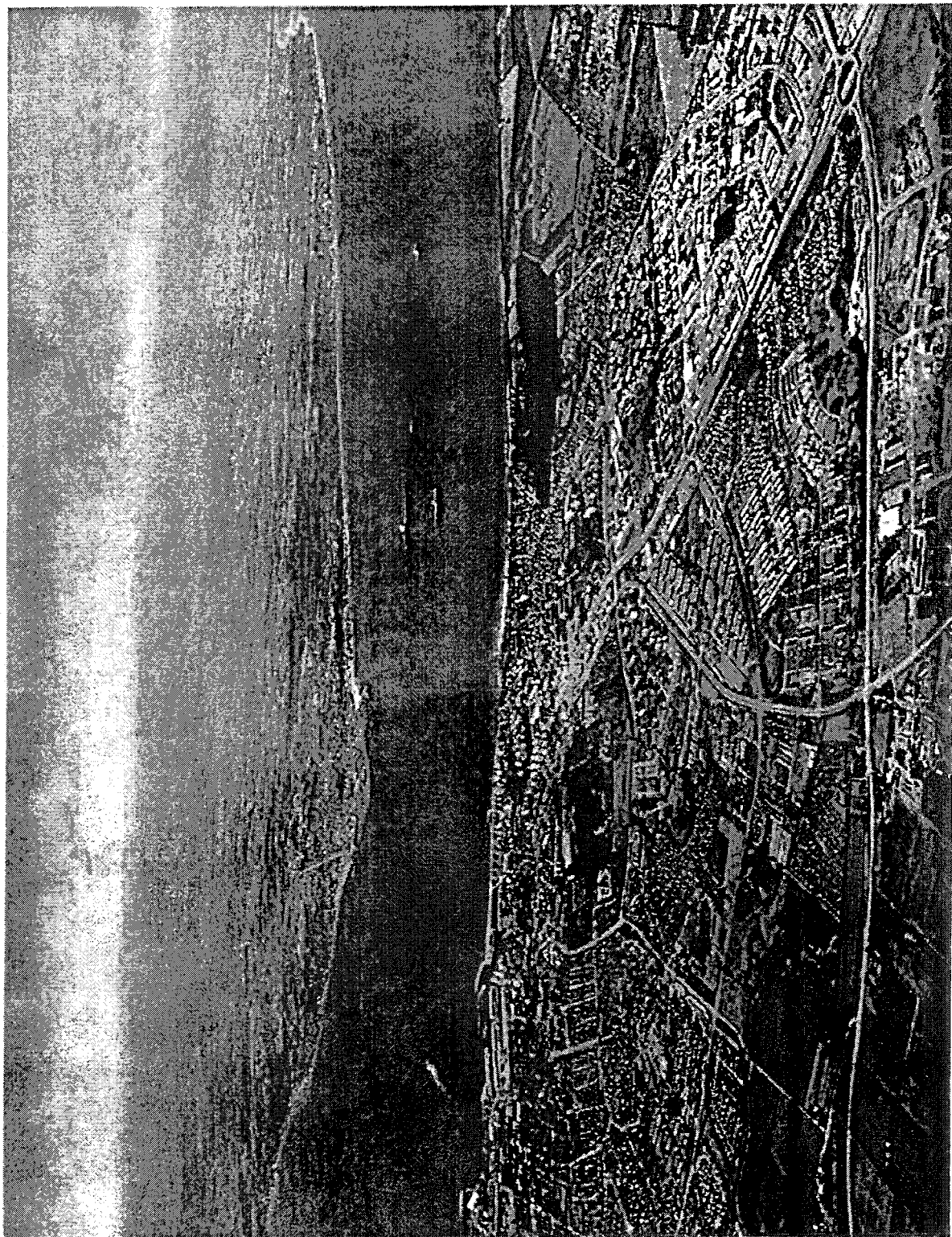
Road
 Railway
 Inland waterway
 Airports

Priority project numbers

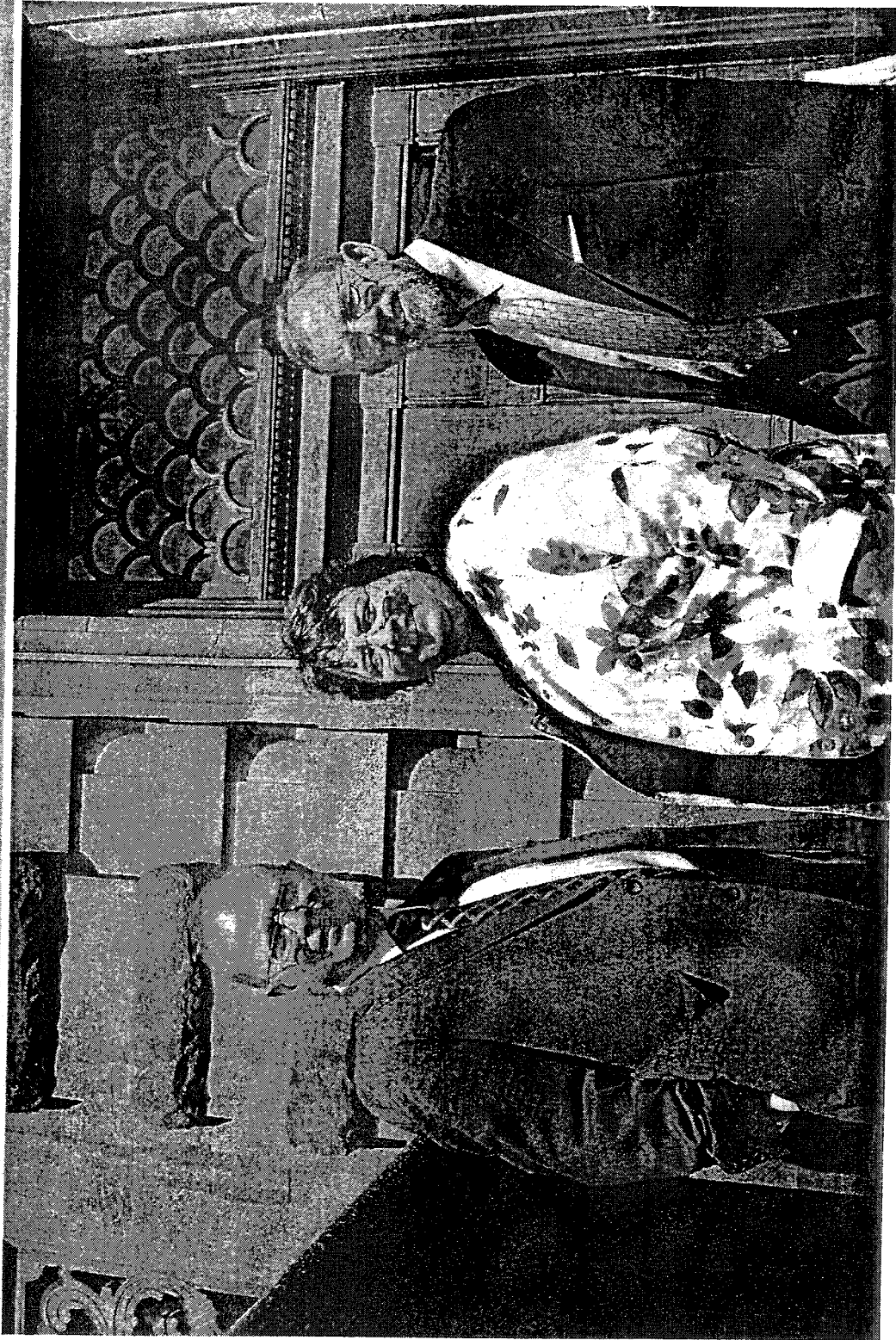
- Road project
- Railway project
- Multimodal project
- Inland waterway project
- Airports of the sea
- Airport
- Airport





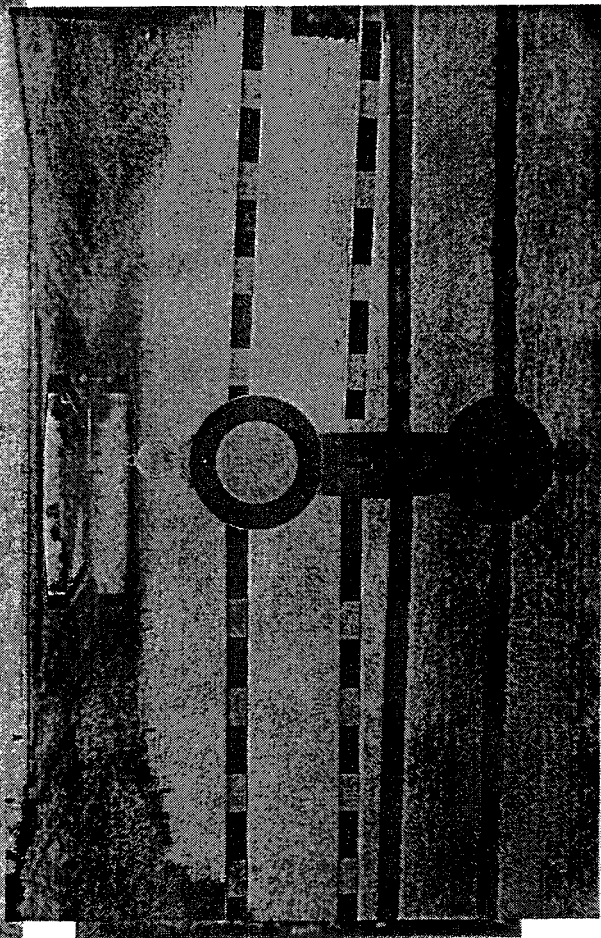


Trafikutvalget, Folketinget, 22 maj 2008

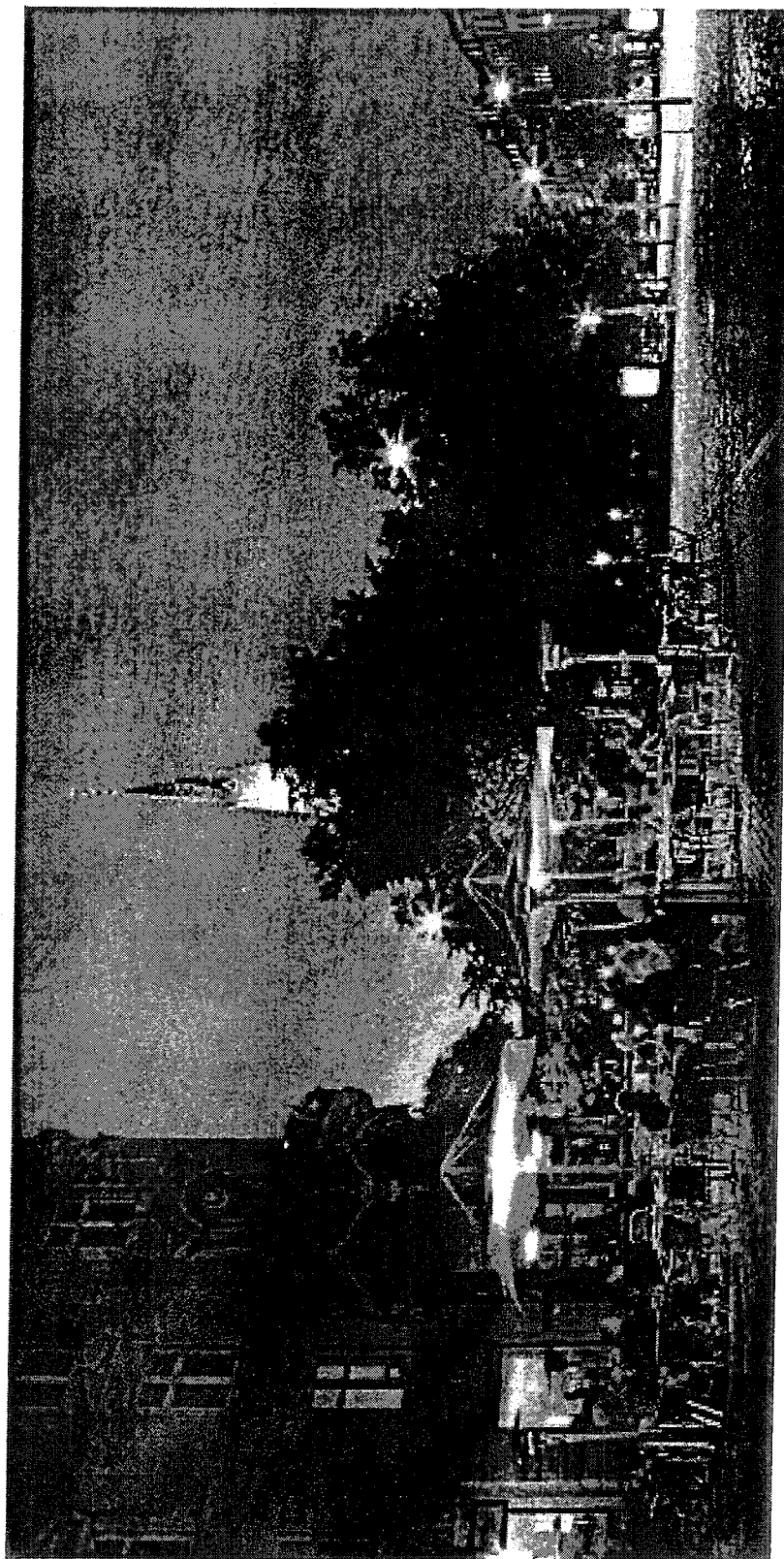


Climat

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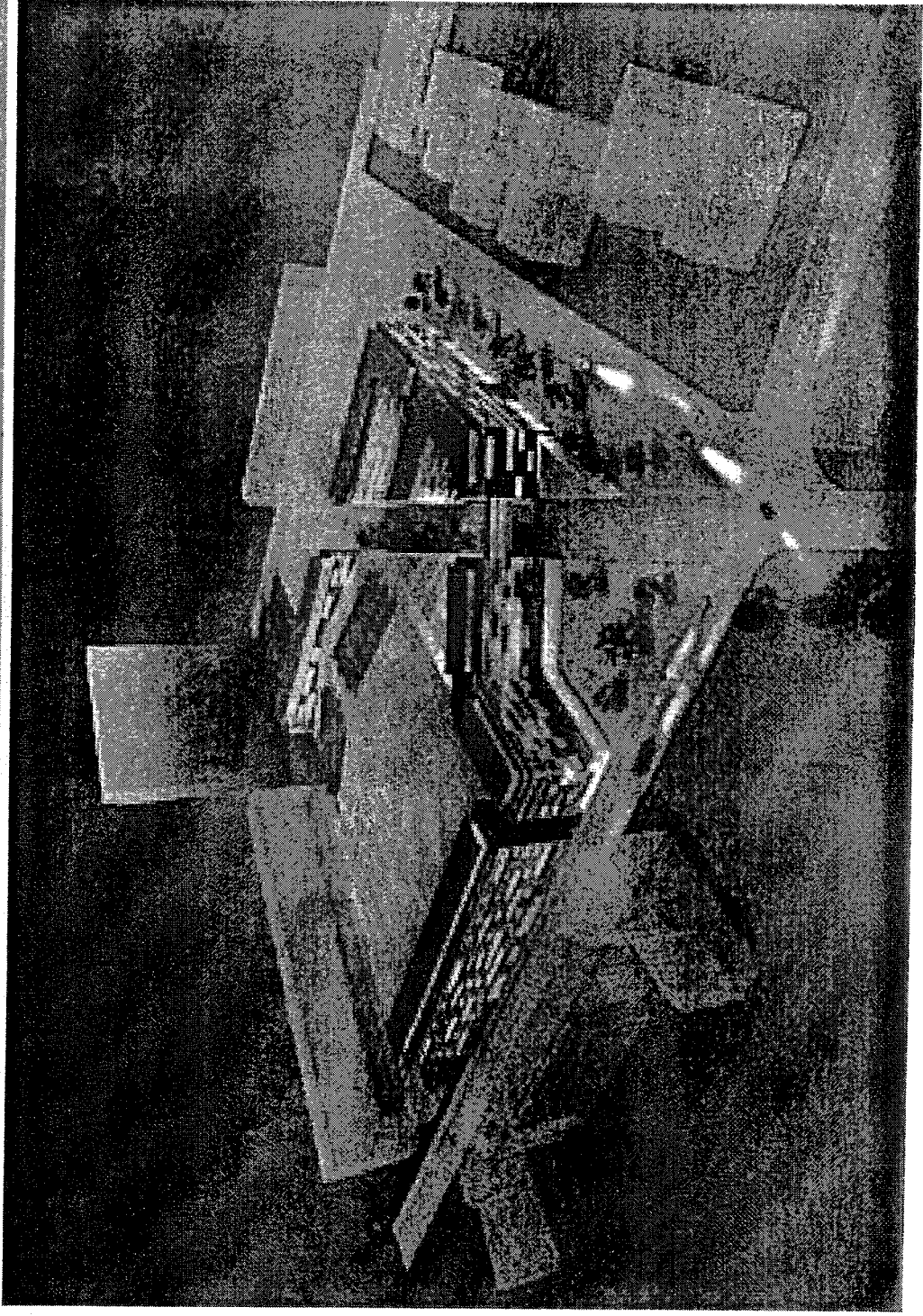
Quality of Life



Quality of Life



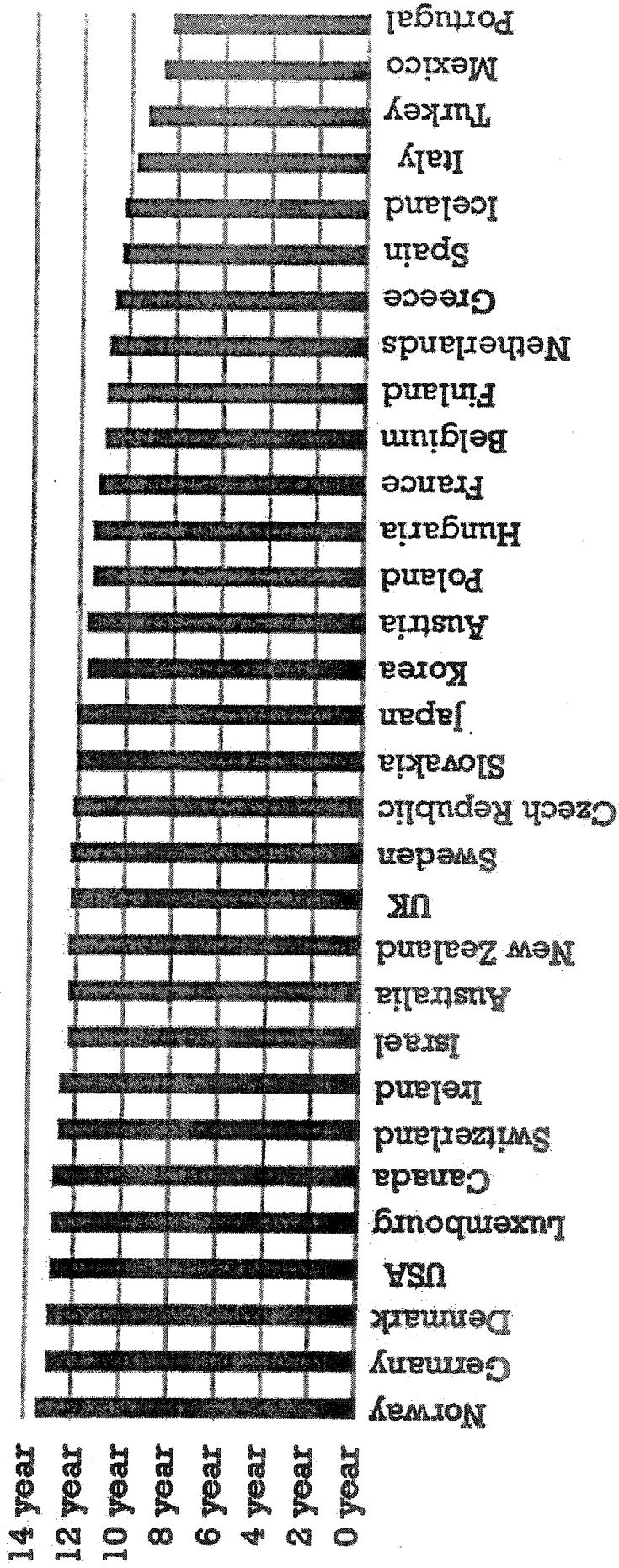
The World Village of Women Sports



ESS o MaxLab IV



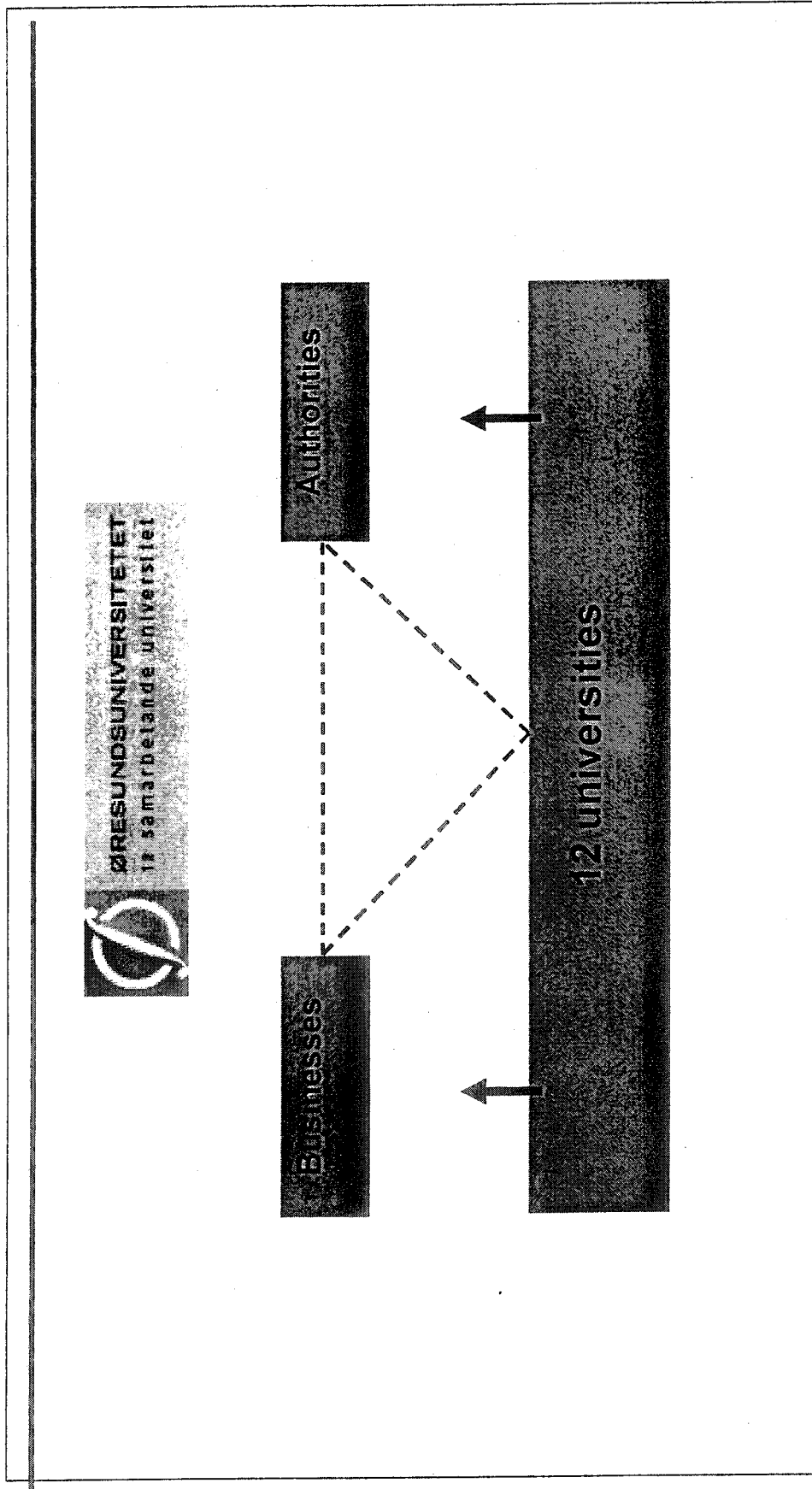
The population aged 25-64 according to average number of years spent in formal education, 2004



www.tendensesund.org



Bottom-up approach University initiated collaboration



Double Triple Helix -spiral



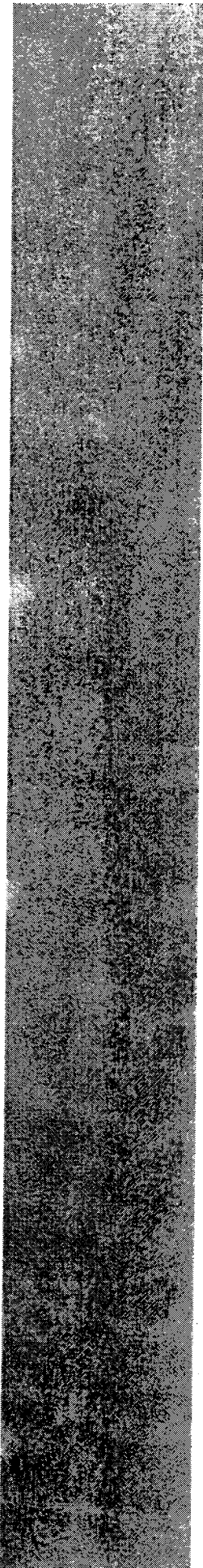
● ●
Thank You for listning!



ms@oresundskomiteen.dk

mobil; +45 3057 9840

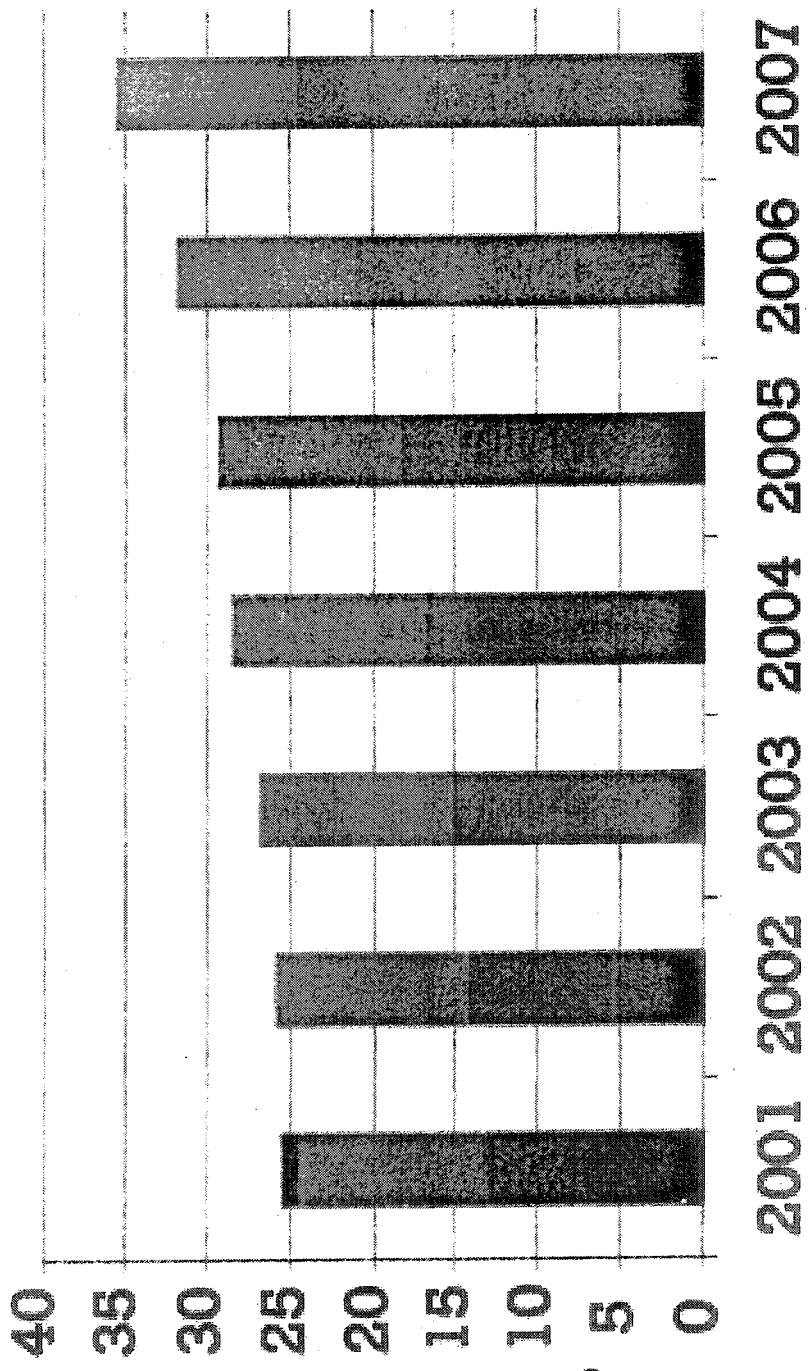




ÖRESUNDSKOMITEEN

Number of persons travelling across Öresund

Millions of individual journeys

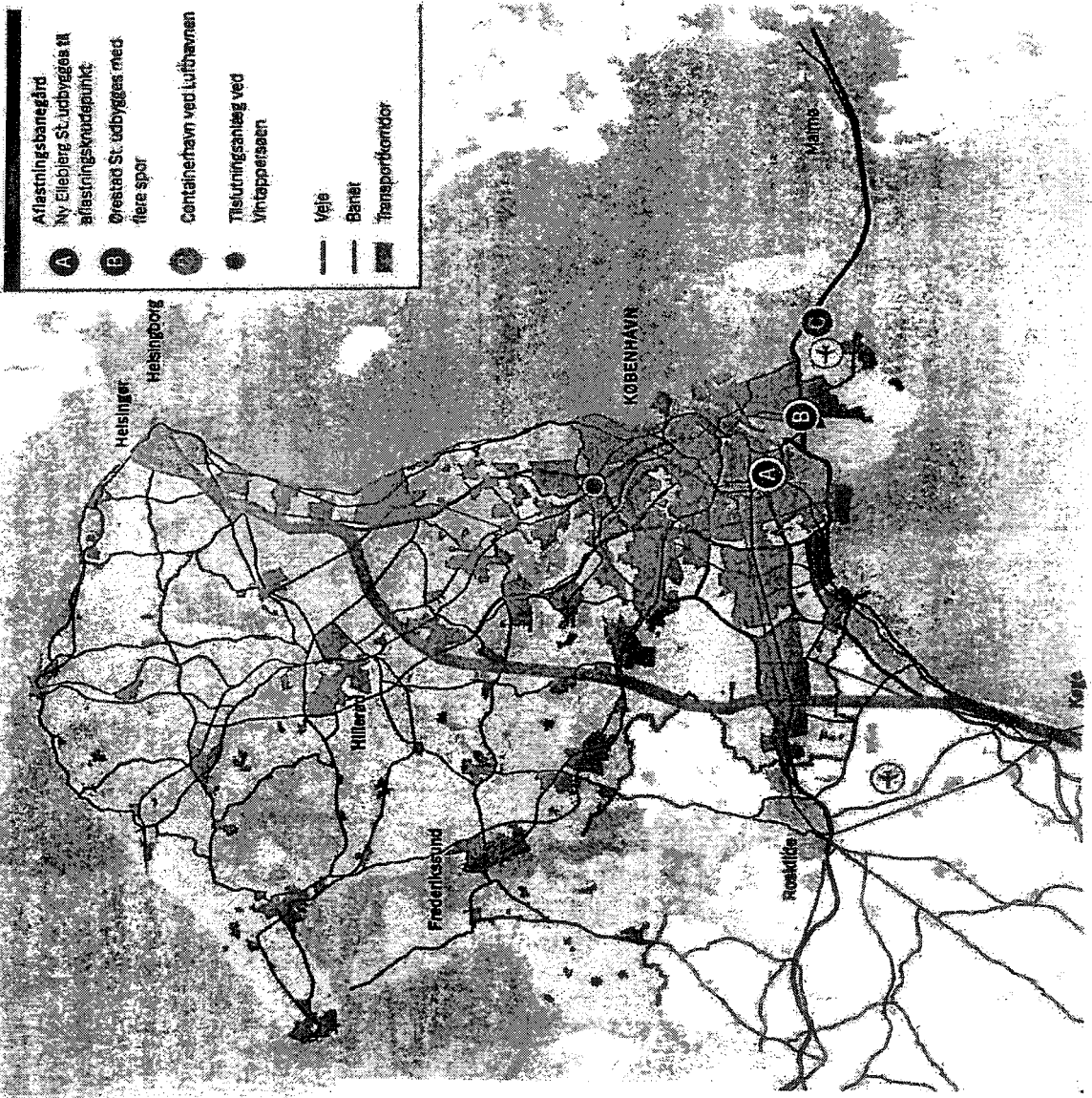


■ Train ■ Car ■ Ferry ■ Hydrofoil

www.tendensoresund.org



The Capital Region of Denmark – Development Plan



MEMO

12. January 2009

File no. 2008-

0007878

2. kontor/Kba

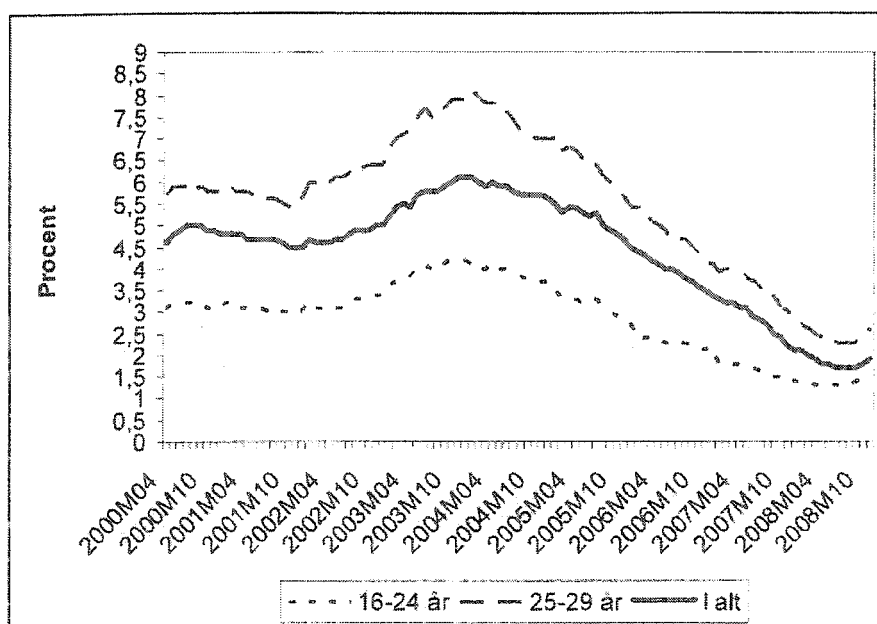
Key figures for youth unemployment in Denmark and cross-border commuting between Denmark and Sweden/Germany

I. Youth unemployment in Denmark

The latest unemployment figures (seasonally adjusted) from November 2008 show that the unemployment rate of the age group 16-24 was 1.6 per cent or 6,300 persons, whereas the figure for the age group 25-29 was 2.6 per cent or 7,100 persons. In November 2008, seasonally adjusted unemployment in Denmark reached 52,000 persons or 1.9 per cent.

Unemployment has generally decreased in the period from December 2003 until September 2008; see figure 1.

Figure 1. Unemployment trend (seasonally adjusted), April 2000 – November 2008



[Translation:
Procent = per cent
År = years, I alt = total]

Until August 2008, age groups 16 - 24 and 25 - 29 have experienced decreasing unemployment. The decline in unemployment among 16 - 24-year-olds has been less steep than average, whereas the fall in unemployment among 25 - 29-year-olds has been more pronounced.

For the entire period, unemployment among young people aged 16 - 24 has been lower than the average seasonally adjusted unemployment, whereas unemployment in the 25 - 29 age group has been higher.

II. Cross-border commuting from and to Sweden

Figures from the Øresund Committee show that in 2007, 17,100 persons commuted every day from their home to their workplace on the other side of Øresund.

As shown in the Table 2, 92 per cent (15,742 out of 17,111) of the commuters lived in

Table 2

Trend in number of commuters from and to Sweden between 2001 and 2007.

	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007
Commuters from Sweden to Denmark	3,751	5,683	8,783	12,251	15,742
Commuters from Denmark to Sweden	539	536	734	1,065	1,369
Commuters in total	4,290	6,219	9,517	13,316	17,111

Source: Ørestat. Note: 2006/07 Calculations from the Øresund Bridge (www.tendensoresund.org)

Sweden and worked in Denmark in 2007.

Even though the main part of commuters lives in Sweden, Danes make up the majority of the Øresund commuters. The reason is that the financial incentive to move to Sweden has been very strong throughout the period since the Øresund Bridge was opened. Danish companies' recruitment of Swedish employees did not gain momentum until 2006 due to lack of labour in Denmark.

II. Cross-border commuting from and to Germany

Danish Institute of Border Region Studies at Southern University of Denmark has analysed foreign labour for the Southern Danish Employment Region. The analysis shows that companies in Southern Denmark to an increasing extent use foreign labour to cover the shortage of labour. However, it has not been possible to calculate the number of persons commuting to workplaces in Southern Denmark from Germany. A calculation from 2005 shows that some 1,700 persons commuted across the border to Southern Jutland in 2005. No figures are available to indicate how many persons commute from their home in Denmark to work in Germany.



Berlin, 28 July 2008

**Half-time report
by the BSPC Working Group
on Labour Market and Social Welfare
for the 17th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference in Visby in 2008**

Introduction:

On 8 October 2007 in Gydnia, the Standing Committees established the Working Group on Labour Market and Social Welfare, as called for at the 16th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference in Berlin in 2007.

Franz Thönnies, Member of the German Bundestag (SPD parliamentary group) and member of the Standing Committee, was elected chairman of the Working Group. At the first meeting of the Working Group, Swedish Member of the Riksdagen (The Moderate Party, Swedish Riksdagen), Anna König Jerlmyr was elected vice-chairperson.

The other members of the Working Group so far are: Mr Göte Wahlström (Social Democrats, Riksdagen, Sweden, representative of the Nordic Council), Mr Janne Seurujärvi, (Finnish Center Party, Eduskunta Finland, representative of the Nordic Council), Ms Barbro Sundback (Social Democrats, Lagtinget, ?lands), Mr Knut Kristinsen (Conservatives, Foltinget, Denmark), Ms Tatjana Muravjova (Estonian Reform Party, Riigikogu, Estonia), Ms Satu Taiveaho (Social Democrats, Eduskunta, Finland), Mr Günter Frank (Social Democrats, Parliament of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg), Ms Silva Bendrāte (New Era Party, Saeima, Latvia), Mr Valerijus Simulik (Social Liberals, Saeimas Lithuania), Mr Werner Kuhn (Conservatives, Land Parliament of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania), Mr Per Rune Henriksen (Social Democrats, Stortinget, Norway), Ms Dorota Arciszewska-Mielewczyk (Law and Justice Party, Sejm, Polen), Mr Wolfgang Baasch (Social Democrats, Land Parliament of Schleswig-Holstein), Ms Anna König Jerlmyr (The Moderate Party, Riksdagen Sweden).

In line with the call made in **point No. 9** of the resolution of the 16th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference in Berlin in 2007, the Standing Committee had given the Working Group the following mandate:

"...against the background of the growing number of cross-border workers, put the topic of "cross-border labour markets" on the agenda of the Council of the Baltic Sea States and support policies which lead to the establishment of information centres at heavily used border crossings in the region in order to promote mobility of workers and advise workers on social-security issues. The aim of such centres would be to provide comprehensive information to workers on fiscal social security law matters. Information about job and training opportunities in neighbouring countries in the region must also be improved. ..."

to foster the development of labour mobility in cross-border labour markets and, in line with **point 10** of the resolution adopted at the 16th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference in Berlin:

"...foster inclusive labour markets integrating disadvantaged groups as well as young people in order to integrate them into work and society and to make use of their potential, ..."

to tackle the issue of integrating young people into the labour markets and issue recommendations in both areas.

In line with the resolution adopted at the 16th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, the process was intended to include dialogue with the social partners.

The Standing Committee asked the Working Group to present a half-time report at the 17th BSPP in Visby in 2008 and a final report at the 18th BSPP in Denmark in 2009.

Activities so far:

The Working Group has so far met twice - once in Berlin (3 March 2008) and once in Helsinki (5 May 2008). A third meeting is planned for 29 September 2008 in Oslo.

The basis for the Working Group's activities is formed by points 9 and 10 of the resolution adopted at the 16th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference in Berlin, as cited above.

At the Working Group's constitutive meeting on 3 March 2008, the members examined the general situation in the relevant border regions with cross-border labour markets within the Baltic Sea region and examined the data available so far. The individual country reports presented to the Working Group show a continuous increase in the number of frontier workers over the past years. There are many reasons for this:

- Freedom of establishment and freedom of movement for workers within the EU
- Demand for workers in certain countries
- Prevention or termination of unemployment
- Higher income, better working or living conditions
- Better relations between employers and employees
- Social security and stability
- Better opportunities for education, career development and employment

It was decided that the interim report would not, at this point, go into detail about the individual countries. Nevertheless, it is clear that cross-border labour markets can improve employment opportunities and contribute to the dynamic development of regions - in the interests of business, firms and employees. These labour markets foster flexibility, present opportunities to get to know different working conditions, resolve conflicts in different ways and make people familiar with different hierarchy structures, cultures and values.

Yet there are challenges, such as lack of information, imbalance between freedoms and rights on the labour markets, unbalanced regional developments, demographic challenges, shortages of workers, shortages of workers in specific professions and in specific economic sectors, exodus of younger and better qualified workers, illegal workers, wage dumping, poor working conditions, social insurance issues where workers are employed in two countries, availability of rehabilitation measures, issues concerning unemployment benefit for temporary workers, vocational training, taxation of companies employing temporary workers, inadequate language skills, poor transport infrastructure, deficits in social dialogue between government, public sector, firms and unions, etc.

Experience shows that when people decide to take up work in a neighbouring country or other country a range of questions arise for workers, but also for employers. In the social

field, these are questions concerning social security - from health insurance, to nursing-care insurance, to accident insurance, to unemployment insurance, to pensions insurance. Labour law issues, such as job protection, wage agreements or workers' rights within companies also play a role. In addition, against the background of the different taxation regulations in existence, questions of taxation law also often arise. And there are also questions concerning the social benefits available in the country concerned for children or families, for example.

Some regions and countries have already reacted over the last few years by establishing information centres and offices, websites, or special projects for frontier workers. In other areas, comparable initiatives do not exist.

With the exception of Iceland, Norway and Russia, all the BSPC countries are members of the EU. It is not possible to present a precise and accurate picture of the number of cross-border workers either in the EU or in the Baltic Sea states, since there is often a lack of statistic data available. And the statistical studies which are carried out vary in the methodology applied. This means that most figures are based on estimations and extrapolations. Indeed, in some fields, no data whatsoever exists. Yet it can be assumed that the number of cross-border workers has risen considerably over the past few years. Between 65,000 and 80,000 workers in the Baltic Sea region can now be categorised as cross-border workers.

The following table showing **figures for cross-border workers** based on data from 2004 to 2007 gives an initial overview.

Sweden/Norway	13,200
Norway/Sweden	1,700
Sweden /Denmark	8,500
Denmark /Sweden	1,800
Norway/Denmark	500
Denmark/Norway	3,300
Sweden/Finland	2,400
Finland/Sweden	3,800
Germany/Denmark (2007)	10,500
Denmark/Germany (2007)	1,500
Norway/Finland	200
Finland/Norway	1,200
Estonia/Finland	13,000
Russia/Finland	9,000
Estonia/Latvia	2.-3000
Åland – other regions, mainly Sweden/ Finland	1,500
Åland – other regions, mainly Sweden/ Finland (domestic commuters)	2,500

No data or estimates are available for flows of commuters in the following regions or on the following routes: Russia – Finland, Finland – Estonia, Latvia – Estonia, Latvia – Lithuania and Lithuania – Latvia, along with Poland – Germany and Germany – Poland.

Information centres, offices and other facilities exist in:

Sweden/Finland	Region of Tornedalen	Center of Commuters Tornio and Haparanda/Infocenter Haparanda Tornio/EURES Cross-border Tornedalen
Sweden/Norway	Regions of Arvika (S)/Kongswinger (N) Värmland/Dalarna (S)/ Akershus/ Østfold (N)	"GrenseTjänsten" Callcenter Moruklien (N)
Norway/Sweden	Region of Østfold (N)/Västra Götaland (S)	"Grensependel" project
Denmark/Sweden	Regions of Copenhagen (DK)/ Malmö (S)	Information centres for cross-border workers in Copenhagen, Malmö and Helsingör
Denmark/Germany	Region of Sønderjylland (DK) / Schleswig (D)	Regionscontor Sønderjylland-Schleswig Infocenter Grænse, Padborg
Finland/Russia	Euroregion Karelia	
Norway/Sweden/ Finland/Russia	Region of The North Calotte	www.arcticjob.net
Finland/Estonia	Region of Helsinki/Tallinn	Finnish Working Life Information Point in Tallinn
Estonia/Latvia	Region of Valga (EE) / Valka (LV)	Estonian-Latvian Committee for Cross-border Cooperation
Poland/Germany	3 Euroregions Spree-Neisse-Bober (Sprowa-Nysa-Bóbr) Pro Europa Viadrina Pomerania	

This shows that structures for information facilities and projects already exist in the West and North of the Baltic Sea region, whilst hardly any institutionalised information structures exist in the East and South. Some of the facilities were created in connection with the activities of EURES (European Employment Services) and various EU programmes. EURES' goal is to support job mobility and geographical mobility and provide concise information, along with advice and recruitment/placement services.

The first overview was complemented by the presentation on the work of the Information Center Grænse for the region of Sønderjylland (DK)/Schleswig (G), given by its former head, Andrea Kunsemüller. The Information Center is financed by the local authorities on both sides of the border; it aims to provide information and advice and foster development in the region and organise joint activities, as well as allowing cross-border contacts to be established. The importance of including employers' organisations and trade unions on the Information Center's board was stressed.

The Working Group defined cross-border workers as people working in another country and commuting on a daily or weekly basis or working there for several weeks and months at a time. At the same time, however, it was stressed that the issue of immigrants and guest

workers who are actually employed in their own country but posted to the host country to work should also be taken into account. It was also felt that questions of education and gender aspects should be looked at.

The Working Group's first meeting was finished off with a presentation of the data currently available concerning **unemployment amongst young people** under the age of 25 in the countries of the Baltic Sea region; this was followed by a discussion. The following figures were used as a basis:

Country	1-2008
Denmark	8.4%
Estonia	11.8%
Germany	10.2%
Latvia	10.8%
Lithuania	8.3%
Norway	8.6% (2007)
Finland	16.2%
Russia	28.1% (2004)
Sweden	18.3%

(Source: EUROSTAT Online Statistics, March 2008)

At the Working Group's second meeting, on 5 May 2008 in Helsinki, the Finnish Minister of Labour spoke about the situation concerning youth unemployment in Finland and the measures undertaken to combat it, and talked about the government's programmes to integrate young people into the labour market.

Mika Häkikinen (BASTUN, Baltic Sea Trade Union Network), set out the position of the trade unions on the subject of cross-border workers and presented the "Baltic Sea Labour Network" project, which was initiated by the trade unions, but is also supported by the employers' associations. An application is to be made to the EU for support with the project, the aim of which is to foster cooperation between all labour-market stakeholders, including through cooperation in regional offices.

Leila Lankinen, representing the city of Helsinki, provided information and figures concerning foreign workers and cross-border workers in Finland and the region of Helsinki.

The country reports on youth unemployment submitted by the members of the Working Group showed the diverse causes of this phenomenon, as well as similarities and differences in measures undertaken to integrate young people into training and work.

The causes range from problems at school, to lack of skills, divorces, parental unemployment, drug addiction, involvement in crime, poor regional economic structures, economic problems, lack of training places, and to problems of immigration and integration in the other society.

The decisions and measures taken by the governments include careers advice in schools to prepare young people at an early age for the world of work, with information provided on different jobs and work placements in firms; special programmes for young people with a drug addiction, programmes for young people who belong to the long-term unemployed, programmes for young immigrants and programmes fostering initiative and independence; as well as integration plans, wage subsidies and training place subsidies, coaching and special support programmes, the building of networks, the creation of additional training places, development of regional training and employment projects, options to allow school

qualifications to be obtained at a later point, reduction of social-insurance costs for firms involved in training, etc.

The Working Group will continue its discussions at further meetings in the various countries of the Baltic Sea region; it will gain an overview of the existing information projects and activities to combat unemployment and continue its dialogue with the social partners. It will analyse the various measures and activities and provide a summary in the final report, along with recommendations, for the 18th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference in Denmark in 2009.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Franz Thönnies', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Franz Thönnies

Chairman of the BSPP Working Group on
Labour Market and Social Welfare
Member of German Bundestag
Parliamentary State Secretary to the
Federal Minister of Labour and Social Affairs