



SMÅLAND

BLEKINGE

South Sweden



OECD Territorial review

- Blekinge, Jönköping, Kalmar and Kronoberg
- Final report approved in December 2011

The territorial review was expected to....

- ...increase knowledge of strategic development*
- ...increase co-operation between the regions*
- ...influence priorities and investments*
- ...raise national and international attention*



Recommendations

- **Increase the knowledgebased economy**
Support growth of knowledge-intensive businesses
RND in SMEs
Co-operation between SMEs and higher education
- **Increased attractivity**
Natural- and cultural assets
Diversified businesses
Accessibility (transportation)
- **Development of the labor market**
Integration of young and immigrants
Attract talents
Women in the private industry
- **Functional regions**
Increased cooperation
Regional leadership



Experiences

- International perspective has contributed to a deeper understanding of regional development
- The strong brand of OECD has increased interest in the results – long term challenges are well known and accepted (“Now we know it all.....”)
- Increased cooperation in Småland Blekinge – several interregional projects based on common knowledge
- Big impact on local and regional strategies /investments, but little impact on a national level



Example of results

- Several projects to strengthen the manufacturing industry
- Skills supply
- Investments to decrease youth unemployment
- Investments in tourism
- New regional railway in Jönköping and Kronoberg
- Joint position paper in South Sweden on the infrastructural system



Governance

- Jönköping and Kronoberg directly-elected regions from 2015
- Blekinge and Kalmar regional development councils
- Regional cooperation South Sweden: Småland Blekinge + Skåne + Halland



Experiences

“It will be necessary to clarify the roles of the different actors dealing with regional development...” (OECD 2011)

- Challenge: Organizational transition
- Challenge: Multi-level governance
- Still parallel policies, strategies and funding (CAB)
- Rural policy handled separately by the government although impossible not to integrate in general development in rural areas
- Role of the regions in a national context is unclear – regional policy replaced by rural and urban policies?