PROGRAM DETAILS

DAY AND TIME

➔ 29 May, 3.30 pm – 5.00 pm

TITLE

➔ OECD Territorial Review of Western Scandinavia: The Rise of City Networks and Megaregions

ACTIVITY PARTNERS

➔ Region Skåne, Helsingborg City, Region Halland, Region Västra Götaland, City of Gothenburg, Østfold county council, Akershus County council, City of Oslo, Göteborg-Oslo

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

➔ It is well-known that big cities are favoured by large economic advantages and this is a key reason behind the trend of urbanization and the rise of megacities. However, there is an ongoing discussion among economists if city networks and megaregions might be an even more optimal economic unit. A megaregion can reap the same benefits as big cities while avoiding the accompanying negative consequences. “The Megaregion of Western Scandinavia”, which was launched in Gothenburg on 15 March, is the first study that the OECD has done on Megaregions and City Networks, and it has received great attention. The OECD concludes that Western Scandinavia could develop into a megaregion, but that it would require an increased cooperation among regions and states. We will present the main conclusions and recommendations in the report and discuss potential consequences if the megaregion instead comprised the larger STRING geography. Afterwards politicians in the regions of Western Scandinavia will give their views on the way forward.

PROGRAM DETAILS

➔ Moderator: Ulrika Geeraedts, Director of Regional Development, Region Skåne

➔ OECD Territorial Reviews: The megaregion of Western Scandinavia. What if the megaregion instead comprised the larger STRING geography? Christian Lindell (Senior Analyst, Region Skåne), Tomas Ekberg (Chief Analyst, the Region of Västra Götaland)

➔ Panel debate: What can we do to make sure that the OECD’s recommendations are followed? Mätta Ivarsson (Chair of the Regional Development Committee, Region Skåne), Nikki Schei (Member of the County Council, Akershus), Dag Hultefors (Chair of the Growth Committee of the Regional Executive Board, Region Halland)