



**SOUTHERN
DENMARK AS A
SCIENCE REGION
2012**



Education and commercial development are closely interrelated. The workforce has to have the skills to match companies' needs - which is why Southern Denmark must be a Science Region.



Region Syddanmark

"We believe that action is needed on several fronts if we are to succeed in becoming a Science Region - i.e. a region distinguished by a highly educated workforce and higher education courses centred on the sciences. Only in this way can we create and attract the companies we need"

Carl Holst, Chairman of the Regional Council in Southern Denmark



Southern Denmark as a Science Region is a part of the Regional Council's education strategy. It is also incorporated in the Southern Denmark Education Agreement, the aim of which is to ensure that in 2015, 20% more students choose courses in the fields of the natural sciences, technology or healthcare.

Why does Southern Denmark need to be a Science Region?

The commercial structure is changing - less productive businesses are moving out and must be replaced by highly productive businesses.

Companies are acting globally and positioning their production facilities and jobs in the regions where they have the best opportunities for generating revenue. The Region of Southern Denmark is aiming to attract and retain companies active in the fields of welfare innovation, energy, design and the like. Such companies typically seek employees with specialist skills in the fields of natural sciences, technology and healthcare.

For example, a survey reveals that in the immediate future, there will be a shortfall of 500 engineers in the Sønderborg area alone. Therefore, it is essential to act now to assure a deeper pool of employees qualified in the sciences.

The vision

Southern Denmark is to be a region that provides relevant education in the fields of natural sciences, technology and healthcare. It is to be a region that students from all parts of Denmark actively choose because it provides top-quality education combined with good job opportunities for university and college graduates.

The development of Southern Denmark as a Science Region has the following overriding objectives:

- to ensure that in the long term, the region can create and attract growth businesses in the fields of natural sciences, technology and healthcare; and
- to ensure that the companies in the region have access to employees with the relevant competences in natural sciences, technology and healthcare that will ensure long-term, sustainable development in these companies; and
- to ensure that the population of the region has a fundamental grounding in natural sciences, technology and healthcare, and thus has the knowledge necessary to relate to the societal and technological development

How can Southern Denmark become a Science Region?

The effects of education take time to materialise, so it is essential that all parties in the education sector back the development of Southern Denmark as a Science Region to the greatest possible extent.

For example, this means that:

- interest in natural sciences must be stimulated at an early stage, i.e. in primary and secondary schools
- more students are to choose to follow the natural sciences and technology in their youth education courses
- more students are to choose the natural sciences and technology subjects for their higher education courses

The teaching must be use-oriented, theory and practice must be interlinked, and the business community must be actively involved in the education process.

The Science Region in General

Stakeholders

- The local authorities
- The youth education institutions
- The higher education institutions
- The business community
- The Region of Southern Denmark

Municipal science strategies

The Region of Southern Denmark has joined forces with the National Centre for education in natural sciences, technology and healthcare which, in collaboration with the Danish Science Communication organisation, is working to develop municipal strategies and networks.

For additional information about Southern Denmark as a Science region, contact:

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