



PICTURE: STRING

For further information, please contact

Jacob Vestergaard

STRING Managing Director

Alléen 15

4180 Sorø

Denmark

+ 45 2082 3459

jves@regionsjaelland.dk

Rebecca Rosenquist

Project Coordinator

Alléen 15

4180 Sorø

Denmark

+ 45 2494 3887

aarr@regionsjaelland.dk

www.stringnetwork.org

Stefan Rehm

Project Advisor

STRING Secretariat, Office Kiel

Großer Kamp 11

D-24147 Kiel

+49 431 590 1849

sr@pmb-rehm.de

Thomas Littmann

Senior Advisor

STRING Secretariat, Hamburg

Senatskanzlei - Staatsamt

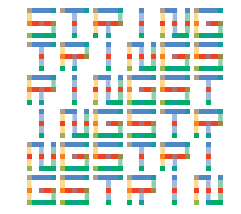
Hermannstraße 15

D-20095 Hamburg

+49 40 42831 2528

Thomas.littmann@sk.hamburg.de

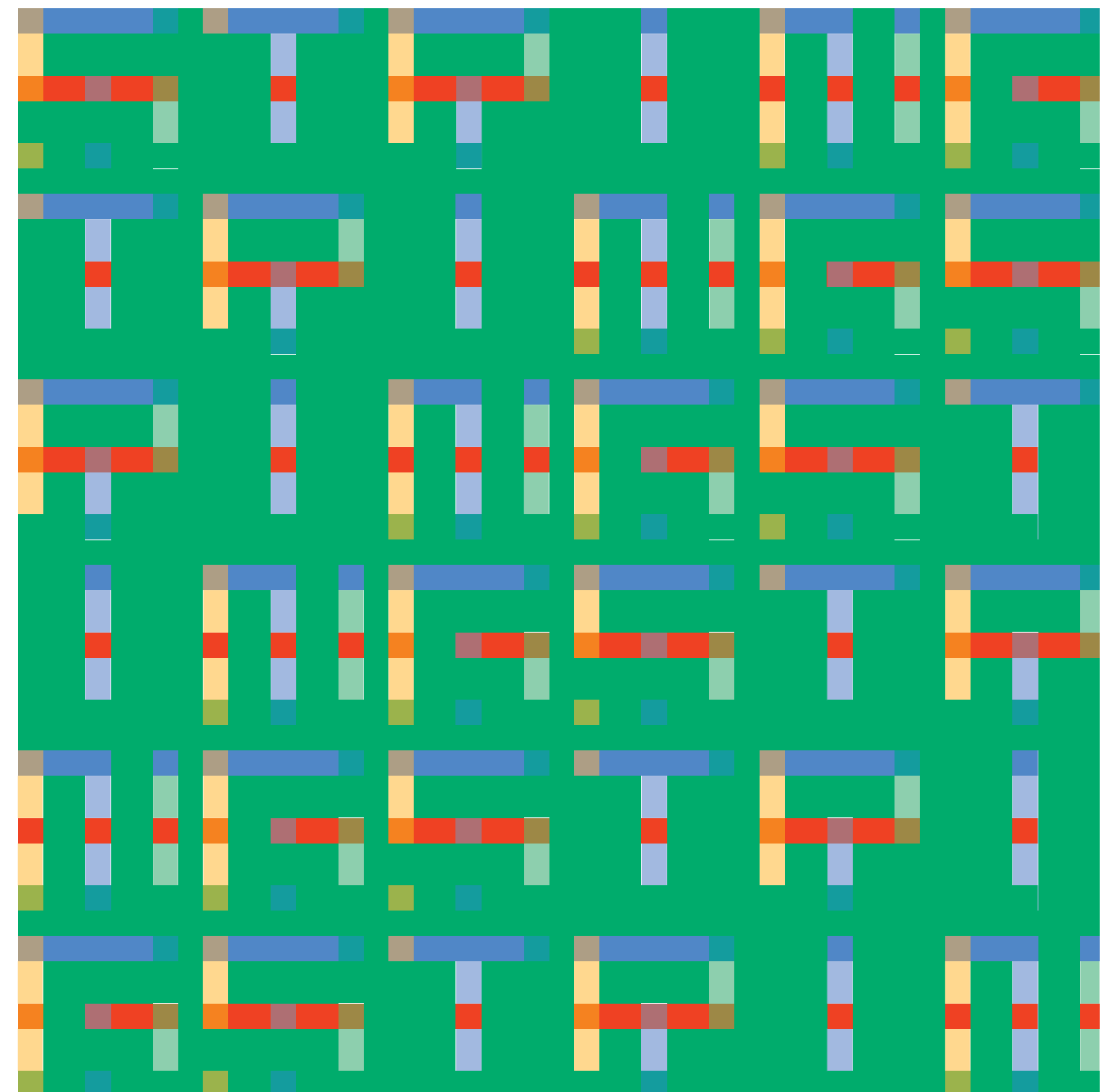
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STRING

STRING 2030

Vision and Strategy / Summary



STRING is the political cross-border partnership between Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein in Germany, the Capital Region of Denmark and Region Zealand in Denmark, and Region Skåne in Sweden.

Our vision is that the STRING region will be the driver behind a North European green growth corridor consisting of the STRING region in a functional partnership with our neighbouring regions. The corridor will be a green European powerhouse; a strong strategic axis contributing to knowledge, growth, welfare, and sustainability in Northern Europe, including the Baltic Sea Region.



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The STRING organisation will coordinate and promote the common agenda of the partners; and its work shall build on the politics and initiatives that are part of the partner’s political agendas, priorities and activities. The STRING dimension will be the extra dimension that emerges when common objectives and actions are put forward on behalf of the common entity of Northern Europe’s strongest economy – either to the 8,3 million inhabitants in the STRING Corridor, to the national governments and to the EU or other stakeholders.



The STRING-corridor seen in the conjunction with the corridors towards Oslo and Stockholm (PICTURE: STRING).

In order to achieve our vision, STRING has produced a 2030 strategy – outlining the aims and ambitions for the STRING network up until 2030, and how we intend to meet these aims. The strategy will be continuously developed to take into account the priorities and development of the STRING member organisations, as well as the ongoing work of the secretariat. This paper outlines the key aspects of the strategy, which is to be found in its full- length version on www.stringnetwork.org

The STRING 2030 Vision – what kind of future do we want to create?

STRING wants to create a future in which the STRING region is an attractive region for its inhabitants, visitors and researchers – and which is one of the world frontrunners in climate smart solutions and industry such as life science, cleantech and energy by setting new standards for sustainable development and creating a protocol for green growth in cities and regions. We also want to share this knowledge with our neighbouring regions and cities in order to create an open forum for best-practice exchange.

It is essential to our vision to create a region with a very tangible human element, where inhabitants enjoy living as we score high on any lists concerning quality of life, wellbeing and happiness in general. We will have a well educated, healthy population, able to enjoy welfare systems that are well balanced between the responsibility of the individual and of that of society.

A large part of wellbeing is also connected to having a wide choice of pastime leisure. As such, we want to be able to facilitate an extensive interaction between the cultural sectors of our regions, between artists and performers, and have award winning cooperation between Swedish, German and Danish producers. We are an attractive destination for large cultural- and sports events and have already attracted several international championships and festivals.

The vision of a joint region with common policies and cooperation very much depends on interconnection and physical accessibility. Therefore, it is essential that the future of STRING holds an efficient and fast transport system between the cities in Scandinavia and Hamburg which means that rail has become very competitive towards air and road both for transport of passengers and goods.

This will also mean being among Europe’s leading logistic centers and developers of efficient and sustainable solutions for the transport sector, and having developed a close cooperation between both the maritime and the airline industries and researchers in Northern Europe and are very competitive, innovative and energy-efficient in these sectors.

How do we create our future?

Infrastructure

The economic and environmental development of the STRING corridor is also heavily dependent on a modern, fast and competitive system of infrastructure, making this the top priority for STRING. Mobility is the key word for developing a common labor market, but also for the integration in all other aspects of life both for individual citizens but also for business – and for attracting researchers to the area.

Establishing a new, modern and efficient transport corridor between Öresund and Hamburg is a key way to develop cooperation and strive for a mutual development of a sustainable, strong growth region in the Western Baltic Sea Area, and STRING sees it as our role to ensure the best possible quality of the infrastructure in the corridor between Hamburg and the Öresund Region. The final design of rail and road through the corridor will take place during the next 1-2 years and will determine the infrastructure in this part of Europe for the next 25-30 years. STRING sees this across borders where normal planners work nationally or regionally. STRING is working with analysis and networks to be prepare political statements, advising our politicians on what decisions to make in aid of an accessible infrastructure corridor.



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The STRING partners are Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein in Germany, the Capital Region of Denmark and Region Zealand in Denmark, and Region Skåne in Sweden.

Green growth

Green growth is also a highly prioritised area to look at in order to meet our vision, and the role of STRING is to establish strategies that support sustainability and economic growth. We want to be frontrunners in a political process that goes beyond



PICTURE: WWW.PIXELIO.DE

the STRING area to the respective countries and the EU, possibly further. We want to develop tools to prove achievements in the fight against climate change whilst generating growth; and use this process as a unique selling point for the area. Given the policies and competences in the STRING regions and cities, we have vast competences and opportunities to offer the world here; something which needs to be better communicated. To communicate the results of this, we want to arrange international workshops, seminars and conferences in order to share knowledge with other engaged people, politicians, experts and NGO’s likewise.

Science and research

Science and research is the tool that keeps a society developing and growing. Having the best research institutions, the smoothest cooperation between research, industry and public sector - and having a society and environment that is attractive for talent from all over the world, is therefore an investment in future growth and prosperity. STRING see it as our role to facilitate meetings, contacts and cooperation between researchers, universities, businesses and public interests - and “tell the story” about the competences in the region.

Tourism and Culture

Tourism as a business- sector is also very important to all parts of STRING, and therefore the ambition to generate an integrated region via culture, tourism and marketing goes hand in hand with developing the tourism industry in the region. This is why STRING has taken the initiative to establish the STRING Tourism Network and together with partners from the network has started the project “Building Tourism” in order to develop and improve the internal “exchange” of tourists and create a new, stronger destination.

Barriers for cross border cooperation

Participants in an integration process will meet a huge amount of obstacles and barriers, such as differences in taxation systems and laws, as well as more personal issues such as lack of knowledge and understanding. STRINGs role in overcoming such barriers is to support the already established cooperation in this field - and, if needed, to bring attention to the problems together with other organisations.