

## **The Blue Öresund Bridge of Knowledge**

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The Blue Öresund Bridge of Knowledge (BÖBK) is a unique project between Malmö, Sweden and Copenhagen, Denmark around The Sound. BÖBK aims to educate the next generation to become active citizens who take part in creating a sustainable marine future. It is important that future generations are capable of responding to challenges generated in society. Through practical, creative and innovative learning programs we are working on giving the school children, and their teachers, the insight, skills and commitment needed to take on the fight for a clean environment, bright future and blue waters.

Thirty years ago, the Sound was a dead, eutrophic and polluted sea. With joint efforts for those environmental issues and with greater understanding of our sea, from both countries, the water in The Sound has improved, fish stocks increased, and the seabed is healthy. Despite one of Europe's largest constructions works, The Öresund Bridge. The Sound is a unique ocean with strong currents and with varying salinity. Which means a rich, varied biological life.

In BÖBK, which is a unique three-year project between the two municipalities, Malmö and Copenhagen and actors like Malmö Museum, Malmö Aquarium, SEA-U Marine Science Center in Sweden and The Blue Planet, Öresund Environmental School in Denmark, we work hands-on with students and teachers from the two schools, in Malmö and Copenhagen.

The aim of the project is that the students, who are 13-15 years old, get a deeper understanding of our marine environment, The Sound, through its ecosystem services, and what human influence can do. Students also practice their action competence regarding own actions and lifestyle choices based on this knowledge.

Students learn more about history, marine science and the biodiversity of The Sound. But also, how important fisheries have been in the region since the Middle Ages. Marine food has a prominent position in the project where students are taught to fish their own fish in a sustainable way, cook the catch of fish and algae and then the students together eating the food. Students will also examine how blue biomass from the sea (mussels and algae) can be used to produce biogas fuel for the city buses.

In parallel with the curriculum, the project also has elements of language development, both in Swedish and Danish.

Together we also work for The Sound to become a biosphere area within the UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme and with the support of the new marine science center, which will open later this fall, we build greater knowledge and skills of citizens around the Sound. BÖBK is build on the Öresund region's thoughts of becoming a metropolitan region in the future.

Keywords: biodiversity, ecosystem services. education, involvement, sustainable future, youth, citizenship, collaboration, language development, ocean literacy, outdoor learning/education, place based learning, challenge based learning.