

## State of the Art

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Culture is an important basis for development. In the Swedish Government's bill for growth (Tillväxtspropositionen 1995/96:25), in which the new technologies, creativity, regional development, culture industry, cultural tourism, and cultural heritage are specifically indicated. The cultural environment or landscape are an important starting point of the work with ecological durability and constitute an integrated part in the Swedish Government's bill for environment (Miljöpropositionen 1997/98:145). The cultural environment or landscape also constitute important prerequisites for growth on long term and by that for the Government's vision of creating a sustainable society might be realised.

Culture and cultural heritage has its own values and should be regarded not only from a utility-perspective. At the same time all sectors and all political areas have cultural dimensions. Since the need of regional co-operation to achieve sustainable development and regional growth has increased, the demand to be able to express consequences of co-operating with the cultural heritage has also increased. Culture has been given greater importance for allocation, development and growth. The cultural infrastructure has a basic importance for creativity and the creation of attractive environments from a broad perspective; including notably physical, spatial, spiritual and intellectual dimensions.

Research for the impact of culture and cultural heritage on development and growth are in its initial stage. The studies made so far have different basis of and varying perspectives considering treated problem formulations. Kristian Berg (Berg 1999) has carried out a presentation of the current research field, and especially on the topic culture as catalysts for local and regional development. In Sweden research for the built heritage and regional development has above all been pursued at the Royal Institute of Technology (Cars et al 1996, Snickars et al 1995, Olsson 1999) but than principally aiming at spatial planning, not concrete actions or investments in maintenance.

On European level UEAPME (Union Européenne de l'Artisanat et des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises) performed a pilot study on creation of employment through the restoration of cultural heritage in Germany, Austria, Spain and Italy (Jobs for tomorrow 1998). In the study the restoration market for built national heritage, jobs in creation and evaluation of job potential are investigated for craft, trades and SMEs. The European Commission has taken the initiative to investigate the consequences of culture policy for employment (Cohesion Policy and Culture A contribution to employment 1996, Culture, the cultural industries and employment 1998, Heritage Conservation and Employment 1999). The Swedish National Heritage Board has done similar investigations (XX 1999, 2000. No investigation has yet been done in Sweden of regional collaboration where building conservation function as a catalyst except the evaluations of the Halland Model (see below).

### 1. Problem-oriented networks

In Sweden all regions have signed Treaties of Growths, where the public and private sectors together with the trade unions agree upon some specific aims. All of them concern the cultural heritage, but in different ways.

In Halland a wide regional co-operation has been in progress since 1993. Under the motto "save the jobs – save the craftsmanship – save the buildings" approximately 80 culture-historically valuable buildings have been restored through labour market policies. The idea is to train unemployed building apprentices in traditional building techniques and let them practice on old valuable buildings. After

the restorations are completed the buildings are filled with activities that could be of importance for the regional development (tourism, culture, education, SME:s etc).

The partners for Halland Model, *Hallandsmodellen*, as the collaboration is called, are the County Labour Board, the County Administrative Board, the County Museum and the employer's organisation and the trade union of the building market. Today, approximately thirty new jobs have been created in the activities that are being run in the conserved buildings (Gustafsson 1996, Gustafsson 1999).

Since 1997, Halland and Olsztyn (from 1999 the county of Warmian Mazury) in Poland have been working together on the pilot project "the Halland Model in Olsztyn". The aim is to implement the Halland Model in the Polish county. Three buildings have been conserved, a small palace, a dwelling house and medieval castle's cellar and function today as an ecological centre, a Polish-Swedish trade chamber, a regional Baltic Centre and an international youths centre for cultural affairs (Gustafsson and Wysocki 1999, Gustafsson 2000).

Today, the partnership has increased and also involves the regions of Kaliningrad (RU), Kaunas (LIT), Utena (LIT), Preili (LT), Asti (IT), and hopefully Tartu (EST) and Narva (EST).

Today the discussion about creation of multi-problem oriented networks has increased in Sweden on initiative of the Halland Model/Restrade. Proposals for different networks are discussed with e. g. the Swedish Government's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Culture, with Nordic Council of Ministers institute for research *Nordregio*, with a Swedish Funding Institute *Framtidens kultur*. Further a Centre of Excellences is planned in Göteborg.

## **2. On going research**

In my work with a doctoral dissertation I investigate the regional impact of investments in building conservation, and I am using the Halland Model as a case study. The dissertation initiates with a descriptive part, where the network's and cluster's different actors bodies are presented; their role, finance, process of decisions etc. Further the conservation programmes methods of selection, implementation and realisation will be presented. In this part, central concepts for the dissertation as regional development, sustainable growth, conservation/restoration etc will be defined.

## **3. 5<sup>th</sup> Frame Work Proposal**

Today the Halland Model is aiming at a 5<sup>th</sup> Frame Work application where we will study the impact of the project around the Baltic Sea. In the partnership are also colleagues from Wales, London, and Liverpool (UK), Hamburg (GER) , and Sicily (IT).