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                                          Supervisor: Johannes Stripple

Bridging Borders and Constructing Spaces

The Triple Helix Discourse in the Öresund Region

Mimmi Sjöklint

Acknowledgements

Correction does much, but encouragement does more. - Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

I would sincerely like to thank all of those who have contributed to my everlasting inquisitiveness for the intricate but fascinating realm of scientific cognition. In this particular instance, I would like to thank my professors at the MEA programme and especially my supervisor Johannes Stripple for serving continuous motivation and guidance. Also, a thank you to my previous supervisor, Bo Isenberg, for words I always return to: essayer means to try. Lastly, great thanks to those closest to me who has encouraged me to climb the course of curiosity.

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Mimmi Sjöklint

Abstract

In light of the current process of regional integration prospering in the European Union, the Öresund region has become a dynamic geographical entity that in the most recent decades has experienced substantial increased growth in terms of economy, innovation, social activity and culture. Thus, the interest of this study lies in investigating a perspective of this integration process, namely the development of the Triple Helix Model (THM) within the Öresund region. Along with emerging regional actors and organisational mechanisms, the THM has gained wind and become a frequently applied concept in regional discourse. As such, based on social constructivism as an ontological claim, a discourse analysis was conducted in relation to leading regional actors, such as the Öresund Committee, the Øresund University and the Øresund Science Region. Accordingly, the aim is to trace how and possibly why an alteration in discursive practices has constructed the Öresund region as a political space. The examination shows that the THM had indeed had been adopted and it had constructed a type of political space within the Öresund. The new type of political space in Öresund entailed a crystallisation of strategies, new organisational schemes and discursive practices that includes new actors in contest for political gains.

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List of Abbreviations

CDA   Critical Discourse Analysis

DA   Discourse Analysis

EC   European Commission

EU   European Union

TH   Triple Helix

THM   Triple Helix Model

ÖC   Öresund Committee

ØSR   Øresund Science Region

ØU   Øresund University

1 Introduction

Regional integration has become a popular topical pursuit as today's global world allows shifted focus from national spheres to other geographical perspectives. As a result, a growing numbers of regional formations are addressed in various discussions on how and why regional success is achieved or not. This thesis will too address the dynamics of regional development with the aim of contributing a glimpse to the debate that is as widespread as it is diverse. The concentration of the study will be on the Triple Helix Model (THM) and how such a discourse has possibly constructed a political space in the Öresund region. The Öresund integration remains interesting and intensive thus the importance of discussing the efforts of this very regional development.

The THM is a framework that describes the creation of regional innovation through involving three separate sectors in an intimate relationship. The three parts involved are the academia, private and public spheres. Together, in an intertwined yet not interlocked relationship, the objective is to produce dynamic results where the three sectors work together without prearranged ways but instead with great flexibility, depending on the situation at hand. The THM may therefore be viewed as a type of integration that highlights cross-fertilization between academia, state and private sectors. In light of such a type of integration, a Triple Helix (TH) discourse may be used to discuss a perspective or a version of reality that shapes regional integration processes. In this thesis, the TH discourse will be applied to the regional integration process in the Öresund region.

The Öresund region is located in the Southern part of Scandinavia, harbouring Eastern Denmark and Southern Sweden. The most recent decades of activity has lead to advancements in terms of integration and economic growth. The Öresund region has become repeatedly portrayed in an EU context as a 'model region'. Certainly, the region has to some extent become a model for cross-border activity in the EU and as the regional development progresses, it could be well worth looking into the successes and downfalls of the actual integration process in this area. Moreover, the THM as a strategy for regional integration has become the main tickle of curiosity in this thesis and for that reason, the linking between a THM and the model region Öresund is arguably an appealing match made for interesting discussion.

Accordingly, the case study's concentration will be on the Öresund region and the focus will be on one of its strongest actors, the Øresund University (ØU). The ØU was initiated by the Öresund Committee (ÖC) as a part of the interregional programme Interreg that was funded and founded by the European Union (EU). Upon the completion of the first Interreg programme cycle, the ØU remained a self-sufficient organisation that now owned itself. The ØU could entitle itself as an institution that lead certain and some social interaction through TH projects. It provides an extensive network panning from an EU, national and local level labelling it a resourceful actor with great power of initiative. During its time as an Interreg project, it had, among other things, developed topical platforms that coveted a THM. The platforms became collected under the name Øresund Science Region (ØSR). The ØU owns ØSR and is now a strong actor in the Öresund region. Thus, the ØU was chosen as the main case study since it has proven an active participant in projects that aim to cultivate a TH structure in the cross-border integration process. Also, it is one of the first and few actors that

wholly lobbies for Öresund interests. The ÖC will also be discussed in relation to the development of the ØU as it was highly involved in the initial stages of creation. Furthermore, since the EU was an initial force opting for development of the ØU and still remains as a support system for ØU's activities, it will be accounted for as a red thread in the process of developing a THM in the Öresund region. Conclusively, a TH discourse will be studied through the case study of the ØU alongside its support system to gain understanding of a perspective of the Öresund integration process.

As a result, this study aims at acquiring knowledge about the Öresund integration process by examining certain activities that are taking place, rather than those that are not, i.e. the lack of democracy and/or public participation. The interest also lies in investigating if such a TH discourse reveals that a novel political space has been constructed. Since the area is separated by national borders, the previous territorial development has been strictly directed by national government thus the interest in reviewing regional actors' impact on such a potential political development. Nonetheless, it is crucial to stress that ØU is not, nor should it be, seen as an institution that wholly leads Öresund integration. Nevertheless, from a TH perspective, the ØU is vital as it fuels projects that can be argued to produce further integration. Materiality could be traced in these projects in the form of agreements, documents and discussion thus the ØU may be considered as an institution that materializes the TH discourse. Although, for the purposes and length of this study, far from all establishments that promote TH activity will be possible to examine. Therefore, the case study will closely review cross-border regional actor such as the ØU, and its encompassing entities, since it is an early and effective operating actor that actively lobbies for collective Öresund interests. Having reviewed regional actors' activities in the Öresund region, it was established that the THM is a rhetorically favoured model for the implementation of projects.

1.1 Statement of Purpose

This thesis will problematise an aspect of integration in the Öresund region from the perspective of a THM discourse. However, it does not by any means aim to wholly explain Öresund integration. By examining a specific perspective, or version of reality, the purpose is to contribute to an enhanced understanding of the general integration process that has occurred. Such an enhanced understanding may be derived by examining how integration has corresponded in terms of a THM and whether this has developed the Öresund region as a type of political space (see section 2.4). The attention on the THM stems from the fact that it has become a commonly applied concept in developing innovative environments for territorial growth. Yet the interest lies not on the innovative environment itself but rather on how it has affected the integration process in the application of such a discourse. Accordingly, the construction of a TH discourse will be traced against a timeline of approximately the latest 15 years of development in the Öresund region. The above basis for research is argued to allow a knowledge contribution that may be derived by investigating how social practices and representations are constituted and distributed and subsequently has produced a TH discourse with certain political and economic goals that may have shaped the Öresund integration process towards constructing a political space.

Sequentially, by conducting a discourse analysis (DA) on this topic, the aim is to uncover and understand how certain structures construct the social practices and processes in the region that may produce a political space. The research question thus becomes: **How does a Triple Helix discourse construct Öresund as a political space?** Sub-questions posed are:
- How has the TH discourse developed over time in the Öresund region?
- How does the TH model determine social interaction in the Öresund region?

1.2 Briefly on the Regional Integration Process

The process of regional integration in the EU has boomed in the last decades which have instigated an increasing interest from the research world. Therefore it offers variations of approaches, conceptual frameworks and integration theories that may be divulged from a diverse set of perspectives. The European integration process has been explained by integration theories such as federalism, (neo-) functionalism, liberal intergovernmentalism and social constructivism. Regardless of the perspective placed on the issue, the decisions that territories within the EU are "increasingly […] a result of negotiations and compromises among the EU member states (McCormick 2005, p.25). The end result or the end aspiration may also be debated but the fact is that the European integration process is a highly relevant and present process in the European population's daily practices.

According to Ernst Haas (in Wiener & Diez 2007, p.2), integration is the process "whereby political actors in several, distinct national settings are persuaded to shift their loyalties, expectations and political activities towards a new centre". In conjunction with the dawning and development of the EU, the regional integration process has proceeded to partially aspire to just this – a shift of focus from national platforms towards regional spheres. The EU has continuously increased support for such regional developments with various funding programmes as "[t]erritorial cohesion and further economic integration have becomes essential prerequisites in the maintenance of effective and competitive regions in Europe" (Nordregio 2007).

A region argued to be the "test bench" of regional development is the Öresund region (European Commission in Hospers 2005, p.1026). Some scholar may argue that the Öresund integration discourse is weak and tedious with few tangible threads to hold onto. The leading argument states that the region has not fully materialized and lies without any strong influential institutions and representations and that the concentration still lies on the national hubs on opposite sides of the sound, Malmö respectively Copenhagen. For instance, Patrik Hall, Kristian Sjövik and Ylva Stubbergaard (2005) have produced a noteworthy and in-depth study on the democracy aspect of Öresund integration. The study highlights, among other things, the ÖC and how this forum's activities cannot be justified by public participation. Instead, the regional measures lead by the ÖC has merely meant integration falling short of democracy. These scholars have also produced some separate works in regards to Öresund and regionalisation. Another scholar, Gert-Jan Hospers, addresses the lack of public participation in the Öresund but more specifically in terms of branding. He argues that the Öresund is an 'imagined space' that is successful in terms of politicians creating a vision for the region but lacking the regional inhabitant's support in terms of inclusiveness and dealing with issues of daily cross-border integration. Christian Wichmann Matthiessen also deals with issues in the Öresund by questioning the (slow) pace of the development of becoming an integrated and functional urban region.

1.3 Disposition

Subsequently, the theoretical framework and the accompanying methodological considerations are presented and elaborated upon to distinguish the structure and tools which will be applied in quest of a reliable empirical analysis. In this chapter, the main concepts of political foundation and political space will also be clarified. Following, a short overview of the Öresund history and its components will be presented but these will be given more room in the empirical discussion that follows. The empirical discussion introduces a central study object, namely the THM which is then dissected into three spaces that are evaluated against the Öresund regional development over the recent decades. Lastly, the last chapter will attempt to bring together the threads scattered throughout the thesis and provide conclusions

on the empirical discussion as well as briefly discuss future scenarios and possible research questions posed.

2 Theoretical Framework & Methodological Considerations

Theory provides an essential framework that enables the interpretation of empirical data. Theory allows orientation among the variety of factors provided by the social world, such as political, historical, economic and social factors, that in turn allows the basis for critical reflection of the research process (May 1997, p.43). Although, no theory provides a single worldly truth thus awareness of the diversity of theoretical frames is indispensable. It is imperative to judge theories based on their empirical usable potential but also based on the logical consistency (May 1997, p.45). Moreover, **method** is a crucial part of any study as it serves as the link between theory and empirical material. A detailed description of the methodology thus becomes fundamental as it provides reliability for the study. This study will have a qualitative approach which is valuable when studying complex issues in depth because it allows subtle variations in the study object, instead of reducing it to generalised numbers.

This study bases its ontological claim in social constructivism as it describes how actors and agents operate as they are not independent of their social environment. Although reality is a product of interpretative social practices, it may still be meaningfully researched. Social constructivism also restricts options regarding applicable methods thus a DA is applied as a package as it supports and intertwines both theory and method. DA make several theoretical claims such as that language is not neutral in reflecting reality but instead, language has an active role in shaping and changing it (Phillips & Jørgensen 2002; Bergström & Boréus 2000; Neumann 2003). Thus, in applying DA, the theoretical framework automatically offer premises of how the world is interpreted which the researcher must accept in order to apply the framework. In addition, DA provides a methodological framework with guidelines as how to dissect empirical material as well as specific techniques for analytical discussion (Phillips & Jørgensen 2002, p.3-4).

Lastly, DA investigates a version of reality to disclose how and why discourse(s) construct certain social practices. DA will thus be applied to understand the descriptions made about the Öresund region as the Öresund region is not given but constructed. Thus, the Öresund discourse is not objective but constructed through several perspectives and while all perspective cannot possibly be accounted for, the THM has been selected for examination. In this sense, the TH discourse becomes a central study object because it introduces a new collaborative form that highlights networks and cross-fertilization between public, private and academic spheres. By tracing the TH discourse development through three spaces (see section 4.1), the pursuit is in how and why this process has possibly constructed the Öresund region as a political space. In order to engage in this investigation, a thorough explanation of DA is essential to be able to discuss how the TH discourse "shapes meaning, context and understanding" in the Öresund region (Börjesson 2003, p.22).

2.1 Social Constructivism

Social constructivism will be applied as an ontological framework to guide the analysis and avoid dropping into a theoretical mishmash. While it has various branches, not all will be accounted for in this study as it is impossible. Instead, the main interest lies in investigating a perspective of how the integration process in the Öresund region has been constructed, an area situated within and strongly related to the EU and the European integration process. Rationalist, liberalist, institutionalist perspectives have played a valuable role in discussions on the Europeanisation process, and social constructivism has gradually emerged as a significant ontological perspective in social sciences as an alternative to conventional

integration theories. However, it should be asserted that some scholars, such as Thomas Risse (in Wiener & Diez 2004, p.174), argue that social constructivism is most likely stay an ontological perspective used to derive theoretical propositions rather than developing into "a substantive theory of integration".

Social constructivism is applied as an ontological perspective by using meta-theoretical assumptions to explain how actors and agents operate. Actors are not independent of their social environment as the social construction of interests and preferences are significant. In this sense, interests of actors do not derive externally and are not given by a material structure but are constructed and reproduced through daily practices of these actors. The actors' choices construct reality thus the actions are participatory. The social environment is also crucial in shaping the preferences. Moreover, collective systems of values or culture are shared by the actors and entails that the two are co-determined (Risse in Wiener & Diez 2004, p. 160-161). Thus, the environment that actors reside in shapes the actors themselves, although it does not mean that actors are fixed but they continue to form continuously.

Social constructivism becomes is useful in discussing regional settings, i.e. cross-border regions, as dynamics often differ greatly from those produced in national and/or local spheres. Meta-theory is then essential to organise knowledge collected from a grander perspective. By tunnelling actors' behaviour through social constructivism the context will then be narrowed down to a regional setting, the regional integration process in cross-border of Öresund. Social constructivism aids in understanding as well as contributing new knowledge on the regional development as the Öresund provides an alternative environment to the national sphere that is constructed and reproduced by the actors situated within the context. Along with this assertion, a normative approach is necessary because of how it correlates with the idea of European integration and also the integration of the Öresund as a cross-border region. Hence, social constructivism becomes applicable and valuable due to its contribution to theorizing integration developments.

2.2 Discourse Analysis

DA is a qualitative method for social sciences that originates from linguistics which emphasises the role and use of language in society by text analysis of both spoken and written language. DA examines how meanings are constructed *throughout* text as well as how meaning is achieved at one point *within* the text. Accordingly, DA is a way to investigate reality; however, the post-modern perspective and the general discourse analytical perspective assume that reality is never neutral but is always perceived differently by different people. As a result, representations (socially re-produced facts) or versions of reality can only exist – a discourse is such a version of reality. These versions of reality can be examined through a DA to disclose how and why discourse(s) constructs social identities and maintains social relations and practices (Bergström & Boréus 2000, p.232). The DA allows the use of language to be investigated as a social practice as it is shaped in a social context (Bergström & Boréus 2000, p.235).

DA has numerous definitions but a common feature, regardless of theoretical approach, is that DA is a systemic study of discourses. Neumann (2003, p.17, 90, 157) describes **discourse** as a system of creating a set of statements and practices that, by access to different institutions, are perceived as more or less normal. The system is based on reality as it is perceived by its carriers and shows attachment to its pattern of social relations thus reality only becomes meaningful once we systemize our thinking in accordance with a discourse. Börjesson (2003, p.22) explains that discourse shapes meaning, context and understanding. Or in the words of famous linguist Michel Foucault (in Neumann 2003, p.36-37), discourse does not refer to anything outside itself because the physical world is contingent. DA enables analysis of meaning as a part of social sphere (the realm where meaning is created) since meaning often

is a prerequisite for action (Neumann 2003, p.37). Thus, DA asks the questions **why and** h**ow** actions appear instead of asking what actions are, as reality is subjective and an attempt to establish something definitive only causes uncertainty (Alvesson 2003, p.55).

Furthermore, discourse is a continuous process or flow that is never stable or static but may repeat itself or change. As a result, DA hand the researcher the task of investigating the language and practices and putting it into relation to competing representations in order to understand possible associations or disassociations. It is a time-consuming application but provides opportunity to explore deep structures rooted in society. The THM may be considered a discourse because it influences Öresund integration with a certain set of practices that shape the societal relations present in the Öresund region, which will be addressed further in the empirical discussion.

Moreover, DA often focuses on any aspect of linguistic behaviour, e.g. pronunciation, grammar, word choice, sentence structure, conversation, intonation, and sublanguage analysis. However, this study will be apply a more structured approach through a three dimensional framework developed for Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) by Norman Fairclough, emeritus professor of socio-linguistics. CDA is an extension of DA and makes a clearer relation of text to the role of social practices in the analysis, namely context. A general DA may analyse a text from a political context without actually producing any results about the political context itself (Bergström & Boréus 2000, p.34-35). To avoid this, the CDA framework will be used. It is "suitable for such work [...] that it foregrounds links between social practice and language, and the systemic investigation of connections between the nature of social processes and properties of language texts" (Fairclough 1995, p.90). However, the thesis will abstain from applying CDA as a way uncover power relations but rather apply it as a structured approach to the analysis.

The material used will mainly be written documents from the involved actors, the ØU and ØSR, such as annual reports, strategic documents and economic reports ranging from its beginning in 1997 and as much as possible to the current date. However, while investigating the different spaces of a TH setting, it will also be necessary to review the ÖC and the EU's strategic documents around this timeline due to their intertwined nature in the Öresund integration process. The documents are assumed to provide descriptions of the Öresund development in the work of the leading regional actors and thus any traces of applying a TH discourse may be derived from this data which can be collected to outline the process towards a potential novel political space.

2.2.1 Elements of Discourse Analysis

The role and use of language is central to DA because it is the study of language through text analysis. Language shapes and creates discourses. **Language** is part of society, a social process and a socially conditioned process (Fairclough 1989, p.20; 22). Hence, society and language cannot be separated but should be understood as a part of each other. Language can never be neutral thus cannot repeat reality but instead contributes to shaping it as language can be seen as a channel for producing interaction (Bergström & Boréus 2000, p. 221; p.235; Alvesson 2004, p.57). In sum, DA dispose of language's ability to create representations of reality and focus on actions or development that can be produced with language. The mission is to understand how representations are constituted and distributed through language and subsequently establish why and how some representations produce a discourse in given circumstances. "People never simply act" Fairclough explains (2000, p.168), "their representations of their actions and domains of actions are inherent part of action, action is reflexive".

Representations are socially re-produced facts. Representations bear an important role as they are the remains after having filtered the perceptions of the physical world. They

constitute reality seeing that they are between the physical world and our perception of it (Neumann 2003, p.157). Just as a discourse, representations may repeat themselves or change. An isolated representation can become a social fact through language and institutionalisation but will only gain such emphasis when its meaning relates to other representations – it cannot become institutionalised on its own (Neumann 2003, p.39).

Discourse may appear through **institutions**, a practised pattern of interaction or a symbolic system (of rules) that decides social interactions and consequently gains material power. The material power makes resistance when it tries to be altered because institutions are dependent on that its own reality is contained (Neumann 2003, p.75; p.85). As a consequence, conflict is always part of social sphere because institutions are always present. Regardless of a strong institutional foundation, resistance or opposition is expected as there is always the possibility to act against the reproduction of institutions (Neumann 2003, p.85).

Intertextuality is another important aspect in the analytical process. Intertextuality concern how a language is used, not only throughout a single text but also across a set of different but related texts. In this study, this particular relationship is especially important in examining how a TH discourse is talked or written about within the Öresund discourse.

2.2.2 Critical Discourse Analysis

As the name suggest, CDA relates to critical theory and the Frankfurt School developed after World War II. CDA heavily focuses on power, dominance, inequality and bias in social process. Norman Fairclough, Teun A. van Dijk, Ruth Wodak, Ernesto Laclau, and Theo Van Leeuwen are some of the most prominent scholars in CDA. CDA has an "explicit position, and thus want to understand, expose, and ultimately resist social inequality" (Van Dijk 2000, p.352). The aim is to challenge social order and practices that are perceived as natural but, as argued by CDA, anything natural is merely a perspective that has been so frequently exposed and employed by society that it suddenly rests as common sense. The common sense lies beneath conscious awareness and is embedded in the language used by people in society. Thus, CDA seek to disclose such common sense by questioning what it entitles power structures and raising awareness.

CDA merges three types of analyses to make clearer links between texts, social processes and relations (Fairclough in Neumann 2003, p.86-86). The strength lies in that it reviews a micro and macro perspective of discourse, enabling the connecting of social processes on different levels to the properties of text. Description of text is followed by interpretation and explanation to successively achieve "unveiling or demystification" (Fairclough 1989, p.140). When examining the TH discourse in view of the Öresund integration, the social practices (context) need be taken into consideration on several levels of activity since there is involvement from various sectors with various operational traditions. Recapitulated, CDA will be helpful in studying how discursive strategies, such as the TH discourse, are used by social actors to achieve societal change but its normative perspective will not be extensively applied.
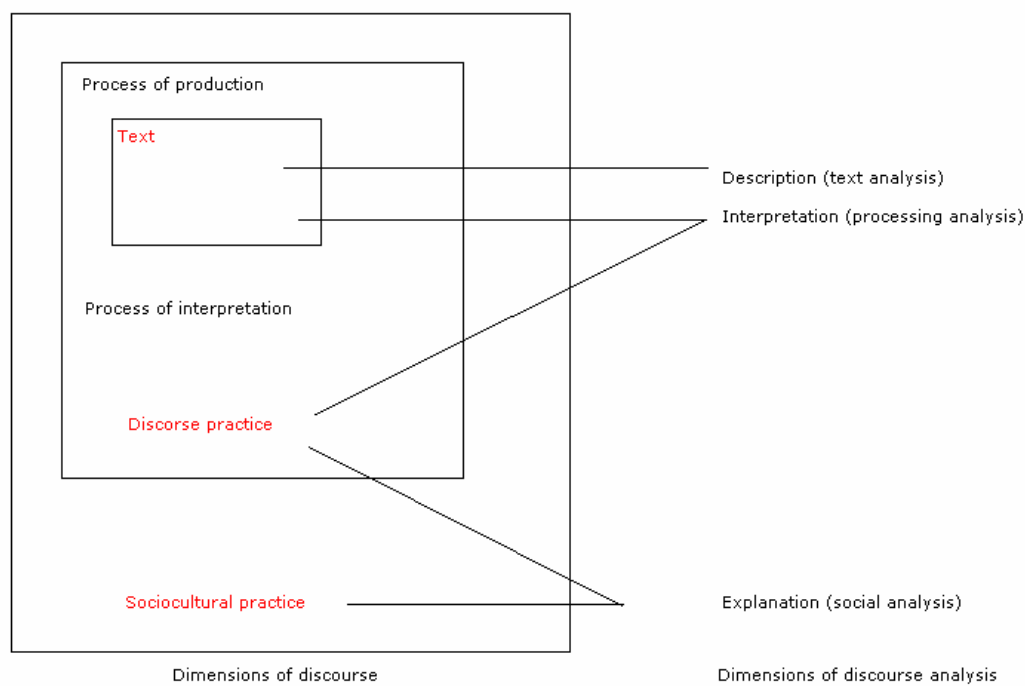
Figure 1: Three dimensional framework for Critical Discourse Analysis (Fairclough 1995, p.98).

The first dimension, **description,** refers to text, text analysis or a linguistic description of text. It seeks to be descriptive, not explanatory. The intention is to find and isolate the choices made that are available from discourse which the text draws upon. To interpret the features of a discourse that may be present in a text, it is necessary to take into account what choices have been made by the producer of the text (Fairclough 1989, p.109-110).

The second dimension, **interpretation,** refers to the relationship between discursive processes and interaction, or just discursive practices. This entails production, distribution and consumption of text. This is an essential and lengthy process that concerns the discourse processes and the dependence of background knowledge and assumptions. Fairclough (1989, p.140) argues that "textual features only become real, socially operative, if they are embedded in social interaction, where texts are produced and interpreted against a background of common-sense assumptions which give textual features their value".

The third dimension, **explanation,** seeks to explain the context, or the relationship between discursive processes and social practice (Fairclough 1989, p.25-26). To understand the two initial stages (text and discursive practices) it is essential to relate them to a context, namely the third dimension (Wodak in Bergström & Boréus 2000, p.252). Additionally, Fairclough (1995, p.97) explains that this approach connects socio-cultural practice and text through discourse practice, namely how a text is produced or interpreted.

To conclude, the three dimensional framework provides tools that enables exposing motivation for social actions within documents that concern and describe the Öresund integration process. In sum, DA will have a structured approach by applying the CDA framework to investigate how the TH discourse is framed in the Öresund region by the revolving actors and how it has constructed the region's social practices that may have shaped a political space.

2.3 Concepts for Constructing Spaces

The theoretical and methodological framework of DA enables this study to investigate a version of reality, namely the TH discourse situated within the Öresund discourse and how it

may have constructed a political space. In accordance with the research question it is vital to address the concept of space as "political space needs to be theorized on a different basis than physical space (Little in Agnew & Corbridge 1995).

Space, and thus territories, is a social construct that are shaped in "political, economic, cultural, and administrative practices and discourses (Paasi in Hospers 2005, p.1017-1018). Territories are formed and exist due to institutionalisation with the aid of the above mentioned components (ibid). The linkage between the components is crucial to distinguish a space from another but rarely may clear distinctions be made as the perception of a territory has diverse perspectives depending on who is asked. As a result, an 'imagined space' emerges but that does not correlate with the elements provided. Gert-Jan Hospers (2005, p.1030; 2004, p.277) argues that the Öresund is an 'imagined space' that is (successfully) constructed by policy-makers yet while the regional population seldom fully endorses the concept rendering the policy-makers' efforts arguably futile. However, Hospers discussion does present that territories, such as regions, do have an importance when constructing political space. Reverting back to the current study, the construction of space will be studied in conjunction with discursive practices within the Öresund to trace the emergence of a political space. While not all elements can be accounted for, such as regional identity, the research may still be meaningful. Whether or not the Öresund region is a clearly established territory according to the regional population or an 'imagined space' hold less relevance to this study as the interest lies in if the TH discourse had introduced a new type of interaction that included new actors in contest for political gains.

The notion of construction of space will serve as a backdrop throughout the empirical discussion. The discussion on the development of the TH discourse helps to understand how the integration process has evolved and created new 'spaces', such as in the Öresund region. Nonetheless, prior to commencing the empirical discussion, some clarification of concepts should be made to understand the departure point and the topical pursuit which will thus follow.

A foundation can be explained as the basis or the fundamental assumptions or prerequisites from which something is initiated, developed or explained. A **political foundation** should thus be regarded as introducing the basis or fundamental assumptions for a political incentive, discussion and/or actions that these may be developed and explained through. In the Öresund region, the political foundation before the 1990s was based on heavy interference from the national governments which will serve as the base when departing the empirical discussion.

In traditional terms, **political space** is often referred to as territory where the definition may read "a cohesive section of the earth's surface that is distinguished from its surroundings by a boundary" and with elements such as "an area under the control of a given ruler" (Jönsson et al 2003, p.3-4). While these definitions are useful in discussions from a (neo-) realist perspective on sovereignty and nation states, this thesis aspires to move beyond the traditional conception of political space - or as Agnew and Corbridge (1995) labelled it: "the territorial trap". Instead the aim is to reflect along the lines of a more abstract notion, of which Ferguson & Jones (2002) express a valuable point: "[t]hinking about political space forces us to reconsider the degree to which politics and territory continue to be related". They propose that there are possible shifts in this relationship and instead new sources of change and important aspects of global politics need be accounted for. It is imperative to discuss beyond the sovereignty of borders in light of the current emergence of regionalism and globalism. With such developments, the nation state is put in a position where it is arguably losing voice to both instances (Jönsson et al. 2003, p.24; Karlsson 2006, p.50).

Webster (2004, p.40) asserts that key factors when discussing political space are institutional and organizational schemes that allow issues to be conceptualized and perceived "within society generally and government in particular". Additionally, "[p]olitical space

entails a crystallization of strategies, organizational schemes and discursive practices whereby an actor or a group of actors are included in a particular contest for political gains" (Villareal in Webster, & Engberg-Pedersen 2002, p. 80). The gains may or may not lead to dramatic change in the political system but the interest lies in that a change actually does occur and can be indicated. The spatial dimension, meaning the physicality of the political space, may be territorial in the traditional sense, but may involve symbolic or social arenas. Villareal (ibid) also assert that the political dimension "does not necessarily involve direct confrontation with the state". This may be perceived as a vague definition yet, as Villereal also argues, the advantage lies in the ambiguity of its nature. The ambiguity intensifies by the criss-crossing of public and private domains that create varieties of identities. The fact that domains intersect leads to inclusion whereas confining space and issues leads to exclusion. Webster (2004, p.1) agrees that a "restructured political space" enable groups to be active in different forms that have not previously been plausible.

To summarize, a new political space emerges when the institutional scheme is altered by forming new strategies for co-operation, negotiation and contestation in order to challenge the different and new dimensions of the regional set up and prerequisites. "Cross-border initiatives often involve the development of new forms of political space and may provide opportunities for local governance to respond to the broader re-negotiation and reordering of political space taking place in Europe (Anderson in Church & Reid 1999, p.645). With the support of such an articulation, the role of the cross-border region can arguably be compatible with the concept of political space.

2.4 Limitations and Criticism

This study will rely on empirical material in the form of printed text thus will not include any interviews. Despite the interesting perspectives that interviews would entail, this is not possible for the length and purposes of this study. The material are mainly annual reports and official documents produced by the actors' themselves. They are deemed suitable due to the fact that the study focuses on investigating how the TH discourse has been applied and thus developed within leading regional actors in the Öresund. The empirical material is presumed to be formal and strategically uplifting texts which make it evermore important to excavate wording, insinuations and continuously regard the discourse in relation to its contents. This will be done by applying the CDA framework.

Language plays a great role in DA thus it will be regarded in conjunction with discursive processes and social processes but not in its isolated instance. Nevertheless, this study will not take into account perspectives of social processes such as different societal groups nor their identity while examining the TH discourse. Identities may vary greatly in a cross-border region despite common history. It will not be possible to present individual actors or groups of people that pursue different status in the region. Instead, focus will be on institutions, actors and potentially sectors that have been crucially served for interaction in developing the TH discourse in the regional integration process of the Öresund region.

DA seeks to understand not explain. It must be firmly established that by attempting to understand an aspect of how Öresund has been constructed, this study does not attempt to explain integration wholly but merely offer an insight to a perspective, namely the TH discourse influence on the construction of a political space in the Öresund region. Despite merely investigation a perspective, limiting the DA in time and space becomes imperative to sustain procedural reliability and validity of the TH discourse's development. The limitation is set at examining the Öresund from the mid-1990s until the current year 2010, crossing barely 20 years of development which historically, it is not a lengthy time-period, yet it commences with the dawning of institutions that currently continue to promote Öresund integration. Discussion on whether the current institutions are successful or not must be made

but still the thesis emphasises the presence of these institutions over time and that they have been partaking in the recent decades' of development in the Öresund region.

A lingering critique towards DA argue towards its relativistic nature, since it presumes that language constructs reality, thus omitting that there are external criteria to which it is possible to relate the discourse (Bergström & Boréus 2000, p.257). However, simply because language is assumed to construct discourse does not mean that it is unfeasible to establish what is true or false in a particular discourse. It remains possible to retract knowledge from a discourse by investigating it since different discourses have different criteria what is true or false. Thus, the criteria that may evaluate a discourse can only be found within the discourse itself.

The focus is on the construction of discourse based on what different texts may have in common why it is important to consider the case of the impact of a single text. Past has shown that there have been such individual texts that has leaped against or taken the present discourse to a new level. Examples may be "The Clash of Civilisations" by Samuel P Huntington, "Uncle Tom's Cabin" by Harriet Beecher Stowe, or "The Survival of the Fittest" by Charles Darwin. As proven, there are examples of single texts that may change discourse but such occurrences are generally rare. While mildly taking it into consideration, the present DA will not presume that such an occasional text will present itself during this study.

Regarding the CDA, it has been under criticism for its view that certain texts have certain ideological meaning, which is subsequently forced upon the reader. CDA does not take into account that a text may be read in different ways, and that not all reader have the same political bias. This thesis will not base its study on the ground of political biases.

2.5 A Pinch of Reflexivity

Reflexivity is the process of critical reflection upon yourself as a researcher (Alvesson & Sköldberg 2008, p.486). As a consequence, it is absolutely necessary to point out the researcher's inability to stay neutral in any research process. I intend to constantly provide reflexive discussion throughout the study but a summary of some of the main thoughts regarding my position as a researcher will be presented here.

As I am a part of the discourse I am investigating, I must constantly question my thoughts and assumptions in dealing with the empirical material. The creation of meaning is an integrated part of social practice thus the difficulty to investigate through traditional social science methods, because the researcher is an immediate part of social practice in one form or another. Instead, the focus turns to the use of language through text. Still, language is not viewed as a true reflection of reality but by examining language through text, it is possible to know how the perceived reality is explained through perceptions that are then further captured by text. Essentially, by investigating language through text it is possible to derive how representations are talked about and constructed with the use of language. DA serves as an advantage because it allows the researcher to identify the discourse, and then examine how the discourse continues to construct social identities and social practice through investigating text – a materialised form of versions of reality.

The postmodern perspective entwined in DA brings forth the inability to underline one truth as the single truth. This perception establishes that disagreements are present in any debate and such dynamics are interesting because it presents an opportunity for diverse discussions. The researcher conducting this study holds a part-time employment at one of the main actors investigated and this must adamantly be taken into account. The thesis and the employment have the same birth date, meaning the researcher was not part of the working discourse prior to the start of writing the thesis. Still, as time passed, it is imperative to constantly question how I have adopted, reproduced and potentially altered the discourse I am working within so that I do not further one truth on the empirical discussion. However, a researcher increases his/hers understanding by learning about the social context where the

research is conducted which increases the chances for greater validity (Bergström & Boréus 2000, p.36). Simultaneously, I have been a part of the academic realm for a longer period of time which thus makes it an influence to the perspectives and reflections placed on the analytical process. Potentially, the balance between the background knowledge and current situation may balance the analytical process.

The same implications arrive with the territorial context as I am a resident of the region investigated. While I do consider myself as an inhabitant of the Öresund region with strong affiliations to the region itself, I am still strongly embedded in my national distinction in being Swedish. As the Öresund discourse is mounted between two national spheres, my aptitude to be prone towards one sphere than the other needs to be cautiously regarded. Furthermore, the Öresund discourse is constantly changing along with society, identity and social practice and processes. This provides a wide material to investigate and yet with the chance of getting lost in background knowledge along the way. In order to avoid such traps it is possible to halt the space and time for the framework of study, as is also noted in the following section on limitations. Therefore, the research process must be duly focused on the empirical material collected and not be inadequately influenced by outside sources.

While the truth cannot be established, it should still be pinpointed that the focus rests on the norms created by discourse and the social practice that follows, instead of actor behaviour or behaviour motivation (Bergström & Boréus 2000, p.236). At this juncture, power is a re-occurring theme in DA as discourses fight each other in the attempt to be the most influential in creating meaning, i.e. discourses attempt to have the most power to survive. This makes DA an examination of the battle of power in society. Consequently, not looking for a single truth but the battle between the discourses to be the truth could be seen as an advantage in the discussion. For the reason that there always will be a battle, DA provides possibilities for a vivid analysis with varied perspectives that allows a dramatic discussion rather than a fixed, narrow discussion.

3 The Öresund Outline

In this chapter, the historical background of the region and overarching features of the Öresund integration process will be mapped out. First, a clarification of the use of Ö and Ø, the Swedish respectively Danish letter. The term *Öresund* signifies the geographical region of Öresund while the term used in, e.g. *Øresund* University (ØU), signifies a branded name of a specific organisation. The ÖC is another branded name. Fundamentally, the Swedish term Öresund and Danish term Øresund represent the same notion, the geographical region, but in this essay the Swedish term will be adopted when discussing the geographical location while Øresund will only be used in conjunction with a specific organisation that carries such branding.

Historically, Öresund is the water passage that divides the landmasses of Danish Sjælland/Zealand and the Swedish Skåne/Scania. At the present time, the Öresund is generally referred to as a cross-border region. A region is described it as "the region is an entity smaller than the national context but larger than the local one, and may also be called a province or a district" (Jönsson et al 2003, p.25). In contrast, "[c]ross-border regions are regional configurations that span one or more state boundaries" yet that "contains formations of varying character and stability" (ibid, p.147, 149). While the traditional region is labelled as vertical, the cross-border operates horizontally. Their activity occurs on the external boundaries of the state and necessitates other elements than from the national spheres, namely foreign contacts and a partnership between public authorities and organisations that reside on the regional level. Such partnerships may involve firms, universities, trade unions, politicians,

and/or administrative networks. Consequently, the cross-border region is easily perceived as difficult to distinguish as it is a "grey zone between civil law and public law" (ibid, p.149).

Figure 2: Map of the Öresund Region   Source: Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The strait, or sound, has throughout history been a divide amounting to severe struggles between the inhabitants around the passage, but also benefited through trade and cooperation. The ruler of this geographical location has held a rewarding strategic position as the area is an active gateway for maritime traffic when wishing to proceed into the larger Baltic Sea. Therefore, the Öresund has for centuries been a valuable asset to its proprietors. However, despite power struggles concerning ownership, the area's population has benefited from trading and commerce possibilities by passer-byers as well as between local citizens. In addition, the area has had two strong religious footholds, Roskilde on Sjælland and Lund in Skåne. In the latest round of military interaction, Skåne was conquered by Swedish king Karl X Gustav in 1658 upon the signing of the Treaty of Roskilde. In conclusion, the Öresund has continuously been exposed to intense struggles throughout history but despite the pulling and tearing has managed to shape a lucrative region where economic growth, innovative practices and cultural dynamics soar in the current globalised climate.

The Öresund region is composed of the entirety of Skåne on the Swedish side and the Metropolitan region of Sjælland on the Danish side. The proponents of Öresund argue the region is underlined by unification rather than separation but there are those who disagree. Nevertheless, the road to unification has been winding and not always obvious as the Danes have at times glanced from capital Copenhagen towards Europe while Skåne was relying on Swedish capital Stockholm. Denmark joined the European Community (now the European Union) in 1973 whilst the more hesitant Swedes lingered up until 1995 to connect. Quickly the two national spheres realised their shared stage in the European integration process which relieved difficulties and fuelled incentives for cooperation. The Öresund region, as such,

became a gateway that they both nourished in hope of joint regional success. When the Öresund Bridge opened in 2000, the abstract Öresund connection had succeeded in acquiring an impressive manifestation of its cross-border relationship and the long sought-after interconnectedness. Today, the entity known as the Öresund spans over 21 000 square kilometres with 3,5 million inhabitants (Malmö Stad, 2010).

In the early 1990s, a shift from separated national spheres to a more interactive relationship was formed through the establishments of a Danish-Swedish cooperation. A political forum by the name the ÖC was created in 1993. It was and still is an important assembly for regional politicians to discuss the collective interests of Öresund. Furthermore, by initiative of ÖC, the Øresund University (ØU) was instated in 1997, which in turn launched the ØSR as a means to produce and "increase cross-border integration and growth in the region through cross-fertilization of disciplines, countries and arenas in a triple helix collaboration" (Øresund History, 2010). By 2010 the ØU's scattered operative form necessitated collecting its project variations under one brand: Øresund Org, which now owns both ØU and ØSR.

The ØU gathers nine universities under one umbrella network and collects 165 000 students, 10,000 researchers and 6,000 PhD-students which makes the region one of the strongest knowledge-based region in Europe (Øresund Campus, 2010). The ØSR is divided into six different platforms: Øresund IT, Øresund Greenhouse, Øresund Environment, Øresund Food, Øresund Materials respectively Øresund Logistics. Under ØU also lie Øresund Campus and Øresund Entrepreneurship. The ØSR platforms operate together with the universities under ØU, six science parks, 2000 companies and circa 12 000 researchers to create cross-border networks and projects (Øresund Org, 2010). In sum, the ØU has a fervent basis for research and education that provides the ØSR with a great knowledge-based trampoline for projects in the region that can easily be established as a strong base for competition and development. The variety of actors involved produces a considerable support system in terms of collaboration and financing.

Since the mid-1990s, the EU has been a fuelling factor to the regional integration process due to Interreg, a programme supporting regional growth. An introductory argument of the European Commission's guidelines from 2004 reads that "border areas have often been neglected under national policy, with the result that their economies have tended to become peripheral within national boundaries" (OJC 226/2). The Interreg programme has contributed with funds for projects of different characters with the prerequisite that it operates across borders instead of having "perverse effects such as parallel projects on each side of the border" (ibid). With the aid of Interreg funding, it is not possible for one member state to lead or feed on the full benefits of a single projects but there must exist mutual cooperation and bearing for the member states involved. The specific areas eligible for Interreg funding must present priority topics or focus which guide where the funding is granted.

4 Analysis: Placing the Triple Helix Discourse in Öresund

The TH discourse's development will be examined to understand how it shaped social practices and social process in the Öresund region. The THM is thus a central study-object of the thesis as it allows examination of an aspect of the integration process of the Öresund region being constructed as a political space. However, other conceptual frameworks to study regional developments are Regional Innovation Systems and New Production of Knowledge. Nevertheless, a TH discourse will be examined and as an introduction to this discourse, a description of the model itself will be presented followed by the empirical discussion where an application of a DA is made to evaluate the discourse's impact on the Öresund region.

4.1 The Triple Helix Model

The THM is a conceptual framework that can be portrayed as an ideal model for innovation, development and growth in a given geographical area with specific emphasis on the entrepreneurial university. The main scholarly figures in developing this conceptual framework are Henry Etzkowitz at New York State University and Loet Leydesdorff at University of Amsterdam. The THM is open-ended as "there is no single model to generalize the dynamics of successful regional innovation systems" (Doloreux & Parto 2004, p.8). As a strictly non-linear model, the THM's research objects are in constant transition and potentially overlapping (Etzkowitz 2005, p.113). The rise of TH influence in policy making implies that a linear model of innovation has been received less influence (Jakob 2006, p.454). Thus, the THM is valuable as it provides metaphors and models for "alternative conceptualizations of the innovation process and the main institutional actors, drivers, agents in the process (ibid, p. 446). Precisely because it is non-linear, there is no exact charter of instructions as how to create a TH region because the composition of actors and points of departure vary as to why it need be consistently reviewed. Nevertheless, the THM can be used to describe and better understand institutional arrangements and policy models in innovative settings. It is a valuable framework in analysing the Öresund region because "[t]he Triple Helix hypothesis is that systems can be expected to remain in transition" (Etzkowitz & Leydesdorff 2000, p.113), much like the Öresund region has endured a process of development in the nearest decades. This thesis sets limits for the time and space period of examination while the THM provides a discourse that will be discussed against the Öresund development.

The THM aims at enhancing the preconditions for the process of innovation in a knowledge-based society. It gathers three institutional sectors to shape a spiral formation that proceeds to shape innovation, development, and growth in the area given. Isolated, the legs of the spiral are steady but together they may shape and strengthen each other and such co-evolution is leads to stabilisation (Etzkowitz & Leydesdorff 2000, p.114). The relationship does not entail that the sectors should abandon their traditional institutional roles but rather that temporarily taking the role of each other strengthens the respective strands (Etzkowitz 2008, p.9; Säll 2008, p.25; Etzkowitz 2005, p. 27; Etzkowitz 2008, p.9). The THM shape reassembles a DNA spiral, as the name suggests. Just like the strands of a DNA spiral that interlock and move together in a spiral formation, the THM may be more or less visible but essentially interlocked and acting together with an unknown outcome yet with a common strategy.

The three spirals are:

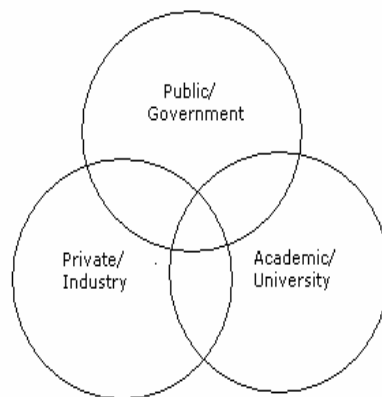|	
Public	National or regional decision-making level
Private	Companies, Businesses
Academic	Universities and related research centres

Figure 3. The social structure of the Triple Helix Model.

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The interaction between the public, private and university sphere can be official, unofficial, intended or unexpected, in relation to improving the terms of innovation in the region (Etzkowtiz 2005, p.111-112). The sectors commonly operate at arm's length or with sporadic interaction, thus making THM a refreshing combination as it offers a more sturdy interaction. The interaction relies on the legs moving together in a spiral to bridge gaps and cultivate a communicative flow that constantly re-invents itself, instead of relying on one sector to single-handedly spur development. The sectors do not have a pre-arranged order but is a "puzzle for participants, analysts and policy-makers to solve" (Etzkowitz & Leydesdorff 2000, p.112). Nevertheless, to summarize, a TH region is generally constituted by research institutions and a support structure in the form of organisations and investment capital.

The process of constructing a THM is defined by three different spaces. The three institutional spirals (academia, private and public) act in the three spaces: knowledge, consensus, and innovation. The three spaces will assist in tracing developments that do or do not indicate a TH discourse construction in the Öresund region. Investigating the process allows the TH discourse development to be placed on a timeline. Etzkowitz (2005, p.110) acknowledges the peculiarities about the TH process as, he asserts, it is not fully market- or politically driven. The actors involved are lifted outside their natural habitat and new multi-functional and process perspectives are applied. The more successful and self-sufficient a region is in applying a THM, the less focus in put on the TH structure. Therefore, the end objective is to be self-sufficient and that re-invention becomes a part of the natural development process of the region.

Table 1   Knowledge-based development in three phases

Triple helix spaces	Characteristics
Creation of a knowledge space	Focus on collaboration among different actors to improve local conditions for innovation by concentrating related R&D activities and other relevant operations
Creation of a consensus space	Ideas and strategies are generated in a "triple helix" of multiple reciprocal relationships among institutional sectors (academic, public, private)
Creation of a innovation space	Attempts at realizing the goals articulated in the previous phase; establishing and/or attracting public and private venture capital (combination of capital, technical knowledge and business knowledge) is central

(Etzkowitz 2008, p.81)

The spaces will be evaluated according to a DA, with a structured approach of a CDA framework - description, interpretation, explanation. From the empirical material collected, the final aim is to derive how the development of a TH discourse has progressed and potentially constructed a political space in the Öresund region.

Some limitations to the THM should be mentioned. For instance, Leydesdorff's work is more narrowed on developing the THM for promoting technological innovation while Etzkowitz's interest seems to lie in establishing the historical outline of the university and its novel functions (Jacob 2006, p.442). This theoretical disparity is problematic because there is not a charter by which a TH may be formed but each example set its own premises for development. Furthermore, "[a]n incomplete understanding of the theory tied to the Triple Helix potentially hinders a full appreciation of the model and its inherent possibilities (Shinn 2002). THM can be traced in relation to co-evolutionary theory that focuses on time, transformations and structures on meta- and macro-level. In contrast, TH case studies are

often detailed empirical studies that do not appreciate such generalisation (Shinn 2002, p.606-607). In this study, an intermediary mechanism through DA will be applied to link and analyse timely changes to the TH discourse situated in the Öresund region.

4.2 First Building Block: Knowledge space

The **knowledge space** generally signifies the first step towards a TH setting. The concentration of research and development within a certain geographical perimeter is a valuable prerequisite for the knowledge based regional development. If technological institutions and research facilities are present but not adequately stimulated or sustained, they are likely to stay underdeveloped unless they get financing or new project partners. Thus, for such an exchange to be possible it is vital that capital and leadership is present in the region. Consequently, loose relationships as well as strict partnerships should be set up in various constellations to produce activity. The three sectors have traditional set roles that they operate within so the first step is to summon the sectors in a dialogue where they may discuss the possibilities for developing practices in the region concerned. However, once again, the regional assemblage of which actor takes which role is different depending on the setting. So, a research area can reach a complete stand still if it is missing contact to others sectors but through a relationship to the public and private sector, the knowledge may be useful once linkage to economic and social activity is established (Etzkowitz 2005). As a result, the knowledge space allows an expansion of the traditional roles of actors and practice by creating a forum for discussion to support a process for innovative practices (Etzkowitz 2005, p.26; p.112-113).

If one is allowed to generalise time past, the Öresund region's two national spheres had developed quite separately in the years leading up to the 1990s. The instigation of forums such as the ÖC and the involvement of the EU propelled engagement in Öresund activity across the strait. The primary years allowed only a sparse connection but that intensified over time. This start of this intensification will be discussed in this section where the main question concerned is **how is the Öresund region understood as a knowledge space?**

4.2.1 The Öresund Committee

As noted in the background chapter, throughout history there had been organisational interaction across the strait, however, without any enduring results. Up until the 1990s, the Öresund region was without any collective organs that actively pursued an integration strategy. 1991 was an important and perhaps the decisive year for the instigation for the current development of the cross-border region. Sweden handed in its application to the EU and contract for building the Öresund Bridge was signed. In 1994, the Swedish population had voted yes to an accession to the EU and by 1995 they had become a member state. The establishment of Region Skåne in 1997 was also significant to the Öresund integration process as the Swedish side became a more unified region, earlier being separated in municipalities and two larger administrative units (Region Skåne 2010). In retrospect, these occasions hinted that the regional networking in the Öresund region had initiated (ÖC 10 years 2003, p.3).

In the midst of this, in 1993, the ÖC was created as a forum for Danish and Swedish regional politicians to discuss strategies on propelling Öresund activity. The first steps together were general assemblies and arranging events, such as small sporting events, e.g. the Öresundcup in handball in Landskrona. The ÖC as a political forum does not denote TH practice yet it is extensively involved in TH activities over time. In order to understand development of a TH discourse in Öresund, it is important to underline this institutional

creation because the ÖC is one of the first and surviving collective organisations in the Öresund region – and a forum that aided in creating a knowledge space.

The ÖC developed slowly during its first years as a political forum. By 1997, considerable activity increased as the ÖC became an administrator of EU activities, namely for the Interreg programme. This allowed the ÖC alongside relevant organisations from the Öresund region to coordinate a marketing scheme for the region. The vision materialized in the document "The Birth of a Region" in October 1997 and was a bold attempt to propel Öresund integration. The problem for increased integration was clearly voiced as "*the region itself does not exist*" (ÖC Birth, p.4). The introductory page reads:

"Year 2000 the Öresund Region shall be Northern Europe's dynamic centre – the motor, that drives the development in all of Northern Europe, both politically and economically. […] the region shall be seen as a commercial and population entity with a clear, unique and international profile. With its historical background, its unique quality of life, its culture, the well-educated population and the special private sector competences the region acts as a magnet for companies, tourists and new inhabitants" (ÖC Birth, p.1)[1]

The marketing scheme for Öresund was a unique as it signified a novel vision for the region. The grammar used when stating *"shall"* and *"acts"* establishes the quote as rather assertive and expressive and conditions that the Öresund region shall be a motor rather than attempting to be so. The term *"entity"* implies a will for a collective movement in the process towards crowning the Öresund as a centre for Northern European activities. This indicates a hope for active participation on a larger arena hoping for regional prosperity. Regarding intertextuality, the document applied a new way of speaking about the Öresund region, and in this manner attempting to create a new discourse. The text producer's common background knowledge did not necessarily view the Öresund region in light of a commonly used discourse for describing the regional performance but applied this knowledge to produce a new version of reality. The new discourse, the Öresund discourse, had now been boldly mounted by the ÖC and their belief in the inherent characteristics of the region. The production and distribution of "The Birth of a Region" attempted to launch the region as a centre of activity in Northern Europe. Although, the vision fronts general qualities and separated resources and seemingly assumes that these resources will produce a success ratio for the desired goal: being *"Northern Europe's dynamic centre"*.

The introductory text conveys that the Öresund was already a competent region with the significant resources to become a *"dynamic centre"*. As a result, the situational context was altered from being a competent region divided between Denmark and Sweden to seeing a united region, or *"entity"*, despite cross-border elements. The core lies in envisioning such an entity. The language used to promote such a discourse is strategic as it assembles various viewpoints on regional activities. The activity type, a marketing scheme, was cleverly formulated as to encompass a range of domains in the region without constraining possible resources. Positive wording, i.e. *"with"*, applies inclusiveness for those existent resources. Furthermore, the new discourse placed in a situational and intertextual context, national discourse was not highlighted. The explanatory dimension bids the author to put the discourse as part of a social process, meaning how the discourse is determined by social structures (Fairclough 1989, p.163). In this case, the ÖC promoted a document in a period where the Öresund region was vulnerable and open to adopt a modified discourse, considering Sweden's EU membership and the creation of Region Skåne. Consequently, the social process had drastically changed with *"support from EU, the national governments and on a regional political level"* making cooperation across borders easier and more beneficial than before (ÖC

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[1] Many citations are translations by the author. Original quotes are presented in appendix I.

Birth, p.16). The new discourse was a way of declaring that the Öresund region was indeed existent and willing to profile itself to compete in a greater geographical scope. The values of the discourse were thus developed during this time, but not yet fully operationalised. The Birth of a Region" thus portrays a willingness to move into a knowledge space to discuss collaboration, yet the adoption of a THM was not apparent.

Another statement from "The Birth of a Region" is:

"*The challenge lies in creating a vision, that reaches out to the rest of the world and offers qualities, which no other region can offer. A vision, that is based on our competencies and our competition based advantages and that reaches long into the future*" (ÖC Birth. p.5)

The statement describes an incentive to form a vision to underline the importance and potential of the region. The quote expresses a clear wish to promote sustainable perspective of Öresund on a global scale. The use of "*challenge*" is particularly interesting in two aspects. Firstly, the "*challenge*" is referring to creating a vision, not the implementation of the vision. The quote shows a conviction in what the Öresund has and needs: the qualities for success yet lacking an adopted vision for common growth. The qualities for success are wrapped in wording such as "*competencies*" and "*competition based advantages*" that signify a strong expressive and experiential value yet seemingly weak relational value. Since the region was officially still vaguely acknowledged, the perception laid in the text producer's assumptions rather than in the common social sphere. Thus the foundation the Öresund resided upon was a resourceful region enduring anxiety but with a common rookie problem – lack of direction for implementation.

Secondly, the politicians, the text producers, merely reflect their perception of handling the situational context, the Öresund integration process, as they resided in a power position that allowed imposition of their alteration of the context. Thus, the ÖC sneakily underlined their own importance in the integration process and argued that the challenge was in creating a vision, again ignoring implementation problems. Outwardly, their claim resides in being the sole promoter and driving force in formulating the vision as "*creating a "mental" region is first and foremost a political process*" and it demands that "*the region's politicians adopt the vision for the new Öresund region and work with it*" (ÖC Birth, p.16). While there may be a valid point, the document remains biased. Although, the subsequent difficulty lies in reproductive measures as the document's target groups were mixed: the social sphere, regional, national and supranational spheres. In this sense, the document attempted to be a part of several social processes that had not yet enabled a sturdy structure for sustaining such a discourse – making the reproduction of the discourse a problematic task.

Furthermore*, "[t]he Öresund region becomes one of Europe's most important regions. It becomes Northern Europe's political and economic centre – and becomes the driving force for development in the entire area*" (ÖC Birth, p.5; p14-15). This phrase of the vision underpins the previous quote. The self-expressive value is again apparent in the confident wording that describes the vision that the Öresund region should become "*one of Europe's most important regions*" and "*political and economic centre*" and "*driving force*" for Northern Europe. As stated earlier, the document should be perceived as bold although it lacks proposition for concrete actions. The statement clearly relates to previous quotes that take the Öresund's resources and qualities for granted in fathoming regional success. In connection to other discourses at the time, it is doubtful that such forthright utterances were embraced but most likely merely existed through the text producers' beliefs. Feasibly, the newly formulated discursive practices of the ÖC had strong relational value to the EU discourse that generally encouraged regional spheres. The grand vision of the ÖC is likely a reproduction of the European discourse that it had recently become a part of.

Lastly, while collaboration had been encouraged through the ÖC's vision, there were no references to relationship between private/public and academia which confirms that a TH discourse had hardly gained ground. Interpreting the text against social structures, it becomes apparent that the university sphere was not equally socially operative in the regional integration process at this time but rather ruled by the national guidelines. The document displays an incentive for collaboration between regional actors to improve regional conditions – although there is no specific mentioning of improving conditions for innovative practices.

4.2.2 The European Union

Despite not being not being a full member, Sweden's candidacy for EU membership qualified to Öresund region of Interreg IIA that crossed from 1994-1999. Indeed, the Interreg programme provided possibilities to finance cross-border projects with the intention to strengthen regional integration processes. The first Interreg documents are a central as they establish on what grounds the first official support by a European level granted the Öresund region to proceed with integration measures. Previously, it had been challenging (if not impossible) to receive such funding from the national governments since their interest resided in developing the national regions, rather than a cross-border regions. Thus, the Interreg programme sealed the deal for an increased integration process through EU funding. The official application was granted in 1996 when the ÖC became administrator for the Interreg secretariat. The granted Interreg application's expressed the following goals:

"[T]o create a development strategy over borders that build on complementarity and solidarity. […] development of regional knowledge and integration; industrial development including tourism; research, development and higher education; environment, physical planning and infrastructure; media, culture and education; cooperation between southeast Skåne and Bornholm" (Interreg II, 2000)

The text is an extract from the approved application from the European Commission and the specific section is written by the applying party, the ÖC. Key phrasing is "*complementarity*" and "*solidarity*" as they spell concepts that have been essentially absent in the Öresund region. The words' connotation generally has relational value to national strategy, as opposed to a cross-border collaboration strategy. However, due to the context, it may be interpreted that the deeply rooted national discourse had been carefully pierced by the EU discourse - something that is emphasized in traditional EU discourse phrasing "*strategy over borders*". This remarkable diction does not utter dissolution of border but purely asserts that development should be over borders. The wording is cautious and suggests an aspiration for cooperation, not necessarily integration. Ultimately, the EU managed influence through the reproduction of its discourse and could now be seen as a vehicle to promote that journey by supplying a discourse that emphasized the importance of cooperation despite national borders. Instead of competing through national governmental policies, the EU had allowed for a new type of expansion to occur that brought a wider vision to the Öresund connection.

The Öresund region was deemed "*partially eligible*", meaning not being fully positioned under one objective. Öresund was semi-placed under objective 5b because there was "*a low level of socio-economic development*" (Inforegio). The low levels are confined by the assumption that the region has a lack of growth, a fairly sufficient claim as the early 1990s had been trimmed with financial difficulties. Although, concerning discursive practices, it could be argued that the EU's lack of connection to Northern Europe opted willingness from the EU to instigate regional activity as quickly as possible. As the professed 'Scandinavian Model' was strongly mounted in Scandinavian national governments' operational schemes, the EU's almost premature introduction to the Interreg programme suggest an attempt to pierce the existing discourse by infecting it with another.

The manoeuvre was most likely an attempt to introduce the EU discourse in sake of reproduction as the Interreg IIA programme's aim were to "*assist the Community's internal and external border areas in overcoming specific development problems due to their relative isolation within national economies and the Community as a whole*"(Interreg II 2000, p.1). The quote aims to assist border activity to overcome potential "*isolation*" and to "*promote adaptation*", which is both interesting phrasing as the same documents phrases the achievements as "*contribution to*" "*construction of Europe*" and "*cohesion*" (Interreg II 2000, p.2). The use of "*isolation*" and "*adaption*" has a negative connotation with a provocative undertone as achievement use wording such as contribution, construction, cohesion. The assumption made is that EU discourse offered rhetorical provocation to fuel action towards European inclusiveness which in turn reproduces EU discourse and enforces the presence of the EU in national and regional spheres.

The ÖC's goals for development through EU funding were set on a notable number of areas in the region, among other were integration, industrial development, higher education, and environment. These sectors' development implies involvement from the THMs three sectors. While the spiral conjunction of a TH had not yet been described as the vision, this particular focus in the first EU programme entails encouragement for a future THM constellation. One might even mildly suggest that the formulation already implied, perhaps unknowingly, further collaboration between the spheres simply based on that the sectors were presented as focus areas for integration measures.

The knowledge space departed from the Öresund's collected knowledge and shaped discussion forums where the Öresund region's future was considered. The discussions did not yet distinctly tie together the three sectors that constitute a THM but underlined the individual existence and potential of mutual collaboration. Consequently, the knowledge space proceeded into the consensus space where an aspiration for developing joint strategies could be voiced evermore clearly.

4.3 Second Building Block: Consensus space

The **consensus space** is often the subsequent step to the knowledge space. The consensus space allows actors from different institutional spheres to gather to generate more specific strategies and ideas. Once strategy is founded, the knowledge space's knowledge is no longer possible sources of development but instead knowledge become actual and used sources for economic and social development (Etzkowitz 2005). By bringing together people of diverse and distinct backgrounds, the dynamics change from merely interacting with actors from actors' own respective fields.

The knowledge space departed from the ÖC and EU seen as catalysts for envisioning new possibilities for cooperation in the Öresund region. The consensus space will instead depart from the ØU as it moved towards assembling academic initiatives into strategic partnerships that operated under multiple sectors' involvement and created platforms for such interaction, namely the ØSR. The development enabled cross-fertilization of sectors that subsequently spiralled a closer relationship between previously separated sectors. The question asked is **how is the Öresund region understood as a consensus space?** The ÖC will be receive less attention yet not ruled out as it remains an important player as a political administrator, political input and in fuelling the construction of the TH discourse. The EU will be considered as a red thread that pushes for further regional integration. As a result, this section will focus on investigating the discourse development of the ØU and ØSR as actors that strategically brought separated sectors together.

4.3.1 The Øresund University

The Öresund connection grew stronger when the Öresund Bridge opened as the mental distance between the two national spheres was shortened drastically. Now, it had become relatively uncomplicated, less time-consuming and notably comfortable to travel across the Öresund. The consensus space was entered upon the creation of the ØU in 1997 as this organisation relatively quickly voiced strategies that brought together universities, but also different perspectives from different institutional settings. This section reviews five initial annual reports published by the ØU during years 1998 to 2003. The years were crucial to the activity development in the Öresund and the annual reports describe relevant activities during this time, thus will be used to derive information about the strategies that catapulted the ØU to become an established regional actor. The most prominent features captured in these reports explicate the ØU as a strong and united forum through the participation and support of conferences and symposiums, the creation of project platforms (ØSR), a regional research strategy and the creation of research networks and contact network.

1998 was the first official year in the ØU history. It began as a three year cooperative project, largely funded by Interreg, among universities in the Öresund region (ØU annual report 1998, p.2). The ÖC was involved in establishing the ØU which correlates with the introductory section of the first annual report: *"The Øresund University has in 1998 shown to be an important political signal in that the public debate refer to the expectations of the Öresund Region's development"* (ØU 1998, p.2) It is clearly stated that the ØU was a *"political signal"* that contributed to the public debate becoming more engaged about the future of the region. In terms of discursive processes, the extract is situated in a report that is wholly attempting to promote a regional actor with regional interests and doing so by promoting cooperation between universities. As such, it is highly remarkable that the phrase *"political signal"* is used because ideally the emphasis should be on the university relationships. Placing it in context, this specific quote underlines the ØU's relationship to the ÖC and suggests that the ØU may have some uncertainty in its specific purposes as it seems to be strongly guided by the ÖC. Another related point is that the ØU was a political signal because it was supported and part of the political vision outlined by the ÖC. However, this perception should not be regarded as surprising as in 1998 the ØU had barely taken its first steps as an academic forum, and even less so as a structured organization.

The confidence grew and *"1999 thus became the year when the Øresund University went from being an important political signal to being one of the most active and furthest developed Öresund actors"* (ØU 1999, p.2). The quote moves the ØU beyond being a *"political signal"* and establishes that the ØU actually has flourished into an Öresund actor, not merely an actor in Öresund. The words *"important"* and *"furthest developed"* show ØU's confidence and a great deal of expressive and relational value in terms of its tasks and purpose which had now been stated clearer, both in the introduction and in the remaining text. Regarding discursive practices, the quote identifies the ØU as having gained wind and established a foundation to build upon therefore was not merely searching for supporting organizations but could instead act as a supporting organisation. In short, the ØU may be interpreted as a viewing itself as a leading regional actor and not just as an involved actor. In context, the ØU certainly had grown during its second year as it gained publicity, network partners and recognition from both the Danish and Swedish state upon the publication of the document "Øresund – en region bliver til" (ØU 1999, p.2). The social order in Öresund now involved the ØU and was not merely dominated by the ÖC and the EU as in the knowledge space.

Early on, the ØU instigated the research programme "Själland och Skåne –före, under och efter Bron" ("Själland and Skåne – before, during and after the Bridge") which is repeatedly referenced throughout the annual reports. The programme is introduced with the statement

that *"[c]ooperation surrounding research and benefiting from the partaking institutions' respective competence areas are one of the basic components in achieving a synergy effect in the Øresund University cooperation"* (ØU 1998, p.6). The research programme was launched as a means to connect the universities' research activities for regional prosperity and the quote shows this purpose clearly. The statement describes the institutions as competent and insinuates the importance of university involvement in the regional process. So far, the Öresund region had been dominated by political will but the research programme uplifted the universities' participatory role. The social practices of politics are not declared but instead the ØU opted for developing a research strategy to tie to the regional integration process. Accordingly, political input was not battled but introduced the academic sector to the Öresund discourse.

The annual reports clearly outline conferences and symposiums that the ØU had been participating in and supporting over the years. As most of the universities were already firmly established upon the creation of the ØU, communication channels were already present by which new relationships could be cultivated in the new cooperative form. The conference count was relatively low in 1998 by but increased in subsequent years. The purpose of attending conferences was partly to launch and institute the ØU but also to retract ideas to formulate strategies by which the ØU could develop its organisation. In the 1998 annual report, the three sectors of a TH spiral were mentioned but not in conjunction or in hope of cooperation with each other. However, in the 1999 annual report, the ØU attended and assisted in planning a *"Triple Helix – symposium"*. Little information is expressed about the symposium apart from the participatory aspect but with a review of the annual reports, it becomes evident that knowledge about a THM construction had been absorbed.

The 1999 annual report provided vague strategies on how to pursue regional development but nevertheless, the inspiration of a THM was clear. The Danish and Swedish government had granted *"meaningful means to the development of the regional cooperation between universities, private industry and public authorities"* (ØU 1999, p.2). A platform under ØU had also been working with *"planning and contacts with stakeholders within the research sector, private industry as well as organizations and public authorities"* (ibid). Furthermore, under the heading "regional contacts" it is expressed that the ØU has *""systematically built a contact network and good relations with relevant organizations"* such as the research committees, private industry authorities as well as continued a relationship with the ÖC (ØU 1999, p.8). As the beginning of the report softly introduced a new strategy for regional cooperation through a THM, the wording *"systematically"* and *"relevant organisations"* indicate meticulousness in building an organisational scheme. In short, there are several occurrences in the 1999 annual report that signify an aspiration to build a diversified contact network yet not necessarily involving the research sector. The discursive practices illustrate willingness with to operate beyond the research community and have distinct traces of a THM influence. Adhering to the context, the ØU was gaining reassurance in its collaborative form by funding and involvement from external agencies in the ØU to develop strategies for socioeconomic growth in the region.

The ØU early presented an aspiration to create subject-specific platforms. They were created to increase collaboration between different actors from private, public and academic sectors to cultivate and promote economic growth in clusters in the Öresund region. The first platform mentioned was Medicon Valley Academy in 1998, followed by IT Øresund and Øresund Food Network in 1999, proceeding to Øresund Environment in 2000 and Øresund Logistics in 2002. The platforms were eventually gathered under the name Øresund Science Region (ØSR). The mentioned platforms still exist today while others, such as a humanities platform and a design platform, have disappeared from the organisational scheme. The development of the ØSR's platforms would eventually prove to be a winning concept.

However, at this point in time, the ØSR platforms were mainly seen a formation that signified a strategy that tied together the ØU with other partners. The ØU's annual reports between 1999 - 2002 describe the platforms as operating with and between public, private and academic sectors, a sign of a TH discourse settling. Ultimately, the ØSR became an imperative part of conducting TH practices in the Öresund region.

In the annual reports from 2001 and 2002 the description of the cooperation recited *"development between universities, private sector and public authorities"* and *"universities, public authorities, and private sector"* and *"enforcement of the contacts between private sector, public authorities and universities"* (ØU 2001, p.6; ØU 2001, p.10; ØU 2002, p.9). The description had proceeded to consistently apply the term *"universities"* instead of sporadically using *"research"*. While it may seem as a mild change, it has strong relational value as the term *"universities"* signify that the university as a whole should be a part of platform activity and shows stepping further towards applying a TH discourse. The universities in Öresund were now regarded as a primary participant in the process of building platform activities. Furthermore, the order by which the sectors are referenced should be mentioned. No specific order is applied when presenting collaboration between sectors and due to this, the social relationships between could be interpreted as neutral. Due to this addition to the discursive practice, the assumption is that no sector has precedence over the other. The assumption correlates with operative measures of a THM as sectors are regarded to have interchangeable roles in the TH process. As it seemed, a new social structure had emerged through ØSR and enabled the Öresund integration process to prosper in new variations. The context had marginally changed from utter control of the universities from the national governments and shed light on regional strategies.

4.3.2 The European Union

The EU's involvement lingers as an important perspective to account for in the TH development in the Öresund region. The EU could be portrayed as a shadow in the ØU's development, present but often not directly discernible. This section will review the general purpose of the Interreg IIIA programme as an off-ramp to the ØU's purpose and strategy.

After the Interreg IIA programme, the Interreg IIIA programme period was instated between 2000-2006 and articulated a more specific purpose: *"cross-border cooperation between neighbouring authorities is intended to develop cross-border economic and social centres through joint strategies for sustainable territorial development"* (C 226/5). The main purpose is described as encouraging cross-border cooperation by creating *"centres"* that foster strategies for *"sustainable territorial development"*. The description is similar to the initial ÖC vision (see section 4.2.1). The wording obviously leaves leverage for regions to formulate individual strategies. Another notable phrase is *"cross-border economic and social centres"* that could be adhered to as joint regional actors, but naturally also other types of socio-economic centres. The word *"centres"* is striking and suggests that there should be a hub for formulating such *"joint strategies"*. The social processes are obviously different depending on geographical location but in this case, the ØC and ØU are fitting examples of such development, potentially even the very manifestation of the purpose. In context, the ØU strategy formulation was partially shaped by the Interreg programme as the ÖC's primary vision had thus been largely funded and supported by the EU. Surely, the EU, through vision and administration by the ÖC, managed to implement and develop the centres described in the Interreg IIIA purpose. Once more, the EU discourse seemed evermore aligned with the TH discourse in the consensus space as the strategic inclination filtered similar goals and benefits.

There were similarities between the ØU and the Interreg IIIA purposes. An example ØU's strategy was to form *"[c]ooperation surrounding research and benefitting from the partaking institutions' respective competence areas are one of the basic components in*

achieving a synergy effect in the Øresund University cooperation" (ØU 1998, p.6, section 4.3.1). This statement can clearly be linked to the Interreg IIIA purpose, yet being more detailed. The ØU had a focus on strengthening the relationship between university institutions, which is apparent in this statement. However, more importantly, the ØU describes that creating such a relationship will have a *"synergy effect in the Øresund University cooperation"*. This describes a type of *"joint strategy"* to create cooperation for *"territorial development"* as the ØU intends to promote development in the Öresund region.

The Öresund region gained attention in the Interreg IIIA programme as it now had established institutions which managed interesting aspects of socio-economic development in the cross-border region. The reports published by the Interreg secretariat specifically addressed and discussed opportunities and produced a text about the Öresund region that may be interpreted towards an EU background. The 2002 Interreg report reads: *"The hope of Interreg IIIA Öresund Region is, that the programme shall take the next step and build sustainable relationships, joint institutions and realise the vision that the Öresund region becomes a functional and integrated region"* (Interreg 2002, p.6). The term *"integrated region"* was now an included part of Interreg measures, versus the previous description in Interreg IIA (see section 4.2.2). In the general purpose of the Interreg IIIA programme, the words *"sustainable"* and *"joint"* are mentioned again. The expressive value to these words is consistent with EU discourse as they aim latch the relationships in the cross-border region. These words resurface and have persuasive nature in line with the classification scheme of the EU discourse that has a general interest in developing integrated and united territorial European grounds. In other words, these words are repeated in the presented quotes as well as in other sections of text related to Interreg and constitute a classification scheme which is aimed at persuading its funded partner which in this case the main Öresund actors are the ØU and ÖC.

The statement also declares the desire for the Öresund Region to *"take the next step"* to realize the vision. This implies that a previous step has already been take which is enforced by the fact that the term *"strategy"* is omitted here, but present in the general Interreg IIIA purpose. The wording reaffirms the existence of the Öresund region and potentially the existence of a strategy, despite that the EU is not yet willing to label it as a *"functional and integrated region"*. The pressure from the EU to work for furthered integration is clearly produced and shown in the discourse of the 2002 report. The report establishes the social order in that it sheds light on the EU's involvement. As such, the discourse given is meant to encourage the development yet at the same time it is constricting Öresund integration to a certain path determined by the EU. In context, the Öresund actors may even be inspired by the above statement, given that the report has "hope" for a "functional and integrated region". However, since the statement is fairly vivid, it leaves it up to the Öresund region to produce the suitable "sustainable relationship" and "joint institutions".

4.4 Third Building Block: Innovation space

The **innovation space** is realized when one or several organizing mechanisms have been established to assemble and produce results from the envisioned ideas and strategies that matured in the consensus space. The establishment of organisational mechanisms varies but often the attraction of capital is essential as well as its capability to fill innovation gaps in the regional spheres. These have no set structure but their pursuit is on the territorial grounds and the regional preconditions for innovation that must be assessed carefully in the previous spaces. A frequent problem in the innovation space is attracting and involving suitable and desired actors from the different spheres. Actors need be trustworthy, recognised by the whole

and have the ability to take action because if this is lacking, the balance becomes uneven and there is a risk that some actors cross out other actors (Etzkowitz 2005, p.120). Nonetheless, as the organisational and innovation mechanisms differ depending on the setting which is why it is imperative to trace strengths and weaknesses in the regional sphere. As above chapters ask, the main question is **how is the Öresund region understood as an innovation space?**

The consensus space and the innovation space may be regarded as overlapping instances in the case of the Öresund region. In the wake of the Öresund region's progression towards formulating strategies, signs of successful strategies can partially be traced in the mere existence of the Öresund actors, the ÖC and the ØU, as organisational mechanisms. The political pressure from the ÖC to enforce ØU's strategies for research activities in the region proved successful as it attracted series of funding, from both supranational level (EU) and other external organisations and companies. Thus, it can rightfully be assumed that during the time the consensus space was busy formulating strategies, the innovation space was already partially present in parallel.

This section will mainly review ØU and ØSR annual and economic reports from 2005-2008 (unfortunately, the 2004 annual report was not acquired).

4.4.1 The Øresund University and Øresund Science Region

The ladders representing the innovation space may produce organisational mechanisms such as incubators and technology transfer offices, yet these were already available at various places in the Öresund region. For example, IDEON in Lund was launched 1983, Minc in Malmö started in 2003, SYMBION in Copenhagen was initiated in 1986 and these are only some of the innovation mechanisms linked to creating an innovative environment. However, the case of Öresund is different because the challenge resided in tying these together these channels of innovation to create a mutual sphere for regional innovation hence the focus shall be on the organisational mechanisms produced through the ØU, ØSR and ÖC.

The ØU had up until now taken more room in the discursive practices than the ØSR. However, 2005 was a re-defining year for both ØU and ØSR as the ØU as it renewed its contract amongst the member universities and the ØSR went from "*short-term project organizations*" to become 6 platforms with "*more permanent, multifinanced organizations*" (ØU 2005, p.2). As for organizational mechanisms supporting innovative practices, this meant a great deal to these purposes. The permanent structure of ØSR was a strong statement in achieving previously voiced strategies in the consensus space also confirming the notion of overlapping instances as the ØSR was created in 2002 but not fully established until 2005. In terms of context, the ØSR's jump from short-term to permanent organisation also brought about materialisation produced in form of a separate annual report. Rightfully, the ØSR had gained a stable foundation in the social practices in the Öresund as an enabler and voice of TH discourse and activities.

The permanent establishment of ØSR was prominent to innovation in the Öresund region due to that it went from "*securing dialogue and development of structures between three core sectors*" to claiming manifold that "*innovation is the raison d'être*" (ØU 2000, p.7; ØU 2005, p.22). The former statement was made in 2000 which is situated in the consensus space, while the latter was made in 2005 which is situated in the innovation space. The former statement is conscious of "*securing dialogue*", a specific trait with expressive value that can be traced in both the knowledge and consensus space where collaboration and strategies are the main priorities in search of an innovative environment. The ØU and ØSR networking was underdeveloped and thus the focus was at "*securing*" rather than furthering or boosting. This aim was granted as can be traced the previous chapter on spaces. A stronger affiliation to the innovation environment was materialised in the ÖC publication ÖRUS in May 2010 where,

among other things, advanced cooperation with the ØU was aspired for in terms of further harmonizing rules hindering university partnerships to be able to maximise the knowledge resources present.

Moreover, few annual reports had actually used the specific word innovation in conjunction with general ØSR practices but rather in line with individual research projects. Consequently, the specificity of innovation as a "*raison d'être*" for ØSR is highly notable in to the progression of ØU and ØSR practices. The purpose had thus been mapped: innovation was the reason for being. This does not necessarily denote that the ØSR had retrieved a state of lessened or self-serving practices, but that it was evermore assured of its motivation and capabilities, as well as confident in voicing it. Innovation was a clear purpose for implementing the strategies developed in the previous room. Conceivably, the ØU and ØSR had reached a stage where they had encapsulated the TH discourse to the extent that it was utterly reproducing the end point of that discourse: an innovative environment. However, it must be expressed that whether such an environment can be physically established is utterly challenging by merely reviewing the ÖC annual reports so instead the focus lies on how a TH discourse has constructed such an abstract innovative setting. As previously discussed, the social process that ØU was situated in was highly influenced by the knowledge and consensus spaces and the fact that an innovative environment was the apparent goal was neutralized through the constant reproduction of a TH discourse.

Signs of organizational mechanisms apart from the standing structures of ØU, ØSR, ÖC and the Interreg secretariat may be located within these organizational structures. In the previous sections, the use of the wording "*political signal*" in introductory texts of annual reports was accentuated. This altered and had grown into a strong reproduction of discourse of the importance of working cross-sectorally, namely with private, public and academic sectors together. The specific reference to incorporating the three sectors in cooperative measures is exponentially used in the descriptive paragraphs of the organisational structure and cooperation strategies. All the platforms placed within ØSR opted for a TH cooperative structure while those residing within ØU argued "*contributed through strengthening contacts between as well as being an active part of the cooperation*"(ØU 2007, p.6). Specific attention should be paid to "*strengthening contacts*" and "*active part*" as they are inclusive words. Again, all in all, this shows a strong linkage to the TH discourse as there is a great awareness of the attention received by external actors in voicing this structural claim. By proclaiming devotion to a cross-sectoral collaboration, an inclusive signal is sent out. Furthermore, the context is altered from being persistent on building the organisational mechanisms and instead, the focus rests on promoting and enabling action for the strategies formulated. The ØU and ØSR were amply showing their conviction of being an institution for cross-border cooperation in the Öresund region by channelling their successes in building action and awareness for the region's interests.

There is an apparent change of the format of the annual reports produced by the ØU and ØSR from 2005 and onwards. Firstly, the 2005 annual report was the last issue to incorporate ØU and ØSR activities into one report, as subsequent years produced separate issues. Secondly, the 2005 report was written entirely in English. Thirdly, the content changed to a slimmer, more concentrated text that was more technical than descriptive and strategic. This may be asserted as stepping away from the consensus space to an innovation space as such change in discursive practices insinuates that there no longer was a incessant need to reproduce strategically concentrated texts. The social practices again are reinforced by the previous claim, that there the ØU and ØSR were convinced of their impact of producing action and awareness. Etzkowitz (2008) repeatedly claims that a successful THM reproduces itself and becomes fairly self-sufficient, an attribute softly adopted and perhaps even

confirmed by the ØU and ØSR in light of their change of discursive practices in the annual reports.

Furthermore, repeated emphasis is paid to the economic contributions to the cross-border collaboration, perhaps becoming more apparent partly due to the increasingly technical nature of the annual reports. More specifically, the mentioning of financiers is more closely intertwined in the descriptive texts regarding different projects conducted by ØU and ØSR. Another example is that individual and separate economic reports became practice upon the division between the ØU and ØSR which is a strong indication that the financial aspect of the project had become an intricate and influential administrative chore. "*Øresund Science Region is financed by a triple-helix structure*" yet these funds are "*strongly governed by the financiers for specific purposes*" (ØSR 2006, p.3; ØU 2008, p.8). The ØU and ØSR had pungently applied the THM but as project activities spurred with a multitude of actors, which had been so eagerly encouraged throughout the years, but repercussions followed. Confinement in using financial resources from various contributors had obviously attained increased awareness and influence on the social practices of the ØU. Surely, pressure from financiers is generally a constant factor although, in the later years the annual reports denoted this trait more vigorously. The EU was still servicing Interreg-funding to the ØU and ØSR yet had regressed its influence upon the more permanent instalment of these entities, as discussed above. Moreover, the increased focus on financial sources indicated varied investors that establishes that the pursuit of attracting both public and private (venture) capital had been successful.

The ØU's and ØSR's adapted behaviour in discursive practices also altered their previous statements of being "*an important political signal*" and ÖC's vision of being "*Northern Europe's dynamic centre*" (ØU 1998, p.2; ÖC Birth 1997, p.1). The focus was instead "*[t]o stimulate new knowledge in areas where the Øresund region is competitive on a European as well as global scale*" (ØU 2005, p.11). The wording has shifted from being a "*political signal*" to new knowledge as well as from "*centre*" to concentrating on competition. The modification of these aims towards knowledge and competition is essential to the development of the Öresund integration process. The shift released the former classification scheme for success into a new discursive scheme, where the focus turned to the strengths of the ØU, ØSR and the region itself, adhering to the knowledge resource present and the potential for being successful in competing with such resources. In essence, the focus had turned to the entrepreneurial university – a key feature of nurturing a THM. An example of the efforts in furthering the concept of the entrepreneurial university can be envisioned in the platform established under ØU in 2006, Øresund Entrepreneurship Academy (ÖEA). The goal was to "*house one of the most important centres for entrepreneurial studies in Europe*" and the ÖEA was "*one of the larger Öresund promotions ever initiated*" (ØU 2005, p.18; ØU 2006, p.4)

Another affirmation of successful cross-border activities was the growing interest of what came to be called "The Øresund Model", which the ØU and ØSR had the opportunity to present and advertise during several conferences in Europe during 2006 and onwards. Surely, it is a verification of that the implementation of strategies and its action were successful and gaining grounds for speculation on a wider arena. The ØU writes in the 2006 annual report (p.6) that "*[t]he international curiosity is thus extremely wide and the Øresund region has a very good opportunity for positive international profiling*". The use of "*international curiosity*" illustrates that the ØU had received a favourable feedback from abroad and thus saw opportunities in "*international profiling*"*,* a fairly daring step as the regional actors had only been active during a relatively short number of years. The use of "*extremely wide*" in relation to the spread of the interest is a heavy statement and insinuates its intentions for further profiling. While relationships with international contacts, such as the Organisation for

Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), had been present in previous annual reports, the statements had not been equally assertive as in this discursive practice. This discursive practice shows the consistently growing self-assurance of the ØU and ØSR's activities and yet without, aiming at being a "*Northern hub*", as was the part of the political vision in the knowledge space. The simple fact that there was something labelled as "The Øresund Model" and was receiving attention suggests that strategies had been formed, implemented and now described by the ØU and ØSR to other actors which is a verification of having entered the innovation space. Moreover, the situational context had thus altered and the ØU and ØSR framework was entering wider arenas, both European and global, to profile itself without the expressing the intention of being a focal point, but rather as a celebrity centre of successful regional integration. As being a hub was seemingly no longer relevant, it is plausible to conclude that the social order which the Öresund resided within was also altered.

4.4.2 The European Union

In light of the emerging awareness of "The Øresund Model", the European wide recognition was granted by the Regiostar award, an award honoured by the European Commission to the ØU in 2008. The ØU were aware of their spot as finalist in the category "Supporting Clusters and Business Networks" already in 2007 which added fuel to their declaration of success. In the 2007 annual report (p.2), the ØU described themselves in the introductory paragraph as "*recognised and important actor in Scandinavia's largest and most dynamic region. It is also one of the most well-known crossborder institutions in Europe today*". The citation is most noteworthy as it is the first time the ØU awards itself with the label "*crossborder institution*", and with an emphasis "*one of the most well-known*". This affirms the previous paragraph where self-assurance was expressed. Such a statement establishes that ØU in fact believes to be an organizing mechanism which gathers a practised pattern of interaction that decides social interaction and that has gained material power in the Öresund region. It concurs with the escalating interest from the European and international level, where specific interest has been shown for "The Øresund Model".

Nevertheless, Ilmar Reepalu, social democratic municipal commissioner in Malmö City, confirms that "*much didn't happen in the ÖC until the EU's Interreg-money came. Without this money the Committee wouldn't have been anything else than a large and maybe more intensive Öresund forum*". He also voiced that "*If we don't get any more money from [Interreg] the ÖC will not be able to be motivated. But up until now it has most certainly been a necessary orga*n" (ÖC 10 years 2003, p.5). Accordingly, Reepalu states that the EU funding was and is imperative for the survival and meaning of the ÖC. The twofold use of the word "*money*" (pengar) serves an undertone that implies a sense of independence or self-assurance that Reepalu has in regards to the ÖC and/or the Öresund integration. Funding easily suggests that there is a need for 'help' or 'aid' but by using the word money, the tone of the statement immediately becomes different, even though the overall statement indicated that the ÖC would not be as productive without the Interreg programme. As such, the confidence lies in the Öresund region's potential and the capability of the ÖC, and the EU simply enabled the process with the funds provided. As Reepalu is an integral part of the ÖC and in this conjunction serves as a lobbyist for the Öresund interests, the previous statement seems to serve his purpose well. However, from an outside perspective such as national or local, the perception might have been that the ÖC has no proper decision-making power (Sjöklint 2008). Therefore might argue that the given possibilities resided in someone else's hands, such as project executors and the EU as a funding organ.

5 Summarising Conclusions

The **knowledge space** aims to improve collaboration between actors to improve local conditions for innovation and other relevant operations. From the early 1990s and throughout the 1990s, there was a drastic change in dialogue regarding the vision of the Öresund region. The knowledge space was seemingly decorated with new input from regional initiatives and increasing EU presence that opted to provide a common playground for pursuing regional development. Surely, the resources available in the Öresund region were vast but the preconditions for collaboration were sparse and difficult to mobilize. The instigation of the political forum, the ÖC dawned a new way of speaking of the Öresund, which was published in the document "The Birth of a Region" in 1997. This marketing scheme formulated a vision opting for active participation in building the Öresund region into a Northern European hub. The aspiration was placed on creating a strong political and economic centre with a strong international profile. The ÖC's perspective was grand and voiced a vision of fathoming success through applying the competencies and resources present in the region. Merging these competencies into a core argument developed an Öresund discourse, which was subsequently introduced on a local, regional, national and supranational arena in hope of reproduction.

The knowledge space was coloured by political manifestations and pressure to improve local conditions for collaboration. The EU had gained presence as well as influence in the region and seemingly aided defining the upcoming process for regional integration as voiced in ÖC's vision. Perhaps, since the Öresund region was experiencing a new state of mind commencing from the new discourse, there was a certain level of vulnerability in adopting foreign patterns of expressional schemes, such as the EU discourse. Nevertheless, any obvious traces to a THM or innovative practices were absent. For instance, few or no references to the university sphere are made in discussing engagement with the public and private sectors thus lacking connecting spheres to each other. In the end, the ÖC's newly produced discursive practices did affect and improve collaboration for innovation as it eventually activated a catalytic movement of numerous practices that accentuated regional integration and spiralled into a TH setting.

The **consensus space** aims at generating ideas and strategies in a TH setting that constitutes multiple reciprocal relationships between different institutional sectors. While development in the consensus space may resemble the knowledge space it would be faulty to simply assign them to that area. Instead, the Öresund region was marked by strategic relationships between sectors that outlined specific or loose rules of engagement. In a sense, perhaps the knowledge and consensus space are overlapping but the emergence of the ØU initiatives and the ØSR foundation could by no means be purely localised in a knowledge space. Drawing back to the late 1990s towards the early 2000s, the ØU was established as an Interreg funded project that merged universities for the sake of advancing cooperation in the academic sphere. The ÖC prompted the building of the ØU yet the political influence was mildly discharged by ØU in its 1999 annual report where it honoured itself as a leading regional actors. The ØU's confidence grew along with new ideas, strategies and projects that involved different institutional sectors, showing signs of embracing a THM. The development of platforms on the ØU agenda proceeded to the ØSR foundation that catapulted TH practices.

The EU remained as a consistent shadow. The Interreg commenced its subsequent programme period (Interreg IIIA) and while strategies were drafted by the ØU, the EU could be distinguished as a backdrop that was fuelling the formulation. In essence, the formulations showed great similarities and implies that the Öresund discourse had moved from endorsing merely national input to accepting European input. However, the application of such discourses could not specifically be tied to a THM support although strong traits of such a structure were emerging.

The **innovation space** attempts to implement the strategies and ideas formulated in the consensus room and produce organizing mechanisms. The establishment and attraction of capital (public and private venture capital) is also central. The Öresund region entered the innovation space by the permanent establishment of the ØU and the ØSR. Furthermore, the focus on innovation became clearer as the ØU and ØSR annual reports announced this as their raison d'être. These developments demonstrated a clear distinction in having produced organizing mechanisms for the future of the Öresund integration process. The ØSR platforms fully applied the rhetorical concept of a THM in their structural formation and presented willingness for inclusiveness by cross-sectoral collaboration.

Several additions to the organisational scheme indicated an adoption of a THM in ØU and ØSR practices. The new organisational structure of ØU and ØSR resulted in separated annual report and economic reports. The contents also transformed from being highly focused on strategic matters to elaborating on economic contributions and financiers. The mere distinction between annual reports and economic reports confirm that there was a greater emphasis on such contributions, which aligns with the importance the innovation room places on establishing capital. Additionally, the university collaboration had also instituted the Øresund Entrepreneurship Academy with the mission of developing a greater entrepreneurial focus in university activities and curriculum – an indication that the THM focus on the entrepreneurial university had been adopted. Finally, true recognition of having stepped away from merely strategy formulation was the curiosity regarding what came to be known as 'The Øresund Model''. Increased interest from the European and global scene led the ØU and ØSR out to present and promote the model which cumulated into the Regiostar award in 2008.

The discussion of the development of the leading Öresund actors the ÖC, ØU and ØSR provided an insight to how national discourses received contest by the reproduction of the Öresund discourse that gathered collective will and interests in the cross-border region. Essentially, the introduction of new discursive practices by the EU lead to that emerging regional actors altered their representations and started perceiving the region differently. The modification of key discourses allowed for the regional actors to adopt a TH discourse to their own social practices. The TH discourse launched a new collaborative structure and revised the regional operational system which allowed for new representations to appear. Yes, the results from passing through the three spaces show that an innovative setting was created in the region, thus establishing that a THM is present. The theoretical depth and accuracy by which it is implemented may be debated but nevertheless, there are strong traces of its being. Among other things, the TH setting meant new discursive practices, crystallisation of strategies, new organisational schemes and inclusiveness towards new actors.

By stepping through the three spaces, it is apparent that in the early 1990s the Öresund region had no recognised cross-border actors operating on behalf of the development of the region. The social structure that constituted the Öresund region was, at this time, mainly separated between Danish and Swedish national spheres that produced the regional discourses. However, the outlook on the concept of Öresund drastically changed from being a water passage shared by two national territories to a close cross-border cooperation due to Sweden's accession to the EU. Regional cooperation was able to form through the regional development programme Interreg IIA. The social structure was thus altered and slowly, a new way of looking at Öresund was being constructed. However, when discourse is produced or interpreted, it essentially draws on orders of discourse and social structures that exist in their background knowledge yet Öresund did not yet have a commonly determined social structure to draw upon. Nonetheless, as the EU involvement grew, actors formed, actors formed strategies, and strategies produced actions in the name of Öresund. Thus the Interreg programme enabled regional integration projects and merged region closer toward such a social structure that enabled the production and interpreting of discourse. As such Öresund

"discourse, and practice in general […] are both the products of structures and the producers of structures" (Fairclough 1989, p.39). This meant enforcement through the act of reproduction, which strengthened the Öresund discourse. Reproduction does not necessarily entail change (even though this may also be the case) but can be equally assertive for the discourse in the sense that reproduction sustains continuity. In effect, one of the overarching conclusions made from the empirical discussion is that the EU discourse and practice was influential in shaping, producing and strengthening an Öresund discourse or practices which in turn allowed for the construction of a TH discourse.

In general, the ØU projected confidence regarding their activities and practices as an organisational mechanism. They professed a growing influence on the regional integration process and make substantial claims in providing evidence that signify increasing curiosity and interest from actors external to the Öresund region in light of 'The Øresund Model'. However, simply due to the ØU's and ØSR's self-proclaimed successes in various aspect of promoting cross-border cross-sectoral collaboration does not necessarily denote utter triumph in the greater regional integration process. Through dissecting the discourse, it is evident that yes, the region has altered its mode of conducting activities. The implementation of a TH discourse modified, and perhaps even revolutionized, regional activity yet without pertaining to the larger Europeanisation process. Nevertheless, the region had been granted success and recognition from external actors due to the increased interest of 'The Øresund Model'' which is strongly based on knowledge based growth and fuelling innovation through a TH setting. However, little recognition is given to the EU involvement in the annual reports apart from the few figures that denote financial involvement. The empirical discussion clearly distinguishes that the EU discourse was highly influential in the construction of the ØU's and ØSR's discursive practices as well as the fact that the EU has been contributing financially through the entirety of the Öresund integration process. Still, few clear appraisals to the EU involvement were distinguishable in the annual reports reviewed. One of the few recognitions came from the Swedish politician, Ilmar Reepalu, that addressed the importance of the Interreg funding yet this statement was taken from outside of the realm of official documents and reports.

It also become quickly apparent that little recognition had been given beyond the own organisational structures of the leading regional actors. Much like the politicians emphasising their importance of creating a vision in the knowledge space, the consensus and innovation space was sealed with self-admiration. There was a hasty and majestic confidence boost in the early years of the ØU which could be directly spotted upon the reading of the official reports. In general, the annual reports mentions other actors involved but ostensibly depriving actors the credit for being fuel to the regional process. In one sense, the THM repeats that different sectoral actors may take each others place but then again, the lack of underlining specific lucrative behaviour from actors is strangely absent. It is a possibility that as an organizing mechanism that structures and administrates project activities, there is a need not to voice such disruptions as no sector has precedence over the other according to the THM.

The confidence panned over the annual reports where the descriptive texts pointed out developments, accomplishments and success - yet rarely failures. The only time failures were mentioned was generally in course with disagreements with national policies that were argued to prevent regional prosperity. Occasionally traces of 'non-success' could be found in the statements regarding challenges or difficult strategies for upcoming activities but rarely was there a critical evaluation of their own process. As such, the researcher's review process becomes indefinitely impaired and halting due to the lack of self-reflection in the annual reports. Perchance, the reason for omitting (even mild) failures is due to the young age of the organisations and in order to be perceived as a leading regional actor, success is the ticket to ride and the motto 'fake it until you make it' comes to mind. Although, it should be

highlighted that the ØU and ØSR had and still has a high success rate in regional projects but the lack of visible critical reflection in its annual reports renders the material questionable and potentially even incomplete. Ultimately, the confidence oozing consistently from the annual reports left a wary feeling in handling the material as the question of what else was omitted was raised. The fact that the annual reports became sparser in more recent year furthered the conclusion that the ØU perhaps had a halting organisation, a muddled and complex structure that did not allow for clear in-depth critical assessments.

Despite lack of recognition in annual reports, the growth of the regional actors had been tremendous during the few years of operation. Its most important organisational mechanism as a network umbrella included being receptive and inclusive to a varied number of project partners – a number that swiftly grew. Generally, the ability to attract representation from different spheres is hardship but in the case of the Öresund region, there was a seemingly incessant persistence among external actors in engaging in ØU and ØSR projects. As Etzkowitz (2008, p.79) points out, there is substantial difficulty in attracting actors sufficient credibility and decision-making power that not only formulate a viable plan but also carries it forward. The multitude of actors probably reproduced discursive practices and invited evermore actors to be enticed by the organisation. On the other hand, while there was a great increase in attracting partners for projects, there still was no formal decision-making power to formulate regulatory rules granted to the ÖC, ØU or ØSR. These Öresund actors merely induced their interests in the integration process. Notwithstanding, the social interaction produced by these actors can be established as informal yet important, productive and credible due to the variation of external actors operating within the various projects. The social structure had been altered with the aid of the TH discourse adopted by the leading regional actors because it allowed for new organisational schemes and inclusiveness.

Hence, it should be affirmed that the leading regional actors, but mainly the ØU and ØSR, forcefully applied the TH discourse in the social structure of the Öresund region. A general conclusion is that the TH discourse did not construct the Öresund as a political space but constructed a type of political space within the Öresund region through applying a TH discourse and practices in its activities. As a result of the empirical analysis, this study understands such a construction according to the below model.
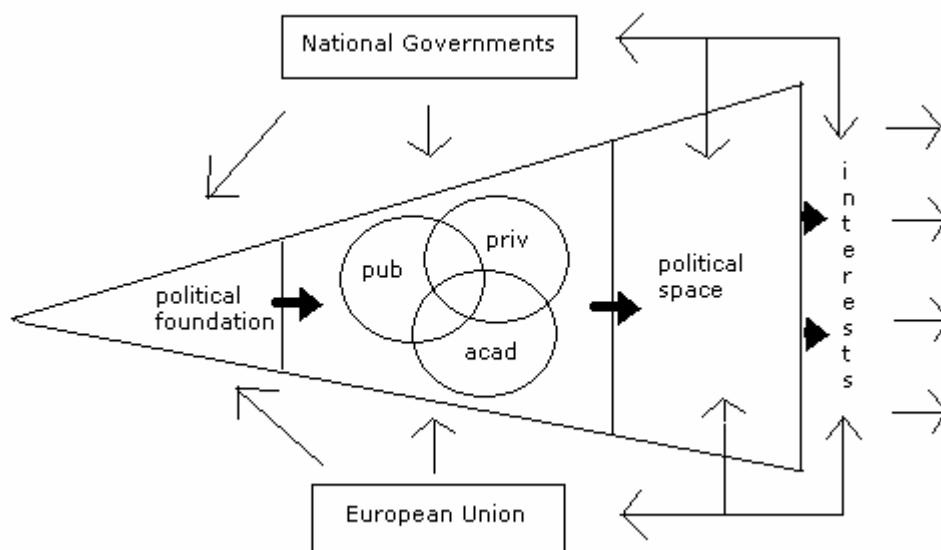

Figure 4 : The Flashlight Effect.

The figure illustrates the brushstrokes of the development from a traditional political foundation based upon the management of national spheres to a new type of political space where a new organisational scheme and discursive practices were welcomed and applied by a new group of actors that become included in the contest for political gain. Fundamentally, the Öresund integration process where a THM was adopted is resembled to a flashlight. The stimulant (the battery) is located at the left which is subsequently activated by the adoption and construction of a TH discourse. The on-switch is followed by an illuminated area that allows new elements to be identified. The rooms increasingly become larger as additional actors are invited to participate in the regional integration process.

In other words, the political foundation provides a traditional set up with input from national spheres and EU that serves as the stimulant for upcoming activities. Upon the decision by the ÖC to proceed with a vision for regional activity (such as the Öresund discourse), the political foundation moves into the next room that proceeds to develop a structure that in this case adopts a THM, therefore allowing the TH discourse to become intertwined in the regional integration process. The input from national and European levels is still present and assists as well as confines the construction of the political process. The TH discourse must then be firmly established as well as produce organizing mechanism(s) that sufficiently implements strategies formulated in joint strategy of cross-sectoral collaboration, which is recognised by outside actors. Now, the solid structure of a THM advances to the next room where a type of political space is present. The political space resides as a light bulb that is set off by the previous room. The political space features a new organisational scheme, crystallisation of strategies and discursive practices that are exercised by new actors that work for political gain, such as promoting collective Öresund interests. This space produces collective regional interests that move outward to other new actors that might be included in the political space but also back to national and European spheres that still provide input, yet at a varying pace.

Furthermore, some speculations regarding the THM conceptual framework should also be addressed. The new reality offered an enlarged arena for collective interests of multiple topical variations. In this sense, the ØU did not build the TH discourse but acquired successful practices in applying it to its organisational structure. The TH discourse offered understanding regarding an aspect of the Öresund's regional integration process. The complexity of the integration process cannot be described wholly by the involvement of a TH discourse as the Öresund integration process is an intricate development it has several perspectives to review the process by, such as democracy, identity, branding and policy-making. However, it did facilitate an account of how the pursuit for an innovative environment fuelled political practices that in turn influenced the social structure and the Öresund integration process. By examining the TH discourse, it has become evident that its application was a contributing factor to the process of integration, regardless of the extent to which the THM was applied. In sum of the developments shown in the model, the THM is regarded as a particular form of integration that highlights networks and cross-fertilization between public, private and academic sectors.

The THM, as noted in its description, has no well-established charter by which it is developed but the structure depends on the regional prerequisites and should be built thereafter. As such, it becomes difficult to determine and confirm which activities actually have lead to a THM as many instances can be argued in its favour and application. It is also strenuous to examine whether there is an even or uneven development and to what extent different actors take each other's roles. Perhaps such flexibility of application enabled the ØU and ØSR to, at least rhetorically, adopt the TH discourse as they mainly based their adoption premises on the aspects of cross-sectoral collaboration. Other features such as the focus on innovative practices were often disregarded in the formulation of strategies up until more

recent years. Mostly, the strategies provided and executed discussed the structure of cooperation and premises for regional integration rather than the outset goal for innovation, which is the core of the conceptual framework of THM. Nonetheless, in the practical implementation and activities there were traces of improving regional prerequisites for an innovative environment yet they were not always directly meddled through the annual reports.

The DA of the development of the Öresund region clearly showed that it proceeded through the three spaces that construct a TH setting. The application of TH discourse was used to invite actors in cross-sectoral collaborations in search for formulating strategies and executing strategies. Therefore it shaped a type of political space that was a social and symbolic arena that generated various collective interest that were forced upon national and supranational levels although a political space "does not necessarily involve direct confrontation with the state" (Villareal in Webster, & Engberg-Pedersen 2002, p. 80). Although the TH discourse was mounted by the ØU and ØSR, it still accomplished to involve several sets of new actors that shared and reproduced the discourse. In a sense, it is owned by the leading regional actors although constantly enforced through the adoption by the social structure that resides on the social arena. This is a dual and reciprocal relationship. The ØU and ØSR are organizing mechanisms that gather external actors from different sectors in mutual projects with the aspiration for regional development yet without such a network, there would most likely be a decrease in collaborative projects. On the other hand, the external actors are needed to reproduce, strengthen and alternatively alter the discourse that has built the recognised 'Öresund Model'. The benefits of applying a THM thus goes not to a single actor but to the sectors, namely those involved in the collaboration yet while the larger population and civil society still remains inactive and possibly oblivious of the cooperative form.

All things considered, the application of a social constructivist approach along with a dual discourse analysis package provided an engaging study of the implications of applying a TH discourse in a regional setting. The study allowed an assessment of how a type of political space may occur without being merely based on formal decision-making entities. It provided insight into the contemporary European integration process and how one perspective of regional integration may actually have a meaningful effect on political activity. Nevertheless, the pursuit of knowledge never rests which is why I propose that it would be interesting to inquire how a THM has affected those formal policy-making mechanisms in national respectively supranational entities. Also, it would be interesting to review how other regions that have sought inspiration from 'The Öresund Model' may have developed and to what extent the TH discourse is then acknowledged in this respect. In conclusion, the TH discourse influence on the construction of a type of political space proved to be conceptually appealing but the many gray areas in the conceptual framework made it difficult to translate the rhetorical adoption into practice. As a result, this pursuit to attain enhanced knowledge of the general regional integration process by studying an aspect of Öresund integration does not provide any definite or obvious answers for aspiring regions, although, it does present how one regional entity managed to bridge borders and construct a new type of political space thus provides a basis for future critical inquiry.

6 Executive Summary

The heart of this thesis originated from the interest in the regional integration process that has increasingly gained scholarly attention upon the emerging Europeanisation process. The regional integration process has been approached through several theories, approaches and conceptual frameworks that attempt to describe and explain these development. In this process, there has been a pattern developing that describe that new emerging geographical units are forming and in some cases they are gradually shifting their loyalty from the national perspective to other horizons as "a result of negotiations and compromises among the EU member states (McCormick 2005, p.25). Hence, EU member states are increasingly more involved in, e.g. transnational and cross-border networks opting for regional prosperity and is supported by regional funding programmes as "[t]erritorial cohesion and further economic integration have becomes essential prerequisites in the maintenance of effective and competitive regions in Europe" (Nordregio 2007). In this thesis, the focus has been placed on the Öresund region. The Öresund is originally the water passage that is located in the Southern Scandinavian Peninsula, but at present the Öresund region is described as a cross-border region encompassing the Eastern parts of Själland in Denmark, including metropolitan area Copenhagen, as well as the greater region of Skåne in South of Sweden. This area has a long shared history of moving borders and battling battles yet in the most recent decades a significant shift in actions occurred that has intensively changed the manner by which activities are pursued and produced in the Öresund region.

As the interest lies in the European integration process, the Öresund case became an appealing subject study due to its significant growth across numerous sectors over the past 15 years. By approaching the topic, it quickly became evident that the integration was complex with the potential of diving down on several themed strands. Finally, the interest rested on how collaboration across the water had intensified in terms of organisational strategies for growth and development. Apparently, a conceptual framework by the name of the Triple Helix Model (THM) had become a repeatedly applied model in relation to the leading regional organisations that lobby for collective Öresund interests. The THM pursues an innovative environment through the spiral collaboration of three sectors, namely public (government), private (businesses) and academia (universities and research centres). The main question asked thus became: how does a Triple Helix discourse construct Öresund as a political space? By asking this question it is possible to problematise an aspect of the complex integration process in the Öresund without attempting to wholly explain Öresund integration. The hope is to acquire an enhanced understanding for the general process and how this may have lead to construct a new space that handled and included actors from this specific regional sphere. It was important to place the discussion on a timeline as it helps provide validity and reliability in collecting and handling material for the forthcoming empirical discussion.

In order to pursue the analysis, the traditional conception of a political space needed to be superseded by a new definition that read "[p]olitical space entails a crystallization of strategies, organizational schemes and discursive practices whereby an actor or a group of actors are included in a particular contest for political gains" (Villareal in Webster, & Engberg-Pedersen 2002, p. 80). To summarize, a new political space emerges when the institutional scheme is altered by forming new strategies for co-operation, negotiation and contestation in order to challenge the different and new dimensions of the regional set up and prerequisites. "Cross-border initiatives often involve the development of new forms of political space and may provide opportunities for local governance to respond to the broader re-negotiation and reordering of political space taking place in Europe (Anderson in Church & Reid 1999, p.645).

The analysis is based on the ontological claim of social constructivism that asserts that agents are not independent of their social environment but that the social construction of interests and preferences are significant. Therefore cannot interests come externally but are constructed and reproduced through daily practices. The choice of social constructivism limited the methods available for analysis and discourse analysis was chosen as an appropriate approach as it serves both theoretical and methodological claims that are consistent with social constructivism. The framework chosen was a three dimensional analysis from Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) yet without applying the critical theory aspect.

The empirical discussion traced the TH discourse development through three spaces (knowledge, consensus and innovation space) that lead to a self-sufficient innovative setting according to a THM. The development showed that in the early 1990s, the region had been highly influenced by national spheres but upon the accession by Sweden to the European Union (EU), new funds were made available to further regional integration. The Interreg programme became in conjunction with a political forum for cross-border dialogue, the Öresund Committee (ÖC), a source for a vision encircling the Öresund region. The development was sparse in the primary years but soon the Øresund University (ØU) emerged as an initiative of the political forum, supported by the Interreg programme. The ØU was instated as a collaborative network for universities in the region but soon transpired past these outset boundaries upon its creation of topic-specific platforms. These platforms were gathered under Øresund Science Region (ØSR). The ØU and ØSR quickly progressed from being under the politically oriented ÖC to prosper a new collaborative form that went hand in hand with the THM. New projects were instigated in the name of the Öresund integration process and gathered actors from three different sectors. The ØU and ØSR had found their winning concept and continued to work under the premises of a THM thus furthering the TH discourse. The construction of the Öresund discourse continued to be reinforced as there were a growing number of actors involved in furthering the integration process. Eventually, the process of tracing the TH discourse through three spaces proved that the THM had been fully adopted, at least rhetorically but with vague validity in terms of theoretical depth. Nevertheless, the collaborative form that had come to distinguish the Öresund region was collected under one concept, namely 'The Øresund Model, which tickled the curiosity of European as well as global actors that served it with acknowledgements.

The main conclusion made were that the TH discourse had not constructed the Öresund region as a political space but rather that a type of political space had been constructed within the Öresund region. By proceeding through the three spaces, the definition of political space was clearly visible as there was a new formation of strategies and organisational schemes along with the construction and reproduction of new discursive practice that invited actor(s) to be included in contest for political gains. However, the relationship between the leading regional actors and the external actors from different sectors seemed to be a delicate one as it was a highly dependent relationship. The ØU and ØSR were highly dependent on the involvement of external actors in order to further and reproduce their social and discursive practices while the external actors needed the ØU and ØSR as a catalyst for projects regarding regional integration. As a result, the TH discourse was considered to provide a type of integration that highlights networks and cross-fertilization between public, private and academic sectors.

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8 Appendix I

The translated quotes found in the empirical discussion (section 6.1) can be reviewed in its original as well as translated form below. The quotes are first in its original form, namely Danish or Swedish, followed by the translations in English. The quotes originally acquired in English will not be recited here.

Knowledge Space

1) "År 2000 ska Öresundsregionen framstå som Nordeuropas dynamiska centrum – som motorn, som leder utvecklingen i hela norra Europa, bade politiskt och ekonomiskt. Med den nya infrastrukturen som utgångspunkt ska regionen ses som en kommersiell och befolkningsmässig enhet med en tydlig, unik och internationell profil. Med sin historiska bakgrund, sin unika livskvalitet, sin kultur, den högutbildade befolkningen och de speciella näringslivskompetenserna fungerar regionen som en magnet för företag, turister och nya invånare."
"Year 2000 the Öresund Region shall be Northern Europe's dynamic centre – the motor, that drives the development in all of Northern Europe, both politically and economically. With the new infrastructure as a departure point the region shall be seen as a commercial and population unit with a clear, unique and international profile. With its historical background, its unique quality of life, its culture, the well-educated population and the special private sector competences the region acts as a magnet for companies, tourists and new inhabitants"
(ÖC Birth, p.1)

2) "Utmaningen ligger i att skapa en vision som når ut till den övriga världen och erbjuder kvaliteter, som ingen annan region kan ställa upp med. En vision, som är baserad på våra kompentenser och våra konkurrensmässiga fördelar som räcker långt in i framtiden."
"The challenge lies in creating a vision, that reaches out to the rest of the world and offers qualities, which no other region can offer. A vision, that is based on our competencies and our competition based advantages and that reaches long into the future" (ÖC Birth, p.5)

3) "Öresundsregionen blir en av EUropas viktigaste regioner. Den blir norra Europas politiska och ekonomiska centrum – och blir drivkraften för utvecklingen i hela området."
"The Öresund region becomes one of Europe's most important regions. It becomes Northern Europe's political and economic centre – and becomes the driving force for development in the entire area" (ÖC Birth, p.16)

4) "Den nya "metropolen" blir ett nordeuropeiskt centrum, kring vilket de politiska samt de ekonomiska och näringslivsmässiga intressena kan samlas – och utgå ifrån."
"The new 'metropolis' becomes a North European centre, around which the political initiatives as well as the economic and private sphere's interests can gather – and depart from." (ÖC Birth, p.5).

Consensus Space

5) "Øresundsuniversitet har i 1998 vist sig at vøre et vigtigt politisk signal sådan som den almindelige debat vedrørende forventningerna til Øresundsregionens udvikling [...] har formet sig."
"The Öresund University has in 1998 shown to be an important political signal in that the public debate refer to the expectations of the Öresund Region's development" (ØU 1998, p.2)

6) "1999 blev således året hvor Øresundsuniversitetet gik fra at være et vigtigt politisk signal til at være en af de mest aktive og længt udviklede Øresundsaktörer."
"1999 thus became the year when the Öresund University went from being an important political signal to being one of the most active and furthest developed Öresund actors" "(ØU 1999, p.2)

7) "Samarbejde omkring forskning og udnytelse af deltagerinstitutionernes respective kompetenceområder er en af grundforudsætningerne for at opnå en synergieffekt i Øresunduniversitetssamarbejdet"
"Cooperation surrounding research and benefiting from the partaking institutions' respective competence areas are one of the basic components in achieving a synergy effect in the Öresund University cooperation" (ØU 1998, p.6).

8) "betydelige midler til udvikling af det regionale samarbejde mellem universiteter, erhvervsliv, og offentlige myndigheter"
"meaningful means to the development of the regional cooperation between universities, private industry and public authorities" (ØU 1999, p.2)

9) "planering och kontakter med intressenter inom forskningsvärlden, näringslivet samt organisationer och myndigheter"
"planning and contacts of stakeholders within the research sector, private industry as well as organizations and public authorities"
 (ØU 1999, p.7)

10) "systematiskt byggt upp kontaktnät och goda relationer med relevanta organisationer"
"systematically built a contact network and good relations with relevant organizations" (ØU 1999, p.8)

11) "udviklingen mellem universiteter, erhvervliv og offentlige myndigheter" *"development between universities, private sector and public authorities"* (ØU 2001, p.6)

12) "universiteter, offentlige myndigheter og ehvervsliv"
"universities, public authorities, and private sector" (ØU 2001, p.10)

15) "forstærkning af kontakterne mellem ehrvervsliv, offentlige myndigheter og universiteter"
"enforcement of the contacts between private sector, public authorities and universities"
 (ØU 2002, p.9)

13) "Samarbejde omkring forskning og udnytelse af deltagerinstitutionernes respective kompetenceområder er en af grundforudsætningerne for at opnå en synergieffekt i Øresunduniversitetssamarbejdet"
 "[c]ooperation surrounding research and benefitting from the partaking institutions' respective competence areas are one of the basic components in achieving a synergy effect in the Öresund University cooperation" (ØU 1999, p.2)

14) "Håbet med Interreg IIIA Øresundsregionen er, at programmet skal tage skridtet videre og bygge varige samarbejdsrelationer, fælles institutioner samt realisere visionen om at Øresundsregionen bliver en funktionel og integreret region"

"The hope of Interreg IIIA Öresund Region is that the program shall take the next step and build sustainable relationships, joint institutions and realise the vision that the Öresund region becomes a functional and integrted region" (Interreg IIIA report 2002, p.6).

Innovation Space

15) "sikre dialogen og udvikligen af strukturer mellem de tre kerneaktører"
"securing dialogue and development of structures between three core actors (sectors)"
(ÖU 2000, p.7)

16) "bidrar till genom att stärka kontakterna däremellan samt delta och vara en aktiv part i samarbetet"
"contributed through strengthening contacts between as well as being an active part of the cooperation"(ØU 2007, p.6)

17) "Öresund Science Region finansieras av en triple-helix struktur"
"Öresund Science Region is financed by a triple-helix structure" (ØSR 2006, p.3)

18) "starkt styrda av finansiärerna till specifika ändamål"
"strongly governed by the financiers for specific purposes"(ØU 2008, p.8).

19) "en av de store Öresundssatsningarna någonsin startades under året."
"one of the larger Öresund promotions ever initiated" (ØU 2006, p.4)

20) "den internationella nyfikenheten är alltså extremt stor och Øresundsregionen har ett mycket bra tillfälle till positive internationell profilering."
"[t]he international curiosity is thus extremely wide and the Øresund region has a very good opportunity for positive international profiling. (ØU 2006, p.6)

21) "erkänd och viktig actor i Skandinaviens största och mest dynamiska region. Det är ocks en av de kändaste crossborder institutions i Europa idag"
"recognised and important actor in Scandinavia's largest and most dynamic region. It is also one of the most well-known cross-border institutions in Europe today" (ØU 2007, p.2)

22) "det hände inte mycket i Öresundskomiteen förrän EU:s interregpengar kom. Utan dessa pengar hade inte kommittén varit något annat än ett något större och kanske något intensivare Öresundsråd"
"much didn't happen in the ÖC until the EU's Interreg-money came. Without this money the Committee wouldn't have been anything else than a large and maybe more intensive Öresund forum"[…] (ÖC 10 years 2003, p.5).

23) "får vi inte fler pengar därifrån kommer inte kommittén att kunna motiveras. Men hittills har den utan tvekan varit ett nödvändigt organ"
"if we don't get any more money from [Interreg] the ÖC will not be able to be motivated. But up until now it has most certainly been a necessary organ" (ÖC 10 years 2003, p.5).