

Volt Skåne Policy program 2022

volt

Den paneuropeiska
politiska rörelsen

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New policies for Scania

The European Union has ensured peace and prosperity for its member states for over 70 years, growing from economic cooperation to a wider community with its own European identity. But national interests still win over the common ones, which hurts all member states in the long run. Volt was founded as a response to lacking European integration, with a vision of a more democratic, dynamic and united Europe.

Volt wants to see a EU that guarantees the rights and equal conditions of all citizens – regardless of ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, or gender identity. Volt is working for a EU with a strong rule of law and robust democratic institutions – one which engages citizens in democratic processes even outside the polling stations. Volt wants to see a solidary EU that stands up for international systems, takes initiative, fights for democracy and human rights, and shows leadership to respond to the major challenges of our time.

Volt, with members all across Europe, builds bridges and shares the best policy solutions to societal challenges from all European countries. As a pan-European party, we are going into the Swedish election with a common vision and a common European policy that all members of Volt have formed, regardless of nationality, and which applies in all countries where we are active.

Strengthen integration across the Öresund

The Öresund region has unique historical, cultural, and economic ties and Scania's prosperity is deeply linked to the development on the Danish side of the Öresund. But overall integration across the Öresund has declined in recent years, which has cost Sweden and Denmark billions in lost potential according to the report Öresundsindex 2022. Volt wants to act on both sides of the strait, together with our party members in Volt Denmark, to drive an ambitious policy that turns the tide and deepens integration across the Öresund.

The reduced integration in the Öresund is mainly due to fewer passenger trips across the strait. Therefore, Volt wants to put extra emphasis on policy facilitating travel in Öresund, to break the negative trend and speed up the recovery after the pandemic.

Support the construction of the Öresund Metro

The Öresund metro project intends to build a metro line directly between Malmö and Copenhagen. Such a metro line would halve the commuting time between Malmö and Copenhagen to 20 minutes, expand the labor market by half a million people who can reach more workplaces within an hour's commute, and remove passenger traffic from the train network, increasing capacity for freight traffic. The four investigations that have been published so far have shown many positive effects for the region and established a possible plan for financing. A final decision must be made within the coming years and Volt wants to work to make the Öresund Metro a reality.

Make public transport across Öresund cheaper

Large parts of Scania have a well-developed and well-functioning public transport system, but Volt believes that prices in public transport are too high in the region, and especially for trips to Denmark. A train ticket from Malmö to Copenhagen is approximately 20% more expensive than a ticket to Helsingborg, despite the similar travel time. In the Öresund region, it should not cost more to travel across the sound than it does within the rest of Scania. Therefore, Volt wants to lower the price of public transport in Scania and especially make it cheaper to travel across the Öresund, to promote mobility in the region and reduce car dependence.

Remove the tolls on the Öresund Bridge

The Öresund Bridge has more than repaid its cost in the growth and services the bridge has made possible. Volt believes it is time to scrap the tolls on the bridge, to remove this brake on growth.

Formalize the cooperative project Greater Copenhagen Area into a pure Eurodistrict

The increased integration in the Öresund region means that citizens are more affected by the decisions made on the other side of the strait than before, and Volt therefore believes that Öresund needs joint democratic decision-making and common institutions. Volt wants to work to establish a Eurodistrict in Öresund, similar to those found in the border regions of Strasbourg-Ortenau, Basel-Lörrach-St Louise, and Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai. The project Greater Copenhagen Area forms a natural basis for establishing such a district.

In a Eurodistrict, the national regions and their functions are replaced by a common region across the entire district. This is governed by a joint district council where representatives are elected by all residents of the region, similar to today's regional elections. The Eurodistrict model has been very successful in the border regions where it has been tested. In a Eurodistrict, among other things, public transport and healthcare are shared and integrated. Eurodistricts streamline the use of common resources and enable more ambitious and far-reaching development plans, all under democratic control.

Close Malmö Airport

Copenhagen Airport has both more and better connections than Malmö Airport, and is easier to get to as a result of the train line. The main routes served by Malmö Airport can be reached quickly and efficiently by train. Volt believes that Malmö Airport is redundant and proposes that it be closed. The freed land should be used for other purposes, for example for housing.

Improve Scania's European integration

Scania's future and prosperity depend on Europe and the opportunities the EU has given us. The major challenges we face are shared with the rest of the EU. Problems such as the

electricity shortage, the high consumer prices, global warming, and the refugee crisis caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine must be tackled with common, European measures in order to be solved in a sustainable and long-term way. Volt believes that Sweden and Scania should take a constructive and active role and participate in these European solutions.

Expand Scania's wind power

Despite Sweden's highest electricity prices, new wind power projects in Scania have been blocked with municipal vetoes and no new land-based wind power has been planned in the last four years. The high electricity prices in Scania are a direct consequence of the wider European energy crisis and Europe's dependence on fossil energy sources. However, the crisis has also presented a unique opportunity to transition to a fossil-free energy supply once and for all. With its geography, Scania is in an excellent position to actively contribute to this transition and lead the way in the upcoming European green transition by investing in the expansion of wind power. Volt therefore wants to expand Scanian wind power in order to relieve the high electricity prices in Scania in the short term, as well as contribute to the European electricity market to compete with fossil energy sources and reduce Europe's import dependence on Russian oil and gas.

Improve electric interconnections to the continent

Scania's current electric infrastructure is insufficient to export all its surplus wind energy to Europe, leading to very large local, weather dependent price fluctuations. Volt wants to promote the construction of additional interconnections, ensuring that surplus wind energy can be exported. This would greatly benefit Sweden's green energy sector, as well as reduce overall fossil fuel consumption in the EU.

Plan for the opportunities the Fehmarn-Bält tunnel brings to Scania

The planned Fehmarn-Bält tunnel between Denmark and Germany will improve the Öresund region's connections to the continent and have a major impact on Scania. The tunnel will, among other things, mean increased freight and passenger traffic by train and car, change the conditions for importing and exporting goods from Scania, and simplify travel to the continent.

To take maximum advantage of the Fehmarn Belt Tunnel, Volt wants to work proactively and start investigating and planning for the opportunities the tunnel provides for imports, exports and tourism, and also review the train network to ensure that the increased traffic can be handled.

Make it easier for Erasmus students and other international students to find housing during and after their studies

The Swedish housing market is difficult to penetrate for outsiders. As more and more international students, especially European Erasmus students, apply to Scania universities, finding housing must become easier. These students also value to find it attractive to stay after the studies so that this potential competence does not leave the region. Volt wants to review the possibility of creating collaborative agreements between municipal housing companies, universities, student associations and companies that offer student housing to make it easier for Erasmus students to find housing.

Invest in the expansion of Scania cities

Scania is growing in step with increasing European integration, and Scania's cities must follow the development. Volt wants to see modern, vibrant and accessible Scania cities

Dense, accessible, car-free cities in Scania

The housing crisis makes moving to Scania difficult, and reduces mobility between it and the rest of the EU. Volt wants to pursue policies that expand and densify Scania's cities. Volt wants to promote construction of new mixed-use housing, while ensuring efficient use of the area and avoiding segregation and poor connectivity.

Volt wants to continue investigating possibilities for how Scania cities can be further densified. Examples of this could be repurposing centrally located parking lots or allotments and could also include bringing both highways and railways underground, which currently form major barriers in our cities.

Volt draws inspiration from Amsterdam, which over the past 25 years has succeeded in significantly reducing car traffic in the city, and wants to bring these Dutch solutions to achieve the same for Scania's cities. Volt also draws inspiration from Vienna, which has achieved accessible, high-quality, and affordable housing with its social housing projects, even amidst the global housing shortage. This system has also promoted social integration in the city.

Improve cycling infrastructure in and between cities

Volt wants to see a reduction in car use in cities, to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and particle pollution, and make cities more accessible. It should be easier to choose the bike over the car. Therefore, Volt wants to review the bicycle infrastructure in and between Scania cities to expand the bicycle network, identify the need for new bicycle parking, and identify streets that can be converted to pedestrian and bicycle paths.

Expand municipal support for association life and civil society

Volt sees associational life as an obvious cornerstone of a dynamic and inclusive civil society. Associations build community, support integration and promote innovation and creativity. Volt also believes that it is important for citizens to be able to organize themselves and actively participate in municipal democracy without having to be involved in party politics. Even then, associational life plays a major role in building bridges between citizens and elected officials. Volt therefore wants to increase the municipal support for association life and make it easier to create and run associations. Volt wants the municipalities to offer more bookable premises and spaces, and create spaces for associations to reach out to and interact with the public.