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Project outline
"FBQ - Fördern – Bilden – Qualifizieren" (Advancement – Training – Qualifications)
in constructing the Fehmarnbelt link

- On 26 March and 18 June 2009, the Danish and German parliaments decided in favour of constructing a link across the Fehmarnbelt. This important decision created a good basis for the development of even closer ties between the two countries and in northern Europe as a whole. Alongside ferry lines and air transport, bridges and tunnels provide key links between countries that are separated by bodies of water. Any link requires the solid foundation that comes from positive cultural coexistence among the populations concerned. Cross-border labour markets therefore become increasingly important when such links are constructed. We see this as being the case for Germany and Denmark in the regions of Sønderjylland and Schleswig-Flensburg.

- The main focus of the attached project outline is providing young people from Denmark and Germany with joint vocational training during the construction of the Fehmarnbelt link. The training will conform to Danish and German training laws and will include developing German, Danish and English language skills.

- An estimated 7,000 workers will be required during the construction phase of the link. This project proposes training between 600 and 800 young German and Danish apprentices during this time and allowing them to take the final examination in line with Danish and German law.

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- A limited number of young people from the Baltic States could also be integrated into the training programme.

- It would doubtless be possible to secure additional funding from European sources, such as the European Social Fund, the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, etc.

- One way of implementing the scheme would be to found a training and qualification company which would employ the apprentices and would organise, during the construction phase, the three-and-a-half-year apprenticeship in all trades and business sectors in the company and the businesses involved in building the link.

- Ideally, the apprenticeship should be developed in cooperation with the German and Danish chambers of crafts and chambers of industry and commerce. This is because the project aims to provide the apprentices with bilingual training that will qualify them for the common labour market.

- The "FBQ – Fördern – Bilden – Qualifizieren" project is designed to strengthen, during the construction of the fixed link across the Fehmarnbelt, socio-economic relationships in the region by harnessing the growth effects that will result from building the link. The FBQ project is primarily concerned with the future of young people in the Fehmarnbelt region, which is why it aims to provide young people with transnational training. The exact objectives of the initiative are as follows:

  - Providing transnational vocational training and qualification that leads to a multifunctional qualification and international employment perspectives with training certificates recognised in Germany and Denmark; ensuring a high level of transnational mobility through multilingualism and multicultural competence
  - Providing young people with training in skilled occupations for the new transnational joint economic region
  - Disseminating Danish and German training standards in the Baltic Sea region
  - Strengthening cooperation between trainers of different nationalities
  - Transferring knowledge and competences, boosting collaboration
  - Mutually recognising vocational qualifications.
  - Completing a unique, joint apprenticeship project – the Fehmarnbelt link
  - Creating high-quality apprenticeships and jobs
  - Developing a well-trained, flexible and mobile workforce, and a high degree of inclusion
  - Making the region more competitive and attractive by achieving a high level of employment