Malmo: A city in transition

The Swedish city of Malmö lies at the southern point of Sweden and is the gateway between Sweden and Denmark. Malmo dates back to the early 13th century, when under Danish rule it developed as a key commercial port for Europe. Malmo continued to grow with the introduction of the Kockums in 1840. From 1840 to the mid-1970s, Malmö’s growth continued to flourish. Like many Swedish cities, the manufacturing recession of the mid-1970s bought unemployment and population decline. Malmo transitioned from a manufacturing hub into a knowledge city with a strong focus on sustainable planning. Malmö has become a multicultural city with vibrant neighbourhoods and successful new developments such as the Western Harbour. The Øresund bridge has increased its linkages with Denmark and Europe providing easy access for employment and residential opportunities. The success of the city will be measured in its ability to adapt to its new found multiculturalism and continued sustainable and ecological development.