

**OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME UNDER THE
'INVESTMENT FOR GROWTH AND JOBS' GOAL**

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1. STRATEGY FOR THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNION STRATEGY FOR SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL COHESION

1.1 Strategy for the operational programme's contribution to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and to the achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion

1.1.1 Description of the programme's strategy for contributing to the delivery of the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and for achieving economic, social and territorial cohesion.

Europe will face a number of challenges over the next seven years. Some of the most pressing are demographic development, high unemployment, financial instability and increased globalisation. A number of targeted investments for sustainable growth and employment are necessary for EU Member States and regions in this situation. The funds included in the Common Strategic Framework (CSF) [1] are an important and complementary element in national and regional efforts for sustainable growth, employment and competitiveness.

The East Middle Sweden Region is one of the many Structural Funds regions in Europe willing to actively tackle these challenges. The region, consisting of the counties of Uppsala, Västmanland, Sörmland, Östergötland and Örebro, bases its programme for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) on the priorities that exist in the regional development plans (RDPs) and regional development strategies (RDSs) of the counties included. The counties have identified a number of objectives and operations to strengthen regional growth in the RDPs/RDSs. All the strategies highlight the importance to the region of being a good environment for entrepreneurship, business development and innovations. These areas are universally regarded as essential to regional growth and development. The significance of a functioning supply of skills for the whole county is common to all the strategies. Linked to this, there are often objectives relating to raised level of education, but also objectives regarding increased collaboration between education and training coordinators and employers to achieve a better match in the labour market. In addition to this, the counties' needs for increased availability and a functioning infrastructure and public transport are highlighted as essential for the region's development, as this creates the necessary conditions for increased commuting and regional enlargement.

To summarise, it can be said that these strategic policy documents are aimed at creating good conditions at county level for high employment, good productivity, social cohesion and sustainable growth. This is fully in line with the EU's growth strategy Europe 2020.

The strategies have been devised in broad collaboration between different stakeholders such as the municipality, the county council, the business community, universities, colleges, non-governmental organisations and civil society.

The fact that the programme is based on the counties' RDPs/RDPs also ensures a clear bottom-up perspective which is important for the programme to have active regional ownership.

In the same way that Europe 2020 is based on sustainable development, the ERDF programme of East Middle Sweden is to be used for operations that contribute to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and societal development. In practical terms, it means increased cooperation across sector boundaries, levels of society and territories to build structures for more sustainable societal development in East Middle Sweden and in relation to regions around the Baltic Sea and in the rest of Europe. East Middle Sweden also aspires to contribute to fulfilling the objectives of the Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region through the programme. It also means that the horizontal criteria such as gender equality, environment and integration will be consistently interpreted in the programme as growth-promoting factors. In practical terms, this means that the criteria can provide inspiration, for example for business models, ideas and concepts for ways in which the welfare sector can be vitalised and renewed and make an overall contribution to a more sustainable societal structure.

The Partnership Agreement

The Partnership Agreement represents the national strategic framework for the next Structural Fund period and indicates focus and priorities as a basis for use of the funds. There therefore has to be a close link to the operational programme. The analysis in Sweden's Partnership Agreement emphasises the following aspects in particular:

Sweden is becoming increasingly globalised and subject to competition, which demands well-trained labour, high-quality research and innovation, and functioning infrastructure. Level of education is of great significance to the ability of society to develop and be transformed. There is a regional imbalance in the distribution of people with a high level of education, which has consequences for long-term regional development. R&D investments in the private sector, in particular, need to increase, and entrepreneurial competence needs to be enhanced, especially in rural areas and among young people, women and people born abroad. It is also desirable to profile leading universities and increase collaboration with stakeholders from trade and industry.

The Government has a vision for Sweden to have zero net greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere in 2050. The challenge is to combine growth with a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, which several regions have nevertheless succeeded in doing in recent years. Greenhouse gas emissions vary greatly from region to region, principally due to differences in business structure. Domestic transport accounts for a third of emissions. Sweden is greatly affected by a changed climate, and the consequences vary with local and regional circumstances. The risk of flooding in lakes and rivers will increase, for example. Efforts to switch to a more sustainable energy system and sustainable business development provide a basis for the development of technology, products and services, and in the longer term also increased employment and business creation.

The most important objective of employment policy is to bring about a lasting increase in employment. The increase needs to take place primarily in groups with a weak attachment to the labour market, such as young people and persons born abroad. There is

also a need for the employment rate among women to rise. Increasing unemployment in recent years has hit all regions and population groups hard, but young people born abroad, people with disabilities and people with a low level of education have been particularly affected. Long-term unemployment has also increased and today poses a significant structural challenge. Demographic development and an ageing population are leading to problems in obtaining a long-term sustainable supply of labour.

There is a great imbalance with regard to where in the country economic activity is located. The metropolitan regions (Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmö) together account for 57 % of GDP, but 40 % of real growth in GDP took place outside these regions over the period 2000-2010. The sparsely populated parts of the country face lasting challenges related to the way the local market functions and access to other national and international markets. Sparse population leads to higher costs for public and commercial service functions, which are important for the inhabitants and local trade and industry. The cities are of a great significance as drivers of growth for their surrounding regions. It is therefore important to look at cities in a functional regional perspective. Deficiencies in transport infrastructure can restrict the switching and internationalisation of regional trade and industry. Access to high-speed broadband is a key factor in stimulating new business opportunities, services and innovations. Good electronic communications are particularly important to growth, enterprise and housing for rural areas and other sparsely populated regions.

The Partnership Agreement and the link to the operational programmes of East Middle Sweden

Like the national analysis, the analysis for East Middle Sweden shows that the demographic challenges and an ageing population will be significant for the future supply of labour [2]. The analysis for East Middle Sweden also takes account of the significance of education and training for the labour market, and the capacity of the region and society to develop and be transformed. Like the country as a whole, East Middle Sweden has an intraregional imbalance which, in the longer term, can have consequences for development of the region [3]. As in the national analysis, East Middle Sweden also sees great challenges in relation to unemployment, particularly among certain population groups, such as young people, people born abroad and those with a low level of education [4]. Many of these structural challenges are tackled principally in the draft regional action plan for the European Social Fund, although they have a bearing on all the chosen thematic objectives and the investment priorities within this programme. For example, increased growth for trade and industry in the region ought to lead to increased employment and improved prospects for reduced social exclusion.

East Middle Sweden comes out well in international comparisons on innovation climate. There are, however, wide intraregional differences in access to research resources as also identified by the national analysis. The analysis points to the region's strong and research-intensive universities, while the ability of enterprises to attract R&D investments needs to be improved. This can be done through increased collaboration with trade and industry and surrounding society [5]. East Middle Sweden therefore has to make efforts under this programme to strengthen and preserve its position as a leading region for innovation. Alongside this development, national and regional analysis shows that entrepreneurial expertise needs to be enhanced and trade and industry need to be

given the right conditions for growth in order to boost employment throughout the region. Initiatives that support this are also included in the programme.

Increasing growth without increasing carbon dioxide emissions is identified as a major challenge in the national analysis and the partnership agreement. This perception is shared by East Middle Sweden, which needs to reduce emissions and improve energy efficiency. The regional analysis shows that emissions of climate-changing gases in the region per head of population are greater in East Middle Sweden than in the country as a whole. The greatest potential for reducing emissions is in the transport sector. With its geographical logistic location, East Middle Sweden needs to make better strategic use of sustainable innovative transport solutions. At the same time, the greatest potential for improved energy efficiency is in industry and the domestic sector [6]. All the identified challenges guide the selection of operations in the programme.

Selected priority axes for East Middle Sweden

East Middle Sweden has chosen to prioritise three thematic objectives and priority axes. These are:

- strengthening research, technological development and innovation
- enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs
- supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors

The selection of thematic objectives and priorities for investment is based on and can be justified by the analysis produced for the region, in which strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities are identified.

There then follows a brief description of how this ERDF programme for East Middle Sweden 2014-2020 more specifically contributes to the growth strategy of Europe based on the three priority axes for East Middle Sweden.

Priority axis 1: Strengthening research, technological development and innovation

The Europe 2020 strategy

A crucial part of the Europe 2020 strategy is smart growth with increased innovation, research and a raised level of employment. An important measure in order to attain this objective is to improve the conditions and access to funding for research and innovation. Innovative ideas should also, to a greater extent, be converted into products and services that create sustainable growth and jobs. The EU's flagship initiative, the 'Innovation Union', aims to make Europe the world leader in science and innovation. The obstacles to ideas reaching the market existing at present are to be abolished. These include expensive patenting, market fragmentation, slow setting of standards and shortage of skills. The ways in which the public sector, trade and industry, universities and colleges and central government cooperate also need to change. This is to be done, in particular, through innovation partnerships between enterprises and European institutions, national and regional authorities. At national level, the Innovation Union states that the Member State has to reform national (and regional) R&D and innovation systems to promote top-level skills and smart specialisation. In addition, cooperation between universities, research and the business sector is to be strengthened, while cross-border cooperation is

to increase in areas where the EU provides added value. All the strategic programmes underpinning the Structural Funds 2014-2020 emphasise that strengthened innovation and research are decisive in ensuring smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

Identified regional challenges

The analysis produced for East Middle Sweden identifies a number of regional challenges that have guided the preparation of the programme and which the programme is intended to address. These are:

- need to create extended collaboration between academia, trade and industry and society to contribute to a higher level of innovation
- intra-regional differences with regard to access to research resources and innovation support systems
- need for increased innovation capacity among the region's small and medium-sized enterprises
- the enterprises' investments in R&D are relatively low
- there are fewer investments in organisational, market or social innovations than in technical innovations
- weak commercialisation of innovations

The analysis shows that East Middle Sweden accounts for a significant proportion of total Swedish R&D expenditure and is ranked as one of the leading innovation regions in the EU. In addition, East Middle Sweden has a number of identified [7] leading research infrastructures which, from the Swedish point of view, are highlighted as suitable to take part in ESFRI cooperation [8]. The region also has very good prospects for innovation and renewal in comparison with the majority of European regions, which can be partly explained by an expanded system of innovation support where universities and colleges, business incubators, technology parks, cluster platforms and other research institutions and innovation platforms provide the foundation. The position of East Middle Sweden does not just mean a responsibility to manage but also a requirement to continue to develop the innovation system and growth-creating measures and investments in innovative enterprises in East Middle Sweden.

The analysis shows that, although the innovation and business climate in East Middle Sweden is very good in comparison with many European regions, the commercialisation of innovative products and the development of fast-growing innovative enterprises in Sweden and East Middle Sweden are below the EU average. The reasons for this include deficiencies in collaboration between academia and trade and industry, deficiencies in existing innovation infrastructure and other obstacles to facilitating introduction onto the market. The analysis also indicates that the capacity of trade and industry for renewal and adaptation to constantly changing conditions in the world at large is of decisive significance for the development of society and sustainable growth. The innovation capacity of the region plays a crucial role in this renewal.

East Middle Sweden must also continue to be at the forefront of innovation in order to create good conditions for enhanced competitiveness and, for example, modernisation of trade and industry. An improved innovation structure is required for this purpose with a more cohesive and strengthened innovation system in the whole region to increase

innovative capacity. To contribute to attaining the innovation goal in the Europe 2020 strategy, East Middle Sweden must additionally focus on more enterprises being involved in innovation processes, increase the number of international cooperations and increase innovation efforts in the borderland between universities and colleges, trade and industry and society. The various innovation systems within and between the counties should also be linked together in a way that strengthens the total innovative capacity of the whole of East Middle Sweden, and collaboration between stakeholders in Stockholm and the rest of the world should be developed. The innovation systems transcending county and regional boundaries also need to be strengthened in those parts of the region that today do not have good prospects of developing their own systems.

The analysis shows that enterprises' investments in R&D are relatively low, and the investments that are made take place in a small number of enterprises, which may be due in part to access to capital for innovation and research investments.

There is also a clear concentration of investments in innovation taking place in East Middle Sweden, with technical innovation making up the greater part of the investments. This is thought to be due to the strong industrial tradition that has been characteristic of the region for a long period of time. Organisational or market innovations are somewhat weaker, and the social [9] and ecological innovations are the relatively least developed areas and must be strengthened further.

The operations are also needed to face up to challenges such as climate change, energy and resource efficiency and health and demographic changes, in accordance with the Europe 2020 strategy. The analysis also identifies the relatively strong knowledge centres in energy and environmental technology located in the region, which means that there are good prospects of introducing new technology that reduces emissions and improves energy efficiency.

Experience from previous period

Experience from the previous period shows that entrepreneurship operations that were integrated with innovation projects were more successful than projects that focused solely on entrepreneurship as such. The operations for regional innovation environments nevertheless appear inventive and successful. Experience points to the need for East Middle Sweden to implement operations in which innovation and entrepreneurship are integrated, for example to create the conditions necessary for increased commercialisation of research and innovation. Universities and colleges have been the predominant sponsors of innovation projects, and greater experimentation is needed in project sponsorship in order to strengthen innovation logic. The Structural Funds projects have also contributed to knowledge being disseminated better between the regional innovation systems, which has been a positive factor. This is to be addressed in the project by taking a broader view of innovation, strengthening the innovation environments in the region and strengthening work on innovation in the borderland between different sectors and areas.

Coordination and linking to other programmes

It is important to see the link between different programmes and initiatives to collaborate and create synergies between different operations. The programme has clear links within

this priority axis to other Structural Funds, sector programmes and territorial cooperation programmes such as the European Social Fund, the new research and innovation programme Horizon 2020 and Central Baltic, which like this programme has prioritised thematic objective 1. It is also to be possible for the programme's activities in the priority axis to supplement initiatives taken in the national ERDF programme 2014-2020.

Priority axis 2: Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs

Europe 2020

Europe needs increased employment in the wake of the economic crisis. The Commission therefore urges support for the emergence of new enterprises through aid for entrepreneurship and innovation. This is also highlighted in the national reform programme (2013) for implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy. Entrepreneurship is not concerned solely with being enterprising but may very well also be concerned with finding ways for smarter implementation, new forms of learning, experimentation and participation in all sectors and contexts.

One of the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy is to aim for a rise in employment rate to 75 % for women and men between the ages of 20 and 64, which is a way of attaining the overall goal of inclusive growth. To attain this and other goals, it is important to have well developed structures so that enterprises can start up and develop. Another identified obstacle to growth is the difficulty of finding skilled labour. Better matching of need and demand for skilled personnel is an important priority, and investments are needed in knowledge and skills. Investments in this are also supported by the EU flagship initiative 'An agenda for new skills and jobs'.

Like the EU flagship initiative 'An industrial policy for a globalised era', the ERDF programme for East Middle Sweden prioritises increasing employment and contributing to sustainable growth. This takes place through the ERDF both supporting and preserving strong, diversified and competitive business, focused on promotion of growth in small and medium-sized enterprises. The objective is to bring about a more favourable business climate by removing obstacles, benefiting from globalisation and facilitating the commercialisation of innovations. This also includes ensuring the long-term supply of skills to small and medium-sized enterprises. The same group of enterprises are also in need of functioning structures for venture capital and support of greater internationalisation.

Identified regional challenges

The analysis produced for East Middle Sweden identifies a number of regional challenges that have guided the preparation of the programme and which the programme is intended to address. These are:

- low proportion of new business start-ups compared with the rest of the country
- four out of five counties in East Middle Sweden are below the national average for the proportion of small and medium-sized enterprises that are internationalised
- low propensity for growth in the region's small and medium-sized enterprises
- need for external shareholder capital

The small and medium-sized enterprises have gained growing significance globally, nationally and also within East Middle Sweden. The new jobs are increasingly created here, as well as new types of services and products that follow from an economy in transformation. Although the share of employment in the industrial sector overall has gradually diminished, the number of jobs has grown in subcontractors, both manufacturing companies and, in particular, service companies, and these subcontractors account for an increased share of employment.

The analysis shows that growth in employment is tending to become more dependent on an increased number of businesses being established, while the average size of a place of work has decreased. The analysis also shows that it is in the category of service companies, principally the small and medium-sized ones, that there is considered to be great potential for growth, in terms of both increased revenues and need for more employees. At the same time, the analysis shows that propensity for growth in small and medium-sized enterprises is below the national average, and the proportion of enterprises finding access to shareholder capital to be an obstacle to growth is higher in East Middle Sweden than in the country as a whole.

Internationalised small and medium-sized enterprises have a higher propensity for growth than other enterprises. Internationalisation also presents new opportunities for enterprises to find new markets and creates the necessary conditions for growth. In the short term, internationalisation can contribute to increased growth, while in the longer term it may mean modernisation and innovativeness in the enterprises. Four out of five counties in East Middle Sweden are, however, below the national average for the proportion of small and medium-sized enterprises that are internationalised.

There is a need for long-term conditions to boost the growth of enterprises in order to meet the challenges facing the region. These conditions can be created by greater entrepreneurship and an improved business climate, but also by better access to the right skills, increased access to regional venture capital and internationalisation. To develop this work further, it is also necessary to create the necessary basis on which to develop social enterprise and social economy [10], which is something the Commission encourages in several strategic documents [11], and to benefit from the increase in employment that may emerge from the switch to a greener economy.

Experience from previous period

Experience from the previous period shows that the level of involvement by trade and industry was low and that implemented venture capital projects have been successful. East Middle Sweden's operations will therefore be intended to be clearly based on the needs of trade and industry and to promote the propensity for growth and internationalisation of enterprises. Experience from implemented venture capital projects indicates continued efforts to create external shareholder capital.

Coordination and linking to other programmes

It is important to see the link between different programmes and initiatives to collaborate and create synergies between different operations. The programme has clear links in this priority axis to other sector programmes, territorial cooperation programmes but also the European Social Fund and county implementation strategies for rural development

programmes. Examples of programmes are ‘Erasmus+’ for education and training and skills supply, ‘Central Baltic’ and ‘COSME’, the purpose of which is to boost the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises.

It is also to be possible for the programme’s activities in the priority axis to supplement initiatives taken in the national ERDF programme 2014-2020.

Priority axis 3: Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors.

Europe 2020

In accordance with the Europe 2020 strategy, East Middle Sweden is to help the EU attain the energy and climate targets ‘20/20/20’, i.e. reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20 % from 1990 levels, increase the proportion of renewable energy sources to 20 % and raise energy efficiency by 20 %. The Europe 2020 strategy identifies a number of challenges facing society linked to the areas of energy and transport that are particularly important to work on. These include clean, safe and efficient energy supply, resource efficiency and conservation of raw materials, as well as smart, green and integrated transport.

The EU flagship initiative ‘A resource-efficient Europe’ is aimed at promoting economic development while reducing the use of resources. The initiative also points to the importance of viewing the transport sector as a growth-promoting sector, while carbon dioxide emissions from it must be reduced. One of the goals is to develop a smart, upgraded and completely interconnected transport and energy infrastructure. The initiative is also to contribute to finding new opportunities for innovation and growth in green industries and investing in energy-efficient construction. The flagship initiative is entirely in line with the goals of East Middle Sweden’s public bodies, which have adopted targets that are identical to or more ambitious than the national and European climate and energy targets.

Sweden and East Middle Sweden are already at the forefront in the area of renewable energy, energy efficiency and reduced carbon dioxide emissions in comparison with many regions of the EU. According to the analysis, the region is also considered to have great potential for improvements with regard to energy efficiency and increased production of renewable energy, as well as reduced emissions from transport.

Identified regional challenges

The analysis produced for East Middle Sweden identifies a number of regional challenges that have guided the preparation of the programme and which the programme is intended to address. These are:

- emissions of climate-changing gases in the region per head of population are greater in East Middle Sweden than the national average
- potential for improved energy efficiency
- extensive use of fossil fuels
- need for a sustainable transport system to reduce carbon dioxide emissions

East Middle Sweden consists of large labour market areas with good access to labour, jobs, top-level skills and capital. This makes them attractive for both inward migrants and commuters, and the analysis shows that East Middle Sweden is a region with a high level of commuting to work. Despite increased use of public transport in the region, cars are by far the most common mode of transport. East Middle Sweden also faces challenges with regard to building structure and community planning at large. Large housing stocks are in need of renovation, while there is a need for greater energy efficiency in new construction. There is a need for joint planning with other public infrastructure in order to create the necessary basis for sustainable development. At the same time, the analysis identifies East Middle Sweden as a hub for the handling of goods in Sweden. A significant proportion of environmental emissions can be attributed to regional transport. To be able to reduce these emissions in a more systematic manner, there is a need for the region's goods and passenger transport, including the region's transport infrastructure with all associated modes of transport and transport nodes, to be integrated and jointly planned in a completely new way.

To reduce environmentally harmful emissions and promote a sustainable future, East Middle Sweden needs to make a greater commitment to finding sustainable alternatives and switch to efficient and renewable energy in the industrial and transport sector. One of the challenges is in promoting active region enlargement, which to a great extent is driven by communications, for increased growth and, at the same time, to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

Energy prices (including taxes and duties) have a great impact on the level of interest in energy efficiency. Swedish energy prices have been low in a European perspective, and industries and enterprises therefore have relatively high levels of energy use. This applies in particular to use of electricity, which means that enterprises become less competitive as energy prices rise. To attain adopted climate targets, it is important, at the same time, actively to support a shift to a low-carbon economy by, in various ways, promoting increased use of low-carbon technology, energy and resource efficiency and use of renewable energy in small and medium-sized enterprises.

One of the essential elements of a sustainable society is to attain energy and resource efficiency in all sectors of society. The development and introduction of energy-efficient and climate-efficient technology, changes in behaviour and community planning initiatives are all actions needing to be taken to support the transition to a sustainable societal structure and therefore a low-carbon economy. The extent of the challenges and the need for a rapid switch necessitate a more holistic approach. The region needs to find common and cost-effective answers that solve several problems at the same time.

Experience from previous period

The previous period did not contain a specific priority axis to contribute to a more low-carbon economy. On the other hand, experience shows that the infrastructural resources committed should be focused on innovative solutions and operations that reduce demand for transport and improve the utilisation of existing infrastructure and do not relate to physical investments. Physical investments in infrastructure will therefore not be permitted, and the innovative, efficiency-improving approach will instead guide the programme. Experience also shows that the leverage effect for the horizontal criterion

relating to environmentally sustainable development has been used with good results. East Middle Sweden intends to develop these good results through the priority axis.

Coordination and linking to other programmes

It is important to see the link between different programmes and initiatives to collaborate and create synergies between different operations. This applies to both national and European programmes. The programme has clear links within the priority axis to other sector programmes, such as 'Life' and cross-border cooperation programmes such as 'Central Baltic'. It is also to be possible for the programme's activities in the priority axis to supplement initiatives taken in the national ERDF programme 2014-2020.

Needs and challenges linked to cities as geographical entities

Most of the larger cities in Sweden are in East Middle Sweden. These cities are important nodes and support points in a functionally cohesive region around the Mälardalen valley, and there is a direct need to bring these closer together. East Middle Sweden wishes to base its regional attractiveness and competitiveness on this multi-core structure. Regional enlargement is taking place around the larger cities, which are important drivers of sustainable growth for the whole region. The great challenge is in strengthening the role of these cities as nodes and drivers in their particular labour market areas. As the geography of the labour market areas grows, the larger cities need to contribute to smaller surrounding towns and countryside also being strengthened. In that way, urgent problems as well as long-term challenges can be solved in a smarter, more sustainable and more socially inclusive way among the towns and cities.

The towns and cities are important as actors, as they can, in particular, support operations where systematic use is made of the potential entrepreneurship among groups that today are outside the labour market. Increased entrepreneurship, growth and employment in themselves may be a way of reducing gulfs and social exclusion with which the region's cities and towns in particular have to grapple. Promoting this growth among enterprises can thus also be regarded as a way of contributing to sustainable development, where the city is a geographical unit.

The density of people, enterprises, public services, etc. characteristic of towns and cities means that they are sitting on huge potential to develop systems for sustainable growth, for example. It is within and around the larger cities that the challenges of climate change are most clearly noticeable, but is it also there that there is most potential for finding sustainable solutions. Energy efficiency in buildings, trade and industry and the public sector, renewable energy and climate-smart transport with reduced emissions are challenges that the cities can tackle in particular. The most pressing challenges are concerned with creating platforms on the basis of strategies and plans for sustainable development for a mutual exchange of experiences and solutions that can both reduce the risks in connection with new initiatives and speed up the pace of change through shared costs between the individual cities. The specific challenges mentioned in the analysis are best addressed in networks, according to the cities themselves.

The environmental impact of the operational programme

The operational programme of East Middle Sweden for the European Regional Development Fund is to drive a social transformation in a cohesive manner where the potential for growth is used to attain an improved environment and reduced climate impact. The sustainability in the activities lies in the activities in the various priority axes having to be designed in such a way that they can support/supplement one another.

In the short term, this means that the priority axis 'Low-carbon economy' plausibly has the greatest effect on the environment and climate. Innovation and research initiatives are to strengthen social transformation in the same direction, but the effects here become visible in the somewhat longer term. Environmentally driven growth is also to be promoted in the commitments to the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, although the effects can probably be discerned only in the long term.

Implementation of the programme

The programme is to contribute to structural change focusing on smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Sustainability and structural impact will not be achieved until planning routines, resources and activities are allowed to interact. To achieve this, it is important that activities in the programme are permitted to support or complement one another to create mutual synergies and that there is also a link to other funds and programmes. A long-term sustainable structure for implementation of the Structural Funds also requires the work to be organised in such a way that the necessary basis is created for learning between all the parties involved. This in turn is essential in enabling the more long-term effects to be assessed. Evaluations and results of participatory research operations carried out during the programming period 2007-2013 clearly show the need to make better use of experience gained. It is particularly common to find that there is deficient feedback between completed projects and new initiatives. There have also been found to be great shortcomings with regard to learning lessons from the often weak impact of projects on existing structures. It is therefore important that lessons from all approved and implemented projects are learnt by the organisations with regional responsibility for growth in the five counties, the managing authority and the Structural Fund partnership.

The organisations with regional responsibility for growth in the five counties, the managing authority and the Structural Fund partnership should endeavour in all the areas mentioned continuously to develop and improve the forms of cooperation mutually in order to achieve a more efficient process and better implementation of the European Regional Development Fund.

Ex-ante evaluation of proposals for ERDF programmes for East Middle Sweden 2014-2020

The Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis has been tasked by the Swedish Government with conducting a prior evaluation (ex-ante evaluation) of the proposals for operational programmes for the ERDF. During the programme-writing process, the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis has presented its views to East Middle Sweden on the draft programme and, in the final stage of the process, has also conducted an assessment of the proposed operational programme.

A continuous dialogue has taken place during the programme-writing process with the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis based on the assessments and comments contained in the material notified to East Middle Sweden from June to September 2013. The assessment and comments have applied, in particular, to the handling of programme logic, selection of indicators, target values, etc. East Middle Sweden has taken account of these comments wherever possible.

The ex-ante evaluation received by the regions in November 2013 also contained some critical opinions concerning lack of clarity in target groups and intended beneficiaries. Clearer wording on this was immediately introduced into the programme.

All the indicators were adopted in January and February 2014, facilitating and strengthening contact with both the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis and the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth to ensure coherent programme logic focused on results. All final assessments presented to East Middle Sweden by the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis have been taken into account in completing the final operational programme.

[1] EU funds included in the common strategic framework are the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Marine and Fisheries Fund.

[2] *Analys för strukturfonderna Östra Mellansverige, Strukturfondsperioden 2014-2020 (Analysis of the Structural Funds for East Middle Sweden, Structural Fund period 2014-2020)*, p. 14.

[3] *Ibid.*, p. 38.

[4] *Ibid.*, p. 35.

[5] *Ibid.*, p. 26-29.

[6] *Analys för strukturfonderna Östra Mellansverige, Strukturfondsperioden 2014-2020 (Analysis of the Structural Funds for East Middle Sweden, Structural Fund period 2014-2020)*, p. 68.

[7] *Vetenskapsrådets guide till infrastrukturen 2012 (Swedish Research Council guide on infrastructure 2012)* (Swedish Research Council 2011:8), Appendix.

[8] *The European Roadmap for Research Infrastructures (ESFRI)*

[9] Social innovation is defined as a completely new service or product created within the social economy.

[10] Defined here as non-public organisation with societal goals.

[11] The Europe 2020 strategy, Social Business Initiative (SBI), GSR, etc.

1.1.2 A justification for the choice of thematic objectives and corresponding investment priorities having regard to the partnership agreement, based on an identification of regional and, where appropriate, national needs including the need to address the challenges identified in relevant country-specific recommendations adopted in accordance with Article 121(2) TFEU and the relevant Council recommendations adopted in accordance with Article 148(4) TFEU, taking into account the ex-ante evaluation.

Table 1: Justification for the selection of thematic objectives and investment priorities

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
01 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	1a — Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to create extended collaboration between academia, trade and industry, and society to contribute to a higher level of innovation • Intra-regional differences with regard to access to research resources and innovation support systems • Need for increased innovation capacity among the region’s small and medium-sized enterprises • The enterprises’ investments in R&D are relatively low • There are fewer investments in organisational, market or social innovations than in technical innovations • Weak commercialisation of innovation
01 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	1b — Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco—innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to create extended collaboration between academia, trade and industry, and society to contribute to a higher level of innovation • Intra-regional differences with regard to access to research resources and innovation support systems • Need for increased innovation capacity among

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
	innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies	<p>the region's small and medium-sized enterprises</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The enterprises' investments in R&D are relatively low • There are fewer investments in organisational, market or social innovations than in technical innovations • Weak commercialisation of innovation
03 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)	3a — Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low proportion of new business start-ups compared with the rest of the country • Low propensity for growth in the region's small and medium-sized enterprises • Need for external shareholder capital • Four out of five counties in East Middle Sweden are below the national average for the proportion of small and medium-sized enterprises that are internationalised
03 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)	3b — Developing and implementing new business models for SMEs, in particular with regard to internationalisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low proportion of new business start-ups compared with the rest of the country • Low propensity for growth in the region's small and medium-sized enterprises • Need for external shareholder capital • Four out of five counties in East Middle Sweden are below the national average for the proportion of small and medium-sized enterprises that are internationalised

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
04 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	4b — Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emissions of climate-changing gases in the region per head of population are higher in East Middle Sweden than the national average • Potential for improved energy efficiency • Extensive use of fossil fuels • Need for a sustainable transport system to reduce carbon dioxide emissions
04 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	4c — Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emissions of climate-changing gases in the region per head of population are higher in East Middle Sweden than the national average • Potential for improved energy efficiency • Extensive use of fossil fuels • Need for a sustainable transport system to reduce carbon dioxide emissions

1.2 Justification for the financial allocation

Justification for the financial allocation (Union support) to each thematic objective and, where appropriate, investment priority, in accordance with the thematic concentration requirements, taking into account the ex-ante evaluation.

Thematic objective 1

In this programme, 38.4 % of EU resources is earmarked for thematic objective 1: ‘Strengthening research, technological development and innovation’. Research and innovation are a priority axis based on political priorities and identified needs in the region. The European Commission has also highlighted the importance to Sweden of strengthening its position as a leading innovative nation [12].

The resources are to be used primarily for initiatives aimed at strengthening innovation systems in East Middle Sweden to create the necessary conditions for increased innovative capacity throughout the region. This is regarded as one of the most strategically important investments that can be made using resources from the ERDF and is therefore the largest item in the programme's resources. The initiatives additionally require relatively large resources over a prolonged period for the structures to become lasting. Experience from the previous period also shows that innovative operations have yielded good results, which may also justify the high proportion of resources allocated. This thematic objective also opens up the possibility of co-financing up to a level of 3 %.

Thematic objective 3

'Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises' is allocated 33.2 % of programme resources in a corresponding manner. The resources are to be used primarily to make growth possible in small and medium-sized enterprises. The reasons for the allocation of resources are based on the Commission's plea to allocate resources to initiatives aimed at the emergence of new start-ups through support for entrepreneurship and innovation. Another reason is a strong political desire in East Middle Sweden to allocate a large proportion of resources in the ERDF programme to entrepreneurship initiatives, as these have been found to be effective. The analysis also shows that small and medium-sized enterprises have gained greater significance in East Middle Sweden, as it is here that new jobs are being created to an ever increasing extent. These enterprises must be given the right long-term conditions for growth, in terms of both the number of employees and turnover, which justifies the relatively high allocation of resources to this thematic objective. The enterprises also need to gain access to venture capital, ensure the supply of skills/life-long learning and, finally, improve the opportunities of enterprises for internationalisation, which are operations supported in the programme. The fact that commitment of venture capital lies within this thematic objective provides further justification for the percentage allocation of programme resources. This thematic objective also opens up the possibility of co-financing up to a level of 3 %.

Thematic objective 4 [13]

A 24.4 % share of resources is earmarked for thematic objective 4, 'Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors'. This priority axis is new for the region, with the result that there is little experience in the area at present with regard to tackling the challenges through ERDF operations. This may justify the choice of a lower proportion of allocated funds for the thematic objective. The lower proportion of resources is also due to the focus on operations as a planning base, preliminary studies and so on which is made in the programme, which is regarded as less costly than physical investments, for example. This priority axis is also supported by the initiatives taken in the national ERDF programme through the greater part of the resources there being devoted to this priority axis. As the environment is regarded as a horizontal objective, there is potential to use reduced carbon dioxide emissions and an improved environment as an opportunity and lever for sustainable growth in other thematic objectives as well. This justifies the choice of a lower proportion of the total allocated resources under the programme. This thematic objective also opens up the possibility of co-financing up to a level of 2 %.

East Middle Sweden has chosen to allocate 71.6 % of the programme's resources to thematic objectives 1 and 3, and the remaining 24.4 % to thematic objective 4, which complies with the European Commission guidelines on the allocation of resources.

Justification for chosen level of private co-financing

As the ERDF is intended in part to contribute to greater competitiveness among small and medium-sized enterprises, there is reason to involve these enterprises in the implementation of intended activities in a better and more effective way. East Middle Sweden therefore considers it important to permit private co-financing in the programme in this programming period. This creates incentives to invite participants to contribute financially to projects and consequently also direct, take part in and study more actively the activities and results of the project. Private co-financing can provide added value through broader and greater commitment to the participation of trade and industry and other stakeholders which the programme is intended to develop.

Based on earlier experience from previous periods, where private co-financing has been very limited, East Middle Sweden has chosen to make the percentage rates for private co-financing relatively low. The decisive reason for this is that the ERDF is making this opportunity available only during this programming period. There is no previous experience to relate to concerning what levels can be regarded as realistic with the present-day rules. To this should be added experience on the administrative burden for individual enterprises that private co-financing can provide, which may deter some enterprises. During the previous period, the proportion of private co-financing out of the total allocation of resources was 0.9 % for the area of 'innovative environments', 0.4 % for the area of 'entrepreneurship' (excluding business support) and 3.4 % for the area of 'availability' (one project only). These low levels justify a continued modest level of private co-financing, while encouraging a desired increase in this programming period.

East Middle Sweden has chosen to budget for private co-financing for all priority axes, as there is potential for trade and industry and other stakeholders to be involved in all areas. The reason why the levels differ between priority axes is the proportion accounted for by the priority axis in the total budget for the programme. The first two priority axes account for a greater proportion of the total budget and therefore have a higher percentage than priority axis 3.

[12] http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/what/future/pdf/partnership/sv_position_paper_sv.pdf.

[13] Operations supported by the ESI funds are expected to focus on the same area on the basis of the regional specialisations that exist and are expected to make up a valuable part of Sweden's operations in SET planning work.

Table 2: Overview of the investment strategy of the operational programme

Priority axis	Fund	Union support (€)	Proportion of total Union support for the operational programme	Thematic objective / Investment priority / Specific objective	Common and programme-specific result indicators for which a target has been set
1	ERDF	26 888 318.00	38.40 %	<p>Strengthening research, technological development and innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 1a — Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 1 — Greater cooperation for increased innovative capacity in small and medium-sized enterprises in all parts of East Middle Sweden. ▼ 1b — Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 1 — Increased innovative activity for small and medium-sized enterprises with growth aspirations and fulfilling the basic requirements for the commercialisation of innovations in trade and industry. 	[4, 6]
2	ERDF	23 247 192.00	33.20 %	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 03 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 3a — Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 1 — Enhanced growth in the region’s small and medium-sized enterprises. ▼ 3b — Developing and implementing new business models for SMEs, in particular with regard to internationalisation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 1 — More growing enterprises that are active in the international market. 	[0305, 21, 3, 7]
3	ERDF	17 085 286.00	24.40 %	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 04 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 4b — Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 1 — Reduced climate impact by enterprises’ use of fossil-based energy sources decreasing while their 	[0402, 0404, 0405, 5]

Priority axis	Fund	Union support (€)	Proportion of total Union support for the operational programme	Thematic objective / Investment priority / Specific objective	Common and programme-specific result indicators for which a target has been set
				<p>energy use becomes more efficient.</p> <p>▼ 4c — Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector</p> <p>▼ 1 — Reduced carbon dioxide emissions and greater energy efficiency in the domestic, transport and public sectors.</p>	
4	ERDF	2 800 866.00	4.00 %	12 — Technical assistance is to lead to the programme being implemented appropriately, in a legally sound manner and effectively, and contributing to the goals of the programme being achieved in other priority axes.	[%]

2. PRIORITY AXES

2.A DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIORITY AXES OTHER THAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	1
Title of the priority axis	Strengthening research, technological development and innovation

- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
- The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development
- For the ESF: The entire priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation, or both

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region, thematic objective or fund (where applicable)

2.A.3 Fund, category of region and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)
ERDF	More developed	Total	

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	1a
Title of the investment priority	Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	1
Title of the specific objective	Greater cooperation for increased innovative capacity in small and medium-sized enterprises in all parts of East Middle Sweden
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>Greater innovative capacity and collaborative structures in the whole of East Middle Sweden</p> <p>The operations in the programme are expected to result in strengthened innovation systems and collaborative structures. The system is to contribute to increased collaboration between universities, colleges, business incubators, technology parks, other research institutions and innovation platforms, as well as small and medium-sized enterprises. This also applies in parts of the region that today do not have good prospects of developing their own systems. As a result of this, the activities are also to result in strengthened innovation environments that boost the overall innovative capacity of East Middle Sweden.</p> <p>Smart specialisation and development of clusters with national and global viability</p> <p>East Middle Sweden is expected to achieve strengthening, development and expansion of identified areas of strength and cluster initiatives through the programme. The operations are also to contribute to enabling new initiatives to emerge that reinforce the sustainable growth and competitiveness of East Middle Sweden.</p> <p>Establishment of demonstration environments, test beds and innovation gateways</p> <p>Implemented activities are to result in new and enhanced testing and demonstration environments that make increased collaboration possible and contribute to products, services, processes and solutions being applied more quickly [1].</p>

	<p>[1] The operations under this thematic objective are in line with the region's strategies for smart specialisation, which at present are indicated by the following programmes and strategies: 'Uppland driving force 3.0', 'Regional development plan for Västmanland County 2007-2020', 'Development strategy for the Örebro region', 'Sörmland strategy 2020', 'Regional development programme 2030 for Östergötland', 'Business plan for Västmanland, Innovativeness for Sörmland 2020' and 'Smart specialisation for Östergötland and Innovation strategies for Örebro and Uppsala'.</p>
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Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

Specific objective		1 - Stärkt samarbete för ökad innovationskapacitet i små och medelstora företag i alla delar av Östra Mellansverige						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
6	Andel företag som samarbetar i sin innovationsverksamhet (produkt- eller processinnovation) med 10-249 anställda	Procent	More developed	45.36	2010	46.27	Statistiska centralbyrån, rapporten "Regional innovationsstatistik i Sverige"	Vartannat år

2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	1a — Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest
<p>The intended beneficiaries in this investment priority are mainly operators in the region’s innovation support systems, such as universities and colleges, and local and regional public organisations, but also business organisations and sector networks/organisations. The aspiration behind the activities listed below is to strengthen and develop innovation support structures in East Middle Sweden. Against this backdrop, the intended target group for the activities is to benefit enterprises and citizens in East Middle Sweden.</p> <p>On this basis, the ERDF supports activities for East Middle Sweden that:</p> <p>Strengthen innovative capacity and collaborative structures throughout East Middle Sweden</p> <p>Principal activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing collaboration between innovation-supporting organisations such as universities and colleges, technology parks, business incubators, cluster platforms, other research institutions, innovation platforms and other business and social organisations to ensure mutual transfer of knowledge.• Operations to test new models, strategic partnerships and incentives to create closer contact between universities and colleges and surrounding trade and industry and society.• Develop the opportunity for municipalities, county councils, enterprises and organisations to have questions answered and problems solved with the assistance of students, researchers and resources at educational institutions.• Development of the innovation system to improve the outcome of innovations, for example, of an organisational and social nature.• Initiatives that strengthen the build-up of resources and skills in technology parks, business incubators, cluster platforms and at the innovation offices of educational institutions and other regional contact points.	

Investment priority	1a — Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest
<p>Contribute to smart specialisation and development of clusters with national and global viability</p> <p>Principal activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and broadening of established cluster initiatives also to cover places where innovation is less robust. • Development of new competitive clusters with potential national and global viability. • Create collaborative structures between different regional areas of strength and cluster initiatives and, for example, incubators between different counties and areas. • Operations to strengthen and develop involvement by trade and industry in initiatives for smart specialisation. <p>Establish demonstration environments, test beds and innovation gateways</p> <p>Principal activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of demonstration environments and test beds that make it possible to test and develop new products and systems in realistic environments. • Promoting the development of environments and beds for trade and industry located in places within East Middle Sweden where the innovation systems have not yet been expanded. • Development of demonstration environments and test beds in the public sector. <p>Contribute to increased exchange and cooperation between East Middle Sweden and strong research and innovation environments in Sweden and the EU</p> <p>Principal activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operations to strengthen the link between East Middle Sweden and other research and innovation environments in Sweden but also the rest of the 	

Investment priority	1a — Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest
<p>EU and the world [15].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operations that contribute to stimulating and developing the ability of the region to take part in national efforts in strategic areas of innovation and cooperation, for example in Horizon 2020 [16]. <p>[14] The operations under this thematic objective are in line with the region’s strategies for smart specialisation.</p> <p>[15] Links should advantageously be made here to <i>The European Roadmap for Research Infrastructures (ESFRI)</i>.</p> <p>[16] Other interesting European initiatives include the Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC), with open and cross-sectoral innovation, but also in the European Innovation Partnership (EIP).</p>	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	1a — Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest
<p>The following principles guide the selection of operations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The operation contributes to realising the potential for growth in the horizontal criteria of better environment, gender equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination. • The involvement of trade and industry and enterprises is ensured. • Collaboration across municipal and county boundaries and international elements is ensured. 	

Investment priority	1a — Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons have been learnt, and the best results from previous similar operations and projects have been put to use. • Organisational capacity for implementation and active ownership of the operation are ensured. • The operation contributes to the dimensions of sustainability. • The operation contributes to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. 	

2.A.6.3 *Planned use of financial instruments* (where appropriate)

Investment priority	1a — Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest

2.A.6.4 *Planned use of major projects* (where appropriate)

Investment priority	1a — Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific result indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		1a — Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			350.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			150.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	1b
Title of the investment priority	Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	1
Title of the specific objective	Increased innovative activity for small and medium-sized enterprises with growth aspirations and fulfilling the basic requirements for the commercialisation of innovations in trade and industry.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>New ideas and research create increased value in society and in trade and industry It is important to put ideas and research to use in order to create renewal and improved competitiveness in East Middle Sweden. Implemented activities are to result in increased utilisation in society and increased commercialisation of innovative processes, services, products and enterprise.</p> <p>Renewal through cross-sectoral cooperation Knowledge-intensive business services (KIBS) are currently experiencing strong growth. This also applies to trade, medical and social care, the visitor industry and creative and cultural industries. The programme is to enable East Middle Sweden to achieve strengthened development and innovative capacity in these expansive service companies and growth sectors in East Middle Sweden which, among other things, can strengthen development and investments in organisational, market or social innovations.</p> <p>Investments by enterprises in R&D Implemented activities are to result in the enterprises increasing their investments in R&D and consequently contribute to increasing the innovative capability of enterprises.</p> <p>Introduction of technology for reduced carbon dioxide emissions East Middle Sweden has relatively strong knowledge centres in energy and environmental technology. Implemented activities are to result in increased introduction of energy technology onto the market, for example through increased commercialisation. The activities are to result in increased development of new technical solutions for reduced carbon dioxide emissions.</p>

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

Specific objective		1 - Ökad innovationsverksamhet för små och medelstora företag med tillväxtambitioner och förutsättningar för kommersialisering av innovationer i näringslivet.						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
4	Andel företag med innovationsverksamhet (produkt-, process-, organisatorisk, marknadsföring som har 10-249 anställda	Procent	More developed	57.62	2010	58.78	Statistiska centralbyrån rapporten "Regional innovationsteknik i Sverige"	Vartannat år

2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	1b — Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies
<p>The intended beneficiaries in this investment priority are mainly operators in private trade and industry and the region's innovation support systems, such as universities and colleges, and local and regional public stakeholders. The target group for the activities is enterprises and individual employees with new and innovative ideas that can be converted into a business venture and benefit society.</p> <p>ERDF East Middle Sweden supports activities that:</p> <p>Create added value in society and trade and industry through new ideas and research</p> <p>Principal activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operations aimed at raising the value of and commercialising what is created in the form of innovative processes, services, products and enterprise.• Measures that make it easier for enterprises and entrepreneurs to link their activities together with research, development and innovation. <p>Stimulate renewal through cross-sectoral cooperation</p> <p>Principal activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Initiatives that promote sector-transcending cooperation, where innovations, entrepreneurs, enterprises and customers together can find solutions to market needs, without being tied to normative thinking in terms of gender and diversity.• Operations that contribute to a more innovative welfare sector that contributes, at the same time, to promoting the competitiveness of trade and	

Investment priority	1b — Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies
<p>industry, for example through innovation procurements and the development of digital services linked to e-health and e-government.</p> <p>Contribute to an increase in the R&D investments of enterprises</p> <p>Principal activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operations that contribute to enterprises increasing their investments in R&D. <p>Contribute to the introduction of technology for reduced carbon dioxide emissions</p> <p>Principal activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support is primarily given to operations that are directed towards new and already market-mature technology being able to be implemented, and how increased use can be stimulated and commercialised. <p>The promotion of research cooperation with small and medium-sized enterprises aims at the development of new technical solutions for reduced carbon dioxide emissions, with a view to their becoming increasingly used, for example, in products, services and production processes.</p>	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	1b — Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies
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The following principles guide the selection of operations:

- The operation contributes to realising the potential for growth in the horizontal criteria of better environment, gender equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination.
- The involvement of trade and industry and enterprises is ensured.
- Collaboration across municipal and county boundaries and international elements is ensured.
- Lessons have been learnt, and the best results from previous similar operations and projects have been put to use.
- Organisational capacity for implementation and active ownership of the operation are ensured.
- The operation contributes to the dimensions of sustainability.
- The operation contributes to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	1b — Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	1b — Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific result indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		1b — Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			200.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	EUR	ERDF	More developed			400 000.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
11	Number of enterprises cooperating to strengthen their innovativeness	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			350.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7

Priority axis	1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation

2.A.8 Performance framework

Table 6: Performance framework of the priority axis (by fund and, for the ERDF and ESF, category of region)

Priority axis		1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation											
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
						M	W	T	M	W	T		
CO26	O	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			37			150.00	Project	
12	F	Expenditure	EUR	ERDF	More developed			16 132 991			53 776 636.00	Managing authority	

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

The managing authority has deemed it most appropriate to make use of outcome indicators for the performance framework and supplement these with one financial indicator per priority axis. This assessment is justified by the fact that output indicators can be fully attributed to implementation of the programme and that they are possible to measure continuously during implementation of the programme. Result indicators will not be used.

The methods and criteria that have been used to select relevant output indicators follow the guidelines issued by the Commission. The calculations of a reasonable value for the interim target for 2018 for each selected output indicator have been based on experience from the previous programming period, and an assessment of how quickly projects in the priority axis concerned can be expected to generate outcomes for each output indicator. The estimated total number of projects in each priority axis has also been taken into account. The managing authority is of the opinion that the selected output indicators fulfil the requirement to cover more than 50 % of the financial allocation for the priority axis.

With regard to the financial indicator 'Resources paid' per priority axis, the calculations have been based on the requirement for all payments included to be based on eligible costs paid to the beneficiary and for these to be certified by the certifying authority. The managing authority has taken account of experience from the programming period 2007-2013 and has focused, in particular, on how the payments were carried out during the corresponding part of the programming period, i.e. 2007-2011. The fact that the programme for the programming period 2014-2020 is more focused and concentrated and that the managing authority has a smooth organisation in place has also been taken into account. The level of payment has differed between the priority axes of the programmes over the programming period 2007-2013, and the managing authority has taken account of these variations in establishing the performance framework.

The managing authority is considering the options for permitting longer project periods than have been possible during the programming period 2007-2013 in certain particular cases. Longer project periods mean that the outcome for the outcome indicators will come relatively late in the programming period, with the result that the interim targets for 2018 in the performance framework are lower in these cases than for other priority axes.

In most cases, only one output indicator per priority axis has been selected for the performance framework. The reason for this is that the programme is so focused and concentrated that each selected output indicator is deemed to cover a large proportion of the expected projects. Having few indicators in the performance framework also makes it easier to follow up and have an overview of implementation and improves the prospects for corrective actions if the trends suggest that the performance framework will not be fulfilled.

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support.

Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention

Table 7: Dimension 1 — Intervention field

Priority axis		1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	058. Research and innovation infrastructure (public)	4 033 248.00
ERDF	More developed	060. Research and innovation activities in public research centres and centres of competence including networking	4 033 248.00
ERDF	More developed	062. Technology transfer and university-enterprise cooperation primarily benefiting SMEs	5 377 664.00
ERDF	More developed	063. Cluster support and business networks primarily benefiting SMEs	4 033 248.00
ERDF	More developed	064. Research and innovation processes in SMEs (including voucher schemes, process, design, service and social innovation)	5 377 664.00
ERDF	More developed	065. Research and innovation infrastructure, processes, technology transfer and cooperation in enterprises focusing on the low carbon economy and on resilience to climate change	672 208.00
ERDF	More developed	081. ICT solutions addressing the healthy active ageing challenge and e-Health services and applications (including e-Care and ambient assisted living)	3 361 038.00

Table 8: Dimension 2 — Form of finance

Priority axis		1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Non-repayable grant	26 888 318.00

Table 9: Dimension 3 — Territory type

Priority axis		1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	
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Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF		01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	12 637 509.00
ERDF	More developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	8 604 262.00
ERDF	More developed	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	5 646 547.00

Table 10: Dimension 4 — Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis		1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	07. Not applicable	26 888 318.00

Table 11: Dimension 6 — ESF secondary theme (ESF and YEI only)

Priority axis		1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount

2.A.10 Summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (where appropriate) (by priority axis)

Priority axis:		1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	

2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	2
Title of the priority axis	Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
- The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development
- For the ESF: The entire priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation, or both

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region, thematic objective or fund (where applicable)

2.A.3 Fund, category of region and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)
ERDF	More developed	Total	

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	3a
Title of the investment priority	Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	1
Title of the specific objective	Enhanced growth in the region's small and medium-sized enterprises
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	Strengthened business climate and entrepreneurship for more start-ups and greater enterprise The activities are to result overall in increased entrepreneurship and a higher degree of enterprise creation so that businesses can bring about the renewal that sustainable development requires. The activities are also to result in increased propensity for growth in existing enterprises and a stronger local business climate and increased employment.

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

Specific objective		1 - Ökad tillväxt i regionens små och medelstora företag						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
0305	Antal tillväxtföretag med årlig tillväxttakt (omsättning) med minst 10% under tre år där företaget hade minst 3 anställda i början av mätperioden	Antal	More developed	573.00	2012	625.00	Statistiska centralbyrån, Företagens ekonomi	Vartannat år
21	Förädlingsvärde i SMF	MSEK	More developed	75,929.00	2011	83,522.00	Statistiska centralbyrån, Företagens ekonomi	Vartannat år
3	Sysselsättning i SMF	Antal anställda omräknat till heltidstjänster	More developed	125,741.00	2011	138,315.00	Statistiska centralbyrån, Företagens ekonomi	Vartannat år

2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	3a — Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators
<p>The intended beneficiaries in this investment priority are primarily parties involved in the region’s innovation and business promotion systems, such as local and regional public operators, business organisations, sector networks/organisations, and private trade and industry. The primary target group for the activities is existing enterprises with growth potential. The business benefit is therefore intended to arise through the operations implemented by business-promoting organisations or others in relation to or together with the enterprises.</p>	
<p>On this basis, the ERDF supports activities for East Middle Sweden that:</p>	
<p>Contribute to a strengthened business climate and entrepreneurship for more start-ups and greater enterprise</p>	
<p>Principal activities:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operations for entrepreneurship development focused on enterprises with the desire and potential to grow and with a marked aspiration to increase the number of employees/subcontractors or increase the level of turnover.• Operations to strengthen the business climate in general, both locally and regionally to cause enterprises to grow, in terms of both number of employees and turnover. The operations should take place in collaboration with the stakeholders concerned, be designed more appropriately on the basis of prevailing needs in the short and long terms and take place in collaboration with several parties, to contribute to a generally good climate in the region.• Initiatives that strengthen the build-up of resources and skills in the region’s business incubators and other entrepreneurship-promoting platforms to strengthen and develop platforms for the region’s growth companies.• Operations to develop social entrepreneurship.• Operations that contribute to introducing new working practices and encourage creativity, new business creation and entrepreneurship and that take place in close collaboration with [sic]. The operations can advantageously be implemented in groups that are under-represented as entrepreneurs or	

Investment priority	3a — Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators
<p>in areas where the level of enterprise has historically been low.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operations to strengthen efforts to promote business start-up activity in the region, based on the region’s profile areas. Support can advantageously be given here to adding depth to the cooperation with Stockholm [17] on investment-promoting operations for the region’s trade and industry. <p>[17] For example the Stockholm Business Alliance (SBA).</p>	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	3a — Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators
<p>The following principles guide the selection of operations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The operation contributes to realising the potential for growth in the horizontal criteria of better environment, gender equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination. • The involvement of trade and industry and enterprises is ensured. • Collaboration across municipal and county boundaries and international elements is ensured. • Lessons have been learnt, and the best results from previous similar operations and projects have been put to use. • Organisational capacity for implementation and active ownership of the operation are ensured. • The operation contributes to the dimensions of sustainability. • The operation contributes to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. • Project sponsors are to show what added value they wish to achieve by making use of different target groups and aiming for an even gender distribution. In addition, the programme should prioritise projects in which enterprises from different sectors are brought together. • The focus should be on the population groups who to date have been under-represented with regard to enterprise, for example women, who 	

Investment priority	3a — Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators
according to the analysis start up businesses to a significantly lesser extent than men.	

2.A.6.3 *Planned use of financial instruments* (where appropriate)

Investment priority	3a — Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators
<p>A functioning supply of capital is crucial for business start-ups and for sustainable growth. The needs of enterprises for external capital are to be met primarily in the private market, but there are also areas where there may be needs for financing supplementing the market, for instance in early stages of development and in the commercialisation of innovative business concepts.</p> <p>The implementation of financial instruments over the programming period 2014-2020 will be elucidated on the basis of the experience that already exists. The ‘fund projects’ that have been implemented under the regional Structural Funds programmes over the period 2007-2013 and are aimed at increasing the regional supply of shareholder capital have met with strong demand. The investment has totalled SEK 2.4 billion, which is to equivalent around one fifth of the whole venture capital market in Sweden in 2011.</p> <p>There was initially uncertainty as to whether there would be private co-financiers willing to co-invest. Results up to July 2013 show that each SEK of fund investment has attracted an average of SEK 1.9 in private funding. The financing instruments are thus producing a leveraging effect on the regional development fund. The first phase of investment, according to participatory researchers and implementers, has been successful in attracting sufficiently good ideas to invest in and interested private co-investors to invest with. The initiative has been a driver particularly with regard to the establishment of a regional structure for venture capital. On the other hand, participatory researchers consider that the horizontal criteria can be integrated better into implementation.</p> <p>On this basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The programme is to provide scope for implementing financial instruments in thematic objective 3. • The operations are to be focused on supporting the supply of capital to enterprises where the market is not working satisfactorily. • The results of the ex-ante assessment of the financial instruments which the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth has been 	

Investment priority	3a — Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators
<p>commissioned to produce are to be taken into account in the implementation of financial instruments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instruments focused on shareholder capital are to be implemented under the existing structure and taking account of experience from the ‘fund projects’ implemented during the programming period 2007-2013. Operations may also cover other financial instruments. • Account is to be taken of the long-term nature of operations of this type. • The horizontal criteria are to be integrated into the operations. • Knowledge and experience from participatory research in this area are to be exploited. • Coordination of all operations for financial instruments is to be aimed for. 	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	3a — Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific result indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		3a — Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		

Investment priority		3a — Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			733.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			33.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			700.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)	EUR	ERDF	More developed			18 281 816.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full-time equivalents	ERDF	More developed			1 000.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	3b
Title of the investment priority	Developing and implementing new business models for SMEs, in particular with regard to internationalisation

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	1
Title of the specific objective	More growing enterprises that are active in the international market
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	Greater competitiveness in a globalised economy Enterprises that have expanded their markets internationally are, on average, more profitable and grow faster than companies that stay local. The activities are to result in an increased degree of internationalisation of the region's enterprises, which means increased potential for growth that can generate both more employees and increased turnover.

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

Specific objective		1 - Fler växande företag som är aktiva på den internationella marknaden.						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
7	Andel små och medelstora företag med 0-249 anställda som bedriver export	Procent	More developed	2.20	2013	2.60	Statistiska centralbyrån	Vartannat år

2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	3b — Developing and implementing new business models for SMEs, in particular with regard to internationalisation
<p>The intended beneficiaries in this investment priority are primarily parties involved in the region's innovation and business promotion systems, such as local and regional public stakeholders, business organisations, sector networks/organisations, and private trade and industry. The primary target group for the activities is existing enterprises with growth potential. The business benefit is therefore intended to arise through the operations implemented by business-promoting organisations or others in relation to or together with the enterprises.</p> <p>On this basis, the ERDF supports activities for East Middle Sweden that:</p> <p>Contribute to strengthened competitiveness in a globalised economy</p> <p>Principal activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of new business models for internationalisation.• Operations that contribute to trade and industry being able to face the consequences of globalisation in existing markets.• Operations that strengthen public support and skill functions linked to internationalisation of trade and industry in the region.• Measures so that enterprises and entrepreneurs can be offered training, advice and access to qualified business coaching to link their production and business development to research and innovation initiatives for increased internationalisation. Operations where unutilised sources for increased diversity and integration in the labour market are utilised can be supported to enhance the international competitiveness of enterprises.• Operations that contribute to increased sustainable destination development and a strengthened visitor industry, where there is considered to be great growth potential.	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	3b — Developing and implementing new business models for SMEs, in particular with regard to internationalisation
The following principles guide the selection of operations:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The operation contributes to realising the potential for growth in the horizontal criteria of better environment, gender equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination.• The involvement of trade and industry and enterprises is ensured.• Collaboration across municipal and county boundaries and international elements is ensured.• Lessons have been learnt, and the best results from previous similar operations and projects have been put to use.• Organisational capacity for implementation and active ownership of the operation are ensured.• The operation contributes to the dimensions of sustainability.• The operation contributes to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.	

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	3b — Developing and implementing new business models for SMEs, in particular with regard to internationalisation

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	3b — Developing and implementing new business models for SMEs, in particular with regard to internationalisation

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific result indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		3b — Developing and implementing new business models for SMEs, in particular with regard to internationalisation							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			400.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			400.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full-time equivalents	ERDF	More developed			1 000.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7

Priority axis	2 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)							

2.A.8 Performance framework

Table 6: Performance framework of the priority axis (by fund and, for the ERDF and ESF, category of region)

Priority axis			2 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)										
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
						M	W	T	M	W	T		
CO01	O	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			283			1 133.00	Project	
12	F	Expenditure	EUR	ERDF	More developed			13 948 315			46 494 384.00	Managing authority	

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

The managing authority has deemed it most appropriate to make use of outcome indicators for the performance framework and supplement these with one financial indicator per priority axis. This assessment is justified by the fact that output indicators can be fully attributed to implementation of the programme and that they are possible to measure continuously during implementation of the programme. Result indicators will not be used.

The methods and criteria that have been used to select relevant output indicators follow the guidelines issued by the Commission. The calculations of a reasonable value for the interim target for 2018 for each selected output indicator have been based on experience from the previous programming period, and an assessment of how quickly projects in the priority axis concerned can be expected to generate outcomes for each output indicator. The estimated total number of projects in each priority axis has also been taken into account. The managing authority is of the opinion that the selected output indicators fulfil the requirement to cover more than 50 % of the financial allocation for the priority axis.

With regard to the financial indicator ‘Resources paid’ per priority axis, the calculations have been based on the requirement for all payments included to be based on eligible costs paid to the beneficiary and for these to be certified by the certifying authority. The managing authority has taken account of

experience from the programming period 2007-2013 and has focused, in particular, on how the payments were carried out during the corresponding part of the programming period, i.e. 2007-2011. The fact that the programme for the programming period 2014-2020 is more focused and concentrated and that the managing authority has a smooth organisation in place has also been taken into account. The level of payment has differed between the priority axes of the programmes over the programming period 2007-2013, and the managing authority has taken account of these variations in establishing the performance framework.

The managing authority is considering the options for permitting longer project periods than have been possible during the programming period 2007-2013 in certain particular cases. Longer project periods mean that the outcome for the outcome indicators will come relatively late in the programming period, with the result that the interim targets for 2018 in the performance framework are lower in these cases than for other priority axes.

In most cases, only one output indicator per priority axis has been selected for the performance framework. The reason for this is that the programme is so focused and concentrated that each selected output indicator is deemed to cover a large proportion of the expected projects. Having few indicators in the performance framework also makes it easier to follow up and have an overview of implementation and improves the prospects for corrective actions if the trends suggest that the performance framework will not be fulfilled.

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support.

Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention

Table 7: Dimension 1 — Intervention field

Priority axis		2 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	001. Generic productive investment in small and medium-sized enterprises ('SMEs')	11 147 449.00

Priority axis		2 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	066. Advanced support services for SMEs and groups of SMEs (including management, marketing and design services)	6 049 872.00
ERDF	More developed	067. SME business development, support to entrepreneurship and incubation (including support to spin offs and spin outs)	6 049 871.00

Table 8: Dimension 2 — Form of finance

Priority axis		2 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Non-repayable grant	12 099 743.00
ERDF	More developed	03. Support through financial instruments: venture and equity capital or equivalent	11 147 449.00

Table 9: Dimension 3 — Territory type

Priority axis		2 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	10 926 180.00
ERDF	More developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	7 439 101.00
ERDF	More developed	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	4 881 911.00

Table 10: Dimension 4 — Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis		2 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	
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Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	07. Not applicable	23 247 192.00

Table 11: Dimension 6 — ESF secondary theme (ESF and YEI only)

Priority axis	2 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)		
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount

2.A.10 Summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (where appropriate) (by priority axis)

Priority axis:	2 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)		

2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	3
Title of the priority axis	Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors

- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
- The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development
- For the ESF: The entire priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation, or both

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region, thematic objective or fund (where applicable)

2.A.3 Fund, category of region and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)
ERDF	More developed	Total	

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	4b
Title of the investment priority	Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	1
Title of the specific objective	Reduced climate impact by enterprises' use of fossil-based energy sources decreasing while their energy use becomes more efficient
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>Energy-efficient enterprises The activities are to result in a development of the market for energy services that accommodates many different services such as consultancy, energy surveys, energy analyses and EPC (Energy Performance Contracting). The activities are also to result in increased knowledge dissemination and learning on proven methods that contribute to reduced carbon dioxide emissions. The activities are expected to result at an overarching level in greater energy efficiency, reduced carbon dioxide emissions and greater competitiveness for trade and industry.</p> <p>Operations for enterprises to convert energy analyses into actions such as energy efficiency improvement, more renewable energy and development of small-scale energy production The activities are to result in the identification of energy measures in enterprises and then contribute towards these energy measures being implemented. The activities are expected to result in greater energy efficiency, reduced carbon dioxide emissions and greater competitiveness for trade and industry.</p>

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

Specific objective		1 - Minskad klimatpåverkan genom att företagens användning av fossilbaserade energikällor minskar samtidigt som deras energianvändning blir effektivare.						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
5	Slutlig energianvändning per förädlingsvärde för små -och medelstora industriföretag	MW timmar/miljon SEK	More developed	95.10	2011	85.60	Statistiska centralbyrån	Vartannat år

2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	4b — Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises
<p>Examples of intended beneficiaries in this investment priority are public-sector stakeholders at the regional or level local, universities and colleges, but also individual sector networks/organisations and other business organisations. Small and medium-sized enterprises are the target group for this investment priority. Energy use can relate to buildings, support processes, production processes and transport. The focus is to be on manufacturing enterprises in particular in order to improve their competitiveness in the market.</p> <p>ERDF for East Middle Sweden supports activities that:</p> <p>Contribute to more energy-efficient enterprises</p> <p>Principal activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Initiatives that contribute the development of energy services and initiatives that try out new methods and tools in various sectors.• Dissemination of methods and systems for improved energy efficiency already successfully tested so that the potential that exists can be realised.• Operations to strengthen the enterprises as purchasers of services, products and processes to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and/or reduce their energy use.• Operations that contribute to increased exchange of experience between enterprises, development of skills and increased learning.• Operations to create the necessary basis for enterprises to be able to operate with high energy efficiency through an all-inclusive and systematic approach and early planning and design, energy supply, resource utilisation between enterprises, industrial plants and other facilities. <p>Contribute to operations for enterprises to convert energy analyses into actions such as energy efficiency improvements, more renewable energy and small-scale energy production</p>	

Investment priority	4b — Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises
Principal activities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operations to realise the potential for improved energy efficiency that are unutilised in enterprises because investments in energy measures often compete with investments in production equipment and are therefore deferred. • Operations that facilitate energy measures, such as grants for investments which, in the long run, boost the long-term competitiveness of the enterprises. Grants towards investments are conditional on the enterprises having carried out an energy analysis. 	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	4b — Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises
The following principles guide the selection of operations:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The operation contributes to realising the potential for growth in the horizontal criteria of better environment, gender equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination. • The involvement of trade and industry and enterprises is ensured. • Collaboration across municipal and county boundaries and international elements is ensured. • Lessons have been learnt, and the best results from previous similar operations and projects have been put to use. • Organisational capacity for implementation and active ownership of the operation are ensured. • The operation contributes to the dimensions of sustainability. • The operation contributes to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. • The projects are to ensure that activities are clearly linked to or lead directly to reduced carbon dioxide emissions, saved kWh or an increased proportion of renewable energy. • Projects with great potential for improved energy efficiency, increased proportion of renewable energy or reduced carbon dioxide emissions are prioritised. • The projects are to stimulate the market for and drive demand for energy-efficient and renewable products and services. 	

Investment priority	4b — Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	4b — Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	4b — Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific result indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		4b — Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			250.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

Investment priority		4b — Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
12	Reduced energy consumption in enterprises and organisations involved in projects	mWh	ERDF	More developed			10 000.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	4c
Title of the investment priority	Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	1
Title of the specific objective	Reduced carbon dioxide emissions and greater energy efficiency in the domestic, transport and public sectors.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>Development of low-carbon public infrastructures and energy supply The operations are expected to result in the creation and introduction of new methods and tools that contribute both to the development of low-carbon public infrastructures and energy supply and to reduced carbon dioxide emissions. As a consequence of increased knowledge and dissemination of knowledge, the activities can also be expected to result in changes in behaviour and attitudes on the need for a switch to a more low-carbon economy.</p> <p>Spatial and strategic planning for a low-carbon economy Improved collaboration, enhanced planning bases and improved implementation of strategic planning documents are to result in improved prospects of sustainable development and sustainable communications, with the consequence of reduced carbon dioxide emissions. Operations are related to public infrastructures that cover energy-efficient and low-carbon passenger and</p>

goods transport. Public infrastructure means both physical and organisational structures that are initiated by the public sector and make energy-efficient and low-carbon transport possible.

Collaboration and knowledge building for construction and renovation to ‘near-zero-energy buildings’

Increased collaboration and knowledge that contribute to more efficient energy use and more energy-efficient new production, renovation of existing buildings and energy use in buildings are to result in greater energy efficiency and consequently reduced carbon dioxide emissions [1].

[1] *Aid is not given to individual private operators to renovate and improve the energy efficiency of their housing stock.*

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

Specific objective		1 - Minskade koldioxidutsläpp och ökad energieffektivitet inom bostad-, transport- och offentlig sektor.						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
0402	Koldioxidutsläpp (exkl. jordbruk samt internationell luftfart och sjöfart)	Ton/år	More developed	8,923,848.00	2011	7,585,271.00	Länsstyrelsen	Vartannat år
0404	Koldioxidutsläpp från transporter (exkl. internationell luftfart och sjöfart)	Ton/år	More developed	3,419,237.00	2011	3,248,275.00	Länsstyrelsen	Vartannat år
0405	Energianvändning per m2 i bostäder (småhus och flerbostadshus)	kWh/m2	More developed	149.00	2012	134.00	Statistiska centralbyrån	Vartannat år

2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	4c — Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector
<p>Cross-sectoral collaboration and utilisation of knowledge and experience from the housing and transport sectors, among others, on improved energy efficiency, renewable energy and carbon dioxide emissions should be aimed for in order to tackle common climate challenges more effectively, make synergies possible and achieve added value in relevant operations in order to contribute to the switch to a low-carbon economy.</p> <p>Examples of intended beneficiaries in this investment priority are public-sector stakeholders at the regional or level local, universities and colleges, but also individual sector networks/organisations and other business organisations. The target group here is ultimately the enterprises, institutions and citizens that benefit from the effect brought about by the activities.</p> <p>ERDF for East Middle Sweden supports activities that:</p> <p>Promote the development and use of low-carbon public infrastructures and energy supply</p> <p>Principal activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operations that promote the creation and introduction of methods/solutions to reduce the climate impact of transport and infrastructure (for example smart roads, streets, lighting, water and wastewater systems, waste management, energy supply systems) [1].• Operations that make possible increased utilisation of waste heat/cooling and solar energy in district heating/cooling networks or adjacent properties.• Operations that assist towards reduced energy use or increased proportion of renewable energy through changes in behaviour and raising awareness.	

Investment priority	4c — Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector
Promote spatial and strategic planning for a low-carbon economy	
Principal activities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operations that develop strategic analyses, preliminary studies and planning bases to simplify the establishment of renewable energy and more efficient energy use. • Operations for the development of analyses and measures to reduce administrative and organisational obstacles to investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements. • Operations to plan for a resource-efficient and energy-efficient transport system that also contributes to increased intermodality and greater integration between the principal flows of goods to achieve sustainable communications [2]. • Operations that promote collaboration between municipalities and the regional level and other stakeholders in society to develop forms of cooperation and dialogue with the aim of attaining effective implementation of measures in municipal and regional strategies and plans, for example spatial planning. • Operations for increased cooperation on the development of municipal climate plans, comprehensive land-use plans, regional structure plans/physical regional plans that make sustainable development possible and clarify environmental work as a growth-driving factor. 	
Promote collaboration and knowledge building for construction and renovation to ‘near-zero-energy buildings’	
Principal activities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of regional and local collaboration initiatives between operators in the construction and property sector as well as universities and colleges and other public stakeholders. • Operations that aim at improved efficiency in energy use in the renovation of residential buildings and commercial premises and operations that promote the new production of residential buildings and commercial premises with higher energy performance than the Ministry of Housing, Building and Planning Building Regulations (BBR). The aid cannot be given for physical investments. • Operations that include energy and climate impact from building materials, buildings processes and administration. The aid cannot be given for physical investments. • Operations to strengthen technology procurements and enhancement and introduction of EPC (Energy Performance Contracting) and methods and tools created by national networks, for example BEBO (Beställargrupp Bostäder — Purchaser Group Housing), BELOK (Beställargrupp Lokaler — Purchaser Group Commercial Premises) in demonstration projects. 	

Investment priority	4c — Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operations for training and development of skills in the construction and property sector to bring about better evaluation and knowledge transfer of results from implemented new construction and refurbishment projects. <p>[1] Aid is not given for physical investments in transport infrastructure.</p> <p>[2] Aid is not given for physical investments in transport infrastructure.</p>	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	4c — Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector
<p>The following principles guide the selection of operations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The operation contributes to realising the potential for growth in the horizontal criteria of better environment, gender equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination. • The involvement of trade and industry and enterprises is ensured. • Collaboration across municipal and county boundaries and international elements is ensured. • Lessons have been learnt, and the best results from previous similar operations and projects have been put to use. • Organisational capacity for implementation and active ownership of the operation are ensured. • The operation contributes to the dimensions of sustainability. • The operation contributes to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. • The projects are clearly linked to or lead directly to reduced carbon dioxide emissions, saved kWh or an increased proportion of renewable energy. • Projects with great potential for improved energy efficiency, increased proportion of renewable energy or reduced carbon dioxide emissions are prioritised. • Where relevant, the projects are to contribute to more travellers choosing public transport over car use, with the aim of creating a sustainable transport system and reducing environmental impact, both within and between cities/regional nodes. • Where relevant, the projects are to contribute to coordination between different modes of transport (road, rail, sea and air). 	

Investment priority	4c — Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A national transport plan and county transport plan should be respected where relevant. • Projects clearly linked to ongoing large-region processes are prioritised [18]. 	
<p>[18] For example En Bättre Sits (A Better Seat), the East Middle Sweden cooperation for a better common knowledge base for regional overall planning, and the Trafikplan 2017 (Transport Plan 2017).</p>	

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	4c — Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	4c — Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific result indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		4c — Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO32	Energy efficiency: Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	kWh/year	ERDF	More developed			40 000 000.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO34	GHG reduction: Estimated annual decrease of GHG	Tonnes of CO2eq	ERDF	More developed			1 000.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
10	Number of projects that produce strategies/ preliminary studies/plans based on the four-stage principle	Number	ERDF	More developed			5.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
4	Number of cooperating organisations from different sectors of society	Number	ERDF	More developed			15.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7

Priority axis	3 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors
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2.A.8 Performance framework

Table 6: Performance framework of the priority axis (by fund and, for the ERDF and ESF, category of region)

Priority axis		3 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors											
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
						M	W	T	M	W	T		
12	F	Expenditure	EUR	ERDF	More developed			10 251 172			34 170 572.00	Managing authority	
12	O	Reduced energy consumption in enterprises and organisations involved in projects	mWh	ERDF	More developed			2 500			10 000.00	Project	

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

The managing authority has deemed it most appropriate to make use of outcome indicators for the performance framework and supplement these with one financial indicator per priority axis. This assessment is justified by the fact that output indicators can be fully attributed to implementation of the programme and that they are possible to measure continuously during implementation of the programme. Result indicators will not be used.

The methods and criteria that have been used to select relevant output indicators follow the guidelines issued by the Commission. The calculations of a reasonable value for the interim target for 2018 for each selected output indicator have been based on experience from the previous programming period, and an assessment of how quickly projects in the priority axis concerned can be expected to generate outcomes for each output indicator. The estimated total number of projects in each priority axis has also been taken into account. The managing authority is of the opinion that the selected output indicators fulfil the requirement to cover more than 50 % of the financial allocation for the priority axis.

With regard to the financial indicator 'Resources paid' per priority axis, the calculations have been based on the requirement for all payments included to be based on eligible costs paid to the beneficiary and for these to be certified by the certifying authority. The managing authority has taken account of experience from the programming period 2007-2013 and has focused, in particular, on how the payments were carried out during the corresponding part of the programming period, i.e. 2007-2011. The fact that the programme for the programming period 2014-2020 is more focused and concentrated and that the managing authority has a smooth organisation in place has also been taken into account. The level of payment has differed between the priority axes of the programmes over the programming period 2007-2013, and the managing authority has taken account of these variations in establishing the performance framework.

The managing authority is considering the options for permitting longer project periods than have been possible during the programming period 2007-2013 in certain particular cases. Longer project periods mean that the outcome for the outcome indicators will come relatively late in the programming period, with the result that the interim targets for 2018 in the performance framework are lower in these cases than for other priority axes.

In most cases, only one output indicator per priority axis has been selected for the performance framework. The reason for this is that the programme is so focused and concentrated that each selected output indicator is deemed to cover a large proportion of the expected projects. Having few indicators in the performance framework also makes it easier to follow up and have an overview of implementation and improves the prospects for corrective actions if the trends suggest that the performance framework will not be fulfilled.

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support.

Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention

Table 7: Dimension 1 — Intervention field

Priority axis		3 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	013. Energy efficiency renovation of public infrastructure, demonstration projects and supporting measures	2 016 624.00
ERDF	More developed	014. Energy efficiency renovation of existing housing stock, demonstration projects and supporting measures	4 033 247.00
ERDF	More developed	044. Intelligent transport systems (including the introduction of demand management, tolling systems, IT monitoring control and information systems)	5 251 625.00
ERDF	More developed	068. Energy efficiency and demonstration projects in SMEs and supporting measures	5 279 634.00
ERDF	More developed	069. Support to environmentally-friendly production processes and resource efficiency in SMEs	504 156.00

Table 8: Dimension 2 — Form of finance

Priority axis		3 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Non-repayable grant	17 085 286.00

Table 9: Dimension 3 — Territory type

Priority axis		3 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	8 030 085.00
ERDF	More developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	5 467 291.00

Priority axis		3 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	3 587 910.00

Table 10: Dimension 4 — Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis		3 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	07. Not applicable	17 085 286.00

Table 11: Dimension 6 — ESF secondary theme (ESF and YEI only)

Priority axis		3 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount

2.A.10 Summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (where appropriate) (by priority axis)

Priority axis:	3 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors

2.B DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIORITY AXES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

2.B.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	4
Title of the priority axis	Technical assistance (TA)

2.B.2 Justification for establishing a priority axis covering more than one category of region (where applicable)

2.B.3 Fund and category of region

Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)
ERDF	More developed	Public

2.B.4 Specific objectives and expected results

ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
12	Technical assistance is to lead to the programme being implemented appropriately, in a legally sound manner and effectively, and contributing to the goals of the programme being achieved in other priority axes.	Technical assistance is to lead to the programme being implemented appropriately, in a legally sound manner and effectively, and contributing to the goals of the programme being achieved in other priority axes.

2.B.5 Result indicators

Table 12: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective) (for ERDF/ESF/Cohesion Fund)

Priority axis		12 - Tekniskt stöd ska leda till att programmet genomförs ändamålsenligt, rättssäkert och effektivt samt bidrar till att programmets mål nås inom övriga insatsområden.									
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value			Baseline year	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
			M	W	T		M	W	T		

2.B.6 Actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives (by priority axis)

2.B.6.1 A description of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives

Priority axis	4 — Technical assistance (TA)
	<p>Technical assistance can be provided so that the programme can be implemented in an effective and legally sound way and to inform about and encourage broad participation in the programme. Technical assistance can fund a number of activities, including preparations, administration, monitoring, evaluation, information and controls. The monitoring committee decides on the budget for technical assistance. The managing authority decides on the payment of technical assistance.</p> <p>The following costs can be co-financed by technical assistance for the managing and certifying authorities: preparations, administration, controls, evaluation, information efforts, seminars, computer systems and evaluations.</p> <p>The costs of auditing for the audit authority are co-financed by technical assistance.</p> <p>The costs of preparing for and holding meetings of the monitoring committee can be co-financed by technical assistance.</p> <p>The costs of holding Structural Funds Partnership meetings are co-financed by technical assistance.</p>

Priority axis	4 — Technical assistance (TA)
<p>The technical assistance is to be used to achieve simple and effective implementation. The focus in development work will be on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More simplification and reduced administrative burden for project sponsors. • Greater coordination and cross-border collaboration between different programmes, projects and funds. • Result-oriented working practices where project selection, indicators, follow-up, evaluation and learning are combined. 	

2.B.6.2 Output indicators expected to contribute to results

Table 13: Output indicators (by priority axis) (for ERDF/ESF/Cohesion Fund)

Priority axis		4 - Tekniskt stöd (TA)				
ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023) (optional)			Source of data
			M	W	T	
14	Externa utvärderingar har genomförts under programperiod	Antal			15.00	Förvaltande myndighet
6	Utbetalade medel av programmets totala budget	Procent			100.00	Förvaltande myndighets datasystem
100	Antalet anställda (årsarbetskrafter) vilkas löner medfinansieras av TA	Årsarbetskrafter				Förvaltande myndighet - Årliga genomföranderapporten

2.B.7 Categories of intervention (by priority axis)

Corresponding categories of intervention based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and an indicative breakdown of the Union support

Tables 14-16: Categories of intervention

Table 14: Dimension 1 — Intervention field

Priority axis		4 — Technical assistance (TA)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ Amount
ERDF	More developed	121. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection	2 520 780.00
ERDF	More developed	122. Evaluation and studies	140 043.00
ERDF	More developed	123. Information and communication	140 043.00

Table 15: Dimension 2 — Form of finance

Priority axis		4 — Technical assistance (TA)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ Amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Non-repayable grant	2 800 866.00

Table 16: Dimension 3 — Territory type

Priority axis		4 — Technical assistance (TA)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ Amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	1 316 407.00
ERDF	More developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	896 277.00
ERDF	More developed	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	588 182.00

3. FINANCING PLAN

3.1 Financial appropriation from each fund and amounts for performance reserve

Table 17

Fund	Category of region	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		Total	
		Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve												
ERDF	More developed	8 853 203.00	565 099.00	9 030 445.00	576 412.00	9 211 211.00	587 950.00	9 395 557.00	599 717.00	9 583 588.00	611 718.00	9 775 375.00	623 960.00	9 970 981.00	636 446.00	65 820 360.00	4 201 302.00
Total		8 853 203.00	565 099.00	9 030 445.00	576 412.00	9 211 211.00	587 950.00	9 395 557.00	599 717.00	9 583 588.00	611 718.00	9 775 375.00	623 960.00	9 970 981.00	636 446.00	65 820 360.00	4 201 302.00

3.2 Total financial appropriation by fund and national co-financing (€)

Table 18a: Financing plan

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Basis for calculation of Union support (Total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Union support (a)	National counterpart (b) = (c) + (d)	Indicative breakdown of national counterpart		Total funding (e) = (a) + (b)	Co-financing rate (f) = (a) / (e) (2)	EIB contributions (g)	Main allocation		Performance reserve		Performance reserve amount as proportion of total Union support (l) = (j) / (a) * 100
						National public funding (c)	National private funding (d) (1)				Union support (h) = (a) – (j)	National Counterpart (i) = (b) – (k)	Union support (j)	National Counterpart (k) = (b) * ((j) / (a))	
1	ERDF	More developed	Total	26 888 318.00	26 888 318.00	26 081 918.00	806 400.00	53 776 636.00	50.0000000000 %	0.00	25 207 798.00	25 207 798.00	1 680 520.00	1 680 520.00	6.25 %
2	ERDF	More developed	Total	23 247 192.00	23 247 192.00	22 549 792.00	697 400.00	46 494 384.00	50.0000000000 %		21 794 241.00	21 794 241.00	1 452 951.00	1 452 951.00	6.25 %
3	ERDF	More developed	Total	17 085 286.00	17 085 286.00	16 743 586.00	341 700.00	34 170 572.00	50.0000000000 %		16 017 455.00	16 017 455.00	1 067 831.00	1 067 831.00	6.25 %
4	ERDF	More developed	Public	2 800 866.00	2 800 866.00	2 800 866.00	0.00	5 601 732.00	50.0000000000 %		2 800 866.00	2 800 866.00			
Total	ERDF	More developed		70 021 662.00	70 021 662.00	68 176 162.00	1 845 500.00	140 043 324.00	50.0000000000 %		65 820 360.00	65 820 360.00	4 201 302.00	4 201 302.00	6.00 %
Grand total				70 021 662.00	70 021 662.00	68 176 162.00	1 845 500.00	140 043 324.00	50.0000000000 %	0.00	65 820 360.00	65 820 360.00	4 201 302.00	4 201 302.00	

(1) To be completed only when priority axes are expressed in total costs.

(2) This rate may be rounded to the nearest whole number in the table. The precise rate used to reimburse payments is the ratio (f).

Table 18c: Breakdown of the financial plan by priority axis, fund, category of region and thematic objective

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Thematic objective	Union support	National counterpart	Total funding
Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	ERDF	More developed	Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	26,888,318.00	26,888,318.00	53,776,636.00
Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	ERDF	More developed	Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)	23,247,192.00	23,247,192.00	46,494,384.00
Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	ERDF	More developed	Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	17,085,286.00	17,085,286.00	34,170,572.00
Total				67,220,796.00	67,220,796.00	134,441,592.00

Table 19: Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives

Priority axis	Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (€)	Proportion of the total allocation to the operational programme (%)
1	672,208.00	0.96%
3	13,631,817.40	19.47%
Total	14,304,025.40	20.43%

4. INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

Description of the integrated approach to territorial development taking into account the content and objectives of the operational programme having regard to the Partnership Agreement and showing how the operational programme contributes to the accomplishment of the objectives of the operational programme and expected results

The territorial conditions in East Middle Sweden, where most of the largest cities in Sweden are located, are notable for a strategic geographical location around Lake Mälaren, which in turn creates good conditions for logistics and communications and competitiveness. At the same time, the five counties in the programme area have different structural conditions, and there is an imbalance, for example, in level of education and access to research resources between the different parts of the region. The cities are, however, important nodes and drivers of sustainable growth in East Middle Sweden. The challenge involves strengthening regional enlargement and the growing labour markets around the cities, while utilising synergies so that the surrounding countryside and rural areas in the region can be developed.

The programme has three priority axes focused on strengthening research and innovation, the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises and long-term sustainable growth with improved energy efficiency and reduced emissions. The territorial approach in the programme is concerned with utilising the power for development that exists in the multi-core structure and strength of the region, in particular innovativeness, in and between all the geographical parts of East Middle Sweden. Globalisation and the geographical and functional links of the region with the outside world are of key importance, firstly to strengthen the opportunities of enterprises for internationalisation, which is a priority area in the programme, and secondly to meet the climate challenge, given that East Middle Sweden, as the most important hub for the handling of goods in the country, has high levels of carbon dioxide emissions from transport.

The European Social Fund is also of importance to territorial development in East Middle Sweden. The regional action plan for the ESF is therefore to be regarded as a complement that can strengthen matching and the supply of skills in the labour market and can assist enterprises in finding the right skills. The European Social Fund can be used to reduce unemployment and social exclusion, as there are wide geographical differences between different municipalities in East Middle Sweden.

4.1 Community-led local development (where appropriate)

The approach to the use of community-led local development instruments and the principles for identifying the areas in where they will be implemented

Not applicable in this programme.

4.2 Integrated actions for sustainable urban development (where appropriate)

Where appropriate the indicative amount of ERDF support for integrated actions for sustainable urban development to be implemented in accordance with the provisions under Article 7(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 and the indicative allocation of ESF support for integrated action.

Not applicable in this programme.

Table 20: Integrated actions for sustainable urban development – indicative amounts of ERDF and ESF support

Fund	ERDF and ESF support (indicative) (€)	Proportion of fund's total allocation to programme
Total ERDF	0.00	0.00%
TOTAL ERDF+ESF	0.00	0.00%

4.3 Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) (where appropriate)

The approach to the use of Integrated Territorial Investments (ITIs) (as defined in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) other than in cases covered by 4.2, and their indicative financial allocation from each priority axis.

Not applicable in this programme.

Table 21: Indicative financial allocation to ITI other than those mentioned under point 4.2 (aggregate amount)

Priority axis	Fund	Indicative financial allocation (Union support) (€)
Total		0.00

4.4 The arrangements for interregional and transnational actions, within the operational programme, with beneficiaries located in at least one other Member State (where appropriate)

It will be possible for both interregional and transnational cooperation to take place in the programme in all priority axes provided they contribute to fulfilling the goals of the programme. The operations are to be based on a cross-border analysis. The managing authority can approve an operation being implemented outside the programme under the terms stated in Article 70(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

Cooperative measures that contribute to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region will be supported by the programme in two ways:

A — Macro-regionally integrated projects

Project applications are written from the outset with transnational cooperation as an integral part of the project. The partners who are to be included in the project from other Member States in the macro-region are identified and intend to apply for aid from their particular programmes in order to be able to take part in the project.

B —Transnational component

Projects that have already been started are given an opportunity to apply for further funding for cooperation with other relevant projects in the macro-region. Funding for cooperation being applied for separately through a ‘transnational component’ provides greater flexibility regarding length and focus of cooperation.

It is worth noting that the cooperative measures can be taken with parties from various structural and investment funds, for example between the ERDF and the ESF or the EAFRD.

The managing authority will provide information on the opportunities to finance cooperation with stakeholders in the macro-region. A specific example may be special calls for proposals focused on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

The operations that will be supported as above are to have added value for the programme area and contribute to the goals and priorities of the strategy.

The collaborative measures in the programme should be focused on finding and/or implementing common solutions to identified cross-border problems

4.5 Contribution of the planned actions under the programme to macro-regional and sea basin strategies, subject to the needs of the programme area as identified by the Member State (where appropriate)

(Where the Member State and regions participate in macro-regional strategies and sea basin strategies).

Many of the challenges facing Sweden and the EU are cross-border in nature, for the local, regional and national levels. The Europe 2020 strategy also emphasises the importance of closer cooperation between the Member States. The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region provides important guidance for the selection of operations and contributes to enabling the regional Structural Funds programme to be used in a more purposeful and focused way to meet common challenges in the macro-region.

A success factor for the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region is functioning multi-level management between different sectors of society. All levels need to take part in efforts to attain the goals of the strategy: saving the marine environment, linking the region together and increasing prosperity.

A Baltic Sea Region Strategy project can be made up of either a Flagship Project as stated in the strategy action plan or projects with a clear macro-regional impact that contribute to attaining the goals and indicators of the strategy by contributing to implementing one or more actions in the action plan.

In the Swedish programme context, the contributions to implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region will principally signify activity carried out in cooperation with one or more other countries in the macro-region.

Chapter 1 of the programme contains a description of how the programme relates to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. Chapter 2 contains a description under each priority axis of whether, and if so how, this strategy is to be managed in the priority axis concerned. The description of the issue is thus integrated into the programme.

5. SPECIFIC NEEDS OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS MOST AFFECTED BY POVERTY OR TARGET GROUPS AT HIGHEST RISK OF DISCRIMINATION OR SOCIAL EXCLUSION (WHERE APPROPRIATE)

5.1 Geographical areas most affected by poverty/target groups at highest risk of discrimination or social exclusion

Not applicable to the programme.

5.2 Strategy to address the specific needs of geographical areas most affected by poverty/target groups at highest risk of discrimination or social exclusion, and where relevant, the contribution to the integrated approach set out in the Partnership Agreement

Not applicable to the programme.

Table 22: Actions to address specific needs of geographical areas most affected by poverty/target groups at highest risk of discrimination or social exclusion

Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned action as part of integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
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6. SPECIFIC NEEDS OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS WHICH SUFFER FROM SEVERE AND PERMANENT NATURAL OR DEMOGRAPHIC HANDICAPS (WHERE APPROPRIATE)

With reference to Article 174 of the Treaty, only the programmes for Upper Norrland and Middle Norrland are concerned in Sweden. In these programmes, as in this programme, demographic challenges and sparse population are addressed in Chapters 1 and 2 of the programme.

7. AUTHORITIES AND BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGEMENT, CONTROL AND AUDIT AND THE ROLE OF RELEVANT PARTNERS

7.1 Relevant authorities and bodies

Table 23: Relevant authorities and bodies

Authority/body	Name of authority/body and department or unit	Head of authority/body (position or post)
Managing authority	Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth	Director-General
Certifying authority	Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth	Director-General
Audit authority	Swedish National Financial Management Authority	Head of the EU Audit Department
Body to which Commission will make payments	Swedish National Debt Office	Director-General of the National Debt Office

7.2 Involvement of relevant partners

7.2.1 Actions taken to involve the relevant partners in the preparation of the operational programme, and the role of those partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme

In the spring of 2012, a political decision was taken on an initiative to commence preparations for the EU's next programming period. The regional directors of the regional councils of Örebro, Sörmland, Östergötland and Uppsala instructed their business development officers to prepare documentation on the European Regional Development Fund ahead of the new programming period 2014-2020. In the autumn of the same year, the four heads of business development jointly met with a representative of Västmanland County Administrative Board to draw up a joint action plan for the five counties, and a working group was formed. The regional councils took a decision in the same autumn to give Örebro Regional Council principal responsibility for the work of programme drafting and for proposing these rules of procedure to central government. Pending the government decision, the working group was converted into an interim group with the task of drawing up project instructions ahead of the continued work of programme writing.

The government decision on how the programming work was to be implemented was announced on 31 January 2013. An offer was made to Örebro Regional Council to draw up an operational programme for the European Regional Development Fund and a socio-economic analysis for the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund for the five counties in East Middle Sweden. The decision made it clear that the geography of the forthcoming programming period for the ERDF would

also be the same during the next period 2014-2020. East Middle Sweden was to be covered by the counties of Örebro, Västmanland, Sörmland, Uppsala and Östergötland

Örebro Regional Council appointed a project manager tasked with coordinating and directing the work of programme writing. In addition to the project manager, a partnership was established, consisting of several parts:

- a political steering group consisting of a chair for each regional council and the county governor of Västmanland,
- a management group of the regional directors in Örebro, Sörmland, Uppsala and Östergötland and the principal administrative officer of Västmanland County Administrative Board,
- a Structural Funds group comprising an official appointed by the regional directors and the principal administrative officer of Västmanland County Administrative Board.
- county endorsement networks, consisting of stakeholder organisations and networks utilised by the regional councils/Västmanland County Administrative Board in the endorsement of the regional development strategies (the RUS process) and in ordinary activities.

The political steering group, the management group and the Structural Funds group met every month in the spring of 2013 for coordination purposes. The work has been guided by an overall action plan. The groups have been composed in such a way that all the counties are to be represented, the necessary expertise is to be available and the gender distribution is to be as even as possible [19]. The principal work on developing the basis for the operational programme has taken place in the Structural Funds group. Among other things, this group has put together a collective picture of what parts of the regional development strategies have been relevant to the ERDF, has allocated priorities between the thematic objectives in the ERDF, has actively reached out and established contact with those responsible for programme writing for other funds, has started cooperation with responsible authorities, and has structured and formulated the contents of the operational programme.

The management group already decided at the outset that endorsement efforts should take place on a county-by-county basis. A significant reason was that there were already networks and arenas established in the counties, some linked to previous RUS processes, others more independent, which were well suited to an endorsement process. During the spring, the Structural Funds group made use of these networks and arenas to inform, provide feedback and test acceptance prior to various alternatives which had been the object of discussion. In this way, the Structural Funds group has ensured that the choices made have been endorsed in the counties.

The regional councils in each county and the county administrative board in the county of Västmanland held larger meetings in the spring of 2013 in the form of conferences/seminars, where information was provided on the whole process relating to work on the ERDF at various levels of society and scope was provided for discussions on the future orientation of the ERDF. Input from the participants in these conferences was captured and utilised as input and contributions to the Structural Funds group. The conferences also involved the dissemination of experience from the previous programming period to create learning between participating organisations and individuals.

A number of groups of programme writers were formed when the Structural Funds group reached agreement in the spring of 2013 on thematic objectives and underlying investment priorities. It is common to all the groups of programme writers that they have consisted of experts from different counties with an official with principal responsibility. This group of writers drew up proposed texts which were then processed within the Structural Funds group, the management group and the political steering group according to a schedule with clear reconciliation points in May and June. At the meetings of the Structural Funds group in May and June, both the Structural Funds group and the group of writers reconciled the contents of the various parts to ensure that the operational programme as a whole hangs together and has a logical structure.

A number of stakeholders have been attached to this group of programme writers. Authorities for the various funds have, for example, taken part through the coordination remit of the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth. Responsible groups of writers for the county-by-county strategies of the rural development programme and representatives from the urban development network in the Mälardalen Valley have also been involved. The county administrative boards have been involved, partly on the basis of their authority coordinating task in the counties and partly based on their expert knowledge on the horizontal objectives. Those responsible for the ERDF work of the Stockholm region have been involved, as Stockholm functionally has many links to the counties in East Middle Sweden.

A feature shared by all these stakeholders is that they have actively taken part in formulating the proposed texts for the operational programmes of the ERDF. Together with the Structural Funds programme, these stakeholders have also been challenged to draw up a more long-term plan during the next programming period regarding how joint strategic development work in East Middle Sweden could be formulated, guided by the focus of the ERDF.

Managing and certifying authorities

The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth is the managing and certifying authority for the regional Structural Funds programmes with EU-controlled powers. The responsibilities of the managing authority include drafting, decisions on aid and payment of funds to project sponsors. The managing authority also has to carry out the tasks of the certifying authority.

In its drafting role, the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth also has to consult regional and national experts where necessary on technical issues and for regional analysis of needs. The purpose of this is to ensure a well endorsed basis for decisions. If financial aid is granted to a large enterprise, the managing authority has to make sure that the grant does not result in a significant loss of jobs at existing places of work in the Union.

The management system for the European Regional Development Fund was approved by the Commission in 2007, and no systemic errors have subsequently been observed by auditors. Sweden is therefore retaining the existing management system, and administrative capacity consequently remains good.

Audit authority

The Swedish Financial Management Authority is the audit authority for the regional Structural Funds programmes with EU-controlled powers.

Structural Funds Partnership

To ensure regional influence on implementation of the programme, a joint Structural Funds Partnership has been formed within the geographical area of the programme and a corresponding regional action plan for the European Social Fund.

The remit of the Structural Funds Partnership is set out in the Structural Funds Partnership Act (2007:459). The Structural Funds Partnership is tasked with setting priorities between project applications approved by the managing authority.

Applications have to be submitted to the managing authority, which is responsible for preparation and decisions on awarding aid. Before a decision is made on aid, the managing authority has to present material as a basis for decision-making and other material to the partnership and may grant aid only in accordance with the priorities set by the partnership.

When the managing authority has to issue a call for proposals in a programme, the criteria specific to the call are reconciled with the Structural Funds Partnership before the call for proposals is published. The chair of the Structural Funds Partnership has to convene meetings in consultation with the managing authority.

Monitoring committee

The Member States have to set up a committee to monitor implementation of the programme. A joint monitoring committee is set up for the eight Structural Funds programmes with representatives of stakeholders concerned. The committee is chaired by a representative of the Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications. The Government responds separately on the composition and working practices of the committee.

The monitoring committee for the eight regional Structural Funds programmes has to form a joint committee with the monitoring committee of the European Social Fund Programme. The principal task of the committee is to address issues of coordination between the funds falling within the remit of the monitoring committee.

The monitoring committee for the regional Structural Funds programmes can form further committees on its own initiative.

Follow-up and evaluation

It is laid down in the Structural Funds Regulation that evaluations have to be made ‘in relation to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth’. Systematic evaluation is essential to be able to assess the effectiveness, appropriateness and impact of policy, particularly with regard to the contribution of the operations to attaining the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy. As part of a strengthened focus on results, greater efforts need to be made to evaluate systematically the combined results and effects of the

projects and the thematic operations and to highlight the significance of the operations in attaining the goals of the programmes and sustainable growth regionally and nationally.

Systematic follow-up and evaluation are to be part of the work on evaluation of both European cohesion policy and regional growth policy. The overall aim is to contribute to learning and to improve quality throughout the programme cycle, from programme planning and implementation of projects to implementation in regular activity. The evaluations are to change, improve and strengthen regional growth policy by disseminating experience and knowledge.

Follow-ups and evaluations will take place continuously and differ somewhat in character, and they will serve different purposes in different phases. To ensure good quality in implementation and good results in the programmes, there is a need for a clear cohesive system in which project selection, indicators, evaluation, participatory research and learning are combined. An important aspect of this is that routines for data collection relating, among other things, to indicators for follow-up and evaluation are planned at an early stage. Despite the level of aspiration on evaluation for learning having been raised during the programming period 2007-2013 and efforts in evaluation and participatory research having increased, there is still room for improvement. There is a general need for greater focus on performance, particularly in view of the requirements for this at EU level in this programming period. An area that needs to be developed is follow-up and evaluation of results, for example benefit should be measured with some regularity, and various forms of measurement of results and effects for sustainable growth and employments should be developed. Another area it will be important to evaluate and follow up is integration of the horizontal criteria and also contributing to increased learning in the area.

Work on evaluation during programme implementation is to be carried out by an independent party and feature methods for participatory research and theory-driven evaluation. Theory-driven evaluation means evaluation of both process and results and effects in the short and long terms, as well as possible implementation in regular activity. A key part of the evaluation remit is to coordinate methods of evaluation and ensure that they are developed so that it becomes possible to follow the long-term effects on sustainable growth and employment of the operations carried out in the programmes.

The programming period 2014-2020 is to feature a commitment to an evaluation approach and learning system that ensures feedback of experience from the projects and knowledge creation from programme implementation. It is essential for this purpose that parties involved in programme implementation, such as regional and national development stakeholders, the managing authority, the Structural Funds Partnership and project parties learn lessons from the operations under the programmes by following the evaluations and studying the evaluation results, but above all utilise the results in their continued work. Stakeholders also have to have good knowledge of the objectives and purpose of the programmes. Completed evaluations have to be published in line with the Commission directive to enable everyone affected by the programme to be reached, but also to create wider learning and inspiration.

Evaluation is to be linked clearly to process support, analytical efforts and platforms for learning and exchange of knowledge. Coordination has to take place with those responsible for evaluation for the other ESI funds to create a combined picture of the

aggregate contribution to structural changes for smart and inclusive sustainable development.

The requirement for greater coordination applies, in particular, to operations under the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund aimed at making utilisation of fund resources more effective. This may concern joint evaluation of coordinated operations, the implementing organisations, a joint reference group for the monitoring committees of the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund, joint dissemination and feedback initiatives and joint procurement of capacity development for project evaluation.

Dissemination of results from follow-ups and evaluations and ensuring that evaluations are put to use contribute to improved governance and fulfilment of objectives in the programmes. The Swedish ESF Council and the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth therefore have to collaborate with those responsible for growth regionally to pass on knowledge and experience from the fund activity and contribute to the follow-up and development.

7.2.2 *Global grants* (for the ESF, where appropriate)

7.2.3 *Allocation of an amount for capacity building* (for the ESF, where appropriate)

8. COORDINATION BETWEEN THE FUNDS, THE EAFRD, THE EMFF AND OTHER UNION AND NATIONAL FUNDING INSTRUMENTS, AND WITH THE EIB

The mechanisms to ensure coordination between the Funds, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and other Union and national funding instruments, and with the European Investment Bank (EIB), taking into account the relevant provisions laid down in the Common Strategic Framework.

The ERDF programmes will act in a context in which other European, national, regional and local initiatives, plans and programmes are significant to implementation of the programmes. An explicit aspiration for the programming period 2014-2020 is for work to focus more clearly on the goals in the EU 2020 strategy and the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and to be linked to a greater degree to other national and EU-financed programmes and activities.

The regional action plan for the European Social Fund

The basic principle underpinning the use of the ESF during the programme period is that the fund should strengthen and develop the national labour-market policy and help to achieve the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy. The priorities of the national programme have been specified in a regional action plan applicable to East Middle Sweden. The regional action plan is intended to focus the operations on:

- strengthening access to life-long learning and raising the level of knowledge in the labour force,
- facilitating the transition from training to employment,
- access to employment for job-seekers,
- lasting integration of young people, and
- active inclusion for increased employability.

There are clear links between the ERDF programme for East Middle Sweden and the action plan of East Middle Sweden for the European Social Fund. Unemployment among young people and persons born abroad is high, while the region needs to raise the level of education and training and raise the level of knowledge in the labour force and boost the development of skills to cope with changes and increased global competition. Many enterprises also consider the shortage of skilled staff to be an obstacle to growth. Supply and demand in the labour market must therefore be matched better. All this, taken together, means that the issues of skill supply and the problems of social exclusion have a great impact on growth of the region.

Links between the ERDF and the ESF are addressed, among other ways, through improved development of skills, for example, in the innovation-promoting and enterprise-promoting system to improve supportive operations for trade and industry and research platforms. Development of skills for increased knowledge and knowledge transfer on improved energy efficiency and greater entrepreneurship are mentioned, as are links to social innovation and social entrepreneurship to reduce social exclusion. Links have also been made to utilise the knowledge that exists among those born abroad for increased internationalisation, increased employment and active inclusion.

The national innovation strategy

The objectives and vision of the national innovation strategy to strengthen the Swedish innovation climate in different areas by 2020 are linked to thematic objective 1, and are of significance to regional development capacity. This clearly highlights the significance of the regional level in innovation work and the significance of being able to achieve the goals of the strategy, one of which is that Sweden's regional innovation environments should be globally attractive.

The national innovation strategy in the area of agriculture refers to the opportunities that exist to support innovative initiatives in the rural development programme under the European innovation partnership for agriculture which, in turn, provides opportunities for cooperation at European level.

The way in which the programme is intended to work on this is described in Chapter 1.

The national European Regional Development Fund programme

The fundamental purpose of the programme is to supply added value to the regional growth work and implementation of cohesion policy that cannot be achieved sufficiently under the regional Structural Funds programmes. The programme is to contribute to the following added values:

- Obtain qualitative projects in competition in order to support long-term development in certain technical areas.
- Support collaborative projects between counties and projects between counties and the national level that contribute to developing regional areas of strength based on the regional circumstances in different parts of the country.
- Contribute to developing multi-level control, that is to say between levels and participants.
- Promote operations that contribute to increased collaboration with other relevant EU programmes.
- Promote operations that contribute to increased involvement of business in both the preparation and implementation of the programme.
- Develop work on evaluation, feedback of knowledge and learning in work under the Structural Funds.

The national European Regional Development Fund programme contains the following priority axes:

Strengthening research, technological development and innovation — includes operations under thematic objective 1. The focus in this area is on developing Swedish areas of strength through cross-border collaboration and research infrastructure.

Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs. The operations in this area are aimed at increasing access to venture capital in early stages and promoting the emergence of more private stakeholders in the venture-capital market through the implementation of a financial instrument according to the fund-in-fund structure.

Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors. This is the largest operational area from the point of view of budget and accommodates operations under thematic objective 4 focused partly on energy efficiency and partly on supply of capital,

focusing on enterprises whose activities contribute to the development of a low-carbon economy.

Operations of a process-supporting nature are also described in thematic area 4. This means national skills and method support that is to contribute to increased strategic learning by developing and disseminating knowledge across geographical and administrative boundaries.

COSME and Horizon 2020

Small and medium-sized companies can increase their knowledge intensity and R&I contacts and strengthen their international networks with assistance from the regional Structural Funds programmes. This facilitates future participation in national and European research and innovation programmes. Work towards strengthening links between the regional Structural Funds programmes and Horizon 2020 will be developed to lay the foundation for broader participation in Horizon 2020. It is to be possible for results from COSME projects and Horizon 2020 and previous research programmes to be converted into new projects in the regional Structural Funds programmes. At national level, there are a few important authorities, in particular the Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems (Vinnova) and the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth that will have roles in both the European Regional Development Fund programmes, Horizon 2020 and COSME, which in practice will mean increased coordination and will make synergies possible. The foundation for this is laid through strategies for smart specialisation that contributes to harnessing of strength to increase the effects of the investments made in research and innovation and to boost growth and create more jobs.

It is stated in the Strategic investments in the Research and Innovation Bill, 2012/13:30, for example, that the Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems (Vinnova), based on its area of activity, should support the regions in their work on strategic innovation. The national innovation strategy also stresses the need to develop the interaction between national authorities, regional development actors and work on the programmes within the EU. The importance of creating synergies and ensuring coordination between the programmes and the various EU funds and instruments for research, innovation and entrepreneurship is also emphasised in the Swedish Government's directives for the preparation of European Regional Development Fund programmes.

The guidelines for the RISE group (the research institutes) state in what way the institutes will assist in work on regional strategies relating to innovation environments and implementation of the European Regional Development Fund programmes at regional and national level.

The possibility of combining funding from the Horizon 2020 and ESI funds in various initiatives during implementation is to be investigated. It may be a matter of collaborating across programme boundaries, national borders, combining entrepreneurship and innovation measures and promoting companies with growth potential.

Coordination between the ESI funds and the public-public research partnerships (Joint Programming Initiatives, ERA-NETs and the research programmes under Article 185), as well as the public-private research partnerships under Article 187 (Joint Technology Initiatives) is to be ensured where applicable.

The rural development programme provides an opportunity for agricultural firms to take part in cooperative initiatives between practitioners, advisers and researchers under the European innovation partnership for agriculture. These initiatives also create an opportunity for farms to forge international contacts and take part in projects under Horizon 2020.

CAP

The EU's common agricultural policy consists of two pillars, where Pillar I contains market support and direct payments and Pillar II contains the rural development programme. Pillar I is dominated in budgetary terms by direct support, which is largely decoupled from production and is paid on a per-hectare basis. The rural development programme and the single farm payment system together generate important support for rural development and agriculture. The agreement on single farm payments reached in 2013 has led to the introduction of several ways of targeting support at different groups of farmers. Important principles underpinning both work on the rural development programme and single farm payments are simplification, competitiveness and activity in rural areas, as well as high environmental benefit.

Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)

Good accessibility through a transport system that works smoothly is of key importance in attaining development capacity in all parts of the country with strengthened local and regional competitiveness. Investments in the transport system, for example in infrastructure, may be decisive for business, the labour market and the environment for sparsely populated regions.

The EU can make contributions to infrastructure building in the Union through EU cooperation on the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) and, with effect from 2014, the 'Connecting Europe Facility' (CEF). The idea is that a well expanded infrastructure will provide better conditions to use the benefits of an EU without internal borders. Increasing international accessibility also gives Swedish regions access to larger markets. To enable funding to be applied for from the budget for the FEC, the infrastructure must be present on the maps contained in guidelines for TEN-T.

In addition to this, an important contribution can be made through the Structural Funds. Support for sustainable transport through the Structural Funds should be used for measures that strengthen business and the labour market and contribute to attractive living and residential environments. Grants through the Structural Funds complement the FEC through a greater focus on regional issues.

Telecommunications networks and services are increasingly becoming internet-based infrastructures, with broadband networks and digital services closely interrelated. The internet is a very important platform for communication, services, education, participation in public life and business activity. Trans-European access to reliable and fast broadband and digital services is therefore of great significance for economic growth, competitiveness and social integration.

Under the FEC and trans-European networks in the area of the telecommunications infrastructure (TEN-TELE), initiatives can be taken to promote expansion and modernisation of trans-European infrastructures for digital services and their common building-blocks and of broadband networks. The initiatives in the area of digital services

have to be supported through procurement and/or grants, while the investments in broadband networks are to be supported by financial instruments which are to be open to additional contributions from private investors, Member States and contributions from other sources, including the European Structural and Investment Funds. In addition, initiatives can be taken to promote the integration of the internal market for energy under the FEC and trans-European networks in the area of energy (TEN-E).

LIFE

LIFE is the EU's financial instrument for the environment and climate, and the European Commission annually allocates funding to projects in the Member States. In work towards strengthening cross-regional and cross-sectoral operations, LIFE fulfils a key function with the form of project known as integrated projects (IP). This project form is a new type of project introduced during the programming period 2014-2020 with the aim of creating synergies between the sector areas of the ESI funds and the area of environment and climate through a larger type project, for example regional or multi-regional. These projects may have links to nature (including Natura 2000 administration), water, waste, air and climate (restriction of and adaptation to) which are focal areas for IP. The measures financed by the ESI funds with links to the environment, climate change and sustainable use of resources may also complement the LIFE programme.

To be able to ensure synergies between the different funds and with integrated projects under LIFE, the dialogue between the authority responsible for LIFE — the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency — and the managing authorities for the ESI funds is of key importance.

Creative Europe

The general aim of the EU's culture and media programme Creative Europe includes strengthening the competitiveness of the European cultural and creative sectors, smart growth and inclusive sustainable growth. The programme points to opportunities and needs for consistency and links to other relevant Union funding such as the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund, as well as research and innovation programmes. It is therefore crucial to utilise the significance and potential of culture in Swedish regional development activity.

Transport infrastructure plans

There are a national plan and county transport plans for the transport infrastructure. The plans relate to a period of 12 years and are updated every 4 years. The national plan covers investments and improvements in the national road network, measures in the national rail network, operation and maintenance. The county transport plans cover investments in national roads not included in the trunk road network and state co-financing for measures in certain regional public transport facilities, etc.

9. EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES

9.1 Ex-ante conditionalities

Information on the assessment of the applicability and the fulfilment of ex-ante conditionalities (optional).

Table 24: Applicable ex-ante conditionalities and assessment of their fulfilment

Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (Yes/No/Partially)
T.01.1 — Research and innovation: The existence of a national or regional smart specialisation strategy in line with the National Reform Program, to leverage private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with the features of well performing national or regional R&I systems.	1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	Yes
T.01.2 — Research and Innovation infrastructure. The existence of a multi annual plan for budgeting and prioritisation of investments.	1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	Yes
T.03.1 — Specific actions have been carried out to underpin the promotion of entrepreneurship taking into account the Small Business Act (SBA).	2 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	Yes
T.04.1 — Actions have been carried out to promote cost effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost effective investment in energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.	3 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	Partially
G.1 — The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti-discrimination law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation 2 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) 3 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	Yes
G.2 — The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union gender equality law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation 2 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises	Yes

Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (Yes/No/Partially)
	(SMEs) 3 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	
G.3 — The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC.	1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation 2 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) 3 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	Yes
G.4 — The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation 2 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) 3 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	Yes
G.5 — The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation 2 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) 3 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	Yes
G.6 — The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union environmental legislation related to EIA and SEA.	1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation 2 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) 3 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	Yes
G.7 — The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation 2 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) 3 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	Yes

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanation
T.01.1 — Research and innovation: The existence of a national or regional smart specialisation strategy in line with the National Reform Program, to leverage private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with the features of well performing national or regional R&I systems.	1 — A national or regional smart specialisation strategy is in place that:	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’
T.01.1 — Research and innovation: The existence of a national or regional smart specialisation strategy in line with the National Reform Program, to leverage private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with the features of well performing national or regional R&I systems.	2 — is based on a SWOT or similar analysis to concentrate resources on a limited set of research and innovation priorities;	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’
T.01.1 — Research and innovation: The existence of a national or regional smart specialisation strategy in line with the National Reform Program, to leverage private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with the features of well performing national or regional R&I systems.	3 — outlines measures to stimulate private RTD investment;	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanation
T.01.1 — Research and innovation: The existence of a national or regional smart specialisation strategy in line with the National Reform Program, to leverage private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with the features of well performing national or regional R&I systems.	4 — contains a monitoring mechanism.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’
T.01.1 — Research and innovation: The existence of a national or regional smart specialisation strategy in line with the National Reform Program, to leverage private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with the features of well performing national or regional R&I systems.	5 — A framework outlining available budgetary resources for research and innovation has been adopted.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’
T.01.2 — Research and Innovation infrastructure. The existence of a multi annual plan for budgeting and prioritisation of investments.	1 — An indicative multi-annual plan for budgeting and prioritisation of investments linked to Union priorities, and, where appropriate, the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) has been adopted.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’
T.03.1 — Specific actions have been carried out to underpin the promotion of entrepreneurship taking into account the Small Business Act	1 — The specific actions are: measures have been put in place with the objective of reducing the time and cost involved in setting-up a business taking	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanation
(SBA).	account of the targets of the SBA;		Sweden'	
T.03.1 — Specific actions have been carried out to underpin the promotion of entrepreneurship taking into account the Small Business Act (SBA).	2 — The specific actions are: measures have been put in place with the objective of reducing the time needed to get licenses and permits to take up and perform the specific activity of an enterprise taking account of the targets of the SBA;	Yes	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden'	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden'
T.03.1 — Specific actions have been carried out to underpin the promotion of entrepreneurship taking into account the Small Business Act (SBA).	3 — The specific actions are: mechanism is in place to monitor the implementation of the measures of the SBA which have been put in place and assess the impact on SMEs.	Yes	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden'	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden'
T.04.1 — Actions have been carried out to promote cost effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost effective investment in energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.	1 — The actions are: measures to ensure minimum requirements are in place related to the energy performance of buildings consistent with Article 3, Article 4 and Article 5 of Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council;	No	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden'	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden'
T.04.1 — Actions have been carried out to promote cost effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost effective investment in energy efficiency when	2 — The actions are: measures necessary to establish a system of certification of the energy performance of buildings consistent with Article 11 of Directive 2010/31/EU;	Yes	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden'	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden'

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanation
constructing or renovating buildings.				
T.04.1 — Actions have been carried out to promote cost effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost effective investment in energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.	3 — The actions are: measures to ensure strategic planning on energy efficiency, consistent with Article 3 of Directive 2012/27/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council;	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’
T.04.1 — Actions have been carried out to promote cost effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost effective investment in energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.	4 — The actions are: measures consistent with Article 13 of Directive 2006/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on energy end-use efficiency and energy services to ensure the provision to final customers of individual meters in so far as it is technically possible, financially reasonable and proportionate in relation to the potential energy savings.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’
G.1 — The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti-discrimination law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	1 — Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the involvement of bodies responsible for the promotion of equal treatment of all persons throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes, including the provision of advice on equality in ESI fund related activities.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanation
G.1 — The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti-discrimination law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	2 — Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of Union anti-discrimination law and policy.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’
G.2 — The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union gender equality law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	1 — Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the involvement of bodies responsible for gender equality throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes, including the provision of advice on gender equality in ESI Fund-related activities.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’
G.2 — The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union gender equality law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	2 — Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of Union gender equality law and policy as well as on gender mainstreaming.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’
G.3 — The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC.	1 — Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the consultation and involvement of bodies in charge of protection of rights of persons with disabilities or representative organisations of persons with disabilities and other relevant	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanation
	stakeholders throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes.			
G.3 — The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC.	2 — Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of applicable Union and national disability law and policy, including accessibility and the practical application of the UNCRPD as reflected in Union and national legislation, as appropriate.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’
G.3 — The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC.	3 — Arrangements to ensure monitoring of the implementation of Article 9 of the UNCRPD in relation to the ESI Funds throughout the preparation and the implementation of the programmes.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’
G.4 — The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	1 — Arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement rules through appropriate mechanisms.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’
G.4 — The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of	2 — Arrangements which ensure transparent contract award procedures.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanation
the ESI Funds.			Sweden'	
G.4 — The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	3 — Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the ESI funds.	Yes	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden'	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden'
G.4 — The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	4 — Arrangements to ensure administrative capacity for implementation and application of Union public procurement rules.	Yes	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden'	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden'
G.5 — The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	1 — Arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules.	Yes	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden'	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden'
G.5 — The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	2 — Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the ESI funds.	Yes	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden'	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden'

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanation
G.5 — The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	3 — Arrangements to ensure administrative capacity for implementation and application of Union State aid rules.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’
G.6 — The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union environmental legislation related to EIA and SEA.	1 — Arrangements for the effective application of Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (EIA) and of Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (SEA).	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’
G.6 — The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union environmental legislation related to EIA and SEA.	2 — Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the EIA and SEA Directives.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’
G.6 — The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union environmental legislation related to EIA and SEA.	3 — Arrangements to ensure sufficient administrative capacity.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’
G.7 — The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness	1 — Arrangements for timely collection and aggregation of statistical data with the following elements are in place: the	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden’

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanation
and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	identification of sources and mechanisms to ensure statistical validation.		Sweden'	
G.7 — The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	2 — Arrangements for timely collection and aggregation of statistical data with the following elements are in place: arrangements for publication and public availability of aggregated data.	Yes	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden'	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden'
G.7 — The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	3 — An effective system of result indicators including: the selection of result indicators for each programme providing information on what motivates the selection of policy actions financed by the programme.	Yes	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden'	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden'
G.7 — The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness	4 — An effective system of result indicators including: the establishment of targets for these indicators.	Yes	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden'

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanation
and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.			Sweden'	
G.7 — The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	5 — An effective system of result indicators including: the consistency of each indicator with the following requisites: robustness and statistical validation, clarity of normative interpretation, responsiveness to policy, timely collection of data.	Yes	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden'	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden'
G.7 — The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	6 — Procedures in place to ensure that all operations financed by the programme adopt an effective system of indicators.	Yes	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden'	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities East Middle Sweden'

9.2 Description of actions to fulfil ex-ante conditionalities, responsible bodies and timetable

Table 25: Actions to fulfil applicable general ex-ante conditionalities

General ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
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Table 26: Actions to fulfil applicable thematic ex-ante conditionalities

Thematic ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
T.04.1 — Actions have been carried out to promote cost effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost effective investment in energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.	1 — The actions are: measures to ensure minimum requirements are in place related to the energy performance of buildings consistent with Article 3, Article 4 and Article 5 of Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council;	In the response to formal notification of the implementation of Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 May 2010 on the energy performance of buildings (case No 2013/2134), it was stated that the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning is to adopt a clarifying formulation in regulations BFS 2011:6, section 9. The proposal for clarification is currently being addressed in the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning's ongoing process for revision of BFS 2011:6 and is expected to enter into force on 1 February 2015.	01-Feb-2015	National Board of Housing, Building and Planning

10. REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN FOR BENEFICIARIES

Summary of the assessment of the administrative burden for beneficiaries and, where necessary, the actions planned accompanied by an indicative timeframe to reduce administrative burden.

Applying for, operating, reporting and concluding a project with funding from a Structural Funds programme in the framework of the European Regional Development Fund demands good administrative skills and capacity. The administrative burden of operating a project is experienced differently by different beneficiaries, which may be explained by factors such as their own administrative procedures, previous experience of Structural Funds projects, the focus and complexity of the project, etc.

In dialogues with beneficiaries and through surveys that have been conducted, the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth (managing authority) notes that the beneficiaries generally regard the administrative burden in running a Structural Funds project as heavy.

The Swedish National Audit Office has reviewed the extent to which the managing authorities for the ERDF programmes and the ESF programme have exploited the opportunities for simplification offered during the programming period 2007-2013. In its report 'Mer att förenkla! Administration i strukturfondsprojekt' ('More to simplify! Administration in Structural Funds projects') (RiR 2012:22), the Swedish National Audit Office notes that the beneficiaries often comment that the administrative requirements make it more difficult to implement the projects by taking the focus away from the core activity and making it difficult to work with innovative ideas and methods.

During the autumn of 2012, the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth initiated cooperation with the Swedish ESF Council (managing authority for the national ESF programme) to make use of the opportunities presented by the proposed Structural Funds regulation for the programming period 2014-2020 with regard to simplified project administration for beneficiaries. In February 2013, cooperation on the simplification measures was broadened by the Swedish Board of Agriculture, which is the managing authority for the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Marine and Fisheries Fund, joining in. The areas in which cooperation between the funds with the aim of reducing the administrative burden for beneficiaries has started are principally payroll costs and indirect costs.

Ahead of the programming period 2014-2020, the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth has actively worked on revising all stages of administration and implementation of the programmes. The case process which contains everything from information about the programmes and their contents to application procedure, approval of projects, project reporting, follow-up and finally project closure, are an important part of this overhaul. The work has been based on experience gained in own work but also experience obtained through participatory research and through various audit operations. The work has resulted, among other things, in:

Clearer and more readily accessible information for beneficiaries

A new and improved electronic application, 'My Application'

Simplified internal work processes

Simpler reporting for beneficiaries

Indicative timetable

Table 30:

Measure	Estimated end date
Clear and readily available to beneficiaries	January 2014
A new and improved electronic application, 'My Application'	February 2014
Simplified work processes Programme start/autumn 2014	
Simpler reporting for beneficiaries Programme start/autumn 2014	

11. HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES

11.1 Sustainable development

Description of specific actions to take into account environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster resilience and risk prevention and management, in the selection of operations.

Sustainable development means meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. It is an overall objective of the EU and pervades all Union politics and activities.

Better environment, gender equality, equal treatment and non-discrimination, the three horizontal criteria, are drivers of sustainable growth by focusing on smart, inclusive and sustainable solutions that can enhance innovative capability and reduce consumption of resources and energy. In connection with implementation of the programme, the horizontal criteria are to be used as tools to improve work and make it more effective.

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and requires regional, national and global solutions to reduce further climate impact and to adapt society to a changed climate. In trade and industry, there is need for both structural change and increased resource efficiency, i.e. reduced use of energy, raw materials and ecosystem resources. The Swedish Government firmly believes that the climate, environmental and energy challenges represent an opportunity for the development of technology, products and services in all sectors. Business opportunities are created for Swedish companies with the growing global demand for sustainable and resource-efficient goods and services.

The goal of Swedish environmental policy is to be able to hand over to the next generation a society in which the great environmental problems have been solved, without causing increased environmental and health problems outside the borders of Sweden. Regions and municipalities have great responsibility to contribute actively to what is known as the system of environmental objectives and for the environmental quality objectives to be met.

The switch to a green economy means developing sustainable goods, services and production systems, and can consequently reduce the environmental impact regionally, nationally and globally. This switch can also contribute to environmentally driven business development in all sectors and consequently increased entrepreneurship, export opportunities and employment in both urban and rural areas. It is therefore important to promote the development of small and medium-sized enterprises wishing to convert to sustainable enterprise and also to regard this as a competitive advantage.

Evaluations point to needs to operationalise the horizontal criteria for specific activities and goals (linked to regional challenges) in the projects within the programme, so that they are not reduced to something that is added afterwards.

Knowledge of how the three horizontal criteria are to be integrated into the preparation, goals and implementation of projects is a key factor. The criteria are to be used as levers to achieve better outcomes from the projects, i.e. improve the possibility of solving the

regional problems identified by the projects and contribute to sustainable growth. All projects under the programme have to take account of the same horizontal criteria. The managing authority has to assist in this work.

Classification criteria

A common tool for all regional Structural Funds programmes for investments in growth and employment is the classification criteria. These ensure that all horizontal criteria are taken into account in all projects, while at the same time contributing to information being stored on the projects which, in a later stage, facilitates follow-up and evaluation. The horizontal classification criteria can also be used as a tool in dialogue with those who apply for aid and those who are granted aid. The classification is made in the preparation of each project application. To make the classification criteria specific with regard to a better environment, it has to be examined whether the environmental quality objectives can be used in the assessment. The horizontal criteria are then followed up continuously during the project period.

Table 31:

Better environment

The environment is used actively as a tool with which to achieve the goals and results of the project.

The project fulfils all the items below:

- The background and project description contains an account of how the environment is used as a tool/resource with which to attain the purpose and objective of the project.
- The activities and costs of the project show clearly how the environment is to be used as a tool in implementation.
- In the follow-up of the project, the project sponsor plans to show how the environment has been used as a tool to attain the objectives of the project and show what results have been achieved.

The environment is used partly as a tool with which to achieve the goals and results of the project.

The project fulfils two of the items below:

- The background and project description contains an account of how the environment is used as a tool/resource with which to attain the purpose and objective of the project.
- The activities and costs of the project show clearly how the environment is to be used as a tool in implementation.
- In the follow-up of the project, the project sponsor plans to show how the environment has been used as a tool to attain the objectives of the project and show what results have been achieved.

The environment is not used as a tool with which to achieve the goals and results of the project.

The project does not fulfil any of the items below:

- The background and project description contains an account of how the environment is used as a tool/resource with which to attain the purpose and objective of the project.
- The activities and costs of the project show clearly how the environment is to be used as a tool in implementation.
- In the follow-up of the project, the project sponsor plans to show how the environment has been used as a tool to attain the objectives of the project and show what results have been achieved.

Chapter 1 of the programme contains a description of the significance of these aspects in analysis of the region. A description of how these aspects are to be included in the operations is given for each priority axis in Chapter 2. The description of the issue is thus integrated into the programme.

11.2 Equal opportunities and non-discrimination

Description of specific actions to promote equal opportunities and prevent discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation during the preparation, design and implementation of the operational programme and in particular in relation to access to funding, taking account of the needs of the various target groups at risk of such discrimination and in particular the requirements for ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities.

Non-discrimination means regarding people's differences as an asset, a tool that makes work towards sustainable growth more effective. The goal of integration policy is equal rights, obligations and opportunities for all, regardless of ethnic or cultural background. Inclusive regional growth means that the inhabitants of the region — regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion or other beliefs, disability, transgender identity or expression, sexual orientation or age — are all equally well placed to achieve influence and gain access to growth resources, i.e. are able to assist in and contribute towards regional growth activities on equal terms.

To improve competitiveness, regions benefit from utilising the innovative capacity and entrepreneurship of the whole population. Statistics show that persons born abroad start and run companies to a greater extent, have higher turnover in their enterprises and employ more people than entrepreneurs born within the country do. Those born abroad can also contribute to the internationalisation of business through contacts, knowledge of languages and knowledge of business opportunities in their countries of origin.

Companies and organisations wishing to enhance their innovative capability benefit from recruiting more widely and creating a less homogeneous workforce. Regional efforts aimed at fair recruitment, including highlighting employers who actively operate on the basis of a non-discrimination perspective as ambassadors, are significant. It is also important to bring to the fore and develop skills among inhabitants with a foreign

background and consequently to improve matching in the labour market and lower the entry thresholds. Excluded young people are a key target group.

Active regional efforts towards integration and non-discrimination can additionally contribute to sustainable growth by increasing the inward migration of persons born abroad with the skills in demand.

Evaluations point to needs to operationalise the horizontal criteria for specific activities and goals (linked to regional challenges) in the projects within the programme, so that they are not reduced to something that is added afterwards.

Knowledge of how the three horizontal criteria are to be integrated into the preparation, goals and implementation of projects is a key factor. The criteria are to be used as levers to achieve better outcomes from the projects, i.e. improve the possibility of solving the regional problems identified by the projects and contribute to sustainable growth. All projects under the programme have to take account of the same horizontal criteria. The managing authority has to assist in this work.

Classification criteria

A common tool for all regional Structural Funds programmes for investments in growth and employment is the classification criteria. These ensure that all horizontal criteria are taken into account in all projects, while at the same time contributing to information being stored on the projects which, in a later stage, facilitates follow-up and evaluation. The horizontal classification criteria can also be used as a tool in dialogue with those who apply for aid and those who are granted aid. The classification is made in the preparation of each project application. The horizontal criteria are then followed up continuously during the project period.

Table 32:

Equal treatment and non-discrimination

Equal opportunities and non-discrimination are used actively as a tool with which to achieve the goals and results of the project.

The project fulfils all the items below:

- The background and project description of the project contains an account of how equal opportunities and non-discrimination are used as a tool/resource with which to attain the purpose and objective of the project.
- The activities and costs of the project show clearly how equal opportunities and non-discrimination are to be used as a tool in implementation.
- In the follow-up of the project, the project sponsor plans to show how equal opportunities and non-discrimination have been used as a tool to attain the objectives of the project and show what results have been achieved.

Equal opportunities and non-discrimination are used partly as a tool with which to achieve the goals and results of the project.

The project fulfils two of the items below:

- The background and project description of the project contains an account of how equal opportunities and non-discrimination are used as a tool/resource with which to attain the purpose and objective of the project.
- The activities and costs of the project show clearly how equal opportunities and non-discrimination are to be used as a tool in implementation.
- In the follow-up of the project, the project sponsor plans to show how equal opportunities and non-discrimination have been used as a tool to attain the objectives of the project and show what results have been achieved.

Equal opportunities and non-discrimination are not used as a tool with which to achieve the goals and results of the project.

The project does not fulfil any of the items below:

- The background and project description of the project contains an account of how equal opportunities and non-discrimination are used as a tool/resource with which to attain the purpose and objective of the project.
- The activities and costs of the project show clearly how equal opportunities and non-discrimination are to be used as a tool in implementation.
- In the follow-up of the project, the project sponsor plans to show how equal opportunities and non-discrimination have been used as a tool to attain the objectives of the project and show what results have been achieved.

Chapter 1 of the programme contains a description of the significance of these aspects in analysis of the region. A description of how these aspects are to be included in the operations is given for each priority axis in Chapter 2. The description of the issue is thus integrated into the programme.

11.3 Equality between men and women

Description of contribution of the operational programme to the promotion of equality between men and women and, where appropriate, the arrangements to ensure the integration of the gender perspective at operational programme and operation level.

Gender equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination as well as a better environment, the three horizontal criteria, are drivers of sustainable growth by focusing on smart, inclusive and sustainable solutions that can enhance innovative capability, maximise the utilisation of skills, human resources and entrepreneurship and reduce consumption of resources and energy. In connection with implementation of the programme, the horizontal criteria are to be used as tools to improve effectiveness of work towards sustainable growth.

The objective of gender equality policy is that women and men are to have the same power to shape society and their own lives, that is to say have the same rights and

opportunities to be active citizens, take part in decision-making, education and paid employment and take the same responsibility for work in the home.

When women and men share power and influence in all aspects of community life, we will have a fairer and more democratic society.

Gender-equal regional growth means that women and men have the same prospects of achieving influence in regional work on growth and obtaining access to growth resources. Choosing gender equality in the planning and implementation of the regional Structural Funds programmes is primarily a matter of using gender equality as a way of achieving sustainable growth.

Some principal reasons why increased gender equality can lead to sustainable growth are that:

Human resources are used more effectively if the labour market is gender-equal and less segregated by gender. This means, among other things, that the knowledge, skills and entrepreneurship of both women and men are put to optimum use, we gain more enterprises and better matching.

Greater gender equality in the governance and development of the region increases social capital and participation, which can contribute to sustainable growth by attracting inward migration and counteracting outward migration. This is also a key factor for the supply of skills to the labour market.

Gender equality improves the innovative capacity of enterprises and organisations, in part because work becomes more effective if both women and men take part in management, planning and implementation.

Evaluations point to needs to operationalise the horizontal criteria for specific activities and goals (linked to regional challenges) in the projects within the programme, so that they are not reduced to something that is added afterwards.

Knowledge of how the three horizontal criteria are to be integrated into the preparation, goals and implementation of projects is a key factor. The criteria are to be used as levers to achieve better outcomes from the projects, i.e. improve the possibility of solving the regional problems identified by the projects and contribute to sustainable growth. All projects under the programme have to take account of the same horizontal criteria. The managing authority has to assist in this work.

Classification criteria

A common tool for all regional Structural Funds programmes for investments in growth and employment is the classification criteria. These ensure that all horizontal criteria are taken into account in all projects, while at the same time contributing to information being stored on the projects which, in a later stage, facilitates follow-up and evaluation. The horizontal classification criteria can also be used as a tool in dialogue with those who apply for aid and those who are granted aid. The classification is made in the preparation of each project application. The horizontal criteria are then followed up continuously during the project period.

Table 33:

Equality between men and women

Gender equality is used actively as a tool with which to achieve the goals and results of the project.

The project fulfils all the items below:

- The background and project description of the project contains an account of how gender equality is used as a tool/resource with which to attain the purpose and objective of the project.
- The activities and costs of the project show clearly how gender equality is to be used as a tool in implementation.
- In the follow-up of the project, the project sponsor plans to show how gender equality has been used as a tool to attain the objectives of the project and show what results have been achieved.

Gender equality is used partly as a tool with which to achieve the goals and results of the project.

The project fulfils two of the items below:

- The background and project description of the project contains an account of how gender equality is used as a tool/resource with which to attain the purpose and objective of the project.
- The activities and costs of the project show clearly how gender equality is to be used as a tool in implementation.
- In the follow-up of the project, the project sponsor plans to show how gender equality has been used as a tool to attain the objectives of the project and show what results have been achieved.

Gender equality is not used as a tool with which to achieve the goals and results of the project.

The project does not fulfil any of the items below:

- The background and project description of the project contains an account of how gender equality is used as a tool/resource with which to attain the purpose and objective of the project.
- The activities and costs of the project show clearly how gender equality is to be used as a tool in implementation.
- In the follow-up of the project, the project sponsor plans to show how gender equality has been used as a tool to attain the objectives of the project and show what results have been achieved.

Chapter 1 of the programme contains a description of the significance of these aspects in analysis of the region. A description of how these aspects are to be included in the operations is given for each priority axis in Chapter 2. The description of the issue is thus integrated into the programme.

12. SEPARATE ELEMENTS

12.1 Major projects to be implemented during programming period

Table 27: List of major projects

Project	Planned notification/submission date (year, quarter)	Planned start of implementation (year, quarter)	Planned completion date (year, quarter)	Priority Axes / Investment Priorities

12.2 Performance framework of operational programme

Table 28: Performance framework by fund and category of region (summary table)

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)		
					M	W	T	M	W	T
1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	ERDF	More developed	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises			37			150.00
1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	ERDF	More developed	Expenditure	EUR			16 132 991			53 776 636.00
2 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	ERDF	More developed	Productive investment:	Enterprises			283			1 133.00

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)		
					M	W	T	M	W	T
			Number of enterprises receiving support							
2 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	ERDF	More developed	Expenditure	EUR			13 948 315			46 494 384.00
3 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	ERDF	More developed	Expenditure	EUR			10 251 172			34 170 572.00
3 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	ERDF	More developed	Reduced energy consumption in enterprises and organisations involved in projects	mWh			2 500			10 000.00

12.3 Relevant partners involved in preparation of programme

The following stakeholders were involved in the five counties during the programme-writing process and/or through information meetings in the spring of 2013:

Södermanland

Eskilstuna Municipality, Flen Municipality, Gnesta Municipality, Katrineholm Municipality, Nyköping Municipality, Oxelösund Municipality, Strängnäs Municipality, Trosa Municipality and Vingåker Municipality

Sörmland Regional Council

Södermanland County Administrative Board

Sörmland County Council

Mälardalen University

Företagarna (Swedish Federation of Business Owners)

Confederation of Swedish Enterprise

Chamber of Commerce of East Sweden

Almi

Robotdalen

Automation Region

Swedish Transport Administration

Uppsala

Håbo Municipality, Enköping Municipality, Tierp Municipality, Uppsala Municipality and Östhammar Municipality

Uppsala Regional Council

Uppsala County Administrative Board

Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth

Swedish ESF Council

Coompanion

Centre for Non-Profit Work

Federation of Swedish Farmers (LRF)

LRF Mälardalen
Leader Upplandsbygd
Turismakademin (Tourism Academy)
Uppsala University
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
Folkuniversitetet Adult Education Association
Uppsala Innovation Centre
Samordningsförbundet (Coordination Association)
Swedish Public Employment Service
Social Insurance Agency
Nyföretagarcentrum (New Entrepreneur Centre)
Tierps Företagare (Tierp Entrepreneurs)
Thematic Group for Workplace Learning and Adaptation in the World of Work
SPeL
Thematic Group for Young People in the World of Work
Upplands Idrottsförbund (Uppland Sports Association)
Kemwell AB

Västmanland

Arboga Municipality, Fagersta Municipality, Hallstahammar Municipality, Kungsör Municipality, Köping Municipality, Norberg Municipality, Sala Municipality, Skinnskatteberg Municipality, Surahammar Municipality and Västerås Municipality

Västmanland County Administrative Board

Västmanland County Council

Västmanland Municipalities and County Council

Almi Mälardalen

Mälardalen University

Västerås Science Park

Robotdalen

Automation Region

Triple Steelix

Chamber of Commerce of Mälardalen

Coompanion

Företagarcentrum Västerås (Västerås Entrepreneur Centre)

Ung Företagsamhet (Junior Achievement Sweden)

Jobba i Västerås (Working in Västerås)

Winnet Västmanland

Företagarna (Swedish Federation of Business Owners) Västmanand-Uppsala County

Sustainable Business Mälardalen

Enterprise Europe Network Mälar Region

Västmanland Research and Development Council

Business Sweden, Västmanland Region

Swedish Tax Agency

Örebro

Askersund Municipality, Degerfors Municipality, Hallsberg Municipality, Hällefors Municipality, Karlskoga Municipality, Kumla Municipality, Laxå Municipality, Lekeberg Municipality, Lindesberg Municipality, Ljusnarsberg Municipality, Nora Municipality and Örebro Municipality

Örebro Regional Council

Örebro County Council

Örebro CAB

Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth

Swedish ESF Council

Coompanion

L&SEK

Leader Bergslagen

Central Sweden

Almi Mälardalen

Almi Invest

Örebro University

Örebro Läns Bildningsförbund (Örebro County Adult Education Association)

Karlskoga Science Park

Örebro Science Park

Chamber of Commerce of Mälardalen

Örebro County Rural Council

Möckelnföretagen

Ung Företagsamhet (Junior Achievement Sweden)

Masugnen

Cityakademin (City Academy)

Social Insurance Agency

Swedish Forest Agency

ApeL forskning och utveckling

Thematic Group for Young People in the World of Work

Örebro County Sports Association

Ideelt utvecklingscentrum i Örebro (Non-profit development centre in Örebro)/CESAM Foundation

Intresseföreningen Bergslaget (Bergslaget Association)

Bergskraft

ACTuell

Engström Project Consultant

Goodproc

Qathos

Östergötland

Boxholm Municipality, Finspång Municipality, Kinda Municipality, Linköping Municipality, Norrköping Municipality, Mjölby Municipality, Motala Municipality, Söderköping Municipality, Vadstena Municipality, Valdemarsvik Municipality, Ydre Municipality, Åtvidaberg Municipality and Ödeshög Municipality

Regional Council Östsam

Östergötland County Council

Östergötland County Administrative Board

Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth

Swedish ESF Council

Linköping University

Almi Östergötland

Energikontoret Östra Götaland AB

Norrköping Science Park

Mjärdevi Science Park

LEAD

Cleantech Östergötland

Visit Östergötland

Visit Linköping

Leader Gränslandet

Leader Kustlandet

Leader Folkungaland

Nova Medtec

Vreta Kluster

Marknadsbolaget i Fjärde Storstadsregionen AB

Civil Aviation Administration

Swedish Forest Agency

LRF Konsult AB

Swedish Board of Agriculture

Junior Achievement Sweden Östergötland

Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Ex-ante evaluation East Middle Sweden	Supplementary information	10-Dec-2014		Ares(2014)41408 96	Ex-ante evaluation	10-Dec-2014	nolofann
Ex-ante conditionality East Middle Sweden	Supplementary information	10-Dec-2014		Ares(2014)41408 96	Ex-ante conditionality (EAC)	10-Dec-2014	nolofann
EIA East Middle Sweden	Supplementary information	10-Dec-2014		Ares(2014)41408 96	EIA East Middle Sweden	10-Dec-2014	nolofann