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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.

The regional Structural Funds programme covers Stockholm County, which coincides with the geographical area of Stockholm in the European Union's NUTS2 classification. Today, in 2013, the region has a population of just over 2.1 million, divided between 26 municipalities. The largest municipality, Stockholm City, in addition to being the national capital, is the largest municipality in the region (and in Sweden), with nearly 900 000 inhabitants. The smallest municipalities in the county, by comparison, have a population of around 10 000. The annual increase in population during the programming period 2007-2013 was just over 35 000. Few regions in Europe have seen such a sharp increase in population. The Stockholm region has by far the highest population density in Sweden, and the proportion living in built-up areas is 96 %, which is substantially higher than the country as a whole. Although the proportion living in rural areas is relatively low, the size of population in the county means that it nonetheless has the third largest rural population in the country.

Stockholm is a strong region but, at the same time, faces a number of challenges that have been identified in regional work on growth [2]. Several of these challenges are linked to the sharp growth in population, resulting in various forms of capacity shortages, particularly in transport infrastructure and the housing sector. Alongside these common challenges, there are other challenges such as the sometimes wide intra-regional differences. There are wide differences in the county between municipalities and also urban districts with low educational achievement, high unemployment and lasting social exclusion. There is strong justification here for various types of operations to reverse the trend and strengthen cohesion by taking a collective and integrated approach. At the same time, the region has several municipalities and municipal districts that rank very highly in the country in terms of educational attainment, employment and economic sustainability, for example.

See Figures 1 and 2, annex 'Tables and figures Stockholm'.

The Stockholm region in a European perspective

As the Capital Region in one of Europe's most competitive economies, Stockholm plays an important role in the future sustainable growth and development of Sweden and therefore also the rest of the EU. Conditions in the region differ from those in other parts of the country. The Stockholm region's major strengths are a high level of education and

training in the labour force, strong educational institutions and a dynamic and knowledge-intensive business sector, and a large number of multinational companies have their registered offices in the region. There has been a trend towards an increase in the number of new business start-ups since the turn of the millennium, but the necessary conditions exist to enable more existing companies to grow and develop.

Overall, there is great collective economic strength, and the region accounts for a significant share of economic growth and value creation in Sweden. Studies also show that the region's role as a port of entry for ideas contributes to innovations that generate dispersal effects to other parts of Sweden and Europe. Strengthening and developing the areas of strength that exist in the region therefore becomes a way of contributing to development in other less strong regions of Sweden and to development in the EU as a whole.

Overarching objectives in Europe 2020

The Europe 2020 strategy is based on three overarching priorities that are to reinforce one another:

- smart growth, developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation,
- sustainable growth: promoting a more resource-efficient, greener and more competitive economy, and
- growth for all: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.

The national reform programme presented by the Swedish Government to the Commission each year contains a description of the implementation of Europe 2020 and the five objectives. It is apparent both from the national reform programme for 2013 and from the regional analysis performed for this programme that Sweden, and the Stockholm region in general, perform well in relation to the five objectives of Europe 2020. Sweden in general, and the Stockholm region in particular, have higher *employment* among both men and women than the EU as a whole. With regard to *education*, Sweden and the Stockholm region have a higher proportion of people with post-secondary education and a lower proportion of young people without upper secondary qualifications who are not in education. The proportion of 20-year-olds who have completed upper secondary schooling is, however, lower in the Stockholm region than in the country as a whole. Sweden is above the EU average with regard to the goal of social inclusion, which in Sweden is largely concerned with employment, while in many other parts of the EU it is primarily concerned with poverty reduction. Sweden and the Stockholm region are also above the EU average in the objective of *research and development*, in the form of investments in R&D. In *climate and energy*, there are challenges in reducing environmental impact, in terms of both energy use (which in Sweden is relatively high compared with other industrialised countries in Europe) and greenhouse gas emissions in both Sweden and the EU.

Principles underpinning the formulation of the programme

There is a common strategic framework at EU level for implementation of the next Structural Funds period, and at national level there is a *Partnership Agreement* indicating Sweden's orientation and priorities as a basis for the funds. At regional level, the participants in the Structural Funds partnership in the Stockholm region have agreed on a number of main principles for implementation of the ERDF Programme (and the ESF

Programme) in Stockholm for the period 2014-2020. The principles are formulated on the basis of the experience gained in the region during the programming period 2007-2013. They are also formulated taking into account the guidelines issued by both the Commission and the Swedish Government ahead of the Structural Funds period 2014-2020.

Sustainable urban development [3] is an integral part of regional growth efforts in the Stockholm region, where an all-embracing perspective is essential for geographical (economic, environmental and social) cohesion. This means that operations in the programme have to strengthen the conditions for sustainable growth and development in the region's urban environments [4] (see the section on *The Capital Region's special challenges*).

See Table 3, annex 'Tables and figures Stockholm' [5].

Concentration of resources

A principle underpinning the region's efforts, based on experience during the previous programming period, is that the resources available in this programme are to be used in such a way as to contribute to meeting the regional challenges. The resources are additionally to be used in such a way as to make a major contribution to the development of the region. The resources are to be used for operations that can be attributed to explicit development needs in the region. The resources are also to be used in such a way as to leave a clear footprint in the areas where operations are implemented. In practical terms, this means that larger but fewer operations should be the aim in programme implementation. The operations supported by this programme are not, however, allowed to be used for what can be considered to replace ordinary ongoing public-sector activity [6].

In that way, the programme also contributes to enabling the Union's overarching objectives to be met. The principle of concentration of resources during the coming programming period is entirely in line with the applicable Regulation [7]. In view of the focus of the ERDF Programme in Stockholm County, the focus of the Structural Funds is essentially in the regional development programme RUF 2010 and associated priorities in regional growth efforts 2014-2020 (Labour Market and Skills Supply, Innovativeness, Energy and Climate, Infrastructure and Housing). The intention behind the focus described above for the programme's concentrated resources is that the Europe 2020 objectives will be attained through the operations implemented at regional level in these areas of development.

Collaboration between the funds

To respond to the challenges facing the Stockholm region, a holistic approach is needed where a key requirement is for a holistic perspective to be applied in development work. It is therefore necessary to aim for operations in which the funds can be used jointly to meet the region's needs. Work on growth is strengthened and becomes multi-dimensional through increased collaboration. The aim is also that this should mean a more effective way of using and mobilising resources. The operations initiated in this programme should therefore also be valued from a joint funds perspective. Wherever possible and meaningful, the aim should be to create operations that build on fund collaboration, in particular with the European Social Fund.

Focus on enterprises and labour force

Based on experience from the current programming period, the need to be able to produce clear effects on sustainable regional growth is highlighted. Focusing on the enterprises [8] and the labour force (employees and the unemployed [9]) in the Structural Funds programmes make it possible to take a focused, integrated approach that responds to both the challenges facing the region and the objectives of the funds. This focus guides the formulation of the operational ERDF programme and the regional action plan for the European Social Fund in Stockholm County. In practice, it means that the operations to be implemented in the ERDF programme have to be able to leave a clear footprint in the form of sustainable growth and development among the enterprises covered by the operations.

Initiating efforts — the Stockholm model

A key principle underpinning implementation of this programme is to be interaction and endorsement among stakeholders in the Stockholm region. The aim is active ownership and accountability in the region for the operations that are implemented. This involves operators in the region taking a more proactive role in implementation of the Structural Funds 2014-2020 through the county's Structural Funds partnership. This approach leads to stakeholders in the region to a greater extent becoming initiators and owners of operations that will be implemented under the programme. It also means that stakeholders in the region take on a more active role with regard to feedback of knowledge and learning from the operations implemented. It is also important to include innovative originators of ideas from various sectors in mobilisation.

See Table 4, annex 'Tables and figures Stockholm'.

The Partnership Agreement

The Partnership Agreement represents the national strategic framework for the next Structural Funds 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 the labour market, the region and society to develop and be transformed. There is a regional imbalance in the distribution of people with a high level of educational qualifications, which has

consequences for long-term regional development. R&D investments in the private sector, in particular, need to increase, and entrepreneurial skills need to be enhanced, especially in rural areas, among young people, women and people born abroad. It is also desirable to profile leading universities and increase collaboration with stakeholders from the business community.

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 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 educational qualifications 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 business. 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 adaptation and internationalisation of regional business. Access to high-speed broadband is a key factor in stimulating new business opportunities, services and innovations. Good electronic communications are particularly important for growth, enterprise and housing for the countryside and other sparsely populated regions.

Identified development needs in the Stockholm region

Stockholm is a strong region in both the national and European perspectives and is well placed to compete in a global arena. Development in the Stockholm region is therefore of great strategic significance for Sweden and the EU, and the programme should address important challenges and opportunities that can strengthen the region's position. The development needs identified in Stockholm also meet the territorial challenges the Partnership Agreement addresses in Stockholm, which concern the sharp growth in population, shortages of capacity in the transport system and the housing sector, the intra-

regional differences and the need to strengthen existing enterprises in growth processes [11].

Overarching conclusions from the regional analysis are presented below as a basis for the focus in the ERDF programme in Stockholm [12].

Challenge 1: Reduced capacity in the Swedish innovation system [13]

The Swedish innovation system is losing competitiveness and the ability to attract investments in private R&D [14]. This is largely due to several major companies having reduced their R&D activities in the country in recent years. This has been particularly clear for the Stockholm region in Life Science, where there have been cutbacks in some of the large global corporations with R&D activity in the region. The regional analysis also shows that direct investments in R&D activities have decreased in the Stockholm region in recent years. For example, investments in R&D in the Stockholm region fell from 4.25 % to 3.88 % of gross regional product over the period from 2003 to 2009. This represented a decrease that was greater than for other similar regions in the Union, such as Copenhagen. The analysis also shows that small new enterprises in Sweden are less good at applying for and obtaining patents than comparable companies in other EU countries. An aim in the operations that will be implemented under this programme should therefore be to work towards private business being involved in the process to an even greater degree in order to capitalise on innovations that are created. Similarly, an important element is the operations contributing to an increased inflow of private venture capital into the regional innovation system.

The region's ability to contribute to innovations being created and commercialised is of key significance for sustainable growth in Sweden and the EU. The region's competitiveness and ability to create new businesses and jobs depend on its capacity to develop innovations in the form of new products, services and business models. For that reason, it is important that the ERDF programme supports operations aimed at strengthening the ability of the region to attract investments in R&D and boosting the ability of companies to benefit from what is developed under the region's innovation system. There are a large number of research and innovation infrastructures in the region [15], several of which are international leaders in their research field, and there is potential to make R&I infrastructures available to a greater extent for small and medium-sized enterprises. The aim for the operations in this programme should therefore be to contribute to the creation of a more developed innovation-driven economy in the region.

Challenge 2: Greater growth enterprises and their role in the regional innovation system [16]

Small and medium-sized enterprises play an important role in employment and growth in the Swedish economy [17]. The regional analysis shows that one in three companies in the country are started in Stockholm County. There is a trend towards an increase in business creation in the region. Just over 24 000 businesses were started in 2011, which is the highest figure ever recorded. In a European perspective, business creation is relatively at a lower level in the Stockholm region. The OECD points out that one of the obstacles to growth and dynamics in the region is the level of entrepreneurship in international terms. This applies both to new business creation and to the proportion of new, fast-growing enterprises. Several structural obstacles inhibit growth in the region, according to the OCED, including regulations and the business climate in the region.

The region's capability for entrepreneurship capability and capacity in existing trade and industry are crucial in enabling it to exploit the innovations created in the universities by researchers or among the R&D companies. This requires initiative, knowledge and capital. The operations in the programme should therefore aim to strengthen the capability of the entrepreneurs and companies that exist in the region to contribute to the commercialisation of innovations. Market-supplementing supply of capital in early stages, for example, is important. Another important part is concerned with developing the interaction between public-sector stakeholders, research institutions and business. One element of this is supporting and encouraging cooperation projects and mobility among individuals and the transition between sectors to promote exchange of knowledge. This may, for example, mean increasing exchange between private industry and publicly financed research institutions and educational institutions. It may also relate to exchange between the business sector, universities and colleges, and the social economy. Exchange and transfer of knowledge should take place in both directions, both to enhance the opportunities to commercialise research results and to ensure the relevance of research to needs in the world at large.

The regional analysis shows that there is a relatively well developed system of support for new business creation and support in early stages. On the other hand, the innovation and enterprise-promoting system is somewhat weaker with regard to support for existing enterprises in growth processes. An important aspect of this is supporting the process of commercialisation of innovations, business development and ability to grow, viewed from an international perspective. This applies to a large proportion of the small and medium-sized enterprises active in the areas that can be described as the areas of strength of the Stockholm region. The enterprises operate to a great extent in a global market. Supporting capacity for internationalisation, including in small companies, will therefore be a strategic task in enabling the region to maintain its international position and competitiveness in the area. The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region can create opportunities for new markets here [18]. There is also potential in facilitating collaboration and knowledge transfer, including with small enterprises, to find synergies between industries and sectors. The knowledge-intensive enterprises that exist in the Stockholm region can also play an important role here as disseminators of knowledge.

Another aspect is developing the interaction between business and the labour market. Access to high-quality labour is a key factor in enabling enterprises in the region to grow in the long term. Coordination with the European Social Fund and the regional skills platforms is a strategic issue from this point of view. Coordinated operations between the funds can contribute to influencing the supply of labour and strengthening skills among employees in companies and organisations. This also includes benefiting from the resource represented by the diversity in the region's population. Increasing the presence in the labour market of groups which today are outside the labour market is a key growth issue from this point of view.

Challenge 3: Innovations — a route to reduced climate impact [19]

Sweden shows low carbon dioxide emissions and, at the same time, high growth in international terms [20]. The OECD notes that the Stockholm region, despite higher population growth and economic growth than the OECD average, has produced good environmental results, including low carbon dioxide emissions per capita, in recent years [21]. The regional analysis shows that the Stockholm region is already relatively well placed with regard to the established climate and energy targets. Energy use in the

region is relatively low in comparison with other regions of Sweden. The region's energy use is principally affected by the density of the built environment in city centres, high economic activity, strong population growth, dominant services sector and large transport flows. It is transport, the heating needs of the built environment and electricity use by the services sector for office operation and lighting that account for the greatest energy use in the Stockholm region. Influencing energy consumption and climate impact at large in the region with the resources available under this programme poses a significant challenge. Owing to its size, the region accounts for a substantial proportion of total energy consumption in the country. The regional analysis has, however, shown that soft investments and promoting operations under this programme, for example in the housing sector and transport sector, can contribute to energy efficiency and reduced carbon dioxide emissions. One area is, for example, linked to the needs for renovation in the region's property stock built during the years of the 'million homes programme' (see map in annex). A large proportion of these properties today are facing large investments. Focusing on innovations and new use of technology can contribute here to improved energy efficiency and have effects on the region's climate impact [22]. Another important area is the growing number of companies operating in the environmental technology sector. Investments have been made to develop this sector during the current programming period. Continued environmentally driven initiatives in this area lay the foundation for the development of new innovations linked to energy efficiency improvements and reduced carbon dioxide emissions.

Challenge 4 — Reduced social exclusion and strengthened cohesion [23]

The provision of skills and how the unutilised skills among women and men are used is a key issue in enabling Swedish companies to cope with global competition and change in trade and industry in the future [24]. There is great potential in the Stockholm region to make better use of resources and skills among people in the labour force who, for various reasons, are wholly or partially outside the labour market [25]. The regional analysis shows that there are relatively wide differences in employment and unemployment in the region, between women and men and persons born in Sweden and in other countries. Although headline unemployment in the Stockholm region is low, partly as a result of dynamism and sector breadth in the labour market, the number of people out of work (aged 15-74) nevertheless averaged 81 000 in 2012, and youth unemployment (age 15-24) averaged 30 000. In addition, unemployment is highest among those born abroad, particularly women born in other countries. Unemployment differs geographically between different municipalities and urban districts in the county. In view of the needs for provision of skills in the labour market, this inadequate matching has an adverse impact on regional growth. The Swedish Partnership Agreement highlights this as a challenge from the point of view of urban development [26]. The socio-economic dimension of sustainable urban development is therefore important for the Stockholm region and is described more closely in the section on *The Capital Region's special challenges*.

Development towards coherent strategic initiatives

Long-term development in the region depends on a large number of factors, with circumstances being dictated by changes in the world at large and in the region. The region's growth efforts should therefore be pursued with respect to several dimensions. To be able to respond to the challenges facing the Stockholm region, there is therefore a need for an all-embracing perspective that enables initiatives to be taken for research,

innovation and the competitiveness of enterprises, as well as energy and climate, in combination with a skills perspective. The endeavour for the operations to be based on an all-embracing perspective also entails being able to include challenges such as social exclusion, discrimination and gender equality at work. The regional analysis shows that both resources and support regarding innovation and enterprise are unevenly distributed between men and women and that persons born abroad are poorly integrated in several areas. The participatory research from the programming period 2007-2013 additionally shows that the ERDF projects in Stockholm have worked more successfully and have achieved better results with regard to gender equality than diversity and integration in the operations [27]. It is therefore important that the horizontal criteria are not just highlighted in the ERDF programme and future operations but also act as levers in growth efforts [28].

The Stockholm region is characterised by dense urban environments, and a large part of the work on growth is concerned with promoting sustainable urban development in the region. There is a need here for interaction and a coordinated mix of policy initiatives relating to structural — physical and social — aspects of the urban environments. The ERDF programme in Stockholm thus aims for an all-embracing perspective, where the perspectives mentioned above can be found in *coherent strategic initiatives*.

Thematic objectives and focus for the European Regional Development Fund in Stockholm

In order to attain the Europe 2020 objectives and fulfil the aspirations of the Swedish Government in an effective manner, and as a consequence of the regional analysis and application of the main principles of the Structural Funds in the county, the ERDF programme in Stockholm has a priority axis to enable coherent strategic initiatives. The use of a priority axis with a small number of priorities that can bring about synergies between areas (for example, research, innovations and operations for a low-carbon economy) is additionally expressed in the EU framework [29] and Sweden's Partnership Agreement [30]. Focusing on a priority axis in the Stockholm programme additionally means smart specialisation in the region, where initiatives are held together to counteract fragmentation. The priority axis is also focused on areas in which the Stockholm region has strong international competitiveness [31]. A key basic premise is the need for the all-embracing perspective that is required in view of conditions in the Capital Region.

The Capital Region's special challenges

Cities play an important role in Europe with regard to economic activity. The cities act as drivers of growth in Sweden in their regional surroundings [32]. The structural conditions, the composition and specialisation of trade and industry, the sectoral breadth of the labour market and local and regional development opportunities vary in different parts of the country [33]. The Capital Region holds a special position in Sweden owing to a large part of the region featuring continuous urban environments. The region has a large rural area and archipelago, but taken together it is the urban environments that are characteristic of the programme area and the 26 municipalities. The proportion of enterprises and employees in agriculture, forestry and fisheries is relatively low in the region. Another factor distinguishing the Capital Region from other regions is the dominant services sector, which is mainly located in the region's urban environments. The Capital Region does not, however, consist of one city, but of several mutually dependent cities, urban cores and built-up areas. It is, nonetheless, important to view rural areas and the mutual dependence of city and country as an important element in

strengthening the prospects for growth in region. To this are to be added the cities in surrounding parts of the region, with the Mälardal valley and cities such as Uppsala, Västerås, Strängnäs and Nyköping to a large extent forming part of the functional Capital Region. To promote sustainable urban development in the Stockholm region, it is crucial to adopt an all-embracing perspective in physical and strategic planning, in which geographical (economic, environmental and social) cohesion is an important element. Sustainable urban development can also cover ecosystem services to strengthen the interaction between city and nature and draw attention to opportunities with social-ecological town planning [34]. The necessary conditions are also in place to develop the blue economy in the Stockholm region (including in the archipelago and in rural areas) by improving the conditions for innovations and enterprises, for example in fisheries and aquaculture [35]. The regional is characterised by having a single core, and the regional analysis reveals differences between both municipalities and urban districts in several areas. RUFSS 2010 (which is both a regional plan under the Planning and Building Act and a regional development plan under the Ordinance on Regional Growth Activity (2007:713)) is a sector-wide programme that provides Stockholm with tools with which to adopt a territorial all-embracing perspective and promote development both in the eight designated regional urban centres and in socio-economically weak areas. A sector-wide strategy in RUFSS 2010 is concerned with *further developing a multi-core and dense region*, and aims for an all-embracing perspective in which efforts towards a dense structure of the built environment, infrastructure, communications and green structure work together with other important components such as business development, jobs, education, retail trade and entertainment and cultural provisions, etc. The eight regional urban cores are nodes in the county that are to be found in strategically important geographical locations and create the necessary basis for a growing, multi-core Stockholm region.

See Table 5, annex 'Tables and figures Stockholm' [36].

In the light of the dominance of urban environments in the region, in terms of both population and economic activity, operations under the ERDF programme should also be based on conditions in these environments. The urban environments have their own particular advantages and challenges. A great advantage is in the density and the large concentration of people, which contributes to the creation of attractive environments for housing, culture, education and business start-ups. The urban environments create dynamism, among other things through a large and diversified labour market in a small area, where companies have better prospects of finding the right skills. The urban environments create density and make possible, for example, efficient public transport systems, such as the Metro and systems for energy distribution (for example district heating). At the same time, the urban environments pose special challenges from the point of view of urban development. What the urban environments have to offer attracts many people, which in turn has led to a shortage of housing and capacity problems in the infrastructure. The growing population has an impact on the environment through a high concentration of traffic, poorer air quality and surface runoff.

The social cohesion of cities is of great significance for sustainable urban development [37]. The regional analysis shows that, despite a small geographical surface area, there are intra-regional differences within the country in a number of areas (education, employment, entrepreneurship, etc.) which should be addressed to create the necessary basis for spatially balanced development. This pattern is apparent in the map (annex) revealing the socio-economic differences between the urban environments of the

Stockholm region at planning area level. The different types of areas show deviations from the county average with regard to a combination of three socio-economic indicators [38] (gainful employment, economic assistance and upper secondary education). School results are often weaker, and unemployment is often higher, in socio-economically weak areas, while geographically adjacent areas sometimes achieve very good educational results and have low unemployment. The OECD has pointed to the significance of increasing the participation of weak groups (in particular young people who have not completed upper secondary education and persons born abroad, especially women) in the labour market in order to strengthen growth and development [39]. An important element in this concerns reversing the trend, particularly in socio-economically segregated areas, and breaking the trend towards declining school attainment, improving vocational training, strengthening the link to the labour market and, in so doing, contributing to a positive socio-economic spiral. Furthermore, a great shortage of labour may prevail in knowledge-intensive business in a single geographical area, at the same time as unemployment among the population is high. The territorial dimension is thus complex, but it is a characteristic feature of expansive and urban regions such as Stockholm.

Sustainable urban development is thus the overarching objective in the programme, where operations under the programme have to strengthen the conditions for urban growth and development in the region's urban environments. Taken together, this necessitates coherent strategic initiatives that adopt an integrated approach and where different operations supplement and reinforce one another. In view of this situation, the programme consists of one priority axis — *The Capital Region's special challenges*. The principal motive for this is to improve the prospects for responding to the Capital Region's special challenges through a functioning interaction and a policy mix of operations of varying nature. It has to be possible for operations implemented in the programme to respond to complex challenges and, at the same time, bring about synergies between different areas. This endeavour also contains the aspiration to increase cooperation and interaction with other programmes and operations, in particular the European Social Fund [40].

Based on the overall focus in the priority axis *The Capital Region's special challenges* and the challenges faced by the region, the ERDF programme in Stockholm consists of 3 of the 11 thematic objectives in Europe 2020:

- strengthening research, technological development and innovation
- enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises
- supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors.

As well as the need to implement operations based on an all-embracing perspective, there are clear synergies between the selected axes. To take an example, the shift to a low-carbon economy can be promoted and, at the same time, act as a driver for strengthened research, innovation and more growing competitive enterprises, for example in the environmental technology sector. Growing enterprises are also necessary in order to be able to have an impact on the economic imbalances that exist between different geographical areas and inhabitants of different parts of the region. The opportunities to provide for oneself are a key factor for individuals as well as for development in the region at large. The chosen objectives with an integrated urban development perspective can, together, address the region's challenges and improve the prospects of sustainable growth and development in the region's urban environments.

Synergies with other funds and programmes

The national ERDF programme for investments in growth and employment 2014-2020 has a similar thematic orientation to the ERDF programme in Stockholm. Opportunities for synergies, transnational cooperation and multi-level governance in research and innovation initiatives, the competitiveness of companies and a low-carbon economy are thus very good and should be explored. In addition, operations in the ERDF programme in Stockholm should strive for collaboration with the *European Social Fund*. Clear synergies between the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund have been identified during the programming process in Stockholm [41] and should be developed further during the programming period 2014-2020. It is necessary to build a skills-based perspective to achieve coherent strategic initiatives in the region, and coordination with the European Social Fund is a very important element in this. The national ESF programme is based on the thematic objectives Promoting employment and supporting labour mobility, Promoting social inclusion and reducing poverty and Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning. The regional action plan for the European Social Fund [42] in Stockholm is to contribute to sustainable urban development, among other things through increased employment, professional development and training of people in and outside the labour force, as well as reduced social exclusion which, in the long term, strengthens growth in the region. The regional action plan in Stockholm covers two programme areas in the national ESF programme (PO1 — Provision of skills, and PO2 — Increasing transitions to work). Operations in programme area 1 in the Stockholm region are to contribute to strengthening matching and long-term provision of skills in the labour market. Skills-enhancing operations among employees with weak links to the labour market, for example, are important. Operations in programme area 2 are to contribute to strengthening individuals with unutilised potential in the labour market. Here, operations that increase the employment rate among young people and persons born abroad, for example, are important. All operations implemented under the regional action plan therefore contribute to strengthening cohesion and sustainable urban development in the Stockholm region. Further examples of areas with particularly good prospects for fund collaboration between the ESF and the ERDF in Stockholm are skills-enhancing operations for entrepreneurs and employees in small and medium-sized enterprises, skills matching and coordinated urban development operations that promote a low-carbon economy, where different target groups (enterprises, employees, unemployed people or young people/people born abroad) are included, for example in a municipality or a transnational geographical area.

To respond to challenges in socio-economically weak parts of the Stockholm region, the *EU Programme for Social Change and Innovation* is used to promote sustainable urban development in the Stockholm region. This sector programme, alongside the European Social Fund, can complement and contribute to an increased all-embracing perspective in parts relating to the orientation of the ERDF programme, for example micro-financing, social enterprise and social innovations.

Stockholm County also has a large and vibrant rural area and archipelago. An important element is therefore concerned with developing the interaction between the region's urban environments and rural areas, for example by improving opportunities for work and enterprise so that more people can live and work in rural areas. There is also potential to have more and growing innovative enterprises in rural areas. The ERDF programme in Stockholm should therefore take account of how operations can be

coordinated with the *Rural Development Programme* (and the *Maritime and Fisheries Programme*) and associated implementation strategy for Stockholm County in the Rural Development Programme. During the period 2014-2020, Sweden will also apply *locally managed development* [43] in all four ESI Funds, i.e. the European Agricultural Fund for Regional Development, the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund. Locally managed development means coordination between the funds, as it aims to provide local operators with instruments with which to make collective efforts themselves based on fund-integrated local development strategies.

Ex-ante evaluation of proposals for ERDF programmes in Stockholm 2014-2020

During the programme-writing process, Stockholm County Administrative Board has taken account of opinions from the ex-ante evaluation conducted by the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis (briefly described in section 7.2 of the programme proposal). The Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis took part at an early stage in a regional programming meeting at which an analysis and programme structure in Stockholm were prepared [44]. The Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis then, on three occasions (3 June, 23 August and 11 September 2013), submitted general and specific comments on the Stockholm programme in writing. The integrated assessment has also been presented in the formal final report on ex-ante evaluation of the programmes (draft dated 6 November 2013 and final version in February 2014). The views expressed by the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis during the process with ex-ante evaluation of the programme have mainly concerned the following aspects [45]:

1. justification for selection of *one* priority axis
2. clarification of certain horizontal criteria
3. formulation of specific objective
4. selection of output indicators.

1. The regional analysis underpinning the ERDF (and the ESF) in Stockholm is based on a holistic and sector-wide perspective. This was further clarified and reasoned in the introductory chapter of the second draft programme (23 August 2013), in which a special section entitled 'The Capital Region's special challenges' described in detail the intentions of the programme to promote *sustainable urban development*, later the overarching objectives of the whole programme.

2. The horizontal criteria have an important application in the Stockholm region, particularly in view of the fact that the socio-economic dimensions of sustainable development are consistently addressed. These aspects have been developed and integrated into the various programme proposals with a clearer link to experience and lessons learnt from previous programming periods, partly from programme participatory research and partly from the regional action plan for gender-equal growth [46].

3. The County Administrative Board identified early on the need for a programme logic where formulations of objectives and choices of indicators could clarify and strengthen the intentions of the programme, contribute to focus and create synergies between the programme's three thematic objectives. The County Administrative Board initially proposed a common, quantitatively formulated, specific objective relating to effects at

enterprise level (change in turnover, added value and number of employees). To strengthen the programme logic and the link to the programme's output and result indicators, this specific objective was later amended, and a more qualitative focus was provided in accordance with the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis recommendations (11 September and 6 November 2013).

4. The combined proposal for output and result indicators was introduced relatively late in the ERDF programme in Stockholm as a consequence of the selectable indicators not being formally presented until autumn 2013. The output indicator 'Number of enterprises receiving support' was initially a common indicator intended to capture the number of enterprises taking part in the programme. As the programme's activities principally relate to advice and knowledge transfer to enterprises, it was later changed to 'Number of enterprises receiving other than economic support'. This point of view can be found in the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis final report (February 2014) and is thus taken into account and dealt with in the County Administrative Board's programme proposals (27 November 2013).

The Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis goes on to express the view in the final report that it would be desirable (*'if possible'*) to have an output indicator that captures energy efficiency improvement in the transport and housing sectors in the Stockholm programme. The County Administrative Board's experts in energy and climate, however, consider there to be evident difficulties in measuring energy efficiency improvements in kWh/year (as well as reduction in emissions in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents) at *activity level* in the projects. The County Administrative Board therefore considers the present-day indicator also to be adequate with respect to other output indicators.

Regarding the performance framework, the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis considers that it should be supplemented by the indicator 'Number of enterprises receiving other than economic support'. This has been done.

[1] Source: © Stockholm County Administrative Board.

[2] The county's five priority axes in work on growth: Labour market and skills provision, Innovativeness, Infrastructure, Housing, and Energy and climate, form the basis for the regional analysis.

[3] The Commission uses the term *sustainable urban development*. In the Stockholm region, it is a matter of sustainable urban development. See *Det urbana spelet (The urban game)*, produced in the framework of the regional development programme RUFSS 2010.

[4] *Urban environments* here is understood to mean mutually dependent cities, city centres and built-up areas.

[5] Source: *Stockholmsregionens redovisning av underlag till Europeiska Socialfonden 2014-2020 i Sverige (The Stockholm region's presentation of documentation to the European Social Fund 2014-2020 in Sweden)* (Stockholm County Administrative Board, 2013).

[6] This main principle is supported in the Common Strategic Framework (CSF): '*In order to ensure a genuine economic impact, support from the Funds should not replace public expenditure or equivalent structural expenditure by Member States under the terms of this Regulation*' (paragraph 60, page 13).

[7] It is clearly expressed in the CSF: ‘*Member States should concentrate support to ensure a significant contribution to the achievement of Union objectives in line with their specific national and regional development needs*’ (point 17, page 7).

[8] *Enterprises* is principally understood to mean small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

[9] *Unemployed* is understood also to mean persons outside the labour force, for example persons on long-term sick leave, etc.

[10] Source: *Stockholmsregionens redovisning av underlag till Europeiska Socialfonden 2014-2020 i Sverige (The Stockholm region’s presentation of documentation to the European Social Fund 2014-2020 in Sweden)* (Stockholm County Administrative Board, 2013).

[11] Sweden’s *Partnership Agreement, page 34*. The challenges are also in good agreement with the European Commission’s recommendations to Sweden (*Position of the Commission Services on the development of Partnership Agreement and programmes in SWEDEN for the period 2014-2020*, Ref. Ares (2012)1320495 — 09/11/2012, European Commission).

[12] The challenges are in good agreement with the European Commission’s recommendations to Sweden (*Position of the Commission Services on the development of Partnership Agreement and programmes in SWEDEN for the period 2014-2020*, Ref. Ares (2012)1320495 — 09/11/2012, European Commission).

[13] The programme is expected, through the operations, to respond to the territorial challenges to strengthen existing enterprises in growth processes which Sweden’s *Partnership Agreement* addresses for Stockholm (page 34).

[14] It is noted in Sweden’s *Partnership Agreement* that the business sector’s R&D investments in Sweden have decreased over the past decade, in contrast to many other EU Member States (page 11).

[15] *Vetenskapsrådets guide till infrastrukturen 2012 (Swedish Research Council guide to infrastructure 2012)* (Swedish Research Council 2011:8), which is the Swedish equivalent to the ESFRI (European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructure) guide *The European Roadmap for Research Infrastructures (ESFRI 2010)*.

[16] The programme is expected, through the operations, to respond to the territorial challenges to strengthen existing enterprises in growth processes which Sweden’s *Partnership Agreement* addresses for Stockholm (page 34).

[17] Sweden’s *Partnership Agreement* (page 52).

[18] This intention regarding the Baltic Sea Region Strategy is clearly stated in Sweden’s *Partnership Agreement* (page 55).

[19] The programme is expected, through the operations, to respond to the territorial challenges relating to strong population growth and shortages of capacity in the transport system and the housing sector which Sweden’s *Partnership Agreement* addresses for Stockholm (page 34).

[20] Sweden's *Partnership Agreement* (page 15).

[21] OECD *Green Growth in Stockholm, Sweden* (page 10; OECD, 2013).

[22] Sweden's *Partnership Agreement* highlights the significance of encouraging technology development and using new technology for reduced carbon dioxide emissions (page 56).

[23] The programme is expected, through the operations, to respond to the territorial challenge of intraregional differences which Sweden's *Partnership Agreement* addresses for Stockholm (page 34).

[24] Sweden's *Partnership Agreement* (page 10).

[25] Sweden's *Partnership Agreement* highlights the need, in particular, to increase the employment rate among young people and people born abroad (pages 26-27). Synergies between the ERDF in Stockholm and the regional action plan for the European Social Fund in Stockholm 2014-2020 are particularly important here — see section on *Synergies with other funds and programmes*.

[26] '*Many people born abroad additionally live in urban districts with extensive social exclusion. People's living conditions tend to benefit if the local residents to a great extent have employment. Creating employment for people who live in deprived areas is therefore very important in order to improve the establishment of people born abroad in the labour market and for long-term growth and cohesion*' (Sweden's *Partnership Agreement*, page 27).

[27] *Följeforskning i programområde Stockholm (Participatory research in the Stockholm programme area)* (Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, 2011).

[28] *Handlingsprogram för jämställd tillväxt 2012-2014 (Action programme for gender-equal growth 2012-2014)* (County Administrative Board 2013:2) describes how operators in the region are to mainstream gender equality into the five priority axes in work on growth that represent the basis for the orientation of the Structural Funds, 2014-2020. The integration and diversity perspective should, in a similar manner, permeate work on growth here.

[29] '*In order to achieve the targets and objectives of the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, the CSF Funds should focus their support on a limited number of common thematic objectives. The precise scope of each of the CSF Funds should be set out in Funds-specific rules and may be limited to only some of the thematic objectives defined in this Regulation*' (CSF paragraph 13, page 6).

[30] Sweden's *Partnership Agreement* emphasises the significance of synergies and strengthened links between research, innovation and the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (page 38).

[31] The focus on a priority axis and the orientation of the programme are also strengthened by a specially implemented RIS-3 review of the Stockholm region's innovation strategy (Nordregio, 2012).

[32] Sweden's *Partnership Agreement* (page 111).

[33] Sweden's *Partnership Agreement* (page 9).

[34] *Ekosystemtjänster i Stockholmsregionen (Ecosystem services in the Stockholm region)*, p. 59 (Tillväxt, Miljö- och Regionplanering, report 2013:3).

[35] The *blue economy* is identified as a challenge for society in Sweden's *Partnership Agreement* (page 14) and is important for implementation of the *Baltic Sea Region Strategy and the principal objective 'Save the marine environment'*.

[36] Source: *Stärk sammanhållningen (Strengthen cohesion)* (© Tillväxt, Miljö- och Regionplanering, report 2013:4, page 11) which also represents one of the strategies in RUFSS 2010. The negative socio-economic deviation according to the definition used is greatest in areas coloured red, etc.

[37] Sweden's *Partnership Agreement* (pages 111-112).

[38] These three indicators are used to define different areas of urban development and new-start zones in government inquiry *SOU 2012:50*.

[39] *OECD Territorial Reviews: Stockholm, Sweden 2006, The Development in the Stockholm Region* (OECD follow-up, 2010).

[40] Sweden's *Partnership Agreement* emphasises the significance of this fund collaboration (page 39, version of 1 July 2013).

[41] The synergies between the ERDF and the ESF in Stockholm are described in the report *Stockholmsregionens redovisning av underlag till Europeiska Socialfonden 2014-2020 i Sverige (The Stockholm region's presentation of documentation to the European Social Fund 2014-2020 in Sweden)*, page 16 (Stockholm County Administrative Board, 2013).

[42] The proposed regional action plan for the European Social Fund will be decided upon after the national Social Funds programme has been adopted by the European Commission.

[43] Sweden's *Partnership Agreement*, pages 110-111.

[44] Regional programming meeting for the Structural Funds in Sweden (ERDF/ESF) on 15 April 2013.

[45] Nos 1-3 relate to issues addressed during the ex-ante evaluation process. No 4: The selection of output indicators can be found in the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis final report.

[46] Action plan for gender-equal growth 2012-2014 (County Administrative Board, 2013:2).

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	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	The Stockholm region is regarded as one of world’s most innovative economies. Both the European Commission and the Swedish Government and the regional analysis of the Stockholm programme area highlight R&D as a strategic key issue for the international competitiveness of Sweden and the Stockholm region. There is, however, a need for continued efforts and increased private investment in the area with improved conditions for increased exchange of ideas and innovations for the commercialisation of new products and services.
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)	3d — Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes	New business creation in Stockholm is relatively strong. One in every three enterprises in the country is started in the county. The regional analysis shows that the enterprise-promoting system is well developed in this respect. Support for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in later stages needs to be developed, however, to give both women and men, regardless of origin, and enterprises in different sectors greater opportunities for supply of capital, knowledge transfer, internationalisation and business development.
04 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	4f — Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies	The Stockholm region is an energy-efficient region with relatively low carbon dioxide emissions from both the international and national points of view. The analysis shows,

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
		however, that continued efforts are required to reduce the climate impact of the region. There is potential to find synergies and promote innovations and enterprise in the environmental technology sector. Operations to foster innovation and the use and dissemination of new technology to the outside world are important to sustainable development.

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.

The distribution of resources between thematic objectives is based on the guidelines issued by the Swedish Government [1]. These indicate that at least 70 % of resources are targeted at thematic objectives 1-3. The programme has selected two of these thematic objectives: *Strengthening research, technological development and innovation* (thematic objective 1) and *Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs* (thematic objective 3), to which at least 70 % of resources is thus to be allocated. In addition, at least 13 % is to be targeted at the objective of *Supporting the shift to a low-carbon economy in all sectors* (thematic objective 4) [2]. On the basis of this framework, the programme resources have been distributed as shown in Figure 5.

See Table 1, annex 'Tables and figures Stockholm'.

The selection of thematic objectives is clearly endorsed in the regional analysis and responds well to the challenges encountered by the programme area according to the ex-ante evaluation conducted by the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis.

The concentration of resources is an important main principle in the formulation and implementation of the ERDF programme in Stockholm County. This principle is reflected, among other ways, through the programme focusing on a small number of thematic objectives (and investment priorities). The main justification for this focus is to make it possible for the resources invested to make a substantial and additional contribution to development of the region. The choice to concentrate resources is well in line with Sweden's Partnership Agreement [3]. Furthermore, the size of the programme budget is limited in comparison with other programme areas. This provides further justification for the programme focusing on a small number of objectives and investments to achieve high efficiency in the operations that will be implemented.

The largest part (45 %) is allocated to thematic objective 1, *Strengthening research, technological development and innovation*. Research, development and innovation have top priority in an innovation-driven region like Stockholm, which is noted in particular in the regional analysis. If the vision of being the world's most innovation-driven economy is to be attained, it is to this thematic objective that the greatest share of the resources is to be committed. There is broad agreement on this in the region, and the area should be prioritised. The thematic objective actually has a bearing on all the principal objectives in Europe 2020, but perhaps most clearly on what is known as smart growth, which is concerned with developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation. The region reaches the EU target of investments equivalent to 3 % of gross regional product, but the decrease that has occurred in recent years has led to the region now having dropped below the national target of 4 %. Reversing this trend, which is partly achieved by having more small and medium-sized enterprises undertake R&D and not just be dependent on multinational companies, is very important for Stockholm as an innovation-driven economy. This, together with increased exchange and commercialisation of research results, is also highlighted in Sweden's Partnership Agreement and justifies a large proportion of programme resources being allocated to this thematic objective.

The second-largest portion (40 %) is allocated to thematic objective 3, *Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises*. Just over half of the resources allocated to this thematic objective [4] is earmarked for venture capital. One of the main principles for the programme is to focus on enterprises, and the thematic objective meets this aspiration well. In recent years, there has been a trend towards an increase in the number of new business start-ups in the region. Analyses have shown, on the other hand, that there is potential to raise the capacity of small and medium-sized enterprises for internationalisation [5]. The weak trend in Sweden with regard to the number of fast-growing innovative enterprises has been highlighted by the OECD, among others, as a challenge. Although the situation is somewhat more favourable in Stockholm, there is scope for improvement here too. This can be partly explained by market failure in the venture capital market through a shortage of capital supply, particularly in very early stages where the focus of investors has shifted from early to late stages where the risks are lower and time to obtain a return is shorter. This market failure should be adjusted and provides justification for prioritising the area and supporting it through the ERDF. The programme contributes to increasing opportunities to strengthen the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises by increasing the supply of capital. In the longer term, strengthened competitiveness contributes both to improving profitability and increasing the number of employees, which helps towards attaining the national target of an employment rate of over 80 % in the 20-64 age group. This thematic objective consequently has a clear bearing on the overall target of inclusive growth in the Europe 2020 strategy.

Finally, 15 % is allocated to thematic objective 4, *Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors*. It is important that the region continues to develop towards a more sustainable region, particularly in view of the economic and population growth that is expected to take place. This involves changed patterns of consumption, but also developing and spreading the use of new smart technologies that make reduced carbon dioxide emissions possible. This thematic objective is explicitly tied to the other principal objective of the Europe 2020 strategy (sustainable growth) and commitment to emissions reductions in a way that maximises the benefits and minimises the costs, among other things through the dissemination of innovative technical solutions. Sweden and Stockholm are relatively strongly positioned, but continued development of the

environmental technology sector to boost energy technology and low-carbon solutions and consequently long-term sustainable growth continues to be important.

[1] Swedish Government decision on a remit and offer to draw up proposals for regional Structural Funds programmes for the objective of *Investments in growth and employment* (European Regional Development Fund) for the programming period 2014-2020 (N2013/2493/RT).

[2] 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. The SET Plan, the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan, was adopted by the EU in 2008.

[3] Experience from the programme participatory research over the period 2007-2013 shows that there is potential for the Structural Funds programmes to further concentrate resources and operations (Sweden's *Partnership Agreement*, page 38).

[4] During the programming period 2007-2013, venture capital accounted for just over 20 % of the programme budget. During the period 2014-2020, venture capital accounts for just over 22 % of the programme budget.

[5] Sweden's *Partnership Agreement* (page 55).

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	35 530 993.00	96.00 %	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 01 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 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 — More growing, innovative companies through increased collaboration in research and 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) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 3d — Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 1 — More growing, innovative enterprises by supporting capacity for small and medium-sized enterprises to reach new markets ▼ 04 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 4f — Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 1 — Strengthening the conditions necessary to develop and apply low-carbon solutions through more growing, innovative enterprises 	[0102, 0103, 0301, 0302, 0304, 0402, 0406]
2	ERDF	1 480 458.00	4 00 %	1 — Technical assistance is to lead to the programme being implemented in an appropriate, legally sound and effective way that contributes to the objectives of the programme being met 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	The Capital Region's special challenges

- 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)

Sustainable urban development is the overarching objective for operations in the programme. This means that research and innovation operations, enterprise-promoting operations and operations for a low-carbon economy are to improve the prospects of sustainable growth and development in the region's urban environments. The Capital Region is notable for dense, dynamic urban environments with a high population density which, from a national perspective, differ from other parts of the country. There is a need for an all-embracing perspective and a combination of operations to be able to promote sustainable urban development in the urban environments in the Stockholm region. The opportunities of enterprises to grow depend, for example, on access to qualified labour, but also on how the flow of knowledge between research institutions and the business sector works. It is crucial, for this reason, that the region's growth efforts are pursued with an all-embracing perspective, where different types of operations are coordinated with each other to achieve synergies between areas.

The aim is to create a coherent ERDF programme for the Capital Region that both builds on the prevailing special conditions and creates the necessary basis for cohesive strategic initiatives. In view of this situation, the programme consists of one priority axis — *The Capital Region's special challenges*. Three thematic objectives have been selected for this priority axis. The purpose of this is to be able to create the necessary basis for cohesive strategic initiatives where there is an interaction between the thematic objectives concerned. The three thematic objectives can address the region's challenges in the urban environment in a good way with an integrated urban development perspective.

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	Fel! Hittar inte referenskölla.	

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	More growing, innovative companies through increased collaboration in research and innovation
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	There is great potential, knowledge and drive in the Capital Region to develop a truly innovation-driven economy, which is manifested in particular in the region's innovation strategy. The region's analysis shows that the region's competitiveness has weakened somewhat in comparison with other innovative regions in the EU during the period 2007-2013, and several global companies have, in recent years, reduced their R&D activity in the region. At the same time, there are many small and

innovative companies based in the region today. In many cases, they are active in sectors with a global market with growth potential.

Several large strategic projects were implemented over the programming period 2007-2013, for example in Information and Communication Technology (ICT), and in Life Science and Environmental Technology (Cleantech). Several initiatives have been taken in parallel aimed at developing links and cooperation between trade and industry, and universities and colleges. New innovative sectors have also been developed during the period. One example of this is the new enterprises that have been established in the electronic gaming market. Expertise and experience has been developed through these and other initiatives regarding how work on developing an increasingly innovation-driven economy can be pursued.

An important element of this investment priority involves continuing to develop and utilising the region's areas of strength, R&I environments [1] and industries and sectors with good prospects for growth. The operations in the area have to be formulated from an all-embracing perspective where the emphasis is to be put on the ability of the operations to include sustainability dimensions (environmental, economic and social). This entails shaping the operations in the area so that they both benefit from and respond to the special challenges that exist in the urban environments of the Capital Region. This may, for example, involve strengthening research and innovation that promote sustainable urban development. It is also important to see the potential for growth where the conditions for exchange are greatest and where the resources of both women and men are utilised. Experiences from previously implemented operations in the area should be utilised in a similar way. Operations that are cross-sectoral and address different industries and sectors of society, for example trade and industry, universities and colleges, the public sector and the social economy, in new, innovative ways are desirable.

Based on this argument, the specified objective for this investment priority is as follows:

More growing, innovative companies through increased collaboration in research and innovation [2]

[1] There are several research and innovation infrastructures here that are internationally leading, of which some are joint ESFRI (European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructure) ventures.

[2] The operations under this thematic objective are in line with the region's strategies for smart specialisation. For further information about the areas of strength of the Stockholm region, see 'Innovationskraft Stockholms handlingsplan'

	(Innovativeness Stockholm action plan'): http://www.lansstyrelsen.se/stockholm/Sv/naringsliv-och-foreningar/naringslivsutveckling/innovationskraft-sthlm/Pages/default.aspx .
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Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

Specific objective		1 - Fler växande, innovativa företag genom ökad samverkan inom forskning och innovation						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
0102	Andel företag (10-249 anställda) som samarbetar i sin innovationsverksamhet (produkt- eller processinnovation),	Procent	More developed	36.00	2010	41.00	Statistiska centralbyrån, rapporten "Regional innovationsstatistik i Sverige"	Vartannat år
0103	Företagens (produkt- och/eller processinnovativa, 10-249 anställda) utgifter för sin egen FoU-verksamhet	MSEK	More developed	3.48	2010	4.00	SCB:s undersökning "FoU i företag" (regional fördelning)	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>An important element in this investment priority relates to developing the interaction between higher education, research, the business sector and public-sector stakeholders to bring about an innovation-driven economy and promote urban development in the region. Stakeholders in civil society and the social economy also have a role to fulfil here, in what is known as quadruple helix cooperation, for example by contributing to social innovations and new ways of pursuing business activity. Cross-sectoral initiatives based on the Capital Region’s special challenges will be aimed for. It is important to utilise the skills, entrepreneurship and experience of the whole population here, particularly in socio-economically deprived urban districts. The territorial approach in the implementation of activities has to focus on research and innovation and strengthened basic conditions for innovative small and medium-sized enterprises that can bring about effects in the region’s urban environments. Examples of operations it will be possible to support under this investment priority are as follows:</p>	
<p>There is a developed infrastructure in the region today for research and development activity, among other things through the universities and colleges and research institutions in the county. A lesson that has been learnt from the programming period 2007-2013 has been that operations that have offered access to infrastructure for development activity have been appreciated by smaller businesses. The opportunities for carrying out testing activities are a key factor in certain industries, such as Life Science and Cleantech. Without a possibility of carrying out tests, it is not possible to commercialise the innovations that have been developed. It is often both difficult and demanding on capital to obtain access to infrastructure for testing for smaller companies. Support for the development of new, or the making available of existing, resources for testing and development activities will therefore be provided under this investment priority. It may, for example, be the question of support for pilot and demonstration plants, various types of test laboratories where individuals or groups/networks of enterprises can be given an opportunity to perform advanced tests linked to the development of new products or services. Support can also be provided to initiatives aimed at developing cooperation between public-sector stakeholders and trade and industry, with the aim of contributing to the development of new products or services, for example in the area of health and medical services.</p>	
<p>Support can also be provided in this investment priority for operations aimed at increasing exchange between public research and educational institutions</p>	

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>and trade and industry. There is great value in increasing this type of exchange. The exchange can take place in several different ways, from students to qualified researchers. The exchange should also take place in different directions, where the aim should be for a flow of information to take place that is of value to both research institutions and trade and industry.</p> <p>In higher education, increased cooperation provides value, among other things through greater opportunities for students to obtain direct contact with potential employers. It also makes it possible to reconcile the relevance and quality of the education and training offered with the needs of the labour market. There is value for trade and industry in developing contacts with students whom it may be appropriate to employ after they have completed their studies. Contacts with students can also add value in the form of new knowledge and new perspectives on their own activity. Greater contacts between students and trade and industry may also be a way of raising skills and knowledge content in the operations of small and medium-sized enterprises. Cooperation between trade and industry and students can take place, for example, through dissertations and degree projects directly linked to individual companies or groups of companies. At higher levels, from doctoral students to established researchers, the aim should be to develop more advanced cooperation. This may, for example, relate to contract research, joint development projects or industry-based doctoral students. Support for the development of cooperation projects of this type can be provided to operators active in the Capital Region's established and emerging clusters. Operations that embrace and increase exchange between trade and industry, educational institutions and the under-utilised resource that exists in the form of the diversity in the region's population will be embraced in particular. Projects receiving support in this priority axis are to contribute to this type of cooperation coming about.</p> <p>The various institutions in the public sector represent a very important market for many of the growth-oriented and innovative enterprises. This applies, for example, in the area of healthcare, where municipalities and county councils are the primary customers for products and services that are developed. A growth-oriented and innovative company may have to cross a significant threshold to enter a new market. The way in which the public procurement process is designed poses an obstacle in this connection. The criteria are generally formulated in a public procurement, primarily based on what form the solution takes. It may, for example, entail requirements for particular skills and/or personnel density. It may also be a matter of precise specifications of a particular product. In the long term, this way of procuring goods and services can become conservative. The reason for an innovation procurement is to open the way for competition between different solutions to a problem. This creates opportunities to develop new products or services that may, for example, result in higher quality and/or greater efficiency.</p> <p>To undertake successful work on innovation procurement as an instrument, there is a need for great knowledge of both the specialist area concerned but also of the rules linked to public procurement. The gains from the instrument are in the opportunities to contribute to the development of trade and</p>	

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, at the same time as gains for society are obtained through more effective use of resources. Possible operations in this area therefore have to be focused on developing innovation procurement as a tool but also contributing to introduction onto the market of new products or services.</p> <p>The public sector continuously gathers large quantities of data of various kinds. Making data available has been found to be capable of contributing to the development of new commercial products and services. Two examples of this are the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI) making data from meteorological stations available and Lantmäteriet, the Swedish mapping, cadastral and land registration authority, making geographical data available. Increased use of existing public data can contribute to new markets being developed. This, in turn, can contribute to new opportunities for citizens and enterprises and influence both behaviour and the competitive situation in individual markets. Data is gathered continuously at regional level from municipalities, county councils and government agencies. The level of knowledge of how this data is made available to enable commercial utilisation, is, however, often low. This relates, for example, to how a public-sector stakeholder has to respond to the legal requirements governing the process. It also relates to ignorance of how the information is to be made available in practice. There is sometimes also ignorance among entrepreneurs and trade and industry about what type of information is available from public-sector stakeholders. Under this investment priority, support can therefore be provided for projects and operations aimed at supporting both the making available of public data and processes aimed at deriving commercial benefit from them, preferably through the development of new products and services.</p> <p>Target groups in the investment priority may be universities and colleges, clusters and company networks, etc. Public-sector operators are important for operations in innovation procurement. Target groups for projects in public data may be public-sector stakeholders who have access to or produce data that can be made available and entrepreneurs and enterprises that have an interest in developing new products based on access to public data. It is important in this investment priority to respect both competitive neutrality and State aid rules in the design of operations.</p> <p>To summarise, the projects and operations that will be accommodated in this investment priority are focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • making infrastructure available for research and development, for example in the form of test beds, test labs and pilot and demo projects; • cooperation projects to create meetings and mobility between higher education, research and SMEs; • operations aimed at developing and benefiting from innovation procurement as instruments for the creation of innovations and market introduction 	

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>of new products or services;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • available public data and support for the development of products and services that utilise these. <p>Operations in this investment priority should meet one or more of the proposed output indicators.</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
<p>Sustainable urban development is an overarching objective for operations in the programme. This means that research and innovation operations, enterprise-promoting operations and operations for a low-carbon economy are to improve the prospects of sustainable growth in the region’s urban environments. The principles underpinning selection of operations are therefore common to all the investment priorities in the programme. Cooperation and synergies with the European Social Fund, other EU programmes, the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and national and regional initiatives are prioritised.</p> <p>SMEs are the primary target group for operations in the programme. Experience from previous programmes has shown that company benefit is heavily dependent on the business relevance of the operations. To ensure that this is achieved, there should be an analysis of needs describing the relevance and benefit of operations applying for resources. An analysis of needs can be conducted as a preliminary study ahead of a formal project application. The Stockholm region is an innovation-driven economy where knowledge transfer and cooperation between trade and industry, universities and colleges and other sectors are an important part of the process of developing new knowledge and therefore creating the necessary conditions for sustainable growth. Operations should therefore describe to what extent cooperation with universities and colleges, and trade and industry is relevant and any cross-sectoral approaches.</p>	

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 development of new methods is an important element in the valuation of operations. Operations have to be able to demonstrate added value in relation to other operations implemented in the area and to similar operations in ordinary structures. An account of how previous experience in the area has been utilised should be included in a similar way. It is also important, in this context, that operations can demonstrate how respect of competitive neutrality between enterprises and between operators in the market is ensured in planned activities.

Ability to take account of and influence horizontal dimensions will be considered and prioritised in the appraisal of operations, including the gender-equality perspective [1] and the integration perspective. This relates, for example, to the ability of the operations to benefit from the region's diversified labour market and diversity in the labour force. This also includes the sustainability dimensions of environmental, economic and social dimensions that may have a particularly important application in the region's socio-economically weak areas.

It has to be possible for operations in the programme to demonstrate organisational capacity on the part of the project sponsor. Adequate economic strength and stamina to be able to fulfil the commitment necessitated by the operation, as well as the project sponsor's experience and skills in the area, are important parameters. This assessment also covers the ability of the project sponsor to deal with changes in and around the project organisation. To enable an operation to be prioritised, endorsement among the stakeholders involved also has to be shown, for example in the form of cooperation agreements, written promises of co-financing or similar.

To summarise, the following principles guide the project:

- relevance to the Capital Region's special challenges, including cooperation with the European Social Fund and other relevant programmes and initiatives;
- relevance to the target group of SMEs and any cooperation with trade and industry, universities and colleges, and cross-sectoral approaches;
- added value in relation to previously implemented operations, ordinary structures and respect of competitive neutrality;
- ability to influence horizontal criteria and sustainability dimensions;
- organisational capacity, experience at the project sponsor and endorsement by partners.

[1] A special action for gender-equal growth in Stockholm County has been prepared, describing how the gender-equality perspective should be integrated into the five priority axes in work on growth, including innovation operations, enterprise operations, and energy and climate operations (County

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
Administrative Board, 2013:2).	

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			750.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			750.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full-time equivalents	ERDF	More developed			400.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
54	Number of cooperating organisations from different sectors of society	Number	ERDF	More developed			225.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	3d
Title of the investment priority	Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes

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, innovative enterprises by supporting capacity for small and medium-sized enterprises to reach new markets
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>The Capital Region has dynamic and knowledge-intensive trade and industry. The regional analysis shows, however, that there is potential to strengthen further the capacity of small and medium-sized enterprises to grow. There is a need for trade and industry to have capacity to benefit from the advances to enable investments in research or business development to produce a return. Several large strategic products have been implemented during the current programming period, aimed among other things at strengthening skills and access to capital among small and medium-sized enterprises. Expertise and experience regarding how this work can be pursued have been developed through these and other initiatives.</p> <p>An important element in this investment priority concerns strengthening the opportunities of enterprises for business development and internationalisation. Knowledge, skills and capital are all required for this purpose. The operations in this investment priority are to be business-related and formulated on the basis of the target group's actual needs in order to be able to generate effects and growth in the enterprises. Desirable effects in the enterprises may be introduction to new markets, introduction of new products or services, creation of advanced forms of cooperation with other private and public-sector operators and greater access to venture capital.</p> <p>The operations in this area have to be formulated from an all-embracing perspective where the emphasis is to be put on the capacity of the operations to include sustainability dimensions (environmental, economic and social) in business development. This entails shaping the operations in the area so that they both benefit from and respond to the special challenges that exist in the urban environments of the Capital Region. It may, for example, involve using the diversity that exists in the Capital Region as a basis for developing new business opportunities. Experiences from previously implemented operations in the area should be utilised in a similar way. Supporting business development, for example in existing and emerging clusters in the region, as</p>

well as environmentally driven development of trade and industry, should therefore be an important element in the operations in this investment priority. Operations that are cross-sectoral and address different industries and sectors of society, for example trade and industry, universities and colleges, the public sector and the social economy, in new, innovative ways are desirable.

Based on this argument, the specific objective for this investment priority is as follows:

More growing, innovative enterprises by supporting capacity for small and medium-sized enterprises to reach new markets

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

Specific objective		1 - Fler växande, innovativa företag genom att stödja kapaciteten för små och medelstora företag att nå nya marknader						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
0301	Sysselsättning i SMF	Antal anställda omräknat till heltidstjänster	More developed	251,361.00	2011	291,000.00	SCB:s statistikserie: Företagens ekonomi	Vartannat år
0302	Omsättning i SMF	Nettoomsättning, mnkr	More developed	441,593.00	2011	656,000.00	SCB:s statistikserie: Företagens ekonomi	Vartannat år
0304	SMF som bedriver export	Andel företag med 0-249 anställda (%)	More developed	2.60	2013	2.70	Statistiska centralbyrån, Utrikeshandel och Industriindikatorer	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	3d — Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes
<p>A number of different operations may become relevant under this investment priority. A common denominator for the operations is to be that they are formulated on the basis of the target group's documented needs. The operations are also to endeavour to be closely related to business, and the specific benefit to the target group is to be clear. Cross-sectoral initiatives that are based on the Capital Region's special challenges and that consequently promote sustainable urban development will be aimed for. It is important to utilise the skills, entrepreneurship and experience of the whole population here, particularly in socio-economically deprived urban districts. The territorial approach in the implementation of activities is to focus on strengthening the prerequisites for innovative small and medium-sized enterprises that can bring about effects in the region's urban environments. Operations that may become relevant to support under this investment priority are as follows:</p> <p>Venture capital for investments in early stages in small and medium-sized enterprises needs to increase. National government and other public-sector actors have an important role to play in the supply of capital in stages where there is high risk. Supply of capital in small and medium-sized enterprises overall has developed in a positive direction, among other things through increased lending via ALMI and the formation of the Innovation Bridge. The regional analysis shows, however, that there is a lack of seed capital in the very early stages. In international terms, the region is also weak with regard to its ability to attract other venture capital from both national and international operators. Operations to make venture capital available under the programme are to be based on a market-supplementing role, i.e. be focused on areas where there is slackness in the investment chain. The operations are therefore to be focused on making investments in enterprises that are at stages where there is access to private venture capital. The operations are to be used to carry out investments in small and medium-sized enterprises that need an injection of capital and expertise in order to develop.</p> <p>There is great potential in business development in existing small and medium-sized enterprises to contribute directly to growth. Unlike new start-ups, there are functioning business models and products or services. At the same time, there is a need to obtain help both in seeing new opportunities and in analysing the conditions that need to be met, for example, to approach a new market abroad. It may also be a matter of contributing to developing new models and pursuing existing commercial activity, for example in networks or cooperatives. It may also concern operations to develop cooperation between enterprises and other operators in the framework of existing or emerging clusters in the Capital Region.</p>	

Investment priority	3d — Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes
<p>In this context, relatively limited public-sector operations may have direct significance for the actions of the enterprise or the entrepreneur. By providing contacts, information and expertise, the operations can contribute towards an enterprise taking initiatives it would not otherwise have been able to. At the same time, it is important in all forms of business development advice to take account of the limits to what public-sector operators can and should do in relation to enterprises acting in a market subject to competition. The operations implemented must not either distort the market in which the enterprise operates nor affect the basic conditions for commercial business advisory services. An important parameter for those operations that may become relevant in this area will therefore be to design business advisory services that are neutral from the point of view of competition and yet have high business relevance for the individual enterprise.</p> <p>One dimension of advice linked to business development is the operations aimed at supporting the internationalisation of trade and industry. Innovative enterprises with products and services based on a high knowledge content, in particular, are already active in an international market from early stages. This applies to both small and other enterprises. Activity extending beyond national borders entails both opportunities and challenges. For many enterprises, it is essential that production take place in countries with a lower cost base to be able to compete. In other cases, internationalisation is essential if the potential market is to become sufficiently large for it to be possible to bear the costs of investments in research and development of a new product or service. For these reasons, there is justification for giving the region’s enterprises greater opportunities to benefit from freedom of movement in the single market of the EU, including the Baltic Sea Region, but also to reach markets outside Europe.</p> <p>Target groups for operations may, for example, be clusters and company networks and other enterprise-promoting operators in the region’s innovation system. It is important, in this investment priority, to respect both competitive neutrality and State aid rules in the design of operations.</p> <p>To summarise, operations in this investment priority can focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • venture capital investments in small and medium-sized enterprises aimed at supporting the development of new products and services and taking part in growth processes; • advice and knowledge transfer for business development targeted at small and medium-sized existing enterprises; • advice and knowledge transfer for internationalisation targeted at small and medium-sized existing enterprises. <p>Operations in this investment priority should meet one or more of the proposed output indicators.</p>	

Investment priority	3d — Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes
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2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	3d — Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes
<p>Sustainable urban development is an overarching objective for operations in the programme. This means that research and innovation operations, enterprise-promoting operations and operations for a low-carbon economy are to improve the prospects of sustainable growth in the region’s urban environments. The principles underpinning the selection of operations are therefore common to all the investment priorities in the programme. Cooperation and synergies with the European Social Fund, other EU programmes, the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and national and regional initiatives are prioritised.</p> <p>Small and medium-sized enterprises are the primary target group for operations in the programme. Experience from previous programmes has shown that company benefit is heavily dependent on the business relevance of the operations. To ensure that this is achieved, there should be an analysis of needs describing the relevance and benefit of operations applying for resources. An analysis of needs can be conducted as a preliminary study ahead of a formal project application. The Stockholm region is an innovation-driven economy where knowledge transfer and cooperation between trade and industry, universities and colleges and other sectors are an important part of the process of developing new knowledge and therefore creating the necessary conditions for sustainable growth. Operations should therefore describe to what extent cooperation with universities and colleges, and trade and industry is relevant and any cross-sectoral approaches.</p> <p>The development of new methods is an important element in the valuation of operations. Operations have to be able to demonstrate added value in relation to other operations implemented in the area and to similar operations in ordinary structures. An account of how previous experience in the area has been utilised should be included in a similar way. It is also important, in this context, that operations can demonstrate how respect of competitive neutrality between enterprises and between operators in the market is ensured in planned activities.</p> <p>Ability to take account of and influence horizontal dimensions will be considered and prioritised in the appraisal of operations, including the gender-equality perspective [1] and the integration perspective. This relates, for example, to the ability of the operations to benefit from the region’s diversified labour market and diversity in the labour force. This also includes the sustainability dimensions of environmental, economic and social dimensions that may have a particularly important application in the region’s socio-economically weak areas.</p>	

Investment priority	3d — Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes
<p>It has to be possible for operations in the programme to demonstrate organisational capacity on the part of the project sponsor. Adequate economic strength and stamina to be able to fulfil the commitment necessitated by the operation, as well as the project sponsor’s experience and skills in the area, are important parameters. This assessment also covers the ability of the project sponsor to deal with changes in and around the project organisation. To enable an operation to be prioritised, endorsement among the stakeholders involved also has to be shown, for example in the form of cooperation agreements, written promises of co-financing or similar.</p> <p>To summarise, the following principles guide the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • relevance to the Capital Region’s special challenges, including cooperation with the European Social Fund and other relevant programmes and initiatives; • relevance to the target group of small and medium-sized enterprises and any cooperation with trade and industry, universities and colleges, and cross-sectoral approaches; • added value in relation to previously implemented operations, ordinary structures and respect of competitive neutrality; • ability to influence horizontal criteria and sustainability dimensions; • organisational capacity, experience at the project sponsor and endorsement by partners. <p>[1] A special action for gender-equal growth in Stockholm County has been prepared, describing how the gender-equality perspective should be integrated into the five priority axes in work on growth, including innovation operations, enterprise operations, and energy and climate operations (County Administrative Board, 2013:2).</p>	

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

Investment priority	3d — Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes
<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</p>	

development and in the commercialisation of innovative business concepts.

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 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 equivalent to around one fifth of the whole venture capital market in Sweden in 2011. There was initially uncertainty as to whether there would be private co-financiers willing to co-invest. Results from 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 ERDF. 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.

On this basis:

- The programme is to provide scope for implementing financial instruments in the thematic objective of strengthening the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises.
- 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 commissioned to produce are to be taken into account in the implementation of financial instruments.
- 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.
- 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.
- The horizontal criteria are to be integrated into the operations.

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

Investment priority	3d — Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes

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		3d — Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes							
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			674.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			24.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			650.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

Investment priority		3d — Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)	(EUR)	ERDF	More developed			13 120 000.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full-time equivalents	ERDF	More developed			550.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
54	Number of cooperating organisations from different sectors of society	Number	ERDF	More developed			200.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	4f
Title of the investment priority	Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies

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

ID of the specific objective	1
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Title of the specific objective	Strengthening the prerequisites for developing and applying low-carbon solutions through more growing, innovative enterprises
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>The strong population trend in the Stockholm region makes great demands on environmentally sustainable growth. The regional analysis shows that there is potential to use the strong research and dynamism that exists among the universities and in the business sector to a greater extent in order to develop new innovations and energy-efficient and low-carbon solutions. Strategic projects have been implemented during the current programming period aimed, among other things, at strengthening environmental technology companies in the region, and projects implemented in residential areas also involved residents in various urban districts. Expertise and experience regarding how this work can be pursued have been developed through these and other initiatives.</p> <p>An important element in this investment priority concerns strengthening research, development and technology development in universities and colleges and trade and industry, as well as embracing of low-carbon technology, for example in the housing sector and the transport sector. Fine-tuning measures, mobility management, multimodal journey planning and ITS solutions are examples of priority transport measures in the Stockholm region with potential to be strengthened [1]. Cross-sectoral collaboration between universities, companies and municipalities, authorities and other actors is required in order to promote sustainable urban development.</p> <p>The operations in the area have to be formulated from an all-embracing perspective where the emphasis is to be put on the ability of the operations to include sustainability dimensions (environmental, economic and social). This entails shaping the operations in the area so that they both benefit from and respond to the special challenges that exist in the urban environments of the Capital Region. It may involve strengthening research, innovation and technology use that promotes sustainable urban development in the environmental area through energy-efficient and low-carbon solutions. It is also important to see the potential for growth where the conditions for exchange are greatest and where the resources of both women and men are utilised. Experiences from previously implemented operations in the area should be utilised in a similar way. Operations that are cross-sectoral and address different industries and sectors of society, for example trade and industry, universities and colleges, the public sector and the social economy, in new, innovative ways are desirable.</p> <p>Based on this argument, the specified objective for this investment priority is as follows:</p> <p>Strengthening the conditions necessary to develop and apply low-carbon solutions through more growing, innovative enterprises</p>

	<p>[1] See <i>Länsplan för regional transportinfrastruktur i Stockholms län 2014-2025</i> (County plan for regional transport in Stockholm County 2014-2015), pages 41-42 (Stockholm County Administrative Board 2014:11), <i>Handlingsplan för Mobility Management i Stockholms län</i> (Action plan for mobility management in Stockholm County), page 20 (Swedish Transport Authority 2012:173), and <i>Framkomlighetsstrategin</i> (Mobility strategy), page 10 (City of Stockholm 2012).</p>
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Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

Specific objective		1 - Stärkta förutsättningar att utveckla och tillämpa koldioxidsnåla lösningar genom fler växande, innovativa företag						
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	4,879,194.00	2011	4,313,000.00	Länsstyrelsen	Vartannat år
0406	Omsättning i små och medelstora miljöföretag	Nettoomsättning, MSEK	More developed	11,629.00	2012	17,000.00	Statistiska centralbyrån, Miljöräkenskaper	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	4f — Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies
<p>This investment priority has strong links to the other thematic objectives in the programme concerned with strengthening research and innovation, as well as the competitiveness of enterprises, and the opportunities for synergies are thus good here. Various urban development operations can be updated in the investment priority that also include operators alongside enterprises or universities and colleges. Cross-sectoral initiatives based on the Capital Region's special challenges will be aimed for. It is important to utilise the skills, entrepreneurship and experience of the whole population here, particularly in socio-economically deprived urban districts. The territorial approach in the implementation of activities has to focus on research and innovation and application of low-carbon technology, where innovative and small and medium-sized enterprises can bring about effects in the region's urban environments. Operations that may become relevant to support under this investment priority are as follows:</p> <p>The Stockholm region has excelled internationally, with the City of Stockholm as the first environmental capital city in 2010 and with successful urban development projects. Hammarby Sjöstad and Norra Djurgårdsstaden have both attracted international attention and have acted as test beds for research and the application of new technology. There is potential to view the various dimensions of sustainable urban development from a social, environmental and economic perspective with support in other thematic objectives and the European Social Fund. Creative and cultural industries, as well as ecosystem services and operations for blue growth, for example, can contribute here to multifaceted initiatives that take account of the interaction between town and country. This knowledge base and dynamism should be used to develop sustainable urban development in both socio-economically weak areas and other environments in the region.</p> <p>There is a large housing stock in the Stockholm region that was mainly built between 1965 and 1975, the 'million homes programme areas' (see map in annex). Many of these are in need of substantial renovation, an important aspect of which is improved energy efficiency, where large energy savings are considered possible. Properties built under the million-homes programme are located throughout the county, but their standard and potential for improved energy efficiency vary. In certain areas, there are also problems with segregated housing and economic and social exclusion to which attention should be paid in the renovation and upgrading of the housing stock. There are good opportunities from the point of view of urban development for territorial synergies through collaboration with the municipalities. Operations aimed at improved energy efficiency and reduced carbon dioxide emissions can also strengthen enterprises and, at the same time, generate effects in the geographically adjacent area. Operations financed by the European Social Fund can,</p>	

Investment priority

4f — Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies

additionally, strengthen the all-embracing perspective and encompass the labour force or the residents of relevant municipalities and urban districts.

Innovation procurement should be encouraged to promote the development of environmental technology (energy technology and low-carbon technological solutions) in enterprises. Test and demonstration facilities in the municipalities are important in enabling new innovations to be developed and verified and use of new technology to be promoted. There are many knowledge-intensive environmental technology enterprises in the region. Together with research and innovation environments and the educational institutions in the region, there is great potential to strengthen and develop the international position of the Stockholm region in urban development further. This can lead to new enterprises and increased growth in existing enterprises and jobs, and contribute to reduced climate impact, partly through the application of green technology.

Road traffic accounts for a large proportion of total carbon dioxide emissions in the Stockholm region. The number of journeys made by car and emissions from traffic increase in line with the population trend. It is therefore important to promote changed travel habits and increase the share of journeys made by public transport in the region. Technology development and the embracing of technology for mobility management, ITS and multimodal travel planning tools can reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the region in the long term.

Target groups for the operations may, for example, be enterprises, entrepreneurs, municipalities and public-sector stakeholders, universities and colleges and, for example, operators in the property and transport sectors. It is important in this investment priority to respect both competitive neutrality and State aid rules in the design of operations.

To summarise, operations in this investment priority may be focused on:

- research, innovation and innovation procurement of energy technology and low-carbon solutions;
- promoting the use of new technology, testing and demonstration facilities for reduced carbon dioxide emissions and energy efficiency, for example in the transport sector and the housing sector [1];
- promoting efficient transport through the development and embracing of technology, for example for climate-smart travel, mobility management, ITS and multimodal transport systems.

Operations in this investment priority should meet one or more of the proposed output indicators.

Investment priority	4f — Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies
[1] Aid is not given to individual private operators for the purpose of renovating and improving the energy efficiency of their housing stock.	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	4f — Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies
<p>Sustainable urban development is an overarching objective for operations in the programme. This means that research and innovation operations, enterprise-promoting operations and operations for a low-carbon economy are to improve the prospects of sustainable growth in the region’s urban environments. The principles underpinning selection of operations are therefore common to all the investment priorities in the programme. Cooperation and synergies with the European Social Fund, other EU programmes, the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and national and regional initiatives are prioritised.</p> <p>SMEs are the primary target group for operations in the programme. Experience from previous programmes has shown that company benefit is heavily dependent on the business relevance of the operations. To ensure that this is achieved, there should be an analysis of needs describing the relevance and benefit of operations applying for resources. An analysis of needs can be conducted as a preliminary study ahead of a formal project application. The Stockholm region is an innovation-driven economy where knowledge transfer and cooperation between trade and industry, universities and colleges and other sectors are an important part of the process of developing new knowledge and therefore creating the necessary conditions for sustainable growth. Operations should therefore describe to what extent cooperation with universities and colleges, and trade and industry is relevant and any cross-sectoral approaches.</p> <p>The development of new methods is an important element in the valuation of operations. Operations have to be able to demonstrate added value in relation to other operations implemented in the area and to similar operations in ordinary structures. An account of how previous experience in the area has been utilised should be included in a similar way. It is also important, in this context, that operations can demonstrate how respect of competitive neutrality between enterprises and between operators in the market is ensured in planned activities.</p> <p>Ability to take account of and influence horizontal dimensions will be considered and prioritised in the appraisal of operations, including the gender-equality perspective [1] and the integration perspective. This relates, for example, to the ability of the operations to benefit from the region’s diversified labour market and diversity in the labour force. This also includes the sustainability dimensions of environmental, economic and social dimensions that</p>	

Investment priority	4f — Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies
<p>may have a particularly important application in the region’s socio-economically weak areas.</p> <p>It has to be possible for operations in the programme to demonstrate organisational capacity on the part of the project sponsor. Adequate economic strength and stamina to be able to fulfil the commitment necessitated by the operation, as well as the project sponsor’s experience and skills in the area, are important parameters. This assessment also covers the ability of the project sponsor to deal with changes in and around the project organisation. To enable an operation to be prioritised, endorsement among the stakeholders involved also has to be shown, for example in the form of cooperation agreements, written promises of co-financing or similar.</p> <p>To summarise, the following principles guide the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • relevance to the Capital Region’s special challenges, including cooperation with the European Social Fund and other relevant programmes and initiatives; • relevance to the target group of SMEs and any cooperation with trade and industry, universities and colleges, and cross-sectoral approaches; • added value in relation to previously implemented operations, ordinary structures and respect of competitive neutrality; • ability to influence horizontal criteria and sustainability dimensions; • organisational capacity, experience at the project sponsor and endorsement by partners. <p>[1] A special action for gender-equal growth in Stockholm County has been prepared, describing how the gender-equality perspective should be integrated into the five priority axes in work on growth, including innovation operations, enterprise operations, and energy and climate operations (County Administrative Board, 2013:2).</p>	

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

Investment priority	4f — Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies

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

Investment priority	4f — Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon 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		4f — Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon 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			100.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			80.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	ERDF	More developed			50.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

Investment priority		4f — Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			20.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
54	Number of cooperating organisations from different sectors of society	Number	ERDF	More developed			75.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

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

Priority axis	1 — The Capital Region's special challenges

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 — The Capital Region's special challenges							
ID	Indica	Indicator or key	Measurement unit,	Fund	Category	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of	Explanation

	tor type	implementation step	where appropriate		of region	M	W	T	M	W	T	data	of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
CO04	O	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			375			1 500.00	Project	
006	F	Expenditure	EUR	ERDF	More developed			21 318 596			71 061 986.00	Managing authority	
54	O	Number of cooperating organisations from different sectors of society	Number	ERDF	More developed			125			500.00	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 in the 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 can be expected to generate outcomes for each output indicator. The estimated total number of projects in the 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' for the 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 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 most cases, only one output indicator per thematic objective 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 — The Capital Region's special challenges	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	001. Generic productive investment in small and medium-sized enterprises ('SMEs')	8 002 477.00
ERDF	More developed	014. Energy efficiency renovation of existing housing stock, demonstration projects and supporting measures	4 329 339.00

Priority axis		1 — The Capital Region's special challenges	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	058. Research and innovation infrastructure (public)	1 664 515.00
ERDF	More developed	063. Cluster support and business networks primarily benefiting SMEs	1 664 515.00
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	4 329 339.00
ERDF	More developed	066. Advanced support services for SMEs and groups of SMEs (including management, marketing and design services)	6 105 889.00
ERDF	More developed	067. SME business development, support to entrepreneurship and incubation (including support to spin offs and spin outs)	6 105 889.00
ERDF	More developed	072. Business infrastructure for SMEs (including industrial parks and sites)	1 664 515.00
ERDF	More developed	079. Access to public sector information (including open data, e-Culture, digital libraries, e-Content and e-Tourism)	1 664 515.00

Table 8: Dimension 2 — Form of finance

Priority axis		1 — The Capital Region's special challenges	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Non-repayable grant	27 528 516.00
ERDF	More developed	03. Support through financial instruments: venture and equity capital or equivalent	8 002 477.00

Table 9: Dimension 3 — Territory type

Priority axis		1 — The Capital Region's special challenges	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	26 648 245.00

Priority axis		1 — The Capital Region's special challenges	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	5 684 959.00
ERDF	More developed	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	3 197 789.00

Table 10: Dimension 4 — Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis		1 — The Capital Region's special challenges	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	07. Not applicable	35 530 993.00

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

Priority axis		1 — The Capital Region's special challenges	
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 — The Capital Region's special challenges	

2.B DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIORITY AXES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

2.B.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	2
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	Fel! Hittar inte referenskölla.

2.B.4 Specific objectives and expected results

ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
1	Technical assistance is to lead to the programme being implemented in an appropriate, legally sound and effective way that contributes to the objectives of the programme being met in other priority axes.	Technical assistance is to lead to the programme being implemented in an appropriate, legally sound and effective way that contributes to the objectives of the programme being met 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		1 - 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	2 — 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 can be co-financed by technical assistance.</p> <p>The costs of holding meetings of the monitoring committee can be co-financed by technical assistance.</p> <p>The costs of holding Structural Funds Partnership meetings can be co-financed by technical assistance.</p>

Priority axis	2 — 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 transnational 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		2 - Tekniskt stöd (TA)				
ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023) (optional)			Source of data
			M	W	T	
10	Utbetalade medel av programmets totala budget	Procent			100.00	Förvaltande myndighets datasystem
11	Externa utvärderingar har genomförts under programperiod	Antal			15.00	Förvaltande myndighet
12	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		2 — Technical assistance (TA)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ Amount
ERDF	More developed	121. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection	1 332 412.00
ERDF	More developed	122. Evaluation and studies	74 023.00
ERDF	More developed	123. Information and communication	74 023.00

Table 15: Dimension 2 — Form of finance

Priority axis		2 — Technical assistance (TA)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ Amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Non-repayable grant	1 480 458.00

Table 16: Dimension 3 — Territory type

Priority axis		2 — Technical assistance (TA)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ Amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	1 110 344.00
ERDF	More developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	236 873.00
ERDF	More developed	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	133 241.00

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	4 679 550.00	298 695.00	4 773 235.00	304 675.00	4 868 784.00	310 773.00	4 966 223.00	316 993.00	5 065 610.00	323 337.00	5 166 984.00	329 808.00	5 270 376.00	336 408.00	34 790 762.00	2 220 689.00
Total		4 679 550.00	298 695.00	4 773 235.00	304 675.00	4 868 784.00	310 773.00	4 966 223.00	316 993.00	5 065 610.00	323 337.00	5 166 984.00	329 808.00	5 270 376.00	336 408.00	34 790 762.00	2 220 689.00

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	35 530 993.00	35 530 993.00	34 642 993.00	888 000.00	71 061 986.00	50.0000000000 %		33 310 304.00	33 310 304.00	2 220 689.00	2 220 689.00	6.25 %
2	ERDF	More developed	Public	1 480 458.00	1 480 458.00	1 480 458.00	0.00	2 960 916.00	50.0000000000 %		1 480 458.00	1 480 458.00			
Total	ERDF	More developed		37 011 451.00	37 011 451.00	36 123 451.00	888 000.00	74 022 902.00	50.0000000000 %		34 790 762.00	34 790 762.00	2 220 689.00	2 220 689.00	6.00 %
Grand total				37 011 451.00	37 011 451.00	36 123 451.00	888 000.00	74 022 902.00	50.0000000000 %	0.00	34 790 762.00	34 790 762.00	2 220 689.00	2 220 689.00	

(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
The Capital Region's special challenges	ERDF	More developed	Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	15,988,947.00	15,988,947.00	31,977,894.00
The Capital Region's special challenges	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)	14,212,397.00	14,212,397.00	28,424,794.00
The Capital Region's special challenges	ERDF	More developed	Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	5,329,649.00	5,329,649.00	10,659,298.00
Total				35,530,993.00	35,530,993.00	71,061,986.00

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	8,658,678.00	23.39%
Total	8,658,678.00	23.39%

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 Stockholm region is characterised by dense urban environments, but there are also wide socio-economic differences between municipalities and also between urban districts. The territorial approach aims to reverse the trend and strengthen cohesion by taking a collective and integrated approach. In order to respond to the challenges facing the Stockholm region, there is a need for a holistic approach in which increased collaboration between sectors and funds, in particular with the European Social Fund, strengthen work on growth. The aspiration is for this to mean a more effective way of using and mobilising resources for sustainable urban development.

Based on the holistic approach, Stockholm has chosen a priority axis in the ERDF with a small number of priorities and focused on growing small and medium-sized enterprises. A principle underpinning the programme's operations is cross-sectoral collaboration that contributes more effectively to the objectives and makes synergies possible between operations. This creates the necessary conditions for smart specialisation in the region, with coherent initiatives and a reduced risk of fragmentation.

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.

A description of the challenges in promoting sustainable urban development in the Stockholm region can be found in Chapter 1 — The Capital Region's special challenges.

The programme for sustainable urban development is based on the cross-sectoral strategy RUFSS in accordance with the descriptions in Chapter 1. Project applications are submitted to the managing authority, and the Stockholm Structural Funds Partnership is responsible for prioritising operations. The composition of the Structural Funds Partnership in Stockholm corresponds to authorities at city level and consequently fulfils the requirements set forth in Article 7 of Council Regulation No 1301/2013.

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	37,011,450.00	100.00%
TOTAL ERDF+ESF	37,011,450.00	100.00%

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) (€)
Fel! Hittar inte referenskölla.		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 that they contribute to fulfilling the goals of the programme. The operations are to be based on a transnational 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 able to support operations 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 operators 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 transnational 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 transnational 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 in this 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

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 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

The EU Structural Funds are part of European cohesion policy and a tool for strengthening competition and growth in Europe's regions. The EU growth strategy Europe 2020 has five overarching objectives relating to employment, education, research and innovation, social inclusion, and energy and climate, and the Union is to strive towards smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. A clear all-embracing perspective is required to be able to achieve the objectives of Europe 2020, national objectives and solutions to challenges expressed in the Partnership Agreement and the Stockholm region's own objectives in regional work on growth. This is one of the motives for the preparation of an operational programme and regional action plan for the ERDF and the ESF in Stockholm County being implemented in a joint process, led by the County Administrative Board, for both Structural Funds.

Lessons learnt as a basis for the process in the county

Stockholm County Administrative Board began preparatory work ahead of the Structural Funds period 2014-2020 in May 2012. Feedback of experience from the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund was provided, with an interview study with the organisations affected in the county including managing authorities, as well as a number of national and regional dialogues. Special discussions of experience took place with the regional Structural Funds Partnership as part of the feedback of

knowledge ahead of the next programming period. A number of lessons emerge as particularly important in the county: the significance of increased regional ownership of the funds, stronger links with regional strategies, increased focus, greater participation of trade and industry and increased collaboration between the funds. In January 2013, the County Administrative Board formed a regional programming group [1] for the Structural Funds, consisting of 11 organisations, tasked with drawing up proposals for an operational programme for the European Regional Development Fund, analytical material and a future regional action plan for the European Social Fund. The participants in the programming group in principle reflect the stakeholders in the county's Structural Funds Partnership. The programming work was performed in two integrated parts. Firstly, a special process was carried out with the aim of establishing a basis for fund collaboration, focus and concentration for the Structural Funds programmes in the county. The process was made up of a two-day programming residential session and five thematic half-day workshops with the programming group based on the region's priorities, and the process culminated in a platform and a number of main principles [2] as a basis for the Structural Funds. Secondly, an analysis of development trends in the region's priority areas in the work on growth was implemented as an integral part of the process and as a basis for the Structural Funds programmes. In addition, six programming meetings were held during the spring at which proposals for the orientation of the ERDF programme (and the ESF) in the county were drawn up. The composition of the regional programming group, together with the skills, experience and the terms of reference of the organisations' representatives (in particular from implementation of the Structural Funds period in the county) has been of great significance for the results and outcome of the programming process.

External dialogue, endorsement and mobilisation

In addition to the operational programming group, a large number of stakeholders attended Structural Funds seminars and hearings on the region's prospects and experience ahead of the next programming period. In view of the need to increase the regional ownership of the funds, the County Administrative Board has put particular emphasis on increasing awareness, knowledge and endorsement of the funds among stakeholders in the county, and a total of around 30 Structural Funds dialogues and hearings took place during the spring and autumn of 2013. Firstly, existing arenas and forums have been used with both politicians and executives and officials from various organisations, areas of politics and sectors of society. In addition, four special hearings have been held with enterprises and business organisations (in cooperation with the Swedish Federation of Business Owners in Stockholm County), with civil society (in cooperation with Coompanion), with government agencies (in cooperation with the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth and the Swedish ESF Council) and with the county's municipalities (in cooperation with the Association of Local Authorities in Stockholm County). These hearings culminated, among other things, in specific recommendations on how implementation of the Structural Funds can be strengthened through active influence by operators in the social economy, how the enterprises can be engaged, how the expertise and co-financing of government agencies can be utilised and how the municipalities can assist in powerful implementation of the funds.

Knowledge from ex-ante evaluation and environmental impact assessment has been continuously fed into the programming process, with the responsible evaluator attending programming meetings and providing written opinions on repeated occasions.

The County Administrative Board's expert specialising in gender equality has assisted throughout programme preparation and has ensured that the gender-equality perspective has been taken into account in the orientation process, in the regional analysis and in programme writing. Staff with responsibility for integration and discrimination issues at the County Administrative Board have also been included in the internal working group.

A consultation procedure was held between 24 June and 15 August in which 31 responses were received by the County Administrative Board and important opinions were taken into account [3].

Managing and certifying authorities

The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth is the managing and certifying authority for the regional Structural Funds 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 sound 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, as well as a corresponding regional action plan for the European Social Fund. The composition of the Structural Funds Partnership in Stockholm corresponds to authorities at city level and consequently fulfils the requirements set forth in Article 7 of Council Regulation No 1301/2013.

The remit of the Structural Funds Partnership is set out in the Structural Funds Partnership Act (2007:459). The Structural Funds Partnership has the task of 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 regional Structural Funds 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 of regional work on growth.

[1] The County Administrative Board has chaired the regional programming group in which the County Council, the Association of Local Authorities, the City of Stockholm, the secretariat of the Structural Funds Partnership, the Swedish Federation of Business Owners in Stockholm and the managing authorities, the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth and the Swedish ESF Council's programme office in Stockholm, have taken part.

[2] The four principles are *Concentration of resources*, *Collaboration between the funds*, *Focus on enterprises and the labour force* and *Initiating efforts — the Stockholm model*.

[3] The consultation responses are collated in Annex 1.

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 Europe 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 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.

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, which 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 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 operators 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.

There are great opportunities in the Stockholm region for synergies with the EU framework programme for research and innovation in which operations in the ERDF programme should strive to achieve a return through Horizon 2020. The sub-areas in the framework programme of Top-level skills, Industrial leadership and Societal challenges in various ways cut across Sustainable urban development, where the necessary conditions are met also to strengthen the areas of strength of the Stockholm region through investments in, among other things, research and innovation, as well as support for the innovation processes of small and medium-sized enterprises.

In addition, there are several points of contact between the ERDF programme in Stockholm and COSME, for example regarding access to financing, promotion of entrepreneurial environments and business development and internationalisation among small and medium-sized enterprises.

The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and European territorial cooperation

The action plan for the Baltic Sea Region Strategy contains 15 priority axes with associated areas of action and what are known as Flagship Projects. Synergies can be gained for the ERDF programme in Stockholm, principally in three priority axes, as they have a bearing on the focus of the ERDF programme in Stockholm: Priority axis 7 —

The role of region with regard to research and innovation; Priority axis 8 — Implementing the Small Business Act, supporting entrepreneurship and strengthening SMEs; and Priority axis 10: Improving accessibility, efficiency and security in the energy markets, which are concerned with sustainable energy use. Strategic cooperation between countries and regions linked to research, innovation and smart specialisation should be promoted here. The possibility of growth companies achieving a larger market for products and services should also be supported, and the Baltic Sea Region, with its approximately 100 million inhabitants, can together strengthen the global competitiveness of both the Baltic Sea Region and the individual countries and regions.

The territorial programmes additionally represent important tools with which to move operations in the ERDF programme up a gear through cooperation in a larger Baltic Sea context. The *Baltic Sea Programme* covers 11 countries in the Baltic Sea Region, and cooperation projects, for example in the area of innovation, are particularly relevant based on the focus of the programmes concerned. Links to both the Baltic Sea Programme and the border-region programme *Central Baltic* have been ensured in preparing the ERDF programme in Stockholm. Central Baltic comprises six counties on the Swedish side (Gävleborg, Uppsala, Södermanland, Östergötland, Gotland and Stockholm) and regions in southern Finland (including Åland), Estonia and Latvia. There are clear programme synergies in particular in areas aiming to strengthen competitiveness among small and medium-sized enterprises. Both in the main programme for Central Baltic and in the sub-programme for the Archipelago and the Islands, synergies can be obtained with both the ERDF and the EAFRD and with the EMFF in Stockholm County.

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).

An important underpinning principle in the ERDF programme in Stockholm is that operations have to be carried out where the conditions are met for the programme to bring about structural effects. The infrastructure system in the region is notable for various shortages of capacity as a consequence of the rapid growth in population, and Stockholm faces large investments over the next few years. The proposal for a regional transport structure 2014-2025 contains important investment objects that have a strong bearing on the region's accessibility and therefore long-term competitiveness [1]. Although the IT infrastructure in the county is generally good — 70 % of the population have access to high-speed broadband [2] — there are deficiencies, particularly in rural areas and in the archipelago. Investments are needed here that improve the prospects for business development.

The national programme

The fundamental purpose of the programme is to supply added value to the regional growth work and implement cohesion policy that cannot be adequately achieved 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 transnational 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 encompasses operations under thematic objective 4 focused partly on energy efficiency and partly on supply of capital, geared to 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.

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 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.

LIFE

See annex 'Text Stockholm'.

Creative Europe

See annex 'Text Stockholm'.

[1] *Förslag till länsplan för regional transportinfrastruktur 2014-2025 (Draft county plan for regional transport infrastructure 2014-2025)* (Stockholm County Administrative Board, report 2013:23).

[2] *Kartläggning av bredband och IT-infrastruktur i Stockholms läns landsbygd (Survey of broadband and IT infrastructure in the rural areas of Stockholm County)* (Stockholm County Administrative Board, report 2013:9).

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 — The Capital Region's special challenges	Yes
T.03.1 — Specific actions have been carried out to underpin the promotion of entrepreneurship taking into account the Small Business Act (SBA).	1 — The Capital Region's special challenges	Yes
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 — The Capital Region's special challenges	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 — The Capital Region's special challenges	Yes
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 — The Capital Region's special challenges	Yes
G.4 — The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	1 — The Capital Region's special challenges	Yes
G.5 — The existence of	1 — The Capital Region's special	Yes

Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (Yes/No/Partially)
arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	challenges	
G.6 — The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union environmental legislation related to EIA and SEA.	1 — The Capital Region’s special challenges	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 — The Capital Region’s special challenges	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 Stockholm’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.
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 Stockholm’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.
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 Stockholm’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.

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 Stockholm’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.
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 Stockholm’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.
T.03.1 — Specific actions have been carried out to underpin the promotion of entrepreneurship taking into account the Small Business Act (SBA).	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 account of the targets of the SBA;	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.
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	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanation
	enterprise taking account of the targets of the SBA;			
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 Stockholm’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.
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 Stockholm’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.
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 Stockholm’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.
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	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanation
	gender equality in ESI Fund—related activities.			
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 Stockholm’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.
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 stakeholders throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.
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 Stockholm’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanation
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 Stockholm’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.
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 Stockholm’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.
G.4 — The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	2 — Arrangements which ensure transparent contract award procedures.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.
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 Stockholm’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.
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 Stockholm’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.
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 Stockholm’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.

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.	2 — Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the ESI Funds.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.
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 Stockholm’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.
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 Stockholm’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.
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 Stockholm’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.
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 Stockholm’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.
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	1 — Arrangements for timely collection and aggregation of statistical data with the following elements are in place: the identification of sources and mechanisms to ensure statistical	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanation
indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	validation.			
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 Stockholm’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.
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 Stockholm’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.
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	4 — An effective system of result indicators including: the establishment of targets for these indicators.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanation
indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.				
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 Stockholm’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.
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 Stockholm’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm’.

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
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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

See Table 2, annex 'Tables and figures Stockholm'.

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.

Better environment

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.

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.

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.

Equality between men women and men

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.

Equality between women and men

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 — The Capital Region's special challenges	ERDF	More developed	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises			375			1 500.00
1 — The Capital Region's special challenges	ERDF	More developed	Expenditure	EUR			21 318 596			71 061 986.00
1 — The Capital Region's special challenges	ERDF	More developed	Number of cooperating organisations from different	Number			125			500.00

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
			sectors of society							

12.3 Relevant partners involved in preparation of programme

Structural Funds seminars and hearings held

See Table annex 'Tables and figures Stockholm'.

A list is presented below of stakeholders who have taken part in the Structural Funds seminars and hearings held.

ABF — Workers Education Association

Almi Företagspartner AB (Almi Business Partner)

Almi Företagspartner Stockholm Sörmland

AMKO AB

Amledo & Co AB

Swedish Public Employment Service

Cooperative Employers' Association KFO

Swedish Work Environment Association

Axfood Sverige AB

Baltic Fem

Basta

BirCon AB

Botkyrka Municipality

Campus Roslagen

Carlberg B&B

Centre for Social Entrepreneurship (CSES)

Coompanion Roslagen

Coompanion Stockholm

Coompanion Stockholm County

Coompanion Sweden

Coop Butiksutveckling AB

Creative Partnerships Europe AB

Danderyd Municipality

Degerstedt Consultancy

Demokrati i Sundbyberg (Democracy in Sundbyberg)

Dexteritas et Humanitas

Diavona

Dagens Nyheter (DN)

Ekerö Municipality

Swedish Energy Agency

Envac Scandinavia AB

Enzen ab / eq school ab

Swedish ESF Council

Eskilstuna Municipality

Etablering Södertörn (Business Start-up Södertörn)

EU consultant Helena Hammarskiöld

Europe Direct Ecumenical EU Office

Swedish Property Federation

Fiskefrämjandet Stockholms Skärgård (Stockholm Archipelago Fisheries Promotion)

Fisksätraakademin (Fissätra Academy)

Flemingsberg Science

Forum for Innovation Management (FIM)

Framtidsutbildning AB

Swedish Federation of Business Owners Nacka Värmdö
Swedish Federation of Business Owners Stockholm City
Swedish Federation of Property Owners Stockholm County
Företagsakademin (Business Academy)
Social Insurance Agency
Green Avenue
Haninge Municipality
Hegeli Public Affairs AB
Hemix AB
Hotel Havsbaden Grisslehamn
Huddinge Municipality
Håbo Municipality
Ibn Rushd Studieförbund (Ibn Rushd Study Association)
Institute for Futures Studies
Järfälla Municipality
Karolinska Institutet
Kista Science City

Association of Local Authorities in Stockholm County
Royal Institute of Technology
Västmanland County Council
Federation of Swedish Farmers
Leader UROSS
City of Lidingö
Livstykets Ideell Förening (Livstykets Non-Profit Association)
Swedish Trade Union Confederation
Rural Council Stockholm County
Stockholm County Administrative Board
Västmanland County Administrative Board
Makalösa Föräldrar
Mandeiska Föreningen i Stockholm
Max Hamburger Restauranger AB
MaxHelp AB
Green Party of Sweden in Stockholm
Multitude AB

MyDreamNow

Swedish National Agency for Higher Vocational Education

Mångkulturellt Centrum (Multicultural Centre)

Mälardal Council

Nacka Municipality

Nackademin Vocational College

Swedish Society for Nature Conservation

NCC

Networking Europe

Nordväxt Intressenter (Nordväst Stakeholders)

Norrtälje Municipality

Nyföretagarcentrum Lidingö (Enterprise Agency Lidingö)

Nykvarn Municipality

Nynäshamn Municipality

Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications

OKQ8

OpenLab

Pascale Lacroix

Peab Bostad AB

Planering och Process (Planning and Process)

Swedish Police

Sörmland Regional Council

Uppsala County Regional Council

Örebro Regional Council

Östsam Regional Council

Res Gladh

National Heritage Board

National Archives

Riksbyggen (housing association company)

RISE

Save the Children Sweden

Red Cross

SACO (Swedish Confederation of Professional Associations)

Salem Municipality

Samordningsförbundet Östra Södertörn (Östra Södertörn Coordination Association)

SATS

Selstor

Sensus Studieförbund (Sensus Study Association)

SIEPS — Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies

Sigtuna Municipality

SIKO — Skärgårdens Intresseföreningars Kontaktorganisation (Stockholm Archipelago Stakeholder Associations Contact Organisation)

SIPU International AB

Skanska

Swedish Forest Agency

Skärgårdsmässan (Stockholm Archipelago Fair)

Skärgårdsstiftelsen (Stockholm Archipelago Foundation)

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Sollentuna Municipality

City of Solna

SPeL — Strategisk Påverkan & Lärande (Support Structure for Impact and Learning)

Start-Up Stockholm

National Property Board

Statistics Sweden

Statoil Detaljhandel AB

Stiftelsen Cominvision (Cominvision Foundation)

Stiftelsen Företagsam (Företagsam Foundation)

Stiftelsen Livslust (Livslust Foundation)

Stiftelsen Stockholms Folkhögskola (Stockholm Adult Education School Foundation)

Stiftelsen Stockholms läns Äldrecentrum (Stockholm Centre for the Elderly Foundation)

STING

Structural Funds Partnership Secretariat

Stockholm Business Region

Stockholm Läns Fiskeförbund (Stockholm County Fisheries Association)

Stockholm Science City

City of Stockholm

Stockholm Chamber of Commerce

Stockholms Hantverksförening (Stockholm Craft Association)

Stockholm County Council

Stockholm County Council — Transport, Environment and Regional Planning

Stockholms Stadsmission (Stockholm City Mission)

Stockholm University

Stockholm Visitors Board

City of Sundbyberg

Swedish ESF Council in Stockholm County

Church of Sweden

Swedish McDonald's

Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions

Consultancies commissioned to produce environmental impact assessment

Södertälje Municipality

TCO — Swedish Confederation of Professional Employees

Telge Hovsjö

Ternstrom Consulting AB

Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis

Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth

Tinta Utbildning (Tinta Training)

Swedish Transport Administration

Tyréns

Tyresö Municipality

Täby Municipality

National Board for Youth Affairs

Swedish Council for Higher Education

Upplands Väsby Municipality

Upplands-Bro Municipality

Utvecklingscentrum för Vatten (Development Centre for Water)

Vallentuna Municipality

Vandrarhemmet Hvilan (Hvilan Hostel)

City of Vaxholm

Veidekke Entreprenad AB

Vinnova

Visby Domkyrkoförsamling (Visby Cathedral Congregation)

Värmdö Municipality

Västmanland Municipalities and County Council

We are STHLM

Wibell Consulting

Wik Bed & Breakfast

WSP Sverige AB

X-cons

YouLearn

Öppen skärgård (Open Archipelago)

Österåker Municipality

Östra Folkets Hus och Parker (Östra Folket House and Parks)

Consultation process

Request for opinions on the Regional Structural Funds Programme for investments in growth and employment for Stockholm 2014-2020

Stockholm County Administrative Board herewith presents documentation in which you have an opportunity to comment and submit proposals concerning mobilisation for strategic cohesive initiatives in the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programme 2014-2020. The documentation summarises the operational programme proposals for the ERDF in Stockholm 2014-2020 which is being prepared in 2013.

The request has been sent to the following organisations, in accordance with the list of recipients:

- stakeholders in the regional Structural Funds Partnership
- Swedish Federation of Business Owners Stockholm County

- the county's 26 municipalities
- Stockholm County Council
- a selection of relevant government agencies of significance to the Structural Funds
- Ledningsgruppen för Innovationskraft Sthlm (Management Group for Innovativeness Stockholm).

Decision-making process

Proposals for the Stockholm region's operational programme for the European Regional Development Fund 2014-2020 will be approved and adopted in the Structural Funds Partnership, the Board of the Swedish Association of Local Authorities Stockholm County and the Growth and Regional Planning Committee of Stockholm County Council. The programme will be presented to the Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications on 30 September. All nine ERDF programmes will then be negotiated with the European Commission during the autumn of 2013.

On what does the County Administrative Board want opinions and proposals?

The documentation is a summary, focused on the Stockholm model and main principles for cohesive strategic initiatives and the orientation of the operational ERDF programme in Stockholm 2014-2020. The County Administrative Board would like the response to focus on the strengths and weaknesses of the Stockholm model and what the programme wishes to achieve — contents and activities. We would like the following issues to be elucidated:

- How can you assist in the initiatives that are highlighted?
- Which (other) stakeholders is it important to mobilise in preparing future coherent initiatives?
- How can the link and collaboration with the European Social Fund be strengthened in future coherent strategic initiatives?

Current timetable

The documentation is being sent out by e-mail, and the response period is 24 June to 15 August 2013. Responses should be sent by e-mail to stockholm@lansstyrselsen.se.

Mats Hedenström

Director of Growth

Compilation of responses to consultation procedure

See Table 4, annex 'Tables and figures Stockholm'.

List of recipients

Almi Stockholm-Sörmland Företagspartner/IFS

Swedish Public Employment Service

Coompanion

Swedish Energy Agency

Swedish ESF Council

Swedish Federation of Business Owners Stockholm County

Social Insurance Agency

Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management

HSD (Swedish Disability Federation)

Swedish Board of Agriculture

Karolinska Institutet

KFO (Co-operative Employers' Association)

Association of Local Authorities in Stockholm County

KTH (Royal Institute of Technology)

Swedish Trade Union Confederation

The county's 26 municipalities

Swedish National Agency for Higher Vocational Education

Swedish Society for Nature Conservation

Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

PTS

Swedish National Heritage Board

National Archives

Swedish Forest Agency

National Agency for Education

SLUP

Swedish Arts Council

Stockholm Chamber of Commerce

Stockholm County Council:

Stockholm University

TCO (Swedish Confederation of Professional Employees)

Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth

Swedish Transport Administration

National Board for Youth Affairs

Vinnova

Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm	Supplementary information	10-Dec-2014		Ares(2014)4141168	Ex-ante conditionalities Stockholm	10-Dec-2014	nolofann
Tables and figures Stockholm	Supplementary information	10-Dec-2014		Ares(2014)4141168	Tables and figures Stockholm	10-Dec-2014	nolofann
Ex-ante evaluation Stockholm	Supplementary information	10-Dec-2014		Ares(2014)4141168	Ex-ante evaluation Stockholm	10-Dec-2014	nolofann
EIA Stockholm.	Supplementary information	10-Dec-2014		Ares(2014)4141168	EIA Stockholm.	10-Dec-2014	nolofann
Text Stockholm	Supplementary information	10-Dec-2014		Ares(2014)4141168	Text Stockholm	10-Dec-2014	nolofann