

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

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

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

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

The overarching objectives for West Sweden's Regional Structural Funds Programme for Investment in Growth and Jobs are to strengthen the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, contribute to a more low-carbon economy and promote sustainable urban development. The target group is small and medium-sized enterprises [1]. Activities and results in the programme are to be focused on small and medium-sized enterprises.

The programme consists of three priority axes:

- Collaboration in research and innovation
- Competitive small and medium-sized enterprises
- Innovation for a low-carbon economy

There are a thematic objective, investment priorities and specific objectives for each priority axis. Thematic objectives and investment priorities are formulated by the European Commission. Specific objectives are formulated by Västra Götaland Region and Region Halland. The programme promotes sustainable urban development through integrated operations in all priority axes. Figure 1 illustrates the overall structure of the programme.

See Figure 1 in the annex 'Tables and figures West Sweden'

Principles underpinning the programme

Västra Götaland Region and Region Halland are to contribute to sustainable growth and development in the counties concerned through their responsibility for regional development [3]. The concept of sustainable growth and development in this context means a comprehensive perspective on the needs, circumstances and problems of people and communities. The underpinning principle is that **economic, social and environmental** conditions are mutually dependent and that these need to be developed in line with each other for good societal development. Sustainable growth and development, based on the three dimensions, is the principle underpinning the regional development strategies devised by Västra Götaland Region and Region Halland for their respective

counties. From a regional perspective, the Regional Structural Funds Programme for West Sweden is one of several tools to implement the regional development strategies.

The programme is also one of several tools to implement the Europe 2020 strategy. The concepts of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, which relate to the economic, social and environmental dimensions which the regions and regional growth policy have to deal with, are used in the Europe 2020 strategy. More specifically, the following are meant:

- smart growth is aimed at economic development based on knowledge and innovation;
- sustainable growth means a resource-efficient, green and competitive economy;
- inclusive growth relates to high employment with social and territorial cohesion.

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 development and transformation capability of the labour market, the region and society. There is a regional imbalance in the distribution of people with a high level of education, which has consequences for long-term regional development. R&D investments in the private sector in particular need to increase, and entrepreneurial competence needs to be developed, in particular in rural areas and among young people, women and people born abroad. It is desirable to profile leading universities and increase collaboration with actors from trade and industry.
- The Government has a vision for Sweden not to have any 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, however, 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 enterprise.
- The most important objective of employment policy is to achieve a lasting increase in employment. The increase needs to take place chiefly 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 increase.

Increasing unemployment in recent years has hit all regions and population groups hard, but young people born abroad, people with disabilities and people with a low level of education have been affected in particular. 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 relating to the way the local market functions and access to other national and international markets. Sparse population leads to higher costs for public and commercial service functions, which are important for the inhabitants and local trade and industry. The cities are of a great significance as engines of growth for their surrounding regions. It is therefore important to look at cities in a functional regional perspective. Deficiencies in transport infrastructure can restrict the switching and internationalisation of regional business. Access to high-speed broadband is a key factor in encouraging new business opportunities, services and innovations. Good electronic communications are particularly important to growth, enterprise and housing for rural areas and other sparsely populated regions.

Thematic objectives

The European Commission has devised 11 thematic objectives [4] aimed at strengthening the links between the Structural Funds programmes and the Europe 2020 strategy. The Swedish Government [5] has additionally set frameworks for how resources can be distributed between thematic objectives for the regional Structural Funds programmes in Sweden. The programme is additionally to focus on a small number of priorities, and resources are to be concentrated on areas where they are judged to be most beneficial. At least 5 % of total national resources is to be allocated to sustainable urban development operations. This governance means that the Regional Structural Funds Programme for West Sweden can work on the priorities in the partnership agreement linked to the priorities in the Europe 2020 strategy on smart and sustainable growth, that is to say promoting competitiveness, knowledge and innovation, and strengthening sustainable and efficient use of resources for sustainable growth.

Issues concerning inclusive growth, for example youth unemployment and social inclusion, are addressed principally through sustainable urban development in this programme. Inclusive growth is otherwise addressed in other programmes, principally in West Sweden's regional action plan for the national European Social Fund programme.

West Sweden faces a number of challenges which the programme needs to address in order to contribute to smart and sustainable growth. The challenges underlying the selection of thematic objectives, the formulation of specific objectives and possible activities in the programme's three priority axes are described below.

The analysis of the Partnership Agreement indicates that Sweden is becoming increasingly globalised and subject to competition, which demands well-trained labour, high-quality research and innovation, as well as functioning infrastructure. This is in line with several needs that Västra Götaland Region and Region Halland have identified for West Sweden.

Increase R&D investments in small and medium-sized enterprises in West Sweden and strengthen their innovativeness — West Sweden is among the European regions with the highest R&D expenditure as a proportion of gross regional product (GRP). The R&D activities are, however, focused on large companies and strong research environments. If, on the other hand, the small and medium-sized enterprises in West Sweden are looked at, Statistics Sweden's R&D statistics and Community Innovation Survey point to low R&D intensity and indicate that a lower proportion of enterprises in West Sweden collaborate with other parties than in many other regions of Sweden [6]. It is noted in the socio-economic analysis for West Sweden that many West Swedish small and medium-sized enterprises lack resources of their own for innovation. This poses a threat to the long-term competitiveness of West Sweden.

In view of the fact that West Sweden is becoming increasingly globalised and subject to competition, small and medium-sized enterprises in West Sweden need to increase their R&D investments and their ability to commercialise know-how. Experience from work on growth in West Sweden and research provides support for knowledge transfer and R&I collaboration between small and medium-sized enterprises, universities and colleges and research institutions creating the necessary basis for innovations and is a tool with which to build competitiveness.

Continue to develop areas of growth in West Sweden — To be globally competitive, West Sweden needs to be a world leader in a number of areas. The Partnership Agreement also emphasises this by illustrating the importance of high-quality research and innovation, the profiling of leading universities and increased collaboration with stakeholders from the business community.

Extensive development work has been in progress in West Sweden for several years to build critical mass and highlight regional areas of growth. Areas of strength in Western Sweden are Life Science, Sustainable Transport, Sustainable Urban Development, Marine Industries, Foods, Materials and Sustainable Production, Experience-based Industries, Renewable Chemistry and Energy, and Information and Communication Technology [7].

All the areas of strength are embedded in regional knowledge structures in West Sweden, with strong research actors, specialised trade and industry, good access to skills and structures for collaboration [8]. Several areas of strength also address societal challenges. Regarding the area of strength of Sustainable Transport, for example, most research in the Swedish automotive industry is located in West Sweden, and there is a strong specialised business community in the automotive industry, as well as related consultancy and service industries. Many development issues in the area of strength are related to sustainability, such as alternative fuels and electrification of traction systems. Another example is Life Science, where societal challenges such as an ageing population and antibiotic resistance are addressed. West Sweden has strong research and business actors in this area of strength — Astra Zeneca, the Chalmers University of Technology

and Sahlgrenska University Hospital — with many innovative small and medium-sized enterprises. There is great potential in promoting the link between industry and clinical research. Various operations are taking place in the area of strength of Sustainable Development, for example the Smart Cities project in FP7 and Mistra Urban Futures, a research and knowledge centre for sustainable urban development. These operations are to contribute towards finding new approaches and creating new knowledge to develop a sustainable city.

West Sweden needs to develop the research and innovation environments in its areas of strength to encourage testing and demonstration and collaboration between small and medium-sized enterprises, universities and colleges, and research institutes. There is also a need for better conditions for knowledge transfer and harnessing innovative ideas. There are a number of research and innovation environments in West Sweden, for example Science Parks and centres of expertise based in educational institutions and research institutes, where the business community, universities and colleges, and public-sector actors can collaborate. The programme needs to make it possible for these environments to be enhanced.

West Sweden needs more innovative fast-growing companies — Small and medium-sized enterprises play a crucial role in employment, modernisation and diversification of industry. The structural change in recent decades has meant a shift in employment from manufacturing industry to the private service sector. It is concluded in the socio-economic analysis that industry in West Sweden, through a high rate of growth in productivity and by creating jobs in the service sector, still has a crucial role to play in employment. Knowledge-intensive small and medium-sized enterprises are needed in all sectors for a broad labour market, in particular to reduce vulnerability in economic downturns.

A steady increase in start-ups in West Sweden has not resulted in an increase in the number of entrepreneurs. This is due to enterprises disappearing at the same rate as new enterprises are being created. The development of enterprise dynamics with a high inflow and outflow is fundamentally positive and contributes to modernisation of trade and industry. There is a need for a net increase in the number of enterprises for more jobs and greater competitiveness in West Sweden. Regional work on growth needs to stimulate growth and competitiveness in new and existing small and medium-sized enterprises in all sectors. In addition, there is a possibility of Sweden becoming increasingly globalised and subject to competition. West Swedish small and medium-sized enterprises, given international competitiveness, can expand and grow in international markets.

West Sweden needs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by working on innovation — An increased world population and global economic development are increasing the competition for natural resources. This makes sustainability demands on community planning, production and consumption. Reference is made in the Partnership Agreement to the Government's ambition for Sweden to be carbon-neutral by 2050. Dependence on fossil fuels needs to be reduced, and the demands for increased economic growth and global competitiveness need to be met within the limits of what is environmentally sustainable. Västra Götaland Region and Region Halland therefore stress the importance of focusing on a more sustainable and energy-smart society, partly through ambitious

climate targets and areas of strength that use the issue of climate and the environment as a driver to promote innovation and sustainable growth.

Parts of industry and road traffic in West Sweden cause large greenhouse gas emissions. It is demonstrated in the socio-economic analysis that Västra Götaland Region is the region of Sweden with the highest greenhouse emissions. There is a need to improve the energy efficiency of trade and industry and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, from the transport sector and elsewhere. The transport sector accounts for a third of carbon dioxide emissions of fossil origin in Västra Götaland, and in Halland the corresponding figure is 40 %.

The socio-economic analysis emphasises the potential in reducing emissions from industry and transport by working on innovation. There is a need for new products, services and solutions that contribute in various ways to a more low-carbon economy. Trade and industry in West Sweden is well placed to make use of the business opportunities presented by the transition to a fossil-free economy. The area of energy technology is a rapidly growing sector in West Sweden with strong exports. Another example of good prospects in West Sweden is that most research in the Swedish automotive industry is located in West Sweden, where many development issues are concerned with alternative fuels and electrification of propulsion systems.

Major challenges in the labour market in West Sweden — West Sweden has an activity rate just above the national average. However, the quite high activity rate in West Sweden conceals large intra-regional differences in employment, with great social exclusion mostly in inland areas and in certain districts of the larger towns and cities in West Sweden. Municipalities with weak growth and population trends need to have improved opportunities for commuting, attract more inward migration and make better use of skills among the population. There is a particular need to make use of the skills of inhabitants with a foreign background. At the same time, one in five enterprises in West Sweden state that they experience a shortage of labour with the right skills when they recruit. Pure labour market issues are referred in West Sweden to the European Social Fund, but there is also potential in coordinating European Regional Development Fund operations with the European Social Fund to address issues such as matching in the labour market and skills shortages.

Great differences within West Sweden with special urban challenges in Gothenburg — The analysis of the Partnership Agreement highlights regional imbalances with an impact on long-term regional development. Population and skills are concentrated in metropolitan regions, which increases the differences between town and country with regard to demographics, manpower supply and commercial and public services.

The NUTS 2 area of West Sweden is made up of the counties of Halland and Västra Götaland. The area has a total population of 1 904 563, of whom 1 600 447 (84 %) live in Västra Götaland and 304 116 in Halland.

West Sweden consists of 55 municipalities, 49 in the county of Västra Götaland and 6 in the county of Halland. The region contains eight local labour market regions (LA regions) according to the Statistics Sweden classification. These are Halmstad, Bengtsfors-Dals Ed, Gothenburg, Lidköping-Götene, Strömstad, Trollhättan-Vänern, and

Borås and Skövde. The municipality of Åmål forms part of the Karlstad LA region, belonging to the county of Värmland.

West Sweden has a unique geographical location on the west coast, between the metropolitan regions of Oslo and the Öresund region. The region is characterised by a multi-core geographical structure, but Halmstad, Borås, Skövde and Trollhättan/Vänersborg/Uddevalla are also important regional centres.

There has been a two-way split in growth in West Sweden during the 21st century with strong growth in the Gothenburg region, Sjuhärad and Halland, while development in Skaraborg and Fyrbodalen has been substantially below the national average. The Gothenburg region has experienced a substantially better trend in population and employment than the rest of West Sweden. The Gothenburg region is also notable for a high level of education. In the other parts of West Sweden, the proportion of people with post-secondary educational qualifications is lower than the national average.

West Sweden does not differ from other metropolitan regions with regard to the trend in urbanisation. This poses specific challenges for Gothenburg. One challenge is the social and spatial division of Gothenburg, which has increased in terms of employment, income, education, form of housing and so on. The majority of the population in Gothenburg have become better off, while other groups have become substantially worse off. The population has increased particularly in the Gothenburg region and in attractive locations along the coasts. Several municipalities inland, particularly in Dalsland and the northern parts of Skaraborg, are simultaneously experiencing a decline in population. The population of the Gothenburg region is expected to increase from 948 000 in 2012 to 1.1 million in 2025. This presents Gothenburg with particular challenges relating to growth and development which are sustainable and inclusive. While Gothenburg is an engine of growth for the whole of West Sweden, the socio-economic analysis shows that the Gothenburg region also has the highest proportion of recipients of financial assistance in West Sweden. These are principally concentrated in certain areas of Gothenburg. A way of addressing these problems is to support entrepreneurship, the setting up of new companies and business development in these areas. With the right support, people who are outside the labour market can start up sustainable enterprises and obtain an income. As a result, exclusion, dependence on assistance and social disparities in Gothenburg can diminish. The city also faces high energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. Issues of resource use, social justice and the environment must be addressed to develop Gothenburg into a more sustainable city. Greater collaboration between research, business, citizens and the public sector is required to address these challenges. Collaboration needs to result in new knowledge, new approaches and new solutions based on an all-inclusive approach to the challenges facing the city.

Participatory research

There are a number of conclusions to relate to from the participatory research carried out at programme level during the programming period 2007-2013 [9]. These conclusions have been a factor in the selection of thematic objectives and investment priorities, activities which are accommodated within the programme and the allocation of funding between the thematic objectives.

Participatory research devotes considerable space to innovation and emphasises that Structural Funds projects should provide support in later stages of the innovation process, when products, services and processes can lead to commercial breakthroughs. In many cases, it has proved difficult to strike the right balance between research and commercialisation. Research logic has often taken precedence in the projects, and there is consequently a need for strengthened innovation logic. Many innovations that are commercialised are based on the day-to-day operations of enterprises or the interaction between customers and enterprises. To achieve greater innovation focus, it is important to support both innovations that have been developed in the scientific community and innovations that are based on day-to-day activity. Other lessons learnt are that quick results and definite effects cannot be expected from investments in clusters and incubators. Sustainability is required to achieve effects.

Participatory research finds that support for entrepreneurship benefits from specialisation. General entrepreneurship projects that are not adapted to specific target groups or to regional conditions tend not to deliver sufficient added value. Entrepreneurship initiatives integrated with innovation projects have proved more successful, particularly to support the emergence of fast-growing enterprises.

Important lessons learnt from the West Sweden programme 2007-2013 [10] are that implementation benefits from developed strategies and prioritisation of operations. The added value from the Structural Funds is greatest where the level of innovation is high, and lasting, long-term results are achieved by building sustainable structures. There is also found to be a lack of collaboration between Region Halland and Västra Götaland Region, one programme — two strategies. Several projects transcending programme areas would also improve the prospects for long-term effects, according to the participatory research. The regions responsible for development would achieve increased learning and procurement skills through increased cooperation. Cross-regional cooperation provides stakeholders and project sponsors with a larger base, access to more skills and greater opportunities for learning in the project work.

General comments on the ex-ante evaluation

West Sweden has appreciated the dialogue that has taken place throughout the programming period with the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis. This dialogue has clearly contributed to a well-defined, focused programme in which there is a common thread running through the challenges of the programme area, the specific objectives and the selection of activities.

Västra Götaland Region together with Region Halland has privately studied opinions and has also incorporated these into the programme document throughout the programme-writing process. The replies below also include comments on the final opinions, which

have largely also been dealt with in the programme document. The region wishes in general to emphasise that the West Swedish programme is relatively small in financial terms, and there is therefore some doubt over the extent to which this programme will contribute to attaining the expected results. The results are achieved principally through operations that lie outside but, it is to be hoped, also to a lesser extent in collaboration with the Structural Funds programme concerned.

The Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis considers the analysis to be relevant, but feels that it does not sufficiently clarify the challenges facing sustainable urban development. A number of clarifications follow below.

- Close interaction will take place with the European Social Fund, firstly to strengthen the city as an engine of growth and secondly to develop initiatives to facilitate the integration of persons of foreign origin.
- Further additions will be made to these parts of the analysis prior to the work on preparing a regional action plan for the national European Social Fund Programme.
- The Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis in general finds that the programme is not primarily focused on counteracting weaknesses but rather on developing the areas of strength in the programme area. The region agrees with this, although operations in the Gothenburg region in particular will also contribute to counteracting weaknesses.
- The choice of **result indicators** for priority axes 1 and 2 are regarded as relevant. On the other hand, the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis regards the result indicator for priority axis 3 as misleading and not suitable in the context. Adjustments have subsequently been made. The result indicator ‘Reduced carbon dioxide emissions’ has been chosen in the absence of clearer result indicators. However, the region is of the opinion that planned projects in areas of strength involving the development of processes and tests, following implementation, may contribute to reduced greenhouse gas emissions.
- The selection of **output indicators** for priority axes 2 and 3 is regarded as relevant. The selection of an output indicator for priority axis 1 is not regarded by the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis as adequate. The programme was therefore supplemented in priority axis 1 in February by the indicator ‘Number of enterprises receiving support to introduce products that are new to the market’. We propose that the target be set at 100 enterprises, and this is justified in the same way as other justifications for indicators in the priority axis.
- It is considered that the programme proposal has a common thread running through the challenges in the programme area, the selection of priority axes, specific objectives, result indicators, activities and output indicators. It is also considered to be focused and to contain priority axes with good opportunities for synergies.
- With regard to urban development, there is geographical demarcation and pronounced local influence. However, the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy

Analysis considers that challenges faced by the Gothenburg region are lacking, as is the type of actions concerned and how they differ from other operations. The programme logic for urban development is therefore considered to be unclear and not sufficiently worked through. The programme has subsequently been adjusted to clarify the programme logic based on the draft sector-wide integrated plan which the City of Gothenburg is responsible for preparing. Among other things, it will represent a summary of several of the plans and strategies Gothenburg bases its work on.

- Work on sustainable urban development in the City of Gothenburg is under continuous development. Local visions and policy documents that provide frameworks for this include, for example, Vision Älvstaden, Västsvenska paketet (the West Swedish Package) and Gothenburg 2021. The city will undergo extensive expansion in several areas over the next few years.
- Sustainable development is one of the region's areas of strength where there is consensus between the city, the region, academia and the business community. At the same time, integration and the influence of young people are key factors in development.
- Based on the views of the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis, examples of sustainable urban development operations have been inserted into the programme proposal for each priority axis.
- The Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis considers the objectives in the programme proposal to be specific, timed and measurable. The region wishes to highlight in this context that calls for proposals for operations will generally be dictated in part by the results and outputs the programme is expected to achieve.
- In priority axis 1, the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis questions whether the target value of the chosen result indicator 'Expenditure of enterprises on own R&D activity' is realistic for West Sweden. The target value is in line with other programme areas in Sweden, but there is otherwise considered to be a lack of clear reasoning as to why this target value is realistic for West Sweden.
- The region's assessment is based on the target in the development strategy of Västra Götaland Region of total R&D investments increasing from 4.7 % today to 5 % in 2020. Based on this and previous experience of other growth initiatives, we judge an increase in expenditure from SEK 2.175 million to SEK 2.4 million for small and medium-sized enterprises to be realistic.
- All the targets in priority axis 2 (thematic objective 3) are judged to be realistic.
- In priority axis 3 (thematic objective 4), the view of the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis is that the target of reduced carbon dioxide emissions is projected on the basis of historical data.

The region's view is that this target is realistic in terms of trend over time, in the same way as the region considers the programme for 'Småland and the Islands' to have done. The region has further justified the choice of indicator earlier in this section, and

considers that the results of the developed processes such as collaboration between enterprises and between enterprises and research institutions are to lead to will also contribute in the longer term to reduced carbon dioxide emissions, once these processes/products are on the market.

The comments above are endorsed among officials in Region Halland, Västra Götaland Region, the City of Gothenburg and the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth.

Selection of thematic objectives

The above needs and challenges, prevailing frameworks, allocation of resources and requirements for focus and concentration have guided the selection of thematic objectives, that is to say the demarcation and orientation of the programme.

- Thematic objective 1, Strengthening research, technological development and innovation
- Thematic objective 3, Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs
- Thematic objective 4, Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors

The analysis reveals that there are deficiencies in the physical and digital infrastructure of West Sweden that may have an adverse impact on the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises. With their current size and form, the regional Structural Fund programme in West Sweden has very limited prospects of dealing with these deficiencies. On the basis of the Commission's requirements for concentration of resources and the programme focus, the programme is therefore not covered by the thematic objectives that can address these areas. Reference is instead made to operations in progress in Halland and Västra Götaland.

The overarching objectives for West Sweden's regional ESF programme are to strengthen the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, contribute to a more low-carbon economy and promote sustainable urban development. The target group is small and medium-sized enterprises.

The programme is divided into three priority axes:

- Collaboration in research and innovation (thematic objective 1)
- Competitive small and medium-sized enterprises (thematic objective 3)
- Innovation for a low-carbon economy (thematic objective 4)

The overarching objectives are attained through the specific goals of the programme: more new innovative enterprises, more innovative growth enterprises, greater collaboration in research and innovation in regional areas of strength that contribute to a more low-carbon economy, and greater capacity to develop and commercialise new products, services and solutions that contribute to a more low-carbon economy.

Furthermore, the programme promotes sustainable urban development through integrated operations in the priority axis and thematic objective concerned.

See Figure 2 in the annex 'Tables and figures West Sweden'

Sustainable growth

Sustainable growth is a matter of prioritising solutions that produce synergies between the economic, social and environmental dimensions and balancing these against each other. There should be a special focus in efforts to achieve sustainable growth on what are known as the horizontal criteria of gender equality, diversity and integration and a better environment.

Integrating the horizontal criteria in development work can lead to new approaches to problems and solutions. It can contribute, for example, to innovations by identifying obstacles and identifying opportunities based on different experiences, open up new markets for enterprises and ensure more efficient use of human resources. The horizontal criteria have to be taken into account in the planning and execution of projects and therefore represent one of several principles of project selection (see under each priority axis).

Thematic area 1

Based on the areas of strength of West Sweden, activities in this area are to improve the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises through collaboration in research and innovation (R&I).

West Sweden needs to continue to develop its identified areas of strength to enable it to compete globally. Small and medium-sized enterprises in the areas of strength need to increase their R&D investments and their ability to commercialise knowledge. Supportive research and innovation environments are therefore needed that encourage collaboration between small and medium-sized enterprises, universities and colleges, and research institutes. These environments need to create the necessary basis for knowledge transfer and the development of innovative ideas, while providing opportunities to test solutions prior to commercialisation, with operations to shorten the path from knowledge development to application.

Using procurement as a tool to strengthen innovation is an area with great potential in this context. There is a need to strengthen knowledge of how this opportunity can be used as a policy instrument in both the public and private sectors. It is also important to position research and innovation environments so that competitiveness can be enhanced in the longer term. Furthermore, there is potential in working in a cross-sectoral manner to come up with innovative solutions for sustainable urban development. The needs outlined above come within the selected prioritisation of investment. These needs also underlie the specific objective and the activities made possible by the programme.

Growth and gender equality, as well as growth and diversity, boost one another by human resources being put to better use. Renewal and innovation are promoted through more skills and experience being utilised. There are often structural obstacles on the

labour market that discriminate on the basis of gender or ethnicity, prevent renewal and hold back innovation.

Several of the areas of strength of West Sweden are linked to male-dominated industries. Mainstreaming general equality efforts into innovation processes therefore has the potential to modernise the regional areas of strength and contribute to both greater competitiveness and less discrimination. The same logic applies from the diversity perspective.

The demand for environmentally sustainable processes, products, services and solutions is increasing and creates competitive advantages for enterprises that offer these, while also contributing to overcoming the environmental challenges we face. Research and innovation efforts for new and improved products, services and solutions that meet the environmental challenges should be given priority in the programme.

Thematic area 3:

By promoting the development of more new innovative companies and encouraging the development of existing small and medium-sized enterprises, the programme is to contribute to making trade and industry more competitive. Activities that are carried out in the priority axis are to have a well-defined target group and be adapted to the needs of the enterprises.

West Sweden needs more new innovative fast-growing enterprises for increased employment and a more diversified and less vulnerable business structure. There is therefore a need for support in identifying and developing new business concepts. This falls within the investment priority 'Promote entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating economic utilisation of new ideas and promote the creation of new businesses, including through business incubators'. The specific objective and selected activities reflect this need.

Many small and medium-sized enterprises in West Sweden do not have their own development resources and need to utilise the potential growth markets to a greater extent. The regional growth work therefore needs to encourage innovation and market development in existing small and medium-sized enterprises. Innovation and market development is dependent on a good supply of capital, see text below on financing instruments. These needs can be addressed under the investment priority 'Support capacity for small and medium-sized enterprises to grow on regional, national and international markets and take part in innovation processes'. The specific objective and selected activities reflect this need.

Growth and gender equality, and growth and diversity, boost one another by human resources being put to better use. If there are to be more new innovative growth companies and greater innovativeness in small and medium-sized enterprises, there is a need for the whole population to be equally well placed to start and develop enterprises. There are significantly more male than female entrepreneurs in West Sweden. Those who implement operations need to be aware of the significance of gender structures, different cultures and disabilities for work on growth to be inclusive.

The demand for environmentally sustainable products, services and solutions is increasing and creates competitive advantages for companies that offer these, while also contributing to overcoming the environmental challenges we face. The environmental aspect from the perspective of growth should be mainstreamed into operations targeted at new and existing businesses.

Thematic area 4 [11]:

The focus of the priority axis is defined by the target group for the programme, small and medium-sized enterprises, and the concentration on strengthening the competitiveness of trade and industry. There is also a strong link to sustainable urban development, as cities are of key significance to the development of a green economy. Activities in the priority axis are to make small and medium-sized enterprises more competitive and, at the same time, contribute to a more low-carbon economy.

By promoting innovation, the programme can work on the societal challenge of more low-carbon energy use in different sectors of society. Work on developing innovative solutions to reduce climate-changing emissions is complex and needs to be addressed by technology development and collaboration throughout the value chain from production to consumer. Operations are therefore needed to promote R&I collaboration and develop testing and demonstration environments. Environmentally adapted procurement may also be a way of achieving energy savings and developing energy-efficient products and services. There is a need to strengthen knowledge of how this opportunity can be used as a policy instrument in both the public and private sectors. In addition, there is a need for operations that improve the energy efficiency of small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as operations that assist companies with low-energy products, services and solutions in reaching new markets.

There is potential in working in a cross-sectoral manner to come up with innovative solutions for sustainable urban development. The OECD has emphasised the key significance of cities in developing a green economy, as they account for high energy use and greenhouse emissions at the same time as representing centres of economic activity [12].

The needs identified above fall within the investment priority ‘Promote research, innovation and adoption of technology with low carbon emissions’. The needs also underlie the specific objective and the activities made possible by the programme.

Growth and gender equality, and growth and diversity, boost one another by human resources being put to better use. Renewal and innovation are promoted by more skills and experience being utilised. There are often structural obstacles on the labour market that discriminate on the basis of gender or ethnicity, prevent renewal and restrain innovativeness. Mainstreaming gender equality and diversity efforts into innovation processes for a more low-carbon economy therefore has the potential to contribute to both greater competitiveness and less discrimination.

Sustainable urban development

The programme is also intended to promote sustainable urban development, as West Sweden is a metropolitan region notable for the opportunities and challenges posed by

urbanisation, which among other things consist in exploiting the opportunities around the city as a driver of growth at the same time as issues of resource utilisation, social justice and the environment have to be tackled.

At least 5 % of total national resources is to be allocated to sustainable urban development operations. During the previous programming period (2007-2013), the West Swedish programmes were covered by sustainable urban development. The operations, which focused in particular on the social dimension, came under one priority axis and were to be divided between a number of identified districts in the City of Gothenburg. Experience from the previous programming period indicates difficulties in bringing about projects linked to trade and industry. In a study conducted on behalf of the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth on metropolitan operations under the ERDF programmes [13], it is pointed out that sustainable urban development operations must promote the relationship between growth and reduced segregation. In addition, it is emphasised that metropolitan operations should cross-cut and bridge organisational divisions, both geographically and administratively.

Gothenburg is the largest city in West Sweden and is where the challenges and opportunities presented by urbanisation are clearest. Sustainable urban development is therefore restricted within the programme to covering the City of Gothenburg. At the same time, it is important to utilise the potential and coordination gains that can arise through collaboration across administrative boundaries. Based on the challenges facing the City of Gothenburg, activities within the programme can therefore be covered by cooperation and exchange of experience between the local, subregional and regional levels.

Coordination between the regional, social and agricultural funds is of great significance in addressing obstacles to sustainable urban development that satisfy the social, economic and ecological dimensions. The programme for the regional and agricultural funds emphasise in particular the economic and ecological dimensions of sustainability. The proposed regional action plan for the European Social Fund instead emphasises in particular the social dimension of sustainability, for example in the form of operations to enhance skills. Examples of such coordination are to provide support for skills development and supply of skills that aids the transition to a low-carbon economy and promotes the growth of new, green jobs in West Swedish areas of strength with growth potential, such as foodstuffs, green industries and maritime development. If the operations are based on local participation and involvement, they can additionally be coordinated with equivalent operations in the rural development programme.

The rural areas of Gothenburg, particularly in Hisingen and in the north-east, are large and are located next to areas of housing under the ‘million homes programme’ which are geographically smaller but are larger in terms of population. This large-scale mix of urban environment and urban areas distinguishes Gothenburg from the rest of West Sweden. There is potential here to exploit possible synergies between the city and countryside and in a new and better way consciously to coordinate operations in the regional, social and agricultural funds with the aim of creating employment.

Collaboration and demarcation — Fund Coordination Group

It is important to view the EU programmes in a context in which each programme has its own specific role in efforts to contribute to the Europe 2020 goals. Operations to improve competitiveness in small and medium-sized enterprises, contribute to a more low-carbon economy and promote sustainable urban development are differentiated in West Sweden's regional Structural Fund programmes for investments in growth and employment.

There is a fund coordination group in West Sweden to facilitate coordination between the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and European Fisheries Fund programmes. The group consists of representatives from the bodies responsible for regional development and managing authorities: Region Halland, Västra Götaland Region, the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, the Swedish ESF Council and the county administrative boards for the counties of Västra Götaland and Halland.

The purpose of the group is to draw up coordinated proposals for strategic calls for applications in the programmes concerned in order to jointly strengthen progress towards the goals of EU 2020, national goals and VG 2020 and the Growth Strategy for Halland 2014-2020. It is also to be possible to propose large strategic projects that concern more than one Structural Fund and also more than one region.

A number of focal areas can be jointly selected based on the regional programmes or action plans. This prioritisation will become an overall focus for application rounds and affect the prioritisations in the particular funds based on specified selection criteria. Assessment of projects included in a focal area and with co-financing will be prioritised (scored higher, but the competition between all the projects must nevertheless remain) in the management of each case with the aim of achieving the greatest effect.

The European Social Fund Programme is aimed at promoting high employment and better jobs, increasing employability for individuals who are outside the labour market and helping those already in employment to develop as the world of work changes. In the European Social Fund, the individual is at the centre, but the operations are also aimed at influencing organisations and structures in the labour market on the basis of results.

The European Social Fund is primarily linked to the priorities of the Europe 2020 strategy on inclusive growth, but it is important also to emphasise that the prospects of enterprises finding the right skills are also of key importance to the innovativeness and competitiveness of businesses. European Social Fund operations therefore also contribute to the Europe 2020 priority of smart growth. The demarcation between European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund operations is therefore not always self-evident.

There are synergies between European Social Fund operations and the ERDF programme for West Sweden in increased supply of labour within and skills development operations linked to regional areas of strength and the strategic skill supply of enterprises. There are also strong potential links between ESF operations and the cross-sectoral integrated plan for sustainable urban development. The possibility of setting aside parts of the budget in projects for operations of an ERDF or ESF nature can be utilised.

Collaboration between the two programmes is facilitated by the managing authorities being located in joint premises in Gothenburg.

The Rural Development Programme principally concerns the same thematic objectives as the European Regional Development Fund. A starting point for promoting synergies between the programmes is the mutual dependence of urban and rural areas. Demarcations between the programmes are guided by the target groups for the ERDF being more narrowly defined in the EU rules and the operations being targeted at a more closely defined territory. Overlaps between the ERDF programme and the EARDF relate to promotion of enterprise and innovations.

The Marine and Fisheries Programme, like the ERDF Programme, contains support that promotes the competitiveness of enterprises and is linked to thematic objective 3. The demarcation between the programmes consists in the Marine and Fisheries Programme supporting business activity linked to the sea, fisheries and aquaculture. The marine industry is a designated area of strength in the ERDF programme for West Sweden, and possible synergies with the Marine and Fisheries Programme should therefore be exploited.

Territorial programmes are focused on added value in border regions and are principally directed towards innovations, business development, sustainable transport and regional enlargement. West Sweden is covered by a number of such programmes: the Sweden-Norway Programme, the Öresund-Kattegat-Skagerack Programme, the North Sea Programme and the Baltic Sea Programme. The programmes can supplement the regional Structural Funds programme for West Sweden by strengthening international cooperation for example in research and development and cluster cooperation.

The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region is aimed at saving the marine environment, linking the region together and increasing prosperity. A number of ‘flagship projects’ have been defined in the strategy. Other projects in the strategy have to have a clear macro-regional impact. These may be operations carried out in cooperation with one or more countries in the macro-region. Implementation of the European Structural Funds Programme for West Sweden is relevant in its entirety to the objectives of the Baltic Sea Region Strategy, firstly the goal to increase prosperity in the Baltic Sea region, and secondly initiatives for innovation in the area of strength of marine industries that can contribute to the goal of saving the marine environment.

Projects in the ERDF programme for West Sweden, which can contribute to the goals of the strategy and where there is clear added value in cooperating with stakeholders in the Baltic Sea Region, should consider integrating transnational cooperation as part of the project (for more detailed information, see section 4.4). In addition, there are synergies between projects in the ERDF programme and projects in the territorial programmes. One example of synergies is operations in research and innovation. The Structural Funds programme for West Sweden can position research and innovation environments and strengthen their international profile. This in turn improves the prospects of cooperation and clears the way for territorial cooperation between research and innovation environments for example in the Baltic Sea Region. Cooperation can also form the basis for partnership in Horizon 2020 projects.

Other operations in the Structural Funds programme for West Sweden directly linked to the Baltic Sea Region Strategy promote increased internationalisation of small and medium-sized enterprises. There are great opportunities in the Structural Funds programme to increase the contacts between enterprises and organisations in the Baltic Sea Region and consequently promote innovation and increased trade, in line with the objectives of the Baltic Sea Region Strategy.

Horizon 2020 and COSME — There are strong links between the ERDF programme for West Sweden and Horizon 2020 and COSME. Small and medium-sized companies can increase their knowledge intensity and contacts and strengthen their international networks with assistance from the regional Structural Funds programme. This facilitates future participation in national and European research and innovation programmes. Results from Horizon 2020 and COSME projects can be converted in a corresponding manner into new projects in the regional Structural Funds programme.

[1] Small and medium-sized companies are companies that employ fewer than 250 people and have annual turnover not exceeding EUR 50 million.

[2] Innovative companies undertake innovative activity. Vinnova defines innovative activity as the ‘introduction to the market of a product, process or service new to the company during the last three years’. (Innovativa små och medelstora företag — Sveriges framtid (Innovative small and medium-sized enterprises — Sweden’s future). VP 2007:01).

[3] Västra Götaland 2020 — strategi för tillväxt och utveckling i Västra Götaland 2014-2020) Västra Götaland 2020 — strategy for growth and development in Västra Götaland 2014-2020) and Tillväxtstrategi för Halland 2014-2020 (Growth strategy for Halland 2014-2020).

[4] Thematic objectives: 1. Strengthening research, technological development and innovation; 2. Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, ICT; 3. Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs; 4. Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors; 5. Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management; 6. Protecting the environment and promoting the sustainable use of resources; 7. Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures; 8. Promoting employment and supporting labour mobility; 9. Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty; 10. Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning by developing education and training infrastructure; 11. Enhancing institutional capacity and an efficient public administration.

[5] Guidelines for drafting proposals for regional Structural Funds programmes for the goal of investments in growth and employment (European Regional Development Fund) for the programming period 2014-2020.

[6] CIS is Eurostat’s survey of innovation activity in industry.

[7] Politically prioritised areas of strength based on the regional strategies of Västra Götaland Region and Region Halland.

[8] Denning, Martin (2014), Branschöverskridande kompetensknippen — Nya perspektiv på Västsveriges näringslivskontor (The cross-sectoral skills bundle — New perspectives on the West Sweden economic development office).

[9] Syntesrapport från följeforskning i regionala strukturfondsprogrammen — 23 slutsatser (Synthesis report from participatory research in the regional Structural Funds programmes — 23 conclusions), Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, 2012, Report 0129.

[10] Följeforskning i programområde Västsverige (Participatory research in the West Sweden programme area), Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, 2011.

[11] 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.

[12] Cities and Green Growth, OECD 2011.

[13] Potentialer för tillväxt och sammanhållning, En studie av storstadsinsatserna inom regionalfondsprogrammen för Stockholm, Västsverige och Skåne-Blekinge (Potential for growth and cohesion. A study of the metropolitan operations in the ERDF programmes for Stockholm, West Sweden and Skåne-Blekinge) (Malmö University College, Apel Forskning & Utveckling).

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	<p>— SMEs in West Sweden need to enhance their ability to commercialise new knowledge and increase their R&D investments.</p> <p>— The basis for joint knowledge creation between universities and colleges, trade and industry, and society needs to be developed.</p> <p>— Supporting structures for commercialisation that shorten the</p>

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
	<p>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>	<p>path from knowledge development to application need to be developed.</p> <p>— In order to strengthen West Sweden’s global competitiveness, purposeful development work is needed to develop the areas of strength that have been identified in West Sweden.</p> <p>— Increased collaboration between research, trade and industry, citizens and the public sector is needed to develop new knowledge and find new forms of cooperation and solutions to urban challenges.</p>
<p>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)</p>	<p>3a — Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators</p>	<p>— West Sweden needs more new innovative fast-growing enterprises for increased employment, more diversified and less vulnerable business structure.</p> <p>More companies need to be created and established in all parts of Gothenburg, for increased employment and to contribute to reduced social exclusion.</p>
<p>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)</p>	<p>3d — Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes</p>	<p>— Many West Swedish SMEs do not have their own development resources for innovation.</p> <p>— West Swedish SMEs need to utilise their potential better in new growth markets.</p>
<p>04 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors</p>	<p>4f — Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies</p>	<p>— High levels of greenhouse gas emissions from West Swedish industry and road traffic.</p> <p>— Make better use of the opportunities in increasing global demand for low-carbon products,</p>

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
		<p>processes, services and solutions.</p> <p>— There are research and skilled enterprises in West Sweden in the area of energy technology.</p> <p>— Increased collaboration between research, trade and industry, citizens and the public sector is needed to develop new knowledge and find new forms of cooperation and solutions to urban challenges, related in particular to a low-carbon economy.</p>

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 funds in the programme follows both EU rules and national guidelines. At least 5 % of the funding set aside for thematic objectives 1, 3 and 4 is earmarked for operations for sustainable urban development. Another 4 % goes to technical assistance (TA resources).

The proportion of EU funding set aside for technical objective 1 is 43.2 %. This is the largest proportion of resources in the regional Structural Fund programme in West Sweden. There are several reasons why this is so. Firstly there is a practical wish in West Sweden for the programme to be focused on small and medium-sized enterprises and for innovation investments to be a feasible way of strengthening the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises in a global economy. In addition, the operations are costly, in particular physical investments in testing and demonstration, which needs to be reflected in the distribution of funding. This justification is strengthened by the European Commission having emphasised the importance of Sweden using ERDF resources to increase the return on R&D and promote more fast-growing enterprises. The favourable opinions on innovation investments in the participatory research during the previous programming period also contribute to the chosen distribution of funding, as experience shows that operations produce good results.

The proportion of EU funding set aside for technical objective 3 is 38.4 %. There is a political wish in West Sweden for the programme to focus on small and medium-sized

enterprises, and more innovative enterprises are needed for West Sweden to continue to be an attractive region in the future. There is therefore a need for investment aimed at promoting business creation. The analysis shows that R&D intensity in SMEs in West Sweden is low, which provides further reason for allocating large resources to this thematic objective. Venture capital investments are also considered to be of great value to West Swedish business. A large proportion of the programme budget consequently needs to be allocated to financing instruments, which is equivalent to a relatively high proportion being allocated to thematic objective 3. The reason why thematic objective 3 is nevertheless allocated less funding than thematic objective 1 is that the operations are generally not as costly.

The proportion of EU funding set aside for technical objective 4 is 14.4 %. Focusing on work towards a sustainable and energy-smart society is a political priority in West Sweden. However, this work goes beyond the bounds of the Structural Funds programme for West Sweden, which is limited to the target group of small and medium-sized enterprises. It is also possible to implement activities in this priority axis in the other two priority axes of the programme, and a smaller proportion of the regional Structural Funds programme in West Sweden is therefore allocated to thematic objective 4. Allocating more money to thematic objective 4 may cause lock-in effects, which is now avoided without implementation being adversely affected as a result.

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	24 199 486.00	43.20 %	<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 ▼ 1 — Greater collaboration in research and innovation in regional areas of strength. 	[0103, 0104]
2	ERDF	21 510 655.00	38.40 %	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 03 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 3a — Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators ▼ 1 — More new innovative enterprises. ▼ 3d — Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes ▼ 1 — More innovative growth enterprises. 	[0101, 0303, 0305, 0306, 0400]
3	ERDF	8 066 495.00	14.40 %	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 04 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 4f — Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies ▼ 1 — Greater collaboration in research and innovation in regional areas of strength that contribute to a more low-carbon economy. ▼ 2 — Greater capacity to develop and commercialise new products, services and solutions that contribute to a more low-carbon economy. 	[0104, 0402, 0406]
4	ERDF	2 240 693.00	4.00 %	1 — Technical assistance is to lead to the programme being implemented appropriately, in a legally sound manner and effectively, and contributing to the goals of the programme being achieved in other priority axes.	[%]

2. PRIORITY AXES

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

2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	1
Title of the priority axis	Collaboration in research and innovation

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

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

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

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

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	Greater collaboration in research and innovation in regional areas of strength
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>Research and innovation collaboration</p> <p>Implemented activities are to result in research and innovation environments in regional areas of strength enhancing their capability to promote collaboration between small and medium-sized enterprises, universities and colleges, research institutes and the public sector. Collaboration is to contribute to more effective development and innovation processes that increase the commercial return on R&D investments. The activities are also to contribute to more small and medium-sized enterprises taking part in development and innovation processes, increasing their R&I investments and being able to put results from Horizon 2020 projects to use.</p> <p><i>Anticipated result for sustainable urban development:</i> Collaboration between the public sector, business and various disciplines in universities, colleges and research institutes is to result in enhanced capacity and expertise to develop new complete solutions that promote sustainable urban development.</p> <p>Testing and demonstration environments</p> <p>Implemented activities are to result in new and enhanced testing and demonstration environments in regional areas of strength that make it possible for products, services, processes and solutions to be applied and/or commercialised more quickly. The</p>

activities are further expected to contribute to more enterprises increasing their R&D investments through increased involvement in R&I processes.

Anticipated result for sustainable urban development: Implemented activities are to strengthen the city's ability to change over to a sustainable community based on economic, social and environmental perspectives.

Innovation procurement

Implemented activities are to result in the public sector improving its knowledge and ability to implement innovation procurements as an integrated tool, in innovation within regional areas of strength. Improved ability to use innovation procurement is also to result in more enterprises in West Sweden increasing their R&I investments.

Positioning of research and innovation environments

Implemented activities are to result in new or revised strategic orientations that boost the attractiveness of research and innovation environments in regional areas of strength and strengthen their international profile and ability to reach new markets. Greater attractiveness is expected to result in the environments attracting international expertise, capital and partners. Implemented activities are also to encourage international alliances between West Swedish and international research and innovation groupings. In addition, more enterprises and research and innovation stakeholders in West Sweden are to take part in national and European research and innovation programmes and, in so doing, contribute towards increasing R&I investments in West Sweden.

[1]

[1] The operations under this thematic objective are in line with the region's strategies for smart specialisation. See page 6 in 'VG2020' and pp. 28-29 in 'Tillväxtstrategi för Halland' ('Growth strategy for Halland'), <http://www.vgregion.se/vg2020>, <http://www.regionhalland.se/utveckling-och-tillvaxt/omrade/det-regionala-tillvaxtarbetet/en-tillvaxtstrategi-vaxer-fram/>.

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

Specific objective		1 - Stärkt samverkan inom forskning och innovation i regionala styrkeområden.						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
0103	Företagens utgifter för egen FoU-verksamhet, 10-249 anställda	MSEK	More developed	2.17	2010	2.40	Statistiska centralbyrån, rapporten "Regional innovationsstatistik i Sverige"	Vartannat år
0104	Andel företag (10-249 anställda) som samarbetar i sin innovationsverksamhet	Procent	More developed	40.18	2010	45.00	Statistiska centralbyrån, rapporten "Regional innovationsstatistik i Sverige"	Vartannat år

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

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

Investment priority	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>Possible project sponsors for activities in the investment prioritisation are: Science Parks, universities and colleges, research institutes, collaborative/cluster organisations and public-sector organisations.</p> <p>Research and innovation collaboration</p> <p>Examples of activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of research and innovation environments for enhanced collaboration between trade and industry, universities and colleges, research institutes and public-sector stakeholders. The collaboration is to focus on strengthening the ability of small and medium-sized enterprises to utilise and commercialise new knowledge.• Encourage collaboration between the areas of strength in order to find new innovative solutions to identified problems or societal challenges.• Development of new cluster formations on condition that there is impetus within trade and industry.• Continue to develop the results of the Horizon 2020 project.• Development of regional nodes in Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KIC).• Sustainable urban development: Continued development work on creating an innovation platform for sustainable urban development, where sector collaboration according to the triple helix method is fundamental. <p>Testing and demonstration environments</p> <p>Examples of activities:</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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical investments in new and existing test and demonstration environments where small and medium-sized enterprises in collaboration with universities and colleges, large enterprises, research institutes and the public sector can jointly develop, test and demonstrate new products, services, processes and solutions. • Developing test and demonstration environments in public services with the aim of making it possible for enterprises to develop, test and demonstrate new products, services, processes and solutions in real environments. • Sustainable urban development: Developing testing and demonstration environments in urban environments to find new approaches and new knowledge that contribute to solutions that promote sustainable urban development in Gothenburg. <p>Innovation procurement</p> <p>Examples of activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop knowledge regarding innovation procurement. <p>Positioning of research and innovation environments</p> <p>Examples of activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of the relative strengths and weaknesses of the innovation environment and identification of innovation niches. • Surveys of international partners and development of cooperation. • Marketing activities to attract skills, capital and partners for cooperation. 	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

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

- Projects are to involve research actors, business and public-sector actors and strengthen collaboration in regional areas of strength with international growth potential.
- Projects are to increase collaboration between research and innovation environments within and across regional national borders.
- Projects are to be strategically endorsed among all project partners and show a clear commitment by the stakeholders involved.
- Projects are to take account of how the horizontal criteria are integrated into the project activity as a tool for greater competitiveness for small and medium-sized enterprises.
- Projects for sustainable urban development are to be based on the cross-sectoral integrated plan.
- Organisational capacity, experience among project sponsors and endorsement by partners.
- Experience and knowledge from previous operations in the area should be utilised.
- Projects are to have a clear development perspective and be demarcated from ordinary activity.
- Link to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

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

Investment priority	1b — Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies
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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
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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			100.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			300.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

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		
CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			100.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
54	Number of cooperating organisations from different sectors of society	Number	ERDF	More developed			15.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

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

Priority axis	1 — Collaboration in research and innovation
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2.A.8 Performance framework

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

Priority axis	1 — Collaboration in research and innovation
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ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
						M	W	T	M	W	T		
CO26	O	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			75			300.00	Managing authority's computer systems	
010	F	Expenditure	EUR	ERDF	More developed			18 149 615			60 498 715.00	Managing authority	

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

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

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

With regard to the financial indicator 'Resources paid' per priority axis, the calculations have been based on the requirement for all payments included to be based on eligible costs paid to the beneficiary and for these to be certified by the certifying authority. The managing authority has taken account of experience from the programming period 2007-2013 and has focused, in particular, on how the payments were carried out during the corresponding part of the programming period, i.e. 2007-2011. The fact that the programme for the programming period 2014-2020 is more focused and concentrated and that the managing authority has a smooth organisation in place has also been taken into account. The level of payment has differed between the priority axes of the programmes over the programming period 2017-2013, and the managing authority has taken account of these variations in establishing the performance framework.

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

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

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

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

Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention

Table 7: Dimension 1 — Intervention field

Priority axis		1 — Collaboration in research and innovation	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	058. Research and innovation infrastructure (public)	12 099 743.00
ERDF	More developed	060. Research and innovation activities in public research centres and centres of competence including networking	6 049 871.00
ERDF	More developed	062. Technology transfer and university-enterprise cooperation primarily benefiting SMEs	6 049 872.00

Table 8: Dimension 2 — Form of finance

Priority axis		1 — Collaboration in research and innovation	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Non-repayable grant	24 199 486.00

Table 9: Dimension 3 — Territory type

Priority axis		1 — Collaboration in research and innovation	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	7 864 833.00
ERDF	More developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	8 179 426.00
ERDF	More developed	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	8 155 227.00

Table 10: Dimension 4 — Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis		1 — Collaboration in research and innovation	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Integrated Territorial Investment — Urban	480 149.00
ERDF	More developed	07. Not applicable	23 719 337.00

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

Priority axis		1 — Collaboration in research and innovation	
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Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
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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 — Collaboration in research and innovation

2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	2
Title of the priority axis	Competitive small and medium-sized enterprises

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

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

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

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

2.A.4 Investment priority

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

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

ID of the specific objective	1
Title of the specific objective	More new innovative enterprises
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>Identify and develop business ideas</p> <p>Implemented activities are to lead to more new innovative enterprises in West Sweden. This is to be achieved through improved structures to identify and utilise new business concepts with growth potential that shorten the path to market. The support system is to become more competent and adaptable on the basis of the specific circumstances of the entrepreneur, the business concept or the form of enterprise.</p> <p>Anticipated outcome for sustainable urban development: Implemented activities that promote sustainable urban development are to result in more people being in work and reduced social disparities in Gothenburg.</p>

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

Specific objective		1 - Fler nya innovativa företag.						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
0306	Antal SMF per 1 000 invånare	Antal företag med 0-249 anställda per 1 000 inv 16-64 år	More developed	176.90	2013	185.00	Statistiska centralbyrån, Företagens ekonomi	Vartannat år
0400	Omsättning i SMF	Nettoomsättning, MSEK	More developed	330,362.00	2011	490,400.00	Statistiska centralbyrån, Företagens ekonomi	Vartannat år

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

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

Investment priority	3a — Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators
Possible project sponsors for activities in the investment prioritisation are: Incubators and Science Parks, universities and colleges, enterprise-promoting organisations and public-sector organisations.	
Identify and develop business ideas	
Examples of activities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluation of ideas, relates to initiatives to capture ideas that can be developed into new, innovative growth companies.• Developing new tools for need-adapted business advice.• Sustainable urban development: Develop more favourable conditions for new business creation and business development, particularly where there are few jobs and high unemployment.	
Activities can be advantageously linked to R&I initiatives in the priority axis of Collaboration in research and innovation.	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	3a — Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators
The following principles of selection underlie the assessment of projects:	

Investment priority	3a — Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects are to contribute to the creation of more innovative growth companies. • Projects are to be demand-driven and need-adapted on the basis of the specific circumstances of the entrepreneur, the business concept or the form of enterprise. • Projects are to be strategically endorsed among all project partners and show a clear commitment by the actors involved. • Projects are to take account of how the horizontal criteria are integrated into the project activity as a tool for greater competitiveness for small and medium-sized enterprises. • Projects for sustainable urban development are to be based on the cross-sectoral integrated plan. • Organisational capacity, experience among project sponsors and endorsement by partners. • Experience and knowledge from previous operations in the area should be utilised. • Projects are to have a clear development perspective and be demarcated from ordinary activity. • Link to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region 	

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

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

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

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

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

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

Investment priority		3a — Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			300.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			300.00	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			5.00	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 innovative growth enterprises
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>Innovation and market development</p> <p>Activities are to result in strengthened forms of collaboration between small and medium-sized enterprises and knowledge suppliers, as well as good access to capital. This in turn is to lead to better prospects for small and medium-sized enterprises to develop products and services, effective processes and new markets and increase their R&I investments. Activities are also to result in small and medium-sized enterprises being more willing and able to broaden their market.</p> <p>[1]</p> <p>[1] A growth enterprise has increased its turnover by at least 10 % per year in recent years, and from the outset had at least three employees.</p>

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

Specific objective		1 - Fler innovativa tillväxtföretag						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
0101	Andel företag (10-249 anställda) med innovationsverksamhet (produkt-, process-, organisatorisk, marknadsföring)	Procent	More developed	55.08	2010	58.00	Statistiska centralbyrån, rapporten "Regional innovationsstatistik i Sverige"	Vartannat år
0303	Förädlingsvärde i SMF	MSEK	More developed	110,226.00	2011	125,000.00	Statistiska centralbyrån, Företagens ekonomi	Vartannat år
0305	Antal tillväxtföretag (årlig tillväxttakt (omsättning) med minst 10% under tre år där företaget hade minst 3 anställda i början av mätperioden)	Antal	More developed	819.00	2012	880.00	Statistiska centralbyrån, Företagens ekonomi	Vartannat år

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

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

Investment priority	3d — Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes
Possible project sponsors for activities in the investment prioritisation are: Incubators and Science Parks, universities and colleges, research institutes, collaboration/cluster organisations, enterprise-promoting organisations and public-sector organisations.	
Innovation and market development	
Examples of activities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing and strengthening the innovativeness of small and medium-sized enterprises through outreach.• Developing tools for knowledge transfer for example on leadership, organisation, innovation, production, product and service development, and development of the national and international markets of small and medium-sized enterprises.• Coaching and follow-up of the development of enterprises.	
Supporting the supply of capital to small and medium-sized enterprises.	

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
The following principles of selection underlie the assessment of projects:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Projects are to contribute to greater collaboration between small and medium-sized enterprises and knowledge suppliers.	

Investment priority	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"> • Projects are to be clearly based on the needs of business. • Projects are to contribute to the development of new products, services, processes and markets. • Projects are to be strategically endorsed among all project partners and show a clear commitment by the stakeholders involved. • Projects are to take account of how the horizontal criteria are integrated into the project activity as a tool for greater competitiveness for small and medium-sized enterprises. • Projects for sustainable urban development are to be based on the cross-sectoral integrated plan. • Organisational capacity, experience among project sponsors and endorsement by partners. • Experience and knowledge from previous operations in the area should be utilised. • Projects are to have a clear development perspective and be demarcated from ordinary activity. • Link to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region 	

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>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 market-supplementing funding, for instance in early stages of development and in the commercialisation of innovative business concepts.</p> <p>The implementation of financial instruments over the programming period 2014-2020 will be elucidated on the basis of the experience that already exists. The ‘fund projects’ that have been implemented under the regional Structural Funds programmes over the period 2007-2013 and are aimed at increasing the regional supply of shareholder capital have met with strong demand. The investment has totalled SEK 2.4 billion, which is to equivalent around one fifth of the whole venture capital market in Sweden in 2011. There was initially uncertainty as to whether there would be private co-funders 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 regional development fund. The first phase of investment according to participatory researchers and implements 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</p>	

Investment priority	3d — Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes
<p>that the horizontal criteria can be integrated better into implementation.</p> <p>On this basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The programme is to provide scope for implementing financial instruments in thematic objective 3. • The operations are to be focused on supporting the supply of capital to enterprises where the market is not working satisfactorily. • The results of the ex-ante assessment of the financial instruments which the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth has been commissioned to produce are to be taken into account in the implementation of financial instruments through resources from the programme. • 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			819.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			19.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			800.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)	EUR	ERDF	More developed			10 579 640.00	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		
CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	ERDF	More developed			1 500.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
54	Number of cooperating organisations from different sectors of society	Number	ERDF	More developed			5.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

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

Priority axis	2 — Competitive small and medium-sized enterprises

2.A.8 Performance framework

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

Priority axis			2 — Competitive small and medium-sized enterprises										
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
						M	W	T	M	W	T		
CO01	O	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			279			1 119.00	Managing authority's computer systems	
010	F	Expenditure	EUR	ERDF	More developed			16 132 991			53 776 638.00	Managing authority	

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

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

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

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

experience from the programming period 2007-2013 and has focused, in particular, on how the payments were carried out during the corresponding part of the programming period, i.e. 2007-2011. The fact that the programme for the programming period 2014-2020 is more focused and concentrated and that the managing authority has a smooth organisation in place has also been taken into account. The level of payment has differed between the priority axes of the programmes over the programming period 2017-2013, and the managing authority has taken account of these variations in establishing the performance framework.

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

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

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

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

Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention

Table 7: Dimension 1 — Intervention field

Priority axis		2 — Competitive small and medium-sized enterprises	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	001. Generic productive investment in small and medium-sized enterprises ('SMEs')	6 453 197.00

Priority axis		2 — Competitive small and medium-sized enterprises	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	066. Advanced support services for SMEs and groups of SMEs (including management, marketing and design services)	7 528 729.00
ERDF	More developed	067. SME business development, support to entrepreneurship and incubation (including support to spin offs and spin outs)	7 528 729.00

Table 8: Dimension 2 — Form of finance

Priority axis		2 — Competitive small and medium-sized enterprises	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Non-repayable grant	15 057 459.00
ERDF	More developed	03. Support through financial instruments: venture and equity capital or equivalent	6 453 196.00

Table 9: Dimension 3 — Territory type

Priority axis		2 — Competitive small and medium-sized enterprises	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	6 990 963.00
ERDF	More developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	7 270 601.00
ERDF	More developed	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	7 249 091.00

Table 10: Dimension 4 — Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis		2 — Competitive small and medium-sized enterprises	
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Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Integrated Territorial Investment — Urban	480 149.00
ERDF	More developed	07. Not applicable	21 030 506.00

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

Priority axis		2 — Competitive small and medium-sized enterprises	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount

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

Priority axis:	2 — Competitive small and medium-sized enterprises

2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	3
Title of the priority axis	Innovation for a low-carbon economy

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

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

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

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

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
Title of the specific objective	Greater collaboration in research and innovation in regional areas of strength that contribute to a more low-carbon economy
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>Research and innovation collaboration for a more low-carbon economy</p> <p>Implemented activities are to result in greater collaboration between small and medium-sized enterprises, universities and colleges, research institutes and the public sector and greater capacity to commercialise new products, services and solutions that contribute to a more low-carbon economy. The collaboration is to contribute to more effective development and innovation processes that increase the commercial return on R&I investments for new products, services and solutions that contribute to a more low-carbon economy.</p> <p><i>Anticipated outcome for sustainable urban development:</i> Implemented activities for sustainable urban development are to result in strengthened ability to develop and apply low-carbon products, services and solutions in the regional area of strength of Sustainable urban development, among other things to improve the interaction between urban and rural areas.</p> <p>Testing and demonstration for a more low-carbon economy</p> <p>Implemented activities are to result in new and more accessible test and demonstration environments that involve enterprises, researchers and users and strengthen common knowledge creation and development and innovation processes with the aim of devising new products, services and solutions that contribute to a low-carbon economy.</p> <p>Activities are also to result in public-sector activities, such as health and social services, public transport and schools, developing environments for test and demonstration, with the aim of contributing to the development of more low-energy processes, services and solutions and boosting the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises.</p> <p><i>Anticipated result for sustainable urban development:</i> Implemented activities for sustainable urban development are to develop collaboration between city, business, the population and academia to find new approaches and develop new knowledge that boosts ability to switch to a more low-carbon city.</p> <p>Innovation and innovative procurement for a more low-carbon economy</p>

	Implemented activities are to result in increased knowledge and ability to implement innovation procurement and innovative procurement in the public sector as an integrated tool in regional growth efforts with the aim of speeding up the development of more low-energy products, processes, services and solutions and consequently boosting the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises.
ID of the specific objective	2
Title of the specific objective	Strengthened ability to develop and commercialise new products, services and solutions that contribute to a more low-carbon economy
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>Innovation and market development for a more low-carbon economy</p> <p>Implemented activities are to result in increased collaboration between enterprises and knowledge suppliers, which increases ability to develop new products, services and solutions that contribute to a low-carbon economy. Activities are also to result in small and medium-sized enterprises becoming more willing and able to broaden their market by exploiting the potential in the growing international market for low-carbon products, services and solutions.</p>

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

Specific objective		1 - Stärkt samverkan inom forskning och innovation i regionala styrkeområden som bidrar till en mer koldioxidsnål ekonomi.						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
0104	Andel företag (10-249 anställda) som samarbetar i sin innovationsverksamhet	Procent	More developed	40.18	2010	45.00	Statistiska centralbyrån, rapporten "Regional innovationsstatistik i Sverige"	Vartannat år
0402	Koldioxidutsläpp (exkl. jordbruk samt internationell luftfart och sjöfart)	Ton/år	More developed	10,890,321.00	2011	9,800,000.00	Länsstyrelsen, regional utveckling och samverkan i miljömålssystemet (RUS).	Vartannat år
Specific objective		2 - Stärkt förmåga att utveckla och kommersialisera nya produkter, tjänster och lösningar som bidrar till en mer koldioxidsnål ekonomi.						
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	10,890,321.00	2011	9,800,000.00	Länsstyrelsen, regional utveckling och samverkan i miljömålssystemet (RUS).	Vartannat år
0406	Omsättning i små och medelstora miljöföretag	Nettoomsättning, MSEK	More developed	13,810.00	2012	20,439.00	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>Possible project sponsors for activities in the investment prioritisation are: Universities and colleges, incubators and Science Parks, collaborative/cluster organisations, public-sector organisations and enterprise-promoting organisations.</p>	
<p>Research and innovation collaboration for a more low-carbon economy</p> <p>Examples of activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of research and innovation environments for enhanced collaboration between trade and industry, universities and colleges, research institutes and public-sector actors. Collaboration is to focus on boosting the ability of small and medium-sized enterprises to utilise and commercialise new knowledge for new and improved products, services and solutions that contribute to a more low-carbon economy.• Encouraging collaboration between areas of strength to find new innovative solutions that can contribute to a more low-carbon economy.• Activities can support the development of new technical solutions that contribute to greater resource efficiency.• Sustainable urban development: Continued development of testing and innovation for example in transport logistics, public transport [1], housing and foodstuffs, among other things for better interaction between urban and rural areas.	
<p>Testing and demonstration for a more low-carbon economy</p> <p>Examples of activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical investments in new and existing and test and demonstration environments that promote research and innovation and contribute to new and enhanced technologies, processes, products or services with low carbon dioxide emissions.• Testing and demonstration in public-sector organisations.• Sustainable urban development: Development of testing and demonstration environments for new approaches and knowledge that contributes to	

Investment priority	4f — Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies
<p>new solutions to the challenges facing the city in relation to a low-carbon economy.</p> <p>Innovation and innovative procurement for a more low-carbon economy</p> <p>Examples of activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop knowledge concerning innovation and innovative procurement that contributes to a more low-carbon economy. <p>Innovation and market development for a more low-carbon economy</p> <p>Examples of activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge transfer between small and medium-sized enterprises and knowledge suppliers to develop environmentally sustainable business models and improved energy efficiency. • There is a need for new products, services and solutions that contribute in various ways to a more low-carbon economy. • Activities that contribute to environmental enterprises reaching new markets, for example by developing system solutions for both a national market and an international market. <p>[1] See City of Gothenburg Traffic Strategy — ‘Göteborg 2035 Trafikstrategi för en nära storstad’ (‘Gothenburg 2035 Traffic strategy for a close city’).</p>	

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>The following principles of selection underlie the assessment of projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects have to show how research actors, business and other actors in collaboration contribute to a more low-carbon economy. 	

Investment priority	4f — Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects are to contribute to the development of processes, services and solutions that contribute to a more low-carbon economy through increased collaboration between small and medium-sized enterprises and knowledge suppliers. • Projects are to be strategically endorsed among all project partners and show a clear commitment by the stakeholders involved. • Projects are to take account of how the horizontal criteria are integrated into the project activity as a tool for greater competitiveness for small and medium-sized enterprises. • Projects for sustainable urban development are to be based on the cross-sectoral integrated plan. • Organisational capacity, experience among project sponsors and endorsement by partners. • Experience and knowledge from previous operations in the area should be utilised. • Projects are to have a clear development perspective and be demarcated from ordinary activity. • Link to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. 	

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			80.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			80.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			80.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
54	Number of cooperating organisations from different sectors of society	Number	ERDF	More developed			5.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

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

Priority axis	3 — Innovation for a low-carbon economy

2.A.8 Performance framework

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

Priority axis		3 — Innovation for a low-carbon economy											
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
						M	W	T	M	W	T		
CO26	O	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			20			80.00	Managing authority's computer systems	
010	F	Expenditure	EUR	ERDF	More developed			6 049 871			20 166 238.00	Managing authority	

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

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

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

With regard to the financial indicator 'Resources paid' per priority axis, the calculations have been based on the requirement for all payments included to be based on eligible costs paid to the beneficiary and for these to be certified by the certifying authority. The managing authority has taken account of experience from the programming period 2007-2013 and has focused, in particular, on how the payments were carried out during the corresponding part of the programming period, i.e. 2007-2011. The fact that the programme for the programming period 2014-2020 is more focused and concentrated and that the managing authority has a smooth organisation in place has also been taken into account. The level of payment has differed between the priority axes of the programmes over the programming period 2017-2013, and the managing authority has taken account of these variations in establishing the performance framework.

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

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

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

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

Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention

Table 7: Dimension 1 — Intervention field

Priority axis		3 — Innovation for a low-carbon economy	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
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	4 033 248.00
ERDF	More developed	071. Development and promotion of enterprises specialised in providing services contributing to the low carbon economy and to resilience to climate change (including support to such services)	4 033 247.00

Table 8: Dimension 2 — Form of finance

Priority axis		3 — Innovation for a low-carbon economy	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Non-repayable grant	8 066 495.00

Table 9: Dimension 3 — Territory type

Priority axis		3 — Innovation for a low-carbon economy	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	2 621 611.00
ERDF	More developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	2 726 475.00
ERDF	More developed	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	2 718 409.00

Table 10: Dimension 4 — Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis		3 — Innovation for a low-carbon economy	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Integrated Territorial Investment — Urban	1 728 535.00
ERDF	More developed	07. Not applicable	6 337 960.00

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

Priority axis		3 — Innovation for a low-carbon economy	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount

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

Priority axis:	3 — Innovation for a low-carbon economy

2.B DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIORITY AXES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

2.B.1 Priority axis

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

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

2.B.3 Fund and category of region

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

2.B.4 Specific objectives and expected results

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

2.B.5 Result indicators

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

Priority axis		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	4 — Technical assistance (TA)
	<p>Technical assistance will be used in accordance with the provisions of Part VI on technical assistance in Commission Regulation No 1303/2013.</p> <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. The managing authority is organised in one programme office per adopted programme and a joint national operational support unit that assists all the programmes. The joint operational support unit consists of support for communication, follow-up, evaluation, economics, legal affairs including anti-corruption, internal process support and an overarching computer system for the management of aid cases.</p> <p>The costs of auditing for the audit authority are co-financed by technical assistance.</p>

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

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

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

Priority axis		4 - Tekniskt stöd (TA)				
ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023) (optional)			Source of data
			M	W	T	
0501	Utbetalade medel av programmets totala budget	Procent			100.00	Förvaltande myndighets datasystem
0502	Externa utvärderingar har genomförts under programperiod	Antal			15.00	Förvaltande myndighet
0503	Antalet anställda (årsarbetskrafter) vilkas löner medfinansieras av TA	Årsarbetskrafter				Förvaltande myndighets databas

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

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

Tables 14-16: Categories of intervention

Table 14: Dimension 1 — Intervention field

Priority axis		4 — Technical assistance (TA)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ Amount
ERDF	More developed	121. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection	2 016 623.70
ERDF	More developed	122. Evaluation and studies	112 034.65
ERDF	More developed	123. Information and communication	112 034.65

Table 15: Dimension 2 — Form of finance

Priority axis		4 — Technical assistance (TA)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ Amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Non-repayable grant	2 240 693.00

Table 16: Dimension 3 — Territory type

Priority axis		4 — Technical assistance (TA)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ Amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	728,225.00

Priority axis		4 — Technical assistance (TA)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ Amount
ERDF	More developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	757,354.00
ERDF	More developed	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	755,114.00

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	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve
ERDF	More developed	7 082 562.00	452 079.00	7 224 355.00	461 131.00	7 368 969.00	470 360.00	7 516 445.00	479 774.00	7 666 870.00	489 375.00	7 820 299.00	499 169.00	7 976 784.00	509 157.00	52 656 284.00	3 361 045.00
Total		7 082 562.00	452 079.00	7 224 355.00	461 131.00	7 368 969.00	470 360.00	7 516 445.00	479 774.00	7 666 870.00	489 375.00	7 820 299.00	499 169.00	7 976 784.00	509 157.00	52 656 284.00	3 361 045.00

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	Public	24 199 486.00	36 299 229.00	36 299 229.00	0.00	60 498 715.00	40.0000000000 %		22 687 016.00	34 030 524.00	1 512 470.00	2 268 705.00	6.25 %
2	ERDF	More developed	Total	21 510 655.00	32 265 983.00	30 653 983.00	1 612 000.00	53 776 638.00	39.9999996281 %		20 166 237.00	30 249 356.00	1 344 418.00	2 016 627.00	6.25 %
3	ERDF	More developed	Public	8 066 495.00	12 099 743.00	12 099 743.00	0.00	20 166 238.00	39.9999990082 %		7 562 338.00	11 343 507.00	504 157.00	756 236.00	6.25 %
4	ERDF	More developed	Public	2 240 693.00	2 240 693.00	2 240 693.00	0.00	4 481 386.00	50.0000000000 %		2 240 693.00	2 240 693.00			
Total	ERDF	More developed		56 017 329.00	82 905 648.00	81 293 648.00	1 612 000.00	138 922 977.00	40.3225803317 %		52 656 284.00	77 864 080.00	3 361 045.00	5 041 568.00	6.00 %
Grand total				56 017 329.00	82 905 648.00	81 293 648.00	1 612 000.00	138 922 977.00	40.3225803317 %	0.00	52 656 284.00	77 864 080.00	3 361 045.00	5 041 568.00	

(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
Collaboration in research and innovation	ERDF	More developed	Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	24,199,486.00	36,299,229.00	60,498,715.00
Competitive small and medium-sized enterprises	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)	21,510,655.00	32,265,983.00	53,776,638.00
Innovation for a low-carbon economy	ERDF	More developed	Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	8,066,495.00	12,099,743.00	20,166,238.00
Total				53,776,636.00	80,664,955.00	134,441,591.00

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 (%)
3	8,066,495.00	14.40%
4	0.00	0.00%
Total	8,066,495.00	14.40%

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

West Sweden has a unique geographical location on the west coast, between the metropolitan regions of Oslo and the Öresund region. The region is characterised by a multi-core geographical structure, but Halmstad, Borås, Skövde and Trollhättan/Vänersborg/Uddevalla are also important regional centres. There has been a two-way split in economic growth in West Sweden during the 21st century with strong growth in the Gothenburg region, Sjuhärad and Halland, while development in Skaraborg and Fyrbodal has been substantially below the national average. At the same time as being a growth engine for West Sweden, Gothenburg has the greatest proportion of recipients of economic assistance in West Sweden. Social and spatial division has increased in Gothenburg in terms of employment, income, education, forms of housing and so on.

The overarching objectives and the territorial approach for Western Sweden's regional Structural Funds programme for growth and employment are to strengthen the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises throughout the region, contribute to a more low-carbon economy and promote sustainable urban development in the Gothenburg region. To continue to cope with global competition, it is important to compete with a high knowledge content and be a world leader in a number of areas, strengthening the whole of West Sweden. This therefore demands purposeful development efforts in order to exploit various regional knowledge nodes and strengthen the areas of strength identified in West Sweden. The target group is small and medium-sized enterprises. In order to obtain the greatest possible yield from ERDF resources, the various funds and programmes will be coordinated with the aim of making synergistic benefits possible, for example with regard to strategic calls for proposals that touch on more than one fund.

West Sweden does not differ from other metropolitan regions with regard to the trend in urbanisation. This poses specific challenges for Gothenburg. One challenge is the social and spatial division of Gothenburg, which has increased in terms of employment, income, education, forms of housing and so on. The majority of the population in Gothenburg have become better off, while other groups have become substantially worse off.

Urbanisation is resulting in a sharp increase in population in the Gothenburg region. The population of the Gothenburg region is expected to increase from 948 000 in 2012 to 1.1 million in 2025. This presents Gothenburg with particular challenges relating to growth and development which are sustainable and inclusive. The analysis in Chapter 1 emphasises the key significance of Gothenburg to economic, social and environmental development in West Sweden. While Gothenburg is an engine of growth for the whole of West Sweden, the socio-economic analysis shows that the Gothenburg region also has the highest proportion of recipients of economic assistance in West Sweden. These are principally concentrated in certain areas of Gothenburg. The city also faces high energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, among other things from the transport sector. Issues of resource use, social justice and the environment must be addressed to develop

Gothenburg into a more sustainable city. Greater collaboration between research, business, citizens and the public sector is required to address these challenges. Collaboration needs to result in new knowledge, new approaches and new solutions based on an all-inclusive approach to the challenges facing the city.

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

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.

Gothenburg is the largest city in West Sweden and is where the challenges and opportunities presented by urbanisation are clearest. Sustainable urban development is therefore restricted within the programme to covering the City of Gothenburg. At the same time, it is important to utilise the potential and coordination gains that can arise through collaboration across administrative boundaries. Based on the challenges facing the City of Gothenburg, activities within the programme can therefore be covered by cooperation and exchange of experience between the local, subregional and regional levels. Sustainable urban development is a priority focal area in Västra Götaland and has been designated as such in joint work between the city, the region, academia and representatives of trade and industry. There is great expertise in academia in West Sweden in several areas linked to sustainable urban development, one example of which is energy-efficient construction. An important joint venture is the knowledge centre Mistra Urban Futures with headquarters in Gothenburg, which is committed to joint generation of knowledge between research and practice.

Sustainable urban development operations in West Sweden will be implemented through integrated territorial investments. The City of Gothenburg is responsible for devising a cross-sectoral integrated plan ahead of the start of the programming period. This plan will form the basis for sustainable urban development operations in the programme. The cross-sectoral integrated plan is to define important sectors to collaborate around, strategic partners and areas of cooperation, and identify cross-sectoral projects and activities for sustainable urban development with a clear link to trade and industry in the priority axis concerned. The contents of the plan are based on existing policy documents in the City of Gothenburg — Vision Älvstaden, the Environment Programme (Miljöprogrammet) and the Climate Strategy Programme (Klimatstrategiskt program). The City of Gothenburg is responsible for the selection of operations.

The integrated approach can counteract inadequate coordination between different sectors, through coordination of operations in urban development in Gothenburg. In that way, the potential of operations to create added value can be boosted. In addition, the

operations cover the whole of the city of Gothenburg, which makes it easier for innovative measures to be linked together independently of geographical restrictions. It is also a fundamental requirement to achieve effects that link together the city, contribute to reduced insularity/exclusion and counteract stigmatisation. The overarching aim of the ITU tool is to make it possible to implement operations that touch on more than one priority axis in the programme. It may be mentioned by way of example that research-intensive operations under innovation platforms can be combined with business-promoting operations and can lead to the implementation of developed sustainable innovative solutions in urban districts with specific socio-economic challenges. The operations will be specified in the cross-sectoral integrated plan.

This integrated approach is in good agreement with the City of Gothenburg's strategies on future urban development operations. Vision Älvstaden sets the frameworks for a 'model for urban development', where the challenges the city faces are turned into drivers for the future through an all-inclusive approach. The model is notable for the whole-city perspective. Segregation and geographical fragmentation are to be counteracted by openness, variation and participation. The all-inclusive approach is therefore highly relevant, not just in relation to narrow territorial thinking but also in relation to the socio-economic barriers associated with the various districts of Gothenburg.

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	2,688,832.00	4.80%
TOTAL ERDF+ESF	2,688,832.00	4.80%

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.

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) (€)
1 — Samverkan inom forskning och innovation	ERDF	480,149.00
2 — Konkurrenskraftiga små och medelstora företag	ERDF	480,149.00
3 — Innovation för en koldioxidsnål ekonomi	ERDF	1,728,535.00
Total		2,688,833.00

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

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

The programme will be able to support cooperative measures that contribute to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region in two ways:

A — Macro-regionally integrated projects

1. 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

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. The managing authority will provide information on the opportunities to fund cooperation with stakeholders in the macro-region. A specific example may be special calls for proposals focused on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.
4. 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.
5. The collaborative measures in the programme should be focused on finding and/or implementing common solutions to identified cross-border problems.

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

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

Many of the challenges facing Sweden and the EU are transboundary 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 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.

Link between the programme and West Sweden’s maritime strategies

In the maritime strategy of Västra Götaland from 2008, collaboration between business and research is identified as an essential requirement to be met for sustainable, knowledge-based development in the maritime sector. The maritime cluster project started in 2012 is aimed at strengthening innovative activity in maritime industries. High priority is given to operations in research collaboration, promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises and measures to reduce CO₂ emissions for the maritime area of activity. Examples of current initiatives are funding of centres of expertise in shipping and aquaculture, research into environmentally sound fuels for shipping, sustainable coastal tourism and non-aggressive fishing gear. The Västra Götaland cluster project is an overarching collaborative project aimed at driving innovation in maritime sectors fulfilling the requirements for 'blue growth'.

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

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

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

Not applicable to the programme.

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

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

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

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

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

7.1 Relevant authorities and bodies

Table 23: Relevant authorities and bodies

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

7.2 Involvement of relevant partners

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

Process for programme preparation

The proposed programme has been drawn up by a group of officials from Västra Götaland Region and Region Halland. There has been a reference group (fund coordination group) closely attached to the work on the programme with representatives of Västra Götaland County Administrative Board, the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, the Swedish ESF Council in West Sweden, the City of Gothenburg, Västra Götaland Region and Region Halland.

Political representatives of Västra Götaland Region and Region Halland have held coordination meetings on the contents of the programme. In addition, the West Swedish Structural Funds Partnership for the programming period 2007-2013 has, on several occasions, examined the preparation of the programme and has presented its views. Contacts with the partnerships in the regions have been based on the existing broad partnerships for the regional development strategies, work which began in the autumn of 2011.

There is a previously established model in Region Västra Götaland for the decision-making structure concerning strategic development issues. The Regional Council is principally responsible for regional development issues. The Committee for Sustainable

Development (BHU) is the body of Region Västra Götaland and the municipalities for collaboration on strategic development issues. The Regional Council is a decision-making body. The BHU consists of political representatives of Region Västra Götaland and the four municipal associations and is responsible for the all-embracing perspective in growth and development work.

Development issues are rooted in both the political partnership and the regional and subregional partnerships through the structure of the Västra Götaland model. A continuous dialogue has taken place with the City of Gothenburg on operations for sustainable urban development. The City of Gothenburg has had an internal endorsement process led by the international department of the municipal executive office in which district administrations, technical administrations and companies have taken part. In addition, the City of Gothenburg has been involved in developing the metropolitan perspective in the growth strategy of Region Västra Götaland, Västra Götaland 2020, on which the regional Structural Funds programme in West Sweden is based.

Dialogue has taken place in Region Västra Götaland with the Regional Development Group, which consists of representatives of the social partners, government agencies, universities and colleges, research institutes, the West Sweden Chamber of Commerce and the social economy. The proposal has also been referred to this group for comment.

There is a previously established model in Region Halland for the decision-making structure concerning strategic development issues. The Regional Council is principally responsible for regional development issues. The Municipal Drafting Committee is the joint political body of Region Halland and the municipalities for collaboration on strategic development issues. The Municipal Drafting Committee consists of political representatives of Region Halland and the six municipalities. As in the county of Västra Götaland, the Regional Executive Committee is a decision-making body.

The Halland Regional Executive Committee, which is responsible for and coordinates the regional development work, has regularly discussed the programme and its development. The regional partnership in Halland, which consists of representatives of the Regional Executive Committee, business organisations, enterprise promoters, government organisations and experts in various areas, has been continuously informed and has been able to present its views on the programme. Region Halland arranged two workshops for this in 2013 [1]. A first workshop in January 2013 discussed experience and lessons learnt from the programming period 2007-2013, and in April 2013 stakeholders in Halland were given an opportunity to provide input for the next Structural Funds programme. Region Halland has created a foundation for ways in which it is to contribute to fulfilling the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy based on its vision of 'Best place to live'. Region Halland has held a number of dialogue meetings on the contents of the programme during the programme work. An opportunity to submit views on the contents and limits of the programme was given at these meetings. The meetings have been attended by representatives of university colleges and innovative groupings, as well as the county administrative board, the municipalities and stakeholders from the business community.

The programme proposal has also been sent to government agencies such as the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, the Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems (Vinnova), the Swedish Energy Agency and the Swedish ESF Council for comment.

Regional and subregional partnerships have been continuously informed about and have contributed through dialogue to the development of the programme [2]. A first draft programme has been sent out for comment. A total of 13 responses were received, which have been taken into account in the final proposal.

The proposal for the regional Structural Funds programme for the objective of 'Investments in growth and employment for the programming period 2014-2020 in West Sweden' has been finally approved by the regional executive committees in Region Västra Götaland (5 November 2013) and Region Halland (6 November 2013).

Endorsement of implementation

The two development organisations, Region Halland and Region Västra Götaland, and the municipalities are important co-funders and, in several cases, participants in the implementation of the regional Structural Funds programme. Participants in the innovation systems are also extremely important for successful implementation of the programme. Both participants and municipalities will be kept continuously informed about the opportunities presented by the programme and co-financing criteria.

The West Swedish Structural Funds programme is based on the priorities that have been set in overarching policy documents at national and EU level and under the regional growth policy in the counties of Västra Götaland and Halland. Implementation of the West Swedish Structural Funds programme is therefore closely linked to the regional partnerships that exist in each county. This means that implementation of the Structural Funds programme will be continuously reconciled with political decision-making bodies and in the partnerships that exist in each county.

Managing and certifying authorities

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

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

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

Audit authority

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

Structural Funds Partnership

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

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

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

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

Monitoring committee

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

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

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

Follow-up and evaluation

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

Systematic follow-up and evaluation are to be part of the work on evaluation of both European cohesion policy and regional growth policy. The overall aim is to contribute to learning and to improve quality throughout the programme cycle, from programme

planning and implementation of projects to implementation in regular activity. The evaluations are to change, improve and strengthen regional growth policy by disseminating experience and knowledge.

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

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

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

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

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

monitoring committees of the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund, joint dissemination and feedback initiatives and joint procurement of capacity development for project evaluation.

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

[1] Lists of participants are presented in Annex 1.

[2] Calendar of dialogue and partnership meetings and organisations represented at the dialogue and partnership meetings.

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 Regional Development Fund 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. See also description in section 1 on coordination between the ESI funds.

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, that will have roles in both the European Regional Development Fund programmes, Horizon 2020 and COSME, which in practice will mean increased coordination and will make synergies possible. The foundation for this is laid through strategies for smart specialisation that contributes to harnessing of strength to increase the effects of the investments made in research and innovation and to boost growth and create more jobs.

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

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

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

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

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

Operations in West Sweden programmes can be used to prepare participants ahead of Horizon 2020 (stairway to excellence). Small and medium-sized companies can, for example, increase their knowledge intensity and their R&I contacts and strengthen their international networks with assistance from the regional Structural Funds programme. This facilitates future participation in Horizon 2020. The regional Structural Funds programme can also be used to prepare international excellent R&I consortia that can cope with the competition for Horizon 2020 resources. The regional Structural Funds programme can be used at the end of Horizon 2020 projects to disseminate knowledge and boost utilisation of the results obtained in the Horizon 2020 project. For example, successful Horizon 2020 projects can be spun off, extended and developed further in West Sweden with the aid of new projects in the regional Structural Funds programme. Together with the national authorities responsible for the Horizon 2020 work and implementation of the regional Structural Funds programmes, we intend to explore how Horizon 2020 and ERDF resources can be combined in the same project. The regional Structural Funds programme can be used, for example, to develop regional nodes within Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KIC) and link up new regional stakeholders. The regional Structural Funds programme could also strengthen the regional dimension in ERA-NET-COFUND and other public-public partnerships.

The national programme

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

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

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

1. *Strengthening research, technological development and innovation* — includes operations under thematic objective 1. The focus in this area is on developing Swedish areas of strength through cross-border collaboration and research infrastructure.
2. *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.
3. *Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors*. This is the largest operational area from the point of view of budget and accommodates operations under thematic objective 4 focused partly on energy efficiency and partly on supply of capital, focusing on enterprises whose activities contribute to the development of a low-carbon economy.

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

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.

Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)

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

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

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

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

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

LIFE

LIFE is the EU's financial instrument for the environment and climate, and the European Commission annually allocates funding to projects in the Member States. In work towards strengthening cross-regional and cross-sectoral operations, LIFE fulfils a key function with the form of project known as integrated projects (IP). This project form is a new type of project introduced during the programming period 2014-2020 with the aim

of creating synergies between the sector areas of the ESI funds and the area of environment and climate through a larger type project, for example regional or multi-regional. These projects may have links to nature (including Natura 2000 administration), water, waste, air and climate (restriction of and adaptation to) which are focal areas for IP. The measures financed by the ESI funds with links to the environment, climate change and sustainable use of resources may also complement the LIFE programme.

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

Creative Europe

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

For information about the links between the West Sweden programme and others in the joint strategic framework, see Chapter 1, Strategy for the contribution of the programme to the EU strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth; Collaboration and limitation.

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 — Collaboration in research and innovation	Yes
T.03.1 — Specific actions have been carried out to underpin the promotion of entrepreneurship taking into account the Small Business Act (SBA).	2 — Competitive small and medium-sized enterprises	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 — Collaboration in research and innovation 2 — Competitive small and medium-sized enterprises 3 — Innovation for a low-carbon economy	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 — Collaboration in research and innovation 2 — Competitive small and medium-sized enterprises 3 — Innovation for a low-carbon economy	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 — Collaboration in research and innovation 2 — Competitive small and medium-sized enterprises 3 — Innovation for a low-carbon economy	Yes
G.4 — The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of	1 — Collaboration in research and innovation 2 — Competitive small and medium-	Yes

Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (Yes/No/Partially)
the ESI Funds.	sized enterprises 3 — Innovation for a low-carbon economy	
G.5 — The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	1 — Collaboration in research and innovation 2 — Competitive small and medium-sized enterprises 3 — Innovation for a low-carbon economy	Yes
G.6 — The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union environmental legislation related to EIA and SEA.	1 — Collaboration in research and innovation 2 — Competitive small and medium-sized enterprises 3 — Innovation for a low-carbon economy	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 — Collaboration in research and innovation 2 — Competitive small and medium-sized enterprises 3 — Innovation for a low-carbon economy	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 West Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’
T.01.1 — Research and innovation: The existence of a national or regional smart specialisation strategy in line with the National Reform Program, to leverage private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with the features of well performing national or regional R&I systems.	2 — is based on a SWOT or similar analysis to concentrate resources on a limited set of research and innovation priorities;	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’
T.01.1 — Research and innovation: The existence of a national or regional smart specialisation strategy in line with the National Reform Program, to leverage private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with the features of well performing national or regional R&I systems.	3 — outlines measures to stimulate private RTD investment;	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanation
T.01.1 — Research and innovation: The existence of a national or regional smart specialisation strategy in line with the National Reform Program, to leverage private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with the features of well performing national or regional R&I systems.	4 — contains a monitoring mechanism.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’
T.01.1 — Research and innovation: The existence of a national or regional smart specialisation strategy in line with the National Reform Program, to leverage private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with the features of well performing national or regional R&I systems.	5 — A framework outlining available budgetary resources for research and innovation has been adopted.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’
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 West Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’
T.03.1 — Specific actions have been carried out to underpin the promotion of entrepreneurship taking into account the Small Business Act (SBA).	2 — The specific actions are: measures have been put in place with the objective of reducing the time needed to get licenses and permits to take up and perform the specific activity of an enterprise taking account of the targets	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanation
	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 West Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’
G.1 — The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti-discrimination law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	1 — Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the involvement of bodies responsible for the promotion of equal treatment of all persons throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes, including the provision of advice on equality in ESI fund related activities.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’
G.1 — The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti-discrimination law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	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 West Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’
G.2 — The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union gender equality law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	1 — Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the involvement of bodies responsible for gender equality throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes, including the provision of advice on	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’

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 West Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’
G.3 — The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC.	1 — Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the consultation and involvement of bodies in charge of protection of rights of persons with disabilities or representative organisations of persons with disabilities and other relevant stakeholders throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’
G.3 — The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC.	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 West Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’

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 West Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’
G.4 — The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	1 — Arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement rules through appropriate mechanisms.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’
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 West Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’
G.4 — The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	3 — Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the ESI funds.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’
G.4 — The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	4 — Arrangements to ensure administrative capacity for implementation and application of Union public procurement rules.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’
G.5 — The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	1 — Arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’

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

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 West Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’
G.7 — The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	3 — An effective system of result indicators including: the selection of result indicators for each programme providing information on what motivates the selection of policy actions financed by the programme.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’
G.7 — The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result	4 — An effective system of result indicators including: the establishment of targets for these indicators.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’

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 West Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’
G.7 — The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	6 — Procedures in place to ensure that all operations financed by the programme adopt an effective system of indicators.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities West Sweden’

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

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

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

Thematic ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
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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 1, annex 'Tables and figures West Sweden'.

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.

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, facilitate 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 opportunities 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 and women

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, facilitate 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 men and women

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

The project fulfils all the items below:

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

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

The project fulfils two of the items below:

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

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

The project does not fulfil any of the items below:

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

Chapter 1 of the programme contains a description of the significance of these aspects in analysis of the region. A description of how these aspects are to be included in the

operations is given for each priority axis in Chapter 2. The description of the issue is thus integrated into the programme.

12. SEPARATE ELEMENTS

12.1 Major projects to be implemented during programming period

Table 27: List of major projects

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

12.2 Performance framework of operational programme

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

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)		
					M	W	T	M	W	T
1 — Collaboration in research and innovation	ERDF	More developed	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises			75			300.00
1 — Collaboration in research and innovation	ERDF	More developed	Expenditure	EUR			18 149 615			60 498 715.00
2 — Competitive small and medium-sized enterprises	ERDF	More developed	Productive investment: Number of	Enterprises			279			1 119.00

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
			enterprises receiving support							
2 — Competitive small and medium-sized enterprises	ERDF	More developed	Expenditure	EUR			16 132 991			53 776 638.00
3 — Innovation for a low-carbon economy	ERDF	More developed	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises			20			80.00
3 — Innovation for a low-carbon economy	ERDF	More developed	Expenditure	EUR			6 049 871			20 166 238.00

12.3 Relevant partners involved in preparation of programme

See annex 'Text West Sweden'.

Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Ex-ante conditionality West Sweden	Supplementary information	10-Dec-2014		Ares(2014)4141059	Ex ante conditionality	10-Dec-2014	nolofann
Tables and figures West Sweden	Supplementary information	10-Dec-2014		Ares(2014)4141059	Tables and figures West Sweden	10-Dec-2014	nolofann
SMEs West Sweden	Supplementary information	10-Dec-2014		Ares(2014)4141059	SMEs West Sweden	10-Dec-2014	nolofann
Text West Sweden	Supplementary information	10-Dec-2014		Ares(2014)4141059	Text West Sweden	10-Dec-2014	nolofann
Ex-ante evaluation West Sweden	Supplementary information	10-Dec-2014		Ares(2014)4141059	Ex-ante evaluation West Sweden	10-Dec-2014	nolofann