

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 programme area of Småland and the Islands

The programme area of Småland and the Islands covers four counties: Jönköping, Kronoberg, Kalmar and Gotland. The area has 34 municipalities and a population of just over 800 000. The programme area is sparsely populated, and a large proportion of the population live in rural areas. The programme area is strategically located in south-east Sweden. The eastern part of the region is an integral part of the Baltic Sea Region, and the western part is centrally located between the three major Swedish cities, Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmö. The programme area, which traditionally has been dependent on industry and with a high proportion of population having no higher educational qualifications, faces a structural change with the need to develop a more knowledge-based economy to achieve greater competitiveness. There is also an imbalance in population trend in the region, with migration away from rural areas. The sparse population poses challenges with regard to the prospects of living and working in rural areas, particularly with regard to accessibility and climate-smart solutions for transport. Taken together, this creates challenges and opportunities for the area, which are addressed, among other things, by the regional growth policy and using the European Regional Development Fund as a tool.

The county of Gotland has special territorial needs, based on its situation as an island. Business in Gotland also differs somewhat from the counties of Småland, with more service companies and less dependence on industry. These particular features have to be taken into account in implementing the programme.

The link between the programme and Europe 2020 and Sweden's Partnership Agreement

The Europe 2020 strategy has three overarching priorities for development in the EU over the next few years: smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. 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, founded on the goals of Europe 2020. There therefore has to be a close link to the operational programme. The analysis in Sweden's Partnership Agreement emphasises the following aspects in particular:

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

The Government has a vision for Sweden to have zero net greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere in 2050. The challenge is to combine growth with a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, which several regions have, 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 business creation.

The most important objective of employment policy is to bring about a lasting increase in employment. The increase needs to take place primarily in groups with a weak attachment to the labour market, such as young people and persons born abroad. There is also a need for the employment rate among women to rise. Increasing unemployment in recent years has hit all regions and population groups hard, but young people born abroad, people with disabilities and people with a low level of educational qualifications have been particularly affected. Long-term unemployment has also increased, and today poses a significant structural challenge. Demographic development and an ageing population are leading to problems in obtaining a long-term sustainable supply of labour.

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

The analysis of Småland and the Islands agrees closely with the national analysis, as further described on the basis of the challenges in the programme area outlined below. The analysis has been based on the scope of the European Regional Development Fund,

which means, among other things, that questions on employment and education and training have been omitted from the analysis and instead are dealt with under the European Social Fund.

The challenges in the programme area

Challenge: Unbalanced business structure

The analysis shows that Småland and the Islands, in relative terms, has the greatest dependence on industry in Sweden with regard to distribution of jobs. The region has the largest wood and plastic products industries in the country and, in general, has a high level of specialisation in the engineering industry. These jobs are, to a great extent, in subcontractors and are extremely dependent on export markets with high purchasing power. For stronger economic development, this challenge thus needs to be faced, and the business structure needs to be diversified.

See Table 1, annex 'Tables and figures Småland and the Islands'.

Just over one in five employees were working in the manufacturing sector in Småland and the Islands in 2012, which is seven percentage points more than the national average, and the highest proportion among the NUTS-2 regions. The region also stands out from others in having the smallest proportion of employees in the public and private services sector. However, there are great differences within the region between the Småland counties and Gotland. In the county of Gotland, 6 % of those in employment work in the industrial sector, which is well below the national average. On the other hand, the county of Gotland, in relative terms, has more employees in the public sector and other production of goods (which includes agriculture, a large sector in Gotland) than is the case at national level. The county also has a higher proportion of employees than the country as a whole and the Småland counties, in the financial and insurance sector and public administration and defence, due to the dispersed government agencies in the county and a large proportion of small businesses.

The region has a high employment rate, but the economic downturns of recent years have had a severe impact on the industrially dependent business structure of the region, which has led to one of the sharpest rises in redundancies and unemployment in the country. This trend means that manufacturing industry, which historically has contributed to the region's high employment, has been in sharp decline in recent years. Service industries have instead shown sharp growth. However, as the region's service sector is substantially smaller than the national average, growth in these industries has not offset the decline in the manufacturing sector.

As a consequence of the one unbalanced business structure, there is also a gender-segregated labour market in the area. There is clear male dominance in manufacturing industry in all the counties, while the health and social care and education sectors are dominated by women. Between these extremes, there are public and private service sectors that have substantially more even gender representation. The county of Gotland has a substantially more equal labour market, where gender segregation in the labour market is not as glaringly obvious as in other counties. An explanation for this is that the county's employment structure is principally made up of sectors that are not as traditionally tied to certain specific gender norms, for example retailing and hotels and restaurants.

Challenge: Weak rate of growth among SMEs

Over the period 2007-2011, Småland and the Islands has had a weak trend in turnover in places of employment with 1-249 employees. In terms of GRP per employee, which to some extent indicates the productivity of a region, Kronoberg and Kalmar come top, followed by Jönköping and Gotland. Småland and the Islands overall has the lowest value among all the regions for GRP per employee.

See Table 2, annex 'Tables and figures Småland and the Islands'.

The table above also shows that the labour market is affected by business structure. At the time of the financial crisis, the number of employees in the region's SMEs fell by almost 6 %, since when a recovery has taken place, and in 2011 the decline compared with the year before the crisis was just over 2 %. It is, however, reasonable to assume that the recovery came to a halt with the economic downturn in 2012.

The structure of employment in relation to size of place of employment shows that Småland and the Islands has a large proportion of employees in medium-sized enterprises. This also means that the region has a high proportion of entrepreneurs in relation to the number of people in employment. In comparison with other regions, Småland and the Islands has the highest proportion of persons employed in places of employment with 10-249 employees. Gotland and Kalmar stand out, however, with a high proportion of small enterprises (fewer than 10 employees). Gotland is additionally notable for the sector affiliation often changing: people move between sectors depending on supply and demand, which historically is linked to the situation of being an island.

As there is a high proportion of SMEs in the region, stable development in these enterprises is of great importance to the development capacity of the region. The fact that a high proportion of the labour force work in small and medium-sized enterprises provides potential for high adaptability with regard to production and reorganisation of activities. The OECD points out in 'Territorial Reviews Småland-Blekinge' that studies show that up to 80 % of growth in jobs in an area can be created by existing enterprises (Wheeldon, 2011). Creation of growth companies is therefore crucial to the future labour market. A positive trend for the region is that a number of future industries like IT and corporate services have grown strongly in recent years, and that work on corporate development may therefore be a way of further strengthening the emergence of a broader business structure.

The analysis shows that the region has high export value per capita, but the figures do not show the whole value chain or how many of the small and medium-sized enterprises are dependent on exports. It is primarily the large industrial companies that export to other countries, but these in turn are dependent on their subcontractors, which are often small and medium-sized enterprises. These companies are consequently often affected indirectly when export markets shrink. It is thus important both that more companies export and that those companies that already export are able to find new markets in order to spread their vulnerability.

Another crucial issue is access to capital. The expectations, and the demands made today on small and medium-sized enterprises by lending banks in terms of security and detailed presentations of business and development plans can be regarded, in some respects, as inhibiting and obstructing the prospects of these enterprises obtaining necessary funding to enable them to develop their operations. The market may need to be supplemented by venture capital to enable innovative ideas that create growth in these companies and therefore the area to be put into practice.

Challenge: Few knowledge-intensive enterprises

Based on Eurostat's sector classification by knowledge content, the analysis shows that the labour market in Småland and the Islands has a low knowledge content. In 2012, the region had the highest concentration of employment in the country of sectors with a low knowledge content and the lowest specialisation in the country in knowledge-intensive service companies. This challenge is linked to the unbalanced business structure, resulting in vulnerability.

Another measure of the low knowledge content is that, in 2011, persons in employment in Småland and the Islands had the lowest level of education, in terms of the proportion of individuals with upper secondary and higher education qualifications in the 25-64 age group, among all the NUTS-2 regions in Sweden. The relationship between the shape of the labour market and the level of educational qualifications of employees gives an indication of the challenge facing the region in attracting human resources to stay in or move to the region and take part in these modernisation efforts, as also highlighted by the Partnership Agreement. As the Partnership Agreement emphasises, strong ties between universities and colleges and the business community are essential to provide trade and industry with adequate skills and to induce people with high educational qualifications to live and work in the region. There is a good infrastructure on which to base these efforts, with access to higher education in all parts of the region. Linnaeus University in the counties of Kalmar and Kronoberg and Jönköping University are institutions that, among other things with assistance from the Structural Funds, have developed collaboration with the surrounding community in recent years. In Gotland, the merger between Gotland University and Uppsala University has resulted in a cooperation agreement in which particular areas of cooperation have been designated.

Processes are in progress in all the regions to develop smart specialisation, which is intended to promote collaboration and the development of more knowledge-intensive enterprises.

Challenge: Low level of investments in R&D

An important tool for use in creating innovations is investments in research and development (R&D), which is also described in the Partnership Agreement. An innovation need not necessarily be created in a research environment, but research and development resources are nevertheless an important tool to be used in promoting an innovative environment. The analysis points out that business in Småland and the Islands has a low level of investment in R&D.

See Table 3, annex 'Tables and figures Småland and the Islands'.

In 2011, business in the region had the fourth lowest level of investment in relation to GRP and size of population among the NUTS-2 regions, suggesting that there is potential to develop work in this area to the benefit of the region. The prospects for an increased level of investment in R&D activity should be good for Småland and the Islands, as industrial enterprises undertake innovation activities to a greater extent than service companies. The analysis indicates that an increased contribution of capital for R&D activity would strengthen innovation activities that are already well developed in the region's trade and industry. According to Statistics Sweden, 59 % of enterprises in the region had innovation activities in the period 2008-2010, the second-highest level in the country. This figure represents a self-estimate based on whether enterprises have introduced product, service, process or marketing innovations. An increased level of investment in R&D by the region's companies would consequently be a tool with which to strengthen an already extensive activity, and consequently to improve the prospects of developing new products and increasing turnover by selling these in new sales markets.

The OECD report compiled for Småland and Blekinge in 2011, which applies to large parts of the programme area, notes that a regional leadership is needed to develop the innovation system. There are a large number of operators and activities today with the task of supporting the development of innovation, with some overlap, which need to be coordinated better to benefit the enterprises in an effective manner. The analysis shows that there is a need to strengthen structures for knowledge transfer: the universities need to develop their possible ways of supporting business, but there is also a need for increased knowledge of innovation among small and medium-sized enterprises. Analyses done as part of the work on innovation strategies show that there are too few arenas for innovation, and the innovation environments that do exist are not fully developed. Småland and the Islands needs to make efforts to bring about environments that can be internationally competitive, and where academia and the areas of strength in business are matched according to the principle of smart specialisation.

Challenge: Sparse and unbalanced population structure

As noted in the Partnership Agreement, there is an imbalance in development between urban and rural areas. Småland and the Islands has a sparse population structure in comparison with more densely populated metropolitan regions, with a large proportion living in rural areas. The region has long had negative net domestic migration. A problem with this demographic trend is that the region has high outward migration among young people to the three metropolitan regions, resulting in an unbalanced population structure.

The proportion of elderly persons in the population has risen by 15 % in Småland and the Islands since 2000, and the region also has a high dependency ratio in comparison with the country as a whole and other regions in the southern parts of Sweden. There are wide intraregional differences with regard to dependency ratio, and those municipalities that have had a negative population trend over a prolonged period also, as a rule, have a high dependency ratio and average age. The same situation applies to the counties, with Kalmar having a significantly higher dependency ratio than the other counties.

A consequence of this trend towards an ever greater proportion of the population being elderly is that some geographical entities will find it particularly difficult to maintain public and private services, as more and more elderly persons of care-intensive age have to avail of welfare services, while fewer and fewer are included in the tax base.

According to figures from Statistics Sweden, there will be a million people in the over-80 group in 2040. In a geographical area like Småland and the Islands with a constantly increasing proportion of elderly persons, this challenge will become very perceptible in the next 10 years. In home help services alone, it is estimated that costs will rise by 60 % by 2020 in comparison with the 2010 level, according to a research report presented in February 2014 by the Swedish Local Fibre Alliance. In order to cope with this trend, more e-services must be developed so that the requirement for human resources is lower and the activity can become more efficient. Initiatives to offer more e-services must, however, go hand-in-hand with the roll-out of reliable and powerful broadband and extensive operations for collaboration between the public sector and private business to develop new services. The area of e-health today is notable for a high level of innovativeness, and must be harnessed and further enhanced. Needs and new ideas often arise in day-to-day operations, and innovations can contribute to local solutions. Innovation efforts must be closely related to the operational situation.

Challenge: Limited access to broadband

One way of making rural areas competitive is to ensure that they are connected to a stable internet infrastructure, which can benefit business start-ups and opportunities also to work from home outside built-up areas.

Today almost the whole of Sweden has access to some form of broadband. On the other hand, there are wide variations in access to high-speed broadband. Within the region of Småland and the Islands, the population of the county of Kronoberg have greatest access to high-speed broadband, followed by the counties of Jönköping, Gotland and Kalmar.

See Table 4, annex 'Tables and figures Småland and the Islands'.

The possibility of connecting to high-speed broadband has brought new ways of running businesses from home in rural areas. However, access to high-speed broadband out in the countryside remains low. Nationwide, 9 % of the population living in sparsely populated areas have access to high-speed broadband, and all the counties in the region apart from Kalmar have higher coverage than that. On the other hand, the national average for coverage in densely populated areas (55 %) is higher than for all the region's counties.

Access to high-speed broadband thus differs around the country today and, in the same way, access to e-services in the public sector is unevenly distributed. It is noted in the Partnership Agreement that digitisation varies between the country's municipalities, often due to the difficulties faced by smaller municipalities and organisations in building up high-quality IT and e-services and pursuing development on their own. Many sparsely populated areas, like large parts of Småland and the Islands, lag behind because the population base in rural areas frequently means that it is not profitable for commercial players to invest. This also has a great impact on the possibility of individuals availing of the increased range of digital services offered in the form of e-services linked to television, telephony, etc. The Partnership Agreement also points to the importance of using the potential of digitisation to meet future welfare needs, for example in care of the elderly. In order to be able to promote innovation and private business, it is also important that relevant organisations are able to open up their digital services and

purchase suitable solutions. Increased digitisation makes it possible, for example, for smaller companies to offer high-quality services outside their own region, a trend that would help meet the need for greater differentiation of business, especially in the counties of Småland. The development of new and better e-services, together with a well-developed broadband network, can also improve the attractiveness of the programme area and lead to increased inward migration. However, there is a great need to simplify the process of starting up new companies by providing efficient e-services to assist business development. Virtual meeting places bridge large geographical distances and provide more equal conditions in which to avail of different types of support system irrespective of location, which is particularly important in a region with large geographical distances.

Challenge: High emissions from transport

In 2011, emissions from the transport sector accounted for 32.79 % of total emissions of greenhouse gases in Småland and the Islands. While the total emissions for the region between 1990 and 2011 fell by approximately 10 %, emissions from the transport sector rose by 5.4 %, which is more than the average rise for the country as a whole of 3.6 % for the same period. For a region with the sparseness of population of Småland and the Islands, the transport issue is a great challenge which must be faced in order to achieve a low-carbon economy. In built-up areas, it is simpler to travel on public transport, resulting in a decrease in emissions from transport. The opposite situation generally applies when distances are longer: car use is then generally chosen instead of travelling by rail or bus. At national level, there is a clear correlation between use of public transport and density of population: the rate of public transport use is highest in the metropolitan regions and lowest in the more sparsely populated regions, as can be seen in the table below. In the more sparsely populated regions, cars are also used for longer distances than in more built-up regions.

See Table 5, annex 'Tables and figures Småland and the Islands'.

Another aspect of transport emissions is work-related traffic, which includes boat and truck traffic but also non-road mobile machinery, for example forest machinery. Both the forestry and logistics industries, which are large in the region, thus contribute to the emissions levels of the transport sector. Ferry traffic is also responsible for some transport emissions, as a result of the geographical location of Gotland and the ports in the county of Kalmar.

See Table 6, annex 'Tables and figures Småland and the Islands'.

The Swedish Transport Administration considers the greatest potential to reduce Swedish greenhouse gas emissions to be in new vehicle fuels, including electricity. According to the Swedish Transport Administration, measures for more efficient energy use have almost as great potential as replacing vehicle fuel. The potential by 2030 is estimated to

be 50 % for passenger cars and light commercial vehicles and 25 %-30 % for trucks and buses. Eco-driving and lower speeds can lead to 15 % lower energy consumption.

Community planning for a transport-efficient society, and a switch of transport from cars to more carbon-efficient modes of transport, is the third major factor. To achieve this, measures targeted at individuals are also very important ('mobility management'), which is emphasised by the Swedish Transport Administration's 'four-stage principle'. This principle means, as a first and most cost-effective stage, considering measures that can have an impact on the need for transport and travel and choice of mode of transport. It is not sufficient to work on either new vehicle fuels, more efficient transport or community planning; action is needed in all these areas. In addition, large investments are needed in both new and existing transport infrastructure, including public transport.

Selection of thematic objectives and investment priorities

EU2020 and the Partnership Agreement represent the framework of the programme. The analysis that has been done has identified challenges that the programme has to address. Regional strategies (RDSs/RDPs [1]) and previous experience of the ERDF have also been taken into account. The approach adopted in the programme is sustainable development throughout the area. Great importance is attached to gender equality, preventing discrimination and promoting environmentally sustainable growth. Actions and projects have to be able to show what impact they have on society in both the long and short terms, environmentally, economically and socially (gender equality and non-discrimination), and demonstrate how these aspects are used to leverage sustainable regional growth in the area. In addition, clear links to RDSs/RDPs and other relevant strategies at regional, national and international level have to be described.

The programme has four chosen priority axes:

1. strengthening research, technological development and innovation
2. enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies (ICTs)
3. enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
4. supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors.

These are described more closely in the next section.

Småland and the Islands has chosen to exclude a particular focus on sustainable urban development, despite this having been highlighted at both European and national levels. Because of the relatively sparse population structure of the region with few large cities, the assessment has been made that these areas can also be developed in the framework of the selected thematic objectives and the investment priorities. The areas the programmes focus on may also represent tools for territorial development in the cities and towns of the programme area, without special resources being earmarked. Nor does the programme contain designated business development initiatives linked to adaptation to climate change. The programme area needs to switch to a low-carbon economy, by developing and improving the use of renewable energy and by developing and using products, services and processes with greater energy efficiency and carbon efficiency. There are therefore links to both priority axes 1 and 3 in the programme in this area, and such operations can be accommodated within these.

Priority axis 1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation

Link to EU2020, the Partnership Agreement and national guidelines

This priority axis concerns the theme of Smart Growth within EU2020. The recommendations received by Sweden in this theme are concerned with smart specialisation, to improve the environment for R&D investments in enterprises and strengthen the links between entrepreneurship and innovation. The analysis in the Partnership Agreement emphasises that there is a need for R&D expenditure to increase, as well as collaboration between business and academia. The national guidelines for the programme address the importance of promoting the emergence of innovative environments with a particular focus on SMEs.

Link to regional analysis

This priority axis is linked to the challenges of ‘Few knowledge-intensive enterprises’ and ‘Low level of R&D investments’. If the programme area is to be stronger in regional competition, business needs to move further up the value chain. Knowledge and R&D are key factors in enabling this to be done in the globalised world of today. As a result, companies can cope better with economic fluctuations, and the programme area becomes less vulnerable. The regional analysis shows that there is a need to develop conditions in the programme area to support desired development. It is a matter in particular of developing collaboration between academia and business: there is a need for strengthened structures for knowledge transfer and a regional grouping around areas of strength.

Experience from previous programming period

Several different projects were implemented in the area during the previous programming period, providing evidence of a continued need to make research available. The step between company and research, in a business community that has traditionally been dependent on small and medium-sized enterprises with a low knowledge content, can be a long one. Previous evaluations of the European Regional Development Fund have shown that many projects are too similar to each other, and that the various programme areas have not been able to specialise. There is a risk of investments becoming too fragmentary, as resources are invested in a large number of sectors and initiatives. There is therefore a need in this programming period to develop specialisation in accordance with the European Commission’s recommendations, and projects should be supported by regional strategies. Projects with greater critical mass that develop the areas of strength specifically of Småland and the Islands should be implemented. Expanded environmental scanning is also required here, as well as cooperation across borders with similar investments in other programme areas through the opportunities available in the national ERDF programme. Another recommendation is to take the needs of enterprises, rather than research logic, as the basis for the investments made.

Based on the challenges facing the region in this area, the programme is focused on the following investment priorities:

- *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 [2] and diffusion of general purpose technologies.

Priority axis 2 — Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies

Link to EU2020, Partnership Agreement and national guidelines

‘A Digital Agenda for Europe’ is one of the flagships in Smart Growth in the EU2020 strategy. The significance of IT and access to broadband for the development of a sustainable society is great, as also highlighted in the Partnership Agreement. The Swedish broadband strategy identifies IT as an essential requirement in order to be able to achieve political objectives in several areas of society: entrepreneurship, environment, education, health and social care, and administration. The challenge for Europe and other countries around the world is to exploit the opportunities presented by development. The overarching goal for Sweden is to have world-class broadband: 90 % of households and enterprises are to have access to broadband at speeds of at least 100 Mbps in 2020. The Partnership Agreement also points to the importance of using the potential of digitisation to meet future welfare needs, for example in care of the elderly. In order to be able to promote innovation and private business, it is important that relevant organisations are able to open up their digital services and purchase suitable solutions.

Link to regional analysis

This priority axis is linked to the challenges ‘Sparse and unbalanced population structure’ and ‘Limited access to broadband’. The challenges facing the region are the same as those facing the country as a whole, but additional account must be taken of the fact that Småland and the Islands is a sparsely populated area with an ageing population and a general low level of education. The issue of accessibility and service therefore becomes particularly relevant, and to create a living countryside and reduce outward migration it is important to be able to offer the same information infrastructure as is offered in the cities. The analysis shows, however, that the population of the programme area on average has lower access to high-speed broadband than is the case at national level. The structure of the region means that sensitivity to changes in access to various service functions becomes greater. The OECD points out in its report from 2012 that the demographic trend in this area is creating challenges with regard to the provision of public service, particularly in sparsely populated municipalities with a population that is both shrinking and ageing. It is therefore very important to create more and better instruments for enhanced collaboration between the municipalities.

ICTs can also contribute in this way to meeting the challenges faced by society. It may be a matter of new ways of designing solutions for an ageing society, in the form of e-health or digital aids, it may be digital solutions that benefit the environment, such as smart transport systems, but also linked to democracy through access to information and dialogue with decision-makers, or greater competitiveness for enterprises through new products and services and creating more efficient operation aided by IT.

Digital community development is concerned with services and content. The World Economic Forum ranking of e-services in the public sector places Sweden 18th (in 2013), behind countries such as Jordan, Bolivia and Kazakhstan. It is mainly municipalities and county councils that pull Sweden down, the reason for this being that the individual municipality lacks resources to accomplish this on its own. In many other areas, Sweden is well ahead, but here we lag behind in a way that threatens growth in our regions. It is therefore a priority issue to support development that takes place in collaboration and that is aimed at creating a simpler everyday existence for enterprises and individuals. There is a relatively high proportion of companies using IT in the region, opening up opportunities for collaboration with the municipalities in the region that need to create new service solutions to meet the challenges linked to the region's population challenge. In contrast to enterprises, the proportion of the population in the region using various IT services is relatively low. There are various explanations for this: the age structure the region has, the low proportion who have access to high-speed broadband, and the fact that several of the region's municipalities are small and do not have an opportunity to develop e-services that the inhabitants regard as attractive.

Experience from previous programming period

Operations in the IT area were principally implemented in the Rural Development Programme during the previous period, among other things through roll-out of broadband. Experience shows that there is a need for cooperation and increased knowledge in the region, for example regarding pricing, robustness, business models, etc. to improve further the effectiveness of the investments made. The operations in the European Regional Development Fund are intended to supplement the investments financed by the Rural Development Programme in the four counties.

Based on the challenges facing the region in this area, the programme is focused on the following investment priorities:

- *strengthening ICT applications for e-government, e-learning, e-inclusion, e-culture and e-health*
- *extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy.*

The programme will not support direct investments. The focus is instead on operations for coordination, awareness-raising operations linked to broadband roll-out and development of e-society and e-services.

Priority axis 3: Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes

Link to EU2020, Partnership Agreement and national guidelines

This priority axis is linked to EU2020 in both smart and sustainable growth. The EU is to improve its productivity and competitiveness. The Partnership Agreement emphasises, among other things, the need to develop entrepreneurial skills. In the national guidelines, the Government emphasises that good conditions for business boost the development capacity and attractiveness of the regions. The Government's main focus includes supply of capital supplementing the market, advice with a customer focus and internationalisation.

Link to regional analysis

This priority axis is linked to the challenges 'Unbalanced business structure' and 'Low rate of growth in SMEs'. To create regional competitiveness and reduce vulnerability, there is a need for differentiated business and higher productivity. The programme area has a large number of small and medium-sized enterprises, and it is therefore extremely important that these be developed and that the rate of growth be increased. The regional analysis shows that several new sectors have grown in recent years, providing great potential for the future linked to the two challenges. The analysis emphasises internationalisation and supply of capital as key areas for development.

Experience from previous programming period

A number of general operations linked to fundamental structures and general business development were implemented during the previous programming period. Evaluations suggest that there is a need to step up commitments to growth companies, which is therefore the focus of this programme.

Participatory research also reports favourable experience from the 12 venture capital projects in the previous programming period, as they have supplemented the market and have led to a number of investments that would probably not otherwise have been made. Because of this, parts of the resources in the priority area have to be focused on continued commitments to venture capital.

Based on the challenges facing the region in this area, the programme is focused on the following investment priorities:

- *supporting capacity for small and medium-sized enterprises to take part in growth and innovation processes.*

Priority axis 4 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors

Link to EU2020, Partnership Agreement and national guidelines

The EU2020 strategy accommodates the area of Sustainable Growth, in which the shift to a low-carbon economy is addressed. The recommendations to Sweden state that improved energy efficiency and the development and use of renewable energy sources and products should be prioritised. The analysis in the Partnership Agreement is based on environmental and resource efficiency, which is an important factor in creating sustainable growth and for success in the shift to a green economy. Sweden has already achieved low carbon dioxide emissions per capita, but the analysis clearly identifies regional differences in emissions depending on business structure, as well as on the share

of transport in emissions. Innovation and technological development play an important role in creating a better environment and sustainable growth. The shift to a green economy also presents great opportunities for Swedish environmental technology, through the development of products, services and production systems.

The government guidelines 'Supporting the shift to a low-carbon economy in all sectors' highlights the need for energy-saving and technology-developing operations and the need to promote more efficient energy use and low-emissions technology in all areas.

Link to regional analysis

This priority area is linked to the challenges of 'high emissions from transport'. The regional analysis shows that the highest emissions in the programme area come from transport, which is fully in line with the conclusions stated in the Partnership Agreement. Strong action is required to achieve the set climate targets, in order to promote sustainable transport, create intermodal solutions and reduce the dependence on fossil fuels in the transport sector. The challenge is to continue to make progress towards sustainable and efficient energy use and, at the same time, to ensure that the action taken is cost-effective.

The transport system in the four counties has to be sustainable from an environmental perspective. We must therefore focus, among other things, on increasing the proportion of travel by public transport, more energy-efficient transport systems, increased use of alternative vehicle fuels and low-transport community planning. The transport system accounts for a large proportion of present-day greenhouse gas emissions, and if the set climate targets are to be achieved, there is a need for strong action to promote sustainable goods transport, create system solutions and reduce dependence on fossil fuels in the sector.

The emergence of a more environmentally friendly transport sector covering all parts from distribution and consumption, innovation and other services and climate-smart solutions also presents great opportunities for trade and industry in Småland and the Islands. This development can provide business opportunities and become a future competition factor for enterprises that are at the forefront in the area.

The need to develop sustainable cities and towns is also growing as urbanisation progresses. The special circumstances in rural areas must be taken into account at the same time. Rural areas represent the base for the supply of foodstuffs and renewable energy, but fewer people live there who can share common infrastructure, distances are longer and there is an older existing building and housing stock. There is a great challenge here in persuading more people to use public transport and reduce the proportion of journeys made by car.

Experience from previous programming period

As the previous programming period did not have special operations for a low-carbon economy, there is no experience to report.

Based on the challenges facing the region in this area, the programme is focused on the following investment priorities:

- *supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and use of renewable energy in public infrastructures, public buildings and in the housing sector (focusing on transport for the part of the programme area).*

Ex-ante evaluation of proposals for ERDF programmes for Småland and the Islands 2014-2020

The final ex-ante assessment from the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis was handed over to the groups of programme writers in February 2014. This document also contains previously presented views from the draft programme, as well as supplementary information collected in early 2014.

The programme for Småland and the Islands is assessed as being well structured and focused, and the analysis is considered to follow a common theme. The operations were, however, considered to be too general and unclear, which the programme writers attempted to rectify by improving the descriptions of activities that can be supported in the programme during the period. The fact remains, nonetheless, that the programming period consists of seven years, and that they do not wish to describe in detail all imaginable projects that may be needed in the area concerned. By describing a problem scenario or objective in a more overarching way and providing examples of activities/operations, they also leave scope for changes in the surroundings that are natural under these circumstances. The Småland and the Islands programme area, which consists of four counties with four regional development strategies, identifies both common challenges and differing political priorities. The work of programme writing must therefore focus on common challenges but not limit the ways in which they can be met.

The Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis considers that the link to previous experience could be made clearer. The aspiration of the programme has been to base some of the clearest positions in the programme specifically on experience from previous programmes. This has happened in thematic objectives 1 and 3, where there are similarities between the programmes. In the other thematic objectives, there are no clear links or experience to build upon, which is also reflected in the text. This is described in the background analysis. The entire process in work on the programme has been based on conclusions from participatory research at both project and programme level. The joint work was initiated, for example, in April 2013 with three workshops to gather experience from project sponsors in both the ERDF and the ESF.

The assessment is made that the selected output and result indicators are relevant, but that there is a lack of outcome indicators measuring change in participating operators. There have been many, protracted discussions in the programme work on indicators, and the selected indicators are the ones considered to represent the best way in which the projects can contribute to attaining the set goals. There is, however, a great need to add other measurements, surveys and interviews of various kinds to capture, for example, the experienced benefit of implemented operations.

The assessment made by the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis is that six out of eight result indicators are well motivated, while two are not motivated. A typographical error in a table has also meant that the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis has based its assessment on an incorrect figure, with the result that the decrease of 37 % in reality is a decrease of only 10 %. A correction has been made in the main document.

With regard to the result indicator of the proportion of enterprises with possible access to broadband, the national objective is the starting point, and the programme considers that there cannot be a different objective than the one that exists nationally.

[1] See the websites of each regional council, www.rfss.se, www.regionjonkoping.se, www.rfkl.se and www.gotland.se.

[2] The reference here is to Key Enabling Technologies (KETs).

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

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

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
01 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	1b — Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies	<p>The region’s challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few knowledge-intensive enterprises • Low level of investments in R&D

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
02 — Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies	2a — Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy	<p>The region's challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low access to broadband • Sparse and unbalanced population structure
02 — Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies	2c — Strengthening ICT applications for e-government, e-learning, e-inclusion, e-culture and e-health	<p>The region's challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low access to broadband • Sparse and unbalanced population structure
03 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)	3d — Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes	<p>The region's challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unbalanced business structure • Weak rate of growth among SMEs
04 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	4c — Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector	<p>The region's challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High emissions from transport

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.

Based on the European Commission guidelines and the objectives to be taken into account, including the region's development needs, most of the resources in the programme will be allocated to business development initiatives. This is also in line with the requirement for greater strategic focus, which has underpinned the new programme. Småland and the Islands has therefore opted to prioritise relatively few priority axes. The resources are allocated as follows:

Priority axis 1: 33 % of EU resources

Research and innovation are a priority area based on the region's needs, and a major commitment can therefore be justified by the gap that exists regarding the Europe 2020 goals in the area. Significant investments in the initial stage are required to create the necessary basis for innovation. The degree of co-financing in the programme is 50 % in the priority axis. Private co-financing is encouraged in the priority axis.

Priority axis 2: 10 % of EU resources

The great challenge in the area is to make use of the opportunities presented by development in IT, to use the opportunity of digitisation, for example, to meet the needs of the future for welfare in elderly care or access to public services, etc. The roll-out of high-speed broadband is an important issue for the region, but with the limited total resources available in the European Regional Development Fund, the opportunities to invest are limited. The focus in this priority axis is therefore operations that increase the use of digital services in society and in business. Smaller operations for coordination and support linked to physical broadband investments financed under the Rural Development Programme are also made possible in the priority axis. The degree of co-financing in the programme is 50 % in the priority axis.

Priority axis 3: 38 % of EU resources

Business development is the principal focus of the programme, and this priority axis represents the basis for enabling the Europe 2020 strategy regarding innovation to be fulfilled. There is also a need under this priority axis to continue the successful focus on venture capital, which requires a relatively large proportion of the programme budget. The degree of co-financing in the programme is 50 % in the priority axis. There is provision for private co-financing in the priority axis, which is encouraged.

Priority axis 4: 38 % of EU resources [1]

Sweden, has, on the whole, come a relatively long way in relation to the Europe 2020 targets in the area of energy. The area additionally has great opportunities for alternative national and European funding, and is therefore estimated to need to account for only a small part of the programme. The focus in the programme has been on transport, which among other things is to increase utilisation of the infrastructure investments in the previous programmes. For this reason, the allocation of resources has been raised somewhat in comparison with the mandatory allocation to the thematic objective, and the level of co-financing has been set at a maximum of 50 %.

The EU rules are met by the allocation indicated above: 81 % goes to thematic objectives 1-3 and 15 % to thematic objective 4, while the programme is focused in accordance with the instructions of the Swedish Government. The remaining 4 % pertain to TA resources for programme implementation.

Both public and private co-financing will be eligible for aid in the programme, which represents a change for the programmes in Sweden. There is therefore no experience to call upon with regard to how great this share can be imagined to be in the programme at large or in different types of operations. The calculation in the tables has been based on imaginable sources of funding of a private nature, for example private foundations, enterprises and organisations with an interest in sustainable regional growth and business development linked to the priority axes in the programme.

[1] 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.

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	21 786 740.00	33 00 %	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 01 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 1b — Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies ▼ 1 — Improved conditions for development of innovation 	[001, 0103]
2	ERDF	6 602 042.00	10.00 %	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 02 — Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 2a — Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 1 — More effective coordination for greater access to broadband throughout the region ▼ 2c — Strengthening ICT applications for e-government, e-learning, e-inclusion, e-culture and e-health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 1 — More digital services are to be developed to improve accessibility of private and public services ▼ 2 — Increased proportion of private individuals using IT services, which stimulates development of services in trade and industry 	[005, 0202, 0203, 042]
3	ERDF	25 087 761.00	38 00 %	<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"> ▼ 3d — Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 1 — Increased growth in existing SMEs 	[0301, 0302]
4	ERDF	9 903 064 00	15.00 %	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 04 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 4c — Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public 	[0090, 0402]

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
				infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector ▼ 1 — Encouraging more energy-efficient transport and increased use of renewable energy in the transport sector	
5	ERDF	2 640 817 00	4 00 %	1 — Technical assistance is to lead to the programme being implemented in an appropriate, legally sound and effective way that contributes to the objectives of the programme being met in other priority axes.	[%]

2. PRIORITY AXES

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

2.A.1 Priority axis

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

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

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

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

Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)
ERDF	More developed	Fel! Hittar inte referenskölla.	

2.A.4 Investment priority

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

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

ID of the specific objective	1
Title of the specific objective	Improved conditions for innovation development by enterprises
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>In this programme area with low levels of R&D investments and few knowledge-intensive enterprises, there is a need for operations that provide access to meeting places, knowledge and new methods, resulting in better prospects for the development of innovation in the region's enterprises.</p> <p>The investment priority is focused on developing regional structures, in particular what are known as innovation environments. An innovation environment is based on structured collaboration between enterprises, universities and colleges, or other research organisations and the public sector on regional existing or new areas of strength. The innovation environments promote the utilisation of research and consequently contribute to enabling enterprises to devise new solutions in the shape of products/processes/services, often with their own R&D investments, that mean that they can move up the value chain and improve their ability to survive in a global economy. The proportion of knowledge-intensive enterprises and R&D investments in trade and industry can increase, leading in the longer term to greater regional competitiveness.</p> <p>[1]</p> <p>[1] The operations under this thematic objective are in line with the region's strategies for smart specialisation, which at present are indicated by the following programmes and strategies. 'Regional development strategy for Kalmar county',</p>

	'Meeting place Southern Småland', 'Regional development strategy for Region Jönköping 2025' and 'Vision Gotland 2025'.
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Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

Specific objective		1 - Förbättrade förutsättningar för företagens innovationsutveckling						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
001	Andel företag (10-249 anställda) med innovationsverksamhet (produkt-, process-, organisatorisk, marknadsföring)	Procent	More developed	59.09	2010	60.00	Statistiska centralbyrån, rapporten "Regional innovationsstatistik i Sverige"	Vartannat år
0103	Företagens (produkt- och/eller processinnovativa, 10-249 anställda) utgifter för sin egen FoU-verksamhet	MSEK	More developed	1.26	2010	1.32	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>Construction and development of sustainable innovation environments</p> <p>There are several examples today of innovation environments that have been started, in the form of structured collaboration between universities, colleges or other research organisations, enterprises and the public sector. This is also a development that had been supported during the previous programming period. What is common to these initiatives, however, is that they are in further need of development, in particular to strengthen them both nationally and internationally. Initiatives have also largely been linked to individual sectors, with silo mentality. Cross-sectoral collaboration may be a path to follow in order to create a more innovative region, where different sectors and organisations can enrich one another and find new, innovative products and services. This may become a natural seedbed for new enterprises. The programme focuses on adding depth to existing environments and creating new ones, but sustainability has to be assessed in all cases.</p> <p>Examples of specific activities that can be supported by the programme may be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• collaboration between trade and industry, universities/colleges/other research organisations and the public sector in specific subject areas• meeting places to promote innovation in trade and industry, including commercialisation of research results• start-up of new innovation environments• operations to boost the development of existing innovation environments, including the development of new forms of cooperation regionally/nationally/internationally, entrepreneurship, demonstration projects, business development, and work on gender equality, diversity and	

Investment priority	1b — Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies
<p>the environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • operations to improve access to innovation-supporting environments throughout the innovation process, including common equipment and test environments. <p>Knowledge development</p> <p>To further lay the foundation for interest in innovations in business, and to increase demand from the public sector and elsewhere, the activities may also involve development of knowledge and methods in the area, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development of new innovation methods in collaboration between trade and industry, universities and colleges and public-sector stakeholders • increased knowledge of the tool of innovation procurement in trade and industry and the public sector in order to improve the prospects of small companies participating in tendering procedures and procurement processes • awareness-raising collaborative operations. <p>Target groups and beneficiaries for the operations may, for example, be educational institutions or other research organisations, corporate networks, representatives of trade and industry and the public sector in collaboration.</p> <p>Link to horizontal criteria</p> <p>There is great potential for improvement in this area from the point of view of gender equality and diversity. In view of the gender-segregated labour market, with men being predominant in the private sector, there is a risk of investments in innovative environments based on the sectors in which the</p>	

Investment priority	1b — Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies
<p>region is strong benefiting only men. There is a need to broaden the definition of innovation also to cover services and processes, so that sectors and networks in which women are active are also reached. The programme therefore also focuses on the public sector, in which a large proportion of women can be reached. By making use of skills from several different target groups, gender equality and diversity can be used as a lever to develop innovation environments and demand for innovations based on a broad perspective. User-driven innovation is a key concept here. With the encouragement of new forms of cooperation and specialisation, it is no longer sufficient to develop the region’s traditional trade and industry. New opportunities can be opened up, which make a broader view of innovations possible and also create structural change with regard to gender segregation and social exclusion.</p> <p>The environment can also be used as a lever for innovation activity. The requirements that will be set in the future for sustainability, and the new opportunities created in conjunction with the creation of a low-carbon economy, mean that new business concepts in the shape of services, products and processes will be required. Competitiveness should improve for those innovation environments that succeed in integrating this perspective in their work. In this area, the priority axis is linked to priority axis 4, but also to the national ERDF programme that plans operations to improve the possibility of establishing a market presence for products and services that contribute to reduced climate impact.</p> <p>Link to other programmes</p> <p>As innovation is a priority area, at both European and national levels, several financing programmes are available. It is extremely important that other programmes are also utilised in the programme, so that optimal use is made of resources and with the aim of striving to meet the goals contained in Europe 2020.</p> <p>The intended chain looks as follows: The European Regional Development Fund supports structures in the programme area which improve the prospects of innovations being developed. The operations are developed according to the principle of smart specialisation and harnessing of efforts, which creates the necessary basis for also achieving success outside the region. Various types of specific innovation initiatives are developed under the operations which can apply for funding, for example, under the EU research programme Horizon 2020 and national programmes (for example Vinnova). In that way, the various programmes interact, and strategic investments can be made. The regional ERDF programme can also lay the foundation for innovative environments, which can be linked to other initiatives nationally and internationally, principally with the aid of the national Structural Funds programme and the territorial programmes in the Baltic Sea area. Transnational collaboration can be created in that way. In addition, operations in the rural development programme aimed at strengthening the link between research and practical agriculture can provide synergies and strengthen the interaction</p>	

Investment priority	1b — Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies
<p>between research environments, business and agricultural enterprises.</p> <p>The Programme for Employment and Social Innovation, which replaces Progress 2007-2013, will also be available in the area in the next programming period. The programme will be focused, among other things, on social innovation and experiment, with the possibility of testing social innovations on a small scale.</p>	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	1b — Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies
<p>The principles underlying project selection, and that ensure that the specific goals can be attained, are as follows:</p> <p>Collaboration and target group adaptation</p> <p>Silo mentality, with individual sectors or organisations working alone, should be avoided for all projects. Collaboration creates added value in the form of new structures and ideas that develop the region. By starting from problems and challenges rather than sectors and target groups, real innovations and smart specialisation can occur. Social innovations can also be included here. Target group adaptation is also a key concept in programme implementation. To create effective innovation environments, the structures of the environment must take account of circumstances at those operators who are to be included. This means that collaboration can take various forms, depending in particular on interest in trade and industry.</p> <p>Involvement of trade and industry in the form of co-financing</p> <p>To ensure the involvement of and influence for trade and industry, the innovation environments supported should aim for private co-financing in relevant</p>	

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

Previous experience, organisational capacity and endorsement

To benefit from previously implemented operations, it is important for project sponsors to build on knowledge and experience in the area concerned in formulating their project concepts. The project sponsor's own organisational capacity and experience are also of great importance in assessment and selection. Experience from previous programming periods also indicates the importance of the operations being endorsed by designated collaborating parties.

Link to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

The programme for Småland and the Islands is to contribute to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, and the programme will take account of projects that support implementation of the strategy and its goals.

Link to other programmes

There are a large number of programmes in the EU goal of smart growth that are to contribute to increasing the level of innovation in the Union. Horizon 2020 and the Programme for Social Change and Innovation are two sector programmes clearly linked to the area. There are also opportunities in the national ERDF programme to, for example, link areas of strength in different regions in order to harness and increase the potential for innovation. There are also various national programmes, for example in Vinnova (the Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems) and the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, working towards the same goal. Projects attached to other operations should be prioritised, to create a collective, strategic initiative in the programme area. This also applies to the European Social Fund. Evaluations of the ERDF programmes in the previous programming period have shown that there are skills gaps that make it more difficult to put innovations into practice in the region, which could be remedied with supplementary skills-related initiatives under the ESF.

Horizontal criteria

Projects describing how they intend to benefit from the potential for growth in the horizontal criteria of environment, gender equality and diversity will be

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>prioritised. Evaluations of the previous programming period have shown that the best results are achieved when the work on the horizontal criteria enters the start-up phase of the project early on and not, as has unfortunately been far too common, something that has been added on afterwards.</p>	

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

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

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

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

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

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

Investment priority		1b — Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			250.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			250.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
01	Number of enterprises cooperating to strengthen their innovativeness	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			500.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
41	Number of organisations receiving aid	Organisations	ERDF	More developed			20.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

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

Priority axis	1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation

2.A.8 Performance framework

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

Priority axis		1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation											
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
						M	W	T	M	W	T		
CO26	O	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			62			250.00	Project	
13	F	Expenditure	EUR	ERDF	More developed			13 072 044			43 573 480.00	Managing authority	

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

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

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

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

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

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

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

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

Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention

Table 7: Dimension 1 — Intervention field

Priority axis		1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	060. Research and innovation activities in public research centres and centres of competence including networking	2 722 000.00
ERDF	More developed	061. Research and innovation activities in private research centres including networking	2 722 000.00
ERDF	More developed	062. Technology transfer and university-enterprise cooperation primarily benefiting SMEs	8 171 370.00
ERDF	More developed	063. Cluster support and business networks primarily benefiting SMEs	8 171 370.00

Table 8: Dimension 2 — Form of finance

Priority axis		1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Non-repayable grant	21 786 740.00

Table 9: Dimension 3 — Territory type

Priority axis		1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	3 268 011.00
ERDF	More developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	8 932 563 00
ERDF	More developed	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	9 586 166 00

Table 10: Dimension 4 — Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis		1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	07. Not applicable	21 786 740.00

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

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

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

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

2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	2
Title of the priority axis	Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies

- 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	Fel! Hittar inte referensskälla.	

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	2a
Title of the investment priority	Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy

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 effective coordination for greater access to broadband throughout the region
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>Experience from previous programming periods has shown there to be a great need for coordination and greater knowledge regarding pricing, robustness, business models, etc. linked to investments for increased access to high-speed broadband. Resources from the Structural Funds programme for Småland and the Islands are therefore not intended to support broadband investments and are to focus instead on operations aimed at improving efficiency and making it easier to take decisions on roll-out, as well as providing improved skills in the area for stakeholders who coordinate roll-out. The operations are to be regarded as a clear complement in order to maximise and improve the effectiveness of the physical investments that will be financed in the rural development programme. The intention is for the two funds to complement one another to create synergies and increased benefit in the programme areas, for business and private individuals.</p>

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

Specific objective		1 - Effektivare samordning för ökad tillgång till bredband i hela regionen						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
0202	Andel företag som fått möjlig tillgång till bredband (100 Mbit/s)	Procent	More developed	26.93	2013	90.00	Post- och telestyrelsen	Vartannat år
0203	Föreberedda och överenskomna kommunala bredbandsstrategier	Antal	More developed	16.00	2013	34.00	Tillväxtverket	Varannat 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	2a — Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy
<p data-bbox="136 513 2145 555">Improving coordination, enhancing skills and making decisions on broadband investments more effective</p> <p data-bbox="136 584 2145 730">There are great coordination gains to be made in broadband investments with regard, for example, to planning, robustness, business models and promotion of broadband roll-out. Experience from the broadband investments of municipalities and other stakeholders points to a need for joint planning, greater knowledge and better support in implementation in order to achieve better coordination gains and greater effect from subsequent investments in broadband infrastructure and consequently to improve the competitiveness of enterprises. Activities that can be supported are, for example:</p> <ul data-bbox="203 767 2145 1031" style="list-style-type: none">• Development of municipal broadband strategies to identify areas where there are needs for investments in broadband infrastructure and to create good conditions for collaboration and synergies between municipalities, regions and businesses.• Support for the preparation of joint strategy documents or process support to improve the effectiveness of coordination that facilitates joint planning across administrative or other boundaries and between geographically defined investments aimed at achieving cost-effectiveness, for example through joint procurement, more qualified assessments of quality and so on.• Operations that lead to optimising and improving the effectiveness of investments in broadband infrastructure implemented in the rural development programme and operations that create synergies with trade and industry and increase the benefit of the programmes' investments. <p data-bbox="136 1066 2145 1136">The intended target groups and beneficiaries in this priority axis are municipalities, municipal companies, county councils, regional councils and government agencies, as well as economic and non-profit organisations.</p> <p data-bbox="136 1171 510 1203">Link to horizontal criteria</p> <p data-bbox="136 1238 2145 1345">Rolled-out broadband networks and increased use of information technology in various contexts can contribute to reducing the environmental impact in society at large. Various forms of e-services have reduced the need for travel and transport in recent years, but much remains to be done. Both study and work are made easier by the use of modern technology for travel-free meetings, which reduces the total environmental impact in the region. It is important</p>	

Investment priority	2a — Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy
<p>that our new information society is open and accessible for everyone. Everyone has to be given the same opportunity to develop, take part in public life and contribute to sustainable growth. There is also a danger of new technology excluding groups that are unable to acquire or utilise it. There is a joint responsibility in society here to make everyone involved regardless of personal circumstances such as age, gender, disability and other factors, for example cultural or ethnic.</p> <p>Link to other programmes</p> <p>It is important in this area to have a clear dialogue and demarcation, among other things against the second Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, in order to find the synergies that can best provide the desired development. Other national financing must also be taken into account. There are links to both Horizon 2020 and Connecting Europe Facility 2014-2020 in the broader area of information and communication technologies. These two instruments contain opportunities to implement operations linked to the Digital Agenda, part of the Europe 2020 strategy.</p>	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	2a — Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy
<p>The principles underlying project selection, and that ensure that the specific goals can be attained, are as follows:</p> <p>Collaboration and coordination</p> <p>It is important in all projects to avoid a silo mentality where individual municipal and county boundaries limit and preclude collaboration and effective management. Cost-effective roll-out of the broadband network is very often based on collaboration and joint planning.</p> <p>Early benefit for business</p> <p>Access to high-speed broadband for business is of great importance for positive development in the region, linked to both competitiveness and attractiveness. Projects focused clearly on the needs of business need to be given particular priority.</p>	

Investment priority	2a — Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy
<p data-bbox="136 264 1003 300">Previous experience, organisational capacity and endorsement</p> <p data-bbox="136 331 2078 475">To benefit from previously implemented operations, it is important for project sponsors to build on knowledge and experience in the area concerned in formulating their project concepts. The project sponsor’s own organisational capacity and experience are also of great importance in assessment and selection. Experience from previous programming periods also indicates the importance of the operations being endorsed by designated collaborating parties.</p> <p data-bbox="136 512 824 547">Link to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region</p> <p data-bbox="136 579 2132 651">The programme for Småland and the Islands is to contribute to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, and the programme will take account of projects that support implementation of the strategy and its goals.</p> <p data-bbox="136 687 517 722">Link to other programmes</p> <p data-bbox="136 754 2011 826">Demarcations and reconciliations need to be made in the programme both with the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020 and with other financing instruments for broadband roll-out and any support linked to coordination and skills development.</p> <p data-bbox="136 863 409 898">Horizontal criteria</p> <p data-bbox="136 930 2123 1042">Projects describing how they intend to benefit from the potential for growth in the horizontal criteria of environment, gender equality and diversity will be prioritised. Evaluations of the previous programming period have shown that the best results are achieved when the work on the horizontal criteria enters the start-up phase of the project early on and not, as has unfortunately been far too common, something that has been added on afterwards.</p>	

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

Investment priority	2a — Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy

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

Investment priority	2a — Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy

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		2a — Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
41	Number of organisations receiving aid	Organisations	ERDF	More developed			20.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	2c
Title of the investment priority	Strengthening ICT applications for e-government, e-learning, e-inclusion, e-culture and e-health

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 digital services are to be developed to improve access to private and public services
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>In a region like Småland and the Islands, with a sparse and unbalanced population structure, there is a great need to develop new ways of delivering welfare services, providing new ways, for example, for the population of rural areas to avail of community services and encouraging business to develop more services.</p> <p>The operations in the programme are to contribute to improving the opportunities of the regions to avail of and be part of the emerging e-society. Priority is given within the area to operations aimed at developing and promoting the demand for new IT solutions for the public sector, contributing to simplifying collaboration in the public sector and increasing the use of digital services so that the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises is strengthened. Operations to promote digital participation regardless of personal circumstances are also prioritised.</p>
ID of the specific objective	2
Title of the specific objective	Increased proportion of private individuals using IT services, which stimulates development of services in business
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>In a region like Småland and the Islands, with a sparse and unbalanced population structure, there is a great need to develop new ways of delivering welfare services, providing new ways, for example, for the population of rural areas to avail of community services and encouraging business to develop more services.</p> <p>The operations in the programme are to contribute to improving the opportunities of the regions to avail of and be part of the emerging e-society. Priority is given within the area to operations aimed at developing and promoting the demand for new IT solutions for the public sector, contributing to simplifying collaboration in the public sector and increasing the use of digital services so that the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises is strengthened. Operations to promote digital participation regardless of personal circumstances are also prioritised.</p>

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

Specific objective		1 - Fler digitala tjänster ska utvecklas för att förbättra tillgängligheten till privat och offentlig service						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
042	Andel företag (10-249 anställda) som använder vissa IT-tjänster	Procent	More developed	81.30	2013	90.00	Statistiska Centralbyrån	Vartannat år
Specific objective		2 - Ökad andel privatpersoner som använder IT-tjänster vilket stimulerar till tjänstutveckling i näringslivet						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
005	Andel privatpersoner i åldern 16-85 som använder vissa IT-tjänster	Procent	More developed	63.00	2013	70.00	Statistiska Centralbyrån	Vartannat år

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

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

Investment priority	2c — Strengthening ICT applications for e-government, e-learning, e-inclusion, e-culture and e-health
<p>All activities that can be supported in the investment priority are to include actors from the public sector, but ideally also in private and public collaboration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborative projects between public-sector actors aimed at improving access to and increasing use of IT <p>IT is the great facilitator in enabling boundaries between responsible authorities to be bridged and creating a simpler, more efficient and better public sector. With an ageing population in sparsely populated regions, the opportunities for home medical care and teleworking, for example, are becoming completely dependent on how we develop this sector using modern technology. Secure message handling is an example of an area where there are clear needs for development, as the present-day more isolated systems do not meet the needs for common routines that exist in the area today. Exchange of information in a way that is secure for patients is an important issue between municipalities and county councils.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Initiatives to develop the use of and knowledge of ICT applications in e-government, e-integration and e-health <p>To increase use, there is a need for operations to create new work processes adapted to the new technology that is available but that perhaps is not used optimally because the work process itself has not been developed to the same level as the technology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of e-services and other common resources <p>New e-services may, in various ways, be the answer to the future societal challenges of the public sector and simplify collaboration in various sectors. With the right operations for coordinated development of IT and e-services, we can create a transparent and accessible public sector, both promoting growth and creating a simpler and more open society. Jointly introducing an e-services platform is a clear example of collaboration and joint operation being able to have a broad and rapid impact, which is not possible for an individual municipality to accomplish on its own.</p>	

- **Increased awareness of opportunities with IT**

To enable digital technologies to be put to use, there is a need for private individuals, employees and entrepreneurs to know about the technology and be able to use it properly. Information adapted to different target groups is important in order to achieve increased awareness at all levels. New, interactive online education can reach more people and produce rapid results here. There is a need, for example, of best practice in various sectors to clarify the need to develop IT to improve efficiency, development products and be able to reach new markets.

- **Operations to reduce digital exclusion**

The great opportunities that exist in making an activity more efficient and offering e-services to citizens and enterprises are restricted by the fact that so many do not have time to take part in development. More people therefore need to become digitally involved to be able to make use of the opportunities presented by digitisation. It is just as much a matter of democracy as the conditions necessary for efficiency improvements and a better society. It is not until most of the case flow of an activity takes place automatically that resources can be released for savings and for the cases that require manual administration.

The intended target groups and beneficiaries in this priority axis are municipalities, municipal companies, county councils, regional councils and government agencies, as well as business in collaboration.

Link to horizontal criteria

Rolled-out broadband networks and increased use of information technology in various contexts can contribute to reducing the environmental impact in society at large. Various forms of e-services have reduced the need for travel and transport in recent years, but much remains to be done. Both study and work are made easier by the use of modern technology for travel-free meetings, which reduces the total environmental impact in the region. It is important that our new information society is open and accessible for everyone. Everyone has to be given the same opportunity to develop, take part in public life and contribute to growth. There is also a danger of technology excluding groups that are unable to acquire or utilise the new technology. There is a joint responsibility in society here to make everyone involved regardless of personal circumstances such as age, gender, disability and other factors, for example cultural or ethnic. There is a great challenge from the point of view of gender equality, as only around 20 % of all persons professionally active in the IT sector are women. Even worse is the fact that the proportion of women applying to study IT in higher education today is lower than at the end of the 1990s. This is unfortunate from many points of view, in particular because such a large proportion of the users in health and social care or in schools, for

Investment priority	2c — Strengthening ICT applications for e-government, e-learning, e-inclusion, e-culture and e-health
<p>example, are women.</p> <p>Link to other programmes</p> <p>There are links to both Horizon 2020 and Connecting Europe Facility 2014-2020 in the broader area of information and communication technologies. These two instruments contain opportunities to implement operations linked to the Digital Agenda, part of the Europe 2020 strategy. There are also clear links to the European Social Fund in the area, as professional development initiatives can enable enterprises to give their employees better opportunities to make use of digital technology in their professions, but greater opportunities are also created for marginalised groups to receive support that can lead to jobs.</p>	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	2c — Strengthening ICT applications for e-government, e-learning, e-inclusion, e-culture and e-health
<p>The principles underlying project selection, and that ensure that the specific goals can be attained, are as follows:</p> <p>Collaboration and coordination</p> <p>It is important in all projects to avoid a silo mentality and suboptimisation, where individual municipal and county boundaries limit and preclude collaboration and effective management. Deficient development of public e-services in municipalities and county councils in Sweden shows very clearly that different methods will have to be adopted in the future. The old models have led to Sweden being lowly ranked in this area, and collaboration across the boundaries of responsible authorities and deliberate guidance are now required to bring about a change. Collaboration between the public sector and the private sector is also a priority.</p> <p>Previous experience, organisational capacity and endorsement</p> <p>To benefit from previously implemented operations, it is important for project sponsors to build on knowledge and experience in the area concerned in formulating their project concepts. The project sponsor’s own organisational capacity and experience are also of great importance in assessment and selection. Experience from previous programming periods also indicates the importance of the operations being endorsed by designated collaborating</p>	

Investment priority	2c — Strengthening ICT applications for e-government, e-learning, e-inclusion, e-culture and e-health
parties.	
Link to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region	
The programme for Småland and the Islands is to contribute to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, and the programme will take account of projects that support implementation of the strategy and its goals.	
Link to other programmes	
Demarcations and reconciliations need to be made in the programme both with the European Social Fund and the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020 and with other financing instruments for broadband roll-out and any support linked to coordination and skills development.	
Horizontal criteria	
Projects describing how they intend to benefit from the potential for growth in the horizontal criteria of environment, gender equality and diversity will be prioritised. Evaluations of the previous programming period have shown that the best results are achieved when the work on the horizontal criteria enters the start-up phase of the project early on and not, as has unfortunately been far too common, something that has been added on afterwards.	

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

Investment priority	2c — Strengthening ICT applications for e-government, e-learning, e-inclusion, e-culture and e-health

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

Investment priority	2c — Strengthening ICT applications for e-government, e-learning, e-inclusion, e-culture and e-health

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		2c — Strengthening ICT applications for e-government, e-learning, e-inclusion, e-culture and e-health							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
41	Number of organisations receiving aid	Organisations	ERDF	More developed			20.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

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

Priority axis	2 — Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies

2.A.8 Performance framework

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

Priority axis		2 — Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies							
ID	Indicator	Indicator or key	Measurement unit,	Fund	Category	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of	Explanation

	type	implementation step	where appropriate		of region	M	W	T	M	W	T	data	of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
13	F	Expenditure	EUR	ERDF	More developed			3 961 225			13 204 084 00	Managing authority	
41	O	Number of organisations receiving aid	Organisations	ERDF	More developed			10			40.00	Project	

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

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

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

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

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

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

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

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

Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention

Table 7: Dimension 1 — Intervention field

Priority axis	2 — Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies		
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	078. e-Government services and applications (including e-Procurement, ICT measures supporting the reform of public administration, cyber-security, trust and privacy measures, e-Justice and e-Democracy)	1 980 636.00
ERDF	More developed	080. e-Inclusion, e-Accessibility, e-Learning and e-Education services and applications, digital literacy	1 980 636.00
ERDF	More developed	081. ICT solutions addressing the healthy active ageing challenge and e-Health services and applications (including e-Care and ambient assisted living)	1 980 636.00
ERDF	More developed	082. ICT Services and applications for SMEs (including e-Commerce, e-Business, networked business processes), living labs, web	660 134 00

Priority axis		2 — Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
		entrepreneurs, ICT start-ups, etc.)	

Table 8: Dimension 2 — Form of finance

Priority axis		2 — Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Non-repayable grant	6 602 042.00

Table 9: Dimension 3 — Territory type

Priority axis		2 — Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	990 306.00
ERDF	More developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	2 706 837.00
ERDF	More developed	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	2 904 899.00

Table 10: Dimension 4 — Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis		2 — Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	07. Not applicable	6 602 042.00

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

Priority axis	2 — Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies		
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount

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

Priority axis:	2 — Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies		

2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	3
Title of the priority axis	Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

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

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

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

Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)
ERDF	More developed	Fel! Hittar inte referenskölla.	

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	Increased growth in existing SMEs
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>In this programme area, with weak growth in trade and industry and an unbalanced business structure, there is a need for more growing enterprises to reduce vulnerability in the regional economy. Small and medium-sized enterprises are to gain access through the programme to capital, support and relevant expertise, which can contribute to business development. Direct results are to be achieved through the operations in individual enterprises in the form of growth, in terms of turnover and number of employees. There is also potential here for differentiation of business, among other things through support to the development of various types of service sectors. Taken together, this leads to regional competitiveness by addressing the designated challenges.</p>

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

Specific objective		1 - Ökad tillväxt i befintliga SMF						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
0301	Sysselsättning i små och medelstora företag	Antal anställda omräknat till heltidstjänster	More developed	72,401.00	2011	74,000.00	Statistiska centralbyrån, Företagens ekonomi	Vartannat år
0302	Omsättning i små och medelstora företag	Nettoomsättning, MSEK	More developed	130,661.00	2011	150,253.00	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
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business development of small and medium-sized enterprises <p>Business development is required for the region's enterprises to grow and increase their capacity for modernisation. Operations need to be carried out to increase the knowledge content in business and lay the foundation for increased growth. Small and medium-sized enterprises need advice and support to be able to take larger market shares on issues concerning, for example, development of products and services, marketing and collaboration with research institutes, etc. Activities that can be supported include, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seminars/workshops/business advice, focused on leadership, sustainable growth, profitability, strategic supply of skills and/or innovation <p>Increased knowledge is created through support, which in turn can encourage the enterprises to enter into growth and innovation processes together with others or on their own. To create the necessary conditions for business development in the region's small and medium-sized enterprises, we see before us a number of different complementary operations packaged in various ways to suit different sectors, different stages of development. It is important to be offered support through networks, sector constellations, to learn from one another and to study practical examples to enable enterprises to take important steps in this development. Clearer leadership and having someone to bounce ideas off in important strategic discussions are essential if business development is to be achieved. The business-promoting system plays an important role in this context as an intermediary in achieving greater competitiveness for the region's small and medium-sized enterprises.</p> <p>The target group for the activities is small and medium-sized enterprises wishing to grow in terms of turnover and/or number of employees. Beneficiaries may, for example, be the participants in the business-promoting system at local and regional level, as well as sector organisations, amalgamations of enterprises or groups of companies and similar structures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encouraging the willingness and capacity of small and medium-sized enterprises for internationalisation	

Investment priority	3d — Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes
<p>Although this programme area has high value of exports per head of population, internationalisation among small and medium-sized enterprises is limited. The Swedish market is relatively limited, which means that increased internationalisation can lead to new business opportunities for most enterprises. Activities that can be supported are, for example:</p> <p>Information and support for enterprises wishing to establish a presence in new markets</p> <p>Development of business-driven networks for joint internationalisation</p> <p>As a result of increased knowledge and support, the enterprises become better equipped to operate internationally, and networks can contribute to greater international exposure, while costs and risks are reduced when they are shared more widely.</p> <p>The target group for these activities is small and medium-sized enterprises wishing to develop through internationalisation. Beneficiaries may, for example, be the participants in the business-promoting system at local and regional level, as well as sector organisations, amalgamations of enterprises or groups of companies and similar structures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of the business-promoting system <p>The publicly financed business-promoting system plays an important role in passing on knowledge and financing through various types of operations. The services offered must be adapted to the needs of the enterprises, and coordination between different participants must take place to avoid confusion and duplication of work. The region today has a well developed business-promoting system with a large number of participants, but the customers do not find that there is a simple route into the system, and there are deficiencies in collaboration both within each county and in the programme area. Operations with an impact on structure are therefore required here. It is important in a region with a sparse population structure to develop new methods of reaching relevant target groups, including outside the major cities. There is potential for increased accessibility and service. The basic principle is that the action taken has to be of benefit to trade and industry. Activities that can be supported are, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • coordination of functions • raising the level of knowledge of business promoters, for example regarding untraditional industries • development of new procedures. 	

The target group and beneficiaries may, in particular, be participants operating in the business-promoting system, at local and regional level. The benefit of the activities has to accrue to small and medium-sized enterprises wishing to develop and achieve higher growth. Access for small and medium-sized enterprises is facilitated through development of the support system, and the support can become more effective.

- **Supporting the supply of capital to enterprises**

Expanded options for the supply of capital are needed to accelerate further the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises. Venture capital combined with external expertise has proved successful in the previous programming period, and such activities can therefore continue to be supported. This activity is to be implemented using financial instruments (see section 2.1.3.5).

The target group for the activities is small and medium-sized enterprises. Beneficiaries are those stakeholders who fulfil the legal requirements set for financial instruments.

Link to horizontal criteria

This priority axis is aimed at small and medium-sized enterprises, where gender equality and non-discrimination should be an underlying principle for the operations. A study by Almi Företagspartner in 2013 shows that female CEOs and women directors are still relatively uncommon among enterprises with more than five employees. Gotland stands out in the programme area with 12.8 % of enterprises being headed by a woman and 29 % having women on the board. The equivalent figures for the counties of Småland are between 6.9 % and 8.8 % for chief executives and between 20 % and 22 % for board representation. The enterprises need diversity in the management and staff to be able to attain greater growth. Customer demand is gradually developing, and many different skills and backgrounds are required to be able to meet this. Diversity is also crucially important in attracting labour. In endeavouring to support growth companies, the programme should therefore take account of these aspects and develop methods to use diversity as a lever in order to develop the enterprises further.

Sustainable development with regard to environmental issues can also be regarded as promoting growth for individual enterprises. Among other things, this entails reduced use of resources, leading to reduced costs and business development in the form of new services and products, etc. The area also has a link to priority axis 4 here.

Investment priority	3d — Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes
<p>Link to other programmes</p> <p>It is of the greatest importance that other programmes are also used in the programme area for optimum utilisation of resources. There are many different opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises that link to the European Regional Development Fund, for example transnational ERDF programmes, national initiatives within Vinnova and the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth and Horizon 2020, as well as the national ERDF programme. The idea is for the European Regional Development Fund to support small and medium-sized enterprises in the programme area, so that these have better prospects of taking part in other types of programmes. The European Regional Development Fund therefore lays the foundation for increased use of EU and national resources at large.</p>	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	3d — Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes
<p>The principles underlying project selection, and that ensure that the specific goals can be attained, are as follows:</p> <p>Clear differentiation from ordinary activity</p> <p>This applies, in particular, to the advisory activity undertaken by the business-promoting system, where the projects have to be focused on method development and collaboration. Operations that cover ‘gaps’ in the present-day system are to be given priority. The organisational capacity and experience of the project sponsor are also to be taken into account.</p> <p>Specific focus</p> <p>The projects are to be specific to the extent that they are focused on a particular sector or groups of enterprises. The projects are to be clearly differentiated with links to the goal of the priority. General projects that promote enterprise at large and are too broad are to be avoided under this priority.</p> <p>Growth promotion</p> <p>The projects are to be assessed on the basis of potential to create sustainable growth in the region. Beneficiaries are to describe clearly the baseline</p>	

Investment priority	3d — Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes
<p>situation and the potential that exists for the target group, for example in the form of previous analyses and project results, etc. Projects that build on previous experience and knowledge from previous operations are prioritised. Priority is to be given to the need for structural change in the form of modernisation in existing sectors or the development of future sectors. Enterprises aspiring to grow are to be prioritised ahead of companies that ‘make a living’.</p> <p>Involvement of business in the form of co-financing</p> <p>Prioritisation of investment is concerned with the development of individual enterprises. To ensure the involvement of trade and industry, private co-financing should be aimed for in those projects that are implemented and where this is regarded as applicable.</p> <p>Previous experience, organisational capacity and endorsement</p> <p>To benefit from previously implemented operations, it is important for project sponsors to build on knowledge and experience in the area concerned in formulating their project concepts. The project sponsor’s own organisational capacity and experience are also of great importance in assessment and selection. Experience from previous programming periods also indicates the importance of the operations being endorsed by designated collaborating parties.</p> <p>Link to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region</p> <p>The programme for Småland and the Islands is to contribute to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, and the programme will take account of projects that support implementation of the strategy and its goals.</p> <p>Taking account of horizontal criteria</p> <p>Projects describing how they intend to benefit from the potential for growth in the horizontal criteria of environment, gender equality and diversity will be prioritised. Evaluations of the previous programming period have shown that the best results are achieved when the work on the horizontal criteria enters the start-up phase of the project early on and not, as has unfortunately been far too common, something that has been added on afterwards.</p>	

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

Investment priority	3d — Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes
<p>A functioning supply of capital is crucial for business start-ups and for sustainable growth. The needs of enterprises for external capital are to be met primarily in the private market, but there are also areas where there may be needs for 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 equivalent to around one fifth of the whole venture capital market in Sweden in 2011.</p> <p>There was initially uncertainty as to whether there would be private co-financiers willing to co-invest. Results from July 2013 show that each SEK of fund investment has attracted an average of SEK 1.9 in private funding. The financing instruments are thus producing a leveraging effect on the ERDF. The first phase of investment according to participatory researchers and 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 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 priority axis 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.• Instruments focused on shareholder capital are to be implemented under the existing structure and taking account of experience from the ‘fund projects’ implemented during the programming period 2007-2013. Operations may also cover other financial instruments.• Account is to be taken of the long-term nature of operations of this type.• The horizontal criteria are to be integrated into the operations.• Knowledge and experience from participatory research in this area are to be exploited.• Coordination of all operations for financial instruments is to be aimed for.	

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

2.A.6.4 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			515.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			100.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO03	Productive investment: Number of	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			15.00	Managing authority's computer	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		
	enterprises receiving financial support other than grants							systems	
CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			400.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO06	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (grants)	EUR	ERDF	More developed			1 200 000.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)	EUR	ERDF	More developed			8 382 040.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full-time equivalents	ERDF	More developed			500.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

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

Priority axis	3 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

2.A.8 Performance framework

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

Priority axis		3 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)											
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
						M	W	T	M	W	T		
CO04	O	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			100			400.00	Project	
13	F	Expenditure	EUR	ERDF	More developed			15 052 657			50 175 522.00	Managing authority	

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

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

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

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

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

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

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

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

Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention

Table 7: Dimension 1 — Intervention field

Priority axis		3 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	001. Generic productive investment in small and medium-sized enterprises ('SMEs')	5 111 001.00
ERDF	More developed	066. Advanced support services for SMEs and groups of SMEs (including management, marketing and design services)	9 988 380.00
ERDF	More developed	067. SME business development, support to entrepreneurship and incubation (including support to spin offs and spin outs)	9 988 380.00

Table 8: Dimension 2 — Form of finance

Priority axis		3 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Non-repayable grant	19 976 761.00
ERDF	More developed	03. Support through financial instruments: venture and equity capital or equivalent	5 111 000.00

Table 9: Dimension 3 — Territory type

Priority axis		3 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	3 763 164.00
ERDF	More developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	10 285 982.00
ERDF	More developed	03 Rural areas (thinly populated)	11 038 615.00

Table 10: Dimension 4 — Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis		3 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	07. Not applicable	25 087 761.00

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

Priority axis		3 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount

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

Priority axis:	3 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	4
Title of the priority axis	Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors

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

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

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

Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)
ERDF	More developed	Fel! Hittar inte referenskölla.	

2.A.4 Investment priority

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

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

ID of the specific objective	1
Title of the specific objective	Encouraging more energy-efficient transport and increased use of renewable energy in the transport sector.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	The focus under this investment priority in the programme is on public infrastructure, which here encompasses energy-efficient and low-carbon passenger and goods transport. Public infrastructure means both physical and organisational structures that are initiated by the public sector and make energy-efficient and low-carbon transport possible. The operations under this programme focus on renewable fuels, more efficient energy use and community planning, including influencing of behaviour. Because of the limited resources of the area, the operations are to support development, dissemination and use of methods/models and enhance knowledge in these areas, which lay the foundation for potential emissions reductions and increased use of renewable energy. The operations are also to make technology development possible through testing and demonstration operations. Taken together, the operations contribute in the longer term to addressing the challenge to the region and attaining the set goals.

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

Specific objective		1 - Stimulera till energieffektivare transporter och ökad användning av förnybar energi inom transportsektorn						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
0090	Andel användning av förnybar energi (av total slutanvändning)	Procent	More developed	38.02	2011	50.00	Statistiska centralbyrån	Vartannat år
0402	Koldioxidutsläpp från transporter (exkl. internationell luftfart och sjöfart)	Ton/år	More developed	1,993,239.00	2011	1,893,577.00	Länsstyrelsen	Vartannat år

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

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

Investment priority	4c — Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategically important operations to promote development of low-carbon and energy-efficient infrastructures for transport <p>Operations to encourage energy-efficient and low-carbon transport systems for goods. In order to achieve results, operations are, however, needed in several areas at the same time. More efficient and low-carbon transport and smart goods flows need to be supplemented by greater knowledge of eco-driving and lower speeds, etc.</p> <p>Strategically important operations for increased use of renewable fuels is also a priority in the programme. This may, for example, entail initiatives to make filling stations for renewable vehicle fuels possible, as well as preliminary studies and pilot studies of strategic significance.</p> <p>Climate-smart technology may also involve system operations facilitating efficient transport and, at the same time, reducing carbon dioxide emissions and environmental impact.</p> <p>Increasing sustainable travel by public transport through changes in behaviour and raising awareness. Operations are needed here to break ingrained patterns and behaviours and demonstrate gains for society as a consequence of the change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cutting-edge and demo projects in the transport sector, including planning, procurement and investments <p>In order to enhance new technology and disseminate new knowledge concerning renewable fuels and energy-efficient solutions in the transport sector, there is a need for better access to the testing and demonstration facilities in collaboration between the public sector, business, and universities and colleges.</p>	

Investment priority	4c — Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector
<p>The target groups for the operations are the public sector, private individuals, enterprises, corporations, and universities and colleges. The principal beneficiary is the public sector.</p> <p>Link to horizontal criteria</p> <p>In relation to passenger transport in particular, there are clear links to gender equality and non-discrimination. Women and men have different patterns with regard to travel to work, both in time and geographically. Women commute to a lesser extent than men and travel shorter distances, partly due to structures and conditions in the world of work and in private life being different for women and men. On the other hand, the Småland Blekinge travel habits survey from 2012 shows that women and men are more alike than different with regard to choice of mode of transport for all travel during an ordinary week.</p> <p>Link to other programmes</p> <p>It is of the greatest importance that other programmes are also used in the programme area for optimum utilisation of resources. Synergies and collaboration between the Southern Baltic Sea Programme and the ERDF Programme for Småland and the Islands are also of great importance. The environmental situation in the Baltic Sea, for example, is of great significance to sustainable development in the Småland and the Islands programme area, and the objectives of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region are a natural part of programme implementation to achieve transnational added value. The sector programme Life is aimed at creating synergies between Union funds and national resources to coordinate operations at different levels and between different parties.</p>	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	4c — Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector
<p>The principles underlying project selection, and that ensure that the specific goals can be attained, are as follows:</p> <p>Clear differentiation from ordinary activity</p>	

Investment priority	4c — Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector
<p>Operations dictated by statutory requirements cannot be supported.</p> <p>Complementary operations</p> <p>Operations in the programme have to complement other national and regional funding in the area.</p> <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Silo mentality, with individual organisations working alone, should be avoided for all projects. Collaboration creates added value in the form of new structures and ideas that develop the region. Clear endorsement among collaborating partners and utilisation of knowledge and collective experience from previous operations in the area are also of the greatest importance to successful implementation.</p> <p>Previous experience, organisational capacity and endorsement</p> <p>To benefit from previously implemented operations, it is important for project sponsors to build on knowledge and experience in the area concerned in formulating their project concepts. The project sponsor’s own organisational capacity and experience are also of great importance in assessment and selection. Experience from previous programming periods also indicates the importance of the operations being endorsed by designated collaborating parties.</p> <p>Link to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region</p> <p>The programme for Småland and the Islands is to contribute to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, and the programme will take account of projects that support implementation of the strategy and its goals.</p> <p>Taking account of horizontal criteria</p> <p>Projects describing how they intend to benefit from the potential for growth in the horizontal criteria of environment, gender equality and diversity will be prioritised. Evaluations of the previous programming period have shown that the best results are achieved when the work on the horizontal criteria enters the start-up phase of the project early on and not, as has unfortunately been far too common, something that has been added on afterwards.</p>	

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

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

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

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

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

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

Investment priority		4c — Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
10	Reduced energy consumption in enterprises and organisations involved in projects	Percentage	ERDF	More developed			20.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
41	Number of organisations receiving aid	Organisations	ERDF	More developed			20.00	Managing authority's computer	Continuous

Investment priority		4c — Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
								systems	

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

Priority axis	4 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors

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		4 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors											
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
						M	W	T	M	W	T		
13	F	Expenditure	EUR	ERDF	More developed			5 941 838			19 806 128 00	Managing authority	
41	O	Number of organisations receiving aid	Organisations	ERDF	More developed			5			20.00	Project	

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

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

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

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

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

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

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

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

Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention

Table 7: Dimension 1 — Intervention field

Priority axis		4 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	013. Energy efficiency renovation of public infrastructure, demonstration projects and supporting measures	3 301 022.00
ERDF	More developed	043. Clean urban transport infrastructure and promotion (including equipment and rolling stock)	3 301 020.00
ERDF	More developed	068. Energy efficiency and demonstration projects in SMEs and supporting measures	3 301 022.00

Table 8: Dimension 2 — Form of finance

Priority axis		4 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Non-repayable grant	9 903 064 00

Table 9: Dimension 3 — Territory type

Priority axis		4 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount

Priority axis		4 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	1 485 460.00
ERDF	More developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	4 060 256 00
ERDF	More developed	03 Rural areas (thinly populated)	4 357 348 00

Table 10: Dimension 4 — Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis		4 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	07. Not applicable	9 903 064 00

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

Priority axis		4 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount

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

Priority axis:	4 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors

2.B DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIORITY AXES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

2.B.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	5
Title of the priority axis	Technical assistance (TA)

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

2.B.3 Fund and category of region

Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)
ERDF	More developed	Fel! Hittar inte referenskölla.

2.B.4 Specific objectives and expected results

ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
1	Technical assistance is to lead to the programme being implemented in an appropriate, legally sound and effective way that contributes to the objectives of the programme being met in other priority axes.	Technical assistance is to lead to the programme being implemented in an appropriate, legally sound and effective way that contributes to the objectives of the programme being met in other priority axes.

2.B.5 Result indicators

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

Priority axis		1 - Tekniskt stöd ska leda till att programmet genomförs ändamålsenligt, rättssäkert och effektivt samt bidrar till att programmets mål nås inom övriga insatsområden.									
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value			Baseline year	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
			M	W	T		M	W	T		

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

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

Priority axis	5 — Technical assistance (TA)
	<p>Technical assistance can be provided so that the programme can be implemented in an effective and legally sound way and to inform about and encourage broad participation in the programme. Technical assistance can fund a number of activities, including preparations, administration, monitoring, evaluation, information and controls. The monitoring committee decides on the budget for technical assistance. The managing authority decides on the payment of technical assistance.</p> <p>The following costs can be co-financed by technical assistance for the managing and certifying authorities: preparations, administration, controls, evaluation, information efforts, seminars, computer systems and evaluations.</p> <p>The costs of auditing for the audit authority can be co-financed by technical assistance.</p> <p>The costs of preparing for and holding meetings of the monitoring committee can be co-financed by technical assistance.</p> <p>The costs of holding Structural Funds Partnership meetings can be co-financed by technical assistance.</p>

Priority axis	5 — Technical assistance (TA)
<p>The technical assistance is to be used to achieve simple and effective implementation. The focus in development work will be on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more simplification and reduced administrative burden for project sponsors • greater coordination and cross-border collaboration between different programmes, projects and funds • result-oriented working practices where project selection, indicators, follow-up, evaluation and learning are combined. 	

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

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

Priority axis		5 - Tekniskt stöd(TA)				
ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023) (optional)			Source of data
			M	W	T	
13	Utbetalade medel av programmets totala budget	Procent			100.00	Förvaltande myndighets datasystem
14	Externa utvärderingar har genomförts under programperiod	Antal			15.00	Förvaltande myndighet
15	Antalet anställda (årsarbetskrafter) vilkas löner medfinansieras av TA	Årsarbetskrafter				Förvaltande myndighet - årliga genomföranderapporten

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

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

Tables 14-16: Categories of intervention

Table 14: Dimension 1 — Intervention field

Priority axis		5 — Technical assistance (TA)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ Amount
ERDF	More developed	121. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection	2 376 735.00
ERDF	More developed	122. Evaluation and studies	132 041.00
ERDF	More developed	123. Information and communication	132 041.00

Table 15: Dimension 2 — Form of finance

Priority axis		5 — Technical assistance (TA)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ Amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Non-repayable grant	2 640 817 00

Table 16: Dimension 3 — Territory type

Priority axis		5 — Technical assistance (TA)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ Amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	396 123 00
ERDF	More developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	1 082 735.00
ERDF	More developed	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	1 161 959 00

3. FINANCING PLAN

3.1 Financial appropriation from each fund and amounts for performance reserve

Table 17

Fund	Category of region	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		Total	
		Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve												
ERDF	More developed	8 347 306.00	532 807.00	8 514 420.00	543 474.00	8 684 856.00	554 353.00	8 858 669.00	565 447.00	9 035 953.00	576 764.00	9 216 780.00	588 306.00	9 401 211.00	600 078.00	62 059 195.00	3 961 229.00
Total		8 347 306.00	532 807.00	8 514 420.00	543 474.00	8 684 856.00	554 353.00	8 858 669.00	565 447.00	9 035 953.00	576 764.00	9 216 780.00	588 306.00	9 401 211.00	600 078.00	62 059 195.00	3 961 229.00

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

Table 18a: Financing plan

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Basis for calculation of Union support (Total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Union support (a)	National counterpart (b) = (c) + (d)	Indicative breakdown of national counterpart		Total funding (e) = (a) + (b)	Co-financing rate (f) = (a) / (e) (2)	EIB contributions (g)	Main allocation		Performance reserve		Performance reserve amount as proportion of total Union support (l) = (j) / (a) * 100
						National public funding (c)	National private funding (d) (1)				Union support (h) = (a) – (j)	National Counterpart (i) = (b) – (k)	Union support (j)	National Counterpart (k) = (b) * ((j) / (a)	
1	ERDF	More developed	Total	21 786 740.00	21 786 740.00	20 697 740.00	1 089 000.00	43 573 480.00	50.0000000000 %		20 425 068.00	20 425 068.00	1 361 672.00	1 361 672.00	6.25 %
2	ERDF	More developed	Total	6 602 042.00	6 602 042.00	6 272 042.00	330 000.00	13 204 084.00	50.0000000000 %		6 189 414.00	6 189 414.00	412 628.00	412 628.00	6.25 %
3	ERDF	More developed	Total	25 087 761.00	25 087 761.00	23 833 761.00	1 254 000.00	50 175 522.00	50.0000000000 %		23 519 775.00	23 519 775.00	1 567 986.00	1 567 986.00	6.25 %
4	ERDF	More developed	Total	9 903 064.00	9 903 064.00	9 408 064.00	495 000.00	19 806 128.00	50.0000000000 %		9 284 121.00	9 284 121.00	618 943.00	618 943.00	6.25 %
5	ERDF	More developed	Public	2 640 817.00	2 640 817.00	2 640 817.00	0.00	5 281 634.00	50.0000000000 %		2 640 817.00	2 640 817.00			
Total	ERDF	More developed		66 020 424.00	66 020 424.00	62 852 424.00	3 168 000.00	132 040 848.00	50.0000000000 %		62 059 195.00	62 059 195.00	3 961 229.00	3 961 229.00	6.00 %
Grand total				66 020 424.00	66 020 424.00	62 852 424.00	3 168 000.00	132 040 848.00	50.0000000000 %	0.00	62 059 195.00	62 059 195.00	3 961 229.00	3 961 229.00	

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

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

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

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Thematic objective	Union support	National counterpart	Total funding
Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	ERDF	More developed	Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	21,786,740.00	21,786,740.00	43,573,480.00
Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies	ERDF	More developed	Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies	6,602,042.00	6,602,042.00	13,204,084.00
Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	ERDF	More developed	Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)	25,087,761.00	25,087,761.00	50,175,522.00
Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	ERDF	More developed	Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	9,903,064.00	9,903,064.00	19,806,128.00
Total				63,379,607.00	63,379,607.00	126,759,214.00

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 (%)

Priority axis	Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (€)	Proportion of the total allocation to the operational programme (%)
4	7,922,452.00	12.00%
Total	7,922,452.00	12.00%

4. INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

The territorial conditions in Småland and the Islands differ between the different parts of the region, with the county of Gotland, as an island, in particular facing special territorial challenges. Taken together, the region is characterised by an unbalanced business structure in which the traditional industrial sector, in particular, is historically important to employment and growth. There are, however, regional differences, for example with regard to population trend between different parts of the region. Småland and the Islands as a whole is a sparsely populated region in which depopulation of the countryside, demographics and future dependency ratio are significant challenges. Accessibility and attractiveness are therefore essential to business development and business start-ups, as well as in enabling more people to work in the region.

The programme has four priority axes focused, among other things, on creating the necessary conditions for roll-out of high-speed broadband in more parts of the region. In addition, operations are to increase R&D investments and collaboration between operators in research and innovation; knowledge-intensive and innovative trade and industry is to be strengthened; and systems for a more low-carbon and energy-efficient transport sector are to be developed. The territorial approach in the programme is firstly concerned with promoting development in the sparsely populated parts of the region, among other things through preparatory operations for broadband roll-out and greater supply and use of ICT services. Secondly, it is crucial to strengthen the role of the cities as knowledge nodes where university centres, in particular, which exist in all four counties, are important.

Territorial development in Småland and the Islands can also be strengthened by making use of synergies between the ERDF Programme and the Rural Development Programme. Preparatory broadband operations in the ERDF in the more peripheral parts of the region, for example, can supplement the physical investments in the area that will be financed by the EAFRD, and together create the necessary basis for increased business development in the region.

4.1 Community-led local development (where appropriate)

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

Not applicable in this programme.

4.2 Integrated actions for sustainable urban development (where appropriate)

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

Småland and the Islands has chosen to exclude a special focus on sustainable urban development, as it has been judged that the region's few large cities can be developed under the selected thematic objectives and the investment priorities, without special resources being earmarked.

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

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

4.3 Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) (where appropriate)

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

Not applicable in this programme.

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

Priority axis	Fund	Indicative financial allocation (Union support) (€)
Fel! Hittar inte referensskälla.		0.00

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

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

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

A — Macro-regionally integrated projects

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

B — Transnational component

Projects that have already been started are given an opportunity to apply for further funding for cooperation with other relevant projects in the macro-region. Funding for

cooperation being applied for separately through a ‘transnational component’ provides greater flexibility regarding length and focus of cooperation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Not applicable 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 EU Audit Department
Body to which Commission will make payments	Swedish National Debt Office	Director-General of the National Debt Office

7.2 Involvement of relevant partners

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

The involvement of the regional partnership in preparations, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the operational programme

The regional councils in the county of Kalmar, the county of Jönköping, Southern Småland and Region Gotland received a request from the Swedish Government in January 2013 to prepare for the drafting of proposals for an operational regional programme for the European Regional Development Fund. At the same time, the regional council in the county of Kalmar was commissioned to coordinate the work for the area of Småland and the Islands. The regional councils in the county of Kalmar, the county of Jönköping and Southern Småland, as well as Region Gotland, have formed a working group to prepare a 2014-2020 programme. A steering group has been attached to the group consisting of the four regional directors and the regional heads of the Swedish ESF Council and the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth. A political steering group has also been formed to facilitate political endorsement of this work, as the time aspect of the work, the relatively large size of the geographical NUTS region and the need to reconcile priorities continuously at short notice have made it impossible to communicate with the four regional boards on an individual basis only.

The development of a programme has been based on the following steps:

- An initial analysis based on the regions' RDSs/RDPs, the OECD Territorial Review, Energy Balances and other relevant analyses and strategies was made at the start of the year, which then served as the foundation for continued work.
- Existing networks and partnerships in each county have been used to discuss, endorse and draw up the programme. Initial meetings were held in March and April in all the counties to gather opinions on the analysis and provide information on the continued process. The county partnerships have subsequently met on a number of occasions during the process to discuss the current status of the work on the programme.
- It is important in the programme work to make use of experiences and lessons from previous programming periods, and all the project sponsors in the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund in the four counties were invited to attend meetings in April to present their thoughts on future programmes.
- All the managers responsible for specialised areas in the four counties gathered in May and August to draw up proposals for operations in each technical area based on identified challenges.
- Each region has been responsible for providing information to executive committees and boards during this work.
- Kronoberg County Administrative Board, with assistance from colleagues in other counties, has provided expertise on gender equality and non-discrimination issues during the process, in particular in the final work on formulation of the programme.
- Experts in each organisation have provided assistance in programme work in relation to environmental considerations and sustainability aspects linked to the environment and climate. The dialogue with Sweco linked to the environmental impact assessment of the programme has also provided support in the process.

In addition, a large number of reconciliation meetings have taken place regularly during work on the programme with municipal chief executives and the business heads of the municipalities, skills councils and other networks to reconcile and include relevant views. The work on the programme has also been regularly discussed through the regions' experts and their established networks in relation to each specialised areas of relevance to the programme. Despite existing networks and groupings having been used for dialogue and endorsement and no new groups having been appointed, an even gender distribution and broad endorsement have been achieved overall

Managing and certifying authorities

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

In its drafting role, the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth also has to consult regional and national experts where necessary on technical issues and for regional analysis of needs. The purpose of this is to ensure a well endorsed basis for decisions. If financial aid is granted to a large enterprise, the managing authority has to

make sure that the grant does not result in a significant loss of jobs at existing places of work in the Union.

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

Audit authority

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

Structural Funds Partnership

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

The remit of the Structural Funds Partnership is set out in the Structural Fund 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 relevant 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.

7.2.2 Global grants (for the ESF, where appropriate)

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

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

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

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

The national innovation strategy

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

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

Focused work is in progress in several of the regions in Småland and the Islands to develop strategies or action plans for regional work on innovation. Varying progress has been made in the different counties, but due to the joint work on developing the ERDF programme, envisaged operations have been developed on the basis of regional innovation work.

European Social Fund

To ensure access to labour with the right skills, close cooperation with the European Social Fund will be necessary on issues concerning educational operations and skills development in business. Continuing vocational training is fundamental to efficiency improvement in enterprises and their ability to face the competition in different markets. Skills development can, furthermore, provide what is necessary to collaborate with universities and colleges and assimilate relevant research to convert it into production, but may also be needed to be able to profit from investments made in new technology. Under the European Social Fund regional action plan, skills drives are proposed that contribute to the ability of the labour market to adapt and are intended to meet the current and future needs of enterprises. Through collaboration between the funds, for example in joint calls for proposals, operations targeted, for example, at the needs of business for internationalisation can be strengthened. There are also opportunities for synergies

between the funds in priority axes 2 and 4, where enhanced skills combined with the operations under the ERDF can improve the prospects of achieving desirable results.

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

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

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

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

The Rural Development Programme provides an opportunity for agricultural firms to take part in cooperative initiatives between practitioners, advisers and researchers under the European innovation partnership for agriculture. These initiatives also create an

opportunity for farms to forge international contacts and take part in projects under Horizon 2020.

There are established contacts between regional educational institutions and regional councils, among other things through Småland Blekinge's joint Brussels office, in order jointly to improve knowledge and increase access to different types of research funding, for example Horizon 2020. Closer cooperation between managers responsible for innovation issues, as well as enhanced cooperation between educational institutions, provides good conditions for increased participation in these programmes.

Region Gotland is included in the Europe office of the Stockholm region in order to take an active part of various types of funding and increase knowledge on and participation in EU affairs.

The national European Regional Development Fund programme

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

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

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

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

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

Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors. This is the largest operational area from the point of view of budget and 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.

Adjacent regional Structural Funds programmes and European territorial cooperation

See annex 'Text Småland and the Islands'.

CAP

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

In all the counties, there is established cooperation between the county administrative board responsible for implementing the Rural Development Programme and the regional growth actors. In work on programmes, the actors have jointly looked at the SWOT analyses developed for the ERDF and ESF and for the regional action plan in the Rural Development Programme. There is an intention in Småland and the Islands to use the same broad partnership to devise the regional action plan for the European Social Fund as has been used to prepare the ERDF programme. The links that exist and the opportunities we have identified for synergies are described in each priority axis.

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).

In Småland and the Islands, the counties of Jönköping and Kronoberg are covered by operations in CEF linked to the E4 road and the Södra Stambanan railway line. In priority axis 4 of the European Regional Development Fund, operations for sustainable and low-carbon transport will be prioritised.

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

See annex 'Text Småland and the Islands'.

9. EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES

9.1 Ex-ante conditionalities

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

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

Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (Yes/No/Partially)
T.01.1 — Research and innovation: The existence of a national or regional smart specialisation strategy in line with the National Reform Program, to leverage private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with the features of well performing national or regional R&I systems.	1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	Yes
T.02.1 — Digital growth: A strategic policy framework for digital growth to stimulate affordable, good quality and interoperable ICT enabled private and public services and increase uptake by citizens, including vulnerable groups, businesses and public administrations including cross border initiatives.	2 — Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies	Yes
T.02.2 — Next Generation Network (NGN) Infrastructure: The existence of national or regional NGN Plans which take account of regional actions in order to reach the Union high speed Internet access targets, focusing on areas where the market fails to provide an open infrastructure at an affordable cost and of a quality in line with the Union competition and State aid rules, and to provide accessible services to vulnerable groups.	2 — Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies	Yes
T.03.1 — Specific actions have been carried out to underpin the promotion of entrepreneurship taking into account the Small Business Act (SBA).	3 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	Yes
T.04.1 — Actions have been carried out to promote cost effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost effective	4 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	Partially

Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (Yes/No/Partially)
investment in energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.		
G.1 — The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti-discrimination law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation 2 — Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies 3 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) 4 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	Yes
G.2 — The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union gender equality law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation 2 — Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies 3 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) 4 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	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 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation 2 — Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies 3 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) 4 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	Yes
G.4 — The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation 2 — Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies 3 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) 4 — Supporting the shift towards a low-	Yes

Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (Yes/No/Partially)
	carbon economy in all sectors	
G.5 — The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation 2 — Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies 3 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) 4 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	Yes
G.6 — The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union environmental legislation related to EIA and SEA.	1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation 2 — Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies 3 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) 4 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	Yes
G.7 — The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation 2 — Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies 3 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) 4 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	Yes

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanation
T.01.1 — Research and innovation: The existence of a national or regional smart specialisation strategy in line with the National Reform Program, to leverage private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with the features of well performing national or regional R&I systems.	1 — A national or regional smart specialisation strategy is in place that:	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.
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 Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.
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 Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.

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 Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.
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 Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.
T.02.1 — Digital growth: A strategic policy framework for digital growth to stimulate affordable, good quality and interoperable ICT enabled private and public services and increase uptake by citizens, including vulnerable groups, businesses and public administrations including cross border initiatives.	1 — A strategic policy framework for digital growth, for instance, within the national or regional smart specialisation strategy is in place that contains:	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.
T.02.1 — Digital growth: A strategic policy framework for digital growth to stimulate affordable, good quality and interoperable ICT enabled private and	2 — budgeting and prioritisation of actions through a SWOT or similar analysis consistent with the Scoreboard	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanation
public services and increase uptake by citizens, including vulnerable groups, businesses and public administrations including cross border initiatives.	of the Digital Agenda for Europe;		Islands’.	
T.02.1 — Digital growth: A strategic policy framework for digital growth to stimulate affordable, good quality and interoperable ICT enabled private and public services and increase uptake by citizens, including vulnerable groups, businesses and public administrations including cross border initiatives.	3 — an analysis of balancing support for demand and supply of ICT should have been conducted;	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.
T.02.1 — Digital growth: A strategic policy framework for digital growth to stimulate affordable, good quality and interoperable ICT enabled private and public services and increase uptake by citizens, including vulnerable groups, businesses and public administrations including cross border initiatives.	4 — indicators to measure progress of interventions in areas such as digital literacy, e-inclusion, e-accessibility, and progress of e-health within the limits of Article 168 TFEU which are aligned, where appropriate, with existing relevant sectoral Union, national or regional strategies;	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.
T.02.1 — Digital growth: A strategic policy framework for digital growth to stimulate affordable, good quality and interoperable ICT enabled private and public services and increase uptake by citizens, including vulnerable groups, businesses and public administrations including cross border initiatives.	5 — assessment of needs to reinforce ICT capacity-building.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanation
T.02.2 — Next Generation Network (NGN) Infrastructure: The existence of national or regional NGN Plans which take account of regional actions in order to reach the Union high speed Internet access targets, focusing on areas where the market fails to provide an open infrastructure at an affordable cost and of a quality in line with the Union competition and State aid rules, and to provide accessible services to vulnerable groups.	1 — A national or regional NGN Plan is in place that contains:	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.
T.02.2 — Next Generation Network (NGN) Infrastructure: The existence of national or regional NGN Plans which take account of regional actions in order to reach the Union high speed Internet access targets, focusing on areas where the market fails to provide an open infrastructure at an affordable cost and of a quality in line with the Union competition and State aid rules, and to provide accessible services to vulnerable groups.	2 — a plan of infrastructure investments based on an economic analysis taking account of existing private and public infrastructures and planned investments;	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.
T.02.2 — Next Generation Network (NGN) Infrastructure: The existence of national or regional NGN Plans which take account of regional actions in order to reach the Union high speed Internet access targets, focusing on areas where the market fails to provide	3 — sustainable investment models that enhance competition and provide access to open, affordable, quality and future-proof infrastructure and services;	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanation
an open infrastructure at an affordable cost and of a quality in line with the Union competition and State aid rules, and to provide accessible services to vulnerable groups.				
T.02.2 — Next Generation Network (NGN) Infrastructure: The existence of national or regional NGN Plans which take account of regional actions in order to reach the Union high speed Internet access targets, focusing on areas where the market fails to provide an open infrastructure at an affordable cost and of a quality in line with the Union competition and State aid rules, and to provide accessible services to vulnerable groups.	4 — measures to stimulate private investment.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.
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 Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.
T.03.1 — Specific actions have been carried out to underpin the promotion of entrepreneurship taking into account the Small Business Act (SBA).	2 — The specific actions are: measures have been put in place with the objective of reducing the time needed to get licenses and permits to take up and perform the specific activity of an enterprise taking account of the targets of the SBA;	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanation
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 Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.
T.04.1 — Actions have been carried out to promote cost effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost effective investment in energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.	1 — The actions are: measures to ensure minimum requirements are in place related to the energy performance of buildings consistent with Article 3, Article 4 and Article 5 of Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council;	No	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.
T.04.1 — Actions have been carried out to promote cost effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost effective investment in energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.	2 — The actions are: measures necessary to establish a system of certification of the energy performance of buildings consistent with Article 11 of Directive 2010/31/EU;	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.
T.04.1 — Actions have been carried out to promote cost effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost effective investment in energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.	3 — The actions are: measures to ensure strategic planning on energy efficiency, consistent with Article 3 of Directive 2012/27/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council;	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.
T.04.1 — Actions have been carried out to promote cost effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost effective	4 — The actions are: measures consistent with Article 13 of Directive 2006/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on energy end-use	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanation
investment in energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.	efficiency and energy services to ensure the provision to final customers of individual meters in so far as it is technically possible, financially reasonable and proportionate in relation to the potential energy savings.			
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 Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.
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 Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.
G.2 — The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union gender equality law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	1 — Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the involvement of bodies responsible for gender equality throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes, including the provision of advice on gender equality in ESI Fund-related activities.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanation
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 Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.
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 Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.
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 Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.
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	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	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanation
field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC.	the programmes.			
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 Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.
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 Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.
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 Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.
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 Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.
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 Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.

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 Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.
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 Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.
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 Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.
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 Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.
G.6 — The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union environmental legislation related to	3 — Arrangements to ensure sufficient administrative capacity.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanation
EIA and SEA.			Islands’.	
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 — 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 validation.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.
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 Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.
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	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 Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanation
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.	4 — An effective system of result indicators including: the establishment of targets for these indicators.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.
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 Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.
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	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 Småland and the Islands’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Småland and the Islands’.

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanation
desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.				

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

Table 26: Actions to fulfil applicable thematic ex—ante conditionalities

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

10. REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN FOR BENEFICIARIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

- clearer and more readily accessible information for beneficiaries
- a new and improved electronic application, 'My Application'
- simplified internal work processes
- simpler reporting for beneficiaries.

Indicative timetable

See Table 7, annex 'Tables and figures Småland and the Islands'.

11. HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES

11.1 Sustainable development

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

Better environment

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

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

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

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

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

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

Knowledge of how the three horizontal criteria are to be integrated into the preparation, goals and implementation of projects is a key factor. The criteria are to be used as levers

to achieve better outcomes from the projects, i.e. improve the possibility of solving the regional problems identified by the projects and contribute to sustainable growth. All projects under the programme have to take account of the same horizontal criteria. The managing authority has to assist in this work.

Classification criteria

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

Better environment

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

The project fulfils all the items below:

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

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

11.2 Equal opportunities and non-discrimination

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Classification criteria

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

Equal treatment and non-discrimination

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

The project fulfils all the items below:

- The background and project description of the project contains an account of how equal opportunities and non-discrimination are used as a tool/resource with which to attain the purpose and objective of the project.
- The activities and costs of the project show clearly how equal opportunities and non-discrimination are to be used as a tool in implementation.
- In the follow-up to 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 to 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 to 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, at a later stage, facilitates follow-up and evaluation. The horizontal classification criteria can also be used as a tool in dialogue with those who apply for aid and those who are granted aid. The classification is made in the preparation of each project application. The horizontal criteria are then followed up on 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 to 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 to 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 to the project, the project sponsor plans to show how gender equality has been used as a tool to attain the objectives of the project and show what results have been achieved.

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

12. SEPARATE ELEMENTS

12.1 Major projects to be implemented during programming period

Table 27: List of major projects

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

12.2 Performance framework of operational programme

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

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)		
					M	W	T	M	W	T
1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	ERDF	More developed	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises			62			250.00
1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	ERDF	More developed	Expenditure	EUR			13 072 044			43 573 480.00
2 — Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies	ERDF	More developed	Expenditure	EUR			3 961 225			13 204 084.00

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
2 — Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies	ERDF	More developed	Number of organisations receiving aid	Organisations			10			40.00
3 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	ERDF	More developed	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises			100			400.00
3 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	ERDF	More developed	Expenditure	EUR			15 052 657			50 175 522.00
4 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	ERDF	More developed	Expenditure	EUR			5 941 838			19 806 128 00
4 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	ERDF	More developed	Number of organisations receiving aid	Organisations			5			20.00

12.3 Relevant partners involved in preparation of programme

The following authorities and organisations have, to varying degrees, taken part in the process of developing a programme:

Swedish Public Employment Service

ALMI Företagspartner AB

Coompanion

Energy Agency for Jönköping

Energy Agency for South-East Sweden

Swedish ESF Council

Fiskeservice Gotland ek förening

Social Insurance Agency

Business operators

Gotland Adult Education Association (Gotlands Bildningsförbund)

Gotlands Idrottsförbund (Gotland Sports Association)

Gotlands Naturskyddsförening (Gotland Society for Nature Conservation)

Gotlands Näringsliv och etablering AB

Gotlands utvecklingsbolag i samverkan (Gotland development companies in collaboration)

Hushållningssllskapet (Rural Economy and Agricultural Societies)

County Council

Linnaeus University

Swedish Trade Union Confederation

LRF (Federation of Swedish Farmers)

County Administrative Board

Länsbygderådet (Rural Council)

Jönköping University

Uppsala University Campus Gotland

Red Cross

Swedish Forest Agency

Smålands Turism AB

Confederation of Swedish Enterprise

Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth

Tillväxt Gotland (Growth Gotland)

Unionen trade union

Ung Företagsamhet (Junior Achievement Sweden)

Chamber of Commerce of East Sweden:

Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
EIA Småland Islands	Supplementary information	10-Dec-2014		Ares(2014)41416 63	EIA Småland Islands	10-Dec-2014	nolofann
Tables figures Småland Islands	Supplementary information	10-Dec-2014		Ares(2014)41416 63	Tables figures Småland Islands	10-Dec-2014	nolofann
Text Småland Islands	Supplementary information	10-Dec-2014		Ares(2014)41416 63	Text Småland Islands	10-Dec-2014	nolofann
Ex-ante evaluation Småland Islands	Supplementary information	10-Dec-2014		Ares(2014)41416 63	Ex-ante evaluation Småland Islands	10-Dec-2014	nolofann
Ex-ante conditionalities Småland Islands	Supplementary information	10-Dec-2014		Ares(2014)41416 63	Ex-ante conditionalities Småland Islands	10-Dec-2014	nolofann