

**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.

### **Introduction**

Sweden is one of the countries in Europe that has managed relatively well through the financial crises and recession of recent years. With the exception of the decline in 2008 and 2009, the economic trend has been positive since the mid-1990s. However, because Sweden is a small, export-dependent country, the national economy is strongly affected by changes in the world around us. Given the situation of continuing uncertainty that prevails in several of Sweden's export markets, it is expected that export businesses will experience weak growth for the next few years. There are also considerable challenges in Sweden itself. The trend in the Swedish labour market has been weak. In comparison with historical records, the unemployment rate has been at a relatively high level for a long time. Young people and people who were born abroad have particular difficulties in establishing themselves in the Swedish labour market. Private investment in research and development (R&D) has traditionally been relatively high in Sweden, but between 2001 and 2013 it fell, measured as a percentage of GDP, from 3.2 % to 2.3 %. One of the explanations for this is that many large businesses have moved their research activities to other countries, which in turn indicates that Sweden's attractiveness as a country for investment is not obvious in the context of international competition. Another area where Sweden is facing significant challenges, just like other countries, is the area of climate, the environment, and energy. Our material prosperity has to a large extent been built up through access to cheap energy. Considerable, long-term investment in renewable energy and improving energy efficiency is required in order to be able to maintain welfare whilst at the same time switching to a sustainable energy supply.

Although the economic trends in this country have been relatively favourable, Sweden shares many of the challenges that the rest of Europe is facing. There is a clear need for structural-change initiatives to tackle the climate and environmental challenges whilst promoting business competitiveness and thus laying the foundations for sustainable growth. The growth and employment policy laid down by the EU in the Europe 2020 Strategy[1] is a key component of the work that will be done over the 2014-2020 period on sustainable growth and development at the national and regional levels in Sweden.

## Europe 2020

The Europe 2020 strategy emphasises three priorities of key significance for development and growth in Europe over the next seven-year period:

- Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation;
- Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource-efficient, greener and more competitive economy;
- Inclusive growth (growth for all): fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.

The priorities are described as being linked, with an initiative in one area having a positive impact on the trend in another. By way of guidance, the strategy sets out objectives in five overarching areas. In the labour market, the employment rate for people aged 20-64 should be 75 %. As a measure of innovation, investment in R&D should correspond to 3 % of GDP. In the area of education, the proportion of pupils not completing secondary education should be below 10 %, and 40 % of people in the 30-34 age group should have completed higher education. In the area of climate and energy, the targets for 2020 are for greenhouse-gas emissions to fall by 20 % compared to the 1990 level, for 20 % of total energy consumption to consist of renewable energy, and for energy efficiency to increase by 20 %. Finally, at least 20 million people should have come out of poverty and exclusion or their danger zone.

Sweden is in a relatively good position in all of these areas, and in many cases it has already achieved the targets set in the Europe 2020 Strategy. The employment rate for people aged 20-64 was 79.4 % in 2011, and research and development as a proportion of GDP was 3.4 % in that same year. In 2012, the proportion of people aged 30-34 who had completed higher education was 47.5 %, and the proportion of people aged 18-24 who had not completed secondary education was 6.7 %. The proportion of renewable energy was 51 %<sup>[2]</sup> in 2012. As a policy-guidance measure, therefore, the Swedish Parliament has decided on its own, higher policy targets in certain areas by 2020. These include R&D as a proportion of GDP, where the target is 4 % by 2020. Emissions in the non-trading sector (the EU's emissions trading scheme, ETS) should be reduced by 40 % by 2020 compared to the 1990 level, at least 50 % of energy consumption should come from renewable sources, and the energy intensity of GDP should be 20 % lower in 2020 than in 2007.

In order for the Europe 2020 Strategy to have the desired impact, it needs to be developed further and adapted to national and regional conditions. One area that has been paid particular attention by Sweden is unemployment among young people and people with a foreign background. The falling rate of private investment in R&D and the inadequate links between research and entrepreneurship in the form of commercialising new ideas and research results are other areas where there is a need for special initiatives. There are also some failings in relation to the ability to create innovative, fast-growing businesses. With regard to climate and energy, there are considerable challenges for all countries. These include, for example, creating the conditions for better energy efficiency and greater use of renewable energy and energy-efficient solutions among small and medium-sized enterprises.

## **2014–2020 programming period**

The Europe 2020 Strategy provides guidance on the work that is to be done with financing from the European Structural and Investment Funds[3] (ESI Funds) during the 2014-2020 programming period. This means that the Commission has opted for a more strategic direction for cohesion policy. In order to achieve the targets laid down in the strategy effectively, efforts are being made to achieve better coordination between the Funds and a sharper focus on a small number of priority areas.

The direction of the Funds' work is clarified in the Common Strategic Framework (CSF). The starting point for the proposal is the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council, which defines common, thematic objectives for the ESI Funds. Eleven common, thematic objectives have been defined for the 2014-2020 period, and specific provisions and investment priorities[4] have been developed for the different Funds. With regard to activities under the European Regional Development Fund in developed regions and transitional regions, it states that at least 80 % of the resources must be allocated to thematic objectives 1, 2, 3 and 4:

1. Strengthening research, technological development and innovation;
2. Enhancing access to, and 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.

At least 20 % of the Fund budget must be allocated to thematic objective 4.

By focusing initiatives on a small number of priority areas with a stronger link to the Europe 2020 Strategy, the hope is to achieve a more noticeable change. Earmarking 20 % of the initiatives for target 4 will clearly highlight the importance of converting to a low-carbon economy in the interests of long-term sustainable growth and development. The Commission is also reinforcing the sustainability profile for the implementation of cohesion policy by imposing a requirement for at least five per cent of resources from the European Regional Development Fund to be spent on activities to promote sustainable urban development.

### **The Partnership Agreement and the European Regional Development Fund in Sweden**

Over the 2014-2020 period, the ESI Funds will work in conjunction with other European initiatives such as Horizon 2020, the COSME entrepreneurship programme, the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, Creative Europe, LIFE, and the Commission's Energy-Efficiency Directive, in order to achieve the targets laid down in the Europe 2020 Strategy. These initiatives will be co-financed by and carried out in conjunction with initiatives implemented at the national, regional and local levels. Another step in the strategic direction laid down by the Commission is for every Member State to conclude a Partnership Agreement with the Commission, stating how the eleven thematic objectives are to be enforced at the national and regional levels.

The Partnership Agreement represents the national strategic framework for the Structural Funds period and indicates orientation and priorities as a basis for use of the Funds.

There therefore has to be a close link to the operational programme. The analysis in Sweden's Partnership Agreement emphasises the following aspects in particular:

Sweden is becoming increasingly globalised and subject to competition, necessitating well-trained labour, high-quality research and innovation, and functioning infrastructure. The level of education is of great significance for the ability of the labour market, the region and society as a whole to develop and be transformed. There is a regional imbalance in the distribution of people with a high level of educational attainment, 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, not least in rural areas and among young people, women and people born abroad. It is also desirable to profile leading universities and increase collaboration with operators from the business community.

The Government has a vision for Sweden to have zero net greenhouse-gas emissions into the atmosphere by 2050. The challenge is to combine growth with a reduction in greenhouse-gas emissions, which several regions have succeeded in doing in recent years. Greenhouse-gas emissions show great regional variation, 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 from 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 people who were 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. The demographic trend 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.

Experience from the 2007-2013 programming period shows that most of the existing ways of implementing the European Regional Development Fund work well. The current structure, with eight regional Structural Fund programmes and the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth as the managing authority, will therefore be retained. The assessments do, however, indicate that there is some room for improvement. One of the areas for improvement that has been identified is that of learning and collaboration.

In order to reinforce learning in and across the programmes, facilitate collaboration and create an incentive for linking initiatives carried out at the regional, national and European levels, the Swedish Government decided to establish another Regional Fund programme during the 2014-2020 programming period, which will be active at the national level.

### **The national European Regional Development Fund programme 2014-2020**

Through its initiatives, the national programme addresses several of the challenges identified in the Partnership Agreement. The scope, direction and demarcation of the national programme is also laid down in the decision, with guidelines annexed to it, that the Swedish Government made on 16 May 2013.[5] The decision stipulates that the programme must cover no more than 15 % of the total budget for the Regional Development Fund, and that it must have a strategic direction with a focus on thematic objectives 1, 3 and 4. There is a particular focus on thematic objective 4, for which more than half of the resources under the national Regional Fund programme are being dedicated. There will also be initiatives under the programme for stronger strategic learning and process support aimed at the eight regional Structural Fund programmes. As part of the process support, a national aid scheme is to be established for work on sustainable urban development under the Structural 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.

## Programme design and content

The strategic direction of the national programme is to supplement the initiatives carried out under the regional Structural Fund programmes and to identify and enable synergies between the regional, national and European policy levels. The inter-regional perspective and collaboration with the national level are important for this programme. The programme should focus on a small number of priorities in order to concentrate resources. It should generate added value for the work on regional growth and for implementation of cohesion policy that cannot be achieved under the regional Structural Funds programmes. This forms the basis for the direction of the programme and the selection of investment priorities for thematic objectives 1, 3 and 4. The thematic direction of the national Regional Fund programme forms the basis for its operational structure, which comprises three priorities. Priority 1 – *Strengthening research, technological development and innovation* — includes operations under thematic objective 1. The focus in this area is on developing Swedish areas of strength through transnational collaboration and research infrastructure. Priority 2 corresponds to thematic objective 3 and also has the heading *Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (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-of-funds structure. Priority 3 has the heading *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, targeting enterprises whose activities contribute to the development of a low-carbon economy. There is also space for process-support initiatives under each of the programme priorities. This means national skills and method support which is intended to contribute to increased strategic learning by developing and disseminating knowledge across geographical and administrative boundaries.

### **Thematic objective 1: Strengthening research, technological development and innovation**

The national programme is intended to help reinforce the regional research and innovation environments so as to create innovative, competitive businesses.[6] It must therefore be possible to provide support for and access to the establishment and development of research and innovation structures. Targeted initiatives aimed at the research infrastructure must also be possible.

The starting point for programme activities under thematic objective 1 is that the world is facing many social challenges on a global scale, which must be tackled in order to achieve sustainable development. Examples include the changes anticipated in the context of a changed demographic structure, and the requirements for better resource efficiency and sustainable business development, including environmentally-driven business development in all sectors. In order to tackle these complex challenges, there must be collaboration across sectors and disciplines, which means that no one business, university or nation state can solve them alone. Each of these challenges requires effective collaboration between the private sector, public sector, and universities and colleges. In order to achieve the result, public-sector organisations must take clear

responsibility by imposing demanding requirements on new solutions and creating the conditions for various kinds of cross-border collaboration, between sectors and disciplines, across programme areas and national borders, and between the private and public sectors. This analysis is a cornerstone of the Europe 2020 strategy, with a clear link to the Commission's emphasis that the priorities of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth should be viewed as parts of a whole. The cross-border perspective and collaboration are also things that are emphasised in Sweden's national innovation strategy[7], the Swedish Government Bill on Research and Innovation (2012/13:30), and most of the strategies for innovation and similar goals that are developed at the regional level. In the national Regional Fund programme, the initiatives under thematic objective 1 – Strengthening research, technological development and innovation – will therefore be aimed inter alia at reinforcing regional research and innovation environments through collaboration across regional and national borders. Research infrastructure is a key component in creating the conditions for this cross-border perspective. It offers several disciplines and players an opportunity to meet in an intellectual, creative environment with access to the most advanced tools and methods, with the aim of promoting innovations, and it often depends on collaboration between universities, business and the public sector. Research infrastructure requires large, individual initiatives in an area of strength, and this cannot be done in every region but should instead be concentrated on one place. Collective access to this research infrastructure is, however, important on the whole for all players in the research and innovation chain, as well as being a condition for achieving sustainable growth throughout the country.

In Sweden, there is a successful tradition of collaboration between public-sector organisations, undertakings, and universities and colleges, where the infrastructure has often served as a hub for interaction between different players and has contributed to a number of successful innovations that have been widely disseminated internationally.

Previous programme initiatives have shown that it has been difficult to create effective, long-term collaboration projects between regions and to spur regional players to action in a common area of strength. The national Regional Fund programme will therefore facilitate the addition of cross-border collaborative projects, and facilitate and make investments in research and innovation infrastructure with world-leading capacity, in order to supplement the initiatives being carried out at the regional level. By stimulating collaboration between regions that have different kinds of economic structure but are part of the same value chain, the initiatives under thematic objective 1 of the national programme will look after both the cutting edge and the broad base of the Swedish innovation system. Stakeholders of different sizes and from different regions must be able to collaborate and connect, for example, to a national hub, with the requirement for such collaboration to address the development of a national area of strength.

A condition for collaboration to result in reinforcing Swedish areas of strength and making them competitive in a global market is that there must be engagement on the part of business. Linking across regions and sectors is therefore key to thematic objective 1, as is the active participation of business, among other things to facilitate commercialisation. In this context, it is also important to reinforce and develop collaboration between research and innovation stakeholders, such as universities, colleges and industrial research institutes, which together can meet demand from the outside world. Because Sweden is, in many respects, too small to build up internationally

competitive areas of strength on its own, it is also important to establish collaboration with international players.

The EU framework programmes[8] place particular emphasis on implementing initiatives that also deal with climate challenges. One of the aims under thematic objective 1 is therefore to highlight the research and innovation projects that have links to markets where environmentally adapted goods and services are in demand, and which create competitive advantages for the undertakings that offer such goods and services. Environmentally adapted goods and services include both traditional environmental technologies and innovative solutions, systems and services in all sectors and industries.

The world is currently facing widespread, global, social challenges. Each and every one of these challenges requires research of high scientific quality and effective collaboration between the private sector, the public sector, and universities and colleges. In order to achieve the result, public-sector organisations must take clear responsibility by imposing demanding requirements on new solutions and creating the conditions for various kinds of cross-border collaboration, between sectors and disciplines, across programme areas and national borders, and between the private and public sectors.

The widespread, global, social challenges also impose a requirement for a high capacity for innovation and transformation. Many countries in the EU and the OECD, as well as high-growth countries such as China, India, Russia and Brazil, have a sharper focus on developing the innovation climate. Sweden does relatively well in most international comparisons of countries' innovation level and competitiveness. The competition is stiffening at the same time as pressure on the Earth's resources is increasing, and new solutions are required that combine environmental, social and economic sustainability. Sweden needs to develop advanced, innovative environments that address and attempt to manage the challenges of the future, both of the country in its own right and also from a European perspective. This applies above all to the expected changes that will take place in the context of a different demographic structure, climate change, the requirement for better resource efficiency, and sustainable, environmentally focused production. According to the European Commission, achieving this requires both prioritisation and a focussing of initiatives during the 2014-20 period, which is clearly expressed by the use of the concept of 'smart specialisation'.

This reasoning is a key starting point for the national programme, and to a large extent it also forms the basis for the national innovation strategy, together with the Swedish Government Bill on Research and Innovation (2012/13:30). The aim of the activity that will be carried out under priority axis 1 is to promote the ability to innovate and reform in Swedish areas of strength[9] by creating effective collaboration between regional, national and international research and innovation environments and thus increasing the competitiveness of Swedish business. This will mainly be done in the form of initiatives for a strong research infrastructure. In addition to this, and on the basis of the global, social challenges, coordination of the regional and national work on sustainable business development must be promoted, including environmentally focussed business development in all sectors.

On the basis of the above reasoning, the activities under thematic objective 1 of the national programme will relate to the investment priorities defined by the EU, namely '*enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I*

*excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest' and '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[10] and diffusion of general purpose technologies'.*

### **Thematic objective 3: Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)**

Access to financing is one of several basic conditions for small and medium-sized enterprises to have the opportunity to develop, including in existing and potential growth areas.[11] Access to venture capital for undertakings in the early stages fell throughout the 2000s, and the median returns from investments of this kind also fell during the same period. The number of private venture-capital funds active in the early stages also continued to fall during the 2000s. Investors' focus has shifted to investments in later stages, where the risks are lower and the time to a return being realised is often shorter. At the same time, there is a research finding showing that venture capital to undertakings in early stages contributes to the creation of value in the undertaking, among other things through clearer strategies, increased professionalism, etc. Research shows that undertakings with venture-capital financing have faster growth and are faster to launch new products in the market, and that they have a higher level of innovation and a greater probability of being listed on the stock exchange or of selling the company than is the case for undertakings that do not acquire this kind of financing.

Among other things, undertakings in the early stages of growth and expansion are considered to have a greater need for capital than the Swedish market currently has available. The market for venture capital for undertakings in the early stages is not functioning at its best, and this may depend inter alia on asymmetry of information, risk aversion and cyclical investment patterns, etc., which can affect the opportunities that small and medium-sized enterprises might have to gain access to capital in the early stages. Against this background, there is good reason to improve the conditions for private venture-capital funds by making capital available for management by these players, with the aim of investing it in growth undertakings in the early stages.

The competitiveness of Sweden and the rest of the EU is, to a great extent, based on new, innovative goods, services and systems with a high level of knowledge content. The ability of people, undertakings and organisations to convert their knowledge and experience into new solutions is crucial for being able to meet the global, social challenges and to preserve and reinforce Sweden's competitiveness. A functional capital-supply system is crucial for starting and growing an undertaking[12]. Systems and initiatives for facilitating the opportunities of undertakings to obtain access to capital are therefore also a key task for society. If the market for making capital available does not work satisfactorily, there is a risk that good business ideas and innovations will remain without financing and will therefore not be brought to fruition. From a socio-economic perspective, this means lost opportunities for development and growth[13].

Sweden has a high level of innovation capacity and, in many respects, an effective capital market that works very well. There are many innovative growth undertakings and early-stage undertakings in Sweden, and they are often active in sectors that have a global market. During the 2007-13 period, however, there was a fall in engagement by the private-sector market in respect of investments made using their own capital in the early stages in innovative small and medium-sized enterprises. During that period, there was a large fall in the number of private venture-capital funds in early-stage venture capital. In order to meet the challenge of waning engagement from the market, all of the Structural Fund regions in Sweden implemented regional capital-supply projects during the 2007-13 programming period, with the aim of stimulating equity capital. All of these projects worked as direct-investment funds with a requirement for private-sector co-financing, but with some variation in the selection criteria, corporate-governance methods, etc. To date, the evaluations that have been carried out prove, among other things, that the projects have been of great significance for enabling private-sector co-financiers to become engaged in the early stages[14].

Sweden does well in international comparisons of access to venture capital by undertakings and the volume of venture-capital investments as a proportion of GDP. These key figures include 'buy-out' investments. Efforts still need to be made in Sweden with regard to capital for small undertakings in the very early stages. Their access to loans and other financial services such as factoring is also generally good from the international perspective. Venture capital is a broad concept and covers terms such as private equity, buy-out, venture capital, etc. In short, private equity covers transactions for financing undertakings, these transactions being linked to the undertaking's equity capital if the undertaking is not listed and is a private limited company. Buy-out activities (which may also cover listed undertakings) are what many people associate with venture capital in general, namely the purchase or at least the acquisition of a majority stake in more mature undertakings, often with leverage in the form of loaned resources. The Swedish buy-out sector has undergone very good development for many years, not least during the 2000s, and is now a world-class Swedish industry. Swedish buy-out players are successfully applying the Swedish corporate-governance model for business development, not only in Sweden but also increasingly at the European and global levels.

The initiatives being implemented under thematic objective 3 of the national Regional Fund programme will relate to the investment priority of '*supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes*'. The aim is to increase the venture capital on offer to undertakings in the early stages, whilst at the same time promoting the entry of several private-sector players to the venture-capital market.

#### **Thematic objective 4: Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors**

Energy and climate issues are a global challenge for our economic, social and environmental prosperity. Sustainable growth is one of three overall priorities for *Europe 2020* – the EU strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The strategy also sets a number of objectives that must be achieved by 2020, including what is known as the 20/20/20 target in the area of energy and climate. This target means that greenhouse-gas emissions must fall by 20 % (reference year 1990), the proportion of renewable energy

sources in final energy consumption must rise to 20 %, and energy efficiency must rise by 20 % (compared to the 2007 levels).[15]

In the energy sector, there is the EU's Strategic Energy Technology plan (SET plan), which was adopted by the European Union in 2008. It is the first step towards developing a European policy instrument for the energy sector, and it is intended to drive the development and implementation of cost-effective technologies with low carbon-dioxide emissions. The SET plan is intended to accelerate knowledge development and technology transfer, to maintain the EU's industrial leadership in the area of low-emission technologies, to stimulate the development of energy technologies so that the European energy and environmental targets for 2020 can be achieved, and to contribute to the global conversion to a low-emission economy by 2050.

The aim of Swedish energy policy is to ensure access to electricity and other forms of energy under internationally competitive conditions in the short and long term, in line with the EU's 20/20/20 target. Energy policy must create the conditions for effective, sustainable energy consumption and a cost-effective Swedish energy supply with a low negative impact on health, the environment and climate, and it must also facilitate the transition to an ecologically resilient society.

According to the national reform programme for 2013[16], Sweden is expected to achieve two of its national energy and climate objectives: the renewables objective[17] and the climate objective[18]. Further measures are required, however, in order to increase energy efficiency[19] by 20 %. It has also been estimated at the EU level that the EU target for improving energy efficiency will not be met using the existing instruments. An integrated road map is currently being produced within the framework of the SET plan, which highlights more clearly the need for initiatives in the area of improving energy efficiency. Some of the initiatives under thematic objective 4 will therefore focus on contributing to increased energy efficiency. Moreover, the EU does not only regard improving energy efficiency as the key to limiting climate change but also as a tool for dealing with two other important challenges for Europe – increased dependence on imported energy and scarce energy resources, and the financial crisis. The shift towards a low-carbon economy is expected to contribute to technological development, new business opportunities, and thus also new jobs.

During the last programming period for the Structural Funds, in 2007-13, there was no expressly stated prioritisation of energy, climate and the environment. Despite this, a number of projects were implemented with the direct aim of improving the environment. Mapping has shown that just over 70 projects during that period had some connection to the environment or energy (with the exception of the transport sector), accounting for approximately 5 % of the total programme budget. The most common technology-related area for these projects was energy/heating, and the emphasis in that category was predominantly on bioenergy, but also to some extent on energy savings.[20] There is therefore some regional experience of projects of this type in the context of the Structural Funds, albeit with regional variations. Given that this Structural Fund period, 2014-2020, has a stated focus on energy, climate and the environment, and that a proportion of the budget has been earmarked for this area, there will be more and/or larger projects. Entirely different mobilisation can also be expected in relation to these matters, at both the regional and national levels.

Follow-up research from the 2007-13 programming period indicated that even then it was a challenge to ensure that the lessons and feedback from experiences of environmental projects reached stakeholders who could generate further projects and make decisions.[21] One of the aims of the national programme is to supplement and support the regional programmes and enable initiatives on collaboration, knowledge dissemination and creating process support and other activities for strategic learning.

The national programme will also be able to supplement the regional Structural Fund programmes on this point by enabling national and inter-regional initiatives. In implementing the programmes, collaboration between the national and regional levels will thus be developed, and individual initiatives such as energy survey checks and raising awareness will be used as an incentive for undertakings to implement energy-efficiency measures.

The majority of energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the EU can be reduced with new, innovative technologies for improving energy efficiency, or with renewable energy technologies. The ongoing global shift to a sustainable, efficient energy system and greater public awareness of the impact of greenhouse gases on the ecosystem is creating greater international demand for new products and services in the energy sector. It has, however, emerged that a lack of capital in the early stages of an undertaking's life entails a risk of restricting the opportunities for Sweden to strengthen business through a widened production base and thus also the work being done to achieve the EU's climate and energy objectives by 2020.

Sweden has historically had a good innovation climate in the energy sector. In recent years, however, it has been noticed that Sweden is suffering from a general shortage of capital in the early stages of undertakings' development when it comes to marketing the results of R&D. The value of the private VC investments that have been made has more than halved since 2008.[22] The type of financing under consideration here is equity-capital investments in growing small and medium-sized undertakings that fall within the concept of venture capital (VC). For the type of undertaking under consideration, namely technology-intensive, innovative, potentially fast-growing undertakings that are developing in the 'post-Research and Development stage', risk-based capital in the form of private VC is often the only possible form of financing available. Many venture-capital players that previously invested in start-up undertakings have shifted their focus to the later stages, which has meant larger investments in a smaller number of undertakings. The proportion of initial investments financed by private VC has fallen from 90 % in 2009 to 40 % in 2013[23]. This has meant that there are fewer opportunities arising for the remaining investors to spread their risks through syndication, in other words where several parties come together and share an asset or task. In addition to this, the energy technology sector has special barriers to entry that have meant the shortage of capital has been greater than in other sectors.[24] The specific barriers that have been identified in this sector are: a greater need for capital owing to a longer commercialisation process; the fact that undertakings are most often difficult to analyse in terms of technological verification or customer benefit; a lack of industry skills on the part of investors; and the difficulties of assessing the risks of changes in instrument-based demand.[25] In addition to this, the traditional model of private VC investments means an investment horizon of 3-7 years, which is inconsistent with the energy technology sector, where the commercialisation process usually takes twice as long.[26] Taken as a

whole, this suggests that there is a need for measures to supplement the market in this area. Against this background, there are grounds for focussing another part of the national Regional Fund programme on venture capital to supplement the market in the case of undertakings the activities of which contribute to the shift towards a low-carbon economy.

Priority 3 of the national Regional Fund programme aims to support the shift towards a low-carbon economy and focuses on two specific areas, namely improving energy efficiency and the supply of capital.

Initiatives under priority 3 also contribute to the horizontal criteria, predominantly a better environment. Improved energy efficiency among undertakings and the *diffusion and adoption of technologies that reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions* improve the conditions for achieving the national environmental quality objectives, for example the objectives relating to a limited climate impact and a well-developed environment.

On the whole, the national Regional Fund programme will encompass initiatives within the framework of thematic objective 4, under two investment priorities. The first investment priority aims at '*promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises*'. The aim is to make business, and specifically small and medium-sized enterprises, improve the energy efficiency of their activities and thus also become more competitive in the market. The second investment priority encompasses initiatives in '*promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies*'. Efforts will be made to support the supply of capital among undertakings the activities of which contribute to the switch towards a low-carbon economy.

In many cases, these matters touch upon the challenges in the SET plan and the integrated road map that is currently being produced. Efforts should be made to achieve synergies between these programmes.

Priorities 1 and 3 clearly have some things in common. The global environmental challenges have been identified as an important priority in the Swedish national programme, including under priority 1, while priority 3 has already been clearly prioritised through thematic objective 4, for a low-carbon economy. The two priorities complement each other by stimulating both supply of and demand for energy-efficient solutions. Priority 1, investment priority 2, will stimulate innovative solutions by bringing together different players from both the public and the private sector to develop new goods, services, system solutions, etc.

Priority 3, investment priority 1, will encourage small and medium-sized enterprises to implement and use energy-efficient solutions to reduce energy consumption.

Both these types of initiative can achieve synergies whereby solutions are developed in the first stage that can be used in the second stage, whilst at the same time building up a market for energy-efficient solutions to further stimulate supply. Priority 3 of the national programme also includes an investment priority that aims to stimulate innovation and the commercialisation of low-carbon technologies. This is closely related to the aims of priority 1, but here the initiatives complement each other. While priority 1 enables collaboration and stimulating innovation environments, priority 3, investment priority 2,

offers opportunities for capital supply directly to businesses that are developing new technologies.

The priorities stimulate different steps along the way to greater energy efficiency and includes various collaborative opportunities for both businesses and other stakeholders. This means that some initiatives may have a common bearing on both areas, such as the need to make use of demonstration environments or technology procurement, for example. The initiatives will be coordinated by the national authorities involved, and will also be gathered together under a common form of process support for the regions. The initiatives that will be implemented under the regional programmes will also benefit from coordination, collaboration and the exchange of experiences.

### **Ex ante evaluation of proposals for the national programme 2014-2020**

During the development of the programme, there has been continuous dialogue with Growth Analysis, which is responsible for ex ante evaluations in the programme. The authorities responsible for the programme specification (the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth in collaboration with the Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems (Vinnova) and the Swedish Energy Agency) have thus continuously received the opinions of the ex ante evaluators.

With regard to ‘Changes to turnover of environmental SMEs’, this is an indicator in respect of which we are currently working on obtaining a baseline. Following that, a target value will also be specified. Since this indicator better illustrates the initiatives under this priority axis than ‘Changes to turnover of SMEs’, it is important that it be used. The programme will be supplemented by a baseline and target value. With regard to the objective of ‘43 % of undertakings in regions working in collaboration’, the assessment is of an average for all of the regions in the country. We do not intend to assess process support under this programme.

For theme 1 of IP 1, the preliminary assessment states that, for the ‘Undertaking’s expenditure on its own R&D activities’ indicator, the target result is an increase of 2 %. The reason for this target is that undertakings are assumed to introduce collaboration with ESS at a later stage, which means that it will probably take some time until the results of this initiative are visible. This results indicator has been removed from the programme.

The view is that the ex ante evaluators do not have any indicators, predominantly in thematic area 4, that measure the outcome and results among the undertakings that have received aid. In addition to the activity indicators specified in the programme, other results will also be measured. There is therefore a need to supplement these with other measurements, surveys, and interviews of various kinds in order to capture, for example, the perceived benefit of the initiatives that are implemented.

With regard to the milestones in thematic areas 3 and 4, the high financial indicator depends on whether these initiatives largely relate to financing-technology instruments, together with the opportunities for an advance payment that they offer. It is, however, natural for the other milestones to be considerably lower.

- [1] Europe 2020 – A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, Communication from the Commission, COM(2010)2020, 3/3/2010
- [2] Sweden’s second report on the development of renewable energy under Article 22 of Directive 2009/28/EC.
- [3] The European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.
- [4] Article 5 of the Regional Fund Regulation (1301/2013).
- [5] Mandate to prepare a proposal for a national Regional Fund programme for the objective of Investment in Growth and Employment (European Regional Development Fund) for the 2014-20 programming period, N2013/2492/RT – 16 May 2013.
- [6] The Partnership Agreement shows that investment in R&D has fallen in relation to other countries over the last decade (Partnership Agreement, page 12).
- [7] The National Innovation Strategy, Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications, N2012.27.
- [8] For example, Horizon 2020.
- [9] For the purposes of this document, an ‘area of strength’ means a sector or thematic area where Sweden is, or has the ability to be, internationally competitive. Among other things, this requires the existence of growth and reform potential and a critical mass of undertakings.
- [10] The reference here is to Key Enabling Technologies (KETs).
- [11] The Partnership Agreement highlights capital supply as a very important pre-requisite for creating more growth businesses in Sweden (Partnership Agreement, p. 62).
- [12] OECD 2006: The SME Financing Gap, theory and evidence
- [13] Swedish Government Bill 2009/10: Business development – State initiatives for financing and advice.
- [14] Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, report 0149, Follow-Up Research 2012 - regional venture-capital funds.
- [15] The Partnership Agreement shows that Sweden has succeeded in combining growth with achieving improvements to energy efficiency and lower carbon-dioxide emissions at the same time (Partnership Agreement, p. 16).
- [16] Sweden’s national reform programme for 2013.
- [17] Under the EU Renewables Directive, Sweden is committed to achieving a proportion of 49 % renewable energy by 2020. The Swedish Parliament has adopted a slightly higher target of 50 % renewable energy by 2020.

- [18] The national objective is for Sweden’s emissions to fall by 40 % by 2020 in comparison with the 1990 levels.
- [19] The target is set by the Swedish Parliament and is expressed as an overall sector-based target for a 20 % reduction in energy intensity between 2008 and 2020.
- [20] Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, 2013: *What proportion of ERDF projects in 2007-2013 are related to the environment? – A survey*. Report 0162.
- [21] Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, 2010: *Thematic report on Structural Fund work – Sustainable development*. Info 0156.
- [22] SVCA - Analysis of the venture-capital market, Q2-2013.
- [23] SVCA - Analysis of the venture-capital market, Q2-2013.
- [24] Swedish Energy Agency – Supply of venture capital in the early commercial stages in the energy technology and environmental technology sector – 2011.
- [25] Isaksson, Anders – Whether environmental technology has a longer commercialisation process than other growth undertakings – 2011.
- [26] Svenska Dagbladet - Venture Capital Rejects the Environment - 10 September 2013 (please also see footnote 5).

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	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those	Cutting-edge research and innovation infrastructure is needed to strengthen business in Sweden’s regions and to attract international

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
innovation	of European interest	skills and undertakings to Sweden and increase private financing of R&D.
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>Although there is some collaboration across regional borders, some links still need to be made between regions and nations. From the national perspective, these links are probably important for joining forces and spurring people into action in Swedish areas of strength, as well as for increasing their renewal and innovation potential.</p> <p>In order to further develop Swedish areas of strength and the collaborative processes relating to them, international collaborations will also be financed, for example within the framework of Horizon 2020.</p>
03 - Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes	The number of active private funds investing in small growth undertakings in the early stages has fallen sharply in recent years. It is important to maintain a robust venture-capital sector in order to meet the investment needs of small and medium-sized enterprises.
04 - Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	4b - Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises	At both the EU and national levels, Sweden is considered to be unable to meet the objective of improving energy efficiency using the existing instruments, so there are grounds for aiming the national programme at initiatives to improve energy efficiency. There are currently barriers preventing undertakings from improving energy efficiency,

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
		which the national programme addresses.
04 - Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	4f - Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies	<p>There is a shortage of capital in all sectors, but there are barriers to entry in the energy sector that have meant the shortage of capital has been greater than in other sectors, and measures are therefore needed to supplement the market in this area.</p> <p>The overall objective is to support the switch towards a low-carbon economy under the national programme by contributing to the implementation of initiatives resulting in the reinforcement of private venture-capital provision in the early stages in this area.</p>

## 1.2 Justification for the financial allocation

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

The national Regional Fund programme must serve to facilitate collaboration and promote the incentives needed to link up the innovation and development work done by the regions under thematic objectives 1, 3 and 4. The financial allocation among the thematic objectives is such that 20.4 % of the national programme budget must be allocated to thematic objective 1, a further 17.4 % must go to thematic objective 3, and the majority of the programme, 58.2 %, is intended for thematic objective 4. In addition to this, 4 % will be spent on what is known as technical assistance, which is used to ensure that the programme can be carried out effectively and safely, and to provide information and encouragement for broad participation in the programme.

This distribution is in line with the Commission's aim of having a sharper focus for cohesion policy. By allocating 100 % of the programme to thematic objectives 1, 3 and 4, the programme will also help to ensure that there is a thematic concentration at the

national level. The priorities have a good correlation with the needs and challenges set out in Chapter 1.

Among other things, the national programme must contribute to the development of qualitative projects in competition, with the aim of supporting long-term development in the relevant thematic areas. It must also support collaborative projects between regions, as well as projects between regions and the national level, that contribute to the development of regional areas of strength based on the regional conditions in different parts of the country. Another important added-value aspect of the national programme is that of contributing to the development of multiple-level governance, i.e. between levels and players, and the development of work on assessments, feedback of knowledge, and learning, as part of the Structural Fund work. To this end, what is known as process support will be developed and implemented as part of the national programme.

Some 20.4 % of the programme will be allocated to thematic objective 1, mainly for the implementation of a research-infrastructure initiative, but also for initiatives to promote the capacity for innovation and reform in Swedish areas of strength by creating effective collaboration between regions, and between regions and national innovation environments, and thus helping to increase the competitiveness of Swedish business. The greater emphasis on research infrastructure will help to make the programme more focused. The Regional Fund will also help to create a world-leading, multi-disciplinary research infrastructure where Sweden can combine its efforts in a specific area to create opportunities for the entire country.

Some 58.2 % of the programme will be allocated to thematic objective 4, for investing in venture capital for undertakings in this area, to support the switch towards a low-carbon economy, initiatives to improve energy efficiency, and initiatives to promote collaboration between regions with different conditions and areas of strength, as well as collaboration between the regional and national levels so as to achieve synergies.

The national programme will also make large investments in revolving funds. All of thematic objective 3 will be invested in a revolving fund. Some resources from thematic objective 4 will also be invested in a revolving fund as above.

Given the thematic areas of the programme and the distribution of the budget among them, the proportion of private co-financing has been estimated. It is important for private-sector business to be closely connected to the programme and take ownership so as to achieve results, since this is the main target group for the thematic objectives of the programme.

**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	27 221 901.00	20.43 %	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 01 - Strengthening research, technological development and innovation                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&amp;I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&amp;I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 1 - To establish a multi-disciplinary research infrastructure under the Accelerator and Scientific instruments in order to attract international researchers, businesses and authorities.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▼ 1b - Promoting business investment in R&amp;I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 1 - Increased collaboration has been achieved between R&amp;D players and R&amp;D constellations in different regions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	[0102, 106, 107]
2	ERDF	23 131 289.00	17.36 %	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 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"> <li>▼ 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"> <li>▼ 1 - Increased volume of invested capital (except ERDF resources) in small and medium-sized enterprises.</li> <li>▼ 2 - Greater financial engagement on the part of institutional investors by promoting the entry of several private investors to the venture-capital market in Sweden.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	[0302, 201, 202]
3	ERDF	77 561 770.00	58.21 %	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 04 - Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 4b - Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 1 - Improved energy efficiency at small and medium-sized enterprises.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▼ 4f - Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	[0406, 401, 402]

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 - Increased access to venture capital for the primary target group	
4	ERDF	5 329 790.00	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

<b>ID of the priority axis</b>	1
<b>Title of the priority axis</b>	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

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

## 2.A.4 Investment priority

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

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

<b>ID of the specific objective</b>	1
<b>Title of the specific objective</b>	To establish a multi-disciplinary research infrastructure under the Accelerator and Scientific instruments in order to attract international researchers, businesses and authorities.
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	<p>Access to good research environments and infrastructure is of great importance for increasing Sweden's attractiveness and contributing to smart, sustainable growth. Knowledge-based economies tend to be concentrated where there is a concentration of resources in the form of science, technology, human capital and entrepreneurship at regional hubs.</p> <p>In order to create a hub where science, technology, human capital and entrepreneurship are concentrated, investment priority 1 of the national Regional Fund programme will be aimed at supporting the creation of the European Spallation Source (ESS) research infrastructure. Some 85 % of resources under priority axis 1 must fall under this investment priority.</p> <p>The ESS will be the world's most powerful neutron source, and it is one of the largest research infrastructure projects currently under construction. The ESS has long been on the ESFRI list, which specifies the research infrastructure that needs to be built the most urgently in Europe.</p> <p>The ESS will be approximately 30 times more powerful than the leading facilities currently in existence, which will make it possible for researchers from all over Europe and also from third countries to implement their projects in many different areas such as life sciences, energy, environmental technology and physics. This in turn will lead to highly prominent research and internationally attractive research results.</p> <p>The ESS will contribute to the international attractiveness of regional innovation environments and attract researchers from all over the world. This will help to ensure that there are more researchers in Sweden, and contribute to dynamic business</p>

development at the regional and national levels.

The ESS project thus involves smart specialisation both for regions and for Sweden as a whole.

[1]

[1] The operations under this thematic objective are in line with the region's strategies for smart specialisation, these being Sweden's national innovation strategy, the Swedish Government Bill on Research and innovation (2012/13:30), and the strategies for smart specialisation that are developed at the regional level.

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

Specific objective		1 - Inom instrumenten Accelerator och Scientific, etablera en multidisciplinär forskningsinfrastruktur som attraherar internationella forskare, företag och myndigheter						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
106	Etablering av forskningsinfrastruktur av nationell karaktär som är riksdagsbeslutade	Antal	More developed	2.00	2013	3.00	ESS	Vartannat år
107	Forskare som arbetar på ESS-anläggningen i Sverige	Antal	More developed	70.00	2014	150.00	ESS	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

<b>Investment priority</b>	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest
<p>The ESS is a multidisciplinary research facility, and a centre for research and innovation in materials science, life sciences and energy and environmental research, for example. It is a hub with international cooperation partners and constitutes a unique opportunity for Sweden to combine its strengths in a specific area. The ESS will be constructed in stages, with the first parts expected to be completed in 2019. The ESS will result in the development of finely-honed skills and will be a centre of excellence of great European interest. The geographical location of the hub will be in Skåne, but it will work for sustainable growth throughout the country. Cooperation between undertakings, researchers, universities and colleges and other public-sector players will take place both within a region but also across regions throughout Sweden.</p> <p>The ESS facility is an important infrastructure for both research and innovation, and will contribute to Sweden's attractiveness. Research infrastructure is a key element of creating the conditions for an intellectual, creative environment with access to the most advanced tools and methods, which creates the conditions for the most innovative, high-quality research. This enables interdisciplinary approaches and more rapid development of various value chains.</p> <p>The ESS must make it easier for undertakings and researchers to access knowledge and facilities that are usually closed off, contribute to the creation of new undertakings and attracting collaboration with existing undertakings, which in turn must contribute to innovation and technological development through the development of new goods and services. The ESS will provide a space for collaboration between business and other players, and with other regions, and the inclusion of international partners will contribute to more strategic partnerships, meetings that create value, highly-developed products and services, and the attraction of foreign R&amp;D undertakings, which in turn should increase the proportion of private R&amp;D investment in Sweden.</p> <p>The horizontal sustainability criteria, such as equal opportunities, diversity, integration and the environment are fundamental for establishing the research infrastructure and making it available.</p> <p>The activities that will be aided under this investment priority are connected to the Accelerator and Scientific instruments. These instruments are important for ensuring that business can gain great benefits from the facility, which in turn will result in business growth and the creation of more jobs. The investment in the ESS will consist of building up the infrastructure supporting the ESS, in the form of instruments but also collaboration projects within</p>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest
<p>those instruments, such as detectors and FREIA. These projects will involve the entire research community in Sweden so that they can benefit from the investment as a whole.</p> <p>With regard to collaboration projects linked to the Accelerator instrument at the ESS, Uppsala University and its Ångström Laboratory will be involved with this. They have a large facility called FREIA where new accelerators and research instruments in this area are established. FREIA has been built in various stages and is a key facility for the development of laser technology and proton accelerators. The project will have a big impact on opportunities for Sweden and the rest of Europe in this area, which will in turn drive innovation in research and industry in this area. The technologies are not only important for being able to provide the accelerator project with equipment; they will also create important opportunities in closely-linked sectors such as transport, aviation, radar and communication.</p> <p>The ESS plans to build detectors under the Scientific instrument, but there is a need for substitute technology, which is something that other facilities in the same area have. Detector technology is important for applications in transport and security. A new production facility is being built at Linköping to meet this need for substitute technology so that all of the expertise in this area is brought together in one place. This facility, which is a collaborative project under the instrument, will be capable of supplying the ESS with what it needs until 2020, and it will give Sweden and the rest of Europe an advantage in this strategic area.</p> <p>Examples of the activities that can be aided under this investment priority include initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to build and establish parts of the ESS research infrastructure;</li> <li>• to establish laboratories for the life science of condensed matter (SCM);</li> <li>• to establish facilities for technology and other research areas;</li> <li>• to develop collaboration. Examples of collaboration could be the development of an RF system and a test facility for it, and the production of prototypes that can be tested in business. Scientific reporting will be ensured so as to enable a process where all technical requirements are satisfied. This process will also reflect the requirements and needs of business, so that they can be fulfilled.</li> </ul> <p>As part of Horizon 2020, plans are being made for programmes that support the production of research infrastructure. The ESS, which appears on the ESFRI list (i.e. a strategic forum for dealing with matters relating to common research infrastructure), plans to participate in collaboration on various projects within the framework of this initiative, not least those aimed at clusters for various thematic areas. There is also potential for the ESS to be included in other Horizon 2020 calls, such as those that are aimed at integration activities, whereby networks are developed in a number of areas, and</p>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest
<p>innovation initiatives whereby support will be given to the development of innovative instrumentation solutions.</p> <p>The main target groups for these initiatives are businesses, researchers, universities and colleges, and other public-sector stakeholders.</p> <p>The beneficiary for this investment priority is the ESS, probably in the form of the ERIC consortium[1]</p> <p>[1] An ERIC consortium is a legal person the legal status of which is regulated by Regulation (EC) No 723/2009 of 25 June 2009 on the Community legal framework for a European Research Infrastructure Consortium.</p>	

### 2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

<b>Investment priority</b>	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest
<p><i>The following principles guide the selection of projects under the investment priority:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project(s) strive to be world-leading and provide an infrastructure for research of high scientific quality;</li> <li>• The contribution of the project(s) to Sweden's attractiveness for both research and business;</li> <li>• The contribution of the project(s) to achieving the anticipated growth effects of the ESS at both the regional and national levels, and must also strive for sustainability and innovation;</li> <li>• The contribution of the project(s) to the horizontal criteria;</li> <li>• The contribution of the project(s) to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.</li> </ul>	

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

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

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest
<p>There will be major investment in various instruments at the ESS facility under this investment priority. These instruments will be separate from each other. The total investment in this investment priority has been calculated at 85 % of the entire initiative, i.e. approximately EUR 46 million in total from EU and national public financing. This proportion will, however, be divided up among various independent instruments, so Sweden is of the view that the projects will probably not exceed the level for major projects. Sweden is aware that the rules concerning major projects must be complied with should they become relevant to the initiatives.</p>	

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

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

Investment priority		1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		

Investment priority		1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO25	Research, Innovation: Number of researchers working in improved research infrastructure facilities	Full time equivalents	ERDF	More developed			50.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
101	Completion of instruments in a multidisciplinary research infrastructure	Number	ERDF	More developed			2.00	ESS	Continuous

#### 2.A.4 Investment priority

<b>ID of the investment priority</b>	1b
<b>Title of the investment priority</b>	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

<b>ID of the specific objective</b>	1
<b>Title of the specific objective</b>	Increased collaboration has been achieved between R&D players and R&D constellations in different regions.
<b>Results that the Member States</b>	In order for Sweden to be internationally competitive, it should join forces in our areas of strength at the national level within

<p><b>seek to achieve with Union support</b></p>	<p>the framework of the national Regional Fund programme, and strengthen them through new knowledge and skills. The innovations of tomorrow will emerge to a considerable extent where different experiences and driving forces meet in cross-border collaboration between regions, nations and sectors. This collaboration must take place between constellations in different regions, such as clusters, science parks or other environments and networks. Through this collaboration, small and large undertakings, public-sector corporations, universities and colleges, research institutes and other organisations are included in the regional innovation system, as well as players and constellations in different regions. An important condition for research to result in products and services in the market is the engagement of businesses in the private sector.</p> <p>Just as in the previous period, the eight regional Structural Fund programmes include an opportunity for cross-border projects between regions and programme areas. During the 2007-13 programming period, however, fewer of these projects were implemented than had been anticipated. Initiatives must therefore be carried out to stimulate cross-border collaboration at the regional, trans-national and inter-sectoral levels in the areas that are areas of strength for Sweden. The constellations that may be relevant for financing under the investment priority must be known at the national and regional levels. The aim is that this collaboration will renew and thus add value to ongoing investments.</p> <p>The programme must create added value for existing investments, preferably through enhanced inter-sectoral collaboration across regional and national borders.</p> <p>Individual regions should start with the potential for innovation in their specific areas of strength and use this as the basis for collaborating with players in other regions where there are complementary areas of strength that reinforce each other. Collaborative projects that address social challenges and exploit the opportunities created in environmentally-focussed markets must be developed. A fundamental requirement is that the projects must address Swedish areas of strength that have great potential for innovation and reform, as well as their long-term ability to perform well in global markets. One of the other targets is to be able to collaborate with international players within the framework of the Horizon 2020 programme. Such initiatives will thus aim both to stimulate regional, cross-border, collaborative projects and to strive for excellence. One way of achieving this is to reinforce investments that are national priorities, for example through national programmes, based on existing areas of strength at the regional level and the reform and transformation that happens in them, especially in traditional sectors.</p> <p>Some 15 % of the resources under priority axis 1 will be dedicated to this investment priority.</p>
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In order for collaboration to contribute to change, commercialisation and social growth, the engagement and cooperation of the business community is very important. The intention is that this will be measured, partly through increased private-sector co-financing and the specific objective for this investment priority: Increased collaboration has been achieved between R&D players and R&D constellations in different regions.

The long-term goal is to create internationally competitive investments, not only in Sweden but also elsewhere in Europe, and to lay the foundations for international collaboration and research projects.

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

Specific objective		1 - Ökad samverkan har uppnåtts mellan FoI-aktörer och FoI-konstellationer i olika regioner						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
0102	Andel företag (10-249 anställda) som samarbetar i sin innovationsverksamhet	Andel i %	More developed	40.79	2010	43.00	CIS /SCB	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

<b>Investment priority</b>	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 focus will be on activities that enable undertakings to exploit applied research to a greater extent in order to develop and commercialise products and achieve greater innovation potential. This must be done partly through measures that promote a stronger link between applied research and product development and partly through measures that stimulate regional and transnational collaboration in Sweden's areas of strength. These activities must also meet global social challenges. More often than not, thematic collaboration between regions is required in order to meet these complex needs. The collaboration must lead to sustainable growth in the long term – both regionally and nationally – by means of a faster commercialisation process, reform and innovation. In order for topical initiatives under the investment priorities of the Regional Fund to have the desired result, the investments must be anchored in national or regional programmes, and initiatives to create added value using investments and strategies must be prioritised. The national programme will thus help to support the Swedish counties in their continuing work on smart specialisation, for example by developing and reinforcing regional development and innovation strategies. The horizontal sustainability criteria such as equal opportunities, diversity, integration and the environment are fundamental for all collaboration projects and the players involved in them. [1]</p> <p>The areas of strength that are to be prioritised are not predetermined but may change during the programming period. Each project must therefore justify its contribution to the development of one of Sweden's areas of strength. The links between players may be both sector-specific and thematic. Links between different fields of knowledge, industries and clusters must be given particular prominence. The projects must also provide a reliable explanation of how the collaboration in question leads to reforms and innovation. Separate guiding principles for selection in relation to environmentally-driven business development mean that collaborative projects will contribute to improved energy efficiency, irrespective of the sector in which they take place.</p> <p>The national programme will also help to support the Swedish counties in their continuing work on smart specialisation, for example by developing and reinforcing the regional development and innovation strategies, as well as their implementation, including learning mechanisms. Support under the national programme may consist of improvements to county-level or inter-county development and innovation strategies via collaborative projects that reinforce entrepreneurial invention processes, the development of areas of strength, and initiatives to enhance knowledge and build capacity, including the</p>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	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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exchange of experiences at the regional and national levels.

Transnational collaboration will also be funded under this investment priority. The programme must encourage players representing Sweden's areas of strength to work together and link up with international players in the relevant areas, for example under the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. Such collaboration primarily relates to the countries bordering the Baltic Sea[2] and the rest of Europe, but it may also involve players in other parts of the world. The areas of strength addressed must be globally competitive in their class and should also be capable of mobilisation for further collaboration and funding under the Horizon 2020 programme.

The following are examples of collaborative projects:

### **Research and innovation project**

Innovation processes have grown in complexity in recent years. The mutual links between innovation and the latest scientific research have become ever stronger over the last few decades. Innovation in open networks, increased foreign ownership, new and growing knowledge centres in rapidly developing countries, and shorter lead times between an idea and the market are only a few examples of the trends that have increased the level of complexity. These trends mean that there is a greater need for structures and incentives that support, stimulate and enable collaboration and interaction between public and business-relevant R&D systems. If the investments made in R&D by undertakings and the public sector have priorities that work together and reinforce each other, this creates better conditions for building solid foundations for competitive business, strong universities and colleges and efficient public-sector activities.

R&I initiatives must therefore aim to ensure and develop more access to skills and knowledge of international quality in the areas that are relevant to both business and public-sector activities. This kind of direct collaboration is an important condition for skills development, knowledge exchange, interactive learning and problem-definition processes among undertakings and authorities, as well as universities, colleges and institutes.

Among other things, joining forces in order to develop Sweden's areas of strength means that large and small, stronger and weaker regional research and innovation hubs link up with similar hubs in other regions so as to become stronger and more attractive on the global stage. An important part of this is to stimulate links between regions where skills and knowledge can be reinforced and can complement and develop each other in various ways.

<b>Investment priority</b>	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 focus here is on collaboration between constellations in different regions. These constellations may be made up of clusters, science parks, etc., as long as they include research, business and the public sector. Such collaboration must result in specific R&amp;I projects that develop Sweden's areas of strength and lead to reforms and innovation. Equal opportunities, diversity, integration and the environment must be taken into consideration in all collaborative projects. The constellations involved in such projects must be anchored in the region, for example by being part of the implementation of the regional innovation strategy. In order to achieve a joining of forces at the national level, it is also desirable for collaboration to be established between regions with different structural conditions. Experiences and lessons from research and innovation projects such as demonstration facilities must be disseminated.</p>	
<p><b>Other collaborative projects</b></p>	
<p>The programme may also, for example, fund different kinds of open forum where innovation processes are made available to many players, including those outside the region in question. This could involve 'open data', for instance. Innovation activities that take place in collaboration between different regions may also be relevant if they contribute to the development of Sweden's areas of strength. Such activities may be an effective instrument for achieving development and improved efficiency in various sectors. They also provide opportunities for both applying and developing new solutions for solving problems and meeting needs.</p>	
<p><b>International collaboration</b></p>	
<p>The programme will also support international collaboration, in order to further support Sweden's areas of strength. A prerequisite for this is that such collaboration between players in different regions - on one of Sweden's areas of strength - must already have been established at the domestic level. An important goal for this kind of project is to make Swedish players competitive in future calls under the Horizon 2020 programme. Such collaboration primarily relates to the countries bordering the Baltic Sea[3] and the rest of Europe, but it may also involve players in other parts of the world.</p>	
<p>The main target groups for this programme may be a regional player/constellation that acts as the coordinator of the collaborative project, or an organisation that is responsible for research and innovation infrastructure.</p>	
<p>The various types of beneficiary include universities, colleges and research institutes, public-sector organisations, cluster organisations, science parks and other kinds of network. The aid beneficiary must be a legal person.</p>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	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>[1] Please see Chapter 11.</p> <p>[2] Please see the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region at <a href="http://www.regeringen.se">www.regeringen.se</a>.</p> <p>[3] Please see the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region at <a href="http://www.regeringen.se">www.regeringen.se</a>.</p>	

### ***2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations***

<b>Investment priority</b>	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>To summarise, investment priority 2 of the national programme must aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reinforce national and regional initiatives that are already in progress by contributing new knowledge and skills;</li> <li>• stimulate cross-border collaboration between different regions and nations; and</li> <li>• support projects based on further developing and reforming Sweden's areas of strength.</li> </ul> <p>The following are guiding principles for selecting projects with regard to various activities to encourage collaboration between players so as to mobilise</p>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	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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them on one of Sweden's areas of strength:

- Collaboration across regional and national borders with the aim of developing and reforming one of Sweden's areas of strength;
- The representativeness of the applicant coalition, i.e. whether the applicant represents one of Sweden's areas of strength and its players;
- The potential for future competitiveness, reform and development from the global perspective;
- The proposed initiatives involve research under the auspices of the public and private sectors as well as in business and the public sector;
- Participation by undertakings;
- Global social challenges must be considered;
- Environmentally-focused business development must be considered, regardless of the sector or industry;
- Activities are based on a national programme, initiative or activity;
- Every collaborative project is anchored in the region;
- Considering sustainable development from the social, economic and environmental perspectives;
- Organisational capacity, the experience of the project owner, and anchoring among the collaboration partners;
- Initiatives to strengthen internationalisation in the area to contribute to implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	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)

<b>Investment priority</b>	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 output indicators** (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

<b>Investment priority</b>		<b>1b - Promoting business investment in R&amp;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</b>							
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	ERDF	More developed			70.00	Managing authority's computer	Continuous

<b>Investment priority</b>		<b>1b - Promoting business investment in R&amp;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</b>							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
	enterprises receiving support							systems	
CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			70.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	EUR	ERDF	More developed			600 000.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

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

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>1 - Strengthening research, technological development and innovation</b>

## 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		
01	F	Expenditure	EUR	ERDF	More developed			5 444 380			54 443 802.00	Managing authority	
1	I	Projected number of instruments in a multidisciplinary research infrastructure, based on financed projects	Number	ERDF	More developed			2				ESS	
101	O	Completion of instruments in a multidisciplinary research infrastructure	Number	ERDF	More developed			0			2.00	ESS	

### 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.

It is expected that the programme will be implemented with a relatively small number of projects with a high balance-sheet total. This means that the implementation of every single project has a considerable impact on how well the programme manages to achieve the subsidiary objectives and final objectives, both in relation to all of the indicators for the programme in general terms, and in relation to the indicators in the performance framework in particular.

In priority axis 1, the subsidiary objective for the indicator ‘Completion of instruments in a multidisciplinary research infrastructure’ has been set at 0. In order subsequently to follow up on initiatives to which resources have been allocated, the programme will use the key implementation step ‘Projected number of instruments in a multidisciplinary research infrastructure, based on financed projects’. This key implementation step will be monitored continuously during programme implementation and reported back in the annual implementation report submitted to the Commission.

For priority axis 2, the subsidiary objective for the indicator ‘Number of undertakings receiving economic aid other than contributions’ has been set at 0. In order subsequently to follow up on initiatives to which resources have been allocated, the programme will use the key implementation step ‘Number of undertakings receiving economic aid other than contributions based on projects that finance investments in portfolio undertakings’. This key implementation step will be monitored continuously during programme implementation and reported back in the annual implementation report submitted to the Commission.

For priority axis 3, the subsidiary objective for the indicator ‘Number of undertakings receiving economic aid other than contributions’ has been set at 0. In order subsequently to follow up on initiatives to which resources have been allocated, the programme will use the key implementation step ‘Number of undertakings receiving economic aid other than contributions based on projects that finance investments in portfolio undertakings’. This key implementation step will be monitored continuously during programme implementation and reported back in the annual implementation report submitted to the Commission.

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

## 2.A.9 Categories of intervention

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

### Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention

**Table 7: Dimension 1 — Intervention field**

Priority axis		1 - Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	058. Research and innovation infrastructure (public)	23 138 616.00
ERDF	More developed	060. Research and innovation activities in public research centres and centres of competence including networking	1 361 095.00
ERDF	More developed	061. Research and innovation activities in private research centres including networking	1 361 095.00
ERDF	More developed	063. Cluster support and business networks primarily benefiting SMEs	1 361 095.00

**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	27 221 901.00

**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)	24 706 598.00
ERDF	More developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	1 278 068.00
ERDF	More developed	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	1 237 235.00

**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	27 221 901.00

**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

<b>ID of the priority axis</b>	2
<b>Title of the priority axis</b>	Enhancing the competitiveness of 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

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

### 2.A.4 Investment priority

<b>ID of the investment priority</b>	3d
<b>Title of the investment priority</b>	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

<b>ID of the specific objective</b>	1
<b>Title of the specific objective</b>	Increased volume of invested capital (except ERDF resources) in small and medium-sized enterprises.
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	All undertakings are unique, and it is therefore important to have a dynamic market for venture capital at an early stage, where the supply side of the venture-capital market is also characterised by diversity. Among other things, the projects implemented during the 2007-13 programming period have had a positive impact on the engagement of business angels and also of some small venture-capital (VC) funds. As has also been the case with the work done on the ex ante evaluation of financial instruments, for example, the need for VC initiatives to supplement the market has increased. The number of private funds in this market segment has continued to fall. The interest that institutional investors have shown in investing in Swedish VC funds has continued to wane during the current programming period, largely due to poor yield from these funds. The main reason for supporting investments at an early stage is that the relationship between the risk and the yield is too poor. The market is failing for investments at the early stage. Experience from other countries shows that initiatives for a functional private VC market help to ensure that more growth businesses are given an opportunity to develop.
<b>ID of the specific objective</b>	2
<b>Title of the specific objective</b>	Greater financial engagement on the part of institutional investors by promoting the entry of several private investors to the venture-capital market in Sweden.
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	It is of strategic importance for the national Regional Fund programme to make good use of experience and conclusions that may be gleaned from the development of venture-capital markets in the 2000s. The activities of active, private venture-capital funds were scaled back throughout the 2000s, as the level of interest shown by small, private co-financiers and business angels in participating as co-financiers for public investment funds rose. A capital-supply system for small and medium-sized enterprises that is sustainable in the long term also needs a vigorous venture-capital market with a critical mass of private VC funds.

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

Specific objective		1 - Ökad volym investerat kapital (ERDF-medel undantaget) i små- och medelstora företag.						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
0302	Omsättning i SMF	MSEK	More developed	1,589,965.00	2011	1,700,000.00	SCB	Vartannat år
201	Investeringsvolym i riskkapital	MSEK	More developed	1,817.00	2012	1,950.00	Tillväxtanalys	Vartannat år

Specific objective		2 - Ökat finansiellt engagemang från institutionella placerare genom att främja tillkomsten av fler privata investerare på venture-capitalmarknaden i Sverige						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
202	Investeringsvolym i privat riskkapital	MSEK	More developed	1,032.00	2012	1,120.00	Tillväxtanalys	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*

<b>Investment priority</b>	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes
<p>The overall aim of initiatives under this investment priority is to promote the entry of new managers to the VC segment in Sweden. These initiatives should stimulate interest in this segment among institutional investors in order to increase the dynamics and diversity of the private venture-capital market, improve long-term sustainable growth and ensure that the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises is reinforced.</p> <p>Successes in the Swedish buy-out market have been overshadowed by the fact that small funds aimed at venture capital and which predominantly deal with minority-stake investments in small and medium-sized growth enterprises have found it ever more difficult to provide a good, risk-adjusted yield, and it has therefore become more difficult for these funds to obtain access to capital via bigger investors. The effect of this has therefore been that small and medium-sized growth enterprises in turn have found it ever more difficult to obtain access to venture financing. Venture capital in the form of equity capital is often a crucial financing tool for undertakings of this kind that are developing.</p> <p>Aid will therefore be given under this investment priority to an initiative that aims to enhance the dynamics of the private VC market by making it possible for VC managers to invest capital at an early stage. If new VC managers with individual, relevant experience are given the opportunity to establish themselves in the market at an early stage, this is considered to enhance the dynamics of the industry in question, for the benefit of small growth businesses that need capital and support with growth. The aim of the initiative is not merely to provide established VC funds with new capital, but for more managers with good conditions and experience to enter the VC market at an early stage. Requirements will be imposed on private co-financing at the fund level, with the ambition and aim of stimulating interest in the segment in question on the part of institutional investors. This investment priority thus also means that access to venture capital for innovative small and medium-sized enterprises via private VC funds will improve.</p> <p>The horizontal criteria will be adapted in conjunction with the project award process.</p> <p>To summarise, the project accommodated by this investment priority will aim to have the task of investing in new and existing VC funds by selecting appropriate, fairly new managers which, in addition to the fundamental criteria appearing in the programme document, are also deemed to meet the criteria laid down by the project owner. The focus for the management team must be on investing in small and medium-sized enterprises at the early stages of</p>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes
development of the companies in the portfolio.	

### 2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

<b>Investment priority</b>	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes
<p>The aim of this project is for a holding fund (the project) to be given the opportunity to select and invest in a number of privately-managed VC funds whereby <i>inter alia</i> a new management team will make and manage investments in growth businesses and thus contribute both capital and skills.</p> <p>A fund project will be selected, and it will in turn be given the opportunity to co-finance private venture-capital funds where skills and experience create dynamism in the VC market, for example by giving new management teams the opportunity to enter the market. There are felt to be good reasons for entrusting the management of public VC capital to an established fund and some new management teams. The selection will be based on the implementer's perceived opportunities for finding new, appropriate venture-capital funds.</p> <p><b>The holding fund:</b> The future manager of the holding fund must have good opportunities for performing assessments to select subsidiary funds, and therefore needs to be engaged with fund-of-funds-related activities aimed at the VC segment and have relevant experience in the area of social engagement, as well as the ability to conclude relevant agreements with private-sector venture capitalists.</p> <p><b>Subsidiary funds:</b> The holding-fund manager must adhere to the following principles in selecting private VC managers (subsidiary funds):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant yield requirements must be imposed on the subsidiary funds;</li> <li>• Aiming for investments at an early stage, for example in environments close to incubators. Appropriate monetary ranges may be considered. A variable requirement for private co-financing may also be considered with the aim of facilitating engagement, particularly in the early stages;</li> <li>• Requirements for private co-financing in the fund;</li> <li>• A framework of incentives for VC fund staff. Requirements for the managers themselves to invest in the fund;</li> <li>• Requirement for the managers to have relevant experience and skills;</li> <li>• Considering sustainable development from the social, economic and environmental perspectives.</li> </ul>	

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

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	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. An undertaking's need for external capital must initially be met in the private market, but there are some areas where there may be a need for financing to supplement the market, including in relation to capital for undertakings in the very early stages.</p> <p>During the next programming period in 2014-20, financial instruments will not be implemented in a vacuum but must rather be elucidated within the framework of existing experience, both in the work on regional venture-capital initiatives done during the 2007-13 programming period and national, private initiatives in this area.</p> <p>Against this background, the entire investment priority must invest in venture capital in the form of fund-of-funds, in accordance with the description of the investment area. This will be done in the form of equity capital in a revolving fund. The results of the ex ante evaluation of financial instruments that the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth has the task of producing must be taken into consideration when implementing financial instruments using resources from the programme.</p> <p>This will be done in the form of equity capital in a revolving fund. In accordance with the rules, an ex ante assessment will be carried out before any decision on aid is made by the managing authority.</p>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	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 output indicators** (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

<b>Investment priority</b>		<b>3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes</b>							
<b>ID</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Measurement unit</b>	<b>Fund</b>	<b>Category of region (where relevant)</b>	<b>Target value (2023)</b>			<b>Source of data</b>	<b>Frequency of reporting</b>
					<b>M</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>T</b>		
CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			60.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			60.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-	EUR	ERDF	More developed			57 008 040.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

Investment priority		3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
	grants)								

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

Priority axis	2 - Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs

## 2.A.8 Performance framework

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

Priority axis		2 - Enhancing the competitiveness of 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		
CO03	O	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			0			60.00	Project	
01	F	Expenditure	EUR	ERDF	More developed			11 565 644			46 262 578.00	Managing authority	
2	I	Number of undertakings receiving economic aid other than contributions based on projects that finance investments in portfolio undertakings	Number	ERDF	More developed			15				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.

It is expected that the programme will be implemented with a relatively small number of projects with a high balance-sheet total. This means that the implementation of every single project has a considerable impact on how well the programme manages to achieve the subsidiary objectives and final objectives, both in relation to all of the indicators for the programme in general terms, and in relation to the indicators in the performance framework in particular.

In priority axis 1, the subsidiary objective for the indicator ‘Completion of instruments in a multidisciplinary research infrastructure’ has been set at 0. In order subsequently to follow up on initiatives to which resources have been allocated, the programme will use the key implementation step ‘Projected

number of instruments in a multidisciplinary research infrastructure, based on financed projects'. This key implementation step will be monitored continuously during programme implementation and reported back in the annual implementation report submitted to the Commission.

For priority axis 2, the subsidiary objective for the indicator 'Number of undertakings receiving economic aid other than contributions' has been set at 0. In order subsequently to follow up on initiatives to which resources have been allocated, the programme will use the key implementation step 'Number of undertakings receiving economic aid other than contributions based on projects that finance investments in portfolio undertakings'. This key implementation step will be monitored continuously during programme implementation and reported back in the annual implementation report submitted to the Commission.

For priority axis 3, the subsidiary objective for the indicator 'Number of undertakings receiving economic aid other than contributions' has been set at 0. In order subsequently to follow up on initiatives to which resources have been allocated, the programme will use the key implementation step 'Number of undertakings receiving economic aid other than contributions based on projects that finance investments in portfolio undertakings'. This key implementation step will be monitored continuously during programme implementation and reported back in the annual implementation report submitted to the Commission.

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

### **2.A.9 Categories of intervention**

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

## Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention

**Table 7: Dimension 1 — Intervention field**

Priority axis		2 - Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	001. Generic productive investment in small and medium-sized enterprises ('SMEs')	23 131 289.00

**Table 8: Dimension 2 - Form of finance**

Priority axis		2 - Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	03. Support through financial instruments: venture and equity capital or equivalent	23 131 289.00

**Table 9: Dimension 3 — Territory type**

Priority axis		2 - Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	8 882 415.00
ERDF	More developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	7 240 093.00
ERDF	More developed	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	7 008 781.00

**Table 10: Dimension 4 - Territorial delivery mechanisms**

Priority axis		2 - Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs	
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Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	07. Not applicable	23 131 289.00

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

Priority axis	2 - Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs		
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount

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

Priority axis:	2 - Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs

### 2.A.1 Priority axis

<b>ID of the priority axis</b>	3
<b>Title of the priority axis</b>	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

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

### 2.A.4 Investment priority

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

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

<b>ID of the specific objective</b>	1
<b>Title of the specific objective</b>	Improved energy efficiency at small and medium-sized enterprises.
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	<p>Energy efficiency plays a key role in the switch to a sustainable energy system, and the national energy efficiency policy is based on general instruments such as energy and carbon-dioxide taxation and the trading of emission allowances. In addition, there is also a set of supplementary, selective instruments that are intended to prevent market failures and thus clear the way for realising the potential for profitable improvements to energy efficiency in various sectors. Examples of such instruments include technology procurement, market entry, networks, training and information. An integrated road map is currently being produced within the framework of the SET plan, which clearly highlights the need for initiatives in the area of improving energy efficiency. It is common knowledge that energy-efficiency measures will not be implemented at the expected pace, nor will the profitable private-economy measures be implemented in full. This is because there are barriers to improving energy efficiency. An example[1] of such a barrier is the fact that many undertakings do not have sufficient knowledge of the potential, technology and tools for improving energy efficiency. Small and medium-sized enterprises often lack energy expertise and are sensitive to the administrative burden that such measures entail. Another barrier is that undertakings do not have the financial resources and/or time to devote to energy-efficiency, or they feel that such measures pose a risk of disruption to production. In the latter case, the perceived risk may be reduced by ensuring that the undertaking in question has the opportunity to discuss improvements to energy efficiency with other undertakings in a similar situation and thus learn from their peers, for example within a network.</p> <p>The initiatives under this programme will stimulate the consumption of and demand for energy-efficient products and services. The aim is to make business, specifically SMEs, improve the energy efficiency of their activities and thus contribute to the energy-intensity target. The measures will include aid for networks and for innovation and technology procurement. Small and medium-sized enterprises in all sectors will be encouraged to implement energy-efficiency measures, which will at the same time help to develop a sector that contributes to sustainable growth and employment through an increase in demand for such products. In order for these initiatives to improve energy efficiency to succeed, small and medium-sized enterprises will need to keep pace with international developments in this area in the course of their work, not least within the Baltic Sea region, in order to contribute to the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.</p> <p>Against this background, the initiatives to be implemented under investment priority 1 will be aimed at contributing to the</p>

specific target of: Improved energy efficiency at small and medium-sized enterprises.

The initiatives are aimed at undertakings in all sectors, but measuring the targets will be restricted to industrial enterprises, since this group has the most appropriate statistical basis.

[1] Please see inter alia 'Barriers and Driving Forces for Improving the Energy Efficiency of Swedish Industry - Two Case Studies', Persson, Rohdin, Thollander, Working Paper No 32, February 2005.

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

Specific objective		1 - Ökad energieffektivisering i små och medelstora företag.						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
401	Slutlig energianvändning per förädlingsvärde för små- och medelstora industriföretag	MWh per MSEK	More developed	79.20	2011	71.30	Statistiska centralbyrån, SCB	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

<b>Investment priority</b>	4b - Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises
<p>A national initiative to improve the energy efficiency of small and medium-sized enterprises will supplement similar measures under the regional Regional Fund programmes by enabling initiatives that cross administrative boundaries. Efforts will therefore be made to ensure that there is cooperation between initiatives under regional programmes, or between these and initiatives by national authorities. Similar initiatives at the regional and national levels must be coordinated. It is also very important that support be offered to undertakings regardless of the region in which they are located. The horizontal sustainability criteria such as the environment, equal opportunities, diversity and integration are fundamental for all collaborative projects and the players involved in them[1].</p>	
<b>Enterprise networks to improve energy efficiency</b>	
<p>In order to achieve the specific targets of this investment priority, support may be given for making improvements to energy efficiency at small and medium-sized enterprises, for example in the form of business networks at the national, regional or sectoral level.</p>	
<p>The national energy-survey aid [2] is a national instrument and must be co-financed using resources from the programme. In the event of an extension, business networks for improving energy efficiency may supplement the aid, and will be financed by the national Regional Fund programme. National, regional and industry business networks act as a forum where representatives of the undertakings can meet to discuss improvements to energy efficiency. Through these networks, undertakings may be offered more process-related aid than isolated aid for a survey using the energy-survey checks. This design aims to eliminate the barriers to improving energy efficiency, such as a lack of time, a lack of knowledge and a perceived risk to the undertaking. The networks are an opportunity for addressing several transaction costs at the same time and reinforcing undertakings' systematic, more long-term work. Various instruments and aids may be linked to the networks so as to make the work of energy-efficiency improvement easier for the undertakings involved.</p>	
<p>The initiatives must promote coordination between regional and national efforts and various networks, as well as the dissemination of knowledge and experience. They must also relate to the development of statistics, preliminary studies, follow-up and assessment. These initiatives may be carried out both</p>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	4b - Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises
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within the networks and by individual players in concert.

Examples of instruments and aid:

- Energy-survey checks;
- Investment aid for undertakings to be given a direct incentive for implementing energy-efficient measures;
- Functions to facilitate administration so that participating undertakings can receive aid, for example upon application and reporting of energy-survey aid;
- Coordination so as to avoid duplication;
- Expertise and knowledge of improving energy efficiency within the specific area covered by the network;
- Process-related aid for running networks in and between different geographical areas.

**Networks for innovation and technology procurement**

Networks can also be used to implement innovation and technology procurement. In such cases, the network is aimed at developing or producing a specific technology, service or product that the undertakings involved in the network can then use and implement in their own operations. A business network (as above) may be developed so that it turns into a procurement network. In this context, it is important to strengthen the links between national and/or sector-specific networks and regional networks.

There is a great need to develop sustainable products and to stimulate demand for them. Procurement may be a useful tool for creating and making energy-efficient products and services available on the market. It may also be a link in the chain for supporting improvements to energy efficiency at undertakings.

**Collaboration, development and dissemination of results**

There is a great need to make use of and disseminate the results and experience from finished, ongoing and future projects to improve energy efficiency at

<b>Investment priority</b>	4b - Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises
<p>the international, national, regional and municipal level. The national programme will play an important role in the financing of such projects. Several of the important measures that may be financed are the development of data and statistics in the area of energy efficiency, the evaluation and follow-up of projects, and the dissemination of results. The international dimension is also important, partly so that challenges in the area of energy do not stop at national borders, and partly so that the development of competitive solutions and working methods is used for the benefit of the international outlook.</p> <p>All projects that are granted aid must, if possible, have collaboration as one of their subsidiary elements, with the aim of exchanging knowledge and experience. This may, for example, involve linking up innovation and technology procurement initiatives with energy-efficiency initiatives at the regional and national levels.</p> <p>The main target groups are small and medium-sized enterprises, and private-sector and public-sector players that can support business networks. The main aid beneficiary type under this investment priority is national authorities and other public-sector and private-sector players.</p> <p><b>Activities for sound strategic lessons and process-related aid under priority axis 3</b></p> <p>The national programme must promote collaboration between regions with different conditions and different areas of strength. There is also a need for a learning platform for collaboration between the national and regional levels so as to achieve synergies. This could involve coordination between regional initiatives or the production of regionally comparable statistics and an analysis framework. Initiatives in the area of energy in particular are being highlighted during this programming period, in both national and regional programmes.</p> <p>There is also an opportunity under priority axis 3 for activities that support processes to be included too. This should initially be aimed at the eight regional initiatives under the Structural Fund programme. These activities will offer national knowledge and support to players that work on Regional Fund projects under all of the investment priorities for thematic objective 4. Among other things, activities to support processes are intended to contribute to coordination between regions and between the national and regional levels so as to avoid things such as overlaps. There will be a clear link to the common evaluation efforts for the programmes. Process-support activities can work across geographical and administrative borders. They must be designed as a national form of support for skills and methodology that involves stakeholders such as the Swedish Energy Agency and the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth. No more than two per cent of resources under this priority axis may be spent on this work.</p> <p>The beneficiary types for process support are public authorities working on this area under the national programme, predominantly the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, the Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems (Vinnova) and the Swedish Energy Agency.</p>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	4b - Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises
<p>[1] Please see Chapter 11.</p> <p>[2] <a href="http://www.energimyndigheten.se/sv/Foretag/Energieffektivisering-i-foretag/Energikartlaggningscheck---ett-stod-for-energikartlaggning/">http://www.energimyndigheten.se/sv/Foretag/Energieffektivisering-i-foretag/Energikartlaggningscheck---ett-stod-for-energikartlaggning/</a></p>	

### ***2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations***

<b>Investment priority</b>	4b - Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises
<p>Collaboration on project implementation can contribute to increased efficiency and to synergies in the initiatives that are carried out. The importance of collaboration on project implementation has also been emphasised by follow-up research from the 2007-13 programming period[2]. There are therefore a number of selection principles that address the benefits of project collaboration and the added value that such collaboration can create in relation to the aims of the project.</p> <p>The national Regional Fund programme can support inter-regional activities. It will thus contribute to greater added value for the activities carried out under the regional Structural Fund programmes. It is also important that projects financed by the national programme have good regional knowledge and can act to complement the conditions for the energy-efficiency initiatives being carried out in the programme areas that are relevant to the project.</p> <p>Initiatives under this investment priority must be aimed at small and medium-sized enterprises. In order for the initiatives to be attractive, therefore, it is important that the project activities are designed so that they are anchored in the needs of businesses and are clearly relevant to the business of the target groups. The importance of this is further reiterated by the conclusions of the accompanying research during the previous programming period, whereby the involvement of business and undertakings was not as prominent during the implementation stage as had been hoped[3].</p> <p>In order to achieve good results in terms of improvements to energy efficiency, it is also important that the projects can demonstrate good knowledge of the area and an ability to assess the potential gains in energy efficiency of the solutions in question.</p> <p>It is desirable that the initiatives under this investment priority be implemented as far as possible within the framework of the existing structures, organisations and networks. This is partly to avoid the creation of parallel structures, and partly to make full use of the organisational capacity that is</p>	

**Investment priority**

4b - Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises

already there. As far as networks are concerned, the experience from previous initiatives has also been that it takes a long time to build up the trusting relationships that are needed in order for them to work well.

Projects under priority axis 3 should also contribute to internationalisation, for example within the framework of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. When selecting projects, therefore, the international dimension of project implementation will be assessed.

To summarise, the following principles will guide the selection of projects under this investment priority, giving due consideration to the aims and nature of the individual projects:

- Anchoring in the needs of business and relevance to the business of the target groups;
- Ability to assess potential gains in energy efficiency and the market potential and/or profitability of the investment;
- Organisational capacity and the experience and knowledge of the project manager from previous initiatives in the relevant area;
- Contributing to coordination and synergies with initiatives under the regional programmes;
- Good regional knowledge and analysis of how the intended activities will supplement energy-efficiency initiatives in the areas covered by the regional programme in question;
- Experience and knowledge from previous operations in the area should be utilised;
- The international dimension, for example within the framework of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region;
- Considering sustainable development from the social, economic and environmental perspectives.

[2] Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, 2012: *A synthesis of follow-up research on the regional Structural Fund programmes – 23 conclusions*, Report 0129.

[3] Ibid.

<b>Investment priority</b>	4b - Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	4b - Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	4b - Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises

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

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

Investment priority		4b - Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			1 540.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

Investment priority		4b - Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			140.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			1 400.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO06	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (grants)	EUR	ERDF	More developed			3 000 000.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

## 2.A.4 Investment priority

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

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

<b>ID of the specific objective</b>	1
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<b>Title of the specific objective</b>	Increased access to venture capital for the primary target group
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	<p>The overall objective for this investment priority is to contribute to the implementation of initiatives resulting in a strengthening of the supply of private and public venture capital in the early stages, in areas related to climate, renewable energy and improving energy efficiency, and to contribute to a low-carbon economy. The primary target group for initiatives under this investment priority is small and medium-sized enterprises, mainly in the early stages, that have great growth potential and work on innovative services and products that reduce greenhouse gases either directly or indirectly. This contributes to greater dissemination and adoption of services and technologies that support the switch to a low-carbon economy. Proposed initiatives must exploit the accumulation of knowledge from previous initiatives in the area whilst using existing structures as far as possible, both in terms of sector-specific skills and of operational skills in the field of venture capital.</p>

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

Specific objective		1 - Ökad tillgång till riskkapital för den primära målgruppen						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
0406	Omsättning i små och medelstora miljöföretag	MSEK (nettoomsättning)	More developed	61,504.00	2012	68,227.00	SCB	Vartannat år
402	Investeringsvolym i riskkapital inom energi och miljöteknik	MSEK	More developed	79.00	2012	230.00	Tillväxtanalys	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*

<b>Investment priority</b>	4f - Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies
<p>The overall aim of initiatives under this investment priority is to strengthen the opportunities for the successful establishment on the market of products and services that contribute to a smaller climate impact.</p> <p>It has been mentioned under priority axis 2 that there is a general lack of venture capital in the early stages of development in various sectors. The lack of capital is, however, considerably more obvious in sectors where venture-capital investors perceive greater risks, including those that depend on capital-intensive product development or long lead times before sales can take off. An example of such an area is the environmental sector, particularly in relation to renewable energy and improving energy efficiency, with products that contribute to a smaller climate impact. The need for newly-developed products and services to create sustainable development that meets national energy and climate-related targets highlights an acute lack of venture capital in this sector. The energy technology sector has special barriers to entry that have meant that the lack of capital there has been greater than in other sectors[1]. Specific barriers that have been identified in this sector are a greater need for capital owing to the longer commercialisation process, the fact that the undertakings are most often difficult to analyse with regard to technological verification or customer benefits, a lack of industry knowledge on the part of investors, and the difficulties inherent in assessing the risks of changes in instrument-based demand[2]. In addition to this, the traditional model of private VC investments means an investment horizon of 3-7 years, which is highly inconsistent with the environmental and energy technology sector where the commercialisation process usually takes twice as long[3] [4]. Taken as a whole, this indicates that there is a need for measures to supplement the market in this area.</p> <p>The State and other public-sector players in Sweden have an important role to play in terms of the supply of capital during phases where the market is not functioning to the full. On the whole, the supply of capital to small and medium-sized enterprises is reinforced by things such as loans via Almi, the founding of Almi Invest, and the creation of new venture-capital players such as Inlandsinnovation AB and Fouriertransform AB. In order to contribute to Swedish and international climate objectives, efforts need to be made to improve the opportunities for the successful establishment in the market of products and services that contribute to a smaller climate impact. One of the aims of such initiatives is therefore to ensure that business investments contributing to climate objectives can be implemented.</p>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	4f - Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies
<p>To summarise, the project accommodated by this investment priority must contribute to the goals of this priority by aiming for investments in undertakings at the early stages and which have products and services that contribute to a smaller climate impact.</p> <p>The initiatives should be designed so as to create a reinforcing effect, partly through improved opportunities for the supply of capital, but also by ensuring that skills and experience can be communicated to the target group. The skills that should be provided to undertakings in the target group are predominantly business acumen, a good understanding of the energy system, development potential for technologies that are relevant to energy and climate, and a basis for internationalisation. The types of aid beneficiaries for this initiative are players either in or connected to existing structures for initiatives aimed at small and medium-sized enterprises, among others, and which do not only operate at the regional level.</p> <p>The horizontal criteria will be adapted during the project award process.</p> <p>[1] Swedish Energy Agency - Supply of Venture Capital in the Early Commercial Stages in the Energy and Environmental Technology Sector - 2011.</p> <p>[2] Isaksson, Anders - Whether Environmental Technology Has a Longer Commercialisation Process Than Other Growth Businesses Have - 2011.</p> <p>[3] Ibid.</p> <p>[4] Svenska Dagbladet - Venture Capital Rejects the Environment - 10 September 2013.</p>	

### ***2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations***

<b>Investment priority</b>	4f - Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies
<p>A project will be selected that aims to establish a venture-capital fund the activities of which will help to ensure that investments are made in undertakings in the primary target group for this investment priority. The project proposal should be designed so that existing structures are used, and so that foundations with long-term stability are ensured for fund activities. The selection will be based on the assessed opportunities of the implementer to find</p>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	4f - Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies
<p>appropriate investment objects under this investment priority and on the basis of the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-financing is ensured at the start of the project;</li> <li>• Expert skills in business development and national financing related to climate issues, the technological field of energy efficiency, and renewable energy;</li> <li>• Experience of commercialisation and internationalisation under this investment priority;</li> <li>• Operational skills from equity-capital investments in the early stages;</li> <li>• A track record of previous financing under this investment priority;</li> <li>• Aiming at undertakings with customer benefits and great future commercial potential;</li> <li>• Co-financing with private capital in every single investment;</li> <li>• Aiming at direct investment activities in the early stages, or with the opportunity for indirect investments, for example via small, sector-specific investment funds;</li> <li>• Relevant yield requirements;</li> <li>• Fulfilling legal requirements arising from the duty of managing public funds;</li> <li>• Considering sustainable development from the social, economic and environmental perspectives.</li> </ul>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	4f - Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies
<p>A functioning supply of capital is crucial for business start-ups and for sustainable growth. The need that undertakings have for external capital must initially be met in the private market, but there are areas where there may be a need for financing that supplements the market, including in the early stages of development at undertakings in the area of switching to a low-carbon economy. There are special barriers to entry in this sector that have meant that the lack of capital there is greater than in other sectors. Specific barriers that have been identified in this sector include a greater need for capital owing to the longer commercialisation process, the fact that undertakings are difficult to analyse in relation to technological verification or customer benefits, a lack of sector-specific knowledge on the part of investors, and the difficulties inherent in assessing the risks of changes in instrument-based demand. The traditional model of private VC investments involves an investment horizon of 3-7 years, which is highly inconsistent with this sector where the</p>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	4f - Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies
<p>commercialisation process usually takes twice as long.</p> <p>During the next programming period in 2014-20, financial instruments will not be implemented in a vacuum, but must be elucidated within the framework of existing experience. During the implementation of the regional programmes in the current period, financial instruments in the form of venture-capital funds have been established and experience from these programmes can be taken forward. None of these, however, have focused on business development for a low-carbon economy. Nonetheless, there are other players that have experience of this area, as well as analyses concerning access to and demand for capital, and thus sector-specific skills that can be incorporated into the continuing work.</p> <p>Against this background, this priority axis must accommodate the implementation of a financial instrument that contributes to the implementation of initiatives leading to a reinforcing of the supply of private and public venture capital in the early stages, in innovative small and medium-sized enterprises with products and/or services that have reduce greenhouse gases, either directly or indirectly. Investment priority 2 under this priority axis must exclusively finance the aforementioned instruments in accordance with the description. The initiatives will be implemented in the form of equity capital in a revolving fund. In accordance with the rules, an ex ante assessment will be carried out before any decision on aid is made by the managing authority.</p>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	4f - Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies

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

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

Investment priority		4f - Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			50.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			50.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)	EUR	ERDF	More developed			63 632 000.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

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

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

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

Priority axis		3 - Supporting the shift towards a low carbon economy in all sectors											
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
						M	W	T	M	W	T		
CO03	O	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			0			50.00	Project	
CO04	O	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			350			1 400.00	Project	
01	F	Expenditure	EUR	ERDF	More developed			46 537 062.00			155 123 540.00	Managing authority	
2	I	Number of undertakings receiving economic aid other than contributions based on projects that finance investments in portfolio undertakings	Number	ERDF	More developed			10				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.

It is expected that the programme will be implemented with a relatively small number of projects with a high balance-sheet total. This means that the implementation of every single project has a considerable impact on how well the programme manages to achieve the subsidiary objectives and final objectives, both in relation to all of the indicators for the programme in general terms, and in relation to the indicators in the performance framework in particular.

In priority axis 1, the subsidiary objective for the indicator ‘Completion of instruments in a multidisciplinary research infrastructure’ has been set at 0. In order subsequently to follow up on initiatives to which resources have been allocated, the programme will use the key implementation step ‘Projected number of instruments in a multidisciplinary research infrastructure, based on financed projects’. This key implementation step will be monitored continuously during programme implementation and reported back in the annual implementation report submitted to the Commission.

For priority axis 2, the subsidiary objective for the indicator ‘Number of undertakings receiving economic aid other than contributions’ has been set at 0. In order subsequently to follow up on initiatives to which resources have been allocated, the programme will use the key implementation step ‘Number of undertakings receiving economic aid other than contributions based on projects that finance investments in portfolio undertakings’. This key implementation step will be monitored continuously during programme implementation and reported back in the annual implementation report submitted to the Commission.

For priority axis 3, the subsidiary objective for the indicator ‘Number of undertakings receiving economic aid other than contributions’ has been set at 0. In order subsequently to follow up on initiatives to which resources have been allocated, the programme will use the key implementation step ‘Number of undertakings receiving economic aid other than contributions based on projects that finance investments in portfolio undertakings’. This key implementation step will be monitored continuously during programme implementation and reported back in the annual implementation report submitted to the Commission.

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

## 2.A.9 Categories of intervention

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

### Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention

Table 7: Dimension 1 — Intervention field

Priority axis		3 - Supporting the shift towards a low carbon economy in all sectors	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	065. Research and innovation infrastructure, processes, technology transfer and cooperation in enterprises focusing on the low carbon economy and on resilience to climate change	38 780 885.00
ERDF	More developed	068. Energy efficiency and demonstration projects in SMEs and supporting measures	38 780 885.00

**Table 8: Dimension 2 - Form of finance**

Priority axis		3 - Supporting the shift towards a low carbon economy in all sectors	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Non-repayable grant	38 780 885.00
ERDF	More developed	03. Support through financial instruments: venture and equity capital or equivalent	38 780 885.00

**Table 9: Dimension 3 — Territory type**

Priority axis		3 - Supporting the shift towards a low carbon economy in all sectors	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	29 783 720.00
ERDF	More developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	24 276 834.00
ERDF	More developed	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	23 501 216.00

**Table 10: Dimension 4 - Territorial delivery mechanisms**

Priority axis		3 - Supporting the shift towards a low carbon economy in all sectors	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	07. Not applicable	77 561 770.00

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

Priority axis		3 - Supporting the shift towards a low carbon economy in all sectors	
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Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
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**2.A.10 Summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (where appropriate) (by priority axis)**

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

## 2.B DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIORITY AXES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

### 2.B.1 Priority axis

<b>ID of the priority axis</b>	4
<b>Title of the priority axis</b>	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

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

### 2.B.4 Specific objectives and expected results

<b>ID</b>	<b>Specific objective</b>	<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>
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	4 - Technical assistance (TA)
	<p>Technical assistance can be provided so that the programme can be implemented in an effective and legally sound way and to inform about and encourage broad participation in the programme. Technical assistance can fund a number of activities, including preparations, administration, monitoring, evaluation, information and controls. The monitoring committee decides on the budget for technical assistance. The managing authority decides on the payment of technical assistance.</p> <p>The following costs can be co-financed by technical assistance for the managing and certifying authorities: preparations, administration, controls, evaluation, information efforts, seminars, computer systems and evaluations.</p> <p>The costs of auditing for the audit authority are co-financed by technical assistance.</p> <p>The costs of preparing for and holding meetings of the monitoring committee can be co-financed by technical assistance.</p> <p>The 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"> <li>• More simplification and reduced administrative burden for project sponsors;</li> </ul>

Priority axis	4 - Technical assistance (TA)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater coordination and transnational collaboration between different programmes, Projects and funds;</li> <li>• Result-oriented working practices where project selection, indicators, follow-up, evaluation and learning are combined.</li> </ul>	

### 2.B.6 2 Output indicators expected to contribute to results

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

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

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

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

## Tables 14-16: Categories of intervention

**Table 14: Dimension 1 — Intervention field**

Priority axis		4 - Technical assistance (TA)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ Amount
ERDF	More developed	121. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection	4 796 811.00
ERDF	More developed	122. Evaluation and studies	266 489.00
ERDF	More developed	123. Information and communication	266 490.00

**Table 15: Dimension 2 - Form of finance**

Priority axis		4 - Technical assistance (TA)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ Amount
ERDF		01. Non-repayable grant	5 329 790.00

**Table 16: Dimension 3 – Territory type**

Priority axis		4 - Technical assistance (TA)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ Amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	2 046 640.00
ERDF	More developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	1 668 224.00
ERDF	More developed	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	1 614 926.00

### 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	16,846,827.00	1,075,330.00	17,184,103.00	1,096,858.00	17,528,084.00	1,118,814.00	17,878,878.00	1,141,205.00	18,236,681.00	1,164,044.00	18,601,633.00	1,187,339.00	18,973,856.00	1,211,098.00	125,250,062.00	7,994,688.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>16,846,827.00</b>	<b>1,075,330.00</b>	<b>17,184,103.00</b>	<b>1,096,858.00</b>	<b>17,528,084.00</b>	<b>1,118,814.00</b>	<b>17,878,878.00</b>	<b>1,141,205.00</b>	<b>18,236,681.00</b>	<b>1,164,044.00</b>	<b>18,601,633.00</b>	<b>1,187,339.00</b>	<b>18,973,856.00</b>	<b>1,211,098.00</b>	<b>125,250,062.00</b>	<b>7,994,688.00</b>

### 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	27,221,901.00	27,221,901.00	27,056,901.00	165,000.00	54,443,802.00	50.0000000000%		25,520,532.00	25,520,532.00	1,701,369.00	1,701,369.00	6.25%
2	ERDF	More developed	Public	23,131,289.00	23,131,289.00	23,131,289.00	0.00	46,262,578.00	50.0000000000%		21,685,583.00	21,685,583.00	1,445,706.00	1,445,706.00	6.25%
3	ERDF	More developed	Total	77,561,770.00	77,561,770.00	76,785,770.00	776,000.00	155,123,540.00	50.0000000000%		72,714,157.00	72,714,157.00	4,847,613.00	4,847,613.00	6.25%
4	ERDF	More developed	Public	5,329,790.00	5,329,790.00	5,329,790.00	0.00	10,659,580.00	50.0000000000%		5,329,790.00	5,329,790.00			
<b>Total</b>	<b>ERDF</b>	<b>More developed</b>		<b>133,244,750.00</b>	<b>133,244,750.00</b>	<b>132,303,750.00</b>	<b>941,000.00</b>	<b>266,489,500.00</b>	<b>50.0000000000%</b>		<b>125,250,062.00</b>	<b>125,250,062.00</b>	<b>7,994,688.00</b>	<b>7,994,688.00</b>	<b>6.00%</b>
<b>Grand total</b>				<b>133,244,750.00</b>	<b>133,244,750.00</b>	<b>132,303,750.00</b>	<b>941,000.00</b>	<b>266,489,500.00</b>	<b>50.0000000000%</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>125,250,062.00</b>	<b>125,250,062.00</b>	<b>7,994,688.00</b>	<b>7,994,688.00</b>	

(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	27,221,901.00	27,221,901.00	54,443,802.00
Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs	ERDF	More developed	Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)	23,131,289.00	23,131,289.00	46,262,578.00
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	77,561,770.00	77,561,770.00	155,123,540.00
Total				127,914,960.00	127,914,960.00	255,829,920.00

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

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (€)</b>	<b>Proportion of the total allocation to the operational programme (%)</b>
3	77,561,770.00	58.21%
Total	77,561,770.00	58.21%

#### **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.

Please see Chapter 1 of the comprehensive analysis of the challenges under the programme.

##### **4.1 Community-led local development (where appropriate)**

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

Not applicable in this programme.

##### **4.2 Integrated actions for sustainable urban development (where appropriate)**

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

Not applicable in this programme.

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

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

#### **4.3 Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) (where appropriate)**

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

Not applicable in this programme.

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

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

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

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

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

##### **A – Macro-regionally integrated projects**

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

##### **B – Transnational component**

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

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

The managing authority will provide information on the opportunities to finance cooperation with 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 cross-border problems.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chapter 1 of the programme contains a description of how the programme relates to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. Chapter 2 contains a description under each

priority axis of whether, and if so how, this strategy is to be managed in the priority axis concerned. The description of the issue is thus integrated into the programme.

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

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

Not applicable to the programme.

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

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

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

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

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

### 7.1 Relevant authorities and bodies

**Table 23: Relevant authorities and bodies**

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

### 7.2 Involvement of relevant partners

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

The fundamental purpose of the national Regional Fund programme is to supply added value to the regional growth work and implementation of European cohesion policy. According to the guidelines issued by the Swedish Government, which have governed the preparation of the programme, this means that the programme must contribute to generating qualitative projects in competition with each other, with the aim of supporting long-term development in certain thematic areas. The programme must also 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. In addition to this, the programme must help to develop multiple-level governance, i.e. between levels and stakeholders, promote initiatives that contribute to greater collaboration with other relevant EU programmes, and promote initiatives that contribute to increased cooperation by business. Finally, initiatives must be implemented under the national Regional Fund programme to develop work on evaluations, knowledge feedback and lessons from Structural Fund work. In order to ensure that the programme achieves these ambitions, a large number of stakeholders from different levels and sectors have been involved in producing the programme. It is also crucial that various perspectives and interests are represented in the implementation of the programme.

## **Participation of relevant stakeholders in programme development**

According to the decision of the Swedish Government of 16 May 2013, the national Regional Fund programme must be developed in close dialogue with the Government Offices of Sweden. There must also be dialogue with the stakeholders responsible for coordinating work on regional growth. Collaboration on the processes for developing the regional Structural Fund programmes is a key part of this, as is consideration for the plans and strategies anchored at the regional level. A partnership must also be established with representatives of the private, public and not-for-profit sectors, to support development of the programme. Authorities and other stakeholders of relevance for the direction of the programme should also be invited to participate in this partnership. The authority group, which includes representatives from the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth (which is responsible for coordination), the Swedish Energy Agency and the Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems (Vinnova), has produced a draft programme accordingly. The Swedish Research Council has also participated with regard to thematic objective 1 of the programme.

### **Dialogue with the Government Offices of Sweden**

There has been regular dialogue with the Government Offices of Sweden since 16 May 2013, when the authorities were given the mandate to draft the national Regional Fund programme. Except in the holiday period (from early July to mid-August), formal meetings have taken place in alternate weeks between representatives of the Government Offices of Sweden and the authority group. They were held on 17 May, 28 May, 14 June, 27 June, 20 August, 3 September, 10 September and 25 September 2013. Those held on 27 June and 3 September 2013 were formal reporting events attended by representatives from several of the departments involved. The other meetings were attended by representatives of the Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications only. At these meetings, the authority group provided status reports on the development of the programme, and specific matters relating to the direction and clarification of the mandate were discussed. The Government Offices of Sweden were also able to study the draft programme, which was sent to them on 18 September 2013.

### **Dialogue with regional growth managers and processes for developing regional Structural Fund programmes**

During the preparation of the programme, the authority group for development of the national Regional Fund programme arranged two formal meetings for regional dialogue with regional growth managers, managers coordinating the writing of the regional Structural Fund programmes, and representatives of the County Administrative Boards. These meetings were held on 12 June and 28 August 2013. At these meetings, the authority group provided information about the ongoing work and opened the discussion up for comments, questions and debate on the direction and priorities of the programme. Representatives from all of the areas covered by the programme were present at these meetings.

In addition to the two formal events, the authority group for development of the national Regional Fund programme and the managers coordinating the writing of the regional Structural Fund programmes took part in joint exercises under the direction of the Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications. During these events, discussions

were also held concerning the content and boundaries of the programme in relation to the regional Structural Fund programmes.

Regional growth managers and the managers coordinating the writing of the regional Structural Fund programmes were also able to study a draft programme, which was sent to them on 18 September, and they were offered the opportunity to submit comments on it.

### **Partnership for production of the national Regional Fund programme**

A partnership has been established with representatives of the private, public and not-for-profit sectors, to support the development of the national Regional Fund programme. There is a reference group that is responsible for the functioning of the partnership in producing the programme. Stakeholders have been selected based on the composition of regional partnerships, supplemented by specific skills based on the direction of the programme. The following stakeholders have been invited to participate in the partnership: The National Forum, the County Administrative Boards, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, the Swedish Federation of Small Communities (SmåKom), the ESF, the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SKL), RegLab, the Association of Swedish Higher Education (SUHF), Business Sweden, Almi, the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise, the Swedish Federation of Business Owners, the Swedish Trade Union Confederation (LO), the Swedish Confederation of Professional Employees (TCO), the Federation of Swedish Farmers (LRF), the Association of Swedish Engineering Industries, Energy Agencies of Sweden, the Swedish Village Action Movement, Companion Services AB, SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden (RISE), Swedish Incubators and Science Parks (SISP), the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, and the Luleå University of Technology (LTU) Equality Expert. Annex 1 contains a list of those who took part in the preparations for the operational programme.

The partnership met on two occasions, 14 August and 24 September. The partnership also offered an opportunity for opinions to be submitted on the draft programme, which was sent out on 18 September.

### **Managing and certifying authorities**

The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth is the managing and certifying authority for the national Regional Fund programme, 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. The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth must consult the Swedish Energy Agency, the Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems (Vinnova) and the Swedish Research Council on its preparations, where required. 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 National Financial Management Authority is the audit authority for the national Regional Fund programme, with EU-controlled powers.

## **Monitoring committee**

Member States must establish a committee to monitor implementation of the programme. A Monitoring Committee is being established for the national Regional Fund programme, with representatives from the stakeholders involved. The committee is chaired by a representative of the Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications.

In order to ensure that there is regional influence on the programme's implementation, the chairmen of the eight regional Structural Fund partnerships must serve on the committee. The Swedish Government will respond separately on the composition of the committee.

The monitoring committee must form a working committee from among its members. The working committee's main task is to deal with coordination issues for the national Regional Fund programme and the eight regional Structural Fund programmes that fall within the monitoring committee's mandate.

When the managing authority has to issue a call for proposals under the programme, the criteria specific to the call are reconciled with the working committee before the call for proposals is published. The selection of criteria specific to the call in question must then be reported at the next meeting of the monitoring committee.

The monitoring committee may 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 to, among other things, 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.

During implementation of the programme, the evaluation work must be carried out by independent parties and characterised by methods for follow-up research and theory-driven evaluations. Theory-driven evaluations mean an evaluation of both the process and the results, as well as the short-term and long-term impact and potential implementation in regular activities. 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 their implementation. 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 importance 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 is concerned with 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.

This is described in Chapters 1 and 2 of the programme. Chapter 2 primarily discusses priority axis 1.

### **Links to the regional Regional Fund programmes**

The fundamental aim of the national Regional Fund programme is to create added value for work on regional growth and the implementation of cohesion policy that cannot be achieved adequately within the framework of the regional Structural Fund programmes. The programme is intended to contribute to the following added values:

- Obtain qualitative projects in competition in order to support long-term development in certain thematic 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 governance, 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.

Chapter 1 describes the added value of the national programme in relation to the regional programmes.

### **European Social Fund**

In order to ensure access to workers with the right skills, collaboration with the European Social Fund can create synergies, for example through training initiatives and skills development for employees, which can reinforce the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises. Continuing skills development 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.

Applying the horizontal principle of sustainable development to a project can help to achieve thematic objective 4, so that initiatives under the Social Fund in the interests of increased employment and growth can be combined with an environmental perspective, with a special focus on preventing and adapting to climate change. On this point, the Social Fund can support initiatives in the areas of skills development and maintenance, to facilitate the transition to a low-carbon economy and growth of new, green jobs.

### **COSME and Horizon 2020**

Small and medium-sized enterprises 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.

For example, the Government Bill on research and innovation, 2012/13: 30 states that the Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems (Vinnova), based on its area of activity, should support the regions in their work on strategic innovation. The national innovation strategy also stresses the need to develop the interaction between national authorities, regional development actors and work on the programmes within the EU. The importance of creating synergies and ensuring coordination between the programmes and

the various EU funds and instruments for research, innovation and entrepreneurship is also emphasised in the Swedish Government's directives for the preparation of European Regional Development Fund programmes.

For priority axis three, which is aimed at greater energy efficiency, better access to venture capital, and greater dissemination and acceptance of services and technologies to support the transition to a low-carbon economy, there are potential synergies with Horizon 2020 that need to be given due consideration and attention. This probably applies to the priorities of social challenges and the area of safe, clean, efficient energy in Horizon 2020. This work will also, however, affect other areas under these priorities, as well as the priorities of finely-honed skills and industrial leadership. The latter includes elements such as access to venture capital and the development of key enabling technologies, which is particularly closely linked to investment priority two under this priority axis.

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.

This is described in Chapters 1 and 2 of the programme. Chapter 2 primarily discusses priority axis 1.

### **Financial instruments and fund of funds**

Reports from the OECD and statistics from EVCA show that there is a relatively good environment for venture capital in Sweden. Sweden is still among the top players in relation to venture-capital investments in general. In recent years, however, many private investment funds have chosen to abandon the very earliest stages. The number of private start-up venture-capital (VC) funds (i.e. minority investments in small growth businesses) has therefore fallen sharply in recent years. In order to maintain good developmental power in Sweden, so that the foremost small and medium-sized enterprises can develop, it is important to have a dynamic industry for early-stage investment. There is therefore an argument in favour of a 'fund-of-funds' solution, with

the aim of investing in private VC funds, with the focus on the early stages. The OECD and EIF have recommended this type of initiative for Sweden.

In this case, ‘fund of funds’ means that EU resources, Regional Fund resources from the national Regional Fund programme, and other public financing are placed in a fund that is then used to select private investment funds that, with an equal proportion of private financing in those funds, can invest venture capital in start-ups. Fund-of-fund investment is intended as a publicly financed fund that will be able to invest in both new and existing private VC funds.

The aim of establishing an initiative for fund-of-funds investments is partly to reinforce the supply of early-stage venture capital (VC) and partly to promote the entry of more private investors to the VC market. The net result is expected to lead to better long-term growth and reinforced competitiveness for Swedish SMEs. Various options for administering the initiative are currently being assessed. There is a very clear perception in Sweden of the market problems that a fund-of-funds solution would address.

This is described in Chapters 1 and 2 of the programme. Chapter 2 primarily discusses priority axis 2.

### **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. For sparsely populated regions, investments in the transport system, for example in infrastructure, may be decisive for business, the labour market, and the environment.

The EU can contribute 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 well-developed infrastructure will provide better conditions to take advantage of 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 CEF, the infrastructure must be present on the maps contained in guidelines for TEN-T.

In addition, 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 CEF 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 considerable importance for economic growth, competitiveness and social integration.

Under the CEF and trans-European networks in the area of telecommunications infrastructure (TEN-TELE), initiatives can be taken to promote expansion and modernisation of broadband networks and of trans-European infrastructures for digital

services and their common building-blocks. 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 CEF and trans-European networks in the area of energy (TEN-E).

The programme does not include any special initiatives for sustainable transport.

## **CAP**

*Please see the annex entitled 'Future text Chapter 8'.*

## **LIFE**

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

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

## **Creative Europe**

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

## 9. EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES

### 9.1 Ex-ante conditionalities

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

Please see the annexed table.

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

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

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

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
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 National programme'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.
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 National programme'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.
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 National programme'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
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 National programme'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.
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 National programme'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.
T.01.2 - Research and Innovation infrastructure. The existence of a multi annual plan for budgeting and prioritisation of investments.	1 - An indicative multi-annual plan for budgeting and prioritisation of investments linked to Union priorities, and, where appropriate, the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) has been adopted.	Yes	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.
T.03.1 - Specific actions have been carried out to underpin the promotion of entrepreneurship taking into account the Small Business Act	1 - The specific actions are: measures have been put in place with the objective of reducing the time and cost involved in setting-up a business taking	Yes	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.

<b>Ex-ante conditionality</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Explanations</b>
(SBA).	account of the targets of the SBA;			
T.03.1 - Specific actions have been carried out to underpin the promotion of entrepreneurship taking into account the Small Business Act (SBA).	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 National programme'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.
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 National programme'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.
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 National programme'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.
G.1 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti-discrimination law and policy in the	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-	Yes	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.

<b>Ex-ante conditionality</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Explanations</b>
field of ESI Funds.	discrimination law and policy.			
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 National programme'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.
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 National programme'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.
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 National programme'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.

<b>Ex-ante conditionality</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Explanations</b>
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 National programme'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.
G.3 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC.	3 - Arrangements to ensure monitoring of the implementation of Article 9 of the UNCRPD in relation to the ESI Funds throughout the preparation and the implementation of the programmes.	Yes	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.
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 National programme'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.
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 National programme'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.

<b>Ex-ante conditionality</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Explanations</b>
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 National programme'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.
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 National programme'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.
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 National programme'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.
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 National programme'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.
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 National programme'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.

<b>Ex-ante conditionality</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Explanations</b>
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 National programme'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.
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 National programme'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.
G.6 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union environmental legislation related to EIA and SEA.	3 - Arrangements to ensure sufficient administrative capacity.	Yes	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.
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 National programme'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
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 National programme'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.
G.7 - The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	3 - An effective system of result indicators including: the selection of result indicators for each programme providing information on what motivates the selection of policy actions financed by the programme.	Yes	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.
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 National programme'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.

<b>Ex-ante conditionality</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Explanations</b>
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 National programme'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.
G.7 - The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	6 - Procedures in place to ensure that all operations financed by the programme adopt an effective system of indicators.	Yes	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities National programme'.

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

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

<b>General ex-ante conditionality</b>	<b>Criteria not fulfilled</b>	<b>Actions to be taken</b>	<b>Deadline (date)</b>	<b>Bodies responsible</b>

**Table 26: Actions to fulfil applicable thematic ex-ante conditionalities**

Thematic ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
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## 10. REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN FOR BENEFICIARIES

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

Applying for, operating, reporting on 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) has noted 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 '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 hinder implementation of 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 when 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, joined in. The areas in which cooperation has started between the funds, with the aim of reducing the administrative burden for beneficiaries, are principally payroll costs and indirect costs.

Ahead of the programming period 2014-2020, the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth worked actively to review all stages of administration and implementation of the programmes. The case process, which includes everything from information about the programmes and their contents to application procedure, approval of projects, project reporting, follow-up and finally project closure, is 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**

**Measure**

**Estimated end date**

Clear and readily available to beneficiaries

January 2014

A new and improved electronic application, 'My Application'

February 2014

Simplified work processes

Programme start/autumn 2014

Simpler reporting for beneficiaries

Programme start/autumn 2014

## 11. HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES

### 11.1 Sustainable development

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

projects under the programme have to take account of the same horizontal criteria. The managing authority has to assist in this work.

### **Classification criteria**

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

### **Better environment**

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

The project fulfils all the items below:

The background and project description contains an account of how the environment is used as a tool/resource with which to attain the purpose and objective of the project.

The activities and costs of the project show clearly how the environment is to be used as a tool in implementation.

In the follow-up of the project, the project sponsor plans to show how the environment has been used as a tool to attain the objectives of the project and show what results have been achieved.

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

The project fulfils two of the items below:

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

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

The project does not fulfil any of the items below:

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

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

## **11.2 Equal opportunities and non-discrimination**

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

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

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

Companies and organisations wishing to enhance their innovative capability benefit from recruiting more widely and creating a less homogeneous workforce. Regional work on fair recruitment is important, including highlighting employees who work actively as ambassadors from the non-discrimination perspective. It is also important to develop immigrants' skills and make them more visible, thus effecting improvements to matching

in the labour market and lowering the thresholds. Excluded young people are a key target group.

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

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

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

### **Classification criteria**

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

### **Equal treatment and non-discrimination**

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

The project fulfils all the items below:

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

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

The project fulfils two of the items below:

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

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

The project does not fulfil any of the items below:

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

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. In other words, they must 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 of the main reasons for gender equality resulting in sustainable growth are:

Human resources are used more effectively if the labour market is gender-equal and less segregated by gender. This means, among other things, that if 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 the need 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. to make it easier to solve 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 investment 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 throughout 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	Expenditure	EUR			5 444 380			54 443 802.00
1 - Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	ERDF	More developed	Projected number of instruments in a multidisciplinary research infrastructure, based on financed projects	Number			2			
1 - Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	ERDF	More developed	Completion of instruments in a multidisciplinary research infrastructure	Number			0			2.00
2 - Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs	ERDF	More developed	Productive investment: Number of enterprises	Enterprises			0			60.00

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
			receiving financial support other than grants							
2 - Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs	ERDF	More developed	Expenditure	EUR			11 565 644			46 262 578.00
2 - Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs	ERDF	More developed	Number of undertakings receiving economic aid other than contributions based on projects that finance investments in portfolio undertakings	Number			15			
3 - Supporting the shift towards a low carbon economy in all sectors	ERDF	More developed	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Enterprises			0			50.00
3 - Supporting the shift towards a low carbon economy in all sectors	ERDF	More developed	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises			350			1 400.00
3 - Supporting the shift towards a low carbon economy in all sectors	ERDF	More developed	Expenditure	EUR			46 537 062.00			155 123 540.00
3 - Supporting the shift towards a low carbon economy in all sectors	ERDF	More developed	Number of undertakings receiving economic aid other than contributions based on projects that finance investments in portfolio undertakings	Number			10			

### 12.3 Relevant partners involved in preparation of programme

#### List of relevant partners involved in the preparations for the operational programme

Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth

Swedish Energy Agency

Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems

Swedish Research Council  
Government Offices of Sweden  
Regional growth managers  
National forum  
County Administrative Boards  
Swedish Environmental Protection Agency  
Swedish Federation of Small Communities (SmåKom)  
Swedish ESF Council - European Social Fund  
Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SKL)  
RegLab  
Association of Swedish Higher Education (SUHF)  
Business Sweden  
Almi  
Swedish Trade Union Confederation (LO)  
Federation of Swedish Farmers (LRF)  
Association of Swedish Engineering Industries  
Energy Agencies of Sweden

Swedish Village Action Movement

Companion Services AB

SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden (RISE)

Swedish Incubators and Science Parks (SISP)



## Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Ex-ante conditionalities National Regional Fund programme	Supplementary information	10 December 2014		Ares(2014)4143516	Ex-ante conditionalities National Regional Fund programme	10 December 2014	nolofann
MKB National Regional Fund programme	Supplementary information	10 December 2014		Ares(2014)4143516	MKB National Regional Fund programme	10 December 2014	nolofann
Ex-ante evaluation National Regional Fund programme	Supplementary information	10 December 2014		Ares(2014)4143516	Ex-ante evaluation National Regional Fund programme	10 December 2014	nolofann
Text National Regional Fund programme	Supplementary information	10 December 2014		Ares(2014)4143516	Text National Regional Fund programme	10 December 2014	nolofann

## Submitted annexes by the Commission implementing regulation laying down the model of the programme

Document title	Document type	Programme version	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis ex-ante evaluation of proposals for Regional Fund programmes 2014-2020	Report of the ex-ante evaluation	1.1	28 October 2014		Ares(2014)3955343	Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis ex-ante evaluation of proposals for Regional Fund programmes 2014-2020	26 November 2014	nolofann
Programme Snapshot 2014SE16RFOP009 1.2	Snapshot of data before send	1.2	10 December 2014		Ares(2014)4143516	Programme Snapshot 2014SE16RFOP009 1.2 sv	10 December 2014	nolofann