

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

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

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

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

The operational programme for the European Regional Development Fund in the Middle Norrland programme area is, in a European perspective, a practical tool that is to contribute and assist, over a period of 7 years, in attaining the Europe 2020 strategy on global competitiveness and environmental, energy and demographic issues. An important point of departure for the programme is the EU's joint development strategy 'Europe 2020', with the key concept of *smart, sustainable and inclusive growth*. Europe 2020 replaces the earlier Lisbon strategy. The new strategy, to an even greater degree than its predecessor, emphasises the need for innovation, employment and social integration, as well as powerful action to tackle environmental problems and climate change and to fulfil the objectives of EU 2020. It is necessary for the strategy to be implemented if the EU is to succeed in strengthening its position globally. As the Member States of the EU are, to an increased extent, affected by one another and they face common challenges, the strategy will also be common to the whole EU area. At the same time, the new strategy allows the regions scope to formulate and implement for themselves a policy suited to their own particular needs.

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

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

These priorities are put into practical form in a number of objectives that are to be fulfilled at EU level in 2020, as shown in the table below (Table 1). It can be seen from the list that Sweden already fulfils most of these objectives.

Table 1: Listing of the objectives in EU 2020 and Sweden's national objectives (see annex 'Tables and figures Middle Norrland')

Although Sweden performs well in an EU perspective, in the view of the European Commission the country faces a number of challenges. The Structural Funds should be used to meet the greatest challenges which, under the proposed Partnership Agreement between Sweden and the European Commission, are:

- insufficient commercial return on innovation and research;
- low level of participation in the labour market by young people and vulnerable groups;
- better management of natural resources and better cost-effectiveness for measures related to climate change.

### **The Partnership Agreement**

The Partnership Agreement represents the national strategic framework for the next 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. Level of education is of great significance to the ability of the labour market, the region and society to develop and be transformed. There is a regional imbalance in the distribution of people with a high level of educational 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, especially in rural areas and among young people, women and people born abroad. It is also desirable to profile leading universities and increase collaboration with operators from the business community.

The Government has a vision for Sweden to have zero net greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere in 2050. The challenge is to combine growth with a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, which several regions have succeeded in doing in recent years. Greenhouse gas emissions 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 in lakes and rivers will increase, for example. Efforts to switch to a more sustainable energy system and sustainable business development provide a basis for the development of technology, products and services, and in the longer term also increased employment and business creation.

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

poses a significant structural challenge. Demographic development and an ageing population are leading to problems in obtaining a long-term sustainable supply of labour.

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

The analytical material for Middle Norrland corroborates the specific regional features described in the Partnership Agreement. Resources have been allocated in the programme to TM2 and TM7 with the aim of increasing access to and improving the functionality of the digital infrastructure, as well as the physical infrastructure. The reason for this is that, as a result of changed working practices and applications of information technology, access to fast and stable internet connections have been identified as crucially important to entrepreneurship and participation in international and national markets.

The regional analysis that has been done in Middle Norrland ahead of the work on programming emphasises, among other things, that R&D investments are low, that youth unemployment is high and that the demographic challenges are particularly alarming in this sparsely populated region. The structure of trade and industry consists of many small enterprises in a large geographical area and a concentration of large enterprises at the coast. Taken together, this confirms the analysis presented in the Partnership Agreement.

The analysis has led to an ERDF programme with adaptations based on the regional situation with challenges and needs within the framework of the Partnership Agreement. The level of agreement between the Partnership Agreement and the regional programmes is therefore deemed to be good. One reason is that the Partnership Agreement has been formulated through a process in which the regions have been given an opportunity to participate.

The principal territorial differences presented in the Partnership Agreement for Middle Norrland are not comprehensive, but in the main they reflect the challenges that are corroborated in analyses that have been performed and are described in the ESI programmes.

**Coordination is achieved with funds-wide objectives and collaboration between funds**

With the aim of improving the prospects of attaining the objectives of the EU 2020 strategy, the European Commission has chosen a strategy that signifies better coordination of the funds. Better coordination is achieved, among other ways, through the Partnership Agreement that has been drawn up between each Member State and the European Commission. The Partnership Agreement describes how the thematic objectives are to be used at national and regional level. Coordination is combined with a clearer concentration of efforts. This concentration is achieved through the funds-wide thematic objectives that have been defined and through the investment priorities that have been attached to each objective.

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
4. Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors
5. Promoting climate change adaptation and risk prevention and management
6. Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency
7. Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures
8. Promoting employment and supporting labour mobility
9. Promoting social inclusion and tackling poverty
10. Investing in education, skills and lifelong learning
11. Enhancing institutional capacity and ensuring an efficient public administration

Attaining the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy is dependent on collaboration between all common strategic funds. In the implementation phase, the ERDF programme will strive for and prioritise collaboration and synergies between the European Social Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Marine and Fisheries Fund. In addition, collaboration takes place with other programme areas and initiatives such as Horizon 2020.

A significant part of the Europe 2020 strategy comprises the EU development strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (the Baltic Sea Region Strategy). The eastward enlargement of the EU in 2004 added new political dimensions to EU cooperation, with the ecological status of the Baltic Sea, among other things, becoming a common responsibility. The Baltic Sea is in urgent need of action to prevent increasing acidification, while various analyses point to the growth potential that exists in the Baltic Sea Region. Taking both challenges and opportunities together, the EU has agreed to formulate a separate development strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region is the EU's first macroregional development strategy. The introduction of a macroregional development strategy makes flexibility and region-specific solutions possible, together contributing to a stronger EU. The prospects of fulfilling the Europe 2020 strategy are improved through enhanced collaboration between the ERDF programme in the programme area and the Baltic Sea Region Strategy.

The three objectives in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region create a basis for collaboration with the programme area's regional Structural Funds programme. Priority axis 1 in the regional Structural Funds programme is aimed at promoting research and

innovation in the programme area. Collaboration with other operators in the Baltic Sea area in the programme area of Innovation in the Baltic Sea Region Strategy should be aimed for. Such collaboration can create added value in the area of innovation for the whole of the Baltic Sea Region. Other priority axes in the regional Structural Funds programme have corresponding links to the objectives and priority areas of the Baltic Sea Region Strategy. Baltic Sea Region cooperation is consequently also possible in the areas of ICT and transport infrastructure, in efforts to promote small and medium-sized enterprises and, in particular, in efforts to bring about a more low-carbon economy.

### **The programming period 2014-2020 in the Middle Norrland programme area**

The Middle Norrland programme area has a population of around 370 000. The population is concentrated in the coastal area and the river valleys, and approximately 40 % of the population live outside the urban areas, which is higher than the national average. This means that the programme area is so sparsely populated that it shares in the special Structural Funds resources earmarked to counteract the disadvantages of sparse population. Although a large proportion of the population live in one of the three largest cities in the programme area, none of these cities can be regarded as a large city in a European or national perspective. The largest city in the programme area, Sundsvall, is the 16th largest city in Sweden, with around 97 000 inhabitants.

Although there are intra-regional differences, the population in the programme area has been declining for a number of years. The decline is clearest in the sparsely populated and rural areas, and it is younger people in particular, principally women, who are moving to larger localities in and outside the programme area. The proportion of people born outside Sweden is significantly lower than the national average.

Since Sweden's accession to the EU, Swedish regional growth policy has come to be increasingly integrated into EU cohesion policy. This is manifested in many ways, particularly with regard to collaboration between the regions on strategies. The programme area consists of two counties, Jämtland and Västernorrland, which in their respective regional development strategies highlight central development areas. There is clear agreement with the Europe 2020 strategy in the two counties, and the operational programme for the joint programme areas is essentially based on the regional development strategies of the two counties.

### **Regional development strategies in the programme area**

The focal areas highlighted in the regional development strategies of the two counties have guided work on the operational programme for the programme area. This work is based on the regional development strategy of the county of Västernorrland for the period 2011-2020 and the regional development strategy for the county of Jämtland for the period 2014-2030. For Jämtland, we base ourselves on the consultation procedure for which the time limit for responding was 1 September 2013.

The development strategies of the two counties have together prioritised seven and four areas respectively. There is good agreement here with the priorities in Europe 2020, and they supplement one another. It is common to the development strategies of the two counties that collaboration between and joint action by affected operators are regarded as one of the most important tools in achieving set objectives. It is emphasised that

municipalities, authorities, enterprises, organisations and the education system must have a common approach and functioning and effective mutual cooperation (Table 2).

Table 2: Priority areas in the two regional development strategies for the programme area (see annex ‘Tables and figures Middle Norrland’)

Taken together, the regional development strategies of the programme area have prioritised efforts in the following areas:

- Enterprises, innovation, R&D and knowledge development to make products and services competitive. Innovation systems that work well are highlighted here in particular, with a view to business development and innovation. The importance of cooperation between enterprises, research, public-sector activity and educational organisations is also emphasised. The common objective is to create work and new enterprises, but also to contribute to a good investment base and venture capital, as well the establishment of clusters, in particular as a route to internationalisation, exports and transnational cooperation. Another key issue in the programme area is enterprise among young people and a healthy entrepreneurship climate.
- Development of skills and knowledge is to take place in terms of smooth and strategic collaboration between different operators. Lifelong learning is of key significance, as is the link between education and the labour market. In addition, priority is given to increasing the proportion of the population with post-secondary education, especially men but also young people and immigrants.
- Infrastructure, accessibility and public services are of key significance in the programme area, as well as this being linked to regional programmes and comprehensive land-use plans. The importance of functioning goods and passenger transport that contributes to sustainable regional enlargement is also emphasised, with a section of the E14 between Trondheim and Sundsvall and the E4 along the coast being among the routes concerned. As well as intra-regional transport and railway communications, fast and good connections inter-regionally and also internationally are emphasised. Access to high-speed broadband and the development of digital services to create growth and support structural changes have also been identified as being a high-priority area in the region.
- The demographic issue is also of key significance and concerns young and old, women and men, and people born in and outside Sweden. The involvement of citizens is regarded as a crucial development resource, and gender equality, diversity and good integration are emphasised here. It is also a matter of creating the necessary basis for a healthy lifestyle, the possibility of taking part in cultural and natural experiences and offering a functioning welfare and security system. Persuading more young women and people born outside the country to remain in, or choose to move to, the region is significant, and there is special focus on groups with a low level of competitiveness in the labour market.
- Climate awareness and energy efficiency are highlighted in the programme area, and it is emphasised here that the sustainability perspective has to pervade practical efforts and dialogue on principles in all work on regional growth and development. Operations in environmental technology and organic production

and operations that have sharply reduced dependence on fossil energy in the area of transport are also addressed. The involvement of citizens in climate issues and conscious consumer choices are also concerned.

- An attractive region involves operations relating to the visitor industry, the value chains of agriculture and locally produced food, which is to be linked to sustainable growth. Culture and creativeness are prioritised as an element of social cohesion and a competitive regional identity. In addition, the rich natural resources are viewed as both the basis for products of high quality and a strong factor in attracting inward migration and tourism.

### **The priority areas of the programme area**

Thematic objective 1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation

There is one university in the region, split between two campuses — one in Sundsvall and one in Östersund. Most of the small enterprises in the region are between 100 and 250 km away from research environments. Despite long distances, the analysis shows that there are favourable conditions for innovation and commercialisation of research-based products and services in the programme area.

Linked to the university, there are two technology parks with innovation support systems that function well. The region is also reasonably supplied with venture capital. However, investment in research and development needs to be improved, not least because investments by enterprises in 2011 accounted for only 0.6 % of total investments in the country. Investments in R&D accounted for 0.9 % of GRP in Middle Norrland in 2011, which can be compared to the national average of 3.4 %. The innovative enterprises to date have been focused on banking and finance projects, thematic commitments to winter sport and a biorefinery initiative, and need to be broadened. Several of these sectors are dominated by men, and the region's areas of strength should therefore also be expanded to cover more enterprises in sectors dominated by women and so that more industries become interesting areas of work for women. It is therefore important to utilise, develop and deepen cooperation and innovativeness in potential and existing enterprises so that they each separately, or together, carry out activities that lead to investments in sustainable growth, competitiveness and ability to act in national and international markets.

Only 4 % of enterprises in the region state that they have contact with universities or colleges. A contributory factor is long distances from innovative environments. As the structure of trade and industry principally consists of small enterprises spread across the whole region, it is important to find solutions so that more industries can be involved in innovation efforts and can utilise innovation systems and research capacity in their innovation activity.

To enhance regional competitiveness, there is also a need for rapid adjustment to changes in the market, improved innovative capacity in the region's enterprises and for new innovative goods and services to be produced for a global market. Collaboration with funds within and outside the programme area is necessary to achieve success, as well as the public sector being incorporated into the innovation system. As the region has good

development potential in energy supply, energy use and development of smart technology and systems solutions, there are good opportunities to reduce climate impact.

The Middle Norrland ERDF programme creates opportunities to assist in research based on the research infrastructure and resources provided through the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI). This opportunity is opened both for enterprises with capacity to take part in research-intensive innovation processes and researchers who meet the conditions to take part in Horizon 2020, for example.

The forests as a resource are prioritised as an area of strength of the programme area in research, preparing the way for the development of green industries, the bioeconomy, biochemistry, renewable energy and wind power, as well as new value-added products. Development of these areas can lead to energy savings and reduced carbon dioxide emissions.

The prospects for increased processing of forest raw material into various kinds of bio-based products such as green chemicals and other materials are good. It is therefore of key importance to continue to support the forest sector and encourage new initiatives. Commercialising innovations in priority areas is crucial during the programming period.

A well expanded IT infrastructure benefits the establishment of new enterprises, existing enterprises and micro-businesses in rural areas. An open innovation system for enterprises in sparse structures therefore needs to be built up, and this can be facilitated, for example, through enhanced IT solutions in public and private organisations. This work should focus on customer-driven innovation to meet the needs of the market. Procurement in the public sector represents an opportunity for innovative development. Promoting collaboration and an exchange of experience on innovation procurement are important.

The business community today has high demands with regard to coverage and capacity, and the growing enterprises are often in a development-intensive service sector. The IT infrastructure has a direct impact on innovation development, being able to introduce new products and services to the market and developing tools in the academic environment.

A well expanded IT infrastructure is essential to enable the full benefit of the knowledge produced by universities and colleges in and outside the region to be obtained. There are a number of centres of expertise and clusters in the region linked to academia that represent both a platform for collaboration and a core of knowledge in the area concerned. Examples are industrial information technology and digital services with the STC centre and the forests as a resource with the FSCN centre.

The growth areas for the future probably include continuing to develop areas of activity and innovation such as big data/information management, applications and gaming logic, with a special focus on young innovators in new market segments. Another example might be what is referred to in various contexts as e-government or the 24-hour authority and is concerned with how digital technology makes it possible to provide more efficient and readily accessible public services for citizens and enterprises.

Great specialist expertise has been developed around forest raw material in a number of areas such as control engineering, environmental and sustainable technology and operation and maintenance. Examples of this are cluster formations such as Processum — Framtidens bioraffinaderi (Processum — Biorefinery of the Future), Bio Business Region, Packaging Mid Sweden, Safety and Rescue Region (SRR) and Bank-Försäkring-Pension (Banking-Insurance-Pensions) (CER).

As well as these, further research institutions, centres and research groups in a number of subjects such as the social sciences, tourism, gender studies and technology, and everything from democracy issues, sensor-based services and digital printing to digital information management and the communication of organisations can be highlighted. Managed correctly, this will enable better conditions to create lifelong learning, but also to strengthen the business and community development required for greater growth, capacity for renewal and sustainability.

## **Thematic objective 2 — Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies**

A well deployed high-speed broadband infrastructure is particularly important for sustainable growth and development in Middle Norrland, as it is a sparsely populated region. It contributes to creating the conditions necessary for competition on equal terms for enterprises independently of locality, and is therefore of the utmost significance in limiting the disadvantages of the programme area in the form of sparse population and long distances. Quantitative analyses performed by the National Post and Telecom Agency show that there is large unutilised potential for growth among companies through greater access to, and use of, IT and communications services.

The geographical areas that offer high-capacity broadband hold more appeal for business start-ups than those that do not. Access to high-speed broadband should be developed. The basic principle is that the players in the market have main responsibility for the provision of broadband, through the cost being charged to the end-customer, while the public sector can provide encouragement with grants to areas where it is not profitable for the market to invest. Market forces are not, at present, sufficient for extended broadband deployment in the sparsely populated areas of the region, and area-specific geographical and population-related conditions necessitate public resources being invested in the region to supplement market forces. In areas where there are long distances between villages and communities, there is a limited customer base, which means that commercial players do not have such great opportunities to make profitable investments. The regional broadband strategies in the programme area identify the geographical areas that are in need of extended roll-out of IT infrastructure and therefore guide future deployment.

The productivity gains of enterprises are largely brought about through increased use of digital technology and services. Enterprises are dependent on IT infrastructure and consequently have greater requirements for capacity. Capacity restrictions currently inhibit growth for enterprises and pose an obstacle to both job creation and business start-ups. A large proportion of enterprises in Middle Norrland are located in small urban areas and in rural areas. There is a large proportion of microbusinesses spread out across a

large geographical area. The prospects of enterprises strengthening their competitiveness in a sustainable manner in a regional, national and international context depend to an even greater extent on their ability to utilise information and communication technology.

Access to broadband is crucial for the ability of companies to be competitive, job creation and regional growth.

Extended roll-out of IT infrastructure benefits all enterprises and sectors. A characteristic feature of branches of industry in Middle Norrland such as the manufacturing and forest industries, the visitor industry, the energy sector, health and social care, the building industry, commerce and business services is that they are in great need of distance-bridging IT communication. Businesses in these industries exist and operate throughout the region. If there is broadband access, IT companies and other kinds of service companies can be located independently of where their customers are. Existing enterprises that work on IT support, systems monitoring and design service, for example, can broaden their range of services and reach new markets. An important element in creating growth in the region is to increase added value by strengthening local production of goods and services and increasing exports, particularly in the larger companies. Digital technology is an essential requirement to this end. New technology can be utilised to find new ways of organising work, so that enterprises in the whole region can move from a local to a global market without needing to leave the region in order to do so. The enterprises face distance-related challenges, and it is therefore necessary to build dense structures and strengthen cooperation between businesses dispersed across the large geographical distances, with the aim of creating proximity and competitiveness. A good IT infrastructure is required for this purpose.

Broadband and e-learning also improve the chances of skills development for individuals and enterprises located far away from education and training institutions. Access to the right skills contributes to improved profitability in businesses.

The aim of the operations under the ERDF programme is to carry out infrastructural investments that prepare the way for a functioning market for private operators and customers. To enable these operations to be implemented, the ERDF resources have to be coordinated with, and differentiated from, resources from other public sources of funding, for example the Rural Development Programme, but also other public resources and private funding options. Collaboration between national, regional, municipal and private operators, together with other funding solutions, ensures extended broadband roll-out to enterprises in those areas where the market does not provide extended roll-out.

The cooperative structures between authorities and organisations that have been established under the work on the regional digital agendas will ensure during programme implementation that the investments in interurban networks are accompanied by investments from the Rural Development Programme or others who provide the end-users with access to broadband. It is to be possible for resources from the ERDF programme to be used, among other things, to produce statistics, geographical data, analyses and cost calculations, for the deployment of interurban networks, and for method, knowledge and project support.

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

Entrepreneurship is a mainstay of work on growth in the programme area. Microbusinesses in Middle Norrland provide 26 % of the number of jobs, together accounting for no less than 22 % of employment. One of the reasons for this is the way the labour market functions in a sparsely populated region. Greater competitiveness in small and medium-sized enterprises is crucial to sustainable growth. The analysis shows a correlation between increased value creation and the addition of new jobs. At the same time, the proportion of internationalised small companies is significantly lower than in the country as a whole. The region's entrepreneurship culture is well documented. Enterprising individuals are essential if enterprise is to be enhanced. However, entrepreneurship needs to be strengthened through targeted activities in order to create more new and growing enterprises. Trade and industry mainly consist of small businesses, and a good climate for entrepreneurship and enterprise represents an important foundation for sustainable regional growth, not least because many enterprises within a 10-year period, particularly in sparsely populated areas, face a generational shift where there is a need for bridging actions to new entrepreneurs. This is motivated above all by the fact that the survival rate for new start-ups in the region is below the national average. Experience shows that the survival rate of businesses improves when existing businesses are taken over. From the point of view of sustainability, it is important to create the necessary basis for new entrepreneurs both to increase growth in existing enterprises and take over established businesses.

Access to capital is a key factor here. The supply of private risk capital is substantially lower in this region than in the metropolitan regions. Regional-policy enterprise support can therefore supplement other funding for enterprises in sparsely populated areas where market capital supply does not work. One of the most notable challenges in the programme area is access to both equity and risk capital. This is particularly important for small enterprises in development phases and for small and medium-sized enterprises in phases of expansion. Some compensatory public-sector operations, with regard to venture capital, risk capital and loan capital, may be crucial and justified in order to create comparable conditions for enterprise and growth in Middle Norrland.

Improved business collaboration is, and has been shown to be, an effective method of improving competitiveness among the region's enterprises. This is dependent on enterprises in the programme area having good opportunities to strengthen their competitiveness in the long term and to improve their profitability by investing in skills, production and marketing. Such cooperation is also favoured by a clearer link to operators who support innovation and entrepreneurship. Increased investments strengthen the role of the private sector as a value creator and driver of employment. Priority is therefore given to operations that reduce the costs of businesses and increase the value of goods and services, among other things through environmentally driven business development. The underpinning principle is to support enterprises that are included in regional, local and sector cooperative ventures and that lead to cluster initiatives and other initiatives contributing to sustainable businesses and jobs. One of the challenges facing all the operators in the programme area is that the operations need to be designed to take account of the conditions of enterprises in small local labour markets, where

access to a car and a stable internet connection is crucial in enabling an enterprise to be competitive in a sparsely populated area.

In order to contribute to an innovative and dynamic entrepreneurship environment in the programme area, priority is given to operations that support entrepreneurship so that enterprise becomes gender-equal, and to operations that give people born outside Sweden better conditions in which to start and operate businesses. Enterprise in the social economy and collaboration between private- and public-sector operators in it are also priority operations.

Based on circumstances in the programme area, support is given to clusters, networks and industry segments that are prioritised in the regional development strategies. Strengthened business collaboration improves interaction between enterprises and public-sector operations, which should be based on the needs identified by collaborating businesses. Collaboration improves the prospects of offering systemic solutions to the market and provides competitive advantages for the individual enterprise.

There are several examples in the programme area of successful networks and examples of cooperation that works well between enterprises, and this should increase. Operations that lead to the establishment, development and broadening of business models and cooperative ventures are therefore a priority area. Framework projects in which enterprise support is applied will be used in operations targeted at investments in individual businesses. This vouches for demand-driven investments, use of approved forms of support and direct participation by the enterprises. Resources from the ERDF should therefore be used for the co-financing of venture capital investments where fund resources are made to be revolving. This increases access to risk capital, so that venture capital operators become interested in investments in the programme area, leading to the development of complementary funding solutions.

A high rate of participation in the labour market requires good access to competitive jobs. The most common type of new start-up job is service-based and in a small or medium-sized enterprise. Enterprises have exacting demands for internet connection, coverage and capacity, and access to digital services. In sparsely populated areas, a good internet connection is regarded as an important tool in creating competitiveness, as many of the jobs that are created are independent of location, provided good IT infrastructure is available. The need for good coverage and capacity is highlighted as a crucial factor for the market in the tourist industry. As our use of and dependence on constant internet connection increase, so do our requirements and expectations regarding where we can be connected.

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

Natural resources and the processing industry are the backbone of trade and industry in the programme area, and energy from biomass and electricity from hydropower have made the programme area self-sufficient in renewable energy. The favourable conditions for renewable energy production in the programme area should be developed even further during the programming period.

The programme area is sparsely populated, with long distances and large transport needs. The structure of trade and industry is notable for enterprises that generate a large amount of transport. Continued oil dependence in passenger transport and the transport sector accounts for a large proportion of energy consumption in the programme area and causes large emissions of greenhouse gases. In 2010, the transport sector and off-road mobile machinery accounted for 50 % of total greenhouse gas emissions. Operations that encourage energy-efficient, sustainable and region-wide systems and facilitate the shift to a fossil-free transport sector are therefore prioritised.

Advice to enterprises and the public sector is expected to result in reduced energy needs and reduced climate impact. It is important that this work continues and reaches new businesses. Cooperation on common solutions where enterprises benefit from one another's activities should be supported. This may involve issues relating to energy use, utilisation of residuals and so on. Greater use needs to be made of the production of renewable materials for the housing sector than today. Priority is therefore given to operations that encourage sustainable construction, favour regional trade and industry in the programme area and reduce climate impact. One way of achieving energy savings and developing energy-efficient products and services is environmentally sound procurement. There is a need to boost knowledge of how this opportunity can be used as a policy instrument in both the public and private sectors.

Strategic collaboration between research and the private and public sectors benefits business opportunities and enterprise in the area of energy and environmental technology. Applied research in close collaboration with trade and industry should be developed. New technology, innovations and new services should be promoted through support for demonstration plants and test activity.

The energy and environmental technology industry is closely linked to information technology. Smarter power grids and sustainable energy solutions require IT infrastructure. The possibility of improved communication through IT infrastructure can have a relieving effect on the transport infrastructure and consequently also have a positive environmental impact.

### **Thematic objective 7 — Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures**

Under the flagship initiative in the Europe 2020 strategy, *Resource-efficient Europe*, the EU is to create sustainable growth. Sustainable growth means a more resource-efficient, greener and more competitive economy.

The Member States of the EU have established a core structure for the EU transport system — TEN-T. The European Commission White Paper highlights initiatives aimed at contributing to fulfilling objectives for greater mobility, removing strategic bottlenecks and consequently contributing to increased growth and employment, as well as reducing carbon dioxide emissions in the transport sector.

The possibility of building efficient transport systems that promote accessibility depends on both density of population and locality structure. Special needs for operations arise

with the sparsely populated areas and long distances in the programme area. Support for sustainable transport needs to be used for measures that strengthen trade and industry and the labour market. The operations are to promote transport systems that contribute to or strengthen the links to TEN-T.

During the programming period 2007-2013, the ERDF resources, entirely in line with established objectives, were focused primarily on operations that have promoted accessibility and contributed to regional enlargement. Participatory research shows that implemented operations have met set objectives, in particular with regard to north-south connections. The investments have been primarily focused on investments in travel centres, connecting traffic and commuter parking. During the programming period 2014-2020, ERDF operations are aimed, among other things, at developing the east-west links and informing travellers of the opportunities to benefit from new, sustainable communication solutions. This focus is supported by the conclusions from the participatory research concerning the programming period 2007-2013.

Distances are long, and sparseness of population is a significant factor for trade and industry in the programme area. In addition to this, most of the inhabitants of the region face journeys of up to an hour to reach the nearest railway station. The possibility of accomplishing effective regional enlargement depends on improved transport infrastructure. Measures creating accessibility improve the prospects of the companies developing and competing on equal terms. As a result of these measures, opportunities are created, among other things, for an enlarged labour market and for the region to offer greater appeal. The visitor industry and the raw materials industry, including the green industries, represent the most important basic industries in the programme area. The visitor industry, which to a large extent is operated on a small scale, is entirely dependent on a functional infrastructure that enables the long distances and sparseness of population to be overcome. The raw materials industry, in particular the forest industry, must, in the same way as the visitor industry, have access to adequate infrastructure. As a result of measures to create accessibility, the companies in the region can contribute to a greater extent to attaining the objectives of EU 2020. Transportation of raw materials to and from the raw materials-based industry contributes to the large share of transport in greenhouse gas emissions in the region, and is a decisive element in the competitiveness of trade and industry. This is particularly clear for the forest industry, which normally has to cope with long transport distances from forests to processing plants, which are generally located at the coast. This transportation is mainly done by truck. It is possible to transfer a significant portion of the transportation of forest raw materials to the railways. However, this necessitates action to deal with bottlenecks in the railway system.

The long distances in the programme area, and to the sales markets in Europe, affect the two most significant transport corridors in the programme area, the Mid-Nordic Corridor and the Bothnian Corridor. The latter has been granted TEN-T status by the Commission because of its significance to raw material supply in Europe and is also an important project in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. In the programme area, the need for both goods transport and passenger traffic by rail along the Bothnian Corridor has increased sharply in the past 10 years, while the East Coast Line between Gävle and

Härnösand is one of the longest and busiest single tracks in Sweden, with capacity problems. This has led to longer journey times and increased delays.

Capacity shortages have become even more marked as a result of operations implemented with support from the ERDF over the period 2007-2013 having led to increased passenger transport in the railway system.

Participatory research points to the need, alongside investments in travel centres and peripheral investments, to continue to develop the transport infrastructure that is necessary to bring about regional enlargement. The programme therefore contains operations that eliminate certain identified shortages and bottlenecks in the transport infrastructure.

With investments in the Mid-Nordic Corridor, there is potential to link Trondheim with Moscow. At the same time, the interior is linked with the coast, creating redundancy in the railway system. This makes it possible to relieve the pressure from the volume of goods along the main routes, which principally run in a north-south direction. The corridor is also important to the visitor industry in the programme area. Operations in the Mid-North Corridor are therefore prioritised during the programming period.

The E4 along the Norrland coast is of national interest and, like the E14, forms part of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN), linking southern and northern Sweden together. It is crucial that measures are taken to improve transport safety, reduce environmental impact and create shorter journey times along the E4. The E14 between Sundsvall and Storlien is an important east-west route connecting Sundsvall, Ånge, Östersund and Trondheim. If a high level of accessibility is to continue to be achieved, operations that improve road standards and bring about the necessary traffic flow and basic speed are important.

The prospects for increasing public transport use in the programme area are good, in view of the newly started passenger service between Sundsvall and Umeå and the enhanced rail traffic between Åre and Sundsvall. The number of passengers travelling by Norrtåg on the Umeå-Örnsköldsvik-Kramfors-Härnösand-Sundsvall route nearly doubled between 2012 and 2013. Trains offer the chance to commute longer distances than previously, and consequently increase the county's labour market. Bus and coach traffic remains the backbone of the regional and local public transport system today. A network of bus routes that works smoothly is important to link together the parts of the county that are not reached by the railways.

Operating conventional public transport, which by origin is urban traffic, in rural and sparsely populated areas is often viewed as inefficient from the point of view of economics and travel. There is therefore a need to develop and test new public transport solutions specially developed from the perspective of rural and sparsely populated areas.

Walking and cycling are the most sustainable ways of travelling shorter distances. Footpaths and cycle paths are an important element in commuting to work and study in the urban areas of the county and create environments that are attractive and safe.

Prioritised infrastructure investments are in line with the regional development strategies (RDSs) and the regional transport plans. The investments are deemed to have positive

effects on the social economy and on accessibility for people and goods, and to make a substantial contribution to fulfilling the transport policy objectives of a long-term sustainable transport system. The resources made available through the ERDF programme make added value possible through regional, local and national investment priorities being linked together, so that a more cohesive transport infrastructure network can be accomplished.

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

The Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis has presented written reports on four occasions during the programme drafting process, as well as concluding comments. In addition, representatives of the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis have attended meetings in the programme area and have presented proposals and opinions in dialogue with representatives of the programme area.

All administrative officers who have taken part in the work on the operational programme have examined the reports and informal comments presented by the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis. These comments have, as far as possible, been incorporated into the programme.

Opinions and proposals in the third report, which was based on a more complete draft programme, were of great value in formulating the programme proposal presented to the Swedish Government Offices. The sustainability aspects, the number of indicators and gender-separated target values for the indicators are examples of sections that have been formulated in the light of opinions expressed by the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis.

The fourth report primarily discusses the selection of indicators and target values. Apart from remaining uncertainties concerning indicators, baselines and target values, all opinions expressed have been considered and incorporated into the draft proposal.

All the reports from the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis have also contained views on the regional analysis. The reports and the verbal opinions presented informally have been valuable. The analysis has been reworked during the programme drafting process in the light of views expressed by the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis, which has contributed to the analysis having been formulated in a comprehensible and focused manner.

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

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

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
01 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	1b — Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies	<p>The proposed Partnership Agreement emphasises the need for operations.</p> <p>Sweden’s national innovation strategy.</p> <p>The operations are to create the necessary basis on which to increase the R&amp;D investments, which at present are low in comparison with other regions.</p> <p>Participatory research reports and experience from the programming period 2007-2013 show that R&amp;D operations have not involved enterprises to a sufficient degree and that the operations that have been carried out have not led to innovations that it has been possible to commercialise. The investment priority is intended to promote business investments in innovation.</p>
02 — Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies	2a — Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy	<p>Identified needs expressed in regional development strategies for both the county of Jämtland and the county of Västernorrland.</p> <p>Broadband strategy for Sweden.</p> <p>Digital agendas at EU and national level based on the EU 2020 strategy.</p> <p>The Partnership Agreement.</p>
02 — Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies	2c — Strengthening ICT applications for e-government, e-learning, e-inclusion, e-culture and e-health	<p>Identified needs expressed in regional development strategies for both the county of Jämtland and the county of Västernorrland.</p> <p>Broadband strategy for Sweden.</p>

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
		<p>Digital agendas at EU and national level based on the EU 2020 strategy.</p> <p>The Partnership Agreement.</p>
<p>03 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)</p>	<p>3a — Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators</p>	<p>Identified needs for, among other things, enhanced entrepreneurship, business collaboration and advice that are expressed in regional development strategies for both the county of Jämtland and the county of Västernorrland.</p> <p>Supporting internationalisation in small and medium-sized enterprises.</p> <p>Need to continue efforts aimed at supply of capital to smaller companies.</p>
<p>03 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)</p>	<p>3b — Developing and implementing new business models for SMEs, in particular with regard to internationalisation</p>	<p>Identified needs for, among other things, enhanced entrepreneurship, business collaboration and advice that are expressed in regional development strategies for both the county of Jämtland and the county of Västernorrland.</p> <p>Supporting internationalisation in small and medium-sized enterprises.</p> <p>Need to continue efforts aimed at supply of capital to smaller companies.</p>
<p>04 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors</p>	<p>4b — Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises</p>	<p>The proposed Partnership Agreement points to needs for efficiency improvements in the area.</p> <p>One of the areas of strength in the programme area with potential to be developed.</p> <p>The counties' environmental</p>

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
		objectives documents.
04 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	4c — Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector	<p>The proposed Partnership Agreement points to needs for efficiency improvements in the area.</p> <p>One of the areas of strength in the programme area with potential to be developed.</p> <p>The counties' environmental objectives documents.</p>
07 — Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	7a — Supporting a multimodal Single European Transport Area by investing in the TEN-T	<p>The needs of the programme area for infrastructure investments are not met to a sufficient degree in the national allocation of resources. National targets for an increased proportion of public transport. The counties' regional transport plans.</p> <p>Identified needs expressed in regional development strategies for both the county of Jämtland and the county of Västernorrland.</p>
07 — Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	7b — Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes	<p>The needs of the programme area for infrastructure investments are not met to a sufficient degree in the national allocation of resources. National objectives for an increased proportion of public transport. The counties' regional transport plans.</p> <p>Identified needs expressed in regional development strategies for both the county of Jämtland and the county of Västernorrland.</p>
07 — Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key	7c — Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems,	The needs of the programme area for infrastructure investments are not met to a sufficient degree in the

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
network infrastructures	including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility	national allocation of resources. National objectives for an increased proportion of public transport. The counties' regional transport plans.  Identified needs expressed in regional development strategies for both the county of Jämtland and the county of Västernorrland.

## 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.

According to EU rules and government guidelines, 70 % of the resources are to be shared between objectives 1-3. The regional analysis points to great needs for operations to promote research, technological development and innovation. This justifies thematic objective 1 being given a somewhat greater proportion of the resources that must be targeted at objectives 1-3. The resources are otherwise shared between thematic objectives 2 and 3. Experience from the programming period 2007-2013 shows that the investments in operations of the kind that correspond to thematic objective 4 amount to between 4 % and 7 % of the budget.

The Middle Norrland programme area is one of the areas covered by the special rules applicable to sparsely populated regions. This means that the programme area, in addition to the ordinary ERDF budget, is also allocated resources that are to be used to counteract the disadvantages of sparse population.

The ERDF resource have been allocated focusing on the special needs associated with the sparse population of the programme area according to the following justification.

Thematic objective 1: 23.9 % of ERDF resources. Increased investments in research and innovation take high priority in the programme area, particularly in view of the fact that investments in R&D by trade and industry in the area are low. The resources are primarily targeted at operations that lead to increased commercialisation of R&D, which is in line both with the European Commission's priorities and with experience from the previous programming period.

Thematic objective 2: 19.5 % of ERDF resources. Investments in deployment of high-speed broadband infrastructure and development of digital services are justified in

particular by the sparse population and long distances in the programme area and the fact that access to broadband and digital services improves the competitiveness of enterprises. Public investments are necessary as a complement in the sparsely populated areas where commercial forces do not deem it profitable to invest in broadband infrastructure.

Thematic objective 3: 29 % of ERDF resources. The largest share of the programme area's budget is allocated to the development of small and medium-sized enterprises. The development of small and medium-sized enterprises is prioritised in the Europe 2020 strategy, in national strategies and in our regional development strategies. Thematic objective 3 also includes investments in supply of capital according to the successful model introduced during the previous programming period. Supply of capital is particularly important, as the willingness of the market players to invest is limited in our sparsely populated programme area. Sparse population and long distances also mean that the costs of development operations in small and medium-sized enterprises become relatively high.

Thematic objective 4: 5.7 % of ERDF resources [1]. Greenhouse gas emissions in the programme area have decreased sharply since 1990. A significant proportion of Swedish production of renewable energy takes place in Middle Norrland. The challenge for the programme area is primarily to reduce the transport sector's dependence on fossil fuels. Experience from the previous programming period shows that the need for public resources for energy and climate operations is limited. This justifies a relatively limited share of the programme budget being allocated to thematic objective 4.

Thematic objective 7: 17.9 % of ERDF resources. Functioning transport systems take high priority in consideration of the sparse population and long distances in the region and nodes outside the region. Goods and passenger transport should be linked to the TEN-T network to meet the needs of industry and the visitor sector. Enhanced transport infrastructure can lead to increased use of public transport and reduced use of fossil fuels in the transport sector.

EU 2020 points out the need to work in a sector-integrated manner on urban development, which is identified as a priority area for the regional Structural Funds programme. This prioritisation is associated with the needs that can be related to an increased population in areas of already high population density, as well as meeting the need for collaboration between urban and rural areas with the aim of developing an attractive region. Increased population in cities leads to a need for infrastructure, housing, waste management, energy and supply and, in the wake of these, socio-economic challenges linked to segregation and unemployment, etc.

Middle Norrland has small towns and cities with inward migration and, at the same time, outward migration from our towns and cities to the metropolitan regions. The consequence is that sparse population becomes a more acute problem than urban development. This is the principal reason why the programme refrains from the possibility of special investments in urban development. There is, however, a continued need to develop methods and working practices that encourage collaboration between urban and rural areas to find attractive and sustainable solutions to the challenges and opportunities the region has.

Special resources for sustainable urban development have therefore not been prioritised. The need for operations is met in the programme's five priority axes. In priority axes 4 and 7, for example, activities and projects are expected to contribute to sustainable development in cities.

These resources have been allocated on condition that they are aimed at compensating for the sparse population of the area. Functioning transport systems and access to IT infrastructure are particularly important in sparsely populated areas with long distances to travel. The conditions for enterprise are less favourable in peripheral areas, particularly with regard to supply of capital. In addition, significant efforts need to be made for investments in research and development to reach the average level for the country as a whole. The allocation of what are referred to as sparseness resources reflects these needs.

The proposed allocation between thematic objectives is shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Basis of calculation for the Middle Norrland project budget, with division of total budget into ordinary resources and special sparseness resources (see annex 'Tables and figures Middle Norrland')

**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	36 815 389.00	23.90 %	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 01 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 investments in research and development as a proportion of enterprises in the programme area</li> <li>▼ 2 — Increasing the proportion of small and medium-sized enterprises that develop innovative goods and services</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	[002, 0103a]
2	ERDF	30 113 316.00	19.55 %	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 02 — Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 2a — Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 1 — It is to be possible for a greater proportion of enterprises in the programme areas to connect to high-speed networks (100 Mbps)</li> </ul> </li> <li>▼ 2c — Strengthening ICT applications for e-government, e-learning, e-inclusion, e-culture and e-health                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 1 — New digital services are established and existing ones are developed so that access to private and public services is improved</li> <li>▼ 2 — The use of e-services is to increase, in particular in those groups in society that make less use of e-services and new technology</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	[0202, 0203, 0204]
3	ERDF	44 655 815.00	28.99 %	<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>▼ 3a — Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	[0302, 0303, 0305, 102]

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
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 1 — Advanced product and service development promotes growth in SMEs</li> <li>▼ 2 — High-growth enterprises increase investments in advanced product and service development</li> <li>▼ 3b — Developing and implementing new business models for SMEs, in particular with regard to internationalisation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 1 — Improved profitability among enterprises that actively contribute to cluster initiatives</li> <li>▼ 2 — Increased proportion of enterprises with business cooperation in international markets</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
4	ERDF	8 712 696.00	5.66 %	<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 — Increasing the combined energy efficiency of small and medium-sized enterprises by 20 % by 2020 and increased proportion of renewable energy</li> </ul> </li> <li>▼ 4c — Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 1 — Increasing energy efficiency in the public sector and in the housing sector by 20 % by 2020</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	[0401, 0403, 0405]
5	ERDF	27 588 535.00	17.91 %	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 07 — Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 7a — Supporting a multimodal Single European Transport Area by investing in the TEN-T <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 1 — The programme area's TEN-T network has enhanced function in 2020 in comparison with 2014 due to improved accessibility and capacity</li> </ul> </li> <li>▼ 7b — Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 1 — Mobility in the programme area has increased in 2020 in comparison with 2014</li> </ul> </li> <li>▼ 7c — Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 1 — The proportion of travellers using environmentally friendly modes of transport has increased in 2020</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	[0404, 0701, 0702, 703, 704, 705, 706]

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
6	ERDF	6 161 906.00	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	
ERDF	Outermost or northern sparsely populated	Total	More developed

## 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 investments in research and development as a proportion of enterprises in the programme area
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	<p>To attain greater regional competitiveness in a business climate covered by sparse, and sometimes very sparse, structures, the requirement for rapid and flexible adaptation to the market and improved innovative capacity poses a particular challenge. To make an increase in the region's low share of total Swedish R&amp;D expenditure possible, the investment priority is to support operations for research and development in close collaboration with the enterprises to meet the challenges faced by the enterprises.</p> <p>The activities in the investment priority are intended, at the end of the programming period, to have increased R&amp;D investments in private enterprises in the programme area from 0.6 % at present to 1 % of the country's total business investments in R&amp;D in 2020. In addition, the activities during the period are intended to have resulted in the innovation index (Reglab) for the programme area having risen and the areas that have been below the national average rising above the national average.</p>
<b>ID of the specific objective</b>	2
<b>Title of the specific objective</b>	Increasing the proportion of small and medium-sized enterprises that develop innovative goods and services
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union</b>	As the region's innovative enterprises have attained success in sectors such as banking and finance, sport and outdoor activities and biorefineries, there are lessons to learn from during the programming period 2014-2020. It is anticipated that

<b>support</b>	<p>more innovative enterprises will be created in established and new sectors in the region. Innovative goods and services means goods and services that are new to the market or new to the enterprise.</p> <p>Previous cooperative ventures have been dominated by men. As a result of more women being linked to the innovation process, it is anticipated that further sectors will be attached to the innovation activity. The fact that only 4 % of enterprises state that they have contact with universities and colleges is a strong factor in the enterprises in the programme area being linked to research and innovation. This is in order to strengthen competitiveness and the long-term survival of the enterprises.</p> <p>Tools with which to increase the degree of commercialisation of products, goods and services in the programme area are created by developing and providing greater support for established and new innovation environments. The enterprises' products and services are made better known to the market by linking enterprises to new and existing test environments in the private and public sectors. An important element in this is a smoothly functioning IT structure, in particular to increase the possibility in sparse population structures of creating competitive enterprises, and gaining access to a larger market and to the academic environment.</p>
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**Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)**

Specific objective		1 - Ökade investeringar i forskning och utveckling som andel av programområdets företag						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
0103a	0103a Företagens (produkt- och/eller processinnovativa, 10-249 anställda) genomsnittliga utgifter för sin egen FoU-verksamhet	MSEK	More developed	1.56	2010	1.80	SCB	Vartannat år
Specific objective		2 - Öka andelen små och medelstora företag som utvecklar innovativa varor och tjänster						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
002	Andel företag (10-249 anställda) med innovationsverksamhet (produkt-/tjänste-, process-, organisatorisk-, marknadsföring)	Procent	More developed	54.00	2010	60.00	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>Examples of activities that can be supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Project initiatives that link research, enterprises or business clusters to other EU funds or research funds such as Horizon 2020 or COSME, national initiatives or research programmes.</li><li>• Establishment and strengthening of strategic networks that promote open innovation between enterprises and R&amp;D partners of strategic importance to them.</li><li>• Projects in which enterprises representing sectors (for example women and persons born outside Sweden) that are under-represented in the innovation system, and in which these develop new solutions to meet known and future needs.</li><li>• Established clusters, cluster initiatives and R&amp;D centres are linked to the region's areas of strength, focused on smart specialisation.</li><li>• Supporting activities in which the operators in the innovation support systems inspire small and medium-sized enterprises to invest in and commercialise innovations.</li><li>• Supporting activities in which the successful innovation-driven enterprises of the programme area inspire small and medium-sized enterprises and implement regional collaboration processes and projects relating to innovation development.</li><li>• Operations that lead to enterprises in the programme area initiating R&amp;D activity as a strategic objective.</li><li>• R&amp;D support targeted at the public sector to stimulate innovations that are applied and/or commercialised.</li><li>• Developing social innovations as a strategy for business development.</li><li>• Initiating projects focused on innovative environmentally sound goods and services, for example green chemicals and new materials aimed at replacing fossil alternatives.</li><li>• Creation of new, and support for existing, clusters and virtual clusters that, together with R&amp;D partners, encourage technology transfer and innovative development.</li></ul>	

<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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making available of applied environmental technology research for enterprises and clusters in the region that have led to increased business investments.</li> <li>• Framework programmes for regional enterprise support focused on stimulating investments in R&amp;D in small and medium-sized enterprises. This means that approved investment support can stimulate investment by enterprises in R&amp;D operations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Main target groups</b></p> <p>Enterprises and enterprise organisations, operators supporting innovation, sector-wide organisations, public-sector operators</p> <p><b>Geographical regions</b></p> <p>The whole programme area</p> <p><b>Beneficiaries</b></p> <p>Enterprises, authorities, universities and colleges, county councils, municipalities, associations, operators supporting innovation; sector-wide organisations and the civil community</p> <p><b>Horizontal criteria</b></p> <p>This priority axis focuses partly on operations and support from various organisations, researchers and specialists. As women seek support and advice to a significantly lesser degree than men in enterprise and business development, particular attention should be paid to gender equality of conditions in the projects that are implemented. The same applies to entrepreneurs and prospective entrepreneurs with a non-Swedish background. Several of the activities also identify areas that today are to be found in sectors and structures where the vast majority of employees are men born in Sweden — here too, there may be reason to review the target groups for the projects. At the same time, there should be an awareness that activities in specific industries and sectors may, in the longer term, have a favourable environmental impact, something that initially may be regarded as a conflict of aims from the perspective of gender equality and diversity but that benefits all inhabitants in the longer term.</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>An important foundation for the projects should, however, be an endeavour to bring about economic gender equality, even gender distribution between participating operators and even distribution of power and influence between women and men, and to ensure that the projects contribute to a non-discriminatory approach and sustainable development.</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>The following principles guide the programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is crucial that the horizontal criteria, gender equality, diversity and the environment are integrated into the projects based on the possibilities of the projects generating sustainable growth. The underlying principle is that the projects need to relate to the values such as gender equality, diversity and the environment that can contribute to attaining the specific objects set under the investment priorities of the priority axes.</li> <li>• Projects that contribute to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.</li> <li>• High level of collaboration between relevant operators in the projects.</li> <li>• Focus on increasing the level of R&amp;D investments in enterprises. It is important that universities and colleges and knowledge environments take part, and do so on the basis of demand from enterprises.</li> <li>• Projects that enhance national and global competitiveness through smart specialisation, based on the areas of strength of the programme area.</li> <li>• Projects that actively engage external stakeholders in their own work on innovation through open innovation.</li> <li>• Projects that are operated across several geographical programme areas, focusing on the needs of enterprises and customer demand to meet societal challenges.</li> <li>• Projects with a high degree of innovation linked to product and service development.</li> <li>• Projects focused on pilot activity and collaboration between existing test and demonstration facilities.</li> </ul>	

<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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisational capacity, experience on the part of the project sponsor and endorsement.</li> </ul>	

### 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 result indicators** (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		1b — Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			200.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			120.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			200.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

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

Priority axis	1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation

## 2.A.8 Performance framework

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

Priority axis		1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation											
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
						M	W	T	M	W	T		
CO26	O	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			30			120.00	Project	
20	F	Expenditure	EUR	ERDF	More developed			22 089 233			73 630 778.00	Managing authority	

### Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

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

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

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

The interim target for 2018 for the financial indicator for priority axis 2 has been set at 20 %, which is somewhat lower than for other priority axes. Projects in this priority axis are deemed to be time-consuming and to be highly complex in the start-up phase due to extensive planning and procurements, which shifts the timing of major expenses.

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

In priority axis 2, in which broadband investments are planned, the results of implemented operations cannot be expected to be reported until a long time into the programming period. The interim target for the selected output indicator 'Added number of enterprises that have gained access to broadband at speeds of at least 100 Mbps' has been estimated to be 0. In order, nevertheless, to follow up the effects of approved operations in this priority axis, the programme will use the key implementation step 'Planned number of enterprises with access to broadband at speeds of at least 100 Mbps based on projects financed in the priority axis'. 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	056. Investment in infrastructure, capacities and equipment in SMEs directly linked to research and innovation activities	3 681 539.00
ERDF	More developed	057. Investment in infrastructure, capacities and equipment in large companies directly linked to research and innovation activities	3 681 539.00
ERDF	More developed	062. Technology transfer and university-enterprise cooperation primarily benefiting SMEs	7 363 078.00
ERDF	More developed	064. Research and innovation processes in SMEs (including voucher schemes, process, design, service and social innovation)	7 363 078.00
ERDF	More developed	065. Research and innovation infrastructure, processes, technology transfer and cooperation in enterprises focusing on the low carbon economy and on resilience to climate change	14 726 155.00

**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	36 815 389.00

**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)	0.00
ERDF	More developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	19 880 310.00
ERDF	More developed	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	16 935 079.00

**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	36 815 389.00

**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 access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies

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

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

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

<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	
ERDF	Outermost or northern sparsely populated	Public	More developed

### 2.A.4 Investment priority

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

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

<b>ID of the specific objective</b>	1
<b>Title of the specific objective</b>	It is to be possible for a greater proportion of enterprises in the programme area to connect to high-speed networks (100 Mbps)
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	<p>It is to be possible for the enterprises in the programme area to contribute to increased growth by making use of access to high-speed broadband. Access to high-speed broadband contributes to counteracting the disadvantages and challenges linked to a sparse population base and long distances to markets and between enterprises. The extended deployment of broadband under the ERDF programme takes place in interaction with national, regional, municipal, local and private operators.</p> <p>Access to a broadband is a self-evident basic requirement for the development of most enterprises, and gives businesses in Middle Norrland improved access to the market, for instance through e-commerce and new ways of marketing and selling products and services. Increased market presence through broadband connection increases sales by businesses, with the result that profitability improves and new jobs can be created.</p>

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

Specific objective		1 - En större andel av programområdets företag ska ha möjlighet att ansluta sig till höghastighetsnät (100 Mbit/s).						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
0202	Andel företag som fått möjlig tillgång till bredband (minst 100 Mbit/s)	Procent	More developed	35.00	2012	65.00	PTS	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>	2a — Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy
Examples of activities that can be supported:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Investments in IT infrastructure that can give businesses access to broadband at 100 Mbps.</li><li>• Investments aimed at raising the capacity of existing ICT infrastructure to 100 Mbps.</li><li>• Investments that strengthen and lead to continued deployment and development of technology-independent high-speed ICT infrastructure.</li></ul>	
<b>Main target groups</b>	
Enterprises in those areas where the commercial operators are not responsible for extended deployment of the IT infrastructure	
<b>Geographical regions</b>	
The broadband strategies of the programme area identify the geographical areas where the market alone does not extend broadband deployment to enterprises. Broadband roll-out in the most sparsely populated areas is justified by needs among enterprises for example in the reindeer herding industry, the forest industry and the visitor industry.	
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	
Municipalities, government agencies, private enterprises, associations and organisations working on extended deployment of the IT infrastructure	
<b>Horizontal criteria</b>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	2a — Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy
<p>The population in the programme area is concentrated in the cities, and more women (both younger and older) than men choose the cities. This means that most of the population have access to relatively well deployed ICT, while those who live in sparsely populated areas, where men are over-represented, do not. If extended deployment of ICT is to contribute to reducing the digital divide and create a more inclusive society, attention should, where appropriate, be paid to this fact in projects. It is worth noting that the structure of trade and industry in Middle Norrland consists of many microbusinesses. ICT investments also offer potential to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the area of energy and transport and through certain products and services becoming digital. Access to ICT is essential for vibrant sparsely populated and rural areas meeting basic economic, social and environmental conditions.</p>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	2a — Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy
<p>A fundamental condition to be met for support for investments in broadband infrastructure is that the projects contribute to structural changes at regional level. Additional principles guiding selection are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Projects where the necessary market conditions for roll-out of broadband infrastructure do not exist</b></li> </ul> <p>There is a requirement that project operations granted funding are concentrated in areas where the market, for various reasons, does not function.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Projects that collaborate or create synergies with other projects/programmes</b></li> </ul> <p>The regional Structural Funds programmes satisfy only a portion of the region’s development needs. The underpinning principle is that operations in several funds and programmes supplement and reinforce one another. Collaboration and synergies with the European Agricultural Fund for Regional Development and the European Social Fund are particularly crucial.</p> <p>The regional Structural Funds programme supports operations developing interurban networks. It is essential that the projects ensure that the investments are followed by continued operations to connect end-users.</p>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	2a — Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy
<p data-bbox="203 264 1659 300">• <b>Projects that contribute to the development of trade and industry and the competitiveness of enterprises</b></p> <p data-bbox="147 331 2101 440">Small and medium-sized enterprises are the target group for the operations. An important condition to be met for the specific target groups to be reached and for growth consequently to be created is that the projects are based on a target group analysis of the needs and challenges of the enterprises and the challenges they face.</p> <p data-bbox="147 475 2123 544">The projects also have to be in line with regional and local broadband and development strategies and be able to present results in relation to the indicators of the priority axis.</p> <ul data-bbox="147 579 2130 1002" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrating the horizontal criteria, gender equality, diversity and the environment into the projects based on the opportunities of the projects to generate sustainable growth. The underlying principle is that the projects need to relate to the values such as gender equality, diversity and the environment that can contribute to attaining the specific objects set under the investment priorities of the priority axis.</li> <li>• Organisational capacity, experience on the part of the project sponsor and endorsement by partners.</li> <li>• Experience and knowledge from previous operations in the area should be utilised.</li> <li>• The possibility of gaining access to broadband in areas that are important for tourism in order to create growth and strengthen the employment base in the locality.</li> <li>• The projects are to have a strategy for the long-term operation of ICT investments that are made.</li> </ul>	

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

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

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	2a — Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy
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#### 2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

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

Investment priority		2a — Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
5	Number of enterprises added that have access to broadband at speeds of at least 100 Mbps.	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			1 500.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

#### 2.A.4 Investment priority

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

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

<b>ID of the specific objective</b>	1
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<b>Title of the specific objective</b>	New digital services are established and existing ones are developed so that access to private and public services is improved
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	A very large proportion of private and public services today are offered digitally online. More digital services combined with operations that raise digital skills and participation can contribute to better access both for private individuals and enterprises and for the public sector in the programme area. Public ICT solutions can be developed and provide the basis for commercialisation, and consequently contribute to the creation of new businesses.
<b>ID of the specific objective</b>	2
<b>Title of the specific objective</b>	The use of e-services is to increase, in particular in those groups in society that make less use of e-services and new technology
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	To enable digital technology to be fully exploited, there is a need for users to know about and be able to use the potential of the technology. Information and education take high priority in meeting increased and new needs from citizens and to offer everyone equal opportunities to obtain access to digital public and private services. Information and education are therefore important ways of narrowing the digital divide.

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

Specific objective		1 - Nya digitala tjänster etableras och befintliga utvecklas så att tillgängligheten till privat och offentlig service förbättras.						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
0203	Andel företag (10-249 anställda) som använder vissa IT-tjänster	Procent	More developed	71.00	2013	80.00	SCB	Vartannat år
Specific objective		2 - Användningen av e-tjänster ska öka, särskilt i de grupper i samhället som i mindre utsträckning använder e-tjänster och den nya tekniken.						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
0204	Andel privatpersoner (i åldern 16-85 år) som använder vissa IT-tjänster	Procent	More developed	60.00	2012	72.00	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>	2c — Strengthening ICT applications for e-government, e-learning, e-inclusion, e-culture and e-health
<p>All activities that can be supported in the investment priority are to involve stakeholders from the public sector, but ideally are also to include collaboration between the private and public sectors.</p> <p>Examples of activities that can be supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Projects focused on developing and raising knowledge and use of existing and new e-services.</li><li>• Collaborative projects between the private and public sectors aimed at improving access to e-services.</li><li>• Projects that strengthen the interaction between users and service providers through ICT applications for e-government, e-learning, e-integration and e-health, as well as applications based on open source code.</li><li>• Projects to improve the institutional capacity and efficiency of public administration through the development of digital services.</li><li>• Projects that are aimed at creating the necessary basis for commercialisation through the development of public ICT solutions.</li></ul> <p><b>Main target groups</b></p> <p>Private and public sector, households and civil society</p> <p><b>Geographical regions</b></p> <p>The whole programme area</p> <p><b>Beneficiaries</b></p>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	2c — Strengthening ICT applications for e-government, e-learning, e-inclusion, e-culture and e-health
Municipalities, government agencies, private enterprises, associations	
<b>Horizontal criteria</b>	
<p>Middle Norrland is a reflection of society at large. This means that women and men born in Sweden who have grown up with computers as a natural element of school, work and everyday life have relatively good knowledge of digital technology, or that this knowledge in any cases exists within the family. Women and men born outside Sweden of the same age do not, as a rule, have the same knowledge. This applies in particular to persons from countries where the prospects for digital participation are low. Build-up of knowledge in digital technology provides opportunities to be able to utilise e-services both in enterprise and in the world of work. Enhanced e-services should also be viewed in the perspective of gender equality and non-discrimination in such a way that e-services are offered by businesses owned both by women and men and that e-services reduce discrimination. Increased use of e-services has potential to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the area of energy and transport and through certain products and services becoming digital.</p>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	2c — Strengthening ICT applications for e-government, e-learning, e-inclusion, e-culture and e-health
The following principles guide the programme:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of products and services that are accessible for private individuals and enterprises in the programme area irrespective of time of day and geographical location.</li> <li>• Integrating the horizontal criteria, gender equality, diversity and the environment into the projects based on the opportunities of the projects to generate sustainable growth. The underlying principle is that the projects need to relate to the values such as gender equality, diversity and the environment that can contribute to attaining the specific objects set under the investment priorities of the priority axis.</li> <li>• Projects that contribute to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.</li> <li>• Demonstrating clear involvement by trade and industry.</li> <li>• Organisational capacity, experience on the part of the project sponsor and endorsement by partners.</li> <li>• Experience and knowledge from previous operations in the area should be utilised.</li> </ul>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	2c — Strengthening ICT applications for e-government, e-learning, e-inclusion, e-culture and e-health
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public activity is to provide information in a standardised manner that enables trade and industry to develop its own e-services.</li> <li>• Activities that are made more efficient are to maintain or raise the quality of the service offered.</li> </ul>

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

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

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

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

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

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

<b>Investment priority</b>		2c — Strengthening ICT applications for e-government, e-learning, e-inclusion, e-culture and e-health							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO01	Productive investment:	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			20.00	Managing authority's	Continuous

Investment priority		2c — Strengthening ICT applications for e-government, e-learning, e-inclusion, e-culture and e-health							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
	Number of enterprises receiving support							database	
CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			20.00	Managing authority's database	Continuous
8	Number of organisations receiving aid	Organisations	ERDF	More developed			20.00	Managing authority's database	Continuous

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

Priority axis	2 — Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies

## 2.A.8 Performance framework

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

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

	type	implementation step	where appropriate		of region	M	W	T	M	W	T	data	of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
20	F	Expenditure	EUR	ERDF	More developed			12 045 326			60 226 632.00	Managing authority	
1	I	Planned number of enterprises with access to broadband at speeds of at least 100 Mbps based on projects financed in the priority axis.	Number of enterprises	ERDF	More developed			50				Project	
5	O	Number of enterprises added that have access to broadband at speeds of at least 100 Mbps.	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			0			1 500.00	Project	

### Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

The managing authority has deemed it most appropriate to make use of outcome indicators for the performance framework and supplement these with one financial indicator 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 interim target for 2018 for the financial indicator for priority axis 2 has been set at 20 %, which is somewhat lower than for other priority axes. Projects in this priority axis are deemed to be time-consuming and to be highly complex in the start-up phase due to extensive planning and procurements, which shifts the timing of major expenses.

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

In priority axis 2, in which broadband investments are planned, the results of implemented operations cannot be expected to be reported until a long time into the programming period. The interim target for the selected output indicator ‘Added number of enterprises that have gained access to broadband at speeds of at least 100 Mbps’ has been estimated to be 0. In order, nevertheless, to follow up the effects of approved operations in this priority axis, the programme will use the key implementation step ‘Planned number of enterprises with access to broadband at speeds of at least 100 Mbps based on projects financed in the priority axis’. 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 access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	047. ICT: Very high-speed broadband network (access/local loop; >= 100 Mbps)	24 090 652.00
ERDF	More developed	078. e-Government services and applications (including e-Procurement, ICT measures supporting the reform of public administration, cyber-security, trust and privacy measures, e-Justice and e-Democracy)	1 505 666.00
ERDF	More developed	080. e-Inclusion, e-Accessibility, e-Learning and e-Education services and applications, digital literacy	1 505 666.00
ERDF	More developed	081. ICT solutions addressing the healthy active ageing challenge and e-Health services and applications (including e-Care and ambient assisted living)	1 505 666.00
ERDF	More developed	082. ICT Services and applications for SMEs (including e-Commerce, e-Business, networked business processes), living labs, web entrepreneurs, ICT start-ups, etc.)	1 505 666.00

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

Priority axis		2 — Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Non-repayable grant	30 113 316.00

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

Priority axis		2 — Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	0.00
ERDF	More developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	16 261 191.00
ERDF	More developed	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	13 852 125.00

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

Priority axis		2 — Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	07. Not applicable	30 113 316.00

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

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

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

Priority axis:	2 — Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies;

### 2.A.1 Priority axis

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

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

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

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

<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	
ERDF	Outermost or northern sparsely populated	Total	More developed

### 2.A.4 Investment priority

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

<b>ID of the investment priority</b>	3a
	incubators

## 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>	Advanced product and service development promotes growth in SMEs
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	<p>To attain this objective, there is a need both for new businesses to be started up and for existing enterprises to be developed. The underpinning principle is to support enterprises that are included in regional, local and sector cooperative ventures with advanced development of products and services and consequently to contribute to cluster initiatives and other initiatives for profitable and competitive enterprises and jobs.</p> <p>The tradition of entrepreneurship differs in the various parts of the programme area and needs to be further strengthened among young people, women and persons born outside Sweden in order to create more new and growing enterprises and to create the necessary conditions for new entrepreneurs to take over companies in connection with generational shifts. Here too, expert advice on development of products and services is an important tool.</p> <p>A key to trade and industry that is competitive and promotes employment is skills provision that works well in the programme area. To meet this requirement, there is a need for strategies in trade and industry based on a survey of skills from a gender-equality and diversity perspective, and analysis of future skills needs in the region's enterprises, linked to the development of products and services. The programme therefore supports investments in improving the prospects of enterprises meeting their needs for appropriate skills.</p> <p>The natural and cultural resources of the programme area provide the basis for extensive and significant enterprise in the programme area and for the visitor industry. Efforts to develop the enterprises' products and services based on protection, promotion and development of the natural and cultural heritage are necessary to attain the specific objective, as well as environmentally driven enterprise in all sectors.</p>
<b>ID of the specific objective</b>	2

<b>Title of the specific objective</b>	High-growth enterprises increase investments in advanced product and service development
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	<p>One of the characteristic features of attractive and vibrant regions is that the conditions for the realisation of enterprise and business ideas are met. The programme area is notable for a strong entrepreneur culture. Small businesses are characteristic of the programme area, and it is important both to modernise and develop these. The ERDF in the programme area is therefore investing in an accessible and open system that makes new business creation possible in all sectors and facilitates the construction of vibrant enterprises in expansive stages. In support of new and established enterprises, the focus is on environments in which entrepreneurship is developed and which provide entrepreneurs and innovators, irrespective of gender, age and ethnic background, with what is necessary to create vibrant and sustainable business concepts.</p>

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

Specific objective		1 - Avancerad produkt- och tjänsteutveckling främjar tillväxt inom SME						
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 små och medelstora företag	Nettoomsättning, MSEK	More developed	57,574.00	2012	66,211.00	SCB	Vartannat år
Specific objective		2 - Tillväxtföretag ökar investeringar i avancerad produkt- och tjänsteutveckling						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
102	Andel företag (10-249 anställda) som samarbetar i sin innovationsverksamhet	Procent	More developed	56.35	2010	61.00	Statistiska centralbyrån	Vartannat år

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

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	3a — Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators
<p>One of the programme's objectives is to promote the start-up of and investments in new businesses through collaboration between stakeholders. Operations are designed so that they support new enterprises through targeted advice. One example of operations is the development of incubator activity and environments that can offer business development in the launch phase of the enterprise. The activities are designed so that advice is provided to young adults, women and persons born outside Sweden wishing to start or develop businesses. Other target groups may be operators in the social economy and representatives of functions that increase enterprises' access to skills and competitiveness.</p> <p>Initiatives that improve the business climate through cooperation between trade and industry and public-sector stakeholders are relevant in terms of target groups. An important aspect is to promote gender mainstreaming into existing enterprise networks, financing institutions and public institutions. The aim is to create more dynamic and gender-equal trade and industry.</p> <p>The programme supports enterprise-wide and industry-wide strategic activity to meet the skills needs prioritised by employers, as well as strategies that match existing skills and that make it possible to supplement them with necessary capabilities.</p> <p>The effectiveness of the programme can be improved by setting up framework projects that increase the scope of regional business support. This means that approved investment support can stimulate enterprises' investment in environmentally driven, resource-efficient business development, market development, product development, skills development and R&amp;D operations. Regionally prioritised operations involve, for example, support for enterprise that protects, promotes and enhances the natural and cultural heritage, microbusinesses, Sami enterprise and the social economy.</p> <p>To be able to work on the supply of capital, it is essential to have greater knowledge of the existing capital supply, access to funding instruments and management functions for different capital supply arrangements. Such activities improve access to funding in early stages of development and promote motors for risk sharing between enterprises with support from credit guarantee associations. The programme fulfils the requirements to be able to assist in</p>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	3a — Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators
<p>establishing innovative solutions that stimulate local and regional forms of saving aimed at benefiting local entrepreneurship.</p> <p>Examples of activities that can be supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities in which collaboration between enterprises and public-sector operators promote business start-ups and investments.</li> <li>• Activities that support enterprises in advanced product and service development through advisory efforts based on analysis of the entrepreneur’s specific needs and circumstances.</li> <li>• Activities that promote the enterprises’ access to skills through company-wide and industry-wide cooperation on recruitment and continued training.</li> <li>• Activities based on efforts to support trade and industry at business start-up, development of products and services, and skills supply focused on knowledge of ethnicity and gender mainstreaming.</li> <li>• Framework projects for regional business support focused on strategic development promotion, sustainable operations and enhanced competitiveness, among other things through advanced development of products and services.</li> <li>• Activities that improve enterprises’ knowledge of and access to funding and supply of capital.</li> <li>• Activities that develop Sami enterprise.</li> </ul> <p><b>Main target groups</b></p> <p>Small and medium-sized enterprises in the programme area, potential entrepreneurs, business-promoting organisations and decision-makers in both the public and private sectors</p> <p><b>Geographical regions</b></p> <p>The whole programme area</p> <p><b>Beneficiaries</b></p> <p>Enterprises, authorities, universities and colleges, county councils, municipalities, associations and sector-wide organisations</p>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	3a — Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators
<p><b>Horizontal criteria</b></p> <p>Entrepreneurship-supporting operations and support in starting new and developing existing enterprises are to be designed in such a way as to make enterprise more environmentally driven, low-energy, gender-equal and based on equal opportunities. Enterprise by persons born outside Sweden is an important basis to consider in order to create greater diversity in enterprise and greater development opportunities for the whole programme. With regard both to gender equality and to diversity, it is important to support business start-ups and propensity for entrepreneurship in such a way that it does not strengthen the structure of trade and industry in a segregatory direction. The effects of diversity and gender equality become clearer if they are manifested within industries and sectors and not just between them.</p> <p>Operations are therefore prioritised that give people born outside Sweden better conditions in which to start and run enterprises, particularly in sectors where they are greatly under-represented at present.</p> <p>This investment priority also focuses on improving opportunities for funding. Here too there are gender-related differences at present. There is, for example, a substantial imbalance between women and men with regard to financial support in product development and R&amp;D. Women are also granted lower amounts of financial support than men. Attention should be paid to these facts in the framework of the activities and projects implemented.</p>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	3a — Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators
<p>The following principles guide the programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrating the horizontal criteria, gender equality, diversity and the environment into the projects based on the opportunities of the projects to generate sustainable growth. The underlying principle is that the projects need to relate to the values such as gender equality, diversity and the environment that can contribute to attaining the specific objects set under the investment priorities of the priority axis.</li> <li>• Being endorsed by trade and industry.</li> <li>• Projects that contribute to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.</li> </ul>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	3a — Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having a clear effect on conditions in and the competitiveness of trade and industry.</li> <li>• Promoting entrepreneurship.</li> <li>• Utilising knowledge and experience from previous projects.</li> <li>• Having several participating (financing) organisations.</li> <li>• Stimulating the start-up of new enterprises.</li> <li>• Organisational capacity, experience on the part of the project sponsor and endorsement by partners.</li> <li>• Encouraging women born in Sweden and women and men born outside Sweden to start and/or take over enterprises.</li> <li>• Promoting collaboration and improving the business climate.</li> <li>• Increasing entrepreneurial thinking in the public sector.</li> <li>• Giving attention to the development of Sami enterprise.</li> </ul>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	3a — Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators
<p>A functioning supply of capital is crucial for business start-ups and for sustainable growth. The needs of enterprises for external capital are to be met primarily in the private market, but there are also areas where there may be needs for finance supplementing the market, for instance in early stages of development and in the commercialisation of innovative business concepts.</p> <p>The implementation of financial instruments over the programming period 2014-2020 will be elucidated on the basis of the experience that already exists. The ‘fund projects’ that have been implemented under the regional Structural Funds programmes over the period 2007-2013 and are aimed at increasing the regional supply of shareholder capital have met with strong demand. The investment has totalled SEK 2.4 billion, which is equivalent to around one fifth of the whole venture capital market in Sweden in 2011.</p> <p>There was initially uncertainty as to whether there would be private co-financiers willing to co-invest. Results from July 2013 show that each SEK of fund investment has attracted an average of SEK 1.9 in private funding. The financing instruments are thus producing a leveraging effect on the ERDF. The</p>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	3a — Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators
<p>first phase of investment according to participatory researchers and implementers has been successful in attracting sufficiently good ideas to invest in and interested private co-investors to invest with. The initiative has been a driver particularly with regard to the establishment of a regional structure for venture capital. On the other hand, participatory researchers consider that the horizontal criteria can be integrated better into implementation.</p> <p>On this basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The programme is to provide scope for implementing financial instruments in thematic objective 3.</li> <li>• The operations are to be focused on supporting the supply of capital to enterprises where the market is not working satisfactorily.</li> <li>• The results of the ex-ante assessment of the financial instruments which the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth has been commissioned to produce are to be taken into account in the implementation of financial instruments.</li> <li>• Instruments focused on shareholder capital are to be implemented under the existing structure and taking account of experience from the ‘fund projects’ implemented during the programming period 2007-2013. Operations may also cover other financial instruments.</li> <li>• Account is to be taken of the long-term nature of operations of this type.</li> <li>• The horizontal criteria are to be integrated into the operations.</li> <li>• Knowledge and experience from participatory research in this area are to be exploited.</li> <li>• Coordination of all operations for financial instruments is to be aimed for.</li> </ul>	

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

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

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

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

Investment priority		3a — Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			972.00	Managing authority's database	Continuous
CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			220.00	Managing authority's database	Continuous
CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			52.00	Managing authority's database	Continuous
CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			700.00	Managing authority's database	Continuous
CO05	Productive investment:	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			450.00	Managing authority's	Continuous

Investment priority		3a — Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
	Number of new enterprises supported							database	
CO06	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (grants)	(EUR)	ERDF	More developed			10 000 000.00	Managing authority's database	Continuous
CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)	(EUR)	ERDF	More developed			28 700 000.00	Managing authority's database	Continuous
CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full-time equivalents	ERDF	More developed			487.00	Managing authority's database	Continuous

## 2.A.4 Investment priority

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

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

<b>ID of the specific objective</b>	1
<b>Title of the specific objective</b>	Improved profitability among enterprises that actively contribute to cluster initiatives
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	To improve the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, there is a need for operations to strengthen collaboration between enterprises, facilitate skills supply and strengthen collaboration between enterprises and research. Based on circumstances in the programme area, support is given to clusters, networks and industry segments that are prioritised in the regional development strategies. Strengthened business collaboration creates improved conditions for interaction between enterprises and public operations as a result of the needs identified and addressed by collaborating enterprises being easier to satisfy in relation to enterprises in collaboration. Collaboration also creates improved conditions for producing system solutions, and competitive benefits can be gained in relation to the individual enterprise.
<b>ID of the specific objective</b>	2
<b>Title of the specific objective</b>	Increased proportion of enterprises with business cooperation in international markets
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	An effect of trade and industry in the programme being made up of relatively many and small enterprises is that the prospects for internationalisation and exports vary widely. Priority is therefore given to cooperative ventures between enterprises aimed at internationalising trade and industry in the programme area. Internationalisation comprises market operations as well as operations that improve competitiveness through collaboration in strategic areas. Examples of such areas are skills provision, access to networks and supplier collaboration that contributes to improved accessibility for goods and services produced in the programme area.

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

Specific objective		1 - Förbättrad lönsamhet bland företag som aktivt bidrar till klusterinitiativ						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
0303	Förädlingsvärde i SMF	MSEK	More developed	18,903.00	2011	22,683.00	Statistiska centralbyrån, Företagens ekonomi	Vartannat år
Specific objective		2 - Ökad andel företag med affärssamarbete på internationella marknader						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
0305	Andel SMF som bedriver export	Procent	More developed	1.50	2013	1.62	Statistiska centralbyrån	Vartannat år

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

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	3b — Developing and implementing new business models for SMEs, in particular with regard to internationalisation
<p>The objective of the programme is to support activities that make enterprises more profitable and more international. The approach adopted in order to attain these objectives in the programme area is through in-depth cooperative ventures between enterprises. Such cooperative ventures can be organised within sectors or through local initiatives. Among other things, the cooperation can promote and enable the investments of enterprises and their participation in innovation processes. Both profitability and business models for internationalisation, for example, can be improved for the individual enterprise. The cooperation can be supported by national and international innovation environments, business networks and export-promoting organisations.</p> <p>The activities are to promote real skills and knowledge concerning conditions and challenges in new markets. Enterprises' knowledge of new markets, culture and opportunities is supported by export-promoting operators and by entrepreneurs with skills from markets in other countries. The operations can comprise export- and import-promoting activities designed to meet the challenges faced by the enterprises. Support can also consist in sector collaboration and destination development through coordinated operations in market, product and skills development. Other possible operations are those that benefit enterprise based on natural and cultural resources in the programme area and include the establishment and development of destinations and tourist attractions with support from international networks and collaborative bodies.</p> <p>Examples of activities that can be supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Activities that promote business development supported by innovation processes relating to skills provision, production, resource efficiency, market investments and internationalisation.</li><li>• Business cooperation on market, product and skills development that improves the national and international appeal and competitiveness of enterprises.</li><li>• Activities for small and medium-sized enterprises wishing to develop in cooperation with international partners and act in an international market.</li><li>• Activities that increase enterprises' knowledge of the potential offered by internationalisation and provide real aptitudes in new markets.</li><li>• Operations that benefit enterprise based on natural and cultural resources in the programme area, in particular with regard to the establishment and</li></ul>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	3b — Developing and implementing new business models for SMEs, in particular with regard to internationalisation
<p>development of destinations and tourist attractions with support from international networks and cooperative bodies.</p> <p><b>Main target groups</b></p> <p>Small and medium-sized enterprises in the programme area, potential entrepreneurs, business-promoting organisations and decision-makers in both the public and private sectors</p> <p><b>Geographical regions</b></p> <p>The whole programme area</p> <p><b>Beneficiaries</b></p> <p>Enterprises, authorities, universities and colleges, county councils, municipalities, associations and sector-wide organisations</p> <p><b>Horizontal criteria</b></p> <p>Internationalisation is key to this investment priority. It is therefore natural to utilise skills, contacts and market knowledge about different countries among entrepreneurs and employees born abroad. The perception of female enterprise and women as managers of companies may, however, differ between cultures, and this may complicate work aimed at achieving a more even gender distribution. It may also be important to be aware that women, to a greater extent than men, take responsibility for home family. This can indirectly become an obstacle to internal efforts in enterprises owned by women. Another aspect of internationalisation is increased travel to countries that represent the enterprise's markets, which <i>de facto</i> has adverse consequences for the environment.</p> <p>Enterprise based on natural and cultural resources in the programme area is to be promoted. Long-term enterprise in this sector necessitates natural and cultural resources being nurtured and preserved. The projects are otherwise to contribute to gender equality between women and men, make even distribution of power and influence between women and men possible and contribute to a non-discriminatory approach and to sustainable development.</p>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	3b — Developing and implementing new business models for SMEs, in particular with regard to internationalisation
<p>All projects that may be eligible for selection have to describe sustainability aspects: gender equality, integration and environmental impact. The underlying principle is that the projects need to relate to the values such as gender equality, diversity and the environment that can contribute to attaining the specific objects set under the investment priorities of the priority axis. As well as this, the following principles guide the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilising experience and knowledge from previous operations in the area.</li> <li>• Having a clear effect on conditions in and the competitiveness of trade and industry.</li> <li>• Building on collaboration between several participating organisations.</li> <li>• Initiatives that work on specific, long-term business-related export objectives in the participating companies with respect to skills, production and the market will be prioritised.</li> <li>• Organisational capacity, experience on the part of the project sponsor and endorsement by partners.</li> <li>• Projects that contribute 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>	3b — Developing and implementing new business models for SMEs, in particular with regard to internationalisation

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

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

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

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

Investment priority		3b — Developing and implementing new business models for SMEs, in particular with regard to internationalisation							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			200.00	Managing authority's database	Continuous
CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full-time equivalents	ERDF	More developed			1 300.00	Managing authority's database	Continuous
CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			200.00	Managing authority's database	Continuous

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

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

## 2.A.8 Performance framework

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

Priority axis		3 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)											
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
						M	W	T	M	W	T		
CO01	O	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			293			1 172.00	Project	
20	F	Expenditure	EUR	ERDF	More developed			26 793 489			89 311 630.00	Managing authority	

### Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

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

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

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

The interim target for 2018 for the financial indicator for priority axis 2 has been set at 20 %, which is somewhat lower than for other priority axes. Projects in this priority axis are deemed to be time-consuming and to be highly complex in the start-up phase due to extensive planning and procurements, which shifts the timing of major expenses.

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

In priority axis 2, in which broadband investments are planned, the results of implemented operations cannot be expected to be reported until a long time into the programming period. The interim target for the selected output indicator ‘Added number of enterprises that have gained access to broadband at speeds of at least 100 Mbps’ has been estimated to be 0. In order, nevertheless, to follow up the effects of approved operations in this priority axis, the programme will use the key implementation step ‘Planned number of enterprises with access to broadband at speeds of at least 100 Mbps based on projects financed in the priority axis’. 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 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	001. Generic productive investment in small and medium-sized enterprises ('SMEs')	8 931 163.00
ERDF	More developed	063. Cluster support and business networks primarily benefiting SMEs	3 572 464.00
ERDF	More developed	066. Advanced support services for SMEs and groups of SMEs (including management, marketing and design services)	7 144 930.00
ERDF	More developed	067. SME business development, support to entrepreneurship and incubation (including support to spin offs and spin outs)	5 358 698.00
ERDF	More developed	068. Energy efficiency and demonstration projects in SMEs and supporting measures	1 786 233.00
ERDF	More developed	069. Support to environmentally-friendly production processes and resource efficiency in SMEs	1 786 233.00
ERDF	More developed	071. Development and promotion of enterprises specialised in providing services contributing to the low carbon economy and to resilience to climate change (including support to such services)	1 786 233.00
ERDF	More developed	072. Business infrastructure for SMEs (including industrial parks and sites)	7 144 930.00
ERDF	More developed	073. Support to social enterprises (SMEs)	1 428 986.00
ERDF	More developed	074. Development and promotion of tourism assets in SMEs	1 786 233.00
ERDF	More developed	075. Development and promotion of tourism services in or for SMEs	1 428 986.00
ERDF	More developed	076. Development and promotion of cultural and creative assets in SMEs	1 428 986.00

<b>Priority axis</b>		<b>3 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)</b>	
<b>Fund</b>	<b>Category of region</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>€ amount</b>
ERDF	More developed	077. Development and promotion of cultural and creative services in or for SMEs	1 071 740.00

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

<b>Priority axis</b>		<b>3 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)</b>	
<b>Fund</b>	<b>Category of region</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>€ amount</b>
ERDF	More developed	01. Non-repayable grant	35 905 815.00
ERDF	More developed	03. Support through financial instruments: venture and equity capital or equivalent	8 750 000.00

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

<b>Priority axis</b>		<b>3 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)</b>	
<b>Fund</b>	<b>Category of region</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>€ amount</b>
ERDF	More developed	01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	0.00
ERDF	More developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	24 114 140.00
ERDF	More developed	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	20 541 675.00

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

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

Priority axis		3 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	07. Not applicable	44 655 815.00

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

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

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

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

### 2.A.1 Priority axis

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

### 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>	Increase the combined energy efficiency of small and medium-sized enterprises by 20 % by 2020 and increased proportion of renewable energy
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	<p>Small and medium-sized enterprises have limited resources to work in a systematic manner on improved energy efficiency. Significant energy gains can be made by arming enterprises with a knowledge base that means that they can proceed with various efficiency measures. A sparse built environment with low property values may mean that investments in energy efficiency become more difficult to carry out due to poorer financing terms.</p> <p>It is important that the enterprises' environmental work becomes long-term, strategic investments leading to continuous improvements. There should therefore be an endeavour to make the enterprises' environmental efforts systematic. Cooperation between enterprises and cooperation with universities and colleges is to be encouraged. The enterprises in the programme area are to be encouraged to take greater responsibility for smart, inclusive and sustainable growth. This can take place, among other ways, by developing new services and aids for sustainable growth.</p> <p>An important element in the supply chain is concerned with access to human resources. Long-term access to labour will be an important issue addressed by an inclusive approach in recruitment and training. Significant expansion of wind power in the programme area is planned over the next few years. The expansion will also make demands on the ability of the programme area to meet the need for skills at the construction stage and in operation.</p> <p>As the region is sparsely populated, energy use in transport accounts for a large proportion of energy consumption in the programme area and causes large emissions of greenhouse gases. It is therefore important to have a region-wide transport system that works smoothly, is energy-efficient and, at the same time, becomes less and less dependent on fossil fuels. An enhanced infrastructure for renewable energy throughout the transport sector is therefore important to facilitate the transition to a fossil-free transport sector. In the larger urban areas of the region, a transition from fossil automotive fuels to electric and hybrid vehicles, for example, means better air quality with respect to nitrogen dioxide and particulates.</p>

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

Specific objective		1 - Öka små och medelstora företags samlade energieffektivitet med 20 procent till år 2020 samt ökad andel förnybar energi						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
0401	Slutlig energianvändning per förädlingsvärde för små och medelstora industriföretag	MWh/MSEK	More developed	133.00	2011	106.00	SCB	Vartannat år
0403	Andel användning av förnybar energi	Procent	More developed	63.00	2011	70.00	Energimyndighet en	Vartannat år

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

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

Investment priority	4b — Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises
<p>Examples of activities that can be supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advice and energy surveys with proposals for action in the private and public sectors.</li><li>• Investigations of smart system solutions to achieve greater energy efficiency and improved utilisation of resources in direct collaboration between enterprises.</li><li>• Operations to systematise strategic work on energy issues by working, for example, with environmental and energy management systems and environmental policies.</li><li>• Development of business networks on issues concerned with energy use and sustainable development.</li><li>• Development of environmental technology and new services that make it easier for enterprises and individuals to act sustainably.</li><li>• Support for demonstration facilities and test activity aimed at making production processes more energy-efficient.</li><li>• Support for small and medium-sized enterprises aimed at enabling the transition to a fossil-independent transport sector and reducing the use of fossil fuels in non-road mobile machinery.</li><li>• Support for centre formation, research and development in energy technology.</li><li>• Strengthening existing and forming new strategic networks for cooperation with the aim of ensuring skills provision and supply of labour, for example in wind power, solar energy and bioenergy.</li></ul> <p>Several of the activities are aimed at creating the necessary basis for enterprises to continue in a next stage with investments in energy-saving measures and operations for increased use of renewable energy. The activities create the necessary conditions for this by contributing to a raised level of knowledge in the area, while the activities can assist towards financing initial costs.</p>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	4b — Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises
<p data-bbox="136 261 416 296"><b>Main target groups</b></p> <p data-bbox="136 331 2063 435">The target group for the activities is small and medium-sized enterprises and public-sector activity with potential to improve energy management. Important groups of enterprises include businesses operating in energy-intensive industry, the transport sector and the expansive visitor industry. The activities are to lead to more sustainable utilisation of resources.</p> <p data-bbox="136 475 443 510"><b>Geographical regions</b></p> <p data-bbox="136 544 504 579">The whole programme area</p> <p data-bbox="136 612 327 647"><b>Beneficiaries</b></p> <p data-bbox="136 681 1968 716">Enterprises, business networks, universities and colleges, organisations and public-sector stakeholders in collaboration with trade and industry</p> <p data-bbox="136 750 407 785"><b>Horizontal criteria</b></p> <p data-bbox="136 818 2107 963">Most of the measures in this priority axis are focused on creating energy-efficient solutions and reducing dependence on fossil energy sources in order to bring about more sustainable development in this way. The horizontal criterion relating to the environment and ecological sustainability is thus clearly at the centre of this priority axis. The potential of the projects to contribute to real results that lead to better energy management is a factor in project selection. The results achieved are an important element in the follow-up of fulfilment of objectives by the projects.</p> <p data-bbox="136 997 2063 1142">The cost of energy has, in recent times, come to account for an ever increasing share of GRP and the costs of enterprises in the programme area. An important element for enterprises and organisations to contribute to fulfilling the climate targets is being able to reduce their energy costs themselves, which is also a strategic choice for greater competitiveness. By being at the forefront with regard to energy management, the region’s enterprises and organisations can create an interest in other regions and countries that may lead to new business opportunities.</p> <p data-bbox="136 1176 2101 1321">The energy sector is historically dominated by male structures, and continues to be so today. It is important to work actively towards changing these structures both for society and for the sector. It is necessary to bring in new perspectives and skills to broaden perspectives in the activities of the energy sector, and this may be a crucial factor in sustainable development. It is also important to reach out to groups in society to which attention has not previously been paid with regard to energy use and management of our natural resources, in order to enable the EU Energy End-Use Efficiency and</p>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	4b — Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises
Energy Services Directive to be put into effect. The whole of society must be included in the important energy shift.	

### 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>All projects that may be eligible for selection have to describe sustainability aspects: gender equality, integration and environmental impact. The underlying principle is that the projects need to relate to the values such as gender equality, diversity and the environment that can contribute to attaining the specific objects set under the investment priorities of the priority axis. As well as this, the following principles guide the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects with collaboration between enterprises on common system solutions. The projects are to lead to greater joint benefit, for example a greater energy saving or more efficient use of resources, as a direct consequence of collaboration.</li> <li>• Projects that contribute to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.</li> <li>• Projects aimed at leading to a greater degree of systematic solutions.</li> <li>• Operations to safeguard skills provision in the area of energy are given high priority.</li> <li>• Organisational capacity, experience on the part of the project sponsor and endorsement by partners.</li> <li>• Experience and knowledge from previous operations in the area should be utilised.</li> <li>• Support for investments in renewable electricity production is not eligible for aid.</li> </ul>	

### 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 result indicators** (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

<b>Investment priority</b>		<b>4b — Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises</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			600.00	Managing authority's database	Continuous
CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			600.00	Managing authority's database	Continuous
44	Reduced energy consumption in enterprises and organisations involved in projects	Percentage	ERDF	More developed			30.00	Managing authority's database	Continuous

## 2.A.4 Investment priority

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

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

<b>ID of the specific objective</b>	1
<b>Title of the specific objective</b>	Increasing energy efficiency in the public sector and in the housing sector by 20 % by 2020
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	<p>Low-carbon regional strategies and physical planning enable the three dimensions of sustainability to be combined into a functioning totality. This applies, for example, in construction and transport planning and in the preparation of local or regional strategies for the production and distribution of electricity and heating. The strategies are to promote energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy.</p> <p>A sparse built environment with low property values may mean that investments in energy efficiency become more difficult to carry out due to poorer financing terms [1].</p> <p>[1] <i>Aid is not given to individual private operators to renovate and improve the energy efficiency of their housing stock.</i></p> <p>There is significant potential in the public sector for improving energy efficiency and increasing the proportion of renewable energy.</p> <p>Innovative system solutions for energy efficiency in homes and commercial premises and renovations that result in a high degree of improvement in energy efficiency are given priority. The public sector has an important role in the shift to a more sustainable society. By acting as a pioneer in its own activities, for example with respect to energy efficiency, efficient and</p>

carbon-smart transport and sustainable energy systems, knowledge can be spread from the public sector to the rest of society. Conversely, knowledge from projects, for example in trade and industry, should be given scope to be disseminated in the public sector.

As a result of collaboration, for example between energy technology companies and property owners in an EPC agreement, projects can acquire broader skills and, at the same time, economic conditions for implementation.

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

Specific objective		1 - Öka energieffektiviteten inom offentlig sektor och inom bostadssektorn med 20 procent till år 2020						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
0405	Energianvändning per m2 i bostäder (småhus och flerbostadshus)	kWh/m2	More developed	156.00	2012	125.00	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>	4c — Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector
<p>Cross-sectoral collaboration and utilisation of knowledge and experience from the housing and transport sectors, among others, on improved energy efficiency, renewable energy and carbon dioxide emissions should be aimed for in order to tackle common climate challenges more effectively, make synergies possible and achieve added value in relevant operations in order to contribute to the shift to a low-carbon economy.</p> <p>Examples of activities that can be supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preparation of strategies and plans for sustainable and energy-efficient community planning.</li><li>• Operations to learn from examples of best practice in community planning nationally and internationally. Development of cooperation with other regions.</li><li>• Advocacy aimed at reducing the climate impact of transport.</li><li>• Project planning and preparatory work to test and verify new energy-efficient technology in public infrastructures, public buildings and the housing sector.</li><li>• Dissemination and implementation of knowledge from previous trials and implemented energy efficiency projects in the public sector and trade and industry.</li><li>• Development of low-energy buildings with environmentally sound materials.</li><li>• Operations for increased sustainable building and the use of renewable materials in the housing sector.</li><li>• Operations for increased use of environmentally sound procurement.</li></ul> <p><b>Main target groups</b></p> <p>Public sector, organisations and small and medium-sized enterprises with activities in the housing and infrastructure sector</p>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	4c — Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector
<p data-bbox="136 255 2132 295"><b>Geographical regions</b></p> <p data-bbox="136 327 2132 367">The whole programme area</p> <p data-bbox="136 399 2132 438"><b>Beneficiaries</b></p> <p data-bbox="136 470 2132 574">Functions in community planning, property management, the environment and universities and colleges are examples of possible beneficiaries in the public sector. Enterprises and sector organisations operating in energy or the manufacturing of environmentally sound materials are among the conceivable beneficiaries in the private sector.</p> <p data-bbox="136 606 2132 646"><b>Horizontal criteria</b></p> <p data-bbox="136 678 2132 821">Most of the measures in the priority axis are focused on creating energy-efficient solutions and reducing the dependence on fossil energy sources in order to bring about more sustainable development in this way. The horizontal criterion relating to the environment and ecological sustainability is thus clearly at the centre of this priority axis. The potential of the projects to contribute to real results that lead to more favourable energy management is a factor in project selection. The results achieved are an important element in the follow-up of fulfilment of objectives by the projects.</p> <p data-bbox="136 853 2132 997">The cost of energy has, in recent times, come to account for an ever increasing share of GRP and the costs of enterprises in the programme area. An important element for enterprises and organisations to contribute to fulfilling the climate targets is being able to reduce their energy costs themselves, which is also a strategic choice for greater competitiveness. By being at the forefront with regard to energy management, the region’s enterprises and organisations can create an interest in other regions and countries that may lead to new business opportunities.</p> <p data-bbox="136 1029 2132 1220">The energy sector is historically dominated by male structures, and continues to be so today. It is important to work actively towards changing these structures both for society and for the sector. It is necessary to bring in new perspectives and skills to broaden perspectives in the activities of the energy sector, and this may be a crucial factor in sustainable development. It is also important to reach out to groups in society to which attention has not previously been paid with regard to energy use and management of our natural resources, in order to enable the EU Energy End-Use Efficiency and Energy Services Directive to be put into effect. The whole of society must be included in the important energy shift.</p>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	4c — Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector
<p>All projects that may be eligible for selection have to describe sustainability aspects: gender equality, integration and environmental impact. The underlying principle is that the projects need to relate to the values such as gender equality, diversity and the environment that can contribute to attaining the specific objects set under the investment priorities of the priority axis. As well as this, the following principles guide the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects with collaboration between the public sector and trade and industry.</li> <li>• Projects that contribute to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.</li> <li>• Operations that facilitate the energy shift in the transport sector with a view to the potential for improvement linked to greenhouse gas emissions. With regard to the infrastructure for renewable fuels, collaboration between regions is important in order to achieve common system solutions. These should reinforce the effects of the national policy instruments.</li> <li>• Contribute to (and be able to influence) the dimensions of sustainability (horizontal criteria).</li> <li>• Organisational capacity, experience on the part of the project sponsor and endorsement by partners.</li> <li>• Experience and knowledge from previous operations in the area should be utilised.</li> <li>• Support for investments in renewable electricity production is not eligible for aid.</li> </ul>	

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

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

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

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

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

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

Investment priority		4c — Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	Households	ERDF	More developed			7 236.00	Managing authority's database	Continuous
CO34	GHG reduction: Estimated annual decrease of GHG	Tonnes of CO2eq	ERDF	More developed			4 271.00	Managing authority's database	Continuous
44	Reduced energy consumption in enterprises and organisations involved in projects	Percentage	ERDF	More developed			30.00	Managing authority's database	Continuous
50	Average reduction in energy use in public organisations participating in projects (buildings)	Percentage	ERDF	More developed			20.00	Managing authority's database	Continuous

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

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

## 2.A.8 Performance framework

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

Priority axis		4 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors											
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
						M	W	T	M	W	T		
CO04	O	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			150			600.00	Project	
20	F	Expenditure	EUR	ERDF	More developed			5 227 618			17 425 392.00	Managing authority	

### Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

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

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

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

The interim target for 2018 for the financial indicator for priority axis 2 has been set at 20 %, which is somewhat lower than for other priority axes. Projects in this priority axis are deemed to be time-consuming and to be highly complex in the start-up phase due to extensive planning and procurements, which shifts the time of major expenses.

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

In priority axis 2, in which broadband investments are planned, the results of implemented operations cannot be expected to be reported until a long time into the programming period. The interim target for the selected output indicator 'Added number of enterprises that have gained access to broadband at speeds of at least 100 Mbps' has been estimated to be 0. In order, nevertheless, to follow up the effects of approved operations in this priority axis, the programme will use the key implementation step 'Planned number of enterprises with access to broadband at speeds of at least 100 Mbps based on projects financed in the priority axis'. 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		4 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	013. Energy efficiency renovation of public infrastructure, demonstration projects and supporting measures	2 178 174.00
ERDF	More developed	014. Energy efficiency renovation of existing housing stock, demonstration projects and supporting measures	1 306 904.00
ERDF	More developed	043. Clean urban transport infrastructure and promotion (including equipment and rolling stock)	1 742 539.00
ERDF	More developed	068. Energy efficiency and demonstration projects in SMEs and supporting measures	871 270.00
ERDF	More developed	069. Support to environmentally-friendly production processes and resource efficiency in SMEs	1 742 539.00
ERDF	More developed	071. Development and promotion of enterprises specialised in providing services contributing to the low carbon economy and to resilience to climate change (including support to such services)	871 270.00

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

Priority axis		4 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Non-repayable grant	8 712 696.00

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

Priority axis		4 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	0.00
ERDF	More developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	4 704 856.00
ERDF	More developed	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	4 007 840.00

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

Priority axis		4 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	07. Not applicable	8 712 696.00

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

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

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

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

### 2.A.1 Priority axis

<b>ID of the priority axis</b>	5
<b>Title of the priority axis</b>	Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures

- 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	
ERDF	Outermost or northern sparsely populated	Public	More developed

### 2.A.4 Investment priority

<b>ID of the investment priority</b>	7a
<b>Title of the investment priority</b>	Supporting a multimodal Single European Transport Area by investing in the TEN-T

## 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>	The programme area's TEN-T network has enhanced function in 2020 in comparison with 2014 due to improved accessibility and capacity
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	<p>Distances are long, and sparseness of population is significant, for trade and industry in the programme area. For example, the time taken to travel by train between Örnsköldsvik and Stockholm is almost 6 hours. This also applies to the Åre to Stockholm route. In addition to this, most of the inhabitants of the region face journeys of up to 1 hour to reach the nearest railway station. As a result of an enhanced and improved transport infrastructure in 2020, trade and industry in the programme has good prospects of transporting goods and products, while people can come closer to trade and industry and to the market in general. The sparse population of the programme area is primarily counteracted by good accessibility.</p> <p>Two principal transport corridors affect passenger and goods transport in the programme area, the Bothnian Corridor and the Mid-Nordic Corridor. The E14 road forms part of the Mid-Nordic Corridor, and the E4 along the Norrland coast is of national interest. The Bothnian Corridor is an important element in implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.</p> <p>The Bothnian Corridor is of very great significance for both goods transport and passenger transport, regionally, nationally and internationally. Nationally and internationally, large flows are transported along the Bothnian Corridor between the production of raw materials in Norrland and the processing industry and market in central and southern Sweden and the rest of Europe. The Bothnian Corridor has been prioritised by the EU in the Commission proposals for TEN-T and the Core Network. Examples of measures in the Bothnian Corridor of importance to the programme area are capacity-raising measures on the Härnösand to Sundsvall (Dingersjö) route, construction of the Maland and Bergsåker triangular junctions, a new line on the Långsele-Nyland route and the Västeraspy triangular junction.</p> <p>The Mid-Nordic Corridor connects the regions around Trondheim, Östersund and Sundsvall by road and rail. This connection is crucially important in linking the interior to the coast. Examples of measures in the Mid-Nordic Corridor of importance to the programme area are capacity-raising measures on the Central Line (Mittbanan), for example the Ånge-Stöde-Sundsvall and Åre-Krokom routes and ensuring functionality at Storlien for integration with the significant measures planned for implementation on the Meråker line in Norway.</p> <p>Three relatively small-scale investments with great positive effects on capacity in the Bothnian Corridor are the two triangular</p>

junctions in Maland and Bergåker and the upgrading/electrification of the Tunadal line to the Port of Sundsvall.

The Bergsåker triangle tack connects the Ådalsbanan line with the Central Line and means an end to the time-consuming turning of trains in central Sundsvall. At present, several of the large industrial plants in the region are unable to transfer more timber transport from truck to rail because of shortages of capacity in the system.

The Maland triangular junction provides a direct connection from the Ådalsbanan line in the south to the Port of Sundsvall and the large industrial plants located there. The Maland triangular junction provides a time saving of around 40 minutes per train, on a section of line just under 10 km in length.

At the border between Sweden and Norway, close to Storlien (the Central Line), there is a need for electrification of the line over 600 metres and a new railway bank so that the Central Line can take the significant upgrade planned for the Meråker line in Norway.

Relevant planning and knowledge bases are extremely important to bring about necessary measures in the TEN-T network. A well thought-through planning base and knowledge base create the necessary conditions for the right investments to be made and for there to be preparedness to implement the measures as soon as funding has been adopted.

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

Specific objective		1 - Programområdets TEN-T nät har en utvecklad funktion år 2020 jämfört med 2014 genom förbättrad tillgänglighet och kapacitet						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
0702	Näringslivets godstransporter	Varuflöde efter vikt i tusentals ton	More developed	14,016.00	2009	15,418.00	Trafikanalys	Vart femte år
703	Tågresor som startar i programområdet	Antal tågresor	More developed	1,996,000.00	2013	2,196,000.00	Trafikanalys	Vartannat år

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

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

Investment priority	7a — Supporting a multimodal Single European Transport Area by investing in the TEN-T
<p>Examples of activities that can be supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Road-improving measures that increase accessibility.</li><li>• Preparation of documentation and analyses for expansion and improvement of the transport infrastructure.</li><li>• Investment and fine-tuning measures in the railway system.</li><li>• Improvements to the physical infrastructure and method development aimed at enhancing and promoting multimodal transport.</li><li>• Operations that counteract bottlenecks in the transport system.</li><li>• Operations that contribute to reducing the greenhouse gas emissions of the transport sector.</li></ul> <p>The operations are concerned with investment measures in the existing TEN-T network. Documentation and analyses create the necessary conditions to enable investments to be made in the future. Collaboration with activities financed by the ERDF for improved transport infrastructure principally in Upper Norrland and North Middle Sweden is to be aimed for, as well as collaboration with the border-region programmes. The four-step principle is to guide work aimed at meeting transport needs and enhanced accessibility. The four-step principle means that measures are assessed according to the following ‘steps’:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Re-think:</b> The first step is concerned primarily with considering measures that can have an impact on the need for transport and travel and choice of mode of transport.</li><li>2. <b>Optimise:</b> The second step means implementing measures that lead to more effective utilisation of the existing infrastructure.</li><li>3. <b>Reconstruct:</b> If necessary, the third step is carried out, which entails limited reconstruction.</li><li>4. <b>Build new:</b> The fourth step is implemented if the need cannot be met in the three previous steps. It means new investments and/or greater reconstruction measures.</li></ol>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	7a — Supporting a multimodal Single European Transport Area by investing in the TEN-T
<p><b>Main target groups</b></p> <p>Enterprises and organisations in the programme area</p> <p><b>Geographical regions</b></p> <p>This investment priority relates to operations throughout the programme area</p> <p><b>Beneficiaries</b></p> <p>Government agencies and regional authorities and other public organisations, universities, colleges, research institutions, municipalities, county councils, business organisations, sector organisations and advocacy groups</p> <p><b>Horizontal criteria</b></p> <p>The transport sector is historically dominated by male structures, access to and use of cars, for example, having been higher among men than among women. Greater accessibility in general facilitates a change and aids the prospects of under-represented groups gaining access to the system on equal terms. With a modern infrastructure, commuting times can be shortened and access to a larger and more varied labour market can be improved.</p> <p>Investments in the railway system provided opportunities to transfer goods from road to rail. This is beneficial to the possibility of reducing emissions. A fossil-independent vehicle fleet in 2030 (national objective) requires infrastructure-related actions, for example in the form of charging stations and biogas pumps.</p>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	7a — Supporting a multimodal Single European Transport Area by investing in the TEN-T
<p>The following principles guide the programme:</p>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	7a — Supporting a multimodal Single European Transport Area by investing in the TEN-T
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The operation is to take place in the TEN-T network.</li> <li>• The operation leads to greater accessibility, reduced journey times and/or shorter journey times in the TEN-T network.</li> <li>• Material aimed at resolving significant bottlenecks in the TEN-T network.</li> <li>• Projects that take account of national transport and county transport plans.</li> <li>• Projects that are implemented in broad collaboration between municipal, regional, national and private operators.</li> <li>• Projects that contribute to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.</li> <li>• Projects that create added value across county boundaries.</li> <li>• The four-stage principle is to guide work aimed at meeting transport needs.</li> <li>• Contributing to (and being able to influence) the dimensions of sustainability (horizontal criteria).</li> <li>• Demonstrating clear involvement by trade and industry.</li> <li>• Organisational capacity, experience on the part of the project sponsor and endorsement by partners.</li> <li>• Experience and knowledge from previous operations in the area should be utilised.</li> </ul>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	7a — Supporting a multimodal Single European Transport Area by investing in the TEN-T

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	7a — Supporting a multimodal Single European Transport Area by investing in the TEN-T

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

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

Investment priority		7a — Supporting a multimodal Single European Transport Area by investing in the TEN-T							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO12	Railway: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded railway line	km	ERDF	More developed			40.00	Swedish Transport Administration/ Transport Analysis	Continuous
CO12a	Railway: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded railway line, of which: TEN-T	km	ERDF	More developed			20.00	Transport Analysis/Swedish Transport Administration	Every other year
CO14	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	km	ERDF	More developed			40.00	Swedish Transport Administration/ Transport Analysis	Continuous
CO14a	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads, of which: TEN-T	km	ERDF	More developed			20.00	Transport Analysis/Swedish Transport Administration	Every other year

## 2.A.4 Investment priority

<b>ID of the investment priority</b>	7b
<b>Title of the investment priority</b>	Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes

## 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>	Mobility in the programme area has increased in 2020 in comparison with 2014.
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	<p>Better and coordinated communications are important for most branches of industry in order to meet increasing transport needs and respond to the increase in commuting to work. The larger sections of line (the TEN-T network) and the regional sections are communicating arteries and need to be effectively linked. Smooth transitions between different lines and modes of transport promote intra-regional and inter-regional mobility. Significant missing links in the infrastructure are, for example, the Långsele to Nyland line and the Västerasby triangular junction, which together link the coastal railway (Core Network) with the northern main line (Comprehensive Network). The Långsele-Nyland section of the Ådalsbanan line is a section of track in great need of upgrading from a regional perspective. Regional trade and industry face difficulties in transporting goods to the European shuttle route departing from Långsele. This section of line is important because it creates redundancy in the railway system by linking the northern main line to the coastal line, and is of great significance to regional trade and industry and the goods transport that takes place, allowing faster and shorter train connections on the Östersund-Umeå route.</p> <p>The Inlandsbanan (Inland Line) is a complementary section of line that is of particular significance to trade and industry based on raw materials but also for the visitor industry. The functionality of the line must be improved so that more efficient switching can take place between the Mittbanan (Central Line) and the Inlandsbanan.</p> <p>There is a significant proportion of regional roads of great significance in the programme area. It is roads that are crucially important for access, for example, to visitor attractions and regionally important enterprises. The roads are a fundamental requirement in order to transport forest raw material from the interior to the coast and to the railway line. These regionally prioritised roads, through the regional transport plans in Jämtland and Västernorrland, link the E4, E14 and E45 European highways to local and regional trade and industry. The regional transport plans are the programme area's strategic and operational programmes for prioritisation of important local, regional and national objects of infrastructure. The transport</p>

plans cover all modes of transport and are usually based on the common priorities set in the overarching regional strategy documents such as regional development strategies.

As a result of investments through the ERDF programme, investments in objects that link modes of transport together and lead to increased accessibility for trade and industry in the programme area are made possible. The multimodal transport system is developed and smart solutions are created.

Relevant planning and knowledge bases are extremely important to bring about necessary measures in connection with the TEN-T network. A well thought-through planning base and knowledge base create the necessary conditions for the right investments to be made and for there to be preparedness to implement the measures as soon as funding has been adopted.

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

Specific objective		1 - Programområdets mobilitet har ökat år 2020 jämfört med 2014.						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
0701	Interregional tillgänglighet - genomsnittlig* andel befolkning som bor inom 5 km i vägnätet från en regelbundet trafikerad järnvägsstation efter SKL:s kommunindelning.	Procent	More developed	55.00	2012	58.00	Trafikanalys	Vart tredje år
704	Belägningsgrad personbil	Antal passagerare	More developed	1.77	2013	1.95	Trafikanalys	Vartannat år
706	Planeringsunderlag för mobilitetsinsatser	Antal planeringsunderlag	More developed	4.00	2013	8.00	Projektens rapportering	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>	7b — Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes
<p>Examples of activities that can be supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preparation of documentation for expansion and improvement of the transport infrastructure.</li><li>• Capacity measures.</li><li>• Accessibility-creating infrastructural operations.</li><li>• Improvements to the physical infrastructure and method development aimed at enhancing and promoting multimodal passenger transport.</li><li>• Development of interchanges, commuter parking facilities and other multimodal operations aimed at regional enlargement and an increased share of public transport.</li><li>• Operations that counteract bottlenecks in the transport system.</li><li>• Operations that contribute to reducing the greenhouse gas emissions of the transport sector.</li></ul> <p>Documentation and analyses create the necessary conditions to enable investments to be made in the future. Collaboration with activities financed by the ERDF for improved transport infrastructure principally in Upper Norrland and North Middle Sweden is to be aimed for, as well as collaboration with cross-border programmes.</p> <p><b>Main target groups</b></p> <p>Enterprises and organisations in the programme area</p> <p><b>Geographical regions</b></p> <p>This investment priority relates to operations throughout the programme area</p>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	7b — Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes
<p><b>Beneficiaries</b></p> <p>Government agencies and regional authorities and other public organisations, universities, colleges, research institutions, municipalities, county councils, business organisations, sector organisations and advocacy groups</p> <p><b>Horizontal criteria</b></p> <p>The transport sector is historically dominated by male structures, access to and use of cars, for example, having been higher among men than among women. Greater accessibility in general facilitates a change and aids the prospects of under-represented groups gaining access to the system on equal terms. With a modern infrastructure, commuting times can be shortened and access to a larger and more varied labour market can be improved.</p> <p>Investments in the railway system provide opportunities to transfer goods from road to rail. This is beneficial to the possibility of reducing emissions. A fossil-independent vehicle fleet in 2030 (national objective) requires infrastructure-related actions, for example in the form of charging stations and biogas pumps. It is important that connections to the TEN-T network have smooth switching points that encourage switching between different modes of transport.</p>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	7b — Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes
<p>Operations are to support more effective switching to the TEN-T network, for example through triangular junctions, standard-raising measures, a coordinated technical standard, etc., to promote regional mobility and develop larger growth and labour-market regions. The horizontal criteria are to be considered in each operation and used to attain better fulfilment of objectives. Projects should take account of national transport and county transport plans.</p> <p>In addition, priority is given to projects that contribute to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.</p>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	7b — Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	7b — Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes

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

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

<b>Investment priority</b>		<b>7b — Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes</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>		
CO12	Railway: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded railway line	km	ERDF	More developed			40.00	Swedish Transport Administration/ Transport Analysis	Continuous
CO14	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	km	ERDF	More developed			40.00	Swedish Transport Administration/ Transport	Continuous

Investment priority		7b — Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
								Analysis	

## 2.A.4 Investment priority

<b>ID of the investment priority</b>	7c
<b>Title of the investment priority</b>	Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility

## 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>	In 2020, the proportion of travellers using environmentally friendly modes of transport has increased.
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	<p>Sustainable development necessitates a sustainable transport system. This applies to both goods transport and passenger transport. Great challenges remain to attain the target set nationally to double public transport. The challenges are particularly great in sparsely populated parts of the country. It is not sufficient to invest solely in infrastructure. Supplementary operations such as developing new forms of public transport and investments in information and communication operations to influence individual attitudes to sustainable travel provide greater opportunities for more people to choose public transport.</p> <p>An important requirement to be met in order to utilise the opportunities offered by the TEN-T network in the form of railways and roads is connecting infrastructure in the form of footpaths and cycle paths. Walking and cycling are often the most efficient way of travelling shorter distances, for example to workplaces and connecting public transport.</p> <p>Sustainable local and regional mobility is achieved through a number of different operations such as improved infrastructure, measures for public transport and measures to facilitate pedestrian and cycle traffic. It is very important to improve the whole journey for the traveller. Accessibility and usability for travellers are imported by new, smart and coordinated public transport</p>

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

Specific objective		1 - År 2020 har andelen resenärer som använder miljövänliga trafikslag ökat.						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
0404	Koldioxidutsläpp från transporter (exkl. internationell luftfart och sjöfart)	Ton/år	More developed	1,099,202.00	2011	989,282.00	Länsstyrelsen	Vartannat år
705	Antal resor med kollektivtrafik	Antal resor	More developed	17,514,000.00	2013	19,791,000.00	Trafikanalys	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>	7c — Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility
<p>Examples of activities that can be supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Investments in the various modes of transport for reduced journey times, greater accessibility, greater capacity, regularity and quality of transport.</li><li>• Investments in footpaths and cycle tracks, operations to promote public transport or similar actions.</li><li>• Operations that assist towards reduced energy use or increased proportion of renewable energy through changes in behaviour, greater learning and raising awareness.</li><li>• Developing smart system solutions for public transport in order to reduce climate impact and improve energy efficiency in public transport.</li><li>• Developing and testing new public transport solutions specially developed from the perspective of rural and sparsely populated areas.</li><li>• To attain the objective of increased travel by public transport and increased travel on foot and by bicycle, measures are required at various levels. To achieve maximum effect, measures in infrastructure are combined, for example, with measures to influence behaviour and new, smart solutions for enhanced and adapted public transport.</li></ul>	
<p><b>Main target groups</b></p> <p>Enterprises and organisations in the programme area</p>	
<p><b>Geographical regions</b></p> <p>This investment priority relates to operations throughout the programme area</p>	
<p><b>Beneficiaries</b></p>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	7c — Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility
Government agencies and regional authorities and other public organisations, universities, colleges, research institutions, municipalities, county councils, business organisations, sector organisations and advocacy groups	
<b>Horizontal criteria</b>	
<p>The transport sector is historically dominated by male structures, access to and use of cars, for example, having been higher among men than among women and men having commuted for longer times than women in general have done so. Greater accessibility in general facilitates a change and aids the prospects of under-represented groups gaining access to the system on equal terms. With a modern infrastructure, commuting times can be shortened and access to a larger and more varied labour market can be improved. A risk with regional enlargement is that the gender pattern may be reinforced so that women work closer to home, resulting in greater responsibility for children and the home, while men start to commute long distances. Well expanded and fast public transport therefore requires freer routines and purposeful efforts to break traditional gender roles. Public transport today is relatively more important for women than for men. There is an endeavour to even this out primarily by increasing the proportion of men who make use of public transport.</p>	
<p>Improved and enhanced public transport supports the objectives of reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Investments in the railway system provided opportunities to transfer goods from road to rail. This is beneficial to the possibility of reducing emissions. A fossil-independent vehicle fleet in 2030 (national objective) requires infrastructure-related actions, for example in the form of charging stations and biogas pumps. It is important that connections to the TEN-T network have smooth switching points that encourage switching between different modes of transport.</p>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	7c — Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility
<p>Projects that have a clear link to the needs of trade and industry, have several participating organisations, promote sustainable regional enlargement, contribute to environmentally efficient transport and encourage new transport and traffic solutions should be prioritised. The horizontal criteria are to be considered in each project and used to attain better fulfilment of objectives. Projects should take account of national transport and county transport plans. Priority is given to projects that are linked to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.</p>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	7c — Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	7c — Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	7c — Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility

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

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

<b>Investment priority</b>		7c — Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
1	Number of smart system solutions	Number	ERDF	More developed			5.00	Managing authority	Continuous

Investment priority		7c — Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
	for public transport								
17	Number of projects that produce strategies/ preliminary studies/plans based on the four-step principle	Number	ERDF	More developed			5.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

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

Priority axis	5 — Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures

## 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		5 — Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures											
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
						M	W	T	M	W	T		

													<b>appropriate</b>
CO12	O	Railway: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded railway line	km	ERDF	More developed			15			60.00	Project	
CO14	O	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	km	ERDF	More developed			15			60.00	Project	
20	F	Expenditure	EUR	ERDF	More developed			16 553 121			55 177 070.00	Managing authority	

### **Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework**

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

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

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

The interim target for 2018 for the financial indicator for priority axis 2 has been set at 20 %, which is somewhat lower than for other priority axes. Projects in this priority axis are deemed to be time-consuming and to be highly complex in the start-up phase due to extensive planning and procurements, which shifts the time of major expenses.

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

In priority axis 2, in which broadband investments are planned, the results of implemented operations cannot be expected to be reported until a long time into the programming period. The interim target for the selected output indicator ‘Added number of enterprises that have gained access to broadband at speeds of at least 100 Mbps’ has been estimated to be 0. In order, nevertheless, to follow up the effects of approved operations in this priority axis, the programme will use the key implementation step ‘Planned number of enterprises with access to broadband at speeds of at least 100 Mbps based on projects financed in the priority axis’. 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		5 — Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	024. Railways (TEN-T Core)	4 101 269.00
ERDF	More developed	025. Railways (TEN-T comprehensive)	3 801 176.00
ERDF	More developed	026. Other Railways	2 000 774.00
ERDF	More developed	034. Other reconstructed or improved road (motorway, national, regional or local)	6 802 104.00
ERDF	More developed	036. Multimodal transport	3 401 052.00
ERDF	More developed	043. Clean urban transport infrastructure and promotion (including equipment and rolling stock)	3 611 117.00
ERDF	More developed	090. Cycle tracks and footpaths	3 871 043.00

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

Priority axis		5 — Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Non-repayable grant	27 588 535.00

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

Priority axis		5 — Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount

Priority axis		5 — Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	0.00
ERDF	More developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	14 897 809.00
ERDF	More developed	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	12 690 726.00

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

Priority axis		5 — Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	07. Not applicable	27 588 535.00

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

Priority axis		5 — Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	
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:	5 — Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures		

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

### 2.B.1 Priority axis

<b>ID of the priority axis</b>	6
<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	6 — Technical assistance (TA)
	<p>Technical assistance can be provided so that the programme can be implemented in an effective and legally sound way and to inform about and encourage broad participation in the programme. Technical assistance can fund a number of activities, including preparations, administration, monitoring, evaluation, information and controls. The monitoring committee decides on the budget for technical assistance. The managing authority decides on the payment of technical assistance.</p> <p>The following costs can be co-financed by technical assistance for the managing and certifying authorities: preparations, administration, controls, evaluation, information efforts, seminars, computer systems and evaluations.</p> <p>The costs of auditing for the audit authority can be co-financed by technical assistance.</p> <p>The costs of preparing for and holding meetings of the monitoring committee can be co-financed by technical assistance.</p> <p>The costs of holding Structural Fund Partnership meetings can be co-financed by technical assistance.</p>

Priority axis	6 — Technical assistance (TA)
<p>The technical assistance is to be used to achieve simple and effective implementation. The focus in development work will be on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• more simplification and reduced administrative burden for project sponsors</li> <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		6 - Tekniskt stöd (TA)				
ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023) (optional)			Source of data
			M	W	T	
18	Utbetalade medel av programmets totala budget	Procent			100.00	Förvaltande myndighets datasystem
19	Externa utvärderingar har genomförts under programperiod	Antal			15.00	Förvaltande myndighet
20	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		6 — Technical assistance (TA)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ Amount
ERDF	More developed	121. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection	5 545 716.00
ERDF	More developed	122. Evaluation and studies	308 095.00
ERDF	More developed	123. Information and communication	308 095.00

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

Priority axis		6 — Technical assistance (TA)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ Amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Non-repayable grant	6 161 906.00

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

Priority axis		6 — Technical assistance (TA)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ Amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	0.00
ERDF	More developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	3 327 429.00

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>6 — Technical assistance (TA)</b>		
<b>Fund</b>	<b>Category of region</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>€ Amount</b>
ERDF	More developed	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	2 834 477.00

### 3. FINANCING PLAN

#### 3.1 Financial appropriation from each fund and amounts for performance reserve

Table 17

Fund	Category of region	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		Total	
		Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve												
ERDF	More developed	8 476 492.00	509 847.00	8 646 194.00	520 054.00	8 819 268.00	530 464.00	8 995 771.00	541 080.00	9 175 799.00	551 908.00	9 359 425.00	562 953.00	9 546 709.00	574 218.00	63 019 658.00	3 790 524.00
ERDF	Outermost or northern sparsely populated	11 000 554.00	733 370.00	11 220 786.00	748 052.00	11 445 397.00	763 026.00	11 674 456.00	778 297.00	11 908 093.00	793 873.00	12 146 398.00	809 760.00	12 389 450.00	825 963.00	81 785 134.00	5 452 341.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>19 477 046.00</b>	<b>1 243 217.00</b>	<b>19 866 980.00</b>	<b>1 268 106.00</b>	<b>20 264 665.00</b>	<b>1 293 490.00</b>	<b>20 670 227.00</b>	<b>1 319 377.00</b>	<b>21 083 892.00</b>	<b>1 345 781.00</b>	<b>21 505 823.00</b>	<b>1 372 713.00</b>	<b>21 936 159.00</b>	<b>1 400 181.00</b>	<b>144 804 792.00</b>	<b>9 242 865.00</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	19 367 894.00	19 367 894.00	18 399 799.00	968 095.00	38 735 788.00	50.0000000000 %		18 157 400.00	18 157 400.00	1 210 494.00	1 210 494.00	6.25 %
1	ERDF	Outermost or northern sparsely populated	Total	17 447 495.00	17 447 495.00	16 575 390.00	872 105.00	34 894 990.00	50.0000000000 %		16 357 027.00	16 357 027.00	1 090 468.00	1 090 468.00	6.25 %
2	ERDF	More developed	Public	12 665 821.00	12 665 821.00	12 665 821.00	0.00	25 331 642.00	50.0000000000 %		11 874 206.00	11 874 206.00	791 615.00	791 615.00	6.25 %
2	ERDF	Outermost or northern sparsely populated	Public	17 447 495.00	17 447 495.00	17 447 495.00	0.00	34 894 990.00	50.0000000000 %		16 357 027.00	16 357 027.00	1 090 468.00	1 090 468.00	6.25 %
3	ERDF	More developed	Total	14 122 699.00	14 122 699.00	13 416 783.00	705 916.00	28 245 398.00	50.0000000000 %		13 240 028.00	13 240 028.00	882 671.00	882 671.00	6.25 %
3	ERDF	Outermost or northern sparsely populated	Total	30 533 116.00	30 533 116.00	29 006 932.00	1 526 184.00	61 066 232.00	50.0000000000 %		28 624 796.00	28 624 796.00	1 908 320.00	1 908 320.00	6.25 %
4	ERDF	More developed	Public	8 712 696.00	8 712 696.00	8 712 696.00	0.00	17 425 392.00	50.0000000000 %		8 168 151.00	8 168 151.00	544 545.00	544 545.00	6.25 %
5	ERDF	More developed	Public	5 779 166.00	5 779 166.00	5 779 166.00	0.00	11 558 332.00	50.0000000000 %		5 417 967.00	5 417 967.00	361 199.00	361 199.00	6.25 %
5	ERDF	Outermost or northern sparsely populated	Public	21 809 369.00	21 809 369.00	21 809 369.00	0.00	43 618 738.00	50.0000000000 %		20 446 284.00	20 446 284.00	1 363 085.00	1 363 085.00	6.25 %

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)	
6	ERDF	More developed	Public	6 161 906.00	6 161 906.00	6 161 906.00	0.00	12 323 812.00	50.0000000000 %		6 161 906.00	6 161 906.00			
<b>Total</b>	<b>ERDF</b>	<b>More developed</b>		<b>66 810 182.00</b>	<b>66 810 182.00</b>	<b>65 136 171.00</b>	<b>1 674 011.00</b>	<b>133 620 364.00</b>	<b>50.0000000000 %</b>		<b>63 019 658.00</b>	<b>63 019 658.00</b>	<b>3 790 524.00</b>	<b>3 790 524.00</b>	<b>5.67 %</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>ERDF</b>	<b>Outermost or northern sparsely populated</b>		<b>87 237 475.00</b>	<b>87 237 475.00</b>	<b>84 839 186.00</b>	<b>2 398 289.00</b>	<b>174 474 950.00</b>	<b>50.0000000000 %</b>		<b>81 785 134.00</b>	<b>81 785 134.00</b>	<b>5 452 341.00</b>	<b>5 452 341.00</b>	<b>6.25 %</b>
<b>Grand total</b>				<b>154 047 657.00</b>	<b>154 047 657.00</b>	<b>149 975 357.00</b>	<b>4 072 300.00</b>	<b>308 095 314.00</b>	<b>50.0000000000 %</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>144 804 792.00</b>	<b>144 804 792.00</b>	<b>9 242 865.00</b>	<b>9 242 865.00</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	19,367,894.00	19,367,894.00	38,735,788.00
Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	ERDF	Outermost or northern sparsely populated	Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	17,447,495.00	17,447,495.00	34,894,990.00
Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies;	ERDF	More developed	Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies	12,665,821.00	12,665,821.00	25,331,642.00
Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies	ERDF	Outermost or northern sparsely populated	Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies	17,447,495.00	17,447,495.00	34,894,990.00
Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	ERDF	More developed	Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)	14,122,699.00	14,122,699.00	28,245,398.00
Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized	ERDF	Outermost or northern sparsely populated	Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)	30,533,116.00	30,533,116.00	61,066,232.00

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Thematic objective	Union support	National counterpart	Total funding
enterprises (SMEs)						
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	8,712,696.00	8,712,696.00	17,425,392.00
Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	ERDF	More developed	Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	5,779,166.00	5,779,166.00	11,558,332.00
Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	ERDF	Outermost or northern sparsely populated	Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	21,809,369.00	21,809,369.00	43,618,738.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>147,885,751.00</b>	<b>147,885,751.00</b>	<b>295,771,502.00</b>

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

Priority axis	Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (€)	Proportion of the total allocation to the operational programme (%)
1	14,726,155.00	9.56%
3	4,286,959.20	2.78%

<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>
4	6,621,649.20	4.30%
5	10,637,198.20	6.91%
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,271,961.60</b>	<b>23.55%</b>

#### 4. INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

The Middle Norrland programme area has a population of around 370 000. The population is concentrated in the coastal area and the river valleys, and approximately 40 % of the population live outside the urban areas, which is higher than the national average. Although a large proportion of the population live in one of the three largest cities in the programme area, none of these cities can be regarded as a large city in a European or national perspective. Although there are intra-regional differences, the population in the programme area has been declining for a number of years. The decline is clearest in the sparsely populated and rural areas, and it is younger people in particular, principally women, who are moving to larger localities in and outside the programme area. The proportion of people born outside Sweden is significantly lower than the national average.

The programme has five priority axes that are integrated and jointly address the challenges and opportunities for Middle Norrland.

Most of the small enterprises in the region are between 100 and 250 km away from research environments. Despite long distances, the analysis shows that there are **favourable conditions for innovation and commercialisation** of research-based products and services in the programme area.

A well extended high-speed **broadband infrastructure** is particularly important for sustainable growth and development in Middle Norrland, as it is a sparsely populated region. It contributes to creating the conditions necessary for competition on equal terms for enterprises independently of locality, and is therefore of the utmost significance in order to limit the disadvantages of the programme area in the form of sparse population and long distances.

**Entrepreneurship** is a mainstay of work on growth in the programme area. Microbusinesses in Middle Norrland provide 26 % of the number of jobs, together accounting for no less than 22 % of employment. One of the reasons for this is the way the labour market functions in a sparsely populated region. Greater competitiveness in small and medium-sized enterprises is crucial for sustainable growth.

The structure of trade and industry is notable for enterprises that generate a large amount of transport. Continued oil dependence in passenger transport and the transport sector accounts for a large proportion of **energy consumption** in the programme area and causes large emissions of greenhouse gases. In 2010, the transport sector and off-road mobile machinery accounted for 50 % of total greenhouse gas emissions.

Distances are long, and sparseness of population is significant, for trade and industry in the programme area. In addition to this, most of the inhabitants of the region face journeys of up to 1 hour to reach the nearest railway station. The possibility of creating effective regional enlargement depends on **improved transport infrastructure**. Measures creating accessibility improve the prospects of the companies developing and

competing on equal terms. As a result of these measures, opportunities are created, among other things, for an enlarged labour market and for the region to offer greater appeal.

#### **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		<b>0.00</b>

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

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

Cooperative measures that contribute to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region will be 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 the length and focus of the cooperation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Not applicable to the programme.

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

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

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

The disadvantages that led to the formulations in Article 174 of the Treaty of Accession remain. The programme area is notable for a diminishing and ageing population. The operations that can be supported in all the priority axes of the programme, taken together, contribute to improving the conditions for living and working in the programme area.

Priority axes 1 and 3 of the programme are aimed at creating improved opportunities for more people to live and work in the region. Innovations, combined with the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, create the new jobs that are necessary to curb the decline in population and attract inward migrants.

Sparseness of population and long distances affect the development prospects of enterprises. The long distances can be partly overcome through enhanced ICT and transport infrastructure supported through priority axes 2 and 5. Well developed transport infrastructure is necessary, among other things, for the region's goods-producing exporting firms and for visitors in the region's tourist enterprises. Involvement in R&I cooperation with the universities is made more difficult by long distances between enterprises and the two university sites. Better transport and ICT infrastructure can contribute to making such cooperation easier. Enhanced transport infrastructure broadens the labour-market regions, and is therefore important to the firms' access to skilled labour.

The programme area is notable for long distances, energy-demanding activities and significant sparseness of population. Although renewable energy accounts for a large proportion of energy use, the transport sector is still, to a great extent, dependent on fossil fuels. Operations in priority axis 4 are aimed at reducing this dependence.

The way in which the various operations in the programme contribute to counteracting the specific needs of the programme area with respect to demographics and sparseness of population is described in more detail in Chapters 1 and 2. An account is also given there of how the proposed measures contribute to growth and increased employment.

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

### 7.1 Relevant authorities and bodies

**Table 23: Relevant authorities and bodies**

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

### 7.2 Involvement of relevant partners

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

The Government decided on 31 January 2013 to commission Västernorrland County Administrative Board to coordinate work on preparing an ERDF programme for the Middle Norrland region, which comprises the counties of Jämtland and Västernorrland. Under this decision, the programme is to be prepared in a broad partnership. The County Administrative Board initiated close cooperation with the Regional Council in the County of Jämtland, which has created a good basis for the establishment of a broad partnership. A group of officials with representatives of Jämtland Regional Council, as well as Jämtland County Administrative Board, Västernorrland County Council and Västernorrland Association of Local Authorities, have been responsible for ongoing work on drafting the programme under the chairmanship of Västernorrland County Administrative Board. Several of the officials who have worked on that programme are also involved in the work of formulating the cross-border cooperation programmes. It has been possible in this way to take account of potential synergies between the programmes.

The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth has played an active part in the process. To ensure coordination with the European Social Fund programme, the Swedish ESF Council has also taken part. In addition to this ongoing assistance in the work of formulating the region's operational programme, the Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications and the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth have held meetings for the exchange of information and experience. As a result of the work done

by the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth on enhanced multi-level collaboration, a number of other authorities, for example Vinnova (the Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems) and the Swedish Energy Agency have contributed opinions during programme drafting.

The regional parties in the programme area were invited to attend an introductory seminar on 3 May 2013. Information on the conditions to be met prior to the programming period was provided at the seminar. Most of the seminar was devoted to dialogue on the new programme, with the partnership contributing with opinions and proposals on thematic objectives, investment priorities and specific objectives. These opinions have subsequently guided formulation of the draft programme.

In view of the relatively long distances in the region, the joint-county seminar has been supplemented by partnership meetings. By holding meetings at county level, it has been possible to limit the time taken and the travel expenses incurred, which has enabled many parties to attend. Opinions and proposals have been gathered and submitted to the group of officials that has been responsible for the regular programming work.

The partnership involves the participation of representatives of municipalities, authorities, trade and industry, and employee organisations as well as representatives of civil society organisations. The selection of representatives is based on the organisations taking part in work on the regional development strategies. An invitation to take part in work on the operational programme for the ERDF has additionally been extended to a number of organisations involved in development of the region.

The group of officials initially presented proposals for orientation of the operational programme based on the region's regional development strategies and other policy documents. As the partnerships in the region's two counties have taken part in the formulation of these documents, the views of the combined regional partnership were, in the main, incorporated into the draft programme. The views of the partnerships then influenced the focus primarily on priority axes 1, 2, 3 and 10. The added value is therefore perhaps clearest in these priority axes, but the principal added value has been supplied by the partnership by confirming the endorsement of the operational programme in the regional development strategies.

As well as the meetings with the partnership, the programme has been endorsed through a consultation procedure. Around 100 organisations in the public, private and non-profit sectors were given an opportunity, at the end of June 2013, to study a draft operational programme and submit opinions on the draft by 23 August. The draft was also published on the Västernorrland County Administrative Board website, and in that way was available to everyone. Around 40 responses had been received at the end of the consultation period.

Examples of areas where the views expressed by the partnership and the consulted bodies have been of great significance are:

- The prioritisation of investments in ICT infrastructure (priority axis 2) and investments in transport infrastructure (priority axis 5). The partnership has emphasised the needs for investments in both these areas, and has stressed the importance of the ERDF programme making provision for investments of this kind.

In addition, the opinions highlighted by the partnership in previous documents concerning initiatives relating, for example, to innovations, renewable energy and actions for gender equality and integration have had an impact on the proposed operational programme.

In implementation, partnership collaboration in accordance with the proposed Structural Funds Regulation takes place through the parties' representation on the monitoring committee and in the Structural Funds partnership. The costs of the monitoring committee and Structural Funds partnership can be paid for through the resources earmarked for Technical Assistance (TA).

A concluding endorsement process was carried out in the latter half of September 2013, when the partnership was given an opportunity to present its views on the final draft programme.

### **Managing and certifying authorities**

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

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

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

### **Audit authority**

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

### **Involvement of various stakeholders in programme implementation**

The active participation of national, regional and local operators is required to implement the Europe 2020 strategy and its key objective of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

In the general regulation of the European Parliament and the Council, the European Commission sets requirements for the Member States to organise a broad partnership ahead of the preparation and implementation of a partnership agreement and operational programmes.

Stakeholders are involved in preparing a partnership agreement and in programme formulation, and will take part in the implementation, follow-up, status reporting and evaluation of the programme. Stakeholders are to participate in the monitoring committees for programmes.

For the involvement of certain stakeholders in implementation, see section 7.1.

### **Structural Funds Partnership**

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

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

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

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

### **Monitoring committee**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **The national innovation strategy**

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

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

### **The national European Regional Development Fund programme**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The EU programmes are to be viewed in a context where each programme and fund has its own specific role in work on contributing to the Europe 2020 objectives, while collaboration and synergies should be aimed for at the same time.

The conditions to be met for fund coordination are particularly clear between the operational programme for the ERDF in Middle Norrland and the ESF. The regional action plan for Middle Norrland in the ESF programme has been formulated alongside the formulation of the operational ERDF programme. The programme geography, in other words, is the same for the two programmes, and the Structural Funds partnership is common to the two programmes, which makes coordinated calls for proposals possible.

The two programmes supplement one another on several points. The clearest example is the operations under the ERDF programme for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in priority axis 3, which demands good skills among the management and staff of enterprises. Operations from the two funds can reinforce one another through synchronisation with programme area 1 of the ESF programme, skills provision. Programme area 2 can also contribute to making it easier to meet the needs of enterprises to recruit skilled labour. Middle Norrland is one of the three areas covered by the employment initiative for young people. The employment initiative for young people is to contribute to increased employment for young women and men. The operations in the ERDF programme will lead to growth and new jobs in Middle Norrland, and in so doing improve the prospects of young people finding work. The employment initiative for young people can also improve the skills provision of enterprises by giving young people an opportunity to take part in work placement and trainee programmes as a step along the path to employment.

## **COSME and Horizon 2020**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **CAP**

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

### **Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)**

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

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

In addition to this, an important contribution can be made through the Structural Funds. Support for sustainable transport through the Structural Funds should be used for measures that strengthen business and the labour market and contribute to attractive living and residential environments. Grants through the Structural Funds complement the 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 great significance for economic growth, competitiveness and social integration.

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

## **LIFE**

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

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

## **Creative Europe**

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

## **Transport infrastructure plans**

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

## 9. EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES

### 9.1 Ex-ante conditionalities

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

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.02.1 — Digital growth: A strategic policy framework for digital growth to stimulate affordable, good quality and interoperable ICT enabled private and public services and increase uptake by citizens, including vulnerable groups, businesses and public administrations including cross border initiatives.	2 — Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies	Yes
T.02.2 — Next Generation Network (NGN) Infrastructure: The existence of national or regional NGN Plans which take account of regional actions in order to reach the Union high speed Internet access targets, focusing on areas where the market fails to provide an open infrastructure at an affordable cost and of a quality in line with the Union competition and State aid rules, and to provide accessible services to vulnerable groups.	2 — Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies	Yes
T.03.1 — Specific actions have been carried out to underpin the promotion of entrepreneurship taking into account the Small Business Act (SBA).	3 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	Yes

<b>Ex-ante conditionality</b>	<b>Priority axes to which conditionality applies</b>	<b>Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (Yes/No/Partially)</b>
T.04.1 — Actions have been carried out to promote cost effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost effective investment in energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.	4 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	Partially
T.07.1 — Transport: The existence of a comprehensive plan or plans or framework or frameworks for transport investment in accordance with the Member States’ institutional set up (including public transport at regional and local level) which supports infrastructure development and improves connectivity to the TEN-T comprehensive and core networks.	5 — Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	Yes
T.07.2 — Railway: The existence within the comprehensive transport plan or plans or framework or frameworks of a specific section on railway development in accordance with the Member States’ institutional set up (including concerning public transport at regional and local level) which supports infrastructure development and improves connectivity to the TEN-T comprehensive and core networks. The investments cover mobile assets, interoperability and capacity building.	5 — Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	Yes
T.07.3 — Other modes of transport, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure: the existence within the comprehensive transport plan or plans or framework or frameworks of a specific section on inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, which contribute to improving connectivity to the TEN-T comprehensive and core networks and to promoting sustainable regional and local mobility.	5 — Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	Yes
G.1 — The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti-discrimination law and	1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation 2 — Enhancing access to, and use and	Yes

<b>Ex-ante conditionality</b>	<b>Priority axes to which conditionality applies</b>	<b>Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (Yes/No/Partially)</b>
policy in the field of ESI Funds.	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  5 — Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	
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 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  5 — Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	Yes
G.3 — The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC.	1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation  2 — Enhancing 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  5 — Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	Yes
G.4 — The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation  2 — Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies  3 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises	Yes

<b>Ex-ante conditionality</b>	<b>Priority axes to which conditionality applies</b>	<b>Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (Yes/No/Partially)</b>
	(SMEs) 4 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors 5 — Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	
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 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 5 — Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	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 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 5 — Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	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 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 5 — Promoting sustainable transport and	Yes

<b>Ex-ante conditionality</b>	<b>Priority axes to which conditionality applies</b>	<b>Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (Yes/No/Partially)</b>
	removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	

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

<b>Ex-ante conditionality</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
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 Middle Norrland’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.
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 Middle Norrland’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.
T.02.1 — Digital growth: A strategic policy framework for digital growth to stimulate affordable, good quality and interoperable ICT enabled private and public services and increase uptake by citizens, including vulnerable groups, businesses and public administrations including cross border initiatives.	1 — A strategic policy framework for digital growth, for instance, within the national or regional smart specialisation strategy is in place that contains:	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.
T.02.1 — Digital growth: A strategic policy framework for digital growth to stimulate affordable, good quality and interoperable ICT enabled private and	2 — budgeting and prioritisation of actions through a SWOT or similar analysis consistent with the Scoreboard	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.

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

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

<b>Ex-ante conditionality</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
an open infrastructure at an affordable cost and of a quality in line with the Union competition and State aid rules, and to provide accessible services to vulnerable groups.				
T.02.2 — Next Generation Network (NGN) Infrastructure: The existence of national or regional NGN Plans which take account of regional actions in order to reach the Union high speed Internet access targets, focusing on areas where the market fails to provide an open infrastructure at an affordable cost and of a quality in line with the Union competition and State aid rules, and to provide accessible services to vulnerable groups.	4 — measures to stimulate private investment.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.
T.03.1 — Specific actions have been carried out to underpin the promotion of entrepreneurship taking into account the Small Business Act (SBA).	1 — The specific actions are: measures have been put in place with the objective of reducing the time and cost involved in setting-up a business taking account of the targets of the SBA;	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.
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 Middle Norrland’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.

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

<b>Ex-ante conditionality</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
investment in energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.	efficiency and energy services to ensure the provision to final customers of individual meters in so far as it is technically possible, financially reasonable and proportionate in relation to the potential energy savings.			
T.07.1 — Transport: The existence of a comprehensive plan or plans or framework or frameworks for transport investment in accordance with the Member States' institutional set up (including public transport at regional and local level) which supports infrastructure development and improves connectivity to the TEN-T comprehensive and core networks.	1 — The existence of a comprehensive transport plan or plans or framework or frameworks for transport investment which complies with legal requirements for strategic environmental assessment and sets out:	Yes	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland'.
T.07.1 — Transport: The existence of a comprehensive plan or plans or framework or frameworks for transport investment in accordance with the Member States' institutional set up (including public transport at regional and local level) which supports infrastructure development and improves connectivity to the TEN-T comprehensive and core networks.	2 — the contribution to the single European Transport Area consistent with Article 10 of Regulation (EU) No .../2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, including priorities for investments in:	Yes	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland'.
T.07.1 — Transport: The existence of a comprehensive plan or plans or framework or frameworks for transport investment in accordance	3 — the core TEN-T network and the comprehensive network where investment from the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund is envisaged; and	Yes	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland'.

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanation
with the Member States' institutional set up (including public transport at regional and local level) which supports infrastructure development and improves connectivity to the TEN-T comprehensive and core networks.				
T.07.1 — Transport: The existence of a comprehensive plan or plans or framework or frameworks for transport investment in accordance with the Member States' institutional set up (including public transport at regional and local level) which supports infrastructure development and improves connectivity to the TEN-T comprehensive and core networks.	4 — secondary connectivity;	Yes	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland'.
T.07.1 — Transport: The existence of a comprehensive plan or plans or framework or frameworks for transport investment in accordance with the Member States' institutional set up (including public transport at regional and local level) which supports infrastructure development and improves connectivity to the TEN-T comprehensive and core networks.	5 — a realistic and mature pipeline for projects for which support from the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund is envisaged;	Yes	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland'.
T.07.1 — Transport: The existence of a comprehensive plan or plans or framework or frameworks for transport investment in accordance	6 — Measures to ensure the capacity of intermediary bodies and beneficiaries to deliver the project pipeline.	Yes	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland'.

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanation
with the Member States' institutional set up (including public transport at regional and local level) which supports infrastructure development and improves connectivity to the TEN-T comprehensive and core networks.				
T.07.2 — Railway: The existence within the comprehensive transport plan or plans or framework or frameworks of a specific section on railway development in accordance with the Member States' institutional set up (including concerning public transport at regional and local level) which supports infrastructure development and improves connectivity to the TEN-T comprehensive and core networks. The investments cover mobile assets, interoperability and capacity building.	1 — The existence of a section on railway development within the transport plan or plans or framework or frameworks as set out above which complies with legal requirements for strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and sets out a realistic and mature project pipeline (including a timetable and budgetary framework);	Yes	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland'.
T.07.2 — Railway: The existence within the comprehensive transport plan or plans or framework or frameworks of a specific section on railway development in accordance with the Member States' institutional set up (including concerning public transport at regional and local level) which supports infrastructure development and improves connectivity to the TEN-T	2 — Measures to ensure the capacity of intermediary bodies and beneficiaries to deliver the project pipeline.	Yes	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland'.	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland'.

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanation
comprehensive and core networks. The investments cover mobile assets, interoperability and capacity building.				
T.07.3 — Other modes of transport, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure: the existence within the comprehensive transport plan or plans or framework or frameworks of a specific section on inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, which contribute to improving connectivity to the TEN-T comprehensive and core networks and to promoting sustainable regional and local mobility.	1 — The existence of a section on inland-waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure within the transport plan or plans or framework or frameworks which:	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.
T.07.3 — Other modes of transport, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure: the existence within the comprehensive transport plan or plans or framework or frameworks of a specific section on inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, which contribute to improving connectivity to the TEN-T comprehensive and core networks and to promoting sustainable regional and local mobility.	2 — complies with legal requirements for strategic environmental assessment;	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanation
T.07.3 — Other modes of transport, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure: the existence within the comprehensive transport plan or plans or framework or frameworks of a specific section on inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, which contribute to improving connectivity to the TEN-T comprehensive and core networks and to promoting sustainable regional and local mobility.	3 — sets out a realistic and mature project pipeline (including a timetable and budgetary framework);	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.
T.07.3 — Other modes of transport, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure: the existence within the comprehensive transport plan or plans or framework or frameworks of a specific section on inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, which contribute to improving connectivity to the TEN-T comprehensive and core networks and to promoting sustainable regional and local mobility.	4 — Measures to ensure the capacity of intermediary bodies and beneficiaries to deliver the project pipeline.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.
G.1 — The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti-	1 — Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the involvement of	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.

<b>Ex-ante conditionality</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
discrimination law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	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.		Norrland’.	
G.1 — The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti-discrimination law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	2 — Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of Union anti-discrimination law and policy.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.
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 Middle Norrland’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.
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 Middle Norrland’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.
G.3 — The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations	1 — Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the consultation and	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.

<b>Ex-ante conditionality</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC.	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.		Norrland’.	
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 Middle Norrland’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.
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 Middle Norrland’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.
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 Middle Norrland’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.

<b>Ex-ante conditionality</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
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 Middle Norrland’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.
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 Middle Norrland’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.
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 Middle Norrland’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.
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 Middle Norrland’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.
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 Middle Norrland’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.

<b>Ex-ante conditionality</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
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 Middle Norrland’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.
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 Middle Norrland’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.
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 Middle Norrland’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.
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 Middle Norrland’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.

<b>Ex-ante conditionality</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Explanation</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.	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 Middle Norrland’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.
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 Middle Norrland’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.
G.7 — The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to	3 — An effective system of result indicators including: the selection of result indicators for each programme providing information on what motivates the selection of policy actions financed by the programme.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanation
desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.				
G.7 — The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	4 — An effective system of result indicators including: the establishment of targets for these indicators.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.
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 Middle Norrland’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.
G.7 — The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to	6 — Procedures in place to ensure that all operations financed by the programme adopt an effective system of indicators.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland’.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 10. REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN FOR BENEFICIARIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Indicative timetable**

Table 39 (see annex 'Tables and figures Middle Norrland').

## 11. HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES

### 11.1 Sustainable development

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Classification criteria**

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

### **Better environment**

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

The project fulfils all the items below:

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

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

The project fulfils two of the items below:

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

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

The project does not fulfil any of the items below:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Classification criteria**

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

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

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

The project fulfils all the items below:

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

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

The project fulfils two of the items below:

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

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

The project does not fulfil any of the items below:

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

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

### **11.3 Equality between men and women**

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

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 for gender equality policy is for women and men to have the same power to shape society and their own lives, that is to say have the same right and opportunity to be active citizens, take part in decision-making, education and paid employment and take the same responsibility for work in the home.

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

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

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

- Human resources are used more effectively if the labour market is gender-equal and less segregated by gender. This means, among other things, that the knowledge, skills and entrepreneurship of both women and men are put to optimum use, we gain more enterprises and better matching.
- Greater gender equality in the governance and development of the region increases social capital and participation, which can contribute to sustainable growth by attracting inward migration and counteracting outward migration. This is also a key factor for the supply of skills to the labour market.
- Gender equality improves the innovative capacity of enterprises and organisations, in part because work becomes more effective if both women and men take part in management, planning and implementation.

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

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

### **Classification criteria**

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

## **Equality between women and men**

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

The project fulfils all the items below:

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

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

The project fulfils two of the items below:

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

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

The project does not fulfil any of the items below:

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

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

## 12. SEPARATE ELEMENTS

### 12.1 Major projects to be implemented during programming period

**Table 27: List of major projects**

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

### 12.2 Performance framework of operational programme

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

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)		
					M	W	T	M	W	T
1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	ERDF	More developed	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises			30			120.00
1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	ERDF	More developed	Expenditure	EUR			22 089 233			73 630 778.00
2 — Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies	ERDF	More developed	Expenditure	EUR			12 045 326			60 226 632.00

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)		
					M	W	T	M	W	T
2 — Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies	ERDF	More developed	Planned number of enterprises with access to broadband at speeds of at least 100 Mbps based on projects financed in the priority axis.	Number of enterprises			50			
2 — Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies	ERDF	More developed	Number of enterprises added that have access to broadband at speeds of at least 100 Mbps.	Enterprises			0			1 500.00
3 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	ERDF	More developed	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises			293			1 172.00
3 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	ERDF	More developed	Expenditure	EUR			26 793 489			89 311 630.00
4 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	ERDF	More developed	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises			150			600.00
4 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	ERDF	More developed	Expenditure	EUR			5 227 618			17 425 392.00
5 — Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	ERDF	More developed	Railway: Total length of reconstructed or	km			15			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
			upgraded railway line							
5 — Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	ERDF	More developed	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	km			15			60.00
5 — Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	ERDF	More developed	Expenditure	EUR			16 553 121			55 177 070.00

### 12.3 Relevant partners involved in preparation of programme

ALMI Mitt  
 Swedish Public Employment Service Southern Norrland  
 Berg Municipality  
 Bildningsförbundet (Adult Education Association) Middle Norrland  
 Swedish Companies Registration Office  
 Bräcke Municipality  
 Bygderådet (district council) Jämtland  
 Bygderådet (district council) Västernorrland  
 Centre Party Jämtland  
 Centre Party Västernorrland  
 Coompanion Jämtland  
 Coompanion Västernorrland  
 CSN  
 Swedish ESF Council  
 Public Health Agency of Sweden  
 Liberal People's Party Jämtland  
 Liberal People's Party Västernorrland

Företagarna (Swedish Federation of Business Owners) Jämtland-Härjedalen  
Företagarna (Swedish Federation of Business Owners) Västernorrland  
Swedish Social Insurance Agency  
Gaaltije  
Chamber of Commerce Mid Chamber  
HSV (Disabled Persons Collaborative Body, Handikappsamverkan) Jämtland  
Hushållningssällskapet (Rural Economy and Agricultural Society) Jämtland  
Hushållningssällskapet (Rural Economy and Agricultural Society) Västernorrland  
Härjedalen Municipality  
Härnösand Municipality  
IF Metall Mellersta Norrland  
Inlandsbanan (Inland Railway Line)  
Jämtland-Härjedalen Idrottsförbund (sports federation)  
Jämtland-Härjedalens Turistförening (tourist association)  
Jämtlands gymnasieförbund (Association of Upper Secondary Schools)  
Jämtland County Council  
Jämtland County Museum  
Public Transport Authority Västernorrland  
Kommunal Mellersta Norrland  
Swedish Association of Local Authorities Västernorrland  
Kramfors Municipality  
Christian Democrats Jämtland  
Christian Democrats Västernorrland  
Krokom Municipality  
County Council Västernorrland  
Swedish Trade Union Confederation Middle Norrland  
LRF (Federation of Swedish Farmers) Jämtland  
LRF (Federation of Swedish Farmers) Västernorrland  
County Museum Västernorrland  
Jämtland County Administrative Board  
Mid Nordic Business Area

Mid Sweden Science Park  
Swedish Migration Board  
Green Party Jämtland  
Green Party Västernorrland  
Mid Nordic Committee  
Mid Sweden University  
Moderate Party Jämtland  
Moderate Party Västernorrland  
Naboer AB  
Swedish Society for Nature Conservation  
Norrtåg AB  
Processum  
Ragunda Municipality  
Swedish National Heritage Board  
Swedish National Archive  
Sami Parliament  
Swedish Forest Agency  
Skogsägareföreningen (Association of Forest Owners) Norrskog  
Social Democratic Party Jämtland  
Social Democratic Party Västernorrland  
Sollefteå Municipality  
National Government Employee Pensions Board  
Strömsund Municipality  
Sundsvall 42  
Sundsvall Municipality  
National Union of the Swedish Sami People  
Swedish Confederation of Enterprise Jämtland  
Swedish Confederation of Enterprise Västernorrland  
Sweden Democrats Jämtland  
Sweden Democrats Västernorrland  
Swedish Confederation of Professional Employees (TCO) Middle Norrland

Association of Swedish Engineering Industries Jämtland/Härjedalen  
Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis  
Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth  
Timrå Municipality  
Torsta AB  
Trafikanalys (Transport Analysis)  
Swedish Transport Administration  
Ung företagsamhet (Junior Achievement Sweden) Jämtland  
Ung företagsamhet (Junior Achievement Sweden) Västernorrland  
Unionen Middle Norrland  
Left Party Jämtland  
Left Party Västernorrland  
Västernorrlands Idrottsförbund (Sports Federation)  
Z-Group  
Åkroken Science Park/Business Incubator  
Ånge Municipality  
Åre Municipality  
Örnsköldsvik Municipality  
Östersund Municipality



## Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Tables and figures Middle Norrland	Supplementary information	10-Dec-2014		Ares(2014)41416 64	Tables and figures Middle Norrland	10-Dec-2014	nolofann
Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland	Supplementary information	10-Dec-2014		Ares(2014)41416 64	Ex-ante conditionalities Middle Norrland	10-Dec-2014	nolofann
EIA Middle Norrland	Supplementary information	10-Dec-2014		Ares(2014)41416 64	EIA Middle Norrland	10-Dec-2014	nolofann
Ex-ante evaluation Middle Norrland	Supplementary information	10-Dec-2014		Ares(2014)41416 64	Ex-ante evaluation Middle Norrland	10-Dec-2014	nolofann