

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is investing in growth and employment throughout Sweden

During the period 2014–2020, the ERDF will invest just over SEK 1 billion in growth and employment in Sweden's National regional fund programme. The programme covers the whole of Sweden. This information folder provides an overview of the kinds of operations that can receive aid under the programme. It also explains in brief who can apply for aid and how. Detailed information is available on the website eu.tillvaxtverket.se

National regional fund programme – an extension of the Europe 2020 Strategy

The National regional fund programme is based on the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The aim of the programme is to add value to regional growth activities by supplementing the actions being carried out in the eight regional Structural Fund programmes. The programme aims to identify and enable synergies between regional, national and European policy.

The development of national skills and methodology support is also being prioritised within the National regional fund programme in order to facilitate strategic learning.

Priority axes with examples of activities that can receive aid

A project can receive aid in one of the three priority axes listed below.

You can find more examples of activities in the programme document on eu.tillvaxtverket.se/programmen/nationellaprogrammet (in Swedish only).

Priority Axis 1:

Strengthen research, technological development and innovation

This Priority Axis aims to establish a multi-disciplinary research infrastructure that will attract international researchers, businesses and government agencies. It will mainly focus on supporting the establishment of the European Spallation Source (ESS) in Lund. This Priority Axis also aims to stimulate cross-border cooperation regionally, transnationally and between sectors in Swedish areas of strength.

Activities that can receive aid are activities to:

- Build and establish parts of the ESS research infrastructure
- Stimulate regional and transnational cooperation in Swedish areas of strength
- Establish cooperation between research and innovation projects
- Establish open forums for making innovation processes available between regions
- Develop international cooperation.



Process for a project application.
For more detailed information,
see page 4.

Priority Axis 2: Enhance the competitiveness of SMEs

This Priority Axis aims to promote the emergence of new fund managers within the venture capital (VC) segment in Sweden and to increase the dynamism and diversity of the private VC market by facilitating investment in SMEs in the early phases of their development. All of the funds under this Priority Axis will be invested in VC in the form of a fund-of-funds. This will be implemented as shareholder equity in a revolving fund.

Activities that can receive aid are activities to:

- Establish a Holding Fund (the project) that is able to select and invest in a number of privately managed VC funds. This will enable new fund manager teams to make and manage investments in growth companies, contributing capital as well as their expertise.

Priority Axis 3: Supporting the transition to a low carbon economy in all sectors

The aim of this Priority Axis is to promote energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy in enterprises. It will be implemented in the form of a national intervention to encourage SMEs to make their operations energy efficient and thus become more competitive. This Priority Axis also aims to support capital procurement in SMEs whose activities are contributing to the transition to a low carbon economy.

Activities that can receive aid are activities to:

- Aid to business networks
- Networks for innovation and technology procurement
- Energy audit cheques
- Investment aid
- A revolving fund in the form of shareholder equity focused on investments in the early phase of development in SMEs with products and services that can help reduce climate impact.



The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth works to strengthen the competitiveness of Swedish businesses.

How do you apply for aid?

Do you have an idea for a project that will facilitate cooperation and create incentives for linking actions at the regional, national or European levels?

This folder presents the three priority axes included in Sweden's National regional fund programme.

At eu.tillvaxtverket.se, you can find guidance on applying for aid, information on selection criteria, current calls for proposals, forms and more (in Swedish only).

All applicants for aid from the National regional fund programme must have national co-financing, since the programme funds only a maximum of 50% of the project. Co-financing may be from public or private sources.

You apply via the web service Min ansökan (My application) which you can find via a link on the website eu.tillvaxtverket.se. For your application to be approved, your project must meet a number of criteria. For example, it must include a thorough description of the project with specified costs.

Who can apply for aid?

Applicants must be legal persons – governed by either private or public law.

Universities and higher education institutions, regional federations, municipalities, county councils or governmental agencies are examples of legal persons governed by public law.

Limited liability companies and non-profit or economic associations are examples of legal persons governed by private law.

Individuals cannot apply for this aid, and it is not possible to finance investments in individual companies through this programme.

Tillväxtverket/ The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth

The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth has been appointed the managing authority for ten of the ERDF Operational Programmes in Sweden. This entails publicising the programmes, preparing applications and paying out EU funds.

The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth works from nine locations in Sweden. The unit responsible for the National regional fund programme is located in Stockholm.

The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth works to strengthen the competitiveness of Swedish businesses.

More information and applications

Read more about the EU's regional structural fund programmes at eu.tillvaxtverket.se

Our address is:

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