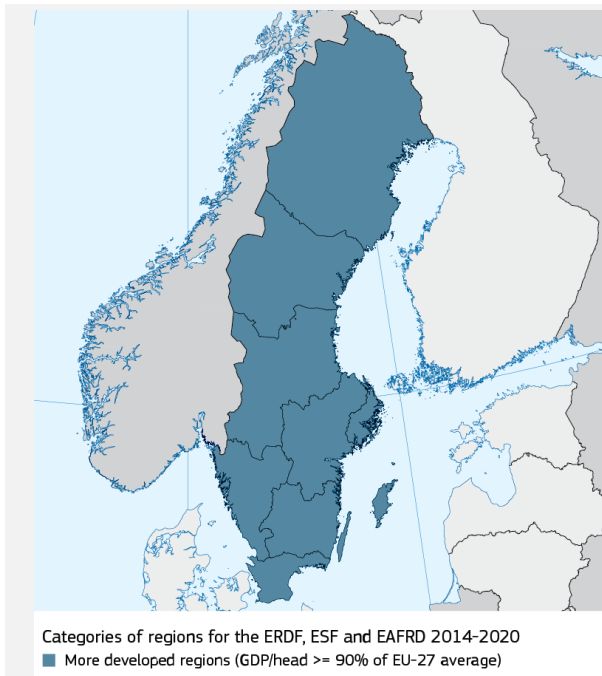


EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS¹



Sweden

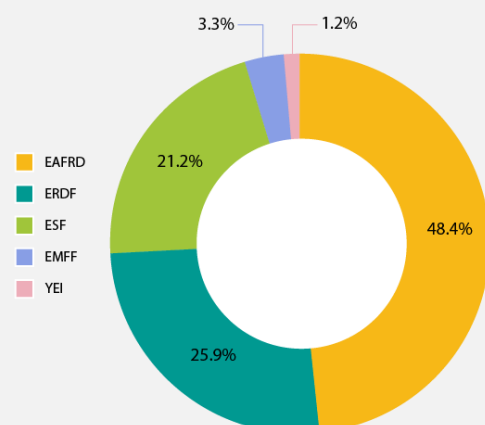
With a budget of **EUR 454 billion** for 2014-2020, the **European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds)** are the European Union's main investment policy tool. The ESI Funds combine five Funds: **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**; **European Social Fund (ESF)**; **Cohesion Fund (CF)**; **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)**; and the **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)**. Sweden, together with 19 other Member States, will also benefit from the **Youth Employment Initiative (YEI)**.



Through 13 national and regional programmes, Sweden has been allocated **EUR 3.65 billion** from ESI Funds over the period 2014-2020. With a national contribution of **EUR 4.33 billion**, Sweden has a total budget of **EUR 7.98 billion** to be invested in various areas, from **smart specialisation to employment** as well as the **preservation of ecosystems and aquaculture**.

ESI FUNDS BUDGET FOR SWEDEN (2014-2020)²

- EUR 1.76 billion through the EAFRD
- EUR 945 million through the ERDF
- EUR 774 million through the ESF
- EUR 120 million through the EMFF
- EUR 44 million through the YEI



¹ Data included in this factsheet have been extracted from the ESIF Open Data platform which is accessible online at <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/>. Data on target achievements are based on officially agreed common indicators or, for the ESF, programme specific indicators (reference date for data: November 2015).

² Only those Member States with a gross national income (GNI) per inhabitant of less than 90 % of the EU average benefit from the Cohesion Fund. As such, Sweden is not eligible to benefit from the CF.

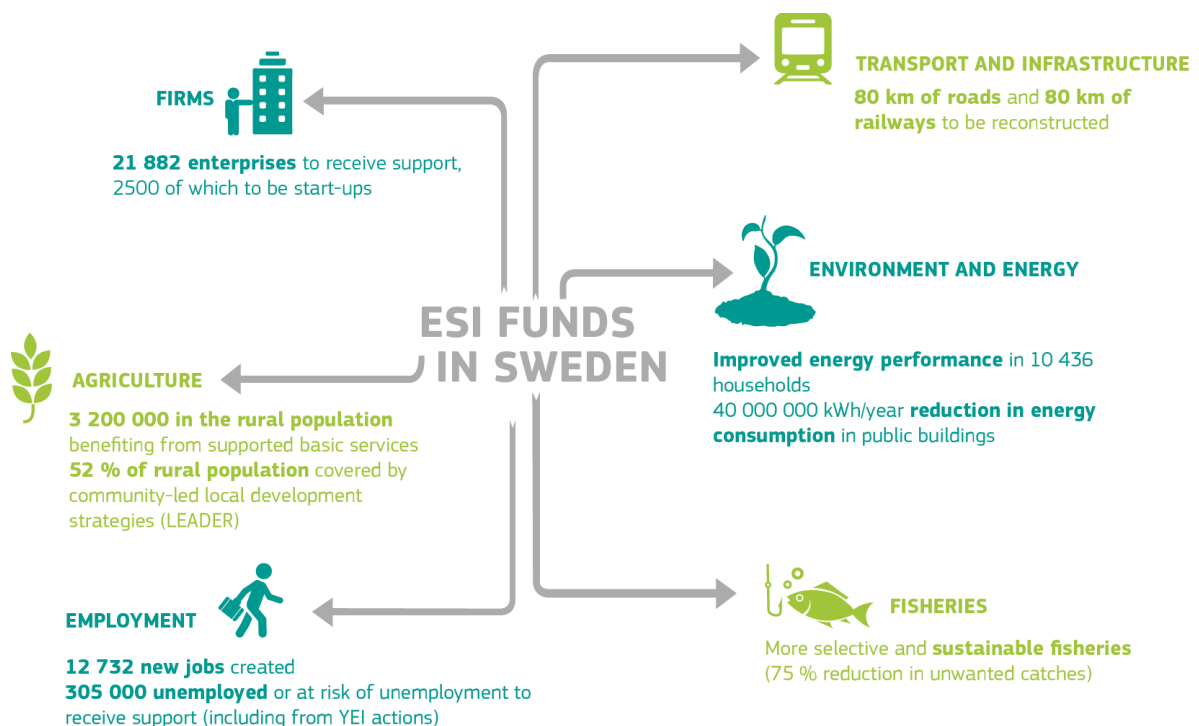
MAIN PRIORITIES

ESI FUNDS IN SWEDEN WILL:

- Foster **competitiveness, knowledge and innovation**: help create strong research and innovation environments in order to strengthen the interaction between research and industry.
- Improve **SME competitiveness**, including in the agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries sectors.
- Improve **employment**, employability and access to the labour market, in particular among unemployed young people and immigrants, but also to help employed people avoid (long-term) unemployment.
- Strengthen the sustainable and efficient use of resources for **sustainable growth**, and target the restoration, preservation and enhancement of ecosystems, in particular in agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

TARGETS

All funds are designed to support Sweden's **socio-economic development**. The information below gives an overall view of the expected results (**targets**) for Sweden by 2020.



HOW WILL SWEDEN ACHIEVE THE EXPECTED RESULTS?

Sweden will work towards the efficient spending of the EU funds, based on a multidimensional approach.

FULFILLING PRECONDITIONS FOR THE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT USE OF ESI FUNDS

To ensure that ESI Funds are used efficiently and focus on results, the Commission has set some preconditions when allocating ESI Funds to the Member States.

The main purpose of these conditions, also called 'ex-ante conditionalities', is to help all Member States and their regions to tackle issues that past experience has shown to be particularly relevant to the efficient implementation of the Funds. These principles could be linked, for example, to the implementation of EU legislation, the financing of strategic EU projects, or administrative evaluation and institutional capacity.

These *ex-ante* conditionalities cover most investment areas: improvements to regional research and innovation (R&I) strategies as well as strategic plans linked to environment protection, energy resources, transport, socio-economic inclusion, health services, education and training.

ENCOURAGING THE USE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS AND TERRITORIAL TOOLS

The main operational coordination tool for all ESI Funds will be the Fondsamordningsgruppen (Fund Coordination Group) which will seek to ensure the necessary cooperation between the national authorities responsible for ESI Funds management: the Agency for Regional and Economic Growth, the Swedish ESF Council and the Swedish Board of Agriculture.

Financial instruments will be used more in the 2014-2020 programming period, raising the ERDF allocation to EUR 133 million, i.e. about 80 % increase from 2007-2013. Three types of financial instrument are planned: eight regional venture capital funds to support SMEs, a 'fund of funds' to support private venture capital funds nationwide, and a national 'green fund' to promote the transition to a low-carbon economy. Sweden uses ERDF support only for equity instruments for general SME support and support in the energy sector.

Three ERDF programmes involve the implementation of sustainable urban development strategies and one is using the integrated territorial investment approach. The Funds will invest in local development, with more than 50 % of the rural population helped by local development strategies implemented by 50 local action groups across the country. Local partnerships in rural, urban and intermediate areas and linkages between rural and urban areas will be enhanced by a dedicated national multi-fund programme combining the ERDF and the ESF and focused exclusively on community-led local development.

SIMPLIFICATION FOR BENEFICIARIES

As an important step towards simplification, the managing authorities already allow beneficiaries to manage projects electronically. Full electronic handling of ESIF implementation will be completed in 2016. For the ESF, a new simplified cost option for beneficiaries will be used on the basis of a delegated act adopted by the Commission on 9 July 2015.

SUCCESS STORIES: EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS USING 2007-2013 ESI FUNDS

A DRIVER FOR SMART REGIONAL GROWTH

The Systematic Leadership and Innovative Management (SLIM) project supports 15 different cluster organisations with a total of about 700 companies and 60 000 employees in the development of innovative new business concepts and research and development in north-mid Sweden. The SLIM project is based on collaboration between three regions – Värmland, Dalarna and Gävleborg – and focuses on sectors ranging from IT and services to traditional industries. The project involves four universities that are home to 55 000 students and 3000 researchers.

SLIM's growth model has been cited as a best practice case for developing innovation strategies by Sweden's government and the OECD.

Total budget: EUR 3 205 100

EU budget contribution to the project from ERDF: EUR 1 602 500

More information: <http://europa.eu/!FC88kU>

HELPING DROP-OUT-PRONE STUDENTS STAY THE COURSE

Students who leave secondary education without a diploma risk exclusion from the labour market. In Sweden, the Plug In project co-funded by the ESF is taking a comprehensive approach to tackling this issue.

The Plug In initiative combines a personal follow-up of students with actions targeting municipalities, schools and society at large to improve the educational context in a sustainable way. The first project supported activities in some 50 communities, making a substantial impact across the country. Some 7700 students were supported during the three-year project.

Total budget: EUR 14 570 000

EU budget contribution to the project from ESF: EUR 10 930 000

More information: <http://europa.eu/!Mn89xH>

HOME HARBOUR: A TOWN WHERE FISHERMEN LIVE, WORK AND HOPE

Simrishamn is a picturesque coastal town in southern Sweden with a rich fishing past. However, the local fishing sector had dwindled since the 1980s following several crises. Fishermen had lost their voice and visibility in the area but EU support has helped to reinstate their civic position, as well as to attract visitors to the town. A harbour-side festival includes direct sales of local fish (including previously undervalued species), public cooking classes, activities for kids and 'open hull' sessions for the public to board and visit the local fishing boats.

An estimated 14 000 people were attracted to the Home Harbour event. The festival generated an increased income for the participating fishermen (approximately EUR 165 per day), while public interest and NGO involvement in the local fishing sector have increased.

EU budget contribution to the project from EFF: EUR 37 500

(During the 2007-2013 period, the EMFF was known as European Fisheries Fund or EFF)

More information: <http://europa.eu/!xH73TF>

A TOUR BOAT DESIGNED FOR THE DISABLED

An association for the disabled in Norrtälje has designed and equipped a special boat with equipment making it accessible for disabled people. During the first summer, around 40 boat trips were organised, offering 270 people active nature experiences such as seal safaris, game fishing, photo tours, visits to different islands and even swimming in the sea with the use of the special 'splash lift'.

Total budget: EUR 160 700

EU budget contribution to the project from EAFRD: EUR 89 900

More information: <http://europa.eu/!rV38bR>

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ESI FUNDS IN SWEDEN

- ESI Funds: <http://ec.europa.eu/esif>
- ESI Funds Open Data Platform: <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/countries/SV>
- ERDF: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/atlas/sweden
- ESF: <http://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=396&langId=en>
- YEI: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=13475&langId=en>
- EAFRD: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-development-2014-2020/country-files/index_en.htm
- EMFF: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/country-files/index_en.htm
- The EU Representation in Sweden: http://ec.europa.eu/sweden/index_sv.htm
- EU project examples: http://ec.europa.eu/budget/euprojects/search-projects/list_en
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