

AstraZeneca – Pharmaceuticals



Reference	EGF/2011/015
Member State	Sweden
Sector	Pharmaceuticals
Submitted to European Commission	23 December 2011
Total budget planned	€6 655 160
EGF contribution	€4 325 854
Intervention criterion	Article 2(a) Regulation (EC) No 1927/2006
Period of reference	15 June 2011 – 15 October 2011
Redundancies during period of reference	543 redundancies.
Active employment measures	These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - occupational guidance - job-search assistance - training and retraining - aid for self-employment

BACKGROUND

- The pharmaceutical industry is currently undergoing significant changes in order to retain its competitiveness in a tough environment. Many companies are in a state of transition; reorganisation, consolidation, mergers and acquisitions are being considered in order to maintain growth centres. The industry is increasingly seeking synergies to hold down the rising costs of R&D activities. Global investments and biotechnological research are on the increase and new competitors can be found in China, Brazil and India.
- Many non-European countries are designing strategies for biosciences and industry in areas of pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and medical technology. Many European companies incl. AstraZeneca (which had three R&D centres in Sweden) followed the trend and adopted a new R&D strategy in 2010. This included the necessity to focus on fewer disease areas, closures of sites (including those in Lund and Umeå) and significantly greater utilisation of external resources through outsourcing.
- The closure of the AstraZeneca site is a heavy burden for Lund and also affects the entire pharmaceutical sector in Sweden. The situation for job seekers in the pharmaceutical sector had already worsened during the period 2008-2010. Unemployment increased in all affected municipalities from January 2009 to November 2011.