About the website eufonder.se and EU structural and Investment Funds in Sweden 2014–2020

About eufonder.se

This site has been developed in collaboration between the three Swedish authorities, Jordbruksverket, Svenska ESF-rådet and Tillväxtverket to show the possibilities that exist in Sweden with ESI funds and what they can contribute.

The site eufonder.se is a guide for those who want to know more about the programs of the European Structural and Investment Funds affecting Sweden, and in which programs Swedish organizations, governments and companies can participate.

EU Structural and Investment Funds in Sweden 2014–2020

All EU support in Sweden is intended to help achieve the objectives of Europe 2020, which is the EU’s common strategy for growth and jobs. This strategy has three overall priorities that are central to the growth and development of Europe by 2020

- Smart growth – develop an economy based on knowledge and innovation.
- Sustainable growth – promote a more resource-efficient, greener and more competitive economy.
- Inclusive growth (growth for all) – stimulate an economy with a high level of employment and social and territorial cohesion.

Complementarity of the Baltic Sea Strategy

In the countries around the Baltic Sea, Europe 2020 is complemented by the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, also termed the Baltic
Sea Strategy. This macro-regional strategy has been developed to assist countries to jointly respond to the specific challenges of the region. The strategy’s three main objectives are to:
  • Save the sea
  • Connect the region
  • Increase prosperity

The Baltic Sea Region strategy is to serve as guidance and help in prioritising joint actions in the region. No funds have been earmarked especially to implement the strategy, but all the EU programmes in the region are to take it into account.

Four ESIF

The European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) are the main tools for achieving Europe 2020 and the Baltic Sea Strategy. These funds are to be used to stimulate sustainable growth and reduce economic and social disparities between regions in Europe.

The four ESIF in Sweden are:
  • European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
  • European Social Fund (ESF)
  • European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)
  • European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

Each of these funds has its own specific orientation. The ERDF aims to enhance the competitiveness of the regions and develop the economy; the ESF aims to reinforce and build on national labour market policy; the EAFRD aims to provide support and payments to develop rural areas; and the EMFF provides support for the development of aquaculture and sustainable fishing.

All the funds are also to incorporate the horizontal principles: Gender equality, Accessibility for people with disabilities, Sustainable development, Equality of treatment, and Non-discrimination. These principle are important for achieving the objective of a sustainable an inclusive working life and are to guide the projects from start to finish.

Partnership Agreement

How the money available in the ESIF is to be used in each Member State is described in the Partnership Agreement that the EC signs with each Member State. This Agreement specifies ten thematic objective that the funds are to work
towards: some of the objectives apply to only one of the funds and some are covered by several funds.

27 EU programmes – SEK 67 billion

The support provided by the four ESIF is distributed via a number of programmes.

In Sweden, the ERDF is financing 23 programmes, while the other three funds are financing one programme each. Moreover, financing regional and social fund a joint program of community-led local development. All in all, Sweden is participating in 27 EU programmes.

National co-financing of projects is required in all the programmes. This co-financing may be public or private, and is usually equal to the support from the EU. EU support and co-financing together are providing approximately SEK 67 billion to invest for smart and sustainable growth for everyone in Sweden.

The Interreg programmes’ budget is not included in this SEK 67 billion. The 14 programmes in which Sweden is participating have a total budget of almost SEK 19 billion, which is being invested in all participating countries.

Read the brochure Develop Sweden

Read a summary of the 27 programs of the European Structural and Investment Funds, involving Sweden, and in what programs Swedish organizations, authorities and companies can participate.

Develop Sweden