

**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.

. North Middle Sweden borders on West Sweden and East Middle Sweden in the south

North Middle Sweden consists of three counties: Gävleborg, Dalarna and Värmland. The area borders the Baltic Sea in the east, Norway in the west and extends in a belt across the middle parts of the country and Middle Norrland in the north. The area has rich natural resources, a magnificent and varied environment, with mountainous areas in Dalarna, large areas of forest in Värmland with deep valleys and a long coastal strip in Gävleborg.

North Middle Sweden has several joint business development opportunities with great potential in relation to trade and industry. There are a total of 41 municipalities with a population of approximately 826 000, giving a population density of 13 persons per square kilometre.

North Middle Sweden is undergoing a shift from being an industrial community to a knowledge-based community, while the issue of climate change is becoming increasingly significant. This necessitates an enhanced focus on regional growth efforts. The next Structural Funds programme for North Middle Sweden will therefore focus on renewal and sustainable growth.

North Middle Sweden is near expansive growth markets such as the Mälardalen valley and Norway/the Oslo region. This presents opportunities for trade and industry in the shape of important sales markets for products and services. It also makes larger labour market regions possible.

The Europe 2020 strategy emphasises three priorities of key significance for development and growth in Europe over the next 7-year period:

- 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.

To ensure that the Europe 2020 strategy has the desired impact, there is a need for it to be developed further and adapted to national and regional conditions.

A Partnership Agreement has been drawn up between Sweden and the Commission which is to serve as Sweden's overall strategy for the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds). This agreement contains the overarching Swedish priorities for 2014-2020 in order to achieve the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy. This is then converted into the operational programmes for each fund. The Partnership Agreement is to contribute to improved coordination between the funds and prevent overlaps in order to obtain greater effect from resources committed. The Partnership Agreement is to link the European perspective, with the Europe 2020 objectives to the fore, together with the Swedish perspective, based on Sweden's challenges and conditions.

The formulation of the programme for North Middle Sweden has been based on the Europe 2020 strategy, the Partnership Agreement and the Government's terms of reference for formulation of the regional Structural Funds programmes (national guidelines). In addition, experience from the programming period 2007-2014 has been fed into the formulation of the programme. The horizontal criteria have likewise been integrated into the formulation of the programme, in part through expertise in the working group and groups of programme writers. The selected priority axes are based on the needs and conditions that exist in North Middle Sweden, and agree very closely with the regional development strategies (RDSs), which have been prepared in a broad partnership in each of the three counties contained in the programme area.

The programme has four different priority axes that jointly address the challenges and opportunities for North Middle Sweden. The priority axes are integrated with each other to contribute to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The programme is designed to make links and coordination gains possible between the different priority axes in order to achieve synergies.

The programme for North Middle Sweden is focused on some particular priority axes, which has resulted in sustainable urban development not having been chosen as a separate priority axis. Nor has sustainable urban development been integrated into the programme's priority axes because the priority axes in themselves are what is prioritised in the programme. North Middle Sweden is a distinctly rural and sparsely populated area, reflected in the fact that one of the largest areas in the programme in terms of resources is priority axis 2: Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies, where large investments in broadband, to the benefit of small and medium-sized enterprises, are planned in the peripheral parts of the programme area.

To achieve smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, it is important to exploit opportunities for coordination and synergies with the national European Social Fund programme, the programmes for European territorial cooperation, the European Agricultural Fund for Regional Development programme, the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund programme and the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. In addition, there are synergies, for example, with Horizon 2020, COSME and Creative Europe.

## **The Partnership Agreement**

The Partnership Agreement represents the national strategic framework for the next Structural Funds period and indicates focus and priorities as a basis for use of the funds. There is therefore 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.

### **Regional conditions and challenges**

What the Partnership Agreement shows as challenges for North Middle Sweden agrees closely with the regionally specific analysis made for the programme. The description of each priority axis given below indicates how the challenges have been captured. The challenge of high youth unemployment identified according to the Partnership Agreement is met with targeted resources from the ESF programme for North Middle Sweden.

**Table 1:** Main challenges linked to the ERDF and the ESF in North Middle Sweden according to the Partnership Agreement

- low growth
- low R&D intensity
- sparsely populated region with long distances
- low access to broadband, which means worse conditions for enterprise in sparsely populated areas
- high youth unemployment

The SWOT analysis done for North Middle Sweden as a basis for both the ERDF programme and the regional action plan for the regional ESF programme reveals the following region-specific challenges and opportunities:

#### **STRENGTHS**

- strong export companies with top-level skills and world-class industrial know-how
- strong tourist industry built on tradition, strong brands and valuable natural and cultural environments
- several active industry clusters
- growing production of renewable energy
- universities and colleges with their own research expertise
- proximity to the growth regions of Stockholm, Gothenburg and Oslo

#### **WEAKNESSES**

- A low population density and a slowly declining population reduce the base for services in large parts of the region.
- The sparse population structure and the long distances make regional enlargement more difficult and make transport more expensive for enterprises.

- Many small labour markets with narrow sector breadth and heavy dependence on the public sector result in high vulnerability.
- High degree of social exclusion with low employment rate for immigrants from outside the Nordic countries, women and young people, combined with an ageing population, contributes to steadily increasing dependency burden and increased social disparities.
- Strong industrial tradition, a male-dominated system of values and high rates of ill-health with wide differences between men and women lead to non-gender-equal structures and make the region less appealing for women.
- Low levels of education combined with a weak tradition of study contribute to social exclusion and make it more difficult for companies and the public sector to recruit staff with the required skills.
- A low proportion of employees in the services sector contributes to a low GRP per capita from both the Swedish and European points of view.
- Low R&D intensity in the small and medium-sized enterprises contributes to low adaptability and innovativeness.
- A relatively low proportion of the population has access to broadband, which reduces access to and development of ICT-based services.
- High energy consumption per inhabitant leads to a high environmental impact.

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Commitments to greater intra-regional availability in the most important districts broadens the labour markets of the regional growth centres and reduces the pace of intra-regional concentration of population.
- The development of infrastructure, transport and ICT makes it easier for the region to ‘link arms’ with the outside world and important markets.
- Existing clusters and deeper cluster collaboration in new areas contribute to greater innovativeness in companies and increased collaboration between enterprises and research institutions (regional innovation environments).
- Increased specialisation in renewable energy and clean-tech contributes to greater diversification of the structure of trade and industry, new markets and development of more advanced services (smart specialisation).
- Commitments to more sustainable transport and improved energy efficiency contribute to reduced regional environmental impact and create new jobs in future industries.
- Initiatives in education and training and skills development lead to reduced social exclusion and increased business start-ups.
- Continued development and increased collaboration in the tourist industry, as well as continued development of cultural and creative industries, contribute to a greater proportion of service sectors in the economy and put the region on the national and international destination map.

## THREATS

- Inability to reverse the population trend and high rates of ill-health lead to shortage of labour, marginalise part of the region further and risk leading to greater intra-regional differences.
- The regional labour market is unable to provide multinational exporting companies or newly started innovative companies with the right skills, leading to these companies leaving the region and to higher unemployment.
- Weakly developed public transport options and small functional labour markets restrict labour mobility and the ability of enterprises to find the right skills.
- A low rate of new business start-ups, low levels of educational attainment and low R&D intensity in enterprises reduces adaptability and has an adverse impact on the competitiveness of the regional economy.
- Increased concentration of national and international research resources weakens the region's universities and colleges, in turn further worsening the prospects of linking companies and research environments together.
- Increased intra-regional differences and a continued high rate of social exclusion increase the dependency burden and put great strain on the ability to fulfil public obligations. It also contributes to increased social tensions and lower regional appeal.
- Male value systems continue to dominate and drive (highly educated) women to look away from the region, in turn exacerbating the negative population trend.

The region-specific SWOT analysis has provided an important base on which to select the priority axes and investment priorities in the programme. The selected priorities are well chosen to respond to the greatest challenges and opportunities for the region. Certain aspects identified by the SWOT analysis are addressed under the European Regional Development Fund programme, and other aspects under the European Social Fund programme.

A description follows below of selected priority axes of the programme based on EU 2020, national guidelines, the Partnership Agreement and the analysis for North Middle Sweden. The selected priority axes are then broken down into investment priorities, which are described in Table 1 and in Chapter 2.

### **Priority axis 1: Strengthening research, technological development and innovation**

#### **Europe 2020 and national guidelines**

Under the flagship initiative of the Europe 2020 strategy, *Innovation Union*, the EU is to create smart growth. Smart growth means improving results in education, research and innovation (developing new goods and services that create growth and jobs and contribute to solutions to societal problems), as well as the digital society.

Under the national guidelines, the point of departure for *Strengthening research, technological development and innovation* strategies is strategies for development of the counties linked to the national innovation strategy. According to this, innovations may be new or improved goods, services, organisational methods or technological solutions, or the development of design, business and organisational models. A large proportion of the innovations take place on an ongoing basis in small and medium-sized enterprises. Another source of innovation is the results from the research that can be converted into new solutions and value creation in new or existing enterprises.

### **Link to programme area analysis and the Partnership Agreement**

According to the analysis, economic growth in North Middle Sweden is weaker than in the country as a whole. North Middle Sweden also has low R&D intensity in the small and medium-sized enterprises, contributing to low adaptability and innovativeness. Universities and colleges, according to the analysis, have their own research skills with development potential linked to the sectoral specialisation in North Middle Sweden. Universities and colleges are very important providers of open R&D environments to enterprises. In addition, there is a possibility of increased collaboration between enterprises, clusters, research institutions, and universities and colleges.

The analysis for North Middle Sweden indicates that the region has a number of areas of strength to build upon (paper and pulp, steel and mechanical engineering, IT, the visitor industry, energy, fibre optics and geographical information systems), but it is also important to encourage the emergence of new areas of strength. Continued work on strengthening innovation and systems should therefore focus both on existing areas of strength with greater attention to gender and on supporting innovation processes in a broader range of sectors. The analysis also identifies a possibility of developing existing clusters and deeper cluster collaboration in new areas, contributing to greater innovativeness in companies and increased collaboration between enterprises and research institutions.

The Partnership Agreement points out that North Middle Sweden has low growth and low R&D intensity, which is in close agreement with the programme area analysis.

### **Link to and coordination with other programmes**

In order to strengthen competitiveness in trade and industry, it is important to increase international involvement, exchange and presence; and, in order to enhance environmental know-how and capacity for environmental innovations in trade and industry, it is important to develop internationalisation activity. It is therefore important that strategically preparatory operations are implemented in the programme for North Middle Sweden, aimed at increasing the participation of enterprises in international programmes such as Horizon 2020 and COSME. There are other clear links in the priority axis to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the territorial programmes relating to the programme area. One example is to link the region's clusters and innovation efforts together with similar efforts in the Baltic Sea Region or in the territorial programmes. Another example is international collaboration for the development of environmental technology, products and services and exports of the enterprises' environmental know-how, with the aim of improving the competitiveness of companies and reducing total environmental impact.

There are also clear links to the national European Social Fund programme. In North Middle Sweden, there is a great imbalance between supply of and demand for labour. There is a general shortage of labour in certain highly qualified professions. There is also a need to attract young people to further education. The ESF operations can contribute here in the form of skills development under the objectives of the ESF programme to strengthen the innovation system and create synergies between the two Structural Funds.

### **Experience from previous programming period**

Experience from the programming period 2007-2013 has shown that entrepreneurship operations integrated with innovation projects yield better results. It is important not to base oneself on the research logic or the needs of universities and colleges in innovation efforts, and the needs of enterprises should instead dictate the focus on the operations. The programme will therefore encourage operations that link together entrepreneurship and innovation operations, as well as clusters and innovation environments based on the needs of enterprises.

Based on the above, the following investment priority has been selected:

- Investment priority 2: 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.

### **Priority axis 2: Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies**

#### **Europe 2020 and national guidelines**

Based on the flagship initiative of the Europe 2020 strategy, *A digital agenda for Europe*, the EU is to create smart growth. Smart growth means that the EU Member States must improve the results they achieve in education, research and innovation and the digital society (facilitate information and communications technology). The objective of *A digital agenda for Europe* is to build a single digital market based on fast or superfast internet and interoperable applications, with interim targets such as broadband for everyone, higher broadband speeds and an increased proportion of households and businesses with broadband connections.

According to the national guidelines for *Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies*, it is important for Swedish companies in all parts of the country to be able to benefit from the opportunities provided by access to high-speed broadband so that working methods can be made more efficient and new services and business models can be developed. Access to broadband infrastructure is

crucial in order to be able to run and develop enterprises throughout the country and cope with global changes in society. IT can also be instrumental in driving and developing new processes, products and services that can lead to new opportunities for digital collaboration between the public sector and trade and industry. More digital services can contribute to simplifying the everyday existence of private individuals and companies.

### **Link to programme area analysis and the Partnership Agreement**

The Partnership Agreement states that, ‘to improve productivity and competitiveness and meet the needs for access to high-speed broadband in sparsely populated areas, and to be able to attain the objectives of Sweden’s broadband strategy, there is a need for continued operations for increased broadband deployment’. The Partnership Agreement goes on to state, specifically for North Middle Sweden, that the region has low growth and low access to broadband, resulting in poorer prospects for enterprise in sparsely populated areas. The operations in the ERDF programme for North Middle Sweden are fully in agreement with the intentions of the Partnership Agreement and therefore provide justification for commitments to broadband investments supplementing the market.

There are also regional development strategies and regional broadband strategies in North Middle Sweden where roll-out of broadband is highlighted as a very important area for future regional development and the competitiveness of enterprises. The contents and needs in these documents are in agreement with the regional Structural Funds programme.

A basic infrastructure with functioning electronic communications is required to enable digital services to be used and offered, that is to say an IT infrastructure that makes high transfer capacity possible.

There is also an increased need for reliable internet connections to make access to services possible at any time and anywhere. Roll-out of high-speed broadband is an important element in structural change towards a more IT-integrated society.

In the longer term, the broadband infrastructure will be just as important as the road networks and electricity grids for citizens and businesses. A low-capacity broadband network is therefore an obstacle to long-term development, while a well deployed broadband network gives enterprises and citizens more competitive conditions for development in North Middle Sweden. Broadband roll-out is important for the enterprises in the region and for the prosperity generated in the region.

North Middle Sweden is a distinctly rural and sparsely populated area in which geographical distances are long. This, combined with geological obstacles that are difficult to overcome, means that the private market generally does not find it commercially viable to extend broadband to peripheral parts of the region.

Lack of broadband poses a threat to the development of trade and industry and to the competitiveness of enterprises. The analysis of North Middle Sweden shows that broadband investments in the region's rural and sparsely populated areas are a priority area for operations. The SWOT analysis for North Middle Sweden shows that a relatively low proportion of enterprises have access to broadband, reducing access to and development of ICT-based services. The development of ICT makes it easier for the region to 'link arms' with the outside world and important markets. A well-deployed high-capacity broadband infrastructure is essential in realising the digital agenda and is of great importance to the development of trade and industry in North Middle Sweden. Information technology is an important force for change in the national economy and is essential to the development of IT-related products and services. The proportion of enterprises/places of work that have high-speed broadband access is lower in North Middle Sweden than in the country as a whole.

The table below shows access to high-speed broadband in rural and sparsely populated areas, that is to say areas located outside both urban areas and small localities in relation to urban areas in North Middle Sweden.

See Figure 1 in the annex Figures and tables. Table: Access to 50 Mbps (actual speed) not urban area or smaller locality in 2012.

Distance-bridging solutions are crucially important to business creation and jobs in North Middle Sweden, which is a region with long distances and a population spread across a large geographical area. Market-supplementing investments in broadband give trade and industry greater access to efficient, inexpensive and secure communication services, which saves both time and money in enterprises and lays the foundation for greater competitiveness and more jobs.

Studies show that there is large unutilised potential for growth among companies through greater access to, and use of, IT and communications services. Companies connected to the internet are more competitive than companies that do not have internet access. Effective use of information and communications technology boosts productivity and therefore competitiveness. Use of IT facilitates exchange and diffusion of knowledge, information, ideas and experience and creates new opportunities for marketing, electronic commerce, payment services, contact with authorities, etc. Market-supplementing investments in broadband are therefore essential to the growth of new and existing enterprises in North Middle Sweden.

North Middle Sweden has trade and industry that is dispersed across the whole region. This means that several large industries and many small and medium-sized enterprises are situated outside central locations where there is no stable broadband network at present. North Middle Sweden is dependent on exports, and the enterprises are very important employers at the locality where they operate, and will not be able to remain as competitive without a stable broadband network. Trade and industry has a high degree of

internationalisation, necessitating a good broadband connection. Good broadband is often available in the urban areas but does not exist in the rural areas. This impedes development for existing and potential subcontractors in rural areas who are linked to international trade and industry.

North Middle Sweden is a region with a large manufacturing industry. There is a significantly larger proportion of employees in this sector than in the country as a whole. Manufacturing industry in the region is dominated by the steel and mechanical engineering industries, the paper and pulp industry and the mining and minerals industry. All these sectors are in a process of structural transformation towards an industry with a higher capital service and knowledge content. This shift is generally dependent on access to broadband. Companies in the industry that operate in real time with customers and suppliers have a great need for fibre deployment today. It is also necessary to be able to offer the option of working partly from home and be able to establish an online connection to the company. The use of cloud computing is also increasing in this sector, as well as in others, and an online connection is required to be able to work with cloud computing. Most IT companies are going over to operating licences solely for cloud-based services (for example company switchboards, storage of data, CRM systems, banking services), and enterprises in rural areas must, for this purpose, be able to connect to these in order to avail of the services and continue to be competitive.

An important and growing industry in North Middle Sweden is the visitor industry, for example nature, culture and experience tourism, which is also noted in priority axis 3. Ski resorts attract large numbers of visitors in wintertime, and in summertime nature and culture attract visitors for experiences in the region's sparsely populated and rural areas. Other clear links to priority axis 3 are that access to high-capacity broadband is a fundamental requirement to enable growth-oriented enterprises that contribute to new jobs to be started, operated and developed. Broadband infrastructure is also an essential requirement for innovation, business development and internationalisation. In addition, almost all the planned operations in priority axis 1 require access to good broadband infrastructure. Priority axis 2 is therefore to be regarded as a basic prerequisite to enable the programme's operations to be implemented in priority axes 1, 3 and 4 in all geographical parts of North Middle Sweden.

North Middle Sweden has a large proportion of Sweden's guest nights outside the metropolitan region. Broadband is exceptionally important to the visitor industry, as this consists of many small enterprises operating in rural areas and out in the 'wilderness'. Target groups in the foreign market demand adventure, nature and cultural experiences. Enterprises that supply visitor industry products have a great need for deployed broadband, firstly to enable them to offer their guests internet access and secondly to enable them to provide the experiences for which there is demand. Today, visitors expect to be able to book online or by e-mail, payments are often made online and visitors also wish to be able to pay on the spot with a card. The small operators in the visitor industry currently experience problems in receiving payment by card as they do not have a stable broadband network. The service of providing internet access at tourist destinations can be crucial today in deciding whether tourists come to the tourist destination or not. Visitors also wish to be able to share their holiday with friends and acquaintances during the time of their stay. This calls for broadband deployment in often sparsely populated areas (a large proportion of the tourism is destined for sparsely populated areas). There is also

great development potential for tourism with better broadband connections, for example virtual guiding in mountain trekking or on long-distance footpaths. In Sweden, we are generally good at finding new applications for IT, and broadband roll-out is also required here in order to make this possible in tourism too and not restrict the opportunities for rural areas.

A well-deployed broadband network is important for trade and industry as a whole, but it is particularly important for ICT sectors that are often in phases of development and research. Many of the clusters and innovation environments in North Middle Sweden operate in the ICT area.

In the creative industries, film, post-production and computer gaming are dependent on a good digital infrastructure. The infrastructure is a competitive advantage/factor there that may prove decisive in whether commissions are won or not.

North Middle Sweden has a demographic pattern with an increasingly ageing population, and broadband roll-out increases the possibility of the public sector providing the care that will be needed in a resource-efficient manner, at the same time as the market is opened up to new welfare enterprises. These enterprises will need stable fibre infrastructure to be able to develop and supply the care alternatives for the future.

Other sectors in North Middle Sweden outside urban areas that need good broadband infrastructure are the food industry, retailing and firms in forestry and agriculture. Internet access is needed in retailing, for example, for ordering, payment and other services, which require high reliability.

Good broadband infrastructure is a very important factor for enterprises to be willing to establish activity in rural and sparsely populated areas in North Middle Sweden, and in many cases is an essential requirement.

### **Link to and coordination with other programmes**

The operations under the European Regional Development Fund and the implementation strategies of the Rural Development Programme in North Middle Sweden are to complement and reinforce each other. Over the period 2007-2013, the Rural Development Programme has assisted towards roll-out of broadband infrastructure in the form of local area networks in smaller communities in rural areas. This has been dependent on the broadband investments made in the form of construction of backbone networks in the regional Structural Funds programme.

The broadband investments in the ERDF programme contribute to direct synergies with the operations that will be implemented in the Rural Development Programme in North Middle Sweden. Taken together, the two programmes contribute to good broadband infrastructure, directly benefiting the growth opportunities of enterprises in the sparsely populated and rural areas of the regions. The investments under the ERDF will focus on linking together locations in the parts of North Middle Sweden where broadband is not rolled out on a commercial basis. The ERDF investments lead to follow-on investments taking place in the Rural Development Programme that finance smaller local broadband

projects to link end-users together. The investments in the two programmes are directly dependent on one another, and in combination they will assist towards improving the prospects of developing and operating enterprises in the region's rural and sparsely populated areas. Private operators can also finance investments linked to end-users. The private operators, for example economic associations in localities in rural areas, are important in financing broadband roll-out to the end-users. The involvement of trade and industry is also clearly visible in the local groups that organise themselves to bring fibre to rural areas. There is a high presence of entrepreneurs who consider it necessary to achieve these solutions. Taken together, good synergies are consequently attained, to the benefit of enterprises, between the operations that are implemented in the regional Structural Funds programme, the Rural Development Programme and by private operators. A rolled-out broadband infrastructure and enhanced ICT products and services are a solid foundation not just for business enterprise but also for skills development, in the form of distance studies, making it easier to implement operations in the ESF programme.

### **Experience from previous programming period**

According to the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth report 0113, *The European Regional Development Fund as a Financier of Infrastructure in Sweden*, projects for broadband investments on a general level have been very good. The participatory researchers note in the report that: 'They are in line with EU guidelines and national strategy. They are linked to the regional situation (the programme documents) and contribute to solving identified problems, regardless of whether it is a matter of investments, investigations or easing collaborative relationships between operators in the regions.'

Extensive investments have been made in broadband infrastructure over the programming period 2007-2013. These investments do not, however, meet the great need that exists for continued deployment of broadband infrastructure in those areas where commercial incentives for roll-out are lacking. This justifies continued efforts in this area.

Based on the above, the following two investment priorities have been selected:

- Investment priority 1: Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy.
- Investment priority 2: Developing ICT products and services, e-commerce and enhancing demand for ICT.

### **Priority axis 3: Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs**

#### **Europe 2020 and national guidelines**

Based on the flagship initiative of the Europe 2020 strategy, *An industrial policy for the globalisation era*, the EU is to create sustainable growth. The EU must improve its productivity and competitiveness. The objective is for trade and industry, in particular small enterprises, to have to adapt to globalisation, the economic crisis and the shift to a low-carbon economy. EU industrial policy must facilitate enterprise in order to make

companies in the EU better equipped and more competitive, and must cover all parts of the increasingly international value chain, from access to raw materials to customer service.

According to the national guidelines for *Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs*, a good business climate can make it easier, and increase interest, to start, operate and develop successful enterprises, which is crucially important to jobs, prosperity and sustainable regional growth. Good regional conditions for trade and industry strengthen the development capacity and appeal of the region, both nationally and internationally. Increased interaction and collaboration between advisers at regional level to meet the needs of entrepreneurs more closely and improve efficiency in the system are needed. Access to advice and information may be of great importance for many entrepreneurs in deciding to start and develop the business. A smoothly functioning supply of capital is crucial for business start-ups and for sustainable growth. Collaboration and skilled labour are crucial to the competitiveness of enterprises.

### **Link to programme area analysis and the Partnership Agreement**

According to the analysis for North Middle Sweden, attitudes to entrepreneurship are somewhat less positive than in the rest of Sweden. Collective enterprise in North Middle Sweden is on a par with the country as a whole for both women and men. As in the country as a whole, more men than women operate businesses in North Middle Sweden. The number of employees in the private sector is lower, the level of new business creation is lower and attitudes to entrepreneurship are somewhat less good than in the country as a whole. North Middle Sweden has a relatively unbalanced traditional sector structure, and it is therefore important to develop more diversified trade and industry. More diversified trade and industry, among other things with a larger service sector, leads to reduced vulnerability, new markets and a broader labour market, which in itself is an important appeal factor in order to retain and attract residents and labour.

According to the analysis for North Middle Sweden, the region has large elements of manufacturing industry, primary industries and public health and social care in its sector structure in comparison with the country as a whole and smaller elements of other knowledge-intensive services. Through efforts to develop import sectors and more diversified trade and industry, a broader labour market and more competitive trade and industry are created.

North Middle Sweden, according to the analysis, has several areas of strength that underpin continued development, for example strong export companies with top-level skills, a strong visitor industry and proximity to growth regions such as Stockholm, Gothenburg and Oslo.

The Partnership Agreement points out that North Middle Sweden has low growth, which is in close agreement with the programme area analysis.

## **Link to and coordination with other programmes**

The priority axis has clear links to the national ESR programme. In order to strengthen entrepreneurship, enterprise and growing companies, it is important to exploit synergies between the operations under the ESF and the ERDF, in particular with regard to skills development and mobility. Other clear links between the programmes are areas such as entrepreneurship among young people, social enterprise and implementation of the horizontal criteria. Coordination can take place through the possibility of cross-financing in the programme concerned or collaborating ERDF and ESF projects built on common needs and challenges in North Middle Sweden.

The Regional Development Programme, like the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, has links to the ERDF programme in North Middle Sweden, in particular in operations for the development of the visitor industry or small and medium-sized enterprises. The operations under the ERDF programme are focused chiefly on development at region- or municipality-wide level, while the Rural Development Programme and the EMFF have a more local outlook. The operations complement one another and, taken together, contribute to sustainable regional growth.

Operations to promote the internationalisation processes of small and medium-sized enterprises and make it easier for companies to reach out to a global market with products and services are clearly linked to operations in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, the territorial programmes and COSME. The ERDF programme will actively support operations for internationalisation and the opportunities for enterprises to take part in these programmes. There is also a link to Creative Europe through the ERDF programme initiatives in the cultural and creative industries.

## **Experience from previous programming period**

Experience from the programming period 2007-2013 has shown that implementation of the Structural Funds has not met the expectations for involvement of trade and industry and enterprises. It is therefore important that the projects are based on the needs and demand of enterprises. Many entrepreneurship projects are too broad, and are not adapted to specific target groups and regional conditions. The operations have partly gone to 'livelihood enterprises' and too rarely to new fast-growing enterprises.

The operations in the programme are clearly linked, for example, to customising the advisory system or actively supporting the opportunities of enterprises for business development, internationalisation, commercialisation and capacity for innovation. In addition, the programme highlights operations to promote diversified trade and industry and an increased content of services in existing enterprises, with the aim of creating sustainable growth and employment in small and medium-sized enterprises and reducing the vulnerability of North Middle Sweden and its dependence on a traditional sector structure.

Based on the above, the following two investment priorities have been selected:

- Investment priority 1: Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators.

- Investment priority 2: Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes.

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

##### **Europe 2020 and national guidelines**

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. To support the shift to a resource-efficient low-carbon economy, economic growth in the EU must be decoupled from use of resources and energy by reducing carbon dioxide emissions, promoting greater energy security and reducing consumption of resources. The objective with *Resource-efficient Europe* is, among other things, to create a more competitive low-carbon economy with efficient and sustainable use of resources, protect the environment, reduce emissions and halt losses of biodiversity, as well as benefiting from the EU's leading position in new green technology and more environmentally friendly production methods.

The European Commission White Paper establishes a target for European carbon dioxide emissions in the transport sector to be reduced by 60 % by 2050. Other targets highlighted in the White Paper for 2050 are, for example, no conventionally powered cars in cities and transfer of 50 % of passengers and cargo on medium-haul routes between cities from road to rail or shipping. To contribute towards meeting this target and, at the same time, meet the requirements for increased mobility and accessibility, there is a need to adapt the transport system and community planning on the basis of a sustainable approach.

According to the national guidelines *Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors*, operations to save energy and develop technology are important measures to support the shift to a low-carbon economy. Support for investments by small and medium-sized enterprises aimed at improving the energy efficiency of companies has a positive impact on the environment and contributes to greater energy awareness. New technology and new services can be promoted through demonstration and test facilities. Procurement is an effective instrument for achieving energy savings and developing energy-efficient products and services. Collaboration between operators can result in an exchange of shared experiences and synergies.

##### **Link to programme area analysis and the Partnership Agreement**

According to the analysis, North Middle Sweden has increasing production of renewable energy and great access to forest raw material. Unfortunately, the region has a weak population trend and long distances between home, consumption and production, which makes transport more expensive. In addition, there is a relatively low level of research and development in small and medium-sized enterprises, contributing to lower adaptability and innovativeness. To make future sustainable growth possible, there is a need for increased focus and greater specialisation in renewable energy, sustainable transport, energy efficiency and energy technology in small and medium-sized enterprises. It is necessary to adjust goods and passenger transport in trade and industry in a more sustainable direction. An opportunity for North Middle Sweden is greater specialisation in renewable energy and energy technology, which contributes to greater

diversification of business structure, new markets and the development of new advanced services.

The Partnership Agreement points out that combining growth with a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions poses a challenge. A large proportion of emissions take place through the transport system. A change-over to a more sustainable energy system provides a foundation for the development of technology, products and services. The North Middle Sweden programme area analysis is in close agreement with the Partnership Agreement.

### **Link to and coordination with other programmes**

Measures aimed at increased use of renewable energy from agriculture can be supported in the Rural Development Programme. These operations are linked to the ERDF. The primary target group of the Rural Development Programme is primary industries, while the ERDF is focused on small and medium-sized enterprises outside the primary industries. Taken together, the operations can assist towards increased use of renewable energy and improved energy efficiency among small and medium-sized enterprises.

Operations under the European Regional Development Fund for improved public transport and greater mobility in the labour market facilitate implementation of operations in the ESF and Rural Development Programmes, for example to make it easier for people to commute to work and for studies.

In addition, active work on energy efficiency, development of renewable energy and energy technology requires international collaboration to be possible, for example through the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, the territorial programmes and participation in Horizon 2020.

### **Experience from previous programming period**

Only a small number of projects relating to energy efficiency and renewable energy have been run during the programming period. These projects have not clearly created a regional system for working with the priority axis of a low-carbon economy. It is therefore a positive feature that the ERDF programme 2014-2020 creates the necessary basis for more coordinated and strategic operations in the area. The underlying principle in the ERDF programme is that strategies and plans for sustainable transport systems should have an approach that transcends modes of transport and be based on the four-step principle.

Based on the above, the following two investment priorities have been selected:

- Investment priority 1: Promoting energy efficiency and use of renewable energy in enterprises.
- Investment priority 2: Promoting research and innovation in and application of low-carbon technology.

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

The Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis deems the analysis to be relevant and based on reliable material. In addition, the Agency regards the priority axes as justified by the analysis and linked to the Europe 2020 analysis. The selected priority axes are deemed to be in accordance with EU-wide objectives, country-specific and region-specific recommendations, and the challenges faced by the programme area.

With regard to horizontal criteria, the text of each priority axis has been quality-assured by the gender equality/sustainability expert of the regional council. Programme writing linked to innovations and the environment in priority axis 1 has also been strengthened.

The assessment of the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis is that the selected indicators are relevant, but that certain investment priorities do not have indicators attached to them. To strengthen the relationship, the output indicator *Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions* has been added. All the indicators have also been reviewed, and the assessment of the programme writers is that there is now better correlation between investment priorities and indicators.

The assessment by the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis is that objectives, investment priorities, analysis and operations are integrated with each other, but it questions where the focus of the programme is. Based on analysis of the programme on regional development strategies, it is deemed that a mix of initiatives related to the existing strategic areas of strength is important, and that there is a need for initiatives in new areas. There must be breadth in a 7-year programme, with flexibility in relation to what happens in the outside world.

The justification for the allocation of resources is endorsed at political level, in the three regional boards.

The Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis goes on to state that there are opportunities for improvement in describing activities. This is based on previous programmes, where this has worked very smoothly for both applicants and administrative staff. There is otherwise a danger of lock-in effects.

The indicator *Proportion of enterprises experiencing benefit from services delivered by operators in the innovation support system* has been removed, and is therefore not relevant for adjustment.

The target values have been adjusted downwards for many of the output indicators. The Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis points out that the average cost per new job is higher than in other programme areas. North Middle Sweden is a region characterised by:

- a region undergoing substantial structural change in which many industrial jobs are being lost
- high unemployment — parts of the region have the highest unemployment rate in the country
- lower proportion of service companies than the country as a whole

- large geographical distances — some parts of the region are distinctly sparsely populated areas
- lower level of educational attainment than the country as a whole.

Taken together, this means that costs per job are estimated to be higher than in regions with better conditions based on the above items.

The Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis also points out that there are low target values for intended broadband operations.

North Middle Sweden is characterised by long distances, and large parts of the region are sparsely populated. The proportion of households and places of work that have access to fibre broadband is lower in North Middle Sweden than in the country as a whole. Localities close to urban areas were connected during the programming period 2007-2013, and what remains to be done is to carry out connections to more peripheral areas.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• R&amp;D intensity in SMEs is low. To increase enterprises' own research capacity, it is important to strengthen and develop open research and innovation environments (test beds, lab environments)</li> </ul>

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
	<p>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>	<p>where enterprises can develop products and services in collaboration with universities and colleges. It is also important that the applied research undertaken at universities and colleges is linked to the enterprises' needs and development opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Middle Sweden has weaker economic growth than the country as a whole. Initiatives to improve the innovativeness of enterprises are therefore crucial in order to increase growth.</li> <li>• North Middle Sweden has several active clusters that contribute to the development of growth companies. The competitiveness of trade and industry in the region is strengthened by developing both existing clusters and innovation systems and actively encouraging the emergence of new ones.</li> </ul>
<p>02 — Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies</p>	<p>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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Middle Sweden has a low proportion of enterprises in its rural and sparsely populated areas that have access to high-quality broadband. There is a great need for investment, and there is a lack of incentives in parts of the region for commercial roll-out of broadband.</li> <li>• The fact that enterprises in parts of the region lack access to good broadband infrastructure is a growth-</li> </ul>

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
		<p>inhibiting factor. The prospects of SMEs being able to develop and grow, but also the possibility of new enterprises being started up, are strengthened through the programme's broadband investments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broadband investments are essential in enabling operations in priority axes 1, 3 and 4 to be implemented.</li> </ul>
<p>02 — Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies</p>	<p>2b — Developing ICT products and services, e-commerce and enhancing demand for ICT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A relatively low proportion of enterprises have access to broadband, which also reduces access to and development of ICT-based services.</li> <li>• Roll-out of broadband infrastructure, combined with development of ICT based on the public sector, is leading to new ICT-based products and services to the benefit of SMEs in North Middle Sweden.</li> </ul>
<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Middle Sweden has a low level of new business start-ups and an unbalanced sector structure. To change attitudes to entrepreneurship and obtain more diversified trade and industry, it is important that there is a functioning advisory system that encourages and facilitates the emergence and development of growth companies.</li> </ul>

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
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)	3d — Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Middle Sweden has a relatively unbalanced sector structure, and it is therefore important to develop more diversified trade and industry.</li> <li>• North Middle Sweden has a number of growing and important sectors such as the visitor industry, environmental technology and environmental services (clean-tech), as well as cultural and creative industries. A focus on sectors important to the region brings about more diversified trade and industry, growing sectors and an increased number of jobs, and makes the region's trade and industry more competitive. Other important aspects to strengthen competitiveness and growth capacity for small and medium-sized enterprises in North Middle Sweden are internationalisation and good access to capital.</li> </ul>
04 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	4b — Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Middle Sweden shows potential for greater energy efficiency in enterprises, which contributes to reduced regional environmental impact and improved competitiveness in SMEs.</li> <li>• North Middle Sweden is well placed for increased use of renewable energy. Specialisation in renewable energy contributes to greater diversification in the structure of trade and</li> </ul>

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
		<p>industry, new markets and development of more advanced services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trade and industry in North Middle Sweden have an increased need for goods and passenger transport, resulting in increased costs. This, and the adverse effects of transport on climate and the environment increase the requirements for a more efficient and low-carbon transport system.</li> </ul>
<p>04 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors</p>	<p>4f — Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Middle Sweden has potential, through operations for R&amp;D, innovations and technology development, for increased specialisation in energy technology and renewable energy, which contributes to greater diversification of the structure of trade and industry, new markets and the development of more advanced services. Taken together, this contributes to reduced carbon dioxide emissions in the region.</li> </ul>

## 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.

### Given factors

The EU's future cohesion policy is based on 11 thematic objectives with associated investment priorities. The thematic objectives and the contents of the investment priorities are pre-determined by the Commission. Selectability is limited. According to the Commission regulations, 80 % of European Regional Development Fund resources is to be used for these areas, i.e. thematic objectives 1: Research and innovation, 2: Enhancing access to and use and quality of ICT, 3: Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, and 4: Supporting the shift to a low-carbon economy. At least 20 % is to be allocated to thematic objective 4.

The Swedish Government has decided to set up a national ERDF programme. This means that 14 % of the total resources in the European Regional Development Fund will be allocated to a national ERDF programme. The establishment of a national ERDF programme has the following effect on the thematic concentration of the regional programmes: at least 70 % of the resources is to be destined for thematic objectives 1, 2 and 3, and at least 13 % for thematic objective 4. The allocation indicated above is a mandatory requirement for the regionally established programme concerned, and North Middle Sweden fulfils the requirement by allocating 81 % to thematic objectives 1-3 and 15 % to thematic objective 4. The remaining 4 % relates to TA resources for programme implementation.

### Justification for allocation

Broad political endorsement of the allocation of resources between the programme's priority axes has taken place, based on given conditions and the conditions, opportunities and needs of North Middle Sweden. Regional development strategies have guided allocation.

#### *Priority axis 1: 22% of EU resources*

The justification for allocating EU resources to priority axis 1 is, firstly, weak development with regard to fast-growing innovative companies and, secondly, aspects that emerge in the analysis for North Middle Sweden. The analysis show that there are needs for deeper cluster collaboration in existing clusters and in new areas to contribute to a raised level of innovation in the enterprises and greater collaboration between enterprises and research institutions. Priority axes 1 and 3 supplement one another by both fostering greater diversification in North Middle Sweden.

### *Priority axis 2: 29 % of EU resources*

The justification for allocating EU resources to priority axis 2 is aspects that emerge in the analysis for North Middle Sweden. The analysis shows that broadband investments in the region's sparsely populated and rural areas are prioritised for operations. There is a great need for investment due to long geographical distances in the programme area, and there is a lack of incentives for commercial expansion in parts of the region. There is therefore an extensive need for public investments. To ensure that enterprises in all parts of North Middle Sweden gain access to high-speed broadband infrastructure, almost one third of programme resources will be allocated to this priority axis. The high prioritisation of resources to this priority axis is justified by a good broadband infrastructure throughout North Middle Sweden being essential for the operations that will be implemented in the programme's priority axes 1, 3 and 4. Access to broadband of both high quality and high speed is essential today for business creation, but also to simplify everyday life for enterprises. Enterprise density is higher in rural areas than in urban areas, and the issue of the survival and development capacity of rural areas is therefore closely associated with broadband infrastructure.

### *Priority axis 3: 30 % of EU resources*

The justification for allocating EU resources to priority axis 3 is, firstly, weak development with regard to fast-growing innovative companies and, secondly, aspects that emerge in the analysis for North Middle Sweden. The analysis points to a low level of new business start-ups and a relatively unbalanced sector structure. North Middle Sweden has good development opportunities within the region's existing and new areas of strength, for example the visitor industry, creative and cultural industries and other service industries. The priority axis also accommodates capital supply initiatives. Priority axes 1 and 3 supplement one another in that they both foster greater diversification in North Middle Sweden. Priority axis 3 is the largest in the programme in terms of budget. The justification is that business development is the principal focus of the programme, and this priority axis represents the basis for enabling Europe 2020 to be fulfilled.

### *Priority axis 4 [I]: 15 % of EU resources*

The justification for allocating EU resources to priority axis 4 is, firstly, that a shift to a low-carbon economy should take place through continued development and use of renewable energy and greater energy efficiency, and, secondly, aspects that emerge in the analysis for North Middle Sweden. The analysis shows that initiatives aimed at greater energy efficiency in enterprises and greater specialisation in renewable energy and energy technology contribute to reduced regional environmental impact and create new jobs in emerging sectors. North Middle Sweden regards it as important to make investments in priority axis 4, and there is potential for a more low-carbon economy. The operations under the programme are to contribute to faster implementation of sustainable low-carbon transport systems for both goods and passengers. The operations are expected to contribute to great added value, as the processes that can contribute to operations important to the region to reduce carbon dioxide emissions are brought forward. As the region has high energy intensity in relation to the country as a whole, it is deemed important that initiatives are taken in energy efficiency and renewable energy. This is the reason why more resources have been allocated to this priority axis than the basic requirement specified by the Commission. The area has great opportunities for

alternative national and European funding, however, and is therefore estimated to account for only a small part of the programme.

### **Private co-financing**

The programme will be open to private co-financing in order to increase the possibility of involvement of, and assistance by, trade and industry in various project initiatives.

Private financing relates to both cash resources and co-financing in time. Experience from the previous programming period shows that indicative private co-financing of 3 % is reasonable to assume in the more business-oriented priority axes of the programme: 1, 3 and 4.

It is reasonable to assume, on the basis of the previous programming period for priority axis 2, that no private co-financing will take place. It is estimated that the private co-financing will come principally from foundations, non-profit organisations and economic associations. It is anticipated that the private co-financing will, to some extent, take place through private companies.

[1] The operations supported by the ESI Funds are expected to focus on the same area on the basis of the regional specialisations that exist and are expected to make up a valuable part of Sweden's operations in SET planning work. The SET Plan, the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan, was adopted by the EU in 2008.

**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	32 467 644.00	22.08 %	<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 number of innovative SMEs</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	[101]
2	ERDF	42 349 101.00	28.80 %	<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 — Increased number of SMEs with access to high-capacity broadband</li> </ul> </li> <li>▼ 2b — Developing ICT products and services, e-commerce and enhancing demand for ICT                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 1 — Increased number of SMEs which, in collaboration with the public sector, have developed ICT applications</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	[202, 203]
3	ERDF	43 760 738.00	29.76 %	<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                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 1 — Increasing the number of new enterprises with growth potential</li> </ul> </li> <li>▼ 3d — Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 1 — Enhanced growth in the region's small and medium-sized enterprises</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	[301, 302, 303, 304]

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
4	ERDF	22 586 187.00	15.36 %	<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 — Reduced carbon dioxide emissions from SMEs</li> </ul> </li> <li>▼ 4f — Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 1 — Improving low-carbon technology</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	[401, 402, 403, 406]
5	ERDF	5 881 820.00	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	

## 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>	Increasing the number of innovative SMEs
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	A functioning and available innovation system is of key importance in order to improve the opportunities of enterprises for innovation and, in a longer perspective, contribute to regional growth. Attractive and open research and innovation environments, where collaboration between academia and trade and industry can be made possible, are important in a similar way in order to increase R&D intensity in enterprises, which in turn can lead to new technological solutions, products or business models. Collaboration between operators, for example through clusters, can support the ability of enterprises here for renewal and to establish a presence in new international markets. Taken together, operations in the region's innovation systems are significant in order to develop new innovative enterprises and consequently also strengthen the long-term competitiveness of North Middle Sweden.

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

Specific objective		1 - Öka antalet innovativa SMF						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
101	Andel företag (10-249 anställda) med innovationsverksamhet (produkt-, process-, organisatorisk, marknadsföring)	Procent	More developed	57.07	2010	58.00	Statistiska centralbyrån, rapporten "Regional innovationsstatistik i Sverige"	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
<b>Functioning innovation systems and developing the innovative capacity of enterprises</b>  An innovation system that functions well is an important tool in work on strengthening the innovative capacity of enterprises. The innovation support systems are to be available to the whole breadth of trade and industry and cover support throughout the innovation system and for the development of all types of innovations, from technical products to the whole range of different types of services and in different types of sectors, for example business models, market innovations and organisational innovations, social innovations, system solutions, etc. Regional areas of strength can be specified from this broad range of sectors.  A large proportion of the innovations take place continuously in small and medium-sized enterprises and may be concerned with new or improved goods, services or technical solutions, and the development of design, business and organisational models. It is important to bear in mind that innovation need not have emerged from research environments and may instead have a clear practical enterprise perspective, where customers and users are often involved in responding to various challenges. A functioning innovation system that contributes to developing the innovative capacity of enterprises strengthens long-term competitiveness in the region's enterprises and contributes to more sustainable growth.  An important aspect of a functioning innovation system is attractive research and innovation environments. These are to be strengthened so that they contribute to increasing the research capacity of small and medium-sized enterprises, which can be done by more enterprises taking part in collaboration with universities, colleges and research institutions. Increased R&D intensity in enterprises contributes to better adaptability and, consequently, to greater regional competitiveness.  Research and innovation environments should build on regional areas of strength such as paper, steel and mechanical engineering, IT, the visitor industry, energy, fibre optics and geographical information systems (GIS), but it is also important to encourage the emergence of new areas of strength. Continued	

<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
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work on strengthening research, technological development and innovation should, therefore, be focused on existing areas of specialisation, for example through strengthened work on gender issues and more in-depth collaboration in a broader range of sectors.

By improving the research and innovation structure, the research undertaken is to be linked more clearly to the needs of enterprises, and demand and quality are to be raised. Innovativeness in trade and industry is to be increased by developing open research and innovation structures. Innovativeness can be strengthened by developing existing and bringing about the establishment of new nationally and internationally attractive test and demonstration facilities.

### **Interaction between enterprises, clusters, research and higher education**

Innovation and modernisation are facilitated by regional operators interacting, for example through clusters, to support enterprises so that they enhance their capacity for innovation. Operations to stimulate the development of competitive and appealing environments are particularly important for small and medium-sized enterprises. This necessitates stronger collaboration and strategic partnerships between trade and industry, universities and colleges, research institutions, clusters, incubators, science parks and the public sector. Improved collaboration and coordination between the operators in the innovation system, for example a cluster-oriented way of working, enables them to support the innovation and internationalisation processes of small and medium-sized enterprises better.

In order to contribute to regional smart specialisation, innovation and sustainable growth, the research environments are to be strengthened by being linked to clusters, local and regional business networks and innovation environments. It is also important to forge functional links to outstanding, relevant national and international research. Innovations that respond to societal challenges, for example demographics, ill-health and environmental and climate issues, are of particular interest. Furthermore, it is very important that the results produced by research and innovation environments are converted into the commercialisation of research results, new or developed enterprises and new products and services.

### **Internationalisation**

An enhanced innovation system and clusters are essential in order to support the internationalisation activity of small and medium-sized enterprises and the possibility of reaching new markets. Increased international involvement, exchange and presence also strengthen competitiveness in trade and industry. It is also important to implement strategically preparatory operations aimed at increasing the participation of enterprises in international programmes such

<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
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as Horizon 2020.

### **Activities eligible for support**

The following activities are examples of operations that can be supported in this investment priority:

- Preliminary studies.
  - Operations to strengthen the ability of the regional innovation systems to contribute to enterprises' research, innovation, and product and service development, including measures to strengthen entrepreneurship, business development, provision of skills, innovation procurement, internationalisation and gender equality, diversity and environmental work. In particular, operations should be implemented that link together entrepreneurship and innovation operations.
  - Investments in innovation, test and demonstration facilities to develop existing and bring about new nationally and internationally attractive research and innovation environments, and operations to make research and innovation infrastructure available to small and medium-sized enterprises. It is to be possible for ideas from enterprises and other operators to be developed into innovations.
  - Operations for applied R&D aimed at developing new processes, products, services and research results, for example in the area of environmental technology, that can be diffused to and then can be commercialised by small and medium-sized enterprises.
  - Development of regional clusters with international potential where a cluster-oriented way of working is applied, containing interaction between different operators and utilising the skills and growth capacity of different enterprises.
- 
- Exchange of experience and collaboration between the region's innovation environments and innovation environments in other regions, both nationally and internationally. Preparatory operations that aim to increase the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises in national and international programmes for research and innovation, for example Horizon 2020.
  - Increased collaboration between enterprises and research institutions and development of strategic partnerships between clusters, enterprises, universities and colleges, research institutions and public-sector operations and, consequently, strengthened collaboration between research, innovation, business development and education.

<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
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**Main target groups**

Small and medium-sized enterprises

**Main beneficiaries**

Universities, colleges, research institutions, municipalities, regional councils, county councils, government agencies, foundations, economic associations and non-profit organisations (for example cluster organisations)

**Horizontal criteria**

The work to strengthen support systems for renewal and their development of innovation and the capability of enterprises for innovation contributes to sustainable development when it is done in consideration of horizontal criteria. These criteria comprise sustainable development in all its dimensions: economic, social and environmental. As a result of enhanced knowledge and purposeful and systematic efforts, innovation activity in North Middle Sweden has good prospects of contributing to the transformation of society towards increased social sustainability and a low-carbon, resource-efficient and environmentally sound economy. Impact assessments from the various sustainability perspectives such as social impact assessments, environmental impact assessments, etc. are important tools in assuring sustainability in relation to planned activities.

Both work on the capacity of enterprises for innovation and work on strengthening the support systems have positive synergistic effects, with strategic value for regional work on growth by taking account of social dimensions such as gender, integration and availability. Breaking the picture of society down into different sustainability perspectives enables a better understanding of conditions, needs and prerequisites for different categories of people and sectors. It consequently becomes easier to adapt and prioritise development activity towards different markets and business opportunities. Provision of skills is a key issue for the innovation systems, where utilising the supply of skills from the whole population creates better prospects. Development of the cluster-oriented method of working in more sectors, represented by different categories of women and men, girls and boys, improves the prospects of causing a broad range of sectors to grow, from which smart specialisation and focus can be established.

<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
Active work on a smart green shift is an important part of the development of North Middle Sweden. New ideas, products and services, and innovations in energy efficiency, for example, can create new business opportunities, jobs and markets for environmental technology.	

### 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>To ensure that the objective is met in this investment priority, the following principles will underpin the selection of high-quality projects. The selection criteria for the assessment and selection of projects are applied in the administration and decision-making process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributing to the objectives of the priority axis.</li> <li>• Contributing to sustainable development from a social, economic and environmental perspective (gender equality, diversity and environment).</li> <li>• Expected target fulfilment of the indicators for the priority axis.</li> <li>• Contributing to the objectives of the regional development strategies.</li> <li>• Involvement of enterprises.</li> <li>• Collaboration between business, society, and universities and colleges.</li> <li>• Innovative, for example new, working methods and forms of collaboration.</li> <li>• Expected results and effects following implementation of the project.</li> <li>• Market link and opportunities for commercialisation.</li> <li>• Collaboration and interaction with other projects/programmes (regionally, nationally and internationally).</li> <li>• Link to the action plan for the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.</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>• Cross-border cooperation (regionally, nationally and internationally).</li> <li>• Active ownership, learning strategy and dissemination of results.</li> <li>• Experience and knowledge from previous operations in the area should be utilised.</li> <li>• Organisational capacity, experience among project sponsors and endorsement by partners.</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			1 100.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			1 100.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			60.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full-time equivalents	ERDF	More developed			425.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

<b>Investment priority</b>		<b>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</b>							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			250.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

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

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation</b>

### 2.A.8 Performance framework

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

<b>Priority axis</b>		<b>1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation</b>											
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		

Priority axis		1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation											
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)			Source of data	Explanation of relevance
CO26	O	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			62			250.00	Project	
16	F	Expenditure	EUR	ERDF	More developed			19 480 586			64 935 288.00	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 the financial indicator for priority axis 2 for 2018 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	058. Research and innovation infrastructure (public)	3 246 764.00
ERDF	More developed	060. Research and innovation activities in public research centres and centres of competence including networking	3 246 764.00
ERDF	More developed	062. Technology transfer and university-enterprise cooperation primarily benefiting SMEs	3 246 764.00
ERDF	More developed	063. Cluster support and business networks primarily benefiting SMEs	22 727 352.00

**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	32 467 644.00

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

Priority axis		1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	16 883 175.00
ERDF	More developed	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	15 584 469.00

**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	32 467 644.00

**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	

### 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>	Increased number of SMEs with access to high-capacity broadband
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	<p><b>Deployment of broadband</b></p> <p>The analysis of North Middle Sweden shows that broadband investments in the region’s rural and sparsely populated areas are a priority area for operations. A well-deployed high-capacity broadband infrastructure is of great importance to the development and capacity for growth of enterprises and an essential requirement in order to put the digital agenda into practice in North Middle Sweden. Information technology is an important force for change in the national economy and is essential to the development of IT-related products and services. North Middle Sweden is characterised by long distances, and large parts of the region are sparsely populated. This means that there are no incentives for commercial roll-out of broadband in parts of the region. The proportion of enterprises/places of work that have high-speed broadband access is lower in North Middle Sweden than the country as a whole.</p> <p>A relatively low proportion of enterprises have access to high-speed broadband, which also reduces access to and development of ICT-based services. Deployment of broadband infrastructure combined with the development of ICT-based services makes it easier for North Middle Sweden to increase contact with the world around and important markets, and consequently contributes to utilising the intentions of the digital agenda. Broadband investments create good conditions for the development of both existing and new enterprises and new jobs.</p> <p>To ensure good regional development and conditions for enterprise and new jobs, including in the more peripheral parts of the region, there is a need for public resources to contribute to the roll-out of broadband where there are no commercial incentives. A good broadband infrastructure is very important in order to develop both public and commercial services, as well as innovations. The enterprises are, in that way, given greater opportunities for growth competitiveness and commerce. The infrastructure creates opportunities to link together services and innovations in a global perspective, and improves the prospects for internationalisation. A well-deployed broadband infrastructure is of great importance in creating an attractive region for the visitor industry, inward migrants, education and training, social services, new business start-ups and the development of existing enterprises.</p>

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

Specific objective		1 - Ökat antal SMF med tillgång till bredband med hög kapacitet						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
202	Andel företag som fått möjlig tillgång till bredband (minst 100 Mbit/s)	Andel i %	More developed	25.16	2012	90.00	Post- och telestyrelsen	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
<b>Activities eligible for aid</b>	
The following activities are examples of operations that can be supported in this investment priority:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preliminary studies.</li><li>• Collaborative solutions to survey needs, basic requirements for and organisation of investments in high-speed broadband.</li><li>• Deployment and upgrading of high-speed broadband networks in those parts of the region where investments are not made on commercial grounds.</li></ul>	
The projects financed in this investment priority are to comply with relevant rules on broadband investments.	
<b>Main target groups</b>	
Enterprises	
<b>Specific geographical areas</b>	
The operations are oriented towards rural and sparsely populated areas in North Middle Sweden, where there are no commercial incentives for investments in high-quality broadband. The focus is to be on interurban networks.	
<b>Main beneficiaries</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
Municipalities, municipal enterprises, county councils, regional councils and government agencies, economic associations and non-profit organisations	
<b>Horizontal criteria</b>	
<p>An accessible information society with modern infrastructure and socially beneficial IT services will simplify everyday life and improve the quality of life for everyone, regardless of gender, national/ethnic origin, age or disability. Because of North Middle Sweden’s long distances and largely sparsely populated areas, broadband investments will make work, education and enterprise substantially easier in the more peripheral parts of the region. Broadband makes teleworking and studies more readily possible and contributes to an attractive region for all categories of women and men, girls and boys. Services provided through broadband networks create benefit in the form of greater participation, freedom and independence, contributing to greater quality of life.</p> <p>Broadband investments create the possibility of a long-term sustainable environment and, in so doing, reduce the need for transport. High-capacity broadband also creates the possibility of developing services that have potential to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in particular areas, in particular in housing, energy and the area of transport. Various forms of e-services, such e-commerce, e-learning and e-health, can also reduce the need for travel and transport. The use of modern ICT, which depends on good broadband capacity, for example videoconferencing, facilitates both studies and work, leading to a reduction in total environmental impact.</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
A fundamental condition to be met for investments in broadband to be supported is that the projects are in agreement with and fulfil the requirements set forth in current rules regulating support for broadband through the European Regional Development Fund.	
To ensure that the objective is met in this investment priority, the following principles will underpin the selection of high-quality projects. The selection criteria for the assessment and selection of projects are applied in the administration and decision-making process.	
A fundamental condition to be met for support for investments in broadband infrastructure is that the projects contribute to structural changes at regional	

<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>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 that have been 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 parts 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 Agricultural Fund for Regional Development are particularly crucial.</p> <p>The regional Structural Funds programme supports operations that develop interurban networks. It is essential that the projects ensure that the investments are followed by continued operations to connect end-users.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Projects that contribute to the development of trade and industry and the competitiveness of enterprises</b></li> </ul> <p>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 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>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>	

<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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributing to sustainable development from a social, economic and environmental perspective (gender equality, diversity and environment).</li> <li>• Experience and knowledge from previous operations in the area should be utilised.</li> <li>• Organisational capacity, experience among project sponsors and endorsement by partners.</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

**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>		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		

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		
49	Number of enterprises added that have access to broadband at speeds of at least 100 Mbps.	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			2 500.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

#### 2.A.4 Investment priority

<b>ID of the investment priority</b>	2b
<b>Title of the investment priority</b>	Developing ICT products and services, e-commerce and enhancing demand for ICT

#### 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 number of SMEs that, in collaboration with the public sector, have developed ICT applications
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	<p><b>ICT applications</b></p> <p>The public sector can drive the development of new processes, products and services through ICT applications. Ways of developing new ICT products and services to the benefit of enterprises are created in collaboration with trade and industry. The development of new and better services fosters the use of digital channels and contributes to making established sectors and activities more efficient, while new, creative ideas, innovations and business models emerge at the same time. The result can contribute to greater efficiency and quality in processes and organisation and in delivered services and products, creating greater societal benefit and an increased number of competitive companies. ICT services can drive innovations, internationalisation and an increased element of service provision in regional trade and industry. E-services and ICT products are important in order to meet future societal challenges in North Middle Sweden. Examples of such challenges are an ageing</p>

	<p>population, environmental, climate and energy issues and community planning in the form of sustainable and attractive cities and towns. ICT also creates issues regarding privacy, security, availability and reliability, which are important to address in designing new, innovative ICT services and products.</p>
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**Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)**

Specific objective		1 - Ökat antal SMF som i samverkan med offentlig sektor har utvecklat IKT-tillämpningar						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
203	Andel företag (10-249 anställda) som använder vissa IT-tjänster	Andel i %	More developed	75.00	2013	85.00	SCB-företagsdatabas	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>	2b — Developing ICT products and services, e-commerce and enhancing demand for ICT
<p>All activities that can be supported in the investment priority are to involve actors from the public sector, but ideally also include collaboration between the private and public sectors.</p> <p><b>Activities eligible for support</b></p> <p>The following activities are examples of operations that can be supported in this investment priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preliminary studies.</li><li>• Utilising and developing new ICT solutions as a basis for promoting business development, commercialisation and entrepreneurship in areas such as e-health, e-commerce, energy efficiency, e-learning, sustainable transport and attractive cities.</li><li>• Building up, testing and commissioning technical platforms and test beds for ICT applications for enterprises.</li><li>• Development of methods and dissemination of experience for enterprises on innovation procurement linked to ICT applications.</li></ul> <p><b>Main target groups</b></p> <p>Small and medium-sized enterprises, public institutions and inhabitants</p> <p><b>Main beneficiaries</b></p> <p>Municipalities, regional councils, county councils, government agencies, universities/colleges, research institutions, foundations, economic associations and non-profit organisations</p>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	2b — Developing ICT products and services, e-commerce and enhancing demand for ICT
<p data-bbox="136 264 405 293"><b>Horizontal criteria</b></p> <p data-bbox="136 331 2107 512">It is important to build an information society that is open and accessible for everyone. Everyone has to be given the opportunity to develop, take part in public life and contribute to sustainable growth. ICT solutions make it possible for all groups in society to be involved, regardless of personal circumstances such as age, gender, disability and other factors, for example cultural background or ethnic origin. Smart and targeted ICT solutions create social inclusion for marginalised groups, for example. This makes possible active participation in community planning, which is ultimately a matter of fundamental democratic rights.</p> <p data-bbox="136 550 2123 730">With the public sector as a base for creating innovation and entrepreneurship through ICT solutions, a niche can be added to the total innovation system in which many women are gainfully employed today. The IT sector has had a traditionally male focus, with the result that the potential for women’s participation and knowledge of the area of IT has not been fully exploited. Women today are under-represented as entrepreneurs and innovators, and the innovation system in North Middle Sweden today is, to a relatively great extent, adapted to supporting male-dominated sectors. Better function to support innovation in the public sector is intended directly to address this under-representation.</p> <p data-bbox="136 769 2114 874">Women and men have generally different patterns with regard to travel to work, both in time and geographically. Women commute to a lesser extent than men and travel shorter distances, partly due to structures and conditions in the world of work being different for women and men. ICT solutions may be a way for both women and men to develop small enterprises, particularly in rural areas.</p> <p data-bbox="136 912 2114 1129">ICT solutions can contribute to reducing the environmental impact in all sectors of society. Various forms of e-services, such e-commerce, e-learning and e-health, can reduce the need for travel and transport. The use of modern ICT for travel-free meetings, for example videoconferencing, facilitates both studies and work, leading to a reduction in total environmental impact. Another area is ICT solutions for decision support and monitoring. There is, for example, increased demand to create services that assist in consumer choice, shopping in an environmentally sound way, controlling one’s own energy consumption or simulating alternatives and illustrating results. ICT solutions that could be developed further are information tools to disseminate information, for example about the chemical contents of articles or products.</p>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	2b — Developing ICT products and services, e-commerce and enhancing demand for ICT
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<b>Investment priority</b>	2b — Developing ICT products and services, e-commerce and enhancing demand for ICT
<p>To ensure that the objective is met in this investment priority, the following principles will underpin the selection of high-quality projects. The selection criteria for the assessment and selection of projects are applied in the administration and decision-making process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributing to the objectives of the priority axis.</li> <li>• Contributing to sustainable development from a social, economic and environmental perspective (gender equality, diversity and environment).</li> <li>• Expected target fulfilment of the indicators for the priority axis.</li> <li>• Contributing to the objectives of the regional development strategies.</li> <li>• Involvement of enterprises.</li> <li>• Collaboration between business, society, and universities and colleges.</li> <li>• Innovative, for example new, working methods and forms of collaboration.</li> <li>• Expected results and effects following implementation of the project.</li> <li>• Market link and opportunities for commercialisation.</li> <li>• Collaboration and interaction with other projects/programmes (regionally, nationally and internationally).</li> <li>• Link to the action plan for the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.</li> <li>• Cross-border cooperation (regionally, nationally and internationally).</li> <li>• Active ownership, learning strategy and dissemination of results.</li> <li>• Experience and knowledge from previous operations in the area should be utilised.</li> <li>• Organisational capacity, experience among project sponsors and endorsement by partners.</li> </ul>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	2b — Developing ICT products and services, e-commerce and enhancing demand for ICT

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	2b — Developing ICT products and services, e-commerce and enhancing demand for ICT

**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>2b — Developing ICT products and services, e-commerce and enhancing demand for ICT</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			40.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			40.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			5.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO08	Productive investment:	Full-time	ERDF	More developed			10.00	Managing authority's	Continuous

Investment priority		2b — Developing ICT products and services, e-commerce and enhancing demand for ICT							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
	Employment increase in supported enterprises	equivalents						computer systems	

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

Priority axis	2 — Enhancing the accessibility, 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 the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies											
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		
16	F	Expenditure	EUR	ERDF	More developed			16 939 640			84 698 202.00	Managing authority	
1	I	Planned number of enterprises with access to broadband at speeds of at least	Number	ERDF	More developed			250				Project	

Priority axis		2 — Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies												
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)			Source of data	Explanation of relevance	
		100 Mbps based on projects financed in the priority axis.												
49	O	Number of enterprises added that have access to broadband at speeds of at least 100 Mbps.	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			0			2 500.00	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 the financial indicator for priority axis 2 for 2018 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 the accessibility, 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)	40 231 646.00
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.)	2 117 455.00

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

Priority axis		2 — Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Non-repayable grant	42 349 101.00

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

Priority axis		2 — Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	22 021 533.00
ERDF	More developed	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	20 327 568.00

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

Priority axis		2 — Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies	
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Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	07. Not applicable	42 349 101.00

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

Priority axis	2 — Enhancing the accessibility, 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 the accessibility, 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	

### 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 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>	Increasing the number of new enterprises with growth potential
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	<p><b>Promoting entrepreneurship</b></p> <p>To facilitate modernisation of trade and industry in the long term, there is a need for the view taken of entrepreneurship and enterprise to be broadened so that more people are interested in starting and running businesses and are prepared to do so. Customised advice with a sustainable perspective and approach, by promoting knowledge development in areas such as mentorship, product and market development, organisation and internationalisation, makes it easier to start and run high-growth enterprises. It is important to develop the activities of regional incubators in order to promote new high-growth enterprises and contribute to more diversified trade and industry. Operations to pick up ideas and innovations from emerging fields in the public and private sectors that can lead to the broadening of trade and industry and greater entrepreneurship are important in order to bring about regional development. Another way of promoting entrepreneurship is to encourage more groups to be entrepreneurial. The young people of today are the entrepreneurs of tomorrow, and it is therefore important that stimulating operations, for example adapting the education system to an entrepreneurial approach, take place early on and that there are forums and arenas for the development of ideas. Entrepreneurship is to be promoted on the basis of the three aspects of sustainability: social, environmental and economic sustainability.</p> <p><b>Functioning advisory systems</b></p> <p>In providing advice, support is needed from various skills and resources, for example private consultants, researchers, businesses and financiers. To enable the operations to have an impact and contribute to the regional economy, it is important that operators collaborate and use their resources in a thoroughly considered, systematic and effective manner. Collaboration between advisory systems, clusters and existing sectors is a contributory factor in the creation of new high-growth enterprises and the development of existing businesses. In addition, it is important that the advisory system is adapted to enterprise with a high level of knowledge and an increased service content. Online consultancy is becoming more significant, and resources and advisory processes that are internet-based should therefore be developed, but with support in the form of personal consultancy and appealing meeting places. It can also contribute to developing the various operators in the support system that already exists, which should lead to various types of advice, adapted to sectors, individuals or target groups.</p>

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

Specific objective		1 - Öka antalet nya företag med tillväxtpotential						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
302	Omsättning i små och medelstora företag	MSEK (nettoomsättning)	More developed	119,798.00	2011	137,768.00	Statistiska centralbyrån, Företagens ekonomi	Vartannat år
304	Antal SMF per 1 000 invånare	Antal företag 0-249 anställda per 1 000 invånare (16-64 år)	More developed	206.50	2013	216.80	Statistiska centralbyrån, Företagens ekonomi	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><b>Activities eligible for support</b></p> <p>The following activities are examples of operations that can be supported in this investment priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preliminary studies.</li><li>• Customised advice with a sustainable perspective and approach, by promoting knowledge development in areas such as mentorship, product and market development, organisation and internationalisation.</li><li>• Developing the role and activities of incubators to promote the creation of new high-growth enterprises and, in so doing, contributing to more diversified trade and industry.</li><li>• Operations to pick up ideas and innovations in the public or private sectors that can lead to new enterprises and greater entrepreneurship.</li><li>• Operations that encourage more groups to be entrepreneurial by working with alternative business models, social entrepreneurship, social enterprise and social innovations and through operations that increase the diversity of entrepreneurs and enterprises.</li><li>• Operations to increase opportunities for entrepreneurship and enterprise and operations to develop and improve the entrepreneurship climate, among other things activities targeted at young people in the 15-24 age category, at existing support systems, clusters, incubators, etc.</li><li>• Operations to coordinate, customise and further develop the advisory system at region- and municipality-wide level.</li></ul> <p><b>Main target groups</b></p> <p>Small and medium-sized enterprises</p> <p><b>Main beneficiaries</b></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
Municipalities, regional councils, county councils, government agencies, foundations, economic associations and non-profit organisations	
<b>Horizontal criteria</b>	
<p>Taken together, the operations in the investment priority are to contribute to an effective and professional advisory system that strengthens North Middle Sweden in a sustainable manner. Development of the system of support is adapted and improved so that the work contributes to a more sustainable society based on the dimensions of social, environmental and economic sustainability. The inhabitants of the region are to have access to high-quality advice in order to put ideas into practice on the basis of their conditions and needs. This means that work to promote entrepreneurship has to be designed to meet needs in different categories of women and men. Knowledge of, and understanding for, gender structures, different cultures, disabilities, conditions and environmental impact, etc., for example among advisers, is therefore important. The system of support for entrepreneurs is to be adapted so that there is no longer a need for separate operations for different groups. This makes the support system more effective, but also makes greater demands on, for example, skills development among operators in the system. Entrepreneurial potential can be realised with this working model. By developing the advisory system and making sustainable development — environmental, economic and social — become a natural and growth-oriented part of the device, diversification, diversity and resource efficiency, as well as social and environmental sustainability, will increase. Furthermore, operations for social enterprise will improve the prospects of utilising unexploited growth potential. It is important to find collaboration and synergies with the ESF on these issues.</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>To ensure that the objective is met in this investment priority, the following principles will underpin the selection of high-quality projects. The selection criteria for the assessment and selection of projects are applied in the administration and decision-making process.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributing to the objectives of the priority axis.</li> <li>• Contributing to sustainable development from a social, economic and environmental perspective (gender equality, diversity and environment).</li> <li>• Expected target fulfilment of the indicators for the priority axis.</li> <li>• Contributing to the objectives of the regional development strategies.</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>• Involvement of enterprises.</li> <li>• Collaboration between business, society, and universities and colleges.</li> <li>• Innovative, for example new, working methods and forms of collaboration.</li> <li>• Expected result and effects following implementation of the project.</li> <li>• Market link and opportunities for commercialisation.</li> <li>• Collaboration and interaction with other projects/programmes (regionally, nationally and internationally).</li> <li>• Link to the action plan for the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.</li> <li>• Cross-border cooperation (regionally, nationally and internationally).</li> <li>• Active ownership, learning strategy and dissemination of results.</li> <li>• Experience and knowledge from previous operations in the area should be utilised.</li> <li>• Organisational capacity, experience among project sponsors and endorsement by partners.</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

**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			1 000.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			1 000.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			400.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full-time equivalents	ERDF	More developed			450.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

## 2.A.4 Investment priority

<b>ID of the investment priority</b>	3d
<b>Title of the investment priority</b>	Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes

## 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>	Enhanced growth in the region's small and medium-sized enterprises
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	<p><b>Growing sectors</b></p> <p>The region has a number of growing sectors which it is important to support and develop. The visitor industry is one such growing labour-intensive sector. Examples of others are cultural and creative industries, health and social care, and the environment and environmental services. The long-term competitiveness and growth of small and medium-sized enterprises is based on capacity for renewal and increased knowledge content. Renewal, by developing new products and services, is necessary but not sufficient for the competitiveness of an enterprise to be strengthened. It is therefore crucial to have operations for advanced business development aimed at contributing to the innovation processes of enterprises, commercialisation of new products, knowledge content, services and IT use.</p> <p>The service content in enterprises can be increased by linking skills together in a different way. This can be done, for example, on the basis of a clearer customer- and organisation-oriented way of working than the traditional product- and technology-oriented working method. Furthermore, it is important to develop more service enterprises and more knowledge-intensive enterprises to increase the diversification of trade and industry.</p> <p><b>Utilisation of knowledge</b></p> <p>There is potential to increase the pace of innovation in the region's small and medium-sized enterprises. An important factor, together with entrepreneurship, is the ability to acquire new knowledge and convert it into commercialisable goods and services. This is made easier if enterprises have access to key skills among their staff and suitable contact networks. Early linking to the market and market channels is important for innovation processes so that new products and services can reach out to the market. There is therefore a need for testing and validation and new skills in enterprise at early stages, for example</p>

mentors, business angels and collaboration with other enterprises.

**Internationalisation**

The ability of enterprises to grow in an international market is of strategic importance. At the same time, the region must have the ability to market its SMEs and business structure to attract capital and skills, as well as investment-promoting operations for the region's trade and industry.

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

Specific objective		1 - Ökad tillväxt i regionens små och medelstora företag						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
301	Sysselsättning i små och medelstora företag	Antal anställda omräknat till heltidstjänster	More developed	71,198.00	2011	75,000.00	Statistiska centralbyrån, Företagens ekonomi	Vartannat år
303	Förädlingsvärde i små och medelstora företag	MSEK	More developed	41,297.00	2011	47,491.00	Statistiska centralbyrån, Företagens ekonomi	Varannat 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>	3d — Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes
<b>Activities eligible for support</b>	
<p>The following activities are examples of operations that can be supported in this investment priority:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preliminary studies.</li><li>• Development of growing sectors, such as cultural and creative industries, health and social care, and environmental technology and environmental services, through operations for advanced business development with the aim of contributing to the innovation processes of enterprises, commercialisation of new products, knowledge content, services and use of IT.</li><li>• Development of the region’s visitor industry, for example coordinated operations at municipality-wide or regional level in the form of business development operations for small and medium-sized enterprises, packaging, marketing, IT systems and development of, and investments in, visitor attractions with high potential to draw domestic and foreign visitors to the region.</li><li>• Operations to contribute to the development of the management functions and skills of small and medium-sized enterprises. This also includes active board work, mentorship, changes of ownership and strategic skills provision. Operations to develop and create cooperation and networks between small and medium-sized enterprises that cooperate on innovations, new business, internationalisation, skills development, etc.</li><li>• Operations to support the internationalisation of small and medium-sized enterprises by establishing and expanding markets, including the ability to attract, retain and develop skills and capital. In this context, it is also a matter of exploiting the opportunities in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, the proximity of the region to Norway, the EU’s Single Market and new growth markets globally.</li><li>• Marketing of the region’s small and medium-sized enterprises and business structure to attract capital and skills, as well as investment-promoting operations for the region’s trade and industry.</li><li>• Operations in the form of financing instruments, for example shareholder capital, to contribute to the development of growth-oriented enterprises. Also operations for strengthened collaboration between operators, in the private and public sectors, in the area of capital supply.</li><li>• Co-financing of framework projects for enterprise support through approved national support schemes. Operations for innovative enterprises linked</li></ul>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	3d — Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes
<p>to the region’s cluster initiatives, incubators and growing industries are highlighted in particular. Also operations that contribute to the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises in a global market.</p>	
<p><b>Target groups</b></p>	
<p>Small and medium-sized enterprises</p>	
<p><b>Main beneficiaries</b></p>	
<p>Municipalities, county councils, regional councils, government agencies, foundations, economic associations and non-profit organisations</p>	
<p><b>Horizontal criteria</b></p>	
<p>Work on supporting small and medium-sized enterprises in participating in innovation processes is to be designed and adapted so that it contributes to a more sustainable society based on the dimensions of social, environmental and economic sustainability. The inhabitants and enterprises in the region are to have access to high-quality advice in order to put ideas into practice on the basis of their conditions and needs. This means that work to promote innovation has to be designed to meet needs in different categories of women and men. Knowledge of, and understanding for, gender structures, different cultures, disabilities, conditions and environmental impact, etc. is therefore important. The system of support for entrepreneurs is to be adapted so that there is no longer a need for separate operations for different groups. This makes the support system more effective, but also makes greater demands on, for example, skills development among operators in the system. With this working model, innovations can be developed in a broader range of sectors. It is important, through the operations implemented in this investment priority, to see sustainable development as an element in creating growth in small and medium-sized enterprises. It may, for example, be a matter of new methods to make good use of persons born abroad as a resource for export and internationalisation or of the opportunities created by the environment for strengthened competitiveness and the development of new products and services. A broadened labour market is created through the programme’s operations in order to contribute to a growing services sector and more diversified trade and industry, signifying new opportunities for women and men and increasing the chances of attracting people to live and work in the region. Operations for business, product and service development linked to environmental technology and environmental know-how also create growth for enterprises in North Middle Sweden. Operations to develop the management functions and skills of enterprises for gender equality, diversity and the environment are important to implement in order to boost the competitiveness and growth of the enterprises.</p>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	3d — Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes
<p>To ensure that the objective is met in this investment priority, the following principles will underpin the selection of high-quality projects. The selection criteria for the assessment and selection of projects are applied in the administration and decision-making process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributing to the objectives of the priority axis.</li> <li>• Contributing to sustainable development from a social, economic and environmental perspective (gender equality, diversity and environment).</li> <li>• Expected target fulfilment of the indicators for the priority axis.</li> <li>• Contributing to the objectives of the regional development strategies.</li> <li>• Involvement of enterprises.</li> <li>• Collaboration between business, society, and universities and colleges.</li> <li>• Innovative, for example new, working methods and forms of collaboration.</li> <li>• Expected results and effects following implementation of the project.</li> <li>• Market link and opportunities for commercialisation.</li> <li>• Collaboration and interaction with other projects/programmes (regionally, nationally and internationally).</li> <li>• Link to the action plan for the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.</li> <li>• Cross-border cooperation (regionally, nationally and internationally).</li> <li>• Active ownership, learning strategy and dissemination of results.</li> <li>• Experience and knowledge from previous operations in the area should be utilised.</li> <li>• Organisational capacity, experience among project sponsors and endorsement by partners.</li> </ul>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	3d — Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes
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	

<b>Investment priority</b>	3d — Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes
<p>primarily in the private market, but there are also areas where there may be needs for financing 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 to equivalent around one fifth of the whole venture capital market in Sweden in 2011. 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 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>	3d — Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes

**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>3d — Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes</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			848.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			180.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			18.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

Investment priority		3d — Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			650.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			250.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO06	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (grants)	(EUR)	ERDF	More developed			10 000 000.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)	(EUR)	ERDF	More developed			9 840 000.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported	Full-time equivalents	ERDF	More developed			850.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

<b>Investment priority</b>		<b>3d — Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes</b>							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
	enterprises								

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

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

## 2.A.8 Performance framework

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

<b>Priority axis</b>		<b>3 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)</b>											
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		
CO05	O	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			162			650.00	Project	
16	F	Expenditure	EUR	ERDF	More developed			26 256 443			87 521 476.00	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 the financial indicator for priority axis 2 for 2018 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’)	8 766 264.00
ERDF	More developed	066. Advanced support services for SMEs and groups of SMEs (including management, marketing and design services)	9 316 802.00
ERDF	More developed	067. SME business development, support to entrepreneurship and incubation (including support to spin offs and spin outs)	22 430 908.00
ERDF	More developed	069. Support to environmentally-friendly production processes and resource efficiency in SMEs	3 246 764.00

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

Priority axis		3 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Non-repayable grant	37 760 738.00
ERDF	More developed	03. Support through financial instruments: venture and equity capital or equivalent	6 000 000.00

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

Priority axis		3 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	22 755 584.00
ERDF	More developed	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	21 005 154.00

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

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	43 760 738.00

**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	Total	

### 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>	Reduced carbon dioxide emissions from SMEs
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	<p><b>Improved energy efficiency and renewable energy</b></p> <p>As a result of operations to develop renewable energy and energy efficiency measures, the competitiveness of enterprises can be strengthened from a regional and global perspective, for example in the form of reduced energy and production costs. Special emphasis must be put on bringing about solutions to reduce the dependence of companies on fossil energy and the need for transport and on improving energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy. Improved energy efficiency in enterprises has a positive impact on the environment, while operating, maintenance and energy costs decrease. North Middle Sweden has a growing production of renewable energy that contributes to greater specialisation in the area, new markets and more advanced services, leading to more diversified trade and industry.</p> <p><b>Sustainable and low-carbon transport systems</b></p> <p>The need to transport goods and products in trade and industry is increasing, resulting in a rise in transport costs. This, and the adverse effects of transport on climate and other environmental considerations, increase the requirements of a more efficient and more low-carbon transport system. Measures that strengthen the link between different modes of transport can contribute to reduced carbon dioxide emissions. It is also important to work on risk reduction for companies dependent on transport. Ever higher oil prices will highlight issues relating to alternative fuels and more efficient rail solutions. Passenger transport is also an important element in regional development, as skills provision is a key factor in an increasingly knowledge-intensive business sector. There is potential for a switch to low-carbon public transport in North Middle Sweden. The anticipated result from the programme operations is to contribute to efficient low-carbon solutions for goods and passenger transport in trade and industry. The operations are not of an infrastructural nature but are focused on developing strategies, plans, changes in attitude and collaborative solutions.</p>

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

Specific objective		1 - Minskade koldioxidutsläpp från SMF						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
401	Slutlig energianvändning per förädlingsvärde för små och medelstora industriföretag	MWh/MSEK	More developed	189.80	2011	151.84	Statistiska centralbyrån	Vartannat år
403	Andel användning av förnybar energi	Andel i %	More developed	53.86	2011	59.25	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>	4b — Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises
<b>Activities eligible for aid</b>	
<p>The following activities are examples of operations that can be supported in this investment priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preliminary studies aimed at contributing to reduced carbon dioxide emissions from small and medium-sized enterprises.</li><li>• Operations aimed at improving the energy efficiency of enterprises in transport, processes, production and buildings. This includes activities such as analysis, advice, collaborative solutions, information operations, exchange of experience and collaboration between private and public-sector operators. Operations to create a structured way of working and find routines for operation and maintenance can also be supported, as well as operations to involve more enterprises in various networks, clusters and incubators in energy efficiency.</li><li>• Operations to develop tools, strategies and working methods aimed at greater use of renewable energy in enterprises. This includes activities such as analysis, advice, collaborative solutions, information operations, exchange of experience and collaboration between private and public-sector operators. Also operations to involve more enterprises in various networks, clusters and incubators in renewable energy.</li><li>• Developing cooperation between manufacturing enterprises and transport enterprises to find regional solutions on alternative, non-fossil fuels, and how these can best function.</li><li>• Development of strategies, plans, preliminary studies and collaborative solutions aimed at efficient and low-carbon solutions for goods transport and passenger transport in trade and industry. The strategies and plans should have a transport mode-transcending approach and be based on the four-step principle. Operations cannot take place as investments in infrastructure.</li><li>• Awareness-raising measures that strengthen the use of low-carbon goods transport by enterprises and increase public transport.</li><li>• Co-financing of framework projects for enterprise support targeted at energy efficiency and renewable energy, through approved national aid schemes.</li></ul>	
<b>Main target groups</b>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	4b — Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises
Small and medium-sized enterprises	
<b>Main beneficiaries</b>	
Municipalities, regional councils, county councils, government agencies, foundations, economic associations and non-profit organisations	
<b>Horizontal criteria</b>	
<p>The work to promote energy efficiency, use of renewable energy in enterprises and a low-carbon transport system contributes to sustainable development when it is done in consideration of horizontal criteria. These criteria comprise sustainable development in all its dimensions: economic, social and environmental. As a result of enhanced knowledge and purposeful and systematic efforts, North Middle Sweden is well placed to contribute to the transformation of society towards increased social sustainability and a low-carbon, resource-efficient and environmentally sound economy. Impact assessments from the various sustainability perspectives such as social impact assessments, environmental impact assessments, etc. are important tools in assuring sustainability in relation to planned activities.</p> <p>The work of enterprises on energy efficiency improvement, use of renewable energy in enterprises and a low-carbon transport system has positive effects as a result of account being taken of social dimensions such as gender, integration and accessibility. Breaking the picture of society down into different sustainability perspectives enables a better understanding of conditions, needs and prerequisites for different categories of people and sectors. It consequently becomes easier to adapt and prioritise development activity towards a low-carbon economy.</p> <p>Active work on a smart green shift is an important part of the development of North Middle Sweden. Special emphasis must be put on bringing about solutions to reduce the dependence of companies on fossil energy and the need for transport and on improving energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy. New ideas, products and services, and innovations in energy efficiency, for example, can create new business opportunities, jobs and markets for environmental technology.</p>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	4b — Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises
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<b>Investment priority</b>	4b — Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises
<p>To ensure that the objective is met in this investment priority, the following principles will underpin the selection of high-quality projects. The selection criteria for the assessment and selection of projects are applied in the administration and decision-making process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributing to the objectives of the priority axis.</li> <li>• Contributing to sustainable development from a social, economic and environmental perspective (gender equality, diversity and environment).</li> <li>• Expected target fulfilment of the indicators for the priority axis.</li> <li>• Contributing to the objectives of the regional development strategies.</li> <li>• Involvement of enterprises.</li> <li>• Collaboration between business, society, and universities and colleges.</li> <li>• Innovative, for example new, working methods and forms of collaboration.</li> <li>• Expected results and effects following implementation of the project.</li> <li>• Market link and opportunities for commercialisation.</li> <li>• Collaboration and interaction with other projects/programmes (regionally, nationally and internationally).</li> <li>• Link to the action plan for the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.</li> <li>• Cross-border cooperation (regionally, nationally and internationally).</li> <li>• Active ownership, learning strategy and dissemination of results.</li> <li>• Transport mode-transcending approach.</li> <li>• Application of the four-step principle. The four-stage principle is to guide work aimed at meeting transport needs.</li> <li>• Taking account of national and county transport plans where relevant.</li> <li>• Experience and knowledge from previous operations in the area should be utilised.</li> <li>• Organisational capacity, experience among project sponsors and endorsement by partners.</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			260.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			10.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			15.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

Investment priority		4b — Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO06	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (grants)	EUR	ERDF	More developed			580 000.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full-time equivalents	ERDF	More developed			20.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF				250.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous

#### 2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	4f
Title of the investment priority	Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies

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

ID of the specific objective	1
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<b>Title of the specific objective</b>	Improving low-carbon technology
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	<p><b>Research and innovation in renewable energy and energy technology</b></p> <p>There are universities and colleges in North Middle Sweden with their own research expertise in renewable energy and energy technology. It is important that the knowledge and research in universities and colleges is passed on to small and medium-sized enterprises so that it can be converted into commercialisable products and services. Anticipated results of the programme's operations are more knowledge-intensive enterprises, new markets and greater competitiveness combined with reduced carbon dioxide emissions.</p> <p>Changed energy technology, new energy technology and new services in the area can be promoted by financing demonstration plants and testing activity. Test beds and test arenas are needed to develop energy technology and renewable energy with the aim of reducing carbon dioxide emissions and creating new products and services that can be commercialised.</p> <p>Structured and organised forms of collaboration between operators in the public sector, research and development and trade and industry are necessary for sustainable development of society. It is very important to create collaboration, networks and clusters to attain a low-carbon economy.</p>

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

Specific objective		1 - Förbättra koldioxidsnål teknik						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
402	Koldioxidutsläpp ( exkl. jordbruk samt internationell luftfart och sjöfart)	Ton/år	More developed	4,171,164.00	2011	3,754,048.00	Länsstyrelsen	Vartannat år
406	Omsättning i små och medelstora miljöföretag	Nettoomsättning, miljoner kronor	More developed	5,085.00	2012	5,593.00	Statistiska centralbyrån, miljöräkenskaper	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>	4f — Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies
<b>Activities eligible for support</b>	
<p>The following activities are examples of operations that can be supported in this investment priority:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preliminary studies.</li><li>• Applied research and development in energy technology and renewable energy can be disseminated to small and medium-sized enterprises for the development of low-carbon products and services.</li><li>• Investments in demonstration plants, test beds and prototypes for the development of new energy technology and services with low carbon dioxide emissions and operations to allow access to these test arenas for small and medium-sized enterprises. Operations cannot, however, be implemented relating to the production of renewable energy.</li><li>• Supporting the development of energy technology and innovative IT solutions that facilitate the energy switch in small and medium-sized enterprises. Operations to demonstrate resource-efficient solutions and systems for reduced carbon dioxide emissions existing locally, regionally and internationally.</li><li>• Promoting collaboration and the development of networks and clusters in energy technology and renewable energy with the aim of attaining a low-carbon economy.</li><li>• Studies, investigations, collaborative solutions and technology development for greater automation and the use of communications technology in transport systems and electrification of public transport, as well as electrification of road transport.</li></ul>	
<b>Main target groups</b>	
Small and medium-sized enterprises, operators in the field of research and innovation, public-sector stakeholders	

<b>Investment priority</b>	4f — Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies
<p data-bbox="136 264 405 293"><b>Main beneficiaries</b></p> <p data-bbox="136 331 2107 403">Universities, colleges, research institutions, municipalities, regional councils, county councils, government agencies, foundations, economic associations and non-profit organisations</p> <p data-bbox="136 440 405 469"><b>Horizontal criteria</b></p> <p data-bbox="136 507 2132 722">The work to promote research, innovation and embracing of low-carbon technology contributes to sustainable development when it is done in consideration of horizontal criteria. These criteria comprise sustainable development in all its dimensions: economic, social and environmental. As a result of enhanced knowledge and purposeful and systematic efforts, North Middle Sweden is well placed to contribute to the transformation of society towards increased social sustainability and a low-carbon, resource-efficient and environmentally sound economy. Impact assessments from the various sustainability perspectives such as social impact assessments, environmental impact assessments, etc. are important tools in assuring sustainability in relation to planned activities.</p> <p data-bbox="136 761 2107 903">The work on research, innovation and environmentally driven business development has positive effects as a result of account being taken of social dimensions such as gender, integration and accessibility. Breaking the picture of society down into different sustainability perspectives enables a better understanding of conditions, needs and prerequisites for different categories of people and sectors. It consequently becomes easier to adapt and prioritise development activity towards a low-carbon economy.</p> <p data-bbox="136 941 2069 1046">Active work on a smart green shift is an important part of the development of North Middle Sweden. Special emphasis must be put on promoting new technology, innovations and R&amp;D with low carbon dioxide emissions. New ideas, products and services, and innovations can create new business opportunities, jobs and markets for environmental technology.</p>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	4f — Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies
To ensure that the objective is met in this investment priority, the following principles will underpin the selection of high-quality projects. The selection	

<b>Investment priority</b>	4f — Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies
<p>criteria for the assessment and selection of projects are applied in the administration and decision-making process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributing to the objectives of the priority axis.</li> <li>• Contributing to sustainable development from a social, economic and environmental perspective (gender equality, diversity and environment).</li> <li>• Expected target fulfilment of the indicators for the priority axis.</li> <li>• Contributing to the objectives of the regional development strategies.</li> <li>• Involvement of enterprises.</li> <li>• Collaboration between business, society, and universities and colleges.</li> <li>• Innovative, for example new, working methods and forms of collaboration.</li> <li>• Expected results and effects following implementation of the project.</li> <li>• Market link and opportunities for commercialisation.</li> <li>• Collaboration and interaction with other projects/programmes (regionally, nationally and internationally).</li> <li>• Link to the action plan for the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.</li> <li>• Cross-border cooperation (regionally, nationally and internationally).</li> <li>• Active ownership, learning strategy and dissemination of results.</li> <li>• Experience and knowledge from previous operations in the area should be utilised.</li> <li>• Organisational capacity, experience among project sponsors and endorsement by partners.</li> </ul>	

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	4f — Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies

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

<b>Investment priority</b>	4f — Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon 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)

<b>Investment priority</b>		<b>4f — Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies</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			120.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			100.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			20.00	Managing authority's computer systems	Continuous
CO08	Productive investment:	Full-time	ERDF	More developed			40.00	Managing authority's	Continuous

Investment priority		4f — Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
	Employment increase in supported enterprises	equivalents						computer systems	
CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			20.00	Managing authority's computer systems	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
						M	W	T	M	W	T		

													<b>appropriate</b>
CO04	O	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			87			350.00	Project	
16	F	Expenditure	EUR	ERDF	More developed			13 551 712			45 172 374.00	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 the financial indicator for priority axis 2 for 2018 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		4 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	More developed	009. Renewable energy: wind	1 835 128.00
ERDF	More developed	011. Renewable energy: biomass	1 835 128.00
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	10 643 740.00
ERDF	More developed	068. Energy efficiency and demonstration projects in SMEs and supporting measures	8 272 191.00

**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	22 586 187.00

**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	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	11 744 805.00
ERDF	More developed	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	10 841 382.00

**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	22 586 187.00

**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.B DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIORITY AXES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

### 2.B.1 Priority axis

<b>ID of the priority axis</b>	5
<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	5 — 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 Funds Partnership meetings can be co-financed by technical assistance.</p>

Priority axis	5 — 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		5 - Tekniskt stöd(TA)				
ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023) (optional)			Source of data
			M	W	T	
100	Utbetalade medel av programmets totala budget	Andel i %			100.00	Förvaltande myndighets datasystem
200	Externa utvärderingar som har genomförts under programperioden	Antal			15.00	Förvaltande myndighet
300	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		5 — Technical assistance (TA)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ Amount
ERDF	More developed	121. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection	5 293 638.00
ERDF	More developed	122. Evaluation and studies	294 091.00
ERDF	More developed	123. Information and communication	294 091.00

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

Priority axis		5 — Technical assistance (TA)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ Amount
ERDF	More developed	01. Non-repayable grant	5 881 820.00

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

Priority axis		5 — Technical assistance (TA)	
Fund	Category of region	Code	€ Amount
ERDF	More developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	3 058 546.00
ERDF	More developed	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	2 823 274.00

### 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	18 591 726.00	1 186 707.00	18 963 935.00	1 210 465.00	19 343 544.00	1 234 695.00	19 730 671.00	1 259 405.00	20 125 533.00	1 284 609.00	20 528 286.00	1 310 317.00	20 939 061.00	1 336 536.00	138 222 756.00	8 822 734.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>18 591 726.00</b>	<b>1 186 707.00</b>	<b>18 963 935.00</b>	<b>1 210 465.00</b>	<b>19 343 544.00</b>	<b>1 234 695.00</b>	<b>19 730 671.00</b>	<b>1 259 405.00</b>	<b>20 125 533.00</b>	<b>1 284 609.00</b>	<b>20 528 286.00</b>	<b>1 310 317.00</b>	<b>20 939 061.00</b>	<b>1 336 536.00</b>	<b>138 222 756.00</b>	<b>8 822 734.00</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	32 467 644.00	32 467 644.00	31 493 916.00	973 728.00	64 935 288.00	50.0000000000 %		30 438 415.00	30 438 415.00	2 029 229.00	2 029 229.00	6.25 %
2	ERDF	More developed	Public	42 349 101.00	42 349 101.00	42 349 101.00	0.00	84 698 202.00	50.0000000000 %		39 702 281.00	39 702 281.00	2 646 820.00	2 646 820.00	6.25 %
3	ERDF	More developed	Total	43 760 738.00	43 760 738.00	42 447 916.00	1 312 822.00	87 521 476.00	50.0000000000 %		41 025 691.00	41 025 691.00	2 735 047.00	2 735 047.00	6.25 %
4	ERDF	More developed	Total	22 586 187.00	22 586 187.00	21 908 601.00	677 586.00	45 172 374.00	50.0000000000 %		21 174 549.00	21 174 549.00	1 411 638.00	1 411 638.00	6.25 %
5	ERDF	More developed	Public	5 881 820.00	5 881 820.00	5 881 820.00	0.00	11 763 640.00	50.0000000000 %		5 881 820.00	5 881 820.00			
<b>Total</b>	<b>ERDF</b>	<b>More developed</b>		<b>47 045 490.00</b>	<b>47 045 490.00</b>	<b>144 081 354.00</b>	<b>2 964 136.00</b>	<b>294 090 980.00</b>	<b>50.0000000000 %</b>		<b>138 222 756.00</b>	<b>138 222 756.00</b>	<b>8 822 734.00</b>	<b>8 822 734.00</b>	<b>6.00 %</b>
<b>Grand total</b>				<b>47 045 490.00</b>	<b>47 045 490.00</b>	<b>144 081 354.00</b>	<b>2 964 136.00</b>	<b>294 090 980.00</b>	<b>50.0000000000 %</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>138 222 756.00</b>	<b>138 222 756.00</b>	<b>8 822 734.00</b>	<b>8 822 734.00</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	32,467,644.00	32,467,644.00	64,935,288.00
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	42,349,101.00	42,349,101.00	84,698,202.00
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)	43,760,738.00	43,760,738.00	87,521,476.00
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	22,586,187.00	22,586,187.00	45,172,374.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>141,163,670.00</b>	<b>141,163,670.00</b>	<b>282,327,340.00</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 (%)

<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>
3	1,298,705.60	0.88%
4	22,586,187.00	15.36%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,884,892.60</b>	<b>16.24%</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

Territorial conditions in North Middle Sweden are largely characterised by the region being a rural and sparsely populated area with varying accessibility and population base in different geographical parts of the region. There are intra-regional differences, for example regarding conditions for growth, business structure and access to skills for enterprises.

The programme has four different priority axes that are integrated and jointly address the challenges and opportunities for North Middle Sweden. The territorial approach focuses on intra-regional accessibility in the most important districts that can widen regional growth cores and labour markets and contribute to more growing enterprises and a sustainably growing region. An essential condition for territorial investment concerns investments in broadband infrastructure, which in turn can create better conditions for enterprise, innovation and business development, particularly important in sectors in peripheral and sparsely populated parts of the region. This priority area is therefore to be regarded as a fundamental condition to be met in order to be able also to implement the programme operations for research and innovation, small and medium-sized enterprises and for a low-carbon economy in all the geographical parts of North Middle Sweden.

The ESI Funds can, together, contribute to territorial development in North Middle Sweden. The operations under the ERDF programme are focused chiefly on development at region- or municipality-wide level, while the Rural Development Programme and the EMFF have a more local outlook. In addition, the ESF programme can contribute to strengthening skills and reducing social exclusion in parts of the region with high unemployment. The operations complement one another and, taken together, contribute to sustainable regional growth in all parts of North Middle Sweden.

### **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, as indicated in Chapter 1.

**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 cross-border 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 length and focus of 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 transboundary 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)**

With reference to Article 174 of the Treaty, only the programmes for Upper Norrland and Middle Norrland are concerned in Sweden. In these programmes, as in this programme, demographic challenges and sparse population are addressed in Chapters 1 and 2 of the programme.

## 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	General authority
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*

##### **1.1.1 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**

##### **Role of the regional partnership in preparations**

The three collaborative bodies in North Middle Sweden, Region Gävleborg, Region Dalarna and Region Värmland, have drawn up a regional programme for the European Regional Development Fund. Region Gävleborg has coordinated programme preparation.

In February 2013, Region Gävleborg brought together the three regional councils for a start-up meeting to appoint steering groups and a working group and to present an appointed programme coordinator. The political steering group consists of the chair of each regional council and a steering group of officials comprising the three regional directors. Managing authorities were invited to take part in the working group. The working group that was then formed consists of a contact person from each of the regional councils, a contact person from each managing authority and a horizontal expert. The working group will be supplemented by a contact person from the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis later in the spring. Analysis/drafting groups consisting of strategists and experts from each regional council have been involved in the work on the

various thematic objectives and priority axes. These groupings have, in turn, involved experts and reference persons for the analysis/drafting work. It is the working group that has worked through the material from the analysis/drafting groups, shaped the contents of the programme in accordance with the OP template and secured a consensus, firstly in the form of a broad partnership at regional level and secondly on policy objectives in the three boards/directorates of the regional councils.

The programme coordinator has had good regular contact during the programme drafting process with the Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications, in the form of governance and guidance. There has also been contact with national authorities in the form of dialogue on content-related parts, both for the programme coordinator and for the various analysis/drafting groups.

The regional Structural Funds programme has been prepared in a broad partnership, at both national and regional levels, with the public, private and non-profit sectors. Existing RDS channels and forums have formed the basis for the broad partnership. Open invitations to information and dialogue seminars in each county have been used as a method for reaching as many stakeholders as possible in the regional development arena.

Account has been taken of horizontal criteria by those who have been involved in the programme drafting work. There is general knowledge among the officials in the regional councils who have taken part in working groups and analysis/drafting groups.

Programme writers have taken account of the views expressed in consultations involving the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis and a consultancy firm.

Summary of activities for the broad partnership in each county:

## **GÄVLEBORG**

- Programme proposal approved by the board of Region Gävleborg on 20 September 2013.
- March 2013: Information concerning EU 2020 and the preparation of new Structural Funds for members of the regional council.
- April 2013: Information and dialogue meeting with municipal executives and with the EU Network and the International Committee.
- May 2013: Dialogue meeting with Gävleborg County Executive Board.
- May 2013: Information and dialogue with the regional board.
- June 2013: Information and dialogue seminar on EU 2020 and future Structural Funds programmes with invited guests from the municipalities, county administrative board, county council, universities, organisations, non-profit associations, enterprises and projects, etc.
- September 2013: Information and dialogue meeting with the EU Network.
- Information on future Structural Funds programmes has been provided continuously in dialogue forums and channels established in connection with the preparation of RDSs.
- Contacts with strategists/experts and participation in drafting groups.

## **DALARNA**

- Programme proposal approved by the board of Region Dalarna on 11 September 2013.
- February 2013: Information and dialogue meeting on EU 2020 and future Structural Funds programmes with invited guests from the municipalities, county administrative board, county council, universities, the Teknikdalen Foundation, Triple Steelix, W7, etc.
- June 2013: Information and dialogue with the county's municipal senior executives and the chair of the municipal executive board on Objective 2 and the Interreg programme.
- August 2013: Dialogue with the county's partnership on Objective 2 and the Interreg programme.
- Information on future Structural Funds programmes has been provided at dialogue meetings concerning a new Dalarna strategy (RDS) which is in preparation.
- Two individual meetings with Dalarna County Administrative Board.
- Sami people have been invited to attend the dialogue meetings.
- Contacts with strategists/experts and participation in drafting groups.

## VÄRMLAND

- Programme proposal approved by the board of Region Värmland on 19 September 2013.
- November 2012: Seminar on territorial cooperation, 'Experience and future'.
- April 2013: Discussion on orientation of the future Structural Funds together with municipal chief executives and all chairs of municipal executive boards.
- April 2013: The information/dialogue meeting 'En Smak av EU' ('A Taste of the EU') on EU 2020 and future Structural Funds with invited guests from municipal executive boards, county council executives and the Region Värmland Assembly, business developers in the municipalities, important operators in enterprise promotion such as incubators, ALMI, UF, Communicare, Karlstad University and operators from the social economy (120 participants).
- June 2013: Information for municipal chief executives and all chairs of municipal executive boards.
- August 2013: Consultation conference with representatives from the municipalities, business organisations, Karlstad University and other stakeholder organisations to obtain input on Interreg and the ERDF.
- September 2013: Verbal and written information on the programme drafting process in the regional executive board.
- During the autumn of 2012 and the spring of 2013, more than 1 000 persons provided input to the Värmland strategy, the focus and prioritisation of which is to be reflected in the Structural Funds.
- Contacts with strategists/experts and participation in drafting groups.

### 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.

### **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 each Structural Funds 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 relevant 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.

### **Follow-up and evaluation**

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 Europe 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.

There is a description of the link to the innovation strategy in Chapter 1.

### **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 agricultural firms 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.

There is a description of the link to relevant programmes in Chapter 1 of the programme.

### **The national 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, targeting 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.

## **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 FEC, 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 FEC 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 FEC 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. In addition, initiatives can be taken to promote the integration of the internal market for energy under the FEC and trans-European networks in the area of energy (TEN-E).

## **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 the accessibility, 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 the accessibility, 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>
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.	1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation 2 — Enhancing the accessibility, 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	Yes
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 the accessibility, 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	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 the accessibility, 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	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 the accessibility, 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	Yes
G.5 — The existence of	1 — Strengthening research,	Yes

<b>Ex-ante conditionality</b>	<b>Priority axes to which conditionality applies</b>	<b>Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (Yes/No/Partially)</b>
arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	technological development and innovation 2 — Enhancing the accessibility, 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	
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 the accessibility, 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	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 the accessibility, 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	Yes

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 North Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’
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 North Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’
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 North Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’

<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 North Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’
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 North Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’
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 North Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’
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 North Middle	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’

<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;		Sweden'	
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 North Middle Sweden'	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden'
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 North Middle Sweden'	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden'
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 North Middle Sweden'	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden'

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 North Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’
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 North Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’
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 North Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanation
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 North Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’
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 North Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’
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 North Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’

<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 North Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’
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.	1 — Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the involvement of 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.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’
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 North Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’
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 North Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’

<b>Ex-ante conditionality</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
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 North Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’
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 — Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the consultation and 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.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’
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 North Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’
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	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	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’

<b>Ex-ante conditionality</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC.	the programmes.			
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 North Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’
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 North Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’
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 North Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’
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 North Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’
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 North Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’

<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.	2 — Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the ESI Funds.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’
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 North Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’
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 North Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’
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 North Middle Sweden’	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’
G.6 — The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union environmental legislation related to	3 — Arrangements to ensure sufficient administrative capacity.	Yes	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle	See annex ‘Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden’

<b>Ex-ante conditionality</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
EIA and SEA.			Sweden'	
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 North Middle Sweden'	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden'
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 North Middle Sweden'	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden'
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 North Middle Sweden'	See annex 'Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden'

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

<b>Ex-ante conditionality</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
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**

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

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

<b>Thematic ex-ante conditionality</b>	<b>Criteria not fulfilled</b>	<b>Actions to be taken</b>	<b>Deadline (date)</b>	<b>Bodies responsible</b>

## 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 338:

### **Measure**

### **Estimated end date**

Clear and readily available to beneficiaries — January 2014

A new and improved electronic application, 'My Application' — February 2014

Simplified work processes — programme start/autumn 2014

Simpler reporting for beneficiaries — programme start/autumn 2014

## 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 of gender equality policy is that women and men are to have the same power to shape society and their own lives, that is to say have the same rights and opportunities 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			62			250.00
1 — Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	ERDF	More developed	Expenditure	EUR			19 480 586			64 935 288.00
2 — Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies	ERDF	More developed	Expenditure	EUR			16 939 640			84 698 202.00

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 the accessibility, 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			250			
2 — Enhancing the accessibility, 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			2 500.00
3 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	ERDF	More developed	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	Enterprises			162			650.00
3 — Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	ERDF	More developed	Expenditure	EUR			26 256 443			87 521 476.00
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			87			350.00
4 — Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	ERDF	More developed	Expenditure	EUR			13 551 712			45 172 374.00

### **12.3 Relevant partners involved in preparation of programme**

This list supplements the text in section 7.2. It identifies which stakeholders have taken part in programming work in North Middle Sweden.

ALMI Företagspartner AB

ARKO cooperative organisation

Brottsförebyggande Centrum i Värmland (Värmland Crime Prevention Centre)

Communicare

Coompanion

Dalalyft

Dalarnas Idrottsförbund (Dalarna Sports Federation)

Energikontoret Värmland (Värmland Energy Office)

Entré Hofors

Swedish ESF Council,

Europa Direkt Gävle

Falun Borlänge-regionen AB

FramtidsFrön (Future Seeds)

Fryksdalens Samordningsförbund (Fryksdalen Coordination Association)

Future Position X

Galaxy Post Stockholm  
Gävle-Dala Energikontor (Gävle-Dala Energy Office)  
Chamber of Commerce  
Hedark County Council  
Hushållningssllskapet (Rural Economy and Agricultural Societies)  
HälsingeUtbildning (Hälsinge Education)  
Hälsingland Turism  
Dalarna University  
Gävle University College  
IF METALL trade union Värmland  
Intresseföreningen Bergslaget (Bergslaget Association)  
ITSdalarna  
IUC Dalarna AB  
Karlstad University  
Klarälvdalens Samordningsförbund (Klarälvdalen Coordination Association)  
Kommunal Västra Svealand  
Kristinehamn Folk High School

Dalarna County Council

Gävleborg County Council

Värmland County Council

Leader Dalälven

Leader Gästrikebygden

Leader Hälsingebygden

Leader Närheten

Leader Växtlust

Länsmuseet Gävleborg

Dalarna County Administrative Board

Gävleborg County Administrative Board

Värmland County Administrative Board

Learning and Development Dalarna

Mid Sweden Chamber of Commerce

Green Party of Sweden

MOVEXUM

Region Dalarna

Region Gävleborg

Region Värmland

Sjukvårdspartiet Värmland (Värmland Health Care Party)

Swedish Forest Agency

Stiftelsen Drivhuset (Drivhuset Foundation)

Stiftelsen Inova i Wermland (Inova in Värmland Foundation)

Stiftelsen Teknikdalen (Teknikdalen Foundation)

North Middle Sweden Structural Funds Partnership

Studieförbundet (Study Promotion Association)

Studieförbundet Värmland/Bergslagen (Study Promotion Association Värmland Bergslagen)

Studieförbundet Örebro/Värmland (Study Promotion Association Örebro/Värmland)

Swedish Municipal Workers' Union

Church of Sweden

Sverige Amerika Centret (Sweden America Centre)

The Packaging Arena

The Paper Province

Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth

Triple Steelix

Junior Achievement Sweden in Gävleborg

Junior Achievement Sweden Värmland

Winnet Gävleborg

Left Party Arvika

Värmlands Idrottsförbund (Värmland Sports Federation)

Värmlandskooperativen (Värmland Cooperatives)

Värmlandstrafik AB

Hälsingland Vocational College

Østfold County Council, Regional Department, International Section

and the municipalities in the three counties





## Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Ex-ante evaluation North Middle Sweden	Supplementary information	10-Dec-2014		Ares(2014)4141058	Ex-ante evaluation North Middle Sweden	10-Dec-2014	nolofann
Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden	Supplementary information	26 Nov-2014		Ares(2014)4141058	Ex-ante conditionalities North Middle Sweden	10-Dec-2014	nolofann
Tables and figures North Middle Sweden	Supplementary information	26 Nov-2014		Ares(2014)4141058	Tables and figures North Middle Sweden	10-Dec-2014	nolofann
EIA North Middle Sweden	Supplementary information	26 Nov-2014		Ares(2014)4141058	EIA North Middle Sweden	10-Dec-2014	nolofann