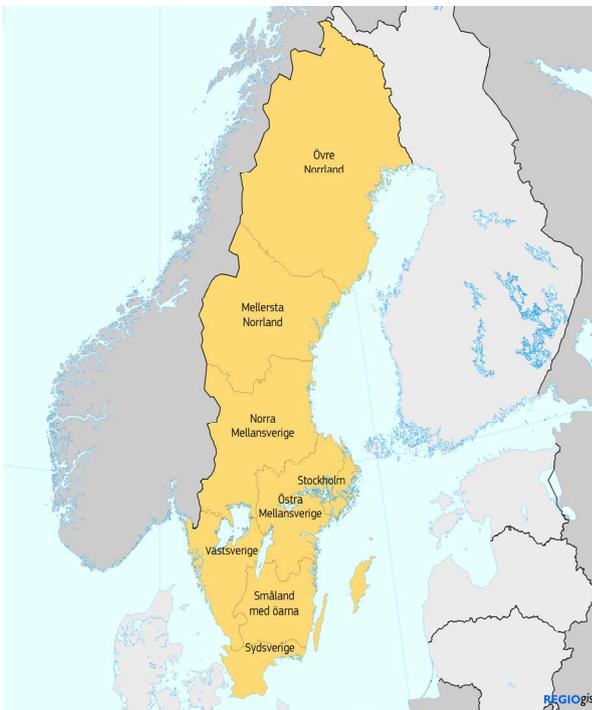


Cohesion Policy and Sweden

⋈ In 2014-2020, Sweden will manage **ten operational programmes** under EU Cohesion Policy. Of these, eight regional programmes will receive funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programmes, one national programme will receive funding from the ERDF and one programme will receive funding from the European Social Fund (ESF).



Structural Funds (ERDF and ESF) eligibility 2014-2020

- Less developed regions
(GDP/head < 75 % of EU-27 average)
- Transition regions
(GDP/head between $\geq 75\%$ and $< 90\%$ of EU-27 average)
- More developed regions
(GDP/head $\geq 90\%$ of EU-27 average)

How much will the EU invest in Sweden (2014-2020)?

For 2014-2020, Sweden has been allocated in total around **€2.1 billion** (current prices) in total Cohesion Policy:

- **€1.51 billion** is allocated to more developed regions (all);
- **€207 million** is allocated to the Northern Sparsely Populated Areas (Övre Norrland and Mellersta Norrland);
- **€342.3 million** for European Territorial Cooperation;
- **€44.2 million** have been allocated to Norra Mellansverige, Östra Mellansverige and Skåne-Blekinge for the Youth Employment Initiative;

Of this, ESF in Sweden will represent a minimum of **€730 million**. The actual share will be set in light of the specific challenges the country needs to address in the areas covered by the ESF.

What are the main investment priorities for Sweden?

Priorities for Sweden will be set out in a Partnership Agreement with the European Commission. The priorities are expected to include:

- Fostering competitiveness, knowledge and innovation;
- Strengthening sustainable and efficient use of resources for sustainable growth;
- Increasing employment, promoting employability and improving access to the labour market.

What results have been achieved so far?

The total allocation from Cohesion Policy funding for the 2007-2013 period was € 1.9 billion.

Since the beginning of the 2007-2013 funding period, amongst other achievements, ERDF investments have helped Sweden to:

- Create over 42 000 jobs;
- Establish 17 700 new companies;
- Improve urban transport for over 1.5 million people.

Projects with ESF support had provided:

- Training to 97 400 unemployed persons (44 % of the participants 15–24 years old);
- Participation in skills development projects for 267 000 persons.

Cohesion Policy success stories

ERDF projects

● Buoy to Grid

The project [Buoy-to-Grid](#) aims to support the emerging ocean energy industry with common technical solutions for power, signal and communication transmission. There is still a great need for deeper knowledge and technology development in the field of ocean energy. By finding common generic technical solutions, thereby increasing production volumes, the component prices are expected to decrease, which is crucial for commercialization.

Total cost: 1.8 million SEK (ERDF contribution: 730 000 SEK)

● NovaMedTech

An [ambitious cluster and networking project](#) in the field of medical technology has, in its first five years, helped to bring over a dozen new products to market, and has led to the creation of 12 new companies and 70 new jobs in the region of Eastern Central Sweden. The main aim of the project is to boost entrepreneurship and innovation for bio-medical engineering and technology products by bringing together healthcare professional, academics and businesses. The project also aims to improve the quality of healthcare through the adoption of innovative technology and to increase knowledge in the field of bio-medical engineering.

Total cost: 57.6 million SEK (ERDF contribution: 28.8 million SEK)

● **Future Position X (FPX)**

The cluster organisation [Future Position X](#) (FPX) supports companies and organisations to innovate and develop new products and services in high-tech geolocal software and associated products, as well as to expand into new markets. Following FPX's success in attracting world-leading GIS companies to the region, Gävleborg has become increasingly recognised around the world as Europe's centre of excellence for geographic information systems (GIS). The ERDF-funded project to further FPX's work in this field has seen around 200 companies a year take part in cluster activities and is estimated to have led to the creation of 15 new companies and some 300 new jobs. In addition, over 120 new services and products have been developed and launched onto national and international markets. Small to medium-sized companies and start-ups participating in the project have experienced strong growth and are expanding more quickly in terms of turnover and employees compared with companies outside the cluster.

Total cost: 26.8 million SEK (ERDF contribution: 13.4 million SEK)

ESF projects

● **Plug In**

Students who leave secondary education without a diploma risk exclusion from the labour market. The [Plug In project](#) combines personal follow-up with actions targeting municipalities, schools and society at large to improve the educational context in a sustainable way. One important element of Plug In is the Pluginnovation platform where research, intervention methods, statistics and innovations related to the issue of school drop-outs are gathered. In Kungsbacka, one of the fifty or so municipalities involved in Plug In, a new upper secondary school was opened as a result of this innovative approach to early school leaving. Its 27 students are all former drop-outs who now have the chance to continue at a smaller school with individually adapted studies. Following on the Plug In project, the project School to Work has now been set up with the ambition to combine efforts in the Baltic Sea area to curb school drop-out rates. This large-scale initiative, which will become a flagship project of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, involves participants from 30 organisations in 7 EU countries.

Total cost: 130 million SEK (ESF contribution: 97.8 million SEK)

● **KZY IF Metall**

Many employees in small and medium enterprises spread out across Sweden risk missing out in the continuous skills developments that are required in competitive industry sectors. Regional organisations within [the Swedish trade union IF Metall](#) have organised a series of ESF supported training projects that have focussed on giving those SME employees additional and updated skills to be able to keep their job or find a new job if needed later. Over 4 000 employees in some 76 companies in different Swedish regions have taken part in such training activities, with an aggregated ESF support of some €5.5 million. One such project was the KZY IF Metall project in the region Mid North Sweden, in 2011–2012, which provided training for more than 1 700 employees in 27 companies.

Total cost: 13.2 million SEK (ESF: 13.2 million SEK)

Find out more about EU cohesion policy projects in Sweden

For more project examples, as well as links to the complete list of beneficiaries of EU cohesion policy funding, see the following websites:

- [European Commission Regional Policy website](#)
- [European Social Fund website](#)
- [The Swedish ESF Council](#)