



EUROPEISKA UNIONEN
Europeiska socialfonden

European Social Fund 2014–2020



Svenska
ESF-rådet



The European Social Fund (ESF) has funded projects in Sweden since 1995, and the Swedish ESF Council, a government agency, has managed the ESF's Swedish programme since 2000. Thus far, more than 90,000 projects have been conducted with more than 1 million participants. This means that one in six Swedes of working age has had the chance to develop themselves within the framework of a Social Fund project. During the last programming period in 2007–2013, close to 2,300 projects were completed.

For 2014–2020, the Social Fund holds approximately 12 billion SEK. The projects are expected to be fewer but larger than in the previous programming period.

The ESF programme 2014–2020

The ESF was established in 1957 and is available in all EU countries. Its goal is the same today as back then – the only difference is that our world has changed. Increased global competition and other technological capabilities put new demands on knowledge and skills. Sweden will both take part in this competition and meet the challenge of increasingly fewer people supporting more people. Just as society changes, the Social Fund must also renew itself and adapt to reality.

The guidelines of the Social Fund programme for the 2014–2020 period therefore bring exciting

new opportunities to men and women on the Swedish labour market, in the same way as throughout the rest of Europe.

Greater efforts at the national level

The programme is being implemented in eight geographic regions (see map on page 15). For each region, there is an action plan. There is also an action plan at the national level.

Strong link between education and the labour market

To create a well-functioning labour market and to increase employment in the long term, we need to strengthen the link between education and the labour market. Success requires cooperation between actors at the national, regional and local levels. It also requires that projects demonstrate innovative techniques, new approaches, ongoing evaluations and strengthened cooperation between different government agencies and businesses.

Results in focus

When the projects are reviewed by the Swedish ESF Council, it focuses on expected results that can impact the labour market and employment rather than on the project costs.





Effects on multiple levels

The ESF Council evaluates the results of Social Fund projects through a variety of additional evaluations. These form the basis for prioritising future projects.

Three programme areas

In Sweden today, there are too many people outside the labour market. To promote skills development and combat exclusion, the Social Fund focuses on three priority axis:

- Skills development
- Improved transition to work
- The Youth Employment Initiative

Horizontal principles = Equal treatment for all

Social Fund projects should be based on the following horizontal principles:

- Equality between men and women
- Accessibility for people with disabilities
- Sustainable development, equal treatment and non-discrimination

These principles are crucial for achieving the goal of a sustainable and inclusive working life and for guiding the projects, from beginning to end. Transnational projects can also be conducted with a focus on the Baltic Sea region.

Priority axis 1

– Skills development

Priority axis 1 is focusing on better links between education and the labour market. Here, you can apply for grants for projects that give women and men the opportunity to develop in line with the demands of professional life.

Skills development is important for meeting the requirements of the labour market and for reducing the risk of unemployment. In addition to employees, this axis can also include unemployed people who participate in the projects.

Priority axis 2

– Improved transition to work

The Social Fund's second priority axis aims to make it easier for young people (aged 15–24), the long-term unemployed (more than 12 months), people with functional impairments, long-term sick leavers and newly arrived migrants to get jobs or move a step closer to the labour market.

Within this priority axis, you can apply for grants for projects that contribute to greater social cohesion and an inclusive working life with a focus on people who are currently far removed from the labour market.





GENERAL PROJECT PROCESS

IT STARTS IN BRUSSELS...

1. Decision about call (not external)
2. Call
3. Project application

4. Preparation, The ESF Council
5. Preparation, The Structural Fund Partnership
6. Decision

HERE AN AUDIT CAN TAKE PLACE

7. Project implementation
8. Application for payment from the project
9. Decision about payment, follow-up and dialogue with the project

10. Payment from the Administrative Unit
11. The Certifying Authority
12. Expenditure declaration to the EU Commission

...AND IT ENDS IN BRUSSELS

In these steps the project is involved and need to be aware of the following:

- State aid and procurement
- What was written in the application?
- Expenditure declaration
- Asking the ESF coordinator and feedback

Priority axis 3

– The Youth Employment Initiative

Priority axis 3 is a special initiative for European regions that have the highest unemployment rate among youth, at least 25 percent. In Sweden, the funds are to be used in the regions of Central Norrland, Northern Central Sweden and South Sweden. Within this axis, you can apply for grants for projects that make it easier for young people to become established in the labour market. This can be anything from different ways of helping young people to find jobs to initiatives for young people at risk of becoming long-term unemployed.

The Partnerships prioritise

Each region has a Structural Fund Partnership consisting of elected representatives of local authorities and regions as well as representatives of labour market organisations, county administrative boards, the Public Employment Agency, NGOs and associations. This boosts the Social Fund's local development, and the Structural Fund Partnership agree on regional action plans.

The Structural Fund Partnership prioritise the project applications that the ESF Council has approved, and the priorities are binding for the ESF Council's decisions. The types of applications that are given priority and receive support can therefore vary from region to region.

National Monitoring and Steering Committee

At the national level is the Social Fund's Board of Directors – the Monitoring and Steering Committee – which follows up on the fund's work and ensures its quality and effectiveness.

The committee consists of representatives from government, non-profit organisations, labour market organisations and the research community.

Coordination of funds

The ESF is one of four ESIFs – European Structural and Investment Funds. The four funds are:

- The European Regional Development Fund
- The European Social Fund
- The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
- The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

Together, the funds represent EU's main tools for attaining the European 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and reducing economic and social disparities between European regions. The funds have a mission to increase the cooperation between the funds in order to achieve a higher impact and to make it easier for those carrying out the projects.

How to apply for a grant

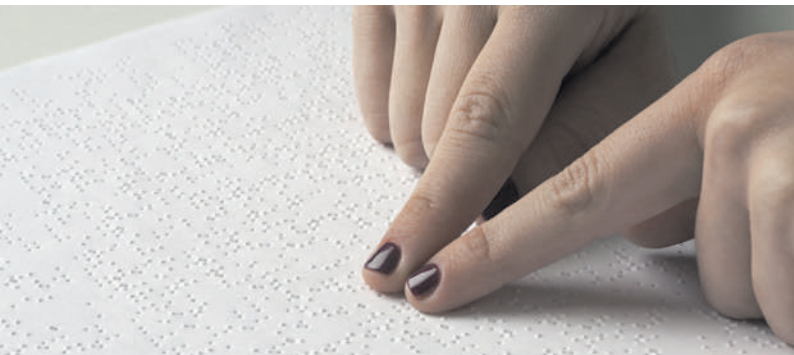
Private, public or non-profit organisations can apply for ESF funding. An organisation or company may apply. An individual person may not apply.

For more information about applying

The Swedish ESF Council conducts calls for proposals regionally and nationally, and announces funding in different rounds. At those times, you can submit a project application. Information about when you can apply can be found on our website www.esf.se. Here, you can also read about what to include in your application, how to apply, what you can receive money for, and how your application is processed by us at the Swedish ESF Council.

Please contact our regional offices to learn more about the calls in different regions.

For contact information, visit **www.esf.se**



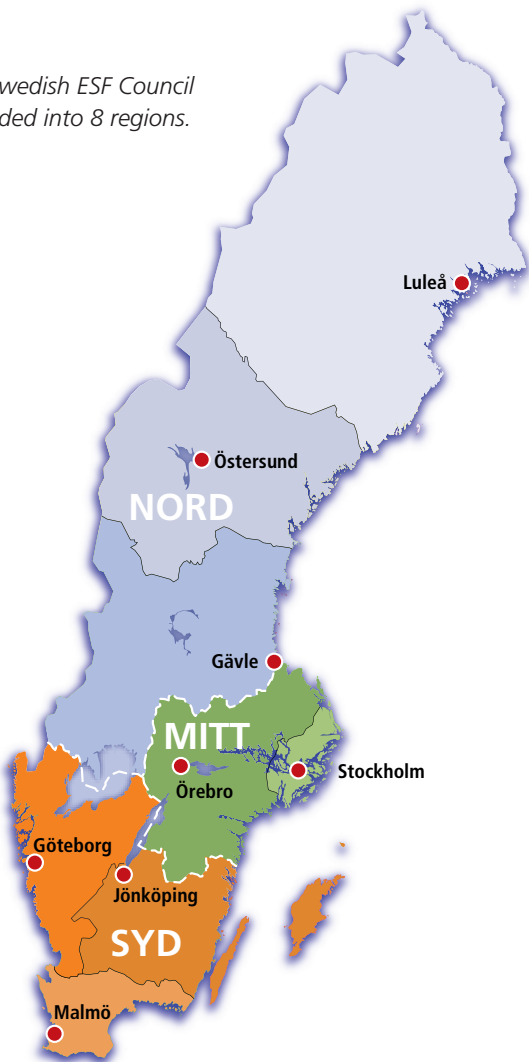
The Swedish ESF Council – a government agency

The Swedish ESF Council is a government agency under the Ministry of Employment, and has existed since the year 2000. Our activities span several policy areas, notably labour market-, social-, enterprise and innovation-, education- and integration policies.

We manage EU funds

Our task is to manage the European Social Fund, and the FEAD Fund for the most deprived individuals. FEAD complements the Social Fund by reducing poverty and social exclusion.

*The Swedish ESF Council
is divided into 8 regions.*





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