

Entrepreneurship policy report summary

Title	A National Strategy for Regional Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship and Employment 2007-2013
Publish date	February 2007
Country and publisher	Sweden The Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communication
Type of report	Action plan In accordance with the European strategic guidelines for cohesion, the national strategy provides guidelines for structural fund programmes for regional competitiveness and employment for the time period 2007–2013. The strategy forms Sweden’s national strategic reference framework for cohesion policy, which is to be implemented in Sweden via eight regional structural fund programmes and a national structural fund programme with eight regional plans.
Main message	The report should help to create competitive regions and individuals in Sweden. The government has identified the following national priorities for regional competitiveness, entrepreneurship and employment: innovation and renewal, skills supply and improved workforce supply, accessibility and strategic cross-border cooperation.
Governments policy targets/goals	
Definition (How are they quantified?)	
Focus/policy areas	Innovation and renewal, skills supply and improved labour supply, accessibility and strategic cross-border cooperation
Implemented/suggested policies	Strategies and programmes implemented at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - national level: National strategy for regional competitiveness, entrepreneurship and employment for the time period 2007-2013 and National structural funds programme - multi-county level: Regional structural fund programme and Regional plans - county level: Regional development strategies (RDSs) and Regional growth programmes
Key findings	The report highlights priority areas but is not concrete on the needed policies. The government has highlighted entrepreneurship and innovation environments as important areas in innovation and renewal. Entrepreneurship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote a favourable culture of entrepreneurship and enterprise. The overall goal is that it should be more profitable and less complex to run a business. - Promote initiatives which facilitate starting new businesses. - Develop strategic forms of cooperation between businesses. - Support business capital procurement where market provisions are not satisfactory. Capital currently available on the market is shortcoming and access varies from region to region. There may also be differences in opportunities to get access to capital

	<p>because of gender, age and foreign background.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitate the development of industry with a greater international exchange of business, and stronger positions on the foreign markets. Information and advice are important and now available advisors exist in all counties constitutes. - Exploit the opportunities created by the sustainable use of natural resources, e.g. by promoting development and greater use of renewable energy sources. Investment in these areas can contribute to safe, environmentally-friendly energy consumption, while providing scope for innovation, new businesses and employment as well as creating additional export opportunities. - A more sustainable energy system as a driving force for developing technology, products and services. - Encourage ongoing development of business based on natural environments, culture and cultural heritage to promote socioeconomic development. This helps to create an attractive environment for residents, visitors and businesses alike. - Encourage continued development of natural and cultural tourism, as it can lead to essential business developments, services and employment. <p>Innovative environments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote cooperation between research and development, industry and the public sector; develop initiatives for more effective interaction within innovation systems and clusters. - Encourage an international exchange of knowledge and cooperation between higher education and industry. - Promote development of regional profiles and specialisation. - Protect natural environments, culture and cultural heritage in the development of innovative environments. - Encourage the capacity for innovation in industry by promoting new knowledge particularly within small and medium-sized businesses. - Improving businesses' ability to benefit from new knowledge from universities and research institutes. - Develop structures which encourage the transfer of knowledge between businesses. - Promote businesses' ability to develop new products and services. - Promote the commercialisation of research results and ideas from higher education, industry and other players. <p>In skills supply and improved labour supply the guidelines are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote such skills development as to ensure that those already employed do not risk unemployment due to not having the skills required. - Make it easier for those who find themselves outside the labour market to enter and remain in the market through non-traditional initiatives.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prevent and combat discrimination and exclusion from the labour market. - Prevent long-term sick leave and facilitate a return to work for those who are or who have been on long-term sick leave through innovative initiatives. <p>The focus areas in accessibility are regional enlargement and an advanced information society:</p> <p>Regional enlargement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen the link between traffic and infrastructure measures. - Develop interaction between different types of transport. - Develop passenger transport which improves accessibility and which creates better conditions for regional enlargement. <p>An advanced information society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage and facilitate the use of IT in small and medium-sized businesses. - Develop products and services, both private and public, which aim to improve accessibility to and use of IT for people and businesses. - Continue to develop broadband solutions in sparsely populated and rural areas. <p>The guidelines for strategic cross-border cooperation are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimise border obstacles for cross-border commuters and businesses which carry out cross-border operations. - Promote cross-border network cooperation between businesses. - Develop cross-border cooperation solutions to increase access to key community functions. - Promote closer cooperation across national borders in order to strengthen innovative environments. - Contribute towards improving communications between the Nordic metropolitan regions. - Promote sea motorway initiatives across the Baltic in order to improve the effectiveness of transportation within the EU and to improve peripheral regions' accessibility. - Promote cross-border cooperation for sustainable and innovative use and development of natural resources, culture and cultural heritage. - Promote closer cooperation on environmental issues in the Baltic and the North Sea.
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<http://www.sweden.gov.se/content/1/c6/07/74/17/1fdb10a6.pdf>