The Swedish ESF Council

Study visit of the Swedish ESF Council to Greece
(the regional units Western Sweden and Småland
and the islands)

5-6 March 2025

The Swedish
ESF Council

The Swedish ESF Council's vision

We drive development and innovation for an inclusive labour market.

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The authority

The Swedish ESF Council was created in 2000 and is a public body under the Swedish Ministry of Employment.

The Managing Authority has around 140 employees divided across eight regions, with the head office in Gävle.

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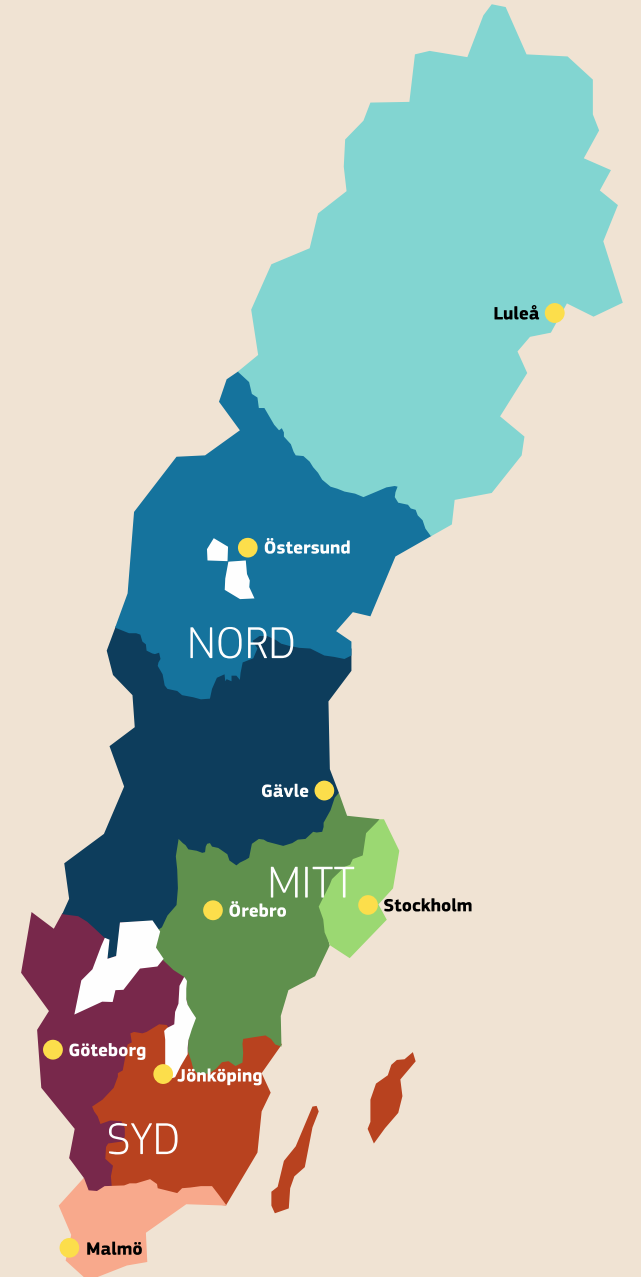
The authority's primary missions

To manage:

- The European Social Fund PLUS 2021–2027 (ESF+)

- National Contact Point EaSI

Member of the Baltic sea network ESF

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8 regional and 1 national unit

Working with implementing the ESF+ programme.

Each unit is involved in the whole process from information and communication, making calls, assess and decide on projects, follow-up, payments and controls/audits.

The group in Athens represent the regional units in Göteborg and Jönköping.

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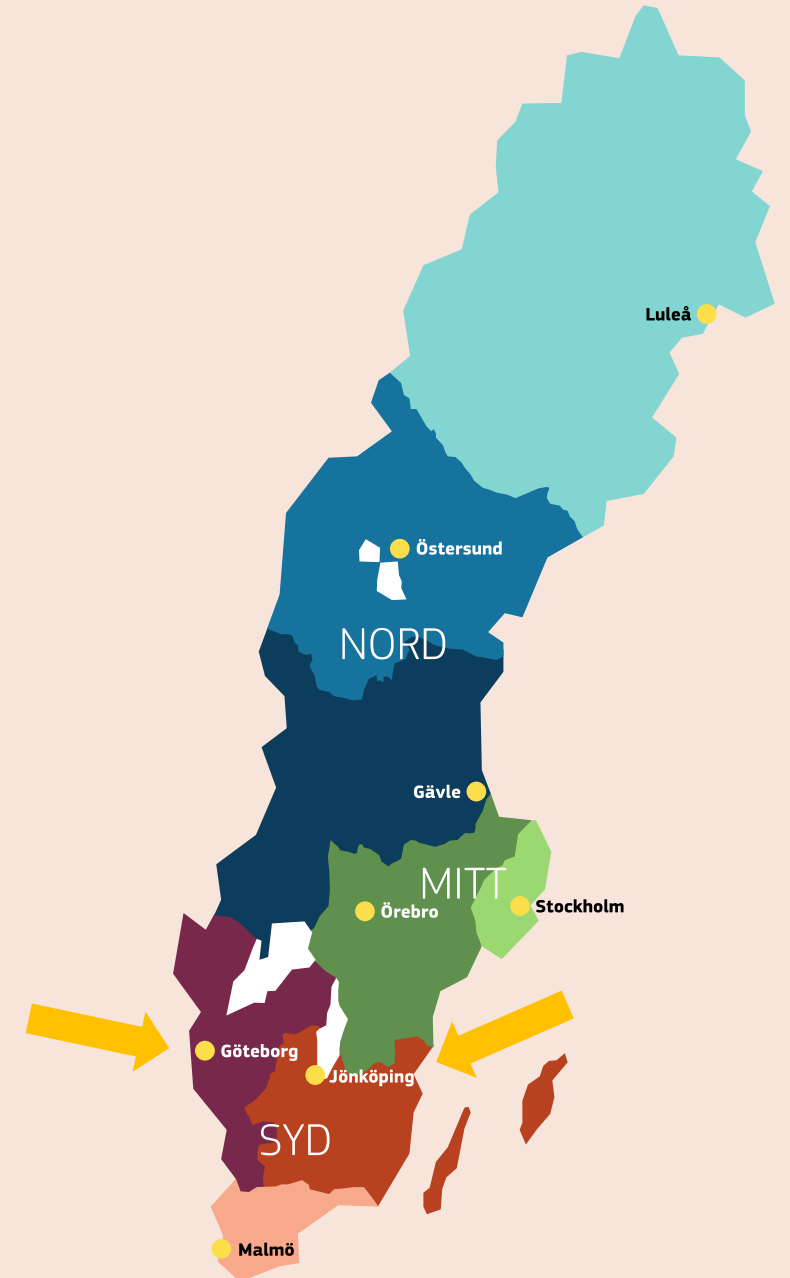
Western Sweden

- The region of Western Sweden includes the regions Västra Götaland and Halland (NUTS3)

- 1,7 million people in Västra Götaland and 330 000 in Halland

- The office is located in Göteborg

- 11 employees (regional coordinators and controllers)

- Total ESF+ funding 2021 – 2027: 875 million SEK (94 million euro)

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Småland and the Islands

- Småland and the Islands includes the regions of Jönköping, Kronoberg, Kalmar and Gotland (NUTS3)

- Total population of approx. 855 014

- The office is located in City of Jönköping

- 4 employees (regional coordinators and controller)

- Total ESF+ funding 2021 – 2027: 374 million SEK (40 million euro)

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The European Social Fund+ 2021 - 2027 in Sweden

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The ESF+ in brief

The purpose of the Swedish operational program is to

- improve access to employment

- promote lifelong learning

- encourage active inclusion

- promote social inclusion.

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Programme Area

A

70,5 % Allocation*
46 % Co-financing**

Increase opportunities for a sustainable working life for all

Specific objectives
- Promote lifelong learning and encourage active inclusion

Thematic objective area
- Economic vulnerability
- Re-entry to/establishment on the labour market
- Skills development for individuals with a stable or unstable position on the labour market

Measures for
- The unemployed, including long-term unemployed
- Employees and people in occupations including self-employed
- Organisations
- Authorities
- Companies
- Other employers within the private, public sector and idea-driven sectors

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B

15 % Allocation*
60 % Co-financing**

Increase transitions to employment

Specific objectives
- Improve access to employment for all job-seekers

Thematic objective area
- Re-entry to/establishment on the labour market

Measures for
- The unemployed, including long-term unemployed

C

3 % Allocation*
90 % No requirement for co-financing

Reduce the risk of economic vulnerability

Specific objectives
- Promote social inclusion

Thematic objective area
- Economic vulnerability

Measures for
- Individuals who are, or risk experiencing, poverty or social exclusion

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D

6,5 % Allocation*
55 % Co-financing**

Increase capacity in sparsely populated areas

Specific objectives
- Modernise labour market institutions and services

Thematic objective area
- Re-entry to/establishment on the labour market
- Skills development for individuals with a stable or unstable position on the labour market

Measures for
- Upper and Middle Norrland

E

5 % Allocation*
5 % Co-financing**

Social innovations

Specific objectives
- Encourage active inclusion

Thematic objective area
- Economic vulnerability
- Re-entry to/establishment on the labour market
- Skills development for individuals with a stable or unstable position on the labour market

Measures for
- The unemployed, including long-term unemployed
- Employees and people in occupations including self-employed
- Organisations
- Authorities
- Companies
- Other employers within the private, public sector and idea-driven sectors

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All parts of the programme must be characterised by gender equality, accessibility and non-discrimination.

We also advocate transnationality – in other words, cooperations with other countries, to improve project results and dissemination.

* Allocation refers to how large a proportion of the fund goes to the relevant programme area.
** For North Middle Sweden, the requirement for co-financing is 40%. In that it is a transition region.

National challenges in the labour market

- Shortage of skills and labour

- Migration and establishment patterns

- Sparsely populated and big cities

- Part-time employment

- Dependency burden/dependency ratio

- Women have a higher level of sick leave

- Young people struggle to enter the labour market

- Gender division

- Reduced interest in vocational secondary school training

- Simultaneous unemployment and labour shortage

- Segregation within education, accommodation and labour market
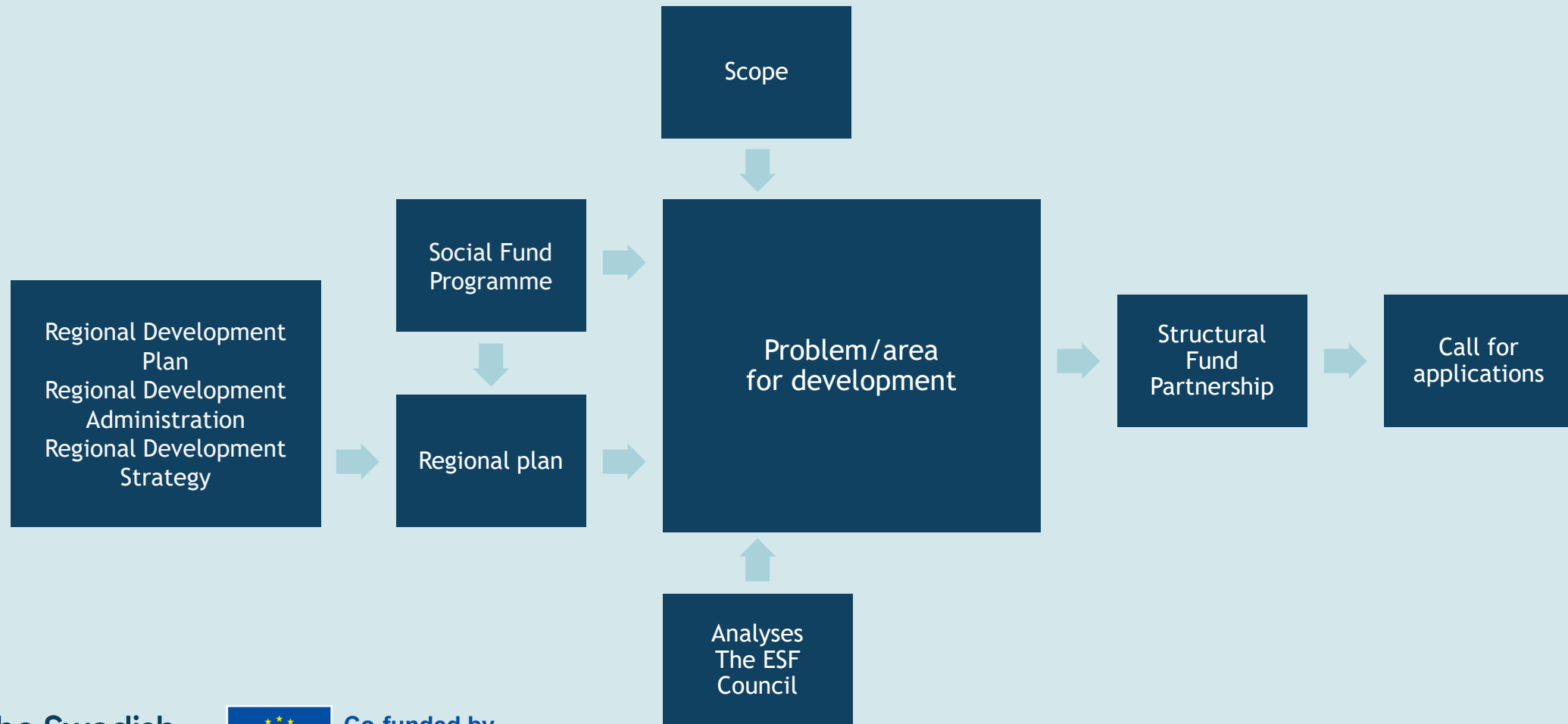
Priorities from the regional plan/programme: Western Sweden

1. Match and develop skills to meet the needs of the labour market

2. Create opportunities for skills adjustment and development in the labour market

3. Promote a sustainable work-life balance

4. Promote a more inclusive labour market and facilitate entry into the labour market
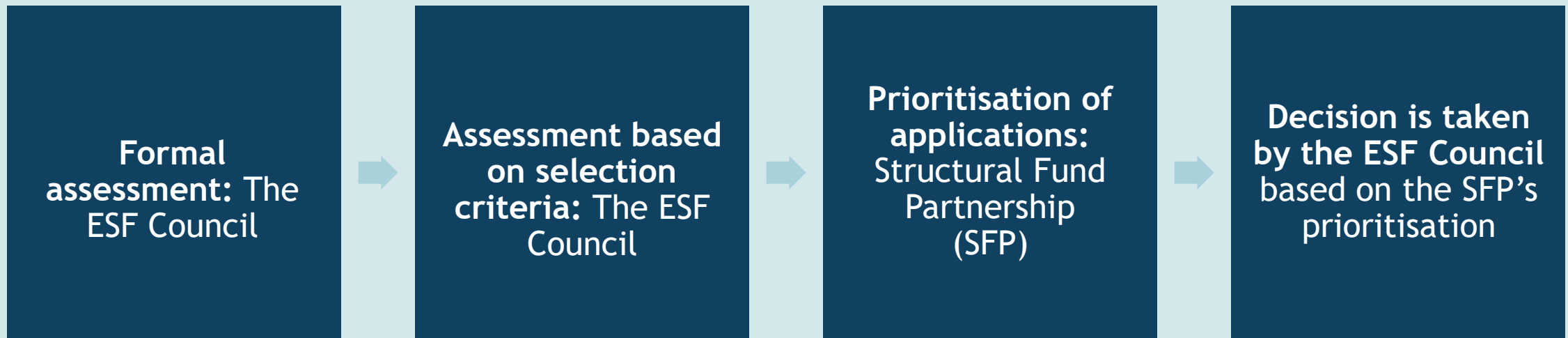
5. Prevent early school leaving

Priorities from the regional plan/programme: Småland and the Islands

1. Fair, equal and inclusive labour market

2. Skills for a changing labour market

3. Increased digital skills and digital inclusion

4. On-going education to meet future labour demand

Regional calls for applications

Scope

Social Fund Programme

Regional Development Plan
Regional Development Administration
Regional Development Strategy

Regional plan

Problem/area for development

Structural Fund Partnership

Call for applications

Analyses The ESF Council

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Selection process

Formal assessment: The ESF Council

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Assessment based on selection criteria: The ESF Council

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Prioritisation of applications: Structural Fund Partnership (SFP)

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Decision is taken by the ESF Council based on the SFP's prioritisation

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Five national selection criteria

1. The project idea is based on a clear and relevant problem analysis which leads to a clearly defined problem.

2. The project objectives should be aligned with the call for applications, respond to the project's defined problem and be possible to follow up/evaluate.

3. The project should apply or develop one or more relevant methods and approaches.

4. The project organisation has the capacity and relevant competence to implement the project. The project should be run cost-effectively.

5. The project should be anchored, have secure ownership and a clear strategy for utilisation of the results.

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Thank you!

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