

## The Swedish structure for the implementation of the EUSBSR

Following the EUSBSR adoption the Swedish Government has assigned 39 government agencies and 21 county administrative boards to contribute to the implementation of the Strategy, Tillväxtverket (the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth) was given the task to establish a network, coordinate and follow up the implementation of the Strategy in Sweden, in consultation with the relevant Ministries and the Prime Minister's Office.

According to the government assignment, each organization shall annually submit a report to their respective line Ministries with a copy to the Tillväxtverket concerning activities during the preceding calendar year. Tillväxtverket then annually drafts a consolidated report with an analysis of the Swedish EUSBSR implementation. To fulfill the coordination assignment Tillväxtverket continuously cooperates with officials in the secretariat of the Prime Minister's Office and the other relevant Ministries.

To create conditions for the important and necessary dialogue between the national and regional/local level, officials from government agencies, regions and county administrative boards have been invited to network meetings 3-4 times yearly since 2010. Between 70 and 90 participants attend each time. These meetings play an important role in exchanging information and experiences both between the authorities themselves and between the authorities, regions and county administrative boards.

The meetings are attended by the Swedish National Contact Point and officials from relevant Ministries. They provide information from the High Level Group, NCP meetings as well as from internal work at the Ministries related to the Strategy.

In order to get a connection to the municipal level, officials from the Swedish Association for Local Authorities and Regions participate in the above mentioned meetings. At the meetings the participants inform each other about the ongoing work within their respective organizations. They also present specific projects. In addition to the mutual exchange, there are discussions about; funding sources, communication issues, roles and responsibilities etc. Each meeting also has an external lecturer on a topic relevant to the Strategy, for instance an Ambassador from one of the member states in the region or a professor on environment or economics.

Following requests from the Network participants, a number of sub-working groups are being established. So far, there are groups dealing with the social dimension, education and the Digital Agenda.

The Managing Authority for the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) in Sweden has participated in a concrete way in the dissemination of the strategy to the local level. This has been done by informing about the strategy and its possibilities. A selection criterion was added to the eight ERDF programmes where applicants must state how the project contributes to implementation of the EUSBSR.

Tillväxtverket also have frequent meetings with national and regional stakeholders in regard to implementation and funding issues.