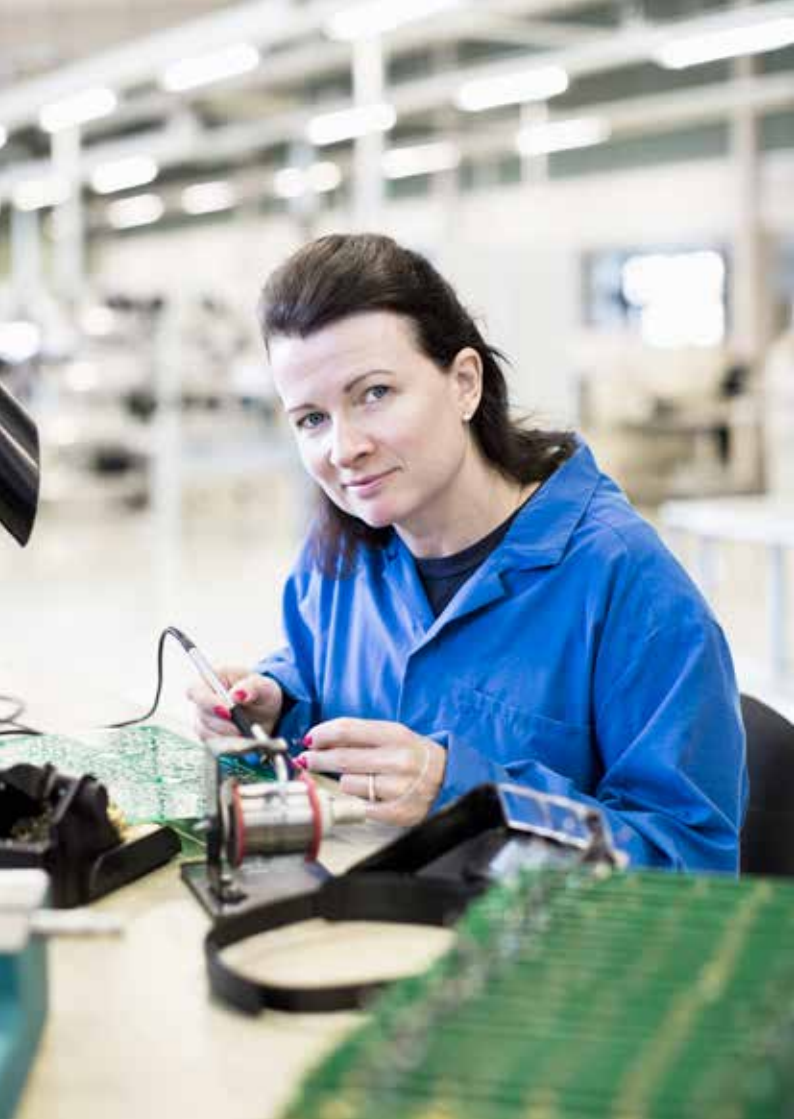




EUROPEAN UNION  
European Social Fund

# European Social Fund

*We change the labour market*



# The Social Fund strengthens the link between education, training and the labour market

The European Social Fund is the EU's most important tool for creating more and better jobs in Europe. The Fund has existed since 1957. Every year the Social Fund provides support, education and training to approximately 10 million EU citizens – from Tallinn to Trollhättan, from Barcelona to Boden.

The new Social Fund Programme for the period 2014–2020 is an instrument for strengthening and developing the national labour market policy and will contribute to attaining Europe 2020 strategy's objectives of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. More women and men should have employment and fewer should be outside the labour market. A well-functioning labour market will be created and a higher employment rate achieved in the long run.

There are some new features in the Programme, including possibilities for private co-financing as well as support for employers who plan to hire trainees. The Social Fund will also strengthen the link between education, training and the labour market.

The Social Fund Programme is now being drafted by the EU Commission and is expected to start in the late autumn of 2014.



# From skills development to employment for youth

The Programme focuses on three areas: skills development, transition to work and an employment initiative for youth.

1. Skills development should contribute to employment, growth and a sustainable working life. The initiative covers competence development to satisfy the needs of the labour market for a better skilled labour force and measures to strengthen the link between education, training and the working life.
2. Improved transition to work will make it easier for youth, long-term unemployed, people with functional impairments, newly arrived migrants and long-term sick leavers, to obtain employment or improve their chances of getting a job. Examples of initiatives include education and training, work placement and job matching, vocational rehabilitation and preparatory initiatives, for example validation of skills.
3. The Youth Employment Initiative is dedicated to regions within the EU which in 2012 had a youth unemployment rate (15–24 years) higher than 25 per cent. South Sweden, Northern Central Sweden and Central Norrland are covered by the initiative in Sweden.



## Guiding principles

The projects should be guided by principles of sustainable development, non-discrimination and accessibility as well as gender equality. These horizontal principles are tools for the project's focus on important aspects for a sustainable and inclusive working life. Transnational cooperation with other Member States will give the projects an added value.

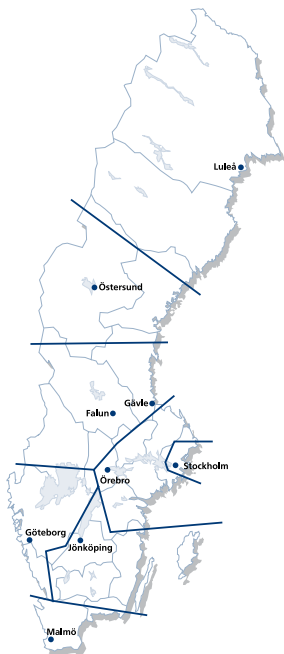
## Collaboration

All over the country companies, municipalities, agencies and organisations can manage projects for the development of the Swedish working life. The projects which are managed locally, regionally or nationally are often characterised by innovative methods, new approaches, learning through ongoing evaluation and strengthened collaboration between different agencies and operations.

## The Swedish ESF Council's role

The Swedish ESF Council manages the European Social Fund in Sweden, which entails that we launch calls for proposals and follow up and evaluate the results and effects of the various projects. Intensive preparatory work is currently under way prior to the launch of the Programme where we cooperate with the other European Structural and Investment Funds and where we participate in the preparation of national and regional action plans.

The Swedish ESF Council is divided into eight regions.



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