



EUROPEAN UNION
European Social Fund

The Social Fund in Figures 2014

– project participants and benefits



The Swedish
ESF Council

THE SOCIAL FUND IN FIGURES 2014

This report is produced by the Swedish ESF Council with the help of Statistics Sweden (SCB) and Apel. Chapter 1 was written by Lennart Thörn from the Swedish ESF Council. Chapters 2 and 3 are based on statistics from SCB, which Maria Håkansson, Karolina Andersson and Therese Hedlund have compiled and analysed. Chapter 4 was written by Andreas Sävenstrand from Apel, while Chapter 5 was produced by Lennart Thörn (Swedish ESF Council). Andreas Sävenstrand, Apel, is the editor of this report.



The Swedish
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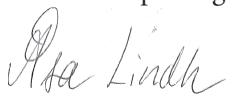
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PREFACE

It is now 2014 and a new programme period for the European Social Fund has begun. Projects in the 2007–2013 programme period will last until mid-2015. This fifth edition of the Social Fund in figures, which the Swedish ESF Council has produced in cooperation with Statistics Sweden (SCB) and Apel R&D, presents for this programme period, in-depth information of the projects and its participants.

The programme evaluation has demonstrated that the results at an individual level are good and that the impact is moderate at an organisational and structural level. In this year's report, we go into more detail about the participants' links to the labour market which was initiated last year; there is also a summary of and reflections on the study of the changes that take place at an organisational and structural level which Spel (Support for Strategic Impact and Learning in the Social Fund) presented in the spring of 2014.

We are also looking ahead to provide some thoughts as to how we intend to follow up and evaluate the Social Fund for the programme period 2014–2020. We can state that we have an evaluation and follow-up system that works well in some parts but it can be developed, especially when it comes to capturing the effects of the investments.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Åsa Lindh'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Åsa' and the last name 'Lindh' clearly distinguishable.

*Åsa Lindh,
Director-General*

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CHAPTER 1.

MORE AND BETTER JOBS IN EUROPE

The European Social Fund is the European Union's (EU's) most important tool for creating more and better jobs in Europe. The Fund is as old as the European cooperation that led to the EU and was instituted in 1957. Then, as now, the objective is to reduce differences in prosperity and living standards across EU Member States.

During the period from 2007 to 2013, the Social Fund's budget amounts to approximately SEK 690 billion for Europe as a whole. Sweden has been allocated SEK 6.2 billion and will contribute at least the same amount in Swedish public co-financing.

The work is divided into two different Programme Priorities. In Programme Priority 1 (Priority 1), applications for funding may be submitted for projects that help female and male employees (the self-employed, employees or managers) to adapt to future working conditions. In Programme Priority 2 (Priority 2), funding is available for projects intended for people who are far from the labour market. By taking part in one of the projects, participants will increase their chances of entering and remaining in the employment market.

More than 2,300 projects have been granted funding

In the year 2008, funding was granted for the initial projects and in March 2014 the final project of this programming period received its decision of approval. That projects may be given approval after the end of the programme period is due to the fact that costs up to two years after 2013 will be compensated by the Commission.

The final call for programme funds was made for Priority 2 in 2013. There was then the possibility of applying for funds for two types of projects; feasibility studies that aim to create well-prepared project applications for the upcoming Social Fund Programme 2014–2020, and projects which completely or in parts aim to implement the results into the day-to-day activities.

For the first time in these calls a simplified results based cost accounting was used, known as the "lump sum model". The model is applied for

certain feasibility studies and means that a predetermined flat-rate amount should cover the project's costs. If the feasibility study's objectives are reached, the entire lump sum is payable without any further examination. If the feasibility study's objectives are not reached, nothing will be paid.

A total of 611 applications were received, of which 219 were granted (Table 1).

Table 1. Number of received and approved applications from the 2013 annual calls for proposals

	Feasibility studies	Of which, lump sums	Implementation projects	Total
Applications received	558	373	53	611
Of which, granted	198	130	21	219

A total of 2,335 projects have been granted funding during the programme period. When an application is received, the Swedish ESF Council examines whether the application meets the formal requirements that apply for projects and the specific requirements that relate to the call for applications in question. The projects that are approved are then presented to the Structural Fund Partnership in each of the regions concerned for final prioritisation regarding which projects are to be granted funding. A total of 6,855 applications have been received. Of these, 2,961 were applications for preliminary projects and 3,894 were applications for implementation projects. The aim of the preliminary projects is to prepare people for the implementation projects. Since 2010, all regions, except for Upper and Central Norrland, introduced a new project model: implementation project with mobilisation phase, which has meant that, since that date, there have not been many preliminary projects. The results presented in this report are based exclusively on implementation projects. Figure 1 shows what has happened to the applications received for implementation projects.

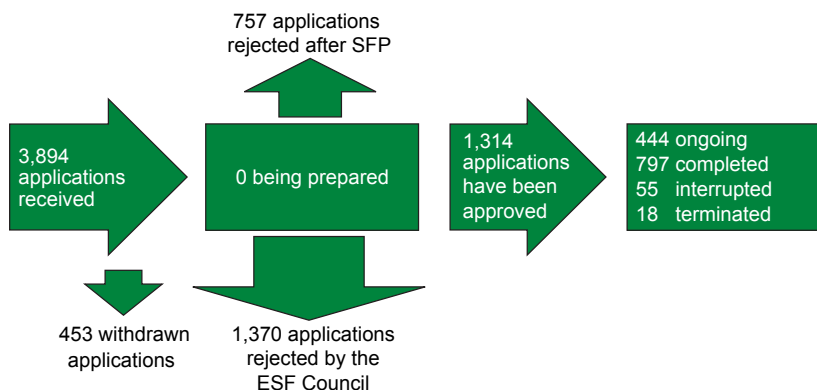


Figure 1. Number of applications received for implementation projects and what has happened to them. SFP = the Structural Fund Partnership¹.

More than 700 projects have been rejected based on the Structural Fund Partnership's priorities. Most were rejected because the total amount that had been budgeted for the call for proposals had been used up². Each region has a Structural Fund Partnership³ whose members are appointed by the government. Among those applications approved by the managing authority, the Structural Fund Partnerships express their views on which applications will be given priority. The Structural Fund Partnership's views are binding and are reflected in the managing authority's subsequent decisions. Of the 1,314 applications for implementation projects that were approved, 649 were for Priority 1 and 665 were for Priority 2 projects. A total of 797 implementation projects have been completed, of which 522 were Priority 1 projects and 275 were Priority 2 projects.

In Priority 1, support from the ESF Council was granted amounting to SEK 3,470 million for 631 ongoing or completed implementation projects. The corresponding figures for Priority 2 are SEK 3,915 million for 610 implementation projects. A total of 155 of the country's 290 municipalities have been owners of projects that have ended or are owners of ongoing implementation projects. The organisations that have the highest number of approved projects include Gothenburg municipality with 37,

¹ An interrupted project means a project that has not been completed and where the initiative to discontinue the project came from the project owner. If support for the project has been taken on improper grounds or if the project owner does not comply with the terms of the decision, the Swedish ESF Council may decide to terminate the project.

² In every round of applications, the Swedish ESF Council indicates a particular sum that cannot be exceeded.

³ See SFS 2007:459 The Structural Fund Partnership Act.

followed by the Arbetsförmedlingen (the Swedish Public Employment Service) with 29, and Örebro municipality with 15 projects. However, in terms of the number of Priority 1 projects, the private sector dominates with 32 per cent of the projects having been approved, while the primary municipal sector's share is 29 per cent (Table 2). Priority 2 projects are dominated by the primary municipal sector, with 44 percent of the implementation projects.

Table 2. The number of ongoing and completed implementation projects and approved support to these by sector expressed as a percentage^{4, 5}

Sector	Priority 1		Priority 2	
	Number of projects	Funding granted	Number of projects	Funding granted
Private	31.9%	26.4%	8.2%	6.9%
Municipality	29.5%	28.9%	44.3%	39.2%
Non-profit organisations	15.2%	13.9%	22.8%	21.9%
County council	12.7%	17.4%	10.5%	12.0%
Economic association	5.9%	4.2%	5.4%	5.0%
State	3.8%	7.9%	7.7%	14.6%
Parish	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	0.5%
Other public	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

If we look instead at how funds have been distributed, the picture looks slightly different. Arbetsförmedlingen is the organisation that has received the largest amount of funding (SEK 338 million), followed by Stockholm municipality (SEK 206 million), Gothenburg municipality (SEK 182 million), Örebro municipality (SEK 167 million) and Försäkringskassan (the Swedish Social Insurance Agency – SEK 157 million). If we take into account the size of the municipalities and look at the amount of funding per inhabitant/municipality, Bräcke municipality is the largest beneficiary, with SEK 3,650 per inhabitant, followed by Lycksele, with SEK 2,650 per inhabitant and Vårgårda, with SEK 2,300 per inhabitant.

In Priority 1, the primary municipal sector was granted the largest amount

⁴ The report for the county councils also includes regional, municipal and coordinating associations.

⁵ The item, Other public records, includes the Swedish State Inheritance Fund, foundations and some folk high schools etc.

of funding, 29 per cent, followed by the private sector, with 26 per cent (Table 2). In Priority 2, 39 per cent of the authorised funding went to the municipal sector, 22 per cent to non-profit organisations and 15 per cent to the state sector.

More than SEK 12 billion over seven years

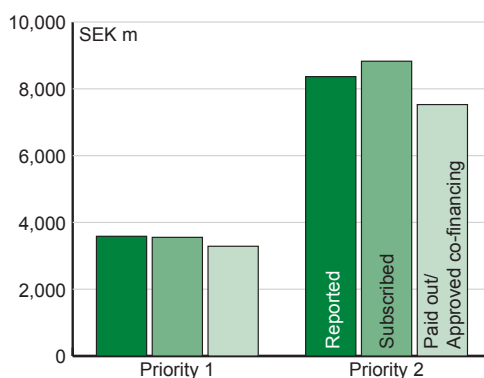
As indicated above, the overall framework for the Social Fund is SEK 12.4 billion during the 2007–2013 period, with SEK 0.5 billion earmarked for administration and the remainder for project activities, of which SEK 3.6 billion is to be used for Priority 1 and SEK 8.4 billion for Priority 2.

In Priority 1, the Swedish ESF Council disburses the funds from both the EU and Swedish co-financing. In Priority 2, the Swedish ESF Council disburses the EU funds, while co-financing comes from other public financiers for the individual projects.

Only in exceptional cases do the projects make full use of the entire amount of the support provided, so the Swedish ESF Council must grant more funds compared with the amount provided by the programme's overall framework. The size of this oversubscription⁶ must be continuously followed up because it is a very important component with regard to the implementation of the programme. Up until March 2014, the reflux of funds has been 17 per cent in Priority 1 and 30 per cent in Priority 2.

Figure 2 shows the situation with programme implementation through to April 2014. The figure shows that the degree subscribed for Priority 1 is 99 per cent while that of Priority 2 amounts to 106 per cent. For Priority 1 the assessment is that the final subscription will end up at just under 99 per cent whereas Priority 2 is expected to be close to 100 per cent.

Figure 2. The amount of funds in the two programme priorities' financial framework, how much has been subscribed and how much of the co-financing was paid out and approved (in SEK millions).



⁶ 'Subscription' refers to all paid support and the approved co-financing of projects that have been completed, cancelled and discontinued as well as approved ESF support and planned co-financing for ongoing projects.

The Social Fund's eight regions in Sweden

Programme funds are distributed to the eight regions responsible for implementation, according to an allocation model. A total of SEK 777 million (10 per cent) of programme funds are reserved for national projects. Figure 3 indicates the allocation per region.



Figure 3. Regional distribution of programme funds, SEK millions

The Social Fund's target groups in Sweden

The Swedish Social Fund Programme includes targets relating to the total number of participants in each Programme Priority and for each subcategory. In Priority 1, the objective is to have a total of 240,000 participants, with 205,000 participants involved in projects focused on skills development, which will help people to meet new requirements in working life; 20,000 in projects designed to combat discrimination and promote equal treatment; and 15,000 in projects that help to increase knowledge of how long-term sickness absenteeism can be avoided (Figure 4).

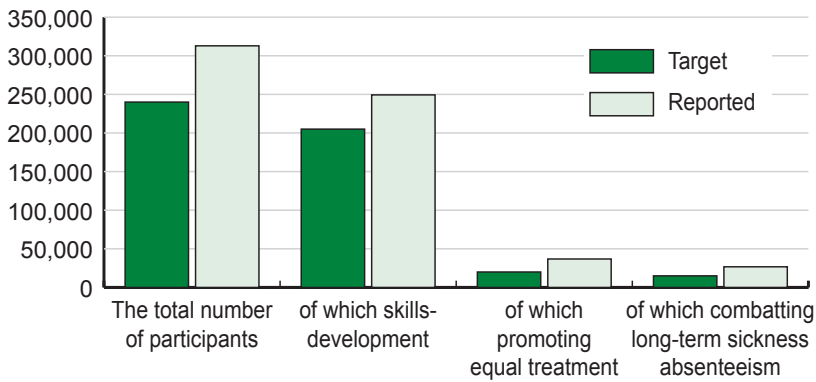


Figure 4. Participant targets and reported participants in Priority 1

Figure 4 also shows that all participant targets in Priority 1 have been achieved. A total of 313,000 people have participated in skills development projects.

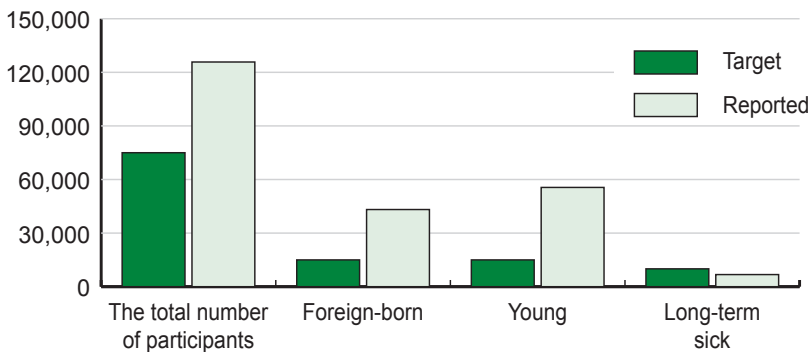


Figure 5. Participant targets and reported participants in Priority 2

In Priority 2, the total participant target is 75,000, with at least 15,000 foreign-born participants; 15,000 young people and 10,000 who are classified as the long-term sick (Figure 5). Unlike Priority 1, the total amount is not the sum of the intermediate targets, because the same participant may be included in all categories.

For Priority 2, all participant targets have been achieved except for the target regarding participants who are long-term sick. The number of reported long-term sick participants is currently low in relation to the target, and it is unlikely that the target will be reached.

CHAPTER 2.

FACTS ABOUT THE PROJECTS AND THEIR PARTICIPANTS

This chapter reports on SCB's overall figures regarding the participants in the Social Fund's various projects throughout the 2007–2013 programme period. The data is based on the people who have been reported as participants in one or more of the various implementation projects up until March 2014. More facts about the statistics are provided in Appendix 1. Appendix 2 includes details of all the quantified goals and indicators in the Social Fund's programme (2007–2013) together with references for further reading.

439,000 participants in ESF projects

A little more than 439,000 people have participated or are participating in many of the various implementation projects within the framework of the Social Fund (Table 3). Overall, there are slightly more women participating than men: 55 per cent women and 45 per cent men. In Priority 1 there is a preponderance of women while the gender distribution is more even in Priority 2, with however, a slight predominance of men.

The typical female participant in Priority 1 is 44 years old, born in Sweden with Swedish parents and living in Western Sweden. She has a university education and works in Human health. Her annual income is between SEK 200,000 and 299,999. The typical male participant in Priority 1 is 43 years old, born in Sweden with Swedish parents and living in Western Sweden. He has an upper secondary education and works in Manufacturing and mining. His annual income is between SEK 350,000 and 499,999.

The typical female participant in Priority 2 was, as in Priority 1, born in Sweden with Swedish parents and living in Western Sweden. She is somewhat younger, 32 years old, and has an upper secondary school education as the highest level of education. The typical male participant in Priority 2 is 30 years of age. As does the typical female participant in Priority 2, he has an upper secondary school education as the highest level of education and was born in Sweden with Swedish parents and living in Western Sweden.

Table 3. Number and percentage of people who have participated in a Social Fund project up to and including 31 March 2014

	Programme Priority 1		Programme Priority 2	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Women	177,631	56.8	58,796	46.6
Men	134,256	42.9	61,683	48.8
No data available	853	0.3	5,799	4.6
Total	312,740	100	126,278	100

Table 4 shows the number of people from 2008 that has participated in the Social Fund's projects. Each person is assigned to the year they start their participation in a project. The proportion of men and women in the various projects has changed over the years. Over the past three years, there have been more women than men among the participants in Priority 1 and last year 64 per cent of the participants were women. The trend seems similar for 2014. In Priority 2 the gender balance is even. Some years, the number of women was higher and in other years, men predominated.

Table 4. Number of participants who started a Social Fund project according to start year and gender, Priority 1 and Priority 2⁷

Priority 1							
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Women	4,178	19,553	29,180	43,687	48,764	30,240	2,029
Men	1,929	21,410	31,800	31,336	29,369	16,808	1,604
No data available	52	107	153	139	247	132	23
Total	6,159	41,070	61,133	75,162	78,380	47,180	3,656

Priority 2							
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Women	2,877	7,729	10,051	10,595	14,815	11,804	925
Men	3,017	8,675	11,154	10,885	14,627	12,366	959
No data available	18	35	43	1,598	2,489	1,593	23
Total	5,912	16,439	21,248	23,078	31,931	25,763	1,907

⁷ The figures for the year 2014 reflect the number of participants who have been reported to SCB up to and including 31 March 2014.

The tables and figures that report figures relating to Priority 1 and 2 do not include those people for whom SCB lacks information. For Priority 1 this includes approximately 853 people while in Priority 2 there are 5,799 people (see Appendix 1).

Priority 1 – Skills development

In Priority 1 there are projects that aim to provide better conditions for employees to offer them improved qualifications to meet the working conditions of the future. These projects are divided into three different focus areas. Skills development in order to develop in line with the demands of working life are the clearly dominant focus area (see Table 5). In this focus area, 76 per cent of the women are found, which is an increase of two percentage points compared to the previous year. In this focus area, 84 per cent of the men are found, which is an increase of one percentage point compared to the previous year.

Table 5. Amount and percentage of participants 2008–2014 in Priority 1’s focus areas, according to gender

	Women		Men	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Skills development – to develop in line with working life demands	135,198	76	113,393	84
Counteract discrimination and promote equal treatment	24,220	14	12,476	9
Prevention of long-term sickness absenteeism	18,213	10	8,387	6
Total	177,631	100	134, 256	100

Figure 6 shows the participants’ level of education in the three project focus areas. In the Skills development focus area, most participants (45 per cent) have an upper secondary education as their highest level of education. In the focus areas Counteract discrimination and promote equal treatment and the Prevention of long-term sickness absenteeism, most of the participants have a university education (60 and 48 per cent respectively).

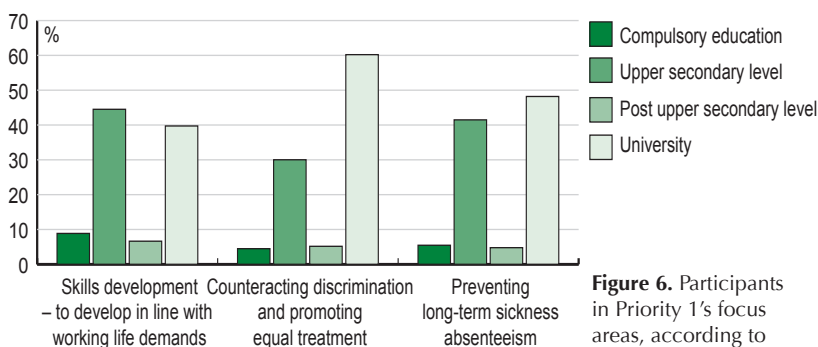


Figure 6. Participants in Priority 1's focus areas, according to level of education

The distribution of participants in the various project focus areas differs slightly depending on which industry the participants work in. Figure 7 shows that irrespective of industry, most participants can be found in the focus area Skills training. Agricultural industries is the industry with the highest proportion of participants in Skills training (96 per cent) while the lowest proportion of participants in this focus area can be found in Public administration (58 per cent). In Public administration however, the distribution of the participants from the various project focus areas is most even. Compared with last year, the distribution is relatively unchanged within the industries.

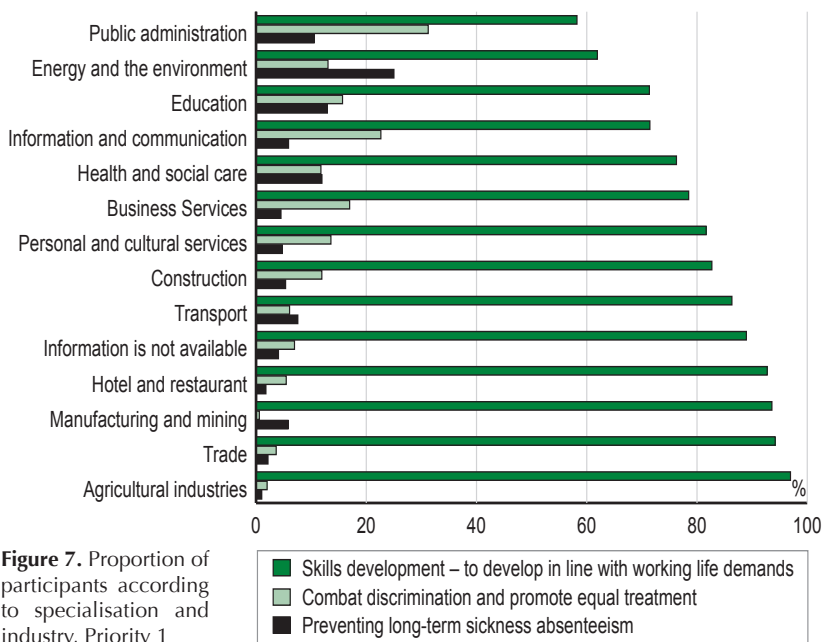


Figure 7. Proportion of participants according to specialisation and industry, Priority 1

Balanced gender distribution in half of all projects

Table 6 demonstrates that the gender distribution is even in half of all projects (Other). In 2014, 28 per cent of the projects were dominated by females, which is an increase by one percentage point compared to the previous year. The proportion of projects dominated by males has also increased by one percentage point from the previous year amounting today to 22 per cent.

Table 6. Number and percentage of ongoing and completed projects that are dominated by females/males , Priority 1⁸

	2011		2012		2013		2014	
	No. of projects	Per-centage	No. of projects	Per-centage	No. of projects	Per-centage	No. of projects	Per-centage
Female dominance	78	20	129	25	171	27	180	28
Male dominance	111	29	123	23	134	21	138	22
Other	198	51	276	52	322	52	314	50
Total	387	100	528	100	627	100	632	100

All project focus areas are dominated by projects with an even gender balance (Other), as shown in Figure 8. The projects that are primarily female-dominated are found in the focus area Preventing long-term sickness absenteeism. In this focus area, there are no male-dominated projects. In Skills development there is an equal proportion of female-dominated and male-dominated projects.

If you look at the breakdown between young and old in Priority 1 projects, you will find only one project where young people in the 15–24-year-old age group make up at least 75 per cent of the participants.

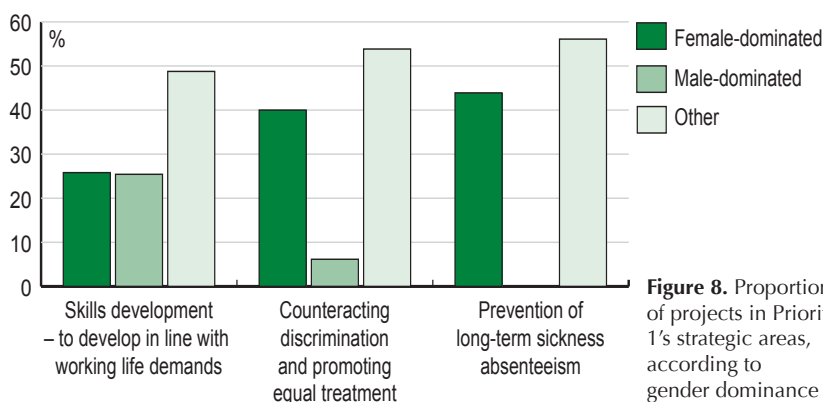


Figure 8. Proportion of projects in Priority 1's strategic areas, according to gender dominance

⁸ Predominance means that a minimum of 75 per cent of the participants are of the same gender.

Most participants in the 45–54-year-old age group

The average age among the working population in the country (16–64 years) was 41 years in 2012. For participants in Priority 1, the average age at the start of the project was 44 years old. Figure 9 shows that in all age groups, there are more female participants than male. In percentage terms the largest gender differences are found in the 55–64-year-old age group, where women make up 60 per cent, followed closely by the 45–54-year-old age group (59 per cent female). The greatest number of participants in total can be found in the 45–54-year-old age group.

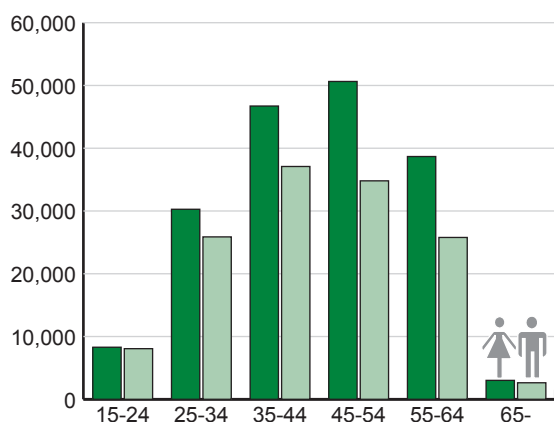


Figure 9. Number of participants according to age and gender, Priority 1

Participants increasingly well-educated

Figure 10 shows that 43 per cent of the participants in Priority 1 are university graduates, an increase of one percentage point from the previous year. The proportion of participants who have an upper secondary education as the highest level of education remains unchanged compared to last year. This shows that the people who participate in the projects are increasingly well-educated. Participants in Priority 1 are generally better educated than the population as a whole (see Figure 11). Among the working population aged 25 to 64 years, the percentage of individuals with a university education as the highest level of education was 36 per cent in 2012, which is 7 percentage points lower than among the participants in Priority 1. Among the population in the country there has been an increase of one percentage point of individuals with a university education compared with last year. At the same time, the proportion of individuals who have an upper secondary education as the highest level of education decreased by one percentage point in this group to 46 per cent.

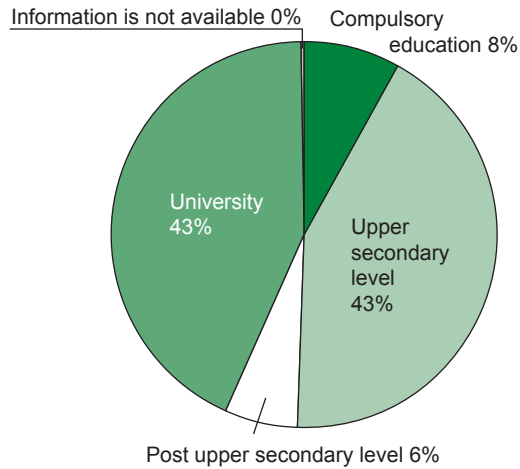


Figure 10. Proportion of participants according to level of education, Priority 1

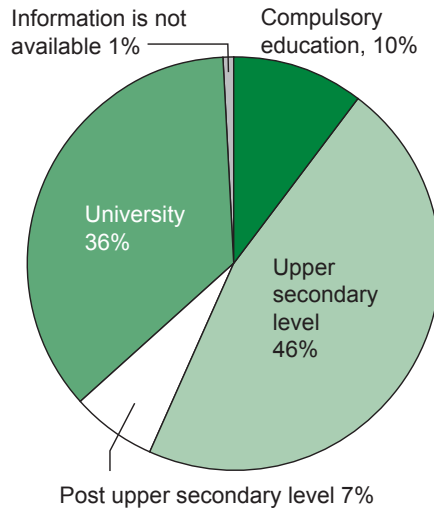


Figure 11. The proportion of people gainfully employed nationally, according to level of education, 25–64-year-old age group⁹

Women better educated than men

Female participants in Priority 1 generally have a higher level of education than male participants. Figure 12 shows that in all age groups, except the youngest (15–24 years), most women have a university education. Among the men, upper secondary education is the most common level of education in all age groups except for people aged over 65, where the proportion of university graduates is predominant.

⁹ The data is taken from the Register-based labour market statistics, RAMS, for 2012.

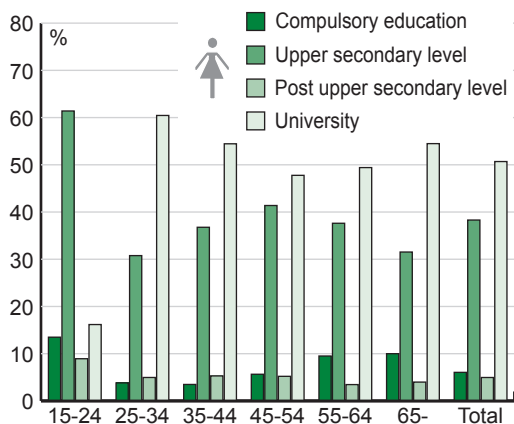


Figure 12. Proportion of women according to level of education and age, Priority 1

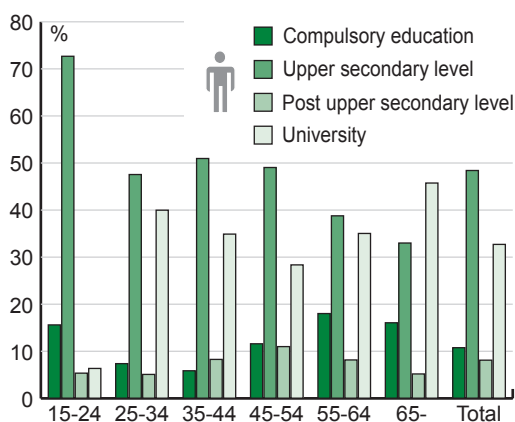


Figure 13. Proportion of men according to level of education and age, Priority 1

Women in Priority 1 generally have a higher level of education than women gainfully employed nationwide (see Figure 12 and 14). In Priority 1, 51 per cent of the women have at least a university education while the corresponding figure among all women gainfully employed nationwide is 40 per cent. Even among men, participants in Priority 1 have a higher level of education than all men who are gainfully employed nationwide (see Figure 13 and 15). Thirty three per cent of the men in Priority 1 have at least a university education while the corresponding figure among all men gainfully employed nationwide is 27 per cent.

Figure 14. Proportion of women according to level of education and age, gainfully employed nationwide¹⁰

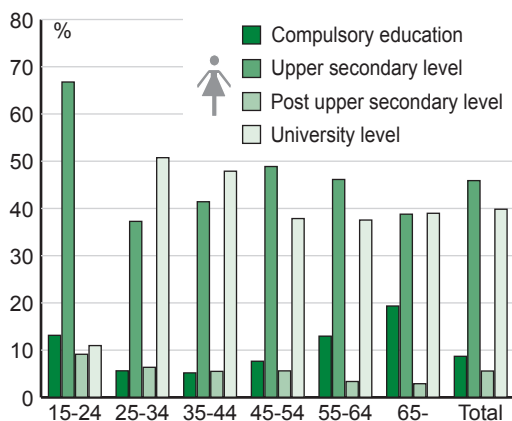
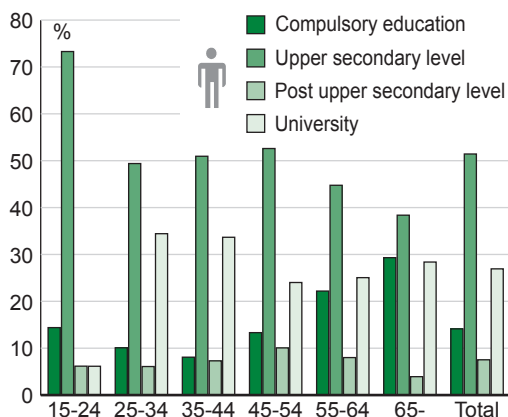


Figure 15. Proportion of men according to level of education and age, gainfully employed nationwide¹¹



Western Sweden has the most participants

Most of the participants (25 per cent) can be found in Western Sweden, followed by Stockholm and Southern Sweden (19 per cent and 18 per cent respectively). The lowest proportion of participants live in Central Norrland (3 per cent). Figure 16 shows the number of participants in relation to the population of each region. This provides a fairer picture of how participants are spread throughout the country, because the population size varies considerably between the various regions. The region with the largest number of participants in relation to the population is Western Sweden, with 414 participants per 10,000 inhabitants. The lowest figure

¹⁰ The data is taken from the Register-based labour market statistics, RAMS, for 2012.

¹¹ The data is taken from the Register-based labour market statistics, RAMS, for 2012.

can be found in Eastern Central Sweden, with 261 participants per 10,000 inhabitants. Western Sweden had the most participants in relation to the population last year as well. Stockholm then had the least amount of participants in relation to the region's population.

Many nationalities represented

Among all participants in Priority 1, just under 16 per cent had a foreign background, which means that they were either born abroad or they were

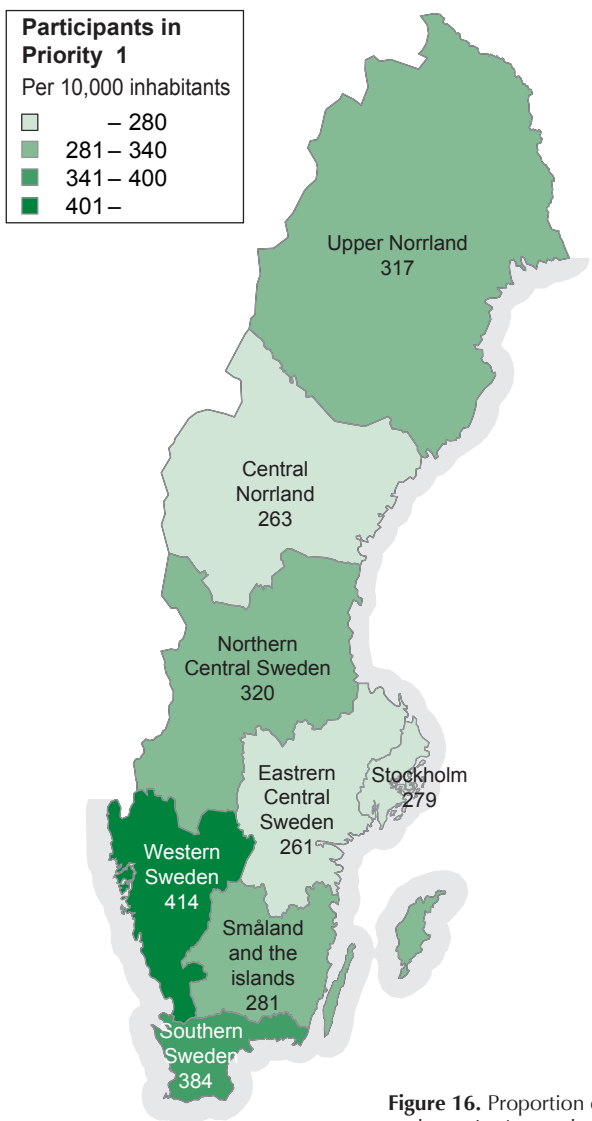


Figure 16. Proportion of participants in relation to the region's population, Priority 1

born in Sweden but had parents who were born abroad. The majority of participants with a foreign background in Priority 1 were, however, born abroad. In the country as a whole, just over 17 per cent of the gainfully employed have a foreign background, and even in this group, those born abroad predominate (see Table 7).

Table 7. Number and proportion of participants in Priority 1 and gainfully employed nationwide, according to background and gender

	Number of		Percentage		Percentage nationally	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
PEOPLE WITH A FOREIGN BACKGROUND						
Foreign born	22,325	17,128	7.2	5.5	6.8	7.4
People born in Sweden with two parents born abroad	5,101	4,449	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.6
PEOPLE WITH A SWEDISH BACKGROUND						
People born in Sweden with one parent born abroad and one born in Sweden	12,808	9,568	4.1	3.1	3.5	3.7
People born in Sweden with two parents born in Sweden	137,397	103,111	44.1	33.1	36.1	39.5

The foreign-born participants in Priority 1 represent 177 countries and the five most common countries of birth are:

- Finland – 16 per cent of the foreign-born participants
- Bosnia and Herzegovina – 7 per cent of the foreign-born participants
- Yugoslavia¹² – 7 per cent of the foreign-born participants
- Iran – 6 per cent of the foreign-born participants
- Poland – 5 per cent of the foreign-born participants

¹² Refers to the country that existed when the person was born.

Among the gainfully employed nationwide as a whole, 204 countries are represented. The greatest proportion of these individuals were born in Finland (11 per cent), followed by Iraq (7 per cent), Poland (6 per cent), Yugoslavia¹³ (6 per cent) and Iran (5 per cent).

Of the foreign-born participants in Priority 1, 60 per cent were born in Europe (see Figure 17), followed by Asia (23 per cent). Similar figures can be found for foreign-born workers nationwide as a whole (see Figure 18), where 55 per cent were born in Europe and 29 per cent in Asia. Overall, it appears that a majority of the participants in Priority 1 have a Swedish background and of the 13 per cent who are foreign born, the majority are from Europe.

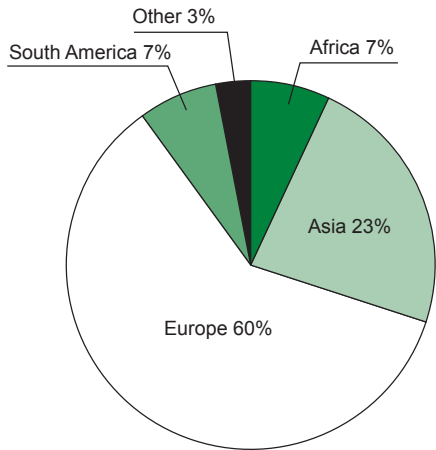


Figure 17. Proportion of foreign-born participants according to continent, Priority 1¹⁴

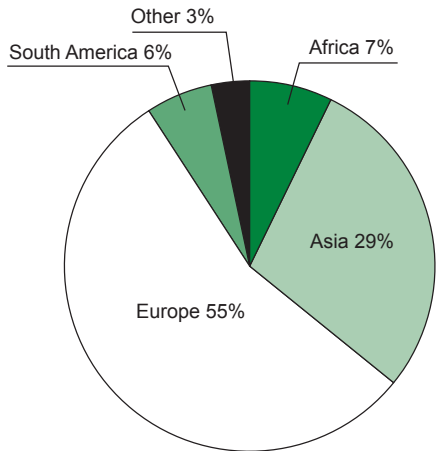


Figure 18. Proportion of foreign-born participants gainfully employed according to continent^{15, 16}

¹³ Refers to the country that existed when the person was born.
¹⁴ Other includes people born in North America, Oceania, the Soviet Union and those for whom SCB lacks information regarding country of birth.
¹⁵ The data is taken from the Register-based labour market statistics, RAMS, for 2012.
¹⁶ Other includes people born in North America, Oceania, the Soviet Union and those for whom SCB lacks information regarding country of birth.

Manufacturing and mining, the industry with most skills development

Participants in Priority 1 are represented in all sectors (see Figure 19). The sector that has the most number of participants is Manufacturing and mining (23 per cent), followed by Human health (22 per cent) and Education (19 per cent). Manufacturing and mining and Education are the industries demonstrating the greatest differences nationwide as a whole, with an over-representation of participants in Priority 1 in these sectors. At the national level, Human health has the highest proportion of gainfully employed (16%), followed by Business services (15 per cent).

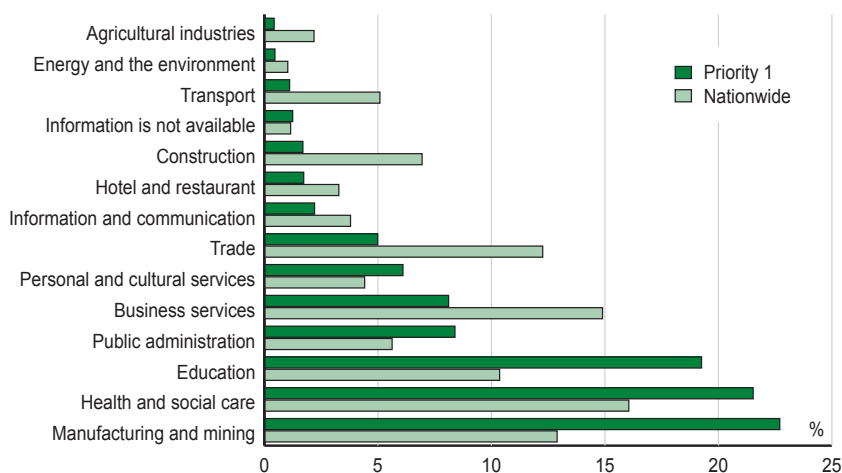


Figure 19. Proportion of participants in Priority 1 and gainfully employed nationwide, according to industrial classification^{17, 18}

Manufacturing and mining is the sector where most Priority 1 participants work. This industry has the highest proportion of men, employing close to half of all male participants. Female participants in Priority 1 work mainly in Human health and Education. It is in these two industries, that more than half of all female participants are found (see Table 8).

¹⁷ The data regarding the gainfully employed is taken from the Register-based labour market statistics, RAMS, for 2012.

¹⁸ In this report, the following industries: Business service industries, Real estate activities and Credit institutions and insurance companies have been merged into the industry classification Business services.

Table 8. Proportion of participants according to industry and gender

	Women	Men	Total
Manufacturing and mining	5.0	17.7	22.7
Health and social care	18.0	3.5	21.5
Education	14.6	4.7	19.3
Public administration	5.3	3.1	8.4
Business services	4.2	3.9	8.1
Personal and cultural services	3.9	2.2	6.1
Trade	2.5	2.5	5.0
Information and communication	0.9	1.3	2.2
Hotels and restaurants	1.1	0.6	1.7
Construction industry	0.2	1.5	1.7
Transport	0.3	0.8	1.1
Energy and environment	0.1	0.3	0.5
Agricultural industries	0.1	0.3	0.4
No data available	0.7	0.6	1.2
Total	57.0	43.0	100

Most participants in Priority 1 (2014) are found in the public sector (49 per cent). In previous years' reports, the proportion of participants has been greatest in the private sector. In 2011, 60 per cent of the participants were in the private sector. That figure has since declined over time and today only 46 per cent of the participants are found in this sector. Because the report in Table 9 refers to cumulative figures, it means that most of the new participants are employed in the public sector. Throughout the country as a whole, a majority of those gainfully employed work in the private sector (68%). The distribution of the gainfully employed between the private and the public sector remains unchanged compared to last year, but the trend in previous years has seen an increase in disparities and that the proportion of workers in the private sector is becoming higher.

Table 9. The proportion of participants in Priority 1 and gainfully employed nationwide, according to industry

	2011		2012		2013		2014	
	Priority 1 Nationally	Priority 1 Nationally	Priority 1 Nationally	Priority 1 Nationally	Priority 1 Nationally	Priority 1 Nationally	Priority 1 Nationally	Priority 1 Nationally
Private sector	60	66	53	67	48	68	46	68
Public sector	35	30	42	30	46	29	49	29
Non-profit sector	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2
Economic association	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
No data available	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Highly educated participants with specialist skills predominate

Table 10 shows that female participants in Priority 1 work mainly in the professions Service, care and sales work, followed by Work that requires theoretical specialist skills (with 27 per cent each). One-fifth of the women work in Work requiring some higher education. A comparison with the country as a whole shows similar results, where 31 per cent of gainfully employed women are in Service, care and sales work. Slightly more gainfully employed women are found in Work requiring some higher education (21 per cent) than Work requiring theoretical specialist skills (20 per cent). As with last year, participants in Priority 1 are over-represented in Management work and under-represented in Office and customer services work compared with gainfully employed women in the country as a whole.

Male participants in Priority 1 work in other professions when compared to their female equivalents. The highest proportion of male participants is found in Process workers and machine operators or transport work (21 per cent), followed by Work requiring theoretical specialist skills (20 per cent) and Work requiring some higher education (18 per cent). Among gainfully employed men in the nation as a whole, men work primarily in Work that requires theoretical specialist skills, Work that requires some higher education as well as Craft and trade-related work in the construction industry and manufacturing (17% each).

Just under a quarter of all participants in Priority 1 work in professions that require specialist skills, which is 9 percentage points greater than for the population nationwide. The participants in Priority 1 are characterised by highly educated individuals with specialist skills.

Table 10. Percentage of participants in Priority 1 and percentage of employees in the population¹⁹, according to vocational field and gender

	Participants in Priority 1		Population 16–64 years	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Services, health care and sales work	27	9	31	10
Work requiring theoretical specialist skills	27	20	20	17
Work that requires some higher education	20	18	21	17
Office and customer services work	8	4	11	5
Management work	8	10	4	8
Process workers and machine operators, transport work	4	21	3	15
Work which does not require special training	4	3	6	5
Craft and trade-related work in the construction industry and manufacturing	1	11	1	17
Work in agriculture, horticulture, forestry and fisheries	0	1	0	1
Military work	0	0	0	1
No data available	2	2	3	5
Total	100	100	100	100

Small workplaces employing the highest number of participants

Among participants in Priority 1 it is most common that they are employed in a workplace with 11–49 employees (28%). Table 11 shows this size of workplace is also the most common among gainfully employed workers throughout the country. Workplaces with 1–10 employees or fewer are under-represented in Priority 1 compared with the country as a whole.

Table 11. Proportion of participants in Priority 1 and gainfully employed nationwide, according to size of workplace

	Number of employees							No data available
	1–10	11–49	50–99	100–199	200–499	500–999	1000–	
Number of participants in Priority 1	13	28	17	14	9	4	10	5
Percentage of gainfully employed nationwide	25	27	13	10	8	4	8	5

¹⁹ The data is taken from the Trade Register and relates to the number of employees in the country in 2012.

It is clear from Figure 20 that almost half of all workplaces represented in Priority 1 have between 1–10 employees, while 31 per cent have between 11 and 49 employees. This shows that it is mainly smaller workplaces that develop their staff members' skills with the help of Social Fund projects. A comparison with the country as a whole shows that a large majority of workplaces in Swedish companies have between 1 and 10 employees, and further, that the workplaces represented in Priority 1 are heavily over-represented for all workplaces with 11 employees or more.

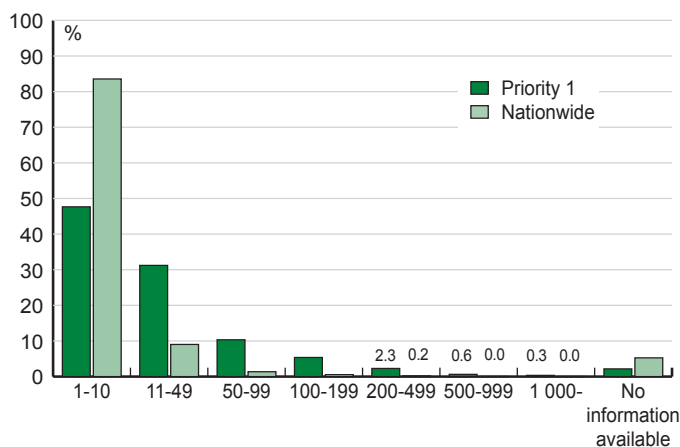


Figure 20. Proportion of workplaces in Priority 1 and in the country as a whole, according to number of employees

Table 12 shows that 29 per cent of the participants in Priority 1 have an annual income of between SEK 350,000 and 499,999. This is 3 percentage points more compared to participants in this income range last year, a year in which most participants were in the income band SEK 200,000 to 299,999. Earned income is generally higher among participants in Priority 1 than for workers who are gainfully employed throughout the country with the exception of individuals who earn more than SEK 500,000 per year, where the percentage is slightly higher for workers throughout the country. Female participants are over-represented in the lowest income groups. The same relationship is apparent throughout the country as a whole.

Table 12. Earned income SEK, 2012, for participants in Priority 1 and for gainfully employed throughout the country, according to gender

	Priority 1			Nationally		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
0–199,999	17	12	15	27	19	23
200,000–299,999	35	16	27	34	20	27
300,000–349,999	20	21	20	16	17	16
350,000–499,999	22	38	29	17	29	23
500,000–	5	14	9	6	15	11
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Priority 2 – Counteracting alienation and exclusion

Priority 2 has, as opposed to Priority 1, focused on people who are far from the labour market. This means that the purpose of participating in any of the projects is that participation will help to increase the opportunities for people to enter and remain in the employment market.

In Priority 2, there is a concentration of young participants (see Figure 21), and a total of 45 per cent of the participants are in the 15–24-year-old age group. A percentage that has increased slightly over the last year. There is a predominance of young men, half of all participating men being between 15 and 24 years old. Young women are not as predominant, even if the 15–24-year-old age group is clearly largest even for female participants. In the two youngest age groups there are more men than women, while in the age groups over 35 years of age, there are more women.

The clear dominance of young people also appears when we look at the

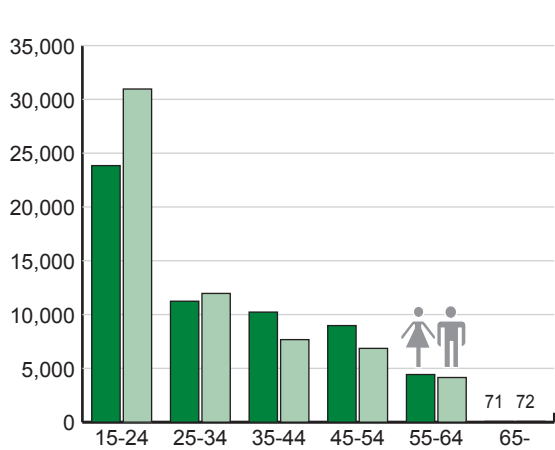


Figure 21. Number of participants according to age and gender, Priority 2

distribution of young and old people in the 505 projects we have reported in Priority 2. Table 13 shows that almost one in four projects (a total of 117) is dominated by young people, i.e. projects where at least 75 per cent of the participants are between 15 and 24 years. The predominance of young peo-

ple is slightly higher than the previous year. None of the projects in Priority 2 are dominated by people who are 55 years old and older, but 40 projects (8 per cent) have no participants in the 15–24-year-old age group.

Table 13. Number and percentage of ongoing and completed projects in which young people and older people are predominant, Priority 2

	Number of projects	Percentage
Young people predominant	117	23
Older people predominant	0	0
Other	388	77
Total	505	100

Table 3 demonstrates a preponderance of men in Priority 2. Despite this, there are more than twice as many female-dominated projects (47) compared with male-dominated projects (23) (Table 14). Of the 47 female-dominated projects, 12 of them have female participants only. Of the 23 male-dominated projects, there are no projects that consist only of men.

Table 14. Number and percentage of ongoing and completed projects that are dominated by females/males, Priority 2

	Number of projects	Percentage
Female dominance	47	9
Male dominance	23	5
Other	435	86
Total	505	100

Many participants with compulsory education

In Priority 2, those people having no higher than compulsory or upper secondary education dominate. No considerable difference can be observed between women and men. One explanation for the low proportion of university graduates could be that many of the participants are young, but the fact that Priority 2 is aimed at people who are far from the labour market may also provide an explanation.

If we compare this with the population as a whole, there is a larger proportion in Priority 2 that have completed their compulsory education and a significantly smaller proportion with an upper secondary level education (Figure 22 and 23). Throughout the country, barely one in five have com-

pulsory school as their highest level of education while in Priority 2, the figure is more than one in three. The relationship is reversed when it comes to university education, with 10 per cent of participants in Priority 2 and 28 per cent of the population in the country as a whole. The breakdown between the various levels of education in Priority 2 has been roughly the same throughout the entire programme period.

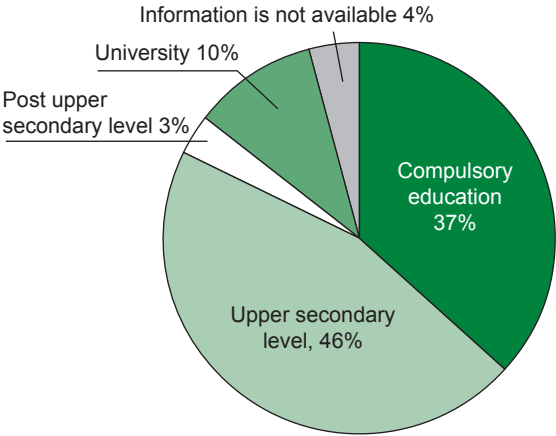


Figure 22. Participants according to level of education, Priority 2

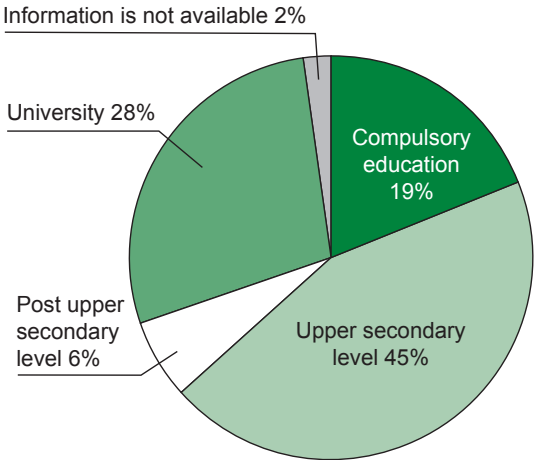


Figure 23. Proportion of the population in the country according to level of education, 16–74 years²⁰

²⁰ The data has been obtained from the Swedish Register of Education, relating to the year 2013.

If we compare the participants in Priority 2 with people throughout the country who are not gainfully employed aged 16–74 years, the distribution becomes somewhat more equal than for the population as a whole (Figure 24). A compulsory school or secondary school education are clearly the most common levels of educational attainment with a higher proportion of participants in Priority 2, mainly with regard to secondary education. For people who do not have gainful employment, a few more have a post secondary or university education, a little more than 20 per cent compared with 13 per cent of the programme participants in Priority 2.

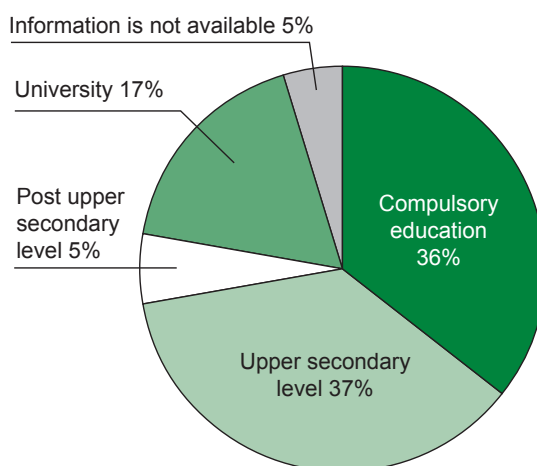


Figure 24. The proportion of people not gainfully employed nationally, according to level of education, 16–74-year-old age group²¹

Many participants with a foreign background

Table 15 shows that the proportion of participants of foreign origin continues to be high in Priority 2. At present, 36 per cent of participants were born abroad and the percentage increases to 41 per cent if participants who were born in Sweden but have two parents born abroad are included. This is significantly more than in the country as a whole, where the total corresponding proportions were 16 and 21 per cent respectively in 2013.

²¹ The data has been taken from RAMS – Register-based labour market statistics (Registerbaserad arbetsmarknadsstatistik), for 2012.

Table 15. Participants in Priority 2 and population nationwide, according to background and gender

	Number of		Percentage		Percentage nationally	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
PEOPLE WITH A FOREIGN BACK-GROUND						
Foreign born	21,779	21,643	18.1	18.0	8.1	7.8
People born in Sweden with two parents born abroad	2,921	3,576	2.4	3.0	2.4	2.5
PEOPLE WITH A SWEDISH BACKGROUND						
People born in Sweden with one parent born abroad and one born in Sweden	4,494	4,920	3.7	4.1	3.5	3.7
People born in Sweden with two parents born in Sweden	29,602	31,544	24.6	26.2	36.1	36.0

The foreign-born participants come from 180 countries, and the most common country of birth is Iraq, followed by Somalia and Yugoslavia. The percentage of foreign-born participants is as follows for the three largest countries:

- Iraq – 22 per cent of the foreign-born participants
- Somalia – 13 per cent of the foreign-born participants
- Yugoslavia²² – 5 per cent of the foreign-born participants

Other common birth countries include, Iran, Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Finland, Lebanon and Syria, each with more than 1,000 participants in Priority 2. If we look at how the countries are distributed between men and women, there are no major differences. Countries with a larger number of participants that have increased during the programme period include, above all, Syria, Eritrea and Somalia.

In the youngest age group (15–24-year-olds), which is also the largest

²² Relates to the country that existed when the individual was born.

age group in terms of the number of participants, the number of participants of foreign origin is relatively low. Somewhat more than 25 per cent of participants in this group have a foreign background. This compares with the age groups between 25 and 54 years old, where the

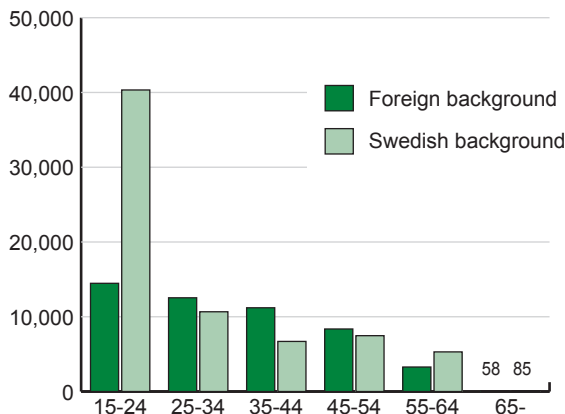


Figure 25. Number of participants according to background and age, Priority 2

number of participants of foreign origin is greater than the number of participants with a Swedish background. The greatest proportion of participants of foreign origin is found in the age group 35–44-years in which they make up more than 63 per cent, see Figure 25.

If the foreign-born participants are grouped according to the continent where they were born, the number of participants born in Asia is greatest for both women and men, with a slightly higher percentage for men (see Figures 26 and 27). The proportion of foreign-born participants born in Europe is slightly greater for women than for men. Africa is the third largest continent for foreign-born participants in Priority 2, and the proportion has increased for both genders. These figures can be compared with participants in Priority 1, where 60 per cent were born in Europe, 23 per cent in Asia and 7 per cent in Africa and South America (see Figure 17).

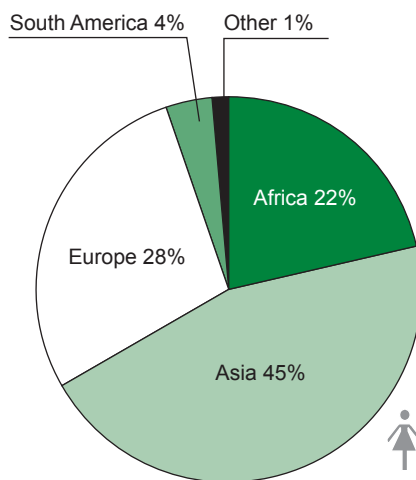


Figure 26. Proportion of foreign-born women according to continent, Priority 2²³

²³ Other includes people born in North America, Oceania, the Soviet Union and those for whom SCB lacks information regarding country of birth.

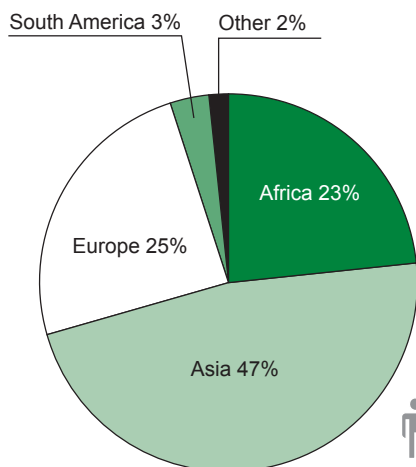


Figure 27. Proportion of foreign-born men according to continent, Priority 2²⁴

Of the foreign born in the country, Europe is the dominant region of birth with more than 50 per cent of all of those foreign born (see Figure 28). The most common countries of birth in the country are, in descending order, Finland, Iraq, Poland, Yugoslavia²⁵ and Iran, which can be compared with Iraq, Somalia, Yugoslavia²⁶, Iran and Afghanistan for participants of Priority 2.

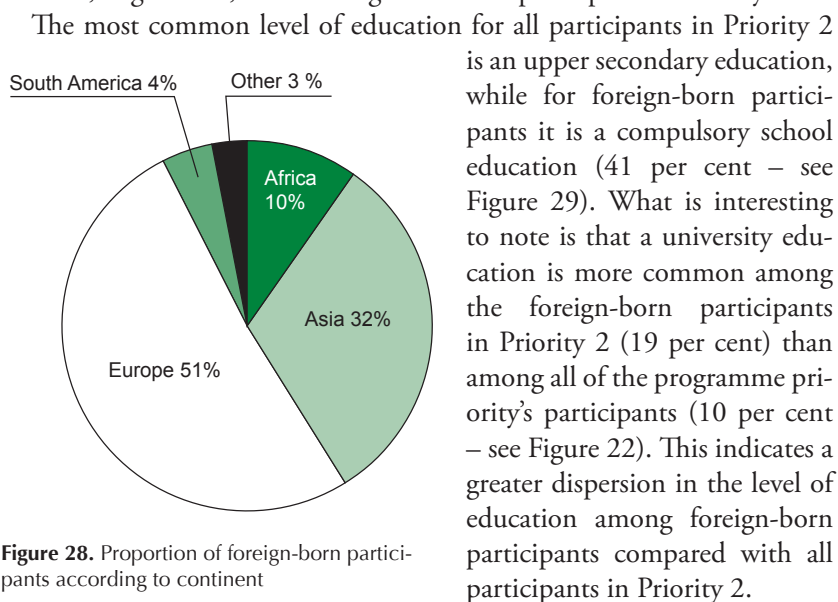


Figure 28. Proportion of foreign-born participants according to continent

The most common level of education for all participants in Priority 2 is an upper secondary education, while for foreign-born participants it is a compulsory school education (41 per cent – see Figure 29). What is interesting to note is that a university education is more common among the foreign-born participants in Priority 2 (19 per cent) than among all of the programme priority's participants (10 per cent – see Figure 22). This indicates a greater dispersion in the level of education among foreign-born participants compared with all participants in Priority 2.

²⁴ Other includes people born in North America, Oceania, the Soviet Union and those for whom SCB lacks information regarding country of birth.

²⁵ Refers to the country that existed when the person was born.

²⁶ Refers to the country that existed when the person was born.

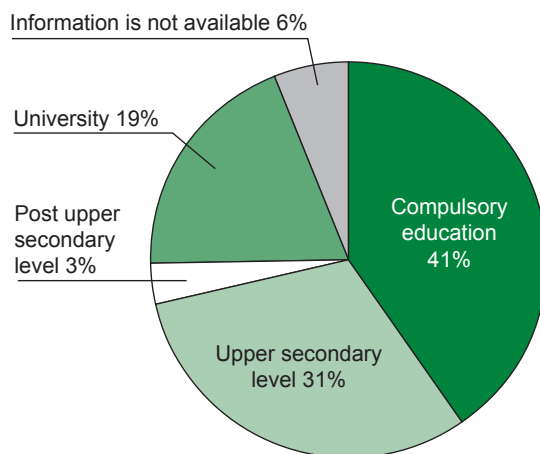


Figure 29. Proportion of foreign-born participants according to level of education, Priority 2

The northernmost regions have the highest number of participants in relation to the population

The largest number of participants in Priority 2 come from Western Sweden, 23 per cent, followed by the regions Eastern Central Sweden and South Sweden, each with 17 per cent. The smallest number of participants come from the northernmost regions of Central Norrland and Upper Norrland, both with 6 per cent of all of the participants.

In relation to the population in each region, Central Norrland is the region that has the highest number of participants, with 194 per 10,000 inhabitants. Western Sweden, which has the highest absolute number of participants, has 145 participants per 10,000 inhabitants. Stockholm is the region with the lowest percentage of participants in Priority 2 and the least amount of participants, 69, per 10,000 inhabitants. Throughout the entire programme period, Stockholm had the lowest proportion of participants in Priority 2.

How participants supported themselves prior to the start of a project

Table 16 shows the participants, who before the commencement of a project, were involved in one or more of the ESF Council's identified activities for the evaluation of the Social Fund's target groups in Priority 2. A little more than 33 per cent of the participants in Priority 2 have participated in one or more of these activities, i.e. have been off sick, unemployed, received activity compensation or been subject to a labour market policy measure prior to the start of a project. The largest group are to be found within the activity labour market policy measures. Of all the young people in Priority 2, here defined as people between 15 and 24 years old, 18 per cent entered a project from a labour market policy measure. For people

25 and older, here defined as adults, the same figure was 15 per cent in 2013. So far this year (2014), the corresponding figure is 23 and 16 per cent. Among young people, the proportion of participants who come from unemployment has decreased from 2008 to the end of March 2014. Over time, the group that is coming from a longer period of sickness absenteeism prior to the start of a project has also fallen. Note that the same person may have been included in several of the activities and, therefore, the number of participants does not add up to the total number of participants at the end of Table 16.

Of all participants in Priority 2, approximately 50 per cent were receiving income support prior to the start of a project,²⁷ with a slight decrease over the past two years to 43 per cent in 2012; this compares with 55 per cent at the beginning of the programme period.

²⁷ Data on income support has been taken from LISA (Longitudinal Integration Database for Health Insurance and Labour Market Studies) and is only available until the year 2012.

Table 16. Number and proportion of participants of the total number of participants per start year, according to various activities²⁸

	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Sick for a period of 180 days prior to the start of a project	465	8	982	6	640	3	1,125	5	1,787	6	102	4	103	5
Youths, unemployed 90 days prior to the start of a project	115	5	350	5	181	2	190	2	240	2	26	2	11	1
Adults, unemployed 360 days prior to the start of a project	308	8	627	7	682	6	537	4	859	5	168	11	56	5
Youths in employment measures 90 days prior to project start	290	14	1,089	16	1,885	20	2,505	24	2,712	23	222	20	197	23
Adults in employment measures 90 days prior to project start	462	12	841	9	2,402	20	1,708	14	2,333	14	193	12	166	16
Received early retirement pension/activity support prior to the start of a project	637	11	2,230	14	2,349	11	2,828	12	3,153	11	202	7	176	9
<i>Total amount of unique people undertaking an activity</i>	2,114	36	5,812	35	7,725	36	8,200	36	9,937	35	831	30	659	35
<i>Number of participants, no activity</i>	3,798	64	10,627	65	13,523	64	14,870	64	18,131	65	1,949	70	1,248	65
The total number of participants since the start year	5,912		16,439		21,248		23,070		28,068		2,780		1,907	
of which, received maintenance support	3,279	55	9,237	56	11,675	55	11,075	48	n.a.		n.a.		n.a.	

²⁸ By young people we are referring to people aged 15-24 years, adults are defined as people aged over 24 years. The data has been obtained from the Transfer statistics. The statistics provide notifications until the fourth quarter of 2013.

To date, Upper Norrland is the region that has had the highest number of participants who throughout 2014 have taken part in an activity before the start of a project, 62 per cent. Upper Norrland has throughout five of seven programme years had the highest number of participants in an activity before a project start, the exceptions are the years 2012 and 2013 when Eastern Central Sweden had the most. In 2014 the lowest proportion is found in Småland and the islands, at 16 per cent. In 2013, Småland and the islands also had the lowest proportion, at 18 per cent. (Table 17).

Table 17. The proportion of activities for participants before the start of the project in PO 2 according to region and start year

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Stockholm	-	31	28	19	29	35	40
Eastern Central Sweden	38	34	41	38	54	45	36
Småland and the islands	31	30	43	35	28	18	16
Southern Sweden	43	41	30	39	39	38	45
Western Sweden	39	45	42	47	40	33	41
Northern Central Sweden	37	37	38	41	37	40	30
Central Norrland	16	19	41	53	49	35	24
Upper Norrland	52	48	58	64	47	36	62
Total	38	37	38	39	40	36	37

CHAPTER 3.

WHAT HAPPENED AFTERWARDS? THE PARTICIPANTS' EMPLOYMENT SITUATION FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF A PROJECT

In the following chapter, SCB will provide an account of what has happened to participants who have completed projects in both Priority 1 and Priority 2 with respect to their establishment in the employment market and the situation regarding their income. To conduct this follow-up, data is taken from RAKS (Registry-based activity statistics – Registerbaserad Aktivitetsstatistik). RAKS' objective is to describe how an individual provides an income for himself/herself and what his/her links to the employment market are.²⁹

This chapter first provides an account of the participants during the first year of their project participation; it then provides information about the participants during the year after their completion of a project. The report relates to participants who have completed their project participation no later than during the first half of the year 2012. The reason why participants who completed their project after that time are excluded is that RAKS only looks at a full year, and the latest available year relates to 2012. In order for participants to have had the opportunity to begin an activity following completion of a project (and that there should be details about this in RAKS), it is therefore necessary to cut off the data in the middle of 2012³⁰. This means that the participants who completed their project in the second half of 2012 or in 2013 are not included in this report. There are also a number of participants who are not registered as residents in Sweden the year after the project ended, and these are also not included in the population as a whole.

²⁹ You can read more about RAKS at http://www.scb.se/Statistik/AM/AM9903/_dokument/RAKS---Registerbaserad-aktivitetsstatistik.pdf and in Appendix 1.

³⁰ This means that for participants who completed a project in 2011 and during the first half of 2012, the data for RAKS 2012 is used to study the employment market situation after completion of a project.

RAKS reports four different types of establishment levels in the employment market: Established, Entrepreneurs or combiners, Weakly established and people Without work. To classify the level of establishment, data on gender, age and education is used. In order to be Established, annual income must exceed 60 per cent of the median income in the group which has the lowest level of education in each group. A combiner is a person who has his/her own company and is also employed. Entrepreneurs or combiners are looked at in the report below as Established in the employment market, unless otherwise stated. A person who does not achieve the Established level, but still has some form of annual income, is classified as Weakly established.

Priority 1

Since 2008, 244,053 people have participated in projects that have been completed in Priority 1 (see Table 18). Men were in the majority throughout 2009 and 2010, but from 2011 and onwards women have been in the majority.

Table 18. Number of participants in projects according to the year the project ended and gender, Priority 1

Priority 1						
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Women	1,415	11,187	26,860	34,570	39,940	20,259
Men	763	12,422	30,829	32,655	22,302	10,198
No data available	21	122	119	164	181	46
Total	2,199	23,731	57,808	67,389	62,423	30,503

A clear majority of participants in Priority 1 (82 per cent) were established in the employment market at project start. If we also include Entrepreneurs/combiners, the proportion amounts to 95 percent (Table 19). Despite the fact that these projects aim to attract people who have a link to the employment market, the figures show that 1 per cent of the participants in Priority 1 were classified as Without work at the start of the project. A reason for this might be that a workplace that is participating in a project may have project participants taking part in a labour market policy measure who are, therefore, not classified as Established in the employment market.

Table 19. The degree of establishment during the year in which the project started, Priority 1

	Number of projects	Percentage
Established	149,965	81.9
Entrepreneurs or combiner	24,302	13.3
Weakly established	7,043	3.8
Without work	1,703	0.9
Total	183,013	100

Figure 30 shows that the majority of all age groups at the start of the project were in the Established category. The greatest percentage of Established were in the 35–44-age-group (97 per cent), closely followed by those within the 45–54-age-group (96 per cent). The greatest proportion of Weakly established was found among 15–24-age-group (8 per cent). More women than men were among the Weakly established.

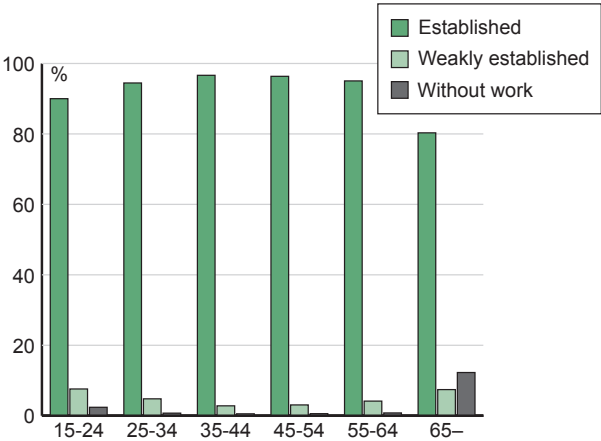


Figure 30. Proportion of participants according to establishment level and age during the year in which the project started, Priority 1

Table 20 shows that 96 per cent of all participants in Priority 1 had their main source of income from gainful employment at the start of a project. This is a decline of 0.3 percentage points compared with the previous year. It is important to note that it is the primary source of income that is reported. This means that a participant may have several different sources of income, but it is only the source that provides the highest income that is reported in the table.

Table 20. Main source of income during the year in which the project started, Priority 1

	Number	Percentage
Gainful employment	175,536	95.9
Student	1,235	0.7
Care of sick child/relative	1,057	0.6
Sick	682	0.4
Unemployed	500	0.3
Early retiree	751	0.4
Financial assistance	196	0.1
Labour market policy measure	821	0.4
Old-age pensioner	1,800	1.0
No income	435	0.2
Total	183,013	100

Fewer established after participation in a project

The proportion of participants that were Established in the employment market the year after a person completed his/her participation in Priority 1 had fallen by 3 percentage points (to 79 per cent) compared with what the situation was at the start of the project (see Table 21). If we include Entrepreneurs/combiners, the decrease was 2 percentage points to 93 per cent. The Weakly established increased by 1.7 percentage points compared to the situation at the start of a project. People without work increased in number by more than 900 or 0.5 percentage points.

Table 21. Degree of establishment at the start of a project and the year after completion of project participation, Priority 1

	Percentage at the start of the project	Percentage at the end of the project	Number (of participants) at the end of the project
Established	81.9	79.2	144,908
Entrepreneurs or combiner	13.3	13.9	25,456
Weakly established	3.8	5.5	10,010
Without work	0.9	1.4	2,639
Total	100	100	183,013

A year after project completion, the proportion of participants that were Established in the labour market is lower for both men and women compared with the time for project start. The proportion of women has fallen slightly more than the proportion of men. A higher proportion of men than women are Entrepreneurs or combiners with an increase observed among both genders from project start to project completion. Among the Weakly established there are almost twice as many women as men. For both genders, there has been an increase in this group from project start to project end.

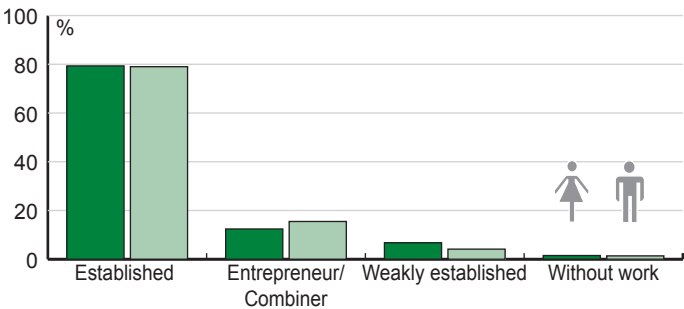


Figure 31. Proportion of people with completed project participation according to establishment level and gender, Priority 1

Figure 32 shows that the proportion of Established in the labour market after project end is high in all age groups. The decrease in the proportion of Established one year after the project end

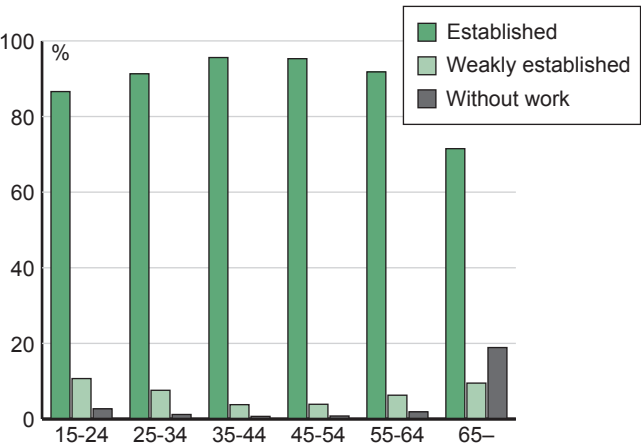


Figure 32. Proportion of participants according to establishment level and age at project end, Priority 1

mainly took place in the older age groups. The largest decrease was found among those aged over 65, where the proportion of Established decreased by almost 9 percentage points from project start to project end. The in-

crease in the Weakly established was highest among people aged 15 to 24 years (+ 3 percentage points).

Table 22 shows that the proportion of participants having gainful employment as a main source of income falls by almost 3 percentage points between project start and the year after completion of project participation. The proportion of people that support themselves with an early retirement pension, financial assistance or with the help of labour market policy measures is unchanged between project start and project end while the proportion of people with other forms of support has increased. It can be noted that the decrease in the proportion of participants who have gainful employment as the primary source of income is mainly due to the fact that participants are on parental leave or are retirees.

Table 22. Main source of income the year after the completion of project participation and at project start, Priority 1

	Percentage at the start of the project	Percentage, one year after the end of the project	Number, one year after the end of the project
Gainful employment	95.9	93.3	170,836
Student	0.7	0.8	1,446
Care of sick child/relative	0.6	1.3	2,313
Sick	0.4	0.8	1,382
Unemployed	0.3	0.6	1,064
Early retiree	0.4	0.4	710
Financial assistance	0.1	0.1	188
Labour market policy measure	0.4	0.4	764
Old-age pensioner	1.0	2.1	3,822
No income	0.2	0.3	488
Total	100	100	183,013

Programme Priority 2

Table 23 shows that, since the start of the previous programme period in 2008, 70,628 people have participated in projects in Priority 2 which were completed between the years 2008 and 2013. In 2008 there were relatively few participants who completed their participation in a project. The number has since increased, particularly in the years 2010 and 2011. Men were in the majority of those who completed Priority 2 projects between 2008

and 2011. In 2012 there were more women and in 2013 there were nearly as many women as men.

Table 23. Number of participants in completed projects according to the year the project ended and gender, Priority 2

Priority 2						
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Women	986	5,120	8,834	8,456	6,990	3,750
Men	1,010	5,659	9,928	9,253	6,674	3,773
No data available	7	30	38	42	59	19
Total	2,003	10,809	18,800	17,751	13,723	7,542

The majority without work at the start of the project

Of the approximately 56,000 participants who completed their participation in a project between 2008 and the first half of 2012, 19 per cent of them were Established in the employment market in the year they started their project participation. If we include Entrepreneurs/Combiners, the figure for Established is 21 per cent. The proportion of Weakly established was 26 per cent and the proportion Without work was 54 per cent (see Table 24).

The fact that participants can be Established at the start of the project, despite the fact that they are not the target group for Priority 2, can be explained, among other things, by RAKS, which analyses what an individual does throughout a one-year period. For example, a participant may have been out of work at the beginning of the year, have participated in a project but then terminated their participation in a project because of an employment opportunity. Another possibility is that a participant was Established during much of the year but then became unemployed and started a project before the end of the year.

Table 24. Participants in completed projects according to the degree of establishment in the year the project started, Priority 2

	Number of participants	Percentage
Established	10,629	19
Entrepreneurs or combiner	1,026	2
Weakly established	14,466	26
Without work	30,280	54
Total	56,401	100

The younger participants in Priority 2 were more often Established in the employment market when compared with older participants, where almost 33 per cent of participants between the ages of 15 and 24 were Established at the start of a project. This can be compared with 11–15 per cent of the participants between the ages of 25 and 64. With the exception of those over the age of 65, the 35–44-year-old age group had the most participants Without work during the year in which a project started (see Figure 33).

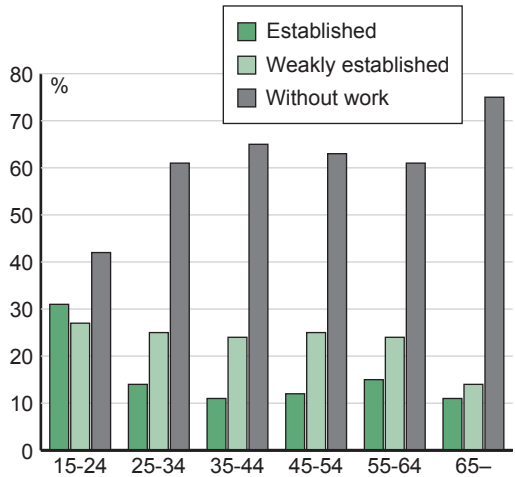


Figure 33. Proportion of participants according to establishment level and age at project start, Priority 2

More people Established in the employment market following project participation

The year following the completion of a project, 31 per cent of participants were Established in the employment market, which can be compared with 19 per cent at the start of the project. The number of Entrepreneurs and combiners also increased slightly by 300 people to 1,342. Of the other participants, 23 per cent were Weakly established in the employment market, which is a decrease compared with when the participants started the project. The proportion without any form of work has decreased, from 54 per cent to 43 per cent, which indicates a greater degree of establishment for the participants in Priority 2 following the completion of their project participation compared with the situation at the start of the project (see Table 25).

Table 25. Participants according to the degree of establishment the year following the completion of their project participation, Priority 2

	Percentage at the start of the project	Percentage at the end of the project	Number (of participants) at the end of the project
Established	18.8	30.8	17,353
Entrepreneurs or combiner	1.8	2.4	1,342
Weakly established	25.6	23.0	12,985
Without work	53.7	43.8	24,721
Total	100	100	56,401

Between the years 2009 to 2011, the proportion of participants who were Established in the employment market increased the year following project completion to then decrease in 2012. The proportion of those Without work has moved in the opposite direction with a decrease up to and including 2011 with a subsequent increase in 2012. In 2012, 32 per cent were Established and 45 per cent were Without work. The corresponding figures for the year 2009 were 26 per cent and 50 per cent (see Figure 34). One explanation for the variation in the proportion of Established between the years could be the types of projects that were completed and the number of participants in them.

Figure 35 shows that the percentage of men with links to the employment market was slightly greater than the percentage of women in the year following the completion of a project. Of all the former participants, 58 per cent of the men and 55 per cent of the women had some link to the employment market the year following the completion of a project, see bars to the right in the dia-

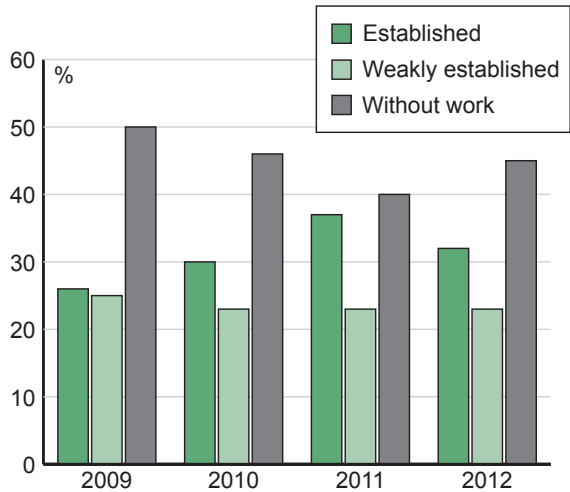


Figure 34. Proportion of participants according to establishment level in the employment market 2009–2012, Priority 2

gram below. Among the men, there was also a higher percentage that were Established (32 per cent) in relation to Weakly established (23 per cent). The corresponding figures for women were 29 per cent and 23 per cent. Men and women were Entrepreneurs/combiners to the same extent, at just over 2 per cent.

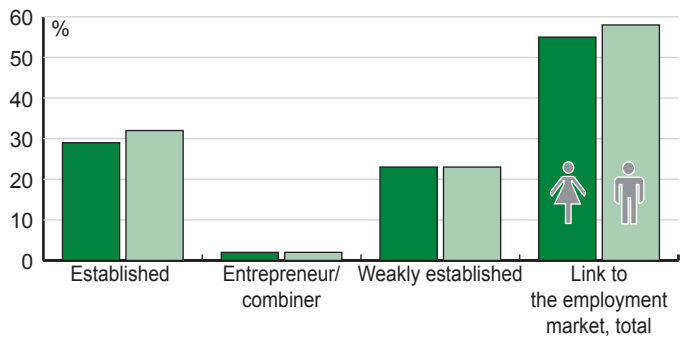


Figure 35. Proportion of participants according to establishment level in the employment market and gender, Priority 2

It can be noted that it is more common that young people are Established in the employment market following completion of a project compared with older people. Of all participants in the 15–24-year-old age group, 66 per cent had a link to the employment market in the year following completion of a project, while only 44 per cent in the 55–64-year-old age group had a link to the employment market (Figure 36). For the 55–64-year-old age group, this is a decrease of 3 percentage points compared to the previous year while the youngest group remain at the same level.

In the younger age groups, there was a higher proportion of Established in relation to the Weakly established. In the 15–24-year-old age group, 44 per cent were Established and 23 per cent Weakly established. The corresponding figures in the 25–34-year-old age group were 30 and 22 per cent. For people aged between 45 and 64 years of age, it was more common that participants with a link to the employment market were Weakly established than Established, even if the differences are small.

The proportion of people Without work in the year following the completion of a project was around 50 per cent, with the exception of the youngest and the oldest age group. In the 15–24-year-old age group, approximately 33 per cent were Without work, and in the oldest group, the figure was nearly 80 per cent. It is, however, worth noting that, in the older age group, there were quite a few retirees. The pattern, the year after completion of a project is reminiscent of the situation when the participants

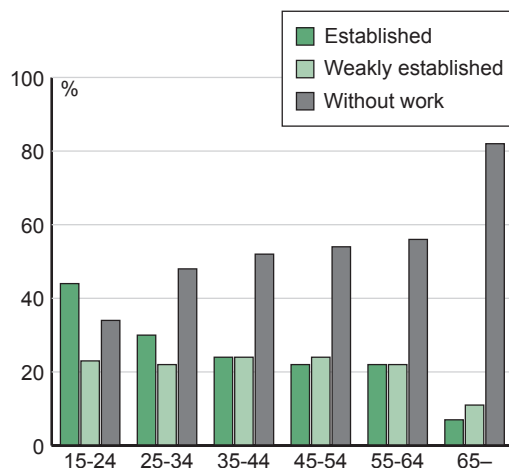


Figure 36. Proportion of participants the year following completion of project participation according to degree of establishment in the employment market and age, Priority 2

started a project (see Figure 36), with the difference that all groups had a higher proportion of Established participants and a lower proportion Without work on completion of their project participation.

Most established among those educated to upper secondary school level following completion of a project

Figure 37 shows that for participants with an upper secondary education as the highest level of education, almost 40 per cent were Established in the employment market following completion of a project. This is almost 15 percentage points higher than participants with a compulsory education. Those participants with an upper secondary school education were also the participants who had work, with 64 per cent having a link to the employment market and only 36 per cent Without work. Participants from previous years with a compulsory education made up the largest percentage Without work (54 per cent), followed by those with a university education (44 per cent).

There are no major differences compared with the previous year. Minor changes have occurred, including a slight increase in the percentage of participants that are Established who have a university education and the percentage Without work has increased slightly in the group with a compulsory school education.

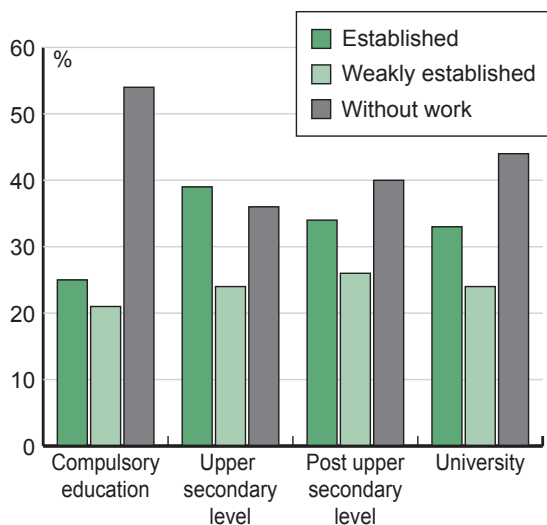


Figure 37. Proportion of participants the year following completion of a project according to degree of establishment in the employment market and level of education, Priority 2

Foreign born are less well established than those born in Sweden

Figure 38 shows that there were fewer Established in the group foreign born than among those born in Sweden following completion of a project: 27 per cent compared with 37 per cent. For both foreign-born participants and those born in Sweden, the percentage of Established participants was greater than the percentage with a Weak establishment. This means that the number Without work was higher for foreign born (52 percent) than for those born in Sweden (39 per cent). Compared with the situation the year the project started, there was a clear increase in the proportion of Established both among those born in Sweden and the foreign born. The year the project started, 25 per cent of those born in Sweden and 12 per cent of the foreign born were Established in the employment market.

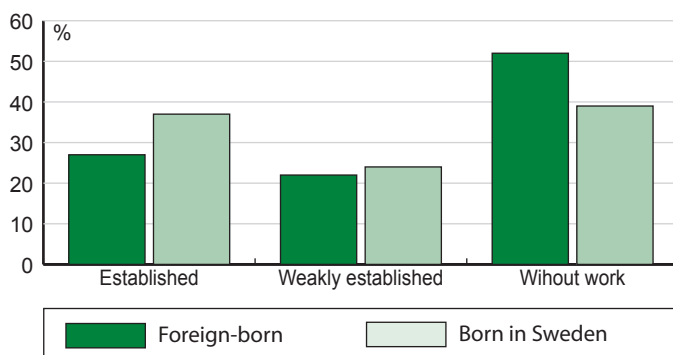


Figure 38. Proportion of participants according to background and the degree of establishment the year following completion of project participation, Priority 2

Those without work receive financial assistance

Table 25 showed that 43 per cent of participants from previous projects did not have a job the year following completion of a project. In order to study in more depth how these people supported themselves and what their primary source of income was following completion of a project, more information can be found in RAKS.

Of these, almost 25,000 former participants Without work the year following completion of a project; most of them, 36 per cent, were claiming financial assistance as their primary source of income. In relation to the previous year, this is a drop of 4 percentage points. Part of the decline can be explained by the fact that from 2012 onwards, introductory assistance for people who recently arrived in the country is not included as financial assistance³¹. The second most common primary source of income was income from labour market policy measures (25 per cent) followed by early retirees and studies (12 per cent and 11 per cent respectively), see Figure 39.

If this is compared with the situation at the start of a project, it is primarily the group receiving financial assistance as their primary source of income which has decreased for participants Without work. The group with income from unemployment has also decreased slightly while other groups have increased or remained unchanged.

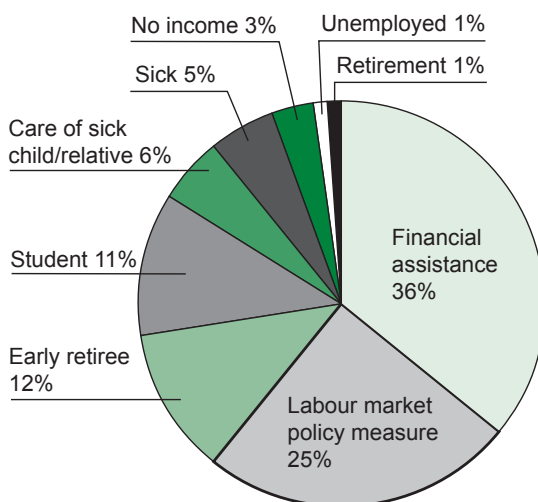


Figure 39. Proportion of participants Without work following project completion according to primary source of income, Priority 2

³¹ Financial assistance includes income support, support for the elderly and before 2012, introductory support for people who have recently arrived in the country. More information is available on the National Board of Health and Welfare's website.

Women without work receive incomes from the care of children

If we look at the primary source of income for women and men among those Without work, the care of children/relatives was the most noticeable, where women accounted for 91 per cent. Women were also over-represented in the groups receiving incomes due to illness and early retirement, while the proportion of men was greatest in the groups that do not have an income, the unemployed and those receiving financial assistance (see Figure 40).

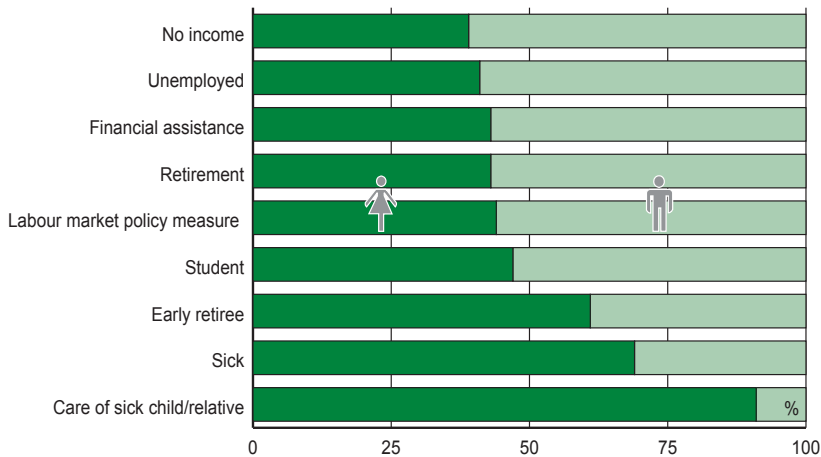


Figure 40. Proportion of participants Without work following project completion according to primary source of income and gender, Priority 2

The corresponding figures for people aged 16–74 Without work in the country indicate that the proportion of women caring for a child/relative as their main source of income is even higher, 92 per cent. The income group that differs the most when a comparison is made between the country as a whole and the participants in Priority 2 was the group retirees, which in the country as a whole was higher for women than for men, while for previous participants in Priority 2, the situation was the reverse. In the group with incomes from sickness, the differences were also relatively significant. In Priority 2, the relationship was 69 per cent women and 31 per cent men, while the breakdown for the country as a whole was 60 per cent and 40 per cent.

Primary source of income varies according to age

Financial assistance was the primary source of income for people Without work in most age groups. In all age groups between 15 and 54 years, this was the most common source of income (see Table 26), but there were

variations between the age groups. In the younger age groups, more people received some income from studies and for the care of children or a relative, while the receipt of income from sickness barely occurred until the over 35 age groups. In all age groups it was relatively common that the primary source of income came from labour market policy measures, and in the 55–64-year-old age group it was the most common source of income. A total of 3 per cent completely lacked an income, and this was most commonly seen in the youngest and the oldest age groups.

Table 26. Proportion of participants Without work according to primary source of income and age, Priority 2

	15–24	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	65–
Student	23	10	7	2	0	0
Care of sick child/relative	7	10	5	1	0	0
Sick	1	4	8	10	8	0
Unemployed	0	1	2	1	2	0
Early retiree	8	13	12	14	16	0
Financial assistance	33	42	41	38	21	28
Labour market policy measure	23	16	24	31	41	2
Old-age pensioner	0	0	0	0	10	65
No income	5	3	3	2	2	7

People born in Sweden Without work make more use of employment market policy measures and early retirement

Of all of the 56,400 former project participants, 64 per cent were born in Sweden and 36 percent were foreign born. For participants Without work, the distribution was 57 percent born in Sweden and 43 per cent foreign born. By far the most common primary source of income for foreign born without work was financial assistance, nearly half were in this group. For people born in Sweden, financial assistance was just as large as the group labour market policy measures. For people born in Sweden and for the foreign born, the proportion receiving financial assistance has decreased since last year (see Figures 41 and 42).

For people born in Sweden Without work, incomes from early retirement were more frequent than for the foreign born. Even income from studies was more prevalent among those born in Sweden Without work, while a higher percentage of foreign-born participants were receiving an income for the care of a child/relative.

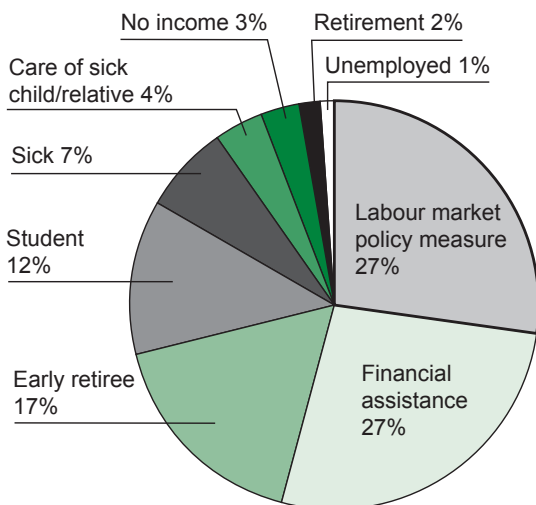


Figure 41. Proportion of participants Without work following project completion (country of birth, Sweden) according to primary source of income, Priority 2

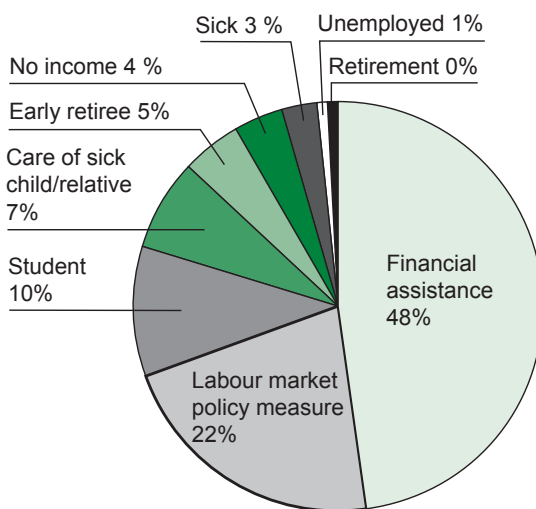


Figure 42. Proportion of participants Without work following project completion (country of birth, outside Sweden) according to primary source of income, Priority 2

Employment market situation for participants: 1, 2 and 3 years later

Finally, a report is provided of the situation with regard to the employment market and how participants that had completed a project in Priority 2 during the years 2008 and 2009 were able to support themselves. Figure 43 shows the participants' level of establishment the year following participation in a project and after two and three years. The reason why only participants who completed a project in the years 2008 and 2009 are included is to give participants the opportunity to change their situation up to three years after the completion of a project. It is also important to bear in mind

that the correlation between the situation in the employment market and the ESF project becomes weaker the more time that passes.

Figure 43 shows that the proportion of Established participants has increased compared with the situation one year after the completion of a project, from 27 per cent to 32 per cent after two years and to 35 per cent after three years. Even the proportion of Entrepreneurs/combiners has increased from two to four per cent. The proportion Without work has decreased from 47 per cent the year following completion of a project to 40 per cent after three years.

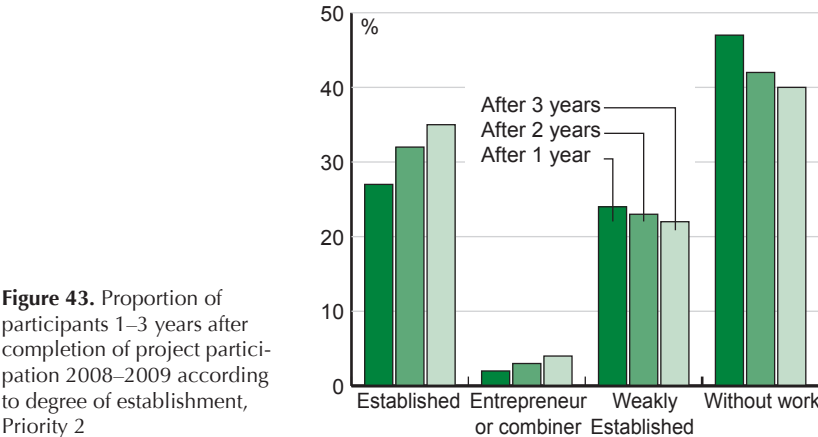


Figure 43. Proportion of participants 1–3 years after completion of project participation 2008–2009 according to degree of establishment, Priority 2

Both the proportion of Established men and women increased during the years following project completion, but the men were at a higher level than the women. The men went from 31 per cent the year after project completion to 41 per cent after three years. The corresponding increase for women was from 28 per cent to 37 per cent (see Figure 44).

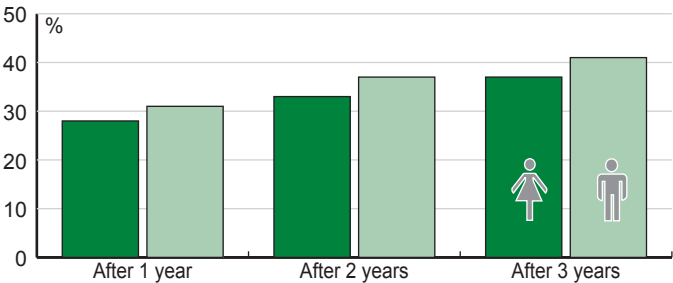


Figure 44. Proportion of participants 1–3 years following project participation 2008–2009 according to gender, Priority 2

Figure 45 shows that in all age groups³² there is an increase in the proportion of Established during the years following completion of a project. In the younger age groups, the increase was approximately 10 percentage points from one year to three years after completion of a project. In the older age groups, the increase was not as large and in the 55–64-year-old age group the increase was marginal between two and three years after completion of a project.

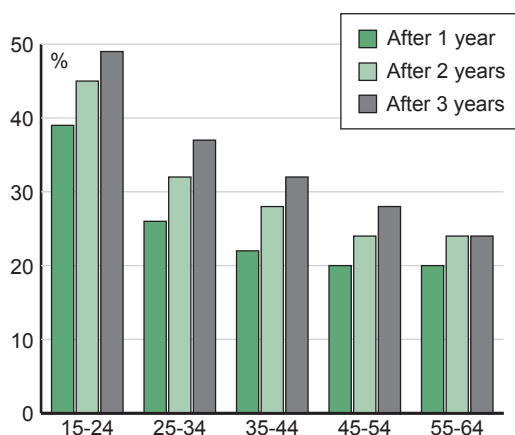


Figure 45. Proportion of participants 1–3 years after completion of project participation 2008–2009 according to age, Priority 2

If we look at how many people have a link to the employment market, i.e. the Established, Entrepreneurs/combiners and Weakly established, there is an increase for those born in Sweden and for the foreign born following completion of project participation. At the same time, the proportion Without work has decreased. The increase in those with a link to the employment market was roughly the same in both groups but those who were born in Sweden were at a higher level throughout the entire period (see Figure 46).

It can be seen that more people have become Established as the proportion of participants who have their primary source of income from gainful employment has increased from 32 per cent the year following project completion, to 44 per cent after three years. Other sources of income have fallen or have remained unchanged. The largest decrease occurred in the group receiving financial assistance which has decreased from 20 per cent the year following completion of a project to 15 per cent in 2012. Part of

³² The oldest group 65+ is not included in the table because it contains too few individuals.

the decline can be explained by the fact that from 2012 onwards, introductory assistance for people who recently arrived in the country is not included as financial assistance from 2012 (see Figure 47).

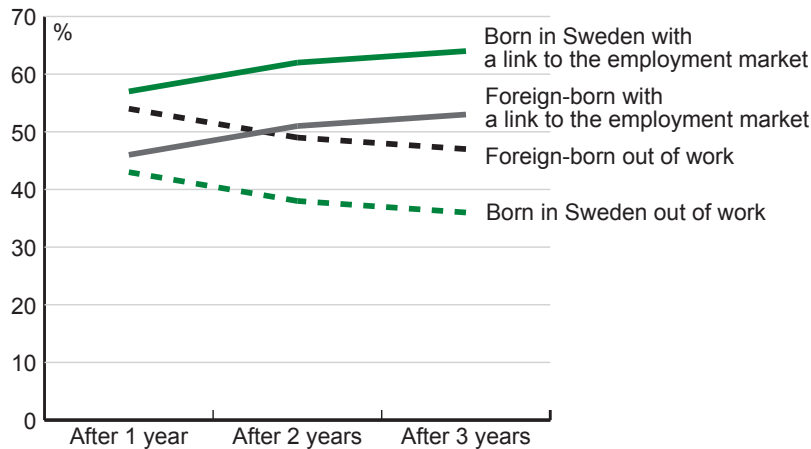


Figure 46. Proportion of participants 1–3 years after completion of project participation 2008–2009 according to whether they were born in Sweden or foreign born, Priority 2

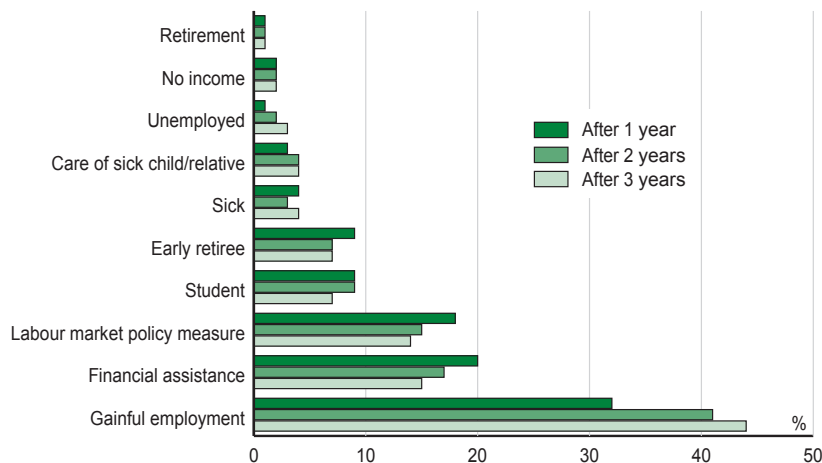


Figure 47. Proportion of participants 1–3 years following project participation 2008–2009 according to primary source of income, Priority 2

CHAPTER 4.

REFLECTIONS ON CHANGE THROUGH ESF PROJECTS

During the 2007–2013 programme period, there have been both process support and theme groups; their purpose has been, among other things, to analyse and make it clear what ESF projects lead to. This has been instructive in many ways, but there are shortcomings in the design. They work exclusively with ongoing projects. In this way, we have learned very little about what the projects have led to a few years after completion.

This edition of the Social Fund in figures has been able to provide the most comprehensive analysis to date of individuals' links to the employment market following their participation in a project. There is now a follow-up study of the organisational and structural changes which 104 ESF projects have led to³³. As the author of the study, I will now provide some reflections on the results found.

But first I will explain what the study is referring to by organisational and structural changes. One of the difficulties of achieving this may be that there are few people who define the concepts. It must be stressed that the following definitions were developed to be able to distinguish between different types of changes. They should not be regarded as general definitions. Our respondents included the managers who were responsible for the change that had taken place, or for the project, if no change had been achieved. They were given the opportunity to freely describe any change that had been achieved. We subsequently reviewed and classified the change. Changes that were assessed to be dependent on the knowledge or action of an individual or small group were removed as individual changes. The changes that we were looking for were sorted as follows

³³ Sävenstrand, 2014. Change through Social Fund projects, SPeL report No. 12.

Organisational. Organisational change in an activity that is not dependent on an individual. The change is expected to remain even if one person leaves and someone else takes over.

Collaboration between organisations. Inter-organisational change within and between an organisation/part of an organisation that is not dependent on an individual. The change is expected to remain even if one person leaves and someone else takes over.

Establishment. New structures in the form of companies, organisations or associations, locally, regionally or nationally.

Structural. Change in how several existing organisations within a geographical area interact locally, regionally or nationally, for example, through rules, laws, agreements and policies.

Many ESF projects transform the organisation – but only to a certain degree

Of the 104 projects examined, 53 achieved organisational change. This is a significant proportion. But what sort of changes were they? In Priority 1, common changes include the introduction of new systems to manage activities, new assignments in existing services or completely new functions, new customer areas and services as well as new training materials. With regard to new systems, services, training materials and such like, we are talking about changes which in most cases are scheduled to be introduced before the project starts. Then the project is about learning to apply a particular way of working or provide conditions to deal with a new customer sector. The image provided is that these changes in many cases have been of major importance for the development of the workplace, but it is not the development of new methods with the aim of being disseminated. The change has a significant impact locally, but nowhere else.

But one of the more common changes was not predetermined. When new assignments were added to an existing service or when new services were established in an organisation, it is often as a result of the project recognising a need that is not being taken care of in the existing day-to-day work at a workplace.

Even in Priority 2, it is common to use existing methods to bring the target group closer to the employment market. New ideas can primarily be regarded from a local perspective – they probably exist already in similar form elsewhere in the country.

When we examine the changes that occurred in more detail, some interesting factors emerge. They are primarily intra-organisational. It is one organisation that changes – not several. Secondly, they are rarely changes

requiring a decision from a Board of Directors, but more often changes that require a decision taken by an individual manager or no decision at all. In line with the fact that many of the changes are relatively simple, there is also the positive aspect that they can be introduced without any additional funds being added. The programme statements in the new proposal for the Social Fund Programme make it clear that applications of the project results are a desirable outcome. It differs slightly from previous programme statements regarding creative and innovative activities.

Few changes require collaboration

Of the 53 projects that accomplished organisational change, only twelve were based on collaboration. In Priority 1 this was primarily about new networks that developed as a result of the project. We know nothing about how important these networks are for the issue they are dealing with. However, generally speaking, it can be said that very little effort is required by an organisation to participate in a network. On many occasions, it will only take up a small amount of time for one person. The ideal image of a network where it can function as an “external development unit” is seldom achieved, and one wonders how much value can be attributed to these networks? In Priority 2, our change category organisational collaboration is significantly more complex. Examples include a new model of collaboration between the Social Services, the labour market unit and the Arbetsförmedlingen as well as a guidance model between the Arbetsförmedlingen and the universities that is now being used in 23 locations throughout the country. But the lasting image is nevertheless that despite the fact that the programme focuses strongly on collaboration, there are in fact few projects that achieve significant change with regard to collaboration specifically. The proposals in the new Social Fund Programme have allocated a bigger pot in the form of national funds where Arbetsförmedlingen is given a clearer role. It remains to be seen whether the clearer role of Arbetsförmedlingen relates to the implementation of projects or it is a source of change in the ordinary labour market policy with a focus on collaboration.

Structural changes impose other requirements

Among the 104 projects examined, there were six projects that had achieved structural change. The study defined structural change as either the establishment of new organisations or the development/amendment of laws, agreements, regulations and policies, which determine how organisations should interact. Here are some examples of relatively advanced changes that require a broad commitment from those concerned over a

long period of time. In previous versions of this publication, we have taken up the concept of “string of pearls’ projects”. It touches upon the idea that between two projects, while you are dealing with the results of the first project, you apply them to your day-to-day activities to perhaps discover new problems or developmental needs. Many are therefore looking for new projects to address the same issue, but at a more advanced level. The investigation found two such examples. The ESF project which resulted in a regional agreement with Arbetsförmedlingen, Försäkringskassan and the region, has been preceded by several research and development projects with other funding agencies. Nor did the hospital which was given the authority to conduct medical training outside of the university town achieve its results solely through an ESF project. It had to add most of the funding itself, and the hospital obviously had to work on this issue over a long period of time.

At the other end of the scale, we also see examples of projects which have not achieved any change. Three of them were projects that received new project funding directly after the first project. In these instances, it is striking how incapable the respondents have been to say anything about the results of the first project. They refer only to the results that have been taken care of by the second project. This is in line with our thesis that continuous external funding reduces the incentive to integrate results in ordinary activities. String of pearls projects, with periods in between without external funding, strengthen the ability to nurture the results, apply them, let them mature, and at a later stage possibly take development to the next level via a new project. Replay projects with continuous external funding create a dependency on the financier, creativity is directed towards arguing for new funding rather than solving the problem. This aspect is not clearly governed by the national programme. Rather, it is up to the regions’ ESF personnel and the Structural Fund Partnership to give notice that funds are available and to prioritise projects that strengthen the incentives to work for long-term change. It is not as if the last programme period’s calls did not include these aspects. But there is a great gap between the wording of a programme statement and its realisation and the question is what else the stakeholders concerned intend to do so that the funds are used smarter?

A broad programme should not cast all projects in the same mould

The overall picture of the changes that the projects have reached also demonstrate a pattern in terms of the path taken to achieve change. We

have not studied their processes, but it is obvious that they have different starting points with different conditions. Some of the processes we call development projects – those that have developed something new as a solution to a problem, often in cooperation with several stakeholders in an exploratory process. There are also what we refer to as implementation projects – those that adapt existing methods in order to meet a need, almost always in an individual organisation. Finally, there are production projects which are based on clearly defined requirements where a temporary investment in skills upgrading is sufficient to meet the need.

The description of these project types is interesting when discussing the requirements a project must fulfil and the support they may require. An example where the requirements differ widely between these project types is in the evaluation. I mean that it is superfluous to demand that production projects shall be evaluated, as the starting point is not to develop new knowledge or disseminate the results, but just to accomplish something. On the other hand an ongoing evaluation using functions that support the process may have a great value for the results in collaborative projects with the objective of finding local solutions which often rely on developing long-lasting relationships. Projects that are of a more explorative character may in turn require an evaluation which compares and evaluates different methods and approaches to arrive at what is best.

Naturally, it is not always that straightforward. The examples above illustrate that previous requirements have been the same for all types of projects, but if both requirements and support are better adapted to the process which projects in a specific call can be expected to necessitate, the results may be more powerful.

An interesting hybrid with special needs is an intermediary project. Take, for example, projects that coordinate skills development for private companies. The project owner is often a municipal learning centre, a business unit, a regional authority or a commercial organisation. For the project owner, the project is usually a production project where the focus is to conduct training in the best possible way. For the participating companies, on the other hand, the project is regarded rather as an implementation project in which specific systems and work procedures are introduced. In some cases, the project owner also sees it more as a development project with the ambition to bring permanence to the organisation's coordinating role. As larger and more cohesive projects are demanded, intermediaries have become more common. In our study, a quarter of the projects responded by stating that changes through the project would mainly be carried out in organisations other than the one that was in charge of the project. These types of projects may have special conditions which may

also need to be taken into account by the implementing organisation.

The national programme 2014–2020 sets the framework and I cannot see that there are barriers to the increased flexibility that is described above. It will however impose requirements on the implementing organisation's work methods in the future. It is necessary first of all to have more targeted calls for proposals where a specific call might allow for a given project type. In addition, a basic understanding of the needs of the project types is required to be able to support their development efforts in the best way. Even if we do not yet know what is included in the administrative authority's chosen method Results Based Management (RBM), the above thoughts should be in line with a greater focus on project results.

CHAPTER 5.

FOLLOW-UP AND EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAMME PERIOD 2014–2020

Against a background of tighter budgets and greater attention being paid to what the Social Fund as well as other EU funds are achieving (in terms of benefits), the resources that are available need to be used more effectively. This means increased demands on reporting the results of the Social Fund's efforts. For the follow-up, this has led to a far more ambitious set of common indicators and for the evaluation, it has led to increased demands on the evaluation of the effects.

Follow-up

The Social Fund Regulation (EU 1304/2013) describes the common indicators that all Member States must report to the Commission. The indicators are divided up into three categories:

- Output indicators that describe participants and organisations who make use of the projects
- Immediate result indicators, which report changes for the participants within one month after completion of a project
- Longer-term result indicators, which report the situation for the participants within six months after completion of a project

The indicator system which was introduced during the 2007–2013 programme period implies that the projects report participants' civic registration numbers to the SCB, which then matches these numbers to relevant registers, and accesses the indicators to be reported.

According to the ESF Council, the way this is organised is more effective than other possible alternatives, for example, that the projects themselves report the completed indicators directly to the ESF Council. In this comparison, the current system has four major advantages in that it results in:

- A reduced administrative burden for projects

- The protection of participants' privacy
- Quality assurance of reported indicators
- Relatively low cost for follow-up and evaluation

With reference to previous criticism by the Swedish National Audit Office regarding this system³⁴, we can mention that the criticism is primarily directed at coordination with other reporting requirements and obligations to maintain the participants' records. It may also be mentioned that the ESF Council intends to develop templates which the projects can use so that they do not have to register information more than once. The saving of labour is explained by the register link in the system, which means that a very limited amount of data must be reported. It is not possible to completely avoid the requirement that data about the participants must be sent to both the ESF Council and SCB because the ESF Council does not have the legal support required to manage data at an individual level.

Reporting civic registration numbers means greater protection for participant privacy; the alternative is that the projects themselves should collect a large amount of information about the participants which could then be delivered to the ESF Council. An approach like this would pose risks that information about the participants' background and current conditions could be disseminated, which is not possible with the current system.

An important advantage of the system is that the data produced about the participants is of comparable quality to that obtained from the national registries from which the data is taken, and this quality can also be reported in a non-prescriptive manner. If the projects were to acquire the information from the participants, it would not be possible to assess the quality of the report. The register link also provides the opportunity to observe the participants over a period of time which, among other things, has been carried out in the programme evaluation and in Chapter 3 of this report. This form of follow-up allows for an analysis and assessment of the Social Fund's efforts.

The long-term indicators of the results in the Social Fund Programme is a particular challenge. The data will need to be collected via questionnaires from a selection of participants six months after completion of project participation. On two occasions throughout the programme period 2007–2013, the ESF Council has carried out surveys and on both occasions the response rate was so low that the results could not be used to formulate

³⁴ The Swedish National Audit Office. More to simplify RiR 2012:22

a general view of all of the participants. In order to increase the response rate, the ESF Council plans to get the participants to respond to a closing survey where they will receive information that they may be selected to respond to questions in six months time. They will also be asked to submit their email address so that the collection of data can be carried out for example via email, instead of the much more expensive surveys that are sent out by post.

Even if the system generally works very well, there are areas that need to be improved. It has been mentioned above that there is need for improvement with regard to coordination with other participant reports and registers. Another area that requires improvement is the information provided to project owners about the reporting of the results. This includes, not least, how they themselves can use indicators to follow up, manage and account for the results from the project. Improving the information flow also includes disseminating indicators to a wider target group. The ESF Council is working on a model to make the information publicly available on the Internet at project level.

Evaluation

In the new programme period, the ESF Council aims to implement an effects-based approach throughout the entire implementing organisation. The starting point for such an approach is always to try to capture the long-term and measurable effects. This may include expected as well as the unexpected effects which are important to capture with regard to development projects. Evaluation and follow-up are important instruments which can guide the programme towards sustainable results.

In order to promote opportunities for learning, and in the light of the experience gained in the previous programme period, the ESF Council aspires to more clearly focus calls on specific objectives and development strategies on the basis of regional action plans instead of opening up for general efforts. By having several projects within a call period dealing with similar problems, there is a greater likelihood that one of the projects will produce better results and that it is possible to identify which one by means of follow-ups and evaluation. With well defined calls, conditions are also reinforced that will create mutual learning between projects that are working with similar types of problems.

One of the main starting points for the design of the learning system is having an understanding of the type of knowledge requirements that exist at different levels. During the previous programme period, it was above all the individual projects at an operational level that were able to benefit

from the evaluations carried out. An important aspect of the design of the evaluation in the new programme period is therefore to take into consideration the specific knowledge requirements that the various stakeholders have, from project leaders to programme administrators. This means that the evaluations will provide different answers at different levels. A project owner, for instance, does not have the same knowledge requirement as a programme administrator.

The evaluations in the new programme period have a greater focus on the effects compared to what was the case during the previous programme period. This does not mean however, that the ongoing evaluation will disappear. The ongoing evaluation that was developed during the last programme period, will be employed and developed further in the future. The European Commission has stated that there should be more evidence in the evaluation as to how the efforts made contribute to overall objectives. There are three aspects to this which are dependent on when the results of the evaluation are to be used. First of all, the evaluation shall provide guidance in the planning of the activities as to whether they are meaningful and realistic. Secondly, the evaluation shall function as input and as a guide to ongoing projects. Thirdly, the evaluation should be able to provide legitimacy for the operations by demonstrating the results and effects later on.

A characteristic of the Social Fund which constitutes a point of departure for the design of the evaluation efforts is the extent of the objectives, target groups and possible types of projects. The evaluation system must therefore be designed in such a way that allows for the evaluation of a heterogeneous programme in terms of content with numerous objectives and areas of action. The ESF Council means that different types of approaches require different objectives and project types. As an example, a method development project needs a different kind of evaluation than that of an implementation project.

A rule of thumb regarding methods used to evaluate the effects of a project is that you must be able to answer the questions as to what happened (i.e. results/effects) and be able to determine the factors or mechanisms that produced the results. This means that the evaluation should be based on a logic of change for the project that is to be evaluated, irrespective of whether it is at project or call level. Theory based evaluation is based on the testing of a causal model for the project to be evaluated. The way theory of change is tested is dependent on what is possible. This is done using an experimental or quasi-experimental structure that uses a control group or comparison group. It can also be done without a comparison group based on various types of process tracking methods, or through a combination of

methods with and without experimentation. Evaluations of complex programmes such as the Social Fund, need to utilise a wide range of methods and data sources.

In addition to the evaluation aiming at specific knowledge requirements, it is equally important to ensure that there are processes for the systematic recycling of the results that have been demonstrated. When learning from development projects and programmes, it is not enough to try to reach out to individuals. There is a need for a more systematic and consistent participation in various forums to ensure that the lessons learned and skills acquired do not disappear when the programme or project is completed. Firstly, there must be a willingness to really reach out, not just to make the results of the projects and programmes available. Furthermore, there must be organisations that want to know about the experiences, to make use of them and develop the recently acquired knowledge.

APPENDIX 1.

FACTS ABOUT THE STATISTICS

The details which form the basis of the report in Chapters 2 and 3 are based partly on documentation from the Swedish ESF Council and partly on information that was already available in various registers at SCB.

The ESF Council administrates and decides on the support given to the different projects. When a decision arrives allowing for funding to be authorised for an implementation project, each project owner must register and report the specific details regarding the project and its participants. The registered information is used to produce quarterly and annual indicators which are reported to the government and the European Commission, among others. This information is also used to create the population that this report is based on.

Definitions and explanations

The population consists of all individuals who are participating or have participated in the Social Fund implementation projects in Priority 1 and Priority 2 from its inception in 2008 until 31 March 2014.

There are a number of people in the population for whom gender information is missing. In total, there are:

- 853 people in Priority 1
- 5,799 people in Priority 2

The reason why information is missing in certain cases is because the civic registration numbers provided could not be found in SCB's population register (RTB). Possible explanations could be that the participant has written down their civic registration number incorrectly; the participant is not officially registered in Sweden; or that there are people, for one reason or another, whose identities are protected.

Definitions

Dominance: Female, male, age and youth dominance arise when at least 75 per cent of the participants fulfil a certain criterion.

Income from gainful employment and work-related remunerations: These con-

sist of total gross salary, income from a business activity, sickness benefit, pregnancy benefit, disease carrier's allowance, sickness benefit guarantee, taxable industrial injuries benefit, parental benefit when a child is born or adopted, temporary parental benefit for the care of a child, benefit to look after a relative or rehabilitation compensation.

Region: Complies with the division in accordance with NUTS 2 (National areas).

Educational level: Specifies the level of each individual's highest level of formal education, in this case the highest educational level at the start of the project or the latest available information. The information related to educational level is reported in accordance with the educational classification SUN 2000. Comparisons with the nation as a whole are carried out for Priority 1 using data from Register-based labour market statistics, RAMS, for 2012, for people gainfully employed in the 25–64-year-old age group. This is to acquire a comparative group which is similar to that of Priority 1.

For Priority 2, comparisons have been made with the nation as a whole using data from the 2013 register of the educational level of the population. The comparison group consists of people in the 16–74-year-old age group. For Priority 2, comparisons are also made with people who are not gainfully employed in accordance with the Register-based labour market statistics (RAMS); for this, data relating to 2012 is used.

Foreign background: This includes people who are either born abroad or born in Sweden with two foreign-born parents.

Age: The participants have been classified according to their age at the beginning of the project.

Establishment: To provide an indication of an individual's establishment in accordance with RAKS, data on gender, age and education is used to create groups which are used in the classification of the degree of establishment. For an individual to be Established, his/her yearly income must exceed 60 per cent of the median income for the subgroup within each group with the lowest level of education.

Primary source of income: An individual is classified under a primary source of income during the year based on revenue from, among other things, gainful employment, studies, unemployment, sickness or activity compensation. The source of income which accounts for the highest proportion of the total amount represents an individual's primary source of income.

Sources

Besides the ESF Council's own data about the participants, the registers below at SCB have been used:

- The educational level of the population – information related to the highest educational level.
- The Longitudinal Integration Database for Health Insurance and Labour Market Studies (LISA) – earned income
- RTB – civic registration number, gender, foreign/Swedish background, country of birth and municipality the individual is registered in.
- RAMS (Register-based labour market statistics – Registerbaserad arbetsmarknadsstatistik) – income statements, information regarding where a person works, industry classification and sector code.
- Trade Register – profession according to SSK1.
- RAKS (Registry-based activity statistics)³⁵ – establishment in the employment market and the primary source of income.

Besides SCB's own registers, data has also been collected from:

- The Employment Service – data collected from the table 'Unemployed and in programmes, share of population'.
- Transfer statistics (assignment from the Finance department) – data regarding the participants' activity before and after a project started

³⁵ RAKS is a compilation and development of variables that already exist in the LISA database where the goal is to describe where an individual derives his/her income (the largest income blocks) and link to the employment market with an entire year as the reference period.

APPENDIX 2.

QUANTIFIED TARGETS AND INDICATORS FOR THE SOCIAL FUND'S PROGRAMME

The Social Fund's programme indicators are reported to the government three times a year. You can find the latest reports at www.esf.se/deltagare

Quantified objectives – Priority 1

1. *a.* At least 205,000 employed individuals will receive skills development, excluding those individuals included in the quantified objectives 2 and 3 below.
b. At least 75 per cent of projects with support in the feasibility study phase will continue to the implementation phase.
2. The number of individuals who have participated in projects in order to increase the understanding of how discrimination can be counteracted and equal treatment can be promoted will amount to at least 20,000.
3. The number of individuals who participated in a project to prevent long-term absenteeism will amount to at least 15,000.

The quantified objectives set out below are based on the government's proposal which the Commission has noted.

Indicators – Priority 1

Results and effect indicators

All indicators will, where possible, be divided according to gender.

1. The number of participants who feel that the efforts made to develop skills has resulted in:
 - a.* them being given the opportunity to undertake more complicated work assignments or to broaden their work area.
 - b.* them having received more complicated or more diversified work assignments.

2. The number of participating companies that have had positive experiences regarding the efforts made to develop skills in the workplace. These companies have seen that the efforts have resulted:
 - a. in its staff developing a more in-depth knowledge of the actual work area.
 - b. in an expansion of operations, which will lead to/has led to the need for new or changed 'at work' assignments being carried out.
3. The number of participating workplaces that experience, following the end of the project, that they are better equipped to prevent long-term absenteeism.
4. The number of participating workplaces that experience, following the end of the project, that they have received increased knowledge regarding how discrimination is combated and how well equal treatment is promoted.

Financial and physical indicators

All indicators will, where possible, be divided according to gender.

1. Number of workplaces that have begun to participate in projects in the programme, per year and total, according to number of employees, industry and labour market sector.
2. The number of individuals who have begun to participate in a project in the programme, per year and total, according to the 15–24-year-old age groups, 55–64-year-old age groups and others.
3. The number of self-employed people who have begun to participate in a project in the programme, per year and total.
4. Average amount of support paid out per participating workplace, distributed by ESF support and national co-financing.
5. Average amount of ESF support paid out and national co-financing per participant, divided between the feasibility study stage and implementation.
6. Number of participant hours per project.
7. Number of participants in projects which address the different grounds of discrimination.
8. Number of projects agreed from the feasibility study phase to the implementation phase, with support from the Social Fund.

9. Number of participants in the project dedicated to the prevention of long-term sickness absenteeism.

Quantified objectives – Priority 2

1. At least 75,000 participants – a minimum of 15,000 foreign born, 15,000 young people and 10,000 who are on long-term sick.
2. The proportion of participants who, after they have completed their projects, have received a job offer or feel that their ability to get a job has increased will amount to at least 70 per cent.
3. The proportion of participants who have found work 90 days after the end of a project will be at least 10 percentage points higher than the weighted average score for Special employment support (Särskilt anställningsstöd) and Preparatory training (Förberedande utbildning) or another regular measure for the corresponding target group, divided, respectively, according to each year and for the whole programme period.

Indicators – Priority 2

Results and effect indicators

All indicators will, where possible, be divided according to gender.

1. Number of participants who are working 90 days after the end of a project. Participants in the 15–24-year-old age group, foreign-born participants and the long-term sick are reported separately.
2. Number of participants who are undergoing a regular education 90 days after the end of a project. Participants in the 15–24-year-old age group, the foreign-born participants and the long-term sick are reported separately.
3. Number of participants who, after 90 days of completing a project, have moved on to another labour market policy activity. Participants in the 15–24-year-old age group and the foreign born are reported separately
4. Number of participants who feel that the possibilities of finding employment following the end of a project has increased. Participants in the 15–24-year-old age group, the foreign born and the long-term sick are reported separately.

Financial and physical indicators

All indicators will, where possible, be divided according to gender.

1. Number of participants who began participation in a project, according to the different target groups.
2. Number of individuals who began participation, per year and in total, divided into the 15–24-year-old age groups, 55–64-year-old age groups and others.
3. Amount of support paid out and verified co-financing per project.
4. Number of foreign-born participants.
5. Number of participants with disabilities that lead to a reduced capacity to work.
6. Number of participant hours per project.

THE SOCIAL FUND IN FIGURES 2014

The Social Fund is an extensive investment in skills development for employees and support for those who are distanced from the labour market. The total amount in question is 12 billion SEK over seven years. Many people are keen to know what all these projects have led to.

This report, which is based on statistics and practical examples, tries to answer the following questions:

- How many projects are there and how many individuals have taken part?
- Have the right groups been reached?
- What are the identifiable results?
- Can long-term effects of the projects be identified?

In a concluding section, the Swedish ESF Council takes a look ahead and describes how the system of monitoring and evaluation should be organised during the programme period 2014-2020 so that the reporting of the Social fund's results can be further improved.



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