

Sweden's National Reform Programme 2023

Report on the national implementation of the
European Semester



Table of contents

1. Introduction	4
1.1 Reform policy	4
1.1.1 A plan to address the big economic challenges.....	5
1.1.2 Continued work on reforms to solve Sweden’s societal problems.....	9
1.1.3 The Government taking responsibility at a difficult time.....	16
1.2 Relationship to the Recovery and Resilience Plan and the Annual Sustainable Growth Survey.....	17
1.3 Summary of Sweden’s Recovery and Resilience Plan.....	18
2. Macroeconomic situation and outlook	19
2.1 Labour market.....	21
2.2 Inflation.....	21
2.3 Public finances.....	21
2.4 Income dispersion	22
3. Initiatives and measures in response to economic challenges identified in the European Semester in 2019–2022	22
3.1 Country-specific recommendations to Sweden.....	25
3.1.1 The housing market and household debt.....	25
3.1.2 Compensatory efforts in education.....	28
3.1.3 Further reduced dependence on fossil fuels	31
3.1.4 Support for households and businesses due to high inflation and energy prices.....	32
3.1.5 Resilience and fairness in the green and digital transition	33
3.2 The national targets in the social area	35
3.2.1 Employment.....	35
3.2.2 Education.....	37
3.2.3 Poverty and social exclusion	39
4. Progress towards the UN’s global Sustainable Development Goals	41
5. EU Funds	42
6. Institutional issues and the participation of relevant parties	44
6.1 Institutional issues.....	44
6.2 Consultations with the social partners	44
6.3 Local and regional support.....	45
6.4 Consultation with stakeholder organisations and civil society organisations.....	45
Appendix 1 Excerpts from Sweden’s report on the country-specific recommendations – Transcripts from CeSaR	47
Appendix 2 Excerpts from Sweden’s report on the country-specific recommendations – Transcripts from Fenix	129
Appendix 3 Report on the implementation of the European pillar of social rights: description of key actions and their estimated impact	134

Appendix 4 Report on the global Sustainable Development Goals: description of key forward-looking measures and their estimated impact. 160

Appendix with external contributions to Sweden’s National Reform Programme ... 190

1. Contributions from social partners.....	190
1.1 Företagarna	190
1.2 The Swedish Trade Union Confederation (LO)	192
1.3 Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR)	194
1.4 Confederation of Swedish Enterprise	200
1.5 TCO	202
2. Contributions from civil society organisations.	205
2.1 Fastighetsägarna	205
2.2 Swedish National Council of Adult Education	207
2.3 Swedish Disability Rights Federation.....	209
2.4 Norden Association.....	212
2.5 Hyresgästföreningen.....	216
2.6 Riksförbundet Attention.....	218
2.7 Rädda barnen (Save the Children Sweden)	221
2.8 SISU Idrottsutbildarna	224
2.9 Skoopi.....	225
2.10 VA – Public and Science.....	228

1. Introduction

In April each year, Member States must present a national reform programme to the European Commission, describing their implementation of the overarching priorities of the European Semester, which is the framework for economic policy coordination in the EU. These programmes report on results achieved over the past year, as well as on actions planned.

The National Reform Programme (NRP) also provides a broad picture of the Government's overarching policy to address the country-specific recommendations that Sweden has received in the context of the European Semester in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Sweden's National Reform Programme for 2023 is mainly based on the measures and reform ambitions in the Budget Bill for 2023 and the Spring Fiscal Policy Bill, as well as the Spring Amending Budget Bill for 2023. The initiatives and measures referred to in Section 3 are those that the Government has taken and intends to take in areas assessed by the Commission and the Council in particular within the European Semester in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 as being the main economic challenges for the Swedish economy.

The Reform Programme also reflects the political priorities in the Commission's Annual Sustainable Growth Survey.

- Environmental sustainability
- Productivity
- Justice
- Macroeconomic stability.

When the Commission presented its Annual Sustainable Growth Survey in November 2022, the EU economy was at a turning point with an expected economic downturn after the strong recovery that followed the pandemic. Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has resulted in many complex challenges for firms and households in the EU, such as high energy prices, households' reduced purchasing power, weak global demand and higher interest rates.

An Appendix to this year's Reform Programme contains contributions received from the social partners as well as civil society organisations. The Government has not adopted a stance on this material.

1.1 Reform policy

Sweden's National Reform Programme 2023 has been produced in an uncertain environment with war raging in our neighbouring area, the energy markets in Europe under strain, and the highest inflation in Sweden in over 30 years. High inflation is the number-one enemy of wage and salary earners, as it leads to a decrease in real wages and the value of

savings. It is important that it does not become entrenched at a high level. In addition, high indebtedness and a high proportion of variable-rate mortgages make Swedish households and firms particularly sensitive to the rapidly rising interest rates that accompany inflation. Sweden's economy is also entering a recession, with high unemployment compared to other European countries.

In this environment, the Swedish Government's priority is to protect particularly vulnerable households from the rising prices, to implement measures to combat high unemployment, and to tackle high inflation by improving the conditions for competition. The work-first principle (*Arbetslinjen*) is to be re-established and structural reforms implemented to boost growth. At the same time, the Government is making reforms to solve the societal problems that have afflicted Sweden for a long time.

1.1.1 A plan to address the big economic challenges

The Government intends to address the challenging economic environment with a three-part plan:

- tackle inflation and support vulnerable households
- re-establish the work-first principle
- implement structural reforms to boost growth.

Tackle inflation and support vulnerable households

Fiscal policy has an important role to play in securing prosperity in Sweden, for example by laying the foundations for strong economic growth, a fair distribution of resources, and an efficient public sector. However, given the challenging economic environment in Sweden, tackling inflation needs to be a central priority for economic policy as a whole at present, i.e. for both fiscal policy and monetary policy.

Inflation began to rise in autumn 2021 as a result of rapidly increasing energy prices. At the same time, demand was recovering after the pandemic, which, combined with Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, amplified the increase in prices. In 2022, price increases have spread to other goods and services, which is reflected in the high underlying inflation rate, and prices have continued to rise in 2023. Since inflation has now been high for a long period of time, there is a risk that long-term inflation expectations will rise and that high inflation will become entrenched. If these expectations, which fell in the early part of 2023 and approached the inflation target of 2%, should rise again, economic policy will need to be tight for a longer period to bring inflation down. This would mean significant costs for households and the community as a whole. The situation in which Sweden finds itself therefore calls for prudence.

There is a broad responsibility on many actors to prevent high inflation from having a lasting impact on pricing and wage formation. The Riksbank has the task of utilising monetary

policy to maintain permanently low and stable inflation, but the whole of society needs to take responsibility for tackling inflation.

The Government is taking its responsibility by continuing to pursue fiscal restraint while providing support primarily to vulnerable households. Regulations that drive up costs are being reformed, for example, the greenhouse gas reduction mandate will be lowered from 1 January 2024. The social partners are responsible for ensuring that the wage bargaining rounds do not spur inflation. Companies are responsible for not increasing prices without justification. Those actors who make light of the risks associated with high inflation jeopardise the prosperity of Sweden's people.

Lack of competition in some industries risks exacerbating the price increases. Effective markets, often those with multiple actors, are fundamental to countering price increases. The Government therefore wants to strengthen price monitoring in the Swedish economy, with a particular focus on markets where there is a lack of competition. In light of this, it is important that the relevant authorities, in particular the Swedish Competition Authority (SCA), have the conditions necessary to provide effective competition oversight in industries exhibiting high price increases. It is therefore proposed in the Spring Amending Budget Bill for 2023 (Govt Bill 2022/23:99) that funds be set aside for this purpose. Furthermore, the SCA needs additional tools to ensure effective competition, and the Government intends to return to this issue. The Government also intends to task the SCA and the National Institute of Economic Research (NIER) with analysing the competitive situation in the non-durables sector and other sectors exhibiting large price increases, as well as how prices have increased in relation to costs.

Food prices have risen rapidly as a result of the increased costs of inputs such as electricity and fuel, and distribution disruptions associated with the war in Ukraine. Inflation means that consumers choose less expensive alternatives, which risks having an adverse effect on the competitive situation for Swedish food production, which mainly competes on the basis of high quality and good animal husbandry. The Government intends to maintain a tax reduction on diesel for agriculture and forestry at the EU's minimum levels of taxation in 2024 and 2025.

In order to strengthen consumer power, the Government is proposing additional funding to the National Board for Consumer Disputes (NBCD) and increased support for civil society consumer organisations. The aim is to enable consumers to have their disputes with business operators reviewed faster, and to enable interventions to support financially constrained consumers.

The Government cannot and should not compensate all price increases that are currently occurring, but specific measures should be implemented to support Swedish households. This is essential for Sweden to be able to get through the difficult situation in which we find ourselves. In 2023, approximately SEK 27 billion in electricity subsidies will be paid out to

support households. The average owner of a single-family dwelling with electric heating will receive an electricity subsidy of between SEK 4 500 and SEK 19 000, depending on the electricity bidding zone. In addition, it is proposed that the temporary supplement to families with children receiving housing allowance is extended further until December 2023 and increased. Boosting the housing allowance means that a single person with two children on average will receive SEK 1 100 more per month in housing allowance between July and December 2023. The increase in the housing allowance is an important reform to temporarily protect financially constrained families with children from the substantial price increases.

As a result of the high inflation rate, in particular the rising food prices, civil society is seeing increased need among those seeking help. The Government is therefore launching a specific initiative during 2023 targeting civil society organisations and faith-based organisations that carry out activities aimed at people in socially vulnerable situations.

In addition to this, the national guarantee pension, various parts of sickness and activity compensation, parental benefits and certain other central government transfers as well as student finance will be uprated on the basis of price growth, which will strengthen households' disposable income by a further SEK 12 billion. In addition, households' economies will be strengthened by several of the measures in the 2023 Budget Bill (Govt Bill 2022/23:1), for example, retained higher unemployment benefit, a strengthening of the earned income tax credit for older people, and a temporary reduction in energy tax on petrol and diesel. Firms have also been hit by inflation, in particular by the high electricity prices. The Government will return some SEK 30 billion to firms in 2023 to compensate them for high electricity prices. In addition, the Government has recently introduced a SEK 2.4 billion support scheme targeting those firms hardest hit by high electricity prices.

These measures have two aims. One is to compensate for the price increases and target measures to those who have been hit the hardest by the price increases for example by the high electricity prices during winter which have been very challenging for Swedish households and firms. The coming autumn and winter may again mean significantly higher prices than normal. The Government is prepared to deal with such a situation promptly, if necessary, by proposing for example tax cuts, targeted support to economically vulnerable groups, and other similar support. However, the design of any future measures will always be balanced against the risk that overly expansionary measures may spur inflation further and exacerbate the structural problems in the Swedish labour market.

Re-establish the work-first principle and increase education opportunities

While tackling inflation is a central task at present, fiscal policy has a broader mission to assure prosperity in Sweden. In parallel with tackling the acute problems in the economy, the Government therefore intends to implement a series of reforms to improve the functioning of the Swedish labour market. The work-first principle (*Arbetslinjen*) needs to be re-established.

For many years, Sweden has had high unemployment compared to other EU countries. A weakening of the work-first principle and a high rate of asylum immigration have taken their toll on the economy. This has also made it harder for people to earn their own living and become part of the community. That trend needs to be reversed. It is only if all who are able to contribute do so to the best of their ability that the Swedish welfare model can function and Sweden's prosperity can grow in the long term. Three areas are particularly important for Sweden to be able to re-establish the work-first principle: that it should always pay to work, that the activity requirements are tightened, and that the skills of the unemployed increase.

For it to be more worthwhile to work, the Government will propose that the tax on labour is further reduced once the economic situation permits. Such a tax reduction increases incentives to work and leads to more hours worked in the economy. Increasing incentives to work is particularly important in a situation where most people receiving benefits and transfers are being compensated for the high inflation rate, while employees are seeing their purchasing power eroded. This means that the move from receiving benefits into employment is becoming less and less worthwhile. The need to reduce the tax on labour will therefore be particularly great in the coming years.

The Government also intends to implement a major reform of benefits with the aim of increasing incentives for people to start working. This includes introducing a benefit ceiling and increasing the requirements to qualify for Swedish welfare for those who have migrated here.

The recession has made apparent the structural problems that have existed for a long time in the Swedish labour market. One example is the problem of matching. Despite there being vacant jobs, unemployment is high, especially among foreign-born persons and those without an upper secondary education. There is also a great need to reduce skills shortages in certain industries and to strengthen the capacity of individuals to transition to other employment. Unemployment is also expected to rise in the short term. In order to tackle the challenging economic situation, the Government proposes a comprehensive package of measures in the labour market and education areas in its Spring Amending Budget Bill for 2023. The Government proposes additional funding to strengthen the decision-making capacity of the Swedish Public Employment Service [*Arbetsförmedlingen*]. The Government also proposes that funds be made available to strengthen adult vocational education at upper secondary level and higher vocational education, so that access to vocational education and training is improved and more people can start working in less time. This means the equivalent of 7 400 more full time equivalents (FTEs) in adult vocational education at upper secondary level, and 950 more FTEs in higher vocational education in 2023. Being able to speak and write in Swedish is important for getting a job in Sweden. The Government therefore proposes additional funding to the municipalities so that persons with temporary protection visas, such as those in need of protection who have fled to Sweden from Ukraine, can have access to municipal adult education in Swedish for immigrants (SFI). In addition to the proposals submitted in the 2023 Spring Amending Budget Bill, the Government will also

implement a summer jobs and jobs for young people initiative targeting municipalities with high unemployment.

Implement structural reforms to boost growth

Sweden needs to transition from low to high growth. The conditions for entrepreneurship are poor and the conditions for energy production have worsened with the closure of nuclear power plants, which among other things are constraints on Sweden's GDP growth. To increase productivity and growth, the Government is taking action in several areas. These measures aim to create the best possible conditions for competitive and innovative enterprise.

Taxes should be competitive, entrepreneurship and running a business should be encouraged, and the regulatory burden should be reduced. The Government is promoting growth through investments in research and development and an increased focus on learning outcomes in schools. In the short term, the housing market is being affected very negatively by rising interest rates. In the longer term, construction is being affected structurally by access to buildable land for development, regulation, and the measures undertaken by the municipalities. The Government therefore intends to implement reforms to promote construction and to improve the functioning of the housing market.

During spring 2023, the Government will appoint a Productivity Commission to analyse impediments and opportunities to increasing productivity growth in the Swedish economy and to submit proposals to achieve this. The Government will continue to improve the conditions for competition, innovation, research and entrepreneurship. Work has begun to systematically reduce the administrative costs for businesses. Furthermore, the Government has extended the remit of the Inquiry analysing the tax rules for entrepreneurs, referred to as the 3:12 rules, to also include submitting proposals that will further promote entrepreneurship and facilitate transfers of ownership. Additional funding is also proposed for the further development of the [verksam.se](https://www.verksam.se) website in order to facilitate contacts between businesses and the public sector, thereby reducing the administrative burden on businesses.

An inquiry will be appointed during the spring to simplify and shorten the application procedures for environmental permits under the Swedish Environmental Code by making them more flexible, efficient and predictable in order to ensure the competitiveness of the business sector and Swedish industrial production and to promote a green transition. An Implementation Council will be set up to avoid the over-implementation of EU directives, thereby countering unjustified regulatory burdens.

1.1.2 Continued work on reforms to solve Sweden's societal problems

In addition to its efforts to deal with the difficult economic situation, the Government intends to continue to take action in several areas to solve Sweden's long-term social problems. Among other things, the Government is taking steps to achieve the following:

- increased security
- better schools, health care and social care
- stronger defence and emergency preparedness
- better energy supply and reduced emissions.

Increased security

Security has become the great issue of freedom of our time. This year began with ruthless violence at levels never seen before and gang-based terrorism has also spread from the larger cities to smaller towns.

This development is not least the result of excessive immigration to Sweden for a long time, which has impeded effective integration. This in turn has contributed to widespread exclusion and criminality in parts of the society. Meanwhile the judicial system has lacked adequate resources and tools for effective law enforcement.

The Government is working hard to reverse this trend and has launched the biggest offensive yet against organised crime in Sweden's history. Among other things, this entails a comprehensive strengthening of the entire judicial system, major investments in the police, and new and revised national strategies to combat organised crime. The Government has also set up a council for combating organised crime and has proposed several legislative reforms to strengthen law enforcement agencies' capabilities and, for example, to enable interventions targeting young perpetrators.

Everyone should be able to feel safe in rural, suburban and urban settings alike. A greater number of crimes will be investigated and prosecuted, more victims of crime will obtain redress, and criminals will serve longer prison sentences than those that currently apply to prevent them from committing new offences. Among several planned legislative reforms, sentences for gang-related offences will be doubled, penalties for violent crime and sex offences will be increased, the present form of reduced sentences in cases of multiple offences will be abolished, and conditional release will become the exception rather than the norm. Furthermore, it will be possible to impose a detention sentence on offenders who pose a threat to society due, for example, to a high risk of serious crime recidivism.

These reforms will result in a need to substantially increase the capacity of the Swedish Prison and Probation Service. In addition, the occupancy rate of detention centres and correctional institutions is already high and there is a need to employ staff. Therefore, the Government is setting aside SEK 300 million to give the Prison and Probation Service better conditions for continuing the necessary expansion.

In view of the general deterioration in the security situation, and given that the Swedish Security Service assesses that Sweden is in greater danger from violent Islamic extremism and that the threat of attack has increased, the Government is proposing additional funding to the Security Services' activities in 2023.

The Government is taking more steps to strengthen preventive efforts, in particular efforts to prevent more young people from being drawn into crime. Children and young people in need of placement pursuant to the Care of Young Persons (Special Provisions) Act (SFS 1990:52) will get a placement. It is therefore proposed that support to the municipalities for placements in family-based care should be strengthened, in order to free up places for children and young people within social care for children and young people. In addition, the Government intends to task the National Board of Health and Welfare with developing clinical practice guidelines for family-based care, and supporting the municipalities' efforts to recruit families to provide family-based care. The Government also intends to appoint a national coordinator to improve cooperation within social care for children and young people.

Men's violence against women and honour-based violence and oppression are serious societal problems that cause great suffering to victims. Preventing and combating this violence and oppression is crucial for a gender-equal society. Among other things, the protection and the freedom of movement of women and children who are victims of domestic violence and other violations need to increase. The Government has therefore appointed an inquiry chair to review the restraining order legislation. As part of efforts to combat honour-based violence and oppression, the Government has also appointed an inquiry to investigate how protection against virginity testing and hymen reconstruction surgery can be strengthened.

A reliable welfare system

High inflation has an impact on municipalities and regions because costs increase more than revenue. In order to reduce the risk of cutbacks in welfare, which in turn lead to reduced employment, in the Budget Bill for 2023 the Government added SEK 6 billion in general government grants to the municipal sector starting from 2023. The Government is closely monitoring developments in municipalities and regions, and in the Budget Bill for 2024 intends to include an assessment of the need to boost the resources to the local government sector for 2024 and beyond.

A strengthened, knowledge-based school education

Few things are as important for Sweden's future as its schools. The Government will strengthen school education's focus on knowledge, and build on the successful work done in 2006–2014. Learning outcomes are to be improved and all pupils are to be supported in achieving their full potential. The lack of development of Sweden's schools in recent years will come to an end. In accordance with the Government's proposal in the Budget Bill for 2023, funding has therefore been provided to enable catch-up school to be offered in the lower grades. In order to give particularly high-achieving pupils opportunities to develop, funding has been provided to stimulate the development and quality of accelerated learning programmes. The Government has also made efforts to increase access to special support through funding for special needs teachers and special classes. To contribute to a safe and supportive study environment, additional funding has also been provided for an investment

in social support teams in schools. Furthermore, additional funding has been provided for an investment in textbooks, and *Läslyftet* (an in-service training programme in literacy for teachers, the ‘Literacy Lift’) has been strengthened. In order to deal with pupils who disrupt the classroom or threaten other pupils and teachers, following a proposal from the Government, in the Budget Bill for 2023, funds have also been provided for an investment in behavioural intervention schools.

More fully qualified teachers are key in equipping today’s young people with the right knowledge for entering the world of work. The Government is therefore giving more higher education institutions the opportunity to initiate the necessary preparations to expand the pilot project with a new, shorter Bridging Teacher Education Programme (KPU) in order to improve opportunities for switching to the teaching profession. The Government is also investing in the Teach for Sweden foundation and their work with leadership training and coaching of students.

The school also has an important role to play in preventive efforts. Restoring a safe and supportive study environment for all pupils is crucial for the establishment of a knowledge-based school education for all. The Government therefore proposes additional funding for special needs education initiatives and smaller classes to strengthen support for pupils with neurodevelopmental disorders.

Good and equitable health care

Good and equitable health care is to be provided in a timely way throughout the entire country. Important steps towards achieving this are expanded primary care, more hospital beds, and shorter queues for specialist care.

Waiting times and health care queues in Sweden need to be shortened and access to care improved. Fulfilment of the statutory health care guarantee has been low since it was introduced.

However, there are major challenges, including a shortage of available hospital beds. Following a proposal from the Government in the Budget Bill for 2023, substantial performance-based funding has been provided to increase access to care and the total number of hospital beds in the whole of Sweden. In addition, a national strategy for how the shortage of hospital beds can be addressed will be developed. The Government has also started work on establishing a national health care referral centre with the aim that more patients awaiting care can be offered care faster with shorter waiting periods with another care provider, regardless of where in the country the health care provider is located. The Government also intends to appoint an inquiry with the task of analysing and highlighting the pros and cons of introducing a complete or partial central government responsibility for health care in the longer term and submitting proposals for this. The inquiry will also look at the pros and cons of regional organisations based on, for example, the current six health care regions.

Maternity care and women's health need to be improved. In order to improve access and address regional differences in health care for girls and women, following the Government's proposal in the Budget Bill for 2023, additional funding has been provided for a strengthened and extended initiative in maternity care and women's health.

A safe and secure old age

Good quality health and social care is central to a safe and secure old age. As the health of older people gradually improves and as older people live longer, the need for health and social care is expected to increase. Employing and retaining competent staff working in elderly care is a major challenge for the municipalities. More people must want to and dare to choose to work in elderly care. Elderly care needs to change how it works for example by directing specific tasks to assistant nurses, sharing good examples of municipalities that are working constructively and by using welfare technology to strengthen the safety, security and liberty of older people.

In order to improve public health and ameliorate the consequences of involuntary social isolation, the Government initiated a three-year community initiative in the Budget Bill for 2023. This initiative includes, among other things, health talks for older people, where they are informed about opportunities for social activities, and funding to municipalities and civil society organisations working to prevent and counter involuntary social isolation. Following the Government's proposal in the Budget Bill for 2023, the investment in the Elderly Care Initiative also continued.

The Government has tasked the National Board of Health and Welfare with distributing central government grants to municipalities in order to ensure good health and social care for older people, taking into account the local needs of municipalities. Examples of areas in which the Government is supporting improvements include occupational health and safety and working conditions, skills development, better staff continuity, and enhanced information security and better welfare technology within elderly care. The Government has also strengthened efforts in the area of dementia, and commissioned the National Board of Health and Welfare to work more on the prevention of accidental falls.

Maximum value for money for taxpayers

Taxpayers in Sweden should get better value for their money. This is why the Government is intensifying its efforts to combat welfare fraud. Among other things, a payments authority is being set up to avert, detect and prevent incorrect payments from Sweden's welfare systems. The Government will also provide the relevant authorities with new tools to identify fraud through increased opportunities to share data. Welfare funding is intended to finance things like more assistant nurses and teachers – not to benefit criminals. It is also proposed that funds be set aside for the Swedish Gambling Authority to combat match fixing and money laundering, reduce problem gambling among unscrupulous operators, and more effectively identify operators that do not pay their taxes.

In addition, the Government will review state administrative expenditure. In order to have resources for core tasks, central government's activities need to be efficient. The need to set priorities in central government expenditure is even more pronounced now, since new expenditure risks spurring inflation. During its term of office, the Government will therefore consider changes in the organisation of government agencies and take initiatives to reconsider and streamline their tasks. The number of government agencies should be reduced.

Stronger national defence and emergency preparedness

It has been more than a year since Russia began its full-scale invasion of Ukraine. While Ukraine's resilience has proved to be strong, the war has also highlighted the importance of cooperation between countries at a very difficult time. Sweden has supported Ukraine politically and economically and with humanitarian and military aid – such as the transfer of advanced weapons systems. It is clear to the Government that this support should continue in order to help Ukraine win the war. Since the Government took office, Sweden's support to Ukraine has increased considerably through decisions on transfers of tanks, ammunition and artillery systems. There is also consensus in the Riksdag (Swedish parliament) on this issue.

Sweden also intends to be a strong partner for Ukraine in the reconstruction of the country. Already this year, Ukraine is expected to become the largest recipient of Swedish bilateral aid. Sweden stands and will continue to stand on the side of Ukraine for as long as is necessary.

Democracy must be defended, and the war has made it clear that this can only be done together with others. Therefore, Sweden's defence needs to prepare for membership in NATO. The proposed additional funding in the Spring Amending Budget Bill for 2023 enables a swift Swedish membership of the alliance once all the NATO countries have ratified Sweden's accession protocol. Early decisions are important for the continued upgrading of Sweden's defence forces. The Government therefore proposes additional funding to strengthen communications infrastructure, in order to compensate for price increases in the defence area, and to incorporate the outcomes of the re-negotiations regarding the development and procurement of JAS 39 E Gripen. Resources will also go to activities preparatory to the upcoming decision on Sweden's future fighter jet capabilities. This decision is strategically important, and there will be broad political discussions prior to this decision. The Government has also appointed a Defence Commission to enable a broad parliamentary agreement to be reached on the continued upgrading of Sweden's defence.

The deteriorating security situation in Sweden's neighbourhood underlines the need for a strong civil defence and a strengthened crisis management capability. This applies in particular to resilience in the health care system, where among other things funding has been allocated to the regions to improve the supply of priority medicinal products. The additional funding to civil defence as a result of the Budget Bill for 2023 has created the conditions for

accelerating the ongoing development of Sweden's civil defence and society's emergency preparedness in the coming years.

In order to strengthen preparedness in the management of food and drinking water, the Government proposes additional funding for the purchase of strategic resources to strengthen vital functions in society, and to strengthen Sweden's capacity to manage incidents where hazardous substances have contaminated food or drinking water.

Better energy supply and reduced emissions

Another important factor for a competitive economy is a stable supply of energy. The closure of nuclear power plants has led to electricity shortages at certain times and Sweden thus having been very vulnerable to high energy prices in other European countries. This led to high energy prices for Swedish households and businesses and consequently less favourable conditions for companies that wish to invest in Sweden long term. Taxes and other domestic regulations, such as the level of the greenhouse gas reduction mandate, have also driven up transport costs in Sweden. This has an impact on growth.

The Government wants to provide favourable conditions for all fossil-free energy sources. This is fundamental to putting reliable energy production in place, for meeting the challenges of the climate transition, for creating a good investment climate, and for households to be able to afford to pay their electricity bills. The Government is therefore setting a new energy policy target of 100% fossil-free electricity generation. As part of reaching this target, the Government has begun work to pave the way for new nuclear power production in Sweden. This involves lifting the ban on the construction of nuclear reactors at locations other than those where installations already exist, as well as the current limit of no more than ten reactors in operation. The Government will continue to remove the barriers to new nuclear power production in Sweden. This autumn, the Government is also planning to present an energy policy orientation bill, as well as a bill that will help to simplify the application procedures for environmental permits and shorten the processing time. In order to speed up the permit procedures for offshore wind power, the Government is of the view that the Geological Survey of Sweden (SGU) needs to work to reduce the processing times. SGU must also strengthen its efforts to promote mining and assist in ensuring a more secure supply of the minerals and metals that are essential for the functioning of society, and contribute to the transition to green energy and high-tech development. In addition, the Government's ambition is that the use of fossil gas by households should be reduced in the long term.

Climate policy must be ambitious and effective. People should be able to reside and businesses to operate throughout the entire country and this must be a consideration. In order to ensure cost-effectiveness, climate instruments and the central government organisation in the climate area will be reviewed. Supplementary measures are also needed to achieve Sweden's long-term climate goals. The Government has therefore created the conditions for opening an initial reverse auction (procurement auction) for bioenergy with

carbon dioxide capture and storage (BECCS) in 2023. This has great potential for achieving significant negative emissions. In order for the electric car to become an alternative for everyone, the Government is also investing in the deployment of charging infrastructure. In addition, the Government will submit a climate policy action plan to the Riksdag in the autumn. This plan will describe how the Government's policy can be expected to contribute to achieving Sweden's climate goals.

Forests and the forestry industry play a major role in Sweden's prosperity. It is a Government priority that Swedish forestry should not be restricted but be able to contribute fully to achieving the climate goals, as well as to jobs and growth throughout the country. Forests are also important for protecting biodiversity. The Government proposes that additional funding be set aside in 2023 to enable faster compensation payments to forest owners who voluntarily choose to protect their forests.

It is important that environmental policy is effective and does not complicate people's everyday lives unnecessarily. The Government intends to refer for consultation a proposal to abolish or substantially reduce the tax on plastic carrier bags in preparation for the Budget Bill for 2024.

1.1.3 The Government taking responsibility at a difficult time

The Government is taking responsibility for the economy at a difficult time by steering Sweden onto the right course. The economic environment is particularly challenging, with concomitant high inflation and a recession. But Sweden has got through major trials before and together we will do so again. Inflation must be tackled and the recession responded to with structurally appropriate reforms. Sweden is to once again to become a model country – a country with high growth, stable finances, and a well-functioning labour market where the work-first principle is clear, and where hard work and industriousness pay off. A country with world-class innovations and research, with successful companies from north to south leading the way in technological development – because they have favourable conditions and access to clean and stable electricity every day of the year. Sweden is to be a modern welfare state where funds intended for health care and schools, for example, go to these purposes and not to criminals. The fiscal policy framework must be safeguarded in order to ensure stability and predictability in economic policy. While fiscal policy targets achieving the surplus target,

financial stability also needs to be safeguarded. This Bill is being presented at a time when the financial markets are under strain and turbulent. The turbulence in the financial markets since the beginning of March stems from a crisis of confidence in a few banks in the USA and Europe.

Thus far, the spill-over effects for Swedish banks and the Swedish financial market in general are assessed as limited. However, that Europe and Sweden will be affected by this financial volatility cannot be ruled out. The Government is closely monitoring developments in the

financial markets in light of this volatility and is prepared to take the necessary steps should the need arise in order to safeguard Sweden's financial stability. The Government is engaged in ongoing dialogue with the Riksbank (Sweden's central bank), as well as with the Swedish Financial Supervisory Authority and the Swedish National Debt Office, in order to monitor developments and ensure that Sweden is well prepared.

Since the financial crisis, the regulatory framework for the financial sector has been gradually tightened and developed. Today, Sweden is better equipped to cope with disturbances and crises in the financial system. In general, Swedish banks have good liquidity buffers as well as large capital buffers and they are profitable. This means that financial stability is better protected than it was when Sweden faced the global financial crisis. If the situation were to get worse in the future, Sweden would be well prepared and have the power to act – mainly thanks to the regulations in place and Sweden's strong public finances.

1.2 Relationship to the Recovery and Resilience Plan and the Annual Sustainable Growth Survey

At the European Council meeting in July 2020, an agreement was reached between the heads of state and government of the European Union on the establishment of a Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). The RRF will finance reforms and investments with the aim of supporting Member States adversely affected by COVID-19. The agreement is part of the deal concerning the European Union's long-term budget. The facility is part of the NextGenerationEU recovery instrument. Of the recovery instrument's total assets of just over EUR 800 billion, just on EUR 724 billion (loans and grants at current prices) has been appropriated to finance the RRF. Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility entered into force on 19 February 2021.

The purpose of the RRF is to support Member States in their implementations of reforms and investments in priority areas; areas identified in the Union's economic policy cooperation processes that promote the Member State's growth potential, job creation capacity and economic and social resilience, and which contribute to the green and digital transition. The Facility is also intended to contribute to the modernisation of the EU economies and to underpin a sustainable recovery in the Union in line with the Union's priorities. Member States apply for RRF funding by submitting national recovery plans.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has hit the European economy and community hard. In March 2022, the heads of state or government of the European Union agreed to phase out the EU's dependence on imports of gas, oil and coal from Russia. The Commission proposed the REPowerEU Plan on 18 May 2022 which is intended to strengthen resilience in the EU's energy system and to support the switch to clean energy, and to be implemented within the framework of the RRF. On 1 March 2023, the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2021/241 as regards REPowerEU chapters in recovery and resilience plans entered into force. It allows Member States to apply for

additional funds for measures to speed up the green transition and reduce dependence on Russian fossil fuels. Member States apply for funds by adding a REPowerEU chapter to their existing recovery and resilience plans detailing the measures for which financial support is sought. The funding consists of loans available under the RRF (around EUR 225 billion), non-repayable financial support (EUR 20 billion) and voluntary transfers from the Brexit Adjustment Reserve (around EUR 5.4 billion).

Section 1.3 lists the measures within Sweden's Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) that respond to the country-specific recommendations. The measures included in the RRP are only a limited part of Sweden's very extensive measures to deal with the impact of the pandemic, strengthen the resilience of Swedish society, and promote a green recovery.

The measures reported in the employment and social affairs area are also in line with the Employment Guidelines.

1.3 Summary of Sweden's Recovery and Resilience Plan

The Council of the European Union adopted the decision implementing Sweden's Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) on 4 May 2022. After the Commission established the final distribution between Member States on 30 June 2022, the maximum non-repayable financial support from the RRF that is available to Sweden is EUR 3.18 billion. Sweden is seeking financial support in the whole of this amount. The RRP consists of 26 investments and reforms implemented during the period 2020–2026. The measures are included in the Budget Bills for 2021 and 2022 and in the amendments to the central government budget presented in 2020. The measures are divided into the five following focus areas:

- Green recovery
- Education, training and transition
- Expansion of broadband and the digitalisation of public administration
- Better conditions to meet the demographic challenge and assure the integrity of the financial system
- Investment for growth and residential construction.

The RRF is a performance-based instrument where disbursements are made after the measures have been implemented. Sweden plans to submit its first request for disbursement from the Facility in autumn 2023. The request will cover measures implemented during the period 2020–2022.

The maximum non-repayable financial support from REPowerEU that is available to Sweden is approximately EUR 199 million. On 16 February 2023, the Government decided to transfer EUR 66 million from the Brexit Adjustment Reserve to REPowerEU. A supplement to Sweden's original RRP is currently being prepared within the Government Offices. The supplement includes a chapter on REPowerEU and amendments in the form of

reduced commitments to take account of the reduction in Sweden’s allocation in the form of the maximum non-repayable financial support from the RRF after the Commission established the final distribution between Member States in June 2022. The lower allocation is due to Sweden’s economy having developed more strongly relative to the EU average during 2020–2021.

Table 1 Measures in Sweden’s Recovery and Resilience Plan and links to country-specific recommendations

	CSR
The Climate Leap	2019:2; 2020:2; 2022:4
The Industrial Leap	2019:2; 2020:2; 2022:4
Support to energy efficiency in multi-dwelling buildings	2019:1; 2019:2; 2020:2; 2022:4
Strengthened railway support	2019:2; 2020:2; 2022:4
Protection of valuable nature	
Abolished reduction of the energy tax on heating fuels in industry and agriculture, forestry and aquaculture	2019:2; 2020:2; 2022:4
Adjusted taxable benefit rates for company cars	2019:2; 2020:2; 2022:4
Adjustments in the greenhouse gas reduction obligation	2022:4
More study places in regional adult vocational education	2019:2; 2020:2; 2020:1; 2022:3
Higher compensation level for vocational education and training programmes in combination with Swedish for immigrants and Swedish as a second language.	2019:2; 2020:2; 2022:3
More study places in higher vocational education	2019:2; 2020:2; 2022:3
Resources to meet demand for education at universities and other higher education institutions	2019:2; 2020:2
Changes in employment law and more transition opportunities	
Elderly Care Initiative	2019:2; 2020:2; 2020:1; 2022:3
Protected title for assistant nurses	2020:1
Extended working life – adjusted age limits in social security and tax systems	2020:1
Stronger measures against money laundering and terrorist financing (ToR 2019:80)	2019:3; 2020:3
A new account and safe deposit box system	2019:3; 2020:3
Common digital infrastructure for public administration	2019:2; 2020:2
Broadband expansion	2019:2; 2020:2
Investment support for rental housing and student housing	2019:1; 2019:2; 2020:2; 2020:1; 2022:1
Private right of initiative – stakeholder participation in detailed development planning	2019:1; 2022:1
A simplified and effective regulatory framework for building permits, etc. (ToR 2020:4)	2019:1; 2022:1
Better conditions for residential construction (LRR)	2019:1; 2022:1
Increased ceiling for deferred taxation of the capital gain following the sale of private dwellings	2019:1

2. Macroeconomic situation and outlook

Inflation remains high in many countries and to counter this, central banks have raised policy rates at an historically rapid pace. In the USA, inflation has eased in recent months but remains at high levels. In the euro area, lower electricity prices have contributed to inflation falling, but adjusted for energy prices, inflation continued to rise in February. Inflation is expected to fall as monetary policy tightens and the contribution of energy prices decreases. However, inflation is not expected to fall to the central banks’ inflation target in either the

USA or in the euro area until the end of 2024. Towards the end of 2022, GDP trended higher than many market participants expected, but growth is expected to be relatively weak in both the USA and the euro area moving forward. In the euro area, high inflation has left its mark on households and, despite lower energy prices and measures to support households, household consumption fell sharply in the fourth quarter of 2022, whereas household consumption in the USA has continued to rise. This was in part thanks to the labour market remaining strong and the fact that households have used their excess savings from the pandemic years. Growth in the euro area and in the USA is expected to be relatively weak in 2023, but increase slightly in 2024.

Economic activity in Sweden improved slightly during 2022 and declined during the fourth quarter, in part as a result of lower investment and lower household consumption. Forward indicators point to a weak development in the short term. High inflation, rising interest expenses and the great uncertainty surrounding economic development are expected to reduce household consumption and business investment in 2023. Swedish households are highly leveraged and a large proportion of their mortgages have short interest-rate fixation periods, which makes them more sensitive to interest rates. A weak housing market, in the presence of production and financing costs having increased, has resulted in a decline in new residential construction and a continued fall in housing investment is expected in 2023. Other investments in the trade and industry are also being affected by the significantly higher interest rate situation, while demand is weakening. All in all, GDP growth is expected to fall in 2023 as a result of weak development in domestic demand. However, developments abroad are expected to contribute positively to growth in Sweden, and net exports are expected to increase. The Swedish economy is expected to be in recession in 2023 and 2024.

Table 2 Macroeconomic key figures

Percentage change unless stated otherwise. Outcome 2022, Forecast 2023–2026.

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
GDP ¹	2.6	-1.0	1.2	2.6	3.2
GDP, calendar-adjusted ¹	2.7	-0.8	1.2	2.8	3.0
Productivity ^{2, 3}	0.3	-1.3	1.7	1.5	1.4
Hours worked ³	2.4	0.4	-0.6	1.2	1.6
Employment, 15–74 years	2.7	0.2	-0.2	0.9	1.3
Employment rate, 15–74 years ⁴	69.0	68.8	68.4	68.7	69.3
Unemployment, 15–74 years ⁵	7.5	7.9	8.3	8.2	7.5
Hourly rate according to short-term pay statistics ⁶	2.7	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.6
CPI ⁷	8.4	8.8	3.6	1.9	1.9
CPIF ⁸	7.7	5.9	2.2	2.0	2.0
GDP world economy, KIX-weighted ⁹	2.9	1.1	1.7	2.0	2.1

Note: Based on published statistics until 8 March 2023.

¹ Constant prices.

² Value added in the entire economy at base price per hour worked.

³ According to the national accounts, calendar-adjusted

⁴ Per cent of the population.

⁵ Per cent of the labour force.

⁶ Nominal wage growth according to the short-term wage statistics (KL). Forecast for 2022.

⁷ Consumer price index

⁸ Consumer price index with fixed interest rate.

⁹ GDP weighted with KIX weights, a measure of the significance of each country for Sweden's foreign trade.

Sources: Statistics Sweden, Macrobond, National Mediation Office and own calculations.

2.1 Labour market

The employment rate and labour force participation rate have increased in 2022, but unemployment remains high. Compared to other countries in Europe, unemployment in Sweden has recovered more slowly after the pandemic, and unemployment in Sweden is comparatively high. Unemployment is particularly high among foreign-born people, especially those born outside Europe.

A number of forward indicators have weakened during the second half of 2022. The numbers of notices of termination and bankruptcies have increased, while companies' hiring plans have declined from high levels. With some delay, the slowdown in economic activity is expected to lead to demand for labour worsening in 2023, with higher unemployment and weaker employment growth compared with 2022. Unemployment is expected to continue to rise in 2024 to 8.3%.

2.2 Inflation

Inflation measured by the consumer price index with a fixed interest rate (CPIF) began to rise toward the end of 2021 and rose to high levels during 2022. In 2021, inflation was driven mainly by rising energy prices, but in 2022 more and more components of CPIF drove inflation up. Increased input costs such as higher electricity and fuel prices, and high demand in the economy at the start of the year, all contributed to a rapid rise in the prices of goods, food and services during 2022. Since December 2022, energy prices have fallen, which has contributed to a slight drop in the CPIF inflation rate. At the same time, CPIF excluding energy has continued to climb and companies' price expectations remain at high levels in the Economic Tendency Survey. However, inflation is expected to fall in the future, partly as a result of lower energy prices and partly as a result of lower demand due to tighter monetary policy.

2.3 Public finances

Lower demand in the economy means that net lending is expected to weaken again in 2023 after temporarily improving following the pandemic years. General government is expected to report a deficit, which however will be limited due to temporary support measures coming to an end. According to forecasts, general government finances are expected to strengthen in 2024–2026. However, this is dependent on only those changes in the tax rules and central government expenditure that have been adopted and announced being taken into account in

the forecasts. At the same time, the assessment of the development of the macroeconomy means that finances are expected to remain weak in 2024. Net lending is only expected to improve from 2025. The structural balance is assessed to be in neither surplus or deficit this year and will gradually improve during the period up to and including 2026.

The Government assesses that fiscal policy will be in line with the surplus target in 2023 and 2024. In this forecast, net lending is at the same level as its 2024 target level, but this assessment is not certain. A further weakening of the economy can also lead to further fiscal policy measures.

2.4 Income dispersion

Over the last ten years, income growth has been spread relatively evenly across different income brackets. However, the top 1% in the income distribution have pulled away even more, which is due to capital income having increased strongly (chiefly capital gains and dividends in closely held companies). Overall income dispersion has therefore continued to increase even though reforms in the tax and transfer systems have had a distinctively low-income profile in almost every year since 2010.

After many years of low inflation and increases in real income across the entire income distribution, since 2022 the Swedish economy has been in a phase of high inflation. It is expected that real median income has declined by around 2–3% in 2022, and a similar outcome is expected for 2023. The decline is expected to be greatest at the very top of the income distribution, which is a result of falling capital gains due to falling housing prices and weak growth in the stock market. Individuals in the lower part of the income distribution are expected to suffer slightly less than those higher up in the distribution. One reason for this is that a number of reforms were implemented in 2022 which boosted the nominal income of people receiving sickness and activity compensation. In addition, the guarantee pension and the housing supplement for pensioners were boosted. Another reason is that there was a relatively strong increase in benefit levels in certain transfer systems in 2023, such as social assistance and guarantee pensions, where the benefit level in 2023 is directly linked to the price growth in 2022.

All in all, developments in 2022 and 2023 are expected to lead to a decrease in income dispersion, and in 2023 it is expected to return to approximately the level it was in 2020.

3. Initiatives and measures in response to economic challenges identified in the European Semester in 2019–2022.

This section gives a general presentation of the initiatives and measures that the Government has taken and intends to take in the areas assessed by the Commission and the Council within the European Semester in 2019–2022 as being the main economic challenges for the Swedish economy. Initiatives and measures in response to country-specific recommendations that were reported to the Commission in February 2023 are set out in Appendix 1. This

section also sets out the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, especially the targets set for 2030 (see Section 3.6).

The Council Decision of 13 July 2022 recommends that Sweden implement the following measures in 2022 and 2023:

1. During 2023, to ensure that the growth of nationally financed primary current expenditure is in line with an overall neutral policy stance, taking into account continued temporary and targeted support to households and firms most vulnerable to energy price hikes and to people fleeing Ukraine. Stand ready to adjust current spending to the evolving situation. Expand public investment for the green and digital transitions, and for energy security taking into account the REPowerEU initiative, including by making use of the Recovery and Resilience Facility and other Union funds. For the period beyond 2023, pursue a fiscal policy aimed at achieving prudent medium-term fiscal positions. Reduce risks related to high household debt and housing market imbalances by reducing the tax deductibility of mortgage interest payments or by increasing recurrent property taxes. Stimulate investment in residential construction to ease the most urgent shortages, in particular by removing structural obstacles to construction and by ensuring the supply of buildable land. Improve the efficiency of the housing market, including by introducing reforms to the rental market.
2. Proceed with the implementation of its recovery and resilience plan, in line with the milestones and targets included in the Council Implementing Decision of 4 May 2022. Swiftly finalise the negotiations with the Commission on the 2021–2027 cohesion policy programming documents with a view to starting their implementation.
3. Reduce the impact that pupils' socio-economic and migrant backgrounds have on their educational outcomes by providing equal access opportunities to schools and by addressing the shortages of qualified teachers. Develop skills of disadvantaged groups, including people from migrant backgrounds, by adapting resources and methods to their needs to help their integration into the labour market.
4. Reduce overall reliance on fossil fuels by accelerating the deployment of renewables and boosting complementary investment in network infrastructure, strengthening internal grids within the country to ensure sufficient network capacity, improving energy efficiency, and further streamlining permitting procedures in relation to renewable energy projects.

Because the 2021 European Semester was adapted to take into account the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), the European Commission has only provided proposals for country-specific recommendations in the area of fiscal policy. The recommendations were adopted at the meeting of the ECOFIN Council in June 2021.

1. In 2022, maintain a supportive fiscal stance that takes account of the impetus provided by the Recovery and Resilience Facility, and preserve nationally financed investments.
2. When economic conditions allow, pursue a fiscal policy aimed at achieving satisfactory public finances and ensuring fiscal sustainability in the medium term while also increasing investment to boost growth potential.
3. Pay particular attention to the composition of public finances, both on the revenue and expenditure sides of the budget, and to the quality of budgetary measures, to ensure a sustainable and inclusive recovery. Prioritise sustainable and growth-enhancing investment primarily supporting the green and digital transition. Give priority to fiscal structural reforms that will help provide financing for public policy priorities and contribute to the long-term sustainability of public finances, including reforms that improve the coverage, adequacy, and sustainability of health care and social protection systems for all. On 20 March 2020, the general escape clause in the Stability and Growth Pact was activated. This clause facilitates the coordination of budgetary policies in times of severe economic downturn and permits a temporary departure from the adjustment path towards the medium-term budgetary objective provided that this does not endanger fiscal sustainability in the medium term. The general escape clause does not mean that the procedures of the Stability and Growth Pact are suspended. It allows Member States to derogate from the budgetary requirements that would normally apply while enabling the Commission and the Council to undertake the necessary policy coordination measures within the framework of the Pact.

The proposed 2020 country-specific recommendations presented by the Commission on 20 May 2020 stress that Sweden should take all necessary measures to address the pandemic, in terms of the functioning of the health care system as well as the economic consequences from the pandemic.

The Council Decision of 20 July 2020, adopted by written procedure, recommends that Sweden take the following action in 2020 and 2021:

1. In line with the general escape clause, take all necessary measures to effectively address the pandemic, sustain the economy and support the ensuing recovery. When economic conditions allow, pursue fiscal policies aimed at achieving very prudent medium-term fiscal positions and ensuring debt sustainability, while enhancing investment. Ensure the resilience of the health care system, including through adequate supplies of critical medical products, infrastructure and workforce.
2. Foster innovation and support education and skills development. Front-load mature public investment projects and promote private investment to foster the economic recovery. Focus investment on the green and digital transition, in particular on clean

and efficient production and use of energy, high-tech and innovative sectors, 5G networks and sustainable transport.

3. Improve the effectiveness of anti-money laundering supervision and effectively enforce the anti-money laundering framework.

In its 2020 recommendation the Commission notes that continued follow-up of the recommendation from 2019 will be relevant to the recovery from the pandemic.

The Council Decision of 9 July 2019 recommends that Sweden take the following measures in 2019 and 2020:

1. Address risks related to high household debt by gradually reducing the tax deductibility of mortgage interest payments or increasing recurrent property taxes. Stimulate investment in residential construction where shortages are most pressing, in particular by removing structural obstacles to construction. Improve the efficiency of the housing market, including by introducing more flexibility in rental prices and revising the design of the capital gains tax.
2. Focus investment-related economic policy on education and skills while maintaining investment in sustainable transport to upgrade the different transport modes, in particular railways, and in research and innovation, taking into account regional disparities.
3. Ensure effective supervision and the enforcement of the anti-money laundering framework.

The Government welcomes the reviews conducted within the framework of the European Semester. The Government sees the work performed in the European Semester as a way of encouraging responsible economic policy and attaining the targets the Member States have jointly agreed. Reviews that are well-founded, treat the Member States equally and take country-specific conditions into account are an important aspect of the European Semester and therefore of economic policy coordination at EU level.

3.1 Country-specific recommendations to Sweden

3.1.1 The housing market and household debt

The prices of dwellings have fallen by around 13% since the peak in February 2022. The weak housing market, combined with high production and financing costs, has had an impact on the rate of construction. The number of dwellings begun decreased in 2022, with a particularly strong decline at the end of the year. The rate of construction is expected to remain weak in 2023, which means that housing investments are expected to fall sharply this year and slow development in 2024 as well.

The Government shares the assessment that there are substantial challenges in the Swedish housing market. There is a need for further reforms to increase the supply of dwellings that meet people's needs and demand across the country. The Government also intends to develop reforms that will enable more people to own their homes. The Government intends to develop measures to increase access to buildable land, and simplify the rules for developing land considerably. Simplifications in the regulations governing building permits are included as measures in Sweden's RRP (for the status of the implementation, see Appendix 2). Municipalities will be encouraged and stimulated to increase their planning in advance, especially for single-family dwellings. In the appropriation directions for 2023, the Government has tasked the county administrative boards with reporting on measures taken in cooperation with the municipalities to promote increased residential construction where there is a shortage of housing.

The Government shares the assessment of the European Commission that the design of the tax system can influence household indebtedness. However, it is important to maintain stable and predictable rules for decisions as important as buying a home. The need for action in the area must be viewed from a long-term perspective and be handled with care. This applies particularly to the question of tax deductions for interest payments at a time when interest rates are rising.

As regards measures to reduce the risks associated with high household debt, a number of measures (macro-prudential measures) have been taken to strengthen the resilience of households and the financial system. These are measures to ensure that banks hold sufficient capital to cover the risks in their lending, such as the risk-weight floor for mortgages introduced by the Swedish Financial Supervisory Authority in 2013 and subsequently adjusted in stages. These are also what are known as borrower-based measures, such as the mortgage ceiling introduced in 2010, the amortisation requirement introduced in 2016, and the increased amortisation requirement introduced in 2018. [The 2022 country-specific recommendation #1 on imbalances in the housing market does not address macro-prudential measures.]

The investment support for rental housing and housing for students was introduced in 2016 with the aim of promoting the construction of dwellings with a lower rent than other new-production rental housing and housing for students. This investment is part of Sweden's RRP (for the status of the implementation, see Appendix 2). This support is being phased out, which does not, however, affect Sweden's commitment within the RRP.

In March 2022, the Government adopted a bill (Govt Bill 2021/22:212) on certified construction project companies. Allowing certified design and build companies to replace the municipalities' initial verification of compliance with the building regulations allows the construction process to become more predictable, facilitating efficient repeatable processes. The legislative amendments entered into force in August 2022. The measure is part of Sweden's RRP (for the status of the implementation, see Appendix 2).

The Government has also implemented a reform concerning the private right of initiative through the bill *Private right of initiative – stakeholder participation in detailed development planning* [*Privat initiativrätt – planintressentens medverkan vid detaljplaneläggning*] (Govt Bill 2020/21:131), which aims to enable planning processes to be sped up through increased predictability, and to enable the stakeholder to start work on producing planning documentation before the municipality is able to start the planning. These amendments entered into force on 1 August 2021. The measure is part of Sweden’s RRP (for the status of the implementation, see Appendix 2).

Examples of other measures are amendments to the Act on Municipal Responsibility for Housing Provision (2000:1383), which entered into force on 1 October 2022. The amendments entail a requirement that the analysis that forms the basis of the information in the municipalities’ guidelines for housing provision focuses more clearly on the housing shortage in the particular municipality. The aim is to improve the conditions for the Government’s monitoring of the Riksdag’s objective for the housing market as well as for municipal planning of housing provision.

In addition the Commission of Inquiry on socially sustainable housing (ToR. 2020:53, 2020:126, 2021:67) presented its report on lowering the threshold for good housing (SOU 2022:14) on 30 March 2022. The Inquiry’s remit was to investigate and, if necessary, to propose measures to create the conditions for the provision of socially sustainable housing. Its remit included reviewing two important aspects of social housing policy: the division of tasks between central government and the municipalities, and the housing policy instruments available to municipalities to assist the households that are furthest from the housing market. The report has been circulated for comment and the proposals are being prepared within the Government Offices of Sweden.

The Government has commissioned a number of government agencies to review claims regarding areas of national interest, where the review was intended to greatly reduce both the number of claims of national interest and the total land footprint of these areas. In addition, the Government has commissioned the county councils to identify areas of national interest for nature conservation and cultural heritage protection whose current relevance needs to be re-examined, where the starting point for this commission is to reduce conflicts between the objectives of the national interest and of residential construction, and to release more land for planning and construction. The final report on the commission was presented on 28 December 2021. Subsequently, in their appropriation directions for 2022, the Swedish National Heritage Board and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency were commissioned to re-examine the national interests of the conservation of cultural heritage and of nature conservation identified by the county administrative boards, where there are doubts about their current relevance or their geographical footprint. The reports on these commissions were presented in January 2023.

3.1.2 Compensatory efforts in education

Reduce the impact that pupils' socio-economic and migrant backgrounds have on their educational outcomes

With the amendments made to Chapter 8 of the Education Act (2010:800), the Government wants to increase participation in early childhood education, which has positive effects for the child's development and learning as well as for society. Each home municipality will be obliged to contact the custodial parents of children who do not have a place in preschool through outreach activities, and inform them about the purpose of preschool and the child's right to preschool.

Children's and pupils' language development, and the development of their reading and writing skills is crucial for their learning in all subjects taught in schools. In order to strengthen the language development and reading and writing skills of children and pupils, an expansion, strengthening and extension of the Swedish National Agency for Education's Literacy Lift task has been decided (Govt Bill 2022/23:1).

The Government is also of the view that Sweden's pupils need more textbooks, and an initiative to fulfil the principle of one textbook per pupil and subject is currently being undertaken. There are great differences between schools in terms of access to teaching and learning materials, and this has become a serious equality problem in Swedish schools. On 2 March 2023, the Government decided to adopt the Purchase of Certain Teaching and Learning Materials Ordinance (2023:86). This means that the organisers of the compulsory school types can apply for a central government grant for the purchase of published textbooks and teacher's guides for these types of schools. For 2023, SEK 685 million has been set aside for this purpose, and for 2024 and beyond, more than half a billion SEK annually (Govt Bill 2022/23:1).

In order to give all pupils equal opportunities to succeed in school, schools can now offer primary and intermediate level classes during school holidays (catch-up school). In the Budget Bill for 2023, the Government increased the central government grant for catch-up school by SEK 100 million. A previous limit on which grades the grant can be used for has been removed so that applications for all grades can now be made. The amended ordinance entered into force on 15 March 2023.

In order for more pupils to be able to achieve the school's educational goals, efforts are being made to increase access to special needs teachers. This will provide greater opportunities for school principals to set up special classes and improve access to special needs initiatives. SEK 600 million is allocated for this purpose in 2023, and the Government estimates SEK 900 million for 2024 and SEK 1 000 million for 2025 (Govt Bill 2022/23:1).

Address the shortage of qualified teachers

In order to encourage more graduates of tertiary education to switch to the teaching profession, a pilot project has been initiated with a new, shorter Supplementary Teacher

Education Programme (KPU) that leads to a Degree of Master of Arts in Primary Education or Degree of Master of Arts/Science in Secondary Education. In the Budget Bill for 2023, the Government invested special funding, SEK 7 million, for programme planning, coordination and development of the pilot project (Govt Bill 2022/23:1) and in the Spring Amending Budget Bill an additional SEK 2 million has been provided to the Supplementary Teacher Education Programme.

The initiative with placement partnership preschools and placement partnership schools is being expanded to improve the quality of student teacher placements. Placement partnership schools are an important initiative for preparing the students for their future professional life (Govt Bill 2022/23:1).

The co-financing of World Skills Sweden continues (Govt Bill 2022/23:1). It is important that World Skills Sweden continues its efforts, for example, to attract more professional women and men to become vocational education teachers and to help more young people choose to study a vocational education and training (VET) programme.

Develop the skills of disadvantaged groups by adapting resources and methods to their needs

On 1 January 2023, new legislation concerning validation of prior learning entered into force. A completely new validation ordinance (2022:1549) has entered into force as part of efforts to create a coherent, national and permanent system for the validation of prior learning. Its purpose is to establish a common understanding of and uniformity in the validation of prior learning across the entire area of education and the labour market. An obligation has been introduced into the Education Act (2010:800) whereby the home municipality must ensure that those who wish to have their prior learning reviewed before starting a programme of study or within municipal adult education are offered an initial review. The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth and the Swedish National Agency for Higher Vocational Education are to monitor, support and coordinate the development of validation nationally and regionally in the area of education and in working life (amendment to the Ordinance with instructions for the Swedish National Agency for Higher Vocational Education [2011:1162]).

The bridging programmes initiative, which entails combining VET programmes with Swedish for Immigrants (SFI) or Swedish as second language, has enabled more foreign-born people to gain a combined language and VET qualification that leads to work. Among the foreign-born studying bridging programmes in 2021, 61% were women and 39% men. The VET initiative at upper secondary level within Komvux (regional adult vocational education) is therefore continuing, and SEK 400 million has been provided in the Spring Amending Budget Bill for 2023. In addition, a further SEK 70 million has been provided to higher vocational education and SEK 249 million set aside for student finance. Thus, a total of SEK 719 million for adult education has been decided. Parts of this initiative are included in Sweden's RRP. For the status of the implementation, see Appendix 2.

An inquiry chair has been appointed to present proposals to help assure the supply of skills and that more pupils get the knowledge they need to be able to support themselves. The purpose of the inquiry is to provide multiple pathways to working life in upper secondary school that take into account the needs of the labour market, pupils' differing aptitudes for learning, and that many pupils are not ready to make their career choice in grade 9 (ToR 2022:74).

An inquiry chair has been commissioned to review how VET in municipal adult education (Komvux) can be made more effective and better adapted to the needs of both the labour market and individuals (ToR 2022:84).

The Swedish National Agency for Education has been tasked with offering organisers the support they need to provide an effective reception into the school system of children and young people who have fled Ukraine. The task includes implementing initiatives to meet the need for Ukrainian- and Russian-speaking individuals with teacher education or other relevant experience in the school system. The support and initiatives will be adapted to the differing conditions and needs of the target groups (Reg. no. U2022/03031, U2022/03625, U2022/03626 and others, Appropriation directions 2023 for the Swedish National Agency for Education). In addition, it has been decided to enable municipalities to offer Swedish for immigrants (SFI) to persons protected under the EU's Temporary Protection Directive. The target group are those who have fled the war in Ukraine. In its Spring Amending Budget Bill for 2023, the Government has therefore proposed that the municipalities should receive SEK 100 million in central government grants.

The Swedish Public Employment Service has been tasked with continuing to strengthen and develop its work on labour market policy measures and employer contacts with the aim of helping employers who need to recruit labour to find the skills they need more efficiently. The task includes taking measures to improve the occupational and geographical mobility of job seekers based on the skills requirements of employers (Letter of appropriation 2023 for the Swedish Public Employment Service decided by the Government).

The Swedish Public Employment Service will continue to develop its work with competence provision in the case of major establishments of companies and corporate expansions. Employer contacts are also important for the Public Employment Service to be able to effectively match job seekers to jobs. The Public Employment Service is to develop contacts with employers in particular to support those job seekers who remain distant from the labour market (Letter of appropriation 2023 for the Swedish Public Employment Service decided by the Government).

In its instruction (Ordinance [2022:811]) which entered into force on 1 December 2022, the Swedish Public Employment Service has been given a clearer task to support competence provision in the labour market. In addition, the Public Employment Service is to cooperate with a number of other government agencies in contributing to an effective supply of skills.

3.1.3 Further reduced dependence on fossil fuels

The Government shares the Commission's assessment that there are major challenges in the energy area that urgently need to be addressed. Electrification is a high priority area for the Government to achieve Sweden's high ambitions in the climate area while strengthening its competitiveness. Electrification is vital for industry and transport to be able to transition to a sustainable future, and forecasts indicate that electricity consumption could double. Sweden is thus facing a growing need for electricity throughout the community. One of the Government's highest priorities therefore is to work to ensure new, plannable and fossil-free electricity production in Sweden. This is primarily a question of enabling new nuclear power plants to be established. Nuclear power is to play a decisive role in restoring a reliable and secure electricity supply and in achieving an effective climate transition. The Government will therefore propose to the Riksdag that the target of 100% renewable electricity generation by 2040 be replaced by a target of 100% fossil-free electricity generation by 2040. In January 2023, the Government also referred for consultation a proposal to remove the provision in the Swedish Environmental Code prohibiting the construction of nuclear reactors at locations other than those where nuclear power plants are already established. In addition, the Government proposes removing the provision limiting the number of reactors in operation to ten. The draft legislation is expected to enter into force in March 2024.

In order to contribute to the achievement of climate policy goals, the Government has tasked the Swedish Energy Agency in its Appropriation Directions for 2023 with inquiring into and proposing instruments for carbon capture and storage (CCS) and carbon capture and utilisation (CCU). In 2023, the Government will also present a climate policy action plan in which, pursuant to the Climate Act (2017:720), the Government must describe how Sweden will achieve the interim targets for 2030 and 2040 and how we will get all the way to net zero emissions in 2045.

In its appropriation directions for 2023, the Government commissioned Affärsverket svenska kraftnät (the Swedish national transmission network, SVK) to extend the transmission network to Gotland with the aim of increasing transmission capacity. By 29 September 2023, SVK is to report to the Government on the choice of technology and the timetable for this work in the future.

Energy efficiency not only helps to strengthen Sweden's competitiveness and to reduce our climate and environmental impact, it also reduces consumers' vulnerability to high energy prices. In order to reduce energy consumption in the short and long term and to moderate the high electricity prices for the coming winter, government agencies have been mandated to take energy-saving measures in order to reduce their electricity consumption. The Government is investing approximately SEK 1.2 billion in the 2023 budget during 2023–2025 to support the conversion of heating systems, and energy-efficiency renovations of one- or two-dwelling buildings that are currently heated with direct electric heating or gas, among other measures. In addition, the tax deduction for the installation of solar panels on an individual's dwelling is increased from 15% to 20%.

In April 2022, the Government appointed an inquiry chair to present a proposal on how municipalities' incentives for the expansion of wind power could be strengthened in order to cope with climate change and the increased electrification of society. A report on the task was to be presented by 31 March 2023. The Government shares the Commission's assessment of the importance of shortening the lead times for permit processes. In the Appropriation Directions for 2023, the Government has tasked the Swedish Energy Markets Inspectorate with developing working methods and parallel processes for the consideration of network concessions for electricity networks with the aim of reducing lead times.

3.1.4 Support for households and businesses due to high inflation and energy prices

In this situation, the Government has chosen to pursue a neutral fiscal policy, which means that it neither stimulates nor constrains demand in the economy. As long as fiscal measures are undertaken, such as support for financially constrained households and businesses, as part of a neutral fiscal policy, they are assessed as being unlikely to spur inflation. In 2022, a number of measures were introduced to mitigate the effects of high energy prices on households and businesses: a temporary electricity price compensatory payment to households; a temporary reduction in the tax on diesel in agriculture, forestry and aquaculture; and a temporary reduction in the tax on petrol and diesel.

During 2023, the Government is taking multiple measures to support households and businesses as a result of high inflation and the high energy prices. Subsidies to households and businesses were given to compensate for high electricity prices during the period October 2021 to September 2022. The subsidies targeted southern Sweden, where electricity prices were particularly high during the period in question. In view of the high electricity prices throughout Sweden in November and December 2022, a subsidy has also been paid to households throughout Sweden for these months. All these subsidies have been provided to mitigate the consequences of future electricity costs, but are based on historical electricity consumption, which means that electricity consumers do not have any incentive to refrain from saving energy. An additional subsidy targets electricity-intensive businesses and is based on the additional cost of electricity during autumn 2022. With the exception of this last subsidy, the measures are financed directly from congestion rent. However, the Government intends to task Svenska kraftnät to make an application that the congestion rent also can finance the subsidy to electricity-intensive businesses.

Further measures being taken in 2023 to mitigate the effects of high energy prices are a temporary reduction in the energy tax on petrol and diesel of SEK 0.80 per litre, which supports both private individuals and firms; an extension of the temporary reduction in the tax on diesel in the agricultural sector, forestry and aquaculture; and an extended and expanded option for firms to apply for temporary respite on the payment of certain taxes. In addition, the travel allowance was strengthened at the turn of the year in part by means of an increase in the deductible amount for work-related journeys in the employee's own car from SEK 18.50 to SEK 25 per 10km.

The economic situation that has arisen has contributed to a substantial increase in expenditure on food and electricity for many households. The housing allowance is a well-targeted benefit for reaching financially constrained households and for providing additional resources to economically vulnerable families with children. In view of the increase in the cost of living, a temporary supplement was provided to families with children receiving the housing allowance during the period July to December 2022. This measure has since been extended for six months, which means that the temporary supplement is also being provided for the period 1 January to 30 June 2023 to relevant households. A proposal to extend the measure further until 31 December 2023 was referred for consultation in March 2023. The proposal also includes an increase in the level of the supplement from the current 25% to 40% of the preliminary housing allowance. This is to protect financially constrained families with children against the recent price hikes.

3.1.5 Resilience and fairness in the green and digital transition

Klimatklivet (the ‘Climate Leap’) is an umbrella term for the Government’s general climate investment aid and is one of the most important initiatives for the climate transition. Up until 31 December 2022, the Climate Leap had granted 5 102 applications for funding totalling SEK 13 billion. Together, the measures that have received aid thus far under the Climate Leap are expected to contribute to an annual reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 2.6 million tonnes. Climate Leap funding can be granted to measures for direct emissions reductions at local and regional level throughout Sweden, as well as to support rechargeable electric vehicles and measures to promote fossil-free fuels. The Climate Leap is thus contributing to achieving a faster electrification of the vehicle fleet.

In December 2021, the Riksdag decided that the appropriation would be increased by SEK 1 955 million in 2023 and SEK 3 155 million in 2024 compared with the 2021 estimated levels for these years. In December 2022, the Riksdag decided that the Climate Leap will be strengthened with an additional SEK 400 million in 2023 and SEK 500 million annually in 2024 and 2025 to expand investment in charging infrastructure.

The Government is working to support projects and investments that reduce emissions from industry. The Government launched the *Industriklivet* (‘Industrial Leap’) initiative in 2018 to support precisely this type of project. Within the Industrial Leap, it is possible to get state aid for projects aimed at capturing and storing carbon dioxide. It is also possible to get aid for strategically important investments for industry’s transition. Strategically important projects include investments aimed at creating a fossil-free underground mine that uses an electric vehicle fleet, fossil-free heating of steel using hydrogen and oxygen, and feasibility studies on the establishment of a plastic waste refinery. The Industrial Leap is estimated to have the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 9 million tonnes per year in the long term, and to achieve about 6 million tonnes of negative emissions per year through the capture and storage of biogenic CO₂ emissions. Parts of the Industrial Leap are included in Sweden’s RRP. For the status of the implementation, see Appendix 2.

The Industrial Leap was therefore strengthened in the Budget Bill for 2023 so as to further strengthen and accelerate industry's climate transition. Strengthening the Industrial Leap with SEK 600 million per year in the period 2023–2025 will enable Swedish innovations and solutions to be developed and exported, which will assist in reducing emissions both in Sweden and globally, and accelerate the climate transition.

State aid for energy efficiency in multi-dwelling buildings was developed in 2021 and was intended to address the challenge that energy efficiency improvements are often not profitable for property owners (*Memorandum: Proposal for an ordinance on state aid for energy efficiency in multi-dwelling buildings [Promemoria Förslag till förordning om stöd till energieffektivisering i flerbostadshus]*). These obstacles justify state aid because the social benefit of energy efficiency are higher than the private benefit. The aim of the measure was to realise the great potential for energy efficiency in the current multi-dwelling housing stock. By reducing the gap between profitable and non-profitable measures, it was anticipated that a larger proportion of energy-efficiency measures would be implemented. Energy-efficient renovation provides opportunities to make environmentally and economically advantageous renovation choices, including conscious choices of materials, reuse, and safeguarding of the existing values of the built environment with the aid of artistic professions in architecture, form and design in the processes. This investment is part of Sweden's RRP (for the status of the implementation, see Appendix 2).

To strengthen long-term competitiveness and promote a rapid transition to a green and digital economy, Sweden is participating in Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEIs). Sweden is already involved in two projects in the battery area and two projects in the hydrogen area with the aim of reducing emissions in industry. In 2022, the Government set aside SEK 300 million, and for 2023 there is an additional SEK 140 million set aside for IPCEI projects.

The Government has also taken several measures intended to strengthen digitalisation in the community. An example is the establishment of digital infrastructure for all parts of public administration for sharing information, which is part of Sweden's RRP, and the budgeted spending on digital infrastructure for the welfare system of SEK 50 million per year up until 2024, and SEK 20 million per year as of 2025. The Government's objective for the digitalisation of public administration is a simpler everyday life for citizens and firms, a more open administration that supports innovation and participation, and higher quality and effectiveness in services. In 2023 the Government is setting aside SEK 84.6 million to be able to fulfil the requirements in Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a single digital gateway to provide access to information, to procedures and to assistance and problem-solving services. For 2024 it is estimated that SEK 51 million will be set aside for this purpose. Between 2022 and 2027 the Government will also set aside an estimated SEK 40 million per year for co-financing of projects in the EU programme Digital Europe.

3.2 The national targets in the social area

The Commission's European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan proposed three EU-level headline targets in the social area to be achieved by 2030 that are intended to help guide national policies and reforms. The heads of state and government gave their backing to the headline targets at their informal meeting in Porto in May 2021, and these were endorsed by the European Council on 24–25 June of the same year. The targets address the areas of employment, education, and poverty reduction or social exclusion and are in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. At EU level, the target for employment has been formulated as at least 78% of the population aged 20–64 should be in employment by 2030. The EU's headline target for education is that at least 60% of all adults should participate in training every year, and its headline target for the risk of poverty or social exclusion is that the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion should be reduced by at least 15 million (compared with the 2019 level) by 2030.

Member States were called on to set national targets in the same areas, taking into account their particular starting positions and national circumstances and in accordance with their national decision-making processes. The targets are to be reported to the Commission in their National Reform Programmes, which are delivered at the end of April each year. Sweden's national targets to contribute to the EU headline targets in the social area were set in the Spring Amending Budget Bill for 2022 (Govt Bill 2021/22:100).

Sweden's national targets are to be ambitious, realistic, consistent and compatible with sustainable and inclusive growth as well as sound public finances. There must be a clear connection to the EU headline targets. It is important that all Member States exercise responsibility for contributing to the achievement of the headline targets, but Member States that are further from the target levels should contribute more. The national targets must integrate a gender equality perspective.

3.2.1 Employment

Sweden's national target for employment is that at least 82% of the population aged 20–64 should be in employment by 2030. The employment gap between women and men (the gender employment gap) should decrease significantly through an increase in the employment rate for women, especially in the group foreign-born women.

The employment rate in Sweden is high compared to other EU countries. In 2022 the employment rate in the 20–64 age group was 82.2%, with 79.2% for women and 85% for men, which are much higher levels than the EU average for the same year of 74.7%. Since 2001, the gap in employment rates between men and women has averaged around 5.3 percentage points. Internationally, Sweden has a high rate of employment among women.

In 2022, the employment rate had increased among women born in Sweden (native-born) and among foreign-born women (20–64 years) compared with 2020. The rate of increase was much faster among foreign-born than native-born women. However, the employment rate

among foreign-born women was 18 percentage points lower than among native-born women and 12 percentage points lower than among foreign-born men. The gap between native-born and foreign-born women has been higher in Sweden than the EU average since 2002, which is the first year of statistics for the EU. One explanation for this is that the employment rate among native-born women is very high in Sweden. Meanwhile, the employment rate among foreign-born women in Sweden has been higher than the average for foreign-born women in the EU since 2002.

Everyone who can work should work. The work-first principle (*Arbetslinjen*) needs to be re-established. To tackle the labour market situation, matching needs to be improved and the skills shortage needs to be addressed throughout the country (see further Section 3.1.2). The new Act on Basic Transition and skills support (2022:850) entered into force on 30 June 2022, which was developed in close cooperation with the social partners. The new central government transition organisation started operations on 1 October 2022 (see also Section 3.2.2 on the Student finance scheme for transition and retraining). Long-term unemployment needs to be reduced and the incentives for older people who want to remain in the workplace will be improved (Statement of Government Policy, 18 October 2022, page 4). To improve integration, a higher rate of employment is crucial. There need to be more opportunities for the group foreign-born to enter and establish themselves in the labour market, especially foreign-born women.

An inquiry chair has been appointed to develop proposals for measures targeted in particular at improving the establishment of foreign-born women in the labour market (ToR 2022:42). The inquiry chair is also to propose how the Swedish Public Employment Service's Introduction Programme can be made more flexible to accommodate new arrivals who are particularly detached from the labour market. A report on the task is to be presented by 31 May 2023 at the latest.

Work to increase gender equality in the labour market needs to continue. The gaps between women's and men's participation in various initiatives need to be closed. This applies in particular to labour market training, work placements and subsidised jobs (Govt Bill 2022/23:1 Expenditure area 14, page 39).

In 2022, the Swedish Gender Equality Agency was commissioned (A2022/00809) to work with the Swedish Social Insurance Agency, the Swedish Public Employment Service and the Swedish Migration Agency among others to develop a joint plan for getting more foreign-born women into the labour market. The aim of this plan is to fill gaps in knowledge about the needs and situations of these women through a study. The study is to include factors that may constitute significant obstacles to foreign-born women entering the labour market. The Gender Equality Agency has presented a report on the study to the Government Offices (Ministry of Employment).

By prioritising cost-effective workplace-based measures which also contribute to a high level of job search activity, it has been possible to reduce the appropriation for labour market programmes and measures in 2023. This streamlining simultaneously provides scope for continuing to increase measures, in relation to current levels, designed to meet the challenges in the labour market. These measures include matching services, which can help to reduce the time spent unemployed and to prevent and counter long-term unemployment. They also include labour market training, which can equip job seekers for the job vacancies that exist and thus help to address skills shortages in the labour market.

There is also scope for more people to be offered work experience placements. A work experience placement can be a good way to get a foothold in the labour market as it helps to overcome the employer's uncertainty about a person's skills. Work experience placements provide an experience of working life that can help job seekers to become less passive and to improve their chances of getting a job. Funding has therefore been provided to enable more work experience placements as part of the work to get more people into jobs so that they can support themselves.

Work to direct more people to regular studies will continue. To facilitate the entry of young people into the labour market, central government funding has been invested to strengthen the municipalities' possibilities of creating jobs for young people.

Our public welfare system must be dependable. Funds have therefore been set aside permanently so that unemployment benefits are kept at the same higher level as during the pandemic. The Government has also decided that relaxations of the working condition, the waiting period condition, and the rules for the self-employed will continue to apply during 2023. The Government has presented a bill to the Riksdag with proposals that these relaxations should continue indefinitely.

3.2.2 Education

Sweden's national target for education and training is that at least 60% of all adults should participate in training every year. At least 40% of the participants should be men and at least 40% women.

Here training includes both formal and non-formal education and training. Formal education means organised education as part of the regular education system. Informal training means, for example, staff training during working hours, labour market programmes, and short courses, seminars and study circles during leisure time. The national target is at the same level as the EU target. The share of adults actually participating in education or training in Sweden today is uncertain. The uncertainty is due to shortcomings in previous statistical measurements (for example, time series are lacking). In 2022, data collection began for the new indicator.

Vocational education and training (VET) at upper secondary level in municipal adult education (regional adult vocational education) has expanded strongly in recent years and

reached its highest level ever in 2022 in the wake of the pandemic. Comprehensive state aid to the municipalities is still necessary to meet the needs of the labour market and to support the integration of foreign-born people. In particular, the bridging programmes initiative, which entails combining VET programmes with Swedish for Immigrants (SFI) or Swedish as second language, has enabled more foreign-born people to gain a combined language and VET qualification that leads to work. Among the foreign-born studying bridging programmes in 2021, 61% were women and 39% men. The VET initiative at upper secondary level within Komvux (regional adult vocational education) is therefore continuing, and SEK 400 million has been provided in the Spring Amending Budget Bill for 2023. In addition, higher vocational education will be provided SEK 70 million and SEK 249 million will be set aside for student finance. Thus, a total of SEK 719 million for adult education has been decided. Parts of this initiative are included in Sweden's RRP. Parts of the regional adult vocational education initiative are included in Sweden's RRP. For the status of the implementation, see Appendix 2.

Higher vocational education has an important role to play in meeting the ongoing great need for skills throughout Sweden, and enabling transition and facilitating matching in the labour market. For 2023, SEK 70 million has been provided to higher vocational education in the Spring Amending Budget Bill for 2023, so that the number of places within higher vocational education will remain at a high level even in the future. The Government considers that the same amount should be provided annually thereafter (Govt Bill 2022/23:01). In the years ahead, the funding is also to cover the increased VAT costs incurred by private education providers when hiring temporary teaching staff. This initiative is also part of Sweden's RRP.

The introduction of a new student finance scheme for transition and retraining in 2023 under the Student Finance Scheme for Transition and Retraining Act (2022:856), which has been developed in close cooperation with the social partners, will facilitate transition or retraining in the form of education for adults. This support is granted for education and training which can be assumed to strengthen the future position of the applicant in the labour market, taking into account the needs of the labour market. This new scheme may increase the demand for education and training and it is therefore important that higher education institutions monitor developments in order to adapt their supply of education and training and their validation of prior learning. Publicly funded higher education institutions and the Swedish National Agency for Higher Vocational Education have therefore been tasked with analysing the study programmes that they offer in terms of their content as well as the formats in which the programmes are offered. This task includes describing how they plan to develop their programme offerings to improve access to education for lifelong learning and employability. The Student finance scheme for transition and retraining is part of Sweden's RRP. For the status of the implementation, see Appendix 2.

For 2023, the governance of higher education institutions' work with the supply of skills has been strengthened, as higher education institutions must report separately on how they have developed their courses and study programmes to strengthen access to education for lifelong

learning and employability (Appropriation Directions for 2023). In addition, a report must be presented on how the higher education institution is meeting the needs of the community at large for education. The Swedish Higher Education Authority is also to develop a model to forecast the need for further education that the new Student finance scheme for transition and retraining may provoke. Sweden's higher education institutions have been provided considerable resources multiple times in the budget bill since 2015 to enable more places in study programmes in health care, early childhood education and teacher education, as well as engineering. Resources to meet the demand for education at higher education institutions are a measure in Sweden's RRP. For the status of the implementation, see Appendix 2.

3.2.3 Poverty and social exclusion

Sweden's national target for the risk of poverty or social exclusion is that the number of women and men and girls and boys living at risk of poverty or social exclusion should be reduced by at least 15 000 before 2030 compared with the 2019 level. Of these, at least one third should be children.

For a long time the share of the population living at risk of poverty or social exclusion in Sweden has been relatively stable at around 18%, measured by the EU indicator 'at risk of poverty or social exclusion' (AROPE). This is a lower share than the EU average, which was barely 22% in 2021.

National Action Plan for the Implementation of the Child Guarantee

In March 2022, the Government adopted the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the European Child Guarantee. It aims to prevent and combat social exclusion by ensuring that all children have effective access to a set of basic social services. Most of these services are also provided free of charge.

Besides key social services, there is Sweden's economic policy on families which strengthens the economy of households with children and reduces the risk of economic disadvantage.

National homelessness strategy

In July 2022, the Government adopted a national homelessness strategy for the period 2022–2026. The purpose of a national homelessness strategy is to clarify the focus of interventions aimed at reducing the number of adults and children experiencing homelessness, and those aimed at preventing people from becoming homeless. It should be possible to implement the interventions in the strategy independently of trends in the housing market during the period, and they do not require any legislative amendments. Work is also being done in parallel in other areas that affect development, such as access to substance abuse and addiction treatment, and psychiatry.

The strategy sets out four objectives to counter homelessness:

- Objective 1. Prevent homelessness
- Objective 2. No one should sleep rough or live on the street
- Objective 3. Housing First should be introduced nation-wide
- Objective 4. Strengthen the social dimension in community planning.

In order to strengthen the municipalities' efforts to combat homelessness, the Government has targeted a multi-annual government grant to the municipalities during the strategy period to strengthen or implement the Housing First method.

More resources to Housing First to counter homelessness

The Housing First method means that people experiencing acute homelessness are offered housing in combination with voluntary and individually tailored assistance interventions. The method is based on homeless people having the same need for secure long-term housing as any other person, regardless of whether they are experiencing additional problems besides being homeless. Secure housing is sometimes also a prerequisite for various forms of support and care to be effective. The method has proved to be effective and is recommended by the National Board of Health and Welfare in the national guidelines for substance abuse and addiction treatment and as part of the psychosocial interventions for people suffering from schizophrenia.

In July 2022, the National Board of Health and Welfare was commissioned to distribute SEK 30 million in central government grants to municipalities to start or expand their work with the Housing First method. In November 2022, the Government set aside an additional SEK 40 million for this grant for 2023 and intends to set aside SEK 40 million per year up to and including 2026.

Higher maintenance support for single parents

Single parents often have a more financially constrained situation than parents who live together, and many children with a low economic standard live in households that are recipients of maintenance support. Most recently in August 2022, the maintenance support for children aged between 7 and 10 was increased. An increase in maintenance support strengthens single parents' incomes, and particularly benefits single women with children.

***Fritidskort* for children and young people**

In order to assure children's and young people's access to sports and recreational activity associations, the Government intends to introduce a sport and recreational activities card (*Fritidskort*). This card is intended to give children and young people from socio-economically disadvantaged households in particular greater opportunities to participate in sport and recreational activities. In 2023, the necessary infrastructure is being developed to enable the *Fritidskort* to be introduced in 2024.

Raised levels in the pension area

Since 2020, a number of reforms have been implemented which have meant increases in various parts of old-age pensioners' income. The guarantee pension and housing supplement for pensioners have been strengthened several times. In addition, a new benefit, the income pension complement, has been introduced to complement to the income-based pension. All in all, these raised levels have helped to lower the share of the population aged 65+ with a low economic standard from 16% in 2020 to 9% in 2023. The difference is much greater among women, where this share has fallen from 20% to 10%. Among men, the share has decreased from 11% to 8%.

4. Progress towards the UN's global Sustainable Development Goals

Sweden's ambition to be a leader in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda remains in place. Among other things, the Government is pursuing an ambitious climate and environmental policy, which is an important part of its work with the 2030 Agenda. Sweden is well placed and has a high ambition to take the lead in the transition to a sustainable society, nationally as well as internationally. However, Sweden is also facing major societal challenges and is in the midst of several ongoing crises, and these are adversely affecting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The Government's political priorities through the common cooperation projects constitute the orientation of Sweden's work with the 2030 Agenda. The cooperation projects to solve Sweden's most important societal problems are: growth and household economy, crime, migration and integration, climate and energy, health and medical care, and schools. Sweden is also facing environmental challenges. The conditions for fossil-free plannable types of power generation are to be improved in order to increase the production of electricity. By focusing on efforts in these areas, Sweden is contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Sweden is also contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through its foreign policy, development cooperation policy, and trade policy.

Sweden has taken a number of policy initiatives and decisions for a more integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda. For instance, for the 2030 Agenda Sweden has appointed a Delegation, produced an action plan, appointed a national coordinator, and produced a government bill on its implementation. The bill contains an overarching goal that consolidates and clarifies Sweden's commitment. The overarching goal emphasises that "Sweden will implement the 2030 Agenda to achieve economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable development through a coherent policy nationally and internationally. The implementation will be guided by the Agenda's 'leave no one behind' principle."

Challenges

Sweden's voluntary reporting to the UN about the 2030 Agenda has shown that Sweden has challenges linked to the Agenda SDGs. The Commission's country report from 2020 points out that there has been a deterioration in Sweden's performance on "Reduced inequalities"

(SDG 10) and “Responsible consumption and production” (SDG 12), albeit from high levels. On the contrary, Eurostat’s report on sustainable development indicates that progress has been made regarding SDG 12, but that Sweden performs less well than other EU countries on average. Eurostat’s report uses slightly fresher statistics. The Commission’s country report notes that the crime rate has been rising in Sweden and is now above the EU average. The trend in Sweden regarding SDG 16 “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions” is negative according to Eurostat’s report. This also applies to SDG 1 “No Poverty”, SDG 4 “Quality Education” and SDG 5 “Gender Equality”. However, the status for these goals is still better than the average for EU Member States.

5. EU Funds

Sweden’s Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) adopted by the previous Government describes probable synergies, coherence and matches between RRP measures and measures in other EU programmes. The RRP also sets out the differences between RRP measures and measures in other EU programmes. The RRP contains information about avoiding double financing. On 4 May 2022, the Council of the European Union adopted the decision implementing Sweden’s RRP.

The Swedish implementation of the EU funds within EU cohesion policy for the programming period 2021–2027 has started. The EU regulations in cohesion policy entered into force on 1 July 2021.

The Commission approved Sweden’s Partnership Agreement on 25 May 2022. The Partnership Agreement sets out Sweden’s strategic direction for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Just Transition Fund (JTF), the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF). It also includes information about complementarities and synergies between the Funds and with certain other EU funds, as well as Sweden’s allocation of funding from the Funds.

On 31 August 2022 the Commission approved Sweden’s National Programme for the JTF for the programming period 2021–2027. The JTF focuses on counties in Sweden whose industries are carbon-dioxide-intensive or fossil-fuel-dependent. The Fund aims to alleviate the socio-economic, employment-related and environmental costs of the climate transition through investments in, for example, the development of climate-smart technology, circular economy, and upskilling.

In 2022, the Commission approved eight regional and one national programme under the ERDF covering the programming period 2021–2027 in Sweden. The actions within the ERDF programmes are intended to contribute to the transition to sustainable regional development. Areas they are to support include regional capacity for development and the competitiveness of and employment in the business sector, including skills development. In the area of skills development, the specific target is to develop skills for smart specialisation,

structural change and entrepreneurship. The actions will thereby contribute to a green, sustainable and more innovative Europe.

On 8 August 2022, the Commission approved Sweden's National Programme for the ESF+ for the programming period 2021–2027. The national programme for the ESF+ contains actions leading to better access to employment, that promote life-long learning, and that encourage active inclusion, and which promote social inclusion.

The Partnership Agreement and the programmes identify synergies and complementarities between these Funds and measures in the Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP). The measures in Sweden's RRP ensure synergies, uniformity and complementarity with actions planned in the ERDF and JTF at both regional and national level. The Climate Leap has a focus on different types of measures than those within the JTF and, for instance, is able to finance measures administered by actors other than large companies. Compared with the JTF and just like the Climate Leap, the Industrial Leap is aimed at a broader range of target groups. The ERDF is also considered to complement the RRP through for instance links to the Climate Leap and the Industrial Leap.

In the focus area of education, training and transition, RRF funding complements other EU funding also intended to strengthen employment and contribute to the supply of skills including the ESF+ and Recovery Assistance for Cohesion and the Territories of Europe (REACT-EU).

The demarcation between investments for access to broadband with high transfer capacity which are planned to be financed within the two northernmost ERDF programmes (Central Norrland and Upper Norrland) and investments in the same area included in the RRP is important. The Swedish Post and Telecom Authority (PTS) is responsible for the system of national support for broadband expansion, most of which is part of the RRP, in accordance with the Ordinance on state support for the expansion of broadband infrastructure (2020:266). It follows from the Ordinance that support may not be provided for measures granted state support within the ERDF. In addition in its appropriation directions for 2022, the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth has been given a task linked to broadband projects in relevant ERDF programmes in the programme period 2021–2027.

On 22 September 2022, the Government decided to present to the Commission Sweden's Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) 2023–2027, which includes funding from the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). The actions within the strategic plan will contribute to achieving the overall goal of modernising agriculture and rural areas, as well as the general objectives of a competitive, resilient and diversified agricultural sector that safeguards food security in the long term, the environment and the climate, as well as a strengthened socio-economic structure in rural areas. The Commission approved Sweden's Strategic Plan on 28 October of the same year

6. Institutional issues and the participation of relevant parties

6.1 Institutional issues

Sweden's National Reform Programme for 2023 is mainly based on the initiatives and reform ambitions proposed by the Government in the Budget Bill for 2023, the Spring Fiscal Policy Bill for 2023 and the Spring Amending Budget Bill for 2022. This year, the Spring Fiscal Policy Bill and the Spring Amending Budget Bill have highlighted the economic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic, and Russia's full-scale invasion in Ukraine, which are reflected in the section on reform policy. The country-specific recommendations to Sweden within the framework of the European Semester 2019–2022 have been taken into consideration in their preparation. The programme also reflects the political priorities in the Commission's Annual Sustainable Growth Survey, as well as the 2030 Agenda and the UN's global Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The Riksdag Committee on Finance has been informed about the National Reform Programme. During the Council's processing of the country-specific recommendations in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022, the Government informed and consulted with the Riksdag on several occasions. The 2023 European Semester has also been discussed on most occasions during the year in the EU Committee in advance of meetings in various Council configurations.

6.2 Consultations with the social partners

To develop dialogue with the social partners within the European Semester and the national decision-making process, the Government has established a reference group with representatives of the relevant ministries in the Government Offices and of the social partners at central level (the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise, the Swedish Trade Union Confederation (LO), the Swedish Confederation of Professional Employees (TCO), the Swedish Confederation of Professional Associations (SACO), the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR), the Swedish Agency for Government Employers, and the Swedish Federation of Business Owners). The reference group holds regular meetings for discussions and consultations on the implementation of the European Semester in Sweden.

As of 2022, the national targets in the social area are also part of this work. As part of the Government's ambition to strengthen participation in EU-related affairs, consultation forums are held. The purpose of these is to systematically benefit from the expertise in various issues that is available in civil society and with other societal actors, thus improving the quality of the guidance information for Government decisions. On 22 March 2023, the above-mentioned organisations were invited to a consultation.

As in previous years, the social partners were invited to contribute written supporting documents to this year's National Reform Programme. The Government Offices received input from the Swedish Federation of Business Owners, the Swedish Trade Union Confederation (LO) and the Swedish Confederation of Professional Employees (TCO), the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise, the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and

Regions (SALAR) and the Regions (both as social partners and as representatives of the local and regional level). The Appendix contains contributions received from these parties that describe examples of the work the parties are carrying out in accordance with the strategy guidelines and objectives.

6.3 Local and regional support

Securing support for and the implementation of Sweden's Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy occurs at the national, regional and local levels through the national aid authorities (the Swedish Board of Agriculture, the Sami Parliament and the Swedish Forest Agency), the 21 county administrative boards, and 40 local development groups working with the LEADER method.

In March 2021, the previous Government adopted the written communication *National strategy for sustainable regional development throughout Sweden 2021–2030*. It has since been considered by the Riksdag. The new strategy constitutes the long-term direction of regional development policy and is intended to contribute to the transition to sustainable development in all parts of the country.

To further develop the dialogue between the national and regional levels on issues of importance to regional growth, the Government has set up a Forum for Sustainable Regional Development 2022–2030. It is a continuation of a previous forum. The Forum consists of a politicians part and an officials part where the regions meet with the Government for dialogue. The starting point is that shared responsibility between the regional and national levels for implementing regional development policy requires close dialogue and cooperation concerning vital development issues.

6.4 Consultation with stakeholder organisations and civil society organisations

At present, there are a number of established consultation procedures, and they also cover issues that concern the European Semester. Relevant stakeholders are often included in reference groups in the government inquiries system and are given the opportunity to present their views on inquiry proposals through the consultation process in their areas of interest. Occasionally, the Government also issues invitations to hearings for dialogue around specific issues. There are also continuous discussions in various consultation bodies. For example, a special thematic consultation forum was held with the representatives of civil society in September 2021 on the drafting of the national targets in the social area, and some of them also submitted written contributions.

Following requests to develop the dialogue with civil society organisations concerning the national implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy, an initial horizontal consultation with civil society took place in autumn 2011. This approach was welcomed by the participants and consultations have since taken place annually. On 28 March 2023, relevant organisations were invited to a consultation on this year's European Semester to contribute to the National Reform Programme. They were also invited to submit written contributions to this work.

The Government Offices received written contributions from Fastighetsägarna (the property owners association), the Swedish National Council of Adult Education, the Swedish Disability Rights Federation, the Norden Association, Hyresgästföreningen (the tenants' association), Riksförbundet Attention (an interest group for people with neurodevelopmental disorders), Rädda Barnen (Save the Children Sweden), SISU Idrottsutbildarna (the adult education association for Sweden's sports clubs and associations), SKOOPI (a national association for work integration social enterprises), and Public & Science (VA). This material is presented in the appendix.

Appendix 1 Excerpts from Sweden's report on the country-specific recommendations – Transcripts from CeSaR

NOTE: The terms and style used in Appendix 1 and 2 may not correspond entirely to the terms and style in the remainder of this document.

Sweden's contribution to the Country-specific recommendations (CSR) assessment

Semester cycle 2023

CSR.2022.1

CSR 1 Subpart 1: In 2023, ensure that the growth of nationally financed primary current expenditure is in line with an overall neutral policy stance, taking into account continued temporary and targeted support to households and firms most vulnerable to energy price hikes and to people fleeing Ukraine. Stand ready to adjust current spending to the evolving situation.

Measures	
Entry 2	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 17:35 PM)</p> <p>A temporary targeted support for the most financially vulnerable families has been extended until the 1st of July 2023. The purpose of the support is to strengthen the financial situation of vulnerable households during these times of increasing prices. On top of the regular budget bill, financial support to compensate households and firms for high energy prices have been adopted/announced. When considered as a whole, the budget bill of 2023 and temporary measures to support households and firms are deemed to constitute an overall neutral fiscal policy stance.</p>
Comments	
State of play	

CSR 1 Subpart 2: Expand public investment for the green and digital transitions, and for energy security taking into account the REPowerEU initiative, including by making use of the Recovery and Resilience Facility and other Union funds.

Measures	
Entry 1	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Announced (17/02/2023 17:19 PM)</p> <p>The government has decided that it will return to the medium target (surplus target) in 2023. It is currently projected that the medium target will also be met in 2024 and 2025.</p>
Comments	
State of play	

CSR 1 Subpart 3: For the period beyond 2023, pursue a fiscal policy aimed at achieving prudent medium-term fiscal positions.

Measures	
Entry 1	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (17/02/2023 17:36 PM)</p> <p>In the 2023 Budget Bill both the Industrial Leap and the Climate Leap which support the green transition in Sweden was strengthened. Both instruments are partly funded through the Recovery and Resilience Facility.</p>
Comments	
State of play	
Entry 1	<p>Ongoing. Currently announced budget and support measures are in line with an overall neutral fiscal policy stance, but the government retains the option to adjust its</p>

	economic policies if economic circumstances deviate from forecasts.
--	---

CSR 1 Subpart 4: Reduce risks related to high household debt and housing market imbalances by reducing the tax deductibility of mortgage interest payments or by increasing recurrent property taxes.

Measures	
Entry 1	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (17/02/2023 17:30 PM)</p> <p>Taxes: No measures regarding mortgage deductibility or property taxes have been taken in the 2023 Budget Bill.</p>
Comments	
State of play	
Entry 1	<p>It is of particular importance to maintain stable and predictable rules in the housing market. Any measure in this area must be seen in a long-term perspective. Changes must be handled with great care, due to the potential effects a change may have on household's financial position, household demand and economic growth.</p>

CSR 1 Subpart 5: Stimulate investment in residential construction to ease the most urgent shortages, in particular by removing structural obstacles to construction and by ensuring the supply of buildable land.

Measures	
Comments	
State of play	

CSR 1 Subpart 6: Improve the efficiency of the housing market, including by introducing reforms to the rental market.

Measures	
Entry 1	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (17/02/2023 17:32 PM)</p> <p>A new dispute settlement arrangement is available for the collective parties on the rental market as from 1 January 2023. The reform aims to make the recurrent negotiations on rent change more efficient.</p>
Comments	
State of play	

CSR.2022.3

CSR 3 Subpart 1: Reduce the impact that pupils' socio-economic and migrant backgrounds have on their educational outcomes by providing equal access opportunities to schools and by addressing the shortages of qualified teachers.

Measures	
Entry 1	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 17:48 PM)</p> <p>Higher education institutions have received funds for an expansion of the initial teacher education. In the budget bill for 2021, an expansion over four years for more certified teachers through supplementary pedagogical training was also proposed, which is estimated to correspond to approx. 500 full-year students in 2021, 750 full-year students in 2022–2023 and 250 full-year students in 2024 (prop. 2020/21:1). Furthermore, more roads into the teacher profession have been created. To make it easier to change to the teaching profession, there is a trial activity (2023) with a new shorter</p>

	<p>supplementary pedagogical education (KPU) that leads to a general teacher or subject teacher degree. The training is aimed at those who have an academic degree which is relevant to one or some of the subjects that the future teacher will teach (SFS 2021:1336).</p>
Entry 2	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 17:45 PM)</p> <p>In 2023, additional SEK 100 million for school providers to be able to offer school during holidays also to younger students has been allocated.</p>
Entry 3	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 17:44 PM)</p> <p>The possibility for teachers to expand their teacher certificate with new subjects, other school forms or special needs education with state grants was prolonged to 2025 (prop. 2019/20:1).</p>
Entry 4	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (17/02/2023 17:47 PM)</p> <p>The decision to implement a professional programme for teachers and principals aims, among other things, to increase the attractiveness of the teaching profession, thus attract more people to teacher education programmes (prop. 2022/23:54).</p>
Entry 5	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (17/02/2023 17:41 PM)</p> <p>In order for more children to participate in preschool, new legislation has been introduced in the Education Act (2010:800) by SFS 2022:833 Municipalities must contact guardians of children without a preschool place and inform them about the preschool's purpose and the child's right to preschool. Municipalities must also provide a reserved preschool place for children with a need of language</p>

	development in the Swedish language, for example children who have lived in Sweden for a short time.
Comments	
State of play	
Entry 4	The changes to the Education Act came into force on 1 July 2022 and apply to education starting after 1 July 2023.

CSR 3 Subpart 2: Develop skills of disadvantaged groups, including people from migrant backgrounds, by adapting resources and methods to their needs to help their integration into the labour market.

Measures	
Entry 1	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 17:58 PM)</p> <p>In June 2022, a state inquiry was established with the task to explore and propose more paths to working life for youth in upper secondary education. The inquiry is tasked to take into account the needs of the labour market, as well as the different prerequisites to learning of pupils. The inquiry should also take into account that many pupils are not ready to choose a profession in the last year of elementary school (dir. 2022:74).</p>
Entry 2	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 17:56 PM)</p> <p>In June 2022, a state inquiry was established with the task to explore and propose how the adult vocational education within the municipal adult education can be more efficient and better correspond to the needs of the labour market and individuals (dir. 2022:84).</p>
Entry 3	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 17:53 PM)</p>

	<p>Since 2021 funds have been allocated to the Swedish board of education for initiatives that aim to improve the knowledge of the Swedish language for employees within elderly care. In the budget bill for 2022, which was passed by parliament, (prop. 2021/22:1), the grant was increased to SEK 60 million per year 2022-2024 and the initiative was broadened to include employees within the whole welfare sectors.</p>
Entry 4	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 17:52 PM)</p> <p>Since 2015 study associations and folk high schools within the liberal adult education have received government grants for basic language courses within the initiative Swedish from day one. The courses are offered to asylum seekers and individuals with a residence permit who are living in the Migration Agency's accommodation facilities. Since July 2022, these courses are also available to individuals who have been granted a temporary residence permit under the EU Temporary Protection Directive. For 2022, the government grant amounted to SEK 110 million (prop. 2021/22:1, prop. 2021/22:252) and for 2023 to SEK 30 million (prop. 2022/23:1).</p>
Entry 5	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 17:50 PM)</p> <p>In 2022, new legislation concerning validation within the adult education was adopted (prop. 2021/22:123, bet. 2021/22:UbU23). The legislation obliges the municipalities to offer introductory mapping and validation in municipal adult education. The measures will contribute to a more efficient management of skills, a faster establishment in the labour market and improve the possibilities to transitions during a working life. SEK 30 million per year has been allocated for the initiative 2022 and thereafter 60 million per year.</p>
Entry 6	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Announced (17/02/2023 17:59 PM)</p>

	<p>Assignment to the Swedish Employment Public Service (PES) for a better skills supply. The PES must develop and improve the work with employer contacts and to take the other necessary measures to increase the number of participants in Work Experience Placements, Labour Market Training, Wage Subsidies, and other Subsidised Employment. The PES must also specifically develop employer contacts to support job seekers who are far from the labour market.</p>
Comments	
State of play	

CSR.2022.4

CSR 4 Subpart 1: Reduce overall reliance on fossil fuels

Measures	
Comments	
Entry 1	<p>Many measures are being carried out that contribute to lowering the reliance on fossil fuels, not least measures linked to the electrification of industry and transport sectors. See for example reported measures on charging infrastructure.</p>
State of play	

CSR 4 Subpart 2: by accelerating the deployment of renewables and boosting complementary investment in network infrastructure, strengthening internal grids within the country to ensure sufficient network capacity,

Measures	
Entry 1	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 18:02 PM)</p>

	<p>In the regulatory mandate for 2023, the Swedish Government gave the Swedish TSO (Svenska kraftnät) an assignment to expand the transmission network to also include the island of Gotland. Svenska kraftnät will report back on a plan for timeline and technology choices for the expansion on 29 September 2023 the latest.</p>
Entry 2	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (20/02/2023 11:16 AM)</p> <p>In August 2021, changes in the Swedish Electricity Act became effective that enable faster permit processer regarding the Swedish electricity grid. Since then, public inquiries have formed proposals for law changes with potential to achieve faster permit processes. The proposals are now being processed within the Swedish Government Offices.</p>
Entry 3	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (17/02/2023 18:04 PM)</p> <p>In the budget bill for 2023, the Government approved a guideline for investment plan for the Swedish TSO (Svenska kraftnät) of approx. 27 billion SEK between 2023-2025.</p>
Comments	
State of play	

CSR 4 Subpart 3: [improving energy efficiency,](#)

Measures	
Entry 1	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 18:05 PM)</p> <p>The Swedish Government gave all government authorities an assignment to implement possible and suitable measures</p>

	that lower their energy use until 31 March 2023. The Swedish Energy Agency will compile data from all authorities for overview on measures taken and energy savings during the period.
Entry 2	MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (20/02/2023 11:18 AM) In the state budget for 2023 the government invested 1,2 billion SEK for the period 2023-2025 in grants for energy efficiency in single-family homes that are mainly heated with electricity or gas.
Entry 3	MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (17/02/2023 18:04 PM) In the state budget for 2023 the government invested 1,2 billion SEK for the period 2023-2025 in grants for energy efficiency in single-family homes that are mainly heated with electricity or gas.
Comments	
State of play	

CSR 4 Subpart 4: and further streamlining permitting procedures in relation to renewable energy projects.

Measures	
Entry 1	MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 18:07 PM) In April 2022, the Swedish government appointed a special investigator to submit a proposal on how to strengthen municipalities' incentives for expansion of wind power, with the aim of coping with climate change and the increased electrification of society. The assignment is to be reported by 31 March 2023 the latest.

Comments

State of play



CSR.2021.1

CSR 1 Subpart 1: In 2022, maintain a supportive fiscal stance, including the impulse provided by the Recovery and Resilience Facility, and preserve nationally financed investment.

Measures	
Entry 1	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 18:11 PM)</p> <p>In the budget bill for 2022, supportive measures of 1,5 percent were decided by the parliament.</p>
Entry 2	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (11/02/2022 13:21 PM)</p> <p>In the budget bill for 2022, supportive measures of 1,5 percent were decided by the parliament.</p>
Comments	
State of play	

CSR 1 Subpart 2: When economic conditions allow, pursue a fiscal policy aimed at achieving prudent medium-term fiscal positions and ensuring fiscal sustainability in the medium term.

Measures	
Entry 1	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (17/02/2023 18:12 PM)</p> <p>The government has decided that it will return to the medium target (surplus target) in 2023</p>
Entry 2	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (11/02/2022 13:22 PM)</p>

	The government has stated that it will return to the medium target (surplus target) in 2023
Comments	
State of play	

CSR 1 Subpart 3: At the same time, enhance investment to boost growth potential. Pay particular attention to the composition of public finances, on both the revenue and expenditure sides of the budget, and to the quality of budgetary measures in order to ensure a sustainable and inclusive recovery. Prioritise sustainable and growth-enhancing investment, in particular investment supporting the green and digital transition.

Measures	
Entry 1	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 18:15 PM)</p> <p>In order to maintain and increase Swedish biogas production, The Swedish government announced a long term biogas production investment support in mars 2022. 450 million SEK was set aside according to proposals in the budget bill for 2022 with the aim of increasing the production of biogas and strengthening the producers' competitiveness. In 2023, the support is proposed to increase to SEK 650 million for the same purpose. In 2024, a control station for the evaluation of aid design will be implemented to ensure a purpose according to and cost-effective aid.</p>
Entry 2	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 18:14 PM)</p> <p>Due to high fuel prices the reduction mandate for petrol and diesel is paused at 2022 levels for 2023 (prop. 2021/22:243).</p>
Entry 3	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (11/02/2022 13:23 PM)</p>

	<p>Reduction mandate for plane aviation kerosene has been introduced (Bill 2020/21: 135, amendment 2020/21: MJU20, rskr. 2020/21: 303). In 2021, the reduction level will be 0.8 percent and then increase to 27 percent in 2030.</p>
Entry 4	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (11/02/2022 13:23 PM)</p> <p>New reduction levels in the reduction mandate for petrol and diesel has entered into force (prop. 2020/21:180, bet. 2020/21: MJU23, rskr. 2020/21:411). By 2030, reduction levels will increase to 66 percent for diesel and 28 percent for petrol.</p>
Entry 5	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Announced (11/02/2022 13:25 PM)</p> <p>In order to maintain and increase Swedish biogas production, the government will set aside SEK 1 900 million in 2022–2024 to support the production of biogas. In 2024, a control station for the evaluation of aid design will be implemented to ensure a purpose according to and cost-effective aid.</p>
Entry 6	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (17/02/2023 18:17 PM)</p> <p>1 090 million Swedish crowns for 2023, 1 billion Swedish crowns for 2024 and 505 million Swedish crowns for 2025 in fossil-free charging and refuelling infrastructure for cars and trucks to convert the transport sector to fossil-free.</p>
Entry 7	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (17/02/2023 18:16 PM)</p> <p>Adoption of a national electrification strategy.</p>
Comments	

State of play

CSR 1 Subpart 4: Give priority to fiscal structural reforms that will help provide financing for public policy priorities and contribute to the long-term sustainability of public finances, including, where relevant, by strengthening the coverage, adequacy and sustainability of health and social protection systems for all.

Measures	
Entry 1	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 18:21 PM)</p> <p>From January 1, the tax reduction for those with sickness- and activity compensation has been strengthened with the aim to remove the difference in taxation of such compensation and earned income.</p>
Entry 2	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (11/02/2022 13:28 PM)</p> <p>From January 1, the tax reduction for those with sickness- and activity compensation has been strengthened with the aim to remove the difference in taxation of such compensation and earned income.</p>
Comments	
State of play	



CSR.2020.1

CSR 1 Subpart 1: In line with the general escape clause, take all necessary measures to effectively address the pandemic, sustain the economy and support the ensuing recovery. When economic conditions allow, pursue fiscal policies aimed at achieving prudent medium-term fiscal positions and ensuring debt sustainability, while enhancing investment.

Measures	
Entry 1	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (20/02/2023 10:19 AM)</p> <p>Vaccines against covid-19 are transported to Sweden. The Government and Sweden's municipalities and regions (SALAR) have signed an agreement with the aim that the regions are responsible for vaccinating the population. The state pays for vaccines and reimburses the regions for vaccination costs. In total, the government allocates several billion kronor for this. The regions carry out the vaccinations in accordance with the Swedish Public Health Agency's recommendations.</p>
Entry 2	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (20/02/2023 10:17 AM)</p> <p>The government, several governmental agencies and the country's regions are working together to urgently offer the population vaccine against covid-19. The government has chosen to enter into several agreements for the purchase of different types of vaccine. Ongoing.</p>
Entry 3	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (20/02/2023 10:08 AM)</p>

	<p>The total effect on the net lending for the measures taken in response of the pandemic sums up to about SEK 161 billion for 2020. During 2020 the Government assumed responsibility for municipalities' and regions' extraordinary Covid-19-related costs. During 2021 the compensation of this kind, has been limited to cover urgent transports of patients. In addition to this, the regions also received a standard compensation for covid-19 related healthcare in 2021 (and 2022). Funding has also been allocated to increase testing and contact tracing.</p>
<p>Entry 4</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 18:51 PM)</p> <p>On March 15, 2021, new sickness benefit rules came into force. Changed rules aim at giving people on sick leave better opportunities to complete their rehabilitation and return to work. (The rules are general; they cover those with a reduced working capacity due to post-covid among others) The Government on 3 February 2022 proposed, in its bill to the Parliament, that employers that have received support for short-term work schemes earlier during the pandemic, shall be able to receive such support in the future as well, provided that the general conditions for support are met.</p>
<p>Entry 5</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 18:53 PM)</p> <p>On March 15, 2021, new sickness benefit rules came into force. Changed rules aim at giving people on sick leave better opportunities to complete their rehabilitation and return to work. (The rules are general; they cover those with a reduced working capacity due to post-covid among others).</p>

Entry 6	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Announced (11/02/2022 13:52 PM)</p> <p>The Government on 3 February 2022 proposed, in its bill to the Parliament, that employers that have received support for short-term work schemes earlier during the pandemic, shall be able to receive such support in the future as well, provided that the general conditions for support are met.</p>
Comments	
State of play	
Entry 1	In progress
Entry 2	If the Parliament adopts the proposal it will enter into force 1 April 2022.

CSR 1 Subpart 2: Ensure the resilience of the health system, including through adequate supplies of critical medical products, infrastructure and workforce.

Measures	
Entry 1	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Deleted (17/02/2023 19:01 PM)</p> <p>Agreement with the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions to enable large-scale testing throughout the country. Includes large-scale testing with PCR-tests and rapid antigen tests. It was agreed that the state would bear the costs, at the same time as the regions undertake to carry out the testing based on the Public Health Agency of Sweden's recommendations.</p>

Entry 2	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (20/02/2023 10:14 AM)</p> <p>In June 2021, national regulation came into place in addition to Regulation (EU) 2021/953 and Regulation (EU) 2021/954 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2021. The additional regulation was needed to establish a firm legal ground for the issuance of EU DCC in the Swedish context, from 1 July 2021.</p>
Entry 3	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (20/02/2023 10:13 AM)</p> <p>During 2021, The Swedish E-health Agency, The Public Health Agency and The Agency for Digital Government were commissioned to establish a digital infrastructure for issuing EU DCC (EU Digital COVID Certificates). The system was implemented on 1 July for vaccination certificates and on 12 August for test and recovery certificates. During the Autumn of 2021, additional changes were made in the system to make sure that vaccination certificates can be issued to persons without social security numbers or so called co-ordination numbers as well as persons who have been vaccinated outside the EU.</p>
Entry 4	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 19:09 PM)</p> <p>Commission to the Medical Products Agency to secure access to medical products and devices: The Agency has, for instance, worked on specific amendments to its regulations, questions concerning the transfer of medical products between pharmacies and regions.</p>
Entry 5	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 19:07 PM)</p>

	<p>Prognoses and changing scenarios (decided July 2020 and December 2020 implemented, prolonged into 2021): The National Board of Health and Welfare will assess what measures, both national and regional, may be necessary to strengthen health care services and the ability of social services to effectively manage new outbreaks.</p>
<p>Entry 6</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 19:05 PM)</p> <p>Restrictions on dispensing medications (decided March 2020 and implemented): Following proposals from the Medical Products Agency, the Government restricted the dispensing of medications to the quantities that patients need for three months. Exemptions can only be made for special reasons. Restrictions were valid through 2021.</p>
<p>Entry 7</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 19:04 PM)</p> <p>In order to ensure the resilience of the health system, the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare (NBHW) has been assigned responsibility for purchasing medical products in cause of national stock shortages. During 2021 several pharmaceuticals have been purchased through this system: bamlanivimab, casirivimab, sotrovimab and molnupuravir. NBHW is also responsible body for Swedish attendance in European JPA. For as long there as there is need for it, the Swedish government will empower NBHW to conduct this assignment task. A commission to the NHBW was adopted to help secure access to medicines that can be used for treating patients with covid-19 (decided March 2020). The Board is also commissioned to assist with redistribution of medicines, if needed. The commission to the NBHW from 2020 has been prolonged until June 2022, resulting in EU joint procurement and bilateral procurement of</p>

	monoclonal antibodies and new antiviral treatments for covid-19.
Entry 8	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 19:02 PM)</p> <p>Commission to the Public Health Agency of Sweden to quickly coordinate actors needed to provide enhanced covid-19 testing nationally (decided March 2020 and implemented, prolonged in parts for 2021 and 2022), to ensure flows of large-scale testing at national level (decided in June 2020 and implemented, prolonged for 2021 and 2022 in parts) and to assist the regions in large-scale testing (decided June 2020 and implemented, prolonged for 2021 and 2022 in parts), which expand the capacity for PCR testing for covid-19 within their respective geographical areas.</p>
Entry 9	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 19:00 PM)</p> <p>In June 2021, new legislation came into force enabling the Medical Products Agency to get access to the national register for vaccination and complete data in reports on adverse drug reactions (if data on vaccination is lacking). The new legislation was a prerequisite to conduct a commission to the Medical Products Agency in order to secure continuous monitoring of the covid-19 vaccines (decided in November 2020 and implemented prolonged into 2024): This includes collecting and analysing reports on adverse drug reactions from health care staff and private persons who have been vaccinated.</p>
Entry 10	MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 18:59 PM)

	<p>In the Budget Bill for 2022 the Government initiated a national centre of competence for care of older persons at the National Board of Health and Welfare. By doing so the Government is strengthening national work on care of older persons in order to clarify the importance of good and safe care of older persons.</p>
<p>Entry 11</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (11/02/2022 13:54 PM)</p> <p>In June 2021, new legislation came into force enabling the Medical Products Agency to get access to the national register for vaccination and complete data in reports on adverse drug reactions (if data on vaccination is lacking). The new legislation was a prerequisite to conduct a commission to the Medical Products Agency in order to secure continuous monitoring of the covid-19 vaccines (decided in November 2020 and implemented prolonged into 2024): This includes collecting and analysing reports on adverse drug reactions from health care staff and private persons who have been vaccinated.</p>
<p>Entry 12</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (12/12/2020 12:54 PM)</p> <p>Public service obligations on air routes: On April 6, 2020, The Swedish government decided to impose public service obligations on eight routes between Stockholm Arlanda and airports in the Northern region of Sweden as well as between Arlanda and the island of Gotland until September 6, 2020. At the same time, the Swedish Transport Administration was instructed to decide on further provisions on the public service obligations as well as to enter into agreements with air carriers on the selected routes. The ground for the decision was to mitigate the crisis caused by covid-19 by securing a minimum of service for example rescue service, health</p>

	<p>care, total defense and belly freight. The decision has been prolonged until December 31, 2020. The Swedish Parliament, following a proposal from the Swedish Government, has on 23 June 2020 taken a budgetary decision to temporary, limited to 2020, increase the yearly regular state funding to municipalities for operating aid to regional non state-owned airports. The temporary increased funding for 2020 is set to 100 million SEK. The funding from the State is intended to cover parts of the municipalities' costs connected to operating aid to airports.</p>
Entry 13	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (12/12/2020 12:53 PM)</p> <p>To strengthen care for the elderly and health care, the Swedish Government introduced a special initiative in June of 2020, where the Central government finances part-time education to become care assistant or assistant nurse for up to 10,000 employees in the health care sector. Education will take place during paid working hours and according to an agreement between the social partners the participant shall be offered permanent full-time employment.</p>
Entry 14	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (12/12/2020 12:52 PM)</p> <p>Commission to the Medical Products Agency in order to secure continuous monitoring of the covid-19 vaccines (decided in November and implemented prolonged into 2024): This includes collecting and analysing reports on adverse drug reactions from health care staff and private persons who have been vaccinated.</p>
Entry 15	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (12/12/2020 12:51 PM)</p>

	<p>Commission to the Public Health Agency to ensure technical access to the national register for vaccinations. (decided in September and implemented, prolonged into 2021). In order to register vaccinations, the Public Health Agency has been commissioned to provide technical assistance in order to make possible a secure registration of these vaccinations.</p>
Entry 16	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (12/12/2020 12:51 PM)</p> <p>New legislative proposals on registration of covid-19 vaccinations in a national registry from the 1st of January 2021 (decided in November by the government and in December by Parliament). The legislative proposals make it obligatory for all health care providers to register information in a national register for vaccinations.</p>
Entry 17	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (12/12/2020 12:50 PM)</p> <p>Agreement with the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions to enable large-scale testing throughout the country (decided June 2020 and implemented, prolonged into 2021). Which includes large-scale testing to detect active infection and antibody tests. It was agreed that the state would bear the costs, at the same time as the regions undertake to carry out the testing based on the Public Health Agency of Sweden's recommendations.</p>
Entry 18	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (12/12/2020 12:49 PM)</p> <p>Commission the Public Health Agency of Sweden to quickly coordinate actors needed to provide enhanced covid-19 testing nationally (decided March 2020 and implemented, prolonged in parts into 2021), to ensure</p>

	flows of large-scale testing at national level (decided in June 2020 and implemented, prolonged into 2021) and to the to assist the regions in large-scale testing (decided June 2020 and implemented, prolonged into 2021), which expand the capacity for serological testing and PCR testing for covid-19 within their respective geographical areas.
Entry 19	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (12/12/2020 12:48 PM)</p> <p>Commission to the Medical Products Agency to secure access to medical products and devices: The Agency has, for instance, worked on specific amendments to its regulations, questions concerning the transfer of medical products between pharmacies and regions.</p>
Entry 20	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (12/12/2020 12:37 PM)</p> <p>Commission to the Medical Product Agency to help securing access to medicines that can be considered critical if supply chains were to be affected by the covid-19 pandemic (decided March 2020 and implemented).</p>
Entry 21	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (12/12/2020 12:50 PM)</p> <p>Commission to the National Board of Health and Welfare to help securing access to medicines that can be used for treating patients with covid-19 (decided March 2020 and implemented): The Board is also commissioned to assist with redistribution of medicines, if needed. Until now, the Boards main contribution has been to represent Sweden in the EU joint procurement of remdesivir and channel information from the regions.</p>

<p>Entry 22</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (12/12/2020 12:36 PM)</p> <p>Restrictions on dispensing medications (decided March 2020 and implemented): Following proposals from the Medical Products Agency, the Government restricted the dispensing of medications to the quantities patients need for three months. Exemptions can only be made for special reasons.</p>
<p>Entry 23</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (12/12/2020 12:35 PM)</p> <p>Sweden to host EU reserves of protective and medical equipment (Implemented September 2020): Sweden is one of the six countries chosen to host the EU's reserves of emergency medical equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE).</p>
<p>Entry 24</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (12/12/2020 12:34 PM)</p> <p>Commissions to the National Board of Health and Welfare to coordinate medical supplies procurement (decided March 2020 and implemented), distribute and redistribute medical supplies (decided March 2020 and implemented) and secure access to medical devices and distribution of medical devices (decided March 2020 and implemented):The Board procures medical supplies and PPE on the open market and represent Sweden in the EU joint procurement of PPE.</p>
<p>Entry 25</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (12/12/2020 12:34 PM)</p> <p>Crisis support for staff in health and elderly care who worked with COVID-19 patients (decided November 2020 and implemented): Including government funds to</p>

	support health care and elderly care staff for crisis support, counselling and trauma support.
Entry 26	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (12/12/2020 12:33 PM)</p> <p>The Government commissioned the National Board of Health and Welfare to support temporary reallocation of health care professionals (October 2020 and implemented).</p>
Entry 27	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (12/12/2020 11:31 AM)</p> <p>Evaluation of care for long-term COVID-19 symptoms (decided July 2020 and implemented): On 16 July 2020, the Government instructed the Swedish Agency for Health Technology Assessment and Assessment of Social Services (SBU) to carry out a systematic review of patients with long-term COVID-19 symptoms.</p>
Entry 28	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (20/02/2023 10:11 AM)</p> <p>SEK 4 billion to manage delayed care (announced): To help health care services get back on track after COVID-19, the Government proposes in the Budget Bill for 2021 that the regions will receive SEK 4 billion in extra funding 2021 and in 2022.</p>
Entry 29	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (12/12/2020 11:30 AM)</p> <p>Prognoses and changing scenarios (decided July 2020 and December 2020 implemented): The National Board of Health and Welfare will assess what measures, both national and regional, may be necessary to strengthen</p>

	health care services and the ability of social services to effectively manage new outbreaks.
Entry 30	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (12/12/2020 11:28 AM)</p> <p>Coordination of intensive care unit (ICU) beds (decided March 2020 and implemented): The Government has instructed the National Board of Health and Welfare (Socialstyrelsen) to establish a national coordination mechanism for ICU beds.</p>
Entry 31	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (12/12/2020 11:26 AM)</p> <p>Increased appropriations (decided and implemented) for government agencies participating in action to limit the outbreak: The Public Health Agency of Sweden, the National Board of Health and Welfare and the Swedish Medical Products Agency have therefore had their appropriations increased.</p>
Entry 32	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (12/12/2020 11:16 AM)</p> <p>Municipalities and regions will be compensated for extraordinary costs (decided April 2020 and implemented): The central government will cover all extraordinary costs arising as a result of the pandemic, e.g. higher costs for additional staff and protective equipment.</p>
Entry 33	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (20/02/2023 10:15 AM)</p> <p>Agreements have been made with the SALAR in order to make sure that those who have been vaccinated for covid-19 can obtain a vaccination certificate. The first</p>

	<p>agreement (decided in December 2020) was needed to ensure registration of all covid-19 vaccinations in the National vaccination register (implemented 1 January 2021). This agreement was revised early in 2021 in order to make the adaptations that were needed to align with the EU system for covid certificates (implemented 1 April 2021). Another agreement with the SALAR was made in order to enable issuance of recovery certificates (implemented 1 July 2021). Those agreements have been prolonged into 2022. In the end of 2021, an agreement was made on registration of data for persons without social security numbers or so called co-ordination numbers who would like to obtain a vaccination certificate (implemented 1 January 2022).</p>
<p>Entry 34</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (17/02/2023 18:57 PM)</p> <p>The Government has appointed an inquiry chair to propose a care of older persons act to supplement the Social Services Act with special provisions on health and social care of elderly and that contain provisions about a national social care plan. The inquiry chair was also charged with considering and presenting proposals that strengthen access to medical expertise in care of older people and at service management level in municipalities. The inquiry is to report by 30 June 2022.</p>
<p>Entry 35</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (17/02/2023 18:56 PM)</p> <p>To strengthen care for the elderly and health care, the Swedish Government introduced a special initiative in June of 2020, where the state finances part-time education to become care assistant or assistant nurse. This reform has been extended and strengthened and is estimated to cover SEK 1.7 billion per year for 2022 and 2023.</p>

<p>Entry 36</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (11/02/2022 13:54 PM)</p> <p>In the Budget Bill for 2022 the Government initiated a national centre of competence for care of older persons at the National Board of Health and Welfare. By doing so the Government is strengthening national work on care of older persons in order to clarify the importance of good and safe care of older persons.</p>
<p>Entry 37</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (11/02/2022 13:53 PM)</p> <p>The Government has appointed an inquiry chair to propose a care of older persons act to supplement the Social Services Act with special provisions on health and social care of elderly and that contain provisions about a national social care plan. The inquiry chair was also charged with considering and presenting proposals that strengthen access to medical expertise in care of older people and at service management level in municipalities. The inquiry is to report by 30 June 2022.</p>
<p>Entry 38</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (11/02/2022 13:53 PM)</p> <p>To strengthen care for the elderly and health care, the Swedish Government introduced a special initiative in June of 2020, where the state finances part-time education to become care assistant or assistant nurse. This reform has been extended and strengthened and is estimated to cover SEK 1.7 billion per year for 2022 and 2023.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Comments</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">State of play</p>	

CSR.2020.2

CSR 2 Subpart 1: Foster innovation

Measures	
Entry 1	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (20/02/2023 10:23 AM)</p> <p>Work has continued and intensified in the Government's innovation partnership programmes, including the Programme for Skills Supply and Lifelong Learning. The programme has contributed to strengthening the coordination between the educational system and labour market authorities, with the aim to make lifelong learning accessible. The aim of the programme is to contribute to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a greater will and ability among individuals to retrain and constantly develop in order to meet the demands of a rapidly changing labour market, and • that companies are able to grow and develop in Sweden by attracting and employing the broad skills they need to be competitive in a global market, but also to conduct world-leading research and develop world-leading innovations. The innovation partnership programmes gather a broad range of participants and make it a joint responsibility to stimulate skills development and lifelong learning through mutually reinforcing actions, both private and public, aiming for a common package and a common objective.
Entry 2	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 19:13 PM)</p> <p>Directing more jobseekers to regular education</p>

Entry 3	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 19:12 PM)</p> <p>Retained benefits (activity support)</p>
Entry 4	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (11/02/2022 14:56 PM)</p> <p>To support the municipalities in arranging education where vocational education is combined with Swedish for immigrants or Swedish as a second language, and thus promote a faster integration of foreign-born, the government invests just over SEK 1.5 billion to 14,000 educational places in 2022</p>
Entry 5	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (11/02/2022 14:54 PM)</p> <p>A pilot project that will contribute to building a well-functioning infrastructure for mapping and validation started in municipal adult education during the autumn of 2021 and will last until 1 July 2023.</p>
Entry 6	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (11/02/2022 14:53 PM)</p> <p>Up-skilling boost with aim to increase climate related competence. The Government has allocated 100 million SEK for 2022 for this purpose and is ongoing until 2024</p>
Entry 7	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (11/02/2022 14:00 PM)</p> <p>Directing more jobseekers to regular education: Expansion of the possibility for jobseekers in the Job and Development Guarantee to study part-time in regular education in addition to their participation in the programme. The opportunity for part-time studies in</p>

	<p>addition to programme participation is extended from six to twelve months.</p>
Entry 8	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (11/02/2022 13:59 PM)</p> <p>Retained benefits (activity support): Through an increased use of regular education, jobseekers' education needs can be met through a broader range of education and training. To increase the transitions to regular education, the Government has expanded opportunities for jobseekers to study with retained benefits (activity support). This was announced in the Budget Bill for 2021.</p>
Entry 9	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (11/02/2022 13:59 PM)</p> <p>Labour Market Training: To meet the demand for shortages and strengthen the skills of jobseekers, the supply of shorter Labour Market Training has been increased. Funds have been added during 2020, 2021 and 2022. Evaluations from the Swedish Public Employment Service show that the efficiency of the initiative has increased, but that more needs to be done to make the initiative more efficient, strategic, and gender mainstream. The Swedish Public Employment Service is tasked with increasing the numbers of jobseekers in Labour Market Training, and with continue to make the training more efficient and making sure that it is used in a strategical way. The Swedish Public Employment Service has and will continue to work with making the participation in Labour Market Training more gender equal.</p>
Entry 10	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Announced (11/02/2022 14:57 PM)</p>

	<p>The government is proposing to introduce a new Student Finance Scheme for Transition and Retraining from 2023, for people with work experience who need further education or to participate in a completely new education to strengthen their position in the labour market. The new Student Finance Scheme aims to ensure that professionals can participate in education both for up-and reskilling purposes. The support is aimed at adults who have a labour market connection and ensures that the vast majority of those who are granted the support will be able to study with at least 80% of their previous salary for 44 weeks, including loans and grants. A prerequisite for participating in the new Student Finance Scheme is that the education strengthens the applicant's position in the labour market. This is an ambitious and alternative way of achieving the objectives and SE proposes that this is an approach that could be described in the recommendation to shed light on different ways of achieving the objective.</p>
<p>Entry 11</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Announced (11/02/2022 14:55 PM)</p> <p>In January 2022, the Government's initiative was presented on an obligation for municipalities to offer initial mapping and validation. The government allocates SEK 60 million for 2023.</p>
<p>Entry 12</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (17/02/2023 19:11 PM)</p> <p>The government has commissioned the Swedish Public Employment Service, in collaboration with Sweden's innovation agency and other relevant authorities and stakeholders to find means to develop conditions for making data for skills supply and lifelong learning available, shared and utilized and to contribute to the development of a unified digital infrastructure that</p>

	support lifelong learning. Budget: 15 million SEK 2021 and 17 million SEK 2022.
Entry 13	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (11/02/2022 13:58 PM)</p> <p>The government has commissioned the Swedish Public Employment Service, in collaboration with Sweden's innovation agency and other relevant authorities and stakeholders to find means to develop conditions for making data for skills supply and lifelong learning available, shared and utilized and to contribute to the development of a unified digital infrastructure that support lifelong learning. Budget: 15 million SEK 2021 and 17 million SEK 2022.</p>
Comments	
State of play	
Entry 1	Ongoing pilot project
Entry 2	Expansion of the possibility for jobseekers in the Job and Development Guarantee to study part-time in regular education in addition to their participation in the programme. The opportunity for part-time studies in addition to programme participation is extended from six to twelve months.
Entry 3	Through an increased use of regular education, jobseekers' education needs can be met through a broader range of education and training. To increase the transitions to regular education, the Government has expanded opportunities for jobseekers to study with retained benefits (activity support). This was announced in the Budget Bill for 2021.

CSR 2 Subpart 2: and support education and skills development.

Measures	
Entry 1	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (20/02/2023 10:51 AM)</p> <p>A new Student Finance Scheme for Transition and Retraining has been introduced from 2023, for people with work experience who need further education or to participate in a completely new education to strengthen their position in the labour market. The new Student Finance Scheme aims to ensure that professionals can participate in education both for up-and reskilling purposes. The support is aimed at adults who have a labour market connection and ensures that the vast majority of those who are granted the support will be able to study with at least 80% of their previous salary for 44 weeks, including loans and grants. A prerequisite for participating in the new Student Finance Scheme is that the education strengthens the applicant's position in the labour market. The legislation (lag [2022:856] om omställningsstudiestöd) entered into force on 1 July 2022. The scheme is eligible to use for studies from January 1s 2023. Ongoing.</p>
Entry 2	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (20/02/2023 10:42 AM)</p> <p>In 2018, an annual state subsidy of SEK 50 million was introduced to stimulate the development of learning centres, that can be applied for by cooperating municipalities. The state subsidy was increased to SEK 90 million for 2021 and 2022 and to SEK 85 million for 2023 (prop. 2017/18:1). Ongoing.</p>
Entry 3	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (20/02/2023 10:40 AM)</p>

	<p>In 2022, new legislation concerning validation within the adult education was adopted (prop. 2021/22:123, bet. 2021/22:UbU23). The legislation obliges the municipalities to offer introductory mapping and validation in municipal adult education. The measures will contribute to a more efficient management of skills, a faster establishment in the labour market and improve the possibilities to transitions during a working life. SEK 30 million per year has been allocated for the initiative 2022 and thereafter 60 million per year. Ongoing.</p>
<p>Entry 4</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (20/02/2023 10:33 AM)</p> <p>Several initiatives to make Advanced Vocational Education more flexible in 2020 have been implemented. A three-year pilot project was introduced, financed with SEK 35 million per year, which will provide a faster and more flexible path to a degree for those who already have extensive vocational skills that can be validated (prop. 2019/20:1). Ongoing.</p>
<p>Entry 5</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (20/02/2023 10:31 AM)</p> <p>To meet the demand for skilled labour, the initiative to provide people with a greater opportunity to obtain an education or training and a job is continuing (see e.g. prop. 2021/22:1). The initiative includes places in higher vocational education, regional adult vocational education, folk high school, universities, and other higher education institutions. The initiative includes higher education programmes in fields of importance to society, such as engineering, education, healthcare, and medicine. Ongoing. (Yearly implementation trough the</p>

	annual budget bill, allocation of funds through appropriation directions).
Entry 6	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (20/02/2023 10:28 AM)</p> <p>An increase of the Government grant to improve equity and knowledge in preschool classes and compulsory school was proposed in the Budget Bill for 2020 and passed in the parliament (prop. 2019/20:1). For 2022 the grant corresponds to SEK 6.5 billion and in 2023 it amounts to 6,658 billion Swedish crowns. The allocation of the grant to school organisers is based on pupils' socioeconomic background. Ongoing.</p>
Entry 7	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (20/02/2023 10:27 AM)</p> <p>An increase of the Government grant to improve equity and knowledge in preschool classes and compulsory school was proposed in the Budget Bill for 2020 and passed in the parliament (prop. 2019/20:1). For 2022 the grant corresponds to SEK 6.5 billion and in 2023 it amounts to 6,658 billion Swedish crowns. The allocation of the grant to school organisers is based on pupils' socioeconomic background. Ongoing.</p>
Entry 8	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (12/12/2020 13:04 PM)</p> <p>To strengthen care for the elderly and health care, the Swedish Government introduced a special initiative in June of 2020, where the state finances part-time education to become care assistant or assistant nurse for up to 10,000 employees in the health care sector. Education will take place during paid working hours and according to an agreement between the social partners</p>

	<p>the participant shall be offered permanent full-time employment.</p>
<p>Entry 9</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Announced (13/12/2020 12:33 PM)</p> <p>In 2021 the government is planning to launch a professional program for teachers and principals, and it is expected to increase to 200 million SEK in 2023.</p>
<p>Entry 10</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Announced (12/12/2020 13:33 PM)</p> <p>Efforts are made to make the education offer within Higher Vocational Education more flexible and from 2020 courses and programmes shorter than one semester can also be offered. These courses are offered mainly through distance-learning and often as part-time studies in order to allow individuals to work and study in parallel.</p>
<p>Entry 11</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Announced (12/12/2020 13:21 PM)</p> <p>Efforts are made to make the education offer within Higher Vocational Education more flexible and from 2020 courses and programmes shorter than one semester can also be offered. These courses are offered mainly through distance-learning and often as part-time studies in order to allow individuals to work and study in parallel.</p>
<p>Entry 12</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Announced (12/12/2020 13:04 PM)</p> <p>When companies are experiencing temporary financial problems as a result of unexpected events the state may provide financial support for a limited time while employees reduce working hours, so-called short time work. The reduction in working hours provides scope</p>

	<p>which can be invested in competence development in order to strengthen employees' skills and thereby also the company. In the budget bill for 2021, the Government proposes that employers who have reduced employees' working hours with financial support from the state, may be compensated for up to 60 percent of costs for competence initiatives implemented during the reduced working time.</p>
<p>Entry 13</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (20/02/2023 10:49 AM)</p> <p>In 2022, new legislation aiming to improve the planning and dimensioning of upper secondary vocational education and adult vocational education in order to better correspond to the needs of the labour market, was adopted (prop. 2021/22:159, bet. 2021/22:UbU25, 2021/22:UbU27). According to the legislation, decisions regarding the supply of education must take into consideration the demand of the pupils as well as the needs of the labour market. Municipalities have to sign cooperation agreements concerning the planning, dimensioning and offering of education. For the measures, funds to the regions and the municipalities have been allocated. The legislation enters into force on 1 July 2023 and is applied on education that starts from 2025.</p>
<p>Entry 14</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (20/02/2023 10:47 AM)</p> <p>Since 2015 funds have been allocated for early measures aimed at giving asylum seekers and others Swedish language skills, understanding of society and other actions to promote integration, Swedish for day one (SFS 015:521). For 2022, the government grant amounted to SEK 110 million (prop. 2021/22:1, prop. 2021/22:252) and for 2023 to SEK 30 million (prop. 2022/23:1). Ongoing.</p>

Entry 15	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (20/02/2023 10:46 AM)</p> <p>In recent years, investments motivated by the labour market situation, the covid 19-pandemic and to counter segregation have been targeting study associations within liberal adult education. SEK 10 million in 2020, SEK 40 million in 2021 and SEK 40 million in 2022 have been allocated to study associations for initiatives improving the Swedish language for those on parental leave (prop. 2019/20:1). Furthermore, SEK 50 million in 2021 and in 2022 have been allocated to measures to improve the integration of foreign-born women who are in a position far from the labour market (prop. 2020/21:1). Ongoing.</p>
Entry 16	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (20/02/2023 10:44 AM)</p> <p>To support the municipalities in arranging education where vocational education is combined with Swedish for immigrants or Swedish as a second language, and thus promote a faster integration of foreign-born, about SEK 1.5 billion has been allocated from the state budget in 2022 (prop. 2021/22:1). Ongoing.</p>
Entry 17	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (20/02/2023 10:38 AM)</p> <p>A pilot project that will contribute to building a well-functioning infrastructure for mapping and validation started in municipal adult education during the autumn of 2021 and will last until 1 July 2023 (SFS 2021:744).</p>
Entry 18	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (20/02/2023 10:36 AM)</p> <p>Within Advanced Vocational Education, short courses that will offer skills development in a flexible way have</p>

	<p>been introduced. In 2023 the funds for the initiative amount to a total of SEK 150 million (prop. 2021/22:1). Introduced in 2020, significantly increased during the pandemic. Ongoing.</p>
Comments	
State of play	

CSR 2 Subpart 3: Front-load mature public investment projects and

Measures	
Entry 1	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (11/02/2022 14:58 PM)</p> <p>A Government bill was passed to increase the scope of companies eligible for tax exempt employee stock options. The new rules apply from 1st of Jan. 2022.</p>
Entry 2	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Announced (12/12/2020 13:34 PM)</p> <p>In the Budget Bill for 2021 the Government proposed a further increase in the allocation for maintenance of the transport infrastructure. The Government proposed that the allocation for road maintenance is increased by SEK 500 million per year for the years 2021-2023 and that the allocation for railroad maintenance is increased by SEK 500 million per year during the period 2021-2023.</p>
Entry 3	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (12/12/2020 13:34 PM)</p>

	<p>According to the Governments proposal in an additional amending budget in May 2020, the Government decided to increase the allocation for road maintenance in 2020 with SEK 300 million and for railway maintenance with SEK 720 million. This in order to improve the functionality of the transport infrastructure and create new jobs.</p>
Comments	
State of play	

CSR 2 Subpart 4: promote private investment to foster the economic recovery.

Measures	
Entry 1	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (20/02/2023 10:54 AM)</p> <p>A Government bill was passed to increase the scope of companies eligible for tax exempt employee stock options. The new rules apply from 1st of Jan. 2022.</p>
Entry 2	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 19:18 PM)</p> <p>The innovation program Advanced digitalization is a public-private partnership involving Sweden's Innovation Agency, the Association of Swedish Engineering Industries and major Swedish companies. The purpose of this program is applied research and development of sustainable digital solutions for the future.</p>
Entry 3	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (11/02/2022 14:59 PM)</p>

	<p>As decided in the budget bill for 2022, 25 million SEK is allocated during 2022 to a state-aid scheme for improving mobile connections on long-distance trains. Good mobile connections on trains contribute to the ability to live and work all over Sweden.</p>
Comments	
State of play	

CSR 2 Subpart 5: Focus investment on the green and digital transition, in particular on clean and efficient production and use of energy,

Measures	
Entry 1	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Announced (12/12/2020 13:52 PM)</p> <p>The government proposes giving support to investments in solar panels for private households and companies. Funding is also proposed to be dedicated in the budget for infrastructure investments such as railways and electricity networks. In order to further facilitate private households' investments in green and efficient energy solutions the government wants to extend support to publicly available energy and climate advisory services provided by local governments.</p>
Entry 2	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Announced (12/12/2020 13:50 PM)</p> <p>Domestic transport is another important area for emissions reductions since it contributes with approximately a third of carbon dioxide emissions in</p>

	<p>Sweden and those emissions need to be reduced much faster in the years to come. Hence, it is proposed to allocate funds for a range of measures to incentivize emissions reductions.</p>
Entry 3	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Announced (12/12/2020 13:50 PM)</p> <p>The government also proposes financing measures for restoring and maintaining the environment as well as adapting to climate change. The money should be used for avoiding eradication of endangered species and encompasses measures to protect and maintain valuable nature as well as strengthening the work for a clean sea and water protection. Restoration of wetlands is also proposed to receive large funds. Emissions from former wetlands make up 11 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalents, which is more than Sweden's traffic emissions from private cars. Through wetland restoration one can halt the amount of emissions from reaching the atmosphere.</p>
Entry 4	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Announced (12/12/2020 13:49 PM)</p> <p>The government wants to facilitate investments to improve energy efficiency and renovate existing apartment buildings. Hence, the government proposes to set aside 900 million SEK in 2021 for a newly created support system for this purpose.</p>
Entry 5	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Announced (13/12/2020 13:16 PM)</p> <p>In the budget bill for 2021 the government proposes a total budget of 2,2 billion SEK between 2021-2025 for broadband expansion. The aim is to speed up broadband expansion and to facilitate the government's</p>

	<p>goal that the whole of Sweden should have access to fast broadband by 2025 is reached. The national target is that 95% of all households and businesses should have access to broadband of at least 100 Mbps by 2020. Everyone should also have access to stable, high-quality mobile services where they are normally located by 2023. The government's national broadband strategy implies that by 2025, all households and business in Sweden should have access to fast broadband.</p>
Entry 6	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (17/02/2023 19:22 PM)</p> <p>The Swedish Government commissioned four national agencies (the Swedish Public Employment Service, the Swedish Companies Registration Office, the Swedish Agency for Digital Government and the Swedish Tax Agency) to promote the public administration's ability to use artificial intelligence (AI) in order to strengthen the welfare and competitiveness in Sweden within the public sector. Budget 3 million SEK 2021 and 5 million SEK 2022.</p>
Entry 7	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (17/02/2023 19:20 PM)</p> <p>The Government decided to extend its investment (with an annual budget of SEK 23 million) on regional digitization coordinators and offers the regions to continue to maintain the function for the period of 2021-2025. The Government also instructs the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth to provide support to regional digitization coordinators, with a new amendment to the also coordinate digital innovation hubs and the candidates to become the Swedish European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIH). The regional digitization coordinators can contribute to strategic coordination and collaboration between relevant actors (e.g. SME) to promote digitization on regional and local</p>

	<p>level. This includes promoting the use of digital working methods, tools and services.</p>
Entry 8	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (17/02/2023 19:19 PM)</p> <p>The Government of Sweden adopted a national data strategy to foster responsible public and private data sharing for digital innovation including AI, providing a pro-active platform for Sweden's participation in the European data strategy. A series of Government assignments regarding electrification, health, space data etc. have been launched during 2021 as part of the associated action plan</p>
Entry 9	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (11/02/2022 15:15 PM)</p> <p>In the budget bill for 2022, 50 million SEK per year 2022-2024 is allocated to the development of the digital infrastructure in the welfare sector. From 2025, 20 million will be set aside annually for the same purpose. The funding can be used for initiatives such as improvements regarding electronic service credentials, common technical standards and secure messages between municipalities, regions, and the government. In 2022, 30 million SEK of this budget post will be used to develop and provide an infrastructure for the exchange of unstructured information in the public sector.</p>
Entry 10	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (11/02/2022 15:02 PM)</p> <p>The Swedish Government commissioned four national agencies (the Swedish Public Employment Service, the Swedish Companies Registration Office, the Swedish Agency for Digital Government and the Swedish Tax Agency) to promote the public administrations ability to</p>

	<p>use artificial intelligence (AI) in order to strengthen the welfare and competitiveness in Sweden within the public sector. Budget 3 million SEK 2021 and 5 million SEK 2022.</p>
Entry 11	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (11/02/2022 15:02 PM)</p> <p>In the budget bill for 2022, 50 million SEK per year 2022-2027 is allocated to support and co-finance participation in the Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL). The national co-financing proposed by the Government ensures that Swedish organisations are given the opportunity to take part in EU investments in infrastructure and capacity-enhancing projects for e.g. cloud services, data and AI. Sweden can also, with the help of early participation in the program, increase the opportunity to be able to participate in and influence EU-joint projects. The government is also increasing the incentives for other actors to match the national sum and thereby increase the chances of being able to receive additional funds from the program.</p>
Entry 12	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (11/02/2022 15:01 PM)</p> <p>The Government decided to extend its investment (with an annual budget of SEK 22 million) on regional digitization coordinators and offers the regions to continue to maintain the function for the period of 2021-2025. The Government also instructs the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth to provide support to regional digitization coordinators, with a new amendment to the also coordinate digital innovation hubs and the candidates to become the Swedish European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIH). The regional digitization coordinators can contribute to strategic coordination and collaboration between relevant actors (e.g. SME) to promote digitization on regional and local</p>

	level. This includes promoting the use of digital working methods, tools and services.
Entry 13	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (11/02/2022 15:01 PM)</p> <p>The Government of Sweden adopted a national data strategy to foster responsible public and private data sharing for digital innovation including AI, providing a pro-active platform for Sweden's participation in the European data strategy. A series of Government assignments regarding electrification, health, space data etc. have been launched during 2021 as part of the associated action plan</p>
Entry 14	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (20/02/2023 10:56 AM)</p> <p>As decided in the budget bill for 2021, 25 million SEK is allocated during 2022 to a state-aid scheme for improving mobile connections on long-distance trains. Good mobile connections on trains contribute to the ability to live and work allover Sweden. Part of budget bill 2021</p>
Comments	
State of play	

CSR 2 Subpart 6: high-tech and innovative sectors,

Measures	
Entry 1	MEASURE TYPE: Announced (12/12/2020 13:53 PM)

	<p>Sweden is a small export-dependent country where there are many jobs with exporting companies. Foreign investment therefore plays an important role in the economic recovery. In order to strengthen investment promotion initiatives, funding of SEK 25 million is proposed for 2021, through Business Sweden.</p>
<p>Entry 2</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Announced (12/12/2020 13:53 PM)</p> <p>As private investment in research and innovation temporarily declines as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, central government is increasing its funding to secure research, innovation and the supply of skills. It is therefore proposed that Vinnova receives an increase in its appropriation for 2021 of SEK 545 million to mainly make systemic innovation investments. Furthermore, industrial research institutes conduct needs-driven research and development in global collaboration with universities, the business sector and the public sector. The institutes play an important role in the utilisation and commercialisation of research and innovation. The focus is on developing sustainable solutions, which are the pillars of the business community's climate transition, competitiveness and growth. It is therefore proposed that RISE AB receive an increase of its appropriation for 2021 of SEK 95 million to implement initiatives that contribute to system solutions where many actors collaborate.</p>
<p>Entry 3</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (20/02/2023 11:01 AM)</p> <p>To strengthen long-term competitiveness and the green and digital transition of industry, Sweden participates in so-called Important Projects of Common European interest (IPCEI). Sweden is already participating in two projects in the battery area, and the Swedish Energy</p>

	<p>Agency has a government assignment to prepare Swedish participation in hydrogen projects. In the budget bill for 2022, the Government proposes 100 million SEK in 2022 and estimated 70 million SEK in 2023 and 2024. This is in addition to the 200 million SEK in 2022 and an estimated 70 million SEK in 2023–2027 already set aside in the 2021 budget bill.</p>
Comments	
State of play	

CSR 2 Subpart 7: 5G networks

Measures	
<p>Entry 1</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Not Defined (20/02/2023 11:05 AM)</p> <p>In 2021 the Swedish Parliament decided on a bill regarding how much funds should be allocated to investments in the transport infrastructure for the period 2022-2033. This is an investment that amounts to a total of SEK 881 billion. The investment will include developing and maintaining the Swedish transport infrastructure. The investments will contribute to increased accessibility, expanded labour market regions, regional development, increased cohesion in the country, improved competitiveness and the achievement of climate goals. In 2022, the Government decided on a new national plan for the transport infrastructure, in which it is specified how the SEK 881 billion shall be distributed on different measures.</p>
Comments	

State of play

CSR 2 Subpart 8: and sustainable transport.

Measures

Entry 1

MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (12/12/2020 13:56 PM)

The Swedish Parliament, following a proposal from the Swedish Government, has on 3 June 2020 taken a budgetary decision to grant SEK 3 billion to regional competent authorities responsible for organising public passenger transport services to compensate for reduced income during the corona pandemic. For the 2021 budget the government proposes SEK 2 billion for the same purpose.

Entry 2

MEASURE TYPE: Announced (12/12/2020 13:56 PM)

The Government has taken further actions to promote sustainable transport. According to the Governments proposal in an additional amending budget in May 2020, the Government decided to increase the allocation for railway maintenance with SEK 720 million. In the Budget Bill for 2021 the Government proposed a further increase in the allocation for maintenance of the transport infrastructure. The Government proposed that the allocation for railroad maintenance is increased by SEK 500 million per year during the period 2021-2023. The Government also proposed to increase the governments co-financing of municipal and regional investments in infrastructure for cycling with SEK 300 million for 2021 and SEK 250 million for 2022.

Comments

State of play

CSR.2020.3

CSR 3 Subpart 1: Improve the effectiveness of anti-money laundering supervision and effectively enforce the anti-money laundering framework.

Measures	
Entry 1	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 19:25 PM)</p> <p>Swedish crowdfunding service providers have been subjected to AML/CFT supervision through the act (2021:899) with supplementary provisions to the EU regulation on European crowdfunding service providers.</p>
Entry 2	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (11/02/2022 15:20 PM)</p> <p>In the budget bill for 2021, Sweden's financial supervisory authority Finansinspektionen received an additional 10m SEK exclusively for anti-money laundering supervision. In the budget bill for 2022, several AML supervisory authorities received additional grants: Finansinspektionen (2 m SEK,) the Swedish Estate Agents Inspectorate (0,5m sek), the Swedish Gambling Authority (0,5m sek) and the County Administrative Boards in Skåne (0,5 m sek), Stockholm (0,5 m sek) and Västra Götaland (0,5m sek). Also, the Police Authority received grants to combat i.a. money laundering (2,5 m SEK).</p>
Entry 3	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (11/02/2022 15:19 PM)</p> <p>Swedish crowdfunding service providers have been subjected to AML/CFT supervision through the act</p>

	(2021:899) with supplementary provisions to the EU regulation on European crowdfunding service providers
Comments	
State of play	



CSR.2019.1

CSR 1 Subpart 1: Address risks related to high household debt by gradually reducing the tax deductibility of mortgage interest payments or increasing recurrent property taxes.

Measures	
Entry 1	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Not Defined (20/02/2023 09:36 AM)</p> <p>No measures regarding mortgage deductibility or property taxes have been taken in the 2022 Budget Bill. It is of particular importance to manage changes in housing taxes carefully. Any measure in this area must be seen in a long-term perspective. Changes must be handled with great care, due to the potential effects a change may have on household's financial position, household demand and economic growth.</p>
Entry 2	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (11/12/2020 20:04 PM)</p> <p>Regarding the risk-weight floor, the FSA decided in 2018 to change the application of the risk-weight floor for Swedish mortgages by replacing the current Pillar 2-approach with a requirement within the framework of Article 458 of CRR. This change was implemented on 31 December 2018 and is valid through 30 December 2020. The FSA has assessed that the underlying risks necessitating the risk-weight floor remain to the extent that the measure continues to be necessary and has therefore notified the EU regarding extension of the existing risk-weight floor for Swedish mortgages. The European Commission, the EBA and the ESRB has announced that they do not object to an extension of</p>

	<p>the risk-weight floor. The FSA will make its final decision on the matter before the measure expires.</p>
<p>Entry 3</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (11/12/2020 20:03 PM)</p> <p>There are also upcoming changes in the capital requirements due to the EU banking package (CRR II / CRD V). National legislative changes due to the banking package will mainly be implemented in Sweden on 29 December 2020. The banking package will introduce a number of changes to the capital regulation of banks, such as the implementation of a leverage ratio requirement alongside the risk-based capital requirement (applicably by end-of-June 2021). For the major banks, the total capital requirement, in nominal terms, is not expected to be significantly impacted. Mid-sized and smaller banks are expected overall to see an increase in their capital requirements of around 10–15 per cent, primarily due to the new so-called Pillar 2-guidance. This guidance aims to cover risks and manage future financial disruptions that the other main components of the capital requirement do not cover.</p>
<p>Entry 4</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (11/12/2020 20:02 PM)</p> <p>Due to the spread of the coronavirus and the economic and financial uncertainties resulting from its spread, the FSA decided on 16 March 2020 to reduce the countercyclical capital buffer from 2.5 per cent to 0 per cent. This measure is intended to create scope for banks to maintain or increase their lending to businesses and households, thereby supporting the Swedish economy. The FSA will establish at the beginning of 2021 its position on both the rate at which the countercyclical buffer requirement will be raised and the target rate itself</p>

Entry 5	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (11/12/2020 20:02 PM)</p> <p>The design of the amortization requirements enables banks and other mortgage companies to grant exemptions from the requirement when there are special reasons. On account of the spread of the coronavirus the FSA announced on 17 March 2020 that income-loss linked to the virus would be one such special reason for being granted an exemption from amortization. On 14 April 2020 the FSA decided that mortgage companies have the possibility to offer all new and existing mortgagors an exemption from the amortization requirement in view of the spread of the coronavirus and its effects on the Swedish economy. Individual decisions whether to grant a temporary exemption still rest with banks on the basis of individual customer assessments. The exemption applies to amortization payments through 31 August 2021. The FSA will communicate no later than at the end of April 2021 whether this date will continue to apply or if the circumstances prevailing at that time will require an extension.</p>
Comments	
State of play	

CSR 1 Subpart 2: Stimulate investment in residential construction where shortages are most pressing, in particular by removing structural obstacles to construction.

Measures	
Entry 1	MEASURE TYPE: Not Defined (20/02/2023 09:46 AM)

	<p>Simplify the regulations for building permits. A proposal has been drawn up with comprehensive reforms for building permits.</p>
Entry 2	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Not Defined (20/02/2023 09:41 AM)</p> <p>On behalf of the Government, six national authorities have reviewed their respective claims in areas of national interest. The assignment has led to a reduction in the total national interest claims and to more up-to-date and well-defined claims. The county administrative boards have also been commissioned to identify areas of national interest for nature conservation and the cultural environment that need to be tested for timeliness. The assignment was reported in December 2021. The National Heritage Board and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency have been commissioned to reconsider the national interests in cultural environmental protection and nature conservation that the county administrative boards have identified shortcomings regarding timeliness and distribution.</p>
Entry 3	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Not Defined (20/02/2023 09:39 AM)</p> <p>The National Board of Housing, Building and Planning has the Government's task of working with rule development and working for an efficient and uniform application of the Planning and Building Act in a digital environment. The authority has produced regulations for digital detailed plans and plan descriptions. In February 2021, the county administrative boards were commissioned to develop uniform digital process support and common routines for their participation in community planning.</p>
Entry 4	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (11/12/2020 20:11 PM)</p>

	<p>Inquiry to propose legislative amendments to make it easier to build close to the beach in rural areas The Government appointed in July 2019 an inquiry to review beach protection legislation. The inquiry will propose amendments that will make it much easier to build close to the beach in rural areas. The proposals shall also aim to improve conditions for housing and business activities, primarily for small businesses, in rural areas. The Inquiry will report on its remit on 14 December 2020.</p>
<p>Entry 5</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (11/12/2020 20:09 PM)</p> <p>Amendments to the Planning and Building Act In February 2020 the Riksdag adopted the Government Bill Enhanced comprehensive planning proposing amendments to the Planning and Building Act. The proposals are intended to ensure better continuity in comprehensive planning and to make sure that the comprehensive plan will facilitate subsequent planning and examination, e.g. in detailed development planning and in the examination of building permits and advance notices, to a greater extent than it currently does. The legislative amendments entered into force on 1 April 2020.</p>
<p>Entry 6</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (11/12/2020 20:18 PM)</p> <p>The investment grant for rental apartments and apartments for students was announced in 2016. So far (by 31 November 2020), the support has been granted to slightly more than 38 000 housing units, of which almost 32 500 are rental apartments and almost 6 000 are apartments for students. The investment grant was abandoned in the budget bill for 2019 but is a part of the January agreement and is now destined to continue. The</p>

	<p>investment grant appropriation proposed in the budget bill is SEK 3.15 billion for 2021. In accordance with the January agreement the ordinance (2016: 881) has been amended with the aim to make the investment grant more efficient. The amendments entered into force 1 February 2020.</p>
<p>Entry 7</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Announced (11/12/2020 20:11 PM)</p> <p>Inquiry for simplified and effective regulations for building permits In January 2020, the Government appointed an inquiry for simplified and effective regulations for building permits etc to conduct a systematic review of the regulatory framework for building permits etc. (Terms of reference 2020:4); this is to be done against the background that the effectiveness of the regulatory framework for permits is of great importance for municipalities and for developers and other private parties, as well as for the planning and building process as a whole. The purpose of the inquiry is to devise a simpler, more effective and more appropriate regulatory framework while securing important public and private interests and long-term sustainable construction of housing and other works. The inquiry is to report on its remit by 31 May 2021 at the latest.</p>
<p>Entry 8</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Announced (11/12/2020 20:08 PM)</p> <p>In the 2021 Budget Bill the Government proposed a new form of support for energy efficiency improvements and renovation of multi-dwelling buildings. The Government finds that major investments are needed to achieve better energy performance and to address the renovation needs of the existing building stock. Improving quality and energy-efficient buildings are also important for improving the housing market and the opportunities</p>

	to use the dwelling stock. The Government proposes SEK 0.9 billion for 2021, SEK 2.4 billion 2022 and SEK 1 billion for 2023.
Comments	
State of play	
Entry 1	A government bill is prepared within the government offices.
Entry 2	The assignments were reported in December 2022 and January 2023 respectively.
Entry 3	A pilot study and proposals for a joint information model on information concerning National Interests has been produced. Tests to publish this information are being prepared. The National Board of Housing, Building and Planning continues its work to achieve a more digitalized planning and building process in 2023. The County Administrative Boards have reported the assignment.

CSR 1 Subpart 3: Improve the efficiency of the housing market, including by introducing more flexibility in rental prices and revising the design of the capital gains tax.

Measures	
Entry 1	MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 18:31 PM) As of January 1, 2021, the interest rate on deferred capital gains from housing is abolished. Capital taxation

	<p>is one of several factors that affect individuals' choice of housing, and the abolishment of the interest rate reduces the transaction costs for moving. More individuals can then be expected to realize relocation plans, which contributes to an increased mobility in the housing market.</p>
<p>Entry 2</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (11/02/2022 13:35 PM)</p> <p>As of January 1, 2021, the interest rate on deferred capital gains from housing is abolished. Capital taxation is one of several factors that affect individuals' choice of housing, and the abolishment of the interest rate reduces the transaction costs for moving. More individuals can then be expected to realize relocation plans, which contributes to an increased mobility in the housing market.</p>
<p>Entry 3</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 18:30 PM)</p> <p>As of July 1, 2020, the ceiling for the maximum deferral amount was raised from SEK 1.45 million to SEK 3 million for sales of private homes made after June 30, 2020. The aim of the abolition was to increase mobility in the housing and labor market and achieve a more efficient use of the existing housing stock. In the 2021 Budget Bill the government proposes to abolish the interest rate on deferred capital gains from housing. The deferral of capital gains tax can then be considered as an interest rate free loan and enhances the effect stemming from the raised ceiling for deferrals. The new rules are proposed to cover both existing and future deferrals and will enter into force on 1st of January 2021. Capital taxation is one of several factors that affect individuals' choice of housing, and the abolishment of the interest rate reduces the transactions costs for moving. More</p>

	<p>individuals can then be expected to realize relocation plans, which contributes to an increased mobility in the housing market. In 2020 a Committee of Inquiry was assigned to investigate and analyze how the location and quality of rental apartments are considered by the parties on the rental market when setting rental prices. The Committee presented its findings in June 2021. It emphasized that the collective parties are responsible for setting rental prices and for determining fair and reasonable rental prices that reflects how tenants value apartments. The Committee presented some legislative proposals that could facilitate the work of the parties.</p>
<p>Entry 4</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Announced (11/12/2020 20:25 PM)</p> <p>Yet another inquirer is commissioned to investigate how the collective rental lease negotiations can be made more efficient. The purpose is to improve the function of the negotiations when it comes to annually setting rents for a large number of existing apartments and to establish long-term sustainable rental levels. The Inquiry was appointed in December 2019 and is to report on its remit not later than by 30 December 2020.</p>
<p>Entry 5</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Announced (11/12/2020 20:25 PM)</p> <p>Another inquirer analyses how the location and quality of the flats in the existing stock is taken into account, relative to other factors in rent setting (Terms of reference 2020:70). The Inquiry was appointed in June 2020 and is to report on its remit not later than by 30 June 2021.</p>
<p>Entry 6</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Announced (11/12/2020 20:24 PM)</p>

	<p>In April 2020 the Government appointed the inquiry Free rent setting in newly produced residential dwellings (Terms of reference 2020:45). One focal starting point for the inquiry is that free rent setting is to be introduced in newly produced residential dwellings. The new model shall contribute to the long-term well-functioning of the rental market and the efficient use of the stock of new rental buildings. Conditions should be provided for a sustainable and continuous supply of rental apartments. The model will provide residential areas with different conditions, opportunities to develop and accommodate the local demand for housing. The Inquiry is to report on its remit not later than by 31 May 2021.</p>
<p>Entry 7</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (20/02/2023 09:48 AM)</p> <p>A new dispute settlement arrangement is available for the collective parties on the rental market as from 1 January 2023. The reform aims to make the recurrent negotiations on rent change more efficient.</p>
<p>Entry 8</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (17/02/2023 18:29 PM)</p> <p>A new dispute settlement arrangement is available for the collective parties on the rental market as from 1 January 2023. The reform aims to make the recurrent negotiations on rent change more efficient.</p>
<p>Comments</p>	
<p>State of play</p>	
<p>Entry 1</p>	<p>Abolished interest rate on capital gains: In force.</p>

Entry 2

The collective parties have agreed to use the new dispute settlement arrangement. Furthermore, the collective parties have agreed to find ways to develop the rental system. One of the focus areas is to develop a common view on how different factors, such as location and quality of an apartment, should be taken into account when setting rental prices (systematic renting). The main collective parties were critical of the Committees legislative proposals. The Government has not sent the proposals for public consultation. In 2020 a Committee of Inquiry was assigned to investigate and analyze how the location and quality of rental apartments are considered by the parties on the rental market when setting rental prices. The Committee presented its findings in June 2021. It emphasized that the collective parties are responsible for setting rental prices and for determining fair and reasonable rental prices that reflects how tenants value apartments. The Committee presented some legislative proposals that could facilitate the work of the parties.

CSR.2019.2

CSR 2 Subpart 1: Focus investment related economic policy on education and skills

Measures	
Entry 1	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Not Defined (20/02/2023 09:56 AM)</p> <p>The initiative to provide people with a greater opportunity to obtain an education or training and a job is continuing (see e.g. prop. 2021/22:1). The initiative includes places in higher vocational education, regional adult vocational education, folk high school, universities, and other higher education institutions. The initiative includes higher education programs in fields of importance to society, such as engineering, education, healthcare, and medicine.</p>
Entry 2	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 18:41 PM)</p> <p>In 2022, a new legislation concerning validation within the adult education was adopted (prop. 2021/22:123, bet. 2021/22:UbU23). The legislation obliges the municipalities to offer introductory mapping and validation in municipal adult education. The measures will contribute to a more efficient management of skills, a faster establishment in the labour market and improve the possibilities to transitions during a working life. SEK 30 million per year has been allocated for the initiative 2022 and thereafter 60 million per year.</p>
Entry 3	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 18:40 PM)</p>

	<p>In the Budget bill for 2023 (prop. 2022/23:1), which was passed in parliament, the government grant to regional adult vocational education was increased with SEK 270 million for 2023. The total level of government grant to adult vocational education is lower 2023 in comparison with 2022, since temporary pandemic-related measures 2020-2022 have expired. The level 2023 is however significantly higher than before the pandemic.</p>
Entry 4	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 18:39 PM)</p> <p>Several grants aimed at stimulating teacher career opportunities in order to increase effectiveness were merged. Some of the funds are allocated so that highly qualified teachers that work in the schools with the toughest challenges receive a twice as big wage increase as before (prop. 2018/19:1, bet. 2018/19:UbU1 and also SFS 2019:1288).</p>
Entry 5	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 18:38 PM)</p> <p>An increase of the Government grant to improve equity and knowledge in preschool classes and compulsory school was proposed in the Budget Bill for 2020 (prop. 2019/20:1) and passed in parliament. For 2022 the grant corresponds to SEK 6.5 billion and in 2023 it amounts to 6,658 billion Swedish crowns. The allocation of the grant to school organizers is based on pupils' socioeconomic background.</p>
Entry 6	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 18:35 PM)</p> <p>Activity support in the Job and Development Guarantee</p>

<p>Entry 7</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (11/02/2022 13:37 PM)</p> <p>An increase of the Government grant to improve equity and knowledge in preschool classes and compulsory school was proposed in the Budget Bill for 2020 and passed in parliament. For 2022 the grant corresponds to SEK 6.5 billion and is suggested to increase to SEK 7.6 billion for 2023. The allocation of the grant to school organisers is based on pupils' socioeconomic background.</p>
<p>Entry 8</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (11/02/2022 13:36 PM)</p> <p>Activity support in the Job and Development Guarantee. The Government has expanded the possibilities of studying with activity support at basic and upper secondary level in the Job and Development Guarantee in order to get jobseekers to study.</p>
<p>Entry 9</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (11/12/2020 20:31 PM)</p> <p>To strengthen care for the elderly and health care, the Government introduced a special initiative in June 2020, where the Central government finances part-time education to become care assistant or assistant nurse for up to 10,000 employees in the health care sector. Education will take place during paid working hours and according to an agreement between the social partners the participant shall be offered permanent full-time employment. Efforts are made to make the education offer within Higher Vocational Education more flexible and from 2020 onwards courses and programmes shorter than one semester can also be offered. These courses are offered mainly through distance-learning and often</p>

	<p>as part-time studies in order to allow individuals to work and study in parallel.</p>
Entry 10	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Announced (11/12/2020 20:30 PM)</p> <p>When companies are experiencing temporary financial problems as a result of unexpected events the Central government may provide financial support for a limited time while employees reduce working hours, so-called short time work. The reduction in working hours provides scope which can be invested in competence development in order to strengthen employees' skills and thereby also the company. In the budget bill for 2021, the Government proposes that employers who have reduced employees' working hours with financial support from the Central government, may be compensated for up to 60 percent of costs for competence initiatives implemented during the reduced working time.</p>
Entry 11	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Announced (11/12/2020 20:28 PM)</p> <p>An increase of the Government grant to improve equity and knowledge in preschool classes and compulsory school was proposed in the Budget Bill for 2020. For 2020 the grant corresponds to SEK 4.9 billion and it is expected to increase to over SEK 6 billion for 2021. The allocation of the grant to school organisers is based on pupils' socioeconomic background.</p>
Entry 12	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (20/02/2023 09:58 AM)</p> <p>In 2022, a new legislation aiming to improve the planning and dimensioning of upper secondary vocational education and adult vocational education in order to better correspond to the needs of the labour market was</p>

	<p>adopted (prop. 2021/22:159, bet. 2021/22:UbU25, 2021/22:UbU27). According to the legislation, decisions regarding the supply of education must take into consideration the demand of the pupils as well as the needs of the labour market. Municipalities have to sign cooperation agreements concerning the planning, dimensioning and offering of education. For the measures, funds to the regions and the municipalities have been allocated. The legislation enters into force on 1 July 2023 and is applied on education that starts from 2025.</p>
Comments	
Entry 1	Ongoing 2014-2023 (yearly implementation through the annual budget bill, allocation of funds through appropriation directions)
State of play	
Entry 1	The legislation entered into force on 1 January 2023.
Entry 2	The Government has expanded the possibilities of studying with activity support at basic and upper secondary level in the Job and Development Guarantee in order to get jobseekers to study.

CSR 2 Subpart 2: , maintaining investment in sustainable transport to upgrade the different transport modes, in particular railways

Measures	
Entry 1	MEASURE TYPE: Announced (11/12/2020 20:35 PM)

	In the budget bill for 2021, the government plans to increase the allocation for maintenance of railways by 500 million per year during the period 2021-2023.
Entry 2	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Adopted (11/02/2022 13:44 PM)</p> <p>In 2021 the Swedish Parliament decided on a bill regarding how much funds should be allocated to investments in the transport infrastructure for the period 2022-2033. This is an investment that amounts to a total of SEK 881 billion. The investment will include developing and maintaining the Swedish transport infrastructure. The investments will contribute to increased accessibility, expanded labour market regions, regional development, increased cohesion in the country, improved competitiveness and the achievement of climate goals. In 2022, the intention is to decide on a new national plan for the transport infrastructure, in which it is specified which projects should be built 2022-2033. As a complement, under the period 2019-2022, the Swedish Government has made extra investments in maintenance of the railway of a total SEK 3 billion.</p>
Comments	
State of play	

CSR 2 Subpart 3: , and research and innovation, taking into account regional disparities.

Measures	
Entry 1	MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (20/02/2023 10:01 AM)

	<p>In November 2022 increased investments in the research infrastructure European Spallation Source were presented (prop. 2022/23:1). In 2023 the increase will be 356 mn SEK, in 2024 569 million SEK and in 2025 528 million SEK. Ongoing.</p>
<p>Entry 2</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (20/02/2023 10:00 AM)</p> <p>In December 2020 a research and innovation bill with both budgetary and legal measures was presented (prop. 2020/21:60). The bill was adopted by Parliament in spring 2021. According to the bill, the intention for the period 2021-2024 is to increase public funding by 3,75 bn SEK which means a 10 percent increase. High quality in research is an overarching goal. The funding is directed towards societal challenges related to climate change, environment, health, digitalization, working life and democracy. In terms of legislation the bill contained (for example) a new regulation concerning academic freedom. As announced in the research and innovation bill, a National Strategy for Swedish participation in Horizon Europe was decided in October 2021. Ongoing.</p>
<p>Entry 3</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (11/02/2022 13:43 PM)</p> <p>In December 2020 the government presented a research and innovation bill with both budgetary and legal measures. The period 2021-2024 the public funding will increase by 3,75 bn SEK which means a 10 percent increase. High quality in research is an overarching goal. The funding is directed towards societal challenges related to climate change, environment, health, digitalization, working life and democracy. In terms of legislation the bill contained (for example) a new regulation concerning academic freedom. As announced in the R&I bill, the Government decided on a</p>

	National Strategy for Swedish participation in Horizon Europe in October 2021.
Comments	
State of play	

CSR.2019.3

CSR 3 Subpart 1: Ensure effective supervision and the enforcement of the anti-money laundering framework.

Measures	
Entry 1	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (17/02/2023 18:48 PM)</p> <p>MEASURE TYPE: Announced (11/12/2020 21:16 PM) The Government has appointed a Committee of Inquiry to propose further legislative reforms in AML area. The Committee presented several legislative on 31 May 2021. The Committee had a broad remit: to analyse and propose changes in several key areas of AML/CFT supervision. More specifically, the Committee has presented proposals on how information and data exchange between and within the public and private sectors for the purposes of combatting money laundering and terrorist financing could be improved. o It has also analysed the supervisory tools available to the Financial Supervisory Authority, Finansinspektionen, how its supervision is carried out and how it could be improved. The Committee has also taken a look at the bigger picture of the Swedish AML/CFT supervisory structure, and analysed its pros and cons.</p>
Entry 2	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (11/02/2022 13:51 PM)</p> <p>In the budget bill for 2021, Finansinspektionen receives an additional 10m SEK for anti-money laundering supervision exclusively.</p>
Entry 3	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (11/12/2020 21:46 PM)</p>

	<p>On the intelligence side, Sweden's Financial Intelligence Unit has implemented the GoAML IT system which has increased both the quantity and the quality of submitted suspicious transaction reports. There has been a substantial increase in staff in 2020, and a 50% increase in staff since 2017.</p>
<p>Entry 4</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (11/12/2020 21:28 PM)</p> <p>In terms of national interagency cooperation, Finansinspektionen and the Police Authority recently signed an MoU in order to be able to share intelligence information and to better coordinate their work. This has already provided results in operational terms (see e.g. media reporting on a coordinated raid against "underground banks:")</p>
<p>Entry 5</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (20/02/2023 10:05 AM)</p> <p>The Government has appointed a Committee of Inquiry to propose further legislative reforms in AML area. The Committee is expected to deliver its legislative proposal no later than 31 May 2021. The Committee's remit is broad; it has the mandate to analyse and propose changes in several key areas of AML/CFT supervision. Because the Committee is an independent agency under Swedish law, the specific details of any suggested changes are not yet public, even though the Committee's mandate is.</p> <p>More specifically, the Committee will look at how information and data exchange between and within the public and private sectors for the purposes of combatting money laundering and terrorist financing could be improved.</p>

	<p>It will also analyse the supervisory tools available to the Financial Supervisory Authority, Finansinspektionen, how its supervision is carried out and how it could be improved. In order to do this, the Committee is tasked with comparing the Swedish system of financial AML/CFT supervision with other countries.</p> <p>The Committee will also look at the bigger picture of the Swedish AML/CFT supervisory structure, and analyse its pros and cons. It will consider if the current structure is efficient, e.g. with respect to how involved agencies cooperate in the fight against ML/TF.</p>
<p>Entry 6</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (11/12/2020 20:58 PM)</p> <p>A new system for information on accounts and safe deposit boxes accessible by law enforcement authorities, the Tax Agency and the Enforcement Authority.</p> <p>This bill provides for a data retrieval system, as explicitly allowed for under the Anti-Money Laundering and Payment Services Directives, for information on accounts and safe deposit boxes in Sweden.</p> <p>In contrast to a traditional register of bank accounts, which may not be updated very frequently, this data retrieval system provides for near-instantaneous access to updated information.</p> <p>The bill also represents a significant goldplating of applicable EU law requirements in that any law enforcement authority, the Enforcement Authority and the Tax Agency may access the information. That in turn provides for higher effectiveness.</p> <p>In force since September 2020.</p> <p>Please see https://www.regeringen.se/rattsliga-dokument/proposition/2020/02/prop.-20192083/</p>

<p>Entry 7</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (11/12/2020 20:58 PM)</p> <p>More appropriate and clearer requirements for the Financial Intelligence Unit to provide feedback to reporting entities.</p> <p>This bill explicitly requires the Financial Intelligence Unit to provide feedback to reporting entities on the effectiveness and follow-up of suspicious transaction reports whenever possible.</p> <p>The bill also adjusts some of the definitions of the anti-money laundering framework and clarifies provisions on the identification of the beneficial owner of life insurance products.</p> <p>In force since April 2020.</p> <p>Please see https://www.regeringen.se/rattsliga-dokument/proposition/2019/12/prop.-20192055/</p>
<p>Entry 8</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (11/12/2020 20:57 PM)</p> <p>Improved powers for the financial sector supervisor to take action against branches of foreign banks in Sweden.</p> <p>This bill overhauls the framework for supervisory intervention against branches of EEA banks, allowing the supervisor to intervene directly if necessary.</p> <p>The bill also contains a number of clarifications with regard to beneficial ownership.</p> <p>In force since January 2020.</p> <p>Please see https://www.regeringen.se/rattsliga-dokument/proposition/2019/09/prop.-20192014/</p>
<p>Entry 9</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (11/12/2020 20:56 PM)</p>

	<p>Transposition of the 5th Anti-Money Laundering Directive.</p> <p>This bill provides for a complete, conform and timely transposition of the relevant provisions.</p> <p>Several instances of goldplating, most notably in relation to regulation of virtual currencies where the scope extend beyond the Directive's requirements. Sweden therefore meets the FATF's requirements in this regard (please see below—this was confirmed by the FATF in September 2020).</p> <p>In force since January 2020 (or, in the few cases where the transposition deadline is different, since that date).</p> <p>Please see https://www.regeringen.se/rattsliga-dokument/proposition/2019/06/prop.-201819150/</p>
Entry 10	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Implemented (11/12/2020 20:56 PM)</p> <p>Overhaul of the supervision and sanction framework with regards to lawyers and law firms.</p> <p>This bill extends the scope of the supervisory and sanctions framework, and transfers the sanctions power from the Bar Association to the County Administrative Board of Stockholm.</p> <p>In force since November 2019.</p> <p>Please see https://www.regeringen.se/rattsliga-dokument/proposition/2019/05/prop.-201819125/</p>
Entry 11	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Announced (20/02/2023 10:04 AM)</p> <p>The Police Authority has had large appropriation increases over recent years. For 2022, almost an additional 2,850 mSEK was granted compared to 2021, and an additional</p>

	<p>increase of more than 2,250 mSEK is planned for 2023. More people will be employed by the police. For the Financial Intelligence Unit, its staff has increased by more than 50% since 2017. Further increases are planned.</p>
<p>Entry 12</p>	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Announced (17/02/2023 18:46 PM)</p> <p>The Government has appointed another inquiry of Inquiry to review legislation on confiscation of the proceeds of crime. The inquiry submitted its report in January 2022 and the report has been sent to more than 100 authorities and organizations for consideration. The inquiry (Ny förverkandelagstiftning SOU 2021:100) has proposed, inter alia, that a new form of confiscation – non-conviction-based-confiscation of the proceeds of crime – should be introduced. Under the proposed regulations on non-conviction-based confiscation, property can be confiscated if it is shown that it derives from criminal activities. This form of confiscation would not require that it can be shown that a person has committed a specific offence, but rather – like extended confiscation – it would be based on a more general assessment of the circumstances in which the property is encountered, the person's property and incomes, and other circumstances. The standard of proof should be the same as the usual standard of proof in civil law cases, i.e. non-conviction-based confiscation would require that it is proved or shown that the property derives from criminal activities. An investigation on non-conviction-based confiscation would be led by a prosecutor. During the investigation, the coercive measures of custody, sequestration, seizure of property and seizure of funds should be permitted in order to secure the property. Moreover, it should be permitted to search premises and undertake body searches if there is particular reason to assume that the search will lead investigators to encounter property that can be seized or taken into custody, or that is otherwise</p>

	<p>of relevance to the investigation. Within the framework of the investigation, the investigating authorities should also have access to information concerning incomes, bank balances and property holdings, etc.</p>
Entry 13	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Announced (11/12/2020 21:18 PM)</p> <p>the Government has appointed another Committee of Inquiry to review legislation on confiscation of the proceeds of crime. This Committee has been instructed to propose enhancements to the legislative framework on confiscation, including if appropriate introducing provisions for non-conviction based confiscation. The Committee is expected to deliver its legislative proposals no later than 17 December 2021.</p>
Entry 14	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Announced (11/12/2020 20:54 PM)</p> <p>The Police Authority has had large appropriation increases over recent years. For 2021, the Government is proposing that the appropriation is increased by roughly 1,900 mSEK. For 2022, an additional 1,650 mSEK has been proposed. These increases will benefit all parts of the police, including the Financial Intelligence Unit and other parts of the police working with combatting money laundering and terrorist financing. More people will be employed by the police (by Q3 2020, more than half of the 10,000 target had been hired). For the Financial Intelligence Unit, its staff has increased by 50% since 2017. Further increases are planned.</p>
Entry 15	<p>MEASURE TYPE: Announced (11/12/2020 20:53 PM)</p>

	<p>In the budget bill for 2021, Finansinspektionen receives an additional 10m SEK for anti-money laundering supervision exclusively.</p>
<p>Comments</p>	
<p>State of play</p>	
<p>Entry 1</p>	<p>The Committee's proposals have been subject to a round of public consultation, which ended in September 2021. A legislative bill entered into force 1st of January 2023, which includes provisions on: * information exchange between credit institutions and law enforcement authorities, * information exchange between law enforcement authorities and supervisory authorities, * an obligation for payment clearing houses and companies providing infrastructure concerning instant payments to provide the Swedish FIU with information, and * new supervisory tools for the Country Administrative Boards, * improvements to the beneficial ownership register.</p>
<p>Entry 2</p>	<p>The Committee's proposals have been subject to a round of public consultation, which ended in April 2022. Work is being carried out to put forward a legislative bill based on the Committee's proposals.</p>

Appendix 2 Excerpts from Sweden's report on the country-specific recommendations – Transcripts from Fenix

Exported from FENIX 2023-03-08				
CSR/subpart	Measure name	Milestone/target name	Due date (Quarter)	Status in FENIX
2020.CSR2.subpart5	Local and regional climate investments	T1: Award of projects reducing carbon dioxide emissions by expected 300 000 tonnes	Q4/2021	Completed
2020.CSR2.subpart5	Local and regional climate investments	T2: Award of projects reducing carbon dioxide emissions by expected 240 000 tonnes	Q4/2022	On track
2020.CSR2.subpart5	Energy efficiency in multi-dwelling buildings	Entry into force of an ordinance establishing the support scheme for investments to improve energy efficiency in multi-dwelling buildings	Q4/2021	Completed
2019.CSR2.subpart2 2020.CSR2.subpart8	Strengthened railway support	60 km of railways has been improved or upgraded	Q4/2021	Completed
2019.CSR2.subpart2 2020.CSR2.subpart8	Strengthened railway support	40 km of railways has been improved or upgraded	Q4/2022	On track
2020.CSR2.subpart5	Adjustments in the reduction obligation	Entry into force of a law establishing increased reduction quotas in the obligation to reduce GHG emissions from gasoline and diesel by requiring fuel suppliers to gradually blend in biofuels	Q3/2021	Completed
2020.CSR2.subpart5	Adjustments in the reduction obligation	Entry into force of a law establishing a reduction obligation on jet fuel	Q3/2021	Completed

2020.CSR2.subpart5	Abolished reduction of energy tax on fuel in certain sectors	Entry into force of a law that partially abolishes a reduction of energy tax on fuel in certain sectors	Q3/2021	Completed
2020.CSR2.subpart5	Abolished reduction of energy tax on fuel in certain sectors	Entry into force of the law to fully abolish reduction of energy tax on fuel in certain sectors	Q1/2022	Completed
2020.CSR2.subpart5	Adjusted taxable benefit rates for company cars	Entry into force of a law to adjust the taxable benefit rate for company cars	Q3/2021	Completed
2019.CSR2.subpart1 2020.CSR1.subpart2 2020.CSR2.subpart2	More study places in regional adult vocational education	T1: New study places in vocational training and adult education	Q4/2020	Completed
2019.CSR2.subpart1 2020.CSR1.subpart2 2020.CSR2.subpart2	More study places in regional adult vocational education	T2: New study places in vocational training and adult education	Q4/2021	Completed
2019.CSR2.subpart1 2020.CSR1.subpart2 2020.CSR2.subpart2	More study places in regional adult vocational education	T3: New study places in vocational training and adult education	Q4/2022	On track
2019.CSR2.subpart1 2020.CSR2.subpart2	More study places in higher vocational education	T1: New study places in post-secondary vocational education	Q4/2020	Not completed
2019.CSR2.subpart1 2020.CSR2.subpart2	More study places in higher vocational education	T2: New study places in post-secondary vocational education	Q4/2021	Completed
2019.CSR2.subpart1 2020.CSR2.subpart2	More study places in higher vocational education	T3: New study places in post-secondary vocational education	Q4/2022	On track
2019.CSR2.subpart1 2020.CSR2.subpart2	Resources to meet demands for education at universities	T1: Additionally registered students in higher education	Q4/2021	Completed

	and other higher education institutions			
2019.CSR2.subpart1 2020.CSR2.subpart2	Resources to meet demands for education at universities and other higher education institutions	T2: Additionally registered students in higher education	Q4/2022	On track
2019.CSR2.subpart1 2020.CSR2.subpart2	Higher compensation level for vocational training in combination with Swedish for Immigrants and Swedish as a second language	Entry into force of the higher compensation level for vocational training in combination with Swedish for Immigrants and Swedish as a second language	Q3/2020	Completed
2019.CSR2.subpart1 2020.CSR2.subpart2	Employment protection act and greater transition possibilities	Entry into force of the legislative amendments to modernise employment protection and enhance greater transition possibilities	Q2/2022	Completed
2019.CSR2.subpart1 2020.CSR1.subpart2 2020.CSR2.subpart2	Elderly care initiative	1.500 participants have started education under the Elderly care Initiative	Q4/2021	Completed
2020.CSR1.subpart2	Regulating the professional title of nursing assistants	Entry into force of a law regulating the professional title of nursing assistant	Q3/2023	On track
2019.CSR3.subpart1 2020.CSR3.subpart1	A new bank account and safe deposit box system	Entry into force of a law on a new bank account and safe deposit box system	Q3/2020	Completed

N/A	Ensuring an effective and efficient implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Plan	M1: Government decisions ensuring an effective and efficient implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Plan including the audit and control set-up	Q4/2021	Completed
N/A	Ensuring an effective and efficient implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Plan	M2: Government decisions ensuring an effective and efficient implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Plan including the audit and control set-up	Q4/2021	Completed
N/A	Ensuring an effective and efficient implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Plan	M3: Government decisions ensuring an effective and efficient implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Plan including the audit and control set-up	Q4/2021	Completed
N/A	Broadband expansion	T1: Additional number of buildings with broadband access (Homes Passed)	Q4/2021	Completed
N/A	Broadband expansion	T2: Additional number of buildings with broadband access (Homes Passed)	Q4/2022	On track
2019.CSR1.subpart2 2020.CSR2.subpart4	Investment aid for rental and student housing	T1: Payment of support for new completed dwellings	Q4/2022	On track
2019.CSR1.subpart2	Private right of initiative – involvement of planning stakeholders in zoning	Entry into force of a law on establishing a private right of initiative	Q4/2021	Completed

2019.CSR1.subpart2	Better prerequisites in housing construction	Entry into force of amendments to the Planning and Building Act, establishing a certified construction project company [Certifierade byggprojekteringsföretag – en mer förutsägbar byggprocess] leading to better prerequisites in housing construction	Q4/2022	Completed
2019.CSR1.subpart3	Higher ceiling for the deferred amount in the capital gains tax	Entry into force of a change in the relevant tax law raising the ceiling for deferred capital gains [from SEK 1,450,000 to SEK 3,000,000)	Q3/2020	Completed
2019.CSR1.subpart3	Abolishing the calculated income from deferred capital gains	Entry into force of a change in the relevant tax law abolishing the standard income on deferred capital gains	Q1/2021	Completed

Appendix 3 Report on the implementation of the European pillar of social rights:
description of key actions and their estimated impact

Pillar principle	List of key contributory actions	Estimated effect of the measures (qualitative and/or quantitative)
1. Education and lifelong learning	<p>1. The first round of applications for the new Student finance scheme for transition and retraining started on 1 October 2022 for studies from 1 January 2023. This scheme is intended to:</p> <p>strengthen the future position of individuals in the Swedish labour market, and enable studies for the purposes of transition or skills development in mid-life by compensating individuals for the loss of income while undertaking these studies.</p> <p>2. The Government is monitoring the need for potential changes in the offering of publicly funded courses and study programmes as a result of the new Student finance scheme for transition and retraining. As part of this work, Sweden's publicly funded higher education institutions (U2022/02386) and the Swedish National Agency for Higher Vocational Education have therefore been tasked with analysing their offerings of courses and study programmes in terms of their content as well as the formats in which their courses and study programmes are offered. For the higher education institutions, this task includes describing how they plan to develop their offerings of courses and study programmes, where necessary, to strengthen access to education for lifelong</p>	<p>1. Figures from the first round of applications show that the numbers seeking student finance under the new scheme are considerably higher than anticipated. This will lead to higher numbers of new and returning students. In addition, the prerequisite that the choice of course or study programme must strengthen the individual in the labour market ensures that there must be a link to skills that are in demand. The scheme will be progressively expanded until 2026.</p> <p>2. Since the student finance under this scheme can be provided for a slower pace of study and for a shorter period than under the regular student finance scheme, it also enables other types of flexible courses and study programmes to be offered. The survey of courses and study programmes offered is part of the work to ensure that there is a relevant offering of courses and study programmes for students receiving Student finance for transition and retraining.</p> <p>3. Children's and pupils' language development, and the development of their reading and writing skills is seen as crucial for their learning in all subjects taught in schools.</p>

	<p>learning and employability within their current financial frameworks. In addition, the Swedish Higher Education Authority (UKÄ) is to develop a model to forecast the need for further education that the new Student finance scheme for transition and retraining may give rise to. The final report on this part of the task is to be included in UKÄ's Annual Report 2024.</p> <p>Furthermore, the higher education institutions' appropriation directions for 2023 state that they must report separately on how they have developed their courses and study programmes to strengthen access to education for lifelong learning and employability. In addition, a report must be submitted on how the higher education institution is meeting the needs of the community at large for education.</p> <p>3. An expansion, strengthening and extension of the Swedish National Agency for Education's <i>'Läslyftet'</i> task will be implemented to strengthen the language development and reading and writing skills of children and pupils. The COVID-19 pandemic has meant that children have been absent from preschool more than usual. This includes children in socio-economically disadvantaged families and children who do not have Swedish as their mother tongue. In combination with high staff absenteeism, this is assessed as having had some negative consequences for the children's learning. In compulsory types of school and out-of-school centres,</p>	<p>4. Comprehensive state aid to the municipalities is still necessary to meet the needs of the labour market and to support the integration of foreign-born people. In particular, the bridging programmes initiative, which entails combining VET programmes with courses in Swedish for Immigrants (SFI) or Swedish as second language, has enabled more foreign-born people to gain a combined language and VET qualification that leads to work.</p>
--	--	---

	<p>in upper secondary school, and in upper secondary school for pupils with learning disabilities, the pandemic has also affected pupils' learning (Govt Bill 2022/23:01).</p> <p>4. Through a central government grant, the initiative in regional adult vocational education within Komvux will continue, where SEK 400 million has been provided in the Spring Amending Budget Bill for 2023. The central government grant for regional adult vocational education in 2023 will thus be roughly twice as high as before the pandemic.</p>	
2. Gender equality	<p>1. Task given to the Swedish National Mediation Office – Women's and men's income over the long term (A2022/00945) The National Mediation Office has been tasked with performing a gender equality analysis of wage income and other income that affects the individual's disposable income over the long term. The National Mediation Office is also to propose how such an analysis could be performed on a regular basis.</p> <p>2. The Government has tasked the Swedish Gender Equality Agency with performing a qualitative study of foreign-born women outside the labour market in dialogue with other relevant government agencies and actors. The Gender Equality Agency submitted the final report on the study to the Government Offices on 31 March 2023.</p>	<p>1. Increased knowledge about women's and men's incomes over the long term, including wage income and other income such as income derived from capital. Proposals on how such a gender equality analysis could be performed regularly.</p> <p>2. Increased knowledge of the needs and situations of foreign-born women. The study is to include factors that may constitute significant obstacles to foreign-born women entering the labour market.</p> <p>3. Increased knowledge about income disparities between disabled women and men. Proposals on what statistics should be used and what kind of analysis should be performed in order to shed light on any such income disparities.</p>

	<p>3. Statistics Sweden has been tasked with supplementing current knowledge about pay gaps and other income disparities between men and women with disabilities. The final report on this task is to be submitted to the Government by December 2024 at the latest.</p>	
<p>3. Equal opportunities</p>	<p>1. The Government’s work with the action plan for the equal rights and opportunities for LGBTQI people is continuing. For 2022, just over SEK 33 million of the Government’s budget funds were set aside for actions under this action plan.</p> <p>a) Starting in 2022, the Public Health Agency of Sweden has been tasked with following up the Government’s action plan for LGBTQI people with the aim of promoting equal rights and opportunities for LGBTQI people. In 2022, the Agency completed an inventory of needs.</p> <p>b) The Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society (MUCF) has presented a comprehensive survey of the health and living conditions of young LGBTQI people.</p> <p>c) Together with MUCF, the Ombudsman for Children in Sweden has conducted a survey intended to identify the knowledge and capacity needs of schools and their organisers, their organisational conditions, and the systematic work being done in schools to ensure the equal treatment</p>	<p>1. Based on the LGBTQI action plan, work to promote equal rights and improve the situation of LGBTQI people in Sweden is continuing. The action plan complements the current strategy and focuses this work on concrete actions for the period 2020–2023.</p> <p>1 a) The aims of the needs inventory include investigating what support the LGBTQI strategic government agencies need, and how the Public Health Agency of Sweden can best assist these government agencies.</p> <p>1 b) The MUCF report shows that the living conditions of young LGBTQI people are worse than those of other young people. For example, they have poorer health, in particular poorer mental health. Many feel unsafe in the school environment or are less satisfied with their work situation than others. The report also gives an account of young LGBTQI people’s exposure to so-called ‘conversion therapies’ in Sweden.</p> <p>1 c) The investigation carried out by the Ombudsman for Children in Sweden and MUCF shows that schools that work actively and inclusively with the LGBTQI perspective help to keep young</p>

	<p>and safety of young LGBTQI people in schools. MUCF launched a new web-based course in LGBTQI issues in schools in spring 2022 as an effective way of reaching out to more individuals.</p> <p>d) The Swedish Agency for Work Environment Expertise has gathered and compiled knowledge about the organisational and psychosocial work environment of LGBTQI people.</p> <p>e) The Equality Ombudsman has submitted a report on the situation of intersex persons regarding discrimination.</p> <p>2. Efforts to combat various forms of racism</p> <p>a) Specific action programmes targeting various forms of racism (Afrophobia, antisemitism, antiziganism, Islamophobia, and racism against Sami people) have been developed, based on the National plan to combat racism, similar forms of hostility and hate crime.</p> <p>b) The Living History Forum carries out educational activities about various forms of historical and contemporary racism. For example, the Forum holds courses addressing school staff and other public sector employees, where the focus is on assuring the quality of</p>	<p>LGBTQI people safe. The report shows that knowledge about LGBTQI people and their situation in schools varies depending on occupational role.</p> <p>1 d) The report reveals shortcoming in the work environment for LGBTQI people. These include harassment and discrimination in the workplace where transgender people appear to be particularly at risk.</p> <p>1 e) According to the report, there are areas of society where people with an intersex variation have a particularly vulnerable situation and risk encountering various forms of discrimination. These areas include the health care system, schools, and the workplace.</p> <p>2. All measures are intended to help prevent and combat various forms of racism through increased knowledge.</p>
--	---	---

	<p>public sector activities' treatment of the public through work to combat racism. (in progress)</p> <p>c) The National Board of Health and Welfare has been tasked with producing, developing and disseminating knowledge support materials in order to combat racism and promote equal rights and opportunities for all within the health care system, thereby contributing to equitable health care. (To be reported on in March 2024)</p> <p>d) The Equality Ombudsman has been tasked with implementing specific information initiatives and producing easily accessible information material to support pupils and their custodians in cases of bullying. (To be reported on November 2023)</p> <p>e) The Living History Forum has been tasked with developing and distributing a methodology for work to combat racism in order to assure the quality of public sector activities' treatment of the public. (Decision, 21 April 2022. Final report to be submitted in March 2025).</p> <p>f) The Ombudsman for Children in Sweden has been tasked with carrying out knowledge-enhancing initiatives concerning racism based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.</p>	
--	--	--

	<p>(Final report to be submitted in June 2023)</p> <p>g) The Living History Forum has been tasked with implementing knowledge-enhancing initiatives against various forms of racism, including the production of supporting material about racism. (In progress 2022–2024)</p> <p>h) The Swedish Agency for Work Environment Expertise has been tasked with gathering and compiling knowledge about the links between the certain groups’ victimisation in the workplace and work-related stress. (Final report to be submitted in March 2024)</p> <p>i) The Swedish National Agency for Education, together with the Living History Forum, have been tasked with developing a tool for systematic work to strengthen democracy in the school system, non-formal adult education, and other parts of adult education with the aim of combating antisemitism and other forms of racism. Furthermore, these government agencies are to offer process support to the target groups for this work.</p> <p>3. Roma inclusion</p> <p>The Government’s work on a coordinated and long-term strategy for Roma inclusion 2012–2032 is continuing.</p>	
--	--	--

	<p>The Institute for Language and Folklore (Isolf) has been commissioned to run language centres for Romani chib in the period 2022–2024.</p> <p>The County Administrative Board of Stockholm has been tasked with distributing central government grants to municipalities for activities to enhance Roma inclusion.</p> <p>The Swedish National Agency for Education and the National Board of Health and Welfare are tasked with producing and disseminating an appropriate training programme for mediators with Roma language skills and cultural competence for their work in preschools, preschool class, schools, school-age educare/out of school centres, adult education and social services or the health care system during the period 2022–2024.</p>	
<p>4. Active labour market measures</p>	<p>1. <i>Work experience placements</i> The Government has provided funding to enable more work experience placements. A work experience placement can be a good way to get a foothold in the labour market as it helps to overcome the employer’s uncertainty about a person’s skills.</p> <p>2. <i>Task given to the Swedish Public Employment Service to reduce long-term unemployment (A2022/00330)</i> In 2022, the Swedish Public Employment Service was tasked with making preparations to strengthen the support offered to the long-term unemployed from</p>	<p>1. Work experience placements provide an experience of working life that can help job seekers to become less passive and to improve their chances of getting a job. The aim is for more people to get a job and support themselves.</p> <p>2. The measures are to assist more long-term unemployed persons to transition to work or study.</p> <p>3. These measures are to assist more long-term unemployed</p>

	<p>2023 onwards, particularly in geographical areas with socio-economic challenges. The Public Employment Service is to enable more scheduled meetings and more staff-intensive initiatives, as well as strengthen decision-making capacities. The Public Employment Service's task to analyse and report on the needs of the long-term unemployed who are particularly detached from the labour market (A2022/00331) is to be taken into account in this analysis.</p> <p><i>3. Task to the Swedish Public Employment Service to analyse and report on the needs of the long-term unemployed (A2022/00331)</i></p> <p>The Swedish Public Employment Service has been tasked with analysing the needs of the long-term unemployed who are particularly detached from the labour market and, if necessary, propose measures to assist more long-term unemployed persons to transition to work or study. The Public Employment Service is to analyse in particular what support can best be provided in cooperation with other relevant actors and, as far as possible, utilise evidence-based models and best practice as the starting point, while also taking into account the gender equality dimension and the Public Employment Service's task to reduce long-term unemployment (A2022/00330).</p> <p><i>4. Summer jobs and jobs for young people</i></p>	<p>persons to transition to work or study.</p> <p>4. Improve young people's entry into the labour market. For young people, a summer job or a job after leaving school can be a valuable first experience of working life.</p>
--	---	--

	Central government funding has been invested to strengthen the municipalities' opportunities to create summer jobs and jobs for young people.	
5. Secure and flexible employment	1. Labour law reform	1. In October 2022, the legislative amendments resulting from the Government's proposal for labour law reform began to apply. The amendments concerning labour law reform include the following elements: greater scope for deviating from the Employment Protection Act through collective agreements; all employers may exempt three employees from the order of priority in the event of termination on the grounds of shortage of work; a main rule that employment continues during a dispute; the introduction of an order of priority and a transition period in cases of adjustment to fewer working hours; the introduction of a presumption of full-time employment; and in certain cases, user undertakings having to offer workers from temporary agencies indefinite-term employment or to pay compensation.
6. Pay	<p>1. <i>About the Swedish model of wage formation</i></p> <p>One of the pillars of the Swedish model is that the social partners have primary responsibility for wage formation. Wage formation in Sweden is based on the sector exposed to international competition being the wage leader.</p>	1. During 2022, some thirty central collective agreements were signed. The agreements covered around 150 000 employees. Fundamental to the negotiations in 2022 was the norm set by the industrial sector's three-year agreement concluded in 2020. In 2022, a total of 5 240 days were lost in labour market conflicts, in two negotiations at union level, and in one local contractual dispute.

<p>7. Information on the terms and conditions of employment and protections in the event of termination</p>	<p>1. Implementation of the Working Conditions Directive</p>	<p>1. In January 2022, the Government proposed an implementation of the EU's Working Conditions Directive, and the legislative amendments entered into force in June 2022. The amendments include the introduction of provisions which give employees the right as the main rule to have another job during their employment, and the requirement for an employer to provide a written reply to an employee's request for transfer to another form of employment or a higher rate of employment. This Directive updates the provisions in Council Directive 91/533/EEC on an employer's obligation to inform employees of the conditions applicable to the contract or employment. The Directive also contains certain minimum requirements concerning working conditions. Member States may allow the social partners to derogate from certain provisions contained in this Directive through collective agreements.</p>
<p>8. Dialogue between the social partners and employee influence</p>	<p><i>1. Coverage of collective agreements</i> – In 2021, 88% of employees aged 16–64 years were covered by collective agreements. In total, the share covered by collective agreements has remained largely unchanged in the last 20 years.</p> <p>In international terms, Sweden has a very high trade union organisation rate. The trade union organisation rate, i.e. the share of employees who are members of an employee organisation, was 70% in 2021. The organisation rate of employers amounted to 87% in 2021. (The measurement</p>	

	<p>method used for measuring the coverage of collective agreements and the organisation rate of employers has changed during 2021, which has led to a slight decline.)</p>	
<p>9. Work-life balance</p>	<p>1. Implementation of the Work-Life Balance Directive</p>	<p>1. In February 2022 the Government proposed the implementation of Directive (EU) 2019/1158 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on work-life balance for parents and carers. The legislative amendments entered into force in August and October 2022, respectively.</p> <p>The Directive means new provisions in, for instance, the Leave to Care for Relatives Act (1988:1465), the Parental Leave Act (1995:584) and the Leave for Urgent Family Matters Act (1998:209).</p> <p>The provisions entail certain rights for parents with children up to eight years of age or for workers who have relatives with care needs when they request flexible working arrangements for the purpose of providing care. Workers who request flexible working arrangements or claim such rights are covered by special protection provisions and a prohibition on retaliation was also introduced.</p> <p>In addition, the Equality Ombudsman has been given an expanded right to bring legal action on behalf of individual workers in disputes about disadvantaging treatment. The Directive also means amendments</p>

		<p>of the Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act (2009:400); in part because the Equality Ombudsman is given an expanded right to bring legal action. A consequential amendment was made in the Posting of Workers Act (1999:678) to the effect that the proposed new provisions in the Parental Leave Act will not apply to posted workers.</p>
<p>10. Healthy, safe and well-adapted work environment and data protection</p>	<p>1. A good work environment for the future – the Government’s work environment strategy for 2021–2025</p> <p>2. National delegation to address work-related crime</p> <p>3. Commission to establish regional centres to address work-related crime and permanent government agency cooperation</p> <p>4. Inquiry on expanded opportunities to maintain the good work environment</p> <p>5. Inquiry on the role of regional health and safety representatives in work environment management</p>	<p>1. The work environment strategy sets out the Government’s long-term policy focus for this area in the coming five years. The written communication sets out how the strategy will steer efforts towards the goals set, the implementation of the strategy and how the strategy is to be followed up. The government agencies in the area are tasked with drawing up action plans, which gives them a clearer and more prominent role in supporting the implementation of the strategy. The Government will continue to have a forum for dialogue with the social partners. The milestones for the work environment strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sustainable working life – everyone is to be able, have the capacity, and want to work for a full working life. • A healthy working life – working life should contribute to personal development and well-being. • A safe working life – no one should risk their life or health because of their work. • A labour market free from crime and fraud – a poor working environment must never be a means of competition.

		<p>2. The work of the National delegation to address work-related crime will continue until February 2025. The delegation is to increase knowledge about the scale of work-related crime and support the actors working to stop work-related crime.</p> <p>3. The Government's task to the Swedish Work Environment Authority among others to initiate the establishment of regional centres to address work-related crime continues. Two regional centres were established in 2022 and five more will be opened in 2023. The other cooperating government agencies will join this initiative in stages, but no later than the end of 2023.</p> <p>4. The Inquiry submitted its report in August 2022 and it is being prepared in the Government Offices.</p> <p>5. The Inquiry submitted its report in August 2022 and it is being prepared in the Government Offices.</p>
11. Childcare and support for children	<p>1. Higher maintenance support</p> <p>2. <i>Fritidskort</i> for children and young people</p> <p>3. National Action Plan for the Implementation of the Child Guarantee</p> <p>4. Strengthened access to parental support throughout the country</p>	<p>1. Single parents often have a more financially constrained situation than parents who live together, and many children with a low economic standard live in households that are recipients of maintenance support. The most recent increase in the maintenance support for children aged between 7 and 10 was in August 2022. An increase in maintenance support strengthens</p>

		<p>single parents' incomes, and benefits single women with children in particular.</p> <p>2. In order to assure children's and young people's access to sports and recreational activity associations, the Government intends to introduce a sport and recreational activities card (<i>Fritidskort</i>). This card is intended to give children and young people from socio-economically disadvantaged households in particular greater opportunities to participate in sport and recreational activities. In 2023, the necessary infrastructure is being developed to enable the <i>Fritidskort</i> to be introduced in 2024.</p> <p>3. In March 2022, the Government adopted the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the European Child Guarantee. It aims to prevent and combat social exclusion by ensuring that all children have effective access to a set of basic social services.</p> <p>4. Crime prevention will therefore be a priority during the electoral period. Children who are at risk of being drawn into crime and their families need to get support and help from the community. The Government has therefore set aside SEK 200 million to strengthen parental support in 2023. The Government then intends to set aside SEK 200 million per year from 2024 onwards.</p>
--	--	--

12. Social protection	<p>1. Temporary supplement provided to families with children receiving the housing allowance</p> <p>2. Better insurance protection for people with on-call work and for older people</p>	<p>1. A temporary supplement was provided to families with children receiving the housing allowance in the period July to December 2022, due to the increase in the cost of living. In order to mitigate the effects of the challenging economic situation for households, which affects families with children with low incomes and small financial margins, the Government has chosen to extend the measure. The supplement is therefore also being provided during the first half of 2023, i.e. the period 1 January to 30 June. A proposal to extend the measure further until 31 December 2023 was referred for consultation and is currently being prepared in the Government Offices. The proposal also includes an increase in the level of the supplement. The housing allowance is a well-targeted benefit for reaching financially constrained households.</p> <p>2. Sweden has a universal social insurance system that covers everyone who works as an employee or sole trader in Sweden. The change in insurance protection means that it will be easier for people who are on-call employees (people who are called in when needed to work in a fixed-term position or who are employed to work on-call) and older gainfully employed people so that they can more easily access social security benefits in the event of a temporary or</p>

		permanent reduced working capacity.
13. Unemployment benefits	<p><i>1. Retention of benefit levels</i> The Government have decided to permanently set aside funding so that unemployment benefits retains at the same higher level as during the pandemic.</p> <p><i>2. The temporary relaxation of the working condition extended until 31 December 2023</i> The working condition has been temporarily reduced from a minimum of 80 hours of paid work to a minimum of 60 hours of paid work for at least six months (within a reference period of 12 months). The working condition's alternative rule has also been temporarily relaxed. The number of hours worked has been reduced from a minimum of 480 hours of paid work to a minimum of 420 hours of paid work during a continuous period of six months (within a reference period of 12 months).</p> <p><i>3. The temporary relaxation of the waiting period condition extended until 31 December 2023</i> The waiting period has been temporarily reduced from 6 to 2 days.</p> <p><i>4. The temporary relaxation of the rules for the self-employed extended until 31 December 2023</i> A person employed in their own business (self-employed person) is only entitled to unemployment benefits when their business has definitely ceased to operate, but there is also a possibility of making the firm dormant. If the business is made dormant, a business owner</p>	<p>1. According to the Swedish Public Employment Service Labour market outlook spring 2021 – Outlook for the labour market 2021–2022, the financial stimulus measures introduced have helped to maintain household incomes and consumption despite unemployment having increased.</p> <p>2. These relaxations enable more people, including those who have been hired on an hourly basis or work part-time, to qualify for unemployment benefits.</p> <p>3. Reducing the number of days in the waiting period increases disposable income in the first month of unemployment.</p> <p>4. These changes mean that the self-employed can resume their business activities faster.</p>

	<p>can be considered unemployed for as long as there is no activity in the business. If the business owner resumes activity in the firm after it has been made dormant, the ordinary rules stipulate that at least five years must pass before a new break in activity is possible, which is called the 'five-year rule'. Otherwise the business owner needs to cease activity in the firm once and for all to be entitled to unemployment benefits.</p> <p>The rules for business owners were changed temporarily in April 2020 so that the five-year rule is not applied with regard to breaks in a business activities. This means more generous rules compared to the ordinary rules, since it allows business owners to obtain unemployment benefits even in the event of repeated breaks in the business activities in a short space of time. Since 1 July 2020 business owners are also able to take certain marketing measures in their business while their business are dormant without this affecting their right to unemployment benefits.</p>	
14. Minimum income	1. Increased housing supplement for old-age pensioners	1. In August 2022, the consumption support in the housing supplement was increased by SEK 300 per month for unmarried persons and SEK 150 for married persons in order to strengthen the income of old-age pensioners with low other income. The proposal increases the disposable income of old-age pensioners receiving the housing supplement.
15. Old-age income and pensions	1. Increased age limits in the pension system and in related social security systems	1. In order to meet the challenges of demographic developments, all pension-related age limits in the pension

	<p>2. Level increases in 2020–2022 (increases in guarantee pension and housing supplement and introduction of income pension complement)</p>	<p>system and in related social security systems have been increased. A few age limit increases were already implemented in 2020. During 2022, the Riksdag decided on further increases which have been in force since January 2023. As of 2026, all age limits will be linked to the development of average life expectancy, which means that they will automatically increase as average life expectancy increases. The increase in pension-related age limits is expected to contribute to higher income-based pensions and higher economic standards for pensioners. An increased labour supply through a longer working life is also crucial for the long-term financing of the public welfare system.</p> <p>2. Since 2020, a number of reforms have been implemented which have meant increases in various parts of old-age pensioners' income. The guarantee pension and housing supplement for pensioners have been strengthened a number of times. In addition, a new benefit, the income pension complement, has been introduced to complement the income-based pension. All in all, these raised levels have helped to lower the proportion of the population aged 65+ with a low economic standard from 16% in 2020 to 9% in 2023. The difference is much greater among women, where this proportion has fallen from 20%</p>
--	--	---

		to 10%. Among men, the proportion has decreased from 11% to 8%.
16. Health care system	<p>1. Around SEK 3.2 billion per year has been set aside in 2020–2023 to strengthening the supply of skills in the health care system.</p> <p>2. SEK 500 million per year has been set aside in 2020–2023 for further training of nurses.</p> <p>3. Each year, almost SEK 3 billion is paid to the regions to enhance their work with accessibility in the health care system, with the focus on shortening queues and waiting times.</p> <p>4. In 2021 and 2022, SEK 6 billion has been paid to the regions per year to deal with postponed care and COVID-19-related care.</p> <p>5. In 2022 just over SEK 420 million was paid to the regions to increase the number of hospital beds. In 2023, a total of SEK 2 billion has been set aside to increase the number of hospital beds.</p> <p>6. Each year, almost SEK 3 billion is paid to the regions and municipalities to strengthen local health care, centred on primary care. In addition, SEK 300 million has been set aside for investments in primary care in sparsely populated and rural areas.</p> <p>7. The funding for the initiative in maternity care and women’s health was increased by SEK 200 million and now</p>	<p>1. This funding is expected to lead to a strengthening of the supply of skills in health care. Sufficient staff with the right skills is, in turn, essential if the health care system is to function well.</p> <p>2. This funding means that more nurses are given the opportunity to complete specialist training and training as a midwife.</p> <p>3. This funding is expected to lead to shorter waiting times and health care queues. This leads, in turn, to more patients receiving care in a reasonable time.</p> <p>4. This funding is expected to deal with the pent-up care need generated during the COVID-19 pandemic when the health care system needed to prioritise COVID-19 patients and emergency care. This will increase accessibility and enable more people to get care in a reasonable time.</p> <p>5. The Government has commissioned the National Board of Health and Welfare to distribute, pay out and monitor performance-based funding to the regions to stimulate an increase in the number of hospital beds available.</p> <p>In 2023, the National Board of Health and Welfare will pay out SEK 2 billion in performance-based funding to the regions.</p>

	<p>amounts to SEK 1.7 billion in 2023. (page 49)</p> <p>8. Approximately SEK 1.2 billion has been set aside for 2023 to work within emergency preparedness in health care and civil defence.</p> <p>9. SEK 100 million has been set aside for 2023 to strengthen and develop civil defence in social services and municipal health care.</p> <p>10. Improvements in children's cancer care for which SEK 80 million has been set aside in 2023.</p>	<p>6. For example, the funds will be used to improve continuity in primary care; strengthen cooperation between health care organisers; develop health promoting, preventive and habilitating/rehabilitating ways of working; and increase patients' participation in their health care.</p> <p>7. This initiative can contribute to the re-opening of maternity care clinics, reducing regional differences in access, and reducing unwarranted differences between different groups of women. The long-term supply of skills and staff in maternity care, including maternal health care and postnatal care, is to be strengthened.</p> <p>8. The health care system has a key role in civil defence. Developments in the international security situation mean that there is reason to further intensify these efforts. The funding will be used to strengthen preparedness and resilience in the health care system by increasing access to medicinal products and other health care products, accelerating the regions' work to strengthen civil defence in terms of personnel, cooperation, leadership, training, and other measures to increase the robustness of the health care system.</p> <p>9. It is becoming increasingly clear that crises of various kinds</p>
--	---	---

		<p>arise regularly and that they also have a significant impact on social services and municipal health care.</p> <p>The deterioration in the security situation, past experience of crises, evaluations and reviews have made it clear that preparedness in social services and municipal health care needs to be strengthened and developed. The Government has therefore set aside SEK 100 million for 2023 to strengthen and develop the municipalities' work with civil defence in social services and municipal health care.</p> <p>Thereafter, the Government intends to set aside SEK 300 million annually for this purpose.</p> <p>10. In 2020, the National working group for childhood cancer developed an action plan for 2020–2022 covering more than 60 measures intended to enhance and improve quality in the area of childhood cancer. Since then, the working group has completed or initiated work on almost all of these measures. One example of a completed measure is the strengthening of multidisciplinary networks for drug treatment questions in paediatric oncology.</p> <p>In 2022, the National Board of Health and Welfare was also commissioned by the Government to pay out funds for pilot studies in precision medicine in the area of cancer. One of the pilot studies aimed to</p>
--	--	--

		<p>offer children with cancer whole genome sequencing. Thanks to the central government funding provided for this initiative, all children with cancer in Sweden have been offered complete genome sequencing for faster diagnosis and more streamlined choice of treatment.</p> <p>In 2023, the Government has set aside SEK 600 million for measures to provide better cancer care. As part of the agreement on equitable and effective cancer care with shorter care queues in 2023 between central government and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR), SEK 80 million has been set aside to further strengthen childhood cancer care.</p>
17. Inclusion of people with disabilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Legislative amendments to strengthen the right to personal assistance 2. Strategy for systematic follow-up of disability policy 3. Implementation of the Accessibility Directive 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proposals are expected to lead to 2 000 new recipients of the assistance allowance, and to more people be entitled to municipal personal assistance. 2. In 2021, the Government decided on a new Strategy for systematic follow-up of disability policy. The strategy aims to improve the conditions for systematic monitoring of disability policy. The strategy applies for the years 2021–2031. 3. The Government has adopted a bill on the implementation of the Accessibility Directive in December 2022 (Govt Bill 2022/23:42). Its aim is to make more products and services accessible to more people in the

		community. A greater supply of accessible products and services is expected to lead to better opportunities for people with disabilities to have full access to the society on equal terms with others.
18. Long-term care	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A fixed social care contact in home care services 2. Elderly Care Initiative 3. Assistant nurse to become a protected professional title 4. A national centre of competence for older people 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Since 1 July 2022, Sweden's municipalities have been obliged to offer all those who have home care services a fixed social care contact unless this is deemed to be clearly unnecessary. The fixed social care contact is intended to help meet the individual's need for security, continuity, individually adapted social care and coordination in delivering care in the home. 2. The Elderly Care Initiative means that new and existing personnel are given the opportunity to complete their training as a nursing assistant or assistant nurse in their paid working hours. This initiative is continuing in 2023. 3. Assistant nurse to become a protected professional title on 1 July 2023. The aim is to assure the skills for this occupational group, thereby ensuring that quality and safety in health and social care are maintained. 4. In August 2022, the National centre of competence for older people was opened. The centre will work in a service-centred way with interprofessional collaboration in order to meet the needs for expertise support, and will gather information so that there is up-to-date knowledge at

		national level about the municipalities' work and challenges in providing elderly care.
19. Housing and assistance for the homeless	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National homelessness strategy 2. Bostad först (Housing First) 3. National homelessness survey 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On 1 July 2022 the Government adopted a national homelessness strategy for the period 2022–2026. The goals of the strategy are to prevent homelessness, that no one should sleep rough or leave on the street, that Housing First should be introduced nationwide, and to strengthen the social dimension in community planning. 2. In order to strengthen the municipalities' efforts to combat homelessness, the Government has targeted a multi-annual central government grant to the municipalities during the strategy period to strengthen or implement the Housing First method. 3. The National Board of Health and Welfare has been commissioned to carry out a national survey of homelessness in 2023. The survey is to be designed in such a way that it is possible to compare the development in homelessness over time, including any differences between women and men, and the numbers of homeless families with children, and also to shed light on the situation of the foreign-born. The survey is to be presented by 1 February 2024 at the latest.
20. Essential services	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National transport infrastructure plan 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In June 2022, the Government adopted a new national transport infrastructure plan for all modes of transport covering the period

		<p>2022–2033. The plan is intended to contribute to fulfilling the overarching goal of transport policy, which is to ensure the provision of economically efficient, sustainable transport services for citizens and the business community throughout the country.</p>
--	--	---

Appendix 4 Report on the global Sustainable Development Goals: description of key forward-looking measures and their estimated impact.

SDG	List of main contributing measures	Estimated impact of the measures (qualitative and/or quantitative)
1. No Poverty	<p>1. Inquiry on housing allowance and maintenance support – less debt and more accurate targeting (Target 1.2)</p> <p>2. Higher maintenance support and higher income limit on the housing allowance (Target 1.2)</p> <p>3. Temporary supplement provided to families with children receiving the housing allowance (Target 1.2)</p> <p>4. Level increases in old-age pensioners’ income 2020–2022 (increases in guarantee pension and housing supplement and introduction of the income pension complement) (Target 1.2)</p> <p>5. National homelessness strategy</p>	<p>1. The Inquiry’s proposals include introducing the use of new supporting information on incomes, based on monthly employer declarations, for the calculation of the housing allowance and the obligation to pay maintenance support. For housing allowance households, this is assessed as being able to reduce repayment demands by more than 90% – which would reduce the risk of indebtedness among families with children and among young people. The report has undergone a consultation process and is currently being prepared within the Government Offices of Sweden.</p> <p>2. The housing allowance income limits and maintenance support have been increased in several steps in recent years. The benefits are precise and are largely paid to low-income families with children. Among single, in particular foreign-born, women with children, there is a particularly high risk of financial vulnerability. In August 2022 maintenance support for children aged 7–10 years was further increased by SEK 150 to SEK 1 823 per month, which means a strengthening of the economic situation of parents receiving the support. Many children with a low economic standard live in these households and benefit from this strengthening.</p> <p>3. In order to support economically</p>

		<p>vulnerable families with children to cope with the consequences of the increased cost of living, a temporary supplement will be provided to families with children receiving the housing allowance in the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. The supplement is provided monthly in the amount of 25% of the preliminary housing allowance, i.e. at most SEK 1 325 per month. The average amount is estimated at roughly SEK 700 per month during the relevant period in 2023.</p> <p>4. Since 2020, a number of reforms have been implemented which have meant increases in various parts of old-age pensioners' income. The guarantee pension and housing supplement for pensioners have been strengthened a number of times. In addition, a new benefit, the income pension complement, has been introduced to complement the income-based pension. All in all, these raised levels have helped to lower the share of the population aged 65+ with a low economic standard from 16% in 2020 to 9% in 2023. The difference is much greater among women, where this share has fallen from 20% to 10%. Among men, the share has decreased from 11% to 8%.</p> <p>5. The strategy applies to the period 2022–2026 and covers prevention, measures to combat acute homelessness, and the pathway to a home of one's own as a means of combating social and structural homelessness.</p>
--	--	--

<p>2. Zero hunger</p>	<p>1. A strategic plan for the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in Sweden was finalised during the year. The plan will run over the period 2023–2027 and has a budget of just over SEK 60 billion.</p> <p>2. During the year, roughly SEK 12.8 billion has been paid out under the Common Agricultural Policy, for example to strengthen farmers' incomes, for environmental and climate measures within agriculture, and to stimulate investment, innovation and skills development. The main beneficiaries were agricultural holdings.</p> <p>3. The Swedish National Food Agency and the Public Health Agency of Sweden have an ongoing task from the Government to develop proposals for targets and indicators for more sustainable and healthy food consumption. The final report will be delivered in January 2024.</p> <p>4. The Swedish Food Agency has an ongoing task from the Government to create the conditions for an agreement within the food industry to reduce the salt and sugar content of food, and a task to produce a knowledge base on how the consumption of energy-dense, nutrient-poor foods</p>	<p>1. In the period 2023–2027, the strategic plan is expected to contribute to improvements in the sustainable development of agriculture, food and rural areas.</p> <p>2. During the year, CAP support has contributed to fair incomes for farmers, a sustainable and competitive agricultural sector, strengthening environmental efforts and climate action in the agricultural sector, improving animal welfare and reducing the median age of farmers.</p> <p>3. Sustainable food consumption ultimately provides the basis for better health without taking a toll on the environment or the economy, or creating social injustices. Concrete targets and indicators are part of streamlining this work and facilitating monitoring.</p> <p>4. The Swedish Food Agency has been providing advice on sustainable food habits for a long time, but additional measures are also needed to improve food consumption. This task is expected to reduce salt and sugar levels in food, thereby improving health.</p> <p>5. The introduction of crisis support has helped agricultural holdings and commercial fishermen in a situation where production costs have risen sharply. This has help to continue food production in these holdings.</p>
-----------------------	--	--

	<p>can be reduced. The final report will be delivered in January 2024.</p> <p>5. Swedish agriculture and commercial fisheries are an important part of Sweden's food production. Due to increases in fuel prices and inputs, the Government has taken the initiative to provide specific emergency support to the livestock sector and the fishing industry.</p>	
<p>3. Good health and well-being</p>	<p>1. Preventive and health promoting initiatives for good public health</p> <p>1a) Promotion of physical activity</p> <p>1b) Strengthened and expanded efforts to counter and prevent involuntary social isolation and loneliness</p> <p>2. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)</p> <p>3. Cancer care</p>	<p>1a) In order to ensure children's and young people's access to sports and recreational activity associations, the Government intends to introduce a sport and recreational activities card (<i>Fritidskort</i>). A person's financial resources should not be a determining factor for children being able to participate in sport and recreational activities. This card is intended to give children and young people from socio-economically disadvantaged households in particular greater opportunities to participate in sport and recreational activities. The Government is therefore setting aside SEK 50 million in 2023 to develop the necessary infrastructure for the introduction of a <i>Fritidskort</i> for children and young people. The cost in 2024 for implementing the <i>Fritidskort</i> reform is anticipated to be SEK 731 million and from 2025, SEK 792 million annually for the same purpose.</p> <p>The Government is also setting aside SEK 50 million in 2023 to develop the use of Physical Activity on Prescription (PAP-S) and</p>

		<p>estimates SEK 75 million in 2024 and SEK 100 million annually from 2025 for this purpose.</p> <p>1b). The Government intends to implement measures to strengthen and develop efforts to counter and prevent involuntary social isolation and loneliness, for example through tasks to relevant government agencies in the area. For this purpose, the Government has set aside SEK 5 million in 2023. For 2024 and 2025 it is estimated that SEK 25 million will be set aside for this purpose.</p> <p>This support to municipalities and regions is intended to counter and prevent involuntary social isolation and loneliness among the elderly. For example, the funds can be used to increase or develop the current <i>äldresamtal</i> (conversations with the elderly) initiative or health talks where municipalities and regions visit older people to discuss the person's living situation. For this purpose, the Government has set aside SEK 145 million in 2023. From 2024, it is estimated that SEK 100 million will be set aside for this purpose annually.</p> <p>2. In February 2020, the Government presented an updated national strategy for antimicrobial resistance for the period 2020–2023. The Government has commissioned some 20 government agencies to be part of a national collaborative function that also includes non-state actors. The government agencies in this collaborative function carry out a number of activities based on a joint national action plan, which</p>
--	--	---

		<p>includes Sweden’s extensive investments in R&I.</p> <p>In May 2021, the Government appointed an inquiry chair to investigate how Sweden can develop and streamline its efforts to ensure the responsible use of antimicrobials in animal husbandry globally. (ToR 2021:33). The inquiry covered Sweden’s international efforts as well as initiatives at national level that could have an impact, directly or indirectly, on the use of antimicrobials in animal husbandry globally. On 1 August 2022, the inquiry presented its report with the title <i>Friska djur behöver inte antibiotika – bättre verkan genom internationell påverkan (SOU 2022:43)</i> (Healthy animals don’t need antibiotics – better impact through international action). Among other things, the inquiry concluded that the work of the national collaborative function (the intersectoral coordinating mechanism) against antimicrobial resistance should be permanently established.</p> <p>3. The Budget Bill for 2023 states that the Government’s direct grants to cancer care amount to SEK 600 million in 2023. This funding is to be used to develop and improve cancer care for both children and adults. The Budget Bill for 2023 also states that SEK 25 million is to be set aside annually for screening and vaccination to eradicate cervical cancer in the period 2022–2027. Furthermore, in the Budget Bill for 2023 SEK 31 million is also set aside for cancer-related actions within the framework of the Government’s</p>
--	--	--

		<p>women's health initiative. In 2023, the agreement amounts to SEK 556 million.</p> <p>In December 2022, the Government concluded an agreement with SALAR with the title <i>Jämläk och effektiv cancervård med kortare väntetider 2023</i> (Equitable and effective cancer care with shorter care queues 2023) The actions in this agreement are divided into four areas that correspond to the national cancer strategy and the EU's Beating Cancer Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention and early detection • Accessible and effective treatment, centred on the patient • Knowledge development, skills supply and research • Access to and use of medical technologies <p>A number of actions linked to each area will be implemented in 2023. The agreement includes targeted actions linked to rehabilitation, access to new technologies, the continued development of the My Care Plan tool, and knowledge development.</p>
4. Quality Education	<p>1. The first round of applications for the new Student finance scheme for transition and retraining started on 1 October 2022 for studies from 1 January 2023. This scheme is intended to:</p> <p>strengthen the future position of individuals in the Swedish labour market, and enable studies for the purposes of transition or</p>	<p>1. Figures from the first round of applications show that the numbers seeking student finance under the new scheme are considerably higher than anticipated. This will lead to higher numbers of new and returning students. In addition, the prerequisite that the choice of course or study programme must strengthen the individual in the labour market ensures that there must be a link to skills that are in demand. The scheme will be progressively expanded up until</p>

	<p>skills development in mid-life by compensating individuals for the loss of income while undertaking these studies.</p> <p>2. The Government is monitoring the need for potential changes in the offering of publicly funded courses and study programmes as a result of the new Student finance scheme for transition and retraining. As part of this work, Sweden's publicly funded higher education institutions (U2022/02386) and the Swedish National Agency for Higher Vocational Education have therefore been tasked with analysing their offerings of courses and study programmes in terms of their content as well as the formats in which their courses and study programmes are offered. For the higher education institutions this task includes describing how, if necessary, they plan to develop their offerings of courses and study programmes to improve access to education for lifelong learning and transition and retraining within the current financial frameworks. In addition, the Swedish Higher Education Authority (UKÄ) is to develop a model to forecast the need for further education that the new Student finance scheme for</p>	<p>2026.</p> <p>2. Since the student finance under this scheme can be provided for a slower pace of study and for a shorter period than under the regular student finance scheme, it also enables other types of flexible courses and study programmes to be offered. The survey of courses and study programmes offered is part of the work to ensure that there is a relevant offering of courses and study programmes for students receiving Student finance for transition and retraining.</p> <p>3. Children's and pupils' language development, and the development of their reading and writing skills is seen as crucial for their learning in all subjects taught in schools.</p> <p>4. Comprehensive state aid to the municipalities is still necessary to meet the needs of the labour market and to support the integration of foreign-born people. In particular, the bridging programmes initiative, which entails combining VET programmes with courses in Swedish for Immigrants (SFI) or Swedish as second language, has enabled more foreign-born people to gain a combined language and VET qualification that leads to work.</p>
--	--	--

	<p>transition and retraining may give rise to. The final report on this part of the task is to be included in UKÄ's Annual Report 2024.</p> <p>Furthermore, the higher education institutions' appropriation directions for 2023 state that they must report separately on how they have developed their courses and study programmes to strengthen access to education for lifelong learning and employability. In addition, a report must be submitted on how the higher education institution is meeting the needs of the community at large for education.</p> <p>3. An expansion, strengthening and extension of the Swedish National Agency for Education's '<i>Läslyftet</i>' task will be implemented to strengthen the language development and reading and writing skills of children and pupils. The COVID-19 pandemic has meant that children have been absent from preschool more than usual. This includes children in socio-economically disadvantaged families and children who do not have Swedish as their mother tongue. In combination with high staff absenteeism, this is assessed as having had some negative consequences for the children's learning. In</p>	
--	---	--

	<p>compulsory types of school and out-of-school centres, in upper secondary school, and in upper secondary school for pupils with learning disabilities, the pandemic has also affected pupils' learning (Govt Bill 2022/23:01).</p> <p>4. Through a central government grant, the investment in regional adult vocational education within Komvux will continue, where SEK 400 million has been provided in the Spring Amending Budget Bill. The central government grant for regional adult vocational education in 2023 will thus be roughly twice as high as before the pandemic.</p>	
<p>5. Gender equality</p>	<p>1. Integration</p>	<p>1. To improve integration, a higher rate of employment is crucial. There need to be more opportunities for the group foreign-born to enter and establish themselves in the labour market, especially foreign-born women.</p> <p>An inquiry chair has been appointed to develop proposals for measures targeted in particular at improving the establishment of foreign-born women in the labour market (ToR 2022:42). Among other things, the inquiry chair is to propose how the Swedish Public Employment Service's Introduction Programme can be made more flexible to accommodate new arrivals who remain distant from the labour market. A report on the task is to be presented by 31 May 2023 at the latest.</p>

		<p>Work to increase gender equality in the labour market needs to continue. The gaps between women's and men's participation in various initiatives need to be closed. This applies in particular to labour market training, work experience placements and subsidised employment.</p> <p>In 2022, the Swedish Gender Equality Agency was commissioned (A2022/00809) to work with the Swedish Social Insurance Agency, the Swedish Public Employment Service and the Swedish Migration Agency among others to develop a joint plan for getting more foreign-born women into the labour market. The aim of this plan is to fill gaps in knowledge about the needs and situations of these women through a study. The study is to include factors that may constitute significant obstacles to foreign-born women entering the labour market. The Gender Equality Authority is to present the study to the Swedish Government (Ministry of labour) no later than the first quarter of 2023.</p> <p>2. The Government is working on the basis of a ten-year national strategy for preventing and combating men's violence against women covering the period 2017–2026. An initial action programme operated for the period 2017–2020, and a new one has been decided for the period 2021–2023. The strategy includes work to combat honour-based violence and oppression, as well as prostitution and human trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation. It includes measures to strengthen protection</p>
--	--	---

		<p>and support for women who are victims of violence, actions to combat violence in same-sex relationships, and measures to combat toxic masculinity and honour-based ideology. The strategy also focuses on men's participation in and responsibility for stopping this violence. Through a long-term strategy and a targeted action programme, the Government is laying the foundation for more focused and coordinated work to address men's violence against women.</p> <p>3. Gender-equal health is a gender equality policy target. Maternity care and women's health and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) are part of the work to achieve gender-equal health. The Government has tasked the Public Health Agency of Sweden with developing an action plan to strengthen and develop work with sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) at the national level. Government agencies, regions, municipalities and others are to use this action plan in their work with sexual and reproductive health and rights. The plan is intended to contribute to the objective of good, equitable, and gender-equal sexual and reproductive health for the entire population. The Agency will present its final report on this task by 1 June 2023. In 2023, the Government also decided on a number of actions to improve women's health. These include a task given to the National Board of Health and Welfare to prepare proposals for a national plan for maternity care (S2023/00406), and</p>
--	--	---

		<p>an agreement with the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR) on person-centred, accessible and equitable maternal health and maternity care as well as strengthened actions for women’s health in 2023.</p>
6. Clean water and sanitation	<p>1. On 9 June 2022, the Government decided on the matter of the Government’s review of the programme of measures for water.</p> <p>2. In the Budget Bill for 2023, the Government increased the appropriation to finance the rewetting of drained marshes by SEK 200 million per year from 2023.</p> <p>3. In 2022, Sweden made a financial contribution to work with the UN Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention). The contribution was used for a Global Workshop on Source-to-Sea Management. The workshop was held on 14–16 December in hybrid format in Geneva. The aims of the workshop were to increase the understanding of the interlinkages between marine, terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, and to showcase best practices and propose practical steps for achieving effective source-to-sea management.</p>	<p>1. The decision meant that the Government did not amend the action programmes. The decision also meant that the Government returned the action programmes to the Water Authorities for the establishment of the action programmes. The Government’s decision allowed work with these actions to proceed for the current management cycle (2021–2027). Work with these actions is crucial to achieving a good ecological status in lakes and watercourses.</p> <p>2. Many marshes bind carbon in the soil in the form of peat, but this carbon gets released as carbon dioxide when the marshes are drained, for example. When the marshes are restored and again receive the necessary water, emissions are reduced. Marshes also have other properties that can return as part of a restoration. They contribute to reducing eutrophication, improving water management, soaking up water after torrential rain, and promoting biodiversity.</p> <p>3. The workshop gathered over 300 participants. The workshop was co-organised with the governments of Estonia and Slovenia and UN Environment.</p>

<p>7. Affordable and clean energy</p>	<p>1. Extend the transmission network to Gotland</p> <p>2. Investment plan for Svenska kraftnät (the Swedish national transmission network)</p>	<p>1. In its Appropriation Directions for 2023, the Government tasked Svenska kraftnät (the Swedish national transmission network, SVK) with extending the transmission network to include Gotland. A robust supply of electricity to Gotland is important for Sweden’s total defence. A new cable link is also necessary to enable electrification. Svenska kraftnät will get back to the Government no later than 29 September 2023 with a timeline and choice of technology for this extension.</p> <p>2. In the Budget Bill for 2023, the Government approved a guideline for an investment plan for Svenska kraftnät as the state-owned transmission system operator (TSO) amounting to approximately SEK 27 billion between 2023–2025.</p>
<p>8. Decent work and economic growth</p>	<p>1. Work experience placements The Government has provided funding to enable more work experience placements. A work experience placement can be a good way to get a foothold in the labour market as it helps to overcome the employer’s uncertainty about a person’s skills.</p> <p>2. The legislative amendments proposed in the Government Bill on labour law reform began to apply from 2022. The amendments mean among other things the following: greater scope for deviating from the Employment Protection Act through collective</p>	<p>1. Work experience placements provide an experience of working life that can help job seekers to become less passive and to improve their chances of getting a job. The aim is for more people to get a job and support themselves.</p> <p>2. The labour law reform is part of a larger transition package for improved flexibility, adaptability and security in the labour market in the long term. It is assumed that the amendments will lead to better conditions for a working life that meets the needs of both employees and employers for flexibility, security and influence. The new labour law rules are anticipated to increase opportunities for indefinite-term employment and contribute to an increased proportion of full-time jobs. Since women are over-</p>

	<p>agreements; all employers may exempt three employees from the order of priority in the event of termination on the grounds of shortage of work; the main rule that an employment will not continue during a dispute; the introduction of an order of priority and a transition period in cases of adjustment to fewer working hours; the introduction of a presumption of full-time employment; and in certain cases, user undertakings having to offer workers from temporary agencies indefinite-term employment or to pay compensation.</p> <p>3. Central government funding has been announced to strengthen the municipalities' opportunities to create summer jobs and jobs for young people.</p>	<p>represented among employees on fixed-term contracts and among those with part-time employment, the amendments can also help to promote economic gender equality. The new rules began to apply relatively recently and new practices now need to be given time to become established in the labour market.</p> <p>3. Improve young people's entry into the labour market. For young people, a summer job or a job after leaving school can be a valuable first experience of working life.</p>
<p>9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure</p>	<p>1. Within the ERDF programming period 2014–2020, some SEK 1.4 billion in EU aid has been invested and some 5 800 businesses have received aid.</p> <p>2. In 2022, Vinnova granted co-financing to 841 active R&I projects in the Sustainable industry area totalling SEK 781 million.</p> <p>3. The Government appropriated SEK 350 million (2021–2022) to the Bioeconomy Arena within RISE Research</p>	<p>1. Businesses and organisations participating in the project report that they have reduced their energy consumption by more than 273 000 MWh.</p> <p>2. Vinnova's research and innovation (R&I) investments have resulted in an average matched co-financing factor of 2 (doubling). Almost all the projects also led to enhanced R&D cooperation or to subsequent investments in R&D. The focus of research and innovation projects is the early stages of innovation processes to create new solutions for the industrial transition.</p>

	<p>Institutes of Sweden to develop new commercial, circular and environmentally friendly products based on Swedish forest raw materials in close cooperation with industry.</p> <p>4. In June 2022, the Government adopted a new national transport infrastructure plan for all modes of transport covering the planning period 2022–2033. The plan includes a financial frame of SEK 799 billion for the planning period.</p>	<p>3. The initiative is expected to contribute to business start-ups and international investment, as well as the establishment of a world-class centre for a resource-efficient, circular bio-economy.</p> <p>4. The national plan combines funding for road and rail maintenance with new investments. This contributes to accessibility, climate work, expanded labour market regions, regional development, cohesion in the country and Sweden’s competitiveness.</p>
10. Reduced inequalities	<p>1. Level increases in old-age pensioners’ income 2020–2022 (increases in guarantee pension and housing supplement and introduction of the income pension complement) (Target 10.2)</p> <p>2. Strategy for systematic follow-up of disability policy</p> <p>3. Proposals for amendments to make more products and services accessible to more people in the community.</p>	<p>1. Since 2020, a number of reforms have been implemented which have meant increases in various parts of old-age pensioners’ income. The guarantee pension and housing supplement for pensioners have been strengthened a number of times. In addition, a new benefit, the income pension complement, has been introduced to complement the income-based pension. All in all, these raised levels have helped to lower the share of the population aged 65+ with a low economic standard from 16% in 2020 to 9% in 2023. The difference is much greater among women, where this share has fallen from 20% to 10%. Among men, the share has decreased from 11% to 8%.</p> <p>2. In 2021, the Government decided on a new Strategy for systematic follow-up of disability policy. The strategy aims to improve the conditions for a systematic follow-up of disability policy and applies for the period 2021–2031.</p>

		<p>3. In December 2022, the Government adopted a bill containing proposals for changes to make more products and services accessible to more people in the community. A greater supply of accessible products and services is expected to lead to better opportunities for people with disabilities to have full access to the society on equal terms with others.</p>
<p>11. Sustainable cities and communities</p>	<p>1. Better conditions for Sweden's municipalities and other actors to work actively with sustainable urban development.</p> <p>2. Continued work with the urban environment agreements.</p> <p>3. The measures are expected to facilitate the monitoring of developments in the housing market and to make it easier to evaluate the actions taken to meet the housing needs of more households.</p>	<p>1. Renewed task for the Council for Sustainable Cities. In addition to what is included in the original decision, the Council is to create the conditions for government agency cooperation to facilitate the achievement of SDG 11, develop and manage the www.hallbarstad.se website, and support the municipalities affected by major industrial establishments and expansions in the counties of Norrbotten and Västerbotten.</p> <p>2. More sustainable urban transport solutions leading to reduced (car) traffic and lower emissions. (4 500 tonnes of CO₂/year for the actions reported as complete in 2022)</p> <p>3. A better basis for measures in the housing market. Effective measures for the provision of housing at both local and national levels require a common picture of housing needs. Therefore, the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning is to assess and list the housing needs that are not being met in the housing market. In their planning for housing provision, municipalities are to analyse which housing needs are not being met in</p>

		<p>the local housing market and perform their analyses using data provided by the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning. The aim is to improve the conditions for monitoring the achievement of the target for the housing market and municipal planning of housing provision. The latest estimate by the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning is that 57 800 households are overcrowded with a stretched housing budget (1.2%).</p>
<p>12. Responsible consumption and production</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The initiative ‘Non-toxic from the start’ during the period 2021–2022 for a safe transition to a non-toxic circular economy, Govt Bill 2021/22:1. 2. Sweden’s national action plan on plastics – part of the circular economy. 3. The collection of food or kitchen waste for which the municipality is responsible, through collection from buildings and materials recycling from 1 January 2024. 4. New rules that make it easier for households and businesses to sort their packaging waste. 5. Leadership of the Sustainable Life Styles and Education programme as part of the UN’s 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The initiative ‘Non-toxic from the start’ is expected to contribute to better conditions for a safe transition to a non-toxic circular economy, for example by working to replace hazardous substances and ensure a design that is free from hazardous substances from the start. 3. The collection of food waste could mean that 400 000 tonnes more food waste per year, mainly from households, supermarkets and restaurants, can be managed in a better way in Sweden. The decision was made by the Government on 22 December 2022. 4. Simpler collection and sorting of packaging for households and activities enables producers to recycle more waste and, in turn, contribute to a more resource-efficient management of waste. This also contributes to the green transition, as it reduces the need for new raw materials, thereby reducing CO2 emissions.

13. Climate action	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthening of the Climate Leap, especially for charging infrastructure. 2. Strengthening of the Industrial Leap. 3. Long-term powers to ensure long-term support to BECCS. 4. Increased central government grant for the prevention of natural disasters 	<p><i>Klimatklivet</i> (the ‘Climate Leap’) is an umbrella term for the Government’s general climate investment aid and is one of the most important initiatives for the climate transition. Up until 31 December 2022, the Climate Leap had granted 5 102 applications for funding totalling SEK 13 billion. Together, the measures that have received aid thus far under the Climate Leap are expected to contribute to an annual reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 2.6 million tonnes. Climate Leap funding can be granted to measures for direct emissions reductions at local and regional level throughout Sweden, as well as to support rechargeable electric vehicles and measures to promote fossil-free fuels. The Climate Leap is thus contributing to achieving a faster electrification of the vehicle fleet. In December 2021, the Riksdag decided that the appropriation would be increased by SEK 1 955 million in 2023 and SEK 3 155 million in 2024 compared with the 2021 estimated levels for these years. In December 2022, the Riksdag decided that the Climate Leap will be strengthened with an additional SEK 400 million in 2023 and SEK 500 million annually in 2024 and 2025 to expand investment in charging infrastructure.</p> <p>The Industrial Leap The Government is working to support projects and investments that reduce emissions from industry. The Government launched the <i>Industriklivet</i> (‘Industrial Leap’) initiative in 2018 to support</p>

		<p>precisely this type of project. Within the Industrial Leap, it is possible to get state aid for projects aimed at capturing and storing carbon dioxide. It is also possible to get support for strategically important investments for the industrial transition. Strategically important projects include investments aimed at creating a fossil-free underground mine that uses an electric vehicle fleet, fossil-free heating of steel using hydrogen and oxygen, and feasibility studies on the establishment of a plastic waste refinery. The Industrial Leap is estimated to have the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 9 million tonnes per year in the long term, and to achieve about 6 million tonnes of negative emissions per year through the capture and storage of biogenic CO2 emissions.</p> <p>The Industrial Leap was therefore strengthened in the Budget Bill for 2023 so as to further strengthen and accelerate industry's climate transition. Strengthening the Industrial Leap with SEK 600 million per year in the period 2023–2025 will enable Swedish innovations and solutions to be developed and exported, which will assist in reducing emissions both in Sweden and globally, and accelerate the climate transition.</p> <p>Operating support for BECCS. In the Budget Bill for 2023, the Government proposed that it should be authorised to enter into financial commitments regarding the need for future appropriations of a maximum of SEK 36 billion in</p>
--	--	---

		<p>2026–2046. The Riksdag adopted the Government’s proposal. The authorisation is needed to enter into multi-annual commitments for the capture and storage of carbon dioxide from renewable sources (BECCS) until 2046. The ambition is to begin an initial reverse auction in 2023.</p> <p>Increased central government grant for the prevention of natural disasters. The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) is responsible for distributing central government grants to municipalities for measures to prevent and mitigate the consequences of rock falls, landslides, floods and wildfires. This is work that is neglected in many municipalities and is crucial for adapting society to climate change. In order to strengthen this work and following a proposal from the Government, the Riksdag decided to increase the central government grant from SEK 25 million to SEK 520 million in 2022. In December 2022, the Riksdag decided that the appropriation for the central government grant would continue at around SEK 500 million in 2023.</p>
14. Life below water	<p>1. Strengthening the work with the aquatic environment in 2023, including eutrophication. Investments in primarily local measures to reduce eutrophication (LOVA), but also targeted measures to reduce discharges of drug residues, for example, through more advanced wastewater treatment</p>	<p>1. It is not possible to see a clear direction for the overall development of the marine environment. Follow-up of the measures to combat eutrophication implemented in individual LOVA projects and in small areas has shown that the measures have an effect and that nutrient concentrations have decreased at the local level. Two wrecks have been drained of 175 000 litres of oil and</p>

	<p>technology; oil leakage from wrecks through wreck decontamination; and pollution from boat hull paints through the construction of more boat washes. Clean-up efforts to collect lost fishing gear, and improved infrastructure for the collection and recycling of end-of-life fishing gear to prevent it from ending up in the marine environment.</p> <p>2. Measures to reduce the amount of pollution from single-use plastic products</p> <p>3. Beach cleaning in coastal municipalities</p> <p>4. Measures to create green shipping corridors.</p>	<p>lost fishing gear has been removed from the marine environment. Tributyltin or TBT (historically used in hull paint) pollution has fallen over time, but the limit value is still exceeded in many locations. Many measures take a long time to have an impact on the marine environment but make a positive contribution to achieving SDG 14.</p> <p>2. In 2021, in order to reduce the amount of pollution by single-use plastic products and to achieve a more sustainable use of single-use plastics, the Government made a series of decisions that would require Sweden to implement the EU's Single-Use Plastic Directive and take some additional national measures. For example, a number of single-use plastic products have been banned such as plastic cutlery, plastic straws and plastic swabs (such as cotton buds, cotton tips, etc.). This is because the design of these products (long and pointed) is such that they can cause damage to fauna when they get into the environment. In addition, plastic confetti has been banned outdoors because it is difficult to clean up and can pollute the environment.</p> <p>3. Municipalities can apply for a grant for beach cleaning in areas where large amounts of waste are washed up on sea and ocean beaches. All in all, the funding for these grants amounts to SEK 15 million to in 2023.</p> <p>4. The Clydebank Declaration (on green shipping corridors), which Sweden signed, was presented at COP26. In January 2022, the</p>
--	---	---

		<p>Government assigned the national coordinator for domestic shipping and short sea shipping at the Swedish Transport Administration the task of working towards the establishment of green shipping corridors. An interim report was presented during the autumn and this work is continuing.</p>
<p>15. Life on land</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Biodiversity measures, restoration of marshes. 2. Measures for wild pollinators. 3. Measures for the protection of valuable nature. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Government has a multi-annual investment in the rewetting of marshes to reduce climate impact and enhance biodiversity and support ecosystem services. In 2021, central government arranged the restoration of 18 000 hectares of marshes. Through co-financing arrangements, the municipalities have received a share of SEK 87 million for local action projects in 89 municipalities. This will have an impact on both greenhouse gas emissions and the biodiversity of marshes. The habitats in marshes are among those that have declined most over the past 100 years as a result of drainage among other things. The restoration of marshes gives the water back to the landscape. 2. In 2020, the Government decided on a three-year initiative for wild pollinators amounting to SEK 150 million. The municipalities have injected funds and 1 114 measures have been implemented or started to secure habitats for wild pollinators and carry out educational activities. In southern Sweden, there appear to have been positive effects on certain endangered species already. 3. The Government has invested in the protection of valuable nature. In

		<p>2021, 50% more protection decisions were made by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency relative to 2020 and 30 000 hectares were protected. The land area with formal protection in Sweden amounted to just over 6.5 million hectares in December 2021. In total, SEK 3.4 billion has been spent on protecting Swedish terrestrial nature in 2019–2021. The effect is a greater chance of preserving habitat and viable populations of endangered species.</p>
<p>16. Peace, justice and strong institutions</p>	<p>1. In June 2022, an inquiry chair was tasked with submitting proposals concerning post-separation restrictions when transferring from a public activity to another activity. The purpose of the inquiry is to strengthen confidence in the state by preventing conflicts of interest (ToR 2022:71). A report on the task is to be presented by 31 August 2023 at the latest.</p> <p>2. In July 2022, the Government tasked the Swedish Agency for Public Management with submitting a status report on the prevalence of corruption, corruption risks and anti-corruption practices in municipalities and regions, municipal associations, municipal enterprises, foundations and associations, as well as in activities relating to the management of a municipal matter outsourced to a</p>	<p>The introduction of a new form of confiscation that allows for the confiscation of assets that are disproportionate to an individual's legitimate sources of income or financial circumstances in other respects is currently under consideration in the Government Offices. The effective use of such a form of confiscation can help to combat organised crime so that crime does not pay.</p> <p>Target 2: The legislative amendments that entered into force in August (Govt Bill 2021/22:231) mean strengthened criminal law protection against sex offences. Among other things, the remit for the <i>Inquiry into the protection of children against sexual violations and certain questions concerning crimes against women and the elderly</i> (Ju 2022:01) has the aim of strengthening the criminal law protection of children aged 15-17 against sexual violations.</p> <p>Target 4: On 26 January 2023, the Government adopted the Bill <i>Stronger penalties for offences committed in criminal networks</i> [<i>Skärpta straff för brott</i></p>

	<p>private provider pursuant to the Local Government Act (2017:725); analysing the status report; and drawing conclusions on anti-corruption efforts in such activities; and based on the analysis and conclusions, where necessary propose measures to further combat corruption within these activities. A report on the task is to be presented by 15 June 2023 at the latest.</p> <p>Target 4. Increased opportunities for recovering stolen assets from criminals.</p> <p>Target 2: In February 2022, an inquiry chair was appointed to review, among other things, the criminal law protection against sexual violations of children and to consider a special ground for imposing tougher penalties for crimes with hate crime motives perpetrated against women. A report on the task is to be presented by November 2023 at the latest. <i>(Inquiry into the protection of children against sexual violation and certain questions concerning offences against women and the elderly [Utredningen om barns skydd mot sexuella kränkningar samt vissa frågor om brott mot kvinnor och äldre] [Ju 2022:01])</i></p> <p>Target 2: In August 2022, the provisions on rape and sexual assault and related crimes against children were extended in order to</p>	<p><i>i kriminella nätverk</i>] (Govt Bill 2022:23:53. Criminal law is an important tool for deterring the influence of criminal networks and thus making the community safer. In order to highlight the seriousness of crimes committed in criminal networks and in confrontations between criminals, and to give the judicial system expanded powers to combat such crime, in the bill the Government proposes the following. Tougher penalties for gross unlawful coercion, making an unlawful threat, making a gross unlawful threat, robbery, extortion and gross extortion. The introduction of a new, tougher penalty provision targeting violent confrontations between criminals. The introduction of a new penalty provision which makes it punishable to involve persons under 18 in crime or criminal activities. Tougher penalties apply for narcotics offences and target the selling of narcotics, while ordering narcotics for personal use is now criminalised as an attempted offence. A presumption of detention is to apply in the case of suspected offences with a minimum penalty of imprisonment for one year and six months or more. It is proposed that the legislative amendments will enter into force on 1 July 2023.</p> <p>Target 16.a. The purpose of the reform was to streamline the regulation, making it more effective and simpler. In this bill, the Government expressed the view that the proposals should have some general preventive effect.</p> <p>Targets 3 & 4. The proposals aim to</p>
--	---	--

	<p>strengthen protection against acts committed remotely such as over the Internet. In addition, the provision on the exploitation of a child for sexual posing was expanded to include acts where the child is entirely passive.</p> <p>New penalty provisions were also introduced on sexual molestation of a child, gross sexual molestation of a child and gross sexual molestation.</p> <p>Furthermore, in order to more accurately reflect the seriousness of certain offences, tougher penalties were implemented for a number of offences. These included increasing the minimum penalty for rape and rape of a child from prison for two years to prison for three years. (See Govt Bill 2021/22:231 <i>Rape and other sexual violations viewed more seriously</i> [<i>Skärpt syn på våldtäkt och andra sexuella kränkningar</i>]).</p> <p>Target 4: On 26 January 2023, the Government adopted the Bill <i>Stronger penalties for offences committed in criminal networks</i> [<i>Skärpta straff för brott i kriminella nätverk</i>] (Govt Bill 2022:23:53).</p> <p>Target 16.a Strengthen the relevant national institutions that prevent violence, and combat terrorism and crime</p>	<p>further improve powers to prevent and combat terrorism. In the bill, the Government assessed that the proposal to criminalise participation in a terrorist organisation should have some deterrent effect on such actions. Similarly, the expansion of the criminalised area in respect of financing, public provocation, recruitment and travel abroad for the purpose of committing this offence should have some general deterrent effect.</p>
--	---	--

	<p>3. On 1 July 2022, the Terrorist Offences Act (2022:666) entered into force and replaced three previous acts in this area. The reform included an expansion of the criminalised area and a tougher scale of penalties.</p> <p>4. On 9 March 2023, the Government adopted the bill <i>A specific criminal provision for participation in a terrorist organisation</i> [<i>En särskild straffbestämmelse för deltagande i en terroristorganisation</i>] (Govt Bill 2022/23:73). In this bill, the Government proposes the introduction of a new offence in the Terrorism Offences Act: participation in a terrorist organisation. The offence carries a special criminal responsibility for those who participate in the activities of a terrorist organisation in a manner intended to promote, strengthen or support the organisation. It is proposed that the amendments to the legislation will enter into force on 1 June 2023.</p>	
17. Implementation and global partnership	<p>1. Sustainable Transition through Economic Partnership (STEP).</p> <p>2. Uganda – various Swedish actors cooperate with local partners to promote sustainable energy</p> <p>3. Climate finance and the work of the multilateral development banks</p>	1. The Government has continued to develop the broader relationships approach, which was launched in October 2021 under the name Sustainable Transition through Economic Partnership (STEP). Within the framework of STEP, Swedish government agencies and enterprises are working to identify synergies between development cooperation, trade policy and

	<p>4. Tax cooperation – Addis Tax Initiative</p> <p>5. Support for research for global development – Formas</p> <p>Sustainable Transition through Economic Partnership (STEP). The Government has continued to develop the broader partnerships approach, which was launched in October 2021 under the name Sustainable Transition through Economic Partnership (STEP). Within the framework of STEP, Swedish government agencies and enterprises are working to identify synergies between development cooperation, trade policy and promotion, thus maximising the contribution to the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p>The National Board of Trade Sweden is building further on a Sida project in Bolivia. Through the contact point Open Trade Gate Sweden (OTGS), they are supporting a group of small and medium-sized enterprises in the superfoods and nuts area to enter the Swedish market, including by providing market studies, practical training and matchmaking with European buyers.</p>	<p>promotion, thus maximising the contribution to the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p>2. The cooperation is based on the bilateral development cooperation strategy with Uganda and the country's need for power generation and the expansion of its electricity network. Through Sida's International Training Programme (ITP) in the energy area and supplementary, more project-oriented capacity development support from the International Council of Swedish Industry (NIR), Ugandan officials in the state energy sector have been able to start a specifically tailored training programme that facilitates continued dialogue with experts from Swedish companies and Team Sweden about innovative and sustainable solutions for climate change.</p> <p>3. Climate finance and the work of the multilateral development banks' The multilateral development banks' total climate finance has increased each year since 2015, from approximately USD 25 billion in 2015 to approximately USD 66 billion in 2020. Sweden has been a driving force in this development such as by pursuing higher ambitions in the new World Bank Group Climate Action Plan for 2021–2025, which now includes a commitment that 35% of total investments must have climate benefits (compared to an average of 26% in the period 2015–2020). Another result of the advocacy work of Sweden and like-minded parties is the World Bank Group's commitment to be aligned with the Paris Agreement by 2023, which</p>
--	---	---

	<p>Uganda, where various Swedish actors are cooperating with local partners to promote sustainable energy. The cooperation is based on the bilateral development cooperation strategy with Uganda and the country's need for power generation and the expansion of its electricity network. Through Sida's International Training Programme (ITP) in the energy area and supplementary, more project-oriented capacity development support from the International Council of Swedish Industry (NIR), Ugandan officials in the state energy sector have been able to start a specifically tailored training programme that facilitates continued dialogue with experts from Swedish companies and Team Sweden about innovative and sustainable solutions for climate change.</p> <p>Climate finance and the work of the multilateral development banks The multilateral development banks' total climate finance has increased each year since 2015, from approximately USD 25 billion in 2015 to approximately USD 66 billion in 2020. Sweden has been a driving force in this development such as by pursuing higher ambitions in the new World</p>	<p>means that all financing will be carried out in accordance with the Paris Agreement's targets, that it will help to reduce emissions, and that it will strengthen countries' resilience to climate risks.</p> <p>4. Through the Addis Tax Initiative (ATI) partnership Sweden has help to draw attention to the needs both countries to strengthen their national taxation systems. From 2015 to 2019, ATI donor countries increased their taxation aid by 69%. With this aid, Sweden contributes support to the OECD and the IMF among others, where support for Base Erosion and Profit Sharing (BEPS) within the OECD has contributed to the development of an inclusive framework for the development of international taxation rules. The Swedish Tax Agency has helped to develop the capacity and modernise tax authorities in primarily Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans. Sida's support for a regional CSO network in Africa has strengthened these organisations' advocacy work in support of internal resource mobilisation. A significant challenge is the high incidence of tax fraud and tax evasion in developing countries, which is estimated to be several times greater than total aid.</p> <p>5. The international activities of Formas (a government research council for sustainable development) are intended to increase opportunities for Swedish researchers and universities to cooperate internationally and to support the development of knowledge of high scholarly quality</p>
--	--	---

	<p>Bank Group Climate Action Plan for 2021–2025, which now includes a commitment that 35% of total investments must have climate benefits (compared to an average of 26% in the period 2015–2020). Another result of the advocacy work of Sweden and like-minded parties is the World Bank Group’s commitment to be aligned with the Paris Agreement by 2023, which means that all financing will be carried out in accordance with the Paris Agreement’s targets, that it will help to reduce emissions, and that it will strengthen countries’ resilience to climate risks.</p> <p>Through the Addis Tax Initiative (ATI) partnership Sweden has help to draw attention to the needs both countries to strengthen their national taxation systems. From 2015 to 2019, ATI donor countries increased their taxation aid by 69%. With this aid, Sweden contributes support to the OECD and the IMF among others, where support for Base Erosion and Profit Sharing (BEPS) within the OECD has contributed to the development of an inclusive framework for the development of international taxation rules. The Swedish Tax Agency has helped to develop the capacity and modernise tax authorities in primarily Eastern Europe</p>	<p>and relevance that benefits sustainable development in accordance with the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p>The annual open call for proposals receives applications within the council’s three areas of responsibility – the environment, agricultural sciences and spatial planning. The purpose of the call is to enable researchers to address research needs they have identified themselves. Formas is also responsible for four national research programmes: Climate, Sustainable Spatial Planning, Food, and Oceans and Water, and regularly issues calls for grant applications within these.</p> <p>Volume: In 2021, a total of SEK 630 million was distributed to 189 projects in Formas’ annual open calls. In total, over SEK 1.8 billion per year is distributed in state aid for research and innovation projects that aim to contribute to sustainable development.</p>
--	---	--

	<p>and the Western Balkans. Sida's support for a regional CSO network in Africa has strengthened these organisations' advocacy work in support of internal resource mobilisation. A significant challenge is the high incidence of tax fraud and tax evasion in developing countries, which is estimated to be several times greater than total aid.</p>	
--	--	--

Appendix with external contributions to Sweden's National Reform Programme

1. Contributions from social partners

1.1 Företagarna

Företagarna is Sweden's largest member organisation for business owners. We represent 60 000 member businesses. The average number of employees in these businesses is 4–5. We have regional and local presence with elected representatives who mainly work with local policy issues and support business owners within their municipality. We are present in 250 municipalities and have about 2 000 elected representatives who are dedicated people and also entrepreneurs.

Företagarna works to strengthen entrepreneurship, improve the climate for business, establish networks between entrepreneurs, and lobby decision-makers on issues that are important to our member businesses. We also carry out annual surveys, write reports and respond to consultation referrals from the Riksdag, government agencies and the Government.

Företagarna's priority issues for a better climate for business and more jobs in Sweden include:

- Företagarna wants to see a regulatory framework in the area of labour law that is adapted to the current labour market.
- A fundamental change in the task and working methods of the Swedish Public Employment Service.
- Better conditions and support for businesses' work with sustainability to contribute to the green transition.
- Businesses' administrative costs must be reduced by reducing the regulatory burden and making the rules easier to comply with.
- Lower tax on jobs and entrepreneurship. For example, reduced employer contributions
- Social security systems adapted to entrepreneurs.
- Simpler 3:12 rules and in the case of succession in businesses.
- Simplified rules and faster processing for labour immigration.
- A better, and better adapted, education system to enable businesses to find people with the right skills to employ.

Small enterprises in Sweden with 1–49 employees are the ones that contribute most to tax revenues and the welfare system within their respective municipalities. On average, 28% of municipal tax revenue comes from these enterprises. This means that every entrepreneur contributes to our welfare system and creates jobs. Since the 1990s, 4 out of 5 jobs have been created in these smaller enterprises.

Företagarna's specific networks, for example women entrepreneurs (Företagarna W) and young entrepreneurs (Företagarna Young). The networks aim to increase the proportion of women entrepreneurs and to encourage more women to start businesses. Företagarna Young helps to interest young people in starting businesses and highlights young entrepreneurs in particular. Every year we hold the entrepreneur of the year awards to highlight the contribution made by entrepreneurs to Sweden's welfare system and pay tribute to all those who create jobs in Sweden.

Företagarna contributes generally to strengthening entrepreneurship in Sweden through its advocacy and support for entrepreneurs. Through their knowledge, our experts who work with advocacy and are often involved in various government inquiries contribute to legislation being as business-friendly as possible. This work

is important for Sweden's welfare system and for entrepreneurs to continue to be those who create the most jobs in Sweden.

Företagarna contributes to the national goals within the European Semester through our daily work for Sweden's entrepreneurs and the tireless work of our elected representatives for a better climate for business. This creates more jobs.

By drawing attention in particular to women's entrepreneurship, we support more women becoming entrepreneurs. Sweden has far too few women entrepreneurs and in many cases, women have more difficulty getting investors to invest capital in their enterprises than similar male entrepreneurs. If we want gender-equal entrepreneurship, Sweden as a whole needs to target special initiatives to women who are self-employed.

The social security system and, for example, the rules on parental leave, need to be based on the assumption that entrepreneurs also have children. Today's regulatory framework must be changed so that entrepreneurs can remain on parental leave and still run their businesses during the period when their children are small.

In general, legislators and government agencies need to think 'small business' when regulations are being drafted. Smaller enterprises do not always have the administrative or financial resources to implement complicated regulatory frameworks; this must be improved and smaller enterprises need to be taken into consideration to a greater extent when writing these rules.

1.2 The Swedish Trade Union Confederation (LO)

LO is an umbrella organisation that brings together 14 trade unions. The LO unions organise approximately 1.4 million workers in Sweden. LO is also a contractual party in central (national) collective bargaining agreement sectors and coordinates the LO unions in wage bargaining rounds.

The new Main Agreement creates new and better opportunities for the LO member trade unions to develop their skills and continue to educate themselves throughout their occupational life. Thus, together with our partners and counterparts and the Government, LO has made a strong contribution to achieving the goal of more adults participating in education and training. Moving forward, the focus is on safeguarding and developing the Agreement in order for it to have the greatest possible impact. There is a particular focus on getting groups in the labour market who are unaccustomed to study to share in this reform.

Concerning the gender employment gap, LO has pointed out for a long time the importance of tailored initiatives that target the groups who are furthest from the labour market. The capacity of the Swedish Public Employment Service to carry out its mission is limited by complicated and inefficient procurement solutions. In the face of an impending recession, reducing the appropriations (in real terms) for labour market training and vocational education and training (VET) seems to us to be a remarkable prioritisation by the Government.

We would also like to emphasise that a strong labour market creates better conditions for people who are particularly detached from the labour market to return to labour market from long-term unemployment. We currently have a relatively strong labour market, but this development risks being undermined by excessively tight fiscal and monetary policies.

Regarding poverty and social vulnerability, the current high-cost situation means that the number of vulnerable households is growing and vulnerability is increasing. The cost shock that is hitting all households affects those with the least resources particularly hard. Instead of closing the gap linked to the goals of the National Reform Programme, development is moving in the opposite direction. Like the OECD and the IMF for example, LO recommends that support to mitigate the cost shock should be targeted at particularly vulnerable households. This can be done by, for example, raising the child allowance. In the long term, structural reforms are needed in the electricity market for example, which will make us less vulnerable in the future.

Conducting a tightening fiscal policy in this situation, with the aim of combating inflation, appears remarkable to us. The prevailing inflation is largely due to an international supply shock and not to domestic demand-driven overheating in the economy. It is therefore difficult to see how a demand-dampening economic policy will have the intended effect on inflation. If anything, the tightening means that socioeconomically expensive and unnecessary social costs are created. The consequences for particularly vulnerable households are disastrous.

LO's understanding is that reforms are lacking for Sweden to be able to fulfil the National Reform Programme's goals regarding employment and social vulnerability.

1.3 Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR)

The Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR) is the employer and member organisation for all 290 municipalities (local authorities) and 20 regions in the country. SALAR enters into central collective agreements for almost 1.2 million employees in Sweden's municipalities and regions. By creating attractive conditions and offering interesting jobs, employers can attract employees with the right skills and work to ensure that Sweden has the right skills for our future prosperity. SALAR provides support to members in this work.

A brief note about wage formation and party autonomy

The social partners are responsible for wage formation and working conditions in the Swedish labour market and defend party autonomy. The fundamentals of the model are trade unions with a high organisation rate, employer parties with a high membership rate, a strong position for the collective agreement, representatives at workplaces with negotiation mandates, and autonomy and independence from the state for the social partners. When rules affecting the labour market are set jointly within the EU, it must be possible for these rules to be reconciled with the Swedish model.

On the finances of the municipalities and regions

In 2023 and 2024, economically tough times are anticipated as a result of inflation and the impending recession, despite the fact that many municipalities and regions showed a relatively strong net income in 2022. Assuming that the sector receives electricity price compensatory payments of SEK 5 billion and that efficiency measures are implemented, the deficit in the regions is estimated to amount to SEK -11 billion in 2023. The net income of the municipalities is estimated at SEK +8 billion, which means that the sector has a deficit overall. Net income is expected to fall to a combined deficit of SEK -24 billion in 2024 without further measures beyond those already planned and implemented if costs grow in line with inflation and demographic needs. The negative economic outlook and high inflation have come quickly and mean a worrying situation in most municipalities and regions.

Inflation and interest rate hikes are hitting regions and municipalities hard. The situation is serious and it is going to get worse; closures and cost-cutting are to be expected in the next few years. The local government sector now needs to deal with an economically tough situation while the challenge of finding employees with the right skills is considerable in many locations, and likely to increase significantly

in the coming years. In order to manage this situation, municipalities and regions are taking various measures adapted to their local challenges, needs and conditions. This includes streamlining and curbing the rising needs for welfare services through preventive work. New ways of working are also needed, including the use of digital technology, strengthening the work environment, and creating the conditions for more people to work longer and full-time.

Central government needs to provide the sector with the best conditions possible for long-term and effective planning, such as through general central government grants being inflation-proofed and prioritised over targeted central government grants in order to get the most welfare possible from the funds. In 2022, the number of targeted central government grants is still nearly 200, and a municipality may have more than 100 different central government grants to apply for, administer and report on. Central government also needs to tear down barriers, reduce micromanagement, and review certain regulatory frameworks in order to facilitate collaboration across organisational boundaries.

Learning from a crisis – an evaluation of the COVID-19 pandemic

The employer is responsible for keeping operations as functional and acceptable as possible, even in the event of an epidemic or pandemic outbreak. The supply of staff can quickly become a priority issue and risk assessment, preparations and planning are of the utmost importance in keeping an activity running.

In order to minimise the risk of disease transmission and assure the supply of staff, this may mean that the employer needs to make rapid decisions regarding working from home, revoking annual leave that has already begun, and/or ordering overtime as examples.

Since September 2021, SALAR has been working in a programme committee on the COVID-19 pandemic in order to identify potential strategies and proposals for actions to develop the municipalities, regions and SALAR based on the experiences and lessons learned from the pandemic. See the report that summarises the collected lessons learned, and provides assessments and proposals.¹

SALAR's contribution to work towards the national goals in the social area

Below are some examples of activities as a central social partner which contribute to the achievement of national goals in the social area. In the below, SALAR

¹ <https://skr.se/skr/tjanster/rapporterochskrifter/publikationer/atllaraavenkrisutvarderingavcovid19pandemin.69563.html>

wishes to show how the organisation is contributing through its activities at an overarching level to the national work towards the national targets and country-specific recommendations received by Sweden for 2022/2023. The examples are not intended to be a comprehensive report, but merely a sample.

The preliminary assessment of appropriate national targets for Sweden is:

- ***At least 82% the population aged 20–64 should be in employment in 2030. The employment gap between women and men (gender employment gap) should decrease significantly through an increase in the employment rate for women, especially in the group foreign-born women.***

By concluding collective agreements with trade union organisations, SALAR along with its member local authorities (municipalities) and regions, contributes to an efficient labour market. Collective bargaining negotiations result in wage formation and general terms and conditions of employment that strengthen the competitiveness of the welfare state and provide good conditions for continued high employment.

Employing competent staff

SALAR is working in many different ways with municipalities and regions to assure the supply of skills. The conditions differ between different municipalities and regions, and have changed rapidly in recent years. In three out of five municipalities, the working-age population is falling and there will be considerable competition for skilled labour in the future. Retaining and utilising existing competence is therefore an important part of the solution. This work locally in the municipality and in schools is absolutely crucial, as is cooperation between employers and trade unions. However, municipalities being able to meet their needs is not only about conditions that they themselves can influence, but also about the conditions that are given. Demographics, the local labour market, retirements, geographical location and proximity to higher education institutions are all factors that influence the need for teachers and the ability of municipalities to meet this need. Central government needs to assume a greater national responsibility for flexibility in the dimensioning and financing of teacher education in the long term.²

² <https://skr.se/skr/tjanster/pressrum/nyheter/nyhetsarkiv/skildaforutsattningarforskolanskompetensbehov.66079.html>

Finding the right skills is the biggest challenge for the welfare system. When there are not enough skilled employees, it is not possible to deal with the skills challenge simply by recruiting more people. Instead new ways of working are needed as well as utilising and developing the skills of existing employees. Many new employees are needed in municipalities and regions in the next ten years. In total, due to population growth and to replace retired employees, there is a need to employ around 410 000 people by 2031 – provided that nothing changes. This has been shown by SALAR’s staff and skills forecast.³

Examples of measures to reduce the employment gap

The supply of skills to the welfare system is one of the most important issues for Sweden’s municipalities and regions in the coming decade, which is why SALAR has developed nine strategies to deal with the skills challenge. We need to establish what we need to work with and how, based on the structural differences between men and women that we see. This has resulted in a gender equality programme with the following nine positions. SALAR is supporting its members, i.e. Sweden’s municipalities and regions, to work with these positions.

1. **Working hours:** Full-time work should be the norm
2. **Parental leave:** Gender equality in taking parental leave is crucial for a gender-equal working life
3. **Work environment:** Municipalities and regions need to work systematically with health promotion factors in order to create healthy, sustainable and attractive workplaces
4. **Sickness absence:** Women’s sickness absence must be reduced
5. **Bullying and victimisation:** Harassment, bullying and victimisation, or gender-based violence in the workplace must not occur
6. **Pay:** There should be equal pay for equal work, non-objective wage differences are to be eradicated, and the wage dispersion in female-dominated occupations is to increase
7. **Power and influence:** Managers, regardless of gender, should have equally good working conditions
8. **Career choice:** Gender stereotypes must not limit choices of education and career
9. **Career paths:** More career development paths must be created within the welfare system’s female-dominated activities.

The preliminary assessment of appropriate national targets for Sweden is:

³ <https://skr.se/skr/arbetsgivarekollektivavtal/personalochkompetensforsorjning.170.html>

- *At least 60% of all adults should participate in education and training every year, where men as a group and women as a group respectively should constitute at least 40%.*

Skills and transition agreements (KOM-KR)

The local government sector's Skills and Transition Agreement (KOM-KR) aims to further strengthen employees' opportunities for skills development and transition based on the needs of the activities. The focus is preventive work to increase job security. Preventive work involving the development of employees' skills is also a way of meeting the recruitment challenge that the welfare sector is experiencing. This agreement between the social partners on job security and transition lays the foundations for greater flexibility and strong transitioning capacity in the sector.

The Transition Fund [*Omställningsfonden*], which is a collectively agreed not-for-profit foundation owned by SALAR and Sobona, together with Kommunal, the OFR (Public Employees' Negotiation Council) affiliated unions sector, and AkademikerAlliansen (an assignment-based negotiating and service organisation for a group of unions affiliated with the Swedish Confederation of Professional Associations) whose work is based on the Skills and Transition Agreement (KOM-KR). The Transition Fund inspires, coaches and guides people who in transition from one job to another. This applies regardless of whether the individual has been made redundant due to a shortage of work, has entered into an agreement on the termination of their employment due to reduced working capacity, or whether their fixed-term employment has ended. The goal of our transition support is to increase opportunities for the employee to move to new employment. The support is designed and adapted to the individual's needs, capacities and wishes. The Transition Fund also offers career and study counselling for employees during their employment (both indefinite-term and fixed-term employees). The support consists of consultations, advice, guidance and validation and may result in employees applying for the Swedish Board of Student Finance's Student finance scheme for transition and retraining, or receiving our collectively-agreed student finance.

The Transition Fund also provides support and guidance to employers in their work with strategic talent attraction. This can include support in a needs and situation analysis, to give concrete form to future skills needs, making an inventory of skills, development of a skills strategy, and setting goals and monitoring their achievement.

International cooperation and exchange within *Mission: Completed Education* [Uppdrag fullföljd utbildning]

Pupils who do not complete their education are a common problem for most countries in the world. Although our societies are different and our education systems differ, there is much we can learn from each other in terms of increasing

the proportion of pupils who complete their basic education. This applies at the strategic as well as the operative level. SALAR and *Mission: Completed Education* works in multiple arenas to build forums for sharing knowledge and experience within and between municipalities and regions, and to participate in the arenas that exist in this area, such as the EU and the OECD.

The flagship *School to Work (S2W)* has been operating since 2014, with SALAR as the strategically responsible party in Sweden, as part of the Baltic Sea Strategy. The focus of the work is Early School Leaving (ESL) and young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs). S2W is a forum where projects, organisations, government agencies and others can become members and thereby rapidly create an arena for spreading and sharing knowledge in cooperation with other countries in the Baltic Sea region and the rest of the EU.

The work within *Mission: Completed Education* is focused on three activities:

- creating forums to bring together researchers and experts in the area to promote the completion of school education;
- packaging research overviews and proven materials and making these available for the transnational context; and
- creating and organising structures and arenas for joint learning and impact.

Adult education plays a crucial role in many major societal challenges, such as the establishment of new arrivals, the ability of individuals to change occupation and the supply of skills to the workplace. There are currently more students studying in municipal adult education than in upper secondary school. There is much to suggest that more people will be studying in adult education in the coming years, not least due to the consequences of the pandemic and the economic situation. Although the situation is challenging for some industries and sectors at the moment, we know that there are many shortage occupations where the need for skilled people is and will remain great. Many people will need adult education to retrain or supplement their education. There is also a great need in the labour market for skilled employees with upper secondary school qualifications.

The preliminary assessment of appropriate national targets for Sweden is:

- ***The number of women and men at risk of poverty and social exclusion must be reduced by at least 15 000 by 2030. Of these, at least one third should be children.***

SALAR supports municipalities and regions to create the conditions for a sustainable welfare system and development throughout the entire country. In the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, the UN has adopted 17 global sustainable development goals (SDGs) which aim to achieve a socially, environmentally and economically sustainable world by 2030. SALAR supports the

efforts of municipalities and regions to achieve these goals, including the goal of Zero Poverty.

Sweden's municipalities and regions play a key role in the implementation of the global SDGs. Many of the basic tasks of the municipalities and regions (such as health care, schools, social care and community planning) are directly or indirectly linked to the targets in the 2030 Agenda. Many municipalities and regions also participate in Municipal Partnerships, which are a way of working across national borders with the 17 SDGs.⁴

Unfortunately, a successful 2030 Agenda project involving municipalities and regions has been cut short: it is the Glocal Sweden project that is being terminated prematurely due to cuts in funding from Sida. Two thirds of Sweden's municipalities and all Sweden's regions are involved in the project. Glocal Sweden, a joint project of the United Nations Association of Sweden, SALAR and the Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy (ICLD), which since 2018 has raised awareness about and commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs by supporting and stimulating municipalities and regions in their work with sustainable development, is being cut short.

For the 2030 Agenda to become part of the development strategies of a municipality or region, it needs to be integrated into the general governance and management systems. SALAR has developed theory passports that provide support and knowledge about what is needed to govern with the 2030 Agenda. Awareness of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs is high in Sweden's municipalities and regions. Work is under way in many quarters to match the municipalities' and regions' own goals to the 2030 Agenda SDGs, or to include a number of the 2030 Agenda SDGs in their strategic documents, such as in the budget. It is important not to treat the 2030 Agenda as a side-track, but as an integral part of the governance and management systems of Sweden's municipalities and regions. It is also important to utilise its power in ordinary processes. It is only when the 2030 Agenda is anchored in the leadership that it can become part of the municipality's or the region's development strategies.

1.4 Confederation of Swedish Enterprise

The Confederation of Swedish Enterprise is the voice and representative of enterprise in Sweden. The work of the Confederation is based on the importance of an effective market economy in which people's freedom, responsibility and drivers are best channelled to achieve sustainable prosperity. The Confederation of Swedish Enterprise represents 60 000 enterprises in 48 employer and industry

⁴ <https://skr.se/skr/omskr/agenda2030.19225.html>

organisations. A total of around 2 million employees work in Confederation member enterprises.

Through negotiations with trade union organisations, the Confederation contributes, along with its member organisations, to an effective labour market. Collective bargaining negotiations result in wage formation that strengthens the competitiveness of the business sector and provides good conditions for continued high employment.

The importance of the European Semester

The Confederation of Swedish Enterprise is of the opinion that the European Semester should focus on reforms for growth and effective markets. Used correctly, the country-specific recommendations can act as a catalyst for necessary structural reforms at the national level.

A sustainable and inclusive labour market

The Swedish labour market functions effectively in many ways, with high labour force participation and high employment. However, unemployment is at a relatively high level and a large section of the working-age population in Sweden are unable to support themselves.

In order to increase the labour supply, reforms are needed that provide stronger incentives to work, for example in the area of income support. In order to get people who remain distant from the labour market into jobs, labour supply reforms need to be combined with reforms that reduce firms' labour costs for these individuals. In order to increase the labour supply, it is also important that the economic drivers to work are safeguarded within parental insurance.

When aiming to strengthen the demand for labour, the facts that employer contributions are relatively high in Sweden and no other EU country has such a high share of employer contributions that are not defined-benefit contributions needs to be taken into account. Lowered employer contributions may be an appropriate measure to stimulate new jobs and to give existing employees the opportunity to work more hours. In order to strengthen the functioning of the labour market in the longer term, the education system needs to be adapted to the needs of the labour market to a greater degree. This would lead to more people educating and training themselves for jobs where demand for labour is high.

Lifelong learning is important, especially in light of the ongoing green transition in trade and industry. The agreement between the social partners on security, transition and employment security lays the foundation for greater flexibility and strong transitioning capacity in the Swedish labour market.

In the Continuing Vocational Training Survey (CVTS) and the Adult Education Survey (AES), it is apparent that in principle all Swedish firms offer their employees continuing professional development/skills development in the workplace and that employees in Swedish firms also participate to a large extent in these initiatives.

Climate transition and energy supply

In a short space of time, Sweden and the rest of the world need to make huge investments in new technology and change both production and consumption patterns in order to significantly reduce CO₂ emissions from human activities. In order to achieve the climate goals by 2045, today's electricity consumption is expected to at least double.

In light of this, Sweden needs an energy policy target of a 100% fossil-free electrical system that guarantees security of supply. The electricity network is already close to its maximum capacity in Sweden and needs both reinvestment and expansion to cope with the increased use of electricity. The work to enable new plannable electricity generation in southern Sweden and to ensure that existing plannable production can continue to produce electricity needs to be intensified.

1.5 TCO

TCO is a central union organisation that brings together 12 trade unions in the salaried employees sector, with over 1.2 million members in total. The members of the TCO unions are well-educated professionals in both the private and public sectors. They work in the country's private services and industrial firms, municipalities, county councils, churches, central government authorities and the non-profit sector. The occupational groups represented by TCO include everything from engineers, journalists and actors to police officers, economists and nurses. Many of the members are leaders and managers, and more and more are also self-employed in their own firms. Although TCO is a central union organisation, it is not a negotiation or contractual party.

Through the big Transition Agreement in the Swedish labour market, important steps have been taken for transition and further development of the labour market.

Central government's part of the responsibility under this tripartite agreement is now being implemented through the Student finance scheme for transition and retraining and places in courses and study programmes.

The new Student finance scheme for transition and retraining opens up new opportunities for employees and employers in Sweden, but it will impose entirely new requirements on the courses and study programmes offered. In order for the Student finance scheme for transition and retraining to live up to expectations, an enhanced offering of courses and study programmes for lifelong learning is required – primarily in higher education. TCO therefore wants:

- Higher education institutions to be given a clear task to develop their offering of courses and study programmes for people in employment – what TCO calls a transition task.
- Funding to be provided for developing new courses and study programmes, incentives for cooperation, and collaboration between higher education institutions. Other important elements are to reward measures that open up and promote courses and course components that are currently locked inside study programmes.
- Within higher vocational education, resources are required for more places while maintaining the quality of the education – in particular within short-course packages for people in employment. • The Swedish Board of Student Finance must be given a task to produce statistics on the Student finance scheme for transition and retraining to enable evaluation and to provide the basis for developing offerings of courses and study programmes.

For the social partners to be able to continue to take a great responsibility for labour market regulation in order to create flexible and adapted solutions, the Swedish model must be safeguarded and the autonomy and independence of the social partners must be preserved.

Furthermore, TCO is of the opinion that:

- **Supply of skills.** A shortage of the right skills is an enormous problem. Changes are needed if Sweden is to be able to offer good welfare, manage the green transition and offer a good work environment. Labour market policy needs to become more active, focusing on education and training initiatives throughout the whole of working life.

- **Investments in the work environment.** This is necessary in order to recruit and retain staff, in particular through more active work to effectively address threats and violence against officials.
- **The gender-equal workplace.** To steer towards greater gender equality, greater equality, parental insurance needs to be divided into three: 130 days each for each parent, and 130 days to be divided freely between two parents.
- **Security in transition.** In the event of unemployment or sick leave, the social security systems must function better. It is good that the raised ceiling in unemployment insurance (*a-keassa*) is still in place. In addition, unemployment insurance should be changed so that it is income-based and covers more people. Health insurance needs to focus earlier and more clearly on rehabilitation.
- **Secure the funding of the welfare system.** For businesses to be able to plan, a long-term approach is needed. The central government grant level should therefore be fixed for the entire three-year period, not just for the coming year. This should be announced in the Spring Fiscal Policy Bill.
- **Broad tax reform.** Appoint an expert inquiry to produce the basis for a future review of taxation.
- **Active at EU level.** Sweden should take an active and driving role in a joint efforts for economic development and working life in the EU.

2. Contributions from civil society organisations.

2.1 Fastighetsägarna

Fastighetsägarna is a leading industry organisation that works to ensure a well-functioning property market in Sweden. Our 15 000 members own and rent out homes and premises throughout the country. We represent the largest listed real estate companies and municipal housing companies as well as private real estate companies and cooperative housing associations. Internationally, we are active through our membership of the International Union of Property Owners (UIPI), based in Brussels.

Fastighetsägarna's member companies are located all over the country. As owners and managers of properties for renting homes, offices and premises for trade, health care, education and cultural activities, our member companies are important actors in work with municipal housing provision, living and safe urban environments, countering housing segregation and working to achieve local and national climate goals.

As an industry organisation, we work to increase our member companies' understanding of their role in the joint efforts to achieve various goals. We help to establish and maintain cooperation between landlords and representatives from politics, public administration and civil society. This means, among other things, a greater supply of homes that can be sublet by municipalities and non-profit organisations to homeless people, more active work in conjunction with the social authorities to prevent evictions, and employment projects for residents of socio-economically vulnerable residential areas. In order to assist member companies to develop their efforts in this area, in 2023 Fastighetsägarna have developed a social responsibility guidance document. It includes links to the UN's 2030 Agenda and ISO 26000 as well as the EU's various regulatory frameworks for sustainable development such as the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) and its expanded taxonomy.

The importance of property owners' efforts and commitment in achieving security and social sustainability is growing. This is being done partly as a consequence of a conscious ambition to develop the environment in and around buildings and more active participation in society as a natural part of public administration activities, and partly as an undesirable effect of society's efforts having weakened over time or proved to be inadequate.

Sweden's possibilities for responding to social needs linked to the housing market have gradually deteriorated. There have always been shortcomings in the Swedish model, in particular in terms of providing access to housing for households who are unable to provide for their own housing needs on the market's terms. These difficulties have gradually increased, and in Sweden the rate of homelessness per capita is now among the highest in Europe. This increase is particularly noticeable in the category structural homelessness, i.e. households whose difficulties in establishing or re-establishing themselves in the housing market are due to limited financial resources.

While other EU countries have long pursued a housing policy with solutions that specifically take into account the conditions for financially constrained households, Sweden has relied on social initiatives that directly or indirectly increase the capacity of individuals and households to seek housing on the market's terms. There is considerable scope here, partly inspired by successful solutions in other EU countries, to develop Sweden's social housing policy.

With a better-functioning housing market, all households will have better opportunities for finding housing that suits their preferences and meets their needs. It would also, as has been pointed out regularly in recommendations to Sweden by the Council of the European Union and others, help to increase macroeconomic stability. The recommendations repeatedly call for efforts to reduce risks associated with households' high indebtedness, to promote investment in residential construction and more efficient utilisation of the housing stock, and to implement reforms in the rental market. All of these, especially the latter, are of great importance for making things easier for financially weak or constrained households in the housing market.

The recommendations are repeated because governments in Sweden have chosen to refrain from such reforms for various reasons. This has meant that the problems persist and that the necessary investment capital from actors in and outside Sweden has not been provided to the market to the extent necessary. This also makes it extremely difficult to achieve many of the goals in the social area, as difficulties in the housing market have a spillover effect on individuals' opportunities in education, the labour market and scope for social mobility. The recommendations thus provide valuable opportunities for each government to facilitate the achievement of the national goals.

2.2 Swedish National Council of Adult Education

The Swedish National Council of Adult Education has the public authority responsibility for adult education. The Riksdag and the Government regulate the work of the Swedish National Council of Adult Education through ordinances, guidelines and appropriation directions.⁵

In this context, adult education refers to Sweden's state-subsidised adult education associations and folk high-schools.⁶

National targets 2023

At least 82% the population aged 20–64 should be in employment in 2030. The employment gap between women and men should decrease significantly through an increase in the employment rate for women, especially in the group of foreign-born women.

Further studies

- Statistics Sweden shows that roughly half of the participants who have achieved general entry requirements from a general course begin some form of post-secondary studies within one year. After 3 years, about 60% have gone on to further study.

Establishment in the labour market

- In a report on the importance of adult education in the Swedish education system from 2019 describing the compensatory effects of studies in Komvux and folk high-school general courses and study motivational courses [*Vuxenutbildningens betydelse i det svenska utbildningssystemet. Kompensatoriska effekter av studier inom Komvux och inom folkhögskolans allmänna kurser och SMF*], Statistics Sweden notes that folk high-school general courses and courses designed to encourage further study improve the situation of the participants in the labour market.

⁵ The Swedish National Council of Adult Education is a non-profit association formed in 1991 with the task of implementing on behalf of its members what the Government and Riksdag require in order for central government grants to be payable to the activities run by adult education associations and folk high-schools. (Extract from the articles of association of the Swedish National Council of Adult Education, Section 1 Purpose.)

⁶ In 2022, there were ten state-subsidised adult education associations with 136 local departments, and 155 state-subsidised folk high-schools in Sweden. Of the folk high-schools, 113 were run by third sector organisations, the rest by regions. Behind these adult education associations are various popular movements and other civil society organisations, which give each adult education association a special, third-sector profile.

- In 2022, the folk high-schools offered a total of over 30 specialisations in higher vocational education, with almost 7 300 participants, within the framework of their ordinary activities.⁷
- The 2019 study *Study circle participants' pathways to the labour market [Cirkeldeltagares vägar till arbetsmarknaden]* shows that participation in a study circle (a course offered by one of the adult education associations) increases the likelihood that the individual will start working a few years afterwards. The strongest link occurs among participants with the shortest education.

At least 60% of all adults should participate in education and training every year, where men as a group and women as a group respectively should constitute at least 40%.

- In 2022, the adult education associations reported nearly 691 200 unique participants supported by the adult education appropriation.
- In 2022, the folk high-schools reported nearly 100 600 unique participants supported by the general central government grant.
- The gender distribution is roughly even (40% and 60%) in the adult education associations' cultural programmes, and in the folk high-schools' general course, study motivational courses, establishment courses for new arrivals, and cultural programmes.

The number of women and men at risk of poverty and social exclusion must be reduced by at least 15 000 by 2030. Of these, at least one third should be children.

The folk high-school

- In 2022, 29% of the participants at folk high-schools were studying at compulsory school level in the general course. Among these participants, 69% had compulsory school as their highest level of education, 86% were foreign-born, and 75% were in the age bracket 20–44.

⁷ In autumn 2020, the Government injected funding corresponding to 2 000 FTEs for the targeted assignment Higher vocational education – general course and special course. The purpose of the assignment was to meet the need for education among adults who need to return to work after the COVID-19 pandemic, and to provide more places in health and social care programmes linked to the Care of Older People Initiative. The courses included a total of roughly 1 500 participants in 2022. As of 2023, this initiative has ceased.

- In 2022 in the general course, 36% of participants were reported as having a disability, with the corresponding figure being 13% in a special course. In the general course, 68% of these participants had compulsory school or equivalent as their highest level of education, and 96% were in the age group 18–44. In special courses, the corresponding figures were 23% with at most compulsory school education, and 78% were in the age group 18–44.
- The target group for the folk high-school’s study motivational course is job seekers who have neither an upper secondary qualification nor the general entry requirements for higher education at first-cycle level. Of the participants in the 2022 study motivational course, 74% were foreign-born, while 71% had compulsory school or equivalent as their highest level of education. Compared to 2019, this means that the proportion of foreign-born persons and the proportion of those with a very short education has increased in recent years.
- Establishment courses for new arrivals are conducted at the folk high-schools in cooperation with the local offices of the Swedish Public Employment Service. All participants in the establishment courses are foreign-born and 75% RMB age bracket 17–44.⁸

The adult education associations

- Nearly 25 000 participants in study circles and other adult education activities were reported as having a disability.
- In 2022, the adult education associations organised activities for about 20 200 people who were registered with the asylum reception in 102 municipalities – Swedish from day one and Everyday Swedish. All participants were foreign-born and in the age group 25–65.
- In 2022, 9 600 people, primarily foreign-born women, participated in the adult education associations’ special initiative for those who are particularly detached from the labour market.

2.3 Swedish Disability Rights Federation

The Swedish Disability Rights Federation is an organisation for cooperation between 50 national disability rights organisations that represent about

⁸ Since many of these participants are missing from Statistics Sweden’s education register, it is not possible to say what formal education they have.

400 000 individual members. Our work is founded on human rights when we advocate for the disability rights of our members – the right to function in all parts of society on equal terms. Our objective is a society for all its people.

Our contribution to Sweden’s National Reform Programme

The Swedish Disability Rights Federation identifies challenges where data is often missing and contributes synergies to proposals related to the National Reform Programme in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda SDGs, and advocates for the rights of disabled people in areas such as health, education, work and livelihood, as well as inclusive community planning. The gap between people with disabilities and other sections of the population has increased during a boom and is worsened in a deteriorating economic situation, with an ever-increasing risk of poverty, which worsens as a disabled person’s life progresses, with a lack of support for the right to inclusive education, which has adverse effects on employment opportunities, livelihood, and having one’s own home.

On the whole, the situation is serious, and in combination with increased ill-health, in particular mental illness among children and young people, which is growing strongly, it can lead to significant involuntary isolation and exclusion. Shortcomings in the statistics contribute to the lack of attention paid to these obstacles, and that the effects of any measures implemented cannot be evaluated cost-effectively.

Recommendation to give priority to reducing the gap for people with disabilities in national targets concerning education, work, livelihood and housing.

Some relevant sources for this are:

- *Barnrättskommittén om brister i statistik och utbildning [The Committee on the Rights of the Child on shortcomings in statistics and education]*⁹
- Employment gap challenges (see section on Sweden)¹⁰
- Social security savings in figures on pages 17 and 18¹¹
- Housing cost burden in Sweden for people with disability 5th highest in Europe¹² (Eurostat) Significant lack of housing¹³

⁹ https://regeringen.se/globalassets/regeringen/dokument/socialdepartementet/barnets-rattigheter/crc_c_swe_co_6-7_51663_e-8.pdf

¹⁰ <https://www.edf-feph.org/eu-semester-country-specific-recommendations-2022-what-do-they-say-about-disability/>

¹¹ <https://www.forsakringskassan.se/download/18.7fc616c01814e179a9f192/1656398049738/socialforsakringen-i-siffror-2022.pdf>

¹² <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/-/ddn-20210310-2>

¹³ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/-/ddn-20210310-2>

Examples of our projects and activities that make a contribution

- Necessary labour market reforms – 73-point programme
- The report *Respekt för rättigheter* [*Respect for rights*] which includes recommendations on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which the EU has also adopted with regard to education, work, livelihood and housing.¹⁴
- Input to the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda.¹⁵
- *Reformer av skolan*¹⁶ (sample opinion piece on school reform)
- A webinar on the deterioration of the economy with researchers¹⁷ and annual report on the *Funktionsrättsbyrån* [*Disability Rights Bureau*] project¹⁸
- Input to the European Court of Auditors 2022¹⁹
- *Krav på tillgänglighet i Regionalfonden*²⁰ [*Accessibility requirements in the ERDF*]

Proposals to strengthen this work

Improve governance and follow-up of the Reform Programme, coordinating its implementation and the 2030 Agenda SDGs, as well as the realisation of human rights,

- Coordinate work with the statistics missing for sections of the population and develop indicators for the 2030 Agenda and human rights with the objective of equality across the country.
- Integrate targets that concern people with disabilities in all areas of the National Reform Programme.
- Improve governance and follow-up of public funding, including purchasing, public procurement and the structural funds, to ensure that it complies with the EU's requirements regarding accessibility to the built environment, public transport and digitalisation – which are essential for access to education, work and housing.

¹⁴ <https://respektforrattigheter.se/>

¹⁵ <https://funktionsratt.se/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/FunktionsrattSverige-VNR-HLPF2021-20210311.pdf>

¹⁶ <https://www.dn.se/debatt/skollagen-fungerar-inte-for-funktionsnedsatta-elever/>

¹⁷ C:\Users\MiaAhlgren\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\NetCache\Content.Outlook\RGQ01LZ0\Trygghet, jämlikhet och funktionsrätt 25 August 2022

¹⁸ <https://funktionsratt.se/funktionsratt-sverige-projekt/funktionsrattsbyran/rapporter/>

¹⁹ <https://funktionsratt.se/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Submission-European-Court-of-Auditors-CRPD-June-2022.docx>

²⁰ <https://funktionsratt.se/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Skrivelse-Regionalfonden-funktionsratt-tillganglighet-januari-2023.pdf>

- Ensure that relevant statistics are available to assure measures and resources for pupils with disabilities.²¹
- Ensure that funding for innovation and development, including in AI, are based on inclusion and universal design as horizontal principles.

We also welcome the fact that Sweden is prioritising challenges related to the rule of law within the EU where we want to emphasise challenges related to access to justice for people with disabilities.

2.4 Norden Association

The mission of the Norden Association is to strengthen and promote Nordic cooperation in the Nordic region and, internationally, in relation to the region's neighbourhood. Here neighbourhood is defined as the rest of Europe, with a particular focus on the Baltic Sea region. The Association's activities are divided into two parts, one of which focuses on driving the development of collaborations with public authorities and other organisations. The other part consists of spreading knowledge about the Nordic region and the value of Nordic cooperation. The Association consists of 97 local branches divided into 22 districts with 6 700 individual members. Schools, libraries, and organisations are also members.

How does the organisation contribute overall through its activities to national work in relation to the European Semester and the country-specific recommendations?

The Norden Association has two tasks: one for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs related to Nordic cooperation; and another for the European Commission and the Member States in the Baltic Sea region as policy coordinator for *PA Education, Science and Social affairs* (PA EDU) within the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR). The latter task is shared with Hamburg. The Action Plan adopted on 15 February 2021 has four action areas, three of which contribute to targets formulated in the European Pillar of Social Rights, for a more social

²¹ [Utredning Mer kunskap om barn och elever med funktionsnedsättning i skolväsendet tillsatt. Det krävs åtgärder](#) [Inquiry *More knowledge about children and pupils with disabilities in the school system appointed. Measures needed*].

Europe (PO4): Below are short descriptions of these three action areas where the Association is leading the work along with Hamburg within the framework of the EUSBSR.

1. Combating early school leaving and improving the transition from education to labour market

Reducing early school leaving and making it easier for young adults to enter the labour market are emphasised as important areas in the country-specific recommendations for countries in the Baltic Sea region. One particularly important group is excluded young adults, those not in employment, education or training (NEETs). This is one of the three action areas where actions are being implemented to reduce the numbers of early school leavers and facilitate the transition from study to working life. The latter focuses on the group of young adults not in employment, education or training (NEETs).

2. A labour market for all taking account of longer and healthier lives

The labour market is changing, in particular as a result of digitalisation, where more occupations require new skills and where workers need to continually upgrade their skills. There is also a shift occurring towards more teleworking where COVID-19 contributed to more people working from home. This trend has continued even after the pandemic. Individuals may also need to change career during their working lives, perhaps as a consequence of physically demanding tasks that they can no longer manage, or because they want to try something new. While the labour market is changing and there are demands to upskill, a longer and healthier life means that the retirement age is being raised, meaning that more people need to work longer but also that more people may also want to work longer. Actions in this area focus on a sustainable working life.

3. Seeing the potential of migrants at an early stage and facilitating integration

The increase in the number of refugees poses a challenge for those Member States where refugees choose to apply for asylum. At the same time as the number of refugees is a challenge, many Member States are contending with demographic changes and an ageing population, which will lead, within a decade, to a deficit of qualified academic and non-academic occupations in, for instance, health care and industry, and skilled work occupations. This underscores the importance of an effective integration of refugees and migrants to enable them to contribute to the construction of inclusive and prosperous societies. The focus here is initiatives to facilitate the integration of refugees and migrants into society and to identify the skills of refugees at an early stage.

Examples of activities, projects or initiatives conducted by the organisation that contribute to this.

As part of its task for the EUSBSR, the Association develops platforms for cross-sectoral, transnational, and multi-level cooperation. These platforms bring together government agencies and organisations to jointly develop solutions to the complex societal challenges defined in the strategy's action plan. The sphere of activity is the Baltic Sea region, which also includes the Nordic countries Iceland and Norway. In some areas, there is also cooperation with other parts of Europe. These platforms are different from projects in that they bring together actors for long-term cooperation. Complex societal challenges cannot be solved with isolated projects.

At present there are four flagships in PA EDU, two of which contribute to the European Pillar of Social Rights: School to Work (S2W) and the Baltic Sea Labour Forum (BSLF). Here are some examples of actions within these two flagships.

School to Work (S2W)

This flagship is led by the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR) and brings together around 200 members from all 8 Member States. The Norden Association currently coordinates one of the two current thematic

platforms in the flagship. This platform works with the target group of young adults not in employment, education or training (NEETs).

An example of the work in this area is the development and dissemination of the local skills centre model involving multi-skilled teams that help young adult NEETs to begin studies or work. There are well-functioning skills centres in Finland and Germany. These centres have been the model for a further development of this model that is now being introduced in Lithuania and Sweden. The work to develop and spread the model is led by the Norden Association.

Baltic Sea Labour Forum (BSLF)

This flagship is under reconstruction and will be given a broader action area under the name *Economy of Wellbeing of People*. The focus will be on making a contribution to a sustainable working life, taking into account good health as well as a better adapted education system and an effective labour market. The BSLF is based on tripartite cooperation with the social partners and the ministries of employment in the Baltic Sea region as its members.

BSR Integrate NOW

A new flagship is under development in the area of integration of migrants. A preliminary study has been carried out and the next step is to develop cooperation between 'Welcome Houses' in the Baltic Sea region.

How can national work in the areas affected by the European Semester be strengthened?

By integrating transnational cooperation into the strategic development work of government agencies and organisations. Through joint development and structured learning, we create better conditions for developing the solutions needed.

Increase Swedish participation in existing cooperation platforms within the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and use these platforms as models for developing additional, similar platforms in other thematic areas where Sweden needs to develop solutions.

Assure the financing of these cooperation platforms through the Structural Funds programmes, in particular the ESF+ which, starting with the new programme, offers the possibility of transnational cooperation. Programmes should support the implementation of macro-regional strategies in accordance with Article 22(3) of the Common Provisions Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2021/1060).

Experience shows that these informal structures for cooperation are appreciated by most actors, e.g. civil society, the business community and academia, but public authorities, ministries and politicians (at local, regional and national level) also appreciate the possibility to jointly develop solutions to our social challenges.

2.5 Hyresgästföreningen

Hyresgästföreningen (the Swedish tenants' association) is a democratic member organisation for current and future tenants. We are not affiliated with any political party and over half a million Swedish households as members. This makes us one of the largest popular movements in Sweden and also the foremost representative of tenants in the country. Our mission is the right of all to good housing at a reasonable cost. Hyresgästföreningen negotiates for all tenants who need our help – we represent nine out of ten rental households in the collective bargaining process. Each year, the organisation assists more than 100 000 members by providing them with advice and assistance in their dealings with their landlords. About 10 000 members have also chosen to get involved as elected representatives in the organisation.

The following sets out the positions of Hyresgästföreningen on certain specific parts of the Commission's 2022 country-specific recommendations for Sweden²².

²² Recommendation for a COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION on the 2022 National Reform Programme of Sweden and delivering a Council opinion on the 2022 Convergence Programme of Sweden (SWD(2022) 625 final) - (SWD(2022) 640 final).

Point (12), Commission's recommendations concerns households' private indebtedness and the potential scope for policy measures. In this respect, the opinion of the Hyresgästföreningen's is that the high level of private indebtedness in Sweden is a result of central government pulling back from investment and instead prioritising the amortisation of central government debt. Indebtedness is an inevitable part of investment, which is why various measures to reduce household debt are not sufficient. It is necessary for central government to step forward and contribute to the financing of housing by issuing construction loans on easy terms. The Government should also finance infrastructure investments with loans in order to strengthen the Swedish economy's capacity in the long term.

Point (20), Commission's recommendations, concerns the combination of high housing prices and household debt, but also whether efficiency gains could be achieved if rents followed market prices more closely, complemented by rental support based on income and net wealth. On this question, Hyresgästföreningen agrees with the view that housing taxation should be reviewed. The imbalance between owned and rented housing should be reviewed, which can be done in several ways. Hyresgästföreningen's view is that a low, fully deductible VAT on rent, a better-designed property tax on owner-occupied homes, and tax-free maintenance funds are the way forward.

In addition, the purpose of Swedish tenancy legislation is to provide tenants with secure and predictable housing costs, while the rent is set in a way that corresponds to the values of the general tenant. The security of tenants is balanced against the property owner's interest in obtaining a reasonable return on their investment. The system works well but needs constant fine-tuning, especially through work with the rental-setting system where the parties in the rental market review the rental structure in order to better align it with the general values.

Point (24), Commission's recommendations, concerns in part overvalued house price levels alongside a continued rise in household debt. For this part, Hyresgästföreningen refers the reader to the previous responses concerning points (12) and (20).

Point (30), Commission's recommendations, on imbalances linked to the poorly functioning housing market and overvalued house prices coupled with a continued rise in household debt. For this part, Hyresgästföreningen refers the reader to the previous responses concerning points (12), (20) and (24) as well as the final comment on the last recommendation.

Recommendation 1, the Commission's concluding recommendations, points to the need to reduce risks related to high household debt, the need to stimulate investment in residential construction, and improve the efficiency of the housing market by introducing reforms to

the rental market. In this part, Hyresgästföreningen agrees with the view that there is a need for reform of property taxes and believes that a property tax for owner-occupied homes is a key part of a reform agenda for a better functioning housing market. Residential construction needs to be stimulated with greater commitments from central government, where Hyresgästföreningen is of the opinion that construction loans on easy terms would meet the need for capital in a recession. The Government also needs to establish a national comprehensive plan that requires municipalities with housing shortages to plan for more housing, and to contribute a central government planning bonus to compensate the municipalities for the increased costs involved.

Hyresgästföreningen is of the opinion that the rent-setting system needs to be constantly fine-tuned to respond to changes in tenants' preferences, but that this must be balanced against the need for a real security of tenure. Changes are best made by the rental market parties, and new legislation will not have a better chance of managing the balance between the various interests than the current system.

2.6 Riksförbundet Attention

Riksförbundet Attention is a stakeholder organisation for people with neurodevelopmental disorders (NDD) and their families. We represent people with a neurodevelopmental disorder, their families and the professionals who encountered this target group in, for example, schools, the health care system, social services, the Swedish Public Employment Service (*Arbetsförmedlingen*) and the Swedish Social Insurance Agency (*Försäkringskassan*). Its members include people with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, Autism Spectrum Disorder/Asperger's syndrome, Tourette Syndrome, a language disorder, and people with dyslexia and dyscalculia. Attention has about 16 700 members and some 50 local associations around the country. Our vision is that all children, young people, adults and older people living with NDDs should be treated with respect and at the same opportunities as everyone else, in all areas of society, throughout their lives. We are fighting for a society that is free from discrimination and stereotyping of people with NDDs – a society that values people's differences

and sees them as assets and opportunities. A society that is adapted to people, not the other way around.

How does the organisation contribute overall through its activities to national work in relation to the national targets?

People with NDDs are over-represented among groups that do not attain upper secondary qualifications, and who suffer from mental illness, substance abuse, unemployment and violence. By spreading knowledge in the society, and strengthening our target group's conditions, we are contributing to people with NDDs managing to complete their education, entering the workforce, and having a livelihood. But much work still remains to be done.

Riksförbundet Attention offers community and support through its local associations which are located across the country. Through our advocacy as an interest group seeking to shape policy, we work to ensure that our target group and their families can live good and independent lives where, for example, good care, schooling that works for them, and opportunities for work are a matter of course. We also spread knowledge about NDDs through providing courses and lecturing widely in the community, for example for schools, social services, and employers.

Examples of activities, projects or initiatives conducted by the organisation that contribute to this.

In our projects funded from the Swedish Inheritance Fund – *Ung dialog* (children and young people with NDDs in placements), *Vägen tillbaka* (children with NDDs experiencing problematic absences from school) and *Vägen vidare* (young people with NDDs in the NEET group) – we work to make the target group's own voices heard and work together with the target group to develop methods and tools that can be disseminated nationally and in order to strengthen the target group's possibilities for completing their education and managing working life.

In all our work, our members are an important source of knowledge, in our regular activities and in the projects we run. We collect our members' experiences and their knowledge by various means including personal contacts, meetings, surveys and focus groups.

How can national work in the areas affected by the national targets in particular and the European Semester in general be strengthened?

NDDs have genetic causes and people do not grow out of them, but they can learn how to compensate for their deficits in functioning. Getting the right care and

support early can therefore be crucial. Access to care without needing to wait is an important issue for Riksförbundet Attention. We want care to be provided as early as possible, to be of good quality, to be adapted to the individual, and to be delivered as part of an interconnected chain of care.

Despite the legal requirements to support children and young people with disabilities, our members regularly talk about school not working for children with NDDs. All too often what we see is late and inadequate interventions, growing problematic absences from school, and inadequate capacity to support pupils' return to school. Many parents feel that they are left alone and unsupported with their child's absences from school. A pupil with an NDD should not only have the opportunity to complete their compulsory schooling, the possibility of adjustments when studying at a higher education institution should be a matter of course, and students with NDDs should be given the same opportunities as everyone else to get higher education. No matter what the level, schooling should be accessible and adjusted in a way that gives people with NDDs the same opportunities as everyone else to feel comfortable, feel well and develop in school. There must be sufficient competence and resources in schools to meet the needs of each pupil to enable them to attain their full potential. The social exclusion that is currently occurring entails enormous costs to both individuals and society and must be stopped.

People with disabilities have the right to get and retain a job under the same conditions as others under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Individuals with disabilities also have the right to access adjustments and the available labour market measures to the same extent as others. Today, many people with NDDs are without work, despite the fact that they have both the will and the capacity to contribute to the labour market. This is a major loss for the individual as well as employers and the society as a whole. Young people with NDDs find it difficult to enter the labour market or complete higher education, which risks leading to life-long exclusion. One of the most effective ways of addressing this is more knowledge about NDDs among all the actors involved – from career and study counsellors to employment agency officers and employers. Employers must be offered continuous support and training to increase their knowledge about NDDs, and provide them with a greater understanding of their employee's needs. Employers should also have the option of compensation for adjusting the workplace when they employ a person with an NDD.

Those who are unable to work because of their disability are entitled to social and financial security through the social security system. However, many people with

NDDs end up in a very difficult situation because they do not meet the very strict requirements for receiving activity and sickness compensation. What then remains is municipal income support, but this is intended for temporary, not long-term, support. Such a development is extremely unfortunate and leads to great financial vulnerability. Articles 26 and 27 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child also emphasise the right of children to social security and an adequate standard of living.

The rights of people with NDDs must not be violated or circumvented. Discrimination against people with NDDs must be made visible and highlighted. By making shortcomings and discrimination visible in the legislation, the exercise of public authority, and in social structures, discrimination can be exposed and change can take place.

2.7 Rätta barnen (Save the Children Sweden)

Save the Children International is the world's largest independent children's rights organisation and focuses on sustainable initiatives – acute and long-term. Save the Children Sweden works to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child and has employees at 11 regional offices. Save the Children Sweden's over 55 000 members are organised in around 130 local associations across the country. Our three priority target groups in Sweden are children living in socio-economically vulnerable circumstances, children in the migration process, and children who have been subjected to violence.

In order to strengthen work with children at risk of poverty, the Government's ambition must reflect the seriousness of the situation and national efforts must be capable of responding to the situation we face. Supporting children in socio-economically vulnerable circumstances is a priority for Save the Children Sweden. Our activities are therefore specifically linked to the following of the Government's targets: “The number of women and men at risk of poverty and social exclusion must be reduced by at least 15 000 by 2030. Of these, at least one third should be children.” Such a low target, given what we know about the situation today, is difficult to comprehend.

Save the Children Sweden operates a wide range of activities across the country that focus on supporting children and their families in socio-economically vulnerable circumstances, including:

- Breakfast club. Where children in socio-economically vulnerable areas receive breakfast and participate in recreational activities with friends before school starts.

- Strong mothers – Secure children. A project within Save the Children Sweden that provides parenting support groups for single mothers who are new to Sweden. The idea is that the mothers get to meet others in the same situation, but also get support in being a parent.²³
- In the activities *Do-it* and *På Lika Villkor [On equal terms]*, we offer regular recreational activities free of charge in socio-economically marginalised areas. These include swimming school, outdoor activities, sports and cultural activities.

According to Save Children Sweden’s 2021 child poverty report, 196 000 children were living in socio-economically vulnerable circumstances, either in households with a low income standard or on income support. Given this situation, the Government’s target of reducing the number of children at risk of poverty or social exclusion by at least 5 000 children by 2030 is seriously inadequate. This stated ambition is difficult to correlate with Target 1.2 of SDG 1 of the 2030 Agenda, which requires reducing at least by half the proportion of children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.

At Save the Children, we continuously monitor the situation of children in socio-economically vulnerable circumstances and publish a national and European report on child poverty.²⁴ When measuring poverty, it is important to include both absolute and relative metrics, where low income standard in Sweden refers to an absolute metric (being able to afford the essentials) and low economic standard (below 60% of the median income) is a submetric that is also related to the group ‘At risk of poverty or social exclusion’ (AROPE). We lack clarification on which metric Sweden uses to monitor the poverty target.

When the Agenda 2030 sustainable development goals were adopted in 2015, 189 450 children or about 9.4% of children aged 0–17 were living with a low income standard. In order to meet the Agenda 2030 goal, the share with low income standard (LIS) must be no more than 4.7% by 2030. If we use the relative metric (low economic standard), in 2015 18.4% of children aged 0–19 years had a low economic standard (LES) and according to the latest figures from 2021, the share is now 19.0%. In other words, to achieve the Agenda 2030 goal, the share with a low economic standard must be no more than 9.2%.²⁵

The conclusion is that regardless of the metric chosen, the target is far from being achieved. In addition, it should be noted that there are many indications that we

²³ Rädda Barnen (2023) *Starka Mammor – Trygg barn* [Strong mothers – secure children] <https://www.raddabarnen.se/rad-och-kunskap/foralder/starka-mammor-trygga-barn/>

²⁴ Rädda Barnen (2021) *Barnfattigdom i Sverige: Årsrapport 2021* <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/pdf/Barnfattigdom-i-Sverige-211206UPDATED.pdf>; Rädda Barnen (2023) *Guaranteeing Children’s Future: How COVID-19, cost-of-living and climate crises affect children in poverty and what governments in Europe need to do*

²⁵ All figures are taken from the statistics database on Statistics Sweden’s website, scb.se

will be seeing a worsening of the situation of children in the next few years due to factors including the consequences of the pandemic and inflation. We recommend the following improvements in the national work:

Recommendations

- Set a clear indicator to reduce the poverty metric based on existing metrics which reflect the 2030 Agenda goal of halving poverty.
- Announce an ambitious long-term goal regarding child poverty and make social investments. Ensure that children living in economically vulnerable circumstances are given their rights.
- Take measures to reduce their vulnerability by improving targeting to ensure that economic policy for the family in Sweden meets its overarching goals of poverty reduction and closing the gap between households, in particular for indebted families with children, who are single-parent families, and/or do not have permanent housing.
- Index the housing allowance and child benefit, for example, to reduce the risk of hidden savings.
- Make it possible for schools to take on a real compensatory mission.
- Thoroughly investigate actions to achieve a vision of zero homelessness for families with children, ensure access to affordable and adequate housing for all, and give priority to families with children, especially families with permanently low incomes. Clarify the National Board of Health and Welfare's task to survey homelessness in Sweden.
- The daily allowance should be increased to the same level as income support based on the right to an adequate standard of living and non-discrimination in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Children, young people and parents who have experienced living in economically vulnerable circumstances should be more closely involved in research and inquiry into the causes and consequences of child poverty in today's Sweden.
- The National Board of Health and Welfare should be tasked with investigating and clarifying the meaning and definition of, and the obligation to provide for, the right to an 'adequate standard of living' at a minimum level based on children's own descriptions and experiences.

2.8 SISU Idrottsutbildarna

SISU Idrottsutbildarna is the Swedish sports movement's own adult education association and is one of eleven adult education associations in the country. SISU offers adult education in sports clubs to provide knowledge and empower people's thoughts, ideas and desire to develop.

The sports movement is Sweden's largest popular movement with more than 3 000 000 members in around 19 000 sports clubs. The size and diversity of the sports movement is a dynamic arena for adult education activities, and SISU supplies resources and support for learning and development that can be crucial for developing and strengthening the associations as well as the members.

SISU Idrottsutbildarna aims to promote and contribute to the development of sport through adult education and education. Our 19 RF-SISU districts have similar tasks at the regional and local levels. SISU employees work in all of Sweden's municipalities and contribute to the development of the associations.

The point of departure for SISU's work is the adult education goal to give everyone the opportunity to join with others in acquiring knowledge and edification for personal development and participation in the community. As members meet and talk about what they want in their association, democracy, influence and participation among the members are strengthened by giving people the opportunity to embark on their own journey of knowledge acquisition and edification. Central to SISU's activities is always the conversation and encounter between people. Learning from others and from each other creates engagement.

Through local sports clubs spread out across the country and among different target groups in society, SISU reaches people in all groups in society and has a strong focus on education, edification and adult education in the spirit of democracy and leadership. The number of young people in SISU continues to be large and individuals under the age of 25 accounted for 50% of all unique participants in learning groups, courses and process projects in 2022. Having said that, SISU also reaches adults and thus contributes to the national target that at least 60% of all adults should participate in education and training every year, of which men as a group and women as a group should each account for at least 40%.

The pandemic had a huge impact on the sports movement and the consequences of the pandemic will be felt for years to come. There is a great need for and an expectation that SISU will provide adult education in all the country's sports clubs.

Since the appropriation to SISU has not increased in recent years, effectively this means aid to the association has decreased as some expenses increase annually, particularly with rising inflation. In the Association's plan for increased diversity, two target groups have particular priority: people with disabilities and people with another ethnic background than Swedish. In order to succeed in this work, we need to have the resources to respond to our local associations in the development of their adult education activities for our priority target groups.

2.9 Skoopi

How does the organisation contribute through its activities overall to the national work in relation to the national goals?

Skoopi is the interest organisation of work integration social enterprises (WISEs) in Sweden. The association has 150 member companies. Skoopi's work contributes among other things to tackle challenges mentioned in the EU 2022 Country-specific recommendations for Sweden, for example "better integration of disadvantaged groups in the labour market" and the development of "skills of disadvantaged groups, including people from migrant backgrounds, by adapting resources and methods to their needs to help their integration into the labour market".

Indeed, no other effort gives better results in combating poverty than getting people right skills and ease their access to the labour market, thus a path to their own livelihood. This means that our operations contribute to the goals of increased employment and reduced poverty. Through our vocational training we also contribute to the skills provision goals.

Furthermore, people with disabilities are at a disadvantage in the labour market in general in Europe, but unfortunately the situation is not any better in Sweden. The gap between people with disabilities and other people is alarmingly large, and here our member companies make a big contribution by providing vocational education and training and employment for this group.

WISEs are also a compelling example of a grass roots movement with a clear democratic and participative way of working where most of the enterprises are run by the target group themselves. This model contributes to help disadvantaged people to become active citizens of the society and is a proven instrument to ensure successful and inclusive measures, as showcased in the Rights to Grow project.

Even though the ecosystem for social enterprises in Sweden is not a politically prioritised issue, our member companies work hard with small resources to create jobs for the target groups. In fact, according to the results of the ENSIE's 'IMPACT-WISEs' study (which we participated in), on average more than 70% of disadvantaged workers have managed to find a job in the same WISE, in another WISE, in the regular labour market, have become self-employed entrepreneurs or started an education programme that will lead to a qualification.

Please provide examples of activities, projects or initiatives that the organisation carries out that contribute to this

Skoopipi is working hard to bring about a change in attitude in politics in Sweden in line with the European Commission's focus on the social economy and work integration social enterprises. We need to bring about reforms that allow our enterprises to grow and to help more people into the labour market. Unfortunately, in recent years the lack of reforms in this area has led to many WISEs going bankrupt or being forced to close, which has mainly affected people from weaker groups in the community.

Through the ESF-funded project *ASF Ljfter [WISEs promote]* (2021–2022), we had the opportunity to increase knowledge about what WISEs are and their role in society. We were also able to listen with an ear to the ground to what kinds of skills enhancements our members were looking for. In the project, we could then create and contribute these. However, it became clear that the recent reform of the Swedish Public Employment Agency had created obstacles for a strong development of WISEs.

Finally, through our membership of the European Network of Social Integration Enterprises (ENSIE), Skoopipi has been involved in the European Semester process at national and EU levels where it has been attempting to contribute to the policy co-creation process in ways that favour the development of positive frameworks for the development of WISEs; and to a more inclusive and sustainable Europe.

How can work at the national level in the areas affected by the national targets in particular and the European Semester in general be strengthened?

Sweden has a long tradition of its universal social welfare system fulfilling the social needs of its citizens. However, the social economy and third sector organisations take a great deal of responsibility in the areas where the universal welfare system is lacking. We would like politicians to focus more on simplifying the conditions for

the social economy and especially for work integration social enterprises in accordance with the European Social Economy Action Plan.

The EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities states that “independent living, quality social and employment services, accessible and inclusive housing, participation in lifelong learning, adequate social protection and a strengthened social economy are indispensable for decent living for all persons with disabilities” and that “the Commission will also support employment policies in the Member States through fostering the social economy which provides services for persons with disabilities, helps to build bridges for persons with disabilities to employment in the open labour market and offers employment opportunities”. It is thus important to create a conducive eco-system for the maintenance and development of WISEs that contribute to the inclusion of people with disabilities. More generally, measures should be taken to ensure that this target group have the opportunity to access services and to participate in society like any other person.

In Sweden, we had a high rate of long-term unemployment even before the pandemic broke out, despite an 8-year boom. This shows that society’s efforts to get this group into work are not producing the desired results. We believe that the social economy and work integration social enterprises can contribute much more here, if only the conditions were made more conducive to our activities.

Our proposals for measures:

Skoopii wants to see that the Government take a clear responsibility for implementing the European Social Economy Action Plan in Sweden. It should be clear which ministry is to take the lead for this work.

Skoopii wants the Government’s action plan for social enterprises from 2018 to be updated in line with the European Social Economy Action Plan, in close collaboration with social economy stakeholders. It is also important to allocate funding in the budget for its implementation. The action plan should include training government agencies in what a WISE is, but also include examples of how to promote WISEs through public procurement with reserved contracts. This is necessary to ensure an effective transposition of the EU Directive 2014/24/EU on public procurement and the use of reserved contracts and social clauses which target WISEs and social economy actors, as is also foreseen in the European Social Economy Action plan.

Skooppi wants the Government, through the Ministry of Climate and Enterprise, to once again task the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth with specifically promoting work integration social enterprises as it has done in the past, for example in 2016, and to once again allocate funding for this in future budgets.

Skooppi wants the Government to appoint an inquiry to more fairly compensate companies that employ people with disabilities so that Samhall's unfair level of compensation ends. Samhall is a state-owned enterprise whose mission is to create enriching jobs for people with disabilities. We prefer that the compensation follows the individual, regardless of where they are employed.

Firstly, Skooppi wants the register of idea-driven actors in the welfare sector to be made free of charge, and secondly Skooppi wants the Government to revise the fee model to include a ceiling of SEK 1 000 per year for work integration social enterprises.

The above reforms would strengthen the social economy in Sweden and increase the opportunities for work integration social enterprises to make an even greater contribution to the most vulnerable in society.

2.10 VA – Public and Science

The role of research and civil society in the society has come into sharper relief in recent years as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and the climate crisis. That researchers should interact with other parts of society has been emphasised more and more, both in order to improve research and in order to foster confidence and interest in science. However, while research has been given a lot of media space, knowledge resistance and disinformation have also proliferated.

Citizens have a prominent place in the EU's research and innovation policy. Most policy documents emphasise the importance of involving the public and stakeholders in research and innovation to ensure that the results are as useful, well-accepted and sustainable as possible. This also helps to interest and inspire the next generation of researchers and innovators. Public engagement (research communication and cooperation) and citizen science can increase community knowledge and understanding of science. Inclusion and participation to create engagement with research and a scientific approach are other important building blocks in a sustainable and democratic society.

New technology, the internet and AI mean greater possibilities for researchers and everyone else to share and access research-based knowledge, and to communicate and act collectively. Since 2002, the VA – Science & Public has been working with precisely this: promoting dialogue and openness between the public and researchers. We want to give knowledge and experts more space in public debate. With more accessible research through open science, decision-making can be more fact-based, societal challenges can be solved and our democracy strengthened. We provide examples below of activities we conduct that contribute to attaining the targets of Sweden’s National Reform Programme.

Open Science

Open Science²⁶ is an umbrella concept for more open, transparent and inclusive processes in research and innovation. The concept includes open access, open data, citizen science, research communication and various ways of engaging and involving citizens and stakeholders. Open science is a central concept in Horizon Europe, as it is in Sweden’s most recent research policy bill which was adopted by the Riksdag in 2021. In the EU, Member States decided as early as in 2016 to work together towards a system for open science.

Open science increases the community’s insight into and access to research and innovation while making the work of researchers easier. Research results have more practical applications; decisions are improved at all levels when they have a scientific basis; the work of researchers is more effective; and people’s understanding of and confidence and engagement in science can be strengthened and more people can be inspired to undertake studies and lifelong learning.

On 16–17 May 2023, VA will be coordinating the international conference *Open Science – From Policy to Practice*.²⁷ The conference will highlight different perspectives on Open Science and how these can be transformed from policy into practice. The aim is to exchange knowledge, share best practices and to discuss how Open Science can contribute to strengthening sustainable futures and democracies in and beyond the European Union.

²⁶ <https://v-a.se/vara-fragor/oppen-vetenskap/>

²⁷ <https://oppenvetenskap.se/>

Citizen science

VA is working in several ways to involve the public in research projects in what is known as citizen science. We have conducted a mass experiment every year since 2009, where researchers work together with school pupils and the public. Citizen science not only leads to scientific progress but also acts as a bridge between people and researchers. Participants get a better idea of what research involves and how it is conducted. This approach can stimulate interest in science and increase participants' scientific understanding and ability. In the citizen science project, the Plastic Experiment²⁸ 2022–23, VA is collaborating with the Keep Sweden Tidy Foundation and the University of Gothenburg to conduct a scientific study of how plastic pollution varies depending on the type of natural environment, the time of year and the category of plastic. The participants also increase their knowledge, engagement and capacity to act concerning plastic pollution and sustainable development.

In the EU project called YouCount²⁹, VA – Public & Science is using citizen science to look into and increase social inclusion among vulnerable young people in a case study with Södertörn University, Botkyrka Youth Assembly and the Municipality of Botkyrka.

Dialogue activities and collaborations with the community at large

One important part of building relations between research and the wider community is for young people to come into contact early in life with higher education and research. The **national science festival** *ForskarFredag*³⁰ [*Researchers' Friday*] is held on the last weekend in September, and in 2022 it involved all of 400 researchers who met 28 000 visitors from 70% of Sweden's municipalities at some 30 locations across the country. The event is arranged by science centres, museums, regions and higher education institutions and held in cafés, shopping centres, cultural centres and other places where people congregate. The aim is to communicate how enjoyable, exciting and in touch with everyday life research can be, and also to show what science is, how research is done and what it is like to work as a researcher. A majority of the young people who visit *ForskarFredag* have not had any contact previously with a researcher. These events therefore play a pivotal role in introducing higher education and research as a possible future career. Since Sweden is sparsely populated, it is important that the festival is held

²⁸ <https://forskarfredag.se/forskarfredags-massexperiment/plastexperimentet/>

²⁹ <https://v-a.se/paverkan-och-utvecklingsarbete/youcount/>

³⁰ <https://forskarfredag.se/>

across the country. *ForskarFredag* has been running since 2006, and is **part of the EU initiative European Researchers' Night**³¹ and is coordinated nationally by VA – Public & Science.

Borrow a Researcher

Borrow a Researcher³² has long been part of *ForskarFredag*, but the concept has evolved in recent years. Since 2021 it is possible to book visits in person or online, which means that schools and workplaces at great geographical distances from research institutes and higher education institutions can also get an insight into the everyday life of a researcher. During 2022, 160 visits were made. The researchers represent a range of disciplines and come from higher education institutions all over Sweden.

Young people's interest in science and technology

In collaboration with the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA), VA has surveyed **the interest in upper secondary school programmes in science and technology** in Sweden and how it has changed over time. In the report *Naturvetenskaps- och teknikprogrammen – För vem och var?*³³ [*Science and technology programmes – For whom and where?*] it is clear that local engagement, actions and third-stream activities to increase interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) are of great importance. This can include increased resources to schools, continuing education for teachers, and investment in qualified teachers, study visits³⁴, and other activities outside the school.

Accessibility

In collaboration with the Swedish Agency for Accessible Media (MTM) and the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), in 2022 VA – Public & Science developed a research-based guidance document on how community information should be designed to reach people with reading difficulties: *Vägledning för tillgänglig samhällsinformation*³⁴ [*Guidance for accessible community information*].

³¹ <https://marie-skłodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/event/2022-european-researchers-night>

³² <https://forskarfredag.se/lana-en-forskare/>

³³ <https://v-a.se/2023/02/naturvetenskaps-och-teknikprogrammen-for-vem-och-var/klaranatet/>

³⁴ <https://www.mtm.se/om-oss/nyheter/ny-vagledning-kring-tillganglig-samhallsinformation/>

The VA Barometer – Swedes' views on science

Since 2002, VA has been measuring the public's view of and trust in scientists and science. In 2022, the Swedish population's confidence in research was the highest that we ever measured. In the **VA Barometer 2022/23**³⁵ (*VA Report 2022:6*), the majority of Swedes (58%) were of the view that politicians used too few scientific facts during the 2022 Swedish

election campaign. Four out of ten think that too little consideration is given to research in political decisions.

³⁵ https://v-a.se/downloads/varapport2022_6-english.pdf