

## SME-related policy measures adopted, implemented or announced in 2021

# SWEDEN

Title of the measure (national language)	Title of the measure (English translation)	Implementing body	Adopted / implemented / announced as part of the 'National Recovery and Resilience Plan' (Yes / No)	Status (Adopted or implemented or announced)	Date of adoption/ implementation or announcement (DD/MM/YYYY)	General description (objectives / key features / budget - if applicable, and weblink to online source)
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF SUSTAINABILITY</b>						
Sverige stödjer internationella deklarerationer för transportsektorns klimatomställning	Sweden supports international declarations for transport sector's climate transition	Ministry of Infrastructure	Yes	Announced	11 November 2021	Supports international declaration for transport sector climate transition such as COP26 declaration on zero-emission cars and vans, Clydebank Declaration, Zero Emission Vehicles Transport Council (ZEVTC). <a href="#">Sweden supports international declarations for transport sector's climate transition - Government.se</a>
Rådet för hållbara städer	Sustainable cities	Rådet för hållbara städer	Yes	Implemented	1 January 2021	Sustainable cities are inclusive and accessible urban environments that offer all

						<p>people an attractive and green living environment.</p> <p>The Government's ambition is for Swedish cities and communities to develop into green, healthy, inclusive and climate-smart. The key to this, it says in the strategy, is to strengthen and support the municipalities in their work.  <a href="https://www.hallbarstad.se/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Radet-for-hallbara-stader-Arsrapport-2020.pdf">https://www.hallbarstad.se/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Radet-for-hallbara-stader-Arsrapport-2020.pdf</a></p>
<b>SOCIAL ASPECTS OF SUSTAINABILITY</b>						
Tillfällig sänkning av arbetsgivaravgifter för upp till två anställda (SfU22)	Reduction of employers' social security contributions for young people to support viable business	Ministry of Finance	No	Announced	2020/2021	<p>To support viable businesses which contribute to the creation of more jobs and boost the restart of the economy, a range of initiatives will be directed at businesses. This includes the reduction of employers' social security contributions for young people for two years, in order to tackle the pandemic's adverse impacts on young people's employment prospects and part-time jobs. The reduction in employers' social security contributions for the first employee will be expanded.  <a href="#">Finansplan ENG (docx) (government.se)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Tillfällig nedsättning av arbetsgivaravgifter för upp till två anställda Socialförsäkringsutskottets Betänkande 2020/21:SfU22 - Riksdagen</a></p>

Hållbar turism och växande besöksnäring	Sustainability in the tourism sector	Tillväxtverket	No	Implemented/adopted	<p>18/10/2021 (Strategy)</p> <p>22/12/2021 (New assignment to the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth)</p>	<p>Sweden has a new national strategy for sustainable tourism since 2021 that will serve as a guide for the next ten years. The sector is viewed as an important job creator in all parts of the country and often provides the first job for young people and immigrants.</p> <p><a href="https://www.regeringen.se/informationsmaterial/2021/10/strategi-for-hallbar-turism-och-vaxande-besoksnaring/">https://www.regeringen.se/informationsmaterial/2021/10/strategi-for-hallbar-turism-och-vaxande-besoksnaring/</a></p> <p>The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth is in charge of statistics and development of the tourism sector in Sweden. In 2021 the agency granted development vouchers to 180 tourism SMEs.</p> <p><a href="https://www.regeringen.se/informationsmaterial/2021/12/svensk-besoksnaring-i-fokus-2022/">Finansierade projekt i besöksnäringen - Tillväxtverket (tillvaxtverket.se)</a></p> <p>A new government assignment will allow the agency to continue developing the tourism sector in 2022.</p> <p><a href="https://www.regeringen.se/pressmeddelanden/2021/12/svensk-besoksnaring-i-fokus-2022/">https://www.regeringen.se/pressmeddelanden/2021/12/svensk-besoksnaring-i-fokus-2022/</a></p>
<b>DIGITALISATION</b> (e.g. Digital Innovation Hubs, training, vouchers, grants or loans for digitalisation and to invest in new digital equipment, etc.)						
Data – en underutnyttjad resurs för Sverige: En strategi för ökad tillgång av data för bl.a. artificiell intelligens och digital innovation	Data - an underutilized resource for Sweden: A strategy for increased access to data for e.g. artificial intelligence and digital	Ministry of Infrastructure	No	Announced	20 October 2021	Sweden will be a leading data sharing nation in AI and digital innovation with the aim of strengthening welfare, competitiveness and a sustainable society. The

	innovation					<p>strategy is divided into six focus areas: (1) Increased access to data, (2) Open and controlled data sharing, (3) Collaboration and culture, (4) Governance, regulation and follow-up, (5) Research, development and skills, (6) EU and internationally cooperation. With the authorities sharing data with each other, they can use AI and data-driven analysis better to simplify processes for companies by e.g. facilitate contacts with authorities, simplifying reporting and short processing times.</p> <p><a href="https://www.regeringen.se/info rmationsmaterial/2021/10/data --en-undernyttjad-resurs-for-sverige/">https://www.regeringen.se/info rmationsmaterial/2021/10/data --en-undernyttjad-resurs-for-sverige/</a></p>
<b>INNOVATION</b> (e.g. vouchers, grants or loans for R&D and innovation, support to encourage SMEs to commercialise RTD results and to acquire patents, etc.)						
Samverkansprogram	Innovation partnership programmes	Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation Ministry of Education and Research Ministry of the Environment Ministry of Employment Ministry of Health and Social Affairs Ministry of Infrastructure	No	Implemented	Since 2019, updated 1 November 2021	In these partnership group, the members consist of stakeholders from various groups including small businesses which ensure their point of views are included and considered in the execution and outcomes of these programmes. The four themes build on the strengths of Sweden and Swedish industry and areas judged to be of great importance for future growth: Climate neutral industry; Skills supply and lifelong learning, Digital transformation of industry and Health and life science.

						<p>When a partnership project is identified, available public resources and co-financing from the business sector can be used jointly to meet specified priorities. Even so, the Government has provided additional funds for measures related to the innovation partnership programmes</p> <p><a href="https://government.se/government-policy/the-governments-innovation-partnership-programmes/">https://government.se/government-policy/the-governments-innovation-partnership-programmes/</a></p> <p><a href="#">Innovation partnership programmes impact Swedish innovative environments - Government.se</a></p> <p><a href="#">Projects   Drive Sweden</a></p>
Regionala företagsstöd	Business development voucher	Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth and the Swedish regions	No	Implemented	2021	<p>Regional grants for business development and expansive investments are granted to a range of investments in, for example, machinery and buildings as well as de minimis sums for consultancy services, product development or participation in exhibitions. The target group for these grants are primarily small and medium-sized enterprise.</p> <p>The grants are adjusted to percentages of the approved costs, normally in the range of 10 to 35 percent with a maximum level as stipulated in</p>

						<p>article 14 of the General Block Exemption Rules.</p> <p>An individual assessment of the size of the support is made in all cases, considering the importance of the investment for sustainable regional development. Account is also taken of the type of investment, investment cost, type of company and where in the country the company operates.</p> <p>A basic principle is that no one should receive more support than is required for the investment to take place. Payment is made in arrears.</p> <p><a href="https://tillvaxtverket.se/vara-tjanster/utlysningar/utlysningar/regionala-foretagsstod.html">https://tillvaxtverket.se/vara-tjanster/utlysningar/utlysningar/regionala-foretagsstod.html</a></p>
<b>SKILLS</b> (e.g. vocational education and training, forecasting skill needs, measures to adapt the vocational training systems to the requirements of the labour market, etc.).						
185 miljoner kronor för att fler arbetssökande ska få en arbetsmarknadsutbildning	SEK 185 million to give more jobseekers access to employment training	Arbetsförmedlingen	No	Announced	Budget 2022	<p>The Government proposes in the Budget Bill for 2022 that SEK 185 million be allocated to provide more jobseekers with employment training. The aim of the proposal is to enable a high and consistent level of employment training volumes from 2022 to 2024.</p> <p>By maintaining employment training volumes, it will be possible for Arbetsförmedlingen to offer more jobseekers training for shortage occupations, which is also important in light of the green</p>

						<p>and digital structural transformation facing Sweden.</p> <p><a href="#">Labour market policy initiatives in the Budget Bill for 2022 - Government.se</a></p> <p><a href="#">Arbetsmarknadspolitiska satsningar i budgetpropositionen för 2022 - Regeringen.se</a></p>
	SEK 52 million (EUR 5.056.447) for more participants in work experience	Arbetsförmedlingen	No	Announced	Budget 2022	<p>The Government proposes that Arbetsförmedlingen will be allocated funds amounting to SEK 52 million (EUR 5.056.447) for more work experience placements for people outside the guarantee programmes. The estimated increase for 2023 and 2024 is SEK 65 million (EUR 6.320.559). This roughly equates to doubling the number of full-time equivalent places to an average of 2,000 places for 2022 and 2,500 for 2023 and 2024. These 2,000 places equate to an estimated 12,000 people on the scheme in 2022.</p> <p><a href="#">Labour market policy initiatives in the Budget Bill for 2022 - Government.se</a></p>
	Employees who are not covered by collective agreements will be offered basic retraining and skills support	A public retraining organisation will be established under the Legal, Financial and Administrative	No	Announced	Budget 2022	<p>The Government proposes in the Budget Bill for 2022 that SEK 75 million (EUR 7.292.953) be allocated to finance the new public basic retraining and skills support through the public retraining organisation. This is estimated to increase to SEK 1 billion (EUR 97.239.374) in 2023 and SEK 3.2 billion (EUR</p>

		Services Agency.				311.165.997) in 2024. This also includes resources for compensation for the costs of retraining services as of 2023 amounting to just under SEK 700 million (EUR 68.067.562) in 2023 and SEK 2.9 billion (EUR 281.994.185) in 2024. In the autumn amending budget, the Government proposes allocating SEK 10 million (EUR 972.394) to the Legal, Financial and Administrative Services Agency and SEK 5 million (EUR 486.197) to the Swedish Tax Agency in 2021 for startup costs for the reform.  <a href="#">Labour market policy initiatives in the Budget Bill for 2022 - Government.se</a>
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN</b>						
Handläggande myndighet för ärenden om stöd vid korttidsarbete	Swedish Tax Agency to take over management of aid in the event of short-time work from 1 April 2022	Swedish Tax Agency	No	Announced	6 September 2021	The Swedish Tax Agency will be responsible for the short-time work support application as it already has established control and law enforcement activities and will aid in the processing of such application. The Tax Agency's appropriation will be increased by SEK 7.5 million (EUR 729.295) in 2022 and SEK 10 million (EUR 972.394) from 2023.  <a href="#">Handläggande myndighet för ärenden om stöd vid korttidsarbete - Regeringen.se</a>
<b>REGULATORY OBSTACLES</b>						
<b>ACCESS TO FINANCE</b> (including guarantee schemes, public funding programmes, support for alternative financing and equity financing, favourable legal, tax and regulatory frameworks for investments, fiscal incentives)						



	Extension of the government credit guarantee scheme, 'Företagsakuten', to support small- and medium-sized companies in financial difficulty due to the pandemic from 30 June to 30 September 2021	Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation	Yes	Implemented	30 June 2021	<p>By the end of April, these loans amounted to SEK 2.6 billion (EUR 252.822.373) across 752 commitments. Most of the loans were paid out during the acute phase of the pandemic in spring 2020, when 'Företagsakuten' guaranteed a significant part of all lending to the country's small- and medium-sized companies. At present, the need for 'Företagsakuten' is limited but, before the liquidity support ends, the Government wants to be able to confirm a broad and clear economic pick-up. For this reason, 'Företagsakuten' has now been extended to also apply to the third quarter of 2021.</p> <p><a href="#">Government guarantee programme for companies extended until 30 September 2021 - Riksgälden.se (riksgalden.se)</a></p>
	Enhanced turnover-based support for sole traders and turnover-based support for trading partnerships	Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation	Yes	Implemented	13 January 2021	The Government also previously announced the introduction of a specific turnover-based support targeting trading partnerships, including limited partnerships in which at least one partner is a natural person. This support will cover the same period, that is March 2020 to February 2021 and will be raised to 90 per cent of the turnover loss instead of 75 per cent. This is to respond to the tighter restrictions that were introduced in November 2020 to limit the spread of the virus and that can have a negative financial impact on small

						businesses. This applies to both the turnover-based support for sole traders and the specific turnover-based support for trading partnerships, including limited partnerships in which at least one partner is a natural person.  <a href="#">Enhanced turnover-based support for sole traders and turnover-based support for trading partnerships - Government.se</a>
	European Commission approved a EUR 1.4 billion support scheme for companies. The aid will be granted to companies that suffered a turnover decline exceeding 40% in the period August-October 2020 or 30% in each of the periods November-December 2020 and January-February 2021, compared to the same periods in 2019.	Ministry of Finance	Yes	Implemented	12 February 2021	This will take form of direct grants. The scheme will be open to companies active in all sectors except the financial sector. The scheme covers three eligible periods: (i) August-October 2020, (ii) November-December 2020, and (iii) January-February 2021. In the case of micro and small enterprises, the grants will cover up to 75% of the uncovered fixed costs with regard to the period August-October 2020, or 90% in the other periods.  <a href="#">State aid: Commission approves €1.4 billion Swedish scheme (europa.eu)</a>
<b>LATE PAYMENTS</b> ( <i>measures aimed at addressing late payments</i> )						
Möjlighet till avbetalningsplan för företag som beviljats anstånd med skatt under krisen	Reduction and deferment of tax payment and fees	Swedish Tax agency	No	Announced	1 September 2021	A temporary respite of tax payment can be applied for employer contributions, tax deductions and VAT. The tax can be deferred for one year from the date of the decision. Respite can also be granted for annual VAT (one period) which is

						reported between 27 December 2019 and 17 January 2022. In connection with the respite expiring, it is possible to apply for an extension of the respite for another year. <a href="https://www.regeringen.se/pre-smeddelanden/2021/09/mojlig-het-till-avbetalningsplan-for-foretag-som-beviljats-anstand-med-skatt-under-krisen/">https://www.regeringen.se/pre-smeddelanden/2021/09/mojlig-het-till-avbetalningsplan-for-foretag-som-beviljats-anstand-med-skatt-under-krisen/</a>
<b>ACCESS TO MARKETS</b> (e.g. market-specific support and business training activities, export credit insurance, missions – covering both the Single market and third countries)						
	Startup Sweden	Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth	No	Implemented	2021	Startup Sweden helps Sweden's most promising tech startups with knowledge, network and tools.  <u>Market Access Programs:</u> A five-day program for scaleups looking to expand to new markets. The program includes tailored meetings with potential clients and investors. Market access programs are currently held in UK, US and Germany. <a href="https://www.startupsweden.com/programs">https://www.startupsweden.com/programs</a>
<b>START-UP ENVIRONMENT</b>						
Innovativa startups	Innovative Start-ups	Vinnova	No	Implemented	Spring 2021	Vinnova is currently developing and improving offers for newly started innovative companies so that they better match the target group's needs and Vinnova's mission.  <a href="#">Innovativa Startups   Vinnova</a>
	Startup Sweden	Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth	No	Implemented	2021	Startup Sweden helps Sweden's most promising tech startups with knowledge, network and tools. <u>National Bootcamps</u>

						<p>During the five-day program participants will meet investors ranging from business angels to investors, leading tech media and be coached by experts and successful entrepreneurs in marketing, sales, pitch and law. To participate, the tech startup needs to have developed a product or service that is market ready or close to launching.</p> <p><a href="https://tillvaxtverket.se/amnesomraden/digitalisering/startup-sweden.html">https://tillvaxtverket.se/amnesomraden/digitalisering/startup-sweden.html</a></p>
<b>SCALE-UP ENVIRONMENT</b>						
	Scale-up Days	ALMI, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation	No	Implemented	2021	<p>The Scale Up days are organised by ALMI and supported by the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation to provide strong growth companies, with mentorship and support leadership, to allow networking and knowledge resource support for the companies trying to scale-up.</p> <p><a href="#">Scaleup day - almi</a></p>
<b>NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS</b>						
<b>OTHER RELEVANT TOPICS</b> <i>(e.g. second chance for honest bankrupt entrepreneurs, bankruptcy prevention, entrepreneurship education, public procurement)</i>						