

# Sweden – a partner for cities globally

Strategy 2026 - 2030

Direction and priorities for Team Sweden Smart Cities  
A Swedish strategy for future urban development



DRAFT

# What is Team Sweden Smart Cities

Team Sweden Smart Cities (“the Team”) is a collaboration platform between Swedish public and private actors, including various government agencies, academia, research and non-profit organisations and industry associations\*. The Team facilitates the cooperation of Swedish stakeholders for the development of sustainable, resilient, and technologically advanced cities.

The aim is to strengthen the flow of information, better coordinate and clarify the roles and efforts of various actors in trade and investment promotion for the green and digital transition in cities.

\* For an overview of the participants, see the page ‘Smart Cities Organisation’

# Why a strategy?

As urbanisation accelerates, there is a growing need for the ability to handle complex challenges such as climate change, sustainable growth and quality of life.

Cities are on the frontline of these challenges, and how they adapt will shape global development, innovation and growth. This is where solutions for smart cities are essential.

Swedish approaches – grounded in democratic governance, climate-smart technologies, and integrated planning – are internationally recognised. Sweden aims at further developing its position as a forerunner of sustainable development of attractive cities, where Swedish public and private actors could be potential partners for cities globally.

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# Focus for the strategy

Sweden has a history of successfully combining environmental and social sustainability with economic growth.

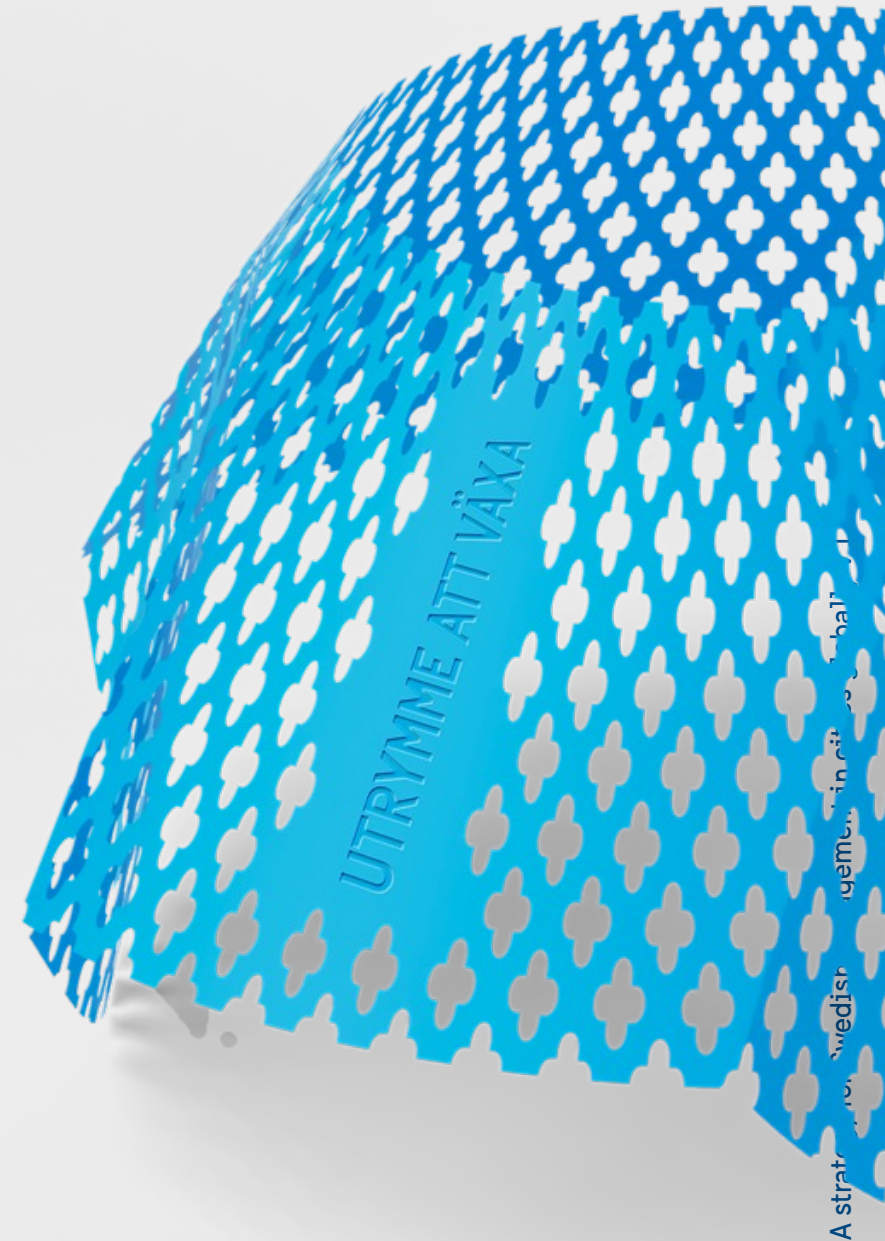
Short-term, Team Sweden Smart Cities focuses on identifying trade and investment opportunities of significant size that could be of interest to the Swedish public and private sectors, and where possible considering ways of joining efforts.

Long-term, a focus is also building relationships that can have deep governance-changing potential in the field of sustainable urban development and smart cities.

# A learning partner for cities

Team Sweden Smart Cities explores major opportunities in regards to smart cities, while considering green, digital and inclusive responses to key urban challenges.

The Team is particularly interested in research and data on complex sustainability challenges.





# A sharing partner for cities

Based on needs of cities in different parts of the world, Team Sweden Smart Cities shares experiences on pioneering systems thinking in an urban context.

This includes solutions for clean energy, smart mobility, circularity and urban infrastructure together with multi-stakeholder governance practices.

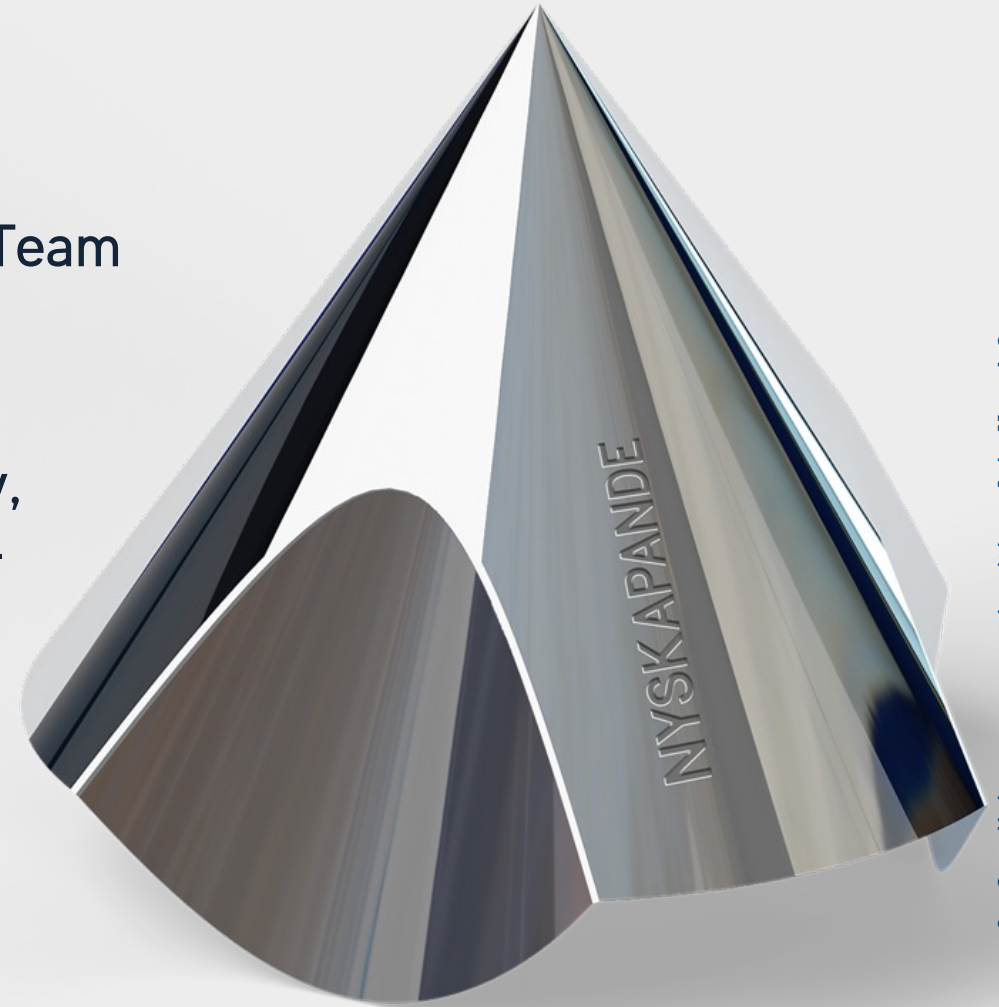




Photo: Candaba



Photo: Johnner / Image Bank, Sweden

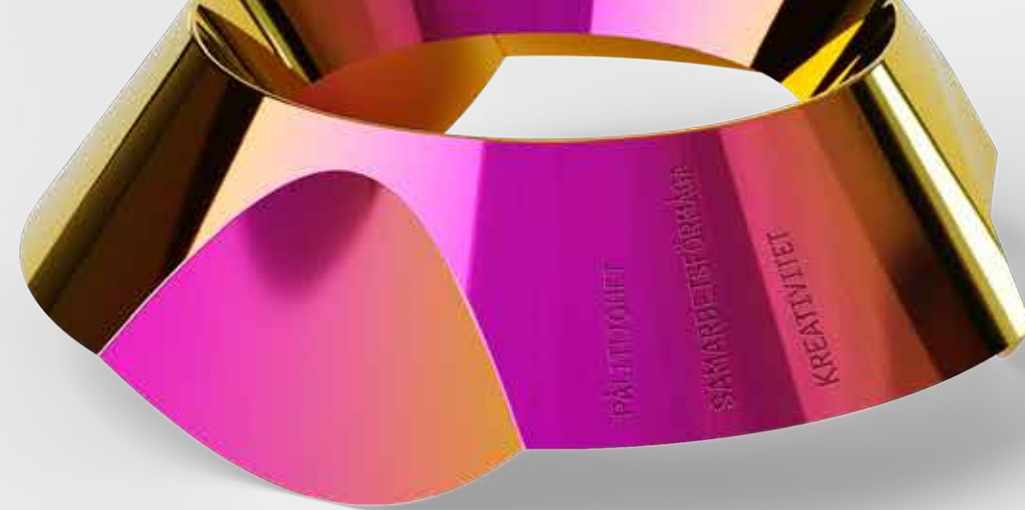


Rendering of the relocation of Kiruna, Wille Architects

# An engaging partner for cities

Team Sweden Smart Cities engages with European and global partners at major international events, such as COP, Climate Weeks and World Urban Forum, highlighting the importance of cities for the green and digital transition.

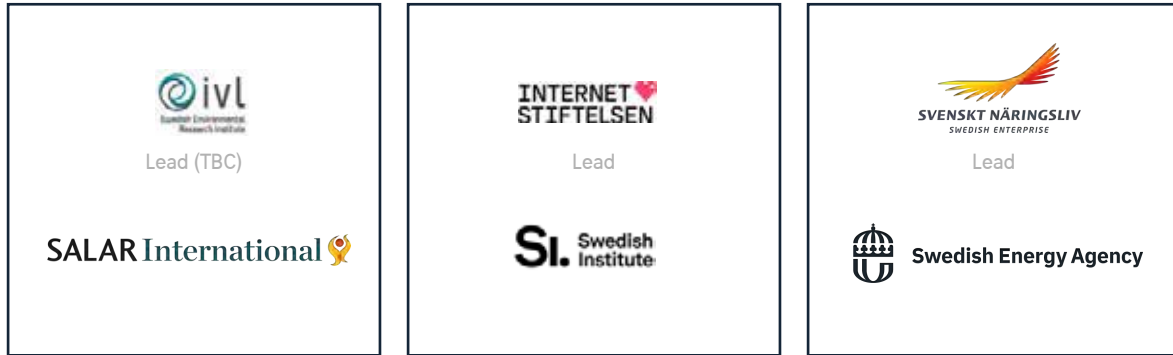
Building on Sweden's strong and flexible export credit system, the Team welcomes trade and investment opportunities all over the world.







Coordinator of Team Sweden Smart Cities through KTH Royal Institute of Technology



Learn

Share

Engage



**Government Offices of Sweden**

Lead for Team Sweden through the Ministry of Rural Affairs and Infrastructure and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs



Coordinates strategic investments and the Team Sweden website



**Embassy of Sweden**

National and regional coordinator, when suitable

## Team Sweden Smart Cities

# Smart Cities Organisation

Participants of Team Sweden Smart Cities meet 3-4 times yearly. Various participants prepare content for each Team Sweden Smart Cities meeting. Other forms of engagement are agreed upon separately. The Government Offices of Sweden is standing behind the initiative Team Sweden Smart Cities and it is represented by the Ministry of Rural Affairs and Infrastructure and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs at the meetings of the constellation.

### All Members

#### GOVERNMENT / PUBLIC ORGANISATIONS:

Boverket –Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, Business Region Göteborg, Business Sweden, EKN – Swedish Export Credit Agency, Formas – a governmental research council on sustainable development, Lantmäteriet - Swedish Mapping, Cadastral and Land Registration Authority, Nefco, SEK – Swedish Export Credit Corporation, Sida - Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, SMHI –Swedish Metereological and Hydrological Institute, Swedfund, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, Swedish Energy Agency, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Swedish Government Offices, Tillväxtverket – Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth and Vinnova - the Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems.

#### BUSINESS:

Confederation of Swedish Enterprise, SISP - Swedish Incubators & Science Parks.

#### UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES:

Chalmers Industriteknik, Lindholmen Science Park, RISE Research Institutes of Sweden, SIS – Swedish Institute for Standards, Stockholm School of Economics House of Governance and Public Policy and KTH Royal Institute of Technology (Viable Cities).

#### NON-PROFITS:

ElectriCITY Innovation, IQ Samhällsbyggnad - The Swedish Centre for Innovation and Quality in the Built Environment (ShiftSweden), IVL – Swedish Environmental Research Institute, SALAR - Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions & SALAR International, SIBC - Sweden-India Business Council, Swedish Internet Foundation and WWF - World Wildlife Fund.

# Where

## Identified potential focus countries

- Team Sweden constellations:
  - Brazil, China, India and Ukraine
- Markets to be further assessed:
  - Abu Dhabi, Colombia, Ecuador, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Morocco, Philippines, Rwanda, South Africa, South Korea, Vietnam and Zambia
- Strengthening existing partnerships:
  - Canada, Germany, Nordics, Singapore, Spain, United Kingdom

# Key global partners

- **CHAMP\*** coordinators and partners – including , World Resources Institute, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, C40 Cities, ICLEI and the Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance
- **European Commission** – including initiatives and entities such as Global Gateway, New European Bauhaus Driving Urban Transitions, NetZeroCities, CapaCITIES and Urban Transitions Mission and the European Investment Bank related entities such as EBRD.
- **World Bank Group** related entities such as the Global Environment Facility and the Climate Investment Funds
- **United Nations** – including UN-Habitat, UNDP and UNEP
- **World Economic Forum** – including initiatives such as First Movers Coalition, Baukultur Alliance

\* Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) for Climate Action



# Opportunity selection criteria

**For an opportunity to be selected by the Team, it needs to rank high on the following aspects:**

- Value added through collaboration amongst Swedish participants
- Collaboration with international partners to secure scalability and relevance
- Anchored locally and demonstrated interest for Swedish partnership and solutions
- Potential business volume and job creation
- Clear interest from the private sector
- Contribution to Agenda 2030 through the green and digital transition
- Funded process or likeliness of receiving funding

# What is Team Sweden?

Team Sweden is a government-initiated way of working and collaboration platform that brings together authorities, state-owned companies, regions and industry partners to strengthen Swedish exports, investments and international business opportunities.

Team Sweden is not a formal organisation, but a coordinated approach designed to make Sweden's trade and investment promotion more coherent, business-oriented and transparent.

Each constellation is coordinated by a designated contact person and operates with clear goals and mandates. Business Sweden manages the Team Sweden website on behalf of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.



Industries	Trade & Invest	Swedish Regions	Global Network
<a href="#">Agriculture &amp; Food</a>	<a href="#">Brand Sweden</a>	<a href="#">All Regions</a>	<a href="#">Global</a>
<a href="#">Cultural &amp; Creative</a>	<a href="#">Invest Promotion</a>	<a href="#">Norrbotten</a>	<a href="#">Brazil</a>
<a href="#">Energy</a>	<a href="#">Strategic Projects</a>	<a href="#">Dalarna</a>	<a href="#">China</a>
<a href="#">Life Science</a>	<a href="#">Talent Attraction</a>	<a href="#">Örebro</a>	<a href="#">India</a>
<a href="#">Mining</a>	<a href="#">Trade &amp; Development</a>	<a href="#">Västra Götaland &amp; Halland</a>	<a href="#">Ukraine</a>
<a href="#">Smart Cities</a>		<a href="#">Skåne</a>	
<a href="#">Tech</a>			

**All Team Sweden constellations.** Team Sweden Smart Cities explores special collaboration with the Team Sweden constellations highlighted above, for strengthened synergies.

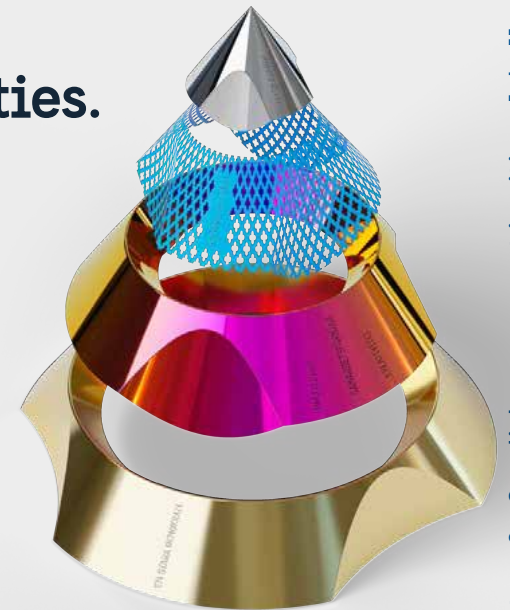
## 🇸🇪 Team Sweden Smart Cities

# PS.

When you think of Sweden today, you most likely think of ABBA, Volvo, Spotify. Perhaps you think of Bluetooth, the screwdriver or other classics used daily by people all over the world.

You will hopefully also soon associate Sweden with **vibrant and resilient cities**.

Thank you for joining us on this journey!



# Team Sweden Smart Cities

[teamsweden.se/industries/smart-cities](https://teamsweden.se/industries/smart-cities)