

**Interreg
Europe**



European Union | European Regional Development Fund



VÄRMLAND COUNTY, SWEDEN

RESPONSIBLE PARTNER:

Värmland County
Administrative Board (VCAB)

ADVISORY PARTNER:

Karlstad University (KaU)

Facts and figures (general)

- 276 000 inhabitants
- Karlstad (90 000 inhabitants)
- 17 586 square kilometer
- North Middle Sweden
- Elementary school 11,7 %
Gymnasium 52,1%
University 34,1%
- Innovation investment: No numbers but ex. 15-20 million euros within The Academy for Smart Specialisation (KaU, Region Värmland, Structural Funds)
- Innovativeness; low in Värmland (*Follower*) compare to rest of Sweden, but Sweden high internationally



Facts and figures (economy)

- GDP 74,2/100 Euro per employee (2014)
- GDP 31,2/100 Euro per capita (2014)
- 6,5 % unemployed (16-64 years old, 2016)
- Export: 1020 Companies (2015)
- Import: 2647 Companies (2015)
- 99 % SME´s

NOTE: Many inhabitants in Värmland works in Norway, so therefore numbers in statistics are not showing the right picture.

Economic key sectors

- Lots of forest; pulp and paper industries
- Paper and packaging industries (ex. Stora Enso, BillerudKorsnäs, Tetra Pak, Metso Paper)
- Steel and Engineering (ex. Uddeholm Tooling)
- ICT
- Tourism Industry

Facilities

- Karlstad University, Ingesund School of Music
- Brobygrafiska (packaging design)
- Cluster organisations
- Karlstad Airport, Railway, Lake Vänern
- County Council, Experio Lab
- Museum, Opera, Art, Storytelling
- Innovation Park
- Academy for Smart Specialisation

Challenges regarding internationalisation

Explain why the project is important for your region and what do you expect from it

- To improve the usage of existing resources and raise the capacity for reaching new international markets for SME in a strategic way.
- Improve policy instrument – ERDF North Middle Sweden
- Connecting people, within the region and with other regions in Europe.