

Governmental organisations and initiatives

Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications (Näringsdepartementet).

The tasks of the Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications are to promote the development of companies, including fostering entrepreneurship, regions and individuals in the labour market and providing effective, secure transport and communications throughout Sweden. Among the Ministry's overall goals for Sweden is that regulations should be as simple and practical as possible. The Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications is responsible for many of the public authorities and organisations in the business development area. For example such as ALMI Företagspartner AB, The Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems (VINNOVA), The Swedish Industrial Development Fund, The Swedish Competition Authority, The Swedish Business Development Agency (NUTEK), The Court of Patent Appeals and The Swedish Patent and Registration Office (PRV).

More information: www.regeringen.se

The Foundations of Technology Transfer – Teknikbrostiftelserna

The Foundations of Technology Transfer were founded by the Swedish Ministry of Industry and Trade. There are seven regional Foundations of Technology Transfer located in the main university areas of Sweden. The mission is to increase the industrial growth in the regions by promoting knowledge transfer between industry and academy, including commercialisation of academic research and entrepreneurship among academics.

More information: www.teknikbroarna.com

ALMI Företagspartner AB

ALMI's goal is that more innovators reach the market, to stimulate new businesses and to promote the development of competitive companies – and to thereby create growth and renewal in Swedish industry and commerce. ALMI is oriented towards innovators, new entrepreneurs and small/mediumsized companies. Depending upon the company or the innovator's needs, ALMI is able to help in different ways. ALMI provides market oriented complementary advice and financing. The combination of the services enables ALMI to help during the different phases of a business – right from the initial concept through to becoming a profitable company.

More information: www.almi.se

The Swedish Business Development Agency - NUTEK

NUTEK's aim is to promote sustainable growth throughout the country by more new enterprises, more expanding enterprises and stronger regions. Through business financing, information, advice and through support for programmes and processes, NUTEK aims to strengthen the conditions of Swedish industry and promote regional growth. The initial phase of a technology-based project is almost always combined with high costs and high risks. One of the sources is the seed capital provided by NUTEK. The financial support is

limited to 50 percent of the total cost of the project during the initial stage. The remaining part has to borne by banks or other investors. Apart from the financing, NUTEK acts as an advisor, which is estimated to be of substantial value to the development of the project. Average loan is about 400,000 SEK but a loan can be given of up to 2 million SEK. Interest rates are equivalent to those offered by banks. When the product or service begins to generate a profit, the company must start the repayment of the loan.

Since 1993, NUTEK has promoted women's entrepreneurship as an undertaking for the Swedish Government. This includes developing information, training and consultation for women, in addition to drafting and circulating facts about women and entrepreneurship.

More information: www.nutek.se

If you have questions on how to start a business you can also contact Startlinjen, at phone number 020-35 10 10, fax 08-744 06 77 or by e-mail startlinjen@nutek.se

Other important facts can also be found under NUTEK's Entrepreneur's Guide – *Företagarguiden*. The aim of this website is to provide useful information to people who are running an enterprise or who are interested in setting up a new company alone or together with other investors. The Guide provides information and tools for starting and developing a company.

NUTEK has cooperated with AMS and developed *KomTek* – municipal entrepreneurship and technology schools aiming at providing comprehensive knowledge in Technology. One of the objectives is to have 50 per cent female students. Local KomTek can be found at NUTEK's home page.

NRC - The Swedish National Federation of Resource Centres for Women

A ResourceCentre is a meeting place and a platform for women and its approach is based on local conditions and its methodology is the empowerment of women. The aim is to strengthen women's position and increase women's influence in society so to be a driving force for regional development. Today there are 20 Regional (RRC) and around 150 Local Resource Centres (LRC) and Networks in Sweden. Further, NRC co-operates with NUTEK and works for a society based on equal rights where:

- women take their part in using the resources of the society
- women's competences, experience and perspective are embraced
- women's and men's work are equally valued
- women's influence over the development of the society increases

More information: www.nrckvinnor.org

The Swedish National Labour Market Administration (AMV)

The start-up grant (*Stöd till start av näringsverksamhet eller Särskilt stöd till start av näringsverksamhet*) comprises labour market support rather than company support. It is intended for unemployed people registered with Public Employment Services (Arbetsförmedlingen) as looking for work. To qualify for support, applicants must produce a business plan deemed to contain the requirements for satisfactory profitability. The period of

the subsidy is normally six months. The programme is intended for all business ideas that are likely to be successful.

More information: www.ams.se

The Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems (VINNOVA)

VINNOVA integrates research and development in technology, transport and working life. VINNOVA's mission is to promote sustainable growth by financing R&D and developing effective innovation systems. VINNOVA's efforts to create effective innovation systems have international, national, sectoral and regional perspectives.

More information: www.vinnova.se

Technology Transfer for SMEs

This project is carried out by VINNOVA. The objective is to create a system to give SMEs better opportunities to make use of technology in their business development. The system facilitates the trade in technological services between SMEs and public R&D technology providers like institutes, universities and university colleges. A well co-ordinated network has been created to make it possible for SMEs to find adequate technological services and for technology providers to reach SMEs with their offers.

More information: www.cordis.lu

The Swedish Industrial Development Fund (Industrifonden)

This fund was established by the government with the aim of encouraging industrial growth, profitability and renewal in Swedish business society. This is done through different kinds of loans or venture/equity capital to small and medium- sized companies. The financial engagement is always connected with competent advice or membership in the board.

More information: www.industrifonden.se