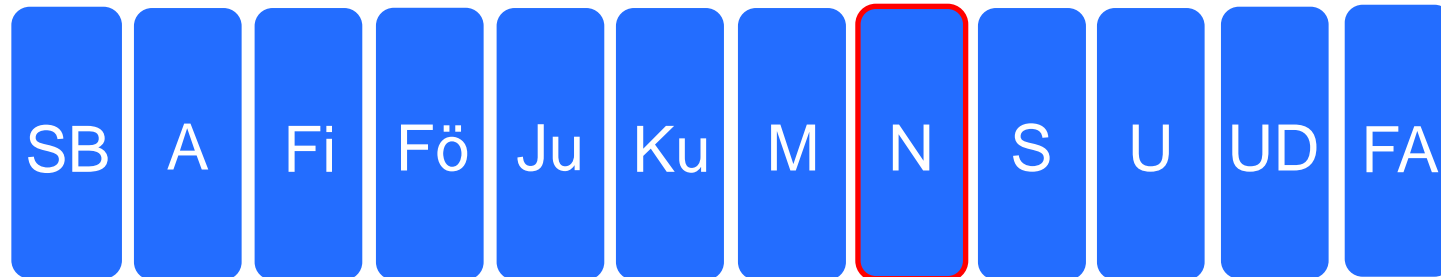


Building dialogue among actors at all levels of government for vertical coordination – the Swedish Experience

Sverker Lindblad, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Organisation & responsibility

THE GOVERNMENT with MINISTRIES



The Government Offices – the Government's staff

Prime Minister – agency head of the Government Offices

4 500 employees, 200 political employees

The democratic system in Sweden

National level

- Elections to the Riksdag (Swedish parliament)
- The Riksdag elects the Prime Minister, who forms a government



Regional level

- Elections to the County Council Assembly
- The County Council Assembly elects the County Council Executive Board

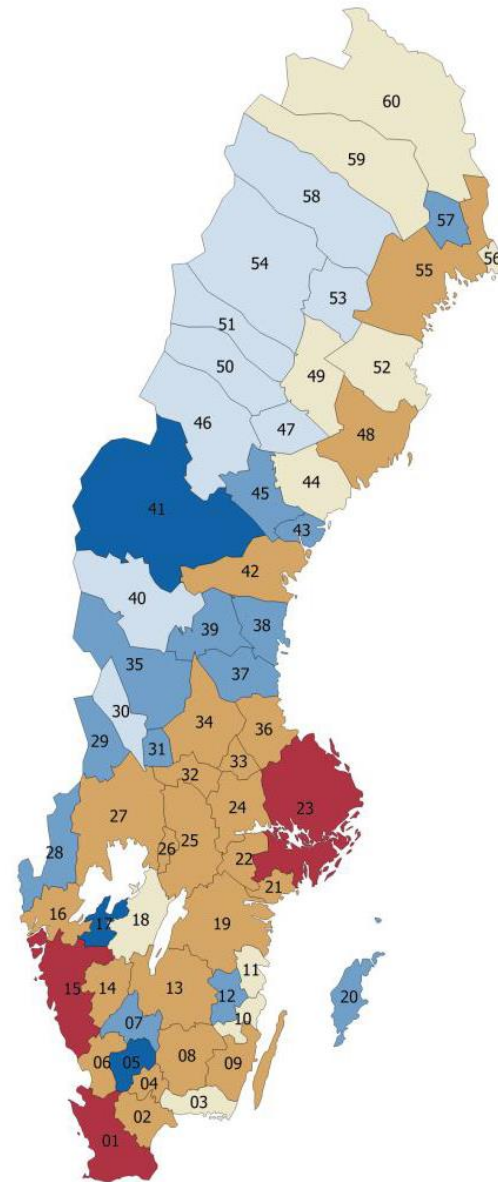


Local level

- Elections to the Municipal Council
- The Municipal Council elects the Municipal Executive Board



Functional regions



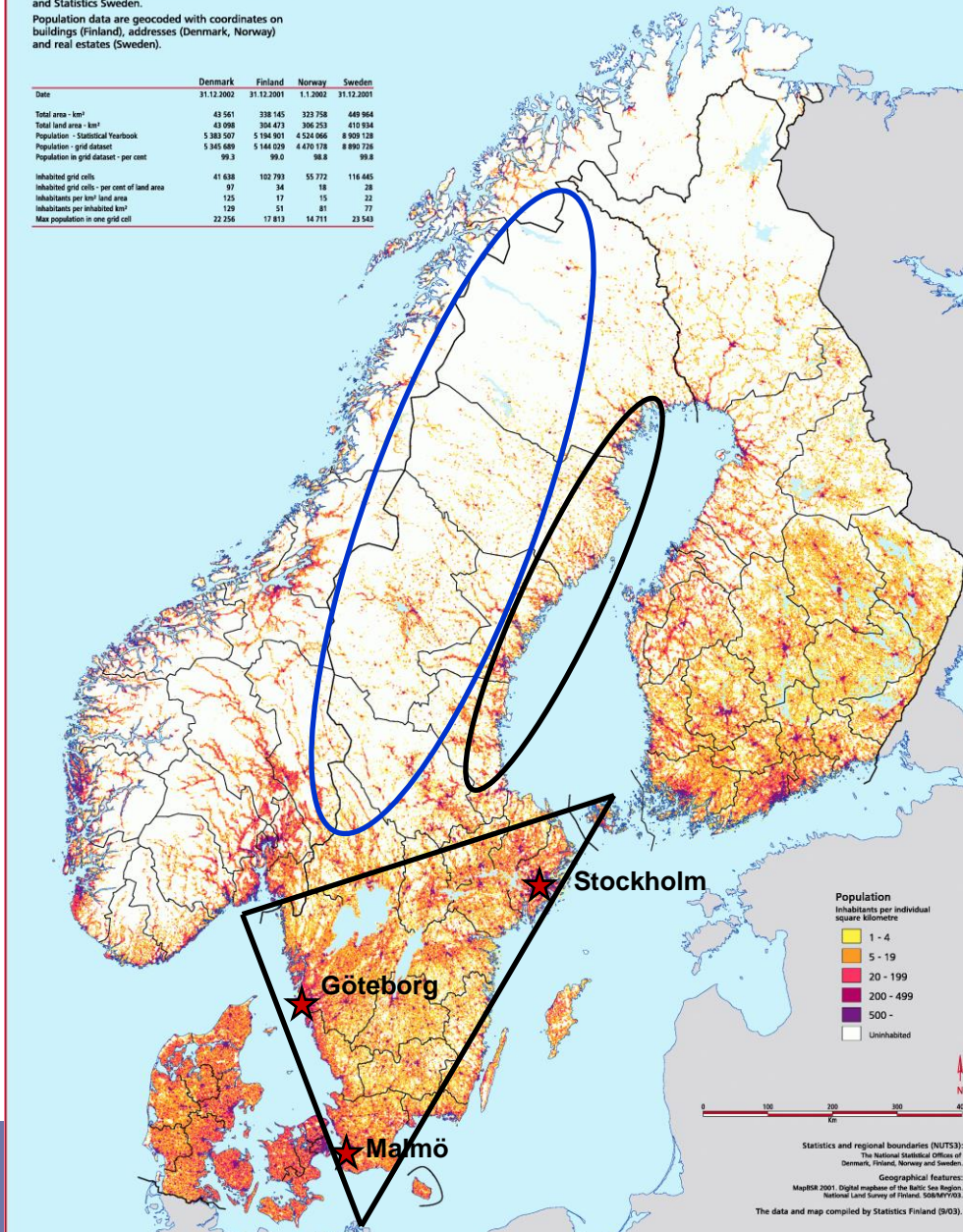
Regiontyper

- Storstadsregioner
- Täta regioner nära en större stad
- Täta regioner avlägset belägna
- Landsbygdsregioner nära en större stad
- Landsbygdsregioner avlägset belägna
- Landsbygdsregioner mycket avlägset belägna


The population of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

A grid map based on population register data from Statistics Denmark, Statistics Finland, Statistics Norway and Statistics Sweden.
Population data are geocoded with coordinates on buildings (Finland), addresses (Denmark, Norway) and real estates (Sweden).

	Denmark	Finland	Norway	Sweden
Date	31.12.2002	31.12.2001	1.1.2002	31.12.2001
Total area - km ²	43 561	338 145	323 758	449 964
Total land area - km ²	43 098	304 473	306 253	410 934
Population - Statistical Yearbook	5 383 507	5 194 901	4 524 066	8 909 128
Population - grid dataset	5 345 689	5 144 029	4 470 176	8 890 726
Population in grid dataset - per cent	99.3	99.0	98.8	99.8
Inhabited grid cells	41 638	102 793	55 772	116 465
Inhabited grid cells - per cent of land area	97	34	18	28
Inhabitants per km ² land area	125	17	15	22
Inhabitants per inhabited km ²	129	51	81	77
Max population in one grid cell	22 256	17 813	14 711	23 543



Concentration of population in the Nordic countries



Regional Growth Policy

The objective of the regional growth policy is:

Dynamic development in all areas of the country with greater local and regional competitiveness.

What is the aim of Regional Growth Policy?

- Handle the regional challenges / problems
- Unleashing the territorial potentials of all regions

Key question: Are there underperforming regions in relation to their assets and potential?

What is the aim of the governance system?

- Doing the right things / find the right priorities
- Doing things right / efficient governance

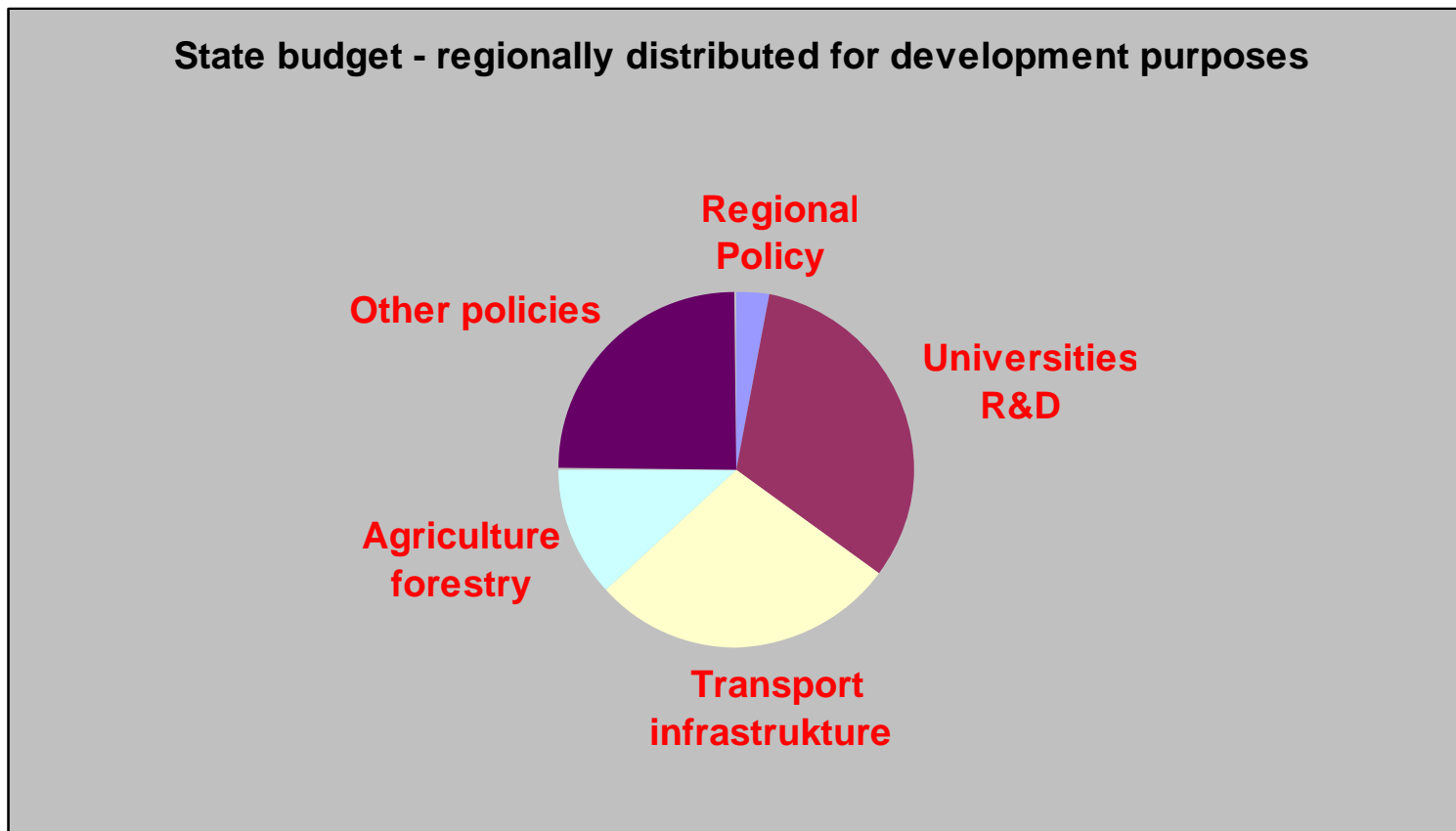


Guiding principles for the Regional Growth Policy

- A place-based approach
- An integrated cross-sectoral policy
- Multi-level governance and cooperation
- Sustainability, gender equality and inclusion as over arching principles

Why cross-sectoral coordination and coherence?

“Each sector policy can more efficiently meet their goals if different territorial specificities are taken into account”



Policy implementation – strategy and tools



- National and regional strategies and programmes
- Development projects – EU structural funds
- Regional aid schemes – investment support to companies
- Investment support for basic services
- Regional competence platforms
- **Coordination and dialogue – sectoral and between levels of government (local, regional, national and EU)**

Sweden's national strategy for sustainable regional growth and attractiveness 2015-2020

Target groups:

- 21 regional authorities responsible for regional development in each county
- State Agencies
- The Government Offices of Sweden
- Non-governmental organisations

Priorities:

- Innovation and business development
- Attractive environments and accessibility
- Provision of skills
- International cooperation



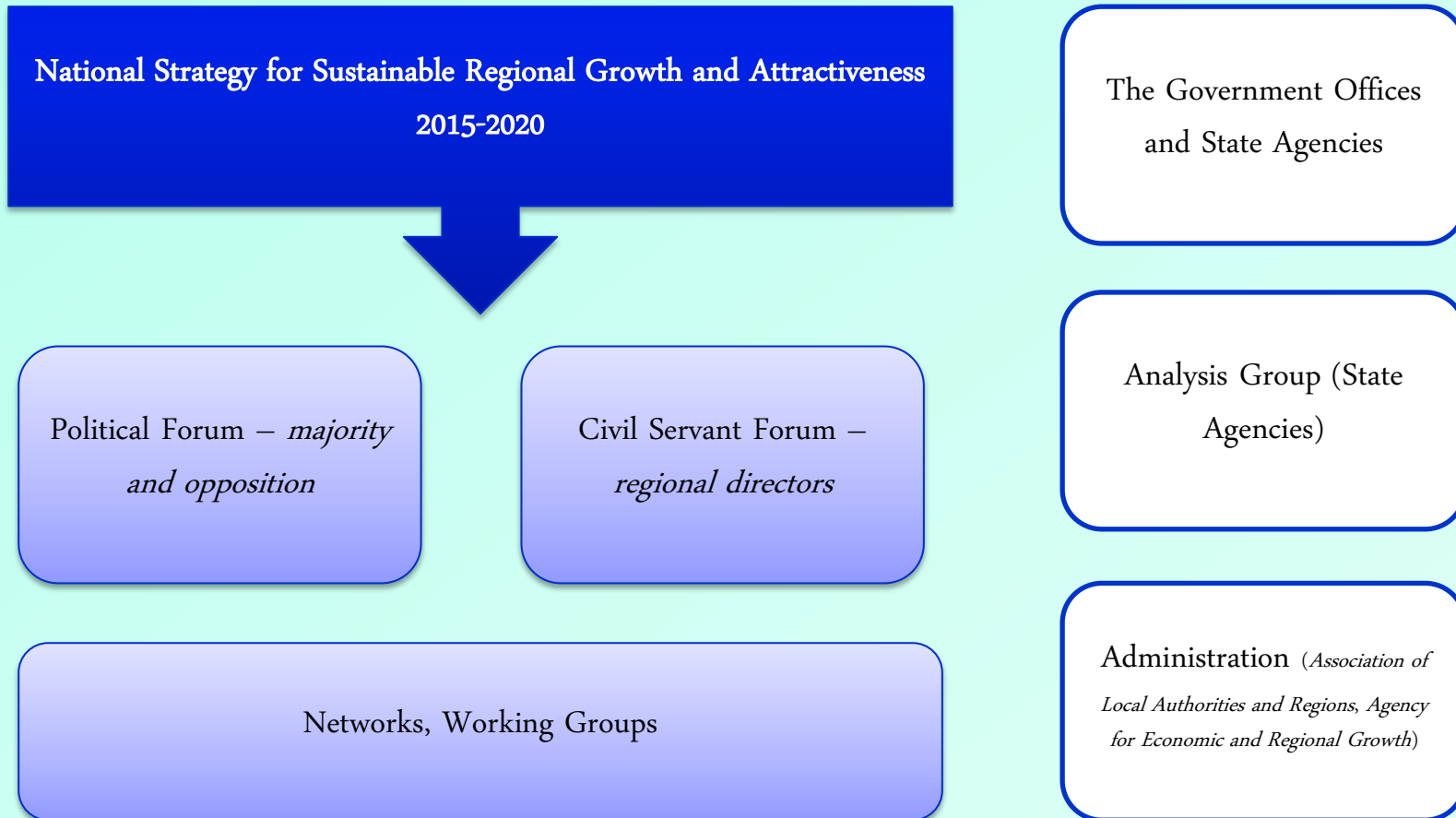


Regional development strategies

– at the regional level

- A tool for coordination and multi level governance
- Is the base for EU-structural funds programmes as well as other investments for growth
- Takes a broad perspective of growth and development
- National agencies to pay regard to the strategy

Forum for Sustainable Regional Growth and Attractiveness 2015-2020





Benefits of the Forum for Sustainable Regional Growth and Attractiveness

- A reliable meeting place four times a year for dialogues between the state and the regions on the highest level
- A way for the state to inform the regions and...
- A way for the regions to put forward the most important issues
- A way to get sectoral ministries and state agencies interested and involved in regional and territorial matters



Learning lessons from multi-level dialogues in Sweden

- Someone have to take responsibility and coordinate, but participation on equal terms
- Longstanding commitments are essential to build trust among the actors
- Dialogues have to be carefully prepared and based on analyses, knowledge and good examples

Sweden can still be better at:

- Involving the state agencies in regional matters
- Linking spatial and regional economic planning
- Dialogue between regions and municipalities

Thank you !

sverker.lindblad@gov.se

