

2025
STOCKHOLM



THE WORLD'S MOST INNOVATION-DRIVEN ECONOMY

Innovation strategy for the Stockholm region

STOCKHOLM TODAY: A STRONG POSITION THAT NEEDS TO BECOME EVEN STRONGER

The County of Stockholm is a strong and innovative region, but ground already won is no guarantee of future success. We need to continue to bolster our innovative strength.

Our world is changing. Global development and increasing competition demand more from us in terms of renewal and transformation. Some regions will be strengthened, while others will find it harder to maintain their positions.

The Stockholm region is, and must continue to be, on the offensive. We are to move from a position of strength to becoming the world's most innovation-driven economy. In order to succeed we must lay solid foundations for the business community to renew itself and develop – collaborating on this at regional, national and international level.

MAJOR INVESTMENTS IN RESEARCH AND A WELL-EDUCATED WORKFORCE

We have a good place from which to start. Compared to other metropolitan regions internationally, the Stockholm business community is investing substantial funds in research and development, and has relatively good access to well-educated personnel. We also have a large, knowledge-intensive service sector that actively passes on knowledge and builds bridges between and within universities and colleges, the industrial and other sectors, and businesses. This sector is one of the region's key assets and, together with the universities and colleges, it constitutes an advanced knowledge base.

The business community of the Stockholm region is diversified, with several areas offering high added value. It is also the centre for two internationally successful knowledge areas: ICT and life sciences. One area on the rise is business development linked to sustainable urban development, mainly in the cleantech area.

CHALLENGES: GLOBALISATION, CLIMATE CHANGE AND AN AGEING POPULATION

The Stockholm region faces a number of challenges. At the same time, these challenges are the drivers of change and development – the solutions we come up with may be our main export success stories in the future.

The most prominent challenges – globalisation, climate change and an ageing population – are ones that we share with much of the world. Another challenge is accessibility – people's opportunities to settle and move around, both within and outside of the region. Our ability to attract and keep well-educated people is crucial to our future competitive ability.



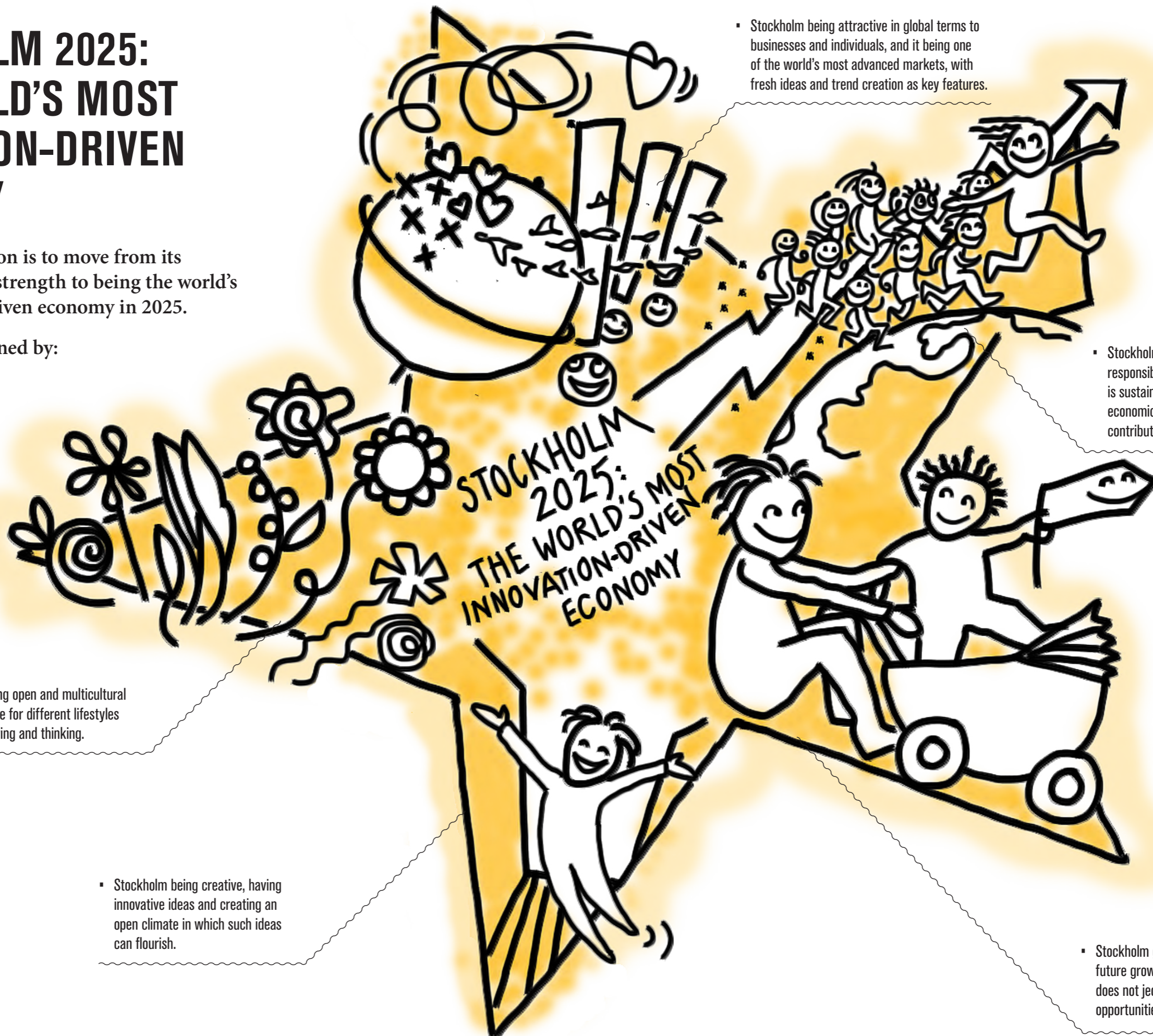
STOCKHOLM 2025: THE WORLD'S MOST INNOVATION-DRIVEN ECONOMY

The Stockholm region is to move from its current position of strength to being the world's most innovation-driven economy in 2025.

This position is defined by:

- Stockholm being open and multicultural – an open stage for different lifestyles and ways of living and thinking.

- Stockholm being creative, having innovative ideas and creating an open climate in which such ideas can flourish.



- Stockholm being attractive in global terms to businesses and individuals, and it being one of the world's most advanced markets, with fresh ideas and trend creation as key features.

- Stockholm leading the way by taking responsibility for building a society that is sustainable in the long term and economically stable, and making an active contribution to solving global problems.

- Stockholm growing sustainably because future growth is generated in a way that does not jeopardise the next generation's opportunities for a good life.

WHAT WE ARE AIMING FOR

The goals below are to guide Stockholm towards the desired position. Goal fulfilment will be measured on a regular basis using indicators.

THE STOCKHOLM REGION MUST BE SEEN AS MORE ATTRACTIVE TO:

- students, researchers, experts and entrepreneurs
- investments and investors
- multinational companies.

COLLABORATION MUST BE EXPANDED AND THE RESULTS OF COLLABORATIONS IMPROVED THROUGH:

- improved and expanded collaboration between researchers, businesses and the political/public sphere
- a larger number of international networks being established in the area of research and innovation
- more collaboration between knowledge areas.

DELIVERY CAPABILITY IN THE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION SYSTEM MUST INCREASE THROUGH:

- larger numbers of innovative export companies being established
- larger numbers of rapidly growing companies being created in industries with high added value
- greater impact of new business models and areas.

WHAT WE WILL BE FOCUSING ON

Research and innovation infrastructure. Innovation procurement. Supply of capital. Cross-sector approach. And a globally attractive Stockholm region. These are the areas we have decided to focus on in order to achieve our desired position.

There are several other factors that also affect and contribute to the innovative strength of the Stockholm region. Effective infrastructure, such as roads, railways, airports and ports, as well as well-functioning markets for broadband, housing and business premises form the basic requirements for an attractive region – and a positive climate for business and individuals in general. Our international accessibility is crucial to the decisions of global companies to base themselves here, and for the potential of universities and colleges to exchange ideas with the surrounding world. However, we have chosen to focus on initiatives more directly related to innovation.

24000 NEW BUSINESSES WERE STARTED IN THE STOCKHOLM REGION IN 2011. THIS CONSTITUTES 35% OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF NEW ENTERPRISES IN SWEDEN.



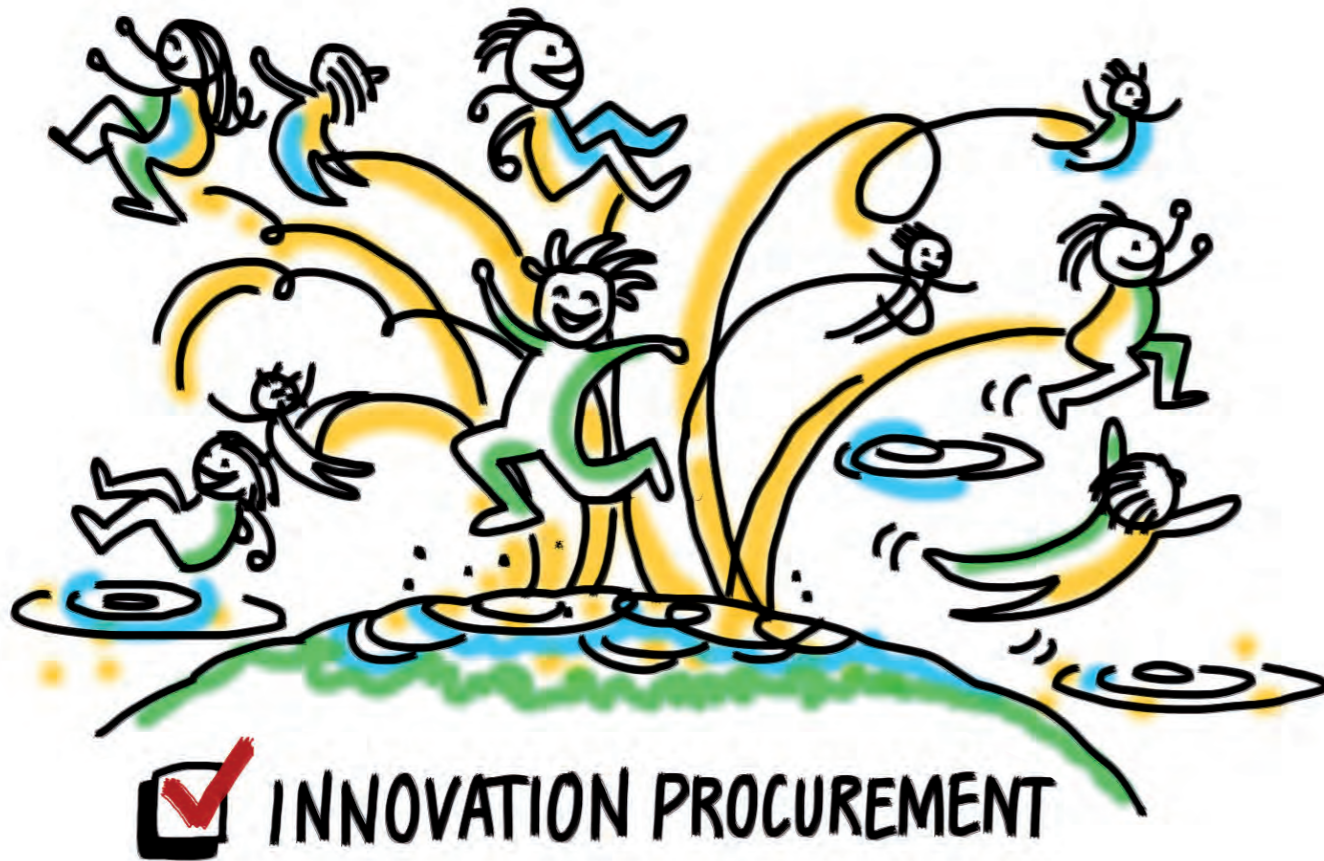
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION INFRASTRUCTURE

The universities in the Stockholm region offer strong, comprehensive basic research, which is a requirement for many innovations. However, we need to expand our investments in research facilities and in operations that enable tests, demonstrations and verifications of concepts to be performed under conditions that are as realistic as possible.

An example of such an operation is the Science for Life Laboratory (SciLifeLab). SciLifeLab has strong potential to develop into a world-class research environment of the highest calibre and become a motor for innovations and industrial applications.

If the Stockholm region is to continue to be successful in the life sciences, test facilities are required for products originating from companies, research, and clinical activities. Such test facilities make it possible to open up healthcare processes to the surrounding world in order to develop innovations and business, based on real needs. This benefits both society and innovation-driven enterprise at regional and national level. Other types of research and innovation infrastructure, such as the large amount of public data, can also be put to better use, thereby contributing to greater innovation.

In addition, companies in the region's cleantech cluster need further opportunities to demonstrate and verify their technology. Without such opportunities, the Stockholm region will not reach its international potential in terms of sustainable urban development, the foundations of which were laid by the creation of the Hammarby Sjöstad and Norra Djurgårdsstaden districts. The experiences of the successful ICT cluster in Kista can serve as examples for future development.



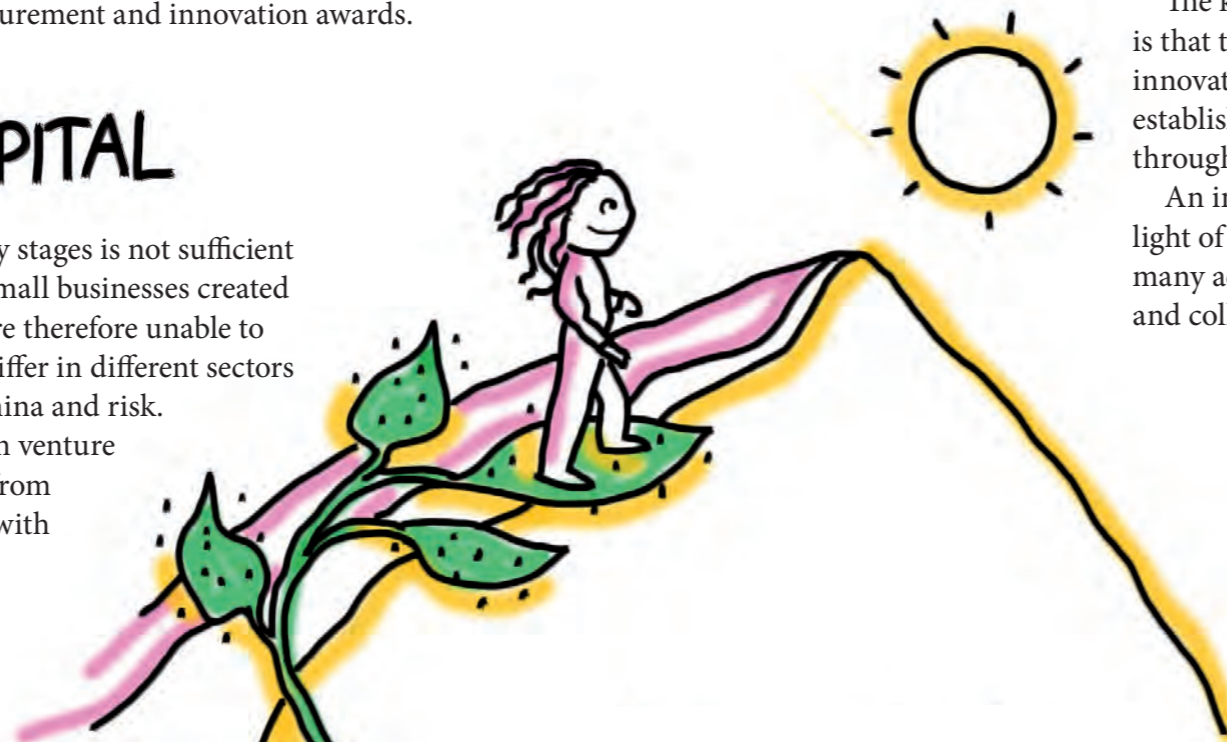
The Stockholm region must continue to expand its use of procurement as a strategic tool for innovation. This provides a foundation for structural transformation in the business community while contributing to renewal, quality in the broad sense and efficiency in the public sector. It also gives the many small enterprises in the Stockholm region greater potential for growth, and districts built as part of the Million Programme (which involved building one million homes in Sweden in the late sixties and early seventies) an opportunity to be renewed in a cost-efficient and innovative manner.

By continuing to use innovation in procurement as a strategic tool, major effects can be achieved. Obstacles to this are the current regulatory framework and misconceptions about the opportunities actually available. In general, new approaches and mindsets in the field of procurement need to be prioritised, for example, pre-commercial procurement and innovation awards.

SUPPLY OF CAPITAL

The supply of capital for investments in early stages is not sufficient and needs to be improved. The innovative small businesses created from universities, colleges and incubators are therefore unable to grow and reach their full potential. Needs differ in different sectors when it comes to scope, time horizons, stamina and risk.

We also need financing models other than venture capital, for example loans and investments from private investors, family and friends, along with conditional loans and start-up grants.

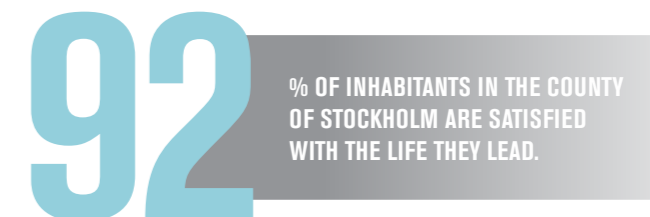


CROSS-SECTOR APPROACH

The Stockholm region is to encourage cross-sector exchanges of knowledge and ideas. Exchanging ideas and knowledge between universities, colleges, the business community, research institutes and public actors makes it possible to revitalise research and the knowledge-intensive business community.

The key to success for businesses that have grown organically over a long period is that they challenge conventional thinking, thus succeeding in being consistently innovative. The innovations have often existed in the interface between various established segments and areas of competence, and success is often achieved through collaboration between different disciplines, approaches and actors.

An increasing number of new service concepts and service ideas are seeing the light of day in the Stockholm region. The region's creative environments, with their many advanced service companies and competence from the region's universities and colleges, form an important basis for rejuvenating the business community.





☑ GLOBALLY ATTRACTIVE

The rest of the world is unaware of the excellent conditions prevailing in the Stockholm region in terms of residential environments, opportunities to set up business, and investments in research. It is important for Stockholm to be seen as an attractive region in the world at large for several reasons. One is that this view makes it easier to recruit qualified labour and ensure that they stay in the region, as well as enabling investments in businesses and research. The “Stockholm – The Capital of Scandinavia” brand ensures that the region’s profile is boosted internationally.

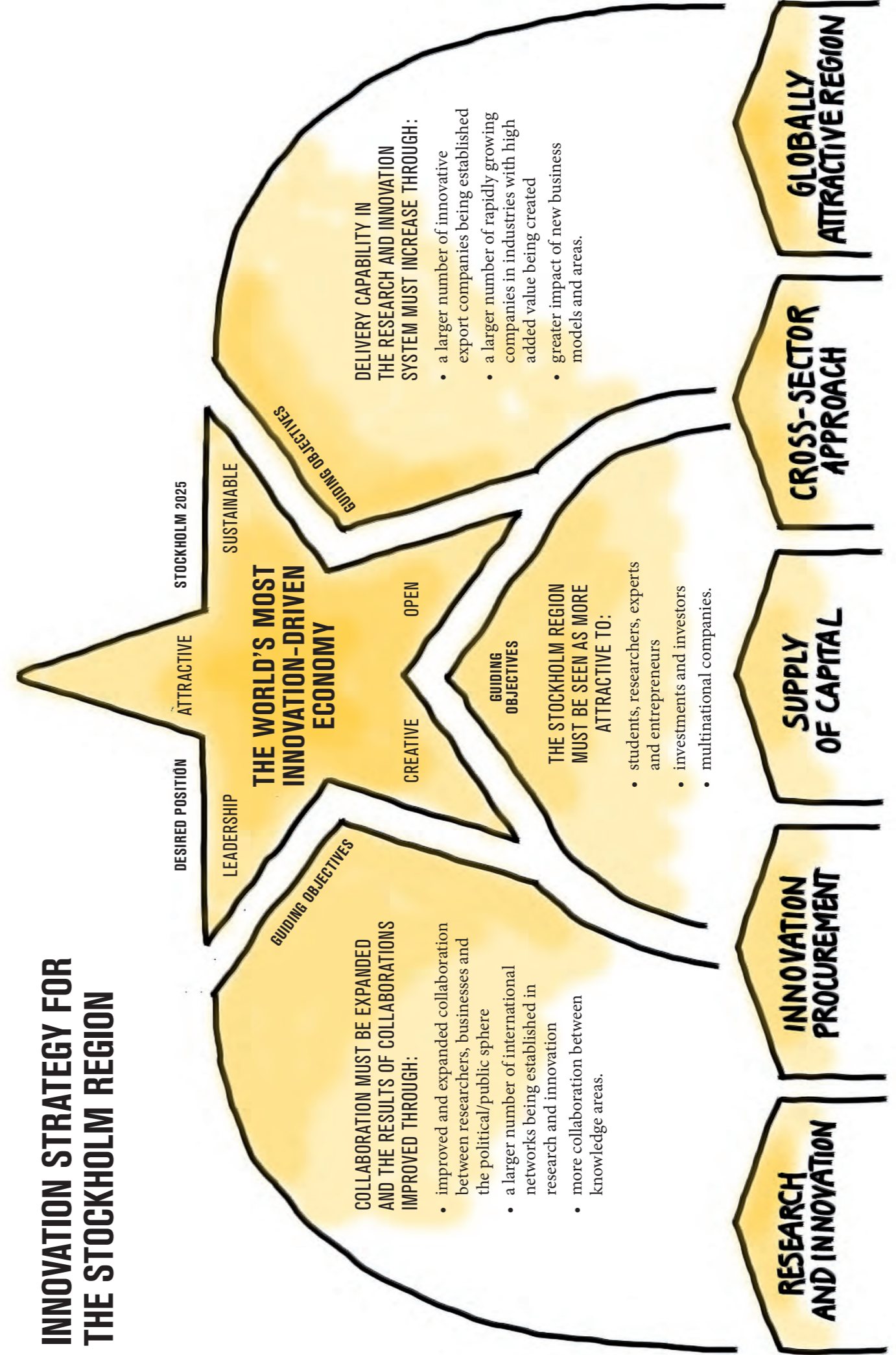
HOW WE WILL PROCEED

The Stockholm region has a lofty goal: to become the world’s most innovation-driven economy by 2025. We will be investing a great deal of effort in reaching this position. An action programme linked to each of the five areas will specify how this will be achieved. This programme contains initiatives both new and ongoing, status reports on each area, and descriptions of the Stockholm region’s undertakings.

READ MORE AT INNOVATIONSKRAFTSTHLM.SE (IN SWEDISH)

25 % OF SWEDEN'S ENTIRE LABOUR MARKET IS IN THE STOCKHOLM REGION.

INNOVATION STRATEGY FOR THE STOCKHOLM REGION



INNOVATIONSKRAFT STHLM

Innovationskraft Sthlm is a broad collaboration to improve the innovative ability of the Stockholm region. The aim is to gather together and coordinate initiatives that influence the innovative ability of the region, and to bring together the central actors in the region under a common innovation strategy.

Behind Innovationskraft Sthlm – and the Stockholm region’s innovation strategy – are Stockholm County Administrative Board in collaboration with Karolinska Institute, Stockholm County Association of Local Authorities, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm Business Region, Stockholm Chamber of Commerce, Stockholm County Council, City of Stockholm and Stockholm University.

READ MORE AT INNOVATIONSKRAFTSTHLM.SE (IN SWEDISH)



To see a short film about the innovation strategy of the Stockholm region, scan the code with your mobile.

