

## Sweden

### *1. Industrial Strategy*

**Sweden's Strategy for Technology-Leading and Competitive Industry** sets out the country's industrial policy. The strategy focuses on the development of strategic technologies from research that can be commercialized to build a technology leading and growing industry. It aims to create a support system for the establishment of industries by providing incentives such as tax reliefs and initiatives for infrastructure. The strategy also highlights the importance of green transition in industry and seeks to make the environment permit process and other permit processes more efficient to attract business start-ups and expansions. The strategy sets out measures in the following areas:

- Research and innovation for enabling technology leadership
- Resilience and supply preparedness in times of uncertainty
- Financing and risk-sharing for growing industry in transition
- Basic conditions that create a framework for industry<sup>1</sup>

**The Sweden Smart Industry Strategy 2016** aims to enhance companies' ability to adapt and maintain competitiveness and focuses areas on industry 4.0 to ensure that Swedish industrial companies are at the forefront of the digital transformation and fully harness the opportunities offered by digitalization.<sup>2</sup> It promotes sustainable production through greater resource efficiency, environmental responsibility, and a more sustainable approach to production to support the industrial sector's value creation, employment growth, and competitiveness. The strategy highlights the importance of industrial skills enhancement and aims to lead research initiatives that strengthen the production of goods and services within the country. The **Circular Economy strategy for Sweden 2020** outline's the country's focus on sustainable production, consumption, toxic-free and circular material cycles.<sup>3</sup>

The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth operates under the Ministry of Climate and Enterprise and promotes sustainable development and competitive business

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<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Climate and Enterprise, 'Government Launches Strategy for Technology-Leading and Competitive Industry' (*Government Offices of Sweden*, 23 June 2025) <<https://www.government.se/press-releases/2025/06/government-launches-strategy-for-technology-leading-and-competitive-industry/>> accessed 12 August 2025.

<sup>2</sup> Smart Industry Sweden <<https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sites/default/files/from-crm/Smart%20industry%20-%20a%20strategy%20for%20new%20industrialisation%20for%20Sweden.pdf>> Accessed 9 August 2025.

<sup>3</sup> Circular Economy Sweden <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/swe208661.pdf> Accessed 9 August 2025; 'Swedish Strategy for Circular Economy Accelerates the Transition to Sustainability | European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform' (9 December 2020) <<https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/en/strategies/swedish-strategy-circular-economy-accelerates-transition-sustainability>> accessed 9 August 20.

growth across the country.<sup>4</sup> Vinnova, the Swedish Innovation Agency supports innovation by sharing funding with companies, universities, and organizations.<sup>5</sup>

## **2. Digital (Development) Strategy**

**Sweden's AI & Digitalization Strategy for 2025-2030** outlines five key focus areas, supported by three cross-cutting themes that are AI, data, and security. These three themes influence all aspects of the plan. The strategy aims to boost citizen participation, improve welfare services, strengthen competitiveness, enhance security, and streamline administrative processes. The five focus areas include digital competence, business digitalization, welfare digitalization, public administration digitalization, and digital connectivity.<sup>6</sup>

**The Digital Development Strategy** of Sweden aims to provide different regions, municipalities, and digitalization companies (such as INERA) with a common direction to digital development. It allows stakeholders to jointly contribute to digital growth. The strategy has 16 objectives and prioritizes four main areas:

- Ensure effective management, governance, and organization to set clear priorities, build new skills, and involve citizens and staff in change efforts to ensure that the benefits of digitalization are realized, while also creating a legal framework for adopting emerging technologies.
- Create common architectural and security standards in developing and managing digital welfare services, fostering interoperability and unified planning.
- Provide accessible, exchangeable information and strong digital infrastructure to support efficient data sharing.
- Develop coherent digital services through collaborative processes and solutions, enabling welfare services to respond to users' needs and life events.<sup>7</sup>

Sweden's digital connectivity strategy, **Completely Connected Sweden by 2025** aims to maximize access to digital connectivity across the entire country, including rural areas.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> 'Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth' <<https://tillvaxtverket.se/tillvaxtverket/inenglish.2908.html>> accessed 10 August 2025.

<sup>5</sup> 'Vinnova Is Sweden's Innovation Agency | Vinnova' <<https://www.vinnova.se/en/>> accessed 12 August 2025; see 'Sweden - Advanced Manufacturing' (18 December 2023) <<https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/sweden-advanced-manufacturing>> accessed 10 August 2025.

<sup>6</sup> Sweden's AI & Digitalization Strategy for 2025–2030 <<https://www.regeringen.se/contentassets/45254242d2eb494d9099fe90ff8395f0/presentationbilder-fran-presstraff-om-sveriges-digitaliseringsstrategi-2025-2030-den-28-maj-2025.pdf>> accessed 12 August 2025.

<sup>7</sup> 'Sweden - Digital Development Strategy | Digital Skills and Jobs Platform' (20 January 2023) <<https://digital-skills-jobs.europa.eu/en/actions/national-initiatives/national-strategies/sweden-digital-development-strategy>> accessed 10 August 2025.

<sup>8</sup> 'Digital Connectivity in Sweden | Shaping Europe's Digital Future' <<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/digital-connectivity-sweden>> accessed 10 August 2025.

**Sweden in a Digital World** strategy provides a foreign and security policy on cyber and digital issues that aims to enhance security, prosperity and competitiveness.<sup>9</sup>

### ***3. Main Constitutional Provisions***

The Swedish Constitution does not explicitly reference industrial or digital policy. However, the government's authority to legislate on economic, trade, and technological matters is derived from general constitutional provisions. Chapter 1, Article 2 highlight that public activities should primarily focus on safeguarding individuals' personal, economic, and cultural well-being making public institutions responsible for ensuring access to health, employment, housing, and education, as well as supporting social care and security.

### ***4. Main Regulatory Provisions and Policy Developments***

Certain legislative and regulatory acts have a considerable impact on industrial policy aspects surrounding digital development. These include:

- Act on Electronic Commerce and Information Society Services (2002:562)<sup>10</sup>
- Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act (2009:2004)<sup>11</sup>
- Swedish Data Protection Act (2018:218) containing supplementary provisions to General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR, EU 2016/679)<sup>12</sup>
- Protective Security Act (2018:585)<sup>13</sup>
- Act (2018:1174) on information security for essential and digital services<sup>14</sup>
- Swedish Criminal Data Protection Act (2018:1177)<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Sweden in a Digital World

<<https://www.government.se/contentassets/f858cec8cb944d3fa82bdf0fb7959448/sweden-in-a-digital-world---a-strategy-for-swedens-foreign-and-security-policy-on-cyber-and-digital-issues.pdf>> accessed 12 August 2025.

<sup>10</sup> Act on Electronic Commerce and Information Society Services (2002:562) <

[https://www.riksdagen.se/sv/dokument-och-lagar/dokument/svensk-forfattningssamling/lag-2002562-om-elektronisk-handel-och-andra\\_sfs-2002-562/](https://www.riksdagen.se/sv/dokument-och-lagar/dokument/svensk-forfattningssamling/lag-2002562-om-elektronisk-handel-och-andra_sfs-2002-562/)> accessed 12 August 2025.

<sup>11</sup> Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act (2009:2004) <

<https://www.government.se/contentassets/2ca7601373824c8395fc1f38516e6e03/public-access-to-information-and-secrecy.pdf>> accessed 12 August 2025.

<sup>12</sup> Act containing supplementary provisions to the EU General Data Protection Regulation (2018:218)

<https://www.government.se/contentassets/467ef1335aac404c8840c29f9d02305a/act-containing-supplementary-provisions-to-the-eu-general-data-protection-regulation-sfs-2018218/> accessed 12 August 2025.

<sup>13</sup> Protective Security Act (2018:585) <

<https://www.government.se/contentassets/7d1bd1801f8d46a69ded4cd2a30bb6fe/protective-security-act-2018-585.pdf>> accessed 12 August 2025.

<sup>14</sup> Act (2018:1174) on information security for essential and digital services <

[https://www.riksdagen.se/sv/dokument-och-lagar/dokument/svensk-forfattningssamling/lag-20181174-om-informationssakerhet-for\\_sfs-2018-1174/](https://www.riksdagen.se/sv/dokument-och-lagar/dokument/svensk-forfattningssamling/lag-20181174-om-informationssakerhet-for_sfs-2018-1174/)> accessed 12 August 2025.

<sup>15</sup> Swedish Criminal Data Protection Act (2018:1177) < [https://www.riksdagen.se/sv/dokument-och-lagar/dokument/svensk-forfattningssamling/brottsdatalag-20181177\\_sfs-2018-1177/](https://www.riksdagen.se/sv/dokument-och-lagar/dokument/svensk-forfattningssamling/brottsdatalag-20181177_sfs-2018-1177/)>

accessed 12 August 2025.

- Electronic Communications Act (2022:482)<sup>16</sup>
- Sweden in a Digital World<sup>17</sup>
- AI Agenda for Sweden<sup>18</sup>
- National AI Strategy<sup>19</sup>
- National Security Strategy<sup>20</sup>
- National Cybersecurity Strategy<sup>21</sup>
- A Completely Connected Sweden<sup>22</sup>
- Sweden in a Digital World Strategy<sup>23</sup>

## 5. (Regional) Economic Treaties to which Sweden is a Signatory

Sweden is a participant in multiple economic agreement. These agreements include:

- EU Free Trade Agreements: With Canada (CETA), Japan (EPA), South Korea, Singapore, Vietnam, and others.
- European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement: With Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein.
- EU–UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement.
- EU–Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) Interim Economic Partnership Agreement.
- EU–Cariforum Economic Partnership Agreement.
- EU–Mexico Agreement.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Electronic Communications Act <[https://www.riksdagen.se/sv/dokument-och-lagar/dokument/svensk-forfattningssamling/lag-2022482-om-elektronisk-kommunikation\\_sfs-2022-482/](https://www.riksdagen.se/sv/dokument-och-lagar/dokument/svensk-forfattningssamling/lag-2022482-om-elektronisk-kommunikation_sfs-2022-482/)> accessed 12 August 2025.

<sup>17</sup> Sweden in a Digital World <<https://www.government.se/contentassets/f858cec8cb944d3fa82bdf0fb7959448/sweden-in-a-digital-world---a-strategy-for-swedens-foreign-and-security-policy-on-cyber-and-digital-issues.pdf>> accessed 12 August 2025.

<sup>18</sup> AI Agenda for Sweden <<https://www.ri.se/en/ai-center/ai-agenda-for-sweden-coordinated-by-center-for-applied-ai>> accessed 12 August 2025.

<sup>19</sup> National AI Strategy <<https://strategy.ai.se/>> accessed 12 August 2025.

<sup>20</sup> National Security Strategy <[https://government.se/contentassets/dee95d002683482eba019df49db2801f/national-security-strategy\\_.pdf](https://government.se/contentassets/dee95d002683482eba019df49db2801f/national-security-strategy_.pdf)>.

<sup>21</sup> National Cybersecurity Strategy <<https://www.government.se/contentassets/d87287e088834d9e8c08f28d0b9dda5b/a-national-cyber-security-strategy-skr.-201617213>> accessed 12 August 2025.

<sup>22</sup> Completely Connected Sweden <<https://vxfiber.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/sweden-completely-connected-by-2025-eng.pdf>> accessed 12 August 2025.

<sup>23</sup> Sweden in a Digital World <<https://www.government.se/contentassets/f858cec8cb944d3fa82bdf0fb7959448/sweden-in-a-digital-world---a-strategy-for-swedens-foreign-and-security-policy-on-cyber-and-digital-issues.pdf>> accessed 12 August 2025.

<sup>24</sup> ‘EU Trade Relationships by Country/Region’ (25 July 2025) <[https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region\\_en](https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region_en)> accessed 29 July 2025; WTO | Regional Trade Agreements’ <<http://rtais.wto.org/UI/PublicMaintainRTAHome.aspx>> accessed 12 August 2025.

## 6. *Plurilaterals*

Sweden participates in multiple plurilateral initiatives and agreements, primarily through the European Union and the World Trade Organization (WTO). Key plurilaterals include:

- WTO Information Technology Agreement (ITA)<sup>25</sup>
- WTO Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA)<sup>26</sup>
- WTO Joint Initiative on E-commerce.<sup>27</sup>
- WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.<sup>28</sup>

## ***7.Proceedings Initiated Against Sweden, or by It, Before International Fora for the Adoption/Implementation of Industrial Policy Measures (e.g., Before WTO Panels, the WTO's AB)***

Sweden as an EU member state is represented by the European Union in WTO dispute settlement proceedings. The EU has been involved in numerous WTO dispute settlement proceedings with some concerning industrial and digital policy measures. For instance, EU recently requested consultations with the Chinese Taipei for measures regarding local content requirements in investments in offshore wind installations.<sup>29</sup> Sweden itself has not been the direct subject of major international proceedings specifically regarding the adoption or implementation of its national industrial or digital policy measures.

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<sup>25</sup> ‘WTO | Information Technology Agreement’ <[https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/inftec\\_e/inftec\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/inftec_e/inftec_e.htm)> accessed 12 August 2025.

<sup>26</sup> ‘WTO | Government Procurement - The Plurilateral Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA)’ <[https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/gproc\\_e/gp\\_gpa\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/gproc_e/gp_gpa_e.htm)> accessed 12 August 2025.

<sup>27</sup> ‘WTO JSI on E-Commerce’ <<https://dig.watch/processes/wto-ecommerce>> accessed 12 August 2025.

<sup>28</sup> ‘WTO | Trade Topics - Trade Facilitation - Background’ <[https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/tradfa\\_e/tradfatheagreement\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tradfa_e/tradfatheagreement_e.htm)> accessed 12 August 2025.

<sup>29</sup> Chinese Taipei – Measure Relating to Investments in Offshore Wind Installations. Request for Consultations by the European Union, WT/DS625/1, G/TRIMS/D/48 S/L/548, G/L/1532.