

Results strategy for Sweden's support for  
democracy, human rights and environment in

# Russia

2014 – 2018



REGERINGSKANSLIET

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Cover: Editorial Office, MFA • Printed by: Elanders Grafisk Service 2014

Article no: UD 14.052



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**Government Offices  
of Sweden**

## Results strategy for Sweden's support for democracy, human rights and environment in Russia 2014–2018

### 1. Expected results

This results strategy governs the use of funds under expenditure area 5, *International cooperation*, appropriation 1:11, item *Cooperation with Russia* in the appropriation directions for the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and item *Cooperation with Russia* in the appropriation directions for the Swedish Institute for each financial year. The strategy is to apply for the period 2014–2018 and encompasses a total of approximately SEK 360 million for the strategy period. Based on the agreed volumes for 2014, Sida is expected to manage around SEK 320 million of the strategy's total volume and the Swedish Institute about SEK 40 million.

The aim of the strategy is to support democratic development in Russia and to contribute to greater respect for human rights and a better environment in the Baltic Sea region and Northwest Russia. Against the backdrop of recent developments in Russia, priority is to be given to Area 1. Activities are expected to contribute to the following results:

#### 1. Greater respect for human rights, and strengthened democratic development and citizen participation

- Greater transparency and effectiveness, and lower levels of corruption in public administration and the judicial system.
- Greater opportunities for democratic involvement and increased participation in political processes on the part of citizens.
- Enhanced capacity among drivers of change and civil society to promote democracy, human rights and non-discrimination, etc.
- Women and men have, to a greater extent, the same power to shape society and their own lives.
- Mass media with strengthened capacity to promote transparency and public dialogue.

## 2. A better environment and limited climate impact in the Baltic Sea region

- Reduced emissions of pollutants into the Baltic Sea and its catchment area in accordance with international environmental and climate agreements.
- More energy-efficient heating and environmentally sustainable waste management.
- Increased environmental responsibility among government, local and civil society actors.

## 2. Country context

There exists a great need to work for the development and deepening of democracy and respect for human rights in Russia. Public awareness of democratic rights and freedom of expression has risen in recent years but the need for reform in Russia is still far-reaching. It is in the interest of Sweden and the rest of Europe that Russia develops into a modern and democratic state under the rule of law. Civil society plays a central role as the platform for citizen engagement in the development of society. Much work remains to be done in reducing Russia's impact on the common environment in and around the Baltic Sea.

A number of donor organisations and countries have concluded their work in Russia and access to donor funds has decreased. For this reason, Swedish support can be of relatively great importance for developments in Russia.

## 3. Activities

To achieve the strategy's results, Swedish added value in the form of experience, expertise, credibility and flexibility is to be employed. On LGBT, gender equality, democracy and other issues, cooperation has so far produced good results, not least via support to civil society. Sweden's engagement in environmental issues, including waste water treatment and discharges into the Baltic Sea, has also achieved good cross-border results.

The selection of geographical areas of action should be guided by Swedish added value and where support will yield the best results. Contributions in both results areas should concentrate primarily on Northwest Russia, i.e. on Sweden's neighbourhood, but contributions in other areas may also be relevant.

A broad spectrum of actors in partner countries and in Sweden should be engaged with a view to achieving good results. Modalities of cooperation and cooperation partners are to be chosen based on an assessment of what can produce the best results. Sida and the Swedish Institute are to be encouraged to identify innovative aid methods and financing mechanisms. Opportunities for contributions via multilateral organisations are also to be exploited. In the environmental field, collaboration with international financial institutions should be sought. The Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership (NDEP) may be used as a central platform for dialogue and coordination on environment and energy efficiency where the potential for reducing climate impact is considerable.

Experience from previous collaborations between government agencies, academia, business and party systems, including support via Swedish party-affiliated organisations, should be drawn on, along with Swedish civil society engagement and the promotion of a pluralist party system. Activities should continue to be conducted through these organisations. Capacity building of partner organisations should be a priority in an effort to improve, for example, cost-effectiveness and results-based management.

Anti-corruption efforts should extend to all the results areas. Major emphasis should be placed on identifying, evaluating and managing risks that may hamper the prospects of achieving results. Particular emphasis should be placed on risks associated with the political conditions for cooperation partners' ability to work for greater democracy and human rights. In the event of new or aggravating circumstances, it may be necessary to spread the risks through the choice of areas, initiatives or type of cooperation partner.

Gender equality is to be a recurrent theme and may be promoted via targeted and integrated measures and dialogue.

When selecting their contributions, Sida and the Swedish Institute should be guided by their assessment of the potential for results based on needs and the agency's specific competencies, experience and profile. Sida is to contribute to the strategy's results through contributions related to democratic processes, human rights, the media, gender equality and the environment. *The Swedish Institute* is to contribute primarily to achieving the results in Area 1, *Greater respect for human rights, and strengthened democratic development and citizen participation* through activities with various actors, such as dialogue and exchange with civil society actors, cultural practitioners, the media, educational institutions and public authorities. Dialogue between Swedish and Russian organisations should promote and support public debate about Swedish values such as gender equality, LGBT issues, and non-discrimination.

***Area 1: Greater respect for human rights, and strengthened democratic development and citizen participation***

Lower levels of corruption and greater public confidence in public authorities, including in the judicial system, are important areas where Swedish support has added value and can help to yield results through exchanges,

education and collaboration. In this context, for example, the business climate in Russia can be used as the basis for a forward-looking dialogue on the principles and functioning of the rule of law.

Sweden's contributions should support Russia's efforts to comply with international and national commitments to human rights, gender equality and non-discrimination. Contributions to increase awareness of and combat discrimination and intolerance are important. Particular attention is to be given to vulnerable and marginalised groups, such as LGBT persons and ethnic and religious minorities. Swedish support is also to help strengthen citizen participation in social processes and democracy work, focusing not least on young people.

Civil society is a key player in the process to enable Russian society to move towards greater democracy and increased respect for human rights. Swedish support should therefore help civil society in Russia to continue, maintain and further develop its capacity and sustainability. Developing methods to stimulate self-financing among civil society organisations would be beneficial.

Support may be given to independent media to encourage media diversity and the promotion of a free and open internet, as well as to other platforms for informal and transparent social dialogue.

***Area 2: A better environment and limited climate impact in the Baltic Sea region***

Major environmental and climate challenges in Russia and the Baltic Sea region persist. Sweden's environmental initiatives are primarily intended to focus on contributions that will have a direct impact on the common environment in the Baltic Sea and the Barents region. Emissions of pollutants from industries, agriculture and communities to the Baltic Sea

are a challenge demanding political attention and continued reforms. Commitments under the Baltic Sea Action Plan, as well as HELCOM (the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission – the Helsinki Commission) should be the basis for efforts to combat pollution in the Baltic Sea. Sweden is to contribute to Russia meeting these commitments and other international environmental and climate agreements.

In general, use of energy and natural resources in Russia is inefficient. In addition to contributions to sustainable public services in areas such as water and sewage, waste management, energy efficiency and renewable energy, contributions may be required to promote sustainable management of natural resources and management of hazardous substances. Contributions, which by nature have cross-border effects, are to focus primarily on Northwest Russia, with the possibility of certain contributions in other parts of the country, including the Arctic.

Dialogue with both sector actors and the Russian authorities, as well as other donors such as international financial institutions, is essential to achieving sustainable results. In the large-scale environment infrastructure projects, the emphasis is to be on the complementary function of support through knowledge transfer and reform experience.

#### **4. Follow-up and results analysis**

The forms of results follow-up are indicated in the Government's guidelines for results strategies within Sweden's international aid. According to these guidelines, indicators should be established by the relevant government agencies.

The annual report and the in-depth report due towards the end of the strategy period are to be produced separately for the activities of Sida and the Swedish Institute.

In addition to the annual consultations, Sida and the Swedish Institute are to engage in an ongoing dialogue on the implementation of the strategy with the Government Offices (Ministry for Foreign Affairs) and the relevant missions abroad. Decisions on measures against Russia within the EU framework, including restrictions on bilateral and regional cooperation, should be taken into account when designing new contributions.