

INtegrated Spatial PlannIng, land use and soil management Research AcTION:



Coordination and Support Action



National results: SWEDEN

Societal challenges and needs

In Sweden, the major societal challenges are largely related to attaining a sustainable, healthy and secure living environment, including a chemically and microbiologically safe environment relating strongly to production of food and drinking water.

- The sustainability aspect is also highly related to sustainable production and consumption of food and other products, as well as to the challenges of sustainable construction in the face of rapid urbanisation.
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation are important challenges. Discussions in the Stakeholder Workshop concluded that this challenge ought to be considered an important “stand alone”-challenge, but also a component under most other challenges.
- Urbanisation/urban areas have significant impacts on soil/land resources due to soil sealing and as centres of consumption, generation of waste, flow of matter/chemicals and energy.

These challenges are highly related to one another. Yet there is also the problem of conflicts of interests and goal conflicts between the different challenges and measures to address these. It was suggested that the goal conflicts in themselves are an important societal challenge, for which there is a need of research on how to deal with them.

Topics / research needs to be included in the SRA

- SE-1 Climate change effects on surface and ground water and ground conditions (mitigation and adaptation)
- SE-2 Safe and sustainable (drinking) water supply from water source to tap
- SE-3 Ensure efficient use of natural resources
- SE-4 How to reach sustainable urbanization?
- SE-5 Sustainable agriculture and food production
- SE-6 Sustainable forestry
- SE-7 Management of contaminated land, groundwater and sediments
- SE-8 Biodiversity and ecosystem services
- SE-9 Communication and implementation: Societal reach and impact

Experiences regarding the connection of science to policy and practice

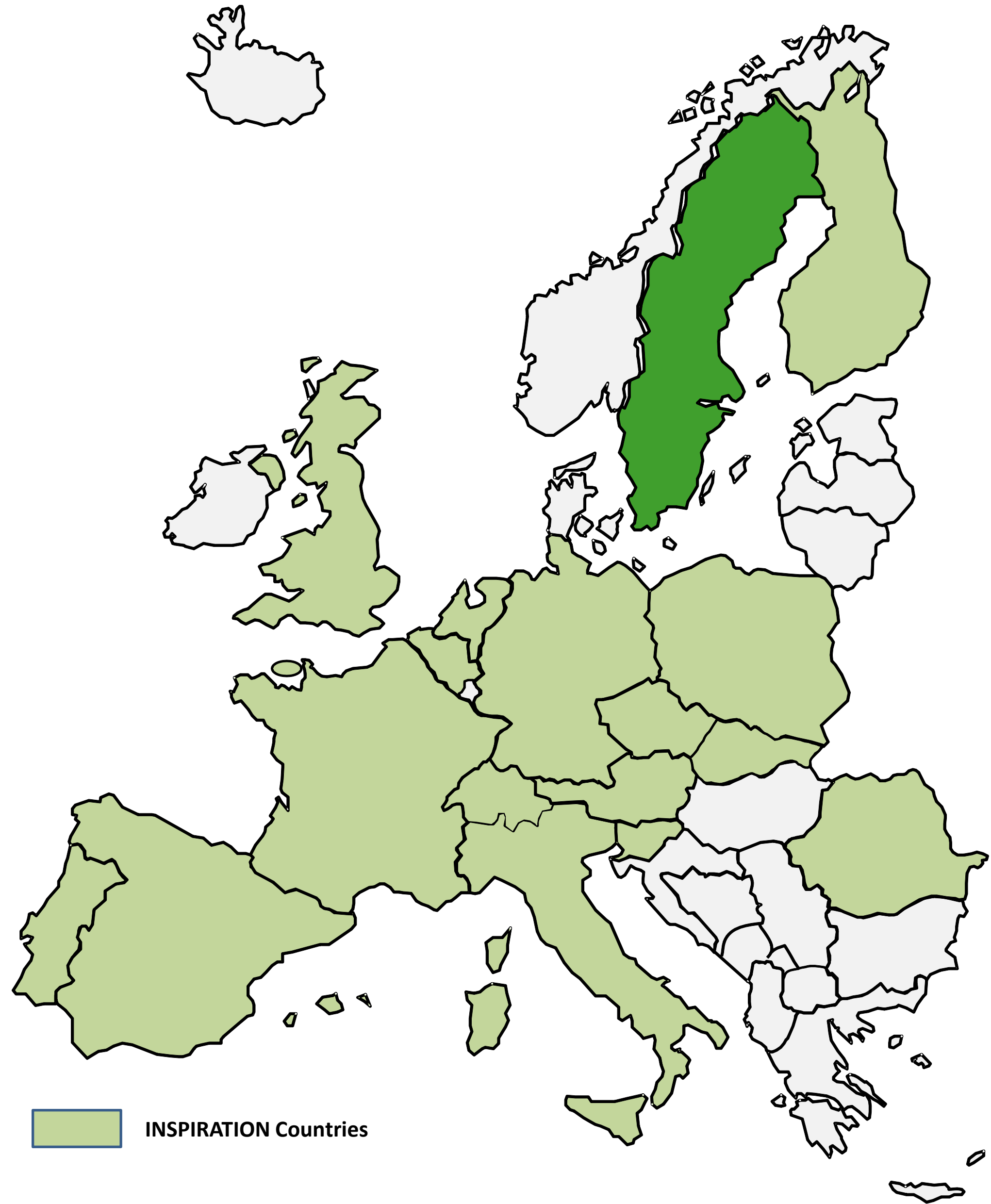
- Efforts are ongoing in Sweden for addressing societal challenges in various research areas and R&I agendas. Swedish financiers are working to find ways to substantially increase the impacts and benefits of research to society.
- The science-policy-practice interface can also be facilitated if research programmes promote on-going collaboration between universities and institutions, but also between researchers and various societal stakeholders (governmental authorities at all levels, industry, SMEs, industry associations, etc.).
- Targeted calls based on societal reach and communication could be appropriate and important tools to ensure societal relevance.
- Providing “measurements” and indicators of societal relevance and impact is increasingly in demand by stakeholders. Societal “reach” may be a proxy for potential impact based on the extent to which research involves relevant stakeholders and communicates its results to end-users, the academic community and branch organizations.

National and transnational funding schemes

- Swedish research funders agree that a trans-disciplinary approach and a good mix of stakeholders in research projects will continue to be important. Yet, additional platforms are needed for this. It is important that the different disciplines understand one another and this may demand more time and effort in applying for funding.
- More research on the connections between knowledge and its use in planning and policy are needed. Steering and governance of these issues are important, as well as how processes can be made more efficient and stakeholders can be better mobilized in planning processes

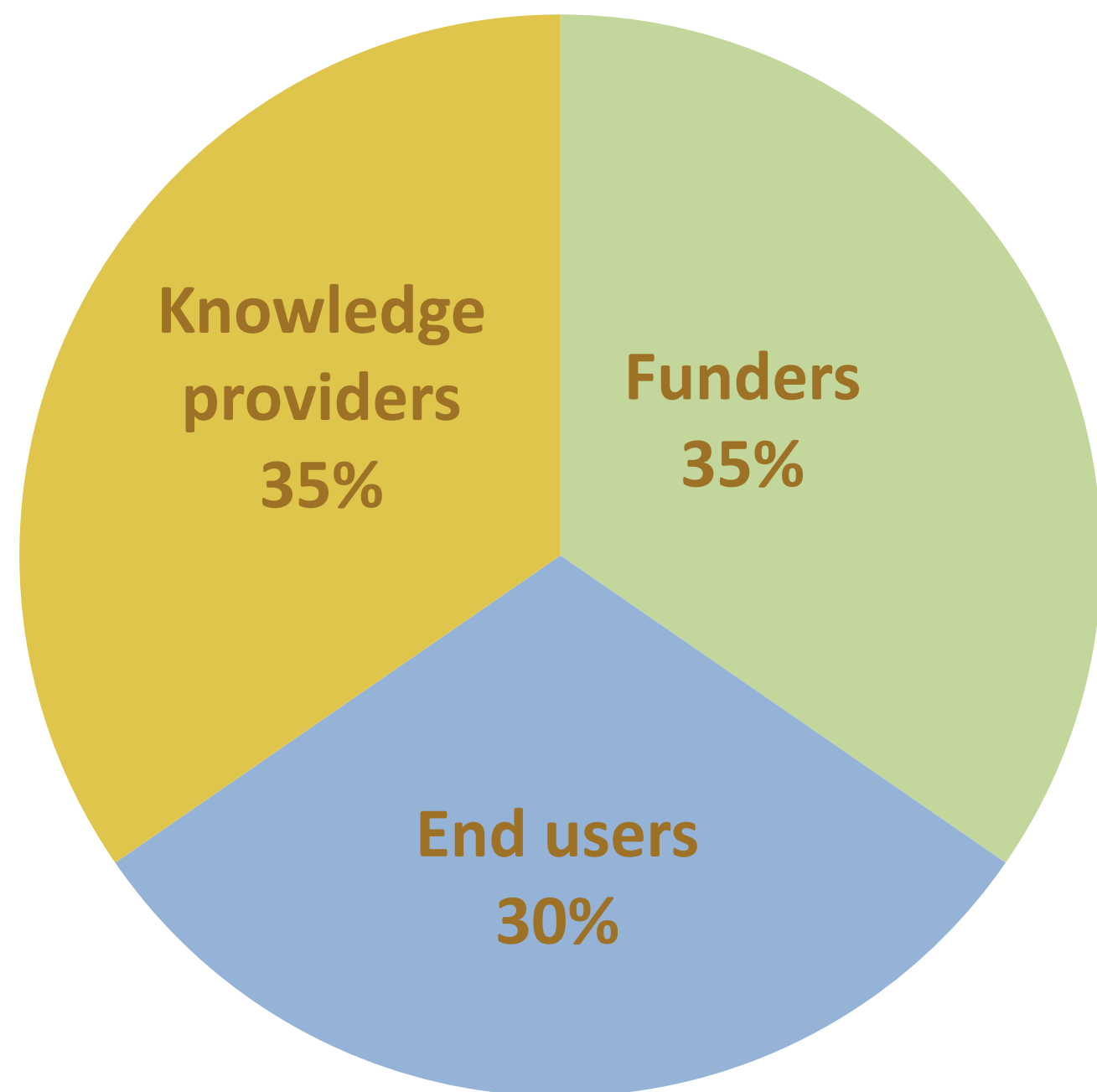
A key message from Sweden:

- Trans-disciplinary and societally relevant research is important in Sweden. Also important is a focus on how R&I can help Sweden reach its national environmental goals and achieve a sustainable, healthy and secure human and natural environment.



Background of Swedish Key Stakeholders

- In total, 18 expert interviews were conducted.
- 18 experts participated in the national workshop in Stockholm on 14th January 2016.



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