VÄRMLAND COUNTY, SWEDEN

RESPONSIBLE PARTNER:
Värmland County
Administrative Board (VCAB)

ADVISORY PARTNER:
Karlstad University (KaU)
Facts and figures (general)

- 276,000 inhabitants
- Karlstad (90,000 inhabitants)
- 17,586 square kilometer
- North Middle Sweden
- Elementary school 11.7%
  Gymnasium 52.1%
  University 34.1%
- Innovation investment: No numbers but ex. 15-20 million euros within The Academy for Smart Specialisation (KaU, Region Värmland, Structural Funds)
- Innovativeness; low in Värmland (Follower) compare to rest of Sweden, but Sweden high internationally
Facts and figures (economy)

- GDP 74,2/100 Euro per employee (2014)
- GDP 31,2/100 Euro per capita (2014)
- 6,5 % unemployed (16-64 years old, 2016)
- Export: 1020 Companies (2015)
- Import: 2647 Companies (2015)
- 99 % SME’s

**NOTE:** Many inhabitants in Värmland works in Norway, so therefore numbers in statistics are not showing the right picture.
Economic key sectors

- Lots of forest; pulp and paper industries
- Paper and packaging industries (ex. Stora Enso, BillerudKorsnäs, Tetra Pak, Metso Paper)
- Steel and Engineering (ex. Uddeholm Tooling)
- ICT
- Tourism Industry
Facilities

• Karlstad University, Ingesund School of Music
• Brobygrafiska (packaging design)
• Cluster organisations
• Karlstad Airport, Railway, Lake Vänern
• County Council, Experio Lab
• Museum, Opera, Art, Storytelling
• Innovation Park
• Academy for Smart Specialisation
Challenges regarding internationalisation

Explain why the project is important for your region and what do you expect from it

• To improve the usage of existing resources and raise the capacity for reaching new international markets for SME in a strategic way.

• Improve policy instrument – ERDF North Middle Sweden

• Connecting people, within the region and with other regions in Europe.