



The Swedish land package – Sweden is ready for a seamless relocation of EMA

Since December 2016, the Swedish Government together with regional stakeholders have been working intensively in order to set up an extraordinary land package for the European Medicines Agency (EMA). Our strength is that we can assure a seamless transition for the EMA and its staff, in the midst of a world-leading scientific environment with life science collaborations between health care, the academic sector and industry.

Presented below are the main reasons why the EMA should relocate to Sweden.

1. Identified location in Stockholm

Sweden has options for the headquarters of the EMA in Hagastaden, Stockholm. The construction of the two alternative blocks are well underway and the venues are well-embedded in the life science centre, neighbouring Karolinska Institutet, one of the most renowned medical universities in the world, as well as the Science for Life Laboratory (SciLifeLab), an elite research centre for molecular biosciences. The high concentration of academic researchers and students as well as over 90 life science companies in Hagastaden provide an international atmosphere to the area, with access to people with great insight in the latest scientific advances.

The location is also endowed with internationally well recognized ICT and mobile technologies, which is beneficial to the Swedish life science sector and would make it particularly well equipped to provide assistance as regards the IT requirements of the Agency.

2. Top class research environment

Some of Europe's best researchers call Stockholm-Uppsala home and the region's five universities their second address. These bright talents conduct research within biomedicine, pharmacology, human health sciences and regulatory science. This cluster also includes three university hospitals, providing high-quality healthcare and research. The region is particularly strong in research fields such as cancer, infectious diseases, inflammation, and molecular science.

Sweden is also known for its high-quality clinical trials, biobanks and registers. One of Europe's largest and most modern animal hospitals, the National Veterinary Institute, is located in the region.

3. Smooth transition for the staff and their families

The Swedish Government already has an organisation in place to guarantee that relocating EMA employees and their families as smoothly as possible. The following are some of the services that Sweden will provide:

- A housing provision service. The construction of new housing units in Stockholm-Uppsala is growing swiftly. In 2016, over 30 000 new units were built and in 2017 that figure will surpass 34 000 units. Hence, there is the possibility for EMA staff to get settled near their workplace.
- A one stop shop will be established in order to guide EMA employees and their families through the administrative processes necessary for them to get settled, including a specifically developed mobile phone application.
- A programme for the spouses and partners of EMA staff is being prepared, creating networking and competence development opportunities for those wishing to find employment in Sweden and/or looking for social contacts.
- Karolinska Institutet as well as Uppsala University can offer adjunct positions to scientists in research groups at the Institute. Those adjunct positions are at different levels – professors, associate professors, post doctorates, etc. This will provide access to the infrastructure available at the universities and can be offered to staff employed by the EMA as well as their spouses.

4. The Swedish Medical Products Agency, an asset for EU27

Since its start in 1995, the Swedish Medical Products Agency (MPA) has been and still is one of the most active partners of the EMA, with broad in-house competence in all therapeutic areas. It is a valuable commodity and will allow for the continuity of the EMA's work.

A smooth transition is vital to the integrity and efficiency of the EMA's mission, working to improve the health situation of individual citizens or patients.

5. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) is already well established in Stockholm. Close geographical proximity of the ECDC and the EMA would contribute to synergy effects and facilitate the agencies' collaboration, for example in fields such as vaccines and antimicrobial resistance (AMR). A relocation of EMA to Sweden may therefore help strengthen Europe's defences against international health threats. In Sweden, there is substantial experience of work against AMR, which stems from active and successful work against antibiotic resistance for several decades.

6. Stockholm is easy to access

The location proposed as the new headquarters of the EMA is within easy reach of two international airports. Arlanda airport and Bromma airport can both be reached from Hagastaden in less than a half hour. The airports of Skavsta and Västerås complement the region's infrastructure when it comes to air traffic.

7. Plentiful accommodation

The region of Stockholm-Uppsala is equipped with over 34 000 hotel rooms at different price levels. Over 1 000 hotel rooms (around 900 of which are four star standard) will be available in Hagastaden, and the neighbouring districts offer additional hospitality capacity within walking distance.

8. Europe's best public transport system

Hagastaden, as all of Stockholm, benefits from Europe's best public transport system and is linked to the city centre by subway, commuter trains and buses, together with excellent walkways and bike lanes.

9. International schools and universities

In order to match the needs of the EMA staff and their families, the Swedish Government is preparing an application to the Office of the Secretary-General of the European Schools for an accredited European school in Stockholm. In addition, there are also over 40 schools, from pre-schools to upper secondary schools, with an international profile in Stockholm-Uppsala. At the majority of those schools, the language of instruction is English, although international schools with German, French, Spanish and Dutch also operate in the region. A total of 1115 bachelor and master programmes are currently available in English at Swedish universities or university colleges.

Sweden's higher education system and commitment to research has been ranked in the top five in an international perspective. Both Stockholm University and Uppsala University climbed in the Academic Ranking of World Universities in 2016. According to the Times Higher Education World University Ranking, the Karolinska Institute is the premier university in the EU, not including the UK.

10. Sweden – a modern, tolerant and open society

Last but not least, Sweden offers safe and excellent working and living conditions in an open and tolerant society. English is widely spoken in Sweden, which has one of the world's highest English speaking proficiency scores. The country is technologically advanced, economically successful and committed to sustainability. Sweden is a model for stability, freedom of expression and equality, backed by a comprehensive welfare state.

For more information please visit our websites; www.government.se/ema and www.ematosweden.eu