



City Innovation Snapshot UMEÅ, Sweden

Overview

- ▶ **Mayor:** Hans Lindberg
- ▶ **Term:** 2018–2022
- ▶ **Innovation Lead:** Johan Gammelgard; Peter Juneblad; Malin Lagervall
- ▶ **Population size:** 129 000 (2019)
- ▶ **Innovation / open data website:**
www.innovationbyumea.se

What is the organisational structure?

Umeå has both an **innovation department at the City Manager's office** and several innovation-related teams in different departments. The city has **15 staff** working on building innovation capacity.

Staff skills and profiles include:

- Project Manager
- Data Scientist
- Strategic Communications / Marketing
- Engineer
- Sociologist
- Community Engagement



Spotlight | Gendered Landscape Tour

The gendered landscape tour creatively showcases the municipality's efforts in transforming Umeå while simultaneously addressing gender inequality. The tour demonstrates successful transformations in physical urban planning where gender perspective is incorporated, while also addressing a range of other gender issues in the city. With Umeå as a starting point, the guided bus tour highlights the gendered power structures throughout the built environment, and how they can be understood and transformed. This innovative method is the first of its kind in Europe and was awarded the URBACT Good practice label in 2017.

What is the city's innovation vision?

Like 50% of cities surveyed, Umeå has no **formal innovation strategy**.

The city most closely associates innovation capacity with:

- **Behavioural economics, nudging**
- **Human-centred design**

What is the city's innovation approach?

Similar to more than half of cities surveyed, Umeå approaches innovation capacity **both from a holistic / macro level and in specific policy areas**.

The top two priority policy areas for the city's innovation work are:

Environment /
climate change

Economic
Development

What innovation partnerships exist?

Umeå has developed partnerships to **promote innovation capacity** with other public agencies, private firms, not-for-profit organisations, city residents/resident associations as well as other international partners and cities.

To **improve data use**, the city has also developed data partnerships with the private sector, academia and think tanks, to collect and analyse data, as well as with other cities.



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What funding is available?

Like 81% of cities surveyed, Umeå has dedicated funding to support innovation capacity, which comes from the following sources:

- **International/multilateral institution budget**
- **Higher levels of government**
- **Municipal budget** (city council approved funds / operating budget / special funding process)
- **External (non-public) funding** (private resources)
- **Non-financial: staff on loan, other in-kind contributions**

Umeå's funding for innovation capacity is generally directed towards **training staff and building capacity, generating ideas and brainstorming, investing in digital systems and physical infrastructure, paying for third-party services and enhancing citizens' participation and dialogue.**



How is innovation helping the city?

- ✓ **Anticipating and managing future challenges**
- ✓ **Gaining efficiency within the public sector**
- ✓ **Improving resident outcomes**

The most critical success factors in supporting the city's innovation work are **dedicated funding, a dedicated innovation team, a culture of innovation within the municipal administration, engagement with partners, support from the broader community and leadership from the Mayor.**



How is data used?

Data plays a **significant role** in the decision-making and innovation efforts in Umeå. The city currently **uses data to align its budget process with its strategic priorities.** Challenges preventing the use of data to support innovation goals include **insufficient staff capacity to collect and analyse data, lack of reliable data and limited compatibility of data across policy areas.**

Umeå **publishes open data to a central, public online location and provides clear how-to guidance to help residents access and use city data.**



How are outcomes measured?

Policy areas **with sufficient data** or **without sufficient data** to support innovation capacity in the city.

Transport / Mobility	Economic Development	Housing	Policing and Law Enforcement	Health
Government Finance	Waste and Sewage	Labour Market and Skills	Environment and Climate Change	Education
Culture	Social Inclusion, Equity	Public Works	Tourism	Digital Governance