



# LEGALINK

INTERNATIONAL BUT PERSONAL

## FIVE ADVANTAGES OF DOING BUSINESS IN...

FOR PRIVATE CLIENTS  
AND CORPORATE ENTITIES





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# SWEDEN

## HELLSTRÖM

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### **High-ranking**

Sweden is continuously ranked as one of the best countries for business in the world. In the year of 2017 Forbes ranked Sweden as the number one best country in the world for business. Forbes graded Sweden as the best of 139 countries on 11 factors: property rights, innovation, taxes, technology, corruption, freedom (personal, trade and monetary), red tape, investor protection and stock market performance.

### **Stable and competitive economy**

Sweden's strong public finances, sound banking system, political stability and well-performing economy make it a robust place to run a business.

The World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report 2017-18 placed Sweden among the top 10 in the world, beating larger EU nations like the UK, France and Spain. In the latest edition of the Global Competitiveness Index Sweden is also the highest-performing of the Nordics, placing ahead of Finland, Norway, Denmark and Iceland.

According to the report, Sweden is among the top 10 for having an image abroad that encourages business development. In general, there is a strong correlation between a country's overall competitiveness ranking and its international image as a place to do business.

The Swedish corporate tax rate is low by international standards and is solely based on a company's annual profit. The corporate tax rate of 22 percent is lower than the EU average, beating countries such as the United Kingdom, Finland and Germany.

### **Access to the European Union and Nordic market**

Sweden joined the European Union already in 1995. As part of the Union, Sweden provides access to a market of 28 countries and 510 million consumers.

As the largest market in Scandinavia, Sweden is the ideal location for centralised construction operations in Northern Europe. For its size, Sweden is one of the world's biggest beneficiaries of foreign investment.

The Nordiceconomies are among the countries in the Western World with the best macroeconomic performance in the recent ten years. Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland are in the top 10 largest economies in the world, with a high level of purchasing power.

**SWEDEN** | HELLSTRÖM**Innovation**

The Innovation Union Scoreboard 2017, an index published by the European Commission, ranks Sweden as the leading EU country for innovation. Reasons for this include a historic tradition of inventors, a commitment to gender equality and a strong belief in the individual. Close collaboration between research institutes and the private and public sectors is another key factor, setting the foundation for global Swedish companies like AstraZeneca, Ericsson and Volvo.

Sweden has an impressive track record as a leading provider of innovative solutions and products in a wide range of industries on a global scale. The ability to work interdisciplinary and link research environments with companies and academia makes Sweden particularly suited for delivering results. The Swedish culture is open and receptive to new ideas and technologies.

**Outstanding life quality**

Sweden performs very well in many measures of well-being relative to most other countries in the Better Life Index. Sweden ranks above the average in all dimensions: environmental quality, civic engagement, education and skills, work-life balance, health status, subjective well-being, income and wealth, jobs and earnings, housing, personal safety, and social connections.

With the well-developed health care system and free education, Sweden has the best social welfare in the world. You can enjoy free education in some of the world's best universities. In comparison with other developed countries, Sweden is the biggest spender on the social welfare sector in relation to its GDP.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in Sweden is 82 years, two years higher than the OECD average of 80 years.

Concerning the public sphere, there is a strong sense of community and high levels of civic participation in Sweden, where 92% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in time of need, more than the OECD average of 89%.

In general, Swedes are more satisfied with their lives than the OECD average.

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