In terms of area Sweden is one of the largest countries in Europe, but in terms of population (about 9 million) it is a relatively small country. Due to this low Population density, Sweden can utilize the land and Resources in a Sustainable manner. Another major factor which seems to correlate with its sustainable development is Sweden’s policy of neutrality which has made it almost impossible to join military alliances: to this day, Sweden is not a member of NATO.

Sweden’s Economic system, famously called “The Swedish Model”, should also be taken into consideration as it lead to economic Development in the 70’s which eventually lead to Sustainable Development. The basis for this system is the equal distribution of wealth among the citizens.

Sweden’s sustainable development effort has given rise to institutional changes. Sustainable development was adopted in 2003 as an overall objective of Government policy. Since January 2005 the Division for Sustainable Development at the Ministry of Environment has been responsible for coordinating Sustainable Development by identifying the factors in different departments which may contribute to sustainable development.

The Government considers sustainability assessment as an important instrument for sustainable development. Therefore, for each challenge objectives and measures were defined and corresponding indicators were selected. The strategy will be monitored and evaluated using this set of indicators.

In the national SDS a set of 87 indicators for sustainable development was formulated on the basis of work by Statistic Sweden. Twelve indicators are selected as headline indicators, which are then broken down into six different areas. These areas are: health, sustainable consumption and production, economic development, social cohesion, environment and climate and global development. The headline indicators are: average life expectancy, violence, energy efficiency, investments, employment rate, public debt, growth, risk of poverty, demographic support ratio, greenhouse gases, hazardous substances and development assistance.