

Business Plan 2022

The board of directors of the Swedish Securities Markets Association¹ decided at the meeting held 29 November 2021 that the SSMA will have particular focus on the following areas and tasks during the 2022 operating year.

In addition to these, the SSMA monitors and addresses several other areas and issues at both the overall policy level and the detailed level. The SSMA also has a number of key ongoing tasks, partnerships and remits, which are outlined below.

The SSMA works in many areas and with numerous issues at the Swedish, Nordic and European levels and regularly interacts with Swedish and European policymakers and competent authorities to advocate in matters important to SSMA members.

1. Special focus areas and focus issues in 2022

Based on what is known about the areas and issues that are expected to be on the agenda and relevant during the year, the board of directors has decided that the following areas and issues will be **special focus areas** and **focus issues** for the SSMA during the 2022 operating year.

Special focus areas

1.1 The Equity Market *New*

Issues pertaining to the structure and function of the equity market, as well as trust in the market, are fundamentally important to the SSMA. There are numerous trends and phenomena that are affecting or could affect the equity market. Some of these are related to current developments and the current structure of the market, while others are of a more fundamental and structural nature. In addition, some are of somewhat more recent date, while others have been discussed for several years.

Alongside various ongoing issues during the year, the SSMA will be addressing issues including a future consolidated tape and market data, marketplace trading systems and regulations and market structure in Sweden and the EU.

1.2 The Corporate Bond Market *Focus Issue 2021*

The corporate bond market is essential to supplying capital to business and to the real economy as a whole. The SSMA has been working in this area for several years with regard to issues including market function and transparency. The SSMA also supports standard terms and conditions generally used in the Swedish corporate bond market.

Alongside various ongoing issues, the SSMA will continue its involvement in the issue of the transparency and function of the corporate bond market, in which context we recognise the importance of shedding light on the roles and responsibilities of various market participants, and will conduct a follow-up study regarding the SSMA's recommendations for transparency in the bond market.

¹ In this document, "Swedish Securities Markets Association" and "SSMA" refer to *Föreningen Svensk Värdepappersmarknad* (an economic association) and its subsidiary, *Svensk Värdepappersmarknad Service AB*.

Moreover, the effort is ongoing to update the SSMA's standard terms and conditions for corporate bonds and address issues that have emerged ahead of and in connection with this review.

1.3 The Money and Bond Markets *New*

The money and bond markets play a key role as a source of short-term and long-term financing for the state, local authorities, businesses and banks. In this way, the market enhances the opportunities of public and private market participants to operate and further develop their organisations. Conversely, the markets fill an important function for investors seeking to invest a portion of their savings or liquidity in bonds and money market instruments.

Alongside various ongoing issues, the SSMA will continue its involvement in discussions of the future interbank market, market functioning and matters related to SWESTR (the Swedish krona Short Term Rate) and other reference rates.

1.4 Post-Trade *Focus Issue 2021*

The financial infrastructure and related issues are of vital importance to the SSMA and its members. The SSMA provides a member forum for internal discussions and dialogue with relevant external stakeholders. The SSMA participates in committees and working groups where post-trade issues relevant to SSMA members are discussed.

Alongside various ongoing issues during the year, the SSMA will analyse and address issues related to the review of regulations on securities settlement and central securities depositories. The SSMA is also actively involved in the effort to harmonise post-trade processing with the standards applied in the EU. In addition, the SSMA will continue to engage with its members and relevant external parties in relation to the implications and consequences of Swedish affiliation with T2S.

Special focus issues

1.5 Sustainable Financing *Focus Issue 2021*

Sustainability and matters related to ESG (environmental, social and governance) are high on the agenda of the financial market, as they are in other segments of society. The SSMA focuses on issues related to the securities market, but will also be in contact with other ESG issues. The SSMA seeks to raise the level of knowledge surrounding the sustainable securities market while monitoring regulatory developments and discussing and addressing relevant issues.

Alongside various ongoing issues during the year, the SSMA will monitor and address issues related to green bonds, providing sustainability information to clients, sustainability reporting and ESG analysis, and issues related to suitability assessment and product governance in MiFID II.

1.6 Continuity and Information Security *Key Issue 2021*

The SSMA has been working for several years with issues related to continuity and information security, which involves both infrastructure readiness at the macro level as well as micro-level issues. The SSMA plays a key role in cooperation among its members in this area. The secretariat also engages in active dialogue with other relevant market participants and social actors.

Alongside various ongoing issues and partnerships during the year, the SSMA will be working with issues related to continuity and information security and will, in that connection, participate in a comprehensive exercise with other market participants and competent authorities.

1.7 Market Monitoring and Market Abuse *New*

The SSMA works on an ongoing basis with issues related to market monitoring and market abuse, including those related to short selling, flagging and insider dealing. Discussions are taking place in this context on issues including the interpretation and application of relevant regulations, new legal cases and decisions by competent authorities, as well as monitoring of the markets.

Alongside various ongoing issues during the year, the SSMA will discuss and deal with the review of sections of the EU Market Abuse Regulation and engage in dialogue with the government ministries and authorities involved.

1.8 MiFID II/MiFIR Review *Focus Issue 2021*

Issues pertaining to MiFID/MiFIR are of crucial importance to SSMA members. The SSMA plays a key role through initial and ongoing advocacy and consultation efforts as well as through implementation and interpretation of the regulations with SSMA members.

Alongside various ongoing issues during the year, the SSMA will be discussing and addressing the review of the rules on market structure in MiFID II and MiFIR, both within the SSMA and in partnerships at the Nordic and European level. The pertinent issues include consolidated tape, market data, transparency rules and best execution.

1.9 Diversity *Key Issue 2021*

There are numerous and complex components to diversity, which include but also extend far beyond the securities market. The issues that the SSMA is working with include the challenge of attracting and retaining women and people of diverse backgrounds in the industry.

Alongside various ongoing issues during the year, the SSMA will highlight issues and research on diversity while taking lessons learnt in other countries into account, both independently and in partnership with other stakeholders, as well as actively supporting networking with particular focus on women in the financial market.

1.10 Strategy for Retail Investors *New*

The EU Commission's Retail Investment Strategy is aimed at adapting several regulations to the needs and profile of retail investors. Several different areas and issues that are important to SSMA members are addressed within the framework of the strategy.

Alongside various ongoing issues during the year, the SSMA will address and discuss proposals on new and amended EU legislation oriented towards retail investors, with particular focus on investor protection rules in MiFID II and PRIIPs.

2. Key Ongoing Tasks

Alongside its work with the focus areas and focus issues outlined above, the SSMA has several key ongoing tasks, partnerships and remits.

2.1 Economic Monitoring and Analysis *Key Issue 2021*

In terms of scope and development, the Swedish securities market stands up well in comparison to other markets in the EU. Information about the market at the macro- and micro-levels is valuable to the SSMA's advocacy work and is a regular basis of discussion in the working groups.

The SSMA will be working during the year to disseminate information about the securities market to both SSMA members and relevant external recipients.

2.2 Supporting Implementation of New Regulations *Focus Issue 2021*

The SSMA runs about 50 working groups that address everything from broad policy issues to more specific implementation issues. The discussions within the working groups constitute key support in connection with implementing regulations that are important to SSMA members.

Several central regulations will be negotiated, reviewed and implemented during the operating year. The SSMA will provide forums during the year at which relevant issues can be discussed among the members, but also with policymakers and competent authorities at the national and European levels.

2.3 Communication *Key Issue 2021*

In the last operating year, the SSMA has changed its name, launched a new logo and website and prepared a communication strategy under the direction of a head of communications employed jointly by the SSMA and SwedSec.

During the operating year, the SSMA will be working actively to increase the scope and quality of internal and external communications.

2.3 Self-regulation

During the year, the SSMA will continue its ongoing efforts to update the SSMA's self-regulation with a view to ensuring that it is current and relevant to SSMA members.

3 Partnerships and Associations

The SSMA partners with other associations and organisations on an ongoing basis and interacts regularly with policymakers, competent authorities and other external stakeholders in Sweden and abroad.

3.1 Partnerships and Engagement in Sweden

The SSMA has been collaborating with other industry associations in Sweden for several years. These partnerships are effective and highly valuable.

3.2 Partnerships and Engagement in the Nordics *Key Issue 2021*

The SSMA collaborates with equivalent associations in Denmark, Finland and Norway within the framework of the Nordic Securities Association, with particular focus on advocacy within the EU.

3.3 Partnerships and Engagement at the EU level *Key Issue 2021*

The SSMA has maintained active engagement with EU institutions in Brussels and the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) in Paris.

The SSMA participates in various partnerships at the EU level and SSMA staff participate regularly in meetings, conferences and working groups that address financial market issues within the EU.

3.4 International Partnerships and Engagement

The SSMA collaborates with other industry associations internationally within the framework of the International Council of Securities Associations.

Comparison of the business plans for 2021 and 2022

Compared to the preceding operating year, the *Capital Markets Union* or *CMU* is no longer a separate focus area, but certain sub-issues within *CMU* are still addressed within the framework of *The Equity Market*, *MiFID II/MiFIR Review* and *Retail Investment Strategy*. In addition, the previous focus area *Supporting Implementation of New Regulations* has been moved to *Key Ongoing Tasks*.

Within the category of *Key Issues 2021*, *Brexit* has been dropped, but certain issues related to the UK are still addressed within the framework of *The Equity market* and *Post-Trade*. Furthermore, *Economic Monitoring and analysis* has been moved to the *Key Ongoing Tasks* category, while issues related to *Stockholm as a Financial Market* are still addressed in other categories, including *Economic Monitoring and Analysis* and *Communication*.