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EU funding for City Move Interdesign in Gellivare

The European Union's regional structural funds programme has granted the Swedish Industrial Design Foundation (SVID) SEK 2.9 million for its City Move Interdesign project.

City Move Interdesign is Sweden's most spectacular design workshop. It will be held in Gellivare in March-April 2009 and deal with the question of how to relocate a community. For two weeks designers, architects, urban planners, researchers and artists from around the world will gather to work with concrete and visionary solutions for a major global problem – that people must relocate for one reason or another. This problem is extremely obvious in the regional municipality of Gellivare, where a deep iron ore mine in the centre of the town of Malmberget is undermining the ground and local residents are being forced to move.

The purpose of City Move Interdesign is to contribute to a positive community transformation which focuses on people's individual and collective needs and possibilities. Due to climate changes and population growth, the situation in Malmberget and Gellivare is also occurring in a number of international contexts. One aim of the workshop is to collect expert knowledge and experience that can benefit other people. There are plans to create an international knowledge centre in Gellivare as a base for this.

The regional structural funds programme focuses on innovation, renewal and accessibility. The intention is for the funding to contribute to increased growth and balanced regional development throughout the country.

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The Swedish Industrial Design Foundation (SVID) is an independent foundation which works with increasing public awareness, projects and competency development, and providing advice. SVID works throughout Sweden from its own regional offices and partner offices together with a range of local players. SVID also supports educational and research efforts in the field of design to increase knowledge about design.