

# Research on the quality, organisation and processes of welfare 2017

Forte, the Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare now announces a call for proposals for a specific initiative on research into the quality, organisation and processes of welfare. The call aims at providing a scientifically substantiated knowledge base for the organisation and management of health care and social services.

Applications are made in a one-step process. The applications should to be written in English as they will be assessed by international experts.

Only **one** research application is permitted per project leader. It is possible to apply for funding within this call even if you have applied with the same or similar application in this year's open call for proposals for project grants.

**The deadline for applications is the 29<sup>th</sup> of August 2017 at 14:00 CET.**

## Introduction

In the 2016 research proposal, the Swedish Government identified a need for increased knowledge about how work practices, processes, management and organisation can promote evidence-based and innovative health and social services from a national, regional and local perspective. The profession and employees, local residents, patients, users and relatives all have important skills and experiences that need to be taken into account in the development of operations in the sector. It takes too long between the identification of research results and their application and for new opportunities for efficiency to be realised, for example, through digitization. Professionalisation in management and participation is of great importance in this area.

Health and social services are important parts of the Swedish welfare sector. They are complex and sophisticated service producing industries. The operations of this sector are based on goals, legislative requirements and other relevant regulations such as those regarding quality and efficiency. The democratic governance of health and social services takes place at all levels - local, regional and national. Management of operations in this sector is a balance between centralised governance to achieve equal and high-quality care across the country and allowing space for the autonomy of municipal governments.

## Focus area

This funding initiative is made in the light of the ongoing discussion about new forms of governance in the welfare sector and the identified need to develop them. Within the framework of the funding initiative, grants will be awarded to projects that develop local and regional systems for managing quality, organisation and processes. Financed projects will be implemented taking into account ongoing work on the development of operational management in the welfare sector. In particular, investigating the prerequisites for trust-based management, knowledge-based

management, and the acquisition of employees and patients/users' skills and experiences. Management in this context refers to the entire chain from political directives and goals to how the organisation is designed and run and then followed up through evaluation. The research will contribute both to system-critical analysis and constructive development.

The call for proposals relates to the financing of three-year projects. The research will be carried out in close collaboration with authorities, profession and users in the welfare sector.

Key areas identified by Forte include:

- How political governance is translated and adapted to local and regional contexts
- How operational management can be designed to take into account both trust and the need for measurement and follow-up
- Roles in the management of quality, organisation and processes of welfare

Applications may combine multiple areas from a cross-disciplinary or multidisciplinary perspective. Alternative and innovative approaches are also welcomed. Aspects on equality between gender and social position should be taken into account.

The call for proposals is the first step in a specific initiative from the Swedish Government's 2016 research proposal. Forte will announce further calls for proposals within the framework of this funding initiative. Financed projects are expected to participate in joint activities for collaboration and dissemination.

## Eligibility

Eligible applicants must have defended their doctoral thesis by the deadline for submission of the application.

Applicants must have submitted the final report of all previously awarded grants no later than the 29<sup>th</sup> of August 2017 to qualify. Applicants who have outstanding final reports will not be taken into consideration. This applies only to earlier grants for which the deadline for the final report has passed. Consideration is given to extensions of disposal time and postponed deadlines for final reporting.

## Processing

The applications are assessed by a special review panel, to which international researchers and representatives of the public interest have been appointed.

Assessments of the full applications are based on:

- The scientific quality of the project (originality, theoretical framework and relationship to previous research within the area)
- The purpose, research questions, methods, study design and data material of the project

- The scientific significance of the expected results
- The research competence of the project leader and the research group
- The account of previous own research in this area, if applicable
- The costs of personnel and budget according to reasonableness
- The relevance of the project in relation to society's requirements and to Forte's areas of responsibility
- The project's gender- and diversity perspective
- The project's plans for knowledge dissemination activities within and outside the scientific community
- The project's plans for collaboration with organisations and representatives for relevant sectors, authorities, users or other actors

## Budget Framework

Within this call, it is possible to apply for a sum between 0.5 and 2 MSEK per year, for a maximum duration of three years.

## Guidelines for applications to Forte where parts of the research will be undertaken abroad

1. Forte welcomes international research cooperation. Forte's areas of responsibility include complex societal challenges and international research cooperation can contribute significantly to delivering solutions and opening up new perspectives.
2. Forte's research grants may be used to fund projects where part of the research is carried out outside of Sweden. However, the research abroad has either to be initiated and led from Sweden or be a clearly distinguished part of a collaborative project.
3. Applications including international cooperation are assessed using the same criteria as other applications in our scientific panels.
4. When reviewing research applications which include research carried out abroad, the evaluators in Forte's evaluation panels are asked to assess if the international part of the project brings added value to the project or constitutes a prerequisite in a global project or in a comparative study.
5. It is the responsibility of the main applicant to obtain information from her or his Administrative organisation regarding their policy on research funding abroad, and to find suitable forms for international collaboration in each specific case.
6. The Swedish administrative organisation, i.e. the home institution of the Swedish main applicant, is responsible for, and decides on, any employment of staff located abroad and/or payment for work carried out abroad.

## Transfer of project information to SweCRIS

Information regarding research projects supported by Forte is transferred to the Swedish Research Council for publication in SweCRIS, a national database commissioned by the Swedish government containing information on grant-funded research. [Go to the SweCRIS website](#)

## Apply for grant in Prisma

All applications are submitted in the application and evaluation system Prisma.

Conditions to be able to submit your application:

- You need a personal account in Prisma
- All participating researchers in an application must have a personal account in Prisma
- All CV and publication details for applicants and participating researchers are stored on the respective researcher's personal account
- Your university or higher educational institution must have an organisational account in Prisma

Please ensure that the above conditions are in place in good time before the application deadline.

## Time plan

**29<sup>th</sup> of August 2017 at  
14:00 CET**

– Deadline for submitting your application

**October/November**

– Decisions on which applications that will be approved will be taken by the Forte board