

The five different areas in the call

Programme grants for research on Ageing, Demography and Health

The growing share of elderly in the population is a challenge for Sweden as for many other countries. This development has ramifications for the welfare system that must be addressed by welfare policy. The decreasing share of the working population calls for new solutions in health care, working life, social security and welfare systems.

The ageing population presents a challenge for the health care system and the care of elderly, as more people will live longer with impairments and ill health. Achievements in research and technological development have led to health improvements, but there is still a need for more knowledge in all areas related to ageing, demography and health. Relevant research can affect several of Forte's research areas of health, working life and welfare.

Examples of urgent research areas:

- Demographic research that can contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the changes in the population structure.
- Research concerning how the welfare system can address the challenges presented by a growing number of people living longer with impairments and ill health, and that are dependent on a decreasing share of the working population.
- Research that can promote active and healthy ageing for women and men. The area may include questions concerning healthy ageing and active participation in society, as well as research on elderly people's health status and need for care.
- Research on how the care services can best be organised to meet the varying needs of elderly people and to support their independence and autonomy over everyday life. The area can include research on new and efficient measures for care, different forms of housing and welfare technology.

Programme grants for research on Transformations and Challenges concerning Working Life and Labour Market

Research on working life comprises one of Forte's key areas. Current research funding encapsulates the complete scale from analysis of the function and regulation of the labour market through questions concerning management and organisation in light of digitalisation, new professions and demographical transformations; to the working environment from a physical, as well as social and psycho-social approach. It is vital to increase our understanding of the functions of the Swedish labour market and the risks associated with physical and psycho-social working environments. Important topics also relate to organisation and management in order to promote a sustainable working life at all levels of society – employees, employers, and entrepreneurs alike.

Forte's support in research on working life can be divided into three main categories – working environment, work organisation and the labour market. During the past year, Forte, through a series of roundtable discussions, has identified the need for knowledge in each of these areas. In addition, an international evaluation has shown a strong need for reinforcement of research environments. This includes increased opportunities for recruitment and career development so that the regeneration of qualified researchers in the area is secured.

Areas of concern identified by Forte include:

- Labour market transformations, especially the effects of digitalisation, migration and globalization.
- Organisation and management of labour, as well as power relations, diversity and autonomy.
- Entry into the labor market and pertaining difficulties particularly for young people and newly arrived migrants, as well as withdrawal from the labor market, and opportunities for a prolonged working life.
- The psycho-social working environment, and especially working environments in female-dominated sectors.

Programme grants for research on Alcohol, Narcotics, Doping, Tobacco and Gambling

Use of alcohol and tobacco accounts for a large part of the burden of disease in the community. Drug use also has significant adverse effects, as well as doping and gambling. The social consequences of over-consumption are widespread. Whilst each of these substances or behaviours has very different effects, they all have in common that they are addictive, and partly through similar mechanisms. They also all affect behaviour influenced by both psychological and social factors, and the prevalence of use and harmful effects are greatly affected by the policies and regulations in each area.

Research on alcohol and other drugs is a coordination area of Forte and Forte also has a government mandate to contribute to interdisciplinary research throughout the alcohol, drugs, doping, tobacco and gambling (ANDTG) area. Research questions related to ANDTG are relevant for all three of Forte's areas of responsibility of health, working life and welfare.

Areas of concern identified by Forte include:

- Knowledge of short and long term health effects for various substances / behaviours, at-risk groups for harmful effects of ANDTG, the possibilities for preventive interventions at individual and community levels, as well as treatment.
- In the area of working life, research may focus on the incidence of problems related to ANDTG in the workplace, the prevalence of policies and how these can be implemented, as well as opportunities to prevent and treat problems.
- In the area of welfare, social services play an important role in prevention and treatment. Better knowledge of the methods used, both at the population level and individual level, is required.
- Research on various social policy measures to prevent the harmful effects of ANDTG, and regulation is required. This may include both intervention studies and efficacy studies of implemented changes in legislation and regulations.

We prefer that the programme includes research on several areas within the ANDTG sector from an interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary perspective, and shows the analysis or interventions of relevance to several of the areas. This is because we know that many have different dependencies, and the mechanisms for various forms of addictions have common characteristics.

Programme grants for research on Migration and Integration

Questions about migration and integration long been important for society and the welfare system. For several years, Forte has been responsible for the coordination of the International Migration and Ethnical Relations (IMER) area. During the last year the refugee situation has come to be one of our major societal challenges, which raises the need for more research on how, for example, education and labour markets can be designed and developed to meet the needs and utilise the skills of a more diverse ethnic population or how the tendencies toward discrimination, racism and segregation can be countered.

The lower employment rate among immigrants, especially from outside Europe, compared to the non-migrant population places demands on the education system and the labour market to create conditions for better integration. Better knowledge is required about the reception of asylum seekers and how it can be improved. Reception and integration of unaccompanied minors is a particular challenge.

Research on migration and integration is highly relevant to all Fortes areas of health, working life and welfare.

Examples of urgent research areas:

- Research about the effects of migration on the economy and labour market, as well as how different parts of society can and should change to become a more ethnically diverse population.
- Research on the integration of migrants, which may include education, housing, employment and other key societal areas and the reception and integration of unaccompanied refugee minors.
- Research on the reception system for asylum seekers and how reception and integration can be improved.
- Research on attitudes and views on migration and ethnic relations, and how discrimination and racism can be countered.

Programme grants for research on Equal Living Conditions

A pillar of the welfare state is that people from different backgrounds have the same opportunities to develop and for participation in society based on their conditions. The gaps between different groups, based on socio-economic background, gender, and ethnicity are large and, in some respects, growing. More knowledge and research is required on how inequality is generated and maintained, and how inequality can be counteracted. Equal conditions must be maintained both generally in society and in the various welfare sectors, that is. equality in access to education, health care, labour etc.

Research on equal living conditions can affect several of Forte's research areas of health, working life and welfare.

Areas of concern identified by Forte include:

- Research on the social causes and consequences of inequality in individuals through the life cycle and across generations, in groups and in the population in general.
- Research on how inequality is generated and can be prevented in various sectors, such as employment, education and health care.

Research on how inequality can be reduced either by intervention studies in specific areas or evaluation and analysis of completed programs or opera