

# Call for proposals for research on rehabilitation after sick leave 2016

## Focus area

The call for proposals will contribute to knowledge on effective methods of treatment and rehabilitation of people on sick leave due to mental illnesses and conditions such as depression, anxiety and stress leave, or unspecified chronic pain in the neck, back, arms and shoulders. The research program will improve the evidence-based body of knowledge. Therefore, projects funded by this grant should be of such scientific quality and be designed in a way that aligns with the scientific assessment methods of the Swedish Agency for Health Technology Assessment and Assessment of Social Services (SBU). Read more at <http://www.sbu.se/en/method/>.

The purpose of the call is to support projects that improve the implementation and utilisation of research results in practical treatment and rehabilitation work. Projects must include collaboration between county councils and employer organisations, workplaces or Arbetsförmedlingen, the Swedish Public Employment Service.

**The deadline for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at 17.00 CET.**

## Background

The most common causes of long-term sick leave are unspecified chronic pain in the neck, back, arms and shoulders as well as mental illnesses and conditions such as depression, anxiety and stress. During 2009-2011, the Swedish Government allocated funds for practical research in the research programme “Rehabilitering i samverkan” (Rehsam). The purpose of the programme was to increase knowledge about which methods of healthcare and rehabilitation promote a return to work.

In 2014, Forte conducted an evaluation of the Rehsam programme. An important conclusion was that multimodal interventions, including interventions in the workplace, are more effective in promoting a return to work than individual operations or usual treatments for back problems and pain. However, the evaluation identified that it is not known which specific interventions are most effective, exactly when they should be applied and when they are expected to give the best results.

Furthermore, the evaluation showed that the majority of outcome measures and data used in the studies differed, making it difficult to compare results. Försäkringskassan, the Swedish Government's social security agency, was therefore commissioned to develop proposals on outcome measures and data to effectively measure return to work.

In 2016, Forte, in collaboration with the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SKL) and Försäkringskassan, was commissioned by the Ministry of Social Affairs to conduct a call for proposals to support research on which rehabilitation actions and interventions lead to a return to work after mental illness or musculoskeletal pain. To ensure that the results of the research projects are consistent and comparable, the outcome measures and data sources for return to work as developed by Försäkringskassan are to be used.

## Eligibility

The principal applicant of the grant must be a project leader at a Swedish county or region in collaboration with researchers at universities, and preferably also other counties or regions. The collaboration between universities and counties/regions should be described in the application. County councils/regions that are not registered in the application system Prisma will need to create an organisational account.

The project leader must hold a doctorate by the time the application is submitted.

Applicants must have submitted the final report of all previously awarded grants no later than the 18th October 2016 to qualify. Applicants who have outstanding final reports will not be taken into consideration. This applies only to earlier grants when the deadline for the final report has passed. Consideration is given to extensions of disposition time and postponed deadlines for final reporting.

## Practical information

All CV and publication details for applicants and participating researchers are stored on the respective researcher's personal account in Prisma.

The application can be made in English or Swedish. The summary must be provided in both English and Swedish.

## Processing

Applications are assessed by a specially appointed review panel composed of Swedish and Nordic researchers, as well as public interest representatives.

## Assessment criteria

Assessments and prioritising is based on:

- The scientific quality of the project:
  - Originality, theoretical approach and relationship to previous research in the area.
  - The purpose, research questions, methods and study design including outcome variables and statistical analysis.

- The relevance of the project in relation to the focus areas of the call for proposals.
- The project's relevance for application in the health care, rehabilitation and employment sectors.
- The project's gender and diversity perspective.
- The project's planned knowledge dissemination activities.
- The project's plans for collaboration with employers or the Swedish Public Employment Service, Arbetsförmedlingen.

The collaboration format between county councils and universities must be included in the application. See "Instructions for the Prisma application form" for more information.

## Limitations on publications

Applications for programme grants are limited to 10 publications per applicant and co-applicant. They can be added to the page "Publications" in the application form. In addition a selection of a maximum of 10 references from the programme group, which are relevant for the application, can be added to the field "References for the programme..." in the application form, as well as the bibliography of the programme description.

## Open access

Researchers who have received funding from Forte must publish their results with open access. [Read more about open access.](#)

## Transfer of project information to SweCRIS

Information regarding research projects supported by Forte is transferred to SweCRIS, a national database commissioned by the Swedish Government containing information on grant-funded research. [Read more about SweCRIS.](#)