

Research on functional impairment 2018

The call intends to contribute to increased knowledge within Forte's areas of responsibility, [health, working life and welfare](#), and aims to finance research within these fields. A total of around 50 MSEK is due for the years 2019 to 2022.

The deadline for submitting an application is 15 November 2018, at 2 PM CET.

Focus area

This call for proposals shall contribute to increasing the knowledge in Forte's areas of responsibility (health, working life and welfare) and be directed towards financing research in these areas. In particular, it shall contribute to increased and deeper knowledge of obstacles to, and solutions for, improving the increased participation of people with disabilities in society.

The research shall be high quality, highly relevance and, preferably, interdisciplinary. Intersectional perspectives and factors such as gender, ethnicity and the perceptions of children should be considered in the project description. The research should be planned in collaboration with the relevant target groups (e.g. interested professions, users and organisations of people with disabilities). Young researchers are especially encouraged to apply.

Of particular interest is research that leads to increased knowledge of:

- methods and measures for increasing the participation and active citizenship of people with disabilities
- ways of implementing and monitoring the UN's Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CPRD)
- understanding the various mechanisms that, in various contexts, lead to the exclusion and inequality of people with disabilities
- innovative use of new technology and development of new methods in the public sector
- challenges and obstacles in connection with digitisation and technical development
- comparative research
- success factors for increased inclusion in various areas of a society.
- children and elderly people with disabilities and understanding of different conditions in different phases of life

At the end of this document we provide brief descriptions of a few of the above example areas. Please note that these are just examples. We welcome all applications considered to fall within the framework of this call for proposals.

Conditions to apply

All applications are submitted in the application and evaluation system [Prisma](#). Please ensure that the following conditions are in place in good time before the application deadline:

- 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 HEI must have an organisational account in Prisma

Applicants must have submitted the final report of all previously awarded grants no later than the 15 November 2018 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.

Grant types

Three types of grants are offered within this call for proposals. Terms, grant amounts and eligibility requirements for each type of grant are described under the headings below.

A maximum of one application per grant type and project leader is allowed. If you submit applications for several grant types, the applications may not relate to the same project. If you apply for a junior researcher grant but do not obtain this, your application will be considered for a three-year research project instead, without you having to take any further action.

! *Note that the maximum amounts below include so-called indirect costs. Applications exceeding the specified maximum amount will not be processed.*

Project grant

Project grants within this call will be granted for two or three years. All researchers who have obtained at least a PhD may apply for project grants.

- **Grant amount:** Up to SEK 5 000 000 for a three-year project. Up to SEK 3 000 000 for a two-year project.
- **Eligibility:** As a project manager you must have obtained a PhD no later than 15 November 2018.

Junior researcher grant

The junior researcher grant is a project grant aimed at junior researchers. The grant covers four years and is intended to cover at least 40 % of the researchers salary.

- **Grant amount:** Up to SEK 5 000 000 for the first three years. The fourth year has a fixed amount of SEK 1 000 000.
- **Eligibility:** You are eligible to apply for a junior researcher grant within this call if you obtained a PhD sometime between 1 January 2013 and 15 November 2018.

If you obtained a PhD before 1 January 2013, you may deduct time for parental leave or military services. Please see the instructions for deductible time on page 5 in this document.

Postdoc grant

The purpose of the postdoc grants is to give recently graduated researchers the possibility to continue their research career after obtaining their PhD. The receiver of a postdoc grant is allowed to develop his or her research freely within the area determined in the research plan. As an applicant of a postdoc grant, you cannot invite any participating researchers. The grant covers two years is supposed to cover a full-time salary.

Forte incentivises mobility, therefore we encourage that the postdoc period is spent at a different Higher Education Institute (HEI) or department than where the PhD studies were carried out. Forte also welcomes time spent abroad during the postdoc period. However, the grant should be administered by a Swedish university or equivalent.

- **Grant amount:** SEK 1 000 000 per year
- **Eligibility:** You are eligible to apply for a postdoc grant within this call if you obtained a PhD sometime between the 1 January 2016 and the 15 November 2018. The subject of the applicant's PhD thesis as well as the planned research project should fall within Forte's areas of responsibility.

If you obtained a PhD before 1 January 2016, you may deduct time for parental leave or military services. Please see the instructions for deductible time on page 5 in this document.

Processing

The applications are assessed by an international review panel, to which researchers and representatives of the public interest have been appointed. The review panel can request statements from external auditors as needed.

Assessment criteria

Scientific quality of the research project:

- The purpose, background, research questions, theories, relation to previous research in the area, identified research needs and the originality of the project
- Interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach of the project
- The project`s study design, methods and data material
- The project`s gender and diversity perspective in the content of the research

Societal relevance and utilisation:

- The project's relevance for Forte's area of responsibility and societal needs
- Engagement with users of research during the research process
- Utilisation and communication of research results

Feasibility of the planned research project:

- Quality of the work plan
- The project leader and research group's competence for carrying out the planned research
- Account of any previous own research in the area
- Staff and budget, assessed based on reasonableness
- Collaboration with relevant professions, users and relatives

Gender mainstreaming

Forte is commissioned by the Swedish Government to implement gender mainstreaming in all of our activities and processes. Among other things, we are to promote sex and gender perspectives in the research we fund. We therefore request applicants to describe how gender or diversity perspectives are relevant for their research projects. Diversity is included to promote a broader equality perspective as well.

With our funding, Forte should also promote gender equality in the research community. Through a systematic assessment process, we will ensure that applicants are not favoured based on their sex or other factors. Forte also asks applicants to provide a description of the gender distribution in the project group.

[Read more about how Forte works for gender mainstreaming \(in Swedish\)](#)

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

- 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.

- 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.
- Applications including international cooperation are assessed using the same criteria as other applications in our scientific panels.
- 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.
- It is the responsibility of the main applicant to obtain information from her or his administrating organisation regarding their policy on research funding abroad, and to find suitable forms for international collaboration in each specific case.
- The Swedish administrating 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.

Deductible time

For deductible time, such as parental leave or military service, Forte requires a certificate. The certificate should be sent as an attachment to forte@forte.se by 22 november 2018. In the email, the reference number ('diarienummer') of your application should be clearly stated (the reference number is obtained in Prisma after the deadline of the call has passed, your application should therefore have a reference number on the morning of 16 November). Concerning parental leave, the certificate should be from Försäkringskassan, in exceptional cases where this is not possible please send a certificate from your employee. It is important that you, in your project description also state that you have deductible time and that a certificate is sent in separately.

Open access

The results from research funded by Forte must be freely accessible (open access). Forte provides SEK 30 000 in extra funding for granted research projects for open access publishing.

[Forte's policy on open access](#)

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. More information can be found on the [SweCRIS website](#).

Time plan

15 November 2018, 2 PM CET	Deadline for the submission of applications
March 2019	Forte's board decides which applications will receive funding
No earlier than April 2019	Project start

Short description of example areas

Please notice that these are examples of areas. All applications relating to research that are considered to be within the scope of this call are welcome.

Interaction between individual and environment

Disability is the result of the interaction between people with disabilities and societal, environmental and attitudinal obstacles. The term “person with impairment” is intended to describe an individual’s functional abilities. Accessibility (e.g. to the physical environment, information, communication and all types of services) is essential if people with disabilities are to be able to live independently and participate fully and equally in society. A central principle in avoiding the creation of new barriers is “universal design”. Meaning that buildings and services are designed in a way that as far as possible, this latter takes into account the various needs and abilities of different people. Stereotypic perceptions and prejudices lead to negative images of the abilities and capacities of people with disabilities. They also prevent or impede access to, for example, working life.

Active citizenship

Active citizenship involves the possibility of active participation in society and the avoidance of exclusion. This entails: a certain degree of financial and social security; being able to define own needs and preferences so that own life choices can be made; having influence in important societal issues; and, being able to influence decisions on personal issues. Working life is a central arena for bringing about social citizenship. The same can also be said of the welfare system’s various initiatives in the form of rights and obligations. As regards participation, access (to buildings products, services, societal functions, culture and leisure facilities and much else) is also a central aspect. Active citizenship further requires: legislation and other initiatives that combat discrimination; and, adapting of various societal functions so that there are accessible and usable to all.

The Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (CRPD)

This convention stipulates that people with disabilities should have the opportunity to enjoy equal rights, points at the obstacles to this and how they can be overcome. The CRPD spans all areas of life. It stretches from the stating of principles (e.g. accessibility, equality, participation and self-determination) to the setting out of detailed requirements regarding how particular rights are to be guaranteed.

In 2017, the CRPD was identified as a guide for Sweden’s disability policy. Research is a central instrument in implementing the rights in the Disabilities Convention. Research generates the knowledge necessary for an understanding of how best to overcome the obstacles people with disabilities encounter in seeking to enjoy their human rights. CRPD is also a guide for the sort of research that is necessary at any given time. Comparing the span of the areas and problems covered by the Disabilities Convention with the scope of Swedish research, it is clear that research focused on adapting the individual to society is

greatly overrepresented at the expense of research focused on how society at large should be adapted to better include people with disabilities.

With this in mind, the present call for proposals will prioritise research that primarily focuses on the relationships between individuals and their environment rather than on the individual's "functional level". The call will also prioritise research applications that clearly show: how they contribute to the implementation of the CRPD in Sweden; and, how the Disabilities Convention will be meaningfully integrated into the research project. Bearing in mind that the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is to become Swedish law and that it explicitly regulates the human rights of children with disabilities, applications that have a child perspective and are firmly rooted in implementing both the CRPD and the CRC will be accorded precedence.

Work and education for people with intellectual disabilities

For people who have intellectual disabilities and are both able and keen to work, the labour market is not sufficiently accessible. The goal that everyone, regardless of abilities, should be included is not as prominent in the work context as it is in many other social arenas. Consequently, employment promotion support needs to go beyond simply trying to adapt or to train individuals.

To successfully increase the proportion of people who have intellectual disabilities and are in work, factors at several levels (and the interactions between these) need to be addressed. Article 27 of the UN's Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Sweden's Ministry for Foreign Affairs, 2008) emphasises the right of people with disabilities to work on the same terms as other citizens. The CRPD highlights that, for people with disabilities who want to work (there being no exception for people with intellectual disabilities), the state shall promote guaranteeing of the rights to work and to work experience in the open labour market. Achieving this requires significant, new, research-based knowledge and initiatives in the future.

Technology and digitisation as forces for societal change

In line with digitisation increasingly pervading every facet of society, it is opportune to see how digitisation and emerging technologies can be used and structured for use by all people, regardless of functional abilities and positions in society. Practically all societal bodies are affected by the growth of digitisation. Education, work, care (medical and health), leisure, opinion shaping and communication are just a few examples of areas greatly affected by this. Emerging technologies such as AI, VR, AR and *internet of things* can create both new barriers and new opportunities. Knowledge of how the emerging technologies may affect the situation of people with disabilities needs to increase. People with various impairments also need to be able to participate in and influence this development.

Barriers and opportunities may be encountered at overall levels (e.g. policies and regulations). However, various practices and activities are also relevant for the creation of accessible societies that are sustainable in the long term. There needs to be more

knowledge about how such development is affecting the opportunities for the inclusion of people with various disabilities and of people in other vulnerable groups.

Important areas for study could be:

- Design and design processes (including how vulnerable groups can participate more in the design of products, services and systems).
- Digitisation as a force for societal change and inclusion (both generally and in more specific contexts).
- Policy, standardisation and implementation.
- Monitoring and evaluation.
- Operations' ability to benefit from digitisation.