

Challenges in Working Life 2019

More information about the call

Forte has been commissioned by the Government to conduct a national research programme for research on working life. The research shall contribute to addressing the challenges of working life by generating and disseminating new knowledge.

A total of SEK 200 million has been allocated for the call to the period 2019–2024. The specified budget level applies provided that the Swedish parliament (the Riksdag) decides to allocate funds to Forte for the programme on working life research, in accordance with the parliament's decision concerning the Research and Innovation Bill *Knowledge in collaboration* (Govt. Bill 2016/17:50).

The deadline for applications is 14 February 2019 at 14:00.

Background

There are major changes and challenges facing today's working life. Goods and services move across national borders, as do labour and financial resources. Larger cities offer more jobs at the expense of other regions. This creates increased tensions in a country's socioeconomic and demographic composition.

Other factors that impact on the development of future working life include:

- Globalisation processes impact on the conditions for working life, both at individual workplaces and society as a whole. The same is true for structural changes which are in part dependent on society's technological development and increasing digitalisation.
- Increasing digitalisation changes the conditions for organising work.
- Migratory flows impact individual countries both positively and negatively. How well a country succeeds with its integration is crucial as well as the ability to provide jobs.
- Demographic changes have an impact on the possibilities for sustainable labour participation.
- Climate change and environmental degradation will affect the migratory flows in the future but will also create space for the emergence of new industries.

Focus

Forte has prioritised challenges where the need for knowledge is great but where the extent of current research is insufficient. Applications within this call are to focus on one or several of the following challenges:

- Adapting working life to demographic changes and creating conditions for sustainable labour force participation
- Increasing the inclusion of under-represented groups in the labour market, with a focus on the workplace and the role of employers
- Improving the prerequisites and conditions for organising and undertaking work considering different forms of employment
- Reducing the occurrence of intimidation, violence and harassment in the workplace

[Read more about the prioritised challenges here.](#)

The application can relate to both basic research and applied research. Forte encourages practice-oriented workplace research.

Eligibility

You are eligible to apply for all grant types offered within this call if you have completed a doctoral degree no later than the date of the call closing.

Grant types

Within this call for proposals, it is possible to apply for three different types of grants:

- *The programme grant* for building research environments
- *The project grant* for specific studies of a certain research topic
- *The network grant* with international connectivity to promote cooperation and internationalisation.

The terms and conditions, grant length and grant amount for each type of grant can be found under the respective headings below.

Limitations

The same project leader (main applicant) may either submit an application for a programme grant *or* an application for a project grant within the call. It is possible to also apply for a network grant.

! *Note that the maximum amounts below include indirect costs.*

Programme grant

A programme grant is aimed at building research environments or long term strengthening and developing of existing research environments. In the application the international connectivity of the research group shall we outlined as well as the composition of the group in terms of both established and more junior researchers. The criteria specific to the call are presented below.

The plan and budget for the entire six years of the programme shall be described in the application.

- **Grant length:** The grant period applied for is six years, but the grant is initially approved for three years. The grant can then be extended by a further three years after submitting a follow-up report with a focus on the organisation, start and progression of the research and research environment.
- **Grant amount:** A maximum of SEK 18 million for the entire grant period. The annual budgeted amount is not to exceed SEK 3 million.

Project grant

A project grant is a grant for individual research projects. The application must outline the international connectivity and how the competence transfer between established and more junior researchers is to be facilitated. The criteria specific to the call are presented below.

- **Grant length:** Two to three years
- **Grant amount:** For the entire grant period, a maximum of SEK 5 million for a three-year project and a maximum of SEK 3 million for a two-year project.

Network grant

A network grant is aimed at increasing coordination between researchers from different disciplines within the themes of the call. The network should have international participation and participants from several different Swedish universities and institutions. The network is to meet regularly. Forte would like to see the network include researchers at the beginning of their research career. The criteria specific to the call are presented below.

- **Grant length:** One to two years
- **Grant amount:** For the entire grant period, a maximum of SEK 300,000 for one-year networks and a maximum of SEK 600,000 for two-year networks.

The application process

All applications are to be submitted via the [Prisma application and review system](#).

Conditions for you to be able to submit your application:

- You must create a personal account in Prisma
- Each person included in the application as a participating researcher must also create a personal account in Prisma
- CVs and details of publications by applicants and participating researchers must be saved in each applicant's/researcher's personal account
- Your university or university college must have an organisation account in Prisma

In order for your application to be considered, the final reporting for your previously approved projects must have been submitted. This only applies to grants where the deadline for final reporting has passed. Any previously granted extensions of project duration, and consequently of reporting deadlines, will be taken into account.

For more information on how to fill in the applications form, see instructions for each respective grant form on [the call's web page](#).

Processing

The applications are assessed by a scientific panel consisting of international researchers and Swedish general representatives. Funding decisions are made by Forte's board.

As the applications will be assessed by international experts, they should be written completely in English (with exceptions made for fields where text is specifically requested in Swedish). Writing your application in Swedish may have a negative impact on the quality of the assessment.

Forte's set assessment criteria for programme grants and project grants

Academic quality:

- Purpose, problem formulations, theoretical framework, background and the project's originality
- Study design, methods for data collection and analysis
- Interdisciplinary and/or multidisciplinary perspectives
- Gender and diversity perspectives in the content of the research

Relevance:

- Relevance in relation to society's needs and Forte's area of responsibility
- Collaboration with parties using the research within the research process
- Utilisation and dissemination of research results

Feasibility:

- Work plan quality
- Project manager's and research group's research expertise
- Details of any previous research in the area
- Staffing and budget, assessed on reasonability

Assessment criteria for networks

The assessment criteria indicated as specific to the call shall also be taken into account in the network to the extent that they are applicable. Otherwise, the assessment criteria are as follows:

- Relevance to the themes of the call
- Academic quality in the networks' programmes
- The expected added value for the research area and society
- The expected value of communication and cooperation within the area

Call-specific assessment criteria

The following criteria are important for fulfilling the purpose of the call and for developing the research field. To the extent applicable to the research, they are therefore to be taken into account in the application. Some of the criteria are also included in Forte's set assessment criteria, but since they are particularly important in this call, they are emphasised here.

- International cooperation. Cooperation that extends beyond the Nordic countries is especially encouraged.
- Competence transfer between less established and more established researchers. A mix of researchers in project groups will be encouraged in order to facilitate competence transfer.
- Interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches.
- Collaboration with parties representing outside interests in the research results
- Dissemination and practical application of the research

Guidelines on how Forte handles applications where part of the research is to be carried out abroad

- Forte is positive towards international research collaborations. Forte's area of responsibility covers complex societal challenges in which international research collaborations can provide important contributions.
- Forte's grants can be used to finance research where certain parts are carried out in other countries. However, the research shall be initiated and led from Sweden or be a clear part of the collaborative research.
- Applications involving international collaborations are assessed against the same criteria as other research applications and by our review panels.
- In assessing research applications, the reviewers in Forte's review panels shall assess if any foreign section of a project brings added value to a project or is a prerequisite for a project with, for example, a global or comparative approach.
- It is the principal applicant's responsibility to: find out how his or her administrating organisation stands on financing research where certain parts are carried out in other countries; and, find suitable collaboration procedures in each specific case.
- It is the grant's administrating organisation, i.e. principal applicant's home institution in Sweden, that determines and is responsible for, if necessary, appointing foreign personnel or paying for activities or services carried out in other countries.

Open access

Results from research funded by Forte shall be published with open access. [Read more about Open Access.](#)

SweCRIS

Forte transfers information of issued grants to SweCRIS, a national database on grant-funded research set up at the request of the government. [Read more about SweCRIS.](#)

Time plan

Call closes	14 February 2019, 2 PM CET
Forte's board decides on financing	May 2019
Project start	1 July 2019