

Knowledge and working methods to support ageing with equality, participation and dignity 2023

Information about the call

This call for proposals shall contribute to increasing the knowledge in the ageing research area. In total, SEK 200 million is reserved for the period 1 July 2023–June 2029.

The deadline for applications is 19 January 2023 at 14:00 local time.

Focus area

Forte has identified several major topics in the area of elderly and ageing where there is both a need for new knowledge and that existing knowledge needs to be used in practice. These areas include 1) the use of welfare technology and its consequences, 2) the care of elderly people with dementia, and 3) involuntary loneliness and mental health among the elderly. One or more of these areas may be addressed in the same application. Research needs to take into account the fact that elderly people are not a homogeneous group and that the conditions and needs of the elderly population vary.

With this call, Forte wishes to support research that contributes to both new knowledge in these areas and the development of methods and ways of working, as well as collaboration between different actors, with the aim of transforming knowledge into generally improved health and social care for the elderly in the Swedish welfare system. Forte encourages that the proposed programmes and projects have an international connection, but the research must be relevant in a Swedish context.

Since the area of elderly and aging encompasses problems that are handled in multiple sectors by different professions and affect different groups of citizens, Forte desires an interdisciplinary and/or multidisciplinary approach in the applications. For the same reason, Forte sees both a great need and good opportunities for collaboration in research to increase relevance and possibilities for utilisation. Moreover, the research should include a sex and gender perspective where applicable, and should ideally take into account Sweden's human rights commitments and the implementation of Agenda 2030 and public health policy goals. In line with this, Forte desires that the proposed research have a preventive and/or health-promoting perspective.

Welfare technology: Implementation and consequences for the elderly, their relatives and staff

More research is needed on the consequences of the use of various types of welfare technology for the elderly, their relatives and staff. For example, research may delve into new ways of working, the development of working methods, and the implementation of welfare technology. To a major extent, digital technology is helping to make the home a

new arena for health and social care. The call also includes questions about the role of welfare technology in older people's housing and lives, as well as whether and how this can promote active and healthy ageing. Questions about whether and how welfare technology affects the situation and conditions of relatives in a broad sense are also important.

As a rule, Forte does not fund technology and/or product development. In the proposed research, it must therefore be clear that any development is for research purposes and not for commercial purposes. It is permitted to apply for funding to study the effects of a development. More information about what is meant by "welfare technology" can be found on the website of the [National Board of Health and Welfare »](#)

Elderly people with dementia: organisation and methods of care and support in daily life

Dementia is a major and growing public health problem. It affects individuals and relatives, and also causes problems at the societal level. The need for knowledge remains great, both in terms of the development of nursing and social care as well as knowledge of how the situations of dementia sufferers and their relatives can be improved. Areas such as nursing, social work, treatment and support in daily life are important.

The support for people with dementia involves different professions and activities that need to collaborate. Research in the field needs to aim to strengthen competence and working methods for every stage of the disease. It is also important that people with dementia and their relatives are involved in both nursing and research. It is crucial to increase knowledge about which interventions and methods can best meet the needs of people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds. In the field, there is also a need for implementation of methods with scientific support.

Mental health of the elderly: involuntary loneliness and suicide risks

Mental health has been a high-profile area in recent years. However, knowledge gaps remain regarding mental health in older people and what interventions are effective in, for example, preventing involuntary loneliness or suicide.

Involuntary loneliness among the elderly is a known problem. Social isolation and social exclusion can entail an increased risk of both physical and mental ill health. However, there is less knowledge about how feelings of loneliness can be eliminated, as well as the consequences of loneliness in terms of ill health and mortality. More knowledge is also needed about which health promotion initiatives for older people have an effect on mental health, both at the population and individual level.

Grant types

Two types of grants are available within this call. The terms and conditions, grant limits, and eligibility requirements for each type of grant can be found below.

Please note that all grant limits are including indirect costs (OH). Applications exceeding the specified grant limit will be rejected.

Programme grants

The purpose of a programme grant is to build up or strengthen research environments for long-term knowledge building and competence development in line with the intentions described in the call. The initiative is intended to enable research groups to address new issues and process them over a longer period of time.

The grants are approved for six years.

- **Grant limit for programme grant:** Maximum SEK 24 million for six-year programmes.
- **Eligibility requirements for project grant:** To apply for a programme grant you must have received a doctoral degree no later than the date of the call closing. Participating researchers must also have received their doctoral degree no later than the date on which the call for proposals closes.

Project grants

Project grants aim to provide support to one or more researchers to carry out a limited research project in line with the intentions described in the call.

The grants are approved for three years.

- **Grant limit for project grant:** Maximum SEK 5 million for three-year projects.
- **Eligibility requirements for project grant:** To apply for a project grant you must have received a doctoral degree no later than the date of the call closing. Participating researchers must also have received their doctoral degree no later than the date on which the call for proposals closes.

Restrictions

A maximum of one application per main applicant is permitted in this call. You can choose to be the main applicant for either an application for programme grant or project grant.

The application process

All applications are to be submitted via the [Prisma application and review system](#). Before writing your application, make sure the following conditions are met:

- You have created a personal account in Prisma
- All participating researchers have created personal accounts in Prisma
- Each participating researcher has stored personal data, CV and publications on their accounts
- Your administrating organisation has an organisational account in Prisma and has been approved as an administrating organisation at Forte. [Read more about Forte's criteria for administrating organisations »](#)

In order for your application to be considered, the final reporting for any 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 out the application, see instructions for each grant form on the [call's website](#).

The review process

The applications are assessed by a review panel composed of international researchers and Swedish representatives of society. Funding decisions are made by Forte's board.

Since applications are reviewed by international experts, your application should be written in English (except for fields where Swedish is specifically requested). If the application is written in Swedish, the quality of the assessment may be compromised. Forte is not responsible for the quality of any translations.

Forte's assessment criteria

Scientific quality:

- Purpose, research questions, theoretical framework, background and originality
- Study design, methods for data collection and analysis
- Interdisciplinary and/or multidisciplinary approach
- Sex and gender perspectives in the content of the research

Relevance and utilisation:

- Relevance in relation to societal needs, Forte's areas of responsibility and the focus area of the call
- Engagement with end users
- Utilisation and communication of research results

Feasibility:

- Work plan quality
- Research competence of project leader and research group
- Account of any previous own research in the area
- Staffing and budget, assessed on reasonableness

For programme grants, the following additional criteria apply:

- The programmes should be planned and carried out in collaboration with relevant target groups and actors, such as social services, the healthcare service, relevant professions and user organisations. If applicable, the application must include an account of how collaboration will be carried out (co-creation* is encouraged), as well as previous experience with collaboration.
- The programmes should have an interdisciplinary and/or multidisciplinary approach, in order to highlight challenges from different perspectives and scientific fields. If applicable, the applications should include interdisciplinary collaboration between at

least two research groups with a complementary focus, and it must be stated how the programme's cross-disciplinary collaboration creates added value.

- To enable competence transfer in the programme, the research group should consist of both established and more junior researchers.

** In co-creative research, stakeholders should be actively involved in all or part of the process, from identifying problems to jointly seeking solutions and disseminating knowledge about them.*

For project grants, the following additional criteria apply:

- The projects should be planned and implemented in collaboration with relevant target groups and actors, such as social services, the healthcare service, relevant professions and user organisations. If applicable, the application must include an account of how collaboration will be carried out (co-creation* is encouraged), as well as previous experience with collaboration.

** In co-creative research, stakeholders should be actively involved in all or part of the process, from identifying problems to jointly seeking solutions and disseminating knowledge about them.*

Guiding questions

Applications will be assessed based on the respective assessment criteria, which are in turn based on guiding questions. The guiding questions are presented below.

Scientific quality

- Has the applicant described the need for the research? Is the scientific question(s) described based on existing research, and how will the project expand on existing research?
- Are the project's research questions well described and well founded?
- Are the central concepts well defined and theoretically coherent?
- Is the methodological approach the best suited to answer the project's research questions based on given conditions?
- Is the project's methodology well described and well founded? Have potential problems/pitfalls been taken into account in the methodology or research process, and how they can be handled? Is the handling of potential biases described during the research process and the processing of results?
- Is the project original? Does the project have the potential to significantly advance the research area? For example, are theories, data and methods used in an innovative way to approach the scientific issue?
- Does the project have an interdisciplinary and/or multidisciplinary approach, if this is relevant?
- How is the programme's interdisciplinary and/or multidisciplinary approach justified and described? Does the application include collaboration between at least two researchers with complementary disciplines?? orientations? Is it clear how the programme's interdisciplinary collaboration creates added value?

- Are there sex and gender perspectives in the content of the research, if this is applicable?

Relevance, utilisation and collaboration

- Has it been made sure that the research questions are relevant to Forte's field of research and the focus area of the call? Is the proposed research relevant in a Swedish context?
- Is the project relevant to policy and/or practice, and in what way have the applicants demonstrated this (beyond the fact that more knowledge may be important)?
- Is there a clear plan for how the research results are to be utilised, both within policy and/or practice and academia?
- Is there a clear plan for how the research results are to be communicated, both within policy and/or practice and academia?
- Have all the important perspectives relevant to the research project been included? What are the various perspectives intended to contribute? Is the choice of perspective explained?
- If relevant, how and in which parts of the research process (study design, data collection, analysis, interpretation, dissemination and implementation) does collaboration/co-production with relevant stakeholders take place? Is the choice of collaborative partners justified? Are there clear roles and mandates for possible collaboration/co-production with relevant stakeholders?
- Are there documents that support collaboration/co-creation (for example in the form of a "letter of intent")?

Feasibility

- Is the project's timetable, planning and budget realistic and appropriate?
- Is the design and choice of approach adequate for the project's conduction and expected results?
- Are adequate resources available for the research project, including supervision and possible equipment?
- Are materials, methods, models, and, if applicable, patient and/or user cohorts sufficient and well adapted to the hypothesis or the scientific questions?
- How strong are the applicants' qualifications and competence in relation to the research area and previous research environment?
- Do the applicants have sufficient experience, expertise, independence and scientific networks to carry out the programme/project? Is there an account of previous experience of collaboration?
- For programs: How is competence transfer between established and more junior researchers ensured?

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. [Read more about how Forte assesses applications where parts of the research are to be conducted abroad »](#)

Guidelines for publication with Open Access

By accepting grants from Forte, you as a project leader also accepts Forte's guidelines for publication with Open Access, which requires that all publication are made with open access. [Read more about Forte's guidelines for publishing with open access »](#)

Forte does not cover costs for Open Access publication within the framework of individual research grants. Therefore, costs for such publications should not be applied for. In the Swedish context there are several agreements for publication which mean that no direct costs for the project should arise, if the organisation to which the article author belongs to is covered by the agreement. Such publications are prepaid by the organisations through the agreements. The universities' libraries normally provide support regarding these issues. In cases where costs for Open Access publishing are included in the application, these will be deducted from the budget.

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 »](#)

Questions and answers about applying for grants from Forte

Forte has compiled the most frequently asked questions and answers regarding the application process. [Read more about Questions and answers about applying for grants from Forte »](#)

Time plan

The call opens: 18 October 2022 10:00 CET

The call closes: 19 January 2023 14:00 CET

Forte's board decides on funding: June 2023

Decisions are published: June 2023

Project start: 1 July 2023

Contact information

For questions regarding the call or how to fill in the application, please contact: aldreutlysningen@forte.se