

Preventive and health-promoting interventions within the target areas of the public health policy 2023

Information about the call

This call for proposals for programme grants shall build or strengthen research environments for long-term knowledge production, competence development, and contribute increased knowledge regarding health promoting and preventive interventions in the field of public health. In total, SEK 230 million is reserved for the period 2023-2029.

The deadline for applications is March 2 at 14:00.

Focus area

Forte has been commissioned by the Swedish Government to implement a special effort on research within prevention and public health. The initiative ties in with the public health policy framework adopted by the Swedish Parliament. The framework consists of an overarching, national goal and eight target areas. The overarching, national goal is to create social conditions for good and equal health for the whole population and to close the avoidable health gaps within a generation. The eight target areas are:

- Early life development
- Knowledge, skills and education
- Work, working conditions and work environment,
- Incomes and economic resources,
- Housing and neighbourhood conditions
- Health behaviours
- Control, influence and participation
- An equal and health promoting health care system

This call aims to build knowledge on promotion and prevention linked to the eight target areas in order to achieve the public health policy goal. There is a need for research on interventions that address individual target areas of public health policy or on interventions cutting across several target areas. Applications under this call may therefore focus on one or more of these areas.

The focus of the call is on how preventive and health-promoting interventions that can contribute to increased gender and health equity can be designed and implemented in practice. Research on different policy instruments to stimulate investment in prevention and health promotion may also be included, as well as research on the cost-effectiveness and socio-economic effects of prevention in the public health field. Forte would like to see

applications focusing on the public health issues such as mental health, cardiovascular disease, and cancer, but all health outcomes are welcome.

The complex interplay between people's conditions in the different target areas and the different welfare systems that manage them, often means that problems cannot be solved by intervention in one area alone but require cross-sectorial collaboration. Research under this call can therefore usefully address health promotion and prevention interventions in several different prevention arenas, such as primary care and workplaces.

Since the effort to achieve good and equal health is managed in several sectors and by different professions, and because it affects different groups of citizens, Forte would like to see an interdisciplinary and/or multi-disciplinary approach in the applications and that the applications have a systems perspective vis-a-vis the interventions being studied. For the same reason, Forte sees both a great need and good opportunities for collaboration in research to increase relevance and opportunities for utilisation. Collaboration in the research process can take different forms, but we encourage close cooperation with target groups that are affected by the research and who can bring important experiences and perspectives. Furthermore, the research must include a sex and gender perspective when appropriate. Forte encourages international links, but the research needs to be relevant in a Swedish context.

[More information about the initiative for prevention and public health in Swedish »](#)

Grant type

One type of grant is available within this call, programme grant. The terms and conditions, grant limits, and eligibility requirements for programme grants can be found below.

Only one application per grant type and main applicant is allowed. The same person may only submit one application as main applicant.

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

Programme grant

The purpose of a programme grant is to build up or strengthen research environments for long-term knowledge production 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 grant is applied for six years with programmes starting October 1, 2023 and ending September 30, 2029. The application must describe the work for all six years of the programme and state the budget for the entire period.

- **Grant limit for programme grant:** Maximum SEK 24 million for six-year programmes. The annual budgeted amount should not exceed SEK 4 million.
- **Eligibility requirements for programme 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.

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 programme grants on [the call's website](#).

The review process

The applications are assessed by a review panel composed of international researchers and Swedish society representatives. Funding decisions are made by Forte's board September 23.

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:

- 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

Call-specific assessment criteria

- The programmes should build or strengthen research environments for long-term knowledge production and competence development and contribute to increased knowledge in health promotion and prevention in the field of public health.
- 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 cross-disciplinary 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.
- Programmes should take a systems perspective to health promotion and prevention and involve multiple sectors of society when relevant.

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 programme expand on existing research?
- Are the 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 research questions based on given conditions?
- Is the 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 linked to the study process and the processing of results described?
- Is the programme original? Does the programme 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 programme 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 from complementary disciplines? Is it clear how the programme's cross-disciplinary 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 programme 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 communicated and utilised, both within policy and/or practice and academia?
- If relevant, how and in which parts of the research process (study design, data collection, analysis, interpretation, dissemination and implementation) does collaboration with relevant stakeholders take place? Is the choice of collaborative partners justified? Are roles and mandates among potential collaborators clear?
- Have all the important perspectives relevant to the programme been included? What are the various perspectives intended to contribute? Is the choice of perspective explained?
- Are there documents that support collaboration (for example in the form of a "letter of intent")?
- Does the budget include reasonable costs for collaboration, such as costs and fees to clients and users?

Feasibility

- Is the programme's time plan, planning and budget realistic and appropriate?
- Is the design and choice of approach adequate for the programme's implementation and expected results?
- Are adequate resources available for the programme, including supervision and potential 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?
- How is transfer of competence between established and more junior researchers ensured?
- Does the programme have the potential to build or strengthen research environments for long-term knowledge production and competence development?

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

- Forte is positive toward international research collaboration. Forte's areas of responsibility cover 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. The expected results must also be relevant to and possible to utilise in Swedish conditions.
- Applications involving international collaborations are assessed against the same criteria as other research applications and by the same review panels.
- In assessing research applications, the reviewers in Forte's review panels shall assess if any foreign section of a programme brings added value or is a prerequisite for example in a global or comparative approach.
- It is the main 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., the main 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.

Plan S and open access

Results from research funded by Forte shall be published with open access. [Forte's guidelines for publication with 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

The call opens: December 8, 2022 at 10:00

The call closes: March 2, 2023 at 14:00

Forte's board decides on funding: September, 2023

Decisions are published: September, 2023

Project start: October 1, 2023