

A young girl with blonde hair in two braids is shown in profile, looking through black binoculars. She is wearing a floral-patterned tank top. The background is a soft-focus green field with yellow flowers under a bright sky.

**FORTE:**

Swedish Research Council for  
Health, Working Life and Welfare

# FORTE'S VISION AND GOALS



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This document describes Forte's vision and goals which indicate the strategic focus of Forte's activities. The document is intended to guide Forte's work on setting priorities in future initiatives and forms the basis for the annual planning of activities.

Forte's vision and goals will be evaluated and adjusted as necessary.

Stockholm, January 2023

*Jonas Björck*

*Director General Forte*

*Joakim Palme*

*Chairperson Forte*



# FORTE'S MISSION

Forte's mission is to fund basic and needs-driven research and to promote knowledge development on issues relating to health, working life and welfare. The research therefore covers everything from describing and explaining various problems and phenomena to solution-focused research that contributes to specific changes and improvements in society.

Forte's areas of research include both people's living conditions and the systems that exist to support individuals and families, such as health and social care and social insurance, as well as the organisation of the labour market. Another task is to coordinate national research funding in five designated areas: children and young people, ageing, international migration and ethnic relations, disability and social science research on alcohol and narcotics.

Forte plays an important role in the Swedish research funding system by initiating and supporting research of the highest scientific quality as well as research that benefits policy and practice and that contributes to meeting societal challenges.

Many societal challenges are complex, and human health, work and welfare are intertwined and impacted by conditions in different sectors of society. Forte therefore promotes multi-disciplinary, cross-sectoral, and interdisciplinary development of knowledge, but also a sex and gender perspective in research.

Our mission also includes identifying and prioritising research needs, for example within the national research programmes we are responsible for, but also in other initiatives. This work is pursued in broad collaboration with key actors in each area. Forte's work is consistently linked to parliamentary goals and strategies, such as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the public health and gender equality policy goals.

Forte aims to act as a bridge between research, policy and practice, which we do by communicating results and insights from the research we fund, but also by encouraging dialogue, collaboration and exchange of knowledge and experience between researchers and other social actors.





## VISION

*The research that Forte funds today forms the scientific basis for the more equitable and socially sustainable society of tomorrow.*



# GOAL

## ***Forte initiates and funds research that makes a difference for society and people's lives***

Forte's mission in relation to health, working life and welfare concerns knowledge development in areas that are crucial to people's daily lives and that at the same time represent key elements of Swedish welfare. To meet society's needs for knowledge, the research Forte funds must fill important knowledge gaps. Forte therefore needs to focus continuously on ensuring that the research we initiate and fund is highly relevant so that it contributes to good health, sustainable working life and a high level of welfare for everyone in Swedish society.

### ***This goal is broken down as follows:***

- The research Forte initiates and funds is relevant to society's challenges and need for knowledge.
- Forte encourages a diversity of research and researchers by offering various types of calls for proposals and types of grants.
- Forte's assessment processes are developed to ensure relevance and impact of the research.
- Forte's activities contribute to greater collaboration and communication between research and society at large to bridge the gap between research, policy and practice.
- The results of the research funded by Forte have an impact and contribute to addressing societal challenges.



# GOAL

## ***Forte initiates and funds research of high scientific quality***

Scientific quality in research is essential if the results of the research are to be reliable, relevant, and usable. Key aspects of scientific quality are that the issues are clear and well-anchored in the current state of knowledge, the method is rigorous and designed to be able to answer the questions, and that the research is innovative and advances the state of knowledge. Research of high quality has to be pursued independently but is also promoted by open dialogue with other actors in society. Forte works strategically to ensure that the research we initiate and fund is open, independent and of high quality.

### ***This goal is broken down as follows:***

- Applications received in Forte's calls for proposals are of high scientific quality.
- Forte's assessment processes are transparent, gender-equal, legally sound and continuously developed based on the national and international current state of knowledge.
- Forte's assessment processes are developed to ensure scientific quality in different fields of research and scientific approaches.
- Forte's review panels consist of Swedish and international researchers with high scientific expertise, as well as representatives of society with broad experience and knowledge within the research area concerned.
- The research that Forte funds is, to a large extent, multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary to create better conditions for originality and innovation.
- The research Forte funds has a sex and gender perspective whenever relevant.
- Forte supports researchers' professional development and networks through international exchanges.



# GOAL

## ***Forte is actively involved in national and global knowledge building***

Society constantly faces challenges. We have lived with some of these for a long time, while others are new and may lead to rapid and revolutionary changes in society. Citizens, decision-makers and other social actors often demand research that can describe, explain and solve problems. However, there is not always a need for more research, but rather existing knowledge being put to use. Forte is an important participant in efforts to meet the need for knowledge. By prioritising, funding and providing access to research of high quality and relevance, Forte is actively involved in national and global knowledge building. This is a step towards developing a socially sustainable society.

### ***This goal is broken down as follows:***

- Forte has well-developed forms of cooperation at both national and global level, which represent important arenas for research funding and research-policy discussions.
- Forte is actively involved in the transition to open science, in part by ensuring open access to results from the research that Forte has funded.
- Forte's knowledge reviews and evaluations are of high quality and point out important knowledge gaps and research needs.
- Forte's communication is strategic, active and adapted to target groups.
- Forte is an important arena for meetings and dialogue between researchers and social actors.
- Forte's knowledge reviews are used for support in research policy and other policy issues.

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