

Challenges in Working Life 2025

Information about the call for proposals

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About the call for proposals

Background and purpose

Forte has been commissioned by the government to conduct a national research programme for working life research. The research will contribute to meeting the challenges that exist in working life by producing and disseminating new knowledge.

The last day to submit the application is Tuesday 14 January 2025 at 14.00.

Focus of the call

Forte has identified a number of prioritized challenges where the need for knowledge is great and where more research is needed. The challenges, and strategies for how the challenges can be met with research, as well as the overall purpose and goals of the programme, are described in [the strategic agenda of the working life](#).

The project applications must contribute to the agenda's **Challenge number 3: To achieve a health-promoting working life**. Applications should focus on one or more of the following strategies:

- Creating opportunities for people to be able to work for their entire professional career
- Reducing the occurrence of intimidation, violence and harassment in the workplace
- Decreasing the level of damaging physical burdens and chemical exposure in the working environment
- Reducing psychosocial risks in the working environment
- Ensuring the effective implementation of knowledge about the working environment

The research proposed in the application must have a clear focus on methods and initiatives to bring about changes in working life in line with the points above. Research that cannot be applied to facilitate a sustainable working life falls outside this call. The same applies to biomedical research and clinical research.

The research resulting from the call is expected to relate to several of the Parliament-bound goals that affect working life, such as the goal for working life policy, the public health policy's goal area 3 Work, working conditions and work environment, and the gender equality policy goal. At the same time, these goals also form the core of Sweden's implementation of the Agenda 2030.

Forte would like to see an interdisciplinary and/or multidisciplinary approach to the applications. Forte also sees a great need for good opportunities for collaboration with the surrounding community, to increase relevance and utilisation. Furthermore, the research must include a sex and gender perspective when applicable. What is applicable in each individual case is determined by the research question in the application.

The call text, application form and instruction text are translated into English. In case of ambiguity in the translation, the Swedish versions take precedence.

Grant type

- Project grant

Budget

For this call a budget of about SEK 72 million is available.

Number of applications

No more than one application per main applicant is permitted within this call for proposals. As a participating researcher you may participate in more than one application.

Schedule

Call opens: 29 October 2024, 10.00 CET

Call closes: 14 January 2025, 14.00 CET

Funding decision: May 2025

Decisions are published: a few days after the decision.

Project start: 1 July 2025

About the grant**Project grants**

Project grants facilitate the implementation of a defined research project designed to contribute to increased knowledge about an identified issue. Project grants may be applied for by individual researchers as well as research groups.

Project duration

Funding may be sought for 3 years.

Funding amounts

You may apply for a maximum of SEK 5 million for three-year projects. Please note that the maximum amount includes so called indirect costs/overhead costs (OH). Applications that exceed the specified limit will be rejected.

Staffing

For this grant type, you as main applicant may invite participating researchers to join the application.

Eligibility requirements

Doctoral degree

To apply for a grant under this call for proposals, you must have obtained a doctoral degree no later than the closing date of the call for proposals.

Reporting for previous grants

The main applicant must have submitted the final report for any previously approved grants from Forte within the reporting deadline. 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.

Before you apply

Checklist

Before starting your application, please read this document and ensure that the following conditions are fulfilled:

- The main applicant and any participating researchers included in the application have created personal accounts in the [Prisma application system](#)
- The main applicant and any participating researchers included in the application have stored their CV and details of their publications in their respective personal accounts
- The administrating organisation for the grant has an organisational account in Prisma and has been approved as an administrating organisation at Forte. [Forte's criteria for administrating organisations »](#)

International research

Applications with an international element must follow Forte's guidelines for international research. Forte views international research collaborations positively. Forte's areas of research cover complex societal challenges where international research collaboration can provide important contributions. Defence and security policy aspects must always be taken into account in international research collaboration.

Forte's grants may be used to finance research where certain parts are carried out in other countries. However, the research must be initiated, led and mainly carried out from Sweden or be a part of international collaborative research.

The research must also be relevant to Sweden and Swedish conditions, and this must be explained and justified in the application.

[Guidelines for international research »](#)

Principle of public access to official records

According to Swedish law, your application is considered a public document once it has been submitted to Forte. This means that anyone can request and read your application.

Information may only be kept secret if it is covered by the secrecy provisions in the Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act (2009:400).

If your application is granted, abstracts in Swedish and English will be published in open project databases without a confidentiality assessment.

Translations of information in the call for proposals

Call texts, application forms and instruction texts are available in English translation, but in case of ambiguity in the translation, the Swedish versions take precedence.

Application

All applications are to be submitted via the [Prisma application and review system](#). Please bear in mind that it takes time to complete an application. Therefore, start the application process well in advance. You can start filling in your data, then save and continue at another time. Please note that the application cannot be submitted if any of the required data is missing.

What must be included in the application?

For information about the contents of your application, please see the document “Instructions for the application form” on the [webpage for the call for proposals](#).

Language

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

Types of project participants

The person who creates the application in Prisma is the main applicant and is intended to be the project leader for the research project. The project leader must be employed by the administrating organisation at the start of the project. The employment must at least cover the time set aside for the project (activity level).

If the call for proposals permits this, participating researchers may also be invited to join the application. Participating researchers are other researchers who are crucial for the implementation of the project. Both the main applicant and the participating researchers must have a doctoral degree and a personal account in Prisma. It is also possible to include “other participants” in the project. These persons do not need to be researchers. This means they do not need to have a doctoral degree or their own accounts in Prisma.

[Requirements for different types of participants »](#)

Participating administrators

The main applicant may invite a participating administrator to help them complete the application form. The administrator is not part of the project but has access to the draft

application. A participating administrator cannot register the final version of an application and does not have access to the application once the final version has been registered in Prisma.

Assessment

Verification of your application

Forte checks if your application fulfils the conditions laid down in the call for proposals. If the application does not fulfil the conditions, it will be refused or rejected. The following conditions will be checked in this call for applications:

- The main applicant has been awarded a doctoral degree
- The main applicant has submitted the final report for any previously approved grants from Forte within the reporting deadline
- The content of the application does not obviously fall outside the focus of the call (verified in consultation with the chair of the review panel)
- The budget in the application is within the maximum grant amount specified in the call for proposals
- The application has been signed by the administrating organisation within 7 calendar days of the closing date of the call for proposals

Review

All applications that fulfil the conditions in the call for proposals are forwarded to Forte's review panels for assessment. Based on their assessment, Forte's Board makes the final decisions on which applications will be granted funding.

To be eligible for funding from Forte, applications must meet the requirements, be of high scientific quality, be relevant to society, and feasible. Applications are assessed against the assessment criteria described below. The assessment is an overall assessment that weighs all the criteria and relates them to the call for proposals and its objectives. Key to the assessment is how the applicant has explained and justified the various choices made in the application.

[Forte's processes for assessment and final decision »](#)

Assessment criteria

The applications in this call are assessed based on Forte's assessment criteria and requirements.

Requirements

All applications must meet the requirements below in order to receive funding. The extent to which the requirements are met is part of the review panel's overall assessment.

- The research must be relevant in relation to Forte's areas and the focus of the call.
- A sex and gender perspective must be taken into account, if applicable.

- The research must be conducted in an ethical manner, and any ethical issues must be addressed in an appropriate way.

Scientific quality

- Purpose, research questions, theoretical framework and background
The clarity and coherence in the description and justification of the purpose of the research, research questions, theoretical framework and background, including how well grounded it is in previous research.
- Study design, material and methods
The clarity and coherence in the description and justification of the research's design, empirical material and methods for data collection and analysis, as well as the appropriateness of these in relation to the purpose of the research and research questions.
- Originality
The potential of the research will contribute to the research front, for example by developing new knowledge, new methods, theories and/or data.
- Multidisciplinary and/or interdisciplinary approach
The relevance of a multidisciplinary and/or interdisciplinary approach to the scientific quality, if applicable.

Societal relevance and utilisation

- Relevance to the wider community
The importance of the research to current societal challenges and how the research will help address these.
- Benefit to the wider community
The short and/or long-term benefit of the research to the wider community, and how this is intended to be promoted.
- Collaboration with the wider community
The clarity and coherence in the description and justification of the plan for collaboration with the actors affected by the research, if applicable.
- Communication of research results
The reasonableness and appropriateness of planned communications for all relevant audiences.

Feasibility

- Work plan
The clarity and reasonableness of the work plan for conducting the research.
- Competence
The competence and skills of the participants in relation to the needs for conducting the research.
- Budgets and staffing
The reasonableness of budgeted costs and participants' planned activities for conducting the research.

After the decision

Decision and statement

When a decision has been made in respect of your application, it will be published in your Prisma account. You will receive an email when the decision is published. Applicants will also have access to the statement written by the review panel about their application. This can be found in Prisma on the “Applications” page under the “Details” button. You will also find the statement on the “Grants” page.

Terms and conditions for grants

In order to receive a grant from Forte, both the main applicant and the administrating organisation must sign the terms and conditions laid down in the call for proposals. The signing takes place in Prisma after a decision on the grant has been made. Forte’s general terms and conditions apply to this call for proposals.

[Forte’s general terms and conditions for grants »](#)

Open access

By accepting grants from Forte, the main applicant also accepts Forte’s guidelines for publication with open access. Forte does not cover the costs of open access publication within the research grants we award. In cases where publication costs are included in the application, such costs will be deleted from any grant awarded.

[Forte's guidelines for publication with open access »](#)

Support and help

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

If you have any questions about the call for proposals or how to fill in the application form, please contact:

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