



Call for regions and municipalities and their healthcare and social care service providers

Open 19 December 2023 – 18 February 2024

We provide you with support to establish the necessary conditions for integrated healthcare and care through distance spanning solutions.

The aim of the second iHAC Call

The aim is to establish the necessary conditions to develop and implement solutions for integrated healthcare and care through distance-spanning solutions via co-governance between different actors while maintaining and further evolving the relations with the users.

- Inspiration for activities and actions to develop and implement integrated healthcare and care services can be found in the iHAC publication *Integrated Healthcare and Care through distance-spanning solutions – for increased service accessibility*.

The second iHAC Call in numbers

- 6-8 projects on integrated healthcare and care
- SEK 196,000 per project
- We welcome applicants from all Nordic countries and the self-governing areas, Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Åland
- In addition, partners from up to three Baltic model areas will be awarded SEK 56,000 each for participation in iHAC inspiration visits and workshops in 2024
- Project funding will be made available between 1 April 2024 and 30 September 2024

How the funds can be used

The funding can be divided between the following activities:

- 70 hours of external or internal expert support to develop integrated healthcare and care components, supported by distance-spanning technology – max. SEK 84,000
- Two workshops to develop elements of integrated healthcare and care – max. SEK 56,000
- One study visit to a Nordic model area, jointly organized with iHAC – max. SEK 56,000
- Additional allocations may be made available to ensure participation from some of the most remote regions of the Nordic countries, such as rural Greenland. We hope that you will form part of this publication, to describe and share your model through this publication across the Nordics.

What is our collaboration about?

Integrated Healthcare and Care through distance-spanning solutions (iHAC) forms part of the Nordic Council of Ministers work programme: *Vision 2030*. The project is a continuation of Healthcare and Care – through distance spanning solutions 2018-2021. Six projects funded through the first iHAC call were concluded in December 2023.

On 29 May 2024, iHAC is organizing a workshop in Tallinn, Estonia, as part of the Swedish Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers. The project's final conference will be held in Storuman, Sweden, on 5-6 November 2024, where iHAC partners will present their policy recommendations for developing integrated healthcare and care services.

The objective of iHAC is to contribute to the Nordic Region's vision of becoming the world's most sustainable and integrated region. The project's primary focus is social sustainability, although the entire spectra of sustainability must be taken into account:

How can joint healthcare and social care service provision generate more positive values for the citizens, demonstrate cost efficiency, and contribute to a positive climate impact through reduced carbon emissions?

The three main objectives of iHAC

- Mapping and presenting Model regions/areas of integrated healthcare and care – publication launched in September 2022 (2021-2022)
- Mapping national and regional models for a distributed data approach and integrated use of health data (2022-2023)
- Two open calls to identify and exemplify new Model regions/areas of integrated healthcare and care (2022-2024)

Summary

The iHAC publication *Integrated Healthcare and Care through distance-spanning solutions – for increased service accessibility* showcases best practice examples of jointly governed service models and collaboration structures.

The iHAC project also initiates the development of model areas with ambitions to develop and implement integrated healthcare and care services.

Find out more about iHAC at our website www.integratedhealthandcare.com



THE GLOBAL GOALS



Nordic Council
of Ministers

region
västerbotten





Expert support

Three consultants are identified as collaboration partners in connection with the calls:

- Health Innovation Academy – Eeva Kiuru
- LK Consulting – Lisbeth Kjellberg
- Finnsson & Co – Páll Tómas Finnsson

*The experts will be available for at least 70 hours of consultative support + preparation time for each supported model area. The expert budget line includes consultant travel costs and other similar expenses.

The approved model areas can choose any expert they prefer in addition to the three listed above. However, these experts must be well acquainted with the outcomes of the VOPD and iHAC projects, the iHAC publication [Integrated Healthcare and Care through distance-spanning solutions – for increased service accessibility](#), and the implementation guide [Roadmap for Service Innovation](#). Furthermore, they must possess sufficient expert knowledge about the sparsely populated area perspective and the iHAC's contribution to the Nordic Council of Ministers' work programme – [Vision 2030](#).

Who are we looking for?

A set of project requirements and ranking criteria has been established to inform service providers in municipalities and regions of the expected level of organizational readiness. In general, we expect organizations to join forces to achieve integrated healthcare and care through distance-spanning services via co-governance and between different actors. To receive implementation support, applicants must submit an expression of interest.

The iHAC project management will cooperate with WHO, the Nordic Council of Ministers' offices in the Baltic countries, local embassies, and other relevant partners to identify and engage suitable partners in the three self-governing areas, Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Åland, as well as in the Baltic states.

Project requirements and ranking criteria

- Priority will be given to applicants (region/county/collaborating municipalities) who already have the mandate to initiate joint service development based on co-governance of healthcare and care.
- Alternatively, project proposals that aim to secure co-governance between different entities involved in patient journeys that involve several professional categories can be accepted.
- In both cases, the ambition should be to reduce or eliminate the distance between the citizen and the service provider through joint use of distance-spanning technologies or other solutions providing the same effect.
- Applicants are required to describe how their intended development will help empower the targeted citizens, such as by improving the possibilities for a prolonged and more independent life.
- Applicants are expected to reflect on why this development is good from the citizens' point of view, the expected value for the citizens, and how the value impact could be measured.
- Applicants are encouraged to emphasize end-user involvement, preferably from the beginning of the projects. Particular emphasis is placed on involving vulnerable user groups where relevant, such as children, people with mental health conditions, and people with dementia or other cognitive disabilities, to be able to develop the services they need.
- Applicants are encouraged to consider the challenges of digital literacy and the digital divide when addressing the issue of equality and inequality in health and care.



- Project applications that consider the role of digital and distance-spanning solutions and innovative health and care service design with the aim to attract and retain health and care professionals and improve the relationship with users will be favoured.
- Applicants must familiarise themselves with the iHAC publication [Integrated Healthcare and Care through distance-spanning solutions – for increased service accessibility](#).
- All applicants are asked to describe if they work or organize themselves according to the key components of the theoretical framework presented in the publication:
 - Communication and knowledge sharing
 - Shared and common goals
 - Trust
- Applicants are required to use process guides with a strong emphasis on the insight and anchoring stages of the service innovation process, preferably the Norwegian [Vejkart for tjenesteinnovasjon](#) or [Roadmap for service innovation](#) in English.
- Priority will be given to applicants in sparsely populated areas and applicants faced with similar challenges, such as long distances and travel times to healthcare and care services or a lack of access to healthcare and care professionals and expertise.
- All applicants are required to demonstrate how their projects take gender balance and equity between different citizens into account. During the second iHAC call, there will be a particular focus on the equality of health and care for all citizens.

Timeline - expression of interest

The second iHAC call is open between 19 December 2023 and 18 February 2024.

Successful applications will be announced by the end of March 2024. The project period is between 1 April 2024 and 30 September 2024. All projects must submit their final report by 30 September 2024. The iHAC final conference takes place in Storuman, Sweden, on 5-6 November 2024. Call II project representatives are expected to be present at the conference.

Please submit your expression of interest to Niclas Forsling, Centre for Rural Medicine in Storuman, Sweden, and Bengt Andersson, Nordic Welfare Centre in Stockholm, Sweden:

Niclas.Forsling@regionvasterbotten.se

Bengt.Andersson@nordicwelfare.org

For more information, see our project website:
www.integratedhealthandcare.com

Annexes

- Expression of interest - Application
- About the iHAC collaboration - Integrated Healthcare And Care 2021-2024