

STUDENTS NEWSLETTER

FORTHEM



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Fostering Outreach
within European Regions,
Transnational Higher Education
and Mobility



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Values of a multicultural Europe

FORTHEM is united by a shared vision on Europe, the educational mission of European universities and a strong belief in its multiculturalism and multilingualism. FORTHEM Alliance offers students new possibilities to get international experience during their studies. To find out more about your opportunities and activities offered by FORTHEM, as well as to follow FORTHEM information and news, read the FORTHEM Student newsletter.

Read more, get interested and apply!



First Student Conference



WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

FORTHEM First Student Conference

With its first Student Conference, the FORTHEM Alliance devoted three whole days to the important aspect of student involvement. The goal of the exchange was to strengthen links between students and to emphasize their voice in the FORTHEM Alliance.

Using a creative and collaborative approach, the participants set out to develop new ideas for involving more students in the Alliance's many activities. The FORTHEM Student Conference 2020 took place from 7th to 9th of December 2020 and was hosted online by the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz.

Around 25 students from all 7 partner universities took part in the conference. The conference was chaired by Ludmila Samochwalow, Fabian Stephan, Jolina Hartmann & Anna-Lena Roppelt from the University of Mainz. They decided to use the three days as a Kick-Off Meeting for an ongoing collaboration within the student groups over the next two months to work on all 4 phases of the Challenge in their details.

The ongoing Challenge given to all student groups is:

How can we improve student involvement in the FORTHEM Alliance? Which incentives are necessary? Which activities could therefore be important?

Divided into four groups with 4 - 5 people, students started with the first phase of the Challenge, the so-called Discover Phase, consisting of a discourse between the students asking questions to the FORTHEM staff members and students, researching answers and creating a broader understanding of FORTHEM Alliance and the idea of European University, as well as raising awareness for the problem of student involvement.

Collaborating on the Miro board – a platform which works like a big white board – the student groups continued working together, recording and creating results of different phases while exploring the challenge. Until mid of February, the different ideas for the involvement of students from all partner universities will be further developed and presented to the alliance.

Aside from the Challenge approach, the students presented their student representative structures to get an idea of the different systems and how they could connect these structures to help finding ways of student involvement. The students' presentations will also help to enhance the development of further cooperation activities. With the assistance of different tools, information and games the participants could not only get to know each other, but generate different ideas. For example, the ideas for the Sustainability Concept of the Alliance demonstrate the students' understanding of the Alliance objectives and engage them into the collaborative work on the definition of the Alliance strategy.

Public session was attended by students and staff from the FORTHEM Alliance universities. Lab Student Speakers were invited to talk from their personal experience about the role of students within the Labs. Interviews with the students, members of the FORTHEM Steering Committee assisted to clarify the overall topic "Student involvement", discuss the existing and missing opportunities for students to be involved. The feedback from all discussions with and between the students is a valuable for communication and wider students' participation in the FORTHEM activities.

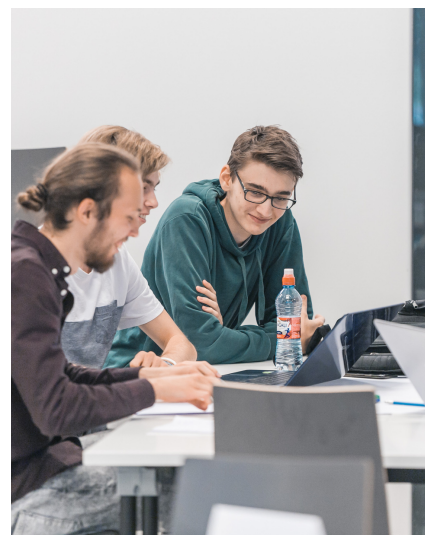
Every evening a social gathering was organized to get to know each other even more personally beyond the group work.

It was a successful conference and students would be happy to continue the discussions.

FORTHEM Students Ambassadors initiative

Students are the core of FORTHEM project; this is why we launched FORTHEM Students Ambassadors initiative. University of Burgundy launched a pilot call and over 130 students volunteered to become ambassador. After the webinar and the workshop students joined the topics they were interested in and formed different working groups parallel to the FORTHEM working teams (mobility, digital academy, labs-research, outreach, dissemination). FORTHEM student ambassadors at the University of Burgundy have been hard at work, fostering outreach with the local community as well as on a transnational level with our 6

other partner universities. Student ambassadors for FORTHEM Alliance not only help to promote exchange with a number of European regions in higher education but they also work locally on a variety of civic engagement projects that might interest you. They are currently working on projects which further advance FORTHEM



Alliance opportunities and they have a number of great projects in mind. This includes connecting with local organizations in Dijon to provide locally produced goods to the university restaurants, also making the campus in Dijon greener by starting a project to plant more trees on the campus. They also communicate transnationally with other ambassadors at partner universities ambassadors at partner universities and share



creative forms of communication between the Alliance and student body at the University of Dijon. Other universities will soon launch their call so you will be able to join the Student Ambassadors at your university. As soon as this is in place in other universities, the ambassadors from different universities will be able to work together on the international projects.

Activities for students

FORTHEM Short term mobility

Are you passionate about traveling, learning and meeting new people from different countries?

FORTHEM mobility programs are a great way for you to participate in an enriching experience in one of our 7 partner universities. Our short term mobility programs cater to students of different levels and areas of study, some are open to all, others are more targeted. It's a great way to explore new possibilities in one of our 7 partner universities. The mobilities are funded by the FORTHEM Alliance (travel costs, accommodation and living expenses). You can choose from individual mobilities and collective mobilities.

Individual mobilities take place in any of our partner universities for up to a period of 10 days. It's aimed for students who have work on a project for which they need to travel alone to one of our partner universities. We also offer a week long collective short-term mobility if you prefer being a part of a group of approximately 35 students coming from all partner universities. FORTHEM short-term mobilities continue to adapt taking into consideration the current



sanitary situation.

Last year we organized four virtual collective mobilities and six mobilities were postponed to a later date. In this academic year, we are organising 16 new short term mobilities which have been scheduled between March, 2021 and February, 2022. This year exceptionally, students were given the option to participate in two mobilities instead of just one. If you are interested in taking part in a collective mobility it's not too late, call will be open on 15.03 till 20.04. All the information about FORTHEM Short term mobility possibilities is available [here](#).

It will take place September, 2021 to February, 2022, where you will also have the opportunity to apply for 8 short-term mobility activities to any of the seven partner universities:

Over 400 applications were received of which 382 were approved. Students who have been selected have already received confirmation email.

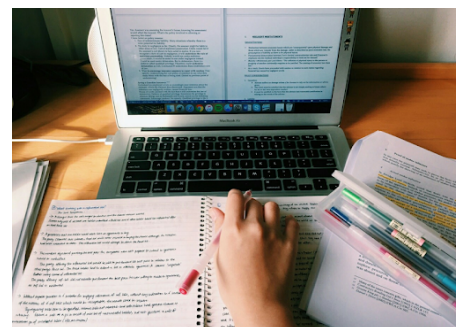
Follow the information about calls, proposals and other FORTHEM activities on FORTHEM social media, on the FORTHEM website or contact local FORTHEM office at your home university.

Call for proposals on Civic Engagement projects 2021

Are you a student of the FORTHEM Alliance and interested in volunteering? Have you always wanted to get involved and not yet found the right project? FORTHEM gives you the opportunity to manage volunteering and education projects and directly contribute to sustainable development, strengthening social cohesion, solidarity and trust, and enabling you to take charge of your own future. To know that you are working for a good cause and at the same time gaining professional experience will be of great value for you. You can develop a proposal within a student association, student working group or research lab. Or you can

participate in a project proposed by an NGO or your local Career Service. You will always have to invite students from at least two other FORTHEM universities to join your project!

This project can be implemented physically, in a hybrid way or, due to the current situation, completely digitally and will be supported by FORTHEM for six months.



Please check our [call for proposals on Civic Engagement projects 2021](#) and read all the details about what **options** you have to set up a project, what **added value** you will get from participating in a FORTHEM volunteering project and what kind of **support** FORTHEM will give to you.

There is no fixed deadline: the call will be open until 15 FORTHEM projects are in place. FORTHEM is already supporting financially 2 projects that have been set up by students from the Universities of Burgundy, Jyväskylä, Mainz, Palermo and Valencia.

Here is a short introduction of both projects:

- **International Hub over Borders** means to create an online communication platform which will help connect the universities that are members of the FORTHEM Alliance. This international networking platform will be the core of FORTHEM student activities.
- **Understanding Agenda 2030:** only one decade left aims to raise the awareness of the citizens as regards the Sustainable Development Goals and the Agenda 2030. The project team intends to make the information about these topics more accessible and create an impact at an individual level.

FORTHEM is now waiting for 13 new projects. Don't miss the chance to meet FORTHEM students from other countries and create a European team!

Call for Company Internships 2020-2021

Did you know that you can work at a company located in another FORTHEM country? Or that you can peep as an intern into the activities of a lab or an office of another FORTHEM university? If not, please take a look at our internship offers and find out if any of them match your profile!

Each university of the FORTHEM Alliance will provide up to 10 places, aimed at students of different levels and areas of study. Check the deadline of each offer you are interested in and apply for it if you are in time.

Usually, the main working language will be English or any other official language of the Alliance.

All students currently enrolled in FORTHEM universities can apply. If your application is qualified to participate, it will be forwarded to the company, department or lab, which will select the most suitable candidates.



Before applying for an offer, don't forget to read carefully through the call to get all the information you need about how you can apply and how your application will be checked, how you can contact us about funding and accommodation, and what documents you need to submit. You can apply for an Erasmus+ traineeship grant in accordance with the call of this scholarship organised by your home university.

So far, two FORTHEM students are carrying out an internship in departments of the Universities of Jyväskylä and Mainz. New internships are waiting now for more students applying for them.

Don't be shy and take advantage of this unique opportunity to get to know another country from a real-life perspective! Or else, as we are still in the middle of a global health crisis, you may be able to find a virtual internship through FORTHEM and thus gain insight into a foreign organisation from your home office.



FORTHEM partner universities

Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz (Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz), Germany

University of Burgundy (Université de Bourgogne), France

University of Jyväskylä (Jyväskylän yliopisto), Finland

University of Opole (Uniwersytet Opolski), Poland

University of Palermo (Università degli Studi di Palermo), Italy

University of Latvia (Latvijas Universitāte), Latvia

University of Valencia (Universitat de Valencia), Spain



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