

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!

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The first major FORTHEM meeting this year: students' report

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

The first major FORTHEM meeting this year: students' report

During its first major meeting this year, FORTHEM Alliance welcomed new partners and strengthened the network between its city administrations and chambers of commerce.

The European University Alliance FORTHEM gathered in Germany on September 22-24, 2021. Representatives of the FORTHEM partner cities and their chambers of commerce and industry were invited alongside the seven university partners from all over Europe so that they could meet one another in person and exchange ideas.

The students representing the Alliance (one person per university) met on September 23 for a workshop. Work was done in hybrid format so that one more student from Finland could join.

Project coordinator Ludmila Samochwalow from the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (JGU) organised the workshop and discussed the programme, as well as the preparations and expectations with all the students online a week in advance. The work took place on Miro, an interactive board that the students had already got to know at the Student Conference 2020.

The students were divided in three groups, each focusing on one topic, namely, responsibilities, incentives, and

interaction. These groups worked on their areas of focus for about 2 hours; afterwards, the results were presented and discussed in plenary. The overall goal was to reorganise the structures, as well as the organisation of the students by making them active participants of the project that are able to come forward with their proposals, working in the very heart of the Alliance. This workshop was an opportunity to exchange and reflect on the levers of student engagement; moreover, it allowed



many ideas and projects to emerge in order to build an ever more inclusive, participative and committed model for youth and for Europe. We as students have seen FORTHEM growing and we are aware of the benefits, as well as challenges of the Alliance. In the previous workshops (during FORTHEM week), we brought up many insights and highlighted the problems of student involvement, as well as challenges faced by the student members of the FORTHEM Steering Committee. With our experience in working in student associations, we will strive to build the Student Council as a new organisational student structure that is involved in early decision making and in weekly meetings in order to help shape the agenda, solicit opinions from students, and maintain a constantly updated overview. The model of the Student Council was proposed by the Alliance. Next month we will work on the idea with the project coordinator and attempt to organise and consolidate structures. As students, we want to create offers for students at our universities, enabling us to make use of the opportunities granted by the Alliance.

We want to make the Alliance known and accessible to everyone and involve as many students as possible in the European educational experience, as we strongly believe in this project and in what it can bring to students, to their cultural education, and to the future of Europe.

Short-term mobilities for students

On October 8, 2021, Palermo, the Mobility Mission Board selected 18 new collective short-term mobility activities within the third round.

Students will be able to choose from various multidisciplinary programmes that are going to be organised by partner universities between March 2022 and August 2022; **student applications for these activities will be open on October 29th.** During the previous two rounds, 26 collective short term mobility programmes were selected. Only a few of them had to be cancelled or moved to the next period due to COVID-19; some of them were also organised in virtual modality. **Here is some feedback from students who have already participated in short-term mobility activities:**

Alexis Gorce (University of Burgundy): "This mobility programme was perfect for me since I am currently studying for a master's degree in Food Science and also because I would like to pursue my studies in food microbiology. Improving my English was another motivating factor. In addition, I thought that a one week mobility period had less constraints than mobilities that last several months. When I arrived, I was put in a new student dorm: a well equipped room. I received a warm welcome from everyone there: teachers, other students and also the people who worked in the dorm. A number of students from the University of Valencia gave us a guided tour around the town, and showed us nice restaurants and bars to go to. Everything was well organised: my day could end at around 5 p.m. which allowed me to have enough free time to enjoy and visit the city and also go out for a drink by the sea!"



Laura Kadile (University of Latvia) has participated in an on-line student conference – the short-term mobility event "Europe Today and Tomorrow". Her video interview is available [here!](#)

More information on previous short-term mobility programmes, as well as additional testimonials can be found [here!](#)



FORTHEM Campus Dijon

The very first FORTHEM Campus started on September 1 at the University of Burgundy in Dijon, France.

The 19 participating students are from the Universities of Valencia, Palermo and Latvia. They are enrolled in several faculties at the University of Burgundy: the Faculty of Science, the Faculty of Oenology, the Faculty of Languages and the Institute of Technology. The students have also taken up a number of language and sport courses and participate in thematic activities, seminars and visits concerning the subject of food and fooding. On Friday, September 3, the Dijon FORTHEM team had the chance to meet the students. Daria Plantak, the PR Officer of the International Office, provided the students with welcome packs in order to help them find their way around the campus, Dijon and its surroundings. Then, Helena Jestin and Raphaëlle Tourdot-Maréchal presented the programme of the term and gave some useful advice.



A week later, some students had the opportunity to go harvest grapes near Dijon, where the famous Burgundy wines are produced. Thank you, Olga, Luis, Nicolas, Sandra and Sam, for sharing your experience with us!

One of the students, **Nuria Sanchez**, also sent us some pictures of her first weeks in Dijon and shared her joy over being a part of the FORTHEM Campus programme: "I have already been in Dijon for a month and everything is wonderful here. I've been unbelievably lucky regarding everything: the studies, accommodation, the staff of FORTHEM and the University of Burgundy... I am deeply grateful."

The FORTHEM team at the University of Burgundy are thrilled to hear such positive feedback from the students of the FORTHEM Campus and we wish all of them a fantastic term at the University of Burgundy!



FORTHEM Campus Riga

The second FORTHEM Campus is going to take place from February 7 to June 21 2022 at the [University of Latvia](#). This semester-long exchange combines studies related to your discipline with a special thematic programme “Resilience, Life Quality and Demographic Change”. The application procedure, available courses and additional practical information can be found [here](#).

Erasmus Days 2021

FORTHEM Alliance invites both students and staff to participate in Erasmus Days 2021 by taking the “Experiencing Europe” quiz created by FORTHEM.

It consists of two parts: the first one features multiple choice questions with one correct answer, whereas the second one has open questions prompting you to give a more detailed answer.

The most interesting answers to the open questions will be published on the FORTHEM Alliance web page and social media.

You can find the quiz [here](#).

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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