

FORTHEM

NEWSLETTER #5

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FORTHEM Alliance is getting ready for the next funding period

European Commission has launched a new call for funding for European Universities. Our Alliance, now comprising 9 universities, is preparing the strategic guidelines, the action plan and the funding application, set to be ready by the March 22, 2022. In order to meet this huge challenge, we have organised workshops with targeted topics. So far, all of them have taken place online as it has been impossible to meet in person at the host universities due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the large number of participants.

We have been able to involve a great number of experts from each partner university in the discussions, and it shows the great commitment that each university has towards the development of our Alliance. The discussions have been truly inspirational and promising.

First, two preparation days in December were organised in order to start the joint discussion on the topics we want to address during the next four years, and to consider what we need to include in the funding application. These workshops were organised on December 9 and 15.

Two whole weeks of workshops were planned to be held in Dijon and in Jyväskylä; however, finally both workshops turned into virtual events. The Dijon Week took place from January 10–14, and the Jyväskylä Week took place from January 24–28.

During these highly intense workshops, the future missions of the Alliance were identified, and the mission strategies formulated. The main strategic goals, objectives and impact of each mission were formulated and specific actions related to each mission were planned already; moreover, the governance structure and the student involvement in the new Alliance were elaborated.

From February 7–11, the third workshop programme, namely, the Mainz week is going to be held. During this week, we are going to pay particular attention to cross-cutting themes like communication, IT, etc.

Finally, a fourth workshop week is planned to be held in Valencia in the beginning of March. We all hope that we will be able to meet in person at last and to make final adjustments to our funding application and the action plan while enjoying the Spanish spring at the same time!

by Sanna Vaisanen

FORTHEM Digital Academy: available online

We are very glad to inform all students of the 7 partner universities that the FORTHEM Digital Academy is now accessible. You can already find new courses and activities that will enrich your curricula.

From now on, FORTHEM partner universities can share their courses and activities via the Digital Academy; moreover, all students can freely enrol in most of the activities!

At the moment, massive open online courses (MOOCs) on wine shared by the University of Burgundy, as well as a German language course shared by the University of Palermo are available, among many others. This is the first step toward the creation of our European Campus, and we aim at using the Digital Academy for both online courses and virtual exchanges.

The Digital Academy can be accessed by logging in into your university's Moodle platform:

- [University of Palermo \(UNIPA\)](#)
- [University of Opole \(UO\)](#)
- [Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz \(JGU\)](#)
- [University of Latvia \(UL\)](#)
- [University of Valencia \(UV\)](#)
- [University of Jyväskylä \(JYU\)](#)
- [University of Burgundy \(UB\)](#)

By Valentina D'Anna

Short-term mobilities 2021/2022

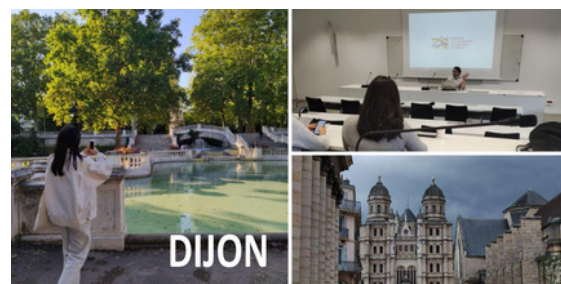
The call for applications for the next short term mobility period from March to August, 2022, ended on December 6, 2021.

There are two types of short-term mobilities. The collective short-term mobilities provide an opportunity to take part in a week-long activity (up to 5 days) as part of a group of international students meeting in person on site at one of our 7 universities.

A total of 17 collective short term mobilities are going to take place from March to August 2022; the list of collective short-term mobilities is available on [our website](#).

In addition, 29 students are planning to take part in individual short-term mobilities as part of a personal study project. In total, more than 400 students from the 7 partner universities are going to participate in at least one short-term mobility in the next 6 months. Each student shall receive a grant to finance their travel and living costs.

If you wish to have a taste of what is to be expected, you can have a look at the testimonials of the students who participated to short-term mobilities last year [on our blog](#).



forthem. The selected group for the mobility was very open minded and we all got integrated very fast. The uB university made sure we integrated in the city by guiding us all along the week. I loved the fact that the uB volunteers were very welcoming and treated us very good. They were very personal and they made all of us feel very comfortable and included, making honor to the aim of the program, which was to work on inclusion.

POSTCARD

CHRISTINA R.

What activity? Collective short-term mobility

When? September 2021

Where? Dijon, France

For how long? 5 days

The first FORTHEM Mosaic: in Riga



On January 19, the University of Latvia (UL) started a new FORTHEM activity by organising the first FORTHEM Mosaic event. This event provided a great opportunity to discover Latvia, its history and traditions, fascinating facts about the country, as well as its capital Riga.

The event started with a virtual guided tour around Riga, where the guide gave an overview of the history of Riga, discussed its districts, the most important cultural monuments, and the most remarkable places that are well worth visiting.

In addition, the participants received detailed information on historical developments, famous Latvians, traditional Latvian cuisine, regularly held Latvian cultural events (in particular the Song and Dance Celebration). The film "100 facts about Latvia" was used to supplement the stories.

The interactive pause prompted the participants to test their knowledge by participating in a quiz with various tricky questions, such as

- **"What is the longest river in Latvia?"**
- **"What is the national bird of Latvia?"**
- **"What are the colours of the Latvian flag?"**

At the end, the participant with the best score won a prize!

Afterwards, the colleagues from the UL Mobility Division informed the participants about the studies at the University of Latvia, and provided an overview of a number of study courses offered to exchange students, as well as possible extracurricular activities. At the end of the event there was a delicious greeting from the colleagues of the Mobility Division of the UL: a recipe of the traditional chocolate sausage along with a step-by-step preparation process!

Participants really enjoyed the event, noting that:

"The idea of the event was great, very dynamic and interesting."

"It was fascinating getting to know the facts and customs concerning Riga and the country in general, and I felt engaged when we took the quiz."

"This virtual trip was really a fascinating and amazing way to discover your country. It was a great pleasure for me to hear people speaking about their own customs, different historical periods, and religion."



The Diversity and Migration Lab

On January 21, the Diversity and Migration Lab held its second progress meeting, with more than 30 people meeting to discuss the work in progress and the future of the Lab.

The Lab has already achieved three outputs:

- **Lecture series “Mobility and Migration in Europe”** (February 1–25, 2021), in cooperation with the Experiencing Europe Lab. The output was led by Hanna-Mari Kivisto and Tuuli Lähdesmäki from the University of Jyväskylä;
- **Workshop “Navigating in the System”** (January 14, 2021), led by Hanna-Mari Kivisto;
- **Online Seminar “Impact of the Covid Crisis on Migrants”** (April 20–21, 2021), coordinated by Edith Wittenbrink from the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz.

Nine more outputs are being worked on:

- The report on the multidisciplinary perspectives of diversity and migration;
- Three short-term mobilities: the winter school organised by the University of Jyväskylä and two summer schools organised by the University of Opole and the University of Palermo;
- Media collection coordinated by Opole University;
- The project on International Racism in Higher Education, coordinated by the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz;
- Two courses for the Digital Academy, coordinated by the University of Palermo and the University of Valencia;
- A pilot project, in collaboration with FIT FORTHEM, coordinated by the University of Burgundy.

During the second progress meeting, the members of the Lab shared their opinions on the work they are doing. The meeting was also attended by PhD students and representatives from the two new partners that will join the FORTHEM Alliance soon, namely, the University of Agder and the University of Sibiu.

The last session of the meeting was dedicated to brainstorming the future of the Lab. The participants discussed the current structure of the Lab and the opportunities for the next funding period of the FORTHEM Alliance. During this session, academic staff requested more intensive support for all the administrative tasks, and a great number of ideas were shared on how to improve the Lab experience, such as the opportunity to involve more researchers, including from partners outside the Alliance.

Regarding the specific topic of the Diversity and Migration Lab, members pointed out the need to develop the diversity topic further, combining it with the topic of inclusion, in accordance with the EC priority.

“Pandemia in Translation”

The University of Palermo is pleased to announce the publication of the book “Pandemia in Translation” by professors Antonio Lavieri and Alessandra Pera (UniPa), in collaboration with professors Barbara Curylo (UO) and María Torres Pérez (UV).

The book is the result of intense work carried out by the professors of FORTHEM's Experiencing Europe Lab. It addresses issues related to the COVID-19 and aims to facilitate the understanding of its symbolic impact, as well as determine which European values are involved in the current situation.

The authors have adopted comparative approach, both in terms of disciplines through which the phenomenon is studied and from the point of view of multiculturalism and multilingualism that characterise the FORTHEM. The experience linked to COVID-19 is critically examined in its multiple trajectories, addressing the new global pandemic as a way to translate (and reconfigure) cultural differences and social experience.

The publication (edited by “Mucchi Editore”) is open-access, and it is [available here](#).

FIT FORTHEM

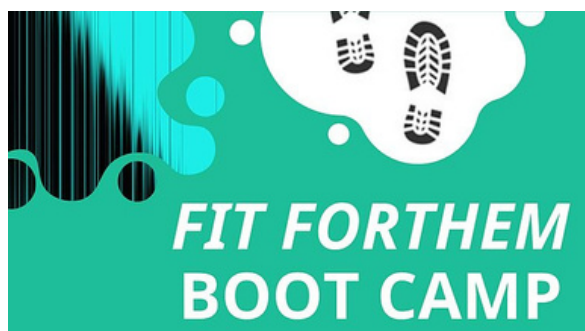
“Strongholds of the FORTHEM Alliance” – FIT FORTHEM boot camp and its takeaways

Between November 22–26, 2021, FIT FORTHEM organised its first ever virtual boot camp:

“FIT FOR EUROPEAN RESEARCH FUNDING: The Social Sciences and Humanities”

The boot camp was organised by Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (JGU), and all universities contributed to presentations and discussions by having invited a number of guests: researchers, project managers, as well as representatives of SSH research-oriented associations.

The overall objective of the boot camp was to collect good practices and recommendations on how to integrate social sciences and humanities into European research projects in order to meet the “science for and with society” guidelines of many funding lines, as even the best technologies and scientific solutions have to be accepted and used by individuals and communities.



During the boot camp, we reviewed Horizon Europe and shared advice regarding successful applications, giving special attention to examples of interdisciplinary cooperation, such as UV's [SILKNOW](#) or JYU's [DIALLS](#). In addition, experienced researchers and project leaders from all partner universities presented their actions and discussed their experiences of project development, capacity building and team management. We duly noted down (and posted on Twitter [@FitForThem](#)) some key takeaway messages, including:

- setting up a successful consortium requires the involvement of experienced partners with complementary disciplinary expertise;
- a successful proposal always requires identifying stakeholders who will make use of the solutions and ensure tangible impact;
- our universities offer intra- and cross alliance contacts, labs and (soon) joint offices in order to increase the networking capacity of researchers;
- methodological challenges and comparative perspectives give the project an added value;
- co-created, action-oriented research models help not only to design excellent research, but also to plan its uptake across countries, as well as make communities resilient/enhance policy;
- successful research projects also aspire to involve early-career researchers, offer training and toolkits, enable infrastructure sharing, and make use of digital tools.

During the boot camp, we also reached out to organisations that lobby for SSH in the research funding landscape, such as EASSH (the European Association for the Social Sciences and Humanities), Net4Society (the international network of National Contact Points for Cluster 2 in Horizon Europe), and ROSE (Research on Societies);



in addition, we learnt some tricks of the trade regarding the shaping of research policies and supporting organised actions.

Various lessons have been learnt during the boot camp; however, there is one stands out in particular, namely, that networking is the key to success because we are stronger together!

For more information, please read:

- [Bootcamp Day One Twitter thread](#)
- [Bootcamp Day Two Twitter thread](#)
- [Bootcamp Day Three Twitter thread](#)
- [Bootcamp Day Four Twitter thread](#)
- [Bootcamp Day Five Twitter thread](#)

by Katarzyna Molek-Kozakowska (UO), Isabel Mendoza (UVEG), Nicole Birkle (JGU)

FORTHEM research strongholds: identified and ready to be matched

Currently, joint research activities in FORTHEM are done mainly in the thematic [FORTHEM Labs](#), based on their respective challenges and in response to internal calls, for example, the FIT FORTHEM co-creation call in late 2021.

However, what about other groups of researchers whose interests lie outside of the Labs?

Each university has strong potential in multiple disciplines and areas of research.

The third day of the [five-day online boot camp](#) focused on identifying and matching potential FORTHEM strongholds, first in Social Sciences and Humanities and later also in Life Sciences and Physics and Engineering.

Both established researchers and early career academics are likely to benefit from what may be offered to them by FORTHEM and FIT FORTHEM; therefore, the main objective of the online event was to bring together researchers who could share good practices and cooperate at an institutional, national and European level for a stronger prioritisation of FORTHEM research.

In order to identify strongholds and overlaps in research interests across the universities, data were collected through a survey on top-level research groups (one of the tasks in FIT FORTHEM WP4), selected and tagged with ERC sector or subsector codes.

As far as SSH is concerned, the survey results showed the following emerging strongholds:

"Individuals, Markets and Organisations", "The Social World and its Diversity", "The Human Mind and its Complexity", "Cultures and Cultural Production", "Human Mobility, Environment, and Space", with at least 4 FORTHEM Universities carrying out research in these areas.

The results of the survey also showed a degree of intersections in PE and LS; however, the overlap was not as high in comparison to the SSH, based on the lower number of research groups that have similar objects of study.

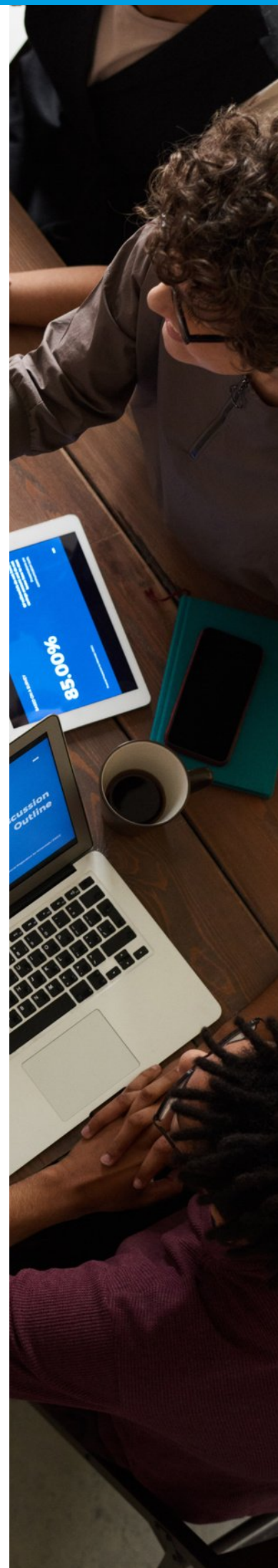
The results concerning LS highlighted **"Integrative Biology", "Physiology in Health", "Disease and Ageing", "Biotechnology and Biosystems", "Engineering"**.

Regarding PE, the main strongholds are: "Condensed Matter Physics", "Physical and Analytical Chemical Sciences", "Synthetic Chemistry and Materials", "Earth System Science".

The goal of the survey and the bootcamp was to ensure that the best research receives more visibility within the Alliance, as it is highly important to bring top research groups to the attention of other researchers, as well as to come up with new ideas for further cooperation.

For more details on FORTHEM research groups please contact [FIT FORTHEM representatives](#) from your university or your FORTHEM office.

Eloisa Zerilli (UNIPA), Katarzyna Molek-Kozakowska (UO)



Coming out soon: a new publication on good practices in FORTHEM

The FIT FORTHEM team has put together a book with 86 good practices! In **“FORTHEM Alliance Universities' Selected Good Practices in R&I. Towards a European University”**, the FORTHEM partners highlight some of the good practices currently applied in each of their institutions. The book discusses **five areas of interest**: open science, co-creation, internationalisation, science communication, and human capital, as well as showcases examples of creative solutions, efficient procedures, and successful projects from each university.

Throughout the chapters, you will also get a glimpse of how the internationalisation of science, as well as its transfer and communication to society are handled; in addition, the protocols concerning the working conditions of university staff are also included. The introductory chapters guide the readers so that they can appreciate the similarities and overlaps in FORTHEM partner universities' activities, as well as the uniqueness of some site-specific arrangements.

The publication is highly recommended for administrators in charge of HEI development and strategy, research managers, and internationalization specialists; it is a must-read for anyone interested in quality assessment within the five aforementioned areas of interest. Knowing our strongholds and assets allows us to grow faster together!



News from partners

University of Latvia (UL)

Starting from February 1, significant changes are going to affect the Latvian higher education system: large scale amendments to the Law on Higher Education Institutions, determining the typology of higher education institutions and changing the governance model, shall come into force. The Council of Higher Education Institutions is a new institution of internal management, formed in accordance with the amendments to the Law on Higher Education Institutions, approved by the Latvian Parliament in June 2021. The University Council is a collegial higher decision-making body responsible for the sustainable development, as well as strategic and financial supervision of the University. The Council shall also ensure the operation of the State higher education institution in accordance with the goals set in its development strategy. The Council of the UL shall have 11 members, five of whom shall be nominated by the University (the UL Senate), another five shall be nominated by the Ministry of Education and Science, and one candidate shall be nominated by the President.

The 80th International Scientific Conference of the UL is taking place during the time period from January to March. The annual conference has become an integral part of scientific life, encompassing nearly a century of tradition. The conference work is organised in section meetings in 4 fields of science (Natural Sciences, Humanities and Arts, Medicine and Health Sciences, and Social Sciences), 12 priority research topics, as well as interdisciplinary topics.

The spring term at the UL and FORTHEM Campus Riga starts on February 7. At the beginning of the term, professor Indriķis Muižnieks, Rector of the UL, traditionally addresses the students and staff, congratulates the winners of different competitions, and expresses gratitude to the best researchers; the Mobility Division of the Department of Student Services welcomes the international exchange students.

University of Valencia (UV)

María Vicenta Mestre presents her candidacy for re-election

On Thursday, January 20, María Vicenta Mestre, current Principal of the University of Valencia, accompanied by the government team with which she has collaborated over the last four years, presented her candidacy to the Election Commission. For the current Principal and candidate for re-election, "the last few years have been marked by the pandemic, which we have faced with unity and co-governance." María Vicenta Mestre has announced that the four-year project she will present "will reflect the diversity of a university like ours, which has all branches of knowledge", "combine experience and renewal, because I have always been committed to change and transformation, as we stated in our last campaign", and continue "to deepen the transformations in which our society is immersed, with the incorporation of people who reflect the generational change in which the university always finds itself." The new project, as established in the election calendar of the Universitat de València, has been presented this month together with the team that will accompany her in this candidacy. The elections for Principal will take place on 1th March 2022.





University of Jyväskylä (JYU)

JYU international Master's degree programmes attract a record number of applicants

The University of Jyväskylä's Master's programmes in English that start in autumn 2022 have attracted a record number of international and domestic applicants: there has been a more than 50% increase in the application numbers compared to last year. The application period in January 2022 brought the total number of applications to 2734, competing for a total of 307 places in the University's 16 different Master's programmes in English. The total number of applications was 2058, as one applicant may apply to more than one programme. The selection of students is going to be completed by April 6, 2022.

[More information.](#)

The JYU Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences ranks in the global top 10 again

The Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences at the University of Jyväskylä was ranked 8th in ShanghaiRanking. The list comprises 300 sport-related university units from all over the world.

The ranking of the Faculty has been rising steadily. ShanghaiRanking published its first ranking of sports-related units in 2016. The faculty ranked 40th in 2016, 36th in 2017 and 29th in 2018. No ranking was made in 2019, but in 2020, the faculty reached the 9th position.

"Our ranking is very good, and it reflects our long-term, high-quality and effective research. Our goal is to reach the top five by 2030. So we are heading in the right direction," says the Dean Sarianna Sipilä.

[More information.](#)

University of Burgundy (UB)

300 years anniversary of the University This year, the University of Burgundy celebrates its 300th anniversary!

How about a flashback?

Imagine that we are in 1722, when a law school was set up in the Dijon city centre;

in the 19th century, a few faculties were added, forming the university of Dijon, and in the 20th century, the University expanded, covering the whole region and thus becoming the University of Burgundy.



Thus, over time, the small faculty of law managed to become a university that grew ever larger to – 300 years later – become a multidisciplinary university in the field of research and excellence, including disciplines that range from archaeology to artificial intelligence and providing 400 training courses each year. This University has 300 years of history behind it, and it is rooted in its territory: Burgundy.

We do not turn 300 every day; therefore, many anniversary related events are going to take place throughout this year to make it a flagship event, as well as promote the visibility of the uB, its history and its missions. The two objectives of this anniversary are to bring the University community closer together in order to create a feeling of belonging and to promote the University beyond its community. The uB will officially blow out its 300 candles on September 26, 2022, and that particular day is going to be the highlight of a year of celebration. In the morning, the President of the University will welcome the official representatives and the invited Rectors and Vice Rectors of the FORTHEM partner universities. The afternoon is going to be dedicated to the alumni, gaining an overview of their lives after the University. Finally, in the evening, there will be an opportunity for the students, staff and guests to enjoy live musical entertainment. In addition, other events will be held before and after this special day.

University of Agder (UiA)

New mathematics research institute The mathematics didactics community at UiA has been assigned the responsibility for a national research institute by the Research Council.

12 new research institutes, focusing on various fields, are going to be established across Norway, and UiA will be involved with seven of them (in addition to the one it leads).

“Basically, the idea is schoolchildren becoming better at maths and science. In order to achieve that we must strengthen research on mathematics and science teaching”, explained professor Martin Carlsen.

Carlsen is a professor of mathematics didactics, didactics being the discipline of teaching and learning in schools. Carlsen led the work on the application which has now resulted in the establishment of a separate national research institute: the Norwegian Graduate School in Mathematics and Science Education. The project is going to be supported by the Research Council of Norway with a total of NOK 16,000,000 over the next eight years.

“One of the most important things we can do to prepare for the future is to focus on research and young research talents in particular. The research institutes will help the doctoral students become well equipped for the tasks that await them both in their research activities and beyond,” Mari Sundli Tveit, Chief Executive of the Research Council, stated in a press release.

Uniting the whole of Norway

MERGA, the Mathematics Education Research Group at Agder, UiA’s own priority research centre in mathematics didactics, is the group behind the application.

“We will use the graduate school to create a community for PhD students and their supervisors in mathematics and science didactics throughout the country. We are home to a large academic community here at UiA and a national powerhouse within the field of mathematics didactics.

While working on the application, we invited all universities and four university colleges to take part; however, the project is led by UiA,” said Carlsen, Head of MERGA, who will also be the Head of the graduate school.

He was joined by Doris Jorde, professor of science didactics at the University of Oslo; Jorde will serve as Deputy Head of the graduate school.

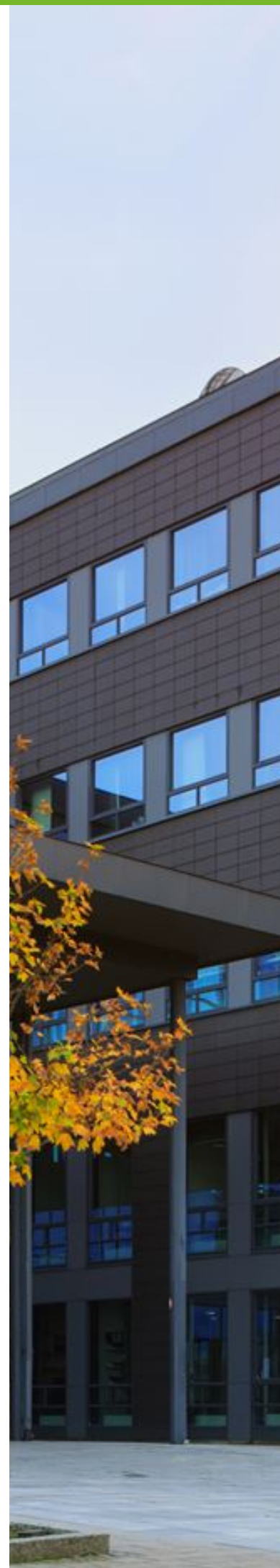
“We are very pleased with the allocation, both for the ongoing work and the recognition it gives”, said Ingvald Erfjord, Head of the Department of Mathematical Sciences.

Leader of one, participant in seven others The Scheme for National Research Institutes (FORSKERSKOLER) is dedicated to the revitalisation and improvement of PhD education in Norway, and it is a supplement to the doctoral programmes at various higher education institutions.

The research institutes consist of academic networks in which universities, university colleges and research institutes participate, a press release from the Research Council of Norway states.

The new research institutes will develop and use new methods and approaches in order to increase interaction between academia and other societal actors. Each research institute must collaborate with at least one partner representing a business, an industry, the public sector and/or other organisations.

By Arne Martin Larsen





University of Palermo (UniPa)

Opening ceremony of the academic year 2021-2022 at the University of Palermo

On January 10 UNIPA held the opening ceremony of the academic year 2021-2022 in the splendid Politeama Theatre in Palermo. Massimo Midiri, the new rector, welcomed Maria Elisabetta Alberti Casellati, President of the Italian Senate, who highlighted the importance of the university not only as study community, but also as a meeting point between students, academics and the demands of society. During the current pandemic, we rediscovered the importance of research, especially research carried out inside university laboratories: a crucial factor in the fight against COVID-19. Rector Massimo Midiri announced his commitment to building a more modern and efficient university hospital, with a great focus on assistance service, as well as research and educational aspects. Moreover, the new structure should be also a meeting point for everyone who is involved in the university hospital in some capacity; in addition, it might also serve as a spark to revitalise the whole neighbourhood. Members of academia, students, administrative staff and political representatives participated in the ceremony.

By Francesca Schiavo



Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu (LBUS)

Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, a recently joined member of the FORTHEM Alliance, is one of our nine partners and an active participant in our shared goals, as LBUS shares our common vision for new learning pathways for students and academics alike.

Located in Eastern Europe, in Sibiu, the medieval heart of Transylvania, LBUS has inherited the atmosphere of a historic city along with an interethnic and multicultural landscape. The university is highly connected to the cultural and business life of the region through its educational and training programs undertaken by the students.

The relatively new university (dating from 1969) has nine faculties focusing on the fields of medicine, letters and arts, food industry, economics, engineering, law, theology, sciences, and social humanities. The university has more than 15,000 students, 672 academic and research members, and it offers 79 Bachelor programmes, 58 Master programmes and 15 PhD programmes, as well as 21 research centres, 27 journals, the Hasso Plattner Institute of Knowledge Transfer, the Design Thinking School, the Entrepreneurship Centre and the Digital Innovation Hub. Consequently, the university's mission is to facilitate educational performance and research excellence by utilising international technological flows and striving for development and innovation.



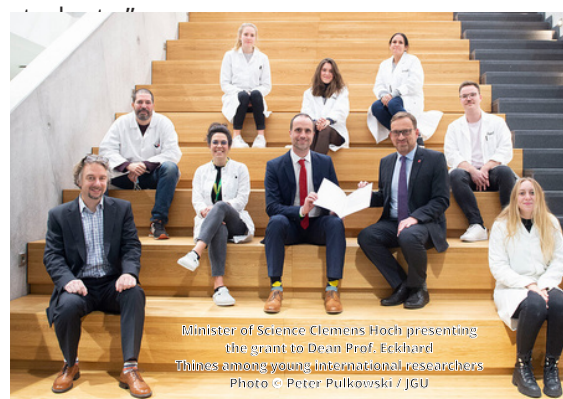
Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz

Boost for Biotechnology at JGU Did you know that the first vaccine against Covid-19 is a success story made in Mainz?

It was created by the firm BioNTech, who partnered up with Pharma giant Pfizer for global distribution. Both of the main researchers behind the vaccine have held teaching positions at JGU in the past, and the university still fosters cooperation with the now world-famous local asset.

The state of Rhineland-Palatinate has recently decided to further reinforce Mainz's role as a biotechnology powerhouse by investing in research and innovation – with a sizeable sum allocated to JGU. “Mainz University is a crucial pillar in the expansion of Rhineland-Palatinate as a biotechnology hub”, says Minister of Science Clemens Hoch. The state grant also serves to further support “international exchange and give research networks the support they need to grow and thrive.”

Part of the welcome boost goes to the establishment of a guest laboratory under the direction of Eckhard Thines, FORTHEM Lab Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Biology at JGU. He is thrilled for the new opportunity to invite researchers to visit Mainz from the associated European universities to engage in joint biotechnology research projects: “The new guest laboratory represents yet another milestone on our path to internationalization, to promoting interdisciplinary work, and to reinforcing joint research projects in the field of biotechnology. It is a step toward opening up global career opportunities for our



Minister of Science Clemens Hoch presenting
the grant to Dean Prof. Eckhard
Thines among young international researchers
Photo © Peter Pulkowski / JGU

University of Opole

HEALTH, HELP, CHILDREN

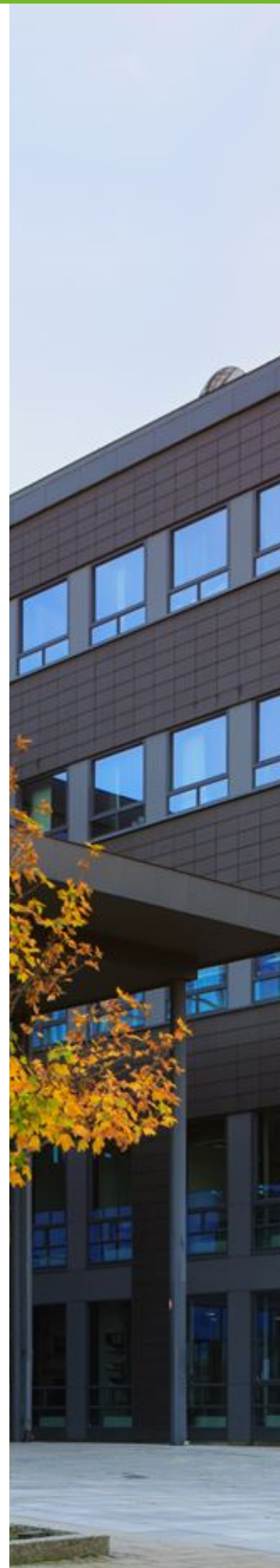
With these three words we can describe the last few months at the University of Opole. What's up in Opole, what are we doing, entering 2022?

Scientists from the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Health Sciences prepared an unusual series of popular science lectures addressed to everyone interested in their health. Online lectures are held every third Wednesday of the month. The aim of the meetings is to popularize medical knowledge, to confront ideas and stereotypes, and finally to debunk many medical myths. [\(click in PL\)](#)

The Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity is one of the biggest charity organizations in Poland raising money mostly for pediatric and elderly care. For 30 years now, they have been organizing the annual Grand Finale in winter. During the event, numerous auctions and fundraisers take place. Each donor receives a characteristic red heart-sticker as a thank you. This year, the UO donated a miniature of the monument to the famous Polish musician, Czesław Niemien, for auction. The author of the sculpture is prof. Marian Molenda from the Faculty of Arts. The miniature was auctioned for 2645 PLN. This year the Orchestra played for children's ophthalmology. [\(click in PL\)](#)

New perspectives for fifteen Afghans who were evacuated by the UO from Taliban-occupied Kabul! Students are studying, some are already working in the profession, and parents are looking for a job. All adults participate in the Polish language course at the Faculty of Philology. In turn, the children were admitted to one of the schools in Opole. A specialized, integrated program of intensive Polish learning and gradual entering into regular learning has been prepared for the girls. Their inclusion in kindergarten and school requires a lot of attention and work. [\(click in PL\)](#)

These are just some of our activities that we are proud of and would like to share with the world!



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 Lavia](#) (Latvijas Universitāte), Latvia

[University of Valencia](#) (Universitat de Valencia), Spain

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