



EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES

Erasmus+



Uniting over...

190,000
STUDENTS

24,500
STAFF, INCLUDING
14,000 ACADEMIC
STAFF/
RESEARCHERS

92
FACULTIES

135
RESEARCH GROUPS

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

FORTHEM Fostering Outreach within European Regions, Transnational Higher Education and Mobility



WHO WE ARE

7 pioneers

Johannes Gutenberg-Universität
Mainz (Germany)

Université de Bourgogne (France)

Jyväskylän yliopisto (Finland)

Uniwersytet Opolski (Poland)

Universita' degli Studi di Palermo
(Italy)

Latvijas Universitāte (Latvia)

Universitat de València (Spain)

36 associates

3

Cities

5

Regional
institutions

2

Chambers
of commerce

2

Media
institutions

2

Research
institutions

3

Cultural
organisations

12

Higher
education
organisations

5

Enterprises
and business
associations

2

NGOs

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

FORTHEM consists of multidisciplinary public research universities that are situated (all but one) outside capital regions. FORTHEM is developing, adopting and implementing a **long-term Transnational Higher Education Strategy**. Key aims of this strategy are to:

- **educate future generations of open-minded people**, committed to common values: democracy, student and staff participation, academic freedom, institutional autonomy;
- institutionalise permanent and deeper academic cooperation by setting up **joint management structures, reducing administrative hurdles and harmonising processes**;

- build up a **joint campus**, allowing seamless physical, virtual and blended mobility and an increasing amount of joint study programmes;
- encourage reflexivity surrounding classroom practices and stimulate motivation to tackle pedagogical challenges using **innovative, student-centred methods**;
- provide **support and innovative incentives** for educators and learners;
- **foster multilingualism**, understood as a variety of language resources, including proficiency in mother tongue, several other languages and versatile literacy skills;

- ➔ **address societal challenges;**
- ➔ enhance the vision of **open society for tomorrow's European citizens** as well as increase media literacy and critical thinking; and
- ➔ **reach out to the entire community** making up the economic and social fabric of the alliance regions.

By creating **FORTHEM Labs** – which reflect the member universities' areas of special expertise – FORTHEM is pursuing an **innovative research approach**. The FORTHEM Labs comprise of university staff, students, and public and private sector representatives, and they work on answering questions related to crucial societal issues such as **Diversity and Migration, Experiencing Europe, Multilingualism in School and Higher Education, Food Science and Digital Transformation**.

The **FORTHEM Digital Academy** is offering extensive opportunities for **online language learning**, subject-specific **MOOCs** and training modules for students and staff. Moreover, the FORTHEM alliance is piloting **innovative forms of student and staff mobility**, including **virtual mobility**. FORTHEM is also **enhancing outreach activities**: professional support goes to students performing volunteer work in alliance countries, whereas a **network of schools, companies and public & third-sector organisations** provides internship placements for students. A programme to bring Europe into classrooms by providing in-service training opportunities for school teachers is also being implemented.

PUTTING OUR VISION INTO PRACTICE

KEY DELIVERABLES / ACTIVITIES

- ➔ Provide students and staff with the **'FORTHEM Digital Academy'**, offering innovative online and blended learning opportunities and staff training courses.
- ➔ Offer **innovative forms of physical mobility**.
- ➔ **Seven FORTHEM Labs** will produce output such as new e-learning material, joint scientific publications, reports on the supervision of bachelor/master/doctoral candidate theses, new double degrees, summer schools, public dissemination events and support for civic engagement projects.
- ➔ Establish a **network of schools, companies and public & third-sector organisations** and tailored in-service training for school teachers.
- ➔ Conduct **civic engagement projects**.

HOW OUR ALLIANCE WILL TRANSFORM OUR UNIVERSITIES

- ➔ Three missions, a **Mobility Mission**, a **FORTHEM Labs Mission**, and an **Outreach Mission** steered by **Mission Boards**, are bringing FORTHEM's strategy to life.
- ➔ A joint **Steering Committee** ensures non-bureaucratic management and **common academic and administrative processes**.
- ➔ By 2025, **50% of the alliance's members will be involved in mobility, both virtual and physical mobility**.
- ➔ **FORTHEM Labs reform traditional ways of teaching and research** by setting up best practice examples.
- ➔ Close collaboration with schools and enterprises **ensures knowledge circulation between FORTHEM, society and economy and enhances the employability of students**.
- > FORTHEM Website is coming soon

#EuropeanUniversities

https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area/european-universities-initiative_en

