

# FORTHem Alliance Third Call for Projects: Short-term collective mobility projects 2021-2022

## 1. Context

### The FORTHem Alliance

The “FORTHem Alliance” is a “European University” network funded in the Erasmus+ framework and composed of state-funded, comprehensive universities installed in various European regions. The seven founding members are: The University of Burgundy in France, the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz in Germany, the University of Jyväskylä in Finland, the University of Latvia (Riga) in Latvia, the University of Opole in Poland, the University of Palermo in Italy and the University of Valencia in Spain.

The goal of the alliance is to create an inclusive European Higher Education network, a “European University” promoting student and staff mobility and facilitating the emergence of new forms of cooperation. This involves overcoming current barriers to mobility, promoting exchanges and coordinated teaching between partners assisted by strengthened language teaching and also employing linguistic mediation technology solutions, as part of a seamless virtual campus.

### Collective Short-term Mobility Activities

Among many actions taking place within the FORTHem alliance, one of them is short-term student mobility between alliance universities. Every year, approximately **ten collective short-term mobility activities** are proposed to students, giving them a chance to take part in a week-long (5 days on site) group activity as part of a group of approximately 35 students, coming from all of the FORTHem partner universities, who will meet physically on site in one university city.

Around 350 students in total are to be involved in these activities every year. The 10 activities will be organised in all partner universities (1 or 2 activities per university), based on proposals made in response to this call for projects. Student mobility and living costs for the 10 activities will be funded by the FORTHem alliance. Organisers or hosting universities will need to make provisions to cover any additional organisation costs (more details below).

### **Covid-19 Impact**

*Due to the Covid-19 situation, some programmes planned in the spring semester 2021 have been postponed to a later date or moved to a virtual form.*

*If an organiser chooses to postpone or change a programme to a virtual form due to Covid-19, they are required to inform all applicants of any changes a minimum of 30 days before the planned start date of the programme.*



*If the dates of the programmes selected in the previous application round (planned between March 2021 and August 2021) have to be postponed to March 2022 - August 2022 the already selected participants have the option to confirm the new date (if they are still eligible for the programme, e.g. still enrolled to one of the partner universities). For those programmes the organisers can then ask to fill any remaining available places; the call for students will be launched in autumn 2021. In order for their programme to be added in the autumn call, organisers will need to send the updated description of the project before the 6<sup>th</sup> of September 2021 to their local FORTHEM office.*

## Practical information

Examples of short-term activities listed in the FORTHEM application include:

- Summer or winter schools.
  - Examples of activities proposed last year: Challenge of Migrations, Central European International Week, Language Teaching and Migration, Business and Entrepreneurship Summer School, Minority Languages: Rights and Practices, Body, Disability and Milieu, Beyond Clichés – Students in Intercultural Exchange, Migration as Cultural Enrichment, Climate Change and Environment in EU, Innovation Lab on EU Integration. A list of our current projects can be found on [the FORTHEM Alliance website](#).
- Thematic workshops and ‘conferences’ for PhD students.
- Short term mobility related to blended learning courses.
- Joint dissemination events of FORTHEM Labs, involving students, staff and stakeholders.
- Language learning-oriented courses that will support learning two languages (e.g. basic German is studied intensively in the mornings and advanced English in the afternoons).
- The annual FORTHEM student conference – an interdisciplinary and multinational conference from students, for students.
- The annual FORTHEM Model of European Union – a unique simulation of EU decision-making and politics.

For this third call for projects, covering actions from **1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 to the end of February 2023**, collective short-term mobility proposals might also include actions aiming to launch future collaborations, such as:

- An integration week for students preparing to take part in a FORTHEM blended learning activity.
- A meeting between student association representatives from different partner countries aiming to set up joint actions, possibly linked to a local event.

Other possible activities might include:

- A sports tournament bringing together players from the different partner universities.
- A cultural gathering on a particular theme, linked to a local or regional event.
- An extended event organised by an association on a specific topic.

This list is not exhaustive, and the FORTHEM Mobility Mission Board also strongly encourages innovative ideas which would make the most of this form of mobility. Blended learning activities and all other innovative forms of collaboration will be given priority. Organizers are encouraged to define the scope of the programme in ECTS credits in order to make the credit transfer process for



programme participants easier and, whenever possible, award ECTS credits for programme participants after successful completion of the programme. This is not required from student organizations.

Students will be able to apply for a maximum of 2 collective programmes (ranking their priority upon application).

When planning the day-by-day programme, the organisers should also take into consideration the traveling days (students will be coming from all parts of Europe). In practical terms, this means the official programmes shouldn't start on Monday morning and finish on Friday evening. This allows students time to arrive at the host university and go back home at the end of the programme.

For example: having a programme with 4 days of official activities from Tuesday- Friday and having optional activities planned on Monday evening for the students who have already arrived in order to start to get to know each other or leave Saturday (FORTHEM can finance 5 nights in total).

## 2. Eligibility

Projects should be presented by a student association or staff member of a FORTHEM partner university and be validated by their home university. The duration of the activity **should not exceed 5 days on site** (including the travel time), and the total number of student participants expected should generally be **around 35 (including up to 30 participants from partner universities)**. The planned activity should take place between **1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 and 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023<sup>1</sup>**, and details should be given of how organisation costs generated by the planned activity will be covered by the organisers.

## 3. Funding and assistance for selected projects

- The funding for each event is calculated based on the Erasmus+ country category and number of participants. This should cover accommodation for incoming students and at least 2 meals for all the participants (local and incoming). The maximum budget for a 5-day event with 30 incoming students is:
  - Category A: Finland – 10 500€
  - Category B: France, Germany, Italy, Spain – 9000€
  - Category C: Latvia, Poland – 7500€

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<sup>1</sup> Funding is guaranteed for all projects until August 2022, the official end of the current funding period. The alliance is awaiting confirmation of funding for the next six-year period (2022-2028). Organisers of events between September 2022 and February 2023 will be notified as soon as funding for these activities is officially confirmed by the EU (and before the call for student applications is launched).

- In addition, students from foreign FORTHEM universities participating in selected projects will receive funding from home universities to cover their travel costs. Those costs are based on Erasmus+ distance calculator.
- Any additional costs generated by the activity are not covered by the FORTHEM budget. Organisers will need to make provisions to cover these costs: the local FORTHEM Office will provide information about possible local sources of funding for activities and offer administrative advice in preparing the application.
- Selected projects will be advertised through the FORTHEM alliance network and a centralised call for student applications will be launched in autumn for activities which will be organised in between March 2022 and August 2022.
- A new call for student applications will be launched in spring 2022 for the activities planned between September 2022 and February 2023.
- The local FORTHEM Office will provide assistance in managing student applications and selection process.
- At the end of the selected activities, certificates and transcripts (for the activities that will award ECTS) will be provided for distribution to participants by the local FORTHEM Office. Organisers will be required to submit an attendance list and a 2-page report (see appendix 2) to the FORTHEM Mobility Mission Board within 2 months of the end of the activity, giving feedback and suggestions for future activities.

#### 4. Application procedure and selection criteria

##### Applications

Applicants wishing to organise a short-term collective mobility activity supported by FORTHEM mobility funding should fill out the application form below (appendix 1), giving details of the activity planned, the structures involved and anticipated funding, as well as any requirements to be met by future student applicants. Applications should be in English and application forms should be **sent by email to the applicant's local FORTHEM office by 23.59 (local time) on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> of September 2021.**

##### Selection criteria and review process

Applications will be reviewed by the FORTHEM Mobility Mission Board, with representatives from all alliance universities. The following criteria will be applied in establishing the final selection of 10 projects to be funded:

- Quality and innovation of the proposed programme (feasibility, contents, structure, planned organisation)
- Coherency with overall objectives of the FORTHEM alliance (mobility, research and innovation, regional and civic outreach)
- Provisions by organisers to cover organisational costs other than student mobility





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**fostering outreach within European regions, transnational higher education and mobility**

- Representativity of all universities of the alliance in the final selection (1 or 2 projects from each partner university)
- Diversity and inclusion of various student profiles and interests within all of the selected projects (variety of projects)

Applicants will be notified of the results of the selection process by the 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2021.



## APPENDIX 1

### Proposal for a short-term collective mobility activity in 2021-2022

**Applications should be sent by email to the applicant's local FORTHEM office by 23.59 (local time) on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> of September 2021. Please submit applications in English and in PDF format, font Calibri size 12, singled-spaced, 3 pages maximum.**

#### **Name of activity:**

#### **Details of organiser:**

*For student associations:*

Name of association:

Name of person responsible for organising the activity within the association:

Postal address:

Email address:

Phone number:

Short description of the activities of your association (max 0.25 page)

#### **OR**

*For university staff members:*

Name of organiser:

Position:

Postal address:

Email address:

Phone number:

Relevant experience of the project leader (max 0.25 page)

#### **Details of planned activity**

Description of the collective short-term mobility programme proposed.

The following points should be covered (max 2 pages):

- Composition of organising team (number and status of people involved: staff, students, etc.)
- Structures involved (association, department, research lab, external organisation, other FORTHEM Alliance establishments, etc.)
- Location and dates of activity (NB: dates between 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2022 and 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2023)
- Detailed programme of the 5-day activity proposed
- Compliance with FORTHEM objectives (applicants can discuss this with their local FORTHEM office).
- What will make the programme attractive to foreign students
- Organisational costs incurred (on top of mobility and living costs) and sources of funding secured
- Clearly explain the student learning outcomes of the programme and how do they align with European Values; such as human right and dignity, freedom and democracy (more information can be found [here](#)).



Note: All proposed activities should be aware of starting and ending time allowing students enough time to travel to hosting university and back home.

### **Selection procedure for student applicants (max 0.5 page)**

Clear details of the selection criteria that the organiser will use when choosing student participants (5 per university). Selection criteria should be well thought-out during the planning phase as FORTHEM Offices will transmit **all** the eligible applications (student status, attachments...) and then the organisers will select the students according to the criteria stated.

### **Learning outcomes (max 0.25 page)**

*Please describe what are the specific learning outcomes and note that the programmes should also be directly linked to common E.U. values, which include the following:*

- Human dignity – protections of all human rights.
- Freedom – of movement within the Union and individual freedoms that protect an individual's right to private life, thought etc.
- Democracy - allowing citizens to enjoy their political rights.
- Human Rights - individual right to live without discrimination.
- Etc.: more details on common values can be found [here](#).

### **Attachments needed for selection procedure (select from the list)**

*Please select the supporting documents which are specifically necessary for you to select participants. This list is based on requirements of different programmes in the past, but in most cases only one or two documents are requested, depending on the nature of the programme. One aim is to avoid making the administrative process too time-consuming for both students and organisers, so please avoid requesting documents which will not be useful for you.*

- One-page CV
- One-page Motivational letter
- Proof of language level (only in case of additional language requirements – basic requirement English level B1 is considered proven with candidate's application in English)
- No attachments are required
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

## APPENDIX 2

### Activity report following a short-term collective mobility programme

*Activity reports should be sent by email to the applicant's local FORTHEM office within two months after the end of the activity. Please submit reports in English and in PDF format, font Calibri size 12, singled-spaced, 2 pages maximum.*

**Name of activity:**

**Name of organiser:**

**Brief recap of activities carried out** (max 0.5 page)

- Including numbers and origins of participants.

**Implementation** (max 0.5 page)

- What were the main difficulties you faced in organising and implementing the programme? How did you overcome them?

**Assessment / future developments** (max 0.5 page)

- How would you assess the success of the programme you organised? (positive and negative points)
- Do you see your programme as having a lasting impact or leading to further actions/collaborations between partner universities? If so, how?

**General feedback** (max 0.5 page)

- What advice would you give to facilitate the organisation of future activities of this kind (barriers to be overcome, etc.)?

