

# FORTHEM Alliance Call for Projects: Short-term collective mobility projects 2020

## 1. Context

### The FORTHEM Alliance

The “FORTHEM Alliance” is a “European University” project 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, 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 but also employing linguistic mediation technology solutions, as part of a seamless virtual campus.

Key actions organised together by the alliance universities include seven FORTHEM Labs for education, research and innovation; on topics which reflect our areas of special expertise and are of crucial societal relevance. Outreach is another area where the alliance aims to promote, through its universities, regional development and international cooperation between regional and local schools, private sector, public sector and third sector organizations. A third key area is mobility, where several new types of funded actions have become possible thanks to the alliance.

### Collective Short-term Mobility Activities

Among the many actions to be set up within the FORTHEM alliance, partner universities aim to encourage new forms of short-term student mobility between alliance universities which have not yet been possible in the Erasmus Plus framework. Every year, **ten collective short-term mobility activities** will be 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 partner universities, who will meet physically on site in one university city.

Around 350 students in total will be involved in these activities every year. The 10 activities will be organised in all partner universities (1 or 2 activities per university), on the basis of 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).

Examples of activities listed in the FORTHEM application include:

- Summer or winter schools.
- 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 (<http://meum.aegee-mainz.de/>).

For this first call for projects, covering actions from 1<sup>st</sup> April to the end of December 2020, 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.
- Etc.

This list is not exhaustive, and the Mobility Mission Board also strongly encourages new innovative ideas which would make the most of this new form of mobility.

## **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, and the total number of student participants expected should be around 35 (including approximately 30 participants from partner universities). The planned activity should take place between 1st April and 31st December 2020, 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**

- Students from foreign universities participating in selected projects will receive funding to cover their travel costs and living expenses (accommodation and meals) for the duration of their stay.

- 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 support in preparing the application.
- Selected projects will be advertised through the FORTHEM alliance network and a centralised call for student applications will be organised in January and February 2020. The local FORTHEM Office will provide assistance in managing student applications and communicating with applicants.
- At the end of the selected activities, certificates will be provided for distribution to participants by the local FORTHEM Office. Organisers will be required to submit 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 12pm (midday, local time) on Thursday 28th November 2019.

##### 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 of programme proposed
- 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
- 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 the 10 projects selected (variety of projects)

Applicants will be notified of the results of the selection process on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019

## APPENDIX 1

### Proposal for a short-term collective mobility activity in 2020

*Applications should be sent by email to the applicant's local FORTHEM office by 12pm (midday) local time on Thursday 28th November 2019. Please submit applications in English and in PDF format, font Calibri size 12, singled-spaced, 2 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 1.5 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> April and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020)
- 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

Selection procedure for student applicants (max 0.25 page)

- Selection criteria which the organiser will use when choosing student participants (5 per university).

## 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.)?