



# FIT FOR EUROPEAN RESEARCH FUNDING

## The Social Sciences and Humanities – Strongholds of the *FORTHEM* Alliance!

November 22 – 26, 2021

Online boot camp hosted by *Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz*  
and *FORTHEM* partner universities



Although many societal challenges have been eclipsed by the Corona pandemic, they will catch up with Europe again in the coming years. As a result of the pandemic, social inequalities have become even more pronounced, nationalism and populism have emerged more strongly than ever before, many professions are facing economic constraints, and the need for faster and better processes and solutions for digitization is evident. These challenges can't be resolved by technology and innovation-driven

research only, but need by nature a strong and most significant contribution of the Social Sciences and Humanities. All *FORTHEM* partner universities have a strong focus in those disciplines and could become pioneers in tackling the aforementioned challenges. Very often, however, these disciplines are less frequently involved in big collaborative projects than the natural sciences, the strongly application-oriented engineering or other applied sciences. This phenomenon appears partly in the national context, but even more frequently in the European environment. *FIT FORTHEM* wants to analyze in a one-week boot camp whether this is also the case for the *FORTHEM* universities, and if so, how we can jointly break down existing barriers to participation.

### Content

During the week, members of the alliance will discuss their experiences, and present successful applicants and their projects. We will try to identify and bring together common strongholds, and consider how to work together institutionally, nationally, and on the European stage for a stronger prioritization of research on societies in our innovation-oriented times, and in the context of mainly impact-oriented European funding schemes.

### Target groups

researchers, research managers including administrative and technical support staff, students, and externals

### Registration

Participation in our boot camp is open to everyone interested in the topic – there is no need for registration. Just follow the links to the session in the agenda below.

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## Agenda

### DAY 1: Monday, November 22, 2021, 09:00 – 11:00 (CET)

#### The role of the Social Sciences and Humanities in European Research Funding

**Moderation: Paz Ruiz (UEVG)**

**Rapporteur: Melanie Gross (JGU)**

On day one we will discuss with experts from partner organizations the participation of SSH researchers from the respective institutions in European funding programs. Did they feel well prepared to participate? What kind of barriers and obstacles do exist? Do SSH researchers agree to coordinate big collaborative European projects? Did integration promoted by the European Commission so strongly work, and what can support units do to facilitate this integration?

You are a staff member of one of the *FORTHEM* universities and would like to discuss with us? Or you are an external and would like to tell us about your experiences as well?

[To join the session, just follow this link: \*\*Boot camp SSH – DAY 1\*\*](#)

### DAY 2: Tuesday, November 23, 2021, 14:00 – 16:00 (CET)

#### Learning from the best and joining forces

**Moderation: Frédéric Debeaufort (UB)**

**Rapporteur: Agnese Rusakova (UL)**

Learning from the best can always be a step forward to success. In the second session of the boot camp, *FIT FORTHEM* will showcase some successful applicants on the European level, or those successful in the national context with a high potential to upscale their project ideas within and together with the strong *FORTHEM* network partners.

You are a SSH researcher and want to share your thoughts and experiences? Or you are just interested to learn about interesting research projects at *FORTHEM* partner universities?

[Join the meeting: \*\*Boot camp SSH – DAY 2\*\*](#)

### DAY 3: Wednesday, November 24, 2021, 11:00 – 13:00 (CET)

#### FORTHEM - SSH strongholds identified and ready to be matched?

**Moderation: Fabrizio D'Avenia (UNIPA)**

**Rapporteur: Katarzyna Molek-Kozakowska (UO)**

In one of its initial surveys *FIT FORTHEM* partner universities have identified some of their strongholds in research both in the natural sciences and the SSH. The basic idea was to give them more visibility within the alliance, to bring them to the attention of other researchers, and to develop ideas for further collaboration. In this workshop we want to take a closer look at this list of the high potentials and evaluate how we can best promote joint activities. While established researchers very often rely on their existing networks, early career academics can most probably benefit from what we can offer to them in *FORTHEM* and *FIT FORTHEM*.

You are curious to know what are the strong domains at the universities or you belong to one of them yourself?

[Just get into the conversation: \*\*Boot camp SSH – DAY 3\*\*](#)



#### **DAY 4: Thursday, November 25, 2021, 09:00 – 11:00 (CET)**

**Lobbying for more research on societies funded by national and European funding programs, and a better integration of SSH research in all funding schemes.**

**Moderation: Nicole Birkle (JGU)**

**Rapporteur: Mira Väyrynen (JYU)**

Individual institutions are rarely strong enough to promote the interests of all their research communities in the political context. Within this framework, the European University Networks now have a special role to play. But how does lobbying work in general in and for academia? Doesn't lobbying always have a negative connotation? What possibilities are there to get actively involved, to contact specific stakeholders, and to act together with existing groups? We want to explore these questions together with experienced experts from the field of SSH. For example, the European Association for Social Sciences and Humanities (*EASSH*), the working group Research on Societies in Europe (*ROSE*), and other working groups, representatives of program committees or rectors' conferences.

[Learn more about that? You are most welcome to join the session: \*\*Boot camp SSH – DAY 4\*\*](#)

#### **DAY 5: Friday, November 26, 2021, 09:00 – 11:00 (CET)**

**Developing a roadmap for further activities**

**Moderation: Nina Straub (JGU)**

**Rapporteur: Nicole Birkle (JGU)**

After a full week of new information and rich discussions, there is often a risk that this information is not processed and interesting approaches simply go by the wayside in the stressful daily work routine. In order to prevent this, on this last day of our boot camp we will have the results summarized by previously selected rapporteurs for the individual days. On the basis of the results, a roadmap is to be developed and targeted actions are to be initiated. In addition, it should be considered which actors that *FIT FORTHEM* has identified in its networking and membership agenda can be brought on board for future actions.

[Interested in working on this roadmap? Become an active contributor: \*\*Boot camp SSH – DAY 5\*\*](#)