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Fostering Outreach
within European Regions,
Transnational Higher Education
and Mobility

Approaches to multilingualism in the FORTHM Alliance

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Universities

1. Johannes Gutenberg University, Germany
2. University of Jyväskylä, Finland
3. University of València, Spain
4. University of Burgundy, France
5. University of Opole, Poland
6. University of Latvia, Riga
7. University of Palermo, Italy

<https://www.forthem-alliance.eu/>

- > 200,000 students
- > 127 research institutes
- > 17,000 academic staff
- > 13,000 administrative staff
- > 18 campuses
- > 35 associate partners



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Cornerstones

Multilingual policies

- Our Statute (Chapter IX) highlights the wealth of language resources available in the Alliance, and sets the promotion of multilingualism in R & I, education and outreach activities as one of the goals of the Alliance
- Our future Transnational Higher Education Strategy enforces innovative student-centered pedagogy and multilingualism

Multilingual education

- Language learning opportunities for students and staff
- Introductory courses to the seven languages of instruction of partner universities via FORTHM Digital Academy
- Language tandem
- Language café
- Summer schools
- Workshops

Multilingual work culture

- Work is carried out multilingually in all Work Packages
- Some jointly developed FORTHM Digital Academy courses are offered in two or several languages of the partner universities (e.g. multilingual sessions and/or subtitled videos)
- (Virtual) exchange periods for students and staff highlight the development of multilingual and multicultural skills



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Examples from the three Missions

7 FORTHEM Labs

- <https://www.forthem-alliance.eu/objectives/labs/>
- FORTHEM Lab Multilingualism in School and Higher Education (its alliance-relevant tasks are included in the Statute as well)
- Relevant actions in further expert networks, especially in FORTHEM Lab Diversity and Migration & FORTHEM Lab Experiencing Europe
- Emerging collaboration among Labs

Mobility

- Mobility Mission promotes multilingualism by organizing activities in a choice of languages
- Collective Short Term Mobility actions include bi- and multilingual summer and winter schools:
 - “Language Teaching and Migration” in Italian, German and English
 - “Migration as cultural enrichment” in Italian and English

Outreach

- As part of Outreach Mission, school internships for students from partner universities can be used to foster a multilingual mindset: students can act as language ambassadors in the receiving school by, for example, offering small-scale instruction in their mother tongue



Addressing challenges

Collaboration

- Involvement in cross-alliances exchange, e.g. in FOREU Subgroup on Multilingualism
- Organizing workshops to exchange best practices, e.g. in a network of FORTHEM language centers
- Developing a cross-alliances Citizen Science framework for research, with a special regard to multilingualism (as an output of the Lab Multilingualism in School and Higher Education)

Resources

- Solving the challenge of knowledge exchange in several languages; e.g. how to provide access to the richness of resources produced in various languages by the alliance's universities?
 - Jointly developed platforms or multilingual search engines are planned

Digitalization

- Solving the challenge of internal and external information exchange about the alliance in several languages
 - A multilingual chatbot is in the making (as an output of the Lab Multilingualism in School and Higher Education)



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