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GA No: 101017248

FIT FORTHEM - 2 March 2022  
1<sup>st</sup> TORCH Annual Open Forum



**FIT forthem.**

Fostering Institutional  
Transformation of  
R&I Policies in  
European Universities

## 1st TORCH ANNUAL OPEN FORUM

for University Alliances (SwafS projects)

Sustainability in a (post?) pandemic world: asking the right question on the role of Universities in R&I today

**Cluster 1: R&I Common Science Agenda and European Universities**

# Steps and methods to collect data for a joint R&I strategy and sharing of R&I resources by FORTHEM Alliance

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# *FIT FORTHEM*

## Fostering Institutional Transformation

JOINT  
RESEARCH  
AGENDA

JOINT  
OPEN SCIENCE  
POLICY

WIDENING  
OUTREACH  
DIMENSION

SHARING  
INFRASTRUC-  
TURES

STRONG  
JOINT EXPERT  
SERVICES

INTERNATIO-  
NAL COMPETI-  
TIVENESS

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## *FIT FORTHEM* Mission

- bearing in mind Global Challenges, and Missions defined by Horizon Europe, as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals, fostering cooperation between **academia, industry, governance, and citizens,**
- mainstreaming a more cross-linked and **digitized science and communication** to overcome current weaknesses in the acceptance of Open Science requirements
- joining forces with other alliances, stakeholder **networks,** and policy makers
- **eliminating site-specific disadvantages** of institutions, and opening new career perspectives
- boosting cross-institutional transnational research **cooperation,** taking the specific characteristics of each institution into account



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Work package	WP title	WP Leader
WP1	PROJECT MANAGEMENT	JGU Mainz, DE
WP2	INTERCULTURAL SENSITIZATION AND PROFESSIONALIZATION IN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION MANAGEMENT	JGU Mainz, DE
WP3	CO-CREATION OF COMMON LONG-TERM R&I AGENDAS FOR FORTHEM	UVEG Valencia, ES
WP4	CONNECT, ACCESS, AND SHARE R&I RESOURCES	UNIPA Palermo, IT
WP5	LIVING LABS FOR SOCIETALLY EMBEDDED CO-CREATION OF KNOWLEDGE	JYU Jyväskylä, FI
WP6	ESTABLISHING A JOINT VIRTUAL RESEARCH POLICY AND SERVICES OFFICE	UB Dijon, FR
WP7	DISSEMINATION AND COMMUNICATION	UO Opole, PL



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WP 3

## CO-CREATION OF COMMON LONG-TERM R&I AGENDAS

### STEP ONE SWOT analysis of the FORTHEM R&I capacities

- Focus groups in 6 out of 7 universities
- Interviews with designated top-level research administrators/experts **91 persons**

### STEP TWO

- Survey on institutional R&I policies and practices in European universities

### INTERIM RESULT (two deliverables, including)

- Book on existing best practices in FORTHEM universities. **A total of 86 good practices + 8 introductory chapters.**



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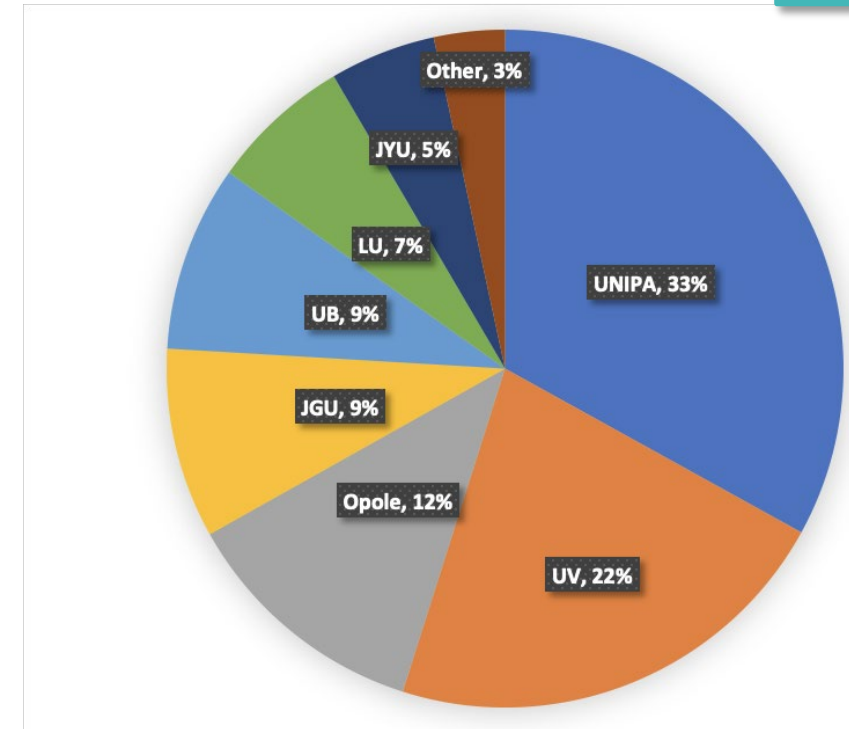
**WP 3**

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- Survey launched in several languages
- Survey closed on January 2022
- Collected over 2,095 answers

### Measure awareness of institutional practices related to

- **Internationalization of Research** (priorities, funding lines for projects and supports to engage in them)
- **Open Science** (policies, practices, experiences, tools)
- **Co-creation with external stakeholders** (established cooperations, support measures)
- **Science Communication** (services and tools for dissemination and communication)
- **Human Capital** (recruitment, assessment, personal development, career support)







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**WP 3**

**CHAPTER 1**

**FORTHM, FIT FORTHM - AN INTRODUCTION**

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Dr. Tanja Herrmann, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, forthem@uni-mainz.de  
All FIT FORTHM partners who participated in the application process (CONTACTS)

**The FORTHM Alliance<sup>1</sup>**

The FORTHM Alliance (<https://www.forthem-alliance.eu/en/>) consists of multidisciplinary public research universities that are situated (all but one) outside capital regions. The Alliance includes universities from all four European geographical areas. It has the Weimar Triangle at its core (Dijon, Mainz, and Opole), represents the Scandinavian and Baltic regions (Jyväskylä and Riga), as well as the Iberian Peninsula (Valencia), and extends to the centre of the Mediterranean basin (Palermo). Recently, two new partners, the Universities of Agder (Norway) and Sibiu (Romania) joined the Alliance to foster the cross-border cooperation throughout Europe and to enrich and expand the activities of the Alliance and bring in new points of view and additional expertise. Now, involving more than one quarter of all EU member states, FORTHM is both still small enough to enable strongly integrated cooperation and large enough to further develop its strategies for higher education and implementation adapted to the regional demand all over Europe.

FORTHM cross-border, not just trans-border. All universities are young, while others are established. Thereby, FORTHM is representative of all Europe for this reason. We are facing very different challenges, facing different political and social realities, and political rapprochement between Europe and its member states. Universities are firm pillars of society and their role as motors of innovation are interlinked and reinforcing. Anchoring gives credibility and values of a multi-cultural society in all areas and to

12

**1.1 The FORTHM core fields of activities**

Since the first funding period of FORTHM, the Alliance has been mainly working on developing, adopting and implementing a long-term Transnational Higher Education Strategy. In this pilot phase, FORTHM is building on three core missions (fig. 1):



Fig. 1: FORTHM Missions

These Missions are steered by Mission Boards, bringing FORTHM's strategy to life. A joint Steering Committee ensures the transformation process of the seven founding members towards a joint campus and a true European University. Great efforts are made - especially in times of the pandemic - to put innovative tools and exchange formats for virtual mobility in place, and to guarantee that all university stakeholders, such as students, researchers and administrative staff can participate in, contribute to, and benefit from being an Alliance. FORTHM is enhancing outreach activities; professional support goes to students performing volunteer work in Alliance countries, whereas a network of

schools, companies, and public and third-sector organizations provide internship placements for students. A programme to bring Europe into classrooms by providing in-service training opportunities for schoolteachers is also being implemented

**1.2 The FORTHM Labs**

At present seven FORTHM Labs are establishing new types of multidisciplinary expert networks that will serve as innovative interfaces between education, research and innovation. Labs can be understood as a valuable resource and asset in mobilizing knowledge and experience from Alliance member universities and external stakeholders for shared goals. They are built on shared areas of expertise and complementary strengths of the Alliance member universities and seek best practices and research-based solutions to organization-specific, regional or European challenges. Designed as 'Living Labs,' they are composed of researchers, students and external stakeholders (associated partners) from different fields. Close collaboration with schools and enterprises ensures knowledge circulation between FORTHM, society and the economy, and enhances the employability of students. The FORTHM Labs work on answering questions related to crucial societal issues, with each FORTHM member university coordinating one Lab<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> The introductory paragraphs describing FORTHM and FIT FORTHM are based on the initial

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.forthem-alliance.eu/objectives/labs/>



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**FORTHEM Alliance Universities' Selected Good Practices in R&I**  
Towards a European University

Maria Dolores Pitarch-Garrido  
Isabel Mendoza-Poudereux (coord.)




**Building a research group with international R&D&I capabilities and aligning it with the Research support services at the departmental and central administration levels**

**SUMMARY:** T  
gio Mical  
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activities follo  
to achieve suc  
**AREA OF ACT**

**DESCRIPTION**

The core of the team's "good practices" can be summarized into four key acti

1. Identify how your expertise can be appreciated and useful within a new co  
esting concept, even if such concept concerns topics not covered by your l
2. Respect roles and duties assigned by the GA, trying to overtake problems  
nying support when needed by the consortium, even if that may be out o  
work you have to carry out according to the GA;
3. Keep a high level of interaction with all consortium members, also promo  
the exchange of students with other R&D institutions or supporting R&D  
by sending junior staff for short internships under your own supervision (t  
the industrial partner and, in some cases, of the whole project, if those act
4. Maintain continuous interaction with key offices of your institution, suppo  
tion of EU projects (at departmental and university levels), share with key o  
project's administration and management, budget preparation, spending c  
decisions which concern the possible roles of your team within the consor

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Andrea Cipollina, andrea.cipollina@unipa.it  
**WEB OR CONTACT:** www.dl.unipa.it

**RESULTS**

More than 10 EU-funded projects as partner (among them: RED Heat-to-Power, REvIVED water, ReWaCEM, ZERO BRINE, BAoBaB, WATER-MINING, REWAISE) and 1 EU-H2020 project (SEArCurMINE) coordinated by UNIPA

**REPRODUCIBILITY**

The method developed by the team can be seen as a transferable list of good practices for boosting the involvement of research teams within EU cooperative research projects.

**OBJECTIVES**

- To build a research group with international R&D&I capabilities, always open to new ideas, and with a flexible approach to the work;
- To promote exchange projects for students and short internships for junior staff;
- To support research services at the departmental and central administration levels.

[https://www.forthem-alliance.eu/fileadmin/user\\_upload/forthem/FIT\\_FORTHEM/Results/Reports\\_and\\_publications/WEB\\_low\\_FIT-FORTHEM.pdf](https://www.forthem-alliance.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/forthem/FIT_FORTHEM/Results/Reports_and_publications/WEB_low_FIT-FORTHEM.pdf)





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WP 4

## CONNECT, ACCESS, AND SHARE R&I RESOURCES

**STEP ONE: Assessing the possibilities for linking of digital content for virtual access to research resources**

- Survey designed for, presented to, discussed with and filled in by the partners (**16 experts, a total of 185 pp**)

## STEP TWO: INTERIM RESULTS

- **Identification of high potential research groups** in SSH and PE/LS (ERC sectors)
- **Selection of Collections and Cultural Heritage items** at partners' disposal

## STEP THREE: SHARING THE RESULTS

- **Bootcamp "The Social Sciences and Humanities - Strongholds of the FORTHEM Alliance!" (November 2021)**
- **Meeting for the next FORTHEM funding application (December 2021)**
- **FORTHEM Newsletter (January 2022)**
- **General Assembly meeting (February 2022)**



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**WP 4**

## SSH: 4-5 intersections

- **21 (of 34)** research groups
- **5** macro groups
- **10** ERC sub-sectors covered

## Research fields

1. Individuals, markets and organizations
2. Social policies, welfare, work and employment
3. Language learning and processing
4. Cultures and cultural production (digitisation)
5. Human mobility, environment and space (migration)

		JGU	JYU	UB	UL	UNIP A	UO	UVEG
1	SH1_3	X		X			X	X
	SH1_12	X		X		X		X
	SH1_15	X		X	X		X	X
2	SH3_8	X	X	X		X	X	
3	SH4_8	X	X	X			X	
4	SH5_4	X		X		X	X	
	SH5_7	X		X		X	X	
	SH5_8	X		X		X	X	
	SH5_12	X	X	X		X	X	
5	SH7_2	X		X	X	X		



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**WP 4**

## Physics & Engineering: 3-4 intersections

- 12 (of 22) research groups
- 4 macro groups
- 1 ERC sector and 6 ERC sub-sectors cover

## Research fields

1. Nanophysics
2. Physical and analytical chemical science
3. Synthetic chemistry and materials
4. Earth system science

		JGU	JYU	UB	UL	UNIPA	UO	UVEG
1	PE3_10		X		X			X
2	PE4_17	X	X	X		X		
	PE4	X	X	X				
3	PE5_6		X	X		X		
	PE5_7		X	X		X		
	PE5_17		X	X		X		
4	PE10_17	X		X		X		
	PE10_21	X		X			X	





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**WP 4**

## Life Sciences: 3-4 intersections

- **8 (of 11)** research groups
- **3** macro groups
- **1** ERC sector and **2** ERC sub-sectors covered

## Research fields

- Bioinformatics and computational biology**
- Physiology in health, disease and ageing**
- Food biotechnology and bioengineering**

		JGU	JYU	UB	UL	UNIPA	UO	UVEG
1	LS2_11	X		X			X	
2	LS4_12	X		X	X			X
	LS4	X		X				X
3	LS9_5	X		X			X	



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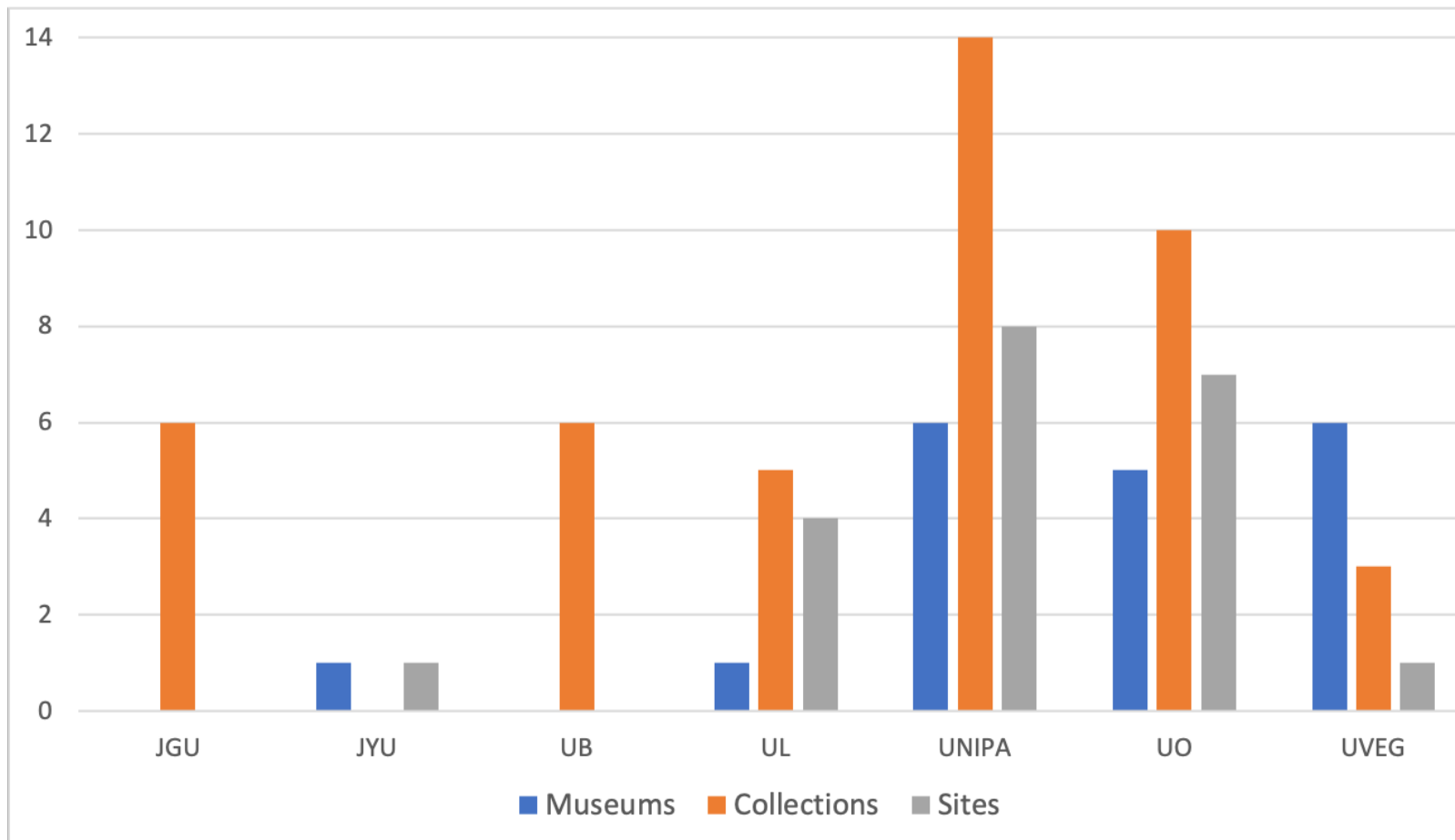
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**WP 4**

## Scientific collections and Cultural heritage items





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**Contributions:** Nina Straub, Nicole Birkle, Fabrizio D'Avenia, Isabel Mendoza

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

**Book of good practices:** <https://www.forthem-alliance.eu/about-us/news/detail-view/t/70450/>

## Social Media

-  FORTHEM Alliance - Facebook
-  FORTHEM Alliance – Instagram
-  FORTHEM Alliance – YouTube
-  FIT FORTHEM - LinkedIn
-  FIT FORTHEM (@FitForThem) – Twitter
-  FIT FORTHEM - Spotify

## Contact

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