

DELIBERATION
du conseil d'administration de l'Université de Bourgogne
Séance du 17 décembre 2020

Délibération n° 2020 – 17/12/2020 – 44

Adoption des statuts de l'alliance FORTHEM

- VU le code de l'éducation,
- VU les statuts de l'Université de Bourgogne

Effectif statutaire : 32 Membres en exercice : 32 Quorum : 16 Membres présents : 19 Membres représentés : 8 Total : 27	Refus de vote : 0 Abstention(s) : 1 Suffrages exprimés : 26 Pour : 26 Contre : 0
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Le conseil d'administration, après en avoir délibéré, **approuve les statuts de l'alliance FORTHEM.**

Dijon, le 18 décembre 2020

Le Président de l'Université de Bourgogne,



Vincent THOMAS

P.J. : Statuts de l'alliance FORTHEM

Délibération transmise au recteur de la région académique Bourgogne-Franche-Comté
Chancelier de l'Université de Bourgogne

Délibération publiée sur le site internet de l'établissement



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Statute of the FORTHEM Alliance

The Universities:

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United by a common view of the educational, scientific and societal mission of European research universities, and a strong belief in European democracy, multiculturalism and multilingualism;

Committed to educating future generations of active and open-minded European citizens who are able to work across borders and sectors, and possess an entrepreneurial mindset;

Recognising the benefits of pooling expertise and sharing innovations and good practices within an institutionalized environment of long lasting academic cooperation;

Believing that European and global challenges should be addressed with research-based data and concepts that have been developed in international research cooperation, thus implementing the knowledge triangle;

Our seven universities have hereby agreed to establish the FORTHEM Alliance and to cooperate on the basis of the following principles.

CHAPTER I - The Aims of the FORTHEM Alliance

Article 1

Within FORTHEM seven research-intensive universities are joining forces, pooling their expertise and sharing their networks with the aim of creating a permanent multilateral European cooperative environment, as well as a joint campus with seamless physical, virtual and blended mobility. Recognizing the significance of research and innovation as indispensable determinants for high quality education, the Alliance wishes to direct its efforts towards strengthening the already existing links between education, research and innovation within the universities, advancing them to a higher level.

Article 2

The FORTHEM Alliance has defined three fundamental Missions to help bring its vision to life:

- a) the Mobility Mission, focused on developing innovative forms of physical and virtual student and staff mobility.
- b) the Lab Mission, aimed at finding research-based solutions to societal challenges in cooperation with external stakeholders.
- c) the Outreach Mission, which creates a permanent environment, bringing together for linking university and non-university members, and strengthening student employability and civic engagement.



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Article 3

In reference to the FORTHEM Alliance's three Missions, the particular aims are:

- a) to adopt a Transnational Higher Education Strategy, in line with partner universities' strategic visions, enforcing innovative student-centred pedagogy and multilingualism
- b) to create the FORTHEM Digital Academy: an online platform to facilitate virtual mobility and networking and the provision of online courses
- c) to create new innovative ways of student and staff mobility, and to better the quality of "traditional" means of mobility
- d) to increase the quality, attractiveness and European dimension of education through pooling of expertise and establishing common study courses and programmes
- e) to contribute to European research and innovation by knowledge-generating FORTHEM Labs, focused on topics highly relevant to society, as well as by submitting joint proposals under the Horizon Framework Programme and other funding programmes
- f) to create new forms of outreach activities within our European regions, ensuring the transfer of knowledge between the FORTHEM Alliance, society and business through close cooperation with the surrounding schools, businesses, public institutions and social actors.

Article 4

The aims of the FORTHEM Alliance shall be pursued in an atmosphere of mutual trust to secure a solid foundation for cooperation.

Article 5

The aims of the FORTHEM Alliance shall be pursued through the FORTHEM Common Structures, the FORTHEM Offices in the respective universities, as well as the Alliance agreements and common actions.

CHAPTER II - Membership

Article 6

The members of the FORTHEM Alliance are the Parties to this Statute.

Article 7

The partner universities equally participate in defining common aims, implementing common actions and making decisions.



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Article 8

After the three-year launch period has been completed, the FORTHEM Alliance may consider accepting new members. The Steering Committee will be solely responsible for this decision.

CHAPTER III - Governing Bodies

Article 9

The organizational structure of the FORTHEM Alliance comprises the following FORTHEM Common Structures

- a) the Steering Committee
- b) the Mission Boards
- c) the Coordination and Communication Board
- d) the Working Teams

Additionally, the Common Structures are supported by the FORTHEM Offices, which are established for daily implementation of FORTHEM projects in the partner universities.

CHAPTER IV - The Steering Committee

Article 10

The Steering Committee is the highest body of FORTHEM Common Structures. Its main obligation is to monitor the quality of activities and to ensure that FORTHEM is moving towards the same goals.

The Steering Committee has a recognized consultative role with regard to the relevant management structures of each partner university.

The Steering Committee plays a key role in ensuring the sustainability of Alliance activities and guarantees collaborations among the partners, instead of random interactions between individuals, ensuring a permanent cooperative environment at all levels and between all seven partner universities.

Article 11

The Steering Committee is the ultimate decision-making structure in the FORTHEM Alliance. However, in special cases, defined by the committee itself, the decision-making can be delegated to the Mission Board/s and the Coordination and Communication Board.



Article 12

The tasks of the Steering Committee comprise:

- a) setting strategic goals for cooperation within the FORTHEM Alliance in the areas of internationalisation, research, education, digitalisation, diversity and cooperation with non-university actors, as well as –supporting the establishment of instruments to achieve these goals.
- b) reaching crucial decisions (i.e. decisions which will significantly influence the further development of the entire Alliance)
- c) constantly monitoring the activities of the FORTHEM Alliance
- d) evaluating the achievements of the FORTHEM Alliance
- e) designing and implementing an incentive system to involve staff and students of the FORTHEM Alliance partner universities
- f) Interacting with and reviewing the activities of the three Mission Boards and the Coordination and Communication Board

Article 13

Each partner university decides on and delegates four representatives to the Steering Committee by choosing one person from each of the four groups specified below. To ensure a comprehensive realisation of tasks, the Steering Committee is composed of:

- a) seven (vice)presidents/(vice)rectors from the partner universities
- b) seven academic staff members (professors and/or teaching staff members) from the partner universities
- c) seven administrative staff members of the partner universities
- d) seven students of the partner universities

The Steering Committee elects the Speaker and Vice-Speaker out of its members representing partner universities' staff categories.

Article 14

To ensure efficiency of cooperation with the FORTHEM Alliance, each member of the Steering Committee is also involved in works of at least one of the FORTHEM boards.

Article 15



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The Steering Committee meets twice a year: once in person and once via video conference in general. The Speaker of the Steering Committee has the obligation of inviting the members at least 15 calendar days before the meeting.

The Steering Committee shall meet more frequently, if necessary.

CHAPTER V - The Mission Boards and the Coordination and Communication Board

Article 16

A board has been established for each of the FORTHM Missions:

- a) the Mobility Mission Board (MMB)
- b) the Lab Mission Board (LMB)
- c) the Outreach Mission Board (OMB).

Article 17

For the management and communication of the FORTHM Alliance the Coordination and Communication Board is established.

Article 18

Tasks of the Mission Boards and the Coordination and Communication Board comprise:

- a) ensuring the implementation of all measures related to the respective Mission/Alliance management
- b) developing common procedures, concepts and projects within the FORTHM Alliance
- c) proper execution and implementation of the decisions of the Steering Committee.
- d) reporting to the Steering Committee regarding barriers which must be overcome
- e) monitoring the effective and efficient implementation of each Mission.
- f) seeking a consensus among partner universities

Article 19



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The three Mission Boards and the Coordination and Communication Board are composed in the following way:

Each member of the Steering Committee (28 members) belongs at least to one Mission Board and/or to the Coordination and Communication Board. Each partner university delegates two members for the Mission Boards and Coordination and Communication Board. The board members are the members of the Steering Committee and additional members, nominated by their partner university because of their expertise regarding the respective mission or management.

Article 20

Each Mission Board and the Coordination and Communication Board meet at least quarterly, physically and virtually. Each Mission Board and the Coordination and Communication Board elect their Chairs out of their members.

CHAPTER VI - The Working Teams

Article 22

The Working Teams are operational structures, performing their tasks on a daily basis, in line with their respective missions' and management's strategies as well as the Alliance's aims and in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity.

Article 23

The Working Teams are composed of experts from the partner universities in the field of the respective mission or management.

Article 24

Tasks of the Working Teams comprise:

- a) preparing and ensuring the implementation of all measures related to the respective Mission/Alliance management
- b) proper execution and implementation of the decisions reached by the respective Mission/Alliance management
- c) developing common procedures, concepts and projects within the FORTHEM Alliance on the operational level



d) reporting to the respective Mission Boards or the Coordination and Communication Board regarding newly developed procedures, concepts and projects, as well as identified barriers to be overcome.

CHAPTER VII - Decision making procedures

Article 25

Decision-making procedures in the Steering Committee comprise the following:

- a) The Steering Committee shall not deliberate and make a valid decision unless two-thirds (2/3) of its Members are present or represented (quorum). If the quorum is not present, the Speaker of the Steering Committee shall convene another ordinary meeting within 15 calendar days. If at this meeting, the quorum is once again not present, the Speaker shall convene an extraordinary meeting which shall be authorized to reach a decision, to decide even if less than the quorum of Members are present or represented.
- b) Each Member of the Steering Committee present or represented in the meeting shall have one vote.
- c) The Steering Committee should aim for unanimity in its decisions. If unanimity cannot be reached after thorough negotiations, the Steering Committee can resort to qualified 2/3 (19 votes out of 28) majority voting.

Article 26

Decision-making procedures in the Mission Boards comprise the following:

- a) The Mission Boards shall not deliberate and make a valid decision unless two-thirds (2/3) of its Members are present or represented (quorum). If the quorum is not present, the Chair shall convene another ordinary meeting within 15 calendar days. If in this meeting the quorum is once again not present, the Chair shall convene an extraordinary meeting which shall be authorized to make a decision, even if less than the quorum of Members are present or represented.
- b) Each Member of the Mission Board present or represented in the meeting shall have one vote.
- c) Mission Boards should aim for consensus and ratify proposals unanimously. If this is not possible, they are obligated to refer the decision to the Steering Committee. This should also be the case if a member of the Mission Board considers a decision as so strategic that it falls under the aims of the Alliance.



Article 27

Decision-making procedures in the Coordination and Communication Board comprise the following:

- a) The Coordination and Communication Board shall not deliberate and make a valid decision unless two-thirds (2/3) of its Members are present or represented (quorum). If the quorum is not present, the Chair/s shall convene another ordinary meeting within 15 calendar days. If at this meeting the quorum is once again not reached, the Chair/s shall convene an extraordinary meeting which shall be authorized to make a decision, even if less than the quorum of Members are present or represented.
- b) Each Member of the Coordination and Communication Board present or represented in the meeting shall have one vote.
- c) The Coordination and Communication Board should aim for consensus and ratify proposals unanimously. If this is not possible, they are obligated to refer the decision to the Steering Committee. This should also be the case if a member of the Mission Board considers a decision as so strategic that it falls under the aims of the Alliance.

Article 28

The decision-making procedures in the Working Teams comprise the following:

The Working Teams aim for consensus. If a consensus is not possible, the decision is passed on to the respective Mission Board or the Coordination and Communication Board. If a consensus is reached in the Working Teams, it is not necessary that the Mission Board or the Coordination and Communication Board ratifies the decision provided it is in line with the missions of the Alliance.

CHAPTER VIII - General Obligations of Partner Universities

Article 29

Within the FORTHEN Alliance, in addition to the collective responsibilities, partner universities

- a) are responsible for doing their part in the efficient implementation of the Alliance actions
- b) cooperate, perform and fulfill all of their obligations on schedule, in accordance with the FORTHEN Alliance agreements and the Steering Committee decisions
- c) must comply jointly or individually with any legal obligations they are bound to, under applicable EU, international and /or national laws



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d) must assure its representation in the Alliance structures

e) must ensure internal implementation of the Alliance approved actions. If this -is not possible for any reasons, it must immediately inform the other partner universities in order to make according adjustments.

Article 30

The FORTHM Alliance universities ensure that any processing of personal data carried out under this Statute is legitimate and compliant with its national data protection legislation. Such processing of personal data shall ensure at least the level of data privacy stipulated in the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 ("GDPR").

CHAPTER IX - Language Policy

Article 31

With its seven partner universities and their respective languages – Finnish, Swedish, French, German, Italian, Latvian, Polish and Spanish – the FORTHM Alliance encompasses the Romance, Slavic, Germanic, and Uralic languages, representing Europe's wealth of languages. Along with English, this valuable foundation contributes to the FORTHM Alliance's aim of promoting multilingualism in all available and applicable forms.

Article 32

Within the FORTHM Alliance, multilingualism is understood as the entity of all language resources, including native-speaker proficiency, proficiency in several other languages and versatile literacy skills. Multilingualism is to be promoted in, for example, the following ways:

a) through research and innovation,

-within the framework of the FORTHM Labs, in particular the Multilingualism in School and Higher Education Lab, which recognizes multilingualism as a dynamic, flexible and contextual resource for social action

b) through education by:

- developing teaching which enhances the use of multilingual resources in academic contexts



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- designing online courses for the Digital Academy in the FORTHem national languages, as well as in English for the Digital Academy
 - increasing the offer of English-taught programmes and courses to facilitate greater volumes of mobility
 - directing students' tandem language learning and –implementing short-term language-focused events
- c) through outreach activities, where:
- student trainees act as language ambassadors in the receiving school during internship periods.

Article 33

The key Alliance documents will be available in English. The FORTHem Statute will be available in seven languages. However, in the case of discrepancy between the different language versions, the English version of the Statute shall prevail.

CHAPTER X - Finances

Article 34

The FORTHem Alliance's financial arrangements depend on EU funding, its own contribution in accordance with every partner university's regulations and additional agreements.

CHAPTER XI - Intellectual Property Rights

Article 35

Results are owned by the partner university that generates them unless otherwise agreed between the partner universities. Two or more partner universities own results jointly if: (a) they have jointly generated them and (b) it is not possible to:

- a) establish the respective contribution of each partner university, or
- b) separate them for the purpose of applying for, obtaining or maintaining their protection .

Article 36



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The joint owners must agree (in writing) on the allocation and terms of exercise of their joint ownership ('joint ownership agreement'), to ensure compliance with their obligations under this Statute.

Article 37

If ownership of results shall be transferred, the partner universities must agree (in writing) on the conditions and procedures ('agreement about transfer of results'), to ensure compliance with their obligations under this Statute.

CHAPTER XII - Conflict resolution procedures

Article 38

Any disputes which arise between the partners in connection with the FORTHEM Alliance, are resolved by means of negotiations. If the partners are unable to resolve their dispute in this manner, it will be resolved in accordance with conflict resolution procedure (see Article 39)

Article 39

The Steering Committee establishes a joint commission (one member from each non-disputing universities) and nominate the chair. The joint commission will act according to a conflict resolution procedure, which is carried out as follows: the joint commission investigates the problem, examines alternatives, finds common areas of agreement and reaches a solution, thereby satisfying the parties of the dispute.

CHAPTER XIII - Final Provisions

Article 40

The Statute will come into force on the date it has been signed by all the partners and will remain in force until a written termination confirmed by all the signatories.

Article 41

Amendments and revisions to the Statute may be made by mutual written consent of the seven partner universities. Amendment proposals can be made by respective Mission Boards or the Coordination and Communication Board and they are



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submitted to the Steering Committee, which will decide on the necessity of amending the Statute. Amendments to the Statute are to be approved by all the signatories.

Article 42

Individual member universities will have the right to withdraw from the FORTHEM Alliance and, consequently, from the commitments of the Alliance Statute, for compelling reasons. The withdrawal and reasons behind it must be announced in writing six months in advance to the Steering Committee.

Article 43

Annexes to the Statute are its translations to Finnish, French, German, Italian, Latvian, Polish, Spanish. However, in the case of discrepancy between the different language versions, the English version of the Statute shall prevail.