



FORTHEM Collective Short-Term Mobility

Integration week for students: innovation lab on EU integration

The overall aim of the project is to promote deepening of knowledge about EU integration mechanisms in practice as well as to encourage participants for acquiring competences for further cooperation.

The goal of the project is to identify students experience with EU integration and find new ways for promotion and fostering coherence among member of the Forthem Alliance towards productive cooperation, as well as to foster EU cooperation in different fields. Thus, proposed integration week will have double long-term benefits – the first will cover intensification of cooperation between participating universities, while the second will be targeted on raising awareness and deepening of knowledge of EU integration in various policy fields keeping in mind its potential transfer to the countries wishing to join EU.

The innovation labs on EU integration request participation of students from the Forthem Alliance. The online participation in some lab activities are requested for the research labs and business representatives as well as for representatives of Eastern Partnership countries.

The integration week will take place in November 5-9, 2020 in Riga

Day 1	Welcoming and ice-breaking exercise. Lecture – “What is service design and how to work with it?” Cultural afternoon – cultural introduction of all participating countries.
Day 2	Overview of the current cooperation experience and challenges (exercise “Mapping the experience”)
Day 3	Synergy exercise “Cooperation journey” - to identify cooperation trends among universities and in higher education in the smaller groups. Lecture on EU integration trends by the foreign policy expert.
Day 4	Synergy exercise “Cooperation journey 2.0” - to identify cooperation trends and the new modes among EU countries and partnership countries in the smaller groups Synergy exercise “Cooperation journey 3.0” - to identify EU integration trends and new modes in the main policy fields.
Day 5	Joint debate on the new modes identified and steps for implementation. Farewell of participants.



Originally, the service design method is a human-centred design approach that equally evaluates as customer experience as the business process, aiming to create seamless service delivery. Lately, such new methods as the offered one been used in business, public administration and economics in to identify the new approaches and methods for modernisation of public administration and business. The same approaches have a potential to be used for modernization and increasing efficiency of collaboration between academic institutions and building up new formats of mobility between them. In this context, cooperation within EU and building up competences to transfer competences to some Eastern partnership countries are being essential direction for development, while service design method has a great potential to give an impact on learning good practices and to acquire necessary competences.

To reach overall aim, the project “Integration week” seeks to become an innovation lab with specific goals:

- a) to discuss and identify the current state of affairs in different fields of integration and europeization (politics, economy education);
- b) to design new forms of cooperation between higher education institutions based on Service design method;
- c) to contextualize acquired knowledge and generate new forms of cooperation between EU member states within the main policy fields (economy, financial affairs, security, internal affairs) by using Service design method;
- d) to share experience and the best EU integration and eiropeization practices with representatives of Eastern Partnership countries;
- e) to discuss development cooperation and share EU experience outside EU (by focusing on the Eastern Partnership countries – e.g., Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia).

The organizer (University of Latvia) will engage a wide range of stakeholders beyond the academia, including local and exchange students, policy - makers, experts, civil society as well as the general public. It is envisioned that the event will become focal point for debates and share their vision and aspiration towards EU, thus creating equality between participants and underline an importance of all opinions.

The form of the project – the innovation lab - provides innovative, student- centric approach to education and exchange by application of Service design method which such critical elements as acquisition of competencies through open discussion, learning by doing etc. This type of proactive education and exchange has been proved to be more attractive to students.

The event will be accompanied by an awareness-raising/information campaign, focusing on the given theme featuring articles in the media, as well as appearances and mass distribution of results, informative opinion pieces, etc via Facebook, variety of websites and other social media. The information campaigns will reach broad audiences in EU and outside. As a result, the project will have a broad impact on a search for new cooperation patterns not only within academia, but rather for wider publics.

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The “Integration week” intends to host student leaders from Forthem Alliance universities. Applicants will be required to correspond following criteria: fluent in English; have successfully completed at least one year of study at a university or other higher education institution in a bachelor's or master's degree program; excellence in in-studio or out-of-school leadership activities; interest and knowledge about the main topics covered in the “Integration week”.

For more information please contact ad@lu.lv.