

## 3i University Network

### Joint call for projects 2023 - 2024

In 2020 the University of Kent, Université de Lille, KU Leuven and Ghent University established the Interregional Internationalisation Initiative, the 3i University Network. The main goal of the network is to bring together universities, regional governments and the private sector/civil society to work on challenges common to Flanders, Kent and the Hauts-de-France. By virtue of their proximity, the three regions share challenges in a number of areas, including, but not limited to

- Marine and maritime questions (blue energy, preservation of the coastal environment...)
- Climate and energy (net zero, sustainability, energy security etc)
- Nutrition and health (sustainable, healthy alternative food sources, ...)
- Communities and well-being (migration and refugee studies, vulnerability and inclusion of ageing populations and people with disabilities, ...).

In order to enhance cooperation between the 3i-partners, the members of the 3i University Network have decided to put out a second call for **proposals for collaborative projects**. As the first call, this second call aims to support academic staff of the four partners who want to increase their cross-border collaborations with the specific goal of submitting joint project applications for larger grants.

#### Funding available

Maximum funding available per project: €10.000 per project of the 3i University Network. Funding can be used for consumables, travel costs, services or (external) expertise (e.g. hiring in expertise for writing grant proposals).

Total budget available for this call is 60.000€.

#### Eligibility criteria

- Applicants must be staff members from a 3i University Network partner.
- Projects must include staff members from at least 3 partners of the 3i Network but preference is given to projects with all four partners.
- Proposals should have a subject linked to one of the four thematic clusters, i.e. Climate and Energy / Communities and Well-being / Health and Nutrition / Marine and Maritime Challenges.
- Final goal of the proposals should be an application for external funding (for example Horizon Europe, Interreg, Erasmus+, ...).
- Proposals that involve external partners (industry, private sector, civil society, public bodies, ...) and promote societal impact are encouraged.
- Activities must be organised in the cross-border region of the 3i University Network (Hauts-de-France region, Flanders region or Kent County).
- Activities must take place between 01 January 2024 and 31 December 2024.

## Selection criteria

A committee of representatives from the 3i University Network will evaluate and select the projects. The following criteria will be taken into account:

- Accordance with the overall 3i University Network objectives
- Feasibility
- Link to the thematic clusters of the 3i University Network
- Potential to develop into a project that can garner external funding in the future
- Involvement of external partners (industry, civil society, public bodies, ...)

## Application procedure

The application form must be sent to the following email address [info@3iuni.eu](mailto:info@3iuni.eu) before 1st December 2023. The file should be named as follows: “3iproject\_2023\_acronym”.

An application that is incomplete or received after the deadline will not be considered by the selection committee. A confirmation email will be sent upon receipt of the application.

## Reporting

A short report on the activities of the project and a financial report (breakdown of costs) should be handed in 8 weeks after the end of the project term. Proof should be given of at least one application for external funding.

## Calendar:

Deadline: 1st December 2023, 11.00 am, Paris time

Publication of the results: December

## Contact:

Contact persons at the 4 universities:

- University of Kent: Hannah McNorton - [H.A.McNorton@kent.ac.uk](mailto:H.A.McNorton@kent.ac.uk)
- Université de Lille: Stéphane Thys - [stephane.thys@univ-lille.fr](mailto:stephane.thys@univ-lille.fr)
- KU Leuven: prof. Bert Reynvoet - [bert.reynvoet@kuleuven.be](mailto:bert.reynvoet@kuleuven.be)
- Ghent University: Marieke Merckx – [marieke.merckx@ugent.be](mailto:marieke.merckx@ugent.be)