



## 3i University Network funds six projects strengthening cross-border collaborations

Launched in 2020, the cross-border 3i University Network brings together the University of Lille (France), KU Leuven, Ghent University (Belgium) and the University of Kent (United Kingdom) to collaborate on addressing the regional challenges shared in the Flanders-Kent-Hauts-de-France territory, in cooperation with public authorities, socio-economic actors and civil society.

In order to enhance the collaborations between researchers, a call for collaborative projects was launched in the fall of 2022, aiming to support academic staff of the four partners who want to set up or increase their cross-border collaborations with the specific goal of submitting joint project applications for larger grants. The proposals should actively involve external partners (industry, private sector, civil society, public bodies, ...) and foster societal impact.

A total of six projects were selected and funded for a total amount of €53,735, made available by the four partners of the network. The six selected projects cover the 4 major themes on which the network is primarily collaborating on:

- Marine and Maritime challenges: 1 project
- Climate and Energy: 1 project
- Health and Nutrition: 1 project
- Well-being and communities: 3 projects

All funded projects, up to a maximum of €10,000€ per project, have the explicit goal of submitting proposals for external funding to advance the existing collaboration to a next phase. The proposed activities will be organised in the cross-border region (Hauts-de-France region, Flanders region or Kent County) between 1 February and 31 December 2023. The projects cover very diverse themes, such as seaweed as a food source, humanities and inclusion, arts and humanities as a source for health and well-being, materials science, coastal protection and communication between medics and child patients.

<https://www.3iuni.eu/>

### Contact persons at the 4 universities:

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	Project title	Main theme	Principal applicant	3i Partners
1	<b>s3iweed</b> - Seaweed as sustainable source for healthy foods	Nutrition & Health	<b>Imogen FOUBERT</b> Department of Microbial and Molecular Systems <b>KU Leuven</b>	<b>Jana ASSELMAN</b> , Department of Animal Sciences & Aquatic Ecology, <b>UGent</b> <b>Rowena MERRITT</b> , Centre for Health Services Studies, <b>UKent</b> <b>Simona DE IULIO</b> , Groupe d'Etudes et de Recherche Interdisciplinaire en information et Communication (GERiiCO), <b>ULille</b>
2	<b>HUMAIN</b> – Humanities and Inclusion	Communities & Well-being	<b>Gabriel GALVEZ-BEHAR</b> Faculté des Humanités <b>Université de Lille</b>	<b>Lieve VAN HOOFF</b> , Faculty of Arts & Philosophy, <b>UGent</b> <b>Liesbet HEYVAERT</b> , Arts Faculty, <b>KU Leuven</b> <b>Juliette PATTINSON</b> , Division of Arts and Humanities, <b>UKent</b>
3	<b>DuneFront</b> - Dune-Dike hybrid nature based solutions: frontiers in climate change adaptation	Marine & Maritime Challenges	<b>Dries BONTE</b> Department of Biology <b>Ghent University</b>	<b>Pieter RAUWOENS</b> , Faculty of Engineering Technology, <b>KU Leuven</b> <b>Zoe Davis</b> , School of Anthropology & conservation, <b>UKent</b> <b>Taniel DANELIAN</b> , Unité Evo-Eco-Paléo (EEP) – UMR 8198, <b>ULille</b>
4	<b>IMPACT</b> - Interaction in the Medical world: Pragmatic Analysis of Child-Centered Talk	Communities & Well-being	<b>Ilse DEPRAETERE</b> Savoirs Textes Langages (STL - UMR 8163) <b>Université de Lille</b>	<b>Lieselotte CREMERS</b> , Nurse Pediatric Outpatient Center, <b>AZ Leuven</b> <b>Vikki JANKE</b> , Modern Languages and Linguistics, <b>UKent</b> <b>Sara DE BULPAEP</b> , Child Hospital Princess Elisabeth, University Hospital Gent, <b>UZ Gent</b>
5	<b>C2H2N</b> - Cross-Channel Health Humanities Network	Communities & Well-being	<b>Dieter DECLERCQ</b> Division of Arts and Humanities Department of Film and Media <b>University of Kent</b>	<b>Joris VANDEDRIESSCHE</b> , Department of History, <b>KU Leuven</b> <b>Jürgen PIETERS &amp; Zoë GHYSELINCK</b> , Literary Studies, <b>UGent</b> <b>Simona DE IULIO &amp; Laurence FAVIER</b> , Groupe d'Etudes et de Recherche Interdisciplinaire en information et Communication (GERiiCO), <b>ULille</b>
6	<b>CChESMate-2p</b> - Climate Change and Energy Solutions through Materials Science: towards projects	Climate & Energy	<b>Stefaan COTTENIER</b> Department of Electromechanical Systems and Metal Engineering & Center for Molecular Modeling (CMM) <b>Ghent University</b>	<b>Stijn VAN CLEUVENBERGEN</b> , Molecular Imaging and Photonics & <b>Wim THIELEMANS</b> , Sustainable Materials Lab, <b>KU Leuven</b> <b>Paul SAINES &amp; Maria ALFREDSSON</b> , School of Chemistry and Forensic Science, <b>UKent</b> <b>Vincent DE WAELE</b> , Institut Eugene Chevreul, <b>ULille</b>