



3i University Network funds seven 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 summer of 2023, 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 seven projects were selected and funded for a total amount of €60,000, made available by the four partners of the network. The seven 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: 2 projects
- Well-being and communities: 4 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 January and 31 December 2024. The projects cover very diverse themes, such as migration and inclusion, sustainable seafood, arts and humanities, sustainable campus mobility, integration and wellbeing of refugees, alternative proteins for cancer biomarkers and age verification systems.

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

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	Project title	Main theme	Principal applicant	3i Partners
1	C2H2N - Cross-Channel Health Humanities Network	Nutrition & Health Communities & Well-being	Jürgen PIETERS Literary Studies Ghent University	Adriaens PIETER , Hoger Instituut voor Wijsbegeerte, Centrum voor Logica en Filosofie van de Wetenschappen, KU Leuven Simona DE IULIO & Laurence FAVIER , Groupe d'Etudes et de Recherche Interdisciplinaire en information et Communication (GERiiCO), ULille Dieter DECLERCQ , Centre for Health and Medical Humanities / School of Arts, UKent
2	EARN - Explainable and bias-free age verification: a roadmap for future deployment	Communities & Well-being	Richard GUEST School of Engineering University of Kent	Eva LIEVENS , Law & Technology at the Faculty of Law & Criminology, UGent Martin SAS , Centre for IT and IP Law (CiTiP) at the Faculty of Law and Criminology, KU Leuven
3	MIIAW - Migrations and Inclusion in the Ibero American World	Communities & Well-being	Javier JURADO CECILLE / ERSO & Études Culturelles University of Lille	Dagmar VANDEBOSCH , Hispanic Literatures, KU Leuven Kulak Elisabeth AMANN , Literary Studies – CEL19 – Centre for the Study of 19th. Century Literature, UGent William ROWLANDSON , Centre form Modern European Literature and Culture, UKent
4	3Sea - Supporting Sustainable Seafood Entrepreneurship & Acceleration	Communities & Well-being	Margriet DROUILLON Department of Animal Sciences and Aquatic Ecology IRF consortium / BLUEgent Ghent University	Robert BARKER , School of Chemistry and Forensic Science, UKent Isam SHAHROUR , Civil and geo-Environmental Engineering Regional Laboratory (LGCgE), ULille
5	OPENDOORS - Facilitating integration and improving wellbeing of high-skilled Ukrainian refugees in European labour markets	Marine & Maritime challenges	Jan FIDRMUC Lille Économie Management (LEM) University of Lille	Glenn RAYP , Economics, UGent Matloob PIRACHA , School of Economics, UKent Ruxanda BERLINSCHI , Economics Research Group (ECON), Ku Leuven
6	UNICOR - Unlocking Novel protein Investigation for Comprehensive Oncology Research	Communities & Well-being	Tristan CARDON Inserm University of Lille	Lennart MARTENS , Computational Omics and Systems Biology Group (CompOmics), UGent , VIB Joost SCHYMKOWITZ , Switch Laboratory, KU Leuven , VIB
7	Scot - Sustainable Campus mobility analysis based on Open data and sensor Technologies	Nutrition & Health	Damien MARCHAL CRISTAL / CNRS University of Lille	Pieter VANSTEENWEGEN , KU Leuven Institute for Mobility (LIM), KU Leuven Lennert VERHULST , Department of Geography, UGent