



**GHENT  
UNIVERSITY**

# BUILDING ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS IN A CHANGING GLOBAL CONTEXT

Symposium and Networking Event – 16 May 2023



# WELCOME

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Prof. Rik Van de Walle – Rector of Ghent University

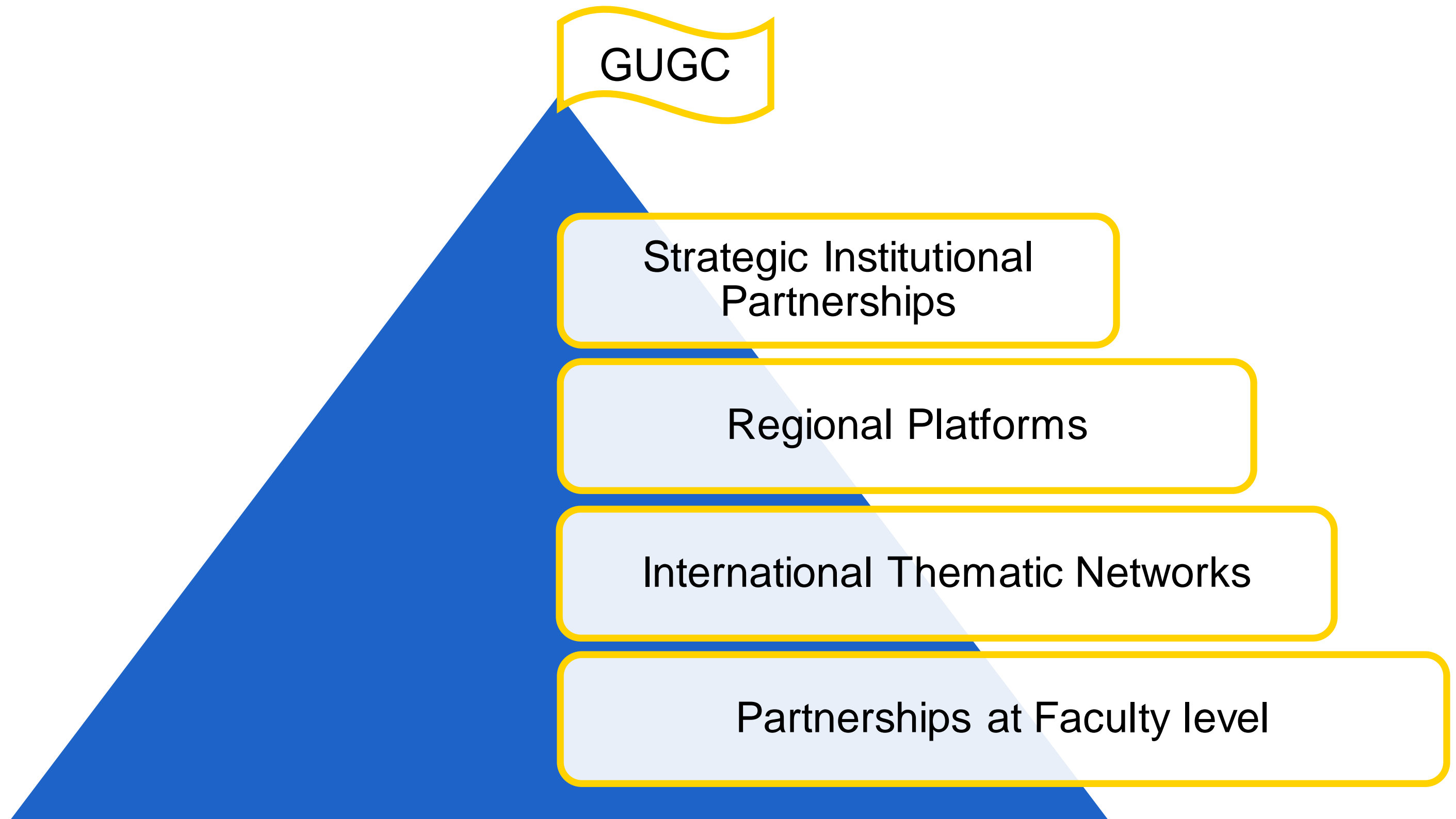


# STIMULATING INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC COOPERATION

Prof. Guido Van Huylenbroeck – Director for Internationalisation



# ACTIVE PARTNERSHIP POLICY



# 1. INTERNATIONAL THEMATIC NETWORKS



# INTERNATIONAL THEMATIC NETWORKS

- Cooperative interdisciplinary networks consisting of Ghent University staff from different faculties and international partners concerning a specific topic of excellence in education, research and services to society.
  - Funded by Ghent University (BOF & Global Minds)
    - 60.000€ / year (new ITN) – for 5 years
    - 30.000€ / year (renewal) – for 5 years
- [co-funding by partners is required; up to total of 120.000€ / year]*

# INTERNATIONAL THEMATIC NETWORKS



PrIOMiC - CRIG's International Thematic Network



**PROSPECT**





# CONTACT

Contact: Marieke Merckx, International Relations Office

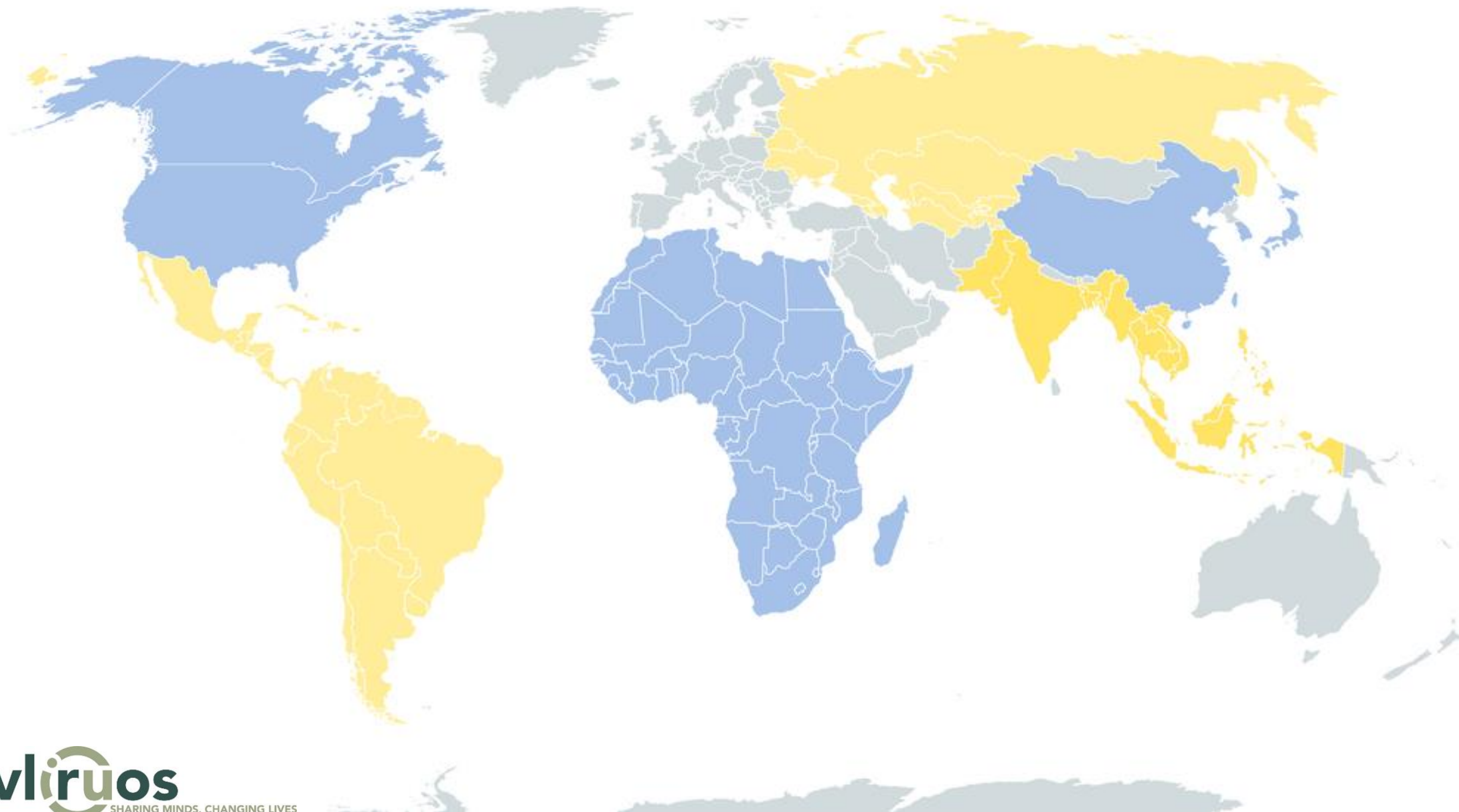
[marieke.merckx@ugent.be](mailto:marieke.merckx@ugent.be)

Website:

<https://www.ugent.be/en/ghentuniv/mission/internationalisation/thematicnetworks.htm>

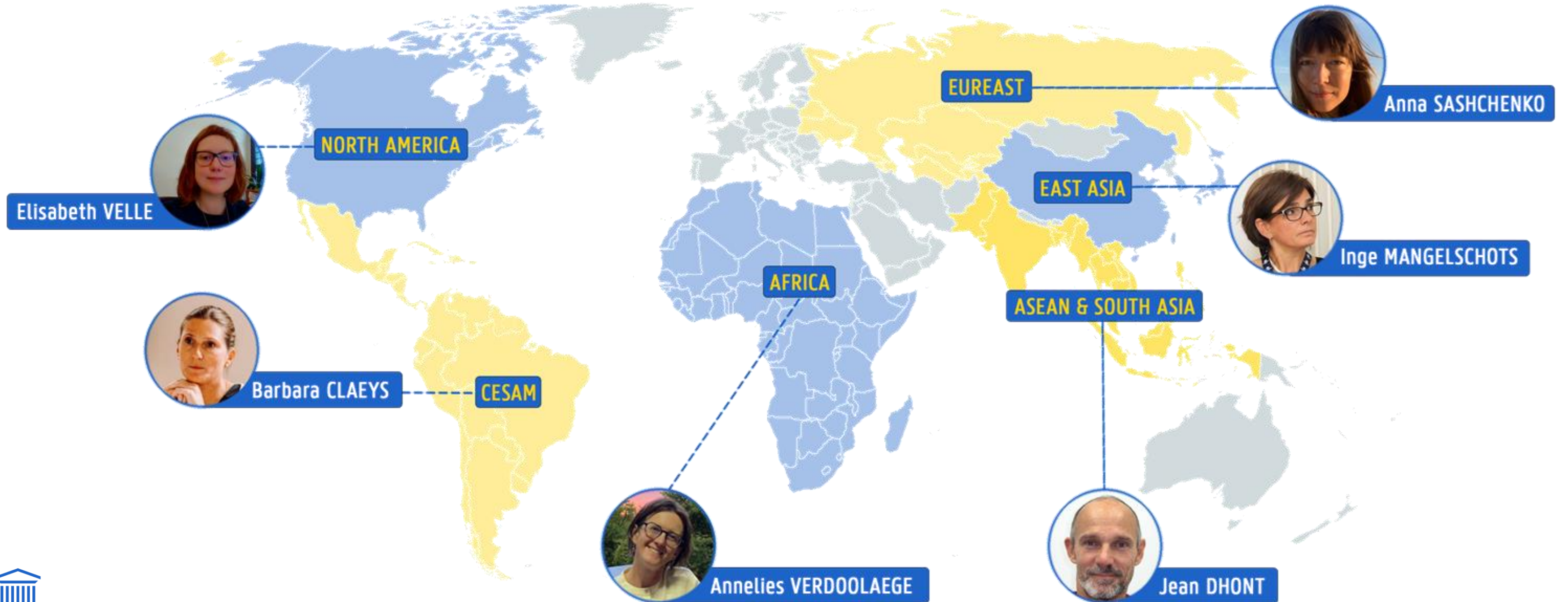


## 2. REGIONAL PLATFORMS



# 6 REGIONAL PLATFORMS

## PLATFORM COORDINATORS



# (SOME) PLATFORM ACTIVITIES

- Host visiting delegations to UGent & Organise UGent missions
- Matchmaking & Networking
- Monitor funding opportunities
- Seminars, debates, workshops
- Negotiate/facilitate agreements
- Specialised publications
- Alumni network & Student recruitment
- Public events
- ...



# (SOME) PLATFORM ACTIVITIES

## CHINA PLATFORM

### China Lecture Café Series 2022

**Tuesday 18 October: 11:00 – 13:00 CET**  
 Cross-Strait Relations – A Historical Overview under a Taiwanese Perspective  
 Speaker: **Dr. Jasper Roctus**, doctor in Oriental Languages and Cultures, Faculty of Arts and Philosophy, Ghent University

**Tuesday 25 October: 13:00 – 15:00 CET**  
 China's Geo-economic Gambit: Technology, Interdependence, and the Future of the Global Economy  
 Speaker: **Dr. Tobias Gehrke**, Research Fellow – Europe in the World, Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations

**Tuesday 22 November: 14:30 – 16:30 CET**  
 China, the Great Powers, and the War in Ukraine: Still to Watch?  
 Speaker: **Prof. Sven Biscop**, Faculty of Political and Social Sciences, Ghent University in the World Programme at the Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations

**Tuesday 13 December: 12:00 – 14:00 CET**  
 How Confucianism became a world religion  
 Speaker: **Prof. Bart Dessein**, Department of Oriental Languages and Cultures, Ghent University

Venue: **De Krook, Room "De Blauwe Vogel", Miriam Makebaplein 1, 9000 Ghent**

Please register [HERE](#) for one or more webinars  
 For those participants who will follow the live stream, a link to participate will be sent to you.  
 We look forward to welcoming you all!



## INVITATION

GHENT UNIVERSITY

# SAVE THE DATE

## Official start of the UGent Alumni Chapter in Tanzania



## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

# China in Africa and Africa in China

### Impact on local societies, economies and cultures

THURSDAY - DECEMBER 12TH, 2019 - 20:00

Public event: meet the author with Stefan Blommaert and Lieve Joris



FRIDAY - DECEMBER 13TH, 2019 - 10:00

Conference with speakers

Venue: Het Pand, Onderbergen 1, 9000 Ghent

Registration: <https://www.ugent.be/en/agenda/academic-partnerships>




# CESAM PLATFORM COUNTRY DAYS 2019

[www.ugent.be/CESAM](http://www.ugent.be/CESAM)

## EAST ASIA PLATFORM

### SPECIAL GUEST LECTURE BY H.E. MR. YOON SOONGU, AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA



**Programme:**

- 13:00 hrs: Introduction by **Prof. Andreas Niehaus**, Faculty of Arts and Philosophy, Ghent University
- 13:10 – 14:00 hrs: Special Guest Lecture by **H.E. Mr. YOON Soongu**, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea  
 Theme: *"The relationship of ROK-EU and ROK-Belgium - Celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the diplomatic relations between ROK and EU"*
- 14:00 – 14:15 hrs: Q&A
- 14:15 – 14:20 hrs: Closing remark by **Prof. Luc Taerwe**, Director East Asia Platform

Do not miss this unique opportunity!  
 We look forward to welcoming you all at this special event.

**Tuesday 18 April | 13:00 - 14:30 hrs CET**  
 Venue: Paviljoen Vandenhove - Rozier 1, 9000 Ghent  
 Registration link: <https://event.ugent.be/registration/SpecialLecture>



## Ghent University External stakeholders' Networking Event

# Building academic partnerships in a changing global context

Tuesday 16 May 2023 // 15:30  
 Het Pand, Onderbergen 1, 9000 Ghent

After a successful first edition of this networking event in 2022 – organized by the Regional Platforms –, we are delighted to welcome all our valued partners and friends again this year. Save this date and join us for networking and discussions on building future proof international partnerships, taking into consideration topics such as human rights, foreign interference, dual use, equal partnerships,...

**Programme (tentative)**

- 15:30 Registrations
- 16:00 Welcome words by Prof. Rik Van de Walle, Rector of Ghent University
- 16:15 "Stimulating Ghent University's international academic cooperation through Regional Platforms, International Thematic Networks and Strategic Institutional Partnerships" – L.b.c.
- 16:45 "Alumni Abroad: community building through international alumni chapters" – Em. Prof. Kristiaan Verschuys
- 17:00 "Findings and recommendations of the research project 'Moving beyond university development cooperation'" – Jolien Tegenbos
- 17:15 Panel discussion: How to approach the current challenges in international (academic) cooperation and how to build future proof partnerships? – panel members L.b.c.
- 18:15 Mix & Mingle walking dinner

Contact: [regionalplatforms@ugent.be](mailto:regionalplatforms@ugent.be) // Website: [www.ugent.be/en/agenda/academic-partnerships](http://www.ugent.be/en/agenda/academic-partnerships)



## EUREAST PLATFORM

### 'EU SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA: IMPACT AND IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES'

A one-day conference gathering academics and practitioners to discuss and assess the legal, political and economic impact of EU sanctions against Russia, with specific attention to implementation challenges in practice.



Venue: **Stibbe Brussels – Loksumstraat/Rue de Loxum 25, 1000 Brussels**  
 Time: Friday 9 June, 9:00 – 17:15  
 The full programme and registration: <https://event.ugent.be/registration/20230609EUSanctionsAgainstRussia>







## The CESAM Platform

More information: [www.ugent.be/CESAM](http://www.ugent.be/CESAM)

Objectives:

- supporting the exchange of students, researcher and professors
- making the academic and administrative expertise within the platform available to the wider Ghent University community
- promoting the expertise and activities of Ghent University towards Latin America
- striving for impact in the region and on the external policy towards this region.

The CESAM Platform is a long-standing tradition of cooperation between universities in Latin America. Whenever possible, Ghent University strives to intensify ongoing cooperation activities and to explore new possibilities for cooperation. As a result, the CESAM (Central and South America) Platform has been established as one of the six Regional Platforms, contributing to the internationalisation strategy of Ghent University.

The ambition of the UGent CESAM Platform is to coordinate, facilitate and stimulate cooperation with Latin America and knowledge about the region in the field of education, research and service to society.

Contact CESAM: [cesam@ugent.be](mailto:cesam@ugent.be)

Join us: Are you working on a project or have you questions on experience? You can find more information on [www.ugent.be/CESAM](http://www.ugent.be/CESAM)

# BELEZEN WETENSCHAPPERS



DE KROOK, MIRIAM MAKEBAPLEIN 1, 9000 GENT  
 DE BLAUWE VOGEL, VERDIEPING -1 • 19.30 U



# CONTACT

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ASEAN & South Asia → [jean.dhont@ugent.be](mailto:jean.dhont@ugent.be)

CESAM → [barbara.claeys@ugent.be](mailto:barbara.claeys@ugent.be)

East Asia → [inge.mangelschots@ugent.be](mailto:inge.mangelschots@ugent.be)

Eureast → [anna.sashchenko@ugent.be](mailto:anna.sashchenko@ugent.be)

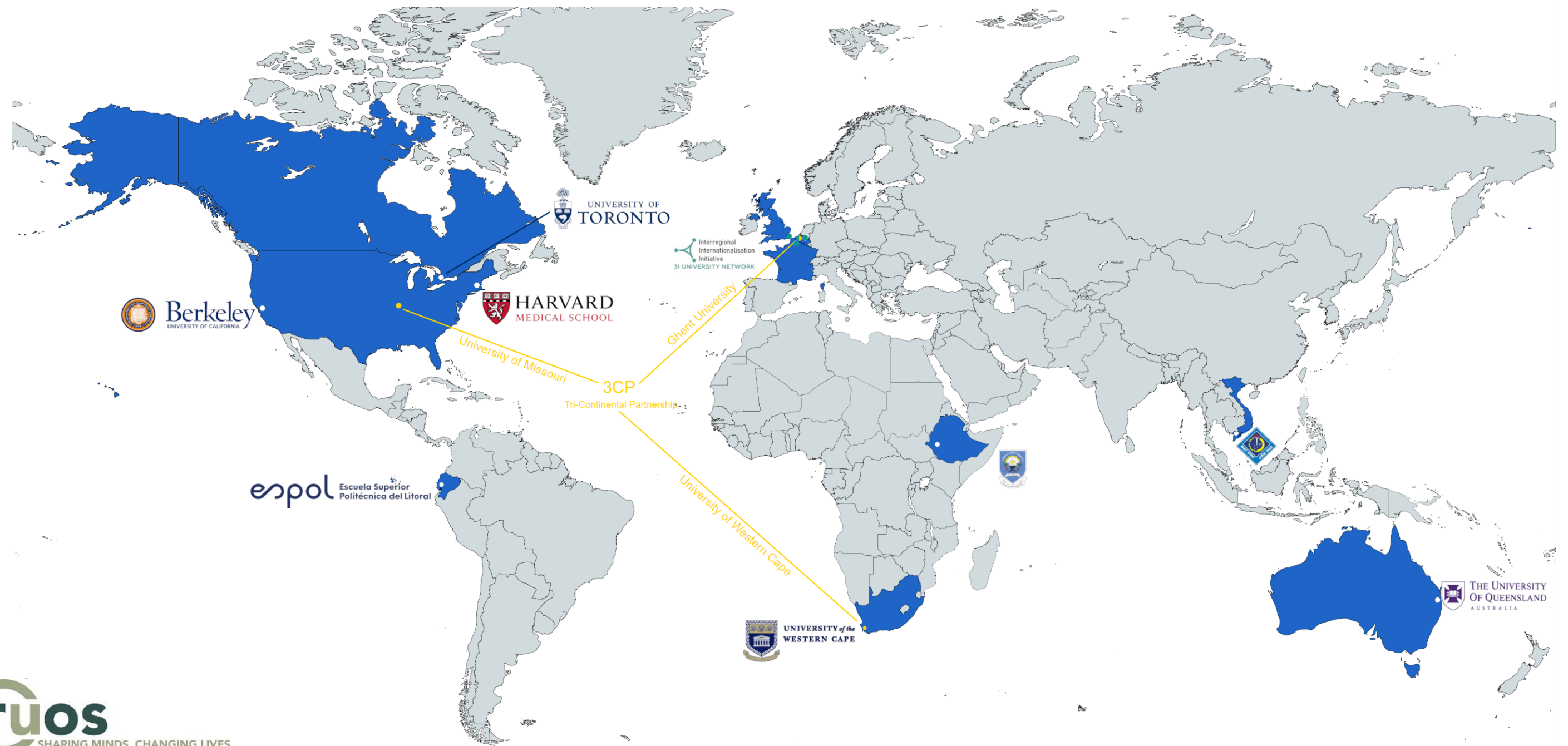
North America → [elisabeth.velle@ugent.be](mailto:elisabeth.velle@ugent.be)

[www.ugent.be/regionalplatforms](http://www.ugent.be/regionalplatforms)

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# 3. STRATEGIC INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS



# STRATEGIC INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Focus on university-wide cooperation with one or more preferential partners around the globe:

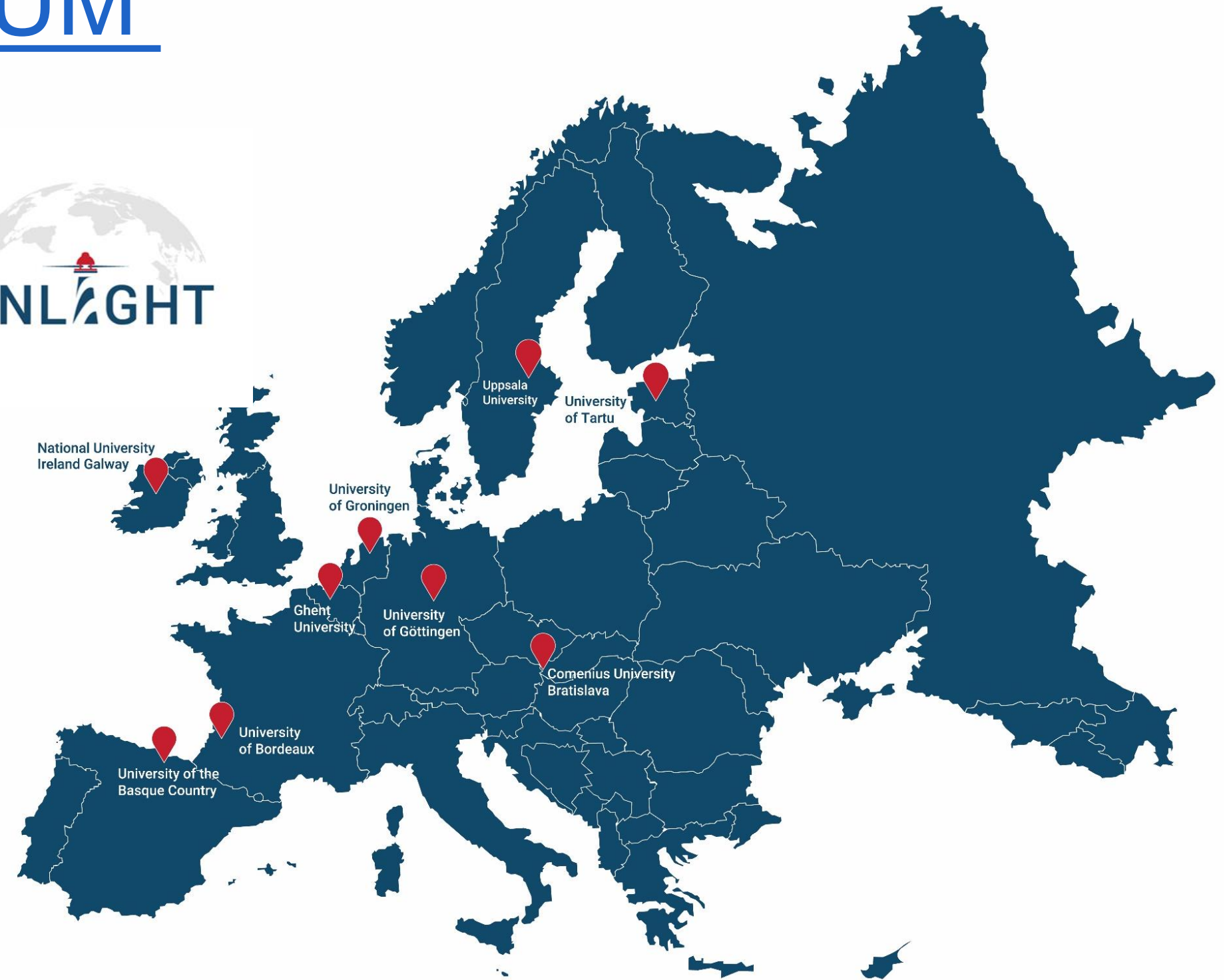
- Bilateral cooperation
- Network



# ENLIGHT CONSORTIUM



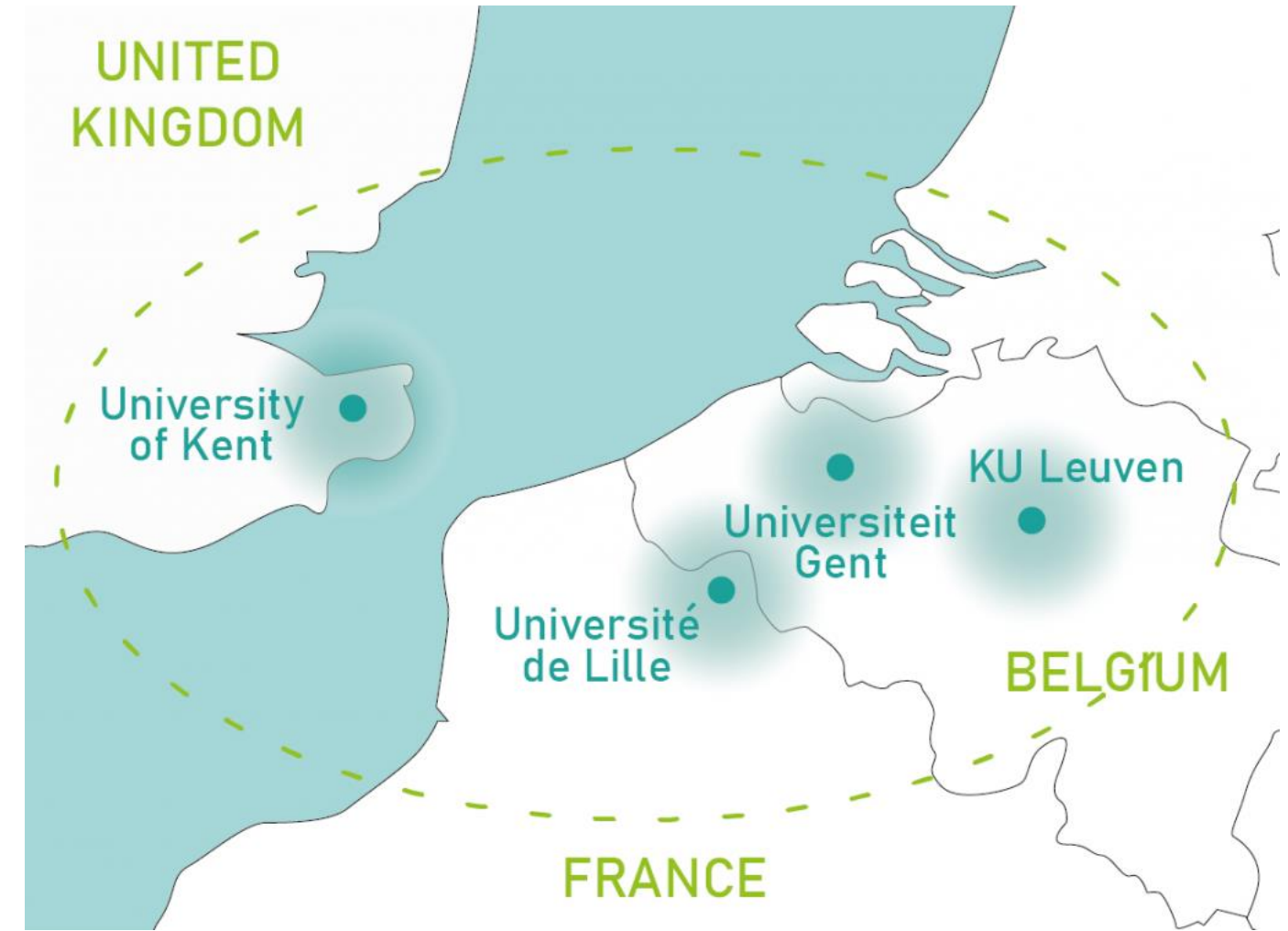
- **9 comprehensive, research-intensive universities**
- **Sharing a deep commitment to their social responsibility**



# 3I UNIVERSITY NETWORK

Shared challenges:

- Marine & Maritime
- Nutrition & Health
- Communities & Well-being
- Climate & Energy



# TRI-CONTINENTAL PARTNERSHIP (3CP):

- University of Missouri (USA)
- University of the Western Cape (SA)
- Ghent University (BE)

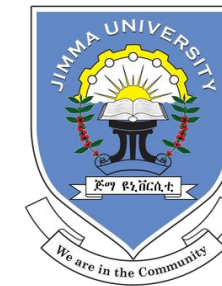


# BILATERAL SIP

- Can Tho University (Vietnam)
- ESPOL (Ecuador)
- Jimma University (Ethiopia)
- University of the Western Cape (South Africa)
- Harvard University (USA)
- University of California, Berkeley (USA)
- University of Queensland (Australia)
- University of Toronto (Canada)



espol Escuela Superior  
Politécnica del Litoral



UNIVERSITY of the  
WESTERN CAPE



HARVARD  
MEDICAL SCHOOL

Berkeley  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF QUEENSLAND  
AUSTRALIA



UNIVERSITY OF  
TORONTO



# CONTACT

Pieter Pauwels, Office of the Director for Internationalisation

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Marieke Merckx, International Relations Office

[marieke.merckx@ugent.be](mailto:marieke.merckx@ugent.be)

Website:

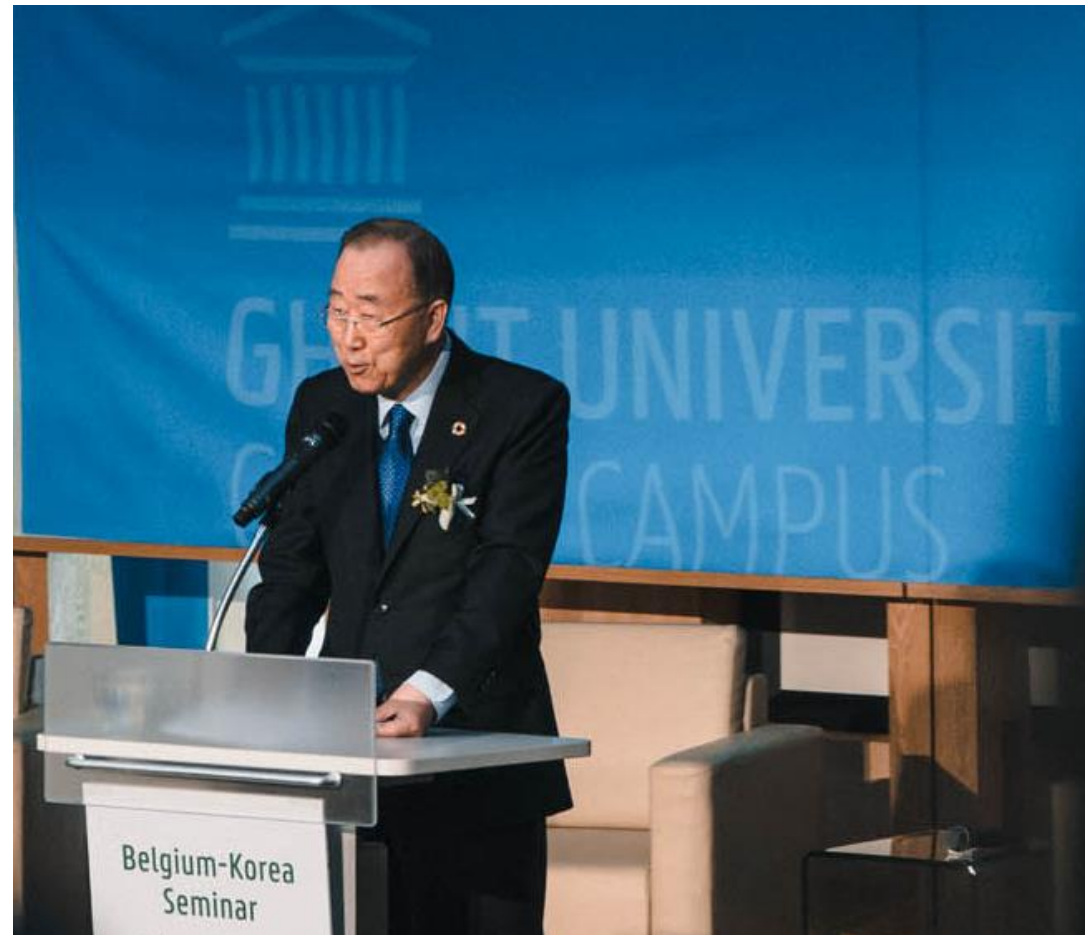
<https://www.ugent.be/en/ghentuniv/mission/internationalisation/strategic-partnerships.htm>



# 4. GHENT UNIVERSITY GLOBAL CAMPUS

The first European university in Songdo,  
South Korea

Ghent University Asian hub since 2014:  
550 students in bio, food and environmental  
technology.



# ALUMNI ABROAD

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Prof. em. Kries Versluys – Head of Alumni Relations



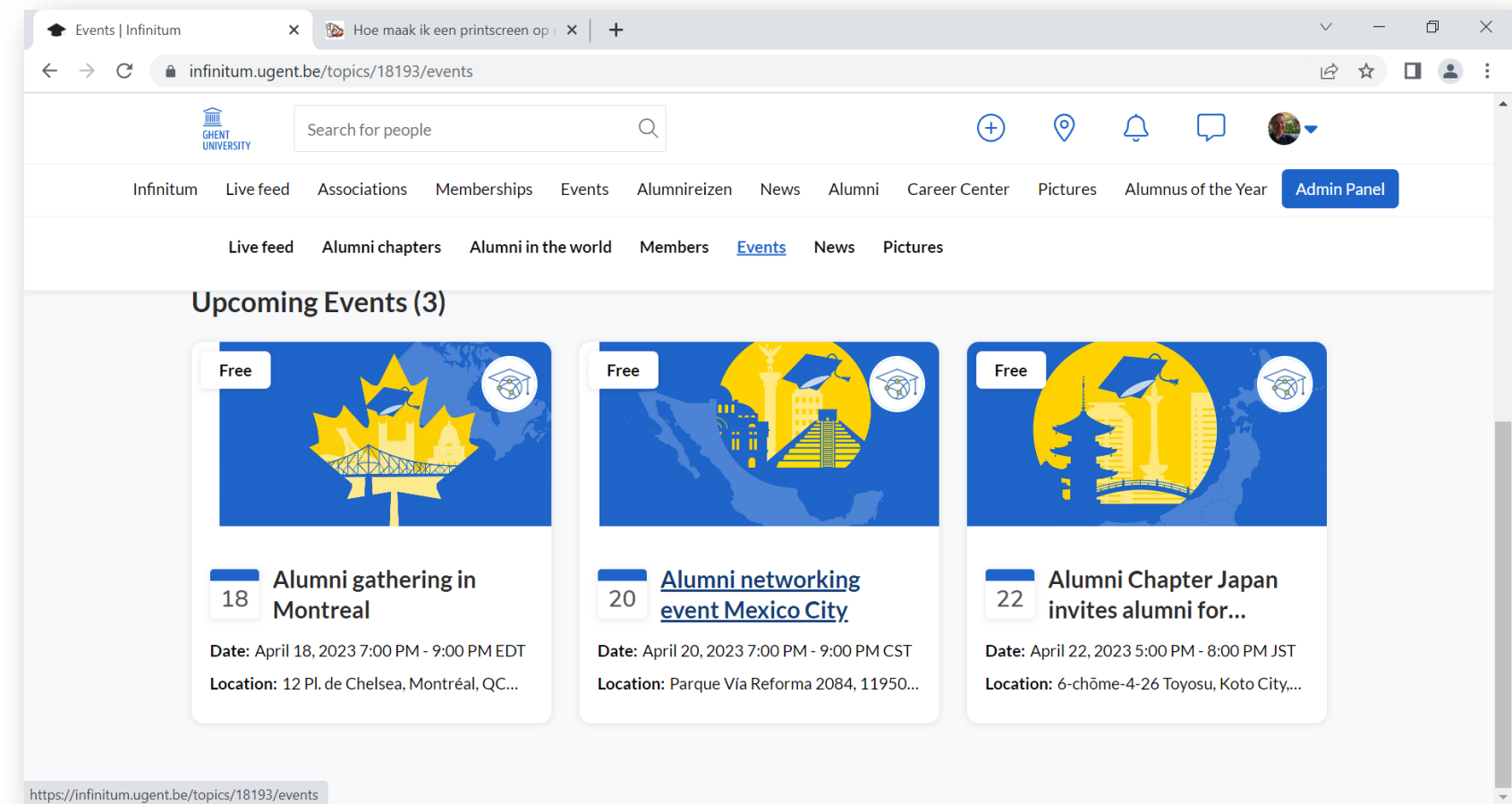
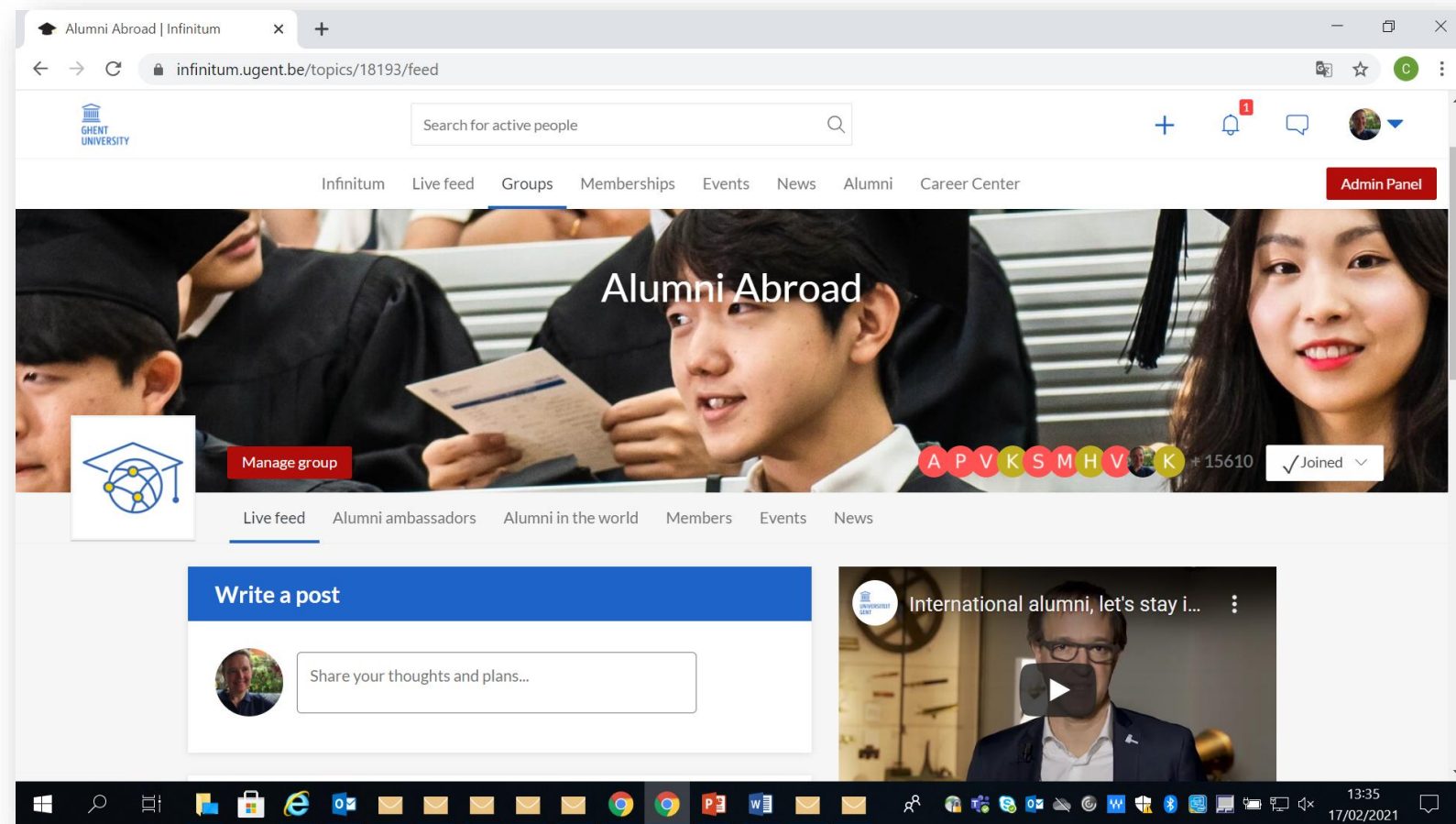
# ALUMNI CHAPTERS





# ONLINE PLATFORM INFINITUM

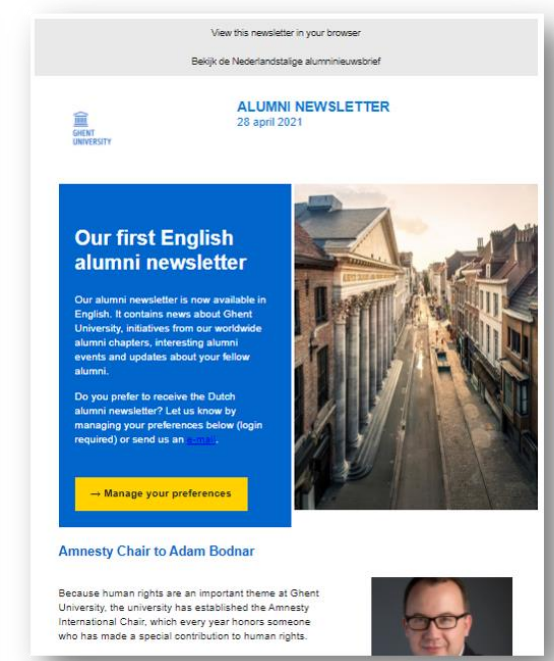
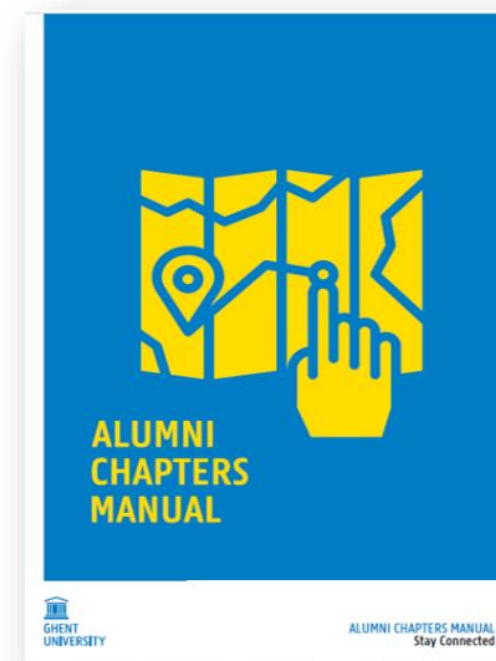
[Infinitem.ugent.be](https://infinitem.ugent.be) – grouppage Alumni Abroad



# ALUMNI CHAPTERS

## Staying in touch

- Online Alumni platform Infitum 'Alumni Abroad'  
<https://Infitum.ugent.be>
- Newsletter 6x/year
- Alumni Magazine
- Social, academic, professional events and activities
- <https://www.ugent.be/alumnus/en/chapters/manual>
- Meeting of 'ambassadors' of the chapters (March 24-26, 2023)



# ALUMNI CHAPTERS

- Teaching (curriculum development, internships, master thesis, job offers)
- Research (common research projects, spin-offs, contracts, prizes)
- Talent management (recruitment of students and researchers)
- Branding
- Fundraising



Alumni ambassadors in Beijing



Alumni ambassadors  
Vietnam @ study fair



Mr. Francis Van Parys  
boardmember GUGC

# ACTIVITIES US 2022



PALO ALTO



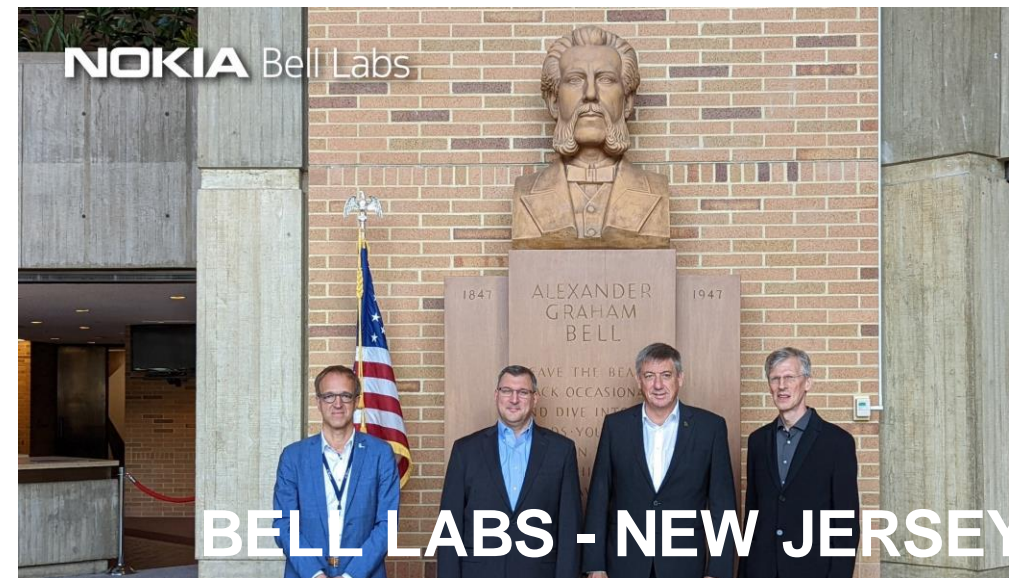
MIT - BOSTON



AMB - LOS ANGELES



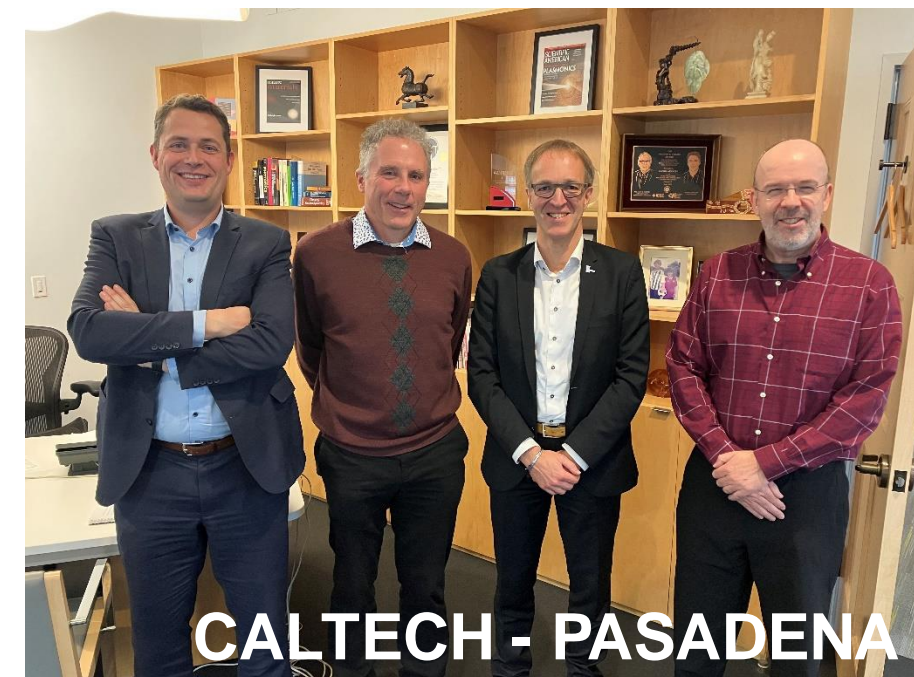
NASA JPL -- PASADENA



BELL LABS - NEW JERSEY



SAN FRANCISCO



CALTECH - PASADENA



GEORGIA TECH - ATLANTA

# INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI ([durfdenken.be](http://durfdenken.be))



# CONTACT

Em. Prof. Kristiaan Versluys – Ghent University Alumni Association

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Carole Picavet - International Relations Office

[Carole.Picavet@ugent.be](mailto:Carole.Picavet@ugent.be)

Websites:

<https://www.ugent.be/alumnus/en>

<https://infinitum.ugent.be/>



# MOVING BEYOND UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Jolien Tegenbos – Office of the Director for Internationalisation



# WHY THIS STUDY?

Ongoing changes in the development cooperation sector and in academia

→ two-year research trajectory: 2021-2023

## Key questions

- ❖ How does the University Development Cooperation (UDC) framework work at UGent?
- ❖ What barriers and bottlenecks exist and how do we engage with them?
- ❖ What benefits could arise from different approaches to fostering more equitable, reciprocal, and just collaborations



# METHODOLOGY

## Interviews

International partners based in Global South	28
UGent admin and policy staff	25
UGent-based academics	46
PhD students	23
Students	8
External stakeholders	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>

## Two surveys (collaboration IQ-GEAR)

PhD participants from the Global South, enrolled at Ghent University	N 480	33%
PhD Supervisor participants	N 416	30%

## Documents

Partner agreements and contracts
Policy briefs, reports, evaluations, etc.
Global Minds documents (call documents, proposals, selection committee reports, M&E)

## Two special research tracks

- ➔ Research cooperation: trajectories of PhD students from the Global South at UGent
- ➔ Funding: First Global Minds programme (2017-2022)

# THREE MAIN CONTRADICTIONS OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION (UDC)

1. Collaborative dynamics: reciprocity, inequality and difference

2. Producing and sharing knowledge: society, the local and the global

3. Why change? Internal weak spots, and benefits from change

❖ **Focus**: how do concrete challenges of international N-S cooperation in policy and practice relate to broader contradictions with the UDC-framework?

❖ A case study approach

1

# COLLABORATIVE DYNAMICS: RECIPROCITY, INEQUALITY AND DIFFERENCE

# COLLABORATIVE DYNAMICS: THE UDC-FRAMEWORK

Towards 'mutually beneficial' and reciprocal partnerships → how to recognize and address inequalities and power imbalances in North-South cooperation?

## CONTRADICTION

- ❖ UDC inherently misses a response to address asymmetries beyond donor-recipient relationship
- ❖ Types of interventions required are disputed

## RECIPROCITY

1. Ownership
2. Contributions
3. Benefits
4. Learning

2

# PRODUCING AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE: SOCIETY, THE LOCAL AND THE GLOBAL

# PRODUCING AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE: THE UDC-FRAMEWORK

Towards 'global challenges' and 'global development' → how to (re)position the 'South' and the 'North' in the constellation of 'the global' and 'the local'?

## CONTRADICTION

- ❖ Absence of a 'localized' perspective on the Global North, and on Ghent University

## A LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

1. UGent capacities (admin, academic, financial)
2. Institutional compartmentalization
3. Contributions of South-partners to UGent

3

# WHY CHANGE? INTERNAL WEAK SPOTS, AND BENEFITS FROM CHANGE

# WHY CHANGE THE UDC-FRAMEWORK?

Towards 'moving beyond UDC' → Why change and to whose benefit?

## CONTRADICTION

Reflections on 'why change' are often shaped by similar rationales that underpin UDC

→ 'Benefits' for the North are rarely part of the conversation

## BENEFITS FOR UGENT

1. N-S cooperation reveals internal weak spots at UGent
2. Tackling weak spots can strengthen UGent locally and internationally
3. N-S interaction



# GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Contradictions related to the UDC-framework are relevant for challenges faced by the development cooperation sector at large → value for different areas and policy domains at and beyond UGent

- 1 A policy framework with attention for the intersection of specific reciprocity dimensions with N-S power imbalances and inequalities
- 2 A 'localized' perspective on the Global North. This also requires UDC to move beyond its 'special track' to interact with broader approaches to internationalization
- 3 A vision to 'move beyond UDC' with attention for internal weak spots revealed through N-S cooperation

# Jolien Tegenbos

scientific staff member

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 Universiteit Gent

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 Ghent University

# PANEL DISCUSSION

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## PANEL MEMBERS:

**Prof. Tawana Kupe**, University of Pretoria

**Irina Ferencz**, Academic Cooperation Association

**Jan Briers**, Member of the Federal Parliament

**Prof. Fabienne Bossuyt**, Ghent University

**Prof. Sami Zemni**, Ghent University

## MODERATOR:

**Gie Goris**, Journalist, Former editor-in-chief of MO\*Magazine