

DHIK-THENSA COIL MATCHMAKING EVENT

Connect | Collaborate | Co-Create.



25 March 2026

13:00–15:00 CET | 14:00–16:00 SAST

Online - [Click here to join](#)

Organised by the DHIK–THENSA Cluster
Educational Strategies in Higher Education

About the Event

The DHIK–THENSA COIL Matchmaking Event brings together lecturers from both networks to initiate and develop Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) projects.

Programme

13.00 CET | 14.00 SAST - Welcome

13.05 CET | 14.05. SAST - Introduction to COIL & Partnering

Sara Pittarello, Managing Director, UniCollaboration

UNICollaboration is a cross-disciplinary not-for-profit professional organisation for the promotion of virtual exchange.

13.15 CET | 14.15 SAST - COIL Project Pitches

8 pitches - 5 minutes each

14.00 CET | 15.00 SAST - Coffee Break

14.15 CET | 15.15 SAST - Interactive Breakout Sessions

14.45 CET | 15.45 SAST - Debrief & Next Steps

COIL PROJECT PITCHES

Sustainable Business Models & SDGs

PROF. DR. MARTIN WENKE

This project engages MA students in analysing companies' sustainability risks using ISO 26000, materiality assessments, and the Triple-Layered Business Model Canvas. In international teams, students develop and critically discuss business model innovations aligned with the SDGs. The course combines CSR management tools with interdisciplinary and cross-cultural collaboration.

Hochschule Niederrhein
University of Applied Science

Economics / Environmental
Economics / Business Ethics

Mental Health Matters

DR. TRISHANA DEVI SONI

This COIL initiative creates a safe, intercultural dialogue space for students to explore mental health in higher education across different cultural and institutional contexts. Through guided discussions and collaborative tasks, participants compare perspectives on stigma, wellbeing, and support systems. The project aims to foster empathy, intercultural competence, and student advocacy for healthier university environments.

Vaal University of
Technology

Higher Education

A Tale of Two Cities

NICHOLAS SINN

In this 10-week COIL course, students use English as a shared language to explore and compare their respective cities. Weekly thematic modules (e.g., history, sustainability, business culture) combine lectures with structured intercultural interaction. The project promotes authentic communication and deeper intercultural understanding through collaborative exchange.

Munich University of Applied
Sciences

English / Intercultural
Communication

COIL PROJECT PITCHES

Virtual Exchanges in Teacher Education

PROF. CLEVER NDEBELE

This project links teacher education programmes across institutions to compare curricula, teaching practice models, and professional preparation. Students engage in guided virtual exchanges, sharing experiences from classroom placements and analysing international approaches. The initiative strengthens intercultural communication and broadens perspectives on global teacher education.

Walter Sisulu University

Curriculum Studies

Transforming Urban Spaces and Buildings

PROF. PHILIPP RIEGEBAUER

This project brings together international students to explore sustainable and energy-efficient urban development. Through comparative case studies, participants analyse smart city concepts, integrated energy systems, and implementation challenges. The course combines theoretical foundations with applied problem-solving in interdisciplinary teams.

Hochschule München

Energy Efficiency in
Building

Tutorship and Student Success in a Global Context

MR. SABELO PETER

This COIL project connects students and practitioners engaged in peer tutoring and academic support. Participants compare international tutoring models, analyse challenges, and co-design context-responsive interventions to enhance student success. The collaboration focuses on equity, belonging, and improved retention in higher education.

Walter Sisulu University

Academic Student Support

COIL PROJECT PITCHES

Recycling Business Across Borders

PROF. DR. SILKE ASCHMANN

In this shared-classroom COIL format, international student teams jointly develop a business plan for a recycling initiative in either partner country. The course integrates lectures from both institutions with collaborative workshops and milestone presentations. Students gain intercultural teamwork experience while addressing sustainability, market conditions, and social impact.

Berliner Hochschule für
Technik

Economics and Social
Sciences

Intersectional Justice in Digital Public Spaces

PROF. DR. KATHRIN NITSCHMANN

This interdisciplinary COIL project examines digital violence against women and girls through legal, ethical, and governance perspectives. International teams analyse tensions between equality, freedom of expression, privacy, and platform regulation. The project culminates in actionable recommendations for institutions, platforms, and civil society.

Hochschule Trier

Law and Economics