



YOUNG
PROFESSIONALS
NETWORK

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The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC) strives to be an intergenerational and inclusive forum for international organized crime experts and envisions younger generations of professionals benefitting from the work of the GI-TOC.

The Young Professionals Network (YPN) was created in 2021 with the aim of helping new generations of young professionals and researchers garner experience and make the right connections through their professional journey, with the objective of increasing their proactive and meaningful participation in the fight against transnational organized crime.

The YPN will create a lively community, bring a fresh perspective and new angles of thinking to bridge the gap between the senior expertise of the GI-TOC's Network of Experts and more recent theories and conceptual approaches on transnational organized crime issues worldwide. Members of the YPN are encouraged to engage in collaborations with the Network of Experts, who will facilitate activities linked to thematic and regional engagement.

Among other things, engagement activities and opportunities of the YPN include:

- Opportunities for showcasing of work (internally and externally), through publications, interviews and podcasts.
- Small grants for up to four young professionals per year.
- Opportunities to contribute to core GI-TOC projects or participate in specific GI-TOC events (upon invitation).
- Observer status at GI-TOC Network of Experts core events (e.g., virtual group and regional discussions, access to monthly bulletins).



“As an early-career researcher on illegal wildlife trade (IWT) issues, the YPN is going to be instrumental for me to start making connections and learn from diverse perspectives for the preparation of further involvement in combating transnational organized crime.

Wahyu Nurbandi, Indonesia, University of Oxford



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I believe the network for young professionals is an incredibly valuable means by which to connect, and hopefully collaborate, with international and domestic colleagues who are at similar stages of their careers, and working on similar or parallel issues.

Monique Sosnowski, United States, John Jay College (CUNY)

WHO CAN APPLY?

In order to apply for membership, potential candidates for the YPN should:

- Be younger than 35;
- Be a young journalist, activist or community leader working on transnational organized crime issues and its local/national/regional impact, and/or;
- Have graduated from at least one master's degree in a field relevant to the GI-TOC's activities (e.g., criminology, international relations with a focus on security), and/or;
- Be a professional in government, civil society, academic or private sector with a focus on issues related to transnational organized crime, and/or;
- Be enrolled in a PhD in a field relevant to the GI-TOC's activities.



The YPN is an extremely relevant initiative to support young experts at the beginning of their journey in addressing TOC issues and promote good governance. I am hopeful it will bring our voices together and extend our reach, and I am glad an organisation like the Global Initiative recognises the importance of supporting young generations of civil society actors like me.

Benoît Kikwaya, DRC, Children's Parliament of the East DRC



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“ I see the YPN as a fellow community which will enable new generations of researchers like myself to support each other and have access to an incredible knowledge platform of experts practitioners with more experience on the last trends and developments in the field of TOC worldwide.

Jihane Ben Yahia, Tunisia/France, Global Center on Cooperative Security

“ The fight against transnational organized crime is a critical issue perpetrated by humans that requires a human response. The Global Initiative believes in younger generations of researchers and activists and realises the importance of bringing them together around this issue, not only to support them as they start their career but also to create a new outlook and give a fresh impulse to ongoing efforts by more experienced experts. The Global Initiative Young Professionals Network will open up new ways for inter-generational collaboration.

Sarah Cliffe, Chair of the GI-TOC Board



HOW CAN YOU

Global Initiative Young Professionals Network

Nomination Procedure

A step-by-step overview



The process of considering prospective members will take place on a quarterly basis. Prospective members will join the Young Professional Network upon invitation or recommendation by existing Network members or by the GI-TOC Secretariat. In exceptional cases, experts can also approach the GI-TOC and apply independently.

The Membership Review Committee will consider the profiles of prospective members following a background check based on our code of ethics. Those approved by the committee will then be invited by the director to become YPN members.

Should you have any questions or if you would like more information about the YPN, please forward inquiries to Iris Oustinoff at: network@globalinitiative.net

Within less than a decade, the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC) has developed from being a lean start-up to a global organization. The Network of Experts is the key resource body of the GI-TOC, made up of selected leading experts in their field who help us develop innovative solutions, formulate sound recommendations and create effective tools to curb transnational organized crime dynamics worldwide.