

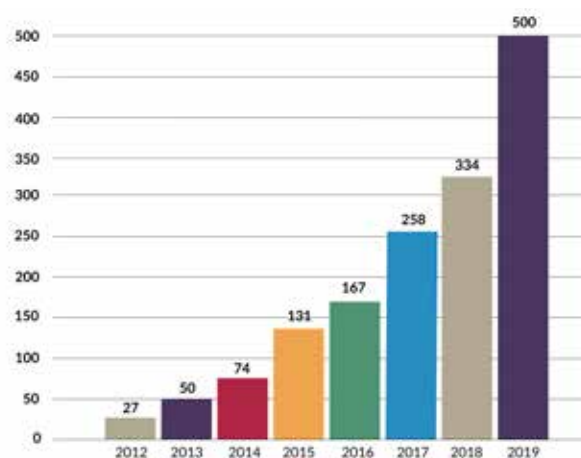
# Establishment of the Global Initiative Network of Experts

The GI-TOC network, established to counter the rapidly evolving organized crime networks, is multi-disciplinary group, comprising national and international experts, such as policymakers, law-enforcement specialists, academics, members of non-governmental organizations, investigative journalists and businesspeople who are involved in analyzing or countering transnational organized crime.

The founding members of the GI-TOC conceived of a network-based organization that could mobilize around, debate and communicate on issues relating to transnational organized crime. The GI Network of Experts provides the foundation for the workings of the organization.

## VISION/ OBJECTIVE

The Global Initiative Network is the key resource body of the GI-TOC, providing a valuable forum for exchanging knowledge, expertise and advice. The GI Network constitutes the Annual General Meeting of the Global Initiative, and serves as a forum for influence, collaboration, coordination and expertise. This is a shared space, where frank debate can take place, where experiences can be shared, connections can be developed across institutional lines and support can be sought by all affected by the impact of organized crime.



Membership of the Network can add value to the work of members, and in doing so catalyze strengthened global responses to the challenges of organized crime.

The Network began with the 27 founding members and has continued to grow and evolve since then, as has its level of diversity. Today, there are more than 500 members from academia, civil society, governmental and multilateral institutions, the private sector, law enforcement, media, as well as independent experts.

# Network membership and personal integrity

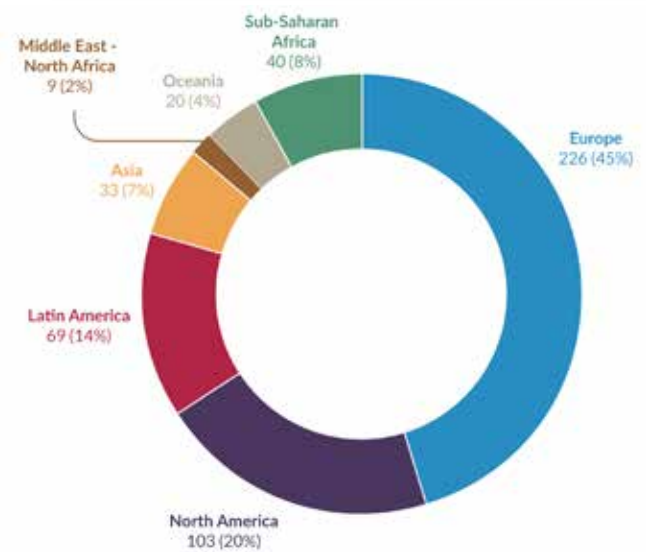
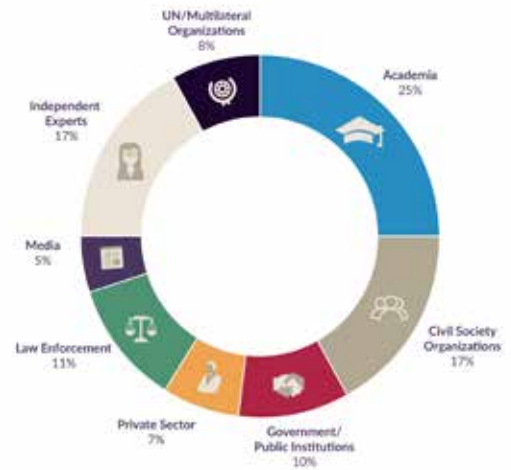
## NOMINATION PROCEDURES

The process of considering prospective members takes place twice a year – in June and December. Prospective members join the Network upon invitation or recommendation by existing Network members or the GI-TOC secretariat. In exceptional cases, experts can also approach the GI-TOC and apply independently.

The Membership Review Committee considers the profiles of prospective members after a background check based on our Code of Ethics. Those who are approved by the committee are then invited by the director to become GI Network members.

## PROFILE OF NETWORK MEMBERS

The GI-TOC aims to achieve an equitable balance in the number of members from different regions, between the genders and across the organization's thematic areas of work, including a drive for increased membership from within the law-enforcement community.



## Opportunities for the engagement of members

There are several ways in which Network members are encouraged to engage with the GI-TOC (and other Network members), depending on their availability and willingness:

- Participating in the annual general meeting (AGM)
- Participating in virtual focus-group discussions
- Writing blogs on a topic of choice/area of expertise to be featured on the GI-TOC website
- Participating in a webinar and commentary
- Upon request by the GI-TOC secretariat, promoting or representing the organization at conferences and meetings
- Participating in a GI-TOC-initiated interview
- Providing inputs to research and analysis
- Participating in one of the GI projects and initiatives
- Joining the peer-review phase of the GI-TOC's research publications

The GI also encourages Network members to inform the organization about upcoming events, relevant job vacancies, launches of their reports or other material, and other areas where there might be synergies.

## Relations to other organizations

Network members are asked to participate in the GI-TOC's activities in a spirit of open cooperation and to provide views that are based on their personal experience. While most Network members work for and represent other institutions, in the interest of open, creative and critical debate, members are expected to participate in GI events in their personal capacity. Unless expressly requested to do so, they should not participate as representatives of their respective institutions, and should therefore leave their 'institutional hats at the door'.