



ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GLOBAL INITIATIVE NETWORK OF EXPERTS

The Global Initiative Network of Experts (GIN), established to counter rapidly evolving organized crime networks, is a multi-disciplinary group comprising of 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 GIN began with the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime's (GI-TOC) 27 founding members, and has been evolving organically since 2011, as has its level of diversity. The GIN provides the foundation for the workings of the organization, making the GI-TOC a unique international civil society organization, by conducting analysis and activities to promote more effective responses to transnational organized crime.

Vision and objective

The GIN is the key resource body of the GI-TOC, providing a valuable forum for exchanging knowledge, expertise and advice. It constitutes the annual general meeting of the GI-TOC, and serves as a forum for influence, collaboration, coordination and expertise.

The GIN provides 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 fight against transnational organized crime is a critical issue perpetrated by humans that requires a human response. Such response cannot be fully efficient without an inclusive and multi-sectoral approach involving a diversity of backgrounds and expertise, which is why the Global Initiative Network of Experts is a key actor in this fight. The Board of the Global Initiative appreciates the Network's activities and believes in its capacity to bring together activists, researchers and policy makers from government, journalism, civil society and academia to efficiently address this pressing problem that undermines political, social, human and environmental security.*

- Sarah Cliffe, Chair of the Global Initiative Board



“ To combat transnational organized crime, we need a whole of society approach. The Global Initiative brings together activists, researchers and policy makers from government, journalism, civil society and academia to address this pressing problem that undermines political, social, human and environmental security. ”

- Dr Louise Shelley, Omer L. and Nancy Hirst Endowed Chair,
University Professor - George Mason University, Global Initiative Network member

“ The Global Initiative Network is the world's most impressive aggregation of top-quality expertise and research into corruption, organised and transnational crime. Criminal networks innovate faster than some of the planet's leading tech companies. The Network 's structure has brilliantly mirrored this and become an invaluable resource to all interested in researching on, or advocating against issues of corruption, transnational and organised crime. ”

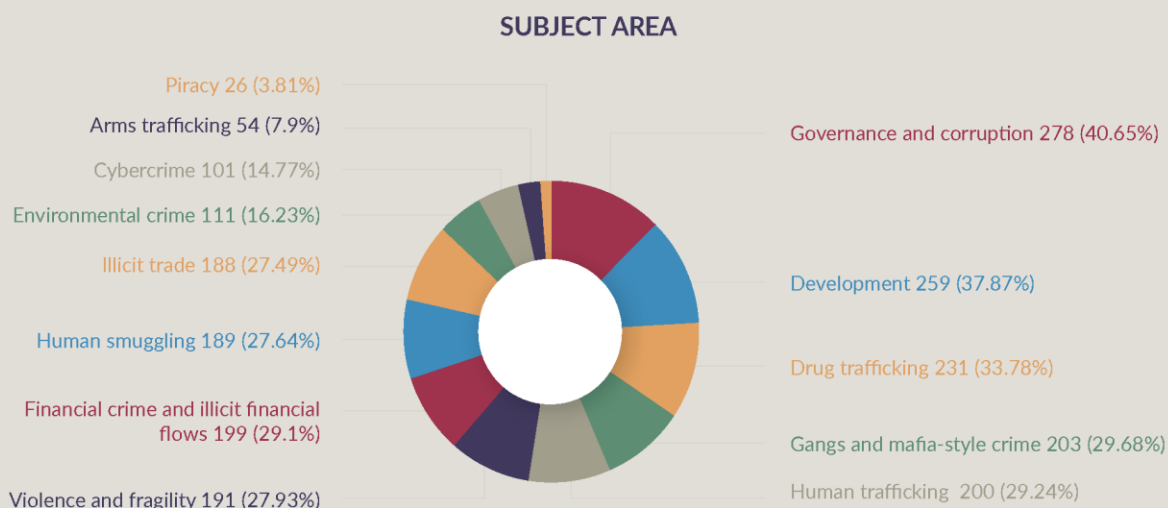
- John Githongo, CEO, Inuka Kenya Ni Sisi, Kenya, Global Initiative Network member

Profile of Network members

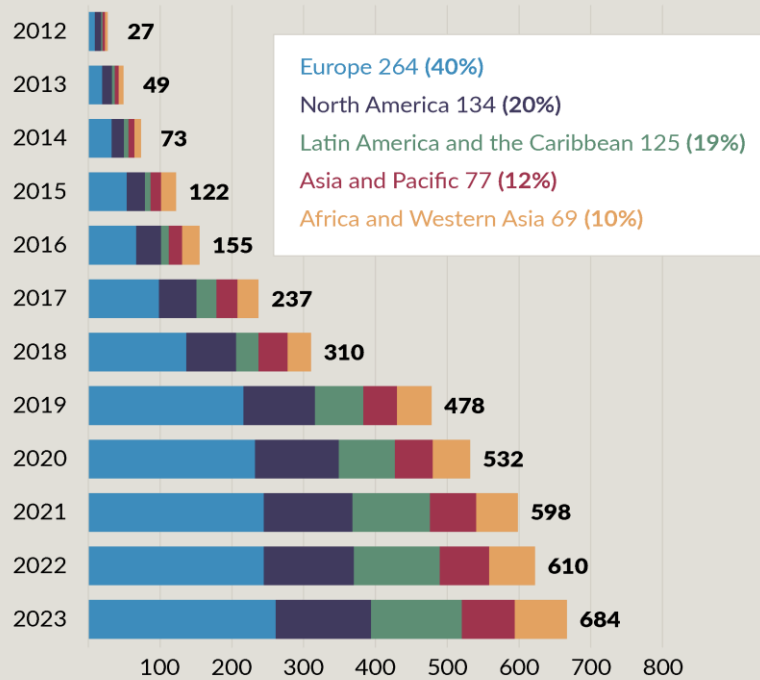
As of September 2023, the Network consists of 684 members from academia, civil society, governmental and multilateral institutions, the private sector, law enforcement and media, as well as independent experts.

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

Individual profiles of GIN members can be viewed at <https://globalinitiative.net/about-us/network/>.



GROWTH OF MEMBERS BY REGION OF ORIGIN



MEMBERSHIP SOLICITATION AND INTEGRITY

Eligibility

To become part of the GIN, a prospective member should:

- Belong to one or more of the professional groups relevant to the GI-TOC's work;
- Be at the forefront of current debates in their field;
- Comply with the GI-TOC 's Code of Ethics;
- Be willing to actively engage in GI-TOC activities either publicly or anonymously;
- Have proved expertise in matters relating to and/or in activities that are important in understanding or countering transnational organized crime or have acquired expertise over a substantial period of time (5–10 years).



Nomination procedures



The process of considering prospective members takes place twice a year – in March and September. 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 GIN members.

MEMBER INTEGRITY

GIN members do not work directly for the GI-TOC; nevertheless, as an integral part of the organization, their own activities and behaviour do reflect on what the GI-TOC does as an organization. Therefore, the contribution made by the Network of Experts is contingent upon its members being seen to operate with the highest standards of ethical conduct.

By assuming membership, the members agree (i) to participate in a spirit of open cooperation and solidarity; (ii) to provide views that are based on their personal experience and opinions; and (iii) to commit themselves to acting in line with the highest ethical standards in their work to counter organized crime, promote cooperation at all levels, contribute to a positive and meaningful debate, and support the development of innovative solutions and responses to organized crime.



MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

- Participating in the annual general meeting.
- Participating in virtual 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-TOC's projects and initiatives.
- Joining the peer-review phase of the GI-TOC's research publications.

Network members are also given the opportunity to share their work, research updates, ideas, events and experiences on regular basis, specifically in the form of quarterly bulletins, which are exclusively available in English, French and Spanish to all members

RELATIONS TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

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 the GI-TOC 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'.

For more information or any inquiries regarding the Global Initiative Network of Experts, please contact the Network Coordination team: network@globalinitiative.net



GLOBAL INITIATIVE NETWORK OF EXPERTS

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.

