

THE GLOBAL INITIATIVE
NETWORK OF EXPERTS

ONBOARDING DOCUMENT FOR NETWORK MEMBERS



SEPTEMBER 2023



**GLOBAL
INITIATIVE**
NETWORK OF EXPERTS

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WHAT IS THE GI-TOC NETWORK OF EXPERTS?

Debates on transnational organized crime and illicit markets have become increasingly complex, crossing multiple sectors and requiring a wide array of expertise to understand and respond to them. The Global Initiative Network (GIN) began with the GI-TOC 27 founding members, and has been evolving organically since 2011, as has its level of diversity.

The Network makes the GI-TOC more than just another think tank in a crowded space. It was created with a view to promote and support relevant specialists willing to make a difference in a challenging environment. Likewise, the expertise brought by GIN members carries the values of the GI-TOC beyond geographic and virtual borders. It is a multi-disciplinary group, composed of over 684 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.

MISSION AND PURPOSE

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

A Network of Experts: What does it mean?

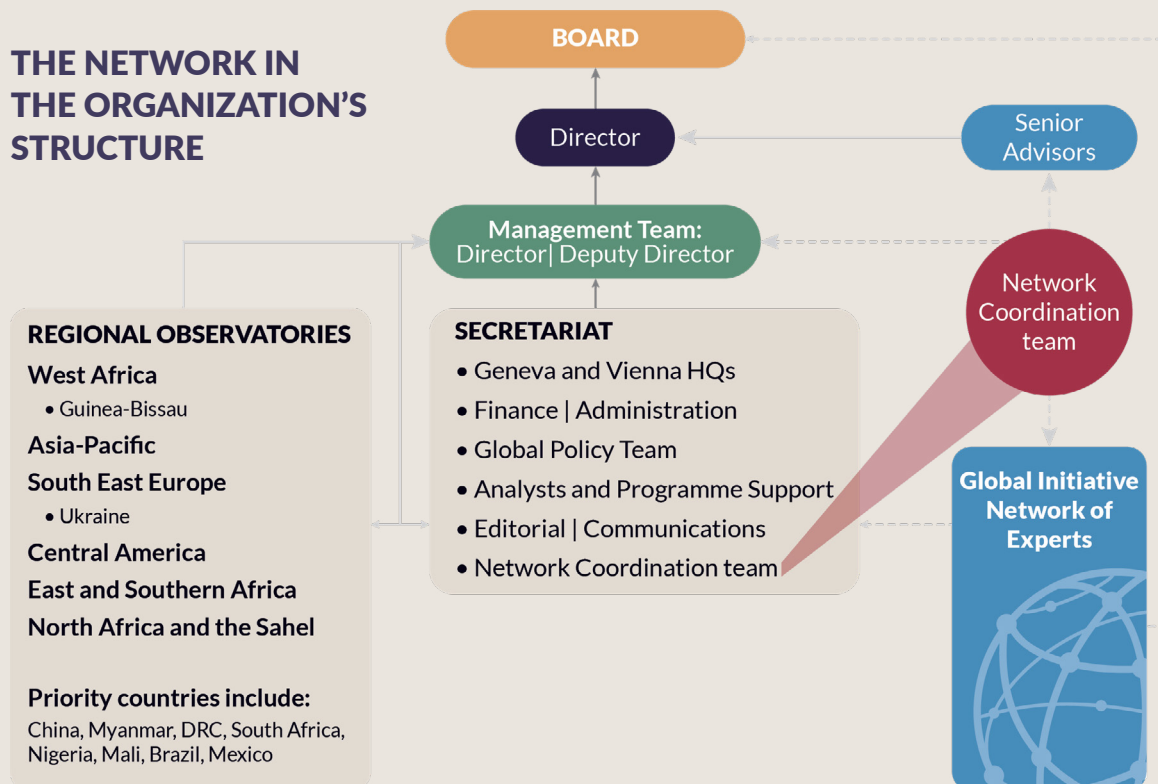
We believe that the solution to organized criminal activities lies in the mobilization of people and their expertise. Our Network is made up of selected leading experts in their field who help us develop innovative solutions, formulate sound recommendations and create effective tools to curb transnational organized crime dynamics worldwide.

As an expert group, it is also a unique opportunity to connect with specialists from various cultural and professional backgrounds, working towards the same goal with different approaches and methods. In this respect, the GIN provides a platform for global experts to address gaps or emerging issues, share best practices and lessons learned, widen their professional network and bring their own research to the fore.



GOVERNANCE OF THE GI-TOC NETWORK OF EXPERTS

THE NETWORK IN THE ORGANIZATION'S STRUCTURE



* The AGM is chaired by a member of the Board | ** The Auditor is appointed by the AGM and reports to the Board

The Board:

Purpose, role and relationship with the Network

Along with the Board, which has fiduciary oversight and provides advisory functions, the Network, which convenes once a year during the Annual General Meeting, is the organization's highest authority. The Network has the authority to appoint members of the Board and to appoint a select number of its own members to the Board to represent the Network. The GI-TOC's Board is crucial to the management and running of the organization. The GI-TOC has striven to achieve a gender and regional balance on the Board.

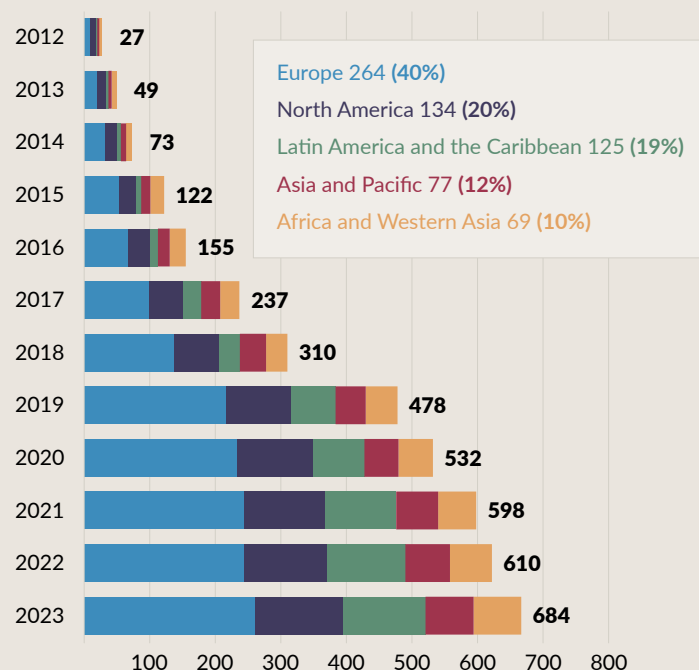
Currently, there are four positions on the Board that serve the specific purpose of representing the Network. These are now occupied by [Rodrigo Avila](#), [Nick Lewis](#), [Nirmal Ghosh](#) and [François Mathieu](#).

Network members are asked to join the regional consultation groups and the AGM in their first year of membership, and all members are highly encouraged to join these yearly meetings throughout their time as members of the Network.

MEMBERSHIP: AN OVERVIEW

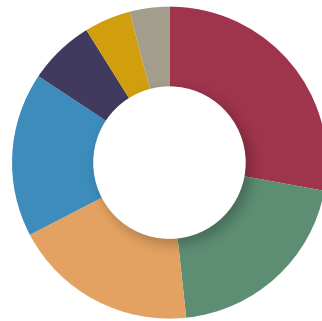
Becoming a member of the Global Initiative Network of Experts means committing to a partnership based on trust and mutual gain. The GIN membership adds value to the work of its members through the promotion and support of their work and in providing a high-level, safe space for them to thrive. In doing so, it catalyzes strengthened global responses to the challenges of organized crime. GIN members are a vital resource not only to the GI-TOC's core mandate, but also to global efforts to combat transnational organized crime.

GROWTH OF MEMBERS BY REGION OF ORIGIN

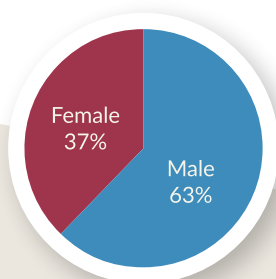


PROFESSIONAL GROUP

Research and academia: 285 (41%)
 Government and law enforcement: 205 (30%)
 Independent experts: 199 (28%)
 Civil society organizations: 171 (25%)
 Private sector: 74 (10%)
 UN/regional organizations: 44 (7%)
 Media: 43 (6%)

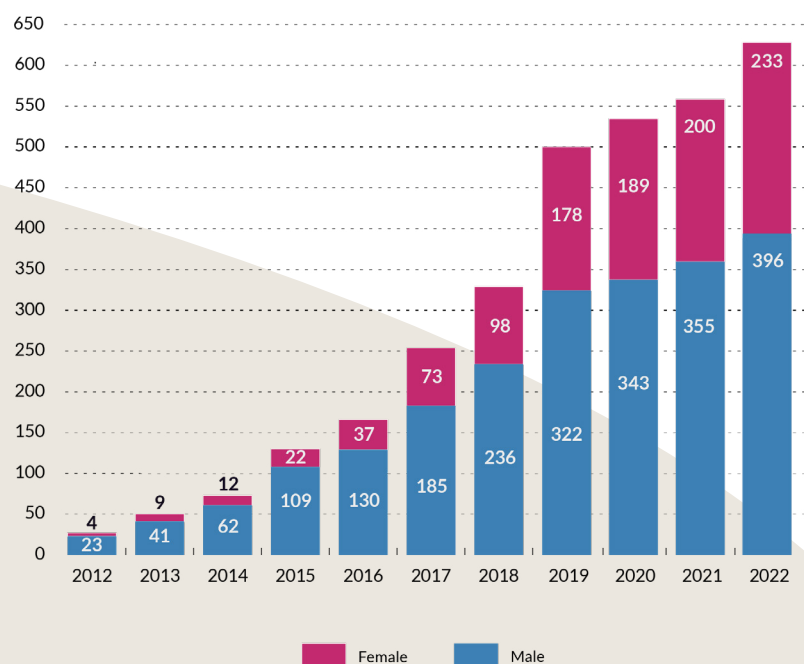


GENDER

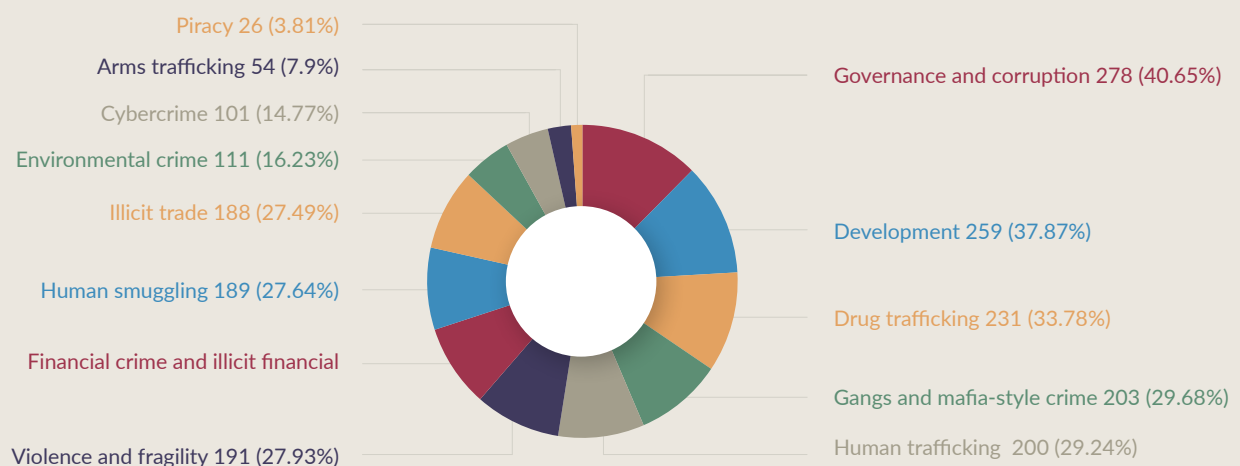


Members of the GIN do not represent their organizations, but join in their personal capacity, and it is important to note that individual members' views do not necessarily reflect the views of the GI-TOC or those of the Network as a whole.

GIN growth overview



TOC EXPERTISE



HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER AND WHAT TO EXPECT

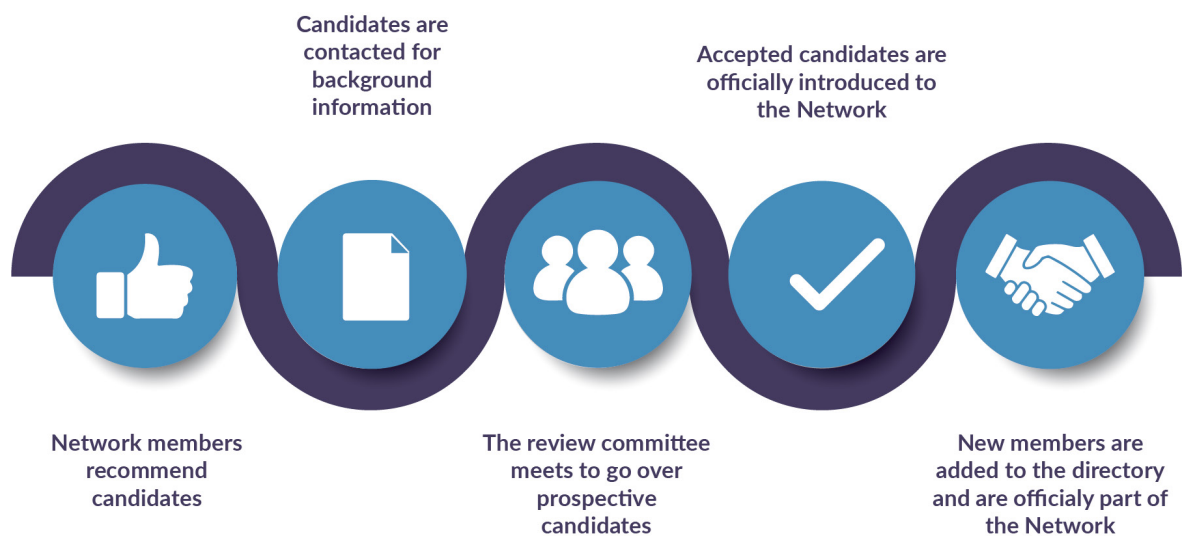
Qualifications

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

- Belong to one or more of the professional groups described in the above infographic 'TOC Expertise'.
- 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 transnational organized crime (TOC); or have proved expertise in the various disciplines and activities that are important in understanding or countering TOC (such as a subject matter expert); and have either acquired expertise over a substantial period of time (5–10 years) or demonstrated commitment to acquiring such expertise, in a manner that indicates a capacity for to fully contribute to the purpose of the GI-TOC in due course.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Consultancies and employment opportunities are not part of the Network membership, although they are not incompatible with the GI-TOC operational rules. Please bear in mind, however, that such opportunities are exceptionally considered in specific and appropriate contexts only.

Nomination procedure



Global Initiative Network - Member Information

Welcome to the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime's Network of Experts!

In order to facilitate better communication and collaboration between you and the Global Initiative (GI-TOC), we would kindly ask you to fill in this Network Member Information Form at your earliest convenience.

Should you wish to have a GI-TOC website profile created (please see here for examples: <https://globalinitiative.net/network/>), please indicate this in the respective section as well as kindly provide the relevant information such as a short bio and publications.

Many thanks for your cooperation and support!



**GLOBAL
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NETWORK OF EXPERTS

Next

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 by 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.

In 2024, we want to focus on developing Network membership in underrepresented regions of the world (i.e., Africa, Asia & Pacific and Western Asia) and underrepresented professional backgrounds (i.e., law enforcement, private sector, the media). It is also a key priority for us to make the Network more gender balanced by prioritizing applications from women.

Upon joining the Network, every member is asked to complete a [Member Information Form](#), and update it ([update your current profile](#)) as his or her career evolves. This form is extremely important for us to sort members into relevant groups, and includes sections for members to tell us more about how they would like to engage with Network and GI-TOC activities.

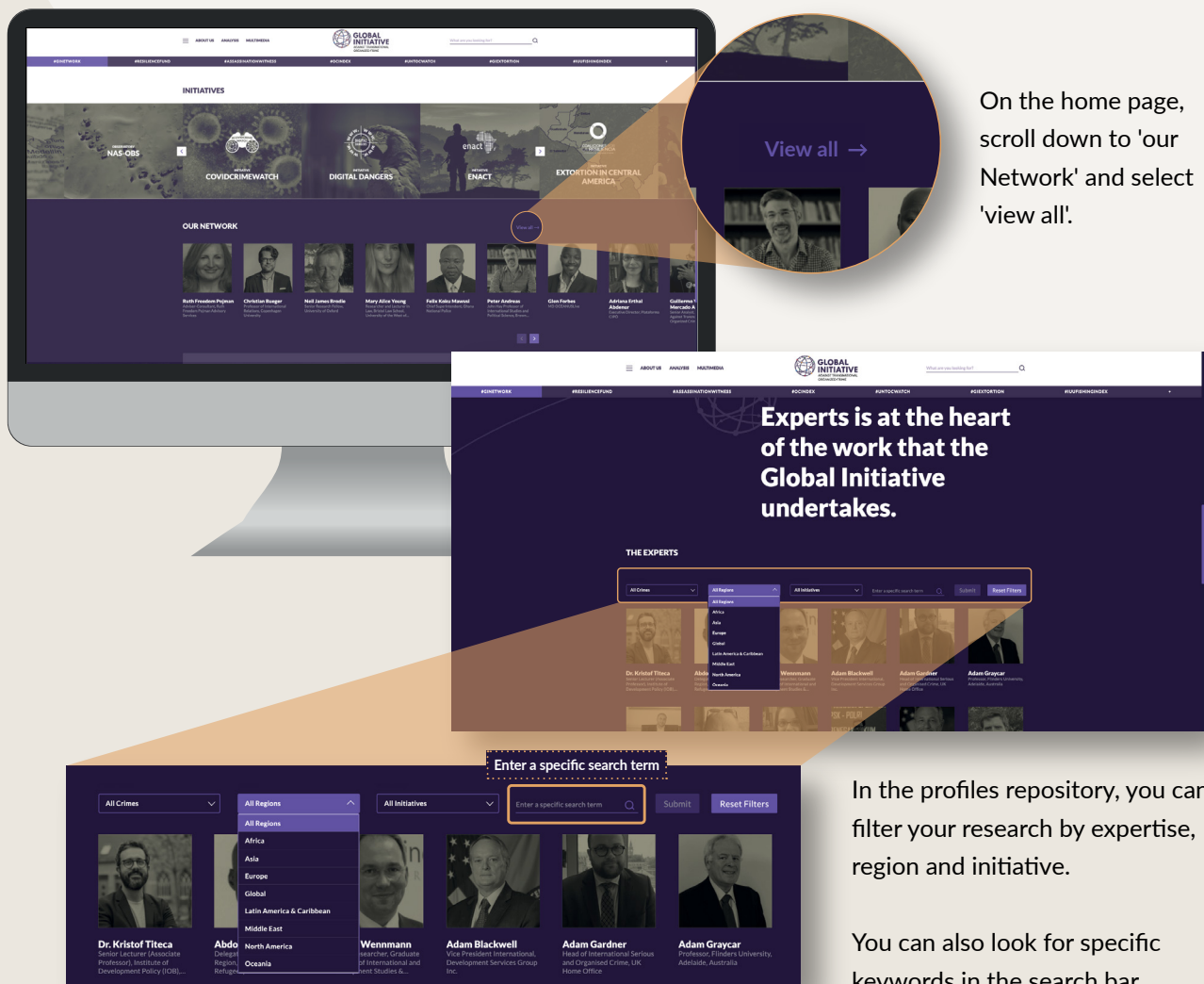
This is also where information for members' online profiles is stored.

So, what can you expect from this Network?

The Network is a supportive, lively community where expertise, knowledge and information are shared in a mutually beneficial ecosystem. Our Network Coordination team sees to it that GIN members willing to learn with and from other experts among the GIN or the GI-TOC core staff can seek consultation on specific topics that fall outside of their knowledge base, contribute to ongoing projects linked to their area of expertise, and promote their work through GI-TOC advocacy and communication channels.

THE GI-TOC WEBSITE: HOW TO FIND OTHER MEMEBERS

Members of the GIN are encouraged to engage with one another, and with GI-TOC core staff. Opportunities for collaborative work can come from the GI-TOC and/or at members' request. On the [Global Initiative website](#), you can search for [GI-TOC Network members](#) and [GI-TOC Secretariat](#) profiles to have a better idea of people's backgrounds and current work. Here is how:



On the home page, scroll down to 'our Network' and select 'view all'.

Experts is at the heart of the work that the Global Initiative undertakes.

THE EXPERTS

Enter a specific search term

Enter a specific search term

Submit Reset Filters

In the profiles repository, you can filter your research by expertise, region and initiative.

You can also look for specific keywords in the search bar

Share your work

There are numerous ways in which you can engage with GI-TOC core activities, share your work and exchange ideas with the GI-TOC community, namely:

- Bulletins and Virtual Group Discussions (VGDs) (please visit the [GIN Resource Centre](#) for more information)
- Participating in the Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- Writing blogs on a topic of choice based on your area of expertise, to be featured on the GI-TOC website
- Being included in panels for webinars and conferences as well as participating in commentaries
- Upon request by the GI-TOC Secretariat, promoting or representing the organization at conferences and meetings
- Participating in GI-TOC initiated interviews
- Providing inputs into research and analysis
- Participating in one of the GI-TOC projects and initiatives
- Joining peer-review groups for GI-TOC's research publications

Regular activities of the GIN include enhanced professional engagement with peers through monthly conferences called Virtual Group Discussions; Network members can access the GI-TOC's online resources, podcasts and more. We also publish a quarterly bulletin in English, Spanish and French for Network members.



In order for you to keep track of the work of GIN members and GI-TOC activities, and to suggest ideas for further engagement, we have created the GIN Resource Centre, where you will be able to find all past, ongoing and forthcoming activities of the GIN. This includes monthly bulletins, Virtual Group Discussions, programmes, presentations, podcasts and interviews.






This is a space dedicated to GIN members where you will be able to search through contents created by or featuring the participation of GIN members.

To suggest contributions or for more information on GIN related engagement, please do get in touch with us.

Contact the Network Coordination team

**Welcome to the
Global Initiative
Network of
Experts Resource
Center!**

NETWORK COORDINATION



THE NETWORK COORDINATION TEAM

To reach out to Network members and more generally for information, suggestions or concerns regarding GIN activities and engagement, please do not hesitate to contact the Network coordination team at network@globalinitiative.net



Livia Wagner
Network coordinator



Iris Oustinoff
Young Professionals
Network coordinator

EXCLUSIVE #GINETWORK LINKEDIN GROUP

As a professional social network, LinkedIn is widely used by academics, organized crime practitioners and students. It has the functionality to support knowledge exchange, including the ability to upload articles and reports; provides a useful and professionally relevant frame for discussions; and is often used as a communication and networking tool across different layers.

The GI-TOC has created a private LinkedIn group dedicated to GI-TOC Network members.

WHAT WILL YOU FIND THERE?

- Opportunities for discussion and exchanges with fellow Network members in real time
- A place to share your work with relevant experts in your field and make fruitful connections
- Useful reminders and highlights on flagship Network products and outreach activities (e.g., monthly group discussions, Network bulletins, calls for papers, peer reviews, suggestions for blog contributions, experts reviews for GI-TOC projects)
- ... and many more!

Join the #GINetwork LinkedIn group here:

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12564860/>



ANNEXES

- Communications package: A comprehensive source of information featuring GIN statistics over the years, key strategic objectives, as well as speaking notes and social media tips. Also available in Spanish and French.
- Approach and ethics: The code of ethics that all GIN members are required to sign and comply with throughout their membership.
- One-pager: A general overview of the GIN and its members.





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