



# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: MEKONG CAREER ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME

The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC) is delighted to open a call for applications to PhD students working on transnational organized crime-related topics that wish to be considered for the Mekong Network to Counter Transnational Crime (MNET-CTC) **career accelerator programme**.

The career accelerator programme offers PhD students a unique opportunity to learn from international academics researching organized crime, strengthen their analytical and research tools, and meet with peers from across the Mekong region. A small number of PhD students will be selected to receive expert training, participate in in-person events in the region, and have the opportunity to publish a piece of research with the GI-TOC.

The career accelerator programme is led by the GI-TOC and supported by experienced academics from relevant fields that have agreed to mentor the successful applicants.

## **What the career accelerator programme offers:**

- Participation in regional in-person expert-led training and network-building events on illicit markets and organized crime in the Mekong (costs for participation will be covered by the programme);
- Opportunity to publish an article with the GI-TOC (format to be decided jointly) and mentoring to prepare the article for academic publication;
- Multiple online events with fellow successful applicants to receive training and updates;
- Applicant profiles on the GI-TOC website (if desired);
- Certificate of participation.

**Criteria:** Applicants must meet the following criteria in order to apply – **please read carefully as applicants who do not meet the criteria will not be considered:**

- Applicants must be officially enrolled on a PhD on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026. There is no age stipulation, only PhD enrolment is required;
- Applicants must be enrolled on a PhD in Criminology, Law, Political Science, International Relations, Economics, or other disciplines working explicitly on criminality as a research topic;
- Applicants must possess good English language ability;

- Applicants must be citizens of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand or Vietnam;
- Applicants must be in possession of a passport so that they are able to travel across the Mekong region;

### Expectations:

- Successful applicants are expected to meaningfully participate in all events organized as part of the career accelerator programme;
- Applicants must be available to attend all online discussion sessions organized as part of the programme (taking place approx. one per month);
- Applicants must have a strong research interest in organized crime and related topics;
- Applicants must be willing and able to produce research as part of the programme (they will receive expert support).

To apply, please send your CV (2 pages maximum), a short letter of motivation (2 pages maximum) and a brief abstract that outlines your PhD research focus to [MNETCTCacademicprogramme@globalinitiative.net](mailto:MNETCTCacademicprogramme@globalinitiative.net) by 16:00 (Bangkok – Indochina Time) on Friday 29 May 2026. Please reach out if you have any questions before applying.

### Timeline:

- Deadline to submit: 16:00 (Bangkok – Indochina Time) on Friday 29 May 2026;
- Announcement of successful applicants: July 2026;
- In-person kick-off event: early September 2026;
- Discussion sessions ~1 per month: until March 2027;
- Final event where papers are presented: May 2027 (this event will include the following year's cohort for networking);
- Publication of papers: May 2027.

### About MNET-CTC

The Mekong Network to Counter Transnational Crime (MNET-CTC) is a multi-year programme implemented by the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC) in partnership with the Australian Government. As a civil society network, MNET-CTC recognizes the transformative effects of data and analysis and seeks to strengthen the evidence basis on transnational organized crime trends as well as raise awareness on the impacts of illicit markets in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. MNET-CTC creates avenues for sharing this knowledge with local and regional counterparts, government actors and the private sector as it aims to build a regional community of practice that collaboratively works to strengthen resilience to these crimes.