



Trade Implementation And Enforcement Research (Tier) Network

Coordinator: Dr Elitsa Garnizova, Director, Trade Policy Hub, LSE // Visiting Lecturer, New Bulgarian University
e.v.garnizova@lse.ac.uk

What is TIER?

The Trade Implementation and Enforcement (TIER) Network was set up in November 2021 and it was awarded its first grant in December 2021 as a [UACES Research Network \(RN\)](#). UACES (University Association for Contemporary European Studies) is the global membership organisation for academics, students and practitioners who are interested in all aspects of Europe and the European Union. However, our network has been set up with the explicit idea to have a global coverage and strengthen communication across reforms in different geographies and contexts. We hope to use the initial UACES support, which is up to 5,000 GBP over three years, as a springboard for further funding to ensure the sustainability of the network.

How to join?

No membership fee, join via emailing: e.v.garnizova@lse.ac.uk and filling in [our Google Form](#). Feel free to email us your responses.

What is the current context?

There is currently an open debate around the implementation and enforcement of the trade commitments and particularly, Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD) Chapters of the EU Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), and which is the most effective way of achieving the objectives of trade policy. In this context, the European Commission is undertaking a review to improve the implementation and enforcement of agreements and of its trade policy strategy and there is an important need to provide a stronger evidence-base on the topic. Reforms are going in other parts of the world, including in the approaches of Canada, the European Free Trade Association, and the United States. What is also in flux is the role of international organisations, civil society and businesses in monitoring, implementation and enforcement of an ever-widening range of trade laws.

A range of global events have increased the importance of trade policy and many countries have highlighted the need to remain open. Countries also continue to negotiate and conclude trade agreements but sometimes those agreements are outpaced by developments on the ground. In our recent study, we found the extent to which context matters in the transferability of implementation and enforcement practices. Research on these topics has remained compartmentalised and *vis-à-vis* implementation and enforcement still insufficient to provide us with the necessary tools to understand this future direction of policy.

The rationale for the network is to bring the different tiers of trade policy research together to inform the research puzzle set out here. It also aims to bridge a long-lasting gap between qualitative and quantitative research approaches to trade policy. This need is



brought about by the fact that FTAs, but also other trade instruments like autonomous measures or executive agreements go much beyond tariffs and touch upon a range of different areas, as well as the heart of the functions of states – including regulation, security and industrial policies. Finally, research network aims to provide a platform for early career researchers and PhD candidates, who have felt severely the impact of Covid-19 on their lives and research.

Membership of the TIER network is not only open to those beyond academia but also encouraged since our recent experience highlights the need for advancing in parallel academic research and policy reform.

Benefits of membership



CONNECT to researchers, policy makers, experts across different organisations, as well as across different geographies



SHARE your experience, research, and activities with the network and the wider public through workshops, events, conferences, and annual receptions



SUPPORT academics and starting researchers in their journey and receive support



SOURCE and go to repository for research on the topic



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POLITICAL SCIENCE

Planned activities

- ◆ Create new platforms for resource sharing and outreach – database of members; website; repository of documents;
- ◆ Organising research workshops, public events and conferences
- ◆ Providing funding for our members' activities, especially ECRs and PhD Students
- ◆ Collaborating on the publication of books, journals and blogs
- ◆ Organising training sessions
- ◆ Contribute to UACES activities and other related networks

Core members

1. [Alexandre Maxime Veuthey](#) – PhD Candidate, Global Studies Institute, University of Geneva, Switzerland
2. [Eduard Marinov](#) – Associate Professor at New Bulgarian University, Sofia, Bulgaria
3. [Elaine Fahey](#) – Professor of Law, Jean Monnet Chair in Law & Transatlantic Relations, City University, London, UK
4. [Elitsa Garnizova](#) – Director, Trade Policy Hub // Visiting Lecturer, New Bulgarian University
5. [Federica Bicchi](#) – Associate Professor, Department of International Relations, LSE
6. [Gabriel Siles-Brügge](#) - Reader in Public Policy in the Department of Politics and International Studies, PAIS, University of Warwick, UK (Supporting role)
7. [Ivan Nachev](#) – Associate Professor at the Department of Political Science, New Bulgarian University
8. [Jan Orbie](#) – Associate Professor at the Department of Political Science, Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium
9. [Jean-Baptiste Velut](#) – Professor in American Politics - Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris, France
10. [Johann Robert Basedow](#) – Assistant Professor in International Political Economy, European Institute, London, UK
11. [Kolja Raube](#) – Senior Researcher, Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, KU Leuven; Assistant Professor for European Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, KU Leuven; Programme Coordinator, Centre for European Studies, KU Leuven
12. [L. Johan Eliasson](#), Ph.D., Professor, East Stroudsburg University, [Dep. Political Science & Economics](#)
13. [Liliya Kolova](#) – Lecturer, New Bulgarian University
14. [Maria Garcia](#) – Acting Head of the Department of Politics, Languages & International Studies
15. [Niels Gheyle](#) – FNRS postdoctoral researcher at UCLouvain (Louvain-la-Neuve) and affiliated researcher at Ghent University
16. [Oriol Costa](#), Associate Professor of International Relations, UAB
17. [Patricia Garcia-Duran Huet](#) – Associate Professor at the University of Barcelona (Department of Economic History, Institutions, Policies and World Economy)



18. [Ragnar Weilandt](#) – Associate Research Fellow, LINES - Leuven International and European Studies
19. [Riya Roy](#) – Research Analyst, Trade Policy Hub, LSE
20. [Sangeeta Khorana](#) – Professor of Economics, Bournemouth University
21. [Shuxiao Kuang](#) – Junior Researcher, Political Science, Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences and Solvay Business School, VUB
22. [Stefania Lovo](#) – Associate Professor, University of Reading

ECRs and PhD students

The network also commits to put additional effort into the engagement of PhD candidates and early career researchers. The network addresses the needs of doctoral students as well as postdocs. It will organise suitable measures (e.g. support with specific funds), offers advice, launches and coordinates initiatives and projects for the promotion of early career researchers. An additional advisory activity is aimed at young researchers, who are before or after the next academic career step. The specific tools include:

- ◆ Regular exchange of information on ongoing opportunities for the promotion of young scientists
- ◆ One-on-one mentoring of researchers facing difficulties during Covid-19 – matching PhD Students and ECRs with senior researchers
- ◆ Allocated slots and funding at panels and events
- ◆ Additional promotion activity through the team's networks and social media to ensure wider reach.

TIER and the associated organisations are committed to ensuring the security and protection of the personal information that we process, and to provide a compliant and consistent approach to data protection. If you have any questions related to our GDPR compliance, please check LSE's policy, which the team adheres to:

<https://info.lse.ac.uk/staff/divisions/Secretarys-Division/Information-Rights-and-Management/Data-Protection>