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# Trade Implementation and Enforcement Research (TIER) Network

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## What is TIER?

The Trade Implementation and Enforcement Research (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, the TIER 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?

The TIER network does not have a membership fee, it is entirely free! If you're interested in joining, please fill out [this form](#).

## The current context

There is currently an open debate around the implementation and enforcement of the trade commitments, and particularly the Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD) Chapters of the EU Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), 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 a great need to provide a stronger evidence-base on the topic. Reforms are happening in parts of the world, including in the approaches of Canada, the European Free Trade Association, and the United States. Also in flux is the role of international organisations, civil society, and businesses in monitoring, implementing and enforcing an ever-widening array 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, however, occasionally 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 TIER network is to bring the different tiers of trade policy research together to inform the research puzzle set out here. It additionally 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



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states – including regulation, security and industrial policies. Finally, this network aims to provide a platform for early career researchers (ECRs) 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, policymakers, 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

## 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



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

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

*TIER and the associated organisations are committed to ensuring the security and protection of any personal information we process and to providing 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.*