

24 February 2021



**IAU – E4J Grants Programme for Young Researchers
– CALL FOR PAPERS –**

**IAU – E4J Paper Competition for Young Researchers:
*Higher Education engages with SDG 16:
Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions***

1. About

Academia has a crucial role to play in conducting research related to the [UN Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#). The outcomes of such research provide the necessary baselines for developing policies supporting the achievement of the SDGs and to assess the impact of these policies. However, the economic crisis deriving from the current pandemic will worsen the financial situation of higher education and research institutions sooner than later. It can already be observed that many universities, academics, researchers, and scholars are in difficult financial situations and that this negatively affects grant programmes for researchers, particularly programmes for young scholars. Yet, it is the next generation of scholars that needs to be empowered today to ensure it continues to meaningfully contribute to finding solutions to challenges related to sustainable development in particular to issues affecting peace, justice and strong institutions and the rule of law (SDG 16). Better understanding what advances but also what hampers sustainable development for all is of crucial importance for the future.

The [International Association of Universities \(IAU\)](#) is the global voice of higher education with members and partners from around the world; it also has an in-depth expertise on sustainable development related issues and in promoting the role of higher education institutions (HEIs) in advancing the SDGs, including SDG-16. The [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime \(UNODC\)](#), within the framework of its [Education for Justice \(E4J\) initiative](#), is working with academics from around the world to support them in empowering the next generation to better understand issues related to the rule of law and sustainable development. Acknowledging the importance of partnerships in finding new and innovative ways to support the reaching of the SDGs, IAU and UNODC/E4J are working together to mobilize and support young scholars in their research linked to these topics, thereby also gaining and promoting a better understanding of these issues.

This grants programme aims to support young scholars (up to the age of 35 years) to conduct research on topics related to SDG 16 and the rule of law, to provide them with a platform to present their research, and to foster networking between young scholars working on related themes at the international level, while at the same time strengthening cooperation between academia and the United Nations.

2. Submission requirements and process

Interested young scholars are invited to submit a short paper, outlining the core idea, latest by 10 March 2021. Papers should be grounded in theory or a conceptual framework. Research can be qualitative, quantitative and interpretive. Please carefully consult the eligibility criteria, submission and selection process below. Incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Topics:

The editorial team welcomes proposals that address the following topics:

- **Corruption in higher education institutions** and the role of higher education in preventing it;
- Role of Higher Education in **peace and conflict dynamics**;
- Links between **crime against the environment, SDG 16 and society**;
- Contribution of **SDG 16 to a sustainable recovery** in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Furthermore, authors are encouraged to also address interlinkages between the different SDGs, if any, and include recommendations on how higher education can engage with SDG16 in the paper conclusions.

Eligibility:

The competition is open to YOUNG SCHOLARS. This means that:

- The age limit is 35 years as of 30 April 2021. A copy of passport as proof of age is required.
- Ph.D. or equivalent Students/Researchers; Post-doctoral researchers; holders of a Ph.D. or of an equivalent final degree who are faculty members at a college/university are eligible. Proof of status is required.
- If there is more than one author, all authors should meet the 'young scholars' criteria. There will be only one grant per paper regardless of the number of authors. Only one submission by each prospective awardee or group of candidates is allowed. An

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author's or co-author's name can appear only once as part of a group of authors of submitted papers.

- Applicants need to **register to the [E4J platform](https://www.unodc.org/e4i/en/registration.html)** (<https://www.unodc.org/e4i/en/registration.html>) before submitting their abstract.

Steps in the submission process

We ask for interested parties to submit an expression of interest, abstract and bio note by:

Wednesday, 10 March 2021

Abstracts are to reflect the topics above and demonstrate a clear link between higher education and SDG 16. All abstracts should be submitted in English. The expected length of the abstract is **250 words**. Please include full information on the author, a short biographical note (full name of the author, date of birth, address and country of permanent residence, e-mail address, phone number) and institutional affiliation, as well as a passport copy when submitting. Incomplete submissions will be disregarded.

Only authors of selected abstracts will be notified latest by **19 March 2021**. **Full papers (6000-8000 words**, including graphs and tables, excluding references) **need to be submitted by 23 April 2021**. All submissions to the publication will undergo review by a team of academics selected by UNODC and IAU. Up to 15 proposals will be accepted. Each selected proposal will receive 500 US\$ upon submission of the full paper.

Authors will be recognized in a press release and the awarded papers are eligible for publication in a special issue of the IAU HESD publication series on SDG16. Final decision on the publication will be taken by the editorial committee. At a later stage of the publication process, a virtual meeting is planned as well as an online event, during which the authors will have the opportunity to present their work and where the publication will be launched.

Other:

- **Revision and Right to Rejection:** UNODC and IAU maintain the right to accept or reject papers that do or not meet the above stated requirements. UNODC and IAU will share the responsibility of selecting the winning papers of this competition and co-chair the Selection Committee. Additional revisions to the text of the paper may be required for publication.
- **Original work:** submitted papers are accepted for this competition on the understanding that they have not been submitted for publication in or published in or accepted for publication by a scholarly journal or edited book or any other publication previously.
- **Plagiarism:** Abstracts and papers will be checked for plagiarism. If plagiarism is found, the submission will be disqualified.
- **Geographical representation and gender balance**
The editorial committee aims to select papers from female and male authors from all the major regions of the world. However, this allocation may be modified by the sponsors as needed depending on several variables (e.g., number of papers submitted, their theoretical and methodological quality, contribution to topics outlined in this call, clarity of presentation etc.)
- **Style of the paper:** Follow the style rules of the International Journal Higher Education Policy for formatting and referencing which can be found [here](#).

3. Contact

Please address any inquiries and expressions of interest to Ms. Isabel Toman, Programme Officer, International Association of Universities (i.toman@iau-aiu.net).

Please make sure you comply with all the requirements stated above and include the full information before submitting papers.

We look forward to receiving your contributions!

