

2022 Global Forum

Welcome to the 2022 PILnet Global Forum, and welcome to Dublin—finally!

We've waited three years to be here in this beautiful city with all of you, and we are immensely grateful to be celebrating PILnet's 15th Forum as well as the 25th anniversary of its founding. Thank you for coming from 43 countries and 6 continents to share this Forum with us!

When deciding on Dublin as our next venue in what now seems way back in 2019, we were won over by Ireland for its well-developed pro bono culture, where many law firms have become active in PILnet in the past several years; its strong and vibrant civil society, that can be linked to the progressive policies Ireland has adopted in recent years; and its position as a European center of technological innovation, with many leading tech giants, as well as smaller emerging companies, based here.

PILnet has three core program areas: supporting civil society; engaging legal professionals; and nurturing and inspiring the next generation of legal professionals.

We convene this week ready to help the legal profession develop stronger and more productive partnerships with civil society around the world, and for the most pressing issues. We are acutely aware of the global crises of the past few years -- from the Covid pandemic, to the displacement of persons forced to leave their homes in Ukraine, Afghanistan and elsewhere, to the degradation of democracy and personal freedoms even in places once perhaps viewed as safe and free, as well as to the shrinking space available in many countries for civil society to function. At PILnet, we know that creating and maintaining a connection between the private legal sector and civil society organizations is essential to respond successfully to these challenges.

The PILnet Global Forum is our platform to come together and collaborate for the systematic changes needed to accomplish such goals. PILnet envisions the existence of



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just, equitable and sustainable societies everywhere. And together with you— the legal professionals and global civil society organizations with whom we partner—PILnet is working to create just that.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to introduce Andrej Nosko and Julia Mayerhofer as PILnet's Interim Co-Executive Directors since August 1, 2022. We encourage you to meet and chat with Julia and Andrej as well as well as the PILnet staff during the next few days.

Thank you for joining us! We hope you will find your time here valuable, strengthening partnerships and building new ones.

All the Best,

Diane Stewart and Eric Koenig
Co-Chairs of the PILnet Board of Directors