



## **ITFA Emerging Leader Competition Parameters 2026**

Want to stand out globally and contribute ideas that could shape the future of trade finance?

The ITFA Emerging Leaders Competition is now open. We're inviting bold thinking, fresh perspectives, and ambitious professionals with up to 8 years' experience who are ready to make an impact.

### Why participate?

The 3 shortlisted candidates will get a chance to:

- ✓ Attend the ITFA Annual Conference in Croatia (9-11 September 2026), fully sponsored by ITFA.
- ✓ Receive a flight and hotel allowance, generously covered by Sullivan & Worcester LLP.
- ✓ Present their idea to senior industry leaders on an international stage.

The winner will be awarded the 2026 ITFA Emerging Trade Financier Award and have their project published by Trade Treasury Payments (TTP), providing a unique platform to gain global visibility and recognition.

### Your Challenge

- Submit a project on a topic of your choice within trade finance. The format is entirely up to you: a report, article, paper, video, podcast, webinar, infographic, or any other innovative approach. Please note the three finalists will be asked to consolidate their submission into a 10-minute presentation at the ITFA Annual Conference later this year.
- Winning projects should make a meaningful contribution to the trade finance industry, demonstrating clear thinking, originality, and real-world relevance. Using case studies, data, interviews and valid references is encouraged to support and strengthen your submission.

### Themes to guide your thinking

*You are not required to align your submission to these themes, and we welcome projects on any topic relevant to trade finance.*

1. Digital Transformation in Trade Finance – How can technology reshape processes, reduce friction, and create commercial benefits across the industry?
2. Sustainability & ESG in Trade – Practical solutions for greener trade finance.
3. AI and Automation – Leveraging AI to improve risk management and efficiency.
4. Inclusive Finance – Strategies to support SMEs and emerging markets.
5. Future of Trade Credit Insurance – Innovative models for resilience and growth.
6. The Human Side of Trade Finance – Talent, skills, leadership, and human progression in a changing industry

### Key dates

- Submission deadline: Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2026 (By email to [sec@itfa.org](mailto:sec@itfa.org))
- Shortlist announcement: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2026
- Presentation of shortlisted projects & winner announcement: 9-11 September 2026 (at the ITFA Annual Conference in Split, Croatia)

### Sponsorship

This year's competition is proudly sponsored by Sullivan & Worcester LLP.