



"Research form on Organization to look at" (RFO) n° 08

Title of the program/project name

YOUTH INNOVATION LABS

A Model for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism

Level of dissemination

International

Short Summary (important points)

YouthCAN is managed by the Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD). ISD specialises in creating unique networks and partnerships to innovate and hypercharge countering violent extremism (CVE) efforts both online and offline. As a think tank, all of ISD's research is action-oriented and leads to the development of project pilots, which in turn have rigorous methods and evaluation processes to assess what is working and what might be re-tailored or shifted. Counter-narrative development and strategic communication projects are at the heart of ISD's efforts. Over time, ISD has built networks of 'credible messengers' and partnered with private sector organisations to ensure that the support is given to target and scale effective counter-narrative projects sustainably, and sensitively. ISD, with support from leading social media companies such as Google, Twitter, and Facebook, is also leading a data-driven approach. By turning analysis into action, and 'learning by doing', ISD are at the forefront of a new approach to countering extremism — one that breaks free from reinforcing assumptions about extremism without demonstrating what works to counter it.

YouthCAN is a global network. First launched to Europe at the Youth Against Violent Extremism conference in Oslo in June 2015, the network has since expanded with Commonwealth YouthCAN, launched in Malta on 26th November 2015. The network currently hosts 900 members from over 100 countries and YouthCAN is looking to expand its reach even further to ensure all young people are represented.

YouthCAN provides the network with updated toolkits, links to relevant research and best-practice guidelines so that participants continue to gain knowledge and are able to contribute their own innovations to the field. These toolkits include highlights of model projects, which have potential for scaling up and replication, and data analytics that track the impact of YouthCAN members' campaigns and map best practices to feed back into production streams.

Countries involved

102

Duration of the project

Still running

The website (if it exists):

http://www.youthcan.net/index.php/about-us

http://www.isdglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/YouthCAN-Labs.pdf