



# EMPOWERING YOUTH

Although more than 50 percent of the global population is under the age of 30, youth remain underrepresented in political decision-making processes. Encouraging and equipping young people to meaningfully participate in decision-making processes is critical for building stronger democracies.

## Positive Youth Development

To bolster the efforts of the United States Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs, IRI also utilizes a Positive Youth Development approach to provide the support needed for young people to build on their leadership strengths and promote both positive outcomes and policy initiatives. IRI works alongside community-based actors and governments to help youth increase their assets, agency, and contribution.

## Generation Democracy

IRI is building on the momentum generated by young leaders across its regional programs through Generation Democracy. Launched in 2015, Generation Democracy is a global network of more than 400 youth across 70 countries. Through the network, young changemakers can share ideas and best practices and access skills-building workshops, webinars and professional development opportunities to help advance positive change in their communities and countries.

## IRI's Approach

At IRI, we advance the role of youth in decision-making processes. We help youth and partners identify barriers and opportunities to promote active participation, connect youth with other democratically-minded leaders, co-develop tools and test strategies. IRI's programs equip a generation of changemakers with the knowledge and skills to better advocate for reform, overcome barriers to meaningful political participation and promote more vibrant, resilient and inclusive democracies.



**ASSESS** barriers and opportunities to promote active participation



**CONNECT** democratically-minded youth



**CO-DEVELOP** tools and strategies with youth and partners



**TEST** solutions

**To better advocate for reform, effectively tackle barriers to meaningful political participation and promote more vibrant, resilient and inclusive democracies.**

# IRI currently works with:



**79,000**  
YOUTH



**70**  
COUNTRIES



**60**  
PROGRAMS

## Transatlantic

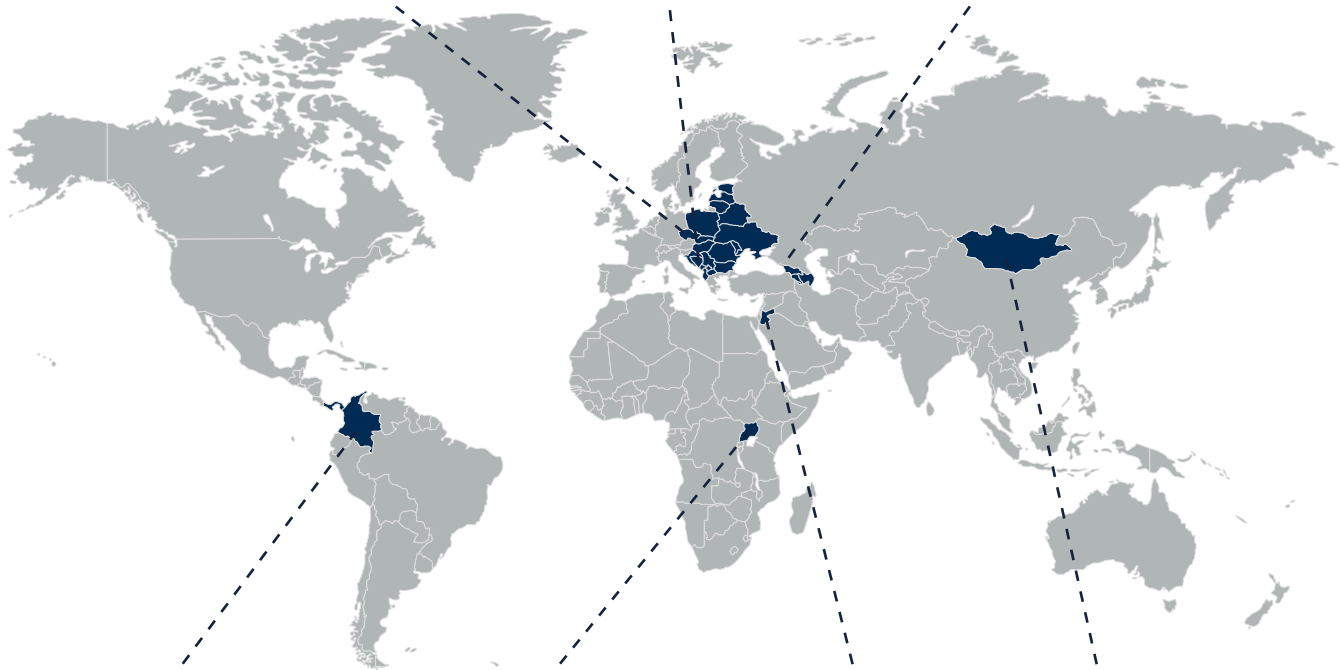
IRI launched the European Democracy Youth Network (EDYN) in 2018 - a coalition of more than 200 young leaders from 22 countries in Central and Eastern Europe, committed to promoting political and civic engagement in their communities. EDYN members make an impact through cross-border networking and best practice exchanges, member-driven projects supported by IRI and individually-tailored professional development.

## Europe

In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, IRI worked with a select group of young "Reconciliation Ambassadors" through the USAID funded re:Generation program to create a documentary film that examined the legacy of the Bosnian war and advocated for positive change in the country. In 2018, IRI also launched the Advanced Leadership in Politics Institute program that gathers young party members from across the political spectrum in **Bosnia & Herzegovina**, **Montenegro**, and **Serbia** for skills-based trainings and discussions on European integration and security.

## Eurasia

In **Georgia** and **Kyrgyzstan**, IRI organizes nationally televised Youth Political Debates to encourage a culture of respectful policy-oriented discussion and empower a new generation of leaders. In **Ukraine**, IRI has empowered hundreds of young people through its Youth Civic Academies to engage civil society, the private sector and local government to develop sustainable projects in their communities. Across the region, IRI is also working to develop youth wings of political parties.



## Latin America and the Caribbean

In **Colombia**, IRI supports the country's Youth Statute, which helps youth advocate and inform public policy. With the Ministry of Interior, IRI hosts workshops that build stakeholders' understanding of how the statute affects their role in policy development. At the same time, IRI has developed and distributed communication materials to support the Youth Statute and promote awareness of the 2021 Youth Council elections.

## Africa

In **Uganda**, IRI supports the Inter-Party Youth Platform (IPYP), an initiative that unites youth through sports to foster a dialogue on constitutional reform and barriers to political participation. In **The Gambia**, IRI also supported IPYPs to promote political tolerance and peace. In the Sahel, IRI's Youth Mediator for Peace Network is using skills gained from trainings to respond to COVID-19, rapidly mobilizing a nationwide public health campaign in **Mauritania**.

## Middle East

In **Jordan**, IRI's Youth Leadership Academy (YLA) is equipping young Jordanians with the communications skills necessary to ensure their concerns are represented in the political process. Through the advanced YLA Training of Trainers program, IRI promotes peer-to-peer learning and mentorship.

## Asia

In **Mongolia**, IRI connects emerging leaders with their global counterparts through the Leaders Advancing Democracy Program (LEAD), an initiative that has reached nearly 1,000 beneficiaries in **Kyrgyzstan**, **Bhutan** and **Myanmar**.

## INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE

A nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, the International Republican Institute (IRI) advances freedom and democracy worldwide by helping political parties to become more responsive, strengthening transparent and accountable governance, and working to increase the role of marginalized groups in the political process - including women and youth. More information is available at [www.iri.org](http://www.iri.org).

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