



# ANNUAL REPORT 2018

**EXPLORING THE NICHE: YOUNG PEOPLE WHO USE  
DRUGS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT**

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# ABOUT YOUTH RISE

**Founded in 2006, Youth RISE has engaged in 12 years of dynamic activity, organisational growth and skill development while providing the opportunity for young activists all over the world to join together in their efforts to create better drug policies as part of an enthusiastic international team.**



For more than a decade, Youth RISE has been promoting evidence-based drug policies and harm-reduction strategies with the involvement of young people who use drugs. We work towards youth-friendly harm-reduction services on local, regional and international levels and advocate for an end to the War on Drugs together with the implementation of better drug policies globally.

**“We also thank Youth Organisations for Drug Action (YODA) for their generous assistance and trust.”**

 ● Youth RISE team

In all our efforts we follow our guiding principal of Full Spectrum Harm Reduction, which incorporates all of the people who use drugs, the methods with which they use them, and the political, social, and environmental contexts surrounding their use.

In 2018, our organisation focused on building bridges between young people who use drugs, their organisations and initiative groups and the

police. “Law Enforcement and Youth” was the title of our 2018 priority. Various means were chosen to create a better understanding between the two groups, including the development of publication materials and guidelines on the topic giving rise to new best practices. These means and their impacts are detailed further in the following Youth RISE 2018 annual report.



**The Youth RISE team would also like to express its immense gratitude to Professor Nick Crofts AM, Honorary Professorial Fellow, School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne, and to Peter Muyschondt, Chief of Police from Belgium. Your continuous support has been invaluable to our work.**

## **INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR’S WORD**

**Working as Youth RISE’s leader throughout 2018 to to finalise a three-year round of projects and cooperation within the Harm Reduction Consortium has been an honour.**

Youth RISE met in person at the end of 2017 to spend several days sharing our thoughts on how we might better meet the needs of youth within our own regions while working as a group to generate cohesive outcomes. We come from different parts of the world, different cultures and backgrounds, and each bring with us different characters and

life experiences, yet we all encountered similar challenges related to drug policy. Moreover, we were all ready to work as a team and to contribute to change on both a national and global scale. After three days of consultation, we determined our priorities for 2018, which included **carving a path towards cooperation between drug-using youth and the police.**

**Law Enforcement is a shared structure in each country, and in every region there is considerable work to be done to build mutual understanding, determine methods for co-existence, and cooperate in order to champion the protection and progression of health and human rights of young people who use drugs.**



As the year comes to a close, I am both astonished and impressed by our collective accomplishments and the amount of energy invested by each and every team member! Small grant initiatives were successfully implemented in 10 countries, 4 training modules were developed and shared, 16 videos created, research conducted and a publication developed, an additional publication translated into Spanish and introduced among Spanish-speaking youth groups. 5 conferences and 6 sessions were attended to voice the perspectives of young people who use drugs, organisational strengthening systems were improved and monitoring and evaluation tools developed, around 20 youth-led workshops and public events were organized resulting in the exchange of ideas and experience on training/facilitation and the development of partnerships, all together concluding an excellent first year of this Global Fund funded project (implemented with other youth organisations)!

A handful of young people were brave and organised enough to approach and create dialogue with decision makers and stakeholders whom in their everyday lives they would avoid engaging with (yes, the police!), all the while believing in what they were

doing to the extent that all disappointments and failures throughout the process were transformed into learning experiences and spirits were kept high. Today, Youth RISE has walked a long 12-year road, every step of it becoming more and more fruitful. As a leader of such a great team, I strongly believe that this enterprising spirit will persist for many years to come and the group of youth advocating harm-reduction will keep growing into a bigger family with increasing power to bring the Drug War to its end!

**International Coordinator of Youth RISE,  
Morgana Daniele**



## PART I. WORK ON NATIONAL LEVEL: SMALL GRANT INITIATIVES AND THE BIRTH OF YOUTH MOVEMENTS

In 2018, Youth RISE implemented small grant initiatives in 10 countries: the Czech Republic, Georgia, Ghana, Ireland, Kenya, Lithuania, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan and Ukraine. Two national groups (representing the Czech Republic and Pakistan) had the opportunity to implement additional follow-up activities. The majority of initiatives focused on young people who use drugs and the police, developed and implemented in accordance with varying drug policies and political climates.

The small grants in Georgia and Ukraine, as well as part of activities described in this report from Pakistan, were implemented as part of the “Count Me In” project. Youth LEAD, Y+ and Youth RISE successfully bid the Global Fund (GF) Community Rights and Gender (CRG) Special Initiative grant for 2017-2019. The project was named “Count Me In” and given the general aim to achieve meaningful engagement of key youth populations in the Global Fund. This project was implemented in Asia and the Pacific, Africa and Eastern Europe.

### CZECH REPUBLIC AND THE DRUG CZECHING

The Youth RISE representative in the Czech Republic aimed to organise a public Forum focused on issues within the drug checking<sup>1</sup> service establishment. Recent history has shown that, in the Czech Republic, the attempts to include drug checking into existing harm reduction programs fails. The police tend to be strictly against the intervention and are very vocal about their position. Taking this into account, the main purpose of the Forum was to open a public discussion on the unavailability of drug checking interventions in the Czech Republic.

A group of 9 young activists came together to organise the event which they dubbed “The Drug Czeching Forum.” The event was designed as a public debate wherein different stakeholders—including doctors, politicians, academics, opinion leaders and the police, civil society inclusive of young people who use drugs, NGO’s working in the field and the general public—could meet and discuss their views related to drug checking services. The Forum was organised on the 26th of June, was attended by roughly 100 people, and served as a platform for the global “Support. Don’t Punish” campaign.



<sup>1</sup> Drug checking is an effective night life harm reduction intervention that not only protects public health by preventing people who use drugs from health consequences related to the purity of substances, but also allows harm reduction workers to get in closer contact with people who use drugs for recreation and who would otherwise never address harm reduction services.

**Fact sheet** on drug testing developed in this initiative.

The Forum received wide support from many other non-governmental organisations including additional financial support from the Pirate party, which allowed for the provision of simultaneous interpretation at the event, the launch of a new **website** for the event and further work on drug checking advocacy. 14 **videos** were created in connection with the event.

At the Forum, official positions were presented and followed by experience-perspectives from Mexico and Germany. The experience of guests from Germany gave rise to two currently ongoing initiatives in the Czech Republic, namely the collection of signatures of specialists in support of drug checking intervention and the aim to hire a lawyer to review current national law seeking loopholes that would allow for implementation of drug checking in the Czech Republic.



## GEORGIA AND THE BIRTH OF YOUTH MOVEMENT



**In Georgia, harm-reduction and other HIV-related services for people who use drugs are not age- or gender-sensitive, therefore it was decided to mobilise a youth group and strengthen their capacity to advocate for better responses to the needs of young people who use drugs. An in-country capacity-development training on the Global Fund was conducted to incorporate the youth into the development process of the funding request. One of the aims of the “Count Me In” project is to attain inclusion of youth representatives within the Country’s Coordination Mechanism (national committee that submits funding applications to the Global Fund on behalf of the entire country), and thus ensure better alignment of harm reduction services to the needs of young people who use drugs.**



The training was attended by 20 participants from different regions. “Making the money Work for Young People in HIV Response,” the standard toolkit developed by Youth LEAD with the support of UNAIDS Geneva, was used. The training was designed to build upon the knowledge, capacity and skills of participants and to develop strategies to engage young people in the Global Fund application process. By the end of the training, participants had developed a better understanding of the national HIV epidemic and subsequent responses to it, the structures of the Global Fund, general funding models, and country status together with additional related topics. A review of the global and national scenarios related to youth was performed, highlighting the issues and barriers related to services.

**The training resulted in the creation of a new platform for young people, wherein they are able to share their ideas on how the national Concept Note submission processes might be influenced to result in a larger allocation of resources for youth.**

## GHANA AND KENYA AND YOUNG WOMEN WHO USE DRUGS

**In Kenya, women continue to be disproportionately affected by the HIV epidemic. Young women (15-24) account for 21% of all new HIV infections, and the prevalence of HIV in young women is between 4 to 6 times higher than it is in men of the same age. Contrary to Kenya, HIV prevalence in Ghana among young people (15-24 years of age) is significantly lower, at 1.1%.**

It was decided to conduct cross-country **comparative research** as a small grant initiative in order to analyse and compare linkages and gaps related to services available to young women who use drugs and people living with HIV, the goal of which was to provide insight into the lived realities of adolescents and young women who use drugs.





Desk analysis revealed that policies, programs and interventions instituted in Kenya and Ghana to combat the HIV epidemic and drug use are not gender-sensitive, and need to be improved. Additionally, there is a lack of gender-responsive programs and policies to care for adolescent girls and young women who use drugs while ensuring that their rights are respected.

**The research was guided by a law enforcement and public health approach and was used to influence the upcoming UNODC youth program for Kenya.**



The results of the research were presented at the UNODC Youth Convening and the emphasis on the adoption and implementation of comprehensive, evidence-based, gender and youth-friendly responses addressing drug use and HIV prevention, care and treatment.

Moreover, a training module designed to equip young women and adolescent girls who use drugs with information on their human rights and HIV prevention was developed along with a manual for resource persons and facilitators on how to structure their engagement in training and consultation.

## IRELAND AND THE TRAUMA-INFORMED POLICING

**Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) may impact neurodevelopmental functioning and are associated with a wide range of high risk behaviours (e. g. early sex, high risk drinking, heroin/crack cocaine use) as well as adverse social and public health outcomes, such as homelessness. These associations inspired Youth RISE to seek opportunities for cooperation with police in Ireland in order to further research the role of law enforcement in reducing ACEs, working with traumatised youths, and dealing with vicarious trauma that frontline officers may experience. Youth RISE hopes that said research project will**

**lead to the widespread adoption of trauma-informed policing principles both in Ireland and abroad.**

The small grant initiative in Ireland focuses on promoting trauma-informed policing in Ireland through research and the subsequent publication of research findings. This research exists in context with a successful 2018 Irish conference by the Association of Criminal Justice Research and Development (ACJRD) entitled 'Toward a Trauma-Responsive Criminal Justice System - Why, How and What Next?' and of the adoption of trauma-informed principles by the South Wales Police Forces.



**Additional funding of €4,000.00 was allocated to this project by An Garda Siochana (Irish police)'s Garda Youth Diversion Service, who are aligned with the project as partners.**

The project is being implemented by Quality Matters (a social services research company) and by trauma expert Dr Sharon Lambert, School of Applied Psychology, University College Cork. The project experienced significant delays due to a number of necessary amendments to the ethics submission.

10-15 youth justice workers were recruited to participate in the project at a meeting attended by over 200 youth diversion programme workers. Selected specialists will participate in a focus group and receive training on trauma-informed care and

on the administration of a questionnaire on adverse childhood experiences. Following said training, participants will conduct interviews with colleagues to complete questionnaires based on collective knowledge of each young person said colleagues have worked with for 1 or more years in the past 2-3 years. The project aim is to complete 50-100 questionnaires. Finally, following the completion of questionnaires, focus groups will be held inclusive of young people in Cork and Dublin and interviews will be conducted with Juvenile Liaison Officers and Senior Police in Cork and Dublin.

## LITHUANIA AND THE TRAINING OF POLICE SCHOOL STUDENTS

**Within its small grant initiative, the young activists of Lithuania undertook to lay the foundation for cooperation between young people and the Lithuanian police. In order to do this, a video on stop-and-search practices and human rights together with a training session for students of the police school were developed.**





The **video** was developed in partnership with the Lithuanian police, who not only agreed to be filmed and answer all the questions, but also assisted in filming acted shots of stop-and-search and detention procedures.



The video clearly and concisely presents information to Lithuanian youth on their civil and human rights in the events of stop-and-search and detention. Such information is in high demand since the criminalisation of possession of any quantity of illegal drugs in Lithuania in 2017.

In addition to the informational video for youth, a training module titled “The Role of Police in Strengthening Public Health” for students of Police

School in Lithuania was developed. The module is based on the yet-to-be-published UNODC e-learning module, “Training for Law Enforcement Officials for the HIV Service Provision for People Who Inject Drugs” together with the 2018 Open Society Foundations report “Police & Harm Reduction.” The module was adapted into a Lithuanian context, taking into account the country’s drug policy, law enforcement system, treatment services and social services as well as the country’s prevailing problems related to drug use among youth, such as criminalization, stigmatization, police violence, low coverage of harm-reduction services, and the increasing incidence of HIV and other blood-borne infections. It also features role-plays and other interactive activities which can be adapted and used throughout Youth RISE countries.



**“FROM YOUNG PEOPLE TO YOUNG PEOPLE”**

was the main slogan of the small grant initiative which shaped the approach to Lithuanian Police School.

The training was designed to provide the students with information on HIV and hepatitis C, harm-reduction intervention services nationally and globally, and varying means of assisting people who use drugs by directing them to health services and encouraging them to question the effectiveness of current drug policies as well as their role within the creation and implementation of drug policy. Peter Muyschondt, a Chief of Police from Belgium, assisted the local team with the training and shared his perspective as a police officer. The presence of an experienced police officer as a training facilitator helped to reduce the resistance of the students and school administration attending the training to new ideas and methods presented.



The most impressive outcome of the small grant initiatives undertaken in Lithuania was the positive feedback received in relation to the video developed by the Lithuanian police as well as their willingness to use their logo as co-creators of the video. The state and NGO cooperation was further strengthened by the administration of the Police School of Lithuania who elected to integrate the training into their curricula and conduct the training annually.

## MEXICO AND THE REACH OUT TO SPANISH SPEAKING WORLD

**Mexico's subgrant implementation spanned 2017 and 2018, allowing for the completion of a considerable amount of work including the translation of education and information materials, the development of local workshops on the topic of youth-led peer education and the implementation of many nightlife harm reduction initiatives (7 in 2016, 6 in 2017 and 4 in 2018.)**





A poster entitled **“The Universe of Drugs”** was translated from Spanish to English, printed and distributed at multiple international events in 2017 and 2018. The English version of the poster has generated positive feedback, interest and engagement with peers from around the world. Based on this reaction, the poster will now be translated into several other languages including Portuguese, Czech and German. In addition to the poster, the Youth RISE publication entitled **“Delivering Youth-Led Peer Education”** was translated from English to Spanish. This was used in 3 workshops over the course of 2017 and 2018 for Spanish-speaking youth.

As a result the above-mentioned workshops, young people in Mexico City were able to strengthen their skills and knowledge around human rights, drug policy advocacy and peer education models and to share that knowledge together with harm-reduction strategies with peers. The young participants in these workshops may establish a Youth RISE Mexican group. Despite the language barrier—none of the young people within this group speak English—the group is trained and ready to engage in new activities in the near future including new peer-led trainings and interventions in line with our strategic plan.



Moreover, the publication-based workshops allowed for filming sessions that will contribute to grant outcomes, namely the development of a promotional video for the Latin American-focused youth-led and Spanish-speaking working group entitled “Drug Policy Brigade.” The video is expected to aid Youth RISE in reaching a larger audience in the different countries of Latin America so that new young people will be able to engage in the initiatives and potentially join Youth RISE. The Drug Policy Brigade has been growing and developing since 2014 and has made use of Youth RISE guidelines and resources directly and indirectly since its inception. The success of this project has led to the potentiality of expanding and replicating the project in Colombia and other localities within Mexico beyond Mexico City.

## NEPAL AND THE BETTER INFORMED STAKEHOLDERS

**Youth RISE representatives from Nepal determined the following two activities as means to implement their small grant initiative:**

**1. TO TRAIN YOUNG PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS ON ISSUES RELATED TO HARM REDUCTION IN NEPAL**

**2. TO BUILD A BETTER UNDERSTANDING AMONG DRUG POLICY STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING THE POLICE**



In Nepal, drug use is most widespread within youth populations, with the intravenous route of administration as the dominant practice. Changes in societal and governmental perception of drug use as a health—rather than a criminal—issue are new in Nepal and slow to start. Contradicting policies remain in effect within Nepal’s law enforcement. For example,

while people are able to avail of needle and syringe exchange programs, the possession of needles and syringes is criminalised. The fear of punishment, inhuman treatment and incarceration often prevents youth from seeking professional support.

In light of these issues surrounding drug policy in Nepal, a training was designed to empower young people who use drugs in Kathmandu. Young people who use drugs came together to review The National Strategic Plan 2016-2021 and to identify barriers related to effective responses to drug use among Nepalese youth. The training served to empower the key population to better address the vulnerability of young people who use drugs to the contraction of HIV, Hepatitis C and other blood-borne infections.

The trainees formed a working team who committed to the implementation of roll-out training sessions in their local communities.

A meeting with stakeholders—including 4 representatives from the Nepalese police, 15 young political leaders from different political parties and 3 rehab proprietors—was organised as a second task within the small grant initiative. This meeting served as a first step towards an enhanced understanding of harm-reduction strategies among the stakeholders. The meeting concluded that additional information about drug use in Nepal was needed, as well as evidence-informed treatment options and harm-reduction strategies. In order to meet those determined needs,



**the stakeholders committed their support to the organisation of workshops and orientation programmes at the university level, including within the police academy.**



Young political leaders were also eager to develop knowledge in this field and to consider policy change as part of their political agenda. Continuation of work towards the realisation of these goals remains in high demand between young activist groups and other stakeholders in Nepal.

## PAKISTAN AND WORK WITHIN COMMUNITIES

**The small grant initiative in Pakistan adopted a similar approach to its project implementation as that of Nepal and determined activities with three desired outcomes: increased awareness among the general public in relation to harm-reduction, increased capacity of youth to influence harm-reduction strategies and drug policy in Pakistan, and the involvement of media in the areas of harm-reduction and networking between young trainers and journalists.**



To achieve the first outcome, informational brochures were prepared and distributed throughout the community and over social media. The content included information on the existing conditions of drug use in Pakistan, factors leading youth toward drug dependency, stigmatization and discrimination faced by people who use drugs and finally harm-reduction strategies.

**Moreover, educational sessions on harm-reduction and drug policies in Pakistan were conducted by the trained group of youth leaders, reaching the following sectors of society in Pakistan: youth of different educational institutions, school teachers, youth of the Christian community and youth living in deprived environments. The activist leaders also organised 3 meetings with police officials to inform them about harm-reduction strategies and existing drug policies. More than 700 people were reached directly and many more indirectly.**

The activist leaders also organised 3 meetings with police officials to inform them about harm-reduction strategies and existing drug policies. More than 700 people were reached directly and many more indirectly.

Increased capacity of youth involvement in the development and implementation of effective harm-reduction strategies and drug policy was achieved by arranging a 3-day residential train-the-trainers training. The purpose of this training was to involve and train youth from across 2 regions of Pakistan to become harm-reduction leaders in their respective communities and youth groups. This was achieved through specialized and interactive training which covered the harms caused by drugs, harm-reduction, drug use in youth, youth-friendly harm-reduction services and strategies, qualities of an effective harm-reduction leader and existing drug policies and laws in Pakistan. Participants also developed individual action plans for the creation of a humanistic harm-reduction approach in their communities, involving other youth in the process. This training proved to be invaluable to raise awareness amongst participants on the differences between drug prevention and drug harm-reduction.



It also provided them with data on prevailing drug problems in the region and clarified their role in bringing about social change for the purpose of harm-reduction through the active participation of the youth in their communities.

In addition, an awareness session for media representatives was organised. The media representatives participating in the session were briefed on harm-reduction and existent drugs laws and policies in Pakistan. Moreover, journalists were asked to share their ideas regarding the role media might play to bolster awareness of harm-reduction. A dialogue focused on harm-reduction emerged between journalists and youth leaders and



contributed to cross-learning and bridge-building between the journalists and the youth leaders. The concept of harm-reduction and its accompanying strategies were explicitly detailed for the journalists, who in turn assured youth leaders that the media would henceforth carry out its responsibility of spreading awareness of harm-reduction.





Finally, as a means of project follow-up, a 2-day consultation session with police and law enforcement agencies on harm-reduction was organized, with 24 persons participating.

Pakistan’s segment-by-segment approach to raising awareness of harm-reduction proved successful. In countries with a complicated political climate, developing a direct dialogue with law enforcement may be impossible or at least regional-dependent.

Therefore, approaching other related communities and segments of society may be an indirect but effective method to build awareness. In other words, disassemble a truck into many small parts and a child can carry it!

## UKRAINE AND SCALE UP OF SERVICES FOR YOUTH

**Ukraine has the second-largest HIV epidemic in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Instances of new HIV infections annually continue to rise, and young people (15-29 years old) make up a significant percentage of documented cases.**

One of the aims of the “Count Me In” project is to build capacity for youth representatives and attain inclusion of youth representation into the Country’s Coordination Mechanism (national committee that

submits funding applications to the Global Fund on behalf of the entire country), thus ensuring better correspondence of harm-reduction services to the needs of young people who use drugs.





Youth RISE conducted the mobilisation of a youth group and trained them on the specifics of grant implementation within the Global Fund. 15 participants attended the training, including representatives of young people who use drugs and young people living with HIV, activists and representatives of NGOs.

Moreover, **participants worked to develop an Action Plan to help the group to further ensure the involvement of youth into the processes of the Global Fund.**



The Action Plan includes an Ask Statement aiming at the introduction of youth groups to relevant stakeholders by means of an invitation to join the national-level working group and the fostering of active cooperation and partnerships with other stakeholders both national and international. A working group was also created among the participants with the aim to define what kind of technical support or assistance would be required to continue work on the national level, to engage in regional initiative, and to bring young people to existing services.

On the whole, it was important to build knowledge and capacity of young activists in understanding the epidemic and subsequent response and funding landscapes within their country. This effort assists in leading them towards effective engagement in national processes and thus advancing their needs into the national AIDS response.



## PART II. INTERNATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS: LAW ENFORCEMENT AND YOUTH

2018 was a busy year for the Youth RISE team as we implemented work in our home countries and regions while representing young people who use drugs at multiple international events.

### COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS 2018

Youth RISE applied for an event within the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) 2018 and designed it as a launch of the Youth RISE strategic priority “Law Enforcement and Youth.” The aim of the event was to open up a dialogue about the issues surrounding law enforcement and young people who use drugs. The

speaker panel included representatives of both the youth and the police.

The event was well attended; all seats were filled and there were a number of standing attendees. Organising this event at CND allowed Youth RISE to develop closer cooperation with other youth organisations and representatives of law enforcement.



Youth Organisations for Drug Action (YODA) helped Youth RISE to arrange the event by co-hosting it and Professor Nick Crofts AM, Honorary Professorial Fellow, School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne together with Peter Muyschondt, Chief of Police from Belgium, continued to support Youth RISE throughout the year in the implementation of other conference sessions in alignment with the Youth RISE 2018 priority. One **long** and one **short** video documenting the Youth RISE event at CND were developed and published.



## SSDP IRELAND AND SSDP EUROPE

Youth RISE continues to develop partnerships with other youth organisations, one of which is Students for Sensible Drug Policy. Youth RISE, together with Professor Nick Crofts, spoke at the 5th National SSDP Conference in Ireland, where we endeavoured to raise awareness on law enforcement, public health and the advancement of policing. The Youth RISE small grant initiative in Ireland, which at that time was already taking the shape of a national consultation on youth experiences with law enforcement, was presented at this conference.



Later in the year, Youth RISE's international coordinator took part in the SSDP European Regional Conference, where she delivered a presentation on the essentials of full-spectrum harm-reduction to participating students. The cooperation among Youth RISE and SSDP in developing the skills of young leaders served as a good practice in developing harm-reduction youth networking in 2018.



# LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE

The 4th Law Enforcement and Public Health Conference was highly important to Youth RISE in 2018. Youth RISE attended and conducted a workshop in a pre-consultation meeting of the conference and held two sessions at the main conference. The workshop was an opportunity for Youth RISE to present the draft and collect feedback on Youth RISE guidelines for police.



At the main conference Youth RISE was able to raise awareness of the issues related to young people who use drugs and their encounters with police from across the world, emphasising the necessity for the ongoing development of best practices and cooperation.

Peter Muyschondt, Police Chief from Belgium, participated in the Youth RISE panel as a representative of the police perspective.

# EUROPEAN HARM REDUCTION CONFERENCE

Participation in the European Harm Reduction Conference provided Youth RISE with the opportunity to round up the thematic year and present our work with law enforcement. Finalised guidelines and main achievements within small grants were overviewed in the Youth RISE presentation.



## **PART III. ORGANISATIONAL STRENGTHENING: GOVERNANCE MODELS AND MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

**This year, Youth RISE decided to undertake an organizational review to provide recommendations for improving our organizational structure. This review included interviews with Youth RISE coordinators (current and former), International Working Group members (current and former), collaborative partners, coordinators of other international youth organizations and stakeholders, as well as a desk review of similar internationally-based youth organizations.**

At the end of 2018, Youth RISE has two recommended organizational and governance models, which take into consideration the proposed potential countries wherein Youth RISE efforts might be incorporated (i. e. Estonia). Once the model is selected, supporting documents such as governance guidelines, standards and procedures, roles and responsibilities etc. will be created.

In addition to this review, Youth RISE developed its Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. Making use of the Framework, Youth RISE will be able to ensure that members, members of advisory groups and governing bodies are equipped to systematically generate, capture and disseminate knowledge. Additionally, the Framework will provide the means by which Youth RISE may ensure that each network's progress in achieving its goals and objectives is being monitored on an ongoing basis and that documentation and preservation of each network's activity output and outcomes is completed in a timely manner, contributing to the network's organisational history. Finally, it will assist in providing evidence that Youth RISE's

activities add value to the promotion of harm-reduction strategies at national and international levels.

Throughout the year, Youth RISE actively worked to enhance our communication channels. Youth RISE's main social network channel is Facebook. We make use of Facebook primarily to share up-to-date information on drug-related topics including but not limited to articles from partnering organisations, our own blog posts, news from our regional groups and thematic videos and infographics. The information disseminated via Facebook is balanced in order to cover a wide range of topics related to harm-reduction, HIV, youth-related topics and drug policy news.

**In addition to Facebook, Youth RISE also worked to make its website more concise, easier to read and navigate, and more approachable for the user.**



The updated website provides a better overview of the work being done by all of our Youth RISE members through the updated News and Blog sections, a more precise account of our overarching goals and ideologies and a relevant list of external resources people may wish to avail of.

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## PART IV. PRODUCTS: PUBLICATION AND GUIDELINES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

**In 2018 Youth RISE completed research for the development of a publication detailing issues and best practices around law enforcement and police and their relation to young people who use drugs.**

Young people, and especially young people who use drugs, have a poor relationship with law enforcement. In 2018 Youth RISE aimed to document experiences of young people from across the world into a publication, and thus propose solutions to and inspire the development of guidelines for law enforcement in order to improve public health outcomes for young people who use drugs. The publication was developed through desk-based research, structured interviews and case studies which were used to determine the trends in the policing of young people who use drugs, especially those engaging in high risk drug use such as marginalised, sexualised and recreational drug use.

Moreover, as part of Youth RISE strategic objective of “Law Enforcement and Police”, we decided to produce **guidelines** for harm-reduction that could be implemented within police organisations throughout the world. The guidelines were created through a literature review and discussions with

IWGs, experts, members of police forces, youth justice workers, civil society organisations and most importantly young people who use drugs. We were kindly invited to contribute to the Law Enforcement and Public Health (LEPH) pre-conference on “Police, Drugs and Harm Reduction” where we facilitated a 1.5 hour consultation exercise with attendees. Attendees included law enforcement and public health officials. At this session, we introduced draft guidelines and asked attendees to provide feedback and consultation. We also hosted a 1.5 hour session in the main LEPH conference where we outlined some of our guidelines. We were later approached by law enforcement who outlined some best practice examples that for inclusion in future iterations of guidelines. Subsequently, we hosted a 1.5 hour session entitled “Marketplace of Ideas,” wherein we engaged in open dialogue with attendees over some of the issues regarding the development of the guidelines.



[info@youthrise.org](mailto:info@youthrise.org)



**YouthRISE**

“Report developed with contribution from Robert Carr civil society Networks Fund”



**ROBERT CARR FUND**  
for civil society networks