

## **Humanism Project Summary**

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A “**Human**” is the English word for Homo sapiens (Latin: "wise man" or "knowing man"). Humans are capable of learning, reasoning, and innovation. Humans are naturally curious and have the desire to understand and improve the world around them through Science, Technology and Philosophy. Humans’ mastery of the world is attributed to their problem-solving capabilities and cooperation. The next phase of human social evolution is overcoming the major socioeconomic challenges that are facing the world today.

### **Humanism Project:**

The Humanism project is a cross-border research initiative that aims at creating a platform for bringing together humanists, scientists and civic leaders to address the major challenges facing the global human society. The project is created by International Institute of Management (IIM) to support regional stakeholders in designing, planning and implementing social development initiatives in partnering countries. The humanism consortium is a research and education consortium, whose purpose is to build an international coalition of experts to support regional leaders in advancing human rights, ethical values, practices and institutions. The consortium will work with intellectuals, scholars, educators, civic leaders, human rights advocates, and government officials to promote humanism. The consortium extends partnership invitations to all interested individuals and organizations with specific functional and regional expertise.

### **Project Justification:**

The world today is faced with major socioeconomic and geopolitical challenges. There is a need for an international collaborative effort of researchers, intellectuals and civic leaders to research the driving forces behind the current challenges and to implement a program to mobilize resources in partnering countries to address these challenges and solve the problems before they escalate into a costly international crisis. Our world is faced with the following challenges:

- In recent years, the world has witnessed a marked increase in geopolitical conflicts, rise of extremism, terrorism, prejudice and animosity. If nothing is done about it, there will be increased violence and a strong potential for a conflict between civilizations.
- Governments have failed for decades to resolve the geopolitical conflicts. There is a need to empower civic and political leaders with knowledge and public support to resolve conflicts through peaceful means.
- The media focus on negative events and negative analysis has fueled the conflict, and has promoted fear and distrust. Some media programs even promote the views of uninformed analysts who blame an entire nation, culture or religion. There is a need for a greater amount of positive voices of reason, understanding and reconciliations.
- The public is generally under-educated or misinformed about the problems, their root causes and their high socioeconomic costs. Conflicts are fueled by fear and distrust of others; mainly due to lack of information or misinformation.
- The use of force has become the leading method for resolving conflicts, while positive open dialogues, education and awareness are being ignored
- Socioeconomic development and human rights are becoming less of a priority in the emerging conflicts.
- There is a special risk to the EU, because of the rising conflict in the neighboring Middle East.

**Project Objectives:**

The primary objective for the project is to promote human rights, peace and scholastic collaboration between partnering countries to address major socioeconomic problems. The focus of the humanism project is educational humanism:

- Establish an international consortium to research humanism challenges, propose socioeconomic solutions and develop humanism educational best practices
- Spread the awareness of humanism and bring attention to the socioeconomic challenges, the price of conflicts and the benefits of peace and cooperation
- Promotion of the subject of humanism and education at 5 national levels: schools, media NGOs, civic leadership and government officials
- Empower academic and civic leaders with the knowledge and tools to spread the message of tolerance, understanding, peace and human rights
- Establish an open positive dialogue between the scholars of eastern and western civilizations
- Encourage intellectual and socioeconomic exchange
- Support the voices of moderation, pro-peace scholars, intellectuals and activists by providing a global networking platform and access to human rights and peace resources

**Project Tools:**

The primary tools of the project are:

- Humanism Project website [www.humanismproject.org](http://www.humanismproject.org) providing:
  - Online education portal with global directory of humanistic organizations, books resources and scholars
  - Social, scholastic and educational networking platform
  - Collaborative discussion forums to exchange problem-solving ideas
  - Shared collaborative knowledgebase
- Education of Humanism
  - Humanism Reference Book (licensed under free open content)
  - Humanism Courseware Model (license under free open courseware) for high schools and university education
- Dissemination Activities
  - Production and distribution (DVD, Broadcast, Internet) of educational video documentary on the subject of humanism and the challenges facing the global human society
  - Local and international conferences/seminars for government, academic, media and community leaders
  - Publishing of strategic policy white papers for government and civic leaders
  - National and international media awareness and public relations campaigns

**Project Benefits:**

- Leverage a global knowledge network and resources to help them implement development initiatives
- Educate, inspire and mobilize scholars and civic leaders to develop and improve their communities and their relationships with neighboring countries
- Create a model of positive change for other countries and for future generations
- Eliminate the waste of socioeconomic resources on conflicts and inefficient change models. Re-allocate saved resources for socioeconomic development
- Build a global intellectual and socioeconomic network with centers of excellence in each partnering country

**Project Standards:**

- Human rights, cultural understanding and peace as defined by the United Nations
- The Humanism project does not promote a certain culture, religion, or geopolitical ideology; instead it promotes social humanism, open cultural and intellectual dialogue, understanding, tolerance and common human values.

**Project Approach:**

- The Humanism Project is an initiative to promote humanistic ethics and global human social development via positive education, open dialogue and collaboration.
- The Humanism Project does not advocate the use of negative communication or force as tools of change.
- When addressing problems, the focus of the effort is on finding solutions rather than promoting blame for one religion or race or nation. Differences in points of view shall be addressed in a balanced, rational, scholastic and dialogue form rather than proving superiority of a group of people over others.
- The project shall focus on the promotion of common human values and shall not be used as a platform to promote statements of prejudice or hate

**Project Duration:**

- 1-3 years

**Project Budget:**

- TBA (To Be Announced upon the finalization of scope of work and the partnering countries)

**How much is the funding?**

- 75%-100% of activities costs

**Project Global Head Quarter:**

- EU Country (TBD) = (UK or Netherlands or Italy)
- There will be a project office in each partner country

**Partners' Resources/Roles:**

All partners may collaborate on more than one area, according to their expertise and available resources. The role of subproject leaders to design the program, coordinate the effort of the partners and control the quality of the results.

- Project Applicant: TBA- (Coordination and financial control)
- Project Leader: (MTCG/IIM)
- Content Development Leader: (MTCG/IIM)
- Web Production Leader: TBD (graphic design, programming, hosting, internet marketing, etc.)
- Video Production Leader: TBD (Producer, director, camera person, editor, lighting music and sound effects, talent, etc.)
- Dissemination Leader: TBD (Internet marketing, global media relations and the coordination of international events)
- Implementation Partners: (TBD) Local content development, adaptation, dissemination and public relations partners

**Who Can Participate?**

- Universities, NGOs, public organizations and private companies who can contribute to the:
  - Humanism research and education (social sciences; peace studies, sustainable economic development, psychology, political science, eastern and western philosophies/religions),
  - Web development
  - Dissemination of the results

**Target Partner Countries:**

There will be multiple phases for the project. The number of partners and countries will be decided by the availability of resources and funding for each phase. Countries qualifying under the program:

- Global

**How To Apply For The Consortium Partnership?**

1. Sign the attached Cooperation Agreement and fax back statement of cooperation to +1.702.982.2746
2. Email the following document to partners(at)iim-edu.org and CC: link2yones(at)hotmail.com
  - Stating the desired role in the project and how your partnership will help advance the objectives of the project in target country
  - Cost Estimates: Staff cost estimate (per person per day) for 4 roles: local Project Manager, Senior Expert, Junior Project Staff, and Administrative Assistant. Any other unit costs estimates such as equipment rental, subcontractors etc.
3. Supporting documentation identifying the resources, experience, and expertise
  - Organization profile in (MS Word or RTF Document). Please include organization's products and services, number of staff, annual revenues, past relevant projects, client references
4. Optional but recommended
  - Organization presentation in (Power Point Format)
  - Key proposed project staff bios in (MS Word or RTF Document) – if available
  - Latest annual report, - If available

**Partner Selection Criteria:**

- Relevant experience and expertise
- Organizational ability to execute
- National and international contacts