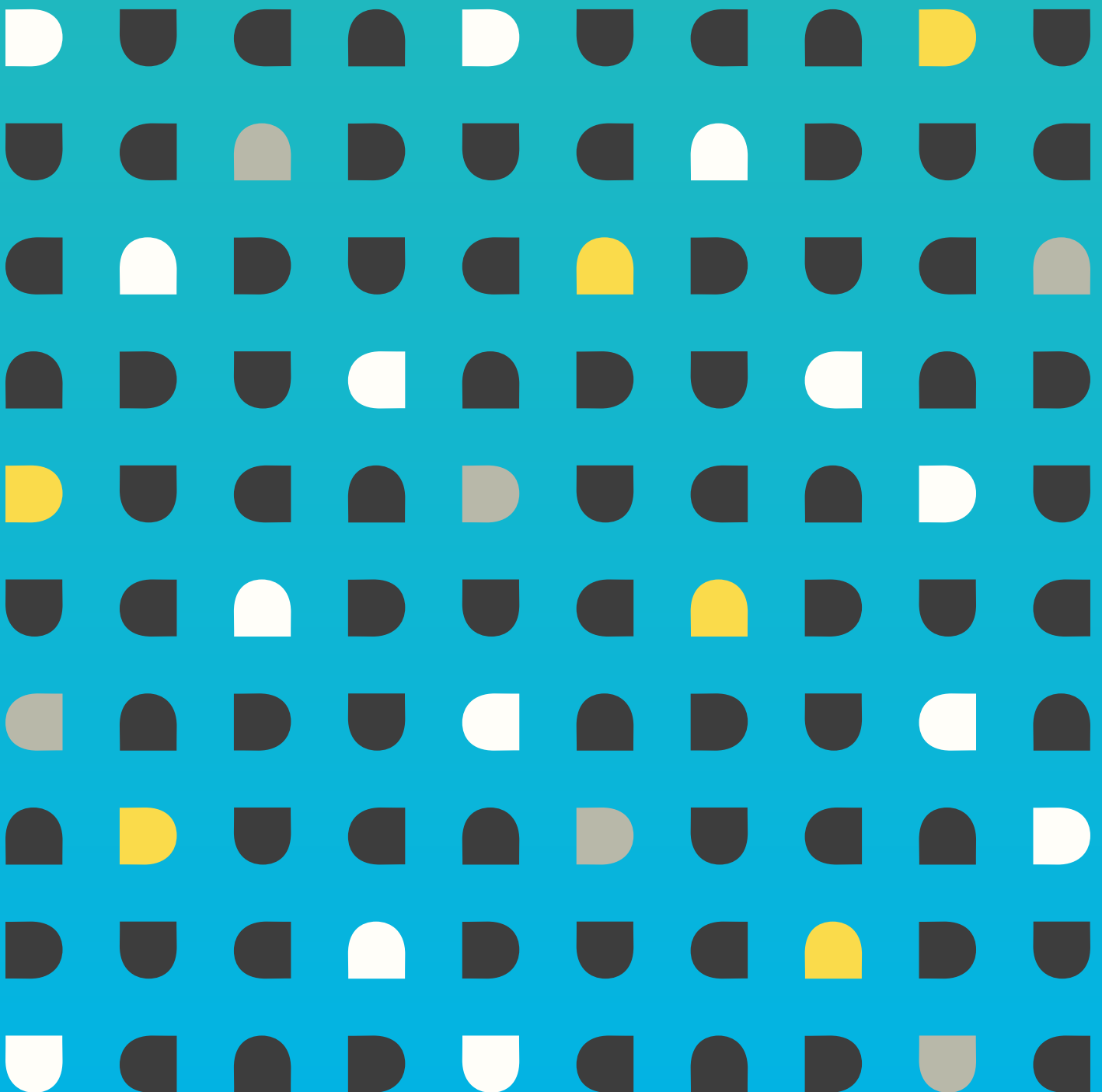




100 Think Tanks

to watch 2025



Introduction

The 100 Think Tanks to Watch 2025 is a peer-recognition exercise based on nominations received from other think tanks and sector professionals. Its purpose is to highlight organisations that, in the perception of relevant actors, have implemented noteworthy practices, innovations, or impactful work.

This list is **not a ranking**; it is **not a list of the “best” think tanks**. No technical performance, output, or impact assessment criteria were applied. Inclusion is based exclusively on nominations, with recognition coming from peers and members of the OTT community, rather than from an independent evaluation.

At OTT, we have reflected on the impact of think tank rankings and the challenges associated with their development. Through this list of think tanks to watch, we wish to both celebrate think tanks and encourage collaboration within the community. Every year, we expect the list to change, and the information shared about each think tank to be better, more insightful and more useful.

The document lists organisations by subregion—based on their headquarters location and, where relevant, their primary geographic focus—and alphabetically within each subregion. It also includes role-based tags that allow users to search for similar actions among think tanks. You can search the database here: onthinktanks.org/100towatch. [Here](#), you can find the activities covered under each of these categories.

To learn more about the methodology used, click [here](#) or visit onthinktanks.org/100towatch.

* Note:

To validate and enrich the information, all nominated think tanks were invited to complete a short survey. They were asked to share up to three examples of practices, initiatives, or impacts from the last year, explain their significance, and provide verification links (e.g., publications, project pages, media coverage). Organisations that did not respond to the survey are marked with an asterisk (*) in the final list. **We acknowledge we did not have enough time to follow-up to facilitate a response.** In these cases, the OTT team collected relevant information from their official websites and based on their knowledge of the think tank to develop the final blurb. **For future editions of the list we will allow more time for think tanks to respond.**

Table of contents

Anglosphere	3
Central Asia	7
East & South-East Asia	8
EU & EFTA	10
MENA	20
Non-EU Europe & the Caucasus	22
South Asia	24
Sub-Saharan Africa	27

ANA

A New Approach (ANA)

- 📍 Australia
- 🌐 newapproach.org.au
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

ANA is a think tank dedicated to arts, culture and creativity. It advances ambitious cultural policy and investment through independent research and purposeful engagement. ANA's [work on the links between creativity and productivity gained international traction](#), with the OECD inviting it to present in 2025 as part of its global project on innovation. Its [Middle Australia study](#), a three-year focus group initiative, captured how everyday Australians value culture in their lives and continues to be cited by politicians. ANA has also contributed to the creation of cultural policies across jurisdictions, [laying the foundation for a 10-year national strategy](#). As one of the few global think tanks focused primarily on culture, ANA deserves close attention.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence; Knowledge translation & communication

BROOKINGS

Brookings Institution*

- 📍 United States
- 🌐 brookings.edu
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

The Brookings Institution is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organisation that produces in-depth research to influence policy and governance at local, national, and global levels. Brookings convenes experts across government, academia, and civil society to tackle pressing issues, from economics and governance to foreign policy and technology. In 2025, the [Metro Monitor](#) assessed the performance of U.S. metropolitan economies across dimensions such as growth and racial and geographic inclusion. Its [Reconciliation 2025](#) series analysed the U.S. budget reconciliation law and its implications for debt, health, and fiscal policy. On global economics, Brookings published [The search for a new global safe haven](#), examining which countries could emerge as financial refuges amid shifting international markets. Brookings bridges academic insight with real-world policy challenges, making it one of the most cited and influential think tanks globally.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence; Knowledge translation & communication; Capacity & institutional development; Global & collaborative roles

CARNEGIE COUNCIL

for Ethics in International Affairs

Carnegie Council on Ethics in International Affairs*

- 📍 United States
- 🌐 carnegiecouncil.org
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

The Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs is an independent nonprofit founded over a century ago. It empowers ethics in international relations by convening leaders, practitioners, and academics to address global challenges. It has developed a [tool to learn how applied ethics strategies](#) could accelerate climate action implementation. The Council also operates the Carnegie [Ethics Accelerator](#), an incubator that applies ethical frameworks to rapidly evolving issues such as AI, authoritarianism, and climate change. Complementing this, the [Ethics Fellowship](#) trains young professionals from business, government, and civil society to apply ethics to practice, fostering a new generation of values-driven leaders. These initiatives underscore the Council's mission to place ethics at the heart of international cooperation and global problem-solving.

Categories: Global & collaborative roles; Capacity & institutional development; Innovation & future-oriented roles; Advocacy & policy influence

CHATHAM HOUSE

Chatham House

- 📍 United Kingdom
- 🌐 chathamhouse.org
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

Chatham House is a policy institute that helps governments and societies build a secure, prosperous, and just world. Known for shaping debates on global issues such as Russia's invasion of Ukraine and energy security, it combines convening power with influential research. [The World Today](#) magazine brought Chatham House's work to life with accessible analysis, new interactive features, and record readership ahead of the 2024 US elections. Its longstanding work on [UK-China climate cooperation](#) produced a widely cited 2025 policy paper that informed government dialogue and contributed to an official bilateral MOU on climate. With its tradition of open debate under the Chatham House Rule and a rich events calendar, it continues to set standards for policy influence and public engagement. Chatham House is a staple of any list of think tanks to watch.

Categories: Advocacy & policy influence; Knowledge translation & communication; Global & collaborative roles; Knowledge generation & analysis



E3G

- 📍 United Kingdom
- 🌐 e3g.org
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

E3G is an independent climate think tank with a global outlook, working to translate climate politics, economics, and policy into action. It co-founded [London Climate Action Week](#), which has grown into the world's largest city-based climate event, with 750 events in 2025 and direct links to the COP30 in Brazil, inspiring similar weeks globally. Internationally, E3G played a key role in negotiating the [Baku to Belem Roadmap](#), bridging positions on climate finance and charting [a path to mobilise \\$1.3 trillion annually for developing countries](#). Domestically, its sustained advocacy secured the UK's [£13.2bn Warm Homes Plan](#), a landmark victory for decarbonising home heating. These examples illustrate E3G's influence, spanning from local to global arenas.

Categories: Knowledge translation & communication; Advocacy & policy influence; Global & collaborative roles

EMBER

Ember*

- 📍 United Kingdom
- 🌐 ember-energy.org
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

Ember is an independent think tank that accelerates the clean energy transition using open data, trusted analysis, local expertise, and a global outlook. Its [Global Electricity Review 2025](#) provides a comprehensive assessment of how global electricity generation changed in 2024, underpinning accountability in energy transitions. Its report [New lines of defence: how inter-connectors keep the lights on](#) shows how cross-border grid links mitigate blackouts, making the case for infrastructure investment. In India, [Ember revealed battery storage](#) in power exchanges became profitable for the first time in 2024, highlighting how cost declines shift markets. These examples demonstrate how Ember transforms high-quality data into policy narratives and tools that drive clean energy action globally.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Political & civic roles; Knowledge translation & communication; Advocacy & policy influence



Grattan Institute

- 📍 Australia
- 🌐 grattan.edu.au
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

The Grattan Institute is an independent public policy think tank, renowned for its rigorous evidence and practical solutions in the public interest. Its flagship Orange Book, released ahead of federal elections, sets out policy priorities across economic prosperity, democracy, housing, health, education, disability, and energy and climate change. [The Orange Book](#) helps to lift the calibre of policy debate in the lead-up to elections and focuses the national conversation on the long-term challenges facing the country. This is an excellent example of how think tanks can aim to set the policy agenda for the year ahead—and not just act as expert commentators.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence



The Heritage Foundation*

- 📍 United States
- 🌐 heritage.org
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

The Heritage Foundation is a think tank that promotes policies rooted in free enterprise, limited government, individual freedom, traditional American values, and strong national defence. Its advocacy arm, [Heritage Action for America](#), works with lawmakers and mobilised nearly 20,000 Sentinel activists and over 2 million grassroots supporters to push Heritage policy solutions. Through [Project 2025](#), Heritage led a coalition of more than 70 conservative organisations to prepare a policy agenda, personnel, training, and a 180-day playbook for a future conservative administration. We may disagree with some of the recommendations and how these are being implemented, but the strategy to create a detailed plan and roadmap for the incoming government is worth learning from: policymakers do not just need recommendations, they need help making them happen.

Categories: Advocacy & policy influence; Political & civic roles; Capacity & institutional development

Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS)*

- 📍 United Kingdom
- 🌐 ifs.org.uk
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

IFS is an independent economics research institute. Its world-class research helps policymakers – and those who hold them accountable – understand how policy decisions affect individuals, households, and businesses. Major initiatives include the [Mirrlees Review](#), which set out principles of a fair and efficient tax system; [the annual IFS Green Budget](#), providing independent analysis of trade-offs ahead of the Budget; and [the Deaton Review of Inequalities](#), a landmark study led by Sir Angus Deaton. The IFS has perfected the art of using a window of opportunity: when the British Government publishes its budget, all eyes turn to its analysis, making it arguably the most important body holding the government to account on financial matters.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Political & civic roles



Jamestown Foundation*

- 📍 United States
- 🌐 jamestown.org
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

The Jamestown Foundation seeks to inform policymakers and the broader public about strategic events and trends, especially in societies where public access to information is limited. Its core publications include [China Brief](#), [Eurasia Daily Monitor](#), and [Terrorism Monitor](#), all drawing significantly on indigenous and primary sources. Jamestown has established a large global contributor network, particularly across Eurasia, and provides timely, unfiltered analysis of conflict, security, and geopolitical dynamics. Its expertise is routinely used by U.S. government actors and external partners.

Categories: Knowledge translation & communication; Knowledge generation & analysis; Global & collaborative roles; Advocacy & policy influence

Lowy Institute for International Policy*

- 📍 Australia
- 🌐 lowyinstitute.org
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

The Lowy Institute is an independent, nonpartisan international policy think tank. It combines high-quality research, events, and public engagement with a global and Asia-Pacific focus. Flagship initiatives include the [Indo-Pacific Development Centre](#), which generates policy insights on climate finance, digital economies, regional integration, and development finance, and hosts the interactive [Pacific Aid Map](#) to track ODA in Pacific nations. Its [International Security Program](#) monitors strategic and security dynamics in the Indo-Pacific region. A hallmark project is the [Asia Power Index](#), which ranks 27 countries and territories across 131 indicators of power, spanning military, economic, diplomatic, and cultural dimensions, and offers an interactive tool to track shifts in Asia's balance of power. Together, these initiatives demonstrate how Lowy shapes public discourse, policy debates, and Australia's voice in the world.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Knowledge translation & communication; Advocacy & policy influence; Innovation & future-oriented roles



More in Common

- 📍 United Kingdom
- 🌐 moreincommon.org.uk
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

More in Common helps leaders and campaigners navigate divisive issues by understanding public opinion and polarisation. Working across several countries, it combines creative polling with practical advice for political stakeholders. In the [2025 England local elections](#), its research anticipated Reform UK's rise and shaped national narratives. Its [Progressive Activists report](#) influenced civil society and media, while over 25 events at the [2024 party conferences](#) strengthened its convening role. Through work like [Shattered Britain](#), More in Common is addressing the worsening political context most think tanks overlook.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence; Knowledge translation & communication; Global & collaborative roles

ODI Global

- 📍 United Kingdom
- 🌐 odi.org
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

ODI Global turns bold ideas and evidence into actionable advice on global challenges. In the past five years, it has restructured to prioritise impact over growth and inequality, gaining independence to take bold positions, such as condemning the genocide in Gaza. It has supported the African Continental Free Trade Area by embedding experts, assisting committees in Nigeria and Ghana, and advancing key investment and [digital trade protocols](#). Through its partnership with NEAR, ODI has [reframed humanitarian action as governance](#) and co-founded a [coalition to reform tax expenditures](#), raising them to a key fiscal priority. Its restructuring offers lessons in strategic focus, impact, and tackling inequality.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Knowledge translation & communication; Capacity & institutional development; Global & collaborative roles

Vera Institute of Justice*

- 📍 United States
- 🌐 vera.org
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

The Vera Institute of Justice is a national organisation focused on ending mass incarceration, advancing dignity and fairness in justice systems, and promoting evidence-based policy solutions. In 2025, Vera updated its [ICE Detention Trends dashboard](#) to expose record levels of immigration detention, analysing millions of new records to enhance public accountability. That same year, [it joined a coalition to file a class-action lawsuit](#) challenging the Department of Justice's abrupt termination of \$820 million in grants for community violence intervention and criminal justice reform programs. Through its [Unlocking Potential initiative](#), Vera scales high-quality postsecondary education in prisons, helping expand access and reduce racial inequities in educational outcomes behind bars. These initiatives show how Vera combines rigorous research, public tools, legal advocacy, and institutional partnerships to influence policy, mobilise accountability, and reshape incarceration in the U.S.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Political & civic roles; Advocacy & policy influence; Innovation & future-oriented roles; Global & collaborative roles

Quincy Institute (QI)

- 📍 United States
- 🌐 quincyinst.org
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

QI is a think tank that advances a foreign policy centred on diplomacy and military restraint. In 2025, it launched the [Think Tank Funding Tracker](#), a first-of-its-kind searchable database exposing foreign government, defence contractor, and U.S. government funding of think tanks—praised by journalists, policymakers, and members of Congress. QI also convened the [Better Order Project](#), bringing together 130 global experts to propose alternatives to great power blocs and strengthen multilateralism. Its [Global South Program](#) promotes U.S. engagement with rising states through diplomacy and cooperation rather than coercion. By pushing for transparency, inclusivity, and restraint, QI is reshaping the debate on U.S. foreign policy—making it one to watch.

Categories: Advocacy & policy influence; Innovation & future-oriented roles; Political & civic roles; Global & collaborative roles; Knowledge translation & communication



CAPS Unlock

- 📍 Kazakhstan
- 🌐 capsunlock.org
- 🔗 [OTTD profile link](#)

CAPS Unlock is a regional think tank that emerged after the withdrawal of the Open Society Foundations from Central Asia. Its leadership took the chance to develop a new institution—a regional think tank—that would be able to mobilise resources and attention towards the region. In a short time, it has positioned itself through independent research, high-level regional events, and global partnerships, despite operating in a hostile political environment. In 2025, it co-authored a landmark report with the [Internet Society on Kazakhstan's internet infrastructure and surveillance](#), combining rigorous analysis with public engagement. It also translates major works, such as [Adeeb Khalid's Central Asia: A New History](#), into Kazakh, and runs a [popular weekly podcast](#) that amplifies Central Asian voices. These initiatives demonstrate how CAPS Unlock is reshaping narratives and building regional intellectual leadership.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Global & collaborative roles; Knowledge translation & communication; Capacity & institutional development



Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies (ISRS)*

- 📍 Uzbekistan
- 🌐 isrz.uz
- 🔗 [OTTD profile link](#)

ISRS, under the President of Uzbekistan, is a state-affiliated research institute that supports evidence-based policy, regional cooperation, and strategic planning. It convenes intergovernmental dialogues, produces analytical reports, and engages with global forecasting platforms. In 2025 it [hosted a meeting with the Central Party School of China to deepen bilateral strategic ties](#); participated in the [Valdai International Discussion Club](#) to connect Uzbek perspectives to global debates; and [signed an MoU with the Saudi Gulf Research Center to expand regional research partnerships](#). Through its [Young Analysts Club](#) and regular publications (monographs, analytical reports, policy briefs), ISRS helps shape Uzbekistan's foreign policy and development agenda.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Global & collaborative roles; Innovation & future-oriented roles; Advocacy & policy influence

PAPERLAB

PaperLab

- 📍 Kazakhstan
- 🌐 paperlab.kz
- 🔗 [OTTD profile link](#)

Paperlab is a think tank that combines independent research with innovative platforms for dialogue and talent development. Its flagship [discussion platform](#) convenes government officials, critics, researchers, and civil society in open debate—moving beyond the traditional “publish and pray” model and creating a feedback loop that compels policymakers to engage with evidence-based arguments. In 2022, Paperlab launched the [Central Asian Think Tanks Forum](#), now an annual gathering that fosters regional collaboration on democracy, human rights, and foreign policy. Through its [Making New Experts school](#), it has also pioneered a structured program to train and mentor emerging analysts, ensuring a sustainable expert community for the region. PaperLab dares to tackle some sensitive topics and introduce fresh perspectives on political and economic developments in a challenging political environment.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Innovation & future-oriented roles; Global & collaborative roles; Knowledge translation & communication; Capacity & institutional development



Center for Indonesian Policy Studies (CIPS)

- 📍 Indonesia
- 🌐 cips-indonesia.org
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

CIPS is an independent, non-profit think tank that advocates for practical reforms to expand civil, political, and economic freedoms. Its research and advocacy have influenced major policy changes, including the redesign of fertiliser subsidies into [Direct Fertiliser Assistance](#), reflected in Presidential Regulation No. 6/2025 and pilots that will improve efficiency, digital inclusion, and farmer agency. Through its [Learning Hub](#), CIPS translates policy research into classroom-ready videos, briefs, and guides that help students and lecturers engage with issues such as food security, digital literacy, and entrepreneurship. Its [study on Indonesia's OECD accession](#) projected investment gains and sectoral transformation, offering a timely roadmap for policymakers and investors. By combining rigorous analysis with effective advocacy, CIPS has become a key voice in Indonesia's policy debates.

Categories: Advocacy & policy influence; Knowledge translation & communication; Knowledge generation & analysis



Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs - IDEAS Malaysia

- 📍 Malaysia
- 🌐 ideas.org.my
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

IDEAS is a non-profit think tank advancing a competitive economy, trust in institutions, and an inclusive society. It has tackled the sensitive issue of political party financing, working with the [All-Party Parliamentary Group on Political Financing](#) to promote transparency, an approach that shows the potential of constructive engagement with political actors. Its [Orang Asli Education Research Series](#) amplifies Indigenous voices and has informed policy debates on inclusive education. In climate policy, IDEAS' [paper on carbon pricing for Malaysia's steel industry](#) comes as the country prepares its 2026 reforms. A think tank to watch for its ability to combine sensitivity, inclusivity, and timeliness in policy impact.

Categories: Advocacy & policy influence; Political & civic roles



Khazanah Research Institute (KRI)

- 📍 Malaysia
- 🌐 krinstitute.org
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

KRI conducts research on national issues and recommends policies to improve the well-being of Malaysians. Its flagship [State of Households 2024 report](#) analysed how the pandemic reshaped incomes, expenditure, poverty, education, and digital health, disaggregated down to the district level to expose disparities hidden in national averages. In housing, KRI's long-standing advocacy for a Build-Then-Sell system has informed reforms announced in the 13th Malaysia Plan, [strengthening protections for homebuyers and reducing abandoned projects](#). KRI has also advanced [an inclusive care policy](#) through mixed-methods research, linking previously overlooked voices, such as housewives, to policy debates. These examples show how rigorous evidence and engagement can inform more equitable policymaking.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence; Political & civic roles



Myanmar Policy and Community Knowledge Hub (MyPACK)

- 📍 Canada but working in Myanmar
- 🌐 munkschool.utoronto.ca/ai/mypac
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

MyPACK is a research hub providing policymakers with innovative solutions to the Myanmar crisis, drawing on a global network of researchers, practitioners, pro-democracy groups, and diaspora communities. In 2024, it supported [Greg Constantine's Ek Khaale photojournalism project](#), exhibited at the University of Toronto, and co-organised events with student groups and Myanmar diaspora organisations. Rather than framing the Rohingya in isolation, the initiative created a space for Rohingya and non-Rohingya communities to share experiences of belonging and exclusion in Myanmar. MyPACK is not deterred by the political context in Myanmar. Instead, it is mobilising a network of on-the-ground researchers, practitioners, pro-democracy organisations, and diaspora around the world to undertake research, organise events and advocate for reform. For think tanks interested in learning how to work collaboratively and funders looking to work in complex environments, MyPACK is one to watch.

Categories: Innovation & future-oriented roles; Advocacy & policy influence; Global & collaborative roles; Political & civic roles

SMERU Research Institute*

- 📍 Indonesia
- 🌐 smeru.or.id
- 🔗 [OTTD profile link](#)

The SMERU Research Institute is an independent think tank with experience in poverty, inequality, social protection, and human development. It started with a focus on poverty reduction but has adopted new policy challenges as the country's income has risen. Most recently, it has published a [series on the Socioeconomic Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)—nine sub-studies that monitor how households were affected and how government policies in health, labour, and education responded. It also released [Don't Give Up Facing All of This: Children's Experiences during COVID-19](#), documenting how children perceived and coped with the crisis. Beyond the pandemic, SMERU has engaged in forward-looking work on [Accelerating Digital Skills in Indonesia](#), aligning its research with national development priorities in digital transformation. With rigorous evidence, inclusive orientation, and capacity building, SMERU remains one of Indonesia's most trusted voices in public policy.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Innovation & future-oriented roles; Political & civic roles; Capacity & institutional development

Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI)*

- 📍 Thailand
- 🌐 tdri.or.th
- 🔗 [OTTD profile link](#)

TDRI is a public policy research institute, focused on social and economic development in Thailand. It provides technical policy analysis across multiple domains, including human resources, international economics, green growth, regulation, and innovation, to inform public decision-making. Among its recent works, TDRI has published [TDRI Insight](#) commentaries on climate and urban resilience. It also convenes interdisciplinary research teams (16 research teams) covering fields such as inclusive development, sustainable energy, and innovation policy. With its breadth of expertise, rigorous methods, and sustained engagement with Thai public agencies, TDRI continues to be one of the region's most respected policy institutions.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence; Knowledge translation & communication; Global & collaborative roles



Bruegel

- 📍 Belgium
- 🌐 bruegel.org
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

Bruegel is an independent, non-doctrinal think tank based in Brussels that specialises in economic policy and is committed to openness, impartiality, and excellence. Its mission is to improve the quality of economic policy through rigorous research, analysis, and debate, supported by a membership that includes EU Member State governments, international corporations, and institutions. A defining practice to watch is its [independent evaluation](#), conducted every three years by external committees with input from its Scientific Council. These reviews, openly published, assess research quality and fulfilment of mission, ensuring transparency, accountability, and credibility. This long-standing commitment to integrity makes Bruegel a benchmark for good governance in the global think tank community.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence; Knowledge translation & communication; Political & civic roles



Centre for Future Generations (CFG)

- 📍 Belgium
- 🌐 cfg.eu
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

CFG is an independent think-and-do tank helping decision-makers anticipate and govern rapid technological change to ensure emerging technologies serve humanity's best interests. It developed an interactive [foresight tool](#) that enables policymakers in Brussels to explore scenarios of how AI might impact society—bringing the benefits of scenario planning to scale in a digital format. CFG also runs the [Tech & Tonic event series](#), designed as an accessible entry point into complex tech policy debates and a testing ground for new ideas. By combining foresight innovation with fresh approaches to engagement, CFG is redefining how technology governance is discussed and shaped.

Categories: Innovation & future-oriented roles; Knowledge translation & communication



CIDOB - Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

- 📍 Spain
- 🌐 cidob.org
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

CIDOB is an international affairs research centre that analyses the global issues shaping political, social, and governance dynamics from international to local levels. Its flagship annual exercise, [The World in 2025: Ten issues that will shape the international agenda](#), brings together the entire research team to map global trends, providing a benchmark for CIDOB's work and a reference for policymakers and private stakeholders. Ahead of the 2024 European elections, CIDOB produced a [comparative monograph](#) in collaboration with partners across 12 EU countries and hosted a seminar on its implications for European integration. Through its [War and Peace in the 21st Century conference series](#), CIDOB convenes world-class experts, policymakers, and civil society in Barcelona to debate conflict and peace. These initiatives exemplify CIDOB's ability to combine rigorous analysis with convening power, ensuring its relevance in international debates.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Innovation & future-oriented roles; Global & collaborative roles



European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR)

- 📍 Germany
- 🌐 ecfr.eu
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

ECFR is a think tank providing independent research to promote a coherent and effective European foreign policy. It contributes to policymaking by generating analysis and insights that inform debates across Europe. A recent initiative is the creation of a [public repository of its regular opinion polls](#), which capture the views of European citizens on critical foreign policy issues. The repository allows users to compare responses across countries or examine national breakdowns by age, gender, education, and political preference. This initiative is valuable because it democratises access to high-quality data, enabling researchers, policymakers, and civil society to generate new insights and engage in debates.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence; Knowledge translation & communication; Innovation & future-oriented roles; Political & civic roles



European Policy Centre (EPC)

- 📍 Belgium
- 🌐 epc.eu
- 🔗 [OTTD profile link](#)

EPC is an independent, not-for-profit think tank committed to fostering European integration. In 2025, it launched the [Brussels Economic Security Forum](#), convening policymakers and experts from Europe, the UK, Australia, and Japan to debate how to balance resilience with openness, advancing the concept of open economic security across tech sovereignty, critical infrastructure, and relations with China. Its [Ukraine's European Future project](#) shows how EU accession can advance even during wartime, while strengthening Europe's security, energy, and agricultural resilience. Through [Connecting Europe](#), EPC embeds civil society in EU policymaking by providing tailored resources, workshops, and advocacy networks, thereby reinforcing its role in shaping a more resilient and integrated Europe.

Categories: Advocacy & policy influence; Global & collaborative roles; Political & civic roles; Capacity & institutional development



foraus - Swiss Forum on Foreign Policy

- 📍 Switzerland
- 🌐 foraus.ch
- 🔗 [OTTD profile link](#)

foraus is a participatory think tank on foreign policy, powered by a grassroots community of young people who produce evidence-based recommendations, organise thought-provoking events, and pioneer new engagement tools. Through [GenSouth](#), launched with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, it brings together young researchers from Global South think tanks and Swiss peers to co-develop actionable policy proposals on multilateralism, bridging a major gap in international debates. Its innovative [Politique en scène project](#) utilises theatre and artistic methods to make complex foreign policy issues tangible, motivating young people to engage in climate and foreign policy discourse. With these formats, foraus has redefined how a think tank can mobilise young voices and influence policy. For any think tank trying to reach out to young people and maintain (or build) a robust reputation, foraus is worth watching.

Categories: Political & civic roles; Knowledge generation & analysis; Innovation & future-oriented roles; Global & collaborative roles; Advocacy & policy influence



Forum Energii*

- 📍 Poland
- 🌐 forum-energii.eu
- 🔗 [OTTD profile link](#)

Forum Energii is a think tank advancing Europe's clean energy transition through data-driven analysis, advocacy, and dialogue. In April 2025, it convened 325 participants, including EU officials, ministers, and local leaders, at its [Brussels conference Sustainable Energy Security](#), sparking debate on how to align energy security, transition, and climate goals. With the [Europe-an Union Energy Security report](#), produced with CREA, Forum Energii showed how the EU can end reliance on Russian fuels by 2027, shaping REPowerEU discussions and stressing solidarity with vulnerable states. Its [Time for Investment modelling of Poland's energy system to 2040](#) advised the Ministry of Climate and Environment on coal phase-out by 2035, better household data, and a national energy agency. These initiatives underline Forum Energii's capacity to convene decision-makers and shape ambitious yet practical strategies for Europe's energy future.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence; Knowledge translation & communication; Global & collaborative roles



French Institute of International Relations (IFRI)*

- 📍 France
- 🌐 ifri.org
- 🔗 [OTTD profile link](#)

IFRI is an independent institute for research and debate on international issues and global governance. It publishes *Politique étrangère* and the [annual Ramses](#), alongside over 150 open-access publications each year. Its [ten centres and programmes](#) address global and regional issues, supported by a vast network of experts. IFRI stands out for its Observatory for Future Conflicts, which monitors and interprets geopolitical, security, and socio-economic dynamics to 2040, moving beyond short-term analysis to inform strategic decision-making. Complementary projects such as the East and Central Africa Observatory and the Turkey 2050 Programme show their strength in combining research, foresight, and engagement. Few think tanks look into the future; IFRI is a rare example that does.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Knowledge translation & communication; Innovation & future-oriented roles

Fundació Bofill

- 📍 Spain
- 🌐 fundaciobofill.cat
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

Fundació Bofill is a think tank dedicated to improving educational policy through evidence-based knowledge, proposals, and advocacy. It combines local action with broader influence by demonstrating solutions, supporting ecosystems, and shaping policy debates. Its [Social Hub](#) offers a collaborative workspace for social organisations, creating synergies that strengthen advocacy and talent circulation in Barcelona's civil society. The [Zero Dropout Platform](#) brings together municipalities, schools, and families to prevent early school leaving, mobilising communities through research, mentoring, and initiatives such as the 2025 Zero Dropout Week. Meanwhile, [Lecxit, Reading for Educational Success](#) engages 2,200 children across 300 local spaces, pairing them with volunteers to foster a love of reading and drive campaigns that keep literacy at the heart of education policy. Many think tanks obsess over expanding and branching out to the regional or even global levels. Fundació Bofill presents an example of what is possible if it instead embraces the opportunities that working locally offers.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence; Global & collaborative roles; Political & civic roles

DGAP

German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP)*

- 📍 German
- 🌐 dgap.org
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

DGAP is a non-partisan organisation that fosters impactful foreign and security policy in Germany and Europe, promoting democracy, peace, and the rule of law. It informs decision-makers with strategic advice and trains young professionals in international leadership. DGAP has closely analysed [Russia's war against Ukraine](#), publishing research and hosting events on its implications for Germany's Zeitenwende and European security. Through its [Setting the Transatlantic Course memo series](#), it explored scenarios for the 2024 US election and their consequences for transatlantic relations. DGAP also examines [Germany's defence capabilities](#), NATO cooperation, and integrated security. It remains a reference point among German think tanks thanks to the quality of its research and outreach—particularly on Ukraine—and has invested in strengthening the wider ecosystem through initiatives such as the Think Tank Lab.

Categories: Advocacy & policy influence; Capacity & institutional development; Knowledge generation & analysis; Innovation & future-oriented roles

German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)*

- 📍 Germany
- 🌐 swp-berlin.org
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

SWP is a foreign policy think tank, advising the German government, parliament, and international organisations such as the EU, NATO, and the UN. It combines independent research with practice-oriented policy advice, supported by a Brussels liaison office to foster cooperation with European institutions. Current initiatives include [Megatrends Africa](#), which examines conflict, democratisation, and global power shifts to inform fairer German and European engagement with Africa; and the [Centre for Applied Turkey Studies](#), which coordinates a European-Turkish research network on future EU-Turkey relations. These examples show how SWP combines rigorous research and international collaboration to shape nuanced, evidence-based policy debates.

Categories: Advocacy & policy influence; Knowledge generation & analysis; Knowledge translation & communication; Global & collaborative roles

GPPI

GLOBAL PUBLIC POLICY
INSTITUTE

Global Public Policy Institute (GPPI)*

- 📍 Germany
- 🌐 gppi.net
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

GPPI is an independent non-profit think tank that conducts research, offers advice, and fosters dialogue on issues from peace and security to migration, human rights, and technology politics. Recent projects include [The Psychology of a New Geopolitical Era](#), which applies psychological insights to explain the behaviour of volatile great powers and guides states like Germany in managing these dynamics; [Neurotechnology and Foreign Policy](#), which examines international regulation, partnerships, and risks in this emerging field; and [Protest Movements and Civil Society](#), which develops tools to strengthen external support for civic actors in times of shrinking civic space. GPPI also facilitates [Global Dialogue II](#), connecting German parliamentarians with counterparts in Australia and Japan to deepen Indo-Pacific cooperation. These examples show how GPPI combines rigorous analysis and international exchange to address global challenges.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence; Knowledge translation & communication; Innovation & future-oriented roles; Global & collaborative roles

Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP)

- 📍 Greece
- 🌐 eliamep.gr
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

ELIAMEP is an independent think tank that provides independent analysis on European integration, foreign policy, and regional challenges. Its project [think nea – New Narratives of EU Integration](#) reimagines EU enlargement by generating fresh policy ideas, engaging diverse stakeholders, and reframing the Western Balkans as vital partners for Europe’s strategic autonomy and resilience. Under the [EU-funded ARSINOE project](#), ELIAMEP developed Youth Assemblies on Climate Change, where students acted as knowledge co-producers, co-creating Regional and Local Green Deals. The [ELIAMEP-ACG Summer Academy](#) convenes emerging leaders across the Mediterranean for dialogue, training, and bridge-building. These initiatives illustrate ELIAMEP’s innovation in linking rigorous research with participatory governance and intercultural cooperation.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence; Political & civic roles; Global & collaborative roles; Capacity & institutional development

Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)*

- 📍 Italy
- 🌐 iai.it
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

IAI is an independent think tank dedicated to advancing understanding of international politics, European integration, security, and global governance. It supports policymaking through applied research, publications, and convening spaces. Recent highlights include the conference on [Advancing EU Enlargement to the Western Balkans](#), which gathered policymakers and experts to align expectations and realities of accession; the [AI-Energy Nexus study](#), mapping applications of artificial intelligence in the oil and gas sector; and its role in the [EMISSARY project](#), a major EU-funded consortium on climate and security (2024–2029). These initiatives illustrate IAI’s ability to combine rigorous research with forward-looking policy debates, reinforcing its role as a central hub for Italian and European foreign policy.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence; Global & collaborative roles

Kultura Liberalna*

- 📍 Poland
- 🌐 kulturaliberalna.pl
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

Kultura Liberalna is an online magazine and publishing house that combines political debate with cultural reflection to foster pluralism and democratic dialogue. It supports informed public discussion through editorial content, research, and public engagement. Recent initiatives include its [Wideopodcasty series](#), which in 2025 addressed issues such as hybrid warfare and regional crises, reaching broad audiences with accessible debates; [Biblioteka Kultury Liberalnej](#), which publishes books by Polish authors alongside translations of contemporary essays in political science, philosophy, and sociology, broadening access to cutting-edge ideas for both academic and public audiences. This rare combination of policy debate and cultural reflection makes Kultura Liberalna stand out as a model for how think tanks can broaden public engagement. Its high-quality video podcasts and carefully curated editorial content offer inspiration for think tanks seeking to stay ahead of the zeitgeist.

Categories: Knowledge translation & communication; Political & civic roles; Knowledge generation & analysis

Real Instituto Elcano

- 📍 Spain
- 🌐 realinstitutoelcano.org
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

Elcano is a think tank, dedicated to generating innovative, inclusive, and evidence-based responses to global governance challenges while analysing Spain’s role in Europe and the world. Its [Generación Europa](#) program amplifies youth voices by mentoring selected participants under 30 to produce policy analyses on the EU’s strategic challenges, presented to Spanish and European policymakers. Elcano also developed the [Economic Security Index](#), a pioneering methodology that maps trade vulnerabilities across complex global supply chains, directly informing EU de-risking strategies. Finally, its long-running [Global Presence Index](#) quantifies globalisation across 150 countries since 1990, providing a unique lens on power shifts. Together, these initiatives illustrate Elcano’s capacity to innovate and influence international debates, making it one to watch.

Categories: Innovation & future-oriented roles; Knowledge generation & analysis; Political & civic roles; Capacity & institutional development; Advocacy & policy influence



Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)*

📍 Belgium
 🌐 sipri.org
 ⓘ [OTTD profile link](#)

SIPRI is an independent global institute dedicated to rigorous research on conflict, armaments, arms control, disarmament, and peace. Its flagship output, the [SIPRI Yearbook](#), remains the authoritative annual assessment of military expenditure, arms transfers, nuclear forces, and global security trends. In 2025, it released key [findings warning of a resurgent nuclear arms race amid weakening arms control regimes](#). Among its policy-relevant outputs, SIPRI publishes updated data on arms trade in its [Arms Transfers Database](#), with the most recent 2024 data released. It also released the [SIPRI Map of Multilateral Peace Operations 2025](#), visualising global peace missions active as of May 2025. Through these data-driven analyses, SIPRI provides clarity for policymakers, scholars, and civil society on the dynamics of war, peace, and global security.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Knowledge translation & communication; Advocacy & policy influence



Student Think Tank for Europe-Asia Relations (STEAR)*

📍 Belgium, Indonesia, South Korea, Singapore
 🌐 stearthinktank.com
 ⓘ [OTTD profile link](#)

STEAR is a student-led think tank focused on Europe-Asia relations, dedicated to amplifying youth voices and fostering multilateral cooperation. It publishes the [Journal of Asia and Europe Relations](#), a peer-reviewed flagship journal featuring research by young academics across both continents. STEAR also organised the [Asia-Europe Youth Forum 2025](#), bringing together students, young professionals, policymakers, and experts for cross-continental dialogue. With chapters in Brussels, Jakarta, Seoul, and Singapore, and representation from over 30 countries, STEAR combines cultural exchange, policy publications, and capacity building to bridge Europe and Asia, making it a dynamic platform for youth-led influence.

Categories: Political & civic roles; Global & collaborative roles; Knowledge generation & analysis; Capacity & institutional development



U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre

📍 Norway
 🌐 u4.no
 ⓘ [OTTD profile link](#)

U4 is an anti-corruption resource centre that studies the causes and pathways of corruption, documents its effects on development outcomes, and supports practical solutions for reform. In 2025, it launched a free [online course on addressing corruption in the health sector](#), equipping learners with systems-thinking tools to promote transparency and accountability in service delivery. U4's basket-funded partnership model enables tailored support, ranging from rapid helpdesk responses to training courses used by donor agencies and NGOs worldwide, with a concrete impact, such as influencing the [Financing for Development agenda](#) in 2024. U4 has also become a trusted contributor to [Ukraine's anti-corruption journey](#), advising on justice reform, reconstruction accountability, and the use of frozen Russian assets. Its ability to combine independent analysis with convening power makes U4 a key ally in advancing integrity across sensitive sectors and fragile contexts.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence; Capacity & institutional development; Global & collaborative roles



Asociación Salvadoreña para el Desarrollo Económico y Social (FUSADES)

- 📍 El Salvador
- 🌐 fusades.org
- 🔗 [OTTD profile link](#)

FUSADES is an independent, non-profit, and nonpartisan think tank and development centre working to improve social and economic conditions in El Salvador. It combines policy research with development projects and service provision, reinforcing both impact and resilience. The [Doing Research Project](#) employed a global methodology to evaluate El Salvador's social science system, resulting in internationally [peer-reviewed outputs](#) and earning the [2024 National Prize for Scientific Research](#). The study "[Best Practices for the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence](#)" introduced a new policy debate, leading to the creation of [IA El Salvador](#) a national training platform reference on AI. With CIPE, FUSADES also developed the [LEAD program](#), training 110 women entrepreneurs. Together, these initiatives show how FUSADES translates research into reforms and practical capacity building.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence; Capacity & institutional development



Caribbean Policy Research Institute (CAPRI)

- 📍 Jamaica
- 🌐 capricaribbean.org
- 🔗 [OTTD profile link](#)

CAPRI is an independent, non-partisan think tank that stands out as one of the few in the Caribbean region. It translates complex public policy research into accessible knowledge for citizens while also building collaborative relationships with career bureaucrats, recognising them as key gatekeepers in policy adoption. Through initiatives like the Idea Incubator, CAPRI creates space for permanent secretaries and civil servants to influence its research agenda, ensuring that outputs are responsive to their needs and are more likely to be adopted. This dual focus, reaching both the public and the bureaucracy, enhances the impact of its work and positions CAPRI as a rare, influential actor supporting policy innovation and regional collaboration. CAPRI is also a staunch supporter of other think tanks in the region.

Categories: Knowledge translation & communication; Global & collaborative roles; Innovation & future-oriented roles; Advocacy & policy influence



CEBRI- Brazilian Center for International Relations

- 📍 Brazil
- 🌐 cebri.org
- 🔗 [OTTD profile link](#)

CEBRI is an independent, non-profit think tank dedicated to fostering reflections on the country's global engagement and policy-oriented debates of national interest. In 2024, [it co-led the Think20 \(T20\)](#) process during Brazil's G20 presidency, engaging 182 institutions from 28 countries, producing 359 Policy Briefs, and delivering an early communiqué with 40 recommendations, ensuring strong Global South perspectives in G20 negotiations. Its [Energy Transition Program](#), developed in collaboration with partners such as IDB, EPE, and BNDES, combines advanced scientific modelling with multistakeholder dialogue to guide Brazil toward achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, directly influencing national energy policies. In addition, [CEBRI's China Analysis Group](#) fosters in-depth, recurring debates on Brazil-China relations. These initiatives showcase CEBRI's convening power and its capacity to influence both domestic and global policy agendas.

Categories: Global & collaborative roles; Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence



CEDICE Libertad

- 📍 Venezuela
- 🌐 cedice.org.ve
- 🔗 [OTTD profile link](#)

CEDICE Libertad is a think tank that promotes market economy principles, respect for property rights, and free enterprise through research, training, and policy engagement. Despite operating in a highly restrictive environment, it continues to innovate and reach diverse audiences. Each year, it trains around 1,500 young leaders in freedom, public policy, and economics, using tools such as boot camps, argumentation, and AI-assisted proposal design. It also develops regional [reform agendas across](#) 15 states through crowdsourced mapping and consensus-building, strengthening policy solutions beyond Caracas. Complementing this, its long-running economics program for schools uses social pedagogy and literature to teach children core economic principles. CEDICE's resilience and creativity make it a crucial voice for liberty and reform in Venezuela.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Capacity & institutional development; Advocacy & policy influence; Innovation & future-oriented roles; Knowledge translation & communication

Center for the Implementation of Public Policies Promoting Equity and Growth (CIPPEC)

- 📍 Argentina
- 🌐 cippec.org
- 🔗 [OTTD profile link](#)

CIPPEC is an independent, non-partisan think tank that works to build better public policies for sustainable and inclusive development. It played a decisive role in the approval of the Bole-
ta Única de Papel. This milestone in electoral reform enhances transparency, equity, and representation, following more than a decade of advocacy. In education, it co-created Early Warning Systems with provincial ministries, anticipating dropout risks for thousands of students and strengthening data-driven school management. The Argentine Social Security Forum convenes experts, legislators, and international organisations to address pension reform. Its ability to sustain long-term constituencies across media, business, politics, and research has allowed it to remain relevant even in polarised contexts. After the T20 in Argentina, CIPPEC leapfrogged to the world stage. It is now a go-to Latin American think tank.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence; Innovation & future-oriented roles; Global & collaborative roles; Knowledge translation & communication



Espacio Público

- 📍 Chile
- 🌐 espaciopublico.cl
- 🔗 [OTTD profile link](#)

Espacio Público is a think tank dedicated to fostering an inclusive, transparent, and democratic society that supports sustainable development. It has been a key actor in shaping national and regional policy debates across Latin America through evidence-based research and citizen engagement. The organisation faced an existential challenge when core funding declined, and it successfully restructured its business model to focus on project-based work, reshaping its governance and staff skills. More recently, its Economic Perspectives series has convened leading Chilean economists to analyse urgent issues such as export stagnation, housing, and human capital. By combining rigorous, accessible analysis with collaborative networks, Espacio Público exemplifies innovation and resilience in advancing public policy.

Categories: Political & civic roles; Knowledge generation & analysis; Capacity & institutional development; Global & collaborative roles



Ethos Innovation in Public Policy

- 📍 Mexico
- 🌐 ethos.org.mx
- 🔗 [OTTD profile link](#)

Ethos is an independent think tank that generates innovative recommendations and concrete actions to address key development challenges. It has effectively adapted to the changing political context: evolving from a traditional think tank into a watchdog while remaining non-partisan and rooted in robust research. Through Bridging the Gap, it safeguarded open data in the wake of institutional reform by promoting international standards, publishing a nationwide Manual of Best Practices, and laying the groundwork for Mexico's first National Open Data Observatory. With Amplifying Voices of Local Communities, Ethos works directly with rural and coastal communities to turn local resilience projects into inclusive climate policies. Ethos demonstrates how analysis, citizen engagement, and open government can strengthen transparent and people-centred policymaking.

Categories: Innovation & future-oriented roles; Advocacy & policy influence; Political & civic roles



FARO

- 📍 Ecuador
- 🌐 grupofaro.org
- 🔗 [OTTD profile link](#)

FARO is an independent, non-partisan think-and-do tank that promotes more equitable and sustainable societies. Its Comu-
nidades de Aprendizaje model has reached 55 schools, trained over 2,000 teachers, and involved 55,000 students while influencing national education policy. With Manta Mía, FARO engages youth in co-creating solutions for their city, including eight community projects that now inform Manta's municipal development plan. And through Ecuador Decide, it strengthened democracy during the 2025 elections, reaching more than 2.4 million citizens with digital tools to monitor candidates and promote informed voting. Together, these initiatives demonstrate how FARO translates research into action, empowering citizens and influencing public policy.

Categories: Advocacy & policy influence; Capacity & institutional development; Political & civic roles; Knowledge translation & communication



Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV)

- 📍 Brazil
- 🌐 portal.fgv.br
- 🔗 [OTTD profile link](#)

FGV is a private, non-profit institution dedicated to Brazil's socioeconomic development and is globally recognised as a leading think tank that combines research, education, and consulting. With [Dados à Prova D'Água](#), it mobilised over 500 citizen scientists across schools and civil defence units to co-produce flood data via a free app and public dashboard, turning vulnerable communities into climate actors. Its [Indigenous Documentary Heritage Project](#), co-created with the Apinajé People, transformed archival materials into award-winning films and essays that strengthen cultural identity and amplify Indigenous voices. And through its [Financial Inclusion](#) research with the Central Bank and Gates Foundation, FGV highlighted both the benefits and risks of digital tools like PIX, presenting findings at the G20. Crucially, it has launched [FGV Europe](#), which offers research and consultancy services to the public and private sector, aiming to work in Brazil and Mercosur - and vice versa. A great model for large Southern think tanks with the confidence to work globally.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Capacity & institutional development; Political & civic roles; Innovation & future-oriented roles; Knowledge translation & communication; Global & collaborative roles



Fundación Ideas para la Paz (FIP)

- 📍 Colombia
- 🌐 ideaspaz.org
- 🔗 [OTTD profile link](#)

FIP is an independent think-and-do tank that develops knowledge and initiatives to advance peace, security, and sustainable development. [El Pulso de Líderes Territoriales](#) engages 800 leaders from 87 municipalities to capture perspectives on violence, governance, and peacebuilding, strengthening local advocacy. [Ruta de la Confianza](#), with Empresas Públicas de Medellín, has mobilised 2,800 participants and supported 100 community initiatives in 12 municipalities, building trust between communities, institutions, and business. FIP also provides independent analysis of [Colombia's Total Peace policy](#), informing national debates with real-time monitoring of armed actors. These initiatives reflect FIP's inclusive approach to amplifying territorial voices, transforming relationships, and shaping policy for lasting peace.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence; Political & civic roles



fundar

FUNDAR*

- 📍 Argentina
- 🌐 fund.ar
- 🔗 [OTTD profile link](#)

Fundar is a think tank founded on the conviction that human talent can drive long-term, sustainable development if given the right opportunities. It works to generate evidence-based policies that expand opportunities, reduce inequalities, and strengthen state capacity. Its mission is structured around three pillars: [generate wealth](#) by promoting productive development in strategic sectors and redesigning Argentina's energy matrix; [promote welfare](#) by designing inclusive social and health policies adapted to new labor realities; and [transform the state](#) through data governance, administrative reform, and stronger institutional capacities. Fundar's integrated approach to wealth, welfare, and state capacity illustrates how a mission-driven think tank can frame national debates while offering actionable policy solutions.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence; Capacity & institutional development



FUNDAR

- 📍 Mexico
- 🌐 fundar.org.mx
- 🔗 [OTTD profile link](#)

Fundar is an independent, interdisciplinary, non-partisan and horizontal organisation dedicated to fiscal justice, human and collective rights, accountability and environmental justice through rigorous research and citizen engagement. Its recent analysis of Mexico's 2026 budget package highlights fiscal and social tensions, making resource allocation debates more transparent. Fundar also advances health equity with its [Impuestos Saludables](#) initiative, advocating tax reforms to fund public health. In addition, Fundar works to advance peoples' and indigenous and afro-descendant communities' self-determination and autonomy through [ALDEA](#). And brings an innovative approach to the [climate crisis discussion](#) in Mexico from human rights to economic and environmental perspectives. By combining evidence, advocacy, and communication, Fundar is one to watch in Latin America.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Political & civic roles; Advocacy & policy influence; Knowledge translation & communication

GRADE - Grupo de Análisis para el Desarrollo

- 📍 Peru
- 🌐 grade.org.pe
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

GRADE is an independent research centre with 45 years of experience generating evidence to address development challenges. Young Lives (Niños del Milenio) has tracked 12,000 children in four countries for over two decades, producing one of the world's richest datasets on poverty and informing policies, such as Peru's ban on child marriage. Apprendemos, a digital platform that reaches 110,000 students and 5,000 teachers, strengthens maths and reading through offline access, bilingual tools, and soon, AI feedback. Regionally, the Care LAC Fund, co-led with partners including UNRISD and IDRC, supports feminist research in eight countries to strengthen care systems and advance gender equality. Together, these initiatives show how GRADE links rigorous research and innovation with policy impact in Peru and Latin America.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence; Innovation & future-oriented roles; Global & collaborative roles



Instituto de Estudios Avanzados en Desarrollo (INESAD)

- 📍 Bolivia
- 🌐 inesad.edu.bo
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

INESAD is a think tank that generates and transfers knowledge to support sustainable socioeconomic development and influence public policy. Its Green Jobs and Sustainable Agriculture program raised quinoa yields by up to 35% and studied why small producers, particularly indigenous women, adopt or resist sustainable practices. The Justice, Empowerment, and Entrepreneurship project supports 1,000 women deprived of liberty in accessing justice and socio-labour reintegration. INESAD also modelled economic indicators for Bolivia's Long-Term Strategy for GHG reduction. By pioneering parametric insurance schemes and blockchain models for the quinoa sector, it translates research into practical solutions for vulnerable groups.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Knowledge translation & communication; Advocacy & policy influence; Political & civic roles; Innovation & future-oriented roles

Instituto de Pesquisa Econômica Aplicada (IPEA)

- 📍 Brazil
- 🌐 ipea.gov.br
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

IPEA is a public think tank affiliated with the Ministry of Planning and Budget, providing technical support to the federal government on public policies. It recently led Brazil's presidency of the BRICS Think Tank Council, convening the 17th BRICS Academic Forum in Brasília and producing a portfolio of 180 cooperation mechanisms and policy recommendations for BRICS leaders. It also launched the second series of Cadernos ODS, which informed Brazil's Voluntary National Review at the UN High-Level Political Forum. In addition, Ipea contributes to the Federal Council for Monitoring and Evaluation of Public Policies through evaluations and methodological support. These examples show how a national think tank can provide evidence and analysis that inform global, national, and institutional policy-making.

Categories: Advocacy & policy influence; Global & collaborative roles; Political & civic roles



Instituto Mexicano para la Competitividad (IMCO)

- 📍 Mexico
- 🌐 imco.org.mx
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

IMCO is a public policy think tank that proposes effective solutions to key national challenges. It strengthens policy-making through rigorous data and analysis. A central initiative is the State Competitiveness Index, which state governments regularly use to inform their plans and agendas. A new interactive dashboard is soon to be introduced, making the data accessible to a wider range of stakeholders. IMCO has also advanced the women's rights agenda through its Women in Economics area, with its research and data cited in President Sheinbaum's recent Constitutional Reform on substantive equality. Additionally, IMCO's internal process for disseminating public information transforms complex databases into accessible content shared across multiple platforms. These examples show how evidence and communication can inform government and engage society.

Categories: Advocacy & policy influence; Knowledge generation & analysis; Knowledge translation & communication

Instituto Peruano de Economía (IPE)

- 📍 Peru
- 🌐 ipe.org.pe
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

IPE is a think tank that conducts rigorous economic research and promotes evidence-based policies, translating analysis into accessible insights for inclusive development. Its work is routinely cited by mainstream media and valued by peers across the spectrum, sustaining private sector interest for years. Key initiatives include INCORE 2.0, a renewed Regional Competitiveness Index with expanded indicators, complemented by Peru's first Regional Gender Index and a Sustainability Index, all widely used by subnational governments and businesses. IPE also launched Repensando el Perú, the first podcast by a Peruvian think tank to translate research into accessible dialogue, and created two regional think tanks in Cusco and Arequipa to strengthen local policy debates.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence; Knowledge translation & communication; Capacity & institutional development



Plataforma Cipó*

- 📍 Brazil
- 🌐 plataformacipo.org
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

Plataforma CIPÓ is an independent, women-led research institute that focuses on climate, governance, and peacebuilding from Global South perspectives. It combines rigorous research with policy outreach, mapping tools, and global advocacy. Recent work includes the Global Policy Dialogue 2025 Report and Rethinking the Role of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in Global Climate and Environmental Governance: Trends from Rio-92 to Today, which connects STI agendas with justice, inequality, and governance frameworks across multi-lateral forums. CIPÓ also advocated for women's leadership at COP30 in New York and commented on President Lula's 2025 UN speech, stressing Brazil's role in climate diplomacy. These efforts underscore CIPÓ's growing influence in shaping climate debates and amplifying the voices of the Global South.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence; Innovation & future-oriented roles; Global & collaborative roles

Red de Estudios para el Desarrollo

- 📍 Peru
- 🌐 redesarrollo.pe
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

REDES is a think tank that seeks to bring evidence closer to citizens through clear and effective communication, enabling more informed decision-making. It distributes press releases to regional and local media, achieving over 195 publications and 44 interviews in July 2025 alone, ensuring visibility beyond Lima. Through partnerships with leading outlets like Latina TV and RPP, it delivers weekly and daily economic segments, as well as AdN Regional, a program reaching 19 of the country's 25 regions. To engage younger and regional audiences, REDES also tailors content to TikTok and Facebook, where it shares accessible formats that have reached wide audiences. These initiatives demonstrate how REDES is redefining how think tanks connect evidence with citizens.

Categories: Knowledge translation & communication



Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental (SPDA)

- 📍 Peru
- 🌐 spda.org.pe
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

SPDA is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation dedicated to advancing environmental justice, policy, and legislation. Recent initiatives include Historia de un Derrame and Hazte Cargo, multi-pronged strategies that combine legal action, policy reform, and multimedia campaigns to respond to environmental crises and socio-environmental conflicts. SPDA also spearheaded the adoption of Peru's first wetlands law (2025) and co-sponsored an international motion at the IUCN Congress to protect high mountain ecosystems. Finally, through Champions Escazú, it strengthens youth-led advocacy for the ratification of the Escazú Agreement. SPDA has long been at the forefront of think tank communications. While others debated whether to reach a wider audience, it was already working with indigenous communities, social movements, and grassroots organisations. By investing in local partnerships and teams, SPDA has made the support of indigenous leaders a central part of its mission to protect the environment.

Categories: Advocacy & policy influence; Knowledge translation & communication; Political & civic roles; Global & collaborative roles



Al-Shabaka: The Palestinian Policy Network

- 📍 United States but working in Palestine
- 🌐 al-shabaka.org
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

Al-Shabaka is the only global Palestinian think tank, uniting over 200 experts worldwide to produce critical analysis and visions for a liberated future. In 2024, it published a policy brief on [Project Esther](#), a US initiative targeting civil society actors supporting Palestinian rights; the analysis became a protective tool for grassroots organisations and informed national media coverage. In 2025, Al-Shabaka produced a publication and podcast reframing [European debates on Palestinian statehood](#), centring genocide and complicity rather than symbolic recognition. By ensuring Palestinian voices shape global policy and solidarity debates, Al-Shabaka demonstrates the power of diaspora-led analysis and mobilisation.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence; Knowledge translation & communication; Political & civic roles



Arab Reform Initiative (ARI)

- 📍 France but working in the Arab region
- 🌐 arab-reform.net
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

ARI is a regional think tank promoting democratic governance and social and environmental justice across the Arab region. It provides a platform for activists, scholars, and policymakers to exchange lessons, build coalitions, and shape advocacy. Its Arabic-language [training programme on critical policy analysis](#) has cultivated a new generation of policy scholars through workshops, mentoring, and online resources. ARI also supports [community-led solutions for a just environmental transition](#), from water-sharing in Morocco to sustainable farming in Tunisia. Through the [Arab Region Hub for Social Protection](#), it drives collective action and research, helping widen civic space and ground policy debates in evidence.

Categories: Global & collaborative roles; Capacity & institutional development; Advocacy & policy influence; Political & civic roles



iNOV8 Research Center

- 📍 Iraq
- 🌐 innov8.channel8.com
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

iNOV8 is a research centre driving innovative insights and fostering informed public debate. It contributes to policy-making by connecting global expertise with local and regional challenges through evidence-based research and dialogue. Recent initiatives include an [AI and Sustainable Development panel](#) at the AI Action Summit 2025 in Paris, followed by a three-paper series; [the first English-language election platform for the Kurdistan Region's 2024 parliamentary elections](#), later emulated by media and think tanks; and a report on NATO's engagement in Iraq, complemented by briefs on regional security. These illustrate how think tanks can link research, communication, and dialogue to shape debates. Innov8 is affiliated to the CHANNEL8 Media Corporation, a rare collaboration that shows how think tanks can invest in media-like communications without being taken over by the news cycle.

Categories: Innovation & future-oriented roles; Knowledge translation & communication; Advocacy & policy influence; Knowledge generation & analysis; Global & collaborative roles



Pal-Think for Strategic Studies*

- 📍 Palestine
- 🌐 palthink.org
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

Pal-Think for Strategic Studies is a research institution that continues operating under extreme conditions—an achievement in itself. In 2025, it published [Prospective Visions for the Future of Governance in Palestine](#), using foresight methods with focus groups in Gaza and Ramallah to map evolving political scenarios. It also released [Working Paper: The Future of Palestinians a Year After the War](#), examining how wartime disruption shapes democracy, norms, and social structures. Pal-Think has sharpened its focus on psychological resilience and the deterioration of the social fabric in Gaza, translating urgent human needs into policy insight. One to watch for the courage, relevance, and contextual depth it brings to high-stakes analysis.

Categories: Innovation & future-oriented roles; Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence

Policy Center for the New South (PCNS)

📍 Morocco

🌐 policycenter.ma

🔗 [OTTD profile link](#)

PCNS is a think tank focused on strengthening economic and social policies in Morocco, Africa, and the Global South. It advances policymaking through applied research, dialogue, and leadership programmes. Flagship initiatives include the [Atlantic Dialogues Emerging Leaders network](#) of over 450 young decision-makers and the [Junior Professional Programme](#), a two-year track providing graduates with practical skills, mentorship, and career opportunities. PCNS has also expanded its reach with a successful SEO strategy, attracting more than 300,000 monthly visitors. A relatively new player, it challenges Northern think tank agendas by asking questions that resonate with African and Latin American audiences, making it one to watch.

Categories: Advocacy & policy influence; Knowledge generation & analysis; Capacity & institutional development; Global & collaborative roles

Non-EU Europe & the Caucasus



APRI (Applied Policy Research Institute) Armenia

- 📍 Armenia
- 🌐 apri.institute
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

APRI Armenia is an independent think tank advancing regional stability, sustainable prosperity, and civic engagement in Armenia and the South Caucasus. A key feature of its work is diaspora engagement, treating the Armenian diaspora as a talent pool and partner through initiatives like the Visiting Policy Fellowship, Virtual Town Halls, and [major diaspora events](#). In 2024–25, it conducted a scenario analysis on elections in Georgia and the US, shaping its 2025 “advanced regionalism” agenda, a diplomatic briefing, and a [joint paper with a US think tank](#). APRI also hosted a landmark roundtable for Armenian think tanks, reinforcing its role as a connector and agenda setter.

Categories: Advocacy & policy influence; Political & civic roles; Innovation & future-oriented roles; Global & collaborative roles



Belgrade Centre for Security Policy (BCSP)

- 📍 Serbia
- 🌐 bezbednost.org
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

BCSP is an independent Serbian think tank advancing security and human rights through research, advocacy, community engagement, and education. It coordinates the [prEUgovor](#) coalition and produces the biannual Alarm Report—a flagship monitoring tool widely cited by EU institutions for tracking rule of law, corruption, and organised crime. BCSP also hosts the [Belgrade Security Conference](#), Southeast Europe’s largest security forum, which in 2024 brought together over 500 global and regional stakeholders and launched a Young Leaders Programme. Additionally, it has developed [tailored digital security protocols for civil society and human rights defenders](#), strengthening resilience to surveillance and cyber threats. These efforts position BCSP as a watchdog, convener, and innovator ensuring local knowledge informs European security debates.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence; Capacity & institutional development; Political & civic roles; Innovation & future-oriented roles; Global & collaborative roles



European Policy Institute - Skopje

- 📍 North Macedonia
- 🌐 epi.org.mk
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

The European Policy Institute is a think tank dedicated to fostering debate and solutions on European policy through rigorous research and advocacy. Its [Shadow Report on Chapter 23](#) offers an independent assessment of judicial reform and fundamental rights in North Macedonia, complementing the European Commission’s report with clear recommendations. The [Reform Agenda Monitor](#) contributes to the establishment of the first regional mechanism tracking the EU’s Growth Plan for the Western Balkans, providing timely insights on reform progress. Through [National Deliberative Polls](#), most recently involving 150 citizens in discussions on foreign policy and security with Stanford University, EPI pioneers democratic consultation tools. These initiatives underscore EPI’s credibility as both a trusted source of EU affairs analysis and an innovator in strengthening democratic dialogue, making it a think tank to watch.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence; Political & civic roles; Innovation & future-oriented roles



GAP Institute

- 📍 Kosovo
- 🌐 institutigap.org
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

GAP Institute shapes policies and laws in Kosovo through evidence-based research on governance, economics, and social issues. Its reports [on labour migration with German partners](#) show how wage gaps and new migration policies fuel emigration with major effects on Kosovo’s workforce. With the International Budget Partnership, it introduced the [Open Budget Survey](#), the first systematic assessment of fiscal governance in Kosovo, embedding transparency in national budgeting. Its widely cited [Draft Budget Analysis](#) translates complex fiscal data into accessible insights for parliament, media, and civil society. GAP’s interactive microsites for public spending, transparency, local promises, and road safety make it a leading example of how think tanks can harness data visualisation for accountability and impact.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence; Political & civic roles; Knowledge translation & communication; Innovation & future-oriented roles

Institute for Democracy Societas Civilis Skopje (IDSCS)*

📍 North Macedonia

🌐 ids.cs.org.mk

📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

IDSC is an association that contributes to the development of democratic institutions and promotes democratic processes. Its long-term goals include balanced socio-economic development, citizen engagement, liberal values, good governance, evidence-based decision-making, and multiethnic coexistence. Recent initiatives include [RESILIO-ACCESS](#), an interdisciplinary observatory that analyses and visualises the resilience of the rule of law in EU accession candidates from the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe, and the development of a [digital portal on North Macedonia's National Reform Agenda](#), designed to inform citizens and foster public participation in reforms. These examples show IDSC's role in strengthening democratic resilience and ensuring that EU integration is pursued as a participative and transparent process.

Categories: Political & civic roles; Knowledge generation & analysis; Innovation & future-oriented roles; Knowledge translation & communication



Accountability Lab Pakistan (ALP)

- 📍 Pakistan
- 🌐 accountabilitylab.org
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

Accountability Lab Pakistan is a research-driven advocacy organisation strengthening governance through accountability, transparency, and integrity. Its flagship [Integrity Icon campaign](#) “names and fames” honest public servants, inspiring long-term initiatives such as the Integrity Innovation Lab and the annual Youth Integrity Summit, which build reform networks and engage youth in governance dialogue. The Lab also publishes bi-weekly [Country Analysis Reports](#) in English and Urdu, offering timely insights into governance challenges and shaping policy debates. Through [community incubators](#), it nurtures grassroots solutions on peace, climate, ethics, and accountability—redefining how governance reform is pursued in Pakistan.

Categories: Political & civic roles; Innovation & future-oriented roles; Global & collaborative roles; Knowledge generation & analysis; Capacity & institutional development; Knowledge translation & communication



Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP)

- 📍 India
- 🌐 cstep.in
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

CSTEP is a think tank working at the intersection of science, technology, and policy to deliver evidence-based solutions for sustainable development. Its [Rooftop Solar Explorer](#) equips households, vendors, and utilities with geospatial and cost-benefit insights, empowering citizens and enabling data-driven decisions under national solar missions. The [SAFARI](#) model maps India’s energy and development pathways to 2050 using Desired Quality of Life benchmarks, offering a systems-based approach to policymaking. CSTEP has also supported state utilities in grid planning and influenced national dialogues on renewable integration. Its blend of technical innovation and ecosystem engagement positions it as a key driver of India’s green transition.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Innovation & future-oriented roles; Political & civic roles; Advocacy & policy influence



Centre for Civil Society*

- 📍 India
- 🌐 ccs.in
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

CCS is a think tank advancing social change through public policy in education, livelihoods, governance, and policy training. It translates policy into practice by engaging leaders with research and projects. Recent initiatives include tools to assess [the quality of laws](#) and recommend reforms to ensure citizen engagement, rights protection, and effective law-making; work on creating a [business-enabling environment](#) by simplifying regulatory frameworks and advocating evidence-based, efficient processes; and livelihood initiatives that reduce barriers for small entrepreneurs, with a focus on [street vendors](#) and other informal workers. These examples show CCS’s commitment to freedom, accountability, and prosperity.

Categories: Advocacy & policy influence; Knowledge generation & analysis; Political & civic roles



Observer Research Foundation (ORF)*

- 📍 India
- 🌐 orfonline.org
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

ORF seeks to lead and aid policy thinking towards building a strong and prosperous India in a fair and equitable world. ORF conducts in-depth research, offers inclusive platforms, and cultivates future thinkers across various topics, including security, economy, climate, technology, governance, and neighbourhood affairs. Its highlight event is the [Raisina Dialogue](#), India’s flagship geopolitics and geo-economics conference hosted annually in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs. Through these platforms, ORF consistently brings Indian voices into global debates and shapes policy thinking both domestically and internationally.

Categories: Advocacy & policy influence; Knowledge generation & analysis; Global & collaborative roles; Capacity & institutional development



Policy Research Institute of Market Economy (PRIME)

- 📍 Pakistan
- 🌐 [OTTD profile link](#)

PRIME is an independent economic policy think tank. Its areas of research include business regulations, tax policy, industrial policy, privatisation, and trade policy in Pakistan. Its studies, including *Towards Flat, Low-rate, Broad and Predictable Taxes* and *An Empirical Critique of National Tariff Policy 2019–2024*, shaped the government's National Tariff Policy 2025–2030 by reducing duties and tariff slabs. PRIME's 2023 report on sugar deregulation guided the Prime Minister's committee in opening one of Pakistan's most protected sectors. In 2025, its report on illicit trade prompted Senate action. Partnerships with PIDE, QAU, and CECL strengthen its research credibility and reach. PRIME shows how independent research can directly influence fiscal reforms in politically sensitive areas, making it one to watch.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence; Global & collaborative roles



Policy Research Institute (PRI)

- 📍 Nepal
- 🌐 [pri.gov.np](#)
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

PRI is a government-mandated think tank to study, review, and draft policies aligned with constitutional principles. It supports evidence-based policymaking on governance, development, diplomacy, and reform by producing analytic reports, offering feedback on draft policies, and convening stakeholder dialogues. *The government of Nepal generally seeks final feedback from PRI on draft policies* before they are finalised, with the institute drawing on research and stakeholder consultations to guide its input. PRI engaged with the *National Assembly's Public Policy & Legislative Committee* to map opportunities for collaboration on policy formulation. More recently, in July 2025, PRI co-hosted a *knowledge program on advanced aerial mobility*, showcasing how alumni scholars can generate solutions for Nepal's geographical challenges. With its growing role in bridging research and practice, PRI is one to watch.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence; Global & collaborative roles; Capacity & institutional development



Samriddhi Foundation*

- 📍 Nepal
- 🌐 [samriddhi.org](#)
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

Samriddhi Foundation is a think tank and public policy institute dedicated to promoting economic freedom, entrepreneurship, and evidence-based reforms. It publishes *Nepal's Current Affairs: Where Are We Headed?*, a monthly discussion series, which examines Nepal's media landscape. In August 2025, it issued *Beyond the Border: Enhancing Regional Trade for Economic Growth*, a policy brief analysing Nepal's export dependencies and proposing strategies to boost regional trade. Samriddhi also runs the *Prosperity Podcast*, offering conversations on development issues like property rights, migration, and governance. By combining rigorous research, public dialogue, and multimedia formats, Samriddhi helps bridge the gap between technical analysis and popular understanding in Nepal's policy debates.

Categories: Advocacy & policy influence; Knowledge translation & communication



Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI)

- 📍 Pakistan
- 🌐 [sdpi.org](#)
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

SDPI is an independent, non-profit policy research think tank on sustainable development, conducting multidisciplinary research and policy engagement. Its flagship *Sustainable Development Conference*, held annually since 1995, convenes policymakers, academics, NGOs, and global experts for dialogue on pressing challenges, making it a hub for debate and cooperation. In 2025, SDPI's Energy Unit released a landmark study on *the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism*, translating trade policy into sector-level decarbonization pathways for Pakistan's industries. Through its Governance and Reforms Unit, it launched a *Data Governance Framework* to harmonise national and provincial statistical systems and promote open data. Under the *Raising Her Voice project*, SDPI also advances women's representation in political party leadership through political economy research, structured consultations, and public advocacy. Together, these initiatives illustrate SDPI's ability to link rigorous research with actionable reforms that shape Pakistan's future.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence; Global & collaborative roles; Innovation & future-oriented roles; Political & civic rolescommunication



Takshashila Institution

📍 India

🌐 takshashila.org.in

📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

The Takshashila Institution is a public policy institution with a global outlook, grounded in economic reasoning and strategy. It combines research, education, and technology to shape innovative policy solutions. Its flagship Extraversity Programme addresses gaps in India's research and higher education ecosystem by linking selected scholars with global mentors, building a network of 140 researchers and positioning itself as a vital node for research excellence. Through OpenTakshashila, a unique global community of over 6,400 policy enthusiasts, it offers open courses and freely shares parts of its curriculum. The institution also pioneers the use of open-source technologies in its operations, enhancing autonomy, interoperability, and data ownership. These initiatives show how Takshashila is reimagining the role of think tanks in education, technology, and policy in India.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Capacity & institutional development; Innovation & future-oriented roles; Global & collaborative roles



African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET)

- 📍 Ghana
- 🌐 acetforafrica.org
- 🔗 [OTTD profile link](#)

ACET is a think-and-do tank that partners with governments, businesses, and civil society to advance inclusive growth and sustainable development. In 2025, it launched the [African Women's Inclusion Index](#), the first data-driven tool to measure women's participation across economies, politics, and society, reframing inclusion as a driver of transformation. ACET also develops [Country Economic Transformation Outlooks](#), which go beyond growth metrics to evaluate diversification, job creation, and resilience, offering tailored policy pathways. Through [YES-PACT](#), it connects governments, the private sector, and development partners to co-design solutions for youth employment. With these initiatives, ACET positions itself as a continental leader translating evidence into action for Africa's transformation.

Categories: Advocacy & policy influence; Innovation & future-oriented roles; Knowledge generation & analysis; Knowledge translation & communication



African Center for Equitable Development (ACED)

- 📍 Benin
- 🌐 acedafrica.org
- 🔗 [OTTD profile link](#)

ACED is a think tank that bridges the gap between research and policy in francophone Africa through knowledge translation. In 2022–2024, it coordinated [Benin's first National Research Agenda on Food Security and Nutrition](#), identifying 100 priority questions and operationalising them with a [Small Research Grants Program](#) that funds locally led studies aligned with national needs. In 2025, ACED launched a [Fellowship Programme for Women](#) in the evidence–policy ecosystem, offering mentorship and networks to strengthen women's leadership. It also introduced [Solution Briefs](#), a new format that translates evidence into implementable policy steps. By combining inclusive agenda-setting, leadership development, and innovative tools, ACED is reshaping how evidence informs equitable development in Africa.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Knowledge translation & communication; Advocacy & policy influence; Capacity & institutional development; Innovation & future-oriented roles



Afrobarometer

- 📍 Ghana
- 🌐 afrobarometer.org
- 🔗 [OTTD profile link](#)

Afrobarometer is a survey research organisation that collects reliable data on citizens' views of democracy, governance, and social and economic issues. Its [rigorous methodology](#) and nationally representative surveys have earned it recognition as the gold standard of research in Africa. Since its data are a public good, they are fully accessible through its website and an [Online Data Analysis Tool](#) that lets users generate insights and compare trends. Afrobarometer also institutionalises diversity and inclusion, ensuring gender parity among respondents and field teams. Women currently hold a majority of seats on [Afrobarometer's Governing Board](#). Regularly cited by [presidents](#), parliaments, and international partners, it ensures African voices inform governance and policy.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Knowledge translation & communication; Innovation & future-oriented roles; Political & civic roles; Advocacy & policy influence



Africa Policy Research Institute (APRI)*

- 📍 Germany and Nigeria
- 🌐 afripoli.org
- 🔗 [OTTD profile link](#)

APRI is an independent, non-partisan African think tank with offices in Berlin and Abuja. It researches key policy issues affecting Africa while informing German and EU policy processes and providing options for African policymakers. Recent initiatives include work on [Africa's Digital Agenda](#), combining continent-wide analysis with recommendations to support national digital transformation; [Reclaiming Our Future](#), which uses collaborative storytelling and research with young African change-makers to highlight resilience to climate challenges; and [Green Technology for Green Growth](#), which examines how indigenous technologies can generate youth employment, especially for women, while addressing climate change. These examples show how APRI advances proactive, African-centred perspectives by blending evidence, collaboration, and narrative to shape policy debates, while remaining relevant to its audiences in Europe.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence; Global & collaborative roles; Knowledge translation & communication



BudgIT*

📍 Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Senegal, the United States and Sierra Leone

🌐 budgit.org

📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

BudgIT is a civic tech think tank that facilitates budget reforms through institutional engagement, partnerships, innovation, and citizen mobilisation. It simplifies public information with creative technology to enable accountability and better service delivery. Recent initiatives include the [State of States Report 2024](#), which assessed primary healthcare across 36 states and became a reference point for policymakers and citizens; the [10th anniversary of Tracka](#), marked by the Active Citizens Festival, celebrating grassroots monitoring of public projects; and the launch of the [AI-driven chatbot BIM](#) under the new AI and Data for Society unit. These examples show how BudgIT combines civic tech, evidence, and mobilisation to advance accountability.

Categories: Innovation & future-oriented roles; Advocacy & policy influence; Political & civic roles; Knowledge translation & communication; Knowledge generation & analysis



Busara

📍 Kenya

🌐 busara.global

📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

Busara is a research and advisory organisation pioneering behavioural science in the Global South, working with partners to design and apply insights that advance poverty alleviation. In 2024, it launched [FARM Tales](#), an anthology using storytelling to make behavioural insights on food systems more accessible to local decision-makers. Busara also created the [Low-Cost Message Testing Guidebook](#), a freely available tool (English and Kiswahili) helping civil society craft and test advocacy messages; and [Tafakari 2025](#), Busara's yearbook, reframing debates on impact measurement and accountability. These examples highlight Busara's innovation in translating behavioural research into practical tools, narratives, and frameworks that empower communities, influence policy, and foster systemic change.

Categories: Innovation & future-oriented roles; Knowledge generation & analysis; Global & collaborative roles; Advocacy & policy influence; Knowledge translation & communication



Concorde Institute

📍 Gabon

🌐 institut-concorde.org

📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

Institut Concorde is a think tank dedicated to shaping public debate and building the country's largest network of national experts. It combines research, advocacy, and media engagement to influence policy and civic life. In 2024, it [produced a report on urban planning in Gabonese cities](#), presented to the mayor of Libreville, which contributed to the state equipping the capital and rural areas with new sports facilities. It also defended its ["community parking" project on national television](#), seeking to regularize the precarious situation of young people in informal urban parking. Additionally, an [article published in the national newspaper L'Union](#) highlighted the need to combat impunity. These initiatives show Institut Concorde's growing role as a catalyst for evidence-based solutions and civic engagement in Gabon.

Categories: Knowledge translation & communication; Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence; Capacity & institutional development



Heritage Institute for Policy Studies (HIPS)

📍 Somalia

🌐 heritageinstitute.org

📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

SHIPS is a research institute dedicated to producing evidence-based publications on Somalia's governance. It also facilitates dialogue forums and offers training programs for civil servants, women, and youth. Key initiatives include the [Annual Forum for Ideas](#), a platform gathering over 500 participants from Somalia, neighbouring countries, and the Somali diaspora to discuss peace, governance, and regional cooperation; the [Internship Program](#), which trains graduates in research, project management, leadership, and data analysis while linking academia to practice; and [the State of Somalia Report](#), the only comprehensive annual documentation led by Somalis on the country's developments. One to watch for its ability to combine research, dialogue, and capacity-building to strengthen governance in a fragile context.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Knowledge translation & communication; Capacity & institutional development; Global & collaborative roles



Institute of Security Studies (ISS)

- 📍 South Africa
- 🌐 issafrica.org
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

ISS is a multidisciplinary human security organisation, combining research, policy analysis, technical assistance and training to enable sustainable peace, development and prosperity. It supports policymaking by identifying future risks and opportunities. A key initiative is the [South Africa Violence Prevention Forum](#), convened by the ISS since 2015 to bridge the divide between research, policy, and practice, and enable the large-scale application of evidence on what works to prevent violence. After two years of consultation, the Western Cape Government allocated R45 million to implement family strengthening and parenting programmes, reaching 2,500 families. The methodology is also applied internationally by the INSPIRE working group. This demonstrates how collaborative approaches can translate research into scalable impact.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence; Capacity & institutional development; Innovation & future-oriented roles; Global & collaborative roles; Knowledge translation & communication



Jesuit Center for Theological Reflection (JCTR)

- 📍 Zambia
- 🌐 jctr.org.zm
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

JCTR is a faith-based organisation that promotes social justice through research, advocacy, education, and community engagement. Its [Basic Needs and Nutrition Basket](#) analysis is a monthly survey that tracks the cost of living in Lusaka and other towns, translating economic data into a simple household tool that informs debate and accountability. Through [Social accountability interventions](#), JCTR enables communities to monitor services, track resources, and engage duty-bearers to improve delivery, while its [Public Finance Management](#) advocacy highlights gaps in budgeting, expenditure, and debt management. JCTR's model shows how a church-affiliated think tank can influence policy and ensure that local discussions on economic issues are well-informed.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence; Capacity & institutional development; Political & civic roles; Knowledge translation & communication



Kenya Institute of Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA)*

- 📍 Kenya
- 🌐 kippra.or.ke
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

KIPPRA is a public institute that offers quality public policy advice to the Government of Kenya and other stakeholders. Its mandate includes conducting independent macroeconomic, sectoral, and interdisciplinary studies, providing advisory services, and disseminating findings through policy briefs, workshops, and conferences. KIPPRA regularly publishes [policy briefs across all 47 counties](#), addressing issues from public expenditure and financial accountability to local business environments and informal sector challenges. Its [Governance Department](#) focuses on devolution, institutional reform, land management, and transparency. As host of the [KIPPRA Annual Regional Conference](#), the institute convenes stakeholders to debate critical public policy issues.

Categories: Advocacy & policy influence; Knowledge generation & analysis; Knowledge translation & communication; Global & collaborative roles



New South Institute (NSI)

- 📍 South Africa
- 🌐 nsi.org.za
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

NSI is a think tank focused on democratisation through institution-building in societies emerging from colonialism, apartheid, military rule, or state socialism. In South Africa, it helped draft an amendment to the [Public Service Act of 1994](#) to rebalance power between ministers and senior officials, creating conditions for a more professional civil service. The bill passed the National Assembly in 2024 and is now before the provincial legislatures. With the Gordon Institute of Business Science, NSI has developed an MBA in public policy, launching in 2026, to prepare graduates for delivery challenges in the public sector. Its [Migration Governance Reform in Africa](#) programme has produced publications, informed African Union forums, and contributed to advisory panels, advancing migration policy in Africa. These examples demonstrate how NSI facilitates institutional reform, enhances capacity, and delivers applied research to support democratic governance.

Categories: Capacity & institutional development; Political & civic roles; Advocacy & policy influence; Global & collaborative roles



Nkafu Policy Institute

- 📍 Cameroon
- 🌐 nkafu.org
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

The Nkafu Policy Institute is the policy research arm of the Denis & Lenora Foretia Foundation. It provides independent, in-depth policy recommendations to foster free, fair, democratic, and sustainable economies across Africa. A flagship initiative is the [Central Africa Think Tank Forum](#), now complemented by the Emerging Leaders and Executive and Strategic Leadership Programmes as part of Think Tank Week. This integrated approach fosters multi-generational leadership, enhances institutional resilience, and facilitates high-level dialogue to address Central Africa's underdeveloped think tank infrastructure and limited regional integration. Participation has grown to over 200, with more than 20 think tanks forming cross-border partnerships and joint research projects, while organisations report improved capacity and influence.

Categories: Advocacy & policy influence; Global & collaborative roles; Capacity & institutional development



South African Institute for International Affairs (SAIIA)

- 📍 South Africa
- 🌐 saiia.org.za
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

SAIIA is an African think tank advancing evidence-based policy and inclusive dialogue. It supported the drafting of the AU's first collective climate response, the Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy (2022–2032). Through its youth submission to the African Peer Review Mechanism, it equipped young South Africans to shape governance reforms. Globally, it has strengthened Africa's voice in the G20, contributing research on sustainable finance and economic governance. Its Youth Futures initiative builds foresight and scenario planning capacities among African youth. These efforts underline SAIIA's role as both a trusted policy advisor and a convener of diverse voices for Africa's future.

Categories: Advocacy & policy influence; Knowledge translation & communication; Political & civic roles; Global & collaborative roles; Capacity & institutional development; Innovation & future-oriented roles



SouthSouthNorth (SSN)*

- 📍 South Africa
- 🌐 southsouthnorth.org
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

SSN is an organisation that advances climate and development through knowledge brokering, policy advice, and institutional capacity building. It supports governments and communities by aligning global climate agendas with local realities. Recent work includes the [High-Level Technical Dialogue on Climate Finance in Africa](#), which convened regional experts to push for accountability; [a publication on enhancing transparency of climate finance](#); and leadership in the [Voices for Just Climate Action partnership](#), producing community-led briefs on gender and climate justice. These initiatives show SSN's role as a bridge between global frameworks and inclusive, locally driven action.

Categories: Knowledge translation & communication; Advocacy & policy influence; Capacity & institutional development; Global & collaborative roles; Political & civic roles



The Okwelians

- 📍 Cameroon
- 📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

The Okwelians is a think-do tank engaging young generations in the sustainable transformation of Cameroon through leadership programmes, national convenings, and innovative methods of collective intelligence. Its flagship initiative, the [Okwelians Summit 2025](#), reimagined the African palabre tradition into an international economic dialogue, gathering 300 participants from 20+ nationalities and producing recommendations that fed directly into Cameroon's mid-term national development strategy (SND30). The ORCA Coalition and the publication of the Green Paper further accelerate the research-to-action cycle, with projects already underway in agriculture, artisan integration, and sustainable urban development, and with potential uptake in other Central African countries. In 2024, The Okwelians published [20 Proposals for Sustainably Transforming Cameroon](#), a national strategic synthesis co-created with 1,200+ citizens, proving the power of grassroots knowledge to shape policy.

Categories: Political & civic roles; Capacity & institutional development; Innovation & future-oriented roles; Advocacy & policy influence; Knowledge generation & analysis



WATHI - West Africa Citizen Think Tank

📍 Senegal

🌐 wathi.org

📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

WATHI is a citizen think tank with a mission to enrich public debate through the production of ideas, the dissemination of accessible knowledge, and the promotion of active citizenship. It fosters collective intelligence by creating inclusive debate spaces where citizens, experts, and decision-makers co-design solutions to the region's political, social, security, and environmental challenges. Through its Tribune section, WATHI invites citizens, researchers, and professionals to share analyses and proposals, democratising public expression beyond academic and institutional circles. With its flexibility and thematic agility, WATHI addresses diverse issues simultaneously, anticipating interconnections and providing comprehensive analyses relevant to West Africa's multidimensional challenges. This inclusive, citizen-driven model makes WATHI a unique voice shaping participatory governance and social transformation in the region.

Categories: Knowledge generation & analysis; Knowledge translation & communication; Political & civic roles; Global & collaborative roles; Innovation & future-oriented roles



ZeniZeni Sustainable Finance*

📍 South Africa

🌐 zenizeni.com

📄 [OTTD profile link](#)

ZeniZeni Sustainable Finance is an African-based think tank reimagining how financing decisions support sustainable development. It combines evidence-based policy analysis, strategic advisory services, and financial consulting to help institutions and governments filter choices through a sustainability lens. In 2025, ZeniZeni published Reframing Misleading Narratives Around Adaptation Finance, which challenges prevailing assumptions in adaptation finance and advocates for grant-based, needs-driven support in line with the new global climate finance goal. Its list of collaborators includes key development actors such as GIZ, the European Climate Foundation, and UN Women, illustrating its connections to global networks in climate, finance, and development. By bridging regional insight with international reach, ZeniZeni models how think tanks in Africa can help shape sustainable finance agendas from within the continent.

Categories: Innovation & future-oriented roles; Knowledge generation & analysis; Advocacy & policy influence; Global & collaborative roles.

100 Think Tanks to watch 2025

