Peace Mapping Programme

IRD Directory Report:

Methodology and Data Collection

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1. What is the IRD Directory?

The Interreligious Dialogue Directory (IRD Directory), presented in the form of an interactive map, serves as an information source to locate organizations active in the field of interreligious/interfaith dialogue (IRD) with international outreach in the world.

The IRD Directory is a central part of the Peace Mapping Programme. The Peace Mapping Programme aims to:

- display and analyse the breadth of the interreligious dialogue (IRD) activities and the numerous ways its practitioners engage in positive peace building and interreligious and intercultural understanding;
- describe the interreligious/interfaith dialogue activities in the context of and in relation to both vulnerability and stabilizing factors that shape human dynamics today;
- enhance networking among practitioners of interreligious/interfaith dialogue;
- become a platform to present IRD activities, so as to broaden the user’s knowledge about interreligious/interfaith dialogue initiatives and actors around the world.

On the one hand, the Peace Mapping Programme acknowledges and documents existing tensions and conflicts in the name of religion. On the other, it documents the numerous actions of those people who seek to bridge differences through interreligious dialogue.

The IRD Directory is a tool for students, researchers, policymakers, practitioners and dialogue experts to learn about several hundred organizations that are committed to interreligious dialogue: be it conflict resolution, upholding human rights, education or development. The tool shows ongoing developments in organizations involved in IRD activities and shows how religion is part of the solution of peace and capacity building. It is also a public source for civil society and education professionals who are interested in IRD. Furthermore, the IRD Directory represents a unique tool for organizations involved in IRD activities to support networking,
save time in IRD data mining, and increased understanding of the large variety and number of the IRD activities that are currently happening around the world.

By focusing on organizations that are active internationally, we cover just the tip of the iceberg of organizations involved in IRD activities. There is much activity on national, sub-national and grassroots-level worldwide. However, our focus allows us to cover nearly exhaustively the organizations engaged in IRD activities internationally in the world. We do cover organizations that run websites in major world languages (English, Spanish, Catalan, Portuguese, Mandarin Chinese, Hindi, Arabic, Russian, French and German).

As of 10 September 2015, we entered 421 organizations that are involved in IRD activities, have an international outreach, as well as a web presence.

1.1. Which organizations are included in the IRD Directory?

The selection of the organizations included in the IRD Directory is based on three criteria:

1. The organization proclaims to have IRD activities or programmes;
2. The organization has international outreach; and
3. The organization has own website.

The first criterion means that the organization is considered for inclusion in the directory if its mission statement or its programme explicitly refers to interreligious or interfaith dialogue or the website states that the entity is engaged in activities in the field of IRD. The inclusion of such an organization further depends on whether it has international outreach. We define international outreach as having offices in more than one country, or activities and programmes in more than one country, or more than one founding country. Due to the methodology of the search, only the organizations having their own website can be included in the IRD Directory. As a result the IRD Directory includes organizations involved in IRD activities with international outreach. It includes not only organizations with a main focus on IRD, but also organizations with other main focuses such as peace.
building, education or humanitarian aid, as long as those organizations explicitly claim interreligious or interfaith dialogue as a part of their activities toolkit. Some organizations may not be widely known for or do not label themselves as organizations involved in IRD activities; here, it needs to be mentioned that the decisive factor is that the organization is involved in IRD and not that the organization refers to itself as an IRD organization.

We do not impose any definition or understanding of IRD. The IRD definition of organizations in the directory may differ from the ones used by KAICIID. The IRD Directory includes organizations that label themselves as organizations involved in IRD activities. An important part of the directory is to document the organizations’ understanding of IRD through the category *Understanding of Interreligious Dialogue.*

### 1.2. How do we categorize organizations?

The KAICIID Research Department has developed a set of typology to cover all organizations with an international outreach, assigning each of them codes. This typology is based on an obligatory *Type 1* and an optional *Type 2* classification.

Type 1 is generally based on legal-status differences between the organizations. The IRD Directory lists the following Type 1 classes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 1: Types of Organizations - Type 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Intergovernmental Organizations</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>An intergovernmental organization is an organization composed of more than one founding country, or of other intergovernmental organizations. They are established by treaty or other agreement that acts as a charter creating the group.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>National Governmental Organizations</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>A national governmental organization is an organization funded by or a part of governmental, regional or municipal entities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-Governmental Not-For-Profit Organizations</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A non-governmental not-for-profit organization is an organization that is principally independent from governments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
and organized on a local, national or international level to address issues in support of the public good.

**Commercial Enterprises**

A commercial enterprise is an enterprise that has a profit motive such as non-governmental firms or companies.

**Universities and Educational Institutions**

This type includes universities, department of universities, colleges and other institutions providing higher education.

**Networks**

This type includes non-formally organized individuals, non-formal movements, organizations without legal entity, Facebook groups etc.

The Type 2 classification is used to refine a level of structure to Type 1 that may or may not be assigned depending on the availability of additional information. The IRD Directory lists the following Type 2 classes:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>TABLE 2: Types of Organizations - Type 2</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faith-based Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>A faith-based organization is an organization emanating from religions, fraternities, and religious orders that explicitly state the religious affiliation or faith based character. Faith-based relief organizations also fall into this type.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Foundation                               |
| A foundation is an organization that received funds for the permanent support for its existence and fulfilment of its mission. In the IRD Directory this applies if an organization describes itself as a foundation. |

| Research Institute, Think Tank           |
| This type refers to an institute, corporation, or group organized for interdisciplinary or applied research. |

| Autonomous Conference                   |
| An autonomous conference is not an organization as such but represents a continuing series of international meetings, which can be assumed to refer to an international body. Its sole purpose is to convene (periodical) conferences. |
This type refers to organizations founded by an initiative and through a significant effort of an individual with a strong personal vision and mission for the organization.

2. Data collection process and rules

From April 2014 onwards, the KAICIID Research Department has been searching for organizations that meet the set criteria described in Part 1. The search efforts were conducted in major world languages English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, German, Russian, Hindi, Mandarin Chinese and Arabic. Seven research assistants being proficient in at least two of the languages searched for organizations using a set of keywords in the respective languages.

The notion of ‘dialogue’ is not a universal one. Even though this concept is frequently used as a loanword in other languages, there are a number of synonyms in every language that have to be taken into account.

2.1. Which keywords do we use for the identification of organizations included in the IRD Directory?

We search on the organization’s website, mainly their mission statement or pages displaying their programs and activities, and use the following keywords:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>TABLE 3: Keywords</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>English</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>interreligious dialogue [encounter]</td>
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<tr>
<td>inter-religious dialogue [encounter]</td>
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<tr>
<td>interfaith dialogue [encounter]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inter-faith dialogue [encounter]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dialogue [encounter] between religions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Buddhist] [Christian] [Jewish] [Muslim] [Hindu] dialogue</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
interfaith harmony

communal harmony

**Spanish**

*interreligious dialogue:* Diálogo interreligioso

*interfaith dialogue:* Diálogo interconfesional

*dialogue between religions:* Diálogo entre religiones

**Catalan**

*interreligious dialogue:* Diàleg interreligios

*interfaith dialogue:* Diàleg interconfessional

*dialogue between religions:* Diàleg entre religions

**Portuguese**

*interreligious dialogue:* Diálogo inter-religioso

*interfaith dialogue:* Diálogo interconfessional

*dialogue between religions:* Diálogo entre religiões

**French**

*interreligious dialogue:* Dialogue interreligieux

*interfaith dialogue:* Dialogue interconfessionel

*dialogue between religions:* Dialogue entre religions

**German**

*interreligious dialogue:*

interreligiöser Dialog

interreligiöse Begegnung

Dialog zwischen Religionen

**Arabic**

*interfaith dialogue [cooperation]:*

تعاون بين الأديان

حوار الأديان

*dialogue among followers of religions:*

حوار بين أتباع الأديان

**Mandarin Chinese**

*interreligious dialogue:*

宗教对话

跨宗教对话

宗教間對話
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Hindi</strong></th>
<th><strong>Russian</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>communal harmony:</strong></td>
<td><strong>interreligious dialogue:</strong> межрелигиозный диалог</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sampradayalk Samanatha</td>
<td><strong>inter-confessional dialogue:</strong> межконфессиональный диалог</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sampradayik Sammela</td>
<td><strong>dialogue among religions:</strong> диалог между религиями</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In disputable cases where keywords did not support a clear decision whether to include an organization, we listed it on an offline ‘Notion List’. In future, if KAICIID chooses to broaden the criteria, especially in regards to IRD activity, the information can be easily accessed. Examples for such cases:
- An organization clearly indicates on the mission statement not to be considered to be an IRD organization;
- An organization that uses the term ‘interreligious diplomacy’;
- An organization that uses the term ‘intercultural dialogue’ in regards to different religious groups; and
- An online platform that offers materials to learn about other faiths and provides a space for an online community to engage in a global dialogue about religion.

We included an organization with international outreach and an official website in the IRD Directory, if it used at least one of those keywords mentioned above on their website. We systematically filled in predefined categories of the directory primarily taken from the organization’s website. If a category was not relevant to the directory, we stated ‘not applicable’ (n.a.). If information was missing on the website, we indicated ‘no information’ (n.i.) or tried to fill the gaps in the information by additional sources that are acknowledged in the respective category ‘Additional Sources’. Furthermore, we sought for those missing information throughout the validation process (see below Part 3 and 4).

3. What is the content of the IRD Directory?

The data collected in the IRD Directory originate from the organizations themselves, from their respective public websites. The information was collected by the KAICIID PMP team over an eighteen month period, searching the web, as well as contacting organizations directly. If other sources have been used to complement the information from the organizations websites, they are cited under “Additional Sources”. The editorial intent is not to provide a judgment or definition of an organization. Priority is normally given to providing a profile in the words of the organization itself. The information is at no time considered complete; rather it reflects a work in progress and reflects the organizations’ self-representation.
3.1. **What information do we include?**

The information card always includes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 4: Variables</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organization Name in English</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Aim</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Website</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Office Location(s)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Understanding of Interreligious Dialogue</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
General Activities
This section provides an overview of the main activities and programmes of the organization, excluding its interreligious activities. It may include a broad variety of activities (e.g. activities focusing on human rights or humanitarian aid) since many of the organization do not primarily focus on IRD activities.

IRD Activities
A summary of the organization's activities and programmes with explicit focus on interreligious dialogue as an end or as a mean for achieving other goals. In addition, the geographical locations of the given interreligious dialogue activities are indicated.

Events
The information on events includes the year of the event, the title and the location of the event (conference, seminar, etc.). We take note of the most significant/largest events organized each year since 2000 to date.

Publications
The IRD Directory lists titles of publication series, important books and other relevant materials that have been published since 2000. To distinguish between publication series and other publication the term periodical is added within the brackets containing the publication year.

Focus of Activity
The focus of the activity indicates the geographical focus of the organization's activities; the names of countries or regions (regional division follows the classification of the Statistics Division of the United Nations Secretariat (exception: Kosovo is defined as a country, the term Middle East is composed of the regions Northern Africa and South-Western Asia).

Religious Affiliation
The religious affiliation of the organization is indicated only if explicitly stated on the website of the organization. The categories of religious affiliation are the following: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Secular, Other (at the moment Other includes Jainism and Shintoism), and No Information, if an affiliation is not stated.
Languages

The section ‘Languages’ indicates the official and other working languages used by the organization on their website.

Staff

In ideal cases, the number of paid and voluntary staff is indicated. Most often, organization list staff members without distinguishing between full-, part-time employees and volunteers.

History

This section contains a brief history of the organization including date and location of founding, as well as other information on the history and changes in structure or name.

Keywords

The keywords describe activities of the organization and the ways how they conduct these activities. The first is labelled “Areas of Action”, the latter “Forms of Action”. They were developed and assigned by the KAICIID PMP team based on the information on activities and programmes described on the website of the organizations. One organization may be involved in more than one area of action (e.g. peace, freedom of speech, inter-religious dialogue) and form of action (e.g. educational programmes, publication, diplomacy). The organization may also be engaged in actions that are not listed here. Read more about the keyword development in section 3.2 below.

Depending on the availability of data, the IRD Directory may include:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>TABLE 5: Variables</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Acronym</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organization Name(s) in Other Languages</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where appropriate, names in other languages stated by the organization itself are also given.

**Other Name(s)**
If the organization had any previous official name(s), they are indicated in this section.

**Bearer of Legal Status**
If the entry in the IRD Directory refers to an initiative or a project, this section contains the information on the bearer of its legal status.

**Additional Sources**
In case parts of the description of the organization is taken from secondary sources, the name and/or the website of the source is given.

**Other Office Location(s)**
Other office locations can be found below the address of the main office. The secondary addresses refer to registered offices, continental regional offices, information offices, or addresses for additional correspondence. Up to four secondary addresses are listed below the main address in the section ‘Office Location(s)’.

**Founded**
The foundation year of the organization appears in this section.

**Structure**
The structure primarily lists decision-making organs and structure of the organization, together with some indication of the frequency of meetings of its decision-making bodies (where available) and of composition of the executive body.

**Financing**
If available, the organization’s sources of funding and/or the annual budget figure are indicated in this section.

**Status**
In this section the information whether the organization is active or inactive/dormant/dissolved is provided.

**Last Update**
This section provides the date of the latest content update of the entry.
3.2. **Keywords describing the activities of the organizations (semantic map)**

Developed and assigned by the KAICIID PMP Team, the semantic map is based on the information on activities and programmes provided by the organizations themselves. The semantic map consists of keywords labelling defining types of activities (**Areas of Action**) and ways how they are conducted (**Forms of Action**). A keyword is always a combination of one area of action and one form of action; for example *Interreligious Dialogue (educational programmes)*. One organization may be involved in more than one area of action and form of action and may be also engaged in actions that are not listed here.

**Areas of Action:** peace, freedom, freedom of speech, freedom of movement, freedom of religion, democracy, environment, pluralism, dialogue, interreligious/interfaith dialogue, intra-religious/intra-faith dialogue, intercultural dialogue, youth, women’s rights, minority rights, humanity, humanitarian aid and own religion.

**Forms of Action:**

*Forms of Action* always refer to *Areas of Action*. This means that a *Form of Action*, e.g. *publication*, can only be indicated in the context of an *Area of Action*, e.g. *peace*.

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<th>TABLE 6: Forms of Action</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Physical Protection</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Educational Programmes</strong></td>
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1 In this case the Area of Action is ‘Interreligious Dialogue’ and the Form of Action is ‘educational programmes’.
**Publication**

*Publication* is used if an organization produces reports, books, articles, newsletters, multimedia etc. on the topics listed under *areas of action*.

**Empowerment**

For instance, the keyword *empowerment* is used in the context of women’s empowerment; to participate fully in economic life across all sectors to improve the quality of life for women, men, families and communities.

To indicate this keyword in an organization’s entry in the IRD Directory, it has to be explicitly mentioned by the organization on their website.

**Diplomacy**

In the IRD Directory the keyword *diplomacy* mainly refers to official negotiation efforts on an inter-governmental/international level.

**Physical Building**

*Physical building* is used when an organization is involved in actual building or reconstruction work such as peace gardens or reconstruction of buildings after a disaster.

**Capacity Building**

The keyword *capacity building* is used when an organization is involved in the development and strengthening of human resources, e.g. workshops or vocational education, or institutional resources, e.g. building institutional capacity (know how) within a peacebuilding or state-building process.

**Campaigning**

If an organization promotes topics listed in the *areas of action*, the keyword *campaigning* is used. *Campaigning* can be seen as activities designed to produce a particular outcome; e.g. IRD to bring people of different religions together to increase the understanding of the *other*.

**Lobbying**

*Lobbying* is the act of attempting to influence decisions made by officials in a government, most often legislators or members of regulatory agencies. Since it is generally perceived as ethically and morally double-edged, we assign this keyword solely in the case it is explicitly mentioned by the organization on their website.
Networking

Networking is used when the organization considers networking as a way to achieve its programmatic goals and activities or when it provides a platform to exchange information and develop professional or social contacts (e.g. the organization of conferences or symposia offering the possibility to network with other organizations, stakeholders, decision makers etc.)

Public Relations

The keyword *public relations* is indicated if an organization advertises for its programmatic aims and the organization itself; e.g. brochures or videos.

Research

*Research* is used if an organization produces its own research such as research reports, opinion polls, basic research etc.

Social Work

The keyword *social work* mainly refers to activities focused on work with and for people in need, such as social work in retirement homes, in facilities for the handicapped or in refugee camps.
The keyword matrix is available as a **search tool on the website**; it is divided into the section *Areas of Action* and *Forms of Action*.

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3.3. Reliability of Sources / Additional Sources

When we were unable to get the information to fill the IRD Directory fields directly from the website of the organization, we consulted secondary sources such as online databases (Yearbook of International Organizations or Interfaith Directory), websites of organizations active in the field of IRD (Religions for Peace, UNESCO, Anna Lindh Foundation), Facebook page of and created by the organizations, inter-religious organizations and networks, published academic work on organizations, and quality newspapers.

Whenever possible, we gave priority to the organization's self-description in the secondary sources. Secondary sources were only used if the information on the official website was not sufficient completing the entry in the directory.

4. How do we validate the data?

After we collected all available information for the IRD Directory from the online resources described above, we validated the information by contacting the organizations directly. The aim was to seek feedback on the accuracy of the information we collected and also to fill the gaps of the information unavailable to us through online search.

The process of contacting an organization was the following:

- First we sent out an initial email introducing the Peace Mapping Programme and informed the organization that they will be part of the IRD Directory. We asked them for their feedback on the information we collected or information we couldn’t retrieve from their website. The email included an editable spreadsheet containing selected IRD Directory variables and an additional non-editable file containing all the collected information. This process was a compromise between getting a reasonable response rate and an editable file that would have been too large and time consuming to fill in had it included all the variables in the editable Excel sheet.
- In the event of that there was no response, we sent an email reminder and later a second round of reminders.
- When no response was received to the reminders, we contacted the organizations by phone.

The first validation emails were sent on 1 April 2015. As of 10 September 2015, 79 organizations (out of 369 organizations) had replied to the validation email. This is a response rate of 21 percent. However, the validation process is still underway.

4.1. What information do we focus on when contacting an organization?

Most of the organizations that responded to the validation corrected parts of information included in the spreadsheet or in the PDF document (less than 5 stated that the information was accurate and did not suggest any changes).

During the validation we focused on fields that had missing information such as Staff or Finances or fields that included important information in relation to the IRD Directory such as General Activities or IRD Activities.

4.2. The choice of organization for a phone call validation

The validation by phone was carried out during the months of July and August and therefore several organizations were closed and/or the staff was on vacation. It is likely that from September onwards more responses could be expected.

The first way of phone call validation process included 45 organizations that were among those that did not respond to our email validation requests. Out of those contacted by phone, 5 delivered the information we requested as of 10 September 2015. During the phone call phase of validation we encountered the following problems:
• The phone number of the organization could not be detected;
• The call was not answered or only voicemail could be reached;
• The organization requested to resent the initial email including all information, but until this date no information had been received;
• The relevant contact person was not available, did not work at the organization anymore or did not call back; or
• The relevant contact person was not allowed to provide the information or to give an email address over the phone.

4.3. How do we update the database? (Period of Validation)

After the official launch of the Peace Mapping Programme Website in September 2015, we will update the information on a yearly basis. We will continue to search for organizations on the internet, and we will also continue to validate information by sending out collective emails and placing selective calls.

Next expected validation: September 2016.

5. How to search in the online IRD Directory?

You can explore the IRD Directory in different ways:

• find organizations by name, location, keyword, or type of activities via the interactive map, the timeline or the search function;
• find organizations by the type of activities they are engaged in, via the tabs Areas of Action and/or Forms of Action;
• display your search results in the map or
• view your selection in a list that appears over the map;
• export the information in an Excel spreadsheet.

Explore the IRD Directory
Zoom in and out of the map to find offices of the organizations involved in IRD activities internationally in your region of interest.

Click on the dots representing the offices of the organizations in the Directory to learn more about them and their activities. Learn about where they have their IRD activities (countries in focus will turn green).

Click on countries of interest and find out which organizations are working on IRD there. Download the search results.

Find the headquarters and secondary offices of the organizations in the directory by following the connecting lines to find where their secondary offices are (a star-like shape around a dot represents a secondary office).

Learn about the type of organizations through the legend in the lower left-hand side of your screen.

**Search the IRD Directory via the search function**

Enter a keyword into the search field at the top left-hand side of the screen. The results of the search will allow you to view or download the organizations in the directory linked to this keyword (full text search).

You can make specific queries by introducing a field name to your search, e.g.:

- headquarters: Vienna, for organizations with an HQ in Vienna.
- location: India, for organizations with an office in India.

The following fields are available in the search box:

- name, headquarters, location, aim, website, foundation, definition, structure, events, publications, region focus, religious-affiliation, finances, history, activities, keywords.

**Search the IRD Directory via Areas of Action and/or Forms of Action**
Explore the organizations in the directory by clicking on the tabs ‘Areas of Action’ and/or ‘Forms of Action’. You can also select more than one sub-category at a time to refine your search. You can download your search results.

6. How to download information from the IRD Directory?

You can download the information in the IRD Directory to your computer in a csv file (Excel spreadsheet).

Download any search result by clicking on the ‘List’ button next to the search field. Then use the ‘Download’ button on the bottom right corner of the pop-up window.

You can also download data on the information card displaying details of each organization in a pop-up field. The ‘Download’ button can be found on the bottom left-corner of the information card.

7. Editorial Note

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