# BUILD UP ∧

[Build Up](#) is seeking four motivated social media researchers to support a multidimensional intervention as part of the Digital MAPS program: a partnership between the British Council, Build Up, datavaluepeople, the American University of Kurdistan, and Sheffield University. We are seeking one researcher with expertise in each of the following countries: Jordan, Yemen, Libya and Tunisia.

The aim of the program is to bring together local media and arts actors from eight countries (Iraq, Jordan, Yemen, Libya, Tunisia, Lebanon, Occupied Palestinian Territories, and Syria) to conduct participatory research on social media that identifies polarizing dynamics online, and pilot interventions that address these dynamics online, with the larger goal of promoting social cohesion and inclusion through their initiatives. Each country team will attend participatory workshops to understand their context's Networked Public Space (NPS), identify their research questions, refine their methodology for using a social media data dashboard, and then design and pilot interventions to address the identified issues.

Each of the four researchers will collaborate with one country team according to the tasks and deliverables outlined below, working under the guidance of Build Up's research lead.

## Description of Tasks and Deliverables

| Task/Deliverable | Description | Number of days | Timeline |
|---|---|---|---|
| Initial scoping paper | Each researcher will be responsible for an initial scoping paper of the NPS in one research country. Each 2-4 page paper will provide contextual knowledge to inform the design of the research and the analysis of research findings, drawing on secondary literature only. | 5 | Final draft due on October 27 |
| Inputs to methodology note | Each researcher will be responsible for sharing feedback on the draft methodology produced by Build Up to guide local actors' research. | 3 | Inputs due by October 29 |
| Inputs to data sources and data tagging | Each researcher will contribute to the identification of social media data sources (e.g. Facebook pages, Twitter handles, etc) and to manual tagging of scraped data to train an automatic tagging model. | 5 | Throughout November |
| Draft analysis | Each researcher will support a | 4 | Throughout |

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|---|---|---|---|
| | country team in identifying insights from a social media dashboard and combining them with supplemental qualitative and contextual research, with emphasis on social boundary mechanisms and the effects of the structure of the NPS on polarisation dynamics. Researchers will also produce preliminary recommendations for local actors to consider as they design their online initiatives to promote inclusion and social cohesion. | | December and January |
| Evaluation of initiatives | Each researcher will be responsible for evaluating the online initiative(s) in one country, using the social media dashboard and with support from Build Up's research lead. | 5 | Throughout February and March |

## Selection Criteria

We are seeking <u>one </u>local researcher for each of Jordan, Libya, Tunisia, and Yemen. Applicants for the researcher position must have:

- Demonstrated knowledge of and motivation for addressing polarization dynamics online through transformative and participatory approaches
- Strong contextual knowledge of the respective research country is required. Knowledge of local actors and media/arts-related civil society initiatives preferred.
- Demonstrated experience in designing and conducting social media research
  - Knowledge of data tagging processes strongly preferred
  - Familiarity with automated dashboards and data visualizations strongly preferred
- Experience in online analysis of conflict contexts strongly preferred, especially scoping of NPS and identification of relevant issues, actors, and topics in politically charged online environments.
- Fluency in Arabic and English is required. Working knowledge of any other national languages for respective research countries is required. Fluency in written and spoken dialects of respective research countries is also required, i.e. conversational Tunisian Arabic, written Arabizi and other relevant dialects.

## Compensation and timeline

The tasks outlined above must be completed in a total of 22 working days, divided as shown above. The daily rate for each researcher is £365. The total compensation for these deliverables is £8,030 (GBP).

Project start date: October 15, 2021
Project end date: March 30, 2022

To apply, please send your CV or resume to [mira@howtobuildup.org](mailto:mira@howtobuildup.org) by October 11, 2021. References are not required. Examples of similar work are encouraged.

## About Us

Build Up transforms conflict in the digital age by combining peacebuilding best practices, participatory methodologies and digital technologies to identify and address emergent challenges to peace. We are a US non-profit 501(c)3 organization founded in 2014, with team members currently based in France, Germany, Kenya, Lebanon, the UK, and the US.

We use digital technologies to build peace: we support peace innovators across the globe, working with local organisations to design and implement technology interventions for peacebuilding processes that address divisions in society. We transform conflicts that happen in digital spaces: we conduct research and interventions to address polarization on social and digital media in contexts across the globe.

To support these two core programs, we also develop policy and research around the uses of digital technology for peace, deliver online and in-person training courses, and host a global community of practice around peace and technology, convened at an annual conference.

We are a collaborative team and work together to support ourselves and others as whole people. We support each other to do well collectively and individually. We work with autonomy, trust and honesty. We work to be vulnerable and welcome learning from each other and from other people; we respect and work to reflect the ways in which our own lived experiences contribute to our peacebuilding work.