

## YLH Social Entrepreneurship Challenge on eHealth 2019

The YLH Social Entrepreneurship Challenge on eHealth is an annual event that gives students and young professionals a voice as they brainstorm project ideas in the field of eHealth with international and multidisciplinary peers. For its third edition, the four day challenge was hosted for the third time consecutively by the CIEE Global Institute in Berlin, Germany, between 13th-16th June 2019. This year, 28 participants from various backgrounds and disciplines worked towards one common goal. They all strived to find innovative and sustainable solutions to improve air quality and lower the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) on human health. After being assigned into six interdisciplinary groups guided by a designated mentor, they competed to develop and pitch sustainable and deployable projects to a selective jury panel. At the end of the event, one team was selected as a candidate to receive additional support to further develop and deploy their project ideas.

The topic 'NCDs & Air Quality' was chosen by the YLH committee as there is an urgent need for readjusting the global course. Eight million lives are lost annually due to polluted air. This number is set to increase by 50% in the next 30 years if no aggressive interventions are undertaken. The majority of the disease burden of air pollution can be attributed to NCDs, primarily causing cardiovascular disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and lung cancer. The high burden of disease combined with the rapid worsening of the situation calls for swift solutions. These solutions can be delivered by the emerging field of eHealth. eHealth exists at the intersection of technology and healthcare and provides a platform for rapid innovations that can be deployed globally. By encouraging the participants of the YLH Social Entrepreneurship Challenge on eHealth to use eHealth tools when tackling Air Quality & NCDs, solutions that can address real world problems could be found.

The 2019 edition of the YLH Social Entrepreneurship Challenge on eHealth was organised by fourteen highly motivated students and young professionals from all over the world. The organising committee featured members from eleven different countries and five different continents. Even considering that they only met in person at the Challenge in Berlin, the organising committee had been in constant communication for six months prior to the event. This has been achieved through various modes of online communication and the division of the team into subgroups. Subgroups for participant management, fundraising, speaker and mentor acquisition, social media, logistics, and content work were set up. The same approach to interdisciplinarity that was undertaken when selecting participants was applied to the organising committee, in which 11 different professions were represented from a broad range with backgrounds such as political and social sciences, economics, and public health.

During the four day event, twenty-eight participants from eighteen countries worked towards their common goal. Three experts in the fields of eHealth, air quality, and NCDs provided the participants with valuable input in the form of keynote speeches. Additional workshops by four workshop conductors aided the teams in the design and presentation of their projects. Equipped with the necessary knowledge, the participants were divided into six groups that had two days to develop a project they are passionate about. On the last day of the Challenge, a three minute pitch of the projects ideas followed by a four minute Q&A response was presented the three jury members. The jury chose the project DEEP BREATH to be the most promising. This project will be supported by YLH with numerous prizes to become reality.

