

## **International Course on Public Policies in Human Rights 2018 Edition**

This edition of the International Course on Public Policies in Human Rights is organized jointly by the Institute of Public Policies in Human Rights of MERCOSUR (IPPDH) and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (CIDH). This training proposal aims to give it a greater geographical and thematic scope, and a special emphasis on the role of the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights in the cycle of public policies in a human rights approach.

It is a blended course that takes place in three stages. The first stage is virtual, of 9 weeks duration through the virtual campus of the International School of the IPPDH. The second stage on-site and mandatory for 5 days at the IPPDH headquarters in Buenos Aires. Also, this edition of the course incorporates the possibility of opting for a specialization in the Inter-American System by assisting to an optional week to be held within the framework of the 170 th Regular Session of the IACHR (at the headquarters of the Commission in Washington DC or in a host Member State) or by presenting a research work.

### **Institutional framework:**

The Institute of Public Policies in Human Rights of MERCOSUR (IPPDH) is an intergovernmental organization created in 2009 by Decision of the Common Market Council (CMC) 14/09, whose main functions are technical cooperation, research, training and support in the coordination of regional human rights policies.

The objective of the IPPDH is "to contribute to the strengthening of the Rule of Law in the States Parties, through the design and monitoring of public policies on Human Rights, and to contribute to the consolidation of Human Rights as a fundamental axis of the identity and development of MERCOSUR". Additionally, it specifies among its functions "to provide technical assistance for the development of training activities in the promotion and protection of Human Rights, for officials of the Human Rights institutions of the States Parties".

A principal, autonomous body of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Commission has a mandate to promote respect for and to defend human rights in the region and acts as a consultative body to the OAS in this area. It was created by the OAS in 1959 and installed in 1979.

The mandate of the IACHR is established in Article 106 of the OAS Charter, as well as in the American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San José), adopted on November 22, 1969, entering into force on July 18. of 1978. The IACHR performs its functions based on three pillars of work: the system of individual petitions; monitoring of the human rights situation in the Member States and advice and technical cooperation with the States. Among the functions of the IACHR are: to stimulate awareness of human rights and carry out promotion and training activities for public officials and members of civil society organizations.

The IPPDH is a technical instance of research in the field of public policies on human rights. Its strategic lines of work are approved by the Meeting of High Authorities on Human Rights and Foreign Ministries of the MERCOSUR (RAADH), to contribute to the fulfillment and guarantee of human rights, considered central axes of the integration of

MERCOSUR. Its structure was designed to fulfill its functions of research, training, technical advice in the formulation of public policies, as well as support in the field of communication in human rights.

For its part, the IACHR, through its Strategic Plan 2017-2021, established in its Strategic Objective 3 the impulse to institutional strengthening and capacity-building for action by organizations and networks of social actors in the defense of human rights. In particular, the Strategic Plan foresees the Expanded Program of Training and Promotion of Thought and Culture in Human Rights and a Program of Technical Cooperation in the Area of Institutionality and Public Policies in a human rights approach, through which it promotes public policies aimed at strengthening the respect for human rights as a central element of the processes for strengthening national capacities for the implementation of inter-American human rights standards.

In this institutional framework is conceived and developed the International Course on Public Policies in Human Rights, which already had two previous editions (year 2016 and year 2017), where its main objective was the construction of knowledge for the management of public policies from a perspective of human rights assuming theoretical frameworks and current and adequate tools. At the same time, it proposed a space for training and debate for the generation of "communities of practice" that address challenges facing public policy makers in the region today.

### **Recipients:**

The course is aimed at government officials responsible for the design, direction, execution and evaluation of public policies, members of organizations and social movements, academics and society in general of the Member States of MERCOSUR and the OAS.

There is a quota of 100 participants, of which one part will be designated directly by governmental authorities of the aforementioned States and another part will be selected through an open call.

In the selection process, an adequate geographical, disciplinary, gender and institutional ownership representation will be taken into account and the performance of decision functions and / or incidence in public policies will be valued in a special way. The requirements for selection used will be opportunely communicated with the opening of the call.

The course does not have a cost for the selected people, for which the participants will not have to pay a tuition for its realization. However, participants must cover all costs and expenses corresponding to participation in the scheduled face-to-face weeks, taking into account that the on-site week in Buenos Aires is mandatory for the approval of the course. The people who participate in the on-site instances must have international medical insurance under their care.

## **Objectives:**

The International Course on Public Policies in Human Rights seeks to train relevant actors of the region in the human rights approach in public policies. From a perspective that recognizes the advances and challenges in the region, it offers an approach to the experiences and challenges that the implementation of the human rights approach supposes for the state institutions.

## **Methodology:**

The study process offered through the International Course will combine theoretical and practical training in the fields of international human rights law, the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights, social sciences, and public administration, with the presentation of practical experiences of high impact for the guarantee of rights implemented in the States of the region in recent years.

The dynamics of exchange between the participants of the course, coming from the state, academic and civil society, constitutes in itself a forum to identify problems, obstacles, resources and opportunities with a view to strengthening institutions and policies focused on rights humans.

The virtual sessions will last 9 weeks and will give an opportunity to deepen specific aspects of the cycle of public policies from the perspective of rights and will analyze specific experiences in the countries of the region.

Throughout the modules of the virtual phase subgroups of work will be formed from common interests that will guide them to a specific axis of work. The subgroups will allow the exchange of reflections and experiences around the problems, obstacles, resources and opportunities that in each country are presented on the subject of common interest.

Likewise, the mandatory on-site phase will be developed in the City of Buenos Aires, during which the workshop methodology will be combined for 5 days, with seminars open to other audiences.

The workshops will allow sharing the work developed during the months of online exchange. These will include the holding of conferences on the various topics related to the management of public policy in a human rights approach, and discussion tables on the different topics worked on, thus facilitating spaces for dialogue and collective construction of knowledge, and also implementing colloquia on concrete experiences.

Also in this phase, seminars open to the public will be held in which theoretical aspects of the historical process of the region will be discussed. In this activity, whose theme will be defined in accordance with the strategic objectives of the IPPDH and the IACHR, and taking into account elements of the regional situation, masterly conferences of the highest level are contemplated, and it is also possible to analyze experiences and significant learnings of the approach of rights and the development of human rights policies in the countries of the region.

For its part, for the participants who choose to specialize in the inter-American system, the optional on-site phase within the framework of the 170 Regular Session of the IACHR, It will include specific sessions on the functioning of each one of the mechanisms of the IACHR, as well as discussions and reflections on the role of the Inter-American Human Rights System in matters of public policies in the States of the region.

Those who do not attend the optional face-to-face phase in the framework of the 170 Period of Ordinary Sessions of the IACHR, in order to obtain the aforementioned specialization, may opt for the realization and delivery of a written research work, based on a specific slogan that will be offered, with the aim of deepening knowledge about the Inter-American Human Rights System.

In conclusion, the International Course intends to integrate a theoretical-practical approach with the socialization of significant experiences of public policies on human rights. At the same time, it is considered as a dynamic tension of its proposal, to become a space for dialogue around the construction of rights, understood in the wide range that goes from social struggles to the effective satisfaction of them through public policies consistent with the needs and demands of the population.

**Course content:**

The course has a range of standing items with others circumstantial, from the historical dynamics of the region. In addition, the course aims to offer keys to the analysis of the main processes that the American region is going through and that represent challenges to the full validity of human rights.

The standing items offer a specific field of construction and management of public policies on human rights, which requires technical and political training with the capacity to generate proposals with an impact on the practices carried out by the States in their different instances. The experiences presented should allow us to identify, together with the tensions and challenges, some keys that guide future proposals.

**Virtual phase:**

This phase is aimed at developing technical and management aspects, favoring the analysis of specific experiences, in which the application or non-application of the general principles of the rights approach in the different phases of the public policy cycle will be made visible. The virtual phase will begin on September 11, culminating on November 12. After the completion of this phase, the participants will have a period of time to present their final works, which will be exposed within the framework of the mandatory face-to-face week in Buenos Aires.

**Table of Contents:**

	Module	Topic
Block 1	1	Course presentatio and familiarization with the virtual campus
	2	Human Rights, democracy and development
	3	Approach to the Inter-American Human Rights System
	4	Perspectives and debates around the social dimensions of regional integration processes
	5	Public policie. Conceptual notions
	6	Approaches for the management of public policies
Delivery of preliminary project: final work proposal		
Block 2	7	Human rights approach in public policies
	8	Equality and non-discrimination
	9	Production, access to information and participation in the cycle of public policies.
Final work delivery		

### **Mandatory on-site phase:**

The mandatory on-site phase in the City of Buenos Aires will take place from February 11 to 15, 2019, and will consist of training sessions in which the people who approved the virtual phase will participate.

The on-site training sessions will include the presentation of a series of contents related to the theme of public policies with a focus on human rights by experts in the field. Likewise, there will be an exchange of the works prepared by the participants, the sharing of significant experiences on the subject and the presentation of policies, processes and experiences of a regional or national nature. The workshop dynamics in the on-site phase will be the propitious space in which the participants of the course will be able to share and debate the products of the online training.

### **Optional on-site phase:**

This edition of the International Course will offer the possibility of having an additional specialized training in the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights. In effect, the course will also include, in addition to the mandatory face-to-face phase in the City of Buenos Aires, an optional face-to-face phase within the framework of the 170th Regular Session of the IACHR to be held between December 3 and 7, 2018 in the seat of the Commission in the City of Washington DC or in another member country of the OAS. The definition of the place of realization of this optional face-to-face phase will be informed to the participants during the first 30 days of the virtual phase.

Participants interested in this specialization who can not attend the optional week within the framework of the 170th Regular Session of the IACHR, will have the option of preparing a written investigation work on the Inter-American System, whose slogan it will be communicated in a timely manner. The optional on-site week consists of a training workshop with emphasis on contents of the Inter-American Human Rights System, including the exchange of experiences, challenges and good practices relevant to the subject. The sessions of the workshop will be in charge of Commissioners and Commissioners of the IACHR, as well as of the Human Rights Specialists of the Executive Secretariat of the IACHR and members of the IPPDH.

The participants of the course who have completed both the virtual phase and the mandatory on-site week, may opt to acquire this specialization by holding a training workshop within the 170th Period Ordinary Sessions of the IACHR or the aforementioned presentation of a written research paper.

### **Teaching staff:**

Each module will be in charge of course leaders, some members of the IPPDH staff and the IACHR, and others teachers will be invited (experts, teachers from other courses offered by the institute, previous participants of the international course). There will also be academic coordination and technical assistance, that will accompany the entire process and guide the participants in the preparation of their preliminary projects and final works.

On the other hand, there will be support by tutors (teachers of the course) who will guide the participants in the preparation of their preliminary projects and final works as well as assistance in relation to methodological tools. These tutors will be convened according to the thematic modules offered by the course and it is expected that each tutor can

accompany at least two participants. In addition to offering technical assistance, members of the IPPDH and IACHR team will correct the preliminary draft and the final work, and the written work on the Inter-American System in the corresponding cases.

On the other hand, the faculty of the on-site phase is made up of prominent figures from the world of politics, academia and social organizations, with experts and specialists in the issues raised.

### **Evaluation:**

To pass the Course it will be necessary to have participation in the forums of virtual debate and the preparation of both the preliminary draft and a final work, which will consist of a text in which a public policy proposal is developed from a human rights perspective or analyze an existing public policy based on the guidelines and principles addressed throughout the course.

The participants who decide to opt for specialization in the Inter-American System must attend the optional face-to-face phase within the framework of the 170 th Regular Session of the IACHR or submit a written research paper. The best texts can be disseminated through the IPPDH website and the IACHR.