

6th Edition of the International Course on Public Policies in Human Rights 2023

This is the sixth edition of the International Course on Public Policies in Human Rights, which is organized jointly by the MERCOSUR Institute of Public Policies on Human Rights (IPPDH) and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).

This is a hybrid course, with a first stage of 7 virtual modules that will begin in February 2023, and a second in-person stage in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where participants will present their final works and will have classes given by specialists in the various topics covered during the course (both phases are mandatory). Likewise, people who are interested may obtain a specialization in the Inter-American System and its mechanisms by conducting an optional virtual training workshop in March.

Institutional framework:

MERCOSUR Institute of Public Policies on Human Rights (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.

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's International School is a training and technical cooperation instance that meets the Institute's founding regulations. It is a center of high studies, which organizes and develops training and education activities, articulating political and academic knowledge of the highest level in dialogue with social knowledge, aimed at strengthening

government and policy management capacities with a rights-based approach, at the national, state/provincial, local and regional levels.

The IPPDH is a technical research body within the field of human rights public policies. Its strategic lines of work were approved by the Meeting of High Authorities on Human Rights of MERCOSUR (RAADH), to contribute in the fulfillment and guarantee of human rights, considered key aspects in 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 the promotion of human rights.

For its part, the IACHR has promoted the institutional strengthening and capacity building of organizations and networks of social actors in the defense of human rights. In particular, 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 InterAmerican human rights standards.

In this institutional framework is conceived and developed the International Course on Public Policies in Human Rights, which already had five editions since 2016, where the 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.

Participants:

Public officials responsible for the design, direction, execution and evaluation of public policies, members of social organizations and movements, academics from MERCOSUR member states and the OAS.

There is a quota of 100 participants who will be selected through an open call.

In the selection process, an adequate geographical, disciplinary, ethnic/racial, 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 course is offered free of charge. There is no cost of tuition or any other expenses.

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 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 human rights.

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 space for dialogue around the construction of rights, understood as 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 combines a range of ongoing topics and circumstantial ones based on the region's historical developments. In addition, it offers guidelines for the analysis of the main processes taking place in the American region and that represent challenges for human rights. The continuing topics address the construction and management of public policies on human rights. In turn, circumstantial topics are offered, taking into account the participants' interests and organizational institution's priorities

Virtual phase:

This phase seeks to develop technical and managerial aspects, promoting the study of practical experiences. It will also provide an opportunity to deepen on specific aspects of the public policy cycle with a rights-based perspective and analyze concrete examples from the countries of the region.

The virtual sessions are organized in 7 modules (one per week), beginning on February 2023.

In this edition, in addition to the mandatory and complementary theoretical contents that will be available each week together with the participation in the forum, there will be synchronous online classes taught by specialists from both institutions, focusing on the contents of the theme proposed. In these instances, we will encourage participants to actively participate and exchange ideas with each other. The classes will be recorded in case a participant is unable to attend (a minimum number of attendances is required to pass the virtual phase of the course)

After meeting the virtual participation requirements, participants will have time to submit their final papers, which they will present in the final week. Attendance is mandatory.

IMPORTANT: Approximately 4 to 6 hours per week are required to participate in the virtual phase, which includes participation in the forum and reading of theoretical materials proposed by the academic team.

Table of Contents:

Module	Date	Activity-Module 2023
1	14/02	Presentation of participants – welcome to the course
2	21/02	Democracy, Human Rights and Development
3	28/02	International Human Rights Law: regional integration, public policies and the Inter-American System.
	07/03	IAHRS and its mechanisms - optional week
4	14/03	Public policies from a human rights perspective: theoretical concepts
5	21/03	Management of public policies and the human rights approach
	28/03	Workshops: Final work - (groups of 25)
6	04/04	Information production, access to information and indicators system.
7	11/04	Participation in public policies
	18/04	Thematic modules
		FINAL WORK
	May	FINAL MANDATORY WEEK - Buenos Aires

Specialization in the IAHRS (Optional):

For participants who choose to specialize in the Inter-American System, the optional face to-face phase in Washington DC (or in another OAS member country) will include specific sessions on an introduction to 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.

It 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 Human Rights Specialists of the Executive Secretariat of the IACHR and members of the IPPDH.

Mandatory closing week:

The closing week will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Over the course of 5 days, the workshop approach will be combined with open seminars and conferences.

The week's training sessions are an opportunity to share the work done during the months of online exchange. It will include lectures on different topics regarding public policy management from a rights-based perspective and roundtable discussions on the different topics covered.

Acceptance requirements and participation in the course:

Those who are selected to be part of the sixth edition of the international course on public policies in human rights will be published on the website of both institutions and will receive a notice and a commitment letter that must be completed and sent signed. In this letter they must state their commitment to participate in all the activities of the course, including participation in the mandatory closing week. There will be a deadline for the submission of the letters, and those received after the stipulated date will not be accepted.

IMPORTANT: Once the virtual phase has started, those who do not participate in the campus in the first two weeks, will be automatically unsubscribed, leaving the place to those people who have been selected as substitutes.

Course approval:

The approval of the international course requires accomplishing the requirements of the virtual phase (mandatory participation in forums, participation in synchronous classes), the final work and elaborate the final work and attending the mandatory closing week in the city of Buenos Aires.

The preliminary draft is an exercise of application of the knowledge imparted in the framework of the course from a hypothetical or real situation proposed by the participant.

Once the preliminary project has been proofread, it will be enabled to prepare the final work that must be presented in the mandatory closing week.

The final work has the purpose of favoring the integration of the knowledge of the course. It is proposed that the final work be focused on a public policy on human rights, being able to assume two modalities: public policy proposal or public policy evaluation. The final paper is a requirement to complete the course. This work will be reviewed, and comments

will be sent that the participants can incorporate in their presentation during the mandatory closing week.

Those people who meet the requirements of the virtual phase and attend the mandatory closing week will obtain the certificate of approval of the course.

IMPORTANT: The content of the works and the interventions of the participants throughout the course will be considered as opinions and individual expressions. In this sense, the institutions do not offer their endorsement or compliance

Academic team:

Each module will be in charge of course leaders, some members of the IPPDH staff and the IACHR, and other 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 throughout the process. The IPPDH and IACHR teams will provide assistance and comments on the papers.