

5th Edition of the International Course on Public Policies in Human Rights 2021

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

It is a virtual course, with a first stage of 13 modules that will begin in May 2021, and a second stage 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 by conducting an optional 2-day training workshop in August, also in virtual mode.

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 InterAmerican 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's International School 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 InterAmerican human rights standards.

In this institutional framework is conceived and developed the International Course on Public Policies in Human Rights, which already had four previous editions (year 2016, year 2017, year 2018 and year 2019), 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.

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 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 does not have a cost for the selected people, for which the participants will not have to pay a tuition for its realization.

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:

VIRTUAL PHASE	May 11 to August 31, 2021.
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Presentation of the preliminary draft	July 2021
Final work	September 2021
Specialization on IAHRs	August 2021 (2-day training workshop)
Mandatory week (closing week)	First week of October 2021

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 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 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. In addition, we will give you the opportunity to deepen the aspects of the cycle of public

policies, the perspective of rights and the analysis of concrete experiences in the countries of the region.

The virtual sessions are structured in 13 modules (one per week, with weeks of review every 3 or 4 modules), which will begin on May 11 and end on August 31, 2021.

In this edition, in addition to the compulsory and complementary theoretical contents will be available each week along with the instructions for the participation in the forum, synchronous virtual classes will be held by specialists from both institutions who will develop the contents of the proposed thematic axis where they will have dynamic exchange with the participants of the course, in addition to the interventions made in the forum with the tutors. These classes will be recorded in case the participant is unable to participate during the established time.

Once the requirements of the virtual phase have been met (participation in the forums of each module and presentation of the preliminary project), the participants will have a period of time to present their final works, which will be exposed within the framework of the week of closure. Participation in this week 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 teaching team.

Table of Contents:

Module	Date	Activity-Module
1	11/05	Presentation of participants – course welcome
2	18/05	Democracy and Human Rights
3	25/05	Approach to the Inter-American Human Rights System
4	01/06	Regional integration, public policies and human rights
-	08/06	REVIEW WEEK
5	15/06	COVID-19 Pandemic and its impact on access to rights
6	22/6	Public policy. Conceptual notions
7	29/6	Approches for the management of public policies
	6/7	REVIEW WEEK 06/21 Delivery of preliminary draft
8	13/07	Equality and non-discrimination
9	20/7	Production, access to information



10	27/7	Indicators systems
-	3/8	Simultaneous virtual class doubts about Final Work- IACHR-IPPDH team Preliminary draft returns
11	10/08	Participation in public policies
12	17/08	Thematic modules
13	24/08	Thematic modules
	31/08	Specialization on IAHRs (optional)
	30/09	FINAL WORK SENDING
	Second week of October	FINAL MANDATORY WEEK (VIRTUAL MODE) – participants present their final work and attend panel with specialists

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:

Although in previous editions this instance was carried out in person, with compulsory attendance to obtain certification, the current context of the health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has led the organizing institutions of the course to redesign said phase and develop it in virtual format. It is important to specify that the completion of the closing week is mandatory.

The training sessions corresponding to the mandatory closing week will allow to share the work developed during the months of online exchange. This will include holding conferences on the various issues related to the management of public policies from a rights perspective and round tables on the different topics covered, facilitating spaces for dialogue and



collective construction of knowledge, and also implementing colloquiums on concrete experiences.

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 may also analyze experiences and significant learnings of the approach of rights and the development of human rights policies in the countries of the region.

Acceptance requirements and participation in the course

Those who are selected to be part of the fifth 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 which they take for granted their commitment to participate in all the activities of the course which includes participation in the mandatory closing week. There will be a deadline for receiving the letters, not accepting those that are received outside the stipulated date.

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, presentation of the final work topic and sending the preliminary draft), elaborate the final work and attending the mandatory week.

The preliminary draft is an exercise of application of the knowledge imparted in the framework of the course from a hypothetical or real situation posed 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 work, like the preliminary draft, are necessary requirements to complete the course. This work will be reviewed, and comments will be sent that the participants can incorporate in their presentation in 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

Teaching staff:



IPPDH
Instituto de Políticas Públicas
en Derechos Humanos



IACHR Inter-American
Commission on
Human Rights

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, that will accompany the entire process and guide the participants in the preparation of their preliminary projects and final works.

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