

Although Technical Assistance and Evaluation have always been part of the IECAH's mandate, in 2008 these two tasks were included in a specific area of the Institute's work scheme. Due to the IECAH's specialization, this area is directly related to the two main subjects of study – Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Action, summarized as the following:

#### Peacebuilding

- Prevention and resolution of violent conflicts.
- Post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction.
- Risk analysis.
- International security matters.
- Fragile states.
- Governance.
- Strengthening of civil society.

#### Humanitarian Action

- Monitoring of national and international actors' activity in the subject area.
- Promotion of initiatives for quality and improvement: standards, quality tools, transparency and accountability.
- Project Cycle Management.
- Evaluation.
- Risk Reduction and Management. Contingency plans.
- DRR.Vulnerability studies.
- Civil military coordination.
- Good Humanitarian Donorship.
- Monitoring of legal initiatives: International Humanitarian Law (IHL), International Criminal Court.

The Institute is part of the consortium INSPIRE -with Groupe Urgence-Réhabilitation-Développement (Groupe URD) and the Global Public Policy Institute (GPPi) - that has been selected to support the European Union's Humanitarian Aid Department (DG ECHO) in developing policies through research, workshop facilitation and the dissemination of results.

Throughout 2012 this consortium will provide DG ECHO with advice and expertise on critical humanitarian issues such as gender, nutrition, protection, water and sanitation, and other sectors and issues.

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# .iecah.



Hermanos García Noblejas, 41 bis, 2ª planta  
28037-Madrid (España)  
iecah@iecah.org  
Tel. (+34) 91 3771498 / (+34) 91 3773009  
Fax (+34) 91 3773673

# .iecah.

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The Institute of Studies on Conflicts and Humanitarian Action –IECAH– is a private and independent institution founded in 2000. It focuses on two specialized areas: **Humanitarian Action and Peacebuilding**. In both cases, the IECAH organizes research activities, teaching, distribution and publication of results, as well as consultancy, technical assistance and evaluation.

In its eagerness to actively contribute to current debate and to collectively share thoughts and ideas, the IECAH makes a sustained effort to provide suggestions and initiatives that aim to influence the design, orientation and execution of policies, strategies, programmes and projects in its two main fields of interest. This applies as much to the public sector as to NGOs and other organisations active in the same fields. Stemming from its academic, research and consulting/evaluating base, its purpose is to contribute to the improvement of the quality of the processes and interventions in these different areas of action.

From a geographical perspective, the focus of attention is on regions of utmost importance to the Spanish interests as well as to the European Union's; the Mediterranean, the Middle East, Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa, being the main scenes.

In order to realize the above mentioned, the IECAH relies on a permanent team of professionals from various fields as well as an external network of highly qualified collaborating experts. This has enabled the organization to consolidate its position as an important reference on the Spanish scene with regard to Peacebuilding, Humanitarian Action and associated questions regarding Development Cooperation.

## RESEARCH

For its own purpose or as a response to the regular requests from public and private bodies, this area concentrates on the development of various projects concerning international current affairs. Publications such as the *Yearbook on Spanish Humanitarian Action* and the *IECAH Working Papers* are good examples of outstanding projects carried out by the Institute in the research field.

## COMMUNICATION

This area covers activities such as edition, publication, distribution of texts, manuals and documents produced by the IECAH, as well as relationships with the media. In addition, this field deals with the circulation of international initiatives on Humanitarian Action, like the COMPAS Qualité, or other quality initiatives like HAPI, the Sphere Project and in the field of Peacebuilding, through the translation and publication of significant research works. The *IECAH Bulletin* is published every month, and it monitors trends in Humanitarian Action and Peacebuilding.

## TRAINING

The IECAH has designed and gives different courses and seminars, some of which have become important references in the sector, such as the course on **Project Cycle Management of Humanitarian Action** (promoted by "la Caixa" Foundation), or the courses on **Conflicts and Humanitarian Action** (financed by La Casa Encendida/Fundación Caja Madrid). In order to meet the practical needs of students and professionals, the Institute has also developed a virtual campus providing quality online training. Moreover, the members of IECAH participate as teachers in numerous Master's degrees and Specialization Courses organized by some universities. In 2010, IECAH coordinated the modules of Humanitarian Action in more than ten universities (Complutense University of Madrid, Castellón, Granada, ICEI, IUDC; Ortega y Gasset, UPV Bilbao–HEGOA...) and taught specialized classes in other places (NOHA, Barcelona, Pavia,...).

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND EVALUATION

Included here are consultancy activities, strategic planning, project evaluations and reinforcement of institutional capacities, for public and private entities.

**International Quality Initiatives in Humanitarian Action: Possibilities of Institutionalization in Spanish Cooperation** (with the support of la *Fundación Carolina*, CeALCI) and more recently about **Mainstreaming LRRD in Spanish cooperation** done for AECID in cooperation with Groupe URD.

With regard to Peacebuilding, it is important to mention the direct contribution to the **Master Plan for Spanish Development Cooperation (2005-2008)**, and the preparation of the **Peacebuilding Strategy for Spanish Development Cooperation** and the **Action Plan for Women and Peacebuilding from the Spanish Development Cooperation**, both at the request of the DGPOLDE. The issues of civil military coordination have been discussed in some seminars, publications and position papers.

In the Humanitarian Action framework, the IECAH makes assisting contributions to the writing of the **Document on Humanitarian Action Sectorial Strategy**, as requested by the DGPOLDE (General Directorate for the Planning and Evaluation of Development Policies), the **Spanish Plan of Action for Good Humanitarian Donorship**, for AECID (Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation) and the project on