

REACT

GENERAL INFORMATION



HELSINKI ESPAÑA

**INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY
CENTRE FOR
PEACE
MISSIONS**

Centro
internacional
Universitario para
Misiones
de Paz

The background image shows two individuals in a workshop setting. A woman in a light blue zip-up jacket with a 'STOPPE 1973' patch is holding a green card. A man in a white shirt and glasses is leaning over a table covered with many green cards. A sign on the table features the flag of Guinea-Bissau and the text 'ARREY-E AGN AYUK'.

Rapid Expert Assistance and Cooperation Teams

For conflict prevention, crisis management and post – conflict rehabilitation.

WHAT IS REACT?

REACT is a **5-week intensive training** program specializing in **peace missions and conflict prevention**, designed for professionals interested in human rights, conflict analysis, civilian protection, and peacebuilding, especially those who wish to work or are already working in international organizations or in humanitarian and development contexts.

FORMAT

The REACT course consists of **220 hours** of in-person training. It is designed to be highly practical and participatory to ensure that participants develop hands-on skills applicable in international missions.



WHERE AND WHEN

The course is held annually in **Spain**, usually **between May and June**, offering participants the opportunity to engage in intensive, hands-on training alongside an international cohort.



HOW?

The REACT course employs an **active and participatory methodology** designed to foster practical learning and the development of competencies **applicable to real mission environments**. Throughout the course, a variety of teaching approaches are combined, including lectures and presentations, debates, group work, case studies, simulation exercises, workshops, and drills.

Throughout the program, participants work on a practical case based on a fictitious emergency scenario, allowing them to integrate all areas of knowledge covered and apply the content in a cross-cutting manner. This approach facilitates connections between the different modules, promoting collaborative learning and decision-making in complex contexts.

BACKGROUND

The REACT course (Rapid Expert Assistance and Cooperation Teams) originated from an **OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe)** initiative aimed at creating civilian teams trained for **rapid deployment in conflict prevention, crisis management, and post-conflict rehabilitation in 1999**, during the Istanbul Summit. The EU Council and the OSCE incorporated this mechanism as part of European security and defense commitments, especially following the 1999 Helsinki European Council.

Since 2003, Helsinki España, through the IUCPM, has been running this course to train professionals with the skills needed to participate in international missions of the OSCE, the UN, the EU, and international NGOs.



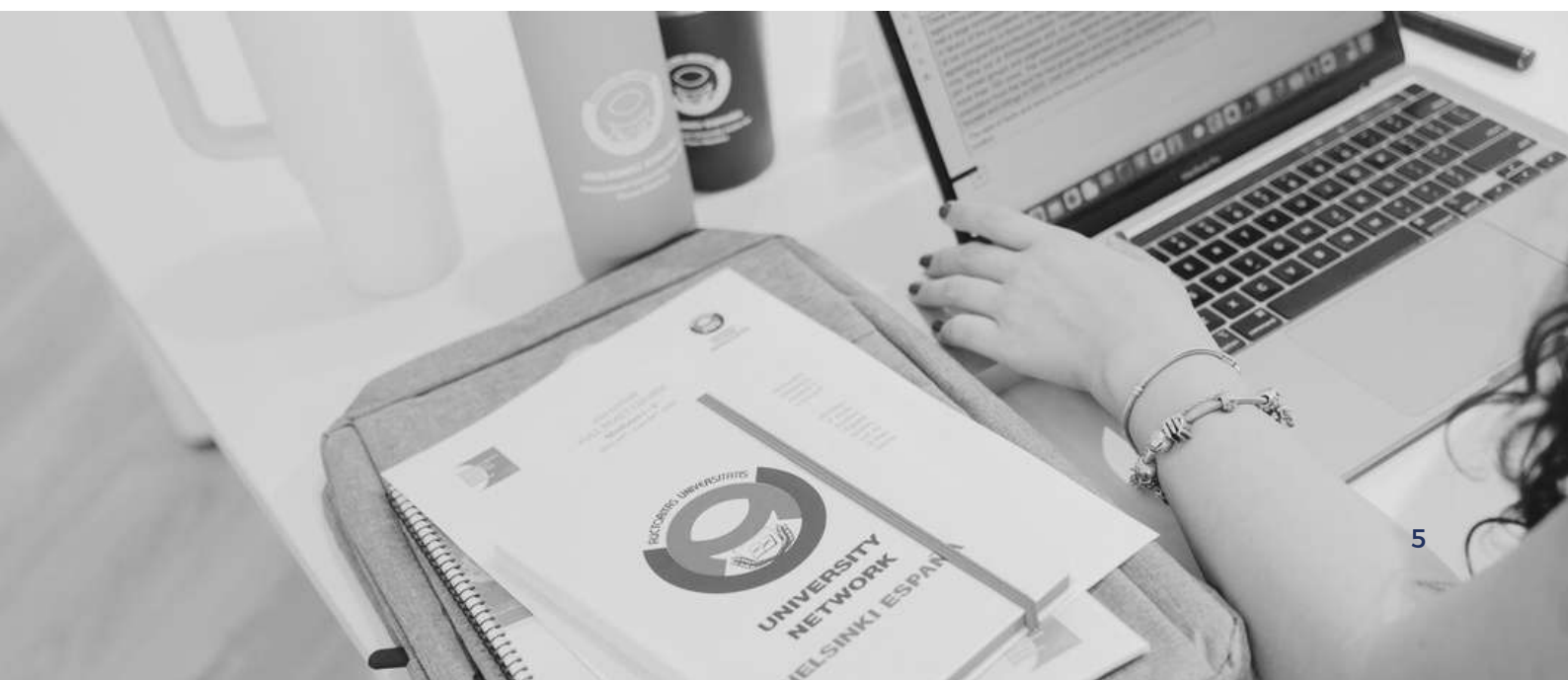
WHO IS REACT FOR?

The REACT course is designed for individuals seeking to develop professional competencies in peace operations, international cooperation, crisis management and conflict-affected contexts, at both national and international levels.

The programme is especially suitable for:

- Humanitarian and development workers
- Staff from public administrations and governmental institutions
- Personnel from international agencies and organisations
- Professionals from NGOs and civil society organisations
- University lecturers, specialised trainers and researchers in fields such as human rights, international relations, peace studies, cooperation and development
- Diplomatic staff, policy advisors and public policy professionals
- Peace operations and peacebuilding professionals
- Recent graduates seeking specialisation in international cooperation, humanitarian action and peace missions
- Professionals seeking to reorient their careers towards the humanitarian, peace and international cooperation sectors
- Individuals aspiring to work in peace missions, humanitarian operations and complex international field contexts

REACT combines a solid theoretical foundation with strong applied training, making it suitable for participants from diverse professional backgrounds who aim to work effectively in complex international environments.



WHY REACT FOR YOUR CAREER?

In a world where conflicts are a constant reality, **focusing on Peace Missions and Reconstruction Operations** is essential. Programs like REACT by Helsinki España have become indispensable and highly sought after.

This intensive five-week course specializes in conflict prevention, crisis management, and post-conflict rehabilitation, playing a crucial role in **advancing a career in peace operations and international security**.

Benefits for Participants:

- ◆ **Acquisition of Practical Skills:** Through case studies, teamwork, and simulations, participants develop competencies to navigate real-world environments.
- ◆ **International Networking:** Engaging with professionals and experts from various international organizations expands one's network and collaboration opportunities.
- ◆ **Enhanced Employability:** Specialized training and course recognition open doors to positions in international organizations, NGOs, and government entities dedicated to peace and security.



ALUMNI TESTIMONIES

All testimonials below were shared voluntarily by our alumni in public comments on our LinkedIn posts, a genuine reflection of their experience during the REACT course.



Arrey-Etta Agnes Ayukmanda • 1er
Protection Monitor- INTERSOS

1 día ...

REACT is a truly enriching and rewarding experience! Wishing the best of success to this year's edition and all the participants- you're in for a valuable journey!



Atsu Komi EKLK • 1er

1 día ...

Gender, adolescents and youth development and Civil Society Strengtheni...

You can't expect to learn so much about so many complex subjects in such a short space of time! Teachers are highly committed and have considerable field experience and practice. Career development sessions are very useful. You'll earn more if you participate fully and get involved. Open your mind, challenge your certainties, build your network and have fun!!!



Catalina Domínguez • 1er
Lawyer | Gender, Human Rights and Criminology

1 día ...

One of the best experiences I've ever had for my professional development! I'd love to take part in one of its editions again, even after all these years!! I know it would be even more enriching this time!



Catherine Alayon Torres • 1er
Social Worker. Master in Inclusive and Intercultural Education. Human Rigt...

1 día ...

Much success to the participants of the 29th edition of React 🍀 I wish you a time of great learning, experiences, analysis, and action proposals in the current scenario.

As an alumni, I assure you it will be one of the best experiences. Take advantage of every workshop and conference. They are of high quality and feature exceptional speakers 🧡



Clara Aragón Garrudo ✓ • 1er
Psicóloga general sanitaria

5 horas ...

Enhorabuena al equipo de **Helsinki España** por esta nueva edición del curso REACT! Es una gran oportunidad para el alumnado participante, además del contenido se genera una red de contactos que supone un antes y un después en la trayectoria profesional. Mucho éxito!



Daniela Segovia • 1er
Humanitarian worker

1 semana ...

REACT provides an exceptional platform to share ideas, challenge perspectives, and explore innovative approaches in the humanitarian sector. It was an amazing and enriching experience.

ALUMNI TESTIMONIES



Erika Godoy Espinoza • 1er

1 día **

Internacionalista, especialista en Derechos Humanos, Desarrollo Sostenible...

La mejor experiencia de aprendizaje, ganas compañeros para toda la vida !
Éxito en esta nueva edición!



Essowè KATASSOLI • 1er

1 día ***

Civil Engineering Specialist /project management,/infrastructure developm...

As a REACT programme alumnus, I'm delighted for the participants of this new edition. This training left a lasting impact on me, thanks to the richness of its content and the dedication of the trainers and participants from diverse backgrounds.

REACT helped me develop essential crisis management skills and provided valuable assets for my professional journey in the humanitarian sector.

I wish all participants of this new edition an experience as rewarding as mine.
You are in good hands!



Feliciano Tisera Pardiñas • 1er

Information and Communications Agent in the Representation of European Commission in Madrid
3 de diciembre de 2020, Feliciano fue cliente de Helsinki

I was trained by Helsinki España in the REACT Course (Rapid Expert Assistance and Cooperation Teams for Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation). This course, held in an international environment, will give you a broader point of view and a deeper knowledge of international conflicts from experts of all around the world and from the world leading institutions. I recommend to be part of REACT to everyone interested in high level politics and international conflicts.



Fernando Valle ✓ • 1er

1 día ***

Export Sales Manager at Bunzl Processor Division

One of my great life experiences! This course enriched my life. I learned from NGO world class leaders and individuals from different backgrounds. It gave me a different perspective of our world.



Florencio Venté ✓ • 1er

1 día ***

Co-Director MYCP |International Development and Relations |Har...

Felicitaciones a todos los participantes del React2025 !! Hice parte del programa en 2024 como becario de **Fundación Carolina**, sin duda fue una experiencia de gran aprendizaje y una oportunidad de conocer a grandes profesionales. Muchos éxitos!!!



Istiaque Ahmed ✓ • 1er

1 día ***

Associate Protection Officer at UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency

It's an excellent course for learning, networking and professional development! It also allows you to meet some excellent people from around the world! I was profoundly benefited from the course and humbled by the humility and kindness of the course organisers. Some of my friends from the course managed to get jobs in the humanitarian field after the course!
I highly recommend this course for those perusing a humanitarian career!

ALUMNI TESTIMONIES



kpatcha Massina • 1er

Development Finance & Policy Professional | UNDP Consultant (FCV Con...
22 horas •

This training is essential. As an alumnus, I can say it prepared me for high-risk environments and complemented my military training. For anyone in development or humanitarian work, these are skills you hope you never need, but must have.



Manuel Ballester Navarro • 1er

Human Rights Advocacy / Conflict resolution and peacebuilding / Project...

2 horas •

This was without a doubt my favorite module during the REACT 2024 training. This session, which offered deep insights into conflict dynamics, community-based peacebuilding, and strategies to enhance security in humanitarian operations.

Since I am currently working in South Sudan, a volatile context marked by fragility and ongoing peace initiatives, the lessons and tools from this training were especially relevant and useful. They helped me reflect on my fieldwork and provided new perspectives for strengthening our peacebuilding efforts on the ground. Wishing the best of luck to this year's participants, make the most of it!



María Covarrubias Romero • 1er

Programme Manager: Stabilization, Disarmament, Demobilization and ...

15 horas •

I am so grateful I was able to participate at the REACT 2017 course. It changed my professional life, with an excellent added value of knowledge and advice that helped finally to succeed in my applications within the UN.



Mario Gallego Cosme • 1er

Geopolitics, Diplomacy & IR.

11 horas •

Qué buenos recuerdos del REACT 2009. Una excelente y valiosa experiencia para los interesados en estos temas.



Maysa Hajjaj Ph.D. • 1er

Gender, Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion Advisor | Disarmament, Gender...

4 horas •

Good luck to my colleagues in [Helsinki España - Dimensión Humana](#) at your 29th edition of REACT! Participating in REACT in 2017 was one of the defining experiences of my career! Expect to learn a lot from distinguished experts!



Mercedes De Rueda • 1er

Vendor Manager at NATO Communications and Information Agen...

1 día •

Quiero felicitar a Helsinki España por el programa REACT, en el que participé hace casi 10 años y que marcó un antes y un después en mi trayectoria profesional. Fue una experiencia transformadora que amplió mi visión, consolidó mi compromiso con los derechos humanos y me dio herramientas que sigo aplicando a día de hoy. ¡Gracias por seguir inspirando y formando a nuevas generaciones con la misma excelencia!

ALUMNI TESTIMONIES



Nicolás Álvarez Muñoz • 1er

1 día •••

Regional Protection from Violence Advisor for Asia at the Norwegian Refu...

Excellent course! highly recommend to follow it's development and taking it when you feel ready!



Nurgul Makasheva • 1er
UNFPA

1 día •••

Dear REACT Team and Graduates,
Congratulations to the 29th edition of the REACT course! REACT was a life-changing experience for me, it gave me the tools and confidence to change my career path. I'm truly grateful for the knowledge and support I received throughout the course.



Paula Granada • 1er

1 día •••

International Law, Political Science & Sociology Specialist | IHL, H...

Excelente Programa REACT **Helsinki España** Felicitaciones a todos los que hoy comenzaron a transitar este gran camino. Una experiencia única! Como ya lo mencionó me amigo **Florencio Venté** ...todos increíbles profesionales!!! Una gran oportunidad de participación como becario de la **Fundación Carolina** . Que tengan un maravilloso comienzo!



Valentina Waisman • 1er

2 horas •••

Especialista en política pública, género y diversidad.

I had the opportunity to take this course in 2010 and I highly recommend it — it was an incredible experience. The quality of the training, the depth of the content, and the diversity of international experts made it truly unique. It provided both practical tools and a solid framework to better understand peacebuilding, crisis management, and post-conflict recovery. A must for anyone interested in international cooperation and security.



Mbendong Ruth • 1er
Communication Assistant @UNHCR Cameroon
1 mes •

•••

Every moment mattered, every memory counted. Spending 5 inspiring weeks with these brilliant minds, exchanging ideas rooted in diverse personal and professional experiences at the **#REACT** Training course with **#HelsinkiESPANA** has been a transformative experience, each conversation, each insight fueling a passion to make a meaningful impact.

Being part of this vibrant community has enriched me deeply, inspiring a renewed sense of purpose. The future of peacebuilding is truly promising, driven by passionate individuals committed to ending threats to our global peace.

Here's to a brighter, more peaceful tomorrow powered by knowledge, collaboration, and unwavering dedication.

ALUMNI TESTIMONIES



Fabiola Quintana • 1er
Asistente de Proyecto - Protección
10 horas • Editado •

After five intensive weeks, I'm happy to share that I've now completed the full [#REACT2025](#) course — including the final module: Hostile Environment Awareness Training (HEAT).

The HEAT course was not only physically and mentally demanding, but deeply transformative. From stress management and field security to tactical first aid and simulated crisis scenarios, we learned how to act with resilience and professionalism under pressure.

Special thanks to the outstanding women behind the organization of the REACT and HEAT from Helsinki España, who ensured every detail ran smoothly, to Fundación Carolina for this opportunity and to the dedicated team of instructors — including military professionals and specialized trainers — who guided us through a demanding and highly enriching training.

This training has been a unique learning opportunity that not only sharpened our technical skills, it also connected me with an inspiring group of professionals committed to peace, protection, and humanitarian action.



Guadalupe Orjuela Ayala • 1er
HDP | Strategic Leadership | Multi-sectoral Quality & Donor Engage...
1 mes • Editado •

To humanitarian workers, to those committed to peacebuilding, development, and human dignity:

A few weeks ago, I completed the REACT and HEAT trainings, a unique experience that combines conflict prevention, crisis management, and cooperation among professionals from diverse contexts. My gratitude to [Helsinki España](#) for making this much-needed training possible in our sector, and to the [Fundación Carolina](#) for allowing me to be part of it. The HEAT component, led by the Escuela Tres Armas, was the most challenging: not only because of its physical and emotional demands, but because it reminded me of something fundamental: in crisis contexts, strength is not individual, it is collective.

The true magic of the course lies in the incredible faculty behind it. THANK For those working in humanitarian action and peacebuilding, this program is not only about training to respond in critical situations: it is also about reaffirming the purpose of what we do as a sector.



Daniela M. Marelli • 1er
Protection Team Leader at International Committee of the Red Cross - ICRC
15 horas •

All the best to this new REACT cohort - from a proud alumna who found during my REACT experience the inspiration, community and tools for a career in international organizations.

ALUMNI TESTIMONIES



Leticia Bendelac Gordon • 1er

1 día ***

Experta en Género - Evaluadora senior - Socia Co-fundadora de Artival Res...

Congratulations for this new edition! All the best for you all, enjoy the process



Liz Mariana Aguilera Romero ✓ • 1er

1 día ***

Coordinadora @ FAO | Procurement and financial monitoring

Big shout out to Helsinki España's REACT course in Alicante, and I have to say, it exceeded my expectations. The instructors did an excellent job of breaking down complex concepts. Fantastic course!



Alfonso Feijoo • 1er

11 horas ***

Political Affairs Officer at United Nations

Great course - I attended REACT 2006. Very useful for UN and OSCE work !!
Highly recommended



Danijela Babic ✓ • 1er

1 día ***

Minister Counselor at Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Attended in 2006. Great and comprehensive course. Excellent and highly qualified lecturers. Extremely useful for those who want to work in an international environment, especially in the UN system. All recommendations.



Katima del Mar Hernández • 1er

1 día ***

Innovation strategist | Project Manager

Congratulations to the new participants! REACT is a wonderful and very enriching opportunity to have a hands-on, deeper understanding of the humanitarian field and start building your international network. All the best and much success!



PETER OKELLO 🏠 • 2º

12 horas ***

Ph.D. Candidate at Hiroshima University | Outreach & Advocacy Expert ...

When positive minds come together, the results are positively geared towards change. #Great work and #congratulations to the team

PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS



UNITED STATES
INSTITUTE OF PEACE
Making Peace Possible



United
Nations



OIM
ONU MIGRACIÓN



UN
VOLUNTEERS



European Union
EXTERNAL ACTION



ICRC



Transition
International



FBA



Global Affairs
Canada
Affaires mondiales
Canada



Fundación
Carolina



AYUNTAMIENTO DE
L'ALFÀS DEL PI

Course administrator



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