

REACT

2027

XXXI EDITION

24 MAY – 26 JUNE 2027

SPAIN



HELSINKI ESPAÑA

INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY
CENTRE FOR
PEACE
MISSIONS

Centro
Internacional
Universitario para
Misiones de Paz

A grayscale background image showing two individuals, a man and a woman, working together at a table. The man is pointing at a large map spread out on the table. The woman is looking at a tablet. A laptop and a water bottle are also on the table.

Rapid **E**xpert **A**ssistance and **C**ooperation **T**eams

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

The **REACT** course is a **five-week training programme** on conflict prevention and peacebuilding intended for professionals interested in being deployed in peace operations and contribute to the global effort to build international peace and security.

DATES

24 May – 26 June 2027

HOURS OF TRAINING

220h

SCHEDULE

Monday to Friday: 08.30am - 5.00pm

Saturdays: 09.30am - 2.00pm

PARTICIPANTS PER EDITION

30 maximum.

LOCATIONS

- **El Albir, Alicante, SPAIN:**
from May 24th to June 18th, 2027.
- **Murcia, SPAIN:**
from June 21st to June 25th, 2027.
 - Hostile Environment Awareness Training (HEAT).

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- University degree or equivalent professional training.
- Fluency in English: B2+
- Strong interest in international affairs.

OBJECTIVES

The REACT course aims to equip participants with the knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary to operate effectively in conflict and crisis environments. Its specific objectives are:

- **To analyze and understand** the main threats to international peace and security, the contexts in which armed conflicts arise, their key actors, and the impact of conflict on the civilian population.
- **To develop competencies** mediation and peacebuilding, fostering inclusive and sustainable approaches to conflict transformation and resolution.
- **To strengthen participants' capacity** and confidence to effectively manage risks and respond to emergency or critical situations during their deployment in hostile environments.
- **To provide a solid understanding** of the International Legal Framework, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and refugee law.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the module, participants will be able to:

1. **Understand the contexts in which armed conflicts arise**, the actors involved, and the impact on the civilian population.
2. **Apply tools and approaches for conflict prevention and peacebuilding**, including strategies for reconciliation, inclusive and non-violent dialogue, and the strengthening of local governance.
3. **Effectively manage risks and critical situations** during deployments in hostile environments, demonstrating resilience, informed decision-making, and personal and collective protection skills.
4. **Understand and apply the International Legal Framework**, with particular emphasis on the protection of civilians in armed conflicts and humanitarian crises.
5. **Analyze the role of international and regional organizations** in complex contexts.
6. **Assess modern threats to peace**, such as organized crime, extremism, and disinformation, considering their interrelation with geopolitics, state stability, and social radicalization.
7. **Critically reflect on cross-cutting factors** such as human rights, gender equality, climate change, and sustainable development, and their impact on conflict prevention and resolution.
8. **Integrate theoretical and practical knowledge** by applying strategies, policies, and procedures to simulated scenarios or real cases as part of a comprehensive approach to security and peacebuilding.

METHODOLOGY

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.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

- European External Action Service (EEAS)
- Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA)
- Global Affairs Canada
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- Transition International
- United Nations Volunteers (UNV)
- United Nations (UN)
- Ministry of Defense of Spain

FACULTY

A multinational and multidisciplinary group of **professionals with extensive field experience in international missions**, combining operational knowledge gained in contexts affected by conflicts, humanitarian action, peace operations, and international deployments. The program offers a practice-oriented learning environment, based on real experience and professional diversity.

FORMAT

REACT is an **intensive, in-person course** designed to provide an immersive, practical, and **highly participatory learning experience.**

Thanks to its modular structure, participants can choose to enroll in individual modules or combine several weeks of training, adapting the learning pathway to their availability, professional interests, and specific learning needs.

MODULE I: Conflict Analysis & Transformation

Key concepts: Conflict analysis; Conflict Transformation; Conflict Prevention; Conflict-Sensitive programming; Gender equality; Social Inclusion; Identity mechanisms; Nonviolent Communication; Mediation; Negotiation; Dialogue; Theory of Change (TOC); Indicators of Change; HDP triple nexus;

Key concepts: Centrality of protection; mandate to protect civilians in peacekeeping operations; documenting and preserving the memory of victims; responsibility to protect (R2P); international humanitarian law; international criminal law; human rights; accountability mechanisms; transitional justice; Women, Peace and Security Agenda; mandate on children and armed conflict.

MODULE II: Protection of Civilians and International Legal Framework

MODULE III: Tools and Strategies for Sustaining Peace

Key concepts: Security Sector Reform (SSR); Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR); Restoration of the rule of law; Political dialogue and consensus-building; Electoral processes in post-conflict contexts; Institutional strengthening; Governance; Human Security; Role of international and regional organizations

Key concepts: Transnational organized crime; Conflict economies; Protracted crises; Terrorism; Radicalization and violent extremism; Disinformation and Misinformation; Cyberattacks and cyber threats; Hybrid wars; Illicit activities; International legal order

MODULE IV: Threats To International Peace

Extra Session

Key topics: Leadership Development; Professional Development; Job Interviews in the Humanitarian Sector

MODULE V:

HEAT **Hostile Environment Awareness Training**

Training through simulations to learn how to effectively manage risk situations, crises, and emergencies during mission deployment.

Key Content:

- Awareness of Threats and Risk Management
- Operational Safety Planning.
- Self-Defense Tactics.
- Response to Sexual Assault Attempts.
- Tactical First Aid.
- Casualty Evacuation.
- Emotional Regulation, Stress Management and Resilience.
- Conflict Management: Persuasion, Negotiation and De-escalation.
- Orientation, map reading and compass navigation.
- Checkpoint and Roadblock Navigation
- Survival techniques
- Mines, Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO).
- Hide, Run, Fight (Active Shooter Response).
- Travel Security: Protection and Safety Procedures for Vehicle Transport.
- Residential Security: Personal Safety and Protection at Accommodation.
- Information Security
- Managing Threats in Crowds, Demonstrations, Protests and Riots.
- Kidnapping and Hostage Survival.

PROFESSIONAL PATHWAYS

The REACT course builds career paths in some of the world's most influential institutions. Its strong academic foundation, practical approach, career guidance, and the network of contacts developed throughout the program enable participants **to successfully access high-impact** positions internationally.

Our graduates currently hold positions in international organizations, cooperation agencies, and development platforms recognized for their leadership and ability to drive structural change, including EEAS, OSCE, UNDP, UNDSS, FAO, IOM, UNV, and other UN agencies, as well as various government agencies.

VISA APPLICATION FOR FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS

HELSINKI ESPAÑA will provide full support throughout the visa application process, including guidance, an official letter of invitation, and assistance with the necessary steps to facilitate obtaining the visa. However, the responsibility for obtaining the visa rests with the participant, not HELSINKI ESPAÑA.



FEES

REACT's total fee is **4,995€**. It includes the following services:

- Comprehensive five-week REACT course (220 hours total).
- Five-day Hostile Environment Awareness Training (HEAT).
- Organized local transportation (Madrid-El Albir-Murcia-Madrid).
- Personalized mentoring focused on professional development, networking opportunities with participating organizations, and direct access to United Nations (UNV) recruiters.
- Administrative support with visa procedures and logistics.
- Registration fee of €1,000 (non-refundable).
- All course materials, including PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) for the HEAT.
- Public liability insurance coverage during the course.
- Official diploma

NOT INCLUDED:

- Meals, accommodation and living expenses.
- Visa-related costs (participant's responsibility).
- Bank transfer and currency exchange fees (participant's responsibility).

PAYMENTS

Course fees can be paid in a single installment or through a two-part payment plan, which allows participants to split the total cost into two payments. **All payments must be completed before the start of the course, without exception.**

To begin the visa application process, participants must have paid the registration fee in advance.

Payments can be made **via bank transfer or PayPal**.

CANCELLATION / REFUND POLICY

The organizers reserve the right to postpone or cancel the course if the minimum number of participants is not reached, or if the instructors are unable to attend due to force majeure. In such cases, a full refund will be issued to registered participants.

If a participant cancels their registration, **no refund will be issued** (including in cases related to visa issues). However, if the cancellation is made **more than 20 days in advance, the amount paid may be used as credit for a future edition of the course.**

SCHOLARSHIPS

There are a limited number of partial scholarships available, which cover up to 35% of the course fee. Scholarships are awarded based on the profile and needs of candidates, on a first-come, first-served basis. Therefore early applications are strongly encouraged.

Candidates who wish to be considered for a partial scholarship should enclose proof of their annual income and employment status. Documents should be translated into English or Spanish.

APPLICATION PROCESS

If you are interested in applying for REACT 2027, please send us a copy of the following documents:

1. REACT Registration Form
 - Available for download at www.helsinki.es/pana.org
2. Motivation letter
3. Resume/Curriculum Vitae
4. Recent digital photograph (passport format)
5. Copy of Academic Transcripts
6. Two Letters of Recommendation (must be on official letterhead, dated, and include the stamp/signature of the issuing entity or individual).
7. English Language Certificate
(If unavailable, it's possible to arrange a brief phone interview to assess your proficiency.)
8. For partial scholarship applicants: proof of your annual income

Application deadline for visa candidates:
April 1st, 2027

Application deadline for candidates who do not need visa:
May 1, 2027

DIPLOMA

Participants who successfully complete the course will receive the following diplomas:

- **Official REACT Diploma** from the International University Centre for Peace Missions of HELSINKI ESPAÑA, validated by the OSCE and recognized by international organizations.
- **HEAT Diploma** recognized by international organizations, NGOs, and institutions.
 - **‘Duty of Care’ Requirement:** NGOs and international organizations have the responsibility to ensure the safety of their personnel in the field, and the HEAT constitutes the industry standard for fulfilling this pre-deployment training obligation.



PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS



Course administrator



CONTACT

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