


# HRC

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**Type of organisation:**

SME  School  University  Public Authority   
 Training x No Profit  NGO

Other (Specify) 
*Ius Gentium Conimbrigae*/Human Rights Centre is a research, education, training and international exchange centre hosted at the Faculty of Law of the University of Coimbra.

**Fields of action:**

SMEs  Youth  Universities  Public Authorities   
 Equal opportunities x Schools x Unemployed x

Other (Specify)

## Description of the organisation

The *Ius Gentium Conimbrigae* is a Human Rights Centre hosted at the Faculty of Law of the University of Coimbra (Portugal), a non-profit association, which aims at conducting research and education programmes on human rights issues. The *Ius Gentium Conimbrigae* - Institute of International Law and Cooperation with Portuguese-speaking States and Communities, founded in 1997, is focused on the study of current international issues, in general, and those of the Portuguese-speaking community, in particular, from a multidisciplinary perspective, yet based on a legal scope. The Human Rights Centre of the *Ius Gentium Conimbrigae*, founded in 2000, is the first academic Human Rights education and research centre in Portugal.

The IGC's technical and teaching staff is composed by professors, namely, of the Faculty of Law of the University of Coimbra, invited lecturers, national or foreign, and by professionals or experts with recognised scientific and professional merit in the teaching or research areas of the Centre.

IGC/HRC's main focus goes towards research, education and training. In this regard, IGC/HRC organises annually a **Post-Graduation in Human Rights** aimed at students and professionals providing specialised education in the area of Human Rights. This Course works concurrently as part of the **European Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation (E.MA)**. This Master is an intensive one-year academic programme to educate professionals in the field of human rights and democratisation, and provides its graduates with practical work experience.

The IGC/HRC is also responsible for the **Postdoctoral Programme in Democracy and Human Rights**, which aims at providing specialised education, at postdoctoral level, in the area of Democracy and Human Rights, from an interdisciplinary perspective, promoting quality research through the production of scientific papers of excellence; promoting internationalisation through the academic dialogue among peers; promoting the intercommunicability of international research networks.

This Centre is also responsible for the organisation of the **Course in Peace Operations and Humanitarian Action** which aims at preparing civilians and militaries interested in those topics, and at familiarising them with those contexts; promoting the interaction among the various stakeholders who have a role to play in these contexts; acquiring theoretical and practical competences which facilitate the understanding of the dynamics inherent to Peace Operations and Humanitarian Action.

The IGC/HRC provides training sessions in schools, armed forces, professional associations, and other institutions, being responsible for the organisation of several **Short courses** and national and international **Conferences** regarding human rights issues. These courses/conferences can be delivered in English, which offers a great opportunity for cultural exchange, as we have a very diverse selection of students, hailing from countries spanning the globe.

The IGC/HRC has been also responsible for the development of several national and international **Projects**, such as, for instance, the "Education For Tolerance And Promotion of Human Rights For University Students And Children"; and the Project "YOUTH to YOUTH: Young Exchange Program on Human rights (ERASMUS +): Madrid-Coimbra"; among others.

Considering its interest in **Research**, IGC/HRC, besides its **publications** online, has published, among others, the following books: the portuguese version of the book "Understanding Human Rights - a Manual on Human Rights Education" (2013); and in 2015, "The Fundamental Rights in East timor - Theory and Practice". It was a joint project between the IGC/HRC and the Office of the Ombudsperson of East Timor and with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Considering the commitment of IGC/HRC with research, it was developed, recently, the possibility to do a Human Rights Visiting Research Programme at the Centre, regarding the development of research on legal, political and historical issues, within the interdisciplinary framework of Democracy and Human Rights. It comprises the necessary tutorial guidance to the research, organising discussion groups and fora on the topic of the research project and the opportunity to attend classes, seminars, conferences or workshops organised within the activities of the IGC/HRC.

## Experience of the organization in previous European projects

### **European Master's Degree in Human Rights (European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation - EIUC)**

The European Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation, established in Venice and organised by a consortium of 41 European Union Universities, partly delivered in English. The programme offers an action and

policy-oriented approach to learning about international relations, law, philosophy, history, anthropology, political science and sociology. The students have the opportunity to meet and be taught by leading academics, experts and representatives of international organisations (including European Union representatives) while studying in a multicultural environment. The Programme offers a full semester in Venice and a semester in a participating University. The Faculty of Law of the University of Coimbra, through IGC/HRC, is the national coordinator.

IGC/HRC joined Helsinki España – Human Dimension in the organisation, in 2009, to develop a training course for trainers within the project **“Education For Tolerance And Promotion Of Human Rights For University Students And Children”**. Resulting from this partnership, along also with the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos (Madrid, Spain), in the first semester of 2015, IGC/HRC developed the **Project "YOUTH to YOUTH: Young Exchange Program on Human rights (ERASMUS +): Madrid-Coimbra"**. This project involved two stages: non-formal training sessions to spanish and portuguese-speaking participants attending training sessions delivered in english by experts in the field of Human Rights (in Madrid and Coimbra); and training sessions delivered in schools of Portugal, by the participants, about themes of Human Rights. In the last stage, IGC/HRC was also responsible for the organisation of the training sessions delivered in Portugal and selection of the schools and pilot groups receiving training from the participants/students of the project. Due to these well succeeded international partnerships the IGC/HRC has large experience working directly with schools, teachers and students of all grades.

IGC/HRC was also responsible for the Portuguese version of the manual **“Understanding Human Rights - a Manual on Human Rights Education”** (original version edited by Wolfgang Benedek, European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy, Graz, Austria), having worked with researchers coming from the portuguese-speaking countries. It is currently developing a project aimed at publicising the manual within Portuguese-speaking countries, including the organisation of training courses and sessions in these countries. This project had the support of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP).

IGC/HRC is also part of the “Group of Interest of the European Business Ethics Network Portugal” (EBEN), which aims at studying and promoting the inherent relation between Human Rights and Business.

Regarding the European Union Network of Independent Experts on Fundamental Rights, IGC/HRC has participated in the this Working Group (consisted of one academic, national from each of the 25 Member States, highly qualified in the area. The national expert was required to ensure the maximum independence in the fulfilment of the required tasks, namely the preparation of a national general and annual report on the level of protection of each of the rights enshrined in the Charter of the EU and some thematic opinions on some specific and current issues, at the request of the European institutions).

The IGC/HRC has also joined the Project “Programme Alfa”, financed by the European Union, between September 2005 and December 2006. The project aimed at the cooperation and exchange between European and Latin-American universities. The main goal of the programme was to facilitate, through the concession of a scholarship, the mobility of Master and PhD students, as well as Professors, in order to enable the education and research in the area of fundamental rights. The IGC was responsible in 2006 for the elaboration of a reply to a Council of Europe Survey on Portugal. This document was developed by Geraldo Ribeiro under the supervision of Professor Vital Moreira, and focused on the “Appropriate implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) in domestic law”.

In 1998, IGC/HRC was responsible for the Development of a research project, on Political and Social Rights in the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP), for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and in 1999 for the Development of a research project about Human Rights, Foreigners, Migrant Communities and Minorities, at the request of the High Commissioner for Immigration and Ethnic Minorities, and integrated in the European Project “Know how to live in a multicultural Europe”.

The IGC/HRC has a large experience working in partnership, namely with international partners, and developing projects related with human rights education.

#### **Experience and Expertise of the organization in the project’s subject area**

IGC/HRC has a large experience regarding human rights issues, namely human rights education projects. IGC/HRC is particularly devoted to teach human rights, including children rights, discrimination and human rights education, specific themes of this project.

Our last international Erasmus + project **“Project "YOUTH to YOUTH: Young Exchange Program on Human rights**

(ERASMUS +): Madrid-Coimbra", among others, provided us the possibility to work directly with schools, teachers and students, which is an added value regarding the aim of this particular project, since IGC/HRC has an easier access to the educational system.

IGC/HRC and the key persons involved in this project have a large experience concerning the studying, researching and teaching of human rights themes. The centre promotes partnership work, so foreign lecturers, researchers and experts are often invited to the Centre. In parallel, its lecturers and researchers take part in several international events and projects.

#### **Contributions that can be provided to the project**

The IGC/HRC has, since its foundation, a large experience of developing successful projects in partnership, particularly with European partners. This background will certainly help in the development of this particular project. This Centre is particularly active in education and training of human rights issues and has been working closely with the school community, this experience will surely be an added value to the accomplishment of this particular project.

#### **Reasons of involvement in the project**

The IGC/HRC as a research, education, training and international exchange centre, focused on Human Rights themes, has a special and particular focus on human rights education (research and training). The possibility to cooperate with other partners, exchanging good practices and the ability to meet IGC's own scope, ie, to work directly with schools in the promotion of human rights and the opportunity to contribute, at an international level, towards a more intercultural European society are the IGC/HRC's fundamental reasons to participate in this project.

#### **Contact Person's Experience and Expertise**

Carla de Marcelino Gomes, Projects' Director and Researcher at IGC/HRC, holds a Law Degree (1996-University of Coimbra) and the European Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation (EMa, 2001), having specialised in the field of the rights of the child. She is finishing a PhD Programme, thesis related with the rights of the child, in "International Politics and Conflict Resolution" (University of Coimbra/European Doctorate Enhancement on Peace and Conflict Studies) with a mobility period at the University of Deusto, Bilbao, Spain as a Marie Curie Fellow. She was an invited lecturer (2007 and 2008) to the EMa, in Venice. She is a lecturer, namely, on the rights of the child, at the IGC's Post-Graduation Course in Human Rights, since 2002. She regularly participates as a lecturer, speaker, trainer and consultant, in Portugal and abroad (Angola, Brazil, Cape-Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Ireland, Mozambique, Timor-Leste, USA, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, etc.). She has numerous publications in the areas of her expertise.

Catarina Gomes, Programme Officer, Researcher and Human Rights Education Consultant at the *Ius Gentium Conimbrigae*/Human Rights Centre (Faculty of Law, University of Coimbra), is currently attending a PhD Programme in "Human Rights in Contemporary Societies" (Institute for Interdisciplinary Research and Centre for Social Studies of the University of Coimbra, Portugal). Her thesis is related with human rights education and its role in post-conflict societies. She holds a Masters' Degree in Education Sciences, Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, University of Coimbra and another in Human Resources Management, Instituto Superior Miguel Torga, Coimbra (Portugal). She has held positions in the field of education, in adult training and training management, particularly as a pedagogical coordinator, facilitator and trainer in human rights, citizenship and processes of recognition, validation and certification of competences. Since 2014, she has been a lecturer of the Post-Graduation Course in Human Rights (as well as in other courses organised by the IGC/HRC and other organisations) in charge of the classes "Human Rights Education", "Human Rights Education in post-conflict areas" and "Human Rights Education and Corruption". Her main areas of interest are human rights education and the right to education.