3rd Law at the Operational Level Online Course
11th January – 17th February

The Military Department inaugurated the new year fully motivated by opening its 3rd Law at the Operational Level Online Course on 11th January 2022.

The 13 participants following such course were located all over the world, connecting from Japan through Nigeria, El Salvador and the United States. During the 6 weeks that followed, the participants both examined the law applied at the operational and strategic levels in the context of the planning and execution of military operations, and learnt more about operational planning and management doctrine.

Moreover, during the course participants explored issues at the tactical level as well as individual compliance with the law, focusing on the impact of the latter on the planning and conduct of the full spectrum of military operations. The sessions were conducted by Col. Mark Dakers, LTC Blake Williams, Prof. Noam Lubell, Brig. Darren Stewart, Lt. Col. Rich Crawford, Maj. Peter Rasmussen, Maj. Aaron Johnson, Lt. Col. Ardan Folwaij and Prof. Françoise Hampson.

Unfortunately, the Military Department had to postpone its 3rd Legal Delivery of Effects Online Course, scheduled to run from 10th January to 16th February 2022. It was hoped that the course would be offered again later in the year.

181st International Military Course on the Law of Armed Conflict in Arabic
14th – 25th February

The first residential course of the year organised by the Military Department was the International Military Course on LOAC in Arabic. The Course Director Colonel (ret’d.) Faouzi Aloui was assisted by Colonel Mostafa Abdelnby who had participated in last year’s Rules of Engagement Course as a participant. The two-week course was attended by 18 participants from the armed forces of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Egypt, and Mauritania. The course addressed the principles and rules of LOAC, enabling the participants to apply such rules in different operational scenarios. The participants attended plenary presentations and were engaged in class work where successful dialogues and discussions gave them the possibility of analysing, from a world-wide range of perspectives, matters related to IHL and other relevant legal issues concerning military operations at various levels of intensity.

Sri Lankan Armed Forces ROE
7th – 11th March

From 7th – 11th March, the Director of the Military Department, Colonel Mark Dakers, conducted the Rules of Engagement Course for Sri Lankan Armed Forces in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
The 30 participants examined the relationship between the legal, political and operational parameters in the formulation of ROE, and the inherent tensions between the competing concerns of risk to mission and to force. Colonel Dakers, assisted by Squadron Leader Lilangi Randeni, delivered presentations spanning from the legal bases for the use of force under IHL and how this influences the development of ROE, to the definitions and relationships of Self-Defence, Hostile Intent and Hostile Act ROE. The fundamental aspect in this course is that the participants were asked to engage in various exercises drafting ROE for a wide range of single service, joint and multinational operations whilst using the Sanremo ROE Handbook.

Colonel Dakers would like to thank Mr Jacques Lemay, ICRC Armed and Security Forces (FAS) Delegate to Sri Lanka as well as Mr Channa Jayawardena, ICRC FAS Programme Advisor to Sri Lanka for the invitation and support, and the Sri Lankan Air Force for releasing Sqn Ldr Randeni to assist in delivering the course.

20th Competition on IHL for Military Academies
21st – 25th March

After having arranged last year’s edition online due to the pandemic, it was a great pleasure for the Military Department to host the 20th edition of the distinguished IHL Competition for Military Academies at the Institute once more.

Prof Edoardo Greppi, President of the IIHL, Brig. Gen. Karl Edlinger and LTC. Shawn McKelvy, the co-directors of the competition, welcomed 62 cadets coming from 15 Military Academies from Italy, France, Norway, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Georgia, United Kingdom, and USA. This year’s event also saw the first participation of a team from The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina.

The Military Academy Cadets were introduced to the Law of Armed Conflict and asked to build an international understanding not only of the legal but also moral aspects of warfare among each other as those who would shortly be joining the brother- and sisterhood of arms.

An initial phase of interactive lectures on various aspects of IHL was followed by practical sessions where the participants were split up into multi-national mixed teams to work on practical cases of relevance to the application of IHL in different operational scenarios. The mixed teams were dispersed throughout four separate Joint Operation Commands (JOCs). As “JOC LEGADs,” they faced challenging legal questions based on a fictitious yet realistic armed conflict scenario and had to brief their JOC-Leaders: LTC Gretchen Davenport (USA), LTC Blake Williams (USA) from the IIHL, Lt. Col. Alexander Fryatt (UK) and Col. Bruce Gray (UK). The 8 judges evaluated the cadets as individuals and their team based on their knowledge of LOAC, communication, teamwork, and practical guidance. This year’s panel of judges was composed of: Prof. Françoise Hampson (United Kingdom), Captain (N) Jean-Emmanuel Perrin (France), Lt. Gen. Giorgio Battisti (Italy), Maj. Gen. Salvatore Lato (Italy), Col. John Spierin (Ireland), Brig. Gen. Jan Peter Spijk (Netherlands), Col. Robert James (USA) and Col. Carl Marchand (Switzerland).

The closing and award ceremony was led by Col. Mark Dakers, the Director of the Military Department, as well as the two co-directors of the Competition and the IIHL President, Prof Edoardo Greppi. Traditionally, all the Cadets and their Team Leaders had to elect either an individual cadet, Academy, or mixed team who during the Competition most embodied the “Spirit of Sanremo”. The prize this year was assigned to the Swiss Team, the Militärakademie an der ETH Zürich.

David McDonald (Westpoint), Alec Lay (US Naval Academy) and Iris Bjørnstad (Norwegian Air Force) earned first place honours in the Best Mixed Team category. Second place was awarded to David McBain (US The Citadel) and Jelle Van den Hoven (Royal Netherlands Military Academy). The two third places were awarded to Grant Brooker (US Naval Academy) and Eugenio Pedron (Scuola di Applicazione, Italy), as well as to Walker Harnly (US Coast Guard Academy) and Willem Blom (Royal Netherlands Military Academy). Fifth place went to two mixed teams: Isabella Regine
Finally, Brennan Suffern (US Coast Guard Academy), Madeline Friedland (US Westpoint) and Caroline Finley (US Naval Academy) respectively earned first place honours as Best Cadets. Fourth place was awarded to David Gray (US Air Force Academy), whereas Quentin Herve (Saint Cyr, France) earned fifth place.

The closing and award ceremony was led by the IIHL President, Prof Edoardo Greppi, by Col. Mark Dakers, the Director of the Military Department, as well as the two co-directors of the Competition.

The 15th Online Course on International Refugee Law was delivered in English from 24th January to 18th February 2022 to 50 participants from 28 countries.

The Course was organised by the Department of International Refugee Law and Migration Law in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the State Secretariat for Migration, Switzerland and the United States Department of State - Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration.

The Course was attended by government officials, members of civil society and professionals from international organisations, as well as researchers and members of the academia.

The Course presented key aspects of the international protection of refugees, covering a wide range of topics from the analysis of International Refugee Law and its complementary bodies to different displacement phases. During the Course, the participants had the chance to examine the causes that force people to flee, the protection risks encountered through the displacement cycle and the search and implementation of durable and sustainable solutions. Additional refugee-related issues, such as gender-based violence and the protection of internally displaced and stateless persons, were further analyzed through a cross-cutting approach.

The Course was directed and facilitated by the Director of the Department of International Refugee Law and Migration Law, Mr Claudio J. Delfabro D. The Keynote on Current International Protection Challenges and Opportunities was delivered by Prof. Vincent Chetail, Director of the Global Migration Centre Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies.

The Course benefitted from the expertise of the following facilitators and guest speakers: Ms Silvia Colombo, Learning Development Officer, UNHCR Global Learning and Development Center, Budapest; Dr Madeline Garlick, Chief of the Protection Policy and Legal Advice Section in the Division of International Protection, UNHCR; Ms Cecilia Jimenez-Damary, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons; Mr Gábor Gyulai, Director of the Refugee Programme, Hungarian Helsinki Committee, President of the European Network on Statelessness; Dr Aref Fakhry, Associate Professor, World Maritime University; Mr Matthew Fader, Leader of Volunteer Operations, Head of Education International Search and Rescue Development, Swedish Search and Rescue Society; Ms Nicole Hoagland, Independent Consultant and Migration Policy Expert; Ms Eve Lester, Founding Director of boniĝi, International Expert on the Human Rights of Refugees and Migrants; Mr Hayat Akbari, Research and Development Consultant, boniĝi; Ms Nathalie Bussien, Child Protection Officer, UNHCR; Ms Melissa Amisano, Former Coordinator at the Department of International Refugee Law and Migration Law, IIHL.

The Course was coordinated by the Associate Coordinator Ms Chiara Maria Natta with the support of Ms Marielys Padua Soto, Online Learning Assistant, Ms Anastasia Prokhorova, Junior Collaborator, Ms Martina Ranieli, Lead Coordinator, Ms Paula Vega, Associate Legal Researcher and Mr Simone Delicati, Assistant Legal Researcher, Department of International Refugee Law and Migration Law, IIHL.
The Courses were organized by the Department of International Refugee Law and Migration Law in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland, the United States Department of State - Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, and the United Nations Human Rights Special Procedures.

The participants included government officials, international civil servants and local employees of international organisations, members of civil society and academia.

The Courses covered key aspects of the protection of internally displaced persons (IDPs), while analyzing internal displacement from different angles and perspectives. Starting from the international norms underpinning the protection of IDPs, including the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the Kampala Convention, the Courses examined the causes, consequences and current global trends of internal displacement and the protection risks faced by individuals throughout the displacement cycle.

The Courses were directed and facilitated by the Director of the Department of International Refugee Law and Migration Law, Mr Claudio J. Delfabro D. The Keynote Addresses were delivered by Cecilia Jimenez-Damary, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons; Ms Martina Caterina, Legal Officer, UNHCR and Chair of the Global Protection Cluster Task Team on Law & Policy; Mr Dieter van Moorhem, Head of Field Support Capacity Building, JIPS - Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service; Ms Yasmina Elbahiery, Senior Inter-Agency Coordination Officer in the Division of External Relations, UNHCR; Col. Mark Dakers, Director of the Military Department, IIHL; Ms Alexandra Bilak, Director, Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC); Ms Kim Mancini, Legal Advisor, Office of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons; Penda Faye, Legal Researcher, Protection Associate, UNHCR; Col. Chris de Cock, Head of Office of the Legal Adviser, European Union Military Staff (EUMS); Ms Barbara McCallin, International Expert and Consultant on Internal Displacement and Housing, Land and Property Rights; Ms Aude Galli, Head of the Durable Solutions Secretariat, ReDSSM; Mr Andrés Lizzcano, Head of Mission Support and Capacity Building, JIPS - Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service; Mr Abdoulaye Sawadogo, Deputy Head of Office, Democratic Republic of Congo, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

The Courses were coordinated by Associate Coordinator, Ms Clara de Haro with the support of Ms Federica Rosso, Online Learning Associate, Ms Silvia Cortina Fernandez, Online Learning Assistant, Ms Paula Vega, Associate Legal Researcher, Mr. Simone Delicati, Assistant Legal Researcher, and Ms Naomi Ramos, Junior Collaborator, Department of International Refugee Law and Migration Law, IIHL.

16th Online Course on International Refugee Law for Postgraduate Students (English)  
21st – 25th February 2022

The 16th Online Course on International Refugee Law for Postgraduate Students was delivered in English from 21st to 25th February 2022 to 74 participants from 24 countries.

The Course was organised by the Department of International Refugee Law and Migration Law in cooperation with the United Nations
The Course was attended by Master’s students and PhD candidates with a background in international relations, international law and political science.

Based on the analysis of International Refugee Law and its complementarity with other bodies of law protecting the rights of forcibly displaced persons, the Course covered key aspects of the international protection of refugees. A cross-cutting approach was adopted in analyzing refugee-related issues, such as gender-based violence and the protection of stateless and internally displaced persons. The Course was conducted in light of the developments of the Global Compact on Refugees.

The Course was directed and facilitated by the Director of the Department of International Refugee Law and Migration Law, Mr Claudio J. Delfabro D. and coordinated by the Academic Unit Coordinator of the Department, Mr Kristijan Mihajlovski with the support of the Project Assistant Ms Federica Rizzi. The Welcome Message was delivered by Prof. Edoardo Greppi, President of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law.

The Course also benefitted from the expertise of the following facilitators and guest speakers: Ms Madeline Garlick, Chief of the Protection Policy and Legal Advice Section in the Division of International Protection, UNHCR; Ms Julia Grignon, Associate Professor at Laval University, Researcher at the Institute for Strategic Research at the École militaire; Ms Cecilia Jimenez-Damary, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons; Mr Gábor Gyulai, Director of the Refugee Programme, Hungarian Helsinki Committee, President of the European Network on Statelessness; Mr Nikola Kovačević, Senior Legal Advisor, Ideas Serbia; Ms Eve Lester, Founding Director of boniĝi, International Expert on the Human Rights of Refugees and Migrants; Mr Hayat Akbari, Research and Development Consultant, boniĝi; Dr Khanssa Lagdami, Associate Research Officer, World Maritime University (WMU); Mr Matthew Fader, Leader of Volunteer Operations and Head of Education International Search and Rescue Development, Swedish Search and Rescue Society; Prof. Ryszard Piotrowicz, Professor of Law, Aberystwyth University, Vice-President of the Council of Europe’s Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings; Mr Gábor Gyulai, Director of the Refugee Programme, Hungarian Helsinki Committee, President of the European Network on Statelessness; Ms Melissa Amisano, Former Coordinator of the Department of International Refugee Law and Migration Law, IIHL.

7th and 8th Online Courses on International Migration Law (English and French)
28th February – 25th March 2022

The 7th and 8th Online Courses on International Migration Law were delivered in English and French from 28th February to 25th March 2022 to 43 participants from 34 countries and 31 participants from 16 countries, respectively.

The Courses were organised by the Department of International Refugee Law and Migration Law in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration and the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration.

The participants included government officials, international civil servants and local employees of international organisations and NGOs, members of civil society and academia.

The Courses covered key aspects of the migration phenomenon from different angles, including the obligations and concerns of States and the rights and
The Courses were directed and facilitated by the Director of the Department of International Refugee Law and Migration Law, Mr Claudio J. Delfabro D. and coordinated by the Associate Coordinators of the Department, Ms Chiara Maria Natta and Ms Christelle Menassa with the support of the Learning Assistants, Ms Marielys Padua Soto and Ms Silvia Cortina Fernandez. The Keynotes on Current Migration Challenges and Opportunities were delivered by Prof. Felipe González Morales, UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, and Mr Stéphane Jaquemet, Director of the International Catholic Commission for Migration.

The Course benefitted from the expertise of the following facilitators and guest speakers: Ms Eva Åkerman Börje, Director, Department of Policy and Research, IOM; Prof. Thibaut Fleury Graff, International Law Professor, UNHCR Judge at the French National Court for Asylum; Ms Gianna Sanchez Moretti, Migration Law Officer, IOM; Mr Vassiliy Yuzhanin, Head, International Migration Law (IML) Unit, IOM; Dr Nicholas R. Micinski, Libra Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, University of Maine; Dr Khanissa Lagdami, Associate Research Officer, World Maritime University (WMU); Mr Matthew Fader, Leader of Volunteer Operations and Head of Education International Search and Rescue Development, Swedish Search and Rescue Society; Ms Morgane Nicot, Team Leader, Knowledge Development and Innovation in the Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section, UNODC; Ms Eve Lester, Founding Director of boniĝi, International Expert on the Human Rights of Refugees and Migrants; Mr Hayat Akbari, Research and Development Consultant, boniĝi; Ms Joy Paone, Project Officer for Capacity-Building, EU-IOM Knowledge Management Hub, IOM; Ms Noëlle Darbellay, Return and Reintegration Officer, IOM; Mr Ace Dela Cruz, Project Coordinator on Migrant Integration and Social Cohesion, IOM; Ms Catherine-Amélie Chassin, Lecturer at the University of Caen Normandy (France), Co-director of the Masters in Freedoms Law; Mr Thibaut Fleury Graff, Professor of Public International Law, University of Paris Saclay, Judge of the National Court of Asylum; Ms Anne Althaus, Lawyer, International Migration Law Unit (DIM), IOM; Mr Vincent Chetail, Director of the Global Migration Center and Professor of International Law, Institute for International and Development Studies; Dr Fatima Diallo, Executive Director of the Center for Research and Action on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CRADESC); Ms Morgane Nicot, Team Leader of the Knowledge Development and Innovation Section for the Fight against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants, UNODC; and Ms Joy Paone, Project Officer for Capacity Building under the EU, IOM Knowledge Management Hub, IOM.

The Course implementation was supported by Ms Martina Ranieli, Lead Coordinator, Ms Paula Vega, Associate Legal Researcher, Mr Simone Delicati, Assistant Legal Researcher, Ms Anastasia Prokhorova and Ms Naomi Ramos, Junior Collaborator, Department of International Refugee Law and Migration Law, IIHL.

The 17th Online Course on International Refugee Law was delivered in Arabic from 28th February to 25th March 2022 to 34 participants from 11 countries.

The Course was organised by the Department of International Refugee Law and Migration Law in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the State Secretariat for Migration of Switzerland and the United States Department of State - Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration.

The Course was attended by government officials, members of civil society and professionals from international organisations, as well as researchers and members of the academia.

The Course presented key aspects of the international protection of refugees, covering a wide range of topics, such as the causes that force people to flee, the protection risks encountered through the displacement cycle and the search and implementation of durable and sustainable solutions. Moreover, it provided an analysis of International Refugee Law and its complementarity with other bodies of law in different displacement phases.

The Course was directed and facilitated by the
Director of the Department of International Refugee Law and Migration Law, Mr Claudio J. Delfabro D. and coordinated by the Associate Coordinator, Ms Christelle Menassa with the support of Junior Collaborator, Mr Mostafa Elkadi. The Keynote Address was delivered by Ms Nadia Jbour, Head of UNHCR Office, Abu Dhabi, UAE.

The Course benefitted from the expertise of the following facilitators and guest speakers: Ms Malak El Hassan, Protection Associate, UNHCR, Lebanon; Mr George Fahmy, Refugee Law and IDP Protection Expert; Mr Ihab Serour, Protection Expert; Ms Jinane Bastaki, Associate Professor, UAE University; Ms Youmna Makhlouf, Legal Expert on Statelessness; Ms Madeleine Garlick, Chief of the Protection Policy and Legal Advice Section in the Division of International Protection, UNHCR; Dr Richard Petrovic, Professor of International Law at Aberystwyth University; and Ms Lubna Abdel Hadi, Refugee and IDP Protection Specialist.

The Course implementation was supported by Ms Martina Ranieli, Lead Coordinator, Mr Kristijan Mihajlovski, Academic Unit Coordinator, Ms Paula Vega, Associate Legal Researcher, and Mr Simone Delicati, Assistant Legal Researcher, Department of International Refugee Law and Migration Law, IIHL.

Pilot Advanced Thematic Forum on International Refugee Protection: Complementary Pathways
26th January 2022

On 26th January, the Institute, together with the Refugee Law and Migration Center - "Iustinianus Primus" Law Faculty, Skopje and the UNHCR Representation in North Macedonia, held the Pilot Advanced Thematic Forum on International Refugee Protection: Complementary Pathways.

The Forum brought together distinguished experts, academics and practitioners from the field of refugee protection to work on recommendations to States and relevant stakeholders on the expansion of complementary pathways relating to the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees.

The participants were greeted by the President of North Macedonia, H. E. Stevo Pendarovski; UNHCR Representative, Ms Monica Sandri; Dean of the Faculty of Law "Iustinianus Primus" - Skopje, Prof. Sasho Georgievski; and the Director of the Department of International Refugee Law and Migration Law, Mr Claudio Delfabro. The Keynote on Complementary Pathways and Responsibility Sharing for Refugee Protection was delivered by Prof. Geoff Gilbert.

Specialists’ Course on International Refugee Law
7th March 2022

On 7th March, together with the University of Belgrade Faculty of Law and UNHCR Serbia, the Institute welcomed 40 participants from 9 countries to its first edition of the Specialists’ Course on International Refugee Law.

Mr Claudio J. Delfabro D., Director of the Department of International Refugee Law and Migration Law, delivered the Keynote Lecture on the Challenges and Opportunities in Refugee Protection at the opening session of the Course.

From 7th March to 6th June 2022, the participants - Master’s students and PhD candidates from Serbia and the wider region, with the guidance of experts in the field of refugee protection, will explore key aspects of the international protection of refugees through 22 live and 2 self-paced sessions.

Lecture at the Catholic University of Santos
8th March 2022

On 8th March, Mr Claudio J. Delfabro D., Director of the Department of International Refugee Law and Migration Law, gave a lecture on Refugee Protection and International Humanitarian Law at the Catholic University of Santos.

The lecture was delivered in an online session to the students of the University’s Postgraduate Program on International Humanitarian Law.

The lecture is a part of the Department’s initiative to promote international refugee law in universities around the world.

Lecture Series at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law
21st February and 14th March 2022

On 14th March, Martina Ranieli, Lead Coordinator, together with Paula Vega, Associate Legal Researcher of the Department of International Refugee Law and Migration Law, delivered a lecture on Research for Protection - Refugee Protection under International Humanitarian Law at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. Earlier, on 21st February, Edoardo Gimigliano, Coordinator of the Institute’s Special Projects Department, gave a lecture on Global Security Issues Arising from Water Scarcity.

The lectures were delivered in online sessions to the students at the University’s Class on International and Foreign Legal Research.
Through its lecture series and activities with universities, the Department of International Refugee Law and Migration Law continues supporting educational programmes and promoting human rights, international humanitarian law and refugee law in universities around the world.

Launch of Erasmus+ projects: PERFECT and LaS

The Special Projects Department of the Institute and the EIP Lab launched two Erasmus+ projects on democratic and peace education funded by the Erasmus+ Fund of the European Commission.

On Tuesday, 4th March 2022, the Erasmus+ project entitled Perform and Share Local Histories (PERFECT) was launched through an online kick-off meeting. The project is coordinated by Istituto Comprensivo G. Lucatelli (Italy) and is supported, by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law (Italy), along with IIS F. Filelfo (Italy), Innovate4Future (Romania), Colegiul National Sfantul Sava (Romania), Stichting International Parents Alliance (Netherlands), Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions (Belgium), Ministry For Education and Employment (Malta), Borg Dreierschützengasse (Austria), Fondation des régions européennes pour la recherche en éducation et information (Belgium).

PERFECT, which will run for the next three years (2022-2024), has the ambition to propose and experiment a holistic method to develop key transversal competences such as cultural awareness and expression, citizenship, multilingual, digital, entrepreneurship, personal, social and learning skills through a transnational experience of developing a cultural product as, for instance, a piece of theatre, a musical, an exhibition including students’ performance, a multimedia work.

By doing so, the project aims at developing cultural exchange, didactical innovation and openness to multiculturality. These elements will contribute to the promotion of Global Citizenship Education principles, European history and cultural heritage and represent important assets to the understanding of and adherence to a vision of Europe and the world as interconnected systems with

commonalities and differences worthy of being explored and understood.

On a similar positive note, after its approval, the Erasmus+ project “LaS - Arguing at School. Psycho-Pedagogical Methods to help children (2-18) learn from arguing” started in January 2022 with a pre-Kick Off meeting on February 4th. LaS was presented to the Italian National Agency INDIRE in May 2021 and is coordinated by the Psycho-Pedagogical Centre for Peace and Conflict Management (CPP). The partnership also includes the IIHL/ EIP Lab, FREREF, the Fondazione Intro (Italy), three schools based in Malta, Romania and Croatia, Innovate4Future (Romania), the Relationships are Forever Foundation (Malta) and the Centre for Peace, Non-violence and Human Rights (Croatia). The main aim of the project is to open a transnational debate on the theme of quarrels and conflicts between peers (children and teenagers aged 2-18 years old), in the context of their life experience at school. The project Kick-Off will be launched online in April 2022.

Launch of AMIF project: MUST-a-Lab

On 12th and 13th January, the kick-off meeting of The MUlti-STakeholder Labs for migrants and stakeholders (MUST-a-Lab) project took place online due to Covid-19 restrictions. The project, co-funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) of the European Commission, is implemented by a European partnership coordinated by the City of Mechelen (Belgium) involving, along with the Sanremo Institute, the City of Modena (Italy), the City of Fuenlabrada (Spain), the Public Benefit Organization of the Municipality of Livadia (K.E.DH.L.) (Greece), the District Council of the 7th District of Vienna (BV 7) (Austria), the City of Pont-de-Claix (France), the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (UNIMORE) (Italy), Karel de Grote Hogeschool (Belgium) and the Fondation des régions européennes pour la recherche, l’éducation, et la formation (FREREP) (France).

The project partnership believes that migration policy is a national and European responsibility, but that integration happens at the local level: in neighbourhoods, schools
and workplaces. In this sense, local authorities play a key role in integrating newcomers and empowering them to contribute to their new communities. However, too often, local integration strategies show weaknesses due to a lack of coordination among stakeholders across the different sectors of labour, health, housing and education, as well as across levels of government. Therefore, the project is meant to address the need to bring together stakeholders and migrants in order to innovate strategies for effective integration at local level, to build more resilient communities.

For this reason, MUST-a-Lab aims to create a systemic and long-term involvement of migrants and asylum seekers in six European municipalities - Mechelen (Belgium), Livadia (Greece), Vienna (Austria), Fuenlabrada (Spain), Modena (Italy) - through the installment of Policy Labs. Each city will have the opportunity to choose a specific topic on which their Policy Lab will focus in order to produce a direct and strategic impact at the local level. In this context, different types of local stakeholders – e.g. policy stakeholders, grassroots stakeholders and migrant stakeholders – are brought together to discuss existing local policies and integration strategies concerning the pre-identified policy area.

During the project, which will be running for the next three years, the existing local strategies will be reviewed and improved thanks to the participatory approach of the Policy Labs that are meant to allow all participants to give inputs and to express challenges. As a result, MUST-a-Lab will impact local integration strategies in four relevant ways. Firstly, migrants and asylum seekers will become active actors in local integration strategies, able to influence the implementation of those strategies by sharing their views and experiences with relevant stakeholders. Secondly, local stakeholders will become collaborative actors with the necessary information to implement strategies that work. Thirdly, the PLs will enable stakeholders to develop actions that are complementary to those of other stakeholders. Fourthly, the practice of the Policy LaS will allow communities to optimise all existing and new integration strategies.

First Executive Council meeting of the EIP Lab

On Tuesday, 1st February 2022, the Executive Council of the EIP Lab met for its first meeting to discuss its ongoing and future activities. The meeting started with an overview of the project recently approved by the European Commission:

- MUST-a-Lab: the project aims to improve local integration strategies of migrants and asylum seekers through the systemic and long-term involvement of stakeholders in cities and communities through the methodology of Policy Labs (PLs).
- Perfect: the project aims at contributing to the innovation and quality of secondary education by developing and testing a teaching/learning strategy based on collaborative cultural production and intercultural exchange also through a meaningful, stimulating and interactive use of digital technology.
- Litigare a Scuola: the project aims to open a transnational discussion on the theme of quarrels and conflicts between peers, with reference to boys, girls, teenagers from 2 to 18 years, in the context of their life experience at school.

Afterwards, the EC members were updated on the status of the other ongoing projects:

- CHILD-UP: all research outputs are available on the website, including suggestions on good practices on how to integrate children with migrant backgrounds into different national education systems in Europe;
- CİTİZED: the policy review has been completed and the teachers’ competences framework is being produced;
- Peace Games: a catalogue of 55 games was produced and is available on the website.

The meeting then included a brainstorming on the question “How to guarantee a significant and positive impact of the Lab activities on the education systems?” which resulted in the collection of several useful ideas to be put into practice in the next months. Among others, a renewed intention was expressed to establish partnerships with school networks in each country; to act as a group of organisations rather than individuals which would increase the EIP Lab credibility and visibility; to increase the quantity and quality of the communication
targeted to teachers; to diffuse good practices; to increase the participation in conferences (such as the UNESCO Third World Higher Education Conference).

Another topic of discussion was the role of the Lab in influencing policy making in the field of education. In this regard, the Communication of the European Commission on a European Strategy for Universities was commented upon.

In the final part of the meeting, the EC was informed about the willingness of the IIHL/EIP Lab to participate in two Horizon Europe Call: Education for Democracy, and Future of Democratic and Civic Participation. The EC members expressed their interests and some of them will join the partnership of these projects.

The Institute at the first European Humanitarian Forum

From 21st to 23rd March 2022, the Institute joined the first European Humanitarian Forum (EHF), jointly organised in Brussels, Belgium, by the European Commission and the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The EHF, the first of its kind, addressed the most urgent humanitarian needs by bringing together EU and non-EU humanitarian bodies, UN agencies, governmental institutions, non-governmental organisations, the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, international financial institutions, academics, think tanks, local responders and, more in general, the representatives of several organisations currently operating in areas affected by humanitarian crises.

The Forum provided the international humanitarian community with a unique platform to share strategies and good practices, as well as to engage in open debates with decision-makers at the international, European and national levels.

Throughout the event, the Institute participated in some of the specific thematic sessions devoted to key humanitarian issues, such as "Boosting and pooling European training plans on IHL", "Humanitarian civil military coordination: an enabler of international humanitarian law", "Strengthening security in high-risk areas", "Hunger and conflict", "The humanitarian consequences of urban warfare" and "Education in Emergencies: stepping up international engagement".

The Institute also attended the Ministerial session on “Improving compliance with international humanitarian law to safeguard the humanitarian space”, which hosted the Ministers of Foreign France, Germany, Italy, Finland, Estonia and the representatives of Greece, Romania, Poland and Slovenia. This high-level session was enriched by the participation of the European Commissioner for Crisis Response, Janez Lenarcic, the EU Special Representative for Human Rights, Eamon Gilmore, and Member of the European
Parliament, Maria Arena. The UN system was represented by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Martin Griffiths, the High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, and the OHCHR Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Ilze Brands Kehris. Finally, the interventions of the ICRC Director-General, Robert Mardini, the Secretary-General of the Norwegian Refugee Council, Jan Egeland, and the Director of the Geneva Academy of IHL, Gloria Gaggioli, concluded the works of the panel.

Furthermore, during the Forum, the Institute had the occasion to meet an official of the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations – the Directorate of the European Commission dealing with overseas humanitarian aid and civil protection – to explore possible future opportunities for collaboration and synergies in the field of capacity building and training in IHL, human rights and refugee law.

Handbook “Integrating the gender perspective in the operation of public security forces in non-international armed conflicts, other situations of violence and post-conflict: guidelines and rules”

A handbook, now available in Spanish (soon available in English and Italian), is being published following the end of the activities of the Project “Women and public security forces in conflict and post-conflict situations: guidelines and rules” that the Institute - through its Special Projects and Training Activities for Latin America Programme - has developed with the collaboration and financial support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. This Project is represented by Professor Fausto Pocar and directed by Professor Roberto A. Moreno.


This publication represents the closure of the entire Project and is a step forward towards responding to the two main challenges presented by United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 1325 and other related resolutions, namely:

- Strengthening the capacity of women or women’s organisations to act effectively in different roles to prevent violations of their rights, participate in decision-making processes and take protective measures in the context of pre-conflict, during armed conflict or other violence, and post-conflict.
- Training and equipping law enforcement personnel, including members of the armed forces, security forces and police, so that their operations in the above scenarios incorporate a gender perspective, prevent gender-based discrimination and stigmatization, and proceed with a differentiated use of force.

Workshop “The complex current situation in Latin America: contributions for a positive evolution”

14th March 2022 to 31st March 2022

The Research Project titled “The complex current situation in Latin America: contributions for a positive evolution” is being developed by the Institute - through its Special Projects and Training Activities for Latin America Programme - with the collaboration and financial support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The support of the Ministry is provided in the framework of the contribution under Article 23-bis of Presidential Decree 18 of 5th January 1967.

The Research, which was started by a kick-off event held at the beginning of November
2021, is being carried on together with different partners from Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Spain.

Since 14th March a Workshop is being held where academic experts from the Institute and from the project partners coming from the above-mentioned countries are participating and discussing their contributions and the two fundamental objectives pursued by the Project, namely generating future scenarios and generating proposals and recommendations. The Workshop has also started to elaborate the first outcome of their research: a working paper referring to the main aspects of the results of the four areas of research. It will also contain a description of the suggested post-pandemic scenarios and a list of the most important recommendations to be considered by policy makers both in Europe and in Latin America.

The Research Project is represented by Professor Fausto Pocar, who is guiding and orienting the research group, and directed by Professor Roberto A. Moreno.

The experts who are intervening during this workshop are the following: Coordinator, Dr Marcos Pablo Moloeznik (Universidad de Guadalajara - Mexico); Prof. Ruth María Abril Stoffels (Universidad Cardenal Herrera - Spain); Mtra. Daira Arana Aguilar (Fundación Global Thought - Mexico); Dr Carlos Andrés Aviléz Meneses (CCOET – Colombia); Jhorman Augusto Botello Campos (CCOET - Colombia); Alejandra Castillo Hernández (Gender Issues - Mexico); Prof. Matteo Fornari (Università Milano Bicocca); Dra Patricia Tatiana Ordeñana Sierra (Centro de Estudios Sociales y Jurídicos del Ecuador – Ecuador); Prof. José Gabriel Paz (Universidad del Salvador - Argentina); Mag. María Dolores Romero Real (Fundación Baltazar Garzón – Spain); Prof. Nhoris Esther Torregrosa Jiménez (Universidad Santo Tomás - Colombia).

Project “Security and democratic life: a challenge for Latin America”
December 2021 - ongoing

On 19th November 2021, the Institute received the communication that the Project “Security and democratic life: a challenge for Latin America” – submitted by the Special Projects and Training Activities for Latin America Programme - had been approved and would be financed by the Directorate-General for Globalisation and Global Issues of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. This Project is represented by Professor Fausto Pocar and directed by Professor Roberto A. Moreno.

The Project’s objective is to “legitimise the presence and permanence of a full democratisation of life among the peoples of Latin America” through the implementation of training activities that could contribute to such aim, including a pilot course for officials from the National Police of Colombia, a workshop on “Peace Mediation” and a workshop on the “training of trainers for democratic life”.

Following its kick-off Workshop held on December 6th, 10th, 15th, and 20th, academic experts from the Institute and from universities, Latin-American and European public security forces, non-governmental organisations and private associations coming from different countries started to design a training programme. Such a training programme would be implemented through a pilot course mainly targeting the officials from the National Police of Colombia but also other Police officials from different Latin American countries. The pilot course will start in April.

The people in charge of coordinating the different teams working on the design of the training programme are (in alphabetical order): Lic. Sergio Gryn (Israel) and Mag. María Dolores Romero Real (Spain).