

ICIP WORK OBJECTIVES FOR 2022

“PEACEBUILDING AND PROMOTION OF COEXISTENCE”

1. INTRODUCTION

ICIP (International Catalan Institute for Peace) faces the future, convinced of its ability to make a relevant contribution in the field of peacebuilding, the development of coexistence of groups of people and the generation of public opinion, aiming at a pacific transformation of conflicts, on the local as well as on the global level.

And it does so, understanding peace from a positive angle of culture of peace, not just as the absence of violence, but also as the “presence of some kind of nonviolent, egalitarian, non-exploitative, non-repressive collaboration between units, nations or persons, which do not necessarily need to be similar” (Johan Galtung).

In order to achieve this, we have several important assets. To start with, the historical Catalan ‘pactist’ tradition, with remarkable contributions such as the assemblies of Peace and Truce (already in the 11th century) or the Consulate of the Sea which, from the 16th century onward, has inspired many mercantile regulations on which modern legislation has been based. Nowadays, we can also rely on many organisations constituting a dynamic and rigorous peace movement which has brought pioneering campaigns and initiatives to a good end and is also active at the international level.

Internally, we can also count on the experience of a nine-year journey which has opened many perspectives in various working areas and achieved remarkable reliability in fields like giving support to applied academic research, the publication of books and reports on peace topics or the organisation of workshops and seminars with the cooperation of some of the main actors on the international academic level –just to give a few examples-, with a well-prepared and solid staff.

This document aims at setting a general action framework, which needs to be detailed on the basis of the

priorities and opportunities of each institutional moment during the following years.

2. DECISIONS AS THE RESULT OF NUMEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS

From the methodological perspective, the process that was started in October 2016 with the aim of establishing ICIP’s future activities has been developed in three stages: the first one (between October and December 2016) of internal reflection of the Governing Board and the staff, analysing the framework of the 2015-2018 Multi-Annual Plan, and more in particular the aspects that were difficult to achieve due to the fact that their objectives were not in line with the resources and skills available. Furthermore, reflection was done on possible peace topics which could be addressed, including an initial preselection of topics and a first consensus on the preferential geographical work frame, aspects we want to use to define “our viewpoint” when addressing the themes and the orientation we want to give to the topics selected.

The second stage (January-March 2017) has been one of external consultation, including work sessions with representatives of all Catalan parliamentary groups, with the academic world, students with an ICIP scholarship, boards of directors and member bodies of LaFede.cat, with the Coordinating body of NGOs in Development and other Social Movements of Lleida, the Coordinating body for social NGOs of Girona and with the team of UAB’s School for the Culture of Peace. Furthermore, since last February, we have organised four international workshops for in-depth study of four previously preselected topics.

During the third stage (April-May 2017), we organised two visits at the European level, to the SIPRI in Stockholm and the Flemish Peace Institute in Brussels, along with a last work session of the Governing Board, together with members of the operations team, to address some pending issues and prepare a final proposal.

3. AN INTERNATIONAL BODY, DEEPLY ROOTED IN CATALONIA

ICIP is a body for research, outreach and action, whose objectives are to promote the culture of peace in society at the Catalan as well as at the international level, and to certify Catalonia's active role as an agent of peace (ICIP foundation law 14/2007, article 1.2).

The Institute is governed, following the principles of promotion of peace, democracy, justice, equality and equity in relationships between persons, populations, cultures, nations and states, with the objective of working for human security, disarmament and the prevention and pacific resolution of conflicts and social tensions, the reinforcement and rooting of peace and coexistence, and the defence of human rights (ICIP foundation law 14/2007, article 2).

In fact, Law 14/2007 is rather extensive, as it already defines ICIP as a body, created by the people of Catalonia, with a high degree of autonomy, aiming at research, training-outreach-knowledge transfer, and action; also dedicated to generating opinion and to give support to society, academies and public administrations, with an international scope at the same time as being distinctly Catalan.

How can such ambitious objectives be managed? The need of *thematic specialisation* for ICIP has been repeated many times during the consultation meetings that were held and reflects a rather wide consensus. Also the Governing Board shares this opinion, both when talking about having a respected voice in some relevant peace-related matters, as providing ICIP with a level of knowledge and specific acknowledgement among other institutes, research centres and international organs.

Altogether, by no means does the construction of this *well-defined identity* limit the capacity to act or generate opinion on any topic, related to the work for peace, disarmament, pacific transformation of conflicts, peace education or the defence of rights and liberties, but rather aims at being a reference in some concrete aspects of the

vast task that building a culture of peace represents. As such, it does not represent a self-limitation but rather a choice in the clear definition of priorities for efforts and resources.

What does this mean, then? Firstly, the will to *build an ambitious institution, capable of having an impact on the international scene, as well as on the Catalan territory*. This is not always simple, since it can precisely lead us to diverge efforts and aim at responding to very diverse –and sometimes even contrasting– requests. Therefore, an effort in clarity and acceptance of “two velocities” will be needed, one more proactive, starting from our institutional focus, and another one, active and reactive at the same time, to work on other topics and activities, focussing on the Catalan reality and circumstances, which we cannot overlook.

Secondly, this means that the mandate of the foundation law itself forces us to be diligent when it comes to respecting the distance between academic rigour and the understanding/concerns of the citizens, without renouncing to either of both aspects. Rigorous research, of course, but with mandatory diffusion of the conclusions of each investigation project to the public opinion. Trying to satisfy ad hoc requests of any recognised counterpart as well (as long as this is possible), but always with the *ICIP stamp* of verified accuracy and avoiding the most direct and opportunist conclusions.

And, thirdly, the possibility to offer a headquarter, open to the public and well known inside and outside Catalonia, a *Peace House* where we can host the library, a permanent exhibit, training rooms and spaces for public activities, offices, etc. would give ICIP a decisive push regarding its visibility and grant it with a wider scope.

All what has been previously presented needs to be addressed with the human and material resources, available at each moment. The ambitious objectives require an effort from the country in order to progressively readjust the resources, but the decisions, taken by the Governing Board, can only be implemented at a slow rate if the budget increments are hardly noticeable, or at a more decided rate in case of expansive increases.

4. GENERAL ACTION CRITERIA

4.1. The first consensus of the ICIP Governing Board has been to keep working in the future, starting from some action programs and making them truly *transversal*, meaning they always include

- research (especially applied research),
- knowledge transfer, training and dissemination to the public
- generation of opinion
- and giving support to some concrete peace actions, related with each program.

4.2. We want every topic, addressed by ICIP, to have its *own viewpoint*, defined by its approach:

- based on nonviolence and human security;
- based on the participation and initiatives of civil society, and the empowerment of the victims of the conflicts, and
- from a gender perspective, with specific attention for minorities and diversity.

4.3. The orientation of our programs, in general, will be marked by peacebuilding and development of coexistence approach, in a positive and prepositive sense:

- peace which is based on social justice, compliance with human rights and preservation of individual and collective liberties; and
- addressing direct violence as well as structural and cultural forms of violence.

4.4. This will be ICIP's work focus, in three of the four programs, and not the priority of one program over the others. Nevertheless, the magnitude of the statement "Peacebuilding and development of coexistence" temporarily forces us to focus the efforts of each program on some concrete aspect(s), renouncing to addressing all other related matters.

4.5. For some of these programs (for one, maybe two), a *periodical reference publication* needs to be issued – for example a Yearbook, with a quantitative and qualitative work which, in only a few years from now, can be used to position ICIP clearly among the international peace centres.

Furthermore, we work to build alliances and synergies with other actors, especially at the international level, also exploring the possibility of achieving additional ways of public financing, besides the current ones.

4.6. The *geographical prioritisation* of ICIP's work is conditioned by thematic priorities, not by any other condition. The topics to address in each situation depend on many factors, some related to circumstances, others to contents, but never due to a previous prioritisation. We want to work in areas of violation of rights, without any apriorism.

Since it was founded, ICIP has maintained a very close working relationship with various actors from two very different realities: the violence in the Basque Country and the general situation in Colombia, both having strong links with Catalonia and its pacifist network. Besides deepening these relationships, we need to be observing other realities –especially the ones closest to the Mediterranean and the Middle East– in which ICIP could have an impact with very positive results. The different programs will take into account the possibility to develop activities in research, training, the support to peace actions as well as looking for synergies with actors from those countries, or others, if applicable.

4.7. Besides the action programs, ICIP needs to guarantee capacity and resources for:

- organising some *activities*, related to current issues;
- support actions of *awareness* that bring the ICIP activity closer to the field, such as actions of peace education;
- offer *assessment* in concrete requests from public administrations or peace movements throughout Catalonia;
- promote the *library* and its use, mainly by means of publications, related –although not exclusively– to the Programs, and
- guarantee some quality *general services* for the entire institution, such as a communication department or administrative and legal services.

Nevertheless, ICIP's Governing Board and the executive management will watch over the fact that the efforts and resources, dedicated to the programs, constitute around 70-75% of the yearly total.

4.8. Regarding the awareness activities, ICIP's main role will be to give assistance and support to other actors who develop peacebuilding projects and actions, especially municipalities, social organizations and movements, so that our focus becomes a sign of identity of the work for peace that is being done throughout the entire Catalan network.

The activities themselves will be focused, mainly, on

strengthening the work programs in their aspect of popularisation and public dissemination of the themes.

5. TRANSVERSAL PROGRAMS TO BE DEVELOPED

We need to repeat that we do not start from scratch, and that the objective is to benefit from all the knowledge accumulated over the last years, without the need for a *tabula rasa*, or as put by the popular saying *Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater*.

We do not want to maintain all current activities in their present format either, but rather have them go through an evolution through development of the programs' activity and their consolidation.

All programs will have a *biennial or triennial Plan*, which will define their action and the aspects of the general topics they want to emphasise during this period. The Plan will consider the aspects of research as well as those of training, transfer of knowledge, public diffusion, awareness, opinion-making and support to peace actions.

The first Work Plan will be drafted during the second semester of 2017, and will be used to finalise the details of the aspects on which each program will be focussing.

The programs we foresee to develop in next years are the following?:

PROGRAM 1: PEACEBUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT OF COEXISTENCE AFTER PERIODS OF VIOLENCE

After a period of excessive and systematic violence, as the result of armed conflicts or repressive regimes, societies are confronted with an uncertain landscape where different elements come together, such as the claim for clarification of events and responsibilities, the obligation of the States to guarantee that these events will not happen again, compensation of the victims, among others. This opens a transition period in which political, economic and social changes become key elements.

The objective of the program is to carry out an in-depth study of these contexts, analysing experiences, tools and opportunities for peacebuilding in these societies. Another basic element will be to face the challenges, repre-

ented by the settings for reconciliation and reconstruction of the social fabric (meaning, the improvement of coexistence and reconciliation), while emphasising the role of the victims.

Among the topics which could be developed and need to be selected, we highlight the following ones:

- Analysis of processes of political, economic and social transition from a perspective of peace
- Tools in the area of transitional justice
- Public policies and social initiatives promoting coexistence
- Public policies and social initiatives of collective memory
- Experiences of reconciliation
- Victims' rights and needs
- The role of civil society in the reconstruction of social fabric
- The reconstruction of social fabric through ethics of healing
- The role ICIP can play in processes of mediation and training of agents of public diplomacy

PROGRAM 2: VIOLENCES OUTSIDE ARMED CONFLICTS

Beyond the dynamics that characterise armed conflicts, different social realities exist in which the levels of violence, direct as well as cultural and structural, are extraordinary. We usually find them in urban contexts, where young people play a fundamental role and where the lack of opportunities for personal development or the enormous social inequality may lead to extreme levels of social frustration. The culture of violence, the massive presence of weapons, the role of organised crime networks and the illegal activities or the inability of the State to supply an answer to the basic effects and causes of these phenomena, are some of the factors that ultimately shape social realities which generate a truly lethal violence among the population, especially among collectives of women and youngsters. Part of literature speaks of "non-conventional violence".

The objective is to understand the basic effects and causes of this type of violence and reflect on the social strategies and initiatives of resistance, resilience, conflict transformation and peacebuilding that try to supply an answer to this reality.

Among the topics which could be developed and need to be selected, we highlight the following ones:

- Crime networks: different actors, victims-offenders, public-private, legal-illegal, undercover agents, global-local
- Poverty, social exclusion and violence
- The phenomenon of youth gangs: young people as perpetrators of violence, victims and peacebuilders
- Repressive politics vs politics of dialogue and integration
- Humanitarian consequences of “non-conventional violence”
- Experiences of resistance and resilience

PROGRAM 3: PEACE AND SECURITY IN PUBLIC POLICIES

Public policies –in internal as well as external affairs– are based on a specific concept of security which does not always coincide with what is described as positive peace by Johan Galtung and other authors. Starting from this premise, the central objective is twofold: in first place, analyse what is the concept of security on which the current policies are based; and in second place, analyse the growing “securitisation” of some specific policies which, precisely due to their impact on conflictivity, to their social –or even humanitarian– purpose, would need to be reconsidered from a different starting point: foreign policies, migration control, cooperation for development, humanitarian interventions, population control, etc.

Among the topics which could be developed and need to be selected, we highlight the following ones:

- Action plans for ODS 16 (state, national, municipal...)
- Foreign policies and impact on peace and human rights in other countries
- Relationship and coherence between policies for peace, development and humanitarian aid

- Critical analysis of migration policies, designed from a perspective of security
- Analysis of different tools for security and defence
- The impact of security policies on human rights and freedoms
- The role Catalonia, its government, its institutions and organisations can play in international diplomacy, aimed at the prevention of violent conflicts

PROGRAM 4: BUSINESS, CONFLICTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The potential and the experience of business in conflict resolution –on one side– and the role of companies in the direct promotion, financing and sustaining of conflicts –on the other side–, are the two main axes of the program. This is an area which is rarely addressed by the peace research centres, but where ICIP has been working for some years and wants to keep developing its activity, putting emphasis during the next two years on the capitalisation of the knowledge acquired and the relations established so far, more specifically:

- Promote the international network BCHR (*Business, Conflicts and Human Rights*). Absorb its secretariat and strengthen the links between its members. Follow-up of the activity of the United Nations’ business and human rights group and the intergovernmental working group of the treaty.
- Develop own or ICIP-promoted research: proposal for indicators and comparative study of national plans –existing and future- of business and human rights
- Promote maximum coordination with other actors: organise participation in the program of interested researchers, established in Catalonia, and boost their participation in the international network.
- Cooperate with political initiatives in Catalonia on the relationship between business and human rights.