

Preliminary Program

5th Spanish Conference on Humanitarian Action

“Humanitarian Action in times of crisis: improving the quality, transparency and accountability”

Maintaining the commitment towards the most vulnerable: challenge of Humanitarian Action at a time of economic crisis

Date: March 14, 2013

Place: Auditorium (morning and afternoon) of La Casa Encendida. Ronda de Valencia 2, 28012 Madrid

Time: From 10.15 am to 6.00 pm. Free admission but seats are limited so it is necessary to submit the confirmation form that is located on the IECAH website *[in process of creation]*

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Instituto de Estudios sobre Conflictos y Acción Humanitaria
Institute of Studies on Conflicts and Humanitarian Action

In conjunction with:



GOBIERNO
DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO
DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES
Y DE COOPERACIÓN

SECRETARÍA DE ESTADO
DE COOPERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL
Y PARA IBEROAMÉRICA

SECRETARÍA GENERAL DE COOPERACIÓN
INTERNACIONAL PARA EL DESARROLLO



LA CASA ENCENDIDA



AYUNTAMIENTO DE CORDOBA

I. Presentation

The world that we live in is becoming a dangerous and unpredictable place, especially for people who live in Fragile States or in States affected by conflicts, where there is a high poverty rate and natural disasters and armed conflicts occur incessantly before our eyes. Additionally, needs grow every year: 2012 was characterized by an aggravation of humanitarian crisis and a deterioration of the patterns of the aforementioned crisis.

In an increasingly complex environment, the situation of humanitarian aid is of special relevance. 2010 began a process of rapid reduction of funds especially noticeable in our international cooperation. Recent cuts are leading the Spanish public humanitarian aid to a worrying situation and to the conversion of Spain into a less relevant donor on the international scene.

This context, where doubts and concerns are mixed with hopes for a better future, frames the 5th edition of the Spanish Conference on Humanitarian Action. Its goal is none other than to tackle the humanitarian action challenges in a time when the international economic situation is impacting the overall amount of aid and the most vulnerable groups on our planet. Today more than ever, maintaining the humanitarian commitment involves increasing efforts in terms of quality, accountability and transparency.

The 5th Conference is part of a process that began long ago with the objective of contributing to the improvement of Spanish aid. In Cordoba in October 2004, we held the 1st Spanish Conference on Humanitarian Action, which represented a large breakthrough in discussion and agreement between Spanish humanitarian organizations. Since then, the Spanish Conference has been held every two years, establishing itself as a space for reflection and discussion on the diverse issues and complex challenges on the humanitarian agenda. This is the only specific forum in Spain for discussion among professionals, volunteers, public agencies and NGOs in this sector.

The conference, organized by the Institute of Studies on Conflict and Humanitarian Action (IECAH), with the support of the General Secretariat of International Cooperation for Development (SGCID – MAEC) and in collaboration with La Casa Encendida, will take place on March 14, 2013 at La Casa Encendida in Madrid.

II. Objectives

Divided into three panels throughout one day, the 5th edition of the Spanish Conference on Humanitarian Action will focus on the challenges that humanitarian actors face regarding the consequences of the current economic crisis our world is living and will count with the participation of various entities involved with programs of international cooperation and humanitarian action (Autonomous Communities, Councils, NGOs and renowned experts on these issues).

The focal goal is to contribute to the improvement of Spanish humanitarian action through reflection, discussion, and the direct exchange of experiences between the various actors involved.

The specific objectives of this project are summarized as:

- Consolidate the steady relationships between the various actors on humanitarian action and solidarity in our country.
- Perform an update of the humanitarian agenda, after two especially eventful years in this sector.
- Create a space for reflection and discussion on the challenges of humanitarian action at this time with the inevitable background of the economic crisis.
- Propose initiatives to improve the practice and quality of Spanish humanitarian entities.
- Promote the dissemination and the discussion of the quality and accountability in the humanitarian field and the international initiatives with respect to this.

III. Program

Head Coordinator: Celia Agulló Pastor- celia.agullo@iecah.org

10:15am – 10:30am: Collection of documents and accreditations

10:30am – 10:45am: Official inauguration and presentations of the Conference

- Gonzalo Robles. Secretary General of International Cooperation and Development (SGCID).
- Francisco Rey and Jesús A. Núñez. Co-directors of IECAH.
- Representative from La Casa Encendida.

10:45am - 12:30pm: First Panel “Humanitarian action in the current international scene: beyond the numbers. Trends and challenges of the future”

- Velina Stoianova. Independent consultant and ex-analyst for Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA), Development Initiatives.
- José Antonio Bastos. President of Doctors Without Borders Spain.
- Jesús A. Núñez Villaverde. Co-director of IECAH.

Moderator: Fernando Almansa. Independent consultant. Former head of humanitarian action for OXFAM International.

Front Row: Representatives from NGOs and the Spanish Public Administrations (to be determined).

12:30pm – 13:00pm: Coffee break

13:00pm – 2:45pm: Second Panel “Quality and accountability in humanitarian action. Are quality initiatives helpful in the humanitarian sector?”

- Representative from Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP). Geneva.
- Representative from Groupe URD.
- Representative from the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR).

Moderator: Ana Urgoiti. Consultant. IECAH’s collaborator and expert on the quality of aid.

Front Row: Representatives from NGOs and the Spanish Public Administrations (to be determined).

2:45pm: End of morning session

4:00pm – 6:00pm: Third Panel “Humanitarian action in Spain: looking for its place”

- Manuel Sánchez Montero. Chief of the Spanish Humanitarian Action Office (OAH), AECID.
- Representative from the Spanish Development NGO Coordinator (CONGDE). Humanitarian Action’s Committee.
- Francisco Rey Marcos. Co-director of IECAH.

Moderator: José Ángel Sotillo Lorenzo. Director of the University Institute for Development and Cooperation (IUDC) and Director of the Masters in International Cooperation, Madrid (Spain).

Front Row: Representatives from NGOs and the Spanish Public Administrations (to be determined).

6:00pm – 6:15pm: Closing session

There will be one person in charge of the moderation for each session.

There will be one person in charge of summarising for each session.

When necessary there will be a service of simultaneous interpreting.