

General News Internal: HR4DEV 2014 International Training

HR4DEV 2014: What's in a name?

The international training programme Human Rights for Development (HR4DEV) is a biannually organized course of 4 weeks, that maps the potential and limits of human rights in development and development cooperation. The training programme consists of a general part (two weeks on human rights and development), and a thematic part (children's rights for

this 2014 edition, also two weeks). The course aims at promoting knowledge, insight and skills in the field of human and children's rights. HR4DEV targets young leaders in policy, practice and academia, to enable them to pass on this knowledge and skills to their own society and working environment (according to the train-the-trainers model), on the one hand, and to stimulate critical and strategic reflection on the integration of

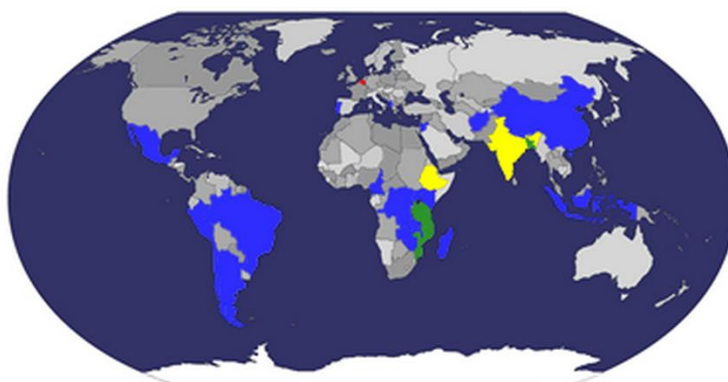
human and children's rights) in their professional activities, on the other.



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International programme

HR4DEV is not exclusively organized for participants from the global South. We explicitly choose to expose participants from North and South to the views of participants from other continents. As such, information, knowledge and means that are relevant to both North and South are shared. To this end, the organisers aim to achieve equitable geographical representation of participants from all regions of the world. The geographical representation at the 2014 edition is illustrated below (with Belgium being slightly overrepresented due to the Programme's location):



■ 12 participants ■ 4 participants ■ 2 participants ■ 1 participant

Young leaders

Participants come from a wide range of educational and professional backgrounds. With regards to education, less than half of the 2014 participants had a legal background

(18), others were graduates in e.g. Development Studies, Social Work, Public Administration, Political Science and International Relations. In addition, two people had a background in Forestry, one in Educational Sciences and one in

Psychology. Finally, there was a large group of participants (7) that graduated in very diverse fields (e.g. hydrogeology, management, criminology).

Ins and outs

Methodologically, the emphasis was mainly on knowledge acquisition, capacity building and offering a platform for critical and strategic reflection. Critical and strategic reflection was achieved by devoting explicit day themes to particular topics (e.g. human rights in context; universality of human rights; critical perspectives), by means of the

programme structure (confrontation of several disciplinary perspectives, approaches and schools), and through the working methods (lectures, workshops, open forums, roundtables and group discussions). The four week training programme offered considerable time to the participants to integrate this critical and strategic reflection in their own thinking. Finally, every participant is required to write an individual paper, so as to

allow an integration of the critical and strategic reflection offered throughout the programme in his or her own thinking and professional plans. A number of these interesting papers will be published in the 2014 course report (the report will be available on www.hr4dev.be).

Testimonials

Zhe from China

“From my exchange with Tafadzwa I felt that I understood how China and Africa relationships are becoming more productive. With this exchange of ideas knowledge expands beyond typical perceptions of things. It's always enriching to hear different points of view to have a better appreciation of not only development but also cultures and countries.”



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Tafadzwa from Zimbabwe

“When I sat next to Zhe Chang during the HR4DEV opening lecture, I had no clue I had to learn about Zhe and China in 5 minutes before introducing him to the rest of the class. My Chinese wasn't bad after all! But what motivated me most was the idea that China and Zimbabwe had common mutual interests in the fundamental human right to sustainable livelihoods.”

Faiz from India

“As far as development resources are concerned, we got really good quality literature, case studies, UNESCO and other organizations' presentations regarding human rights and development & we made contacts with academicians and professionals from throughout the world.. It is was quite an enriching experience..”

Addisu from Ethiopia

"The training you organized was timely, high level, facilitated by all magnificent professors across the world (with lively experiences) and organized by very humble and friendly Belgian people. It was really a splendid time for me!. This is a session where every development practitioner across the globe should go through. Moreover, I really miss Europe particularly Belgium, a country where I met with honest and humble people who are humorous to stay with. "

Kirsten from Belgium

“I was struck by the lecture of the iNGO Terres des Hommes, which demonstrated that it is perfectly feasible to have ideals and at the same time to welcome cultural diversity and to integrate critical reflections.”

The full programme can be consulted at www.hr4dev.be.

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