During the 2016/2017 reporting period, Berg Institute undertook a number of activities that underscore its commitment to UNAI and its principles. The following examples stand out as particularly noteworthy:

1. Masters’ Programs

A. Masters’ In International Relations And Diplomacy.

From October 2015 to the present time, Alfonso X El Sabio University in cooperation with Berg Institute and the academic collaboration of the United Nations’ University for Peace - Human Rights Centre, organized the 4th (October 2015 – July 2016), 5th (October 2016 – July 2017) and 6th (October 2017 – July 2018) editions of the Master in Dynamics of Cooperation, Conflict and Negotiation in International Relations and Diplomacy, a one-year post-graduate program designed for professionals currently working in the field of International Affairs. This program takes a practical and interdisciplinary approach in studying and debating the challenges professionals face in today’s complex and interconnected world.

More information is available [here](#).

B. Masters’ In International Protection Of Human Rights, Public Policy And Sustainability.

On October 2016, Berg Institute and University Alfonso X El Sabio, in collaboration with the United Nations’ University for Peace, launched an innovative Master’s program in International Protection of Human Rights, Public Policy and Sustainability, a one-year post-graduate program focused on developing a sophisticated, realistic and updated approach to the protection and implementation of Human Rights through public policy, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. After a satisfactory first edition (October 2016 – July 2017), the Master program has continued with its second edition (October 2017 – July 2018).

More information is available [here](#).
2. Human Rights In Context Academic Programs

A. Europe.

In cooperation with the Europäische Akademie Otzenhausen (Germany) and the United Nations’ University for Peace, Berg institute has organized the XVII (January 2016), XVIII (June 2016), XIX (September 2016), XX (January 2017), XXI (June 2017) and XXII (September 2017) editions of the Human Rights and International Relations academic program titled: Human Rights in context: Europe. This program offers an extraordinary opportunity to get closer to the history and European legal evolution within the area of human rights during late 90's; from the First World War to our days, including debates and visits to the most relevant European legal institutions. This program has generated an important forum for debate, enhanced awareness, and the defense of human rights, and already counts more than 500 participants.

More information is available here.

B. Israel & Palestine.

In cooperation with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Berg institute organized the IV (July 2016) and V (July 2017) of the Human Rights, International Law and International Relations academic program titled Human Rights in context: Israel and Palestine. This program offers the unique experience to face the situation of Human Rights in the field at Israel, Palestine and the Occupied Territories from an academic and cultural point of view.

More information is available here.

3. European-American Spring Academy Seminar

During May 2016 and May 2017, Berg Institute in cooperation with the Europäische Akademie Otzenhausen (Germany) and the Europa Institute of Saarland University (Germany), among others, organized two new editions of the European-American Spring Academy seminar, held at the EAO headquarters in Otzenhausen for one week. In this program, that included field trips to Belgium, Luxembourg and France, the participants had the opportunity to learn about the fundamental aspects of European integration focus on the set-up of the EU, Human Rights Protection and the Single Market.

More information is available here.

4. World Young Diplomats Conference

On July 2016, Berg Institute had the opportunity to join the organization of the intensive study trip World Young Diplomats of Saceda Youth Lead, an annual conference of youth leaders, teachers, NGO and INGO workers who study and resolve world’s inequities through human rights, education, leadership, peace, and diplomacy. The event was held in Madrid and Paris with the theme: “Re-uniting the youth to study and resolve world’s inequities through human rights, education, leadership, peace and diplomacy.”

More information is available here.

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5. Publications

Human Rights And Literature Library.

In 2017, Berg Institute started planning a new publishing project, the Human Rights and Literature Library, to celebrate in 2018 the 70th anniversary of the declaration by United Nations’ General Assembly of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, approved and proposed on 9th December 1948. This second book collection is also conceived to publish in Spanish language titles that do not exist in such language and that must be known worldwide; an essential component of our project is the distribution of all our publications through the international distribution network we are currently building up with two main epicentres: Madrid and Bogotá.

The Human Rights and Literature Library includes eight titles at the moment, two of them have already been published and the other six will be published during the year 2018. Meanwhile, Berg Institute is working to add more titles to it.

The books confirmed until present are the following:

- “Testigo en Núremberg” (Witness to Nuremberg), Richard W. Sonnenfeldt, Berg Institute (to be published soon).
- “El Juicio de Eichmann” (The Eichmann Trial), Deborah E. Lipstadt, Berg Institute (to be published soon).
- “Detén la Mano de la Venganza. La política de los tribunales de crímenes de guerra” (Stay the Hand of Vengeance: The Politics of War Crimes Tribunals), Gary J. Bass, Berg Institute (to be published soon).
- “Justicia Imperfecta” (Imperfect Justice), Stuart E. Eizenstat, Berg Institute (to be published soon).
- “Érase una vez un país: una vida en Palestina” (Once Upon A Country: A Palestinian Life), Sari Nusseibeh, Berg Institute (to be published soon).

More information is available here.

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6. Scholarships For Victims

In relation to its commitment with the victims of Human Rights violations, Berg Institute granted in 2017 two scholarships to support the winners of the “Entrepreneurship Training Program for victims of explosive devices within the Colombian internal armed conflict” organized by the Pontifical Xavierian University in collaboration with the Colombian Red Cross, Cátedra Bancolombia and Foundation Bancolombia.

After a six-month training program for twelve selected victims of the Colombian armed conflict, all of them former members of the Colombian military or police force, or demobilized members of the FARC guerrilla, two productive projects were selected as the winners of the 2017 edition of this program: “Biodegradable Cleaning Products” to be developed in Bogotá, Colombia, and “Fish Farming La Esperanza” to be developed in Cajibío, Cauca, Colombia.

Berg Institute, as a collaborator of the Pontifical Xavierian University in Bogotá, contributed to the development of both projects by giving the financial support that will enable both beneficiaries to materialize their efforts. Berg Institute’s aid is conditioned to the correct development of the previously agreed steps for each project and, consequently, the contact with the beneficiaries will be constant and regular for the next two years to ensure the proper and responsible investment of the financial support given by Berg Institute.

7. Academic-Institutional Events


Academic conference organized by the Berg Institute in collaboration with Universidad del Rosario (Bogotá, Colombia), aimed at training 90 senior officers of the Colombian National Navy. It took place on September 21, 2016 in Bogotá. Four successive talks were held in which fourteen speakers of recognized national and international prestige participated, with different profiles: doctors in law, the Vice Minister for the Promotion of Justice in Colombia, the Deputy Ombudsman of Colombia, the Dean of the United Nations’ University for Peace in Costa Rica, the Dean of the Faculty of Legal Sciences of the Pontifical Xavierian University in Bogotá (Colombia), the Dean of the Faculty of Jurisprudence of the Universidad del Rosario (Bogotá, Colombia), magistrates of the Superior Military Court of Colombia, the former president of the Constitutional Court of Colombia and former Ombudsman of Colombia, generals and colonels of the armies of Spain and Colombia, and of the National Police of Colombia, among others.

B. “Recertification In Human Rights And International Humanitarian Law”, National Directorate Of Intelligence, Colombia.

Berg Institute has taught ad hoc training programs to Colombian entities over the past years with the satisfaction shown by them when requesting the extension of certification to the rest of their employees. Such is the case of the National Directorate of Intelligence, in which case the Berg Institute has recertified two hundred and twenty-five civil servants with training given in 2016 and 2017. In 2018 the third edition of the Recertification in Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law will be held, directed to another hundred public servants of said institution.

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C. Human Rights Seminars For The Colombian Ombudsman’s Office.

Likewise, the Berg Institute has conducted two Human Rights training seminars for officials of the Colombian Ombudsman’s Office in 2016 and 2017, including a conference aimed at all the territorial delegates of the institution. The ad hoc training programs are adjusted to the personnel needs, duration, subjects and other variables of the institution in question.


Organized by Berg Institute in collaboration with the United Nations’ University for Peace (Costa Rica), the Universidad del Rosario (Colombia), the Pontificical Xavierian University (Colombia) and the Alfonso X el Sabio University (Spain). This meeting that took place on April 20, 2017 in San José (Costa Rica) commemorated the victims of the bombing of Guernica during the Spanish Civil War in 1937. Among the participants were the first lady of Costa Rica, representatives of the Embassy of Spain and the European Union in Costa Rica, as well as academics and artists.

More information is available here.


EQUION ENERGY LTD. Berg Institute was invited to collaborate in the tenth edition of this conference (October 24-27, 2017) organized by the private company Equion Energy for the Colombian Public Force. Three co-directors of Berg Institute participated in four of the twenty-three conferences held during the four-day meeting with senior officials of the Colombian Army, Navy, Air Force and National Police.

Berg Institute and the Universidad Alfonso X El Sabio created in 2017 this permanent space for students and teachers of both institutions.

Its objective is to organize activities related to Human Rights, Leadership, Democracy, Enterprise and Sustainability in an international, productive and proactive atmosphere.

It also holds the United Nations Club of the university.


Conference organized by Berg Institute in collaboration with Siglo del Hombre Editores within the framework of the International Book Fair of Bogotá (FILBO), on May 3, 2017. During the conference, four members of Berg Institute presented the new publications of the Berg Institute Human Rights Library and talked about their importance for the present and future of Colombia regarding the Transitional Justice process and its implications for the protection of Human Rights in the country.

H. “Transitional Justice In Colombia: The ‘Special Justice For Peace’ And Perspectives” Seminar.

Berg Institute and Siglo del Hombre Editores presented the latest publications of the Berg Institute Human Rights Library – “Transitional Justice and Truth Commissions - 2nd edition” and “Right to Truth and International Law in relation with grave human rights violations” – in the bookstore Lerner, Bogotá, November 23, 2017. The occasion was used to promote Berg Institute’s academic production and to reflect about Colombia’s challenges and perspectives regarding the transitional justice process that started recently. Three members of Berg Institute’s Academic Council were the authorities in charge of carrying out the debate: the author of the second edition of “Transitional Justice and Truth Commissions”, the former Deputy Minister for the Promotion of Justice of Colombia and the Vice-president of the UN Committee against Enforced Disappearances.


Berg Institute participated in this international event organized in Bogotá on November 2017 with two very relevant conferences on “Sexual violence in armed conflict. The Colombian situation.” and on “The victims in the peace process.”

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The Berg Institute is an academic non-governmental organization dedicated to independent legal consultancy and education, in areas involving the promotion and protection of human rights, international humanitarian law, governance, public democratic leadership and sustainability our principal activity is based upon the development of academic programs and the assessment of institutions in public and private sectors, incorporating an international perspective that is realistic and centred on the effective promotion of Human Rights and the Rule of Law.

Link: [http://www.berg-institute.org](http://www.berg-institute.org)