# UNESCO CHAIR/UNITWIN NETWORK PROGRESS REPORT FORM

Title of the Chair/Network:	Cátedra UNESCO de Derechos Humanos ULaSalle- CEDE		
Host Institution:	Universidad De La Salle Costa Rica and Centro de Estudios en Derechos		
Date of establishment of	October/2011		
Chair/Network:			
Period of activity under report:	January/2016 - December/2016		
Report established by: (name, position)	Lorena González Pinto. Coordinator Cátedra UNESCO ULaSalle-CEDE		

To be returned by electronic mail to both: <u>unitwin@unesco.org</u> and <u>i.nichanian@unesco.org</u>

Or by mail to UNESCO, Division for Teacher Development and Higher Education, Section for Higher Education

7, place Fontenoy – 75352 Paris 07 SP, France

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1. Executive Summary: Major outcomes, results and impact of the Chair, including on national policies, in relation to its objectives as stated in Article 2 of the Chair Agreement (between the Institution and UNESCO) (Not exceeding 300 words)

According to the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights of ULaSalle-CEDE, human rights education is the set of learning activities, teaching, training, and information aiming to build a universal culture of human rights. Effective education in human rights not only provides knowledge about human rights and the mechanisms to protect them, but also develops the necessary measures to promote, defend and apply human rights in daily life, and promote understanding, tolerance, gender equality and friendship among all nations and minorities.

That is why during 2016, the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights of ULaSalle-CEDE has developed actions to promote political impact, such as advising the Parliament and developing training workshops.

Dialogue spaces were created to discuss current issues regarding human rights related to Costa Rica and the region.

An agreement was also made with UNHCR to conduct a *Specialized Course on Human Rights and International Refugee Law.* It had a good impact so in the same year we had to make a second edition of the course.

We also encourage students to participate in international competitions of human rights.

The Chair seeks to be an instrument that facilitates academic collaboration on human rights among high-level researchers, experts and academics - De La Salle University in Costa Rica and other national and Latin American institutions -, students and civil society.

That's why it was promoted the exchange on human rights issues of students of our University with the De La Salle University of Mexico and the exchange of teachers with the De La Salle University of Canoas in Brazil. We also developed some activities in Honduras.

Finally the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights of ULaSalle-CEDE signed an agreement with the Faculty of Social Sciences of the Technological Foundation Antonio de Arévalo, TECNAR of Colombia. The main objective is to support them in issues on Transitional Justice.

- 2) Activities: Overview of activities undertaken by the Chair during the reporting period
- a) Education/Training/Research (key education programmes and training delivered and research undertaken by the Chair during the reporting period, target group and geographical coverage)

## i) Education

(Leading to certificate)

1) Activity: Participation in the twenty edition of the International Competition on Human Rights "Eduardo Jiménez de Arechaga, CEJA".

**Objective:** Prepare and train students in human rights issues, in order to participate in the International Human Rights Competition.

Profile of assistants: Law students.

**Number of Participants**: 8 students of the Faculty of Law were prepared to participate in the International Competition for Human Rights. Four of them participated representing ULaSalle. 12 universities from all Latin America participated in the competition.

**Duration:** 6 months.

Geography: San José, Costa Rica.

2) Activity: Specialized Course on Human Rights and International Refugee Law.

**Objective**: The UNESCO Chair in Human Rights ULaSalle-CEDE and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has designed a course on human rights and refugee law in order to provide training on this subject.

**Profile of Assistants:** The course was aimed to professionals interested in International Human Rights Refugee Law.

**Number of participants**: 25 professionals of state institutions, NGOs, universities and international organizations.

**Duration:** The course lasted three months, starting on January 19, 2016.

Geography: Costa Rica.

3) Activity: Specialized Course on Human Rights and International Refugee Law. Second Edition.

**Objective**: Due to the high interest generated by the first course on refugees, the UNESCO Chair in Human Rights ULaSalle-CEDE and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) designed a second edition of the course on human rights and refugee law in order to provide training on this subject.

**Profile of Assistants:** The course was aimed to professionals interested in

International Human Rights Refugee Law.

**Number of participants**: 20 professionals of state institutions, NGOs, universities and international organizations.

**Duration:** The course lasted three months, starting on August 16, 2016.

Geography: Costa Rica.

4) Activity: International human rights session: Brazil-Costa Rica.

**Objective**: Promote and facilitate the teaching of human rights with an interdisciplinary approach and the exchange of knowledge between Brazil and Costa Rica

**Profile of Assistants:** 1500 students of the following careers: Law-Psychology-Business-Education of the ULaSalle University.

Number of participants: 1500 participants.

**Duration:** From the 17th to the 22nd of October

Geography: San José, Costa Rica.

#### ii) Training

1) Activity: Training Teachers of La Salle College of Costa Rica.

## (short term)

**Objective:** La Salle, also have a school with more than 1,000 students. The UNESCO chair develop a training course for teachers of the school, so they understand the characteristics of the UN Convention on the Rights of Children, in order to incorporate in its regulations.

Number of Attendees: 20

**Profile and number of participants:** Teachers, counselors and coordinators of La Salle College.

Geography: Costa Rica.

## iii) Research

1) Activity: Development of Unconstitutional Action against Article 181 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

**Objective:** Challenge the norm 181 of the Criminal Procedure Code, since it allows the collection and use of evidence obtained through torture, coercion or other unlawful means. The rule that directly contravenes the national Constitution of Costa Rica, international treaties ratified by Costa Rica And the international prohibition of torture.

**Profile and number of participants:** Law students with the coordination of the UNESCO Chair and the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture.

**Aimed at:** Ombudsman of Costa Rica, so they will file the claim before the Constitutional Chamber of Costa Rica.

**Duration:** 11 months.

Geography: San José, Costa Rica.

- 2) Activity: The UNESCO Chair in Human Rights ULaSalle has a **website** which was redesigned in 2013, in order to broadly inform about the activities that the Chair develops, and promote specialized materials and valuable information for research on current issues. Over 22,000 people visited the site in 2016.
- **3) Activity:** In the year 2016 the UNESCO Chair created a *Facebook account*. Through the account in FB, the UNESCO Chair not only reports on activities, but also publishes relevant information on human rights. Currently the page has 853 followers.
- b) Conferences/Meetings (key conferences and meetings organized by the Chair or to which its Chairholder contributed)
- i) Key conferences and workshops hosted by the Chair
- 1) Activity: Training at the Technological University of Honduras, on the Inter-American System of Human Rights.

**Objective:** To present and analyze the situation of human rights in Honduras, in relation to the Inter-American Human Rights System.

**Profile of Assistants:** Members of the legal community in the country.

Number of Attendees: 30 lawyers.

**Duration:** May 19-20 2016

Geographic Area: Technological University of Honduras UTH. Honduras

2) Activity: Panel on "Torture in Costa Rica? Myths and Realities" Conversation in the framework of the X Anniversary of the Optional Protocol of the UN Convention Against Torture.

**Objective**: To raise awareness of the existence of Torture in Costa Rica.

Tribute to Dr. Elizabeth Odio Benito, Costa Rican former judge of the International Criminal Court and current judge of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

**Profile of assistants:** Participated as speakers: the Minister of Justice; the Director of Public Defense; a Magistrate the Constitutional Chamber; the coordinator of the UNESCO Chair and the coordinator of the National Prevention Mechanism.

This activity was coordinated with the Human Rights Commission of the Bar Association.

**Number of Attendees:** 150 persons attended the conference.

**Duration**: Wednesday, July 27, 2016 (4:00 pm to 8:00 pm).

Geography: ULASALLE, San José, Costa Rica.

3) Activity: Workshop: "Organs of the Treaties and Other Mechanisms of Human Rights of the United Nations", carried out at the National University of Costa Rica (UNA).

**Objective:** Analyze the challenges and perspectives of the United Nations work on human rights at the international level.

**Profile of Participants:** Students and teachers of the international relations career.

This activity was coordinated with the International Relations Faculty of the National University of Costa Rica (UNA)

**Number of Attendees: 50** 

**Duration:** Monday, April 25, 2016 (2:30 pm to 5:30 p.m.)

Geography: National University Campus. San José, Costa Rica.

4) Activity: Workshop: "The Role of Civil Society in the United Nations Human Rights System".

**Objective:** Contribute to the training of key actors from different sectors of Costa Rican civil society on the role they can play in the construction and maintenance of a more democratic society through the support of the Ombudsman of Costa Rica and human rights mechanisms from the United Nations System.

Profile of Participants: Human rights experts and members of civil society.

Number of Attendees: 60

**Duration:** Saturday, November 5, 2016.

Geography: San José, Costa Rica.

5) Activity: Workshop: Training of prosecutors on regional protection systems, with special emphasis on the inter-American system for the protection of human rights.

**Objective:** Collaborate with the accomplishment of the Diploma in Criminal Investigation, Analysis of Forensic Tests and Violations of Human Rights developed by the University for Peace.

Profile of Participants: Prosecutors in Honduras

Number of Attendees: 40

**Duration:** August 18-20, 2016

Geography: Tegucigalpa, Honduras

c) Interuniversity Exchanges/Partnerships (principal exchanges/partnerships between the Chair and other institutions including UNESCO Chairs/UNITWIN Networks)

Activity: Agreement with the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIHR) for the creation of four fellowships in training for law professionals in relation to economic, social and cultural rights.

**Objective:** To support the process of updating legal professionals in ESCR, in addition, to continue to train the graduates of De La Salle University

**Profile of Attendees:** Law professionals graduated in ULaSalle, with particular interest in human rights, and especially training in Social and Cultural Economic Rights.

Geography: San José, Costa Rica

2) Activity: Agreement with IIHR, for the granting of a scholarship to the law student of the De La Salle University, for the XXXIV Interdisciplinary Course on Human Rights.

**Objective:** Encourage participants to focus on Affordable, Effective, and Reparative justice, to achieve full Human Rights Guarantee.

**Profile of Attendees:** People linked to public entities, civil society or students working with security issues, both at the national and regional levels.

The scholarship for ULaSalle was awarded after a selection process to a student who participated in the International Human Rights Competition

**Duration**: Took place from August 22 to September 2, 2016

Geography: IIHR Headquarters in San Jose, Costa Rica.

3) Activity: Exchange with the University of De La Salle Mexico.

**Objective:** To know the situation of human rights in Mexico and the institutions that promotes and defends fundamental rights.

Find an approach of students of the different De La Salle Universities.

Profile of the participants: Students of University De La Salle of Costa Rica.

Number of participants: 8.

**Duration:** one week, from 29 August to 2 September

Geographic Area: Ciudad de Mexico, Mexico.

#### e) Cooperation with UNESCO Headquarters, Field Offices

In 2016, various activities were coordinated with the UNESCO Regional Office for Mexico and Central America; the Director of the Regional Office, Mrs. Pilar Alvarez-Laso, participated in some of our activities.

d) Publications/Multimedia Materials (major publications and teaching/learning materials)				
Please tick relevant fields of		[tick]	[no.]	
output and indicate volume of output:	Books	V		
	Books (edited)			
	Books (chapters)			
	Monographs			
	Research Reports			
	Journal Articles (refereed)	V		
	Conference Proceedings			
	Occasional Papers			
	Teaching/Learning Materials	V		
	Multimedia Materials (CD-Rom)	.,		
	Multimedia Materials (Video)			
	Multimedia Materials (Other)			
Give details of major publications and materials including full citations.				
i) Article: Hermanos de las Escuelas Lasallistas. (2016). Proceso Participativo				
Democrático en las Escuelas Cristianas De La Salle. San José, Costa Rica.  ii) Manual: Universidad De La Salle. (2016). Manual De Políticas De Tratamiento De				
Datos Personales. iii) Thesis: Segura, S. (2016). "La aplicación del principio non bis in ídem en relación				
a sentencias penales dictadas por tribunales extranjeros respecto a delitos ordinarios". San José, Costa Rica: Universidad De La Salle.				
iv) <b>Thesis:</b> Espinoza, M. (2016). "El Derecho a la Secesión Remedial como una Norma de Derecho Consuetudinario". San José, Costa Rica: Universidad De La Salle				
f) Other (any other activities to report)				

Joint Declaration of the Costa Rican Bar Association and the UNESCO Chair of Human Rights ULaSalle. To support the work of the organs of the inter-American system and to request financial contributions to the member states of the OAS.

The communiqué was published in Costa Rica's largest circulation newspaper, in social networks and sent to the Costa Rican authorities.

3. Future Plans and Development Prospects: Outline of action plan for the next biennium and short/medium and long-term development prospects. Please do not hesitate to refer to difficulties that the Chair has experienced (Not exceeding 300 words)

In 2017, the UNESCO Chair of Human Rights ULaSalle-Cede will finance a publication, which involves the Universities of De La Salle Costa Rica and Canoas, Brazil.

During 2016, we have invited 10 students from De La Salle University in Brazil, to come to Costa Rica, during the hearing of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. During his stay they will be given some lectures on human rights where students participate University De La Salle of Costa Rica.

We will continue with the development of lectures on current issues in human rights and is expected to include videos on our website.

We expect to development activities with the Faculty of Social Sciences of the Technological Foundation Antonio de Arévalo, TECNAR of Colombia, in issues on Transitional Justice.

The greatest difficulty we have is the few resources we have, what prevents us from having a team of professionals to support the chair.

# Appendix:

1) Human Resources						
The UNESCO Chair has a coordinator and support from four students. During the development of the activities, University De La Salle makes available administrative, financial and academic staff/support to the Chair.						
2) Financial Resources						
Please tick sources of financial contribution and specify the amount in U.S. dollars	Host Institution Partner Institution Government Body Other Public Institution/Body (incl. Research Councils) UNESCO Other UN Agency IGO NGO Industry Other Private	[Tick]	Amount (\$) \$20,000.00 \$6.000.00 \$10,000.00			
Give details of financial contributions, material resources and space.						
The Chair is financed by the University of De La Salle and its counterpart, the Center for Rights Studies (CEDE).						
The university provides office and the possibility to use all the facilities at no cost						

(auditoriums, courtroom, classrooms etc).

During 2016, the University of De La Salle Canoas, Brazil, co-financed

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