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Introduction

In 2016, the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC-EP) signed a peace agreement to end the country's fifty-year-long internal armed conflict. The international community was present throughout the negotiations, based on the premise that it would include victims' representation and participation.

There are many challenges to the implementation of the peace agreement: the prosecution of the many responsible actors, a consideration of the lessons of the past, and the achievement of lasting and sustainable peace in the future. The path to peace implies an examination of the causes and consequences of the conflict based on research, education and the dissemination of knowledge among civil society.

The German-Colombian Peace Institute - CAPAZ was created in this context as an initiative of academic cooperation between Colombia and Germany, to consider the challenges of peace and discuss the conflict and its consequences. The CAPAZ Institute is a politically independent platform, supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) with funds from the Federal Foreign Office (AA).

CAPAZ Consortium

Below, we list the ten institutions that founded the German-Colombian consortium leading to the establishment of the CAPAZ Institute:

In Colombia: Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Universidad de los Andes, Universidad del Rosario, Universidad Externado de Colombia, and Pontificia Universidad Javeriana.

In Germany: Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Freie Universität Berlin, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Leibniz-Institut Hessische Stiftung Friedens- und Konfliktforschung (HSFK).

Followed by the ten associated members of CAPAZ:

In Colombia: Universidad de Antioquia, Universidad de Caldas, Universidad del Cauca, Universidad de Ibagué, Universidad Industrial de Santander, Universidad de Medellín, Universidad del Norte and Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana de Medellín.

In Germany: Willy Brandt School of Public Policy der Universität Erfurt, Zentralinstitut für Lateinamerika-Studien (ZILAS) der Katholischen Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt.





Peace is fundamental to the wellbeing of any society, making peacebuilding an enormous and urgent task. Peacebuilding implies, on the one hand, looking back to find ways to deal with a violent past and accompany the process of transitional justice, the search for truth, and the construction of the many versions of historical memory. On the other hand, it includes the fundamental tasks of looking to the future to discuss and design policies that enable the construction of a peaceful, prosperous, and socially and environmentally just society, which also promotes diversity. Understood as such, peace becomes a continuous effort and a duty that we should never consider as being completed. But first and foremost, peacebuilding requires solid partnerships, which, at the CAPAZ Institute, we aim to help consolidate between academic, social, political and cultural actors in Colombia and Germany. Despite our different perspectives, we all coincide in fighting for a fundamental mission: to work together in attempting to make a contribution, as modest as that may be, to building lasting and sustainable peace.

Prof. Dr. Stefan Peters

CAPAZ Institute Academic Director



At Justus Liebig University Giessen, we are proud to be part of the CAPAZ Institute, an initiative of international cooperation based on research, teaching, and consultancy, targeting different sectors involved in peacebuilding in Colombia.

We want to replace the old idea of academic cooperation as simple knowledge transfer from one country to another and, instead, promote a joint construction of approaches and meanings that elucidate the complexities of the Colombian conflict and foster new perspectives for the implementation of peace with a territorial perspective. We are fully convinced that academia can contribute significantly in this respect, and this is why we have joined forces with a number of universities and research centres in Germany and Colombia. We also want the CAPAZ Institute to serve as a meeting place for academia, civil society, government institutions and the different actors that make every effort to give meaning to territorial peacebuilding. The generation of knowledge for peace offers the possibility for a collaborative effort between academia and other knowledge-producing organisations that emerge from the territories. We want CAPAZ to interpret this opportunity correctly and contribute to the pertinence of academic cooperation between the two countries.

Prof. Dr. Thilo Marauhn

Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen

Spokesperson for the German Consortium at CAPAZ

Peacebuilding in Colombia is affected by two indisputable realities: it is regional and it requires the collaborative action of public and private institutions. Among them, academia, based on research, training, and social accompaniment plays an important role.



Collaborative effort is something that is frequently alluded to but that rarely actually happens, especially among universities. CAPAZ aims to prove otherwise. Professors and researchers from nine higher education centres and one international institute in Germany and Colombia, announce their medium- and long-term intention to collaborate in this direction.

The consortium, as a platform attuned to the regional realities, also establishes a participative methodology. Rather than offering anticipated responses, it enunciates its willingness to work together with social actors, researchers and students from the areas most severely affected by the armed conflict. CAPAZ symbolises the challenge of building common futures.

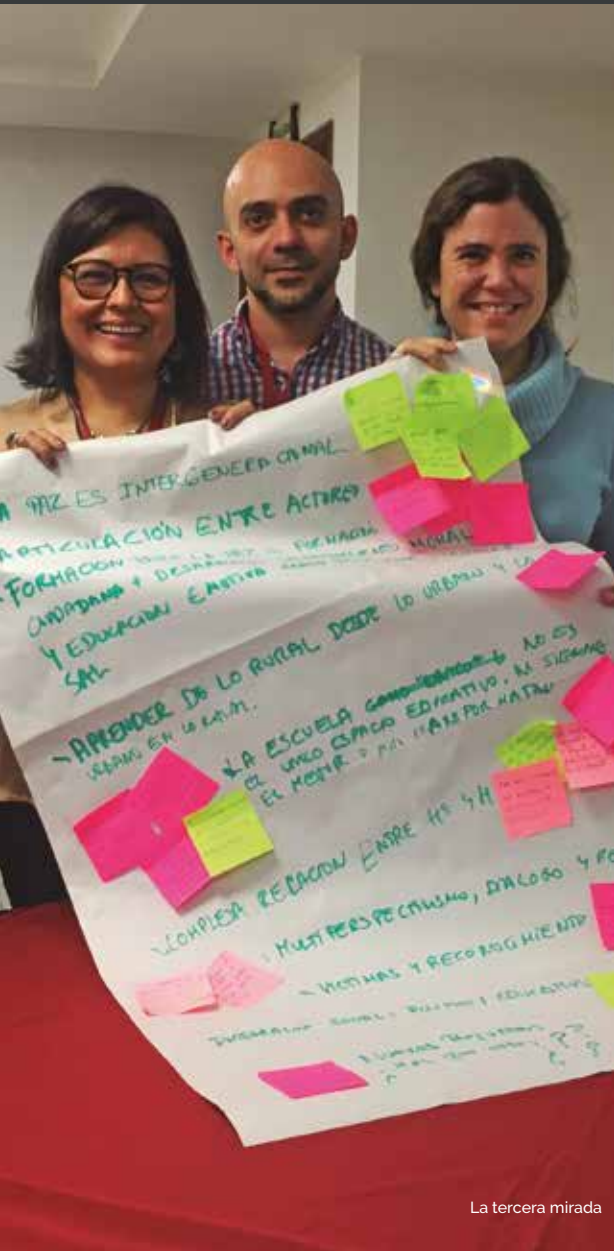
Dr. Camilo Borrero **Universidad Nacional de Colombia**

Spokesperson for the Colombian Consortium at CAPAZ

CAPAZ Vision

The CAPAZ Institute is a cooperation platform involving Colombia and Germany, promoting the exchange of knowledge and experience in topics related to peacebuilding through the formation of networks between universities, research centres, civil society organisations and governmental entities, whose actions focus on the territorial area. The consolidation of such networks allows interdisciplinary academic analysis, reflection, and debate on the lessons of the past and the challenges of sustainable peacebuilding”.

CAPAZ promotes research activities, teaching and consultancy, allowing new approaches to understanding peace and conflict, which transmit knowledge to society and set out answers to the multiple challenges inherent to a society in transition.



La tercera mirada

Goals

Connections between research, teaching, and consultancy

We are unique in connecting research, teaching, and consultancy in the context of the peace process and the changing situation of the post-conflict period in Colombia.

Contributions from the experiences of Colombia and Germany

Our contribution is based on the knowledge we have on Colombia, with an emphasis on the experiences and challenges in the regions most severely affected by the armed conflict. This work will be enriched by the lessons learnt from Germany and framed within a broad international debate.

Networking

As a platform for the identification and exchange of skills, we support knowledge transfer, training, and academic cooperation within networks involving people and institutions.

Projection based on interdisciplinary academic work

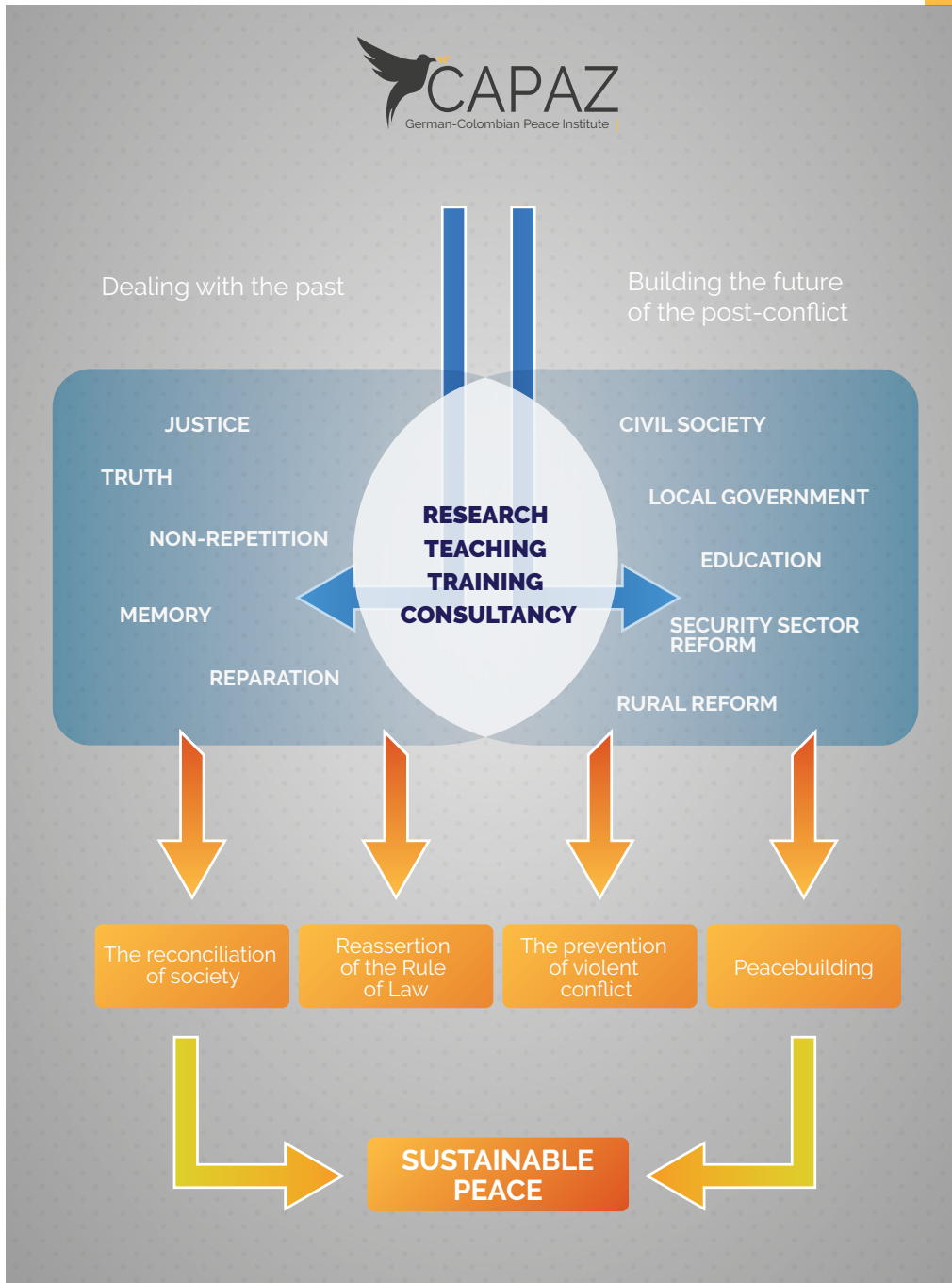
Founded within an interdisciplinary context, we seek to contribute to the supply of academic structures and the projection of knowledge with practical effects. This includes the participation of academics, actors from civil society organisations, State institutions, and other relevant entities.

Focusing on Colombia's regions

We make every effort to enable access to training activities, study, and re-research for existing academic communities and for those that are more isolated, especially in Colombian regions which have been devastated by the armed conflict. The CAPAZ Institute therefore promotes better knowledge distribution and the multiplication and development of capacities.

Strategic pillars

CAPAZ offers an institutional framework for **research, teaching, training and consultancy** understood as the projection of knowledge to society.



Research

The CAPAZ Institute has defined two approaches based on which it will build a research agenda conducive to peacebuilding in Colombia:

The first is related to the way in which we deal with the past, based on the principles of transitional justice.

The second refers to the challenges of lasting and sustainable peacebuilding.

Research with regional and sub regional inclusion

The CAPAZ Institute promotes the participation of researchers, students, and institutions of higher education in Colombia's regions, especially in areas affected by the armed conflict.

Applied research

It supports exploratory projects and studies that influence the regions and communities, based on which it can identify, define, and develop future lines of research.

Research and networked cooperation

Thanks to an electronic networking platform, the researchers will be able to establish contacts in Colombia and Germany, exchange capacities, and divulge their research work and academic production.

Strategic pillars

Teaching

Below are some of the academic activities included in the CAPAZ strategic axes:

Schools and workshops

These are environments in which the CAPAZ Institute promotes learning and exchange among Colombian and German researchers and students, and peace advocates from different Colombian regions.

Strengthening of academic programmes

The CAPAZ Institute enables the pro-jection of MA and PhD academic programmes in cooperation with higher education institutions in Colombia and Germany.

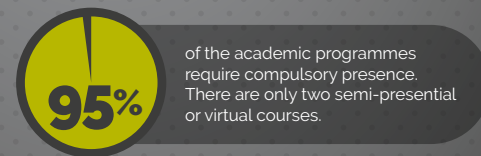
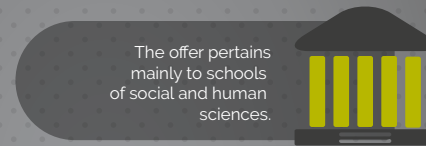
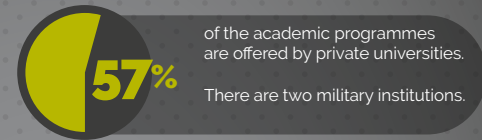
Academic events

Conferences, short courses, and other academic events set up by CAPAZ will bring together interested parties around a discussion and reflection on the existing knowledge and experiences in peace-related topics.

Peace-related graduate programmes in Colombia



TITLES



The courses are interdisciplinary and focus mainly on peace studies, conflict resolution, human rights, criminal law, and international law.



Source: SNIES – Colombian Ministry of Education / Accessed: December 2017

Strategic pillars

Consultancy

The CAPAZ Institute will implement actions through which it will carry out the following:

- ✿ Provide consultancy services in decision-making to interested actors belonging to the government, civil society, organisations and institutions, and the academic and business sectors.
- ✿ Contribute to the design and monitoring of the implementation of public policy relating to peace.
- ✿ Be instrumental to the visibility of the processes of regional organisations in Colombia.
- ✿ Manage contact and exchange between Colombia and Germany.
- ✿ Provide valuable information to generate knowledge and analysis in the arena of peace and society, following the signing of peace agreement.



Martin Gubsch



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Claudia Maya



Carlos Nupia

Carolina Corredor/Universidad Externado de Colombia

Exploratory projects and studies

CAPAZ' exploratory projects and studies aim to promote and strengthen academic and research relationships between Colombia and Germany, with an influence on Colombia's regions, mainly those most severely affected by the armed conflict. Researchers from the two countries coordinate these projects and studies, some of which are funded directly by the CAPAZ Institute.

From the different disciplines and based on the two research axes, the exploratory projects and studies have dealt with specific phenomena in order to consolidate future lines of research, including the following:

- 🌿 Transitional justice
- 🌿 Territorial peace
- 🌿 Peace, conflict and educational policy
- 🌿 Social and psychotherapeutic health of the vulnerable population
- 🌿 Narratives of memory and construction of the truth
- 🌿 Security policy and its reform in the post-conflict
- 🌿 Geospatial and social information systems based on work with communities
- 🌿 Differential approaches by peacebuilding
- 🌿 Sustainable development and environmental peace



The following entities have taken part in the exploratory projects and studies:

In Colombia:

Universidad de Nariño
Universidad del Valle
Instituto de Estudios Regionales (INER) – Universidad de Antioquia
Universidad Cooperativa de Colombia – Campus Pasto
Universidad Santo Tomás – Bogotá, Bucaramanga, Tunja, Villavicencio
Pontificia Universidad Javeriana de Cali
Universidad Surcolombiana de Neiva
Departamento de Medicina Psicosomática y Psicoterapia, Centro Humano y Sociedad e Instituto de Salud Pública – Pontificia Universidad Javeriana
Centro de Investigación y Creación (CIC) del Departamento de Literatura – Universidad de los Andes
Universidad de Antioquia
Universidad ICESI
Universidad de la Amazonía
Universidad Tecnológica de Pereira
Universidad del Cauca
Universidad de Ibagué
Universidad Nacional de Colombia sede Medellín
Universidad Francisco de Paula Santander (Cúcuta)
Secretaría de Salud del Departamento del Cesar
Secretaría de Educación y Cultura de Apartadó
ESE Hospital Regional Norte
Heinrich Böll Stiftung Colombia
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Colombia (FESCOL)
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Colombia
Programa Estado de Derecho para Latinoamérica-Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
Sociedad Geográfica de Colombia
Fundación MarViva
Fundación CeIBA
Equipo Colombiano de Investigación en Conflicto y Paz (ECICP)
Territorios de Paz Terrepaz (Región Central and Oriental)
Red de Geografías Críticas de Raíz Latinoamericana GeoRaizAL - Grupo de Trabajo CLACSO
ONG CETEC Cali
Asociaciones Nacionales de Zonas de Reserva Campesina- ANZORC (Colombia)
Corporación Colectivo de Agroecología Tierra Libre - Mesa eco regional de Sumapaz y Región Central (Colombia)
Consejo Comunitario Rescate Las Varas (CCRLV) – Municipio de Tumaco, Departamento de Nariño
Federación de Trabajadores de la Pesca Artesanal (FEDEPESCA) – Departamento del Chocó
Comité Ambiental en Defensa de la Vida
Corporación SOS
Asociación Heal Flor Nicaragua
Corporación Lluvia de Orión
Organización Ave Fénix
Red Adelco
Unipaz

In Germany, Europa and the US:

Zentrum für internationale Entwicklungs- und Umweltforschung (ZEU)-
Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen
Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena
Universität Hamburg
Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt
Willy Brandt School of Public Policy –
Universität Erfurt
Zentrum für Medizin und Gesellschaft,
Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg
Institut für Geschichte der Medizin der JLU Gießen
Internationale Akademie Berlin für Innovative Pädagogik, Psychologie und Ökonomie
Université Toulouse 2–Jean Jaurès (France)
University of Connecticut
University of Massachussets
Georg Eckert Institut-Leibniz-Institut für internationale Schulbuchforschung (GEI)
PAGEL – Partnerschaften für den Gesundheitssektor in Entwicklungsländern (DAAD)
Paulo Freire Institut
Brot für die Welt

Claudia Maya



Academic schools

The CAPAZ academic summer and winter schools offer German and Colombian participants the possibility to exchange information, discuss peace-related theoretical concepts, and exemplify and compare these concepts with the current situation in Colombia's regions.

The academic schools are a window on the multiple actors dedicated to studying and peacebuilding in Colombia: researchers, regional managers, and students in Colombia and Germany.

"Each of the academics that takes part in the schools is dedicated to understanding the challenges of peacebuilding from very different perspectives, but they are all in dialogue with each other and I think that they must enable students to better understand what we have achieved, and what remains to be done in order to obtain sustainable peace in the country".

Dr. Angelika Rettberg

Universidad de los Andes

Professor at the CAPAZ 2017 Winter School

NETCAPAZ multimedia platform

The "NETCAPAZ" platform is a virtual collaborative space on which to share the knowledge produced by Colombian and German researchers in topics related to peace studies and to engender new contacts to promote academic projects conducive to the construction of a peaceful society in Colombia.

Find out more on NETCAPAZ under www.netcapaz.org



Luis Enrique Sierra



Created by: www.tribecom.co

Facts and data

- ✦ Interinstitutional cooperation with German representation in Colombia: German Embassy, DAAD Colombia, Goethe-Institut Kolumbien, Colombo-German Chamber of Commerce, political foundations, international cooperation agencies, and NGOs.
- ✦ Participation of regional actors and community representatives in the exploratory projects and studies that have an influence on Colombia's regions.
- ✦ Funding for the participation of Colombian and German students and Colombian regional peace advocates in the academic schools.
- ✦ Regional peace advocates from Guaviare, Antioquia, Chocó, Santander, Bolívar, Tolima, Huila, Caquetá, Nariño and Valle del Cauca, among other regions, take part in the schools, as do representatives from regional State entities, NGOs, social organisations, defenders of the rights of peasants, indigenous communities, and Afro-Colombians.
- ✦ The first winter school in Colombia was organised in 2017 by the Colombian universities that founded the CAPAZ consortium. The university's five campuses provided the infrastructure for the school in which 29 scholarship winners took part, 14 of which were invited from Colombia's regions, and a further four from Germany.
- ✦ The CAPAZ Spotlight on Peace Calendar (Ciclo de Eventos CAPAZ) takes place throughout the year, including academic and cultural activities such as panels, talks and presentations of projects focusing on current peacebuilding issues in Colombia. All scheduled activities are free of charge and open to the public.



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Juan Camilo Serrano



Luis Enrique Sierra

"The German experience in terms of historical memory, truth, pardon and reconciliation for the non-repetition of atrocious events following the Second World War is, undoubtedly, a successful, sui generis experience that, despite the hugely different contexts, contributes important elements to the Colombian case in terms of political negotiation regarding the internal armed conflict and lasting and sustainable peacebuilding. Something similar happens with regard to the legal and constitutional developments in Germany, which is one of the globally most advanced. The exchange of academic experiences between the main universities and research centres of the two countries through the recently created CAPAZ Institute is a core asset to international cooperation".

Juan Mayr

Former Minister and Former Ambassador of Colombia in Germany

Luis Enrique Sierra



CAPAZ testimonials

Sophie Raehme

Trainee Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF)
Winter School 2017



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"I am thankful to CAPAZ for these experiences. Committed to returning as an Entendedora de Paz (Peace-builder), my backpack was much heavier when I left than it was when I arrived. It was full of good Colombian coffee, but mostly of the theses, questions, and new knowledge that I carried".

Julieta Lemaitre

Professor
Winter School 2017



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For me, the most interesting thing about this Winter School project is the diversity it attracts: the institutional diversity and the diversity of people that come from different parts of the country and who have experienced the armed conflict in different circumstances".

Sara Vélez

CIDER Student-Universidad de los Andes
Winter School 2017



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"For a week, we shared scenarios of dialogue, and confrontation between theory and reality in the meeting between academia and the territories".

Óscar Prieto

Sociologist and Researcher in Casanare and Huila
Winter School 2017



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"CAPAZ has helped us to link elaborated, constructed and conceptualised perspectives to guide agendas for peacebuilding in the territories, and open new paths for the exchange of experiences that emerge in the school".

Hilary Waldo

Public sector lawyer Defensoria del Pueblo Regional
Chocó
Winter School 2017



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"The work tools and reflections that have been shared at the school have been very important to the dialogue between the territories and academia. To be able to integrate the different contributions to peacebuilding, into academic processes is a very important opportunity".

Andrea García González

Master's student in Social Studies
Universidad del Rosario
Summer School
Justus Liebig University Giessen 2017



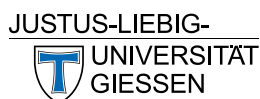
Andrea García

"The Summer School provided me with a comprehensive experience that brought together recreational and tourist activities in an academic environment which demanded careful preparation of the texts we had to read and for the exams.

As a sociologist, attending classes in comparative constitutional law, business ethics, and human rights, was alien to me but, undoubtedly, an enchanting experience".



Wilmar Lozano



German-Colombian Peace Institute - CAPAZ

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