



European
Commission

Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection

NOHA: Network on Humanitarian Action

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

Established in 1993

Membership:

- 10 European universities; further enlargement ongoing
- 8 international partners worldwide

Academic overview:

- 3 000 graduates
- 150 professors

Key initiatives:

- joint master's degree on humanitarian action
- short courses for professionals
- research, policy papers

Funding:

ECHO:

- 2013: €700 000
- Since 2008: €4 million



Key messages

- Expertise in humanitarian aid increases the overall effectiveness of relief assistance. The European Commission is firmly committed to enhancing the quality of its support to those in need worldwide. Twenty years ago it enabled the creation of the **first European association of universities providing high-level education, research and training in humanitarian action: NOHA.**
- **Established in 1993**, the Network on Humanitarian Action (NOHA) is a flagship initiative promoting intellectual debate and thinking on humanitarianism through its **Joint Master's programme** on International Humanitarian Action and policy papers. It has been **funded by the European Commission's department for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection ECHO** since its inception.
- **Over 3 000 graduates** have studied the master's degree handled by 150 professors in one of the **10 participating institutions**. Many of them are currently working in the United Nations, Red Cross Movement, international organisations, national governments or NGOs in headquarters or the field, helping those affected by poverty, natural disasters and armed conflicts.
- NOHA plays an outstanding role in **raising awareness** on humanitarian challenges among policy makers and the general public, and has also become an instrumental **partner of the EU Aid Volunteers scheme.**

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Humanitarian situation and needs

Professionalization of the sector

In the aftermath of a major crisis good intentions are not enough. Relief assistance has progressively shifted from the provision of basic services to more efficient and principled interventions, transforming reactive strategies into more proactive, needs and rights-based approaches that need to be put in place by fully committed and qualified experts.

Twenty years ago, a group of prominent academic leaders from different European countries decided to launch a joint high-level education, training and research programme on emergency prevention and response: the Network on Humanitarian Action or NOHA. It was the first association of universities in this field, dedicating its work to contribute to the expertise in the sector.

At present, NOHA offers a globally recognised interdisciplinary Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's on humanitarian action, refresher courses, seminars for civil servants and a research platform with studies at PhD level. These activities help in setting standards across the sector and ensuring humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence are widely disseminated.

The European Union's support

Funding

The European Commission has supported the Network on Humanitarian Action from the very beginning:

- ECHO provides technical advice and a yearly grant which amounted to €700 000 in 2013, in line with the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid to reinforce the European Union's training provision for humanitarian professionals. Moreover, NOHA has participated in the EU Aid Volunteers pilot projects coordinated by Save the Children together with Bioforce, as a pre-deployment capacity building organisation.
- The Directorate-General for Education and Culture (EAC) assists the Network in developing institutional partnerships between universities from Europe and third-countries (Erasmus Mundus).

The Network

NOHA has expanded its membership in the last years, from the initial 5 institutions up to 10, and is now preparing for the inclusion of additional universities. Having every Member State represented is the ultimate goal.

In 2004, the European Commission awarded the NOHA joint master's degree on humanitarian action the status of an Erasmus Mundus Programme, which promotes the EU as a centre of excellence in learning around the world and has led to a successful framework of cooperation, mobility and scholarships with 8 partner universities across the globe: in Lebanon, India, Indonesia, Australia, South Africa, the US, Brazil and Colombia.

