

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION NETWORK FOR HEALTH TECHNICIANS (RETS)

WORK PLAN 2014-2017

PRESENTATION

This Work Plan is intended to guide the activities of the International Education Network for Health Technicians (RETS), to be developed over a period of four years (2014-2017), with the assumptions integration and coordination within the network, educational institutions aimed at educating health technicians, to produce, organize and disseminate knowledge that will support the development of policies, programs, plans and projects of international cooperation and strengthen the health systems of member countries.

The completion of the 3rd General Meeting of RETS as activity prior to the 3rd Global Forum on Human Resources for Health, seems to reinforce the idea that the action of the networks is critical in the search for consensus and increasing the collaboratively capacity necessary to face the problems and to overcome the enormous challenges that still impede securing universal health care quality at an affordable cost for everyone.

The theme of the 3rd Meeting of the RETS - *"The network as a space for the production of knowledge about education and work of health technicians"* - aligns the prospect of its strengthening, and resumes some evidence actions marked since its creation in 1996. This Work Plan, in turn, indicates goals, actions and strategies that allow RETS, establishing itself as an important strategy for coordination and technical cooperation among institutions directly or indirectly linked to the education of technicians can effectively fulfill its purpose.

Objective 1: Produce, disseminate and promote the exchange of knowledge in the field of education and work of health technicians¹

Actions	Activities/Strategies ²	Responsibles	Period
1.1. Development of a multicenter survey to identify and analyze the quantitative and qualitative offer of education of health technicians in the member countries of the Network, with the establishment of a research group to strengthen education of health technicians	1.1.1. Constitution of a 'coordinating group', with members from countries/institutions who have already performed research within Mercosur.	Executive Secretariat of RETS CPLP/PAHO/WHO	2014 to 2016
	1.1.2. Preparation of Invitation Letter to be sent to member countries of RETS, with the purposes, objectives, inclusion criteria and strategies for the development of research.		
	1.1.3. Definition of samples of institutions of member countries to initiate the search based on the inclusion criteria.		
	1.1.4. Preparation of a protocol of intentions with countries and institutions selected by signing commitments to start the research.		
	1.1.5. Definition, among the selected institutions of that will coordinate the process in each country included in the survey.	Selected member countries	
	1.1.6. Definition of national work teams.	Coordinator group of the research Executive Secretariat of RETS Local Teams	
	1.1.7. Conducting workshops in each country included in the sample for presentation of research in order to agree upon a term of commitments and prepare a Term of Reference to guide its implementation.		
	1.1.8. Conducting a Workshop in Brazil with representatives of the work teams to develop tools and establishment of a Research Network with the same object: 'The Education and Work of Health Technicians'.		
	1.1.9. Development of the quantitative phase of the research, with the preparation of National Educational Maps on Educating Health Technicians (work with existing databases and to stimulate the construction of the database where they do not already exist).		
	1.1.10. Development of the qualitative phase of the research (to raise theoretical and methodological bases and conduct interviews by sampling in each country).		
	1.1.11. Conduct workshops for the preparation of the Technical Report with the partial results of the research.		
	1.1.12. Conduct the I International Seminar with research results, pointing the inclusion of other countries for its continuity.	PAHO/WHO	

¹ The survey made in Mercosur in the period of (...).

² It will be detailed in the process, with agreement of all countries involved.

Actions	Activities/Strategies	Responsibles	Period
1.2. Development and fostering research that will serve to consolidate the academic production in the area of technical education, supporting in the formulation of public policies in the countries and the establishment of technical cooperation among the institutions that comprise the Network	1.2.1. Preparation of a glossary of definition and classification of existing technical occupations in members countries of the Network.	Members Partners Executive Secretariat of RETS PAHO/WHO	2014 to 2017
	1.2.2. Collaborate with Network of Observatories of Human Resources, with emphasis on technical workers.		
	1.2.3. Supporting the development of documentary research for publication in accordance with the priorities identified by members of the Network: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. occupational profile of health technicians; b. theoretical and methodological guidelines and organization of curricula in different areas of education of health technicians consistent with educational needs identified by the countries; c. dynamics of organizations and of labor relations and the challenges of technical education; d. evaluation and certification of knowledge. 		
	1.2.4. Encourage the creation of working groups by research areas, according to the priorities identified by Network members, to advise actions of technical cooperation.		
	1.2.5. Stimulating technical cooperation for the production and improvement of educational materials that foster intra, inter and transcultural approach.		
	1.2.6. Identification of needs, potential and demands in strategic areas for education of technicians in order to establish inter-institutional partnerships.		
	1.2.7. Contribution to the exchange and mobility of teachers, students and technicians among the member institutions.		

Objective 2: Strengthen, expand and spread RETS

Actions	Activities/Strategies	Responsibles	Period
2.1 Expanding and strengthening RETS in the Americas, the Caribbean, Europe and Africa	2.1.1. Consolidation of technical cooperation activities in countries that already have representation on the Network.	Executive Secretariat WHO country offices	2014 to 2017
	2.1.2. Search through consultation with the governing body responsible for the formulation of educational policies of health technicians in their respective countries, of new members and partners who can integrate RETS.	Executive Secretariat	
	2.1.3. Diffusion of RETS and promotion of shared activities of exchange and cooperation with other organizations and institutions.	Members Partners Executive Secretariat	
	2.1.4. Consolidation and expansion of networks of technical health schools of CPLP and Unasur (RETS-CPLP and RETS-Unasur).	Members of the networks of technical health schools	
	2.1.5. Encourage the creation of National Networks of educational institutions of health technicians.	Members	

Objective 3: Improve and expand the communication actions within RETS

Actions	Activities/Strategies	Responsibles	Period
3.1. Development and improvement of mechanisms to facilitate the production of information and communication among the members of RETS and between the Network and the general public	3.1.1. Continuous updating of cadastral data of members and partners of RETS and dissemination, through the mechanisms of communication of the Network, of information about members of the Network that may be of public interest.	Members Partners Executive Secretariat	2014 to 2017
	3.1.2. Maintenance of the periodical RETS Magazine in three languages; enhancement of the website of the Network and increased dissemination of the Network and their topics of interest in existing social networks.	Members Partners Executive Secretariat	
	3.1.3. Review and revitalization of the Editorial Board, as a consultative body to promote the continuous improvement of the contents published in the media of RETS.	Executive Secretariat	
	3.1.4. Dissemination of texts and documents related to the field of technical education that can support the policies of cooperation among members of the Network.	Members Partners Executive Secretariat	