

Minutes of the 4th General Meeting of the RETs

On November 12, 13 and 14, 2018, members of the International Network of Health Technicians Education (RETS), according to the presence list attached to this Minutes (ANNEX1), met in the city of Rio de Janeiro, attending to Joaquim Venâncio Polytechnic School of Health (EPSJV/Fiocruz) call, as the Executive Secretary of the Network.

Opening table

Following the proposed agenda and accepted without reservations (ANNEX2), the meeting began with a opening ceremony composed by Layana Costa Alves, from the Advisory Office for International Affairs of the Brazilian Ministry of Health; Alessandra Ambrósio, of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency; Marco Menezes, vice president of Environment, Health Care and Promotion, representing the Presidency of the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation; Anakeila de Barros Stauffer, director of the Joaquim Venâncio Polytechnic School of Health; José Rodrigues Freire Filho, of the Pan American Health Organization; Rosa Maria Pinheiro de Souza, representing the Executive Secretariat of the Networks of Public Health Schools of South America and the CPLP; and Manuel Lapão, Director of Cooperation of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries.

Seminar “40 years of Alma-Ata and the role of technical workers in health in the implementation of universal health systems”

According to the planned schedule, after the opening table was held the Seminar “40 years of Alma-Ata and the role of technical workers in health in the implementation of universal health systems”. The seminar, coordinated by the professor and researcher Márcia Valéria Morosini of the EPSJV, invited the former president and current coordinator of the Center for International Relations in Health (CRIS) of Fiocruz, Paulo Buss, with a lecture entitled “Declaration of Alma-Ata to the declaration of Astana: universal right or universal health coverage?”, And Isabel Duré, from the Secretariat of Health, Ministry of Health and Social Development of Argentina, who discussed “The unfinished agenda of training and work of health technicians after 40 years of Alma-Ata's declaration”. The Seminar was opened to the general public and broadcasted live over the Internet in Portuguese and Spanish.

Regionalized Sessions

On the afternoon of the 12th and the 13th, the meeting took place in two separate sessions. One with the members of the Network of Technical Schools in Health of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (RETS-CPLP) and the other with the members of Latin American RETS. At each session, the Executive Secretariat of the Network briefly reviewed the work carried out in the previous period and the representatives of each country presented a description of Primary Health Care in the context of the health policy of their countries; some data on the workforce in PHC and on the training and work of health technicians involved in this segment of care. Finally, they highlighted possible opportunities for collaboration in this area. The presentations had the objective of contributing to the proposal of future actions within the scope of the Network.

The work plans of RETS

On November 14, after a brief report on the results of the regionalized sessions (ANNEX 3 and ANNEX 4), the Rio Declaration was read and approved, a policy document on the importance of the work of health technicians in strengthening PHC in the countries and for achieving the goals and targets of Agenda 2030.

Up next, the discussion about the Communication Plan and the RETS Work Plan for the period 2019-2022, led by the International Cooperation Coordinator of EPSJV/Fiocruz, Ingrid D'avilla, began. At that time, it was also performed a presentation of the Telemedicine University Network (RUTE), by Luiz Ary Messina, focused on the Interest Groups, a distance work strategy used by RUTE.

After the approval of the Communication Plan (ANNEX 5), the Work Plan of RETS 2019-2022 was discussed and approved. (ANNEX 6)

Election of the Executive Secretariat

Under the current regulations, the election process for the choice of the institution responsible for the Network's Executive Secretariat in the next term of office has begun. In the absence of a new application, EPSJV/Fiocruz was willing to continue the work it has been doing since 2005, by the request of the Pan American Health Organization. By unanimous decision of the members, it was decided that EPSJV/Fiocruz remains with the function of Executive Secretary of the Network for the period 2019-2022, with the first commitment to send to all RETS members, as soon as possible, all the final documents of this Meeting.

Closing

After the election, the certificates of 'Member of RETS' were delivered to the institutions present and the Minutes of the Meeting were read.

At the end of the meeting, on the afternoon of November 14, 2018, with nothing else to discuss, and after the farewell message given by the representative of the Executive Secretariat of the Network, the members of the Network ratified the commitments made during the Meeting, for signature of this Minutes.