**Annex 1**

**Multicenter research project to identify and review the quantitative and qualitative supply of health technical workers education in member countries of the RETS**

**General Objective:**

To identify and review the quantitative and qualitative supply of health technical workers training in countries seeking to improve health technical workers’ education, in order to strengthen their own national public health care systems.

**Specific Objectives:**

a) To identify the number of courses (types and modalities), professional qualifications, offering institutions, vacancies, enrollments and graduates of health technical education in the participating countries.

b) To identify the theoretical and methodological guidelines and the organization's material basis and curriculum development of professional education in the participating countries.

c) To make a general characterization of health, education and work policies of the participating countries with a view to allowing an initial comparative approach between them, in order to subsequently establish relations between national and “regional” policies, highlighting the national and international opportunities and challenges of Health Technicians Education.

**Expected outcomes:**

The project aims to carry out the systematization of its **results** from the following products:

I. Technical Report on the state of the art of health technicians’ education in each participating country, covering the following topics: presentation of National Education Maps on Health Technicians Education; survey on the theoretical and methodological bases of Health Technicians Education in each country.

II. First International Health Technicians Education Seminar under the RETS.

**Methodology:**

**Workshops as collective construction strategies**

Conducting Workshops with the extended team (coordination team + national teams) with a view to ensuring the collective construction of all work stages - quantitative and qualitative part - and qualify its participants.

This strategy of collective construction through workshops will provide collective decision-making, as well as discussion and further study of the theoretical references and analytical categories to be used by researchers in the work process; the development of research instruments; the presentation of the preliminary results of each stage of the research; the construction of a matrix for the analysis of interviews aimed at drawing up country-specific reports; the definition of a report script that allows the consolidation of the results for presentation at the International Seminar.

Regarding the **quantitative part** of the research, some procedures are expected, namely:

1. Consultation with existing databases in the country, systematizing the following information: areas and sub-areas of training; types and modalities of courses offered; types of technicians and existing specialties in the socio-occupational setting and its corresponding relationship with education levels, course types and modalities; offering institutions; number of vacancies, enrollment and graduates.

Database consultation is intended to provide greater coverage of the universe of institutions and offered health technical education courses to which questionnaires will be sent to further clarify data collected.

If there are no existing databases in the country, the research should encourage the construction of a database.

2. Preparation and application of questionnaire

Drawing up a closed-ended questionnaire to be sent to the universe of the identified training institutions in order to supplement the quantitative information not available in the master records and allow a first, more qualitative institutional approach.

The questionnaire should be self-explanatory and comprise four parts:

1. The first referring to the identification data of the institution and the respondent;
2. The second part shall enquire about health technical courses offers, requesting data on vacancies, graduates, total workload and education required for the courses;
3. The third part will consist of a series of multiple-choice questions related to the features of the education offered by the institution, including level of institutional autonomy, the existence of an Institutional Project (presenting both its organizational part and political-pedagogical guidelines) and educational coordination; curricular organization, offered training format, training facilities and definition of course offers.

Regarding the **qualitative part** of the research, interviews with leaders and teachers of educational institutions and a documentary analysis in order to investigate the curricula of professional health education courses, with their relevant regulations and development, understood as particularities of a broader social totality are expected to occur. The aim is thus to identify the theoretical and methodological guidelines that support the training of health technical workers in the country in order to grasp the significance of this type of education, its relationships with health and education policies and work relationships.