

Minutes of the 1st Virtual RETS Meeting Regionalized actions in Latin America

On May 22, 2020, members of the International Network of Health Technician Education (RETS), the working group for regionalized actions in Latin America, met in the virtual room of the National Network for Teaching and Research (RNP) – through the link <https://conferenciaweb.rnp.br/webconf/epsjv-fiocruz>, in response to the call of the Joaquim Venâncio Polytechnic Health School (EPSJV), Executive Secretariat of the Network. The Meeting, according to the digital attendance record attached to these minutes (ANNEX 1 - RNP participant registration), also had the participation of the Lisbon Higher School of Health Technology (ESTeSL), as a guest member, and with representatives from the Network of Schools and Training Centers in Public Health in Latin America (RESP) and the Regional Network for Interprofessional Education in the Americas (REIP).

Opening

Following the script proposed and accepted without reservation (ANNEX 2 - convocation), the meeting began with a short welcome speech from the representatives of EPSJV: Helifrancis Condé, coordinator of International Cooperation, and Anakeila de Barros Stauffe, director. Then spoke Sebastian Tobar, from the Center for International Health Relations (CRIS) of the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, and Fernando Menezes, head of the PAHO/WHO Human Resources for Health Unit.

Country Presentations

The meeting continued with presentations of the panorama of the social and health situation in each country, addressing aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic situation and issues related to the training and work of health technicians in this context.

The presentations were made by countries in alphabetical order and followed the script sent previously, along with the Call for the Meeting. The first country to present was Argentina, represented by Erica Riquelme from the Ministry of Health of the Nation and Gabriel Muntaabski from the National Institute of Technological Education (INET). Later, Bolivia was represented by Miguel Angel Delgado from the Bolivian-Japoneza Technical School of Health of Andean Cooperation and Limber Rivera from the National Health School of La Paz, and then Vanessa Rezende from the Ministry of Health presented the Brazilian panorama. Chile, represented by Elizabeth Cabello of the Ministry of Health, was succeeded by Colombia, represented by Gerardo Arturo Medina of the National Service of Learning (SENA). The meeting was followed by Luis Alberto Davis Sánchez, from the Faculty of Health Technology of the University of Costa Rica; Silvia Brizuela, from the

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Paraguayan Ministry of Health; José Estela, from the Ministry of Health of Peru; Ana Almeida, from the Lisbon School of Health Technology (ESTeSL); and, concluding the presentations, Patricia Manzoni and Natalia De Avila of the Faculty of Medical Technology of the University (EUTM) of the University of the Republic, Uruguay.

Discussion and references

At the end of the presentations, the RETS Executive Secretariat presented two proposals for action for the Network: the translation of Portuguese/Spanish teaching materials and the publication of a special edition of the RETS Magazine, in digital version, with the theme of COVID- 19. The proposals were approved without opposition and the discussions on them will continue in specific spaces.