

Annual Report of the WHO Collaborating Center for Education of Health Technicians

2005

Anual Report of the WHO Collaborating Center for Education of Health Technicians



**ESCOLA POLITÉCNICA DE SAÚDE
JOAQUIM VENÂNCIO**

Summary

As a Collaborating Center for Education of Technicians in Health of the World Health Organization (WHO) the Polytechnic School Joaquim Venâncio (EPSJV), technical-scientific unit of the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ), developed its activities and actions during the period July 2004 – July 2005 according to a Work Plan that produced the following ramifications.:

Projects for education and development of health professionals, in presence or employing distance education strategies. Here we emphasize the basic course on public health, held in Angola and Mozambique, in the modality in presence, as well as the project for implantation of support centers for professional education in public health in Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau and São Tomé and Príncipe.

Projects for education of educators involved with education of health professionals. To this purpose the EPSJV established a *latu sensu* graduate course in professional education. Presently we are elaborating cooperation proposals with the Angolan Ministry of Health (MINSÁ) for capacitation of technical level teachers and with the District Health Direction of Luanda for updating the professionals composing their staff. Still with regard to education it is worth mentioning the cooperation project among countries (TCC) to be developed with Paraguay and Bolivia, aimed at capacitación of technicians and technical aids, as well as at improving the primary and secondary healthcare services in these countries. There is also a cooperation project with the Cape Verdean Ministry of Health for establishing a Polytechnic School in that country.

Elaboration of didactic material for the development of health professionals and teachers and for supporting the education processes. Worth being emphasized are: the didactic series delineated by the Program for Education of Local Health Survey Agents (PROFORMAR); the didactic material about post-vaccination events; the development of the series “Work and Education in Health” with financial resources of the Program for Amplification of Text Books and Materials (PALTEX) and finally a didactic book for the field of biondiagnosis.

Technical-scientific studies about health professionals. We point out the studies conducted by the Observatory Work Station of Health Technicians, especially the project “Memory of Professional Education in Health in Brazil”; the Dictionary of Professional Education in Health”; the research projects “Professional Education in Health in Brazil and in the Mercosul Countries” and “Perspectives and limits in the education of health workers in view of the challenges faced by health policies”; and the cooperation project (agreement FIOCRUZ/INSERM) “Development of operational and biosafety procedures in experimental laboratory animal breeding centers in technological platforms”.

Special attention to the dissemination of technical-scientific information and knowledge about technical-level health professionals. Noteworthy in this context is the inauguration of the Virtual Library in Health – Professional

Education in Health (BVS-EPS); the publication of the scientific periodical "Work, Education and Health"; the organization of the International Forum on Education of Health Technicians, which will take place in August 2006 in Rio de Janeiro as part of the program of the 8th Brazilian Congress on Community Health and 11th World Congress of Public Health; the construction of the website of the Observatory Work Station of Health Technicians (<http://www.observatorio.epsjv.fiocruz.br>); and the reactivation of the International Network for Education of Technicians in Health (RETS).

In parallel to the development and execution of the referred activities the following additional proposals were outlined: elaboration of an educational model for qualifying community health agents; a course on management of medical and hospital equipment; and the development of high-quality programs in maintenance of buildings and hospital equipment.

I- Introduction

The Polytechnic School in Health Joaquim Venâncio (EPSJV) created in August 1995 is the technical-scientific unit of the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ) responsible for coordinating and executing the teaching, research and technical cooperation activities¹ in the field of professional education in health on basic, continued and technical level. In July 2004 the EPSVJ was assigned Collaboration Center of the World Health Organization (WHO) for the Education of Health Technicians. The term of reference of this Collaborating Center establishes the landmarks for its participation in technical cooperation projects with other countries, contributing with its capacity to the elaboration of projects for policies, regulation, curriculums, courses and educational methodologies and technologies aimed at qualification of health technicians and also for producing and disseminating knowledge in the areas work, education and health.

With the intent to structure a unit directed to international cooperation activities and also for being better prepared for its function as a Collaboration Center the internal regiment of the School was revised. The competences and attributions of the Coordination of International Cooperation were established and the term of reference of the Collaboration Center was elaborated (See Appendix I). The Coordination of International Cooperation was put in charge of coordinating the cooperation activities based on the mentioned term of reference and to act as a mediator in the relations of the EPSJV with other countries. On internal level, technical meetings were held with the professionals of the School for diffusing the actions of the Coordination of International Cooperation and for introducing the term of reference of the Collaboration Center. At the same time the team to be in charge of the activities of the sector was established, and a researcher in the field of international relations was selected. Presently the inclusion of a research line concerning international health in the research themes of the School is under discussion.

II - Implementation of a Work Plan for the Collaboration Center

Below we give an overview of the main activities developed by the EPSJV during the period July 24 – July 2005 and the ramifications that arose from the activities and actions proposed in the Work Plan submitted on occasion of the assignment as Collaboration Center.

It must be pointed out that all didactic material produced by the EPSJV is translated previously to distribution and adapted to the social-political context of each country.

Activity 1 – Execution of projects aimed at qualification and development of health professionals, in presence and making us of distance education strategies.

Specific action:

1.1 — Basic course in public health to be held in Angola and Mozambique – modality “in presence”:

This action involved two missions, to Angola and Mozambique respectively, as part of the cooperation agreement between FIOCRUZ and the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP). The missions counted on the participation of two researchers of the EPSJV and their objective was holding two pedagogic workshops aimed at preparing the establishment and implementation of specialization courses in public health in Luanda and Maputo. These workshops took place in November/December 2004 and February/March 2005 respectively and gathered health professionals, managers and teachers. The purpose of these missions was to: (i) qualify teachers in the field of public health with emphasis to management, epidemiological surveillance and hospital administration; (ii) develop a professional qualification process in public health (technical and university level); (iii) discuss and elaborate an action plan for the establishment of a support nucleus for professional qualification in public health in both countries according to the directives of the CPLP project. The workshops resulted in a set of notes to be used as a reference in the planning and organization of a curricular basis for the public health courses in Angola and Mozambique.

This action is also inserted in activity 2 “Projects for qualification and development of teachers involved in the education of health professionals”, action 2.1. Qualification of teachers and tutors in distance education”, seen that one of its objectives is providing the bases for the establishment of a support nucleus for education in public health.

1.2— Basic course in public health in Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau and São Tomé and Príncipe:

One of the expected results of the cooperation project FIOCRUZ/CPLP for supporting the qualification of human resources in health in the Portuguese speaking countries is the establishment of capacitation centers in Angola and Mozambique and later the implantation of a network of such centers in Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau and São Tomé and Príncipe. At present the project is consolidating the centers in Angola and Mozambique for expanding them later to the other countries making part of the mentioned network.

Activity 2 – Projects for education and development of teachers involved with the education of health professionals.

Specific actions:

2.1 — Qualification of teachers and tutors for distance education

Action commented in Activity 1 – action 1.1.

2.2 — Specialization course in professional education in public health

In 2004 the EPSJV implanted the *latu sensu* graduation course in Professional Education, graduating the first group of students in December 2004. The second course began in March 2005 and its conclusion is foreseen for December 2005. Presently the course is undergoing a reformulation aimed at offering to teachers and health service workers the most up-dated theoretical and scientific bases for reflecting about their teaching practice. Considered autonomous, conscientious and committed to high-quality health education, this practice is indispensable for the construction of democracy and good citizenship. The studies in the field of Labor and Work were therefore deepened in the sense of discussing the category labor as educational principle of the curriculum and for educational actions developed during the health work process. One also considered the organization of health work in the today's world, taking as a basis the historical, political and philosophical implications of the teaching action. The summary of the course is presented in Append 2. As mentioned above, the course was transformed into Professional Education in Health, deepening the studies on the relation between labor, education and health in order to allow future expansion to a Masters course. This course will compose the Masters course in Professional Education in Health to be offered in the future to Latin-America, the Caribbean and Portuguese speaking African countries.

2.3 — Proposal for cooperation with the Angolan Ministry of Health (MINSÁ).

Evaluation of the proposal of the Angolan Ministry of Health asking for advisory activities and qualification of Angolan teachers in the field of Professional Education in Health, technical level.

The proposal asks for collaboration of the EPSJV in the conception, revision and implementation of the curricular plans and in the elaboration of programs for specialty courses in the fields Anesthesia and Reanimation, Instrumentation, Psychiatric nursing, Intensive Care, Gynecology and Obstetrics, Pediatrics, Public Health and Medical Statistics. EPSJV is also asked to collaborate in the implementation of a course on maintenance of equipment and in the qualification of the teaching body by means of technical and pedagogical training periods from the perspective "teaching teachers". At this moment the cooperation proposal is expecting formalization.

2.4— Proposal for Cooperation with the District Health Direction of Luanda

Evaluation of the proposal made by the Director of the Health District of Luanda (Angola), Dr. Vita Vemba. ESPVJ is asked to offer in presence courses for approximately 20 health professionals working there. The purpose of this cooperation is to teach teachers in the fields of laboratory techniques (biodiagnosis), programming, planning and management, maintenance of equipment, registration in health and professional education. The EPSJV is expecting the agreement to be formalized for implementing the cooperation in November 2005.

2.5— Cooperation between countries (TCC)

Evaluation of the proposal made by the central office of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) for establishing a cooperation program between Bolivia, Brazil and Paraguay.

A mission from Bolivia and Paraguay was received, composed by PAHO representatives from Bolivia, Brazil and Paraguay, representatives from the Technical Health School in Chochamba and from the Instituto Nacional de Salud in Asunción. The meeting took place in April 2005 and had the purpose of negotiating a TCC cooperation project

During the meeting, the possibility of a Brazilian mission visiting these two countries in order to initiate this cooperation was discussed. For continuing this cooperation we are presently trying to find a possible date for this visit and analyzing the proposal for TCC cooperation received from PAHO (Brazil) with the title "Colaboración Interinstitucional para el Fortalecimiento de la Formación de Técnicos y Auxiliares como Actores Esenciales de la Atención de Salud". The subject of the proposal is to contribute to the improvement of primary and secondary healthcare in Bolivia, Brazil and Paraguay through interchange of experiences in the qualification of technical and auxiliary health personnel. The intent is to establish a network for mutual technical interchange and support aimed at increasing the number of technicians and auxiliary personnel as well as the quality of their performance.

2.6 — Evaluation of the "Project for establishing a Polytechnic School for Health Professionals in Cape Verde" submitted by the PAHO representation in Geneva. The project proposes cooperation for creating a Polytechnic School linked to the Ministry of Health of Cape Verde.

The EPSJV is asked for advice regarding the following issues: (i) functioning modality of the school; (ii) courses and careers to be offered; (iii) needs of teaching staff and didactic material; (iv) improvement of the infrastructure; and (v) investment and financing. Presently the proposal is being analyzed for defining the actions necessary for proceeding with the cooperation.

Activity 3 – Advisory activities in the development of local actions towards continued education of health professionals.

Specific action:

3.1 — Development of a methodology of continued education

For making part of different development activities and for not representing an isolated action it was proposed to exclude this item from the Work Plan of the Collaboration Center.

Activity 4 – Elaboration of didactic material for the development of health professionals and teachers and for supporting the education processes.

Specific action:

4.1 — Production of didactic material about post-vaccination events

The project for production of didactic material about post-vaccination events was developed for meeting a demand of the General Coordination of the National Immunization Program/National Health Foundation/Ministry of Health. The objective was the production of didactic material approaching the events that may occur after the application of immunobiologicals. This didactic material was thus produced for updating the technical staff working in the vaccination rooms all over Brazil and in support to educational purposes. The referred material with the title "Surveillance of adverse events post vaccination: text book for vaccination room workers" has 147 pages, size 28x21 cm, in four colors. The final stage of the project was the delivery of the photolitho to the National Immunization Program in December 2003. The dissemination of this material on international level depends on the release of the copyrights by the Ministry of Health.

4.2 — Production of didactic material for qualifying tutors

The Program for capacitation of local health surveillance agents – PROFORMAR is developed in partnership with other institutions that compose the general coordination board of the program, as there are: Secretariat for the Management of Work and Education in Health/Ministry of Health, Secretariat for Health Surveillance/MH, National Council of Municipal Health Secretariats. These are forming two networks: one involved with political and management issues composed by the State Commissions in charge of the execution of the program and a technical-pedagogical one, composed by the Technical Schools and Education Centers of the Unified Health System, 360 educational support centers, tutors and administrative/academic support.

The program elaborated a didactic series composed by two guides (Student Guide and Tutor Guide), 1 notebook approaching field activities and 7 text books (module 1: The Unified Health System and Health Surveillance; module 2: The Work Process in Health Surveillance; module 3: The Territory and Health Surveillance; module 4: Work and Healthy Environments; module 5: Information and Situation Diagnosis; module 6: Health Planning and Local Practices, and module 7: Education and Communication). The photos, illustrations, cartoons, graphs, tables and maps in the books further the reading and discussions around the topics of the course. Until July 2005 about 300,000 copies have been printed and distributed.

The modules were completed by three videos to be used in class, dealing with the same themes. Didactic material is one of the components of the methodology proposing articulation of technical and practical knowledge by developing field work in the territory where the student is acting. This way the student has the opportunity to diagnose the life conditions and the health situation there and to propose interventions for the identified problems. This material is available for distribution in Portuguese speaking countries.

4.3 — Production of the series “Work and Education in Health”

The series “Work and Education in Health” is developed by the EPSJV and published by the FIOCRUZ Publishing House. It is the result of an agreement between EPSJV and FIOCRUZ and PAHO/WHO, developed with financial resources from the Program for Amplification of Text Books and Materials – PALTEX.

The purpose of the series is providing didactic reference material for the education of technical health personnel. Seven titles approaching strategic areas were published: Epidemiological Surveillance; Health Records and Information; Hemotherapy (vol. 1 and 2); Administration; Mental health; Health policies.

The main challenges faced by the project are on one hand the difficulty to raise new funds for assuring the continuity of the publication and on the other hand the development of investigation processes to establish a line of editions for the permanent support of education processes. Such processes are developed not only at the EPSJV but also in the network of technical schools of the Unified Health System and in the technical teaching institutions in Latin-America, the Caribbeans and the Portuguese speaking countries. The dissemination and distribution of these publications among public institutions involved in health research and education requires funds and appropriate mechanisms.

4.4 — Development of didactic material in the field of biodiagnosis

The objective of this work is the production of didactic material for updating and improving the work practice of students and professionals in the field of histotechnology. The production of a didactic book about the basic aspects of histological techniques is justified by

the lack of high-quality printed matter for workers and students in this field. The proposed material focuses on the following themes: historical aspects of histopathology; biosafety in histopathology labs; fundamentals of optical microscopy; basic characteristics of tissues; and special histological techniques. The publication of the material is foreseen for the second semester of 2006.

Activity 5 – Technical-scientific studies about health professionals

Specific action:

5.1 — Studies conducted by the Observatory Work Station of Health Technicians

The Laboratory for Work and Professional Education in Health is responsible for the Observatory Work Station of Health Technicians that integrates the Network of Observatories in Human Resources in Health (ROREHS). The objective of the Work Station is the development of studies and research that help characterizing the situation of the health technicians in the country by providing a set of data and information capable of subsidizing the formulation of education policies, professional regulation and work management.

5.1.1 — Project: Memory of Professional Education in Health in Brazil: from the “political opening” to the State of Law

This project, financed by the Ministry of Health, is aimed at investigating the changes in professional education in health by identifying collective political subjects and by rescuing the memory of personalities who had had an outstanding performance in this area between 1985 and 2005. The purpose of the project is to evaluate and subsidize the elaboration of public policies for technical education in health. The methodological procedures include a bibliographical survey of specialized literature, documentary sources and biographies of possible interlocutors. At the moment, collective political subjects who express the different conceptions of education in the health field and the correlation of existing forces in this sector during the mentioned period are mapped and identified in order to select possible interlocutors who made or make the history of professional education in health.

The project is planning to publish a book about the Memory of Professional Education in Health in Brazil, in printed and electronic version. The electronic version will be available at the website of the Observatory Work Station of Health Technicians of the EPSJV.

5.1.2 — Project: Dictionary of Professional Education in Health

The objective of this project, financed by the Ministry of Health, is to elaborate and publish a critical and qualified dictionary on the topic Professional Education in Health, to be distributed primarily to the network of technical schools of the Unified Health System (RET-

SUS). In Brazil, such project will fill in an important gap given the lack of a publication of this nature about work and professional qualification in health. There are two dictionaries in the field Work-Education that serve as a reference for the construction of this proposal. The first one approaches professional education in a broad manner and the second privileges the socio-historical approach to work and technology.

Together with the team of the EPSJV involved in professional education, we performed a sampling of terms/articles that could make part of the dictionary. The terms will be selected considering the three axes guiding EPSJV's actions, as there are: work, education and health. The following directives were defined for the elaboration of the dictionary: contemplate the origin of the concept; its historical development; and how the concept is currently employed in the health area. It is planned to hire advisors specialized in the thematic areas, who will be in charge of the writing of the selected terms/articles. It is also planned to organize workshops with students of the technical courses and specialists in the area for evaluating and validating the proposal.

The project plans to publish the Dictionary of Professional Education in Health in printed and electronic version. The electronic version will be available at the website of the Observatory Work Station of Health Technicians of the EPSJV. Due to its thematic universality, this material will be made available for dissemination in the Latin-American countries, the Caribbean and PALOPS.

5.2 — Elaboration of the research proposal with the title “Professional Education in Health in Brazil and in the Mercosul Countries: perspectives and limits in the education of health workers in view of the challenges faced by health policies”;

The central goal of this research is to know and analyze the quantitative and qualitative offer of professional education in health in Brazil and in the Mercosul countries (Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay). As to the quantitative dimension, this investigation will identify the number of courses (types and modalities), professional qualifications, offering institutions, the vacancies they offer respectively, number of enrollments etc. with respect to functions on technical level. The collected information will subsidize the health management authorities of the investigated countries and international health organizations (especially WHO and PAHO) in the elaboration of policies for organizing and strengthening the health systems. The qualitative dimension, on the other hand, will try to obtain directives, references, political-pedagogical and epistemological principles and conceptions for furnishing a basis for the respective curriculums. It is intended to identify the theoretical- methodological hegemonic references in professional education in health and to come to a conclusion with regard to the limits and possibilities for the construction of projects from the perspective of integral and polytechnic education in taking into consideration the faced challenges. This proposal will be developed within the scope of the Institutional Scholarship Program for Scientific Initiation (PIBIC) of the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq), with the participation

of one grant holder in the field of International Relations. This grant has a duration of 12 (twelve) months to count from August 2005 (with possibility of annual renewals, according to the judgment of the supervisor). Among other products, this project should result in the production, in printed and/or electronic version, of a catalogue of technical professions in health in Brazil and the other countries of the Mercosul and in the publication of a book on the national and international state of art of professional education in health, with emphasis to the epistemological, pedagogical and methodological directives that form the bases of the political-pedagogical and curricular projects.

5.3 — Project developed within the scope of the agreement FIOCRUZ/INSERN, precisely between the EPSJV and the Institut Fédératif de Recherche Louis Bugnard, with the title “Development of operational and biosafety procedures in experimental laboratory animal breeding centers in technological platforms”.

The aim of this project is the elaboration of Operational Standard Procedures for biological containment in animal breeding and experimental centers involving transgenic animals. The objective is to adjust the operational procedures of technological platforms and the qualification of workers who operate experimental breeding centers in such platforms. The proposal is to develop a series of courses for improving the certification process according to the national and international requirements for validation of pre-clinical assays. The research project will be conducted during two years, beginning in 2006, and intends to establish procedures that meet the flexibility of the laboratories making part of the technological platforms besides preparing the animal breeding centers for accreditation by international institutions such as ICLAS (International Council for Animal Laboratory Science) and AAALAC (Assesment and Accreditation of Animal Laboratory Care). The project is under analysis by the involved institutions for financing and execution.

Activity 6 –Dissemination of technical-scientific information and knowledge about technical-level heath professionals

Specific action:

6.1 — Virtual Library in Health / Professional Education in Health

The project “Virtual Library in Health - Professional Education in Health” (BVS-EPS) aims at constructing the first library dedicated to the diffusion of knowledge and information in the area of professional education in health and to disseminating data and specific studies about how technical-level professionals are inserted in the health system. Up to this moment, the funds necessary for implementing the project come from the budget of the EPSJV. The project counts on the cooperation of the Center of Scientific-Technological Information (CICT)/FIOCRUZ and of the Latin American Center and of the Caribbean in Information in Health Sciences (BIREME)/OPS. Since June 2002 the BVS-EPS has a website <http://>

www.bvseps.epsjv.fiocruz.br containing different sources of information already available for consultation. Currently the BVS-EPS passes a phase of adjustment in relation to the definition of thematic areas and browsing possibilities, seeking to keep in line with the guidelines determined by BIREME for obtaining certification.

6.2 — Scientific periodical “Work, Education and Health”

The purpose of the scientific journal “Work, Education and Health” is approaching the relations between the three mentioned fields from an interdisciplinary viewpoint. The first number was published in March 2003 and, in this first moment, the journal is published twice a year (in March and September). The numbers, a total of five until the moment, have been published in due time. The journal accepts original texts in Portuguese, Spanish, English and French and has a virtual version, where full texts are made available.

Financing comes from the budget of the EPSJV and the National Council of Scientific Development (CNPq/Program for the Support of Scientific Publications). The journal is indexed in the following bases: Bibliografia Brasileira de Educação (INEP), Edubase (FE/UNICAMP), Sumários Correntes de Periódicos, Online (FE/UNICAMP), Sumários de Periódicos em Educação (FE/USP), Latindex (UNAM e IBICT), Contents Pages in Education (Carfax), Educational Research Abstracts Online (Carfax), International Bibliography of the Social Sciences (The London School of Economics and Political Science), Index de Magazines de Educación Superior e Investigación Educativa (IRESIE). In 2004, the journal became available in the base of periodicals of CAPES. Currently, the journal is being evaluated for inclusion in Scielo-Brazil and Lilacs (Latin American and Caribbean Literature in Health Sciences).

6.3 — Elaboration of a proposal for promoting an International Forum on Education of Health Technicians

The proposal of promoting the International Forum on Education of Health Technicians will be made during the 8th Brazilian congress of Community Health and 11th World Congress of Public Health with the subject “Public Health in a globalized world: breaking social, economic and political barriers”. The events will take place in Rio de Janeiro, from August 21-25, 2006, and are organized by the World Federation of Public Health Associations/WFPHA and the Brazilian Association of Collective Health (ABRASCO), which is a member of that Federation.

The aim of this Forum is to share, on international level, knowledge, experiences and needs regarding the qualification of technical-level health workers by presenting scientific works on the relation work and education in health with focus on the following subjects: integration of basic and professional education in health; educational and professional trajectories of technical health workers; education/qualification and professional certification of technical health workers; occupational configuration and regulation of the work market in health. The target public is composed by educators, researchers and graduate students from

the areas Work and Education, Public Health and International Relations; professors of technical schools in health; managers of the public health services of the countries of the American continent and CPLP.

The Forum will favor the production of a book containing abstracts and proceedings; a declaration of the principles and needs of professional education in health in the participating countries; a report with recommendations for the elaboration of policies for the interchange of knowledge between the countries of the Mercosul and the CPLP and a list of RETS participants. The CNPq and international organisms will be asked to sponsor the Forum.

6.4 — Website of the Observatory Work Station of Health Technicians

In August 2005, the website of the Observatory Work Station of Health Technicians <http://www.observatorio.epsjv.fiocruz.br> was inaugurated. This site will allow disseminating studies and research on the work of health technicians, professional education and the social policies directed to education and health, with the intent of providing a set of data and information to students, teachers, researchers and managers of the Unified Health System, labor unions and professional associations interested in these subjects. Among others, the site will give access to the data base of the Institute of Technical and Technological Professional Education in Health, derived from the database of the National Institute of Educational Studies and Research (INEP), linked to the Ministry of the Education.

This database provides information on the technical (2001-2004) and technological (1990-2004) educational levels. Currently the following studies are available at the website: "Analysis of the offer of professional education on technical level in the field of nursing in Brazil"; "The technical occupations in health establishments: a study based on data of the research "Medical-Sanitary Assistance of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (AMS/IBGE)"; "Health technicians: education and work market"; and "Professional Education in health: an analysis of the school census of 2002". The reports of the mentioned studies will soon be available in the website.

6.5— Reactivation of the International Network for Education of Health Technicians (RETS)

As of September 2005, the EPSJV will co-ordinate the technical secretariat of the International Network of Education of Health Technicians in accordance with the proposal made by the members of the former secretariat and PAHO. Among the functions of the RETS are: technical cooperation in the field of qualification development of technical personnel in health; diffusion of information resulting from research; improvement and strengthening of its organization board ; stimulate fund raising for its sustentation; and identification of the educational needs of the different technical specialties existing.

For restarting the work of RETS, letters were sent to the former members of the

Network, to already identified technical schools in Latin America, to the Ministries of Health of the countries of the American continent, to the Representatives of PAHO and WHO in the Portuguese speaking African countries, in order to learn about their interest in participating in this Project aimed at strengthening the RETS. The Ministries and Representatives of WHO/PAHO were asked to indicate interlocutors in their respective countries. The former members received questionnaires for mapping the activities that had been carried out by the network, as well as for tracing the profile of the institution they represent.

Internal meetings are held for conceiving an institutional project for the RETS. It is intended to create a journal, to be published three monthly in two languages (Portuguese and Spanish), with an edition of approximately 10,000 exemplars, with the intent of disseminating information, studies and research about education of health technicians, and for favoring the possibilities of cooperation among the members of the Network. In this sense, the funds necessary for producing the website and the journal are being calculated and the fund raising

possibilities are being studied.

Perspectives

Activity 7 – Elaboration of curricular proposals for new professional fields in health

Specific actions

7.1 — Elaboration of a model for qualification of community health agents

As refers to the field of technical qualification of community health agents, the EPSJV provided technical advice to the Ministry of Health in the formulation of the Curriculum for the Technical Course for Community Health Agents, published in 2004 by the Ministry of Health together with the Ministry of Education in 2004.

Still with respect to the technical qualification of community health agents, the School received funds for the project “Didactic material for the technical qualification of community health agents: quality improvement in primary care”, from the Program for Development and Technological Innovation in Public Health – Unified Health System (PDTSP-SUS)/FIOCRUZ. The objective of the mentioned project is to produce didactic material for supporting the education process of professors who will act in the qualification of community health agents, in accordance with the curricular directives of direction of the Course for Community Health Agents and in partnership with the network of technical schools of the Unified Health System. The production of this material can be seen as a ramification of the contribution of the EPSJV in the elaboration of the curricular references for this course. The produced material is free for use by teaching institutions responsible for qualifying individuals in this professional category in the different countries with which Brazil establishes cooperation.

Activity 8 – Amplification and decentralization in the field of maintenance of hospital equipment

Specific action:

8.1 — Offer a course for management of medical and hospital equipment

8.2 — Development of quality programs in the field of maintenance of buildings and hospital equipment

For meeting the demand of professionals qualified in management and maintenance

of equipment in health institutions, in 2006 the EPSJV will offer the course for management of medical and hospital equipment, which includes the programs of quality in the fields maintenance of buildings and hospital equipment. The objective of the course is qualifying workers for organizing the maintenance of buildings, installations and equipment, and for structuring the maintenance, inspection and identification of problems usually occurring with the spaces and technologies used in health systems. This course and the course for professional development of workmen skilled in the maintenance of hospital equipment can be offered to the Latin- American countries, the Caribbean and PALOPS.

III — Cooperation between the Center and WHO

On September 15, 2004, a technical meeting was held at the EPSJV with the Director of PAHO, Dr. Mirta Roses, for discussing the needs of technical cooperation in the Latin-American region. Other participants of this meeting were the director of the Unit of Development of Human Resources of PAHO/Washington, Dr. Charles Godue, the Representative of PAHO in Brazil, Dr. Hourly Toro, the Director of Bireme, Marcelo D'Agostin, and the Representative of the Pan-American Center of Aphthous Fever, Marcelo Azalim. On that occasion, the strengthening of the collaboration networks in the continent was emphasized as a baseline strategy. The objective of the meeting was the definition of joint actions and strategies, as well as the demarcation of priorities on international level, in order to meet existing demands and to detect new needs for cooperation.

On November 15, 2004, a thematic meeting was held with the WHO representative, Dr. Mário Dal Poz, for discussing the possibility of a technical cooperation with Africa, with special attention to activities toward the qualification of health technicians in that continent. Moreover, the meeting aimed at: (i) evaluating a possible contribution of the EPSJV in the development of actions and activities during the decade of Human Resources in Health to be inaugurated on occasion of the World Day of Health in 2006; (ii) tracing strategies for joint actions as well as demarcating priorities on international level, in order to meet existing demands and to detect new needs for cooperation.

Appendices

Appendix 1

Landmarks of the Collaborating Center for Education of Health Technicians of the WHO

1 — Introduction

On July 20, 2004, the Polytechnic School in Health Joaquin Venâncio, technical-scientific unit of FIOCRUZ, was recognized as Collaborating Center for Education of Health Technicians of the World Health Organization.

With the mission of promoting Professional Education in Health through the coordination and implementation of education programs in areas that are strategic for Public Health and Science and Technology in Health, the term of reference of this Collaborating Center establishes the landmarks for its participation in technical cooperation projects with other countries, contributing with its capacity to the elaboration of projects for policies, regulation, curriculums, courses and educational methodologies and technologies aimed at the qualification of health technicians and also for producing and disseminating knowledge in the fields labor, education and health.

In this sense, the Coordination of International Cooperation of this Unit was created for coordinating the cooperation activities foreseen in the mentioned term of reference and to act as a mediator in the relations with other countries in its fields of action.

This document presents the regulatory, conceptual and institutional landmarks of the international cooperation activities of the EPSJV, especially in its condition as Collaborating Center of the WHO for the Education of Technician in Health.

2 — Regulatory Landmarks

The international cooperation of the EPSJV will be guided by:

- a) the international cooperation policies of the Brazilian government, regulated, developed and mediated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and respective authorities;
- b) the international cooperation policies of FIOCRUZ/Ministry of Health, Brazil, enforcing the field of Professional Education in Health;
- c) the regulations for the collaborating institutions of WHO (*WHO Basic Texts. 44th Edition*), in accordance with the Term of Reference of the Collaborating Center for the Education of Health Technicians

d) the purposes of the agreements celebrated by the Brazilian government with international organisms (WHO, PAHO, OIT, FAO, UNESCO) in the areas of Education and Work in Health.

3 — Conceptual Landmarks

The international cooperation actions of the EPSJV will be guided by the concept of international technical cooperation defined by the Brazilian Agency of Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Brazilian Government (ABC/MRE), according to which:

“International technical cooperation constitutes an important instrument for the development, assisting a country in promoting structural changes in its productive systems as a form to surpass restrictions that hinder its natural growth. The programs implemented under this shield allow the transfer of knowledge, successful experiences and sophisticated equipment, thus contributing to qualifying human resources and to fortifying institutions in the recipient country by allowing them to make a jump forward in quality of long-lasting character “(Brazil, 2004).

Under the concept “partnership for the development”, Brazil has been working with friend countries and international organisms for about four decades, developing technical cooperation projects that produce benefits in education and health, among other sectors. The proposed initiatives are evaluated in the light of their impact on the recipient communities, so as to improve mechanisms for negotiation, evaluation and management of the projects and to fit them into the national priorities

The international cooperation will be developed on the basis of the concept of health defined by the Constitution of the WHO as “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not only the absence of illness or disease” what reverts to the health policy of the Brazilian Government when referring to the principles of integrality and universality of healthcare.

3.1 — The international cooperation of the EPSJV according to the directions established by the Agency for International Cooperation/ Ministry of foreign Affairs.

According to the Agency, technical cooperation is developed in Brazil following two main directions: horizontal cooperation and cooperation received from other countries.

Horizontal cooperation refers to technical cooperation between Brazil and other developing countries for intensifying their relations and straightening political and economical ties.

Cooperation received from other countries includes bilateral and multilateral technical cooperation and seeks to absorb the technical knowledge made available by international organisms (multilateral cooperation) and more developed countries (bilateral cooperation) from the perspective of accelerating of the national development.

Due to its condition as a Collaborating Center of the WHO, the international cooperation to be developed by the EPSJV will have both horizontal and multilateral character.

The assignment of the EPSJV as Collaborating Center of the OMS conferred to the Unit the recognition of its technical competence to act in horizontal cooperation with other countries on regional, interregional and international level, providing support to the programs of the Organization related to the education of health technicians and providing them with information, services and advice in this area that strengthen its capacity of developing research on Education and Work in Health and of implementing education projects.

4 — Institutional Landmarks

As determined by the internal regulation of the EPSJV, the Coordination of International Cooperation is in charge of “coordinating the technical cooperation of the EPSJV with international organisms and entities, disseminating technical information and participating in the dissemination of these the activities among international organisms and entities.”

Within the scope of the Collaborating Center, this coordination is in charge of coordinating the execution of the work plan; articulating the international cooperation actions of this Unit with the objectives and goals traced for this area by the Presidency of FIOCRUZ and in accordance with the policies of the Ministry of Health; and of mediating the participation of the EPSJV in international agreements that favor mutual actions in the field of professional education in health.

The specific character of the EPSJV as technical-scientific Unit of FIOCRUZ in the area of Professional Education in Health lies in the fact that its mission is not restricted to the qualification of human resources in health. This activity in fact is mediating the production of knowledge on the relation between Work, Education and Health. If the direct educational actions developed by the Unit revert to a strengthening of the health system through permanent qualification of its technical body, the elaboration, implementation and evaluation of the courses unlashes or consolidates processes of scientific production in each of these fields of action of the Unit, whose results can provide the basis for education policies and work, for regulation projects, proposals of courses and curriculums. Therefore, besides being able to offer to the cooperating countries courses for qualification of technicians or teachers that strengthen their health teams, one specially seeks to transfer scientific knowledge about professional education, capable of potentiating the development in this area in the different countries in benefit of their public policies in the fields work, education and health.

In this sense, the institutional landmarks that will guide the actions of international cooperation under the responsibility of this Coordination have internal and external specificities.

4.1 — About the internal relationship EPSJV/FIOCRUZ

The document describing the Center, which was appreciated by WHO on occasion of the assignment of the EPSJV as Collaborating Center demonstrates the competences of the Unit delimiting fields for technical cooperation, as well as the network of institutional relations kept by the Unit. These competences, produced by the specialized teams of the Unit give contents to the institutional relations woven by the co-ordinations of the respective teams under the mediation, orientation and support of the Direction of the EPSJV. The same way, the international relations will be intermediated by the Coordination of International Cooperation, representing the Unit in this field, guided by the regulations and conceptual landmarks already described.

Thus, the beginning of the activities of the Collaborating Center implies in collective appreciation of the work plan approved in view of the identified cooperation priorities, under the regulations of the Center, and according to the available conditions to be constructed in the Unit.

The institutional landmark that will guide the activities of the EPSJV as Collaborating Center of WHO are the competences of the specialized teams, assuring ample and independent participation of its members in actions related to their respective expertise, mediated by the Coordination of International Cooperation according to its attributions and approved by the Director of the Center.

4.2 — About the relations with countries

Following the conceptual landmarks for the international cooperation activities developed by the EPSJV, the relations with other countries will be guided by an ethical-political position involving respect for the knowledge and culture of the people of these countries and of solidarity with their socio-economical, political and cultural demands and needs, through actions aimed at overcoming these needs, improving the conditions of life of their populations and strengthening these countries in the different fields of cooperation.

In this sense, there will be no actions trying to fit demands and needs of these countries in content, form or method into the services the Center can offer. On the contrary, to produce benefits for the cooperated countries, this cooperation should straighten the relations and the mutual political, economical and cultural ties.

Although not excluding cooperation with other countries, either of horizontal or bilateral character, the actions of international cooperation of the EPSJV will be strongly directed to the African and Latin-American countries and the Caribbean, making use of agreements already celebrated between FIOCRUZ and these countries and of relations already established by the Unit itself, international organisms or the Brazilian government.

Thus, it will be necessary to study the socio-economic, political and cultural configuration of these countries as well as the organization of their health, work and education systems for adding the knowledge to the Unit that will allow developing technical cooperation projects coherent with the described institutional landmarks.

Appendix 2

Graduation Course *Lato Sensu* in Professional Education in Health

Summary of curricular components

I – Economy of education and concepts of qualification of health workers

The concept of ideology; intellectuals and power; relation between the State, education and society; social division of work and education; work and education from the liberal and marxist perspectives; the theory of the human capital, human resources in health and the education of health workers; “The Society of Knowledge”; “The Society of Information”; applicability and competences.

II – Social health and education policies

The role of the international hegemonic organisms in the education and health policies; globalization, mundialization of the capital and education; capital and work in the definition of the education projects of the human being; the Brazilian education project as object of dispute; health reform, democratic transition and construction of the Unified Health System; citizenship; the integrality in work and professional education in health; conception and history of the reform of basic and professional education of the years 1990-2000; perspectives of counter-hegemonic action; the field of human resources in health: national conferences and current directives of the policies directed to work management and education in health.

III — Historicity of the education of health workers

The public school as institution; new school; qualification of workers in the health institutions; technicism x significant learning; influence of the thoughts of Pablo Freire and of popular education in the qualification of health educators; the creation of the Technical Schools of the Unified Health System.

IV — New productive models, professional education and work in health

Globalization, productive reorganization and educational implications; the work processes in the taylorist-fordist model and in neofordism or model of flexible accumulation; light,

hard-light and hard technologies and the organization of work in health; team-work; inter-disciplinarity; systems of professional qualifications and implications for the organization of work in health; the “new worker” and professional education; permanent education in health and the reorganization of work in health.

V — Professional Education in Brazil: context and contemporary questions

The specificity of the professional education as education and work policy; the current picture of Professional Education in Brazil; legislation and regulation of professional education in the reform of the years of 1990-2000; governmental challenges and of the civil society in the offer and quality of professional education; integrated curriculum in professional education in health: polytechnics x pedagogics of competences; structural duality.

VI — Curriculum concepts and professional education in health

Conceptions and description of the curriculum; processes and principles of curricular organization; possibilities for the organization of an integrated curriculum under the axes work, science and culture; the teaching contents as knowledge, information and learning object; political-pedagogical project of the school; school work and social transformation; the division of school work; strategies and modalities of in presence and distance education; neoliberalism and teaching work.

VII — Research I and II

Concepts of science and research in the different approaches and epistemological paradigms; science and ideology, introduction to the principles and elaboration methods the scientific work; theoretical-methodological assumptions of scientific research; directives for the elaboration of the scientific project and monograph; the research Project; research in education: paradigms, qualitative and quantitative approaches, formats; the elaboration of the scientific monograph; the composition of the theoretical picture; structure of the monograph; the writing of the scientific text

Anexo 3

Publicação da Escola Politécnica de Saúde Joaquim Venâncio (EPSJV) "Informe Politécnico" sobre a designação da EPSJV como Centro Colaborador da OMS para a Educação de Técnicos em Saúde

Ano V – Nº 46 (maio/2002)

Ano VI – Nº 57 (abril/2003)

Ano VII – Nº 69 (agosto/2004)

Ano VII – Nº 70 (setembro/2004)