

Executive Secretariat of the International Education
Network for Health Technicians

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JOAQUIM VENÂNCIO
POLYTECHNIC HEALTH SCHOOL



WHO Collaborating Centre of
Education of Health Technicians



RETS

International Education
Network for
Health Technicians

RETS

The international Education Network for Health Technicians is a liaison effort between different institutions and organizations involved in training and capacity building for health technical staff in Latin America, the Caribbean, the African countries whose official language is Portuguese (PALOP) and Portugal.

The idea for the RETS network arose in 1996, after two meetings held by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Human Resources Program, in Mexico City and in Cuba, where technical cooperation as well as data and study exchange opportunities strengthening health technical training in the Americas were discussed. The following year, the Network was formally created as a way to leverage actions undertaken among stakeholders committed to this area of education in 21 American continent countries. It elected the Costa Rica Public Health School as its Executive Secretariat and proposed:

- To make technical cooperation and collaboration between members of the health technical staff education area possible;
- To disseminate data resulting from research work on professionals of this level, aiming at strengthening both their development and the health services they are part of;
- To leverage the accumulation of knowledge, thus encouraging integration and growth of faculty members, researchers, planners, managers and service providers;
- To promote growth and strengthen its organizing entities as well as to encourage fund raising to ensure its sustainability;
- To identify the education and training needs as well as other basic requirements from different existing technical fields of expertise.

For its first five years, between 1996 and 2001, the RETS network included Latin American countries only. Its revival began in 2005, when its Executive Secretariat was transferred to Joaquim Venâncio Polytechnical Health School (Escola Politécnica de Saúde Joaquim Venâncio - EPSJV), a technical and scientific unit at Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz), which is, in turn, a Collaborating Center in the Health Technical Education area for the World Health Organization. One of the major challenges of this new phase is expanding the Network to other regions, including all countries which are part of the CPLP the Community of Portuguese Language Countries.

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