

Internationalization: the 4th mission of the university

The dynamic process behind implementing strategies towards a multicultural environment into the established structure of the bureaucratic functioning of our university is an especially tough challenge under the current undergoing affairs regarding the whole function of the public institutions and its reliability among the civil society. In order to address this reality, we must extrapolate the usually defined missions of the university: to produce, organize and socialize knowledge, contributing to human, scientific, technological and regional development, committing to justice, democracy, citizenship and social responsibility. In the complex globalized contemporary world scenario, universities must be leading the debates regarding how to be global without losing the local essence; how to develop the human sciences in conjunction with the exact sciences, how to be plural and global simultaneously. Among the strategic pillars defined for the internationalization of Unioeste, a significant part is broadening international partnerships; the participation of the local community abroad and vice-versa; involving the people with the concepts of internationalization; and broadening the structures to achieve it. Partnerships with the international community allows not only the exchange of knowledge, multiculturalism, respect, compassion and new individual or group paradigms, but also, above all, the expansion of our mission as a University, accepting the role of higher education within the framework of the international arena, potentially resulting on the strengthening of all involved parts. It is through international relationship whose purpose is to be global that the consolidation of the local values occurs through the global exchange, resulting in the redefinition of internationalization and rethinking with multiculturalism. Yet, in order to achieve the desired outcome, it is necessary to go beyond the boundaries of static curricular design, the fear of foreign languages, and realize that only through cultural diversity we can make the global university we want. The international cooperation is an important development tool for countries and institutions, by not only exchanging knowledge, succeeded experiences, technology and equipment, but also strengthening the capacity of human resources, its mutual projects and the involved institutions itself. In order to succeed in its institutional mission, Unioeste commits to internationalization, pursuing to do it in an active, liable and plural way.

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Internationalization advancement



Western Paraná International Week

Between October 4th and 7th of 2017, the Western Paraná State University (Unioeste), through its Rector, Paulo Sérgio Wolff, hosted in the city of Foz do Iguaçu, the Western Parana International Week (WPIW), which included Rectors, Vice-Rectors, Provosts, International Relation's representatives and other guests from 44 institutions from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Brazil. The event marked a prominent step in the path of internationalization of Latin American institutions. The objective of WPIW, besides strengthening ties with our peers, was to discuss the advances and good practices in the policies and strategies of university internationalization in different areas. The WPIW schedule which was characterized by the quality of debate and involvement of the participants

included: the 2017 Forum of the Southern Regional of the Brazilian Association of International Education (FAUBAI); the VI Seminar on Internationalization of Institutions of Higher Education of the State of Paraná (SIIES); the II Plenary of the 2017 Rectors of the University Network of the Integration Zone of the Center-West of South America (ZICOSUR); the 1st Meeting of the International Officers of the ZICOSUR University Network; and the 1st Technical Meeting between the Executive Boards of the Brazilian Association of Rectors of State and Municipal Universities (ABRUEM) and National Interuniversity Council (CIN) of Argentina. The official publication of the International Office in Spanish, the "Heraldo Oeste Paranaense", was launched during the event. For the Associate International Officer of Unioeste and coordinator of WPIW, Prof. Rafael Mattiello, "having the privilege of hosting important university internationalization events at the state, national and international levels, as we managed to program within Western Parana International Week, increases the importance and prestige of Unioeste towards its peers consolidating, on one hand, its postulation as a reference institution in Latin America, on the other, maximizing our organizational interests through the articulation and stimulation of interinstitutional and international cooperation with respect and reciprocity."



2017 Regional Forum South of the Brazilian Association of International Education - FAUBAI

The WPIW program had, on its first day, the 2017 Forum of the Southern Region of FAUBAI. The event dedicated to the International Offices of Higher Education Institutions in Southern Brazil discussed the challenges and perspectives for the implementation of strategies, planning and implementing good practices related to university internationalization on its most comprehensive form. The inaugural presentation was in charge of the former president of FAUBAI and former Officer of International Relations of the University of Campinas (Unicamp), Prof. Leandro R. Tessler, with the talk "Internationalization - challenges and perspectives: Unicamp". In sequence, the Scientific Director of the Araucária Foundation, Prof. Nilceu Jacob Deitos presented the "Araucária Foundation as a Support to the Scientific and Technological Development of the State of Paraná". Still during the morning, Prof. Décio Sperandio, former Rector of the State University of Maringá (UEM) and current Director General of the State Department of Science, Technology and Higher Education of the State of Paraná (SETI) discussed the "Strategies for internationalization of the State System of Higher Education". During the afternoon, Prof. Flávia Pires Rodrigues, representative of the Paulista University (UNIP), the Federal University of Ceará (UFC) and the University of Birmingham presented "Coaching Tools and Planning for the Development of Institutional Internationalization Strategies". Finally, the first day of discussions was concluded with a roundtable among the International Offices about "good practices on university internationalization".



ABRUEM - CIN Technical Meeting

Also on the second day of the event, aiming to expand forms of broad cooperation among the parties, members of ABRUEM and CIN met to sign a cooperation agreement between the two entities, especially regarding student, faculty and staff mobility; research and joint scientific events; in addition, the promotion of integrated outreach actions. For ABRUEM's president and Unicentro's Rector, Prof. Aldo Nelson Bona, this new agreement "is of fundamental importance because it promotes an approximation between public universities in Argentina and our state and municipal universities, which are also public in Brazil. It comes from the perspective of what we have been standing for within ABRUEM of horizontal South-South cooperation, in the sense that we can have a greater interaction with Latin American entities. And this opportunity to bring the two associations together, without a doubt, is the first step in setting the path for lasting partnerships between our institutions".

VI Seminar on Internationalization of Institutions of Higher Education in the State of Paraná - SIIES

On the second day of the WPIW, October 5th, it was held the VI SIIES - an annual interinstitutional event that begun in 2011 by the International Offices of the State Universities of Paraná. The Special Secretary for Strategic Affairs of the Government of Paraná (SEAE) and also former Mayor of Cascavel and former State Representative, Mr. Edgar Bueno, opened the second day, and on his speech, made an analogy of the history of the Nobel Prize with the Brazilian scenario, in particular related to higher education and scientific research. In his words: "We must intensify the realization of research projects and scientific production on international partnership, stimulating the exchange between student and teacher, that allows bilateral diplomas and creating courses in English, universal language in the academic world." Mr. Germán Moyano, Director of International Cooperation on the National University of Cuyo - Argentina, presented statistical information and international education in his country. He then invited WPIW participants to the International Argentina Higher Education Fair 2018 (FIESA 2018) in Mendoza.



At the end of SIIES activities, nine representatives of the International Offices of the Universities of the State of Paraná expressed their strategies, indicators and actions of internationalization in 15 minutes: The Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná (PUCPR), Latin American Integration University (Unila), State University of Ponta Grossa (UEPG), State University of Londrina (UEL), State University of the Midwest of Paraná (Unicentro), State University of Northern Paraná (UENP), Federal University of Technology of Paraná (UTFPR) and Unioeste.

The International Office team of Unioeste would like to thank everyone who participated, helped to organize or supported the Western Parana International Week: Primato Cooperativa Agroindustrial, Cervejaria Providência, Sanepar, Fundação Araucária, SETI, SEAE, FAUBAI, ABRUEM, APIESP, ZICOSUR Universitária, FIESA, CIN, the Provost of Research and Postgraduate Studies, Provost of Outreach, Provost of Administration and Finance, Rector's Office and other sectors of Unioeste who believed in the proposal and in the work of the International Office in order to accomplish the Western Parana International Week.



Meeting of the International Officers of the ZICOSUR University Network

Simultaneously with the Abruem-CIN Technical Meeting, the Meeting of ZICOSUR's University Network International Officers took place, for the first time in history, which also articulated the agenda for the II Plenary of the 2017 ZICOSUR University Network's Rectors, that was held on the following day by establishing a new model of mobility, which should facilitate the integration among the Institutions of Higher Education that are part of the association. For the President of the Network and Rector of UEL, Prof. Berenice Quinzani Jordão "the proposal should increase the programs because it allows Universities that have affinity in certain areas of knowledge to maintain mobility programs. The mobility system was more appropriate because it made programs flexible for participating educational institutions, while at the same time balance the offer of places".

II Plenary of the 2017 Rectors of the University Network of the Integration Zone of the Center-West of South America - ZICOSUR

On October 6th, Unioeste hosted the II Plenary of the 2017 ZICOSUR University Network's Rectors. On this plenary session, representatives of the Public Higher Education Institutions of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Brazil discussed ways to foster internationalization on this western Latin American macro region. Among the subjects discussed were the alternatives to expand academic integration, between teaching, research and on cultural projects, as well as the increase of student mobility programs, of teachers and administrative agents within the network. A new format for the mobility of undergraduate students was approved by the rectors, enhancing the exchange of experiences on the different areas of knowledge. The new system proposed by the Network's International Officers Group makes programs flexible and broadens the possibilities for teaching and research projects. Also, a single Framework Agreement model was approved in plenary, for the 34 institutions that make up the Network, its participation and the positioning of ZICOSUR University in the Regional Conference on Higher Education (CRES 2018), promoted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which will be held in Cordoba, Argentina and linked to other networks, research organizations and projects that promote expansion and development in the process of internationalization and dissemination of knowledge, such as Enlaces/Riesal, Caminos, Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI) and Ibero-American Postgraduate University Association (IUPU). The participants also defined the date and place for the I Plenary of 2018 of the ZICOSUR University Network, which will be held on May 3 and 4 of 2018, in Asunción (Paraguay), with the National University of Asunción (UNA), where the macro cooperation agreement between the Universities that integrate the entity will be made official. The plenary of rectors also approved the inclusion in the Network of the State University of Mato Grosso do Sul (UEMS), which has about ten thousand students divided into 15 campuses. UEMS has experience in international agreements through the University Network of the Bioceanic Route, which brings together 12 Universities, from Brazil, Chile, Argentina and Paraguay. Joining in ZICOSUR, the University seeks to offer other opportunities for UEMS's students and professors.



Unioeste represents Brazil in Entrepreneurship event in Argentina

Unioeste's academics and professors represented Brazil on the 12th Young Entrepreneurship Journey - JIJE 2017, in Santa Fé, Argentina. Promoted by Universidade Nacional do Litoral, it happened in November 2017 with over 250 participants, from all over South America. Administration's Professor, Marcelo Roger Meneghetti, and Pharmacy's Professor, Dr.^a Luciana Fariña, work together on the subject Enterprising on Pharmaceutical Sciences, from which 05 innovative projects were presented at the event. IMUNIZA, a project done by the academic Thais Dalcoltivo, was considered one of the five best ideas among the total 72. Unioeste gained a privileged spotlight over the past editions of the event and it intends to continue on the path of showing the entrepreneurship spirit of our young academics.



Unioeste strengthen Latin-American internationalization

In October 2017, the II Unioeste-Unican Cooperation Meeting, happened in Cascavel. Focusing on strengthening institutional bonding on the field of technological sciences, the university received 9 academics and 5 professors from Facultad de Ciencias y Tecnología – FACITEC from Universidad Nacional de Canindeyú - Unican. Among lectures, meetings, visits to campus and rectory, the visitors also took part in the third Scientific, Technological and Innovation Annual Meeting - EAICTI/Unioeste. Aiming for a closer relationship between academics and professors of both universities, the event promoted by Computer Science's professor Guilherme Galante with the International Office of Unioeste is the proof of an increasingly closer relationship between the two institutions, which are strategic partners not only because of geography, but also the overlap of interests.



Portugal's Internationalization agenda

Unioeste's teachers Huei Diana Lee and Wu Feng Chung have visited in 2017's October the Polytechnic Institute of Leiria, in Portugal (IPL). In between the developed activities, they visited the laboratories of research and were presented to the graduation and post-graduation programs, as well as the main lines of operation of IPL. They were also presented to the research lines of common interest of Unioeste and IPL, such as the studies of healthcare and computing. A productive reunion was promoted, involving the vice-rector of IPL, Professor Rui Pedrosa, the Dean of international relations Mr. Alexandre Rui Pinto, and the IPL professor Ana Mendes. The visit has resulted in the celebration of a cooperation agreement between Unioeste and IPL, which established comprehensive objectives, such as the mobility of students, teachers, researchers and staff.

Internationalization agenda: worldwide relationships

The year of 2017 was marked by precious collaborations established among Unioeste and other worldwide institutions, as well as the university presence on international events and on the meeting of many important people who have somehow contributed to the university. On October 30th, the provost of education, professor Dra. Elenita Manchope and professor Dr. Pery Shikida participated in the fourth edition of the Brazilian-British workgroup called "Education Work Group", which goal was to discuss the internationalization of the superior learning in Brazil, the plans for the internationalization between Brazil and the United Kingdom and the possibilities to increase the cooperation between these two nations. On November 15th and 16th, in the city of Curitiba, occurred the International Seminar "Universities for the world: opportunities and challenges for internationalization", which in this year was more focused on the southern aspects and discussions. Professor Dra. Larissa Schmitt, a true enthusiastic of the internationalization project, represented Unioeste on the speech for the plenary of politics and tools of English. On November 20th the International Office of Unioeste participated in the XVII Unioeste's Seminary of Extension, which was organized by the provost of extension. This event took place at Unioeste's Rectory, in the city of Cascavel, and had as its main goals the development of conceptions for university extension, as well as ways of making the formation of students, professors and university agents more consistent with each passing year and promoting the integration of the university with the local community. On November 27th, the I International seminar "Superior teaching in the Mercosul context" occurred in the city of Foz do Iguaçu. This event was organized in collaboration with UNILA and the Mercosul Parliament (Parlasul); the event's main goal was to foster debates on future courses of the education politics in Latin America. The event counted with the presence of Mercosul's parliament, as well as the participation of many congressmen, teachers and students from Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina, Uruguay, Bolivia and Venezuela. On November 28th, also in Foz do Iguaçu, the International Office participated in the event "Collective health: an open field for new paradigms of the public healthcare". On December 4th and 5th, Professor Pery Shikida and Lisdefferson Andrade participated, in the city of Porto Alegre, in the event "Becoming an institution of superior education's internationalization" which happened in conjunction with the celebrations of the Fullbright's 60th birthday. The event's agenda included the presentation of regional perspectives from Brazil about how to overcome the linguistic barriers and develop the internationalization of superior teaching in South America.



On December 13th, the International Office received, under the auspices of professor Dra. Marli Roesler, the visit of the Faculty of Human Sciences of the National University of Colombia's PhD professor Eucaris Olaya, (highlighted in the photo). The schedule included a technical visit to the group of rural producers; joint work meeting; technical visit to the Tekohá Yhovy indigenous village and the Mkyá Porã indigenous school in Guaira City; and work meetings to discuss perspectives of joint research projects and teacher and student's mobility.