
The Brazilian Federal Network of Professional and Technological Education's Role in Local Development: Promoting Innovation through Geographical Indications

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Abstract

The Federal Network of Professional, Scientific and Technological Education (RFEPCT) is comprised of 41 institutions, with over 650 units spread across the country, which develop professional education with close articulation with the productive sectors and society, seeking to strengthen local productive arrangements in different sectors of the economy. The project for the development of Geographical Indication aimed to foster innovation and entrepreneurship based on the RFEPCT's experience with developing research and extension projects to meet the local demands where these units are located.

The initiative is based on the recognition of the importance of GIs as a tool for valuing local products and services, as well as their ability to drive the socioeconomic development of regions. In Brazil, GIs, legally protected by Law No. 9,279/96.

The RFEPCT, with its extensive reach and presence throughout Brazilian territory, has become a crucial agent in the dynamization of Local Productive Arrangements (APLs), acting as a catalyst for synergies and regional development. The innovation agencies of the Federal Institute of Espírito Santo (IFES-Agifes) and the Federal Institute of São Paulo (IFSP-Inova) played a fundamental role in this mission, connecting the three axes of the institution (research, extension and teaching) and promoting technology transfer, entrepreneurship and innovation.

The project was structured in two phases (Axis I and Axis II), and 30 projects were selected.

Axis I: Diagnosis and Feasibility of GI

With a duration of 6 months, Axis I analyzed the feasibility of creating a GI or Collective Mark. The projects selected for this phase, in partnership with associations and local agents, developed preliminary studies and drafted proposals for the application for GI registration. Activities included raising awareness among producers and local agents, analyzing the GI's potential, and structuring the project.

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Axis II: Structuring the GI Proposal

With a duration of 12 months, assisted in structuring GI proposals for registration with the National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI). The 15 projects selected for this phase drafted the necessary documentation for registration and identified opportunities for economic exploitation of the GI. Partnership with APLs and institutions of the Federal Network was fundamental to the feasibility of the process.

The initiative, in addition to promoting the culture of intellectual property and fostering entrepreneurship and innovation, sought to strengthen synergy between academia and the community. The experience of IFES and IFSP, combined with the investment of SETEC/MEC, ensured the project's solidity and the expertise for its execution.

The first phase of the project was a success, exceeding initial expectations and demonstrating great interest in the GI theme within the Federal Network. The positive evaluation by local coordinators, the high demand for participation in the second edition of the notice and the implementation of training and dissemination actions reinforce the positive impact of the project.

The project represents a landmark of positive and transformative impact, contributing to local development and the valorization of Brazilian potential. By connecting academia with the community, the project democratizes knowledge and promotes social inclusion, paving the way for a more promising and sustainable future.

Keywords: Brazil, Vocational Education, DOP, IGP, development of regions