

Presentation of EaD

Distance education (EaD) is a modality of education which is more present in our daily life, strongly boosted by the new information and communication technology, which the potentialities point to meet the new demands of contemporary societies and particularly in Brazil, a privileged country with continental dimensions.

There are evidences that prove the positive contribution which the information and communication technologies can render the broadening of access to education and in improving the quality of course materials at lower costs, especially to attend the needs of great population in farther regions, in comparison with the traditional ways of teaching and learning.

Far from being a way to overcome emergency problems or a way to face questions of territorial spaces, this modality of education conquers, progressively, spaces within a diversity of academic and educational systems. Its supply combined with the traditional teaching models in a variety of levels, points out to improvements. However, in the spirit of education throughout life, the distance education has been a fundamental ingredient in the adult population continued education.

Regulation of the Distance Education

The Ministry of Education (MEC) accomplished, in 2005, a wide and systematic public process with the objective to build the regulation of the distance education foreseen on the Guidance and Basis of the National Education Act (Lei de Diretrizes e Bases da Educação Nacional). By means of the decree, MEC foresees the distance education as a teaching modality that, without excluding face-to-face activities, is trying to overcome time and space limitations with pedagogical application of information and communication technologies, organizing itself according to peculiar methodology, management and evaluations.

The regulation which the decree deals is applicable to the private and public teaching institutions to supply distance education courses or programs on the youth and adult basic education; on the secondary level professional education and on the graduate education, embracing sequential courses and programs, of graduation (including the technology ones), of specialization, master's and doctorate degrees.

The text, also, deals with the distance education characteristics and embracement, the permission of the institutions to supply education and the authorization of courses, the courses and programs partnership implementations, the diplomas validity and acknowledgement obtained in distance courses or programs, in foreign institutions, among others.

The SEED is born Secretariat of Distance Education

In 1996, it was established the Secretariat of Distance Education, by means of the Decree nº 1.917, May 27, 1996, presenting as its first actions, in this same year, the launch of the Canal TV Escola (TV School Channel) and the basic document “Information Technology Program on Education”, at the III Extraordinary Meeting of National Education Council (CONSED). Besides this, it was carried out the first “Workshop MEC/SEED: information technology on education”, in Fortaleza, CE, to present, analyze and discuss the initial lines of direction of the Proinfo (National Information Technology Program on Education). The second workshop was held in Brasília, DF and the third in Manaus, AM, and in April/1997 Proinfo was officially launched, as the base of SEED and until today one of the principal programs of the secretariat, which has installed information technology laboratories all over the country.

The Secretariat of Distance Education (SEED) has recently been restructured by means of a Decree in 2004, consequently working in three areas: Policies on Distance Education (DPEAD); Production and Qualification (DPCEAD) and Technological Infra-structure (DITEC).

In a transversal form, the SEED works in partnerships with other secretariats and offices within MEC. There are various programs under way, aiming to guarantee to schools teachers, students and to the public in general the democratization access and the new languages information and communication knowledge, by this, fomenting and implementing digital inclusion policies, around various programs.

DPCEAD

Production and Qualification Department in Distance Education Programs

DPCEAD has as its essential attributions to fomentation and development of projects related to the production in a diversity of media and the continued formation of the professionals on education regarding the information and communication technologies.

DPCEAD has as its main principles to act as stimulator of the authorship in several kinds of media and their integration, always with the perspective to valorize the teachers and students and to contribute for the improvement of the Brazilian education.

The line of direction of the department is to promote media integration policies and programs of the SEED, in the authorship and investment pedagogy fulfillment perspective on the quality of education. To achieve this line of direction, the priority goals are: self-production enlargement; renew the programming schedule; renew the visual programming of the TV Escola and the scenario of the Leap to the Future; dissemination of the Media in Education course for ten thousand students; continuity of the Proformação and Proinfantil.

DITEC

Infra-Structure Department on EaD

DITEC has as competence to plan and to coordinate infra-structures implementation actions necessary to the educational technology projects of the SEED. Research and develop digital technology projects defining and acting on the support and maintenance services of its physical-technological resources for the aid on distance education programs and implementation of the information and communication technologies (TIC).

Besides this, the department has as objective the development of the infra-structure support in the information and communication technologies joined to the teaching systems in the States, Municipalities and the Federal District, promoting the necessary support to the teaching-learning processes development projects mediated by technologies, as in the case of around 400 Educational Technologies Nucleus (NTEs) spreaded all over the country.

The support for the development of the TIC and its use by the basic school, graduate and in the special education, is also the role of DITEC, as well as prospect the different information systems applicable to the Brazilian educational scenarios and to guide the states and municipals teaching systems on the formulation of norms and on the establishment of patterns to be adopted on the use of the technologies.

To support all of these initiatives DITEC has implanted the Educational Technology Experimentation Center (CETE), responsible for the Information and Communication Technologies solutions development (TIC) of the SEED.

DPEAD

Policies Department on EaD

DPEAD integrates the organizational structure of the Secretariat of Distance Education of MEC and has as objectives, plan, coordinate and implement actions which aim to disseminate innovator educational methodologies, based on information and communication technologies, for the face-to-face educational improvement, as well as the distance education, in all teaching levels and modalities.

The Department, also, promotes studies and foments academic researches in this area, offering technical-pedagogical advisement to the teaching systems of Brazil and to other nations. Concurrent, DPEAD collaborates to the establishment and consolidation of the legislation and regulations pertinent to the distance education, with a narrow interchange of speech with the Brazilian society.

Through the DPEAD the Secretariat of Distance Education has developed partnership with States, Municipals and the Federal District Secretariats of Education; with universities, governmental and non-governmental organizations and with associations linked to the sector to develop programs considering the national curricular lines of direction and the different information and communication languages and technologies, and strengthen the distance education in the country.

UAB is a project constructed by the Ministry of Education, Federal Enterprises and by the Teaching Federal Institutions Ruling Association (ANDIFES), on the scope of Federal Institutions for the Education Forum, to supply distance undergraduate education programs and courses, in partnerships with Public Universities, by means of consortiums in the States of the Federation.

The project is part of the actual public policies developed by the Federal Government for the education area, specially, to the one with programs focused on undergraduate education with quality and the promotion of social inclusion. Therefore, the project reaffirms the strategic character of the undergraduate education and scientific, technological and of innovation development to the sustainable growth of the country.

UAB offers an alternative to meet the demands for undergraduate education, which generates the educational asymmetries in the national scenario, in relation to the supply of initial and continued under graduation, since in Brazil, only 11% of the youth, between 18 and 24, has access to universities.

Sensible to this, the Ministry of Education has been establishing strategic policies to universalize the access to universities and decentralize the supply in the big urban centers. In consolidation with UAB, SEED has launched a public call, aiming a Face-to-Face Support Municipal Poles Selection for the supply of Undergraduate Courses in Federal Universities on Distance Education Modality, through the edict N° 1, December 19, 2005.

MEC estimates that the UAB can supply, beginning 2007, more than 100 thousand openings in public universities in the country. Besides this, the pilot-project of UAB from the distance undergraduate course in administration, started in 2006, in a partnership between SEED/MEC and Banco do Brasil is attending around 10 thousand Brazilian students.



TV Escola

Documentaries, debates and the best educational programs and series, produced in the country and in the world are supplied daily to teachers and students through the TV Escola. There are 17 hours of programming, with alternated hours, so that, it is offered to the schools a diversity of options to record videos. The TV Escola programming is divided into five bands: Ensino Infantil (Early Childhood Education), Ensino Fundamental (Primary Education), Ensino Médio (Secondary Education) and Salto Para o Futuro (Leap to the Future), and there is also a special session on language learning - Spanish, French and English.

SEED/MEC continues to enlarge the reach of the TV Escola. In 2006, there has been sent to 50 thousand basic level public schools a DVD recorder and a box with 50 DVDs containing approximately 150 hours of programming produced by the TV School.

The TV Escola favours the professional development of managers, teachers and students; gives more dynamism in class activities; contributes for the formation of critical readers of audiovisual resources; enriches the preparation of extra-class activities, recovery and speeding up of the studies; foment the use of technologies in class and makes the school closer to the community, specially from the Open School bands, which shows on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, social programs about health education, environment, citizenship and others. Since 1996, it has been broadcasted more than six thousand programs, guided to a diversity of teaching bands.

With the TV Escola, the Secretariat Distance Education Channel, MEC intends to stimulate the creativity and autonomy of each school, promoting the construction of modern, contextualized pedagogical projects committed with the building up of the XXI century citizen and with the improvement of the Brazilian education quality.



e-ProInfo

The Collaborative Learning Environment e-ProInfo has been developed to meet the demands of face-to-face and of distance qualification. It uses technologies based on internet, supported by free software solutions with no requirements for operational system and database. On it can be held courses on-line, work meetings, collaborative projects and other forms of distance support to the teaching-learning process. At e-ProInfo there is a group of resources available to support the participants' activities, among them, FAQ, newsletters, bulletin, agenda, diary and library. There is, also, interaction tools among participants, such as electronic mail, chat, forum and project base. It offers a number of resources for the user institutions like distance education actions development and achievements, possibility to share contents and environment administration autonomy.

In 2006, SEED has registered by the GPL license (General Public License), the Distance Collaborative Learning Environment code — e-ProInfo, becoming a free software, permitting its code to be used in a free manner.



ProInfo

Distance education is a resource of immeasurable importance as an appropriate way to meet a great number of students, in a more effective form than other modalities and without risks to reduce the quality of services supplied as a consequence of the broadening of the public covered.

With the thoughts focused on the education qualification, the National Information Technology Program on Education (ProInfo) universalizes, in cooperation with the States, the Federal District and Municipalities, the use of the information and communication technologies at public schools primary schools, favouring until this moment 5.8 million students and 218 teachers in 5.140 public schools and 1.819 municipalities in the country.

For ProInfo, technology on education means the insertion of Communication and Information Technologies (TIC), integrating computer, internet and active media in the teaching and learning process, to support curricular content development in all education levels and modalities. Therefore, it is addressed to teachers, students, technicians and managers, so that they can teach, learn and manage the educational actions using the technologies. Thus, MEC has installed more than 60 thousand computers in public schools and education technology nucleus.

ProInfo also supports the schools to develop communitarian projects, making it easier the access to technology information laboratories for students' parents and other members of the community around the school, and by this way, constituting in a digital inclusion space.

ProFormação



The On-the-job Teacher's Training Program is a distance course, at secondary school level, in which teachers are qualified in the teacher's practice modality. It is offered by MEC in partnership with the States and Municipalities. It is suitable for teachers without the minimum qualification demanded by the Guidance and Basis Act (Lei de Diretrizes e Bases), and are teaching the first four grades in lower school or at the Education of Youth and Adults (EJA), within the country's public education system.

In spite of the program has already graduated 30 thousand teachers, there is still, in Brazil, a significant number of teachers that do not meet the minimum requirements by law, teaching in the first grades of Primary School and/or in literacy classes. Being aware of the need to change this picture, and with the support by the success of the program, MEC, since 1999, has offered the ProFormação in many regions of the country. The program has as a goal the graduation of ten thousand teachers by 2007.

ProFormação is also engaged in international technical cooperation projects to share the experience acquired by the SEED in the graduation of on-the-job teachers' in other continents. At the moment it develops projects with East Timor, São Tomé and Príncipe and it is in negotiation with Guinea-Bissau.



Proinfantil

In early childhood education, the lack of proper qualification is also a problem that has to be tackled — 35 thousand teachers do not meet the educational standards required to work in the area, that is, teacher's practice course at secondary school level. Aware of the need to provide qualification to those professionals, and based on the expertise acquired by ProFormação, the Ministry of Education has been offering a program to grant a certificate for these teachers on distance teaching modality.

The On-the-job Teacher's Training Program for Early Childhood Education — known as Proinfantil, to provide training in teacher's practice course, at secondary school level, offering for those who lack qualifications and who are working in early childhood education institutions, the knowledge of the contents of Secondary Education and the pedagogical information necessary improve its professional teaching quality.

One of the greatest challenges, in Brazil, in the last decades has been to improve the Early Childhood Education in Brazil has been, therefore the importance of the professionals' qualification for those who work at day care centers and pre-schools. The education of teachers is a key element for the effective teacher's professionalizing and to establish fundamental pillars to promote quality.

The program started its activities in July 2005 in the following states: Ceará, Goiás, Rondônia and Sergipe. The initial goal was to attend seven thousand teachers. This year (2006), Proinfantil has started to have a national outreach.

ProLetramento



Pró-Letramento - Mobilization for Quality in Education - is a program for continued graduation of teachers, in order to improve the quality in the reading/writing and Mathematics in the initial grades of lower school. The objectives of Pró-Letramento are: to offer pedagogical support to the teachers of the initial grades of primary education, contributing to increase the teaching/learning quality of Portuguese and Mathematics; to propose situations that encourage the reflection and the construction of knowledge as a continuous process of teacher's formation; to develop knowledge that enables the mathematical and linguistic comprehension and their teaching/learning processes; to contribute to the development of a continued formation culture in schools; stimulating continued formation actions in the public network, involving Universities, Education Secretariats and Public Schools from public network. The program is developed by MEC in partnership with the Universities which are part of the Continued Formation National Network, with the adhesion of the States and Municipalities. The alphabetizing/linguistics and Mathematics courses are developed separately. Each one is a 120-hour course, including face-to-face group activities and also private activities.

It is already being implemented in the state and municipal systems of Ceará, Rio Grande do Norte, Maranhão, Bahia, Piauí and Santa Catarina, benefiting a total of 100 thousand teachers. The goal is to expand the program to other states, qualifying, by the end of 2007, 400 thousand teachers.



ProLicenciatura

The Pró-Licenciatura Program started with negotiations between SEED and Public Virtual University of Brazil (NIREDE), having as goal supply the delivery teaching distance graduation courses, especially for the graduation of teachers in areas where the quantity of teachers is not enough for the demand. The program has already selected 19 courses in 39 public universities, out of which 37 are universities, providing 18 thousand openings for the following courses: Pedagogy (initial years, early childhood education and special education), Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics.

The program flourished, and in 2005, in partnership with the Secretariat of Basic Education (SEB), the Secretariat of Distance Education (SEED) and the National Foundation for Education Development (FNDE), was launched the second stage of the program, where universities (public, communitarian and confessional) were selected to offer teaching degrees which act in the public education system but don't have the necessary qualification on the subject they are teaching. The goal for 2006 is to offer 60 thousand openings and, by to 2009, Pró-Licenciatura intends to supply 140 thousand openings for teachers who are working on the last grades of lower school and of high school in the public education system.

Support to Specialization Courses for the Disabled Students (PNE)



The Formation of Teachers in Specialized Education Assistance for the Mental Disabled Project is a result of the institutional articulation between the Special Education Secretariat and the Secretariat of Distance Education. Its objective is to foment a specialization course *lato sensu*, to be organized and supplied in the distance education modality by the Universidade Federal do Ceará (Federal University of Ceara), in partnership with other public universities. The action intends to meet a constitutional guarantee and the lack of specialized teachers in the mentally disabled area, which demands the elaboration of a project that reaches all Brazil and has a differentiated approach.

The aim of the project is teachers with a graduate degree, linked to a public school or public place for specialized educational assistance or organization without profitable objectives. It will be offered 675 openings, divided among the institutions that are part of the university-pole consortium, with expected investments of R\$800,000.00. The universities will be able to celebrate conventions with Municipalities and State Education Secretariats, in order to guarantee the infra-structure and the physical space necessary for the course, which will be a year and a half long, with the possibility of beginning in the second semester of 2006.



Projeto Libras

The project of graduate degree in Teaching with habilitation in the Symbols- LIBRAS Brazilian Language will have the following goals: the formation and consolidation of a national network to supply the graduation of teachers for the teaching of Libras, by a distance education course, aiming to attend the national demand for teachers and translators of Libras. The distance education course mentioned above must be created from a permanent policy of MEC for the graduation of teachers in Libras, for all the educational levels. The Graduation Course in Libras will be five 5 years long, in an experimental manner, to be held on a distance manner. It will be offered by the Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina (Federal University of Santa Catarina) with the participation of nine other federal institutions in different Brazilian regions. The project fulfills the objectives of the Brazilian society and also to the Act nº 10.436, April 24, 2002.

The financing is responsibility of MEC - Secretariat of Distance Education and Secretariat of Special Education. The investment forecast is of R\$ 1,232,500.00 per year, for the acquisition of equipments, to be distributed to the participating institutions, for the communication infra-structure (interactive videoconference network and personal computers) and for the development of didactical material.

PAPED - Support to Research in Distance Education Program developed by the SEED in partnership with CAPES, incentives the research, production of knowledge and educational technological innovations, with a view to improve teaching quality by incorporating, didactically-pedagogically, the new information and communication technologies. The program awards to innovating digital contents and supports financially the development of scientific works related to face-to-face and/or distance education and the didactically-pedagogically applications of the Information and Communication Technologies (TIC), making them available to schools and IES countrywide. The program has three modalities of funding: financial support for scientific research in the field of Information and Communication Technologies (TIC) applied to face-to-face and distance education; awards to innovative digital contents developed by faculty members and researches of undergraduate and graduate courses to be used at different levels and modalities of education; and concession of productivity and research scholarships in innovative scientific and technological development to researchers in general, preferably for projects in the educational field (initial and continued formation).

PAPED has already invested approximately R\$600,000, since its first edition, in 1997, aiding on the production of Master's degree dissertations and doctorate thesis. From 2002 onwards, with the launching of the modality that awards learning objects, the program was broadened. The collection of works rewarded is comprised of 83 Master's degree dissertations, 44 doctoral thesis and 37 (innovative digital contents). In 2004, was promoted the improvement of the Program by publishing the rewarded works done by the students from the Master's and doctorate programs, on the historical records of PAPED. The success of the program enabled the SEED to plan broadening of the program for 2006, by means of complementary budget, targeting a larger number of projects, and also including the modality of research scholarships.



Mídia Escola

To divulge students' productions from public schools, supervised by the teachers, using information and communication technologies is the goal of the Mídia Escol. The idea is to encourage students, teachers and school managers the creation and production of educational contents, integrating the technologies as strategies of modernization and to make easier the teaching/learning process. All the productions produced by the schools specifically for the Program Mídia Escola (School Media Program) will be available to be seen on the SEED website. Every two months, the first two schools that enroll, send the CD-ROM with the video to MEC and fill the demanded requirements, will have their productions shown on the internet, on date and time previously established by SEED, via internet, accessing Interactive Debate Environment (www.adi.proinfo.mec.gov.br). In 2006 it is expected four editions, which the thematic, enrollment period and date of exhibition will be announced on the SEED website (portal.mec.gov.br/seed on the icon School Media).

The requirements for the school's participation are: to have a computer laboratory or access to one with internet connection; have access to a digital camera; have radio equipment on the Web (MP3 technology) and have access to a CD-ROM recorder. To enroll, the coordinators of ProInfo must send the following data about the school: name, address, telephone number, name of the principal, number of students and the Inep code; data about the authors: counselor teacher's name, names and grades of the project's participants, and the title of the theme. The CD-ROM must be sent to the Ministry of Education, to the following address: Secretaria de Educação a Distância - Programa Mídia - Escola - Esplanada dos Ministérios, Bloco L, sala 103 — Edifício-Sede — Brasília (DF) — CEP 70047-900.

Mídias na Educação

Mídias na Educação is a distance program structured in modules, with the objective to promote continuing education for the pedagogical use of different information and communication technologies — TV and video, information technology tools, radio and printed material — in a way that those resources are integrated in the teaching and learning process, to the professionals in education, contributing for the formation of an inquisitive and creative reader, capable of producing and fostering the production of knowledge using different media. The program allows different learning paths and certification. Three certification levels are foreseen, constituting a study cycle: the Basic Cycle, which is a 120-hour course and gives certification in extension; the Intermediary, which is a 180-hour course and gives certification in further improvement; and the Advanced, which is a 360-hour course that gives certification in specialization. In 2005 an online pilot program was implemented at e-ProInfo environment for 1,200 potential multipliers and teachers from all the Brazilian states. In 2006, the Basic Cycle, with certification in extension, will be offered to more than ten thousand professionals of Basic Education all over the country.

The program is being developed by SEED/MEC in a partnership with public universities and secretariats of education, which are in responsible for the production, supply and certification of the modules, as well as for the selection process and teachers' training. The Program to be a reference on on-line courses will be focusing on the authorship pedagogy, on the integration of technologies, on the democratization and flexibility of the access to education and on collaborative work. *Mídia na Educação: the authorship as learning strategy.*



FORMAÇÃO
PELA ESCOLA

Formação pela Escola

The Continued Distance Formation National Program in the FNDE Actions - Formação pela Escola - is a process directed to the consolidation of the agents' and partners' actions involved in the execution, accompanying and evaluation of the education programs financed by the National Foundation for Education Development (FNDE): PDDE - Money Directly in School Program; PNAE - National School Feeding Program; PNATE - National School Transport Program; PLI - Book Program; PBA - Alphabetized Brazil Program. The Formação pela Escola has as specific objectives: give the managers of FNDE programs the possibility special training for the correct and adequate application of the financial resources; stimulate the exercise of social control of the scholar programs; and increase the participation of the state, municipal and federal managers and the school community in the decisions instances, by this improving the quality of democratic management.

The Pilot Project started in 2005 with the initial formation of state and municipal teachers and the specific formation for the agents involved with the FNDE programs. In this stage, the states of Ceará, Piauí, Rondônia, Goiás, Rio de Janeiro e Rio Grande do Sul participated. The goal is to capacitate one thousand people in each of the states above. It will be used in this program printed materials, videos and the collaborative learning environment e-Proinfo. This platform of distance education developed by SEED/MEC uses internet to allow a conception, administration and development of several distance actions, giving support to the teaching/learning process.

Portal Domínio Público

The Portal Domínio Público is a digital library concerned in making available on the internet literary, artistic and scientific works (in texts, audio, images and videos). This collection is constituted by works which are of public domain or works which have the license by the ones who own the authorship rights. Having started its activities in 2004, there are more than 14 thousand works in the collection, granted by national and international partners, such as the Brazilian Student Virtual Library, at USP, the National Library Foundation and the Gutenberg Project from the USA.

The system developed in free software enables to consult the collection through different types of entries: tabled criteria (media, category, author, title and idiom), by the author's name and even the search can be done by characters, which permit the research by words that are on the search archive. The archives with the works reproduced in integral versions are presented in formats available to any computer connected to the internet. The scope of the collection and the easiness to access make the Public Domain a cultural and educative reference for teachers, students, researchers and for the population in general. The access to the Public Domain Portal can be done through MEC's website or through the <http://www.dominiopublico.gov.br>.



Rived

The Rived program – Interactive Virtual Network of Education – offers multimedia pedagogical contents to students and teachers which makes easier the understanding and the interpretation of concepts; challenge the students to solve complex problems and to discuss strategies; encourage teachers to use new technologies in the classroom, and offers topics that lead to problems analysis and debates which involves ethic and of social impact. In RIVED, the digital and pedagogical activities reveal the ludic, interaction and experimental aspects that should be present in any significant learning process.

Projeto Articulação



The Projeto Articulação is a guided action for the improvement of the management institutional network programs of the Secretariat of Distance Education.

The main objectives are: improve and to amplify the institutional network and the management process which support the SEED/MEC programs; promote a negotiation culture and a sharing to grant support to the management network of the EaD; offer visibility to the EaD actions developed by the Ministry of Education and its partners; create a permanent space for debates, cooperation and experience exchange; and to amplify and to qualify communication, articulation and integration among the several levels of management programs of EaD.

The project is directed to the Secretariats of the Ministry of Education, Departments and Co-ordinations of SEED, State and Municipal Education Secretariats, universities and other eventual partners on the projects of EaD developed by the MEC.

AACS

Assessoria de Comunicação Social
SEED/MEC