

Online Ad Hoc Session to the new members of the Scientific Committee (SC) of the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (BIREME)

BIREME/PAHO/WHO
Department of Evidence and Intelligence for Action in Health – (EIH)

The online ad hoc session of the SC of the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (BIREME/PAHO/WHO) was held on August 28th, 2020 aiming to maintain effective the communication with the members of the SC, responding to recurrent requests in previous sessions of both the SC and the Advisory Committee (AC), and thus present the recommendations provided by the previous members, in the V Session held on November 28 and 29, 2019. It was also an opportunity to share information on BIREME's products and services and present the challenges in the implementation of the 2020-2021 Biannual Work Plan (BWP 20-21) during the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The SC is a permanent body of BIREME that performs consultative functions with the Direction of PAHO/WHO, according to the Statute of the Center, which describes the objectives of the SC in Article VII.

The current members of the CC were appointed during the VIII session of BIREME's Advisory Committee (AC) on October 24 and 25, 2019 for a three-year term (2020-2022). They are specialists from 5 (five) PAHO/WHO Member States: Brazil, Argentina, the United States, Mexico and Peru, as well as the Netherlands.

REPORT

São Paulo (SP), August 28th, 2020

REPORT

Opening Session

- 1) On August 28th, 2020 the Online Ad Hoc Session of the SC of the Center took place, led by Diego González Machín, Director of BIREME and Secretary *ex-officio*.
- 2) Sebastián García Saisó, Director of the Department of Evidence and Intelligence for Action in Health (EIH), began the session with welcome words and highlighted the specific objectives of the Ad Hoc session, recognizing the presence of the specialists and the importance of their contributions to strengthening the products, projects, services and networks that BIREME/PAHO/WHO coordinates regionally with the countries of the Region.
- 3) The participation of the SC specialists was thanked and the importance of holding the meeting within the framework of the institutional development of the Center was highlighted. The representatives of Holland and Peru justified their absences.
- 4) The SC members and BIREME staff present at the session introduced themselves and the work was started.

PRESENTATION

- 5) The Director of BIREME thanked those attending the meeting for their online participation and began the presentation: Main products and services (P/S) in the framework of the technical cooperation of the Center and issues of financial sustainability in addition to the challenges in the implementation of BIREME's BWP 20-21 during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 6) During his presentation Diego González highlighted the technical cooperation program of the Center, its projects, products and services available to the countries of the Region (and outside of it) at the local, national, regional and global levels of action with emphasis in the actions carried out from November 2019 to date.

Discussions and Recommendations

- 7) Dan Gerendasy congratulated the presentation stating that it was very comprehensive. He mentioned that it would be important to disseminate the scientific communication course for Portuguese-speaking countries. He also asked about disaster response programs.

Diego González (DIR BIR) reported that PAHO has a specific program for disasters and that BIREME contributes by providing contextualized quality information.

Verônica Abdala (SCI/PFI) commented on the initiative of ePORTUGUÊSe network, in which PAHO is working to rescue it, whose objective is to develop information

management and knowledge management capacities in health in Portuguese-speaking countries.

Silvia de Valentin (GA) added that the scientific communication course should triple the number of enrolled with its Portuguese version in the final phase.

Lilian Calò (COM/DIR) complemented that the Portuguese translation of the course is already well advanced and that it is possible that the next version will be in English to serve the English Caribbean.

- 8) Antonio Sánchez Pereyra stressed that he was very impressed with the work developed by BIREME. He informed that he would like to publicize all the training activities carried out by BIREME. He congratulated the center for the emphasis being placed on Open Science and preprints. He also showed interest in working in more detail in the cooperation between Periódica and LILACS to generate bibliometric indicators.

Diego González (DIR BIR) reported that BIREME has a very strong work with the Mexican nursing network, within the framework of the International Nursing Network and together with the PAHO Representative in Mexico, it is working with the e-BlueInfo initiative for Primary Health Care. He also mentioned the possibility of working with medical students in training programs.

Sebastián García Saisó (EIH) stressed that BIREME must seek to formalize relations with institutions in Mexico and that the Health Sciences Book Fair will be a very good opportunity.

Renato Murasaki (MTI/AFI) expressed the need to discuss mechanisms to interoperate with the metadata of health journals in Mexico, including because of its impact on the generation of bibliometric indicators.

Lilian Calò (COM/DIR) reported that BIREME is promoting a series of Webinars in the context of a specific Technical Cooperation Agreement with the Ministry of Health of Brazil and specific on September 2nd the topic will be the role of preprints in scientific information about COVID-19.

Sueli Suga (FIR / PFI) mentioned the indicators from the LILACS database that are already available, such as the contribution of the countries and visualizations related to human resources in health. She also mentioned within this line, the development of evidence maps to synthesize the evidence and support the gap identification.

- 9) Fábio Tarasow mentioned that he was impressed with the large amount of information presented and he would like to know how this ecosystem of knowledge management and transmission of knowledge and the possibility of networking is being put together.

Diego González (DIR BIR) mentioned that in addition to the scientific communication course, BIREME has developed the course on access and use of information, also self-learning.

Verônica Abdala (SCI/PFI) mentioned that the development of courses in specific health areas such as neglected infectious diseases is also supported, as well as courses on Evidence-based Policies, etc.

Renato Murasaki (MTI/AFI) mentioned that among the products and services developed by BIREME there is a specific one to manage open educational resources in such a way that they can also be retrieved in the VHL and BIREME also coordinates the Network of Repositories of Open Educational Resources.

- 10) Alexandre Pozza Urnau Silva stressed how impeccable BIREME's work is. He mentioned that the work that the Center has done to disseminate health information is fundamental. He highlighted the development of the application for Primary Health Care, e-BlueInfo, which, if used well, can greatly help health professionals. In relation to financial resources, he reported that management changes in the Ministry of Health (MoH) had an impact on the delay in completing the transfer of resources to BIREME. He also highlighted that the inclusion of the SAA (Undersecretary of Administrative Affairs) can help in the management of procedures once that secretariat, especially the coordination of knowledge management, has a long-standing alliance with BIREME. There is also the possibility, with the approval of the Ministry of Health, of a specific Technical Cooperation Agreement with ADAPS (Agency for the Development of Primary Health Care).

Diego González (DIR BIR) commented that the e-BlueInfo initiative began in Brazil, which is part of the e-BlueInfo Management Committee and its 1st Meeting took place on August 26, 2020, with the participation of professionals from the Secretariat of Primary Health Care (SAPS/MS) and the PAHO Representative in the country.

Silvia de Valentín (GA) thanked for the comment related to the technical cooperation agreements with the MoH and requested guidance for the coordinated management in the formalization of a new technical cooperation agreement with the SAA/SE even if the amount is less than the average amount of the regular contribution in recent years, mainly to maintain the historical relationship of 20 years with the SAA/SE of MoH. She also emphasized the need to formalize the BIREME Headquarters Agreement in Brazil so that the transfers of financial resources are made at the beginning of the fiscal year and planned in advance in the regular planning of MoH.

Alexandre Pozza Urnau Silva informed that he will try to negotiate with the CGDI (General Coordination of Documentation and Information) of the SAA/SE, the possibility of including the project together with SAA/SE for next year, recognizing that with the SAA/SE that is responsible for the area of knowledge management would be more appropriate.

- 11) Jorge Barreto congratulated the progress and mentioned the efficiency and the learning through networking. He stressed that for advances in Science it is necessary to work in a network and the more open, the better.

Verônica Abdala (SCI/PFI) commented that the future goes in the direction of adding value in new information products and services and in the information itself. Strengthen the capacities to develop products that have this added value.

Silvia de Valentín (GA) returned to Fabio's comment on how we are going to strengthen this ecosystem considering the formation and dissemination of knowledge, so that we can mitigate some of the challenges we have today, because the world has been changed by the global pandemic of COVID-19.

- 12) Renato Murasaki (MTI/AFI) commented on how we can position ourselves in the face of open data management and develop new information products and services with the focus of innovation.

Other topics

- 13) The participation of the SC members was thanked, highlighting the discussions held and the results achieved at the meeting, as well as the BIREME team for their performance at the Center in the area of scientific and technical information in Health and especially in the realization of the Ad Hoc Session of the Scientific Committee.

Session Closure

After the participants shared comments on their appreciation for and experiences at the meeting, the main objectives reached towards the new institutional positioning of the Center were pointed out and the ad-hoc session was then closed.

Diego González Machín
Director of BIREME/PAHO/WHO
Secretary *ex officio* of the online ad hoc session of the
Scientific Committee of BIREME/PAHO/WHO

Annexes

Annex A

Agenda

Opening of the Session

Presentation by the *ex-officio* Secretary who highlighted the technical cooperation program of the Center, its projects, products and services available to the countries of the Region (and outside of it) at the local, national, regional and global levels of action.

Debate, questions and answers

Annex B

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Working document

1. Agenda of the Online Ad Hoc Session of the Scientific Committee of BIREME

Annex C

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Alexandre Pozza Urnau Silva, Development, Operation and Financing for Projects, Products and Services of BIREME, Brazil

Amanda Wilson, Information Management, United States of America

Antonio Sánchez Pereyra, Scientific Communication, Mexico

Barend Mons, Information Technology, Netherlands (justified absence)

Cezar Augusto Cabezas, Scientific Research, Peru (justified absence)

Fabio Tarasow, Education, Argentina

Jorge Barreto, Evidence Informed Health, Brazil

PAHO/WHO, HQ Sebastián García Saisó
Director of Evidence and Intelligence for Action in Health - EIH

BIREME/PAHO/WHO

<i>Diego González Machín</i>	<i>Director and Secretary ex officio</i>
Lilian Calò	Coordinator of Scientific Communication
<i>Carmen Verónica Abdala</i>	<i>Manager of Cooperative Services of Information and Evidence (SCI)</i>
	<i>Production of Information Sources (PFI)</i>
Rosemeire Pinto	Supervisor of User Services
Sueli Suga	Supervisor of Referential Information Sources
<i>Renato Murasaki</i>	<i>Manager of Methodology and Information Technologies (MTI) and</i>
	<i>Administration of Information Sources (AFI)</i>
Marcos Mori	Supervisor of Technical Support Network
<i>Silvia Almeida de Valentin</i>	<i>Manager of Administrative Management and Planning (GA)</i>
Marcia Ymanaka Barretto	Coordinator of Infrastructure of Technologies of Information
Adriano Rehder de Sá	Controllershship and Processes

Annex D

ACRONYMS USED IN THIS REPORT

BIREME – Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information

VHL – Virtual Health Library