



redeunida

16º CONGRESSO
INTERNACIONAL
DA REDE UNIDA

31/07 A 03/08 DE 2024
SANTA MARIA / RS

**AS MIL E UMA SAÚDE
DOS TERRITÓRIOS:**

CUIDADOS, BEM VIVER, LIBERDADE E
DEMOCRACIA COMO ATRIBUTOS ÉTICOS
DA EDUCAÇÃO E DO TRABALHO NO SUS.

Dear friends of the Rede Unida!

It is with great satisfaction that we welcome each and every one of you to the virtual environment of the 16th International Congress of the Rede Unida. The new edition of our traditional congress will be held from July 31st to August 3rd, 2024 on the main campus of the Federal University of Santa Maria, in Rio Grande do Sul. The central theme, **The thousand and one health of the territories: care, good living, freedom and democracy as ethical attributes of education and work in the SUS** takes us back to the history of Associação Rede Unida. From the Teaching Assistance Integration (IDA) projects, in which the diversification of learning scenarios was constituted as a contact strategy for the training of health professionals and technicians with the territories and equipment of the public health system, to the engendering initiatives of democracy, during the period of the 8th National Health Conference and the Constituent Assembly, or even in the democratic resistance of more recent years, where the suffocation of lives was a government project, the Rede Unida was present. It also reminds us of the relevance constitutionally attributed to work for the production of health in territories, no longer just as a *health of organs*, but encompassing other health that are very relevant for the well-being of people and communities everywhere. Health as a device and result of democracy.

This is how we interpret the guidelines of the Unified Health System (SUS), which say that health production is carried out in a decentralized manner, an expression that tells us about the meetings between management and health care workers with each user; capable of seeking integrality, which is a permanent process and not a fixed state and behaves as a driving idea to generate advances and not as a prescription; and with social participation, which concerns respect for the autonomy of people and communities and permanent dialogue with their knowledge and practices in the territories. To achieve this health, with an ethical commitment to the lives of each person, we need to activate again the encounter between education and health as an invention, as social and political production, as a developing technique, as *live work in action* (a notion that takes us back to intense production by the beloved Emerson Merhy), as permanent health education (and here we pay tribute to Ricardo Ceccim and Laura Feuerwerker).



For this edition of our International Congress, it seems essential to resume and update the pedagogical, technological and civilizational advances that open new horizons for democracy, for the health of each person and community. Retake and continue developing new approaches to better care for health and territories, without neglecting unique needs and without giving up advances in science and technology. In the period of civilizational crisis, which we have recently experienced, we learned that the denial of science is based on the denial of life and that dialogue with knowledge and practices from each location, on the contrary, strengthens science and the ethical work of health production. We also learned that change in health training is an unpostponable agenda, which needs to be strongly rooted in territories and combined with the best practices in science and technology and respond to the social and health needs of each location. That mobilizing hearts and minds, as is the hallmark of our VER-SUS Brasil initiatives, is necessary to defend lives, all of them, in each territory. Which means that inclusion - respecting and validating our ethnic, racial, cultural, sexual and gender identity differences, and finally, each person's belonging to a cultural and social context - also needs to permanently remake our knowledge and our practices. The history of Rede Unida is also the ancestral context that feeds us and which, in turn, has strong connections with the development of health thinking and health education, formed in national and international networks, for more than 35 years.

In the year of our international Congress, we will be reaping the fruits of the resumption of democracy, the updating of public policies aimed at producing equity for our people, the inclusion in education and health of our young people and adults, the SUS initiatives for care in territories and specialized networks, continuing education as a strategy for developing work and health education, preparing the 4th National Conference on Work Management and Health Education, implementing the guidelines of the 17th National Health Conference, to give consistency to the listening we carried out in the various regional meetings in the years 2023 and 2024 (in which we forestry for other tomorrows, we delve into the territories and meet their people, we learn from diversities, we produce meetings in the *cerrado's* watery eyes, we learn to teaching and caring for SUS integrated territories).

The International Congress has the strategic and intensive function of strengthening us to qualify intervention in health policies and other public policies, expanding and strengthening our partnerships in Brazil and other countries (always with a local-local logic), expanding our capacity of disseminating knowledge and ideas to enhance life, health and democracy in each territory and on the planet.



Thus, we constitute the meaning of the image that invites us to the congress: international networks that form an inclusive globalization, in which local-local connections engender rhizomes of horizontal affections and collaborations; macela (or *marcela*, as some prefer, or *chá de Sexta-Feira Santa*, as others prefer) means a cultural connection (intercultural dialogues in each territory, without colonialism) and with the different meanings of health. Macela, a Brazilian shrub that occupies the fields and blooms in different periods, depending on the great Brazilian climate diversity, will also bloom in July 2024, with all its therapeutic power, at the Federal University of Santa Maria, to consolidate our meetings and one more International Congress with different languages, with different colors, with different life-producing forces, with different ideas. But, above all, a meeting of people who like people and, therefore, care for people and need to be cared for as people (our tribute to the most complex and intense synthesis of health work, which our dear Maria Luiza insistently repeats Jaeger, every time she is encouraged to talk about health work). Santa Maria is a land that remembers ancestry, civilizational tensions, innovations in technical and higher education. The Federal University of Santa Maria has a tradition of participating in movements for change in the training of health workers, of implementing health residencies, of welcoming students and enabling their permanence (the largest student house in Latin America is at FUSM), of the university's social commitment to democratic freedom and has excellent management at the Health Sciences Center (isn't that right, dear Maria Denise, our president of the Congress? 😊😊).

The program, as in previous editions, will have conversation circles, thematic tables, work presentation circles, exhibitions, displays, the Paulo Freire tent, the Signs that come from the Street tent, cultural interventions, soirees, International Forums, Res Públicas, meeting points and much more. Congressional Committees are already in full swing, inventing activities and meeting devices. Santa Maria is a university city, known as the "heart of Rio Grande do Sul" due to its geographical location, which occupies an originally indigenous territory, it will welcome us with a temperature of around 13°C (ranging from 9°C to 19°C), which becomes very comfortable with hugs and macela tea.

The congress will have hybrid activities, including for the working circles, but the presence in person will be very important. That's why we invite you to register and be with us during the Congress period. It will be a network of good meetings, we are sure of that.

We look forward to welcoming you for good conversations, exchanges and a very special welcome.

