

Success Story

UNICAMP's International Office Cooperation Agreements with Institutions from Europe

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Campinas. Based on an interview with Professor Mariano Laplane for ENRICH in Brazil.

The ENRICH in Brazil interview series for ENRICH Monthly continues with Prof. Mariano Francisco Laplane, PhD in Economics and professor at the Institute of Economics

Prof. Laplane is currently head of Unicamp's International Office and supervise cooperation agreements with institutions from almost all European countries. As a researcher, Prof. Laplane have been involved in several joint projects with European Institutions mostly from Germany, France and the UK.

His main topics of research under international cooperation are regional trade agreements, car industry, and innovation policies. "The most successful collaboration I have been involved is a longstanding and ongoing partnership with the University of Kassel in Germany"

But let's take one step back. Mr. Laplane has graduated in Social Sciences at Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Master's Degrees in City Planning at UC Berkeley and Doctorate in Economic Theory at University of Campinas. His research interests are in Industrial Development, Foreign Investment and Trade, and Science, Technology and Innovation Policies. Born in Argentina and permanent resident in Brazil since 1983.

The University of Campinas (Unicamp) is a public University funded by state of São Paulo. Established in 1966 in the city of Campinas. It is a top Brazilian University in number of published articles per faculty



member and in number of patents. Unicamp ranks between 1st and 3rd in Latin America and 28th among BRICS Universities.

Cooperation Agreement (MOU) with University of Kassel, in Germany: Showcase

The initiative started around 2007 when the University of Kassel invited Unicamp's Institute of Economics to join a network of Universities that were aiming to establish an international Master Degree program on Employment and Labour Policies. Initially, the network also included the Berlin School of Economics (later School of Law and Economics), the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai, India and the Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg, South Africa.

It was a pioneer and very ambitious project in collaborative teaching and research that resulted in the creation of the Global Labour University (GLU). The International Labour Organization and the DAAD financed the launching of the project and gradually other sources of funding and partners joined. After more than a decade, the program is still in place.

An offspring of the GLU project was the establishment of a joint PhD interdisciplinary program with the University of Kassel within the framework of the International Centre for Development and Decent Work (ICDD). In the period of 2009 to 2019, the IDCC was one of the five Centers of Excellence and Development funded through the Exceed program of the DAAD.

Valuable aspect of the collaboration. The partnership with University of Kassel allowed the Institute of Economics move forward in international teaching and research.





The collaboration also provided us with expertise and organizational know how on:

- Student and faculty exchange;
- Joint submission of requests for funding; and
- Joint publication increased quickly at the Institute of Economics/Unicamp.

The Master degree program in Social and Labour Economics at the Institute of Economics became the first graduate program in a foreign language established at UNICAMP. “Through the Master and PhD degrees we hosted scholars and students from Germany, from other European countries and from countries in Asia, Africa and the Caribbean”.

One of the difficulties pointed out by Mr. Laplane was related to language barriers (German) and to different bureaucratic cultures. Fortunately, “the German partners, as well as the colleagues from other countries in the network made it very easy to overcome every difficulty”.

Based on Mr. Laplane experience if you are interested in going international to collaborate in teach and research, these are the top tips for:

- Map your strengths and your needs beforehand
- Look for partners that have matching capabilities
- Identify common fields of interests
- Select initiatives that neither you, nor your partner, could undertake alone
- Establish realistic goals of mutual interest for the short, medium and long run.

“Partnership demand lots of work and energy, besides funding. Thus, in order to last collaborating needs to be meaningful and valuable for both partners. It must be a win/win situation”.

We would like to thank to Professor Mariano Laplane for sharing his valuable experience and being an “Ambassador” for increasing scientific and technological cooperation between Europe-Brazil

