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BRAZIL: Creation of a network of training centres for water professions

- International Office for Water - Cooperation - International actions - Vocational training and engineering -

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In order to meet the development and modernisation needs of the water sector, the Brazilian water authorities - Secretariat of Water Resources (SRH) of the Ministry of the Environment, and the National Water Agency (ANA) - and the French Embassy in Brasilia entrusted IOWater with the feasibility study for the creation of **a Network of Training Centres for Water Professions**.

The study included a detailed analysis of the drinking water supply and sanitation sectors (coverage rate, rate of water losses, metering, rate of urban wastewater and industrial effluent collection and treatment, sale price, commercial yields, operating costs, investments).

Globally speaking, the number of Brazilian staffs, directly or indirectly working in the Brazilian drinking water supply and sanitation sector, is estimated at about 200,000.

The surveys showed that there were needs for improving professional skills corresponding to the training topics.

The majority of demands (65%) focuses on very practical and directly operational training courses that only a specifically designed and equipped Training Centre can offer.

The feasibility study proposed to adopt a "gradual" strategy:

- **a vision focused on regional planning by defining three large areas:** North-East, Centre-West and South-East.
- **a 3-step implementation** supported by the concerned States and the large regional municipalities:
 - the Sao Paulo , Rio de Janeiro and Minas Gerais triangle,
 - the capital, Brasilia ,
 - the coastal towns of the North-Eastern region.
- **the networking of Regional Centres** would be built with an architecture focusing on complementarity and specialisation: South-East area (urban and industrial sanitation, drinking water supply), Centre-West area (management of the resource and of urban water facilities), North-East area (rural water supply and water resources).