



Introduction

IPTI - Research Organization for Technology and Innovation supports nonprofits in Brazil, mainly IPTI [Brazil], that through art, science, and technology aims to create self-sustaining communities in remote areas of Brazil living in extreme poverty. Our main focus is Basic Education for children and Entrepreneurial Education for adolescents.

Run by two non-paid staff (the executive director and development director) and some volunteers, and supported by our 6-person board that manages our \$150,000 operating budget, that comes 60% from individual donors (including board members), 30% from corporations (including private foundations), and 10% from sales of tickets and donated items for our events. 100% of our board members make significant annual gifts and are active in our fundraising efforts.

IPTI [Brazil] has roots in the Northeast of Brazil, outside the big urban centers, more specifically in Santa Luzia do Itanhhy, one of the poorest and most disadvantaged municipalities of Brazil. Precisely so that they can develop social technologies that meet the demands of most Brazilian municipalities and also communities from other countries in Latin America and Africa. We want to help Santa Luzia do Itanhhy to raise 2.000 positions in the IDHM ranking until 2030.

IPTI [Brazil] developed 10 social technologies, that are now in the scalability phase, while 5 are in the sustainability phase. All of them result from a real necessity, always based on a commitment to innovation, effectiveness, and scalability. These social technologies are benefiting more than 20,000 people in 33 municipalities in 6 different Brazilian states. IPTI's social technologies also generated 5 social businesses to make scalability and sustainability viable.

In this document, you can see the Methods and Activities, the Budget, and the Sustainability of the project: **Synapse – Say NO to illiteracy** that will be applied in one municipality of Vale do Jequitinhonha, Brazil.



Methods and Activities

Step 1 - Raise awareness of the school's managers, coordinators, and teachers of the literacy cycle for the adoption of the social technology Synapse, in a model of participatory construction and co-authorship.

Step 2 - Select and train the field coordinator to monitor the project in person and collect the necessary information to customize the training course.

Step 3 - Collect data on schools like locations, number of teachers and students in the literacy cycle, organization and composition of the curriculum used, main problems of the school routine.

Step 4 - Adaptation of the contents of the training course according to the particularity of the region, with the support of technicians and/or pedagogical coordinators of the municipal education departments.

Step 5 - Conduct a continuing education program for teachers and school coordinators with a focus on literacy in Portuguese and Mathematics.

Step 6 - Implement the TAG (a management system) in all municipal schools selected and improve the system according to the demands of the municipalities, especially in aspects of support for monitoring and evaluating results

Step 7 - Apply the indicators of impact on the quality of literacy that are being built and validated by the consortium of research and development institutions (Rice University, Federal University of Ceará and Federal University of Sergipe).

Step 8 - Evaluate the degree of fidelity of the application of the Synapse methodology in the classroom by the literacy teachers.

Step 9 - Evaluate the quality of student learning, according to the learning objectives expected for each literacy cycle.



Budget

CATEGORY OR ITEM	HOURS	\$	FUNDS REQUEST
PERSONNEL			
Synapse manager	384	\$12.00	\$4,608.00
Field manager	1440	\$6.00	\$8,640.00
RPS teachers	10	\$240.00	\$2,400.00
TAG manager	384	\$12.00	\$4,608.00
Project manager	180	\$30.00	\$5,400.00
TRAVEL			
Accommodation	36	\$75.00	\$2,700.00
Transportation	18	\$250.00	\$4,500.00
SUPPLIES			
Communication material	2	\$600.00	\$1,200.00
Pedagogical books	2	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
OTHERS			
Administrative costs			\$10,924.00
TOTAL			\$46,980.00

In this budget, we are considering:

- about 6 face-to-face meetings in the first year and 4 in the second year. The field coordinator will get maturity during the 1st year and teachers will become more familiar with online activities.
- the hourly rates of each member and the daily rates follow the rules of the IPTI Brasil, approved by the Board of Directors and by the General Assembly of the Associates;
- the administrative cost includes taxes, bank charges, legal support, accounting support, expenses for using the physical infrastructure of the IPTI office, IPTI staff supporting the project, both technical, administrative, and financial, and other operational expenses.

NOTE: IF WE GET FUNDS FOR THIS PROJECT OF AT LEAST \$40,000, WE CAN GET FUNDS TO COMPLETE THE SECOND YEAR OF THE PROJECT, FROM A PARTNER INTERESTED IN CO-FINANCING SYNAPSE PROJECTS, WHICH WOULD BE THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (VIA CNPQ) AND THE BANCO DO BRASIL FOUNDATION.



Sustainability

This project consists of the re-application of the Synapse social technology that was already tested and proved effective.

At the end of 2015, IPTI and the Sergipe State Department of Education (SEED) started a partnership to re-apply Synapse in all public schools in 13 municipalities (130 schools in total) and to complete the development of the Notebook and the Digital Platform for the first 3 years of elementary school. The re-application model is based on hiring teachers, who correctly applied Synapse in their school and also demonstrated interest and profile to act as re-applicators in new schools and new municipalities. In the end, we created a training course to assist the re-applicating teachers and pedagogical coordinators. In practice, this model has improved teachers' self-esteem, promoted the structuring of a network of literacy teachers, and enabled continuous innovation by incorporating improvements into the pedagogical material.

In mid-2019, IPTI and the Vale Foundation made a partnership to apply Synapse in the Maranhão state. Currently, 1 municipality is being benefited. In 2020, a teacher from this state has already been selected to act as a re-applicator of the Basic Module of Synapse and to help structure a reapplication center to serve more municipalities.

The dissemination of Synapse is being done by the RPS teachers with IPTI support. It increases at the same path as this re-application is done because of the number of teachers involved. We created a website specifically for the RPS, that you can access at www.rps.org.br

Synapse Network (RPS) is an initiative of teachers that participated in the development of the Synapse social technology and had the opportunity to test and testify its great results. These teachers conduct a continuous and evolutionary process of improving the quality of teaching and learning during the children's literacy period. RPS is gaining volume as new teachers join this initiative

Our next step and dream is to apply Synapse in all public schools of Brazil and also in other countries of Latin-America and/or Africa due to its similarities with Brazil.