



UFPEL



UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DE PELOTAS  
INSTITUTO DE FILOSOFIA, SOCIOLOGIA E POLÍTICA (IFISP)  
CURSO DE RELAÇÕES INTERNACIONAIS

## CONCEPT NOTE – SISTERS CITIES ACADEMIC EXTENSION PROJECT<sup>1</sup>

### Abstract

The **sister-cities project**, registered at the Dean of Extension and Culture of the Federal University of Pelotas (under code 4650), is linked to the Bachelor of International Relations and has begun in the second semester of 2021. This project aims to promote academic activities from links with the society in the specific formation field of the International Relations course, through the **rescue and promotion of the arrangements of the three international sister cities of the municipality of Pelotas (RS): Suzu (Japan), Aveiro (Portugal) and Colônia de Sacramento (Uruguay).**

### Problem

**Lack of accessible and systematized documentation and information** on initiatives on the international sister cities of Pelotas-RS.

### Justification

Considering that the municipality of Pelotas-RS has three international sisterhood agreements with municipalities abroad on which **there is an evident informational gap**, it is understood that the **Bachelor of International Relations at UFPEL should assume an active role** on the subject in **partnership with municipal authorities**. This is because the course **develops in its students skills and competencies for planning, managing and organizing international activities.**

In the field of International Relations, sisterhoods are theoretically supported under the approach of International Cooperation studies (Decentralized, Technical, Paradiplomacy or Diplomacy of subnational entities) and there is extensive literature that discusses its opportunities and challenges.

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<sup>1</sup> Translated by Luana Menezes.



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### **Methodology:**

The Working Group involves approximately 20 volunteers, undergraduate students and enthusiastic citizens of international sisterhood arrangements. The work has been carried out through initiatives such as:

- Creation of a website with documents about the sisterhoods and project's actions (<https://wp.ufpel.edu.br/cidadesirmas/>);
- Empirical research for the consolidation and analysis of information;
- Participation in city events;

It is expected, from the year 2023 onwards, to advance towards the **proactive rescue of the bonds of brotherhood.**

So far, the project is carried out on a **voluntary** basis, as **it does not have any financial support or funding.**

Pelotas, 16 de setembro de 2022.

**Silvana Schimanski, PhD.**

Project Coordinator