

INTERLEGIS - LEGISLATIVE INTEGRATION AND PARTICIPATION NETWORK

(BR-0288)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BORROWER AND GUARANTOR: Federative Republic of Brazil

EXECUTING AGENCY: Informatics and Data Processing Center of the Federal Senate (PRODASEN)

AMOUNT AND SOURCE:

IDB:	US\$25 million (OC)
Borrower:	US\$25 million
Total:	US\$ <u>50</u> million

FINANCIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

Amortization period:	20 years
Grace period:	3 years
Disbursement period:	3 years
Interest rate:	Variable
Supervision and inspection:	1%
Credit fee:	0.75%
Currency:	Currency basket

OBJECTIVES: The Program's objective is to support the process of modernization of the Legislative Power at the three levels of Government (federal, state and municipal), in order to improve communication and flow of information among legislators, increase the efficiency of the legislatures, and augment the participation and representation of the public in the legislative process.

DESCRIPTION: **Subprogram I: Formation of the InterLegis Community** (US\$12,000,000), to amplify channels of communication, training and information among legislators, and between legislators and the citizenry.

This subprogram will coordinate the expansion of the InterLegis information network (which already exists in pilot project form at www.interlegis.gov.br) to subnational levels of the country. It will amplify InterLegis' information and education capacities, with the goal of forming a virtual community of federal, state and local legislators, their staff and their Courts of Accounts. This will permit: real-time communication among these groups and between them and the society in general; electronic meetings and teleconferences; real-time consultation of databases containing legislation, public opinion, bibliographies and jurisprudence; and the participation of civil society and the public in the legislative process.

Subprogram II: Development and transfer of technology, services and research (US\$12,000,000), to support development and dissemination of new informatics products, services and technologies to serve the legislature.

This subprogram will develop new technologies, products and services for legislative organization, informatics, communication and training. It will also finance development and transfer of applied scientific research in legislative informatics and organization.

SubProgram III: InterLegis Technological Infrastructure (US\$14,000,000), to provide infrastructure, equipment and training for implementation and operation of the InterLegis network.

This subprogram will finance installation of informatics and communications equipment and preparation of physical space for the central nucleus of the network, installation of informatics and communications equipment in state and local legislatures to permit integration of those that do not presently have the technological resources to enable them to participate in the InterLegis network, and equipping of multi-use rooms in 30 cities to allow for teleconferences and distance education.

THE BANK'S COUNTRY AND SECTOR STRATEGY:

The proposed program is consistent with the Bank's country strategy for Brazil, in particular with respect to the area of **support to the modernization of the State at both the national and subnational levels**. Similarly, the Program is consistent with the priority that the Bank assigns to **strengthening of civil society and support to modernization of legislative and judicial powers** discussed with Brazilian authorities during the most recent Programming Mission in June of 1997.

ENVIRONMENTAL/SOCIAL:

Environmental impact is minimal, and no additional analysis or mitigation is required.

BENEFITS:

The principal outputs that it is hoped the Program will achieve are:

- i) The InterLegis network, accessible via Internet, linking all of the assemblies of the country (of which receive equipment to facilitate their access to the and making information about the legislative power and available to the society as a whole. With the development of InterLegis, information about the work of assemblies will become available to the public, and the public will be able to comment on legislation under debate. InterLegis will facilitate the dissemination of information in Brazil, expand the involvement of civil society and help educate and motivate citizens. This will facilitate informed voting in elections at national, state and local levels, a fundamental part of the process of democratic strengthening in the country.
- ii) Training and provision of technological tools to legislators and their staffs to manage the legislative process, to administer budgets and personnel, which will give them the tools and know-how to better serve their constituents and will result in the generation of more reliable data about the legislative process. InterLegis will help all municipalities with the tools and information they need to identify and capture much-needed federal and state funds and to have more say in the national decision-making process.
- iii) Higher quality of legislation and of legislative oversight. Improved communication on legislative

ong federal, state and local assemblies and greater legislators to information about substantive matters legislation under consideration will impact the legislation passed at federal, state and local levels.

RISKS:

The InterLegis system requires active participation by state and municipal legislatures. Because participation by state and local legislatures in the Program is entirely voluntary, project strategy seeks to ensure adequate participation through:

i) Creating a product that is designed in response demand. The InterLegis pilot project has met with e demand and there are indications that the demand ue to grow as the services offered by InterLegis are become more useful to the needs of the future members.

ii) Making sure would-be participants are ally enabled to participate, through training in use ance of equipment, as well as substantive training in tive process.

iii) Setting in place mechanisms to provide that s receiving equipment and technical assistance will be rs, such as contracts with legislatures which will air active participation and provision of funds for and upgrading of equipment.

It is possible that the demand by municipal legislatures will be greater than the capacity of the program to provide equipment and training. PRODASEN has therefore prepared a strategy to prioritize response to demand as the project is implemented, to assure that the program can respond to the demand generated in an orderly fashion.

**SPECIAL
CONTRACTUAL
CLAUSES:**

Conditions prior to first disbursement:

i) contract between Borrower and executing agency

ii) project execution unit formalized (& 3.4) and ired (& 3.7);

iii) regulations for participants approved (& 3.9);

iv) agreement between PRODASEN and the Brazilian Institute (ILB) signed(& 3.3).

Additional contractual clauses: (i) PRODASEN will provide equipment and services only to those states and municipalities that have signed an agreement substantially similar to the model agreement annexed to the Regulations for Participants (& 3.10); (ii) prior expenses would be recognized in an amount of not more than US\$2 million in counterpart funding for construction of the central nucleus for InterLegis and set-up and initial operation of the Program executing unit; and not more than US\$ 1,250,000 in counterpart funding and US\$1,250,000 in Bank financing for equipment and consulting services required to set up InterLegis multi-use rooms in 30 cities throughout the country (&3.17); and (iii) should the executing agency opt to hire an international technical assistance organization, the Bank will approve the contract with that organization before any program funds are transferred to it (&3.20).

POVERTY TARGETING AND SOCIAL CLASSIFICATION: Not a poverty-targeted operation.

EXCEPTIONS TO BANK POLICY: None.

PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES: Procurement thresholds:
ICB: US\$350,000 for goods;
US\$5 million for construction works.
Ex post spot checks for individual consultancies for amounts under US\$50,000.