

**TITLE:**

ePORTUGUÊSe Project Coordination

**AUTHOR(S):**

Regina Ungerer

**AFFILIATION:**

WHO Geneva Area, Switzerland. E-Portuguese Project Manager

**ABSTRACT:**

The ePORTUGUÊSe network is a platform developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) to promote initiatives to improve health in the Portuguese speaking countries. Considering that Portuguese is the sixth most spoken language in the world with eight Member-States spanning four continents, this platform seeks to provide access to high quality knowledge resource in Portuguese that will help these countries strengthen their health systems and improve their Millennium Development Goals (MDG) targets. One of the main objectives of the ePORTUGUÊSe is to contribute to further develop a National Virtual Health Library (VHL) that was created and adapted according to local conditions. It enables countries to have their own technical and scientific portal with local directory of health events, health sites, health legislation and a wealth of peer reviewed health information that can be accessed by anyone with an internet connection. By April 2009, seven Portuguese speaking countries had already developed their National VHL. However, in many rural areas, information and communication technologies are scarce and sometimes inexistent. To provide updated health information to those community health workers, the ePORTUGUÊSe has developed a Portuguese language version of the Blue trunk Library (BTL). These mini libraries contain basic public health and medical information developed in partnership with the Ministry of Health of Brazil. Many of those BTL have already been dispatched to Africa and continue to be in high demand. Another important strategy of the ePORTUGUÊSe is to strengthen capacity building and training of human resources in countries in different areas of knowledge. The ePORTUGUÊSe platform uses a Collaborative space, a BLOG and moderates a discussion group called HIFA-pt with more than 500 health professionals from all eight Portuguese speaking countries. The ePORTUGUÊSe is constantly looking into other ways to expand its network and welcomes any inputs and suggestions.