



Iberoamerican Journal of Entrepreneurship and Small Business

2017-2020 – THE JOURNEY WAS WORTHWHILE!

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Gratitude for the opportunity and trust placed in me during my time as the Editor-in-Chief of IJESB (Iberoamerican Journal of Entrepreneurship and Small Business) from 2017 to 2020. It was four years of hard work, challenges, learning, resignation, but also satisfaction for being part of the evolution and positive impacts that REGEPE presents to the scientific community. To overcome the challenges, I shared every moment, both pleasurable and difficult, with inspiring people to whom I am very grateful.

In November 2016, I received an invitation from Professor Rose Mary A. Lopes, president of ANEGEPE - National Association of Entrepreneurship and Management of Small Companies at that time, to take over the publishing of the journal. On that occasion, I did not fully assess the proportion of the challenges required by the role and accepted it with great honor and joy.

Assuming the chief editor position of a scientific journal requires hard, vocational and delivery work. For the good progress and quality of an edition, it is necessary to count on the contributions of the authors, assistant editors, reviewers and editorial team. Despite all the contributions we have received by the actors involved in the process, in the face of the constant changes required by the academic world, it was necessary to personally dive into a deep learning process, participate in improvement courses, Editors' Forums and discussions about technologies and indexing.

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We started the journey by innovating, by bringing assistant editors to compose the publishing process. Also counting on Professor Hilka Vier Machado, Professor Denize Grzybovski, Professor Cândido Borges and Professor Marcos Hashimoto, we took the first steps in improving the journal, with the help of Professor Jane Mendes Ferreira, who was resigning from the work as chief editor of REGEPE.

In 2017, our efforts turned to the redesign of the website, offering a new face for the journal. At that moment I looked for a professional expert in the area, who was of immeasurable value for the modernization and qualification of the journal and who accompanies us until today. My deep gratitude to Altieres de Oliveira Silva, our dear Bart. I also thank Diego, Altieres' work partner, who collaborated with us in the operational demands of REGEPE, until the end of 2018.

There was no lack of measures to improve the journal. The first one was to migrate to Lepidus Tecnologia, specialized in the management and data security for scientific journals. With this step, we were able to improve the performance and stability of REGEPE.

With the help of the assistant editors, we adjusted the periodicity and improved the evaluation process and, thus, anticipated the publication of the journal's issues. In 2018, we introduced the Ahead of Print system, presenting articles available before the close of the edition and we opened a fast track mode for various scientific events, such as Egepe, Semead, Enanpad, Amprotec, Singep, ICE, among others of relevance.

As a result of all these advances, after a period of five years without citations, we were able to raise REGEPE to 8th position, in a set of 91 journals, in the 2018 ranking of the Spell database. Enthusiastic with these results and the continuous indexing process in relevant databases, we saw REGEPE start to bear fruit by being approved in the Redalyc, Ebsco, Dialnet, Doaj, Pkp index, livre, openAire and Redib databases.

We also achieved good citation metrics in international databases, so REGEPE was accepted by Web of Science (emerging sources citation index) in 2019. The journal's indicators on Google Metrics increased significantly: h5-index: 10 and h5-median: 14.

With the indexes achieved by REGEPE, we started to publish the journal on social networks, in order to bring visibility to authors and articles, considering this to be the national journal of excellence dedicated to studies of entrepreneurship.

End of 2018 came with new challenges! Professor Cândido Borges, Professor Denize Grzybovski and Professor Hilka V. Machado took on new assignments and ended their participation in REGEPE. With the increase in submissions to the journal, I proposed to expand the number of assistant editors, specialists in different areas of entrepreneurship and small business management. Thus, in early 2019, we expanded the number of publishers to 12.

With the dynamics of the internationalization of the academic world, we transformed REGEPE into a bilingual journal, providing greater visibility for our researchers and their national articles worldwide, in addition to adopting the structured abstract, like the international journals, advances that started in the first issue 2019.

In these four years at the helm of REGEPE, we have made special editions, we received several international contributions from leading researchers in the area of entrepreneurship and small business management. With these actions, we placed REGEPE in a prominent level among national scientific journals.

I am very grateful to everyone who has been with me so far in this process - Professors Dennys Eduardo Rossetto, Eduardo Armando, Eduardo Vilas Boas, Edmundo Inácio Junior, Jefferson La Falce, Júlio Araújo C. Cunha, Pedro LR Melo, Marcos Hashimoto, Márcia Freire and Victor Silva Corrêa. I cannot fail to mention Professors Italo Fernando Minello, Patrícia Vidal and Rogerio Tadeu de Oliveira Lacerda, who had a significant work in the journal.

At the end of 2020, closing my management time as Editor-in-Chief, I pass the task of these challenges to Professor Dennys Eduardo Rossetto, an academic of prestige and ability to do the publishing of the journal and I wish him a lot of success.

As a last observation, I realize that none of this would have happened without the unconditional support of the board of ANEGEPE - National Association of Studies in Entrepreneurship and Management of Small Companies, which promotes REGEPE.

My sincere thanks to all readers, reviewers and authors, and I wish that the journal's success contributes significantly to each professional career.

Warm hugs,

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