**RELEVANT ASPECTS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE IJUÍ ETHNICIAN MOVEMENT**

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Our journey is no longer just ours, but that of many other people from other places, from many institutions, from other regions and countries. It evolved gradually and reached regional, national and international levels, which is demonstrated and proven by the relevant recognitions and tributes received by the Movement, by UETI and by the municipality of Ijuí, as well as by carrying out similar initiatives for the recovery and preservation of ethnic cultures in Brazil.

The research of the past whose results are still present in the present life, moving in the “history chest” of the ascending generations, allowed us to project the future of the new generations, with the acceptance and assimilation of changes resulting from evolution.

The foundations of our journey are: diversity, mutual help, cooperation and miscegenation of cultures, customs, values ​​and blood.

We learn to build the future by knowing and cultivating the past.

Our history of “diversity” begins with the creation of the Ijuí Colony in 1890, through a multiethnic colonization project, however the fundamental traits of the cultures of the ethnic groups were born at the root of many peoples from various continents.

In 1896, six years after the founding of the Colony, 19 languages ​​were spoken, which characterized us, on the one hand, as “America’s Little Europe” and “New World Babel”. The miscegenation of blood, ethnicities and cultures continues today to the point that participation in the Cultural Ethnic Centers of Ijuí happens by people of different ethnicities, not just the ethnicity represented by the respective center.

The journey of more than three decades, which began in the 1980s, provided the opportunity to achieve several victorious stages. The society recognized us as “Land of Diversified Cultures”, “Historical Cultural Heritage of RS”, “National Capital of Ethnicities” and “International Capital of Ethnicities of the Americas”. In the midst of these advances, we never wanted to assume life as Germans, Russians, French or other peoples of their countries today, because we are aware that we are gauchos, Brazilians, bearers of a heritage from our countries of origin, shaped by the coexistence of diversity and the search for Brazilian cultural identity and global citizenship.

The Ethnicity Movement, FENADI – National Festival of Diversified Cultures and the functioning of the Cultural Ethnic Centers, articulated with valuable partnerships with national and international public and private organizations, focusing on cultural expressions and the safeguarding of intangible heritage, mirrored in the perspective of UNESCO, built our brand of unity in diversity. This brand is sealed by recognitions from relevant national and international institutions.

Our application to the IOV to obtain the title of International Capital of Ethnicities was formally and officially supported by the following institutions:

1. Governor of the State of Rio Grande do Sul, Dr. Eduardo Leite;
2. State Council of Culture of RS;
3. Secretary of State for Culture RS;
4. Extraordinary Secretariat of Federative and International Relations of RS in Brasília;
5. Federation of Associations of Municipalities of Rio Grande do Sul – FAMURS, in which 27 Regional Associations from the 497 municipalities of RS participate;
6. Brazil-China/RS Trade Agency;
7. Association of the 11 Municipalities of the Middle Plateau of RS – AMUPLAM;
8. President of the Legislative Assembly of Rio Grande do Sul and the Deputies of the Region;
9. National Confederation of Municipalities – CNM, in which 5,570 municipalities participate;
10. Sectorial Collegiate of Popular Cultures of RS;
11. Gaucho Folklore Commission;
12. Brazilian Confederation of Gaucho Traditions, which is present in RS, in most Brazilian states and in 20 other countries;
13. Regional Council for the Development of the Colonial Northwest, made up of 11 municipalities in RS;
14. Embassy of Palestine in Brazil, whose ambassador is dean of the Dean of the Arab League of Brazil, in which 22 countries participate;
15. Palestinian Arab Federation in Brazil-FEPAL;
16. Confucius Institute of the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul;
17. Traditionalist Gaucho Movement of Rio Grande do Sul – MTG/RS;
18. Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Porto Alegre;
19. Honorary Consulate of Austria in Porto Alegre;
20. Association of the Consular Corps of RS, in which 34 Consulates of countries participate;
21. Consulate General of Spain in Porto Alegre;
22. Consulate General of Italy in Porto Alegre;
23. Consulate General of Poland in Porto Alegre;
24. Honorary Consulate General of Sweden in São Paulo;
25. Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic in Porto Alegre;
26. National Center for Folklore and Popular Culture;
27. Singer, Composer and Cultural Attaché of the State of Rio Grande do Sul;
28. Brazil-China/RS International Development Chamber of Commerce, which integrates CCDIBC/SP - Brazil-China International Development Chamber of Commerce of São Paulo;
29. Ambassador of Lebanon in Brasilia;
30. Anita Garibaldi Institute of RS;
31. Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
32. Consulate General of Japan;
33. Honorary Consulate of Latvia;
34. Vice-Consulate of Portugal in Porto Alegre;

The Movement of Ethnicities and FENADI were mainly leveraged by the collective work of thousands of citizens of Juiz, strongly marked by gratuitousness. It currently has more than 30 folk groups, grouping around 800 dancers and important and rich typical experiences in the different cultural expressions of dance, singing, theater, cuisine and intangible cultural heritage, among others.

The Movement went beyond territorial limits, reaching national and international spaces, seeking to make our ethnic groups rediscover their countries of origin, traveling the opposite way of that of the immigrants who left their countries, in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, to colonize our region.

FENADI, which was characterized as a national event, was transformed into a new project called Exhibition-International Festival of Ethnicities – EXPOFEST IJUÍ, giving it an international character and incorporating the historical and traditional legacy of FENADI.

We learned a lot from the study of history that enabled us to live with more passion, cooperation and mutual respect in diversity. It also gave us valuable references for future directions.

The year 2022 will always be remembered as a milestone in the maturity of the ethnic movement, with a view to the inauguration of the UETI Cultural Headquarters, creation and management of EXPOFEST IJUÍ, assimilation of the responsibilities and challenges of obtaining the title of National Capital of Ethnicities , presence in Ijuí of IOV Mundial and IOV América, granting us the title of “International Capital of Ethnicities” and beginning of the celebration of International Agreements, particularly with the European Union and with the mother countries of the ethnic groups that participated in the formation of Ijui.

As future perspectives we will act with reference to three sets of two parallel ones, however always in a way that they complement each other.

* The 1st pair of parallels concerns the work in a permanent and concomitant way, on the one hand, with the practices, customs, cuisines and other cultural and folkloric expressions of the population and, on the other, with the other contemporary, classic and virtual arts. , providing opportunities for quantitative and qualitative growth of the ethnic groups that participated in the formation of Ijuí;
* The 2nd pair of parallels involves, on the one hand, the greater urban and rural roots of the movement in the municipality, and, on the other hand, its internationalization;
* The third pair of parallels brings together, on the one hand, approaches to languages and popular linguistics and, on the other hand, theoretical and scientific approaches to ethnography, resulting from research and intellectual production.

The maintenance and continuity of the Movement depends on partnerships with the Public Powers, technical-scientific support from universities and alliances with national and international public and private organizations;

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