



**UNITED NATION'S LATIN AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR
THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS**
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3rd Edition
Promising Practices - to guarantee rights and public policies



**PRÊMIO
SÓCIO-EDUCANDO**

Context and Creation

Brazil's Federal Constitution and the Statute of the Child and Adolescent - ECA (Federal Law n. 8.069/90, based on the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child, identify children and young people as subject of all human rights, and establish that this parcel of the population deserves preferential treatment by the State and society in general.

Moreover, in Brazil, the National System of Socio-educational Measures (Sinase) provides guidelines for public policies on the appliance of socio-educational measures*, reinforcing its pedagogical nature and all the principles established by the Statute, such as the young offender's best interest and the exceptionality and brevity of any measure which deprives their right to freedom.

However, contrary to the regulations that support the Juvenile Justice System, there is a growing trend of imposing detention measures, rather than those that can be executed without such restriction. Today, there are about sixty thousand young offenders submitted to some kind of socio-educational measure in the country, out of which, approximately 17 thousand comply with pre-trial detention, detention or semi-institutional treatment.

Although the Statute, the Federal Constitution and international treaties and conventions ratified by Brazil demand the observation and respect to the Full Protection Doctrine, based on the human rights principles, there are still many challenges to be overcome, because once engaged in the system, the juveniles

have many of their rights violated.

The execution of the socio-educational measures must be based on efficient public policies; therefore, it is essential to identify and spread the existing good and promising practices which work to ensure the rights of young offenders, the implementation of the ECA and the Sinase.

The Prêmio Sócio-Educando

The Prêmio Sócio-Educando is an award created in August 1998, from the gathering of four institutions that work for the protection of children and adolescents' rights in Brasil: ANDI (News Agency on Children's Rights), Educar Dpaschoal Foundation, Ilanud (United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders) and UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) that came together due to the need of better acknowledging and encouraging solid proposals for the actual implementation of the Statute of the Child and Adolescent. Especially for the execution of the third edition of the award, the Special Secretariat for Human Rights of the Presidency of the Republic of Brazil (SEDH-PR) joined in as a partner.

The purpose of the Prêmio Sócio-Educando is to identify, publicize and award successful experiences, which are creative and sustainable in execution and application of socio-educational measures for young offenders, and work in accordance with the Statute of the Child and Adolescent, the National System of Socio-educational Measures and with international laws about the subject.

*A Socio-educational measure is the one taken by the competent authority once an adolescent has committed an offence; all the measures specifically applicable to young offenders are established in Art. 112 of ECA, and are: admonition; obligation to repair the damage; rendering of community service; assisted freedom; inclusion in a system of semiliberty; and internment in an educational institution.

The goal is to encourage such experiences to be replicated and serve as an example to elaborate and apply public policies that contribute to the strengthening of the system of right's guarantee and improvement of the care programs directed to young offenders.

Award Editions

The first two editions of the Prêmio Sócio-Educando happened in 1998 and 2000 and were divided into 10 categories. Overall, 18 experiences were awarded, in addition to 26 honorable mentions.

The winners of the first edition traveled to Colombia, to become acquainted with the Juvenile Justice System of that country. The second edition's destination prize was Canada, where the Justice System shows great similarity to the principles brought by the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child.



On the third edition, held in 2008, there were five categories: Access to Justice, Execution of Measures with Deprivation of Freedom, Execution of Measures without Deprivation of Freedom, Municipalization of the Execution of Socio-educational Measures and Knowledge Production.



There were 235 applicants, from 25 Brazilian states, whose projects went through a rigorous evaluation, divided into stages. A Consulting Council, formed by 7 specialists, selected 15 final projects. Each one of them was visited by researchers from the Technical Commission, who produced reports on the projects. Based on such reports the Judging Commission, formed by 6 specialists, elected 5 winning experiences and conceded 3 Honorable Mentions.



As part of the award, the winners traveled to Madrid, Spain, to get to know the country's Juvenile Justice System.

Results

In its three editions, the Prêmio Sócio-Educando identified experiences which contribute to qualify the discussion about the socio-educational system and its execution. The initiatives and individuals who were awarded presented innovative and efficient ways to enforce the law and respect the rights of the young offender.

In addition to guiding and stimulating the improvement and adequacy of institutions and professional's actions in the field, the awarded practices exemplify solution, guidelines and instruments on which either the government or civil society organizations can rely on to build, in the states or municipalities, efficient public policies towards childhood and youth.

Stimulating good and promising practices is a way to appreciate their permanence and reproduction, and also to support the implementation of public policies which effectively guarantee the protection of the rights of adolescents in conflict with the law.

About Ilanud

The United Nation's Latin American Institute for Crime Prevention and the Treatment of Offenders (Ilanud), was founded in 1975 in Costa Rica. It is a regional institute and a part of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network – PNI, connected to United Nation's Economic and Social Council.

The Brazilian office of Ilanud was founded in 1997, and it operates in three main fields: juvenile justice, criminal justice and violence prevention and public safety.

In this past 12 years of existence, Ilanud's activities in Brazil have being centered on the cooperation with the federal, state and city governments – either in the field of formulation and evaluation of public policies, legal reform and the enhancement of the justice system's institutions – by means of researches, personal training, participating in the public debate, counting also with and extensive collaboration with civil society institutions.