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Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
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Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Regional Literacy and CONFINTEA VI
Preparatory Conference in Latin America
and the Caribbean

*"From Literacy to Lifelong Learning:
Towards the challenges of the 21 Century".*
(Mexico City, Mexico, 10-13 September 2008)

"System of open and distance education
"Sumando" (SEADS)"



United Nations Literacy Decade

EFFECTIVE PRACTICE

Presented at the Regional Literacy and CONFINTEA VI Preparatory Conference in Latin America and the Caribbean, 10-13 September 2008, Mexico City, Mexico

Programme name: System of open and distance education "Sumando" (SEADS)

Implemented by: NGO SUMANDO

Basic facts

Country: Paraguay

Starting year: 2001-2005-AVINA SUMANDO 2007-2009 BID SUMANDO

Outreach: National and regional

Target Population: Adults (+16 years old)

Language of instruction: Spanish

Facilitator/Beneficiary ratio: 1/30

Main Funding: AVINA

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Website: <http://www.sumando.org.py>

Brief Description

The Sumando project was created to address the specific needs of young people and adults, mainly in rural areas and marginal zones of urban centres, which remain outside of the formal school system. The main reasons of school dropout in these areas are the need to look for work, physical distances and, in the case of women, situations of early pregnancy.

The distance learning method used by Sumando draws on the Spanish model of the National University of Distance Education (UNED) and is seen as a valid alternative for coping with the needs of this major population sector. The method involves tutors and physical attendance at workshops and uses printed self-learning materials, CDs, videos, mobile telephones and the internet.

The SEADS instructional model is a markedly open, flexible, independent and innovative one that facilitates both meaningful learning and interdisciplinary

approaches. This curriculum likewise seeks to promote responsibility and self-management, encouraging the participant to be entrepreneurial.

The courses are designed to meet the needs of a large group of citizens, both men and women, aged 16 years and above, who are given the opportunity to complete the distance secondary certificate for adults (*Bachillerato a distancia para adultos* – BDA), with emphasis on managing micro- and small-scale businesses.