



Instituto Brasileiro de Informação  
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## **MCTIC and Ibict launch science portal to combat COVID-19**

Minister Marcos Pontes announced, at a ceremony held on the evening of May 20, the launch of the portal #CiênciaMCTICnoCombate#COVID19, an initiative of the Ministry of Science, Technology, Innovations and Communications (MCTIC), which has direct action from the Brazilian Institute of Information in Science and Technology (Ibict).

The event took place in the auditorium of the MCTIC and was attended by the director of Ibict, Cecília Leite, the executive secretary of the MCTIC Julio Semeghini, the president of the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq), Evaldo Vilela and the federal deputy Cezinha de Madureira. Also participating, by videoconference, the director and representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Brazil, Marlova Noleto and the president of the Brazilian Association of Scientific Editors (ABEC), Sigmar Rode.

With the objective of systematizing and making available scientific information about COVID-19, the portal will serve as an aggregator of Ibict's actions, as well as of other support bodies or units linked to MCTIC, that are dealing with the theme and that can help society to have official and quality access to data on the pandemic.

### **The portal structure**

The portal is divided into four areas: Rede Virus MCTIC, with activities promoted by the ministry; Interactive Infographic, which allows visualization of data related to COVID-19; Scientific Universe, with actions to disseminate scientific information to researchers and Science at Home MCTIC, with scientific activities, games and information aimed at bringing scientific knowledge to the population in a playful way.

Rede Virus MCTIC is a strategic advisory committee that brings together experts, government representatives, ministry development agencies, research centers and universities whose objective is to integrate initiatives to combat emerging viruses. Created by MCTIC, the network operates in the articulation of research laboratories, focusing on economic efficiency and on the optimization and complementarity of infrastructure and research activities, especially with the coronavirus.

In the Interactive Infographic, based on the Open Observatory System for Information Visualization (Vision), it will be possible to obtain official and updated data and information by state related to the pandemic and allows interaction with other types of official data, such as

population by age group, list reference hospitals, in addition to applying geographic filters. There is also a timeline in which chronological information from various sources related to COVID-19 is organized.

The Scientific Universe presents actions related to research on the theme of coronavirus, which can be accessed from nine categories: Directory of scientific information sources of free access about the coronavirus, with support from the United Nations (UN), through UNESCO; Network of experts and research; EmeRI pre-prints repository, with support from ABEC; Observatory of scientific evidence about COVID-19; list of funding sources; bio-bibliographic profile of Brazilian specialists who study the disease; list of portals about COVID-19 around the world; Accessibility - COVID-19, with information about the disease for communities of blind and deaf people; and the Thematic Bulletin of the Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation.

The Science at Home MCTIC brings much of the content of the Science Channel of Ibict, with scientific activities, games and information presented in a playful and fun way for students and teachers of elementary and high school who are at home in the period of isolation.

The portal is also forming a bank of volunteers with people who have already contracted the COVID-19 virus and are recovered, with no viral load.

The project was led by the team from the MCTIC Office with direct action from the Secretariat of Policies for Training and Strategic Actions (SEFAE) and by the Ibict board, through the General Coordination of Research and Development of New Products (CGNP), by the Coordination - General for Research and Maintenance of Consolidated Products (CGPC) and by the General Coordination of Information and Computer Technologies (CGTI).

Click here to access the portal: <http://covid19.mctic.gov.br/>