

ENRICH MONTHLY

MONTHLY BUSINESS & INNOVATION NEWS COMPILED BY ENRICH IN BRAZIL



SNEAK PEEK OF WHAT'S INSIDE:

Siemens expects oil, gas revenues in Brazil to double in 2020 from 2018

Brazil and Hungary Advocate Ratification of Mercosur-EU Trade Agreement

EIB Provides EUR 100m to boost Climate Action Investments

Brazil and European Union share experiences on integrated water resources management

Alphabet enters Latin America with partnership in Brazil

Dutch fashion retailer C&A, shareholders to raise about EUR 401 million in Brazil IPO

Nestlé Health Science ramps up innovation in Brazil

Brazil's industrial output posts biggest rise in over a year

BRIC countries reaffirm commitment to innovation and sustainability in agriculture

Biogas Makes Pig Farming More Sustainable in Southern Brazil

Brazil rises in the ranking of competitiveness of the World Economic Forum

Brazil simplifies immigrant registration as individual microentrepreneur

Brazilian unicorn Ebanx will hit EUR 1.8 billion in payments processed by the end of the year

Brazilian agtech boom produces 1.125 start-ups

With support from government funding an accurate diagnostic exam of Zika hits the market

Munich Aerospace encourages the creation of a course on Urban Air Mobility

ENRICH Monthly Success Story: Excellent opportunity in Hungary for early stage researchers through the scholarship programme "Stipendium Hungaricum"

Dear Reader,

a warm welcome and thank you for your time and interest in our ninth edition of ENRICH Monthly.

With our ninth edition of ENRICH Monthly, we have prepared for you articles on how European firms are further investing in Brazilian sustainable production and how **Brazilian government is fostering and supporting Innovation and Entrepreneurship** that focuses on sustainability.

A research initiated by the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation, came to a conclusion that the **Brazilian agtech boom produced more than thousand startups in this field**. This research results were followed by another great news as the World Economic Forum published its annual competitiveness ranking. Despite the turbulent year of 2018 and the **economic downturns of the previous years, Brazil has stepped-up their position in the ranking**.

For individuals who are planning to immigrate to Brazil and run their own business, **Brazilian government has substantially improved the registration process**. The foreigner who wants to formalize himself as an Individual Micro entrepreneur (MEI) need only to inform his/her country of origin and one of the following documents: National Migration Registration Card or Provisional Document of National Migration Registry or Refugee Request Protocol.

In our Success Story, we have prepared an article for those of you who are interested in going abroad to collaborate in the area of science/technology/innovation with Europe/Brazil. This time we have interviewed Fernanda Paiva Franguelli, a PhD student who came to Hungary through the Stipendium Hungaricum and who is a collaborator at the Research Centre for Natural Sciences (MTA TTK).

We hope you enjoy reading the 'ENRICH Monthly' and we are happy to receive your feedback via [email!](#)

All the best for you,
ENRICH in Brazil Team





© Coloures-Pic - Fotolia

Siemens Expects Oil, Gas Revenues in Brazil to Double in 2020 from 2018

Germany's Siemens expects revenue from its oil and gas division in Brazil in 2020 to double compared to 2018 levels, an executive said on Thursday, citing upcoming oil auctions that could total around USD 26 billion (≈ EUR 23.4 billion).

The company does not disclose revenues by division but in 2018 it hit BRL 4.1 billion (≈ EUR 913 million) in Brazil, Latin America's largest economy.

"Our employee count is also going to increase by a lot," said Christian Schöck, who leads the oil and gas unit in Brazil.

The division provides equipment and services to offshore oil platforms.

"We expect that Brazil will be half of the global market for new platforms in the next 10 years," Schöck said.

Siemens maintains a plant in the state of Sao Paulo where, Schöck said, it is producing equipment that contains between 25 percent and 55 percent locally sourced parts.

Read more at: [Reuters](#)

Brazil and Hungary Advocate Ratification of Mercosur-EU Trade Agreement

São Paulo, 8th October. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary Péter Szijjártó attended a joint Brazilian-Hungarian business forum in São Paulo. He said that "the development of economic cooperation between Hungary and Brazil is on the threshold of a great opportunity".

"Brazil is Hungary's second most important trade partner in South America. The two countries realise USD 430 million (≈ EUR 386.9) in trade with each other, there are 50 Hungarian-owned enterprises operating in particularly high added value sectors in Brazil, and Hungary is the fifth largest investor in Brazil from among the countries of the European Union", Mr. Szijjártó said.

Szijjártó said several agreements have been reached to facilitate food exports and the introduction of Hungarian water management technologies in Brazil. The minister welcomed that a Hungarian company could get a contract to supply all Brazilian McDonald's restaurants with cheese products.

The Minister declared that Hungary has a great interest in the fastest possible implementation of the free trade agreement between the Mercosur countries and the EU. He noted that the deal could provide new export opportunities to Hungarian businesses in the South American market. According to the Minister, the Hungarian government has set up a security fund for sectors that could face challenges, such as poultry and honey producers, emphasising that these sectors could count on the government's assistance.

The Minister said that Brazil is placing heightened emphasis on environmental issues, and is particularly counting on Hungarian forest management expertise in the interests of protecting the Amazonian region, and accordingly one of the main subjects of discussion at the current economic and business meetings was precisely this sector.

Following the Brazil-Hungary business forum, the Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade held talks with Paulo Skaf, President of the Federation of Industries of the State of Sao Paulo.

Read more at: [Kormany](#) and [Daily News Hungary](#)



Brazil and European Union Share Experiences on Integrated Water Resources Management

From 24th to 25th September, the Brazilian National Water Agency (ANA) hosted the European Union-Brazil Exchange: Building Cooperation in Integrated Water Resources Management event. The meeting aimed to promote the exchange between Brazilians and Europeans about water management through the debate on the challenges related to the governance of water resources in Brazil, aiming to guarantee water security for the sustainable development of the country.

ANA Director Oscar Cordeiro Netto presented the panorama of Brazil's federative experience in water resources management with emphasis on participatory decentralization and the double domain of Brazilian waters, which can be managed by the Union or by the states and the Federal District. Further experts addressed the experience of three European Union countries - Spain, France and Portugal - in water resource management and their interfaces with the Brazilian system.

ANA superintendents gave presentations on water governance in heterogeneous regions, management of water crises arising from extreme events or increasing demand for water, and strategies for developing more effective water resources plans.

The event was attended by the Counsellor of the Delegation of the European Union in Brazil, Directorate General for Environment, Rui Ludovino. The technical activities started with a session on dam safety and the encouragement of society's participation in planning and management of water resources. The next session is about impacts of climate events on water resources planning and management, as well as monitoring the amount of water in watersheds. On all these themes are presented the Brazilian experiences and the possible contribution of the European experience to overcome the identified gaps.

Read more at (Portuguese): [ANA](#)

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is providing EUR 100 million (\approx BRL 448.9 million) to support energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in Brazil. The agreement was signed on 21st October by the Bank's Vice-President Emma Navarro and BDMG's President Sergio Gusmão Suchodolski at the EIB's headquarters in Luxembourg.

Private companies and also municipalities will be able to benefit from the advantageous financing conditions of the EU bank, both in terms of long tenors and interest rates, to implement projects promoting renewable energy generation and energy efficiency technologies.

Projects that will be supported include small-scale solar and hydropower plants as well as energy upgrades in public buildings and industrial facilities and street lighting in the state of Minas Gerais.

Part of the EIB financing will also be dedicated to supporting energy efficiency projects, especially in public buildings, street lighting, and industrial facilities. Small businesses wishing to improve their environmental footprint are also eligible to receive EIB funds.

The EU bank is providing this finance, which will cover up to 75% of the final project investment cost, in the framework of the 2014-2020 lending mandate for Latin America. This agreement is therefore covered by the EU guarantee.

The Development Bank of Minas Gerais will provide the funds to developers of such projects, which will be carried out over the next four years, until 2023.

The implementation of the various programmes are expected to create around 700 jobs in the region.

Read more at: [European Investment Bank](#) and [Energy Live News](#)

Alphabet Enters Latin America with Partnership in Brazil

Leasing and business mobility specialist Alphabet International is entering the Latin American market, by concluding a partnership with leasing company Unidas in Brazil. Alphabet International already has a strong footprint in Europe, and is also active in Australia and China, with a portfolio of over 680,000 leased cars and light commercial vehicles, but is now entering a new fleet market.

Unidas was founded in 1985, when five car rental companies and two investors came together in the city of São Paulo, creating a leasing company with seven branches and approximately 500 vehicles. Since then, Unidas has expanded significantly and, at the end of 2017, merged with Locamerica under the Unidas brand, combining their products and services in a complete range of mobility solutions for individuals and companies. According to Alphabet's press release, Unidas is now the second largest car rental company in Brazil and leader in fleet rental for companies.

Companies that rely on Alphabet's innovative mobility services and solutions across Europe and beyond can take advantage of the new offer in the Brazilian market. Alphabet clients now have access to the portfolio of Alphabet products and services available in Brazil.



Founded in 1997 as a division of BMW Group, Alphabet manages a portfolio of over 680,000 leased cars and light commercial vehicles.

Depending on a company's specific needs, it can also opt for a wide range of useful on-top services, such as fuel cards, replacement vehicles, roadside assistance and legal insurance.

"The partnership with Unidas marks an important milestone for Alphabet. By entering the Brazilian market, we are further expanding our global presence and can extend our full service offering in this growing economy. We are looking forward to a successful partnership with Unidas, who have a reputation for excellent customer service and are a leader for business fleet leasing in Brazil," says Richard Schooling, Chief Commercial Officer at Alphabet International.

Read more at: [Global Fleet](#)

Dutch fashion retailer C&A, shareholders to raise about EUR 401 million in Brazil IPO

C&A Modas SA, the Brazilian unit of Dutch fast-fashion retailer C&A, and its shareholders expect to raise BRL 1.8 billion (≈ EUR 403.8 million) in its IPO, including supplementary and additional share allotments, as the Reuters sources.

C&A and its bankers have set the price of its shares at BRL 16.50 (≈ EUR 3.7), a securities filing showed on 24th October, at the bottom of a previously set range of BRL 16.50-20 (≈ EUR 3.7 – 4.49).

The company and its shareholders sold BRL 1.6 billion (≈ EUR 358.9 million) worth of shares, according to the

filing. High demand in the offering allowed the company and its bankers to sell the full supplementary allotment, that will raise the total deal value to BRL 1.8 billion (≈ EUR 403.7 million) over the next days, added the Reuters sources.

The Dutch retailer, controlled by the Brenninkmeijer family, also sold part of its stake in the Brazilian company, reducing its stake to roughly 64 percent, according to the people.

Read more at: [Reuters](#)

Nestlé Health Science Ramps up Innovation in Brazil



© Foodbev

Nestlé wants to accelerate its corporate innovation projects with startups in its health sciences division in Brazil.

The Nestlé Beyond Food initiative is the first of its kind in the world and aims to firm up contracts with up to three startups within the next year.

The program, led in partnership with corporate innovation firms StartSe and Innoscience, is expected to help the company improve some business areas and also develop new offerings.

According to the Latin America head at Nestlé Health Science, Monica Meale, the investment demonstrates Nestlé's commitment to the Brazilian market, where the company has recently announced an investment of BRL 900 million (≈ EUR 202.2 million) in innovation in Brazil by 2020.

"Brazil has been a protagonist in various areas of the company and we also seek leadership in the health segment, which is why this market is the first to launch a business acceleration program with e-health startups," Meale noted.

Within the business execution pillar of the program, Nestlé will seek to find startups developing innovative propositions in areas such as stock management and distribution and logistics

efficiency.

In the outpatients area, the company wants startups developing innovations in the field of robotics to support the nutrition of individuals who are not hospitalized. This would include, for example, Internet of Things (IoT) systems that could track risk or level of malnourishment.

The company will also seek to find startups developing technologies that support the prediction of prevention of health and nutritional conditions such as biometric systems to be used in wearables and gadgets. The firm is also interested in virtual, mixed or augmented reality propositions for patient engagement.

Within products, the company is interested in investigating 3D or 4D food printing, health aging and gut health.

Up to 15 startups will be chosen for a series of preliminary conversations with company executives, with five ventures taking part in a pitch day in December when the three finalists, who will also receive funding from the company, will be chosen. Companies can take part in the selection process until October 25.

Read more at: [ZDNET](#)

BRIC Countries Reaffirm Commitment to Innovation and Sustainability in Agriculture

At the end of the 9th Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of BRICS held in Bonito (Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil) representatives of the five countries signed the Nice Charter, with 27 items that reaffirm commitment to cooperation in the area agricultural. The ministers said the potential to enhance collaboration in the food production areas, food security and environmental security.

"This can be achieved through good agricultural practices, developing digital agriculture and value chains for better agricultural marketing and improvement of income for farmers," says the letter, which deals with issues such as innovation, industry communication, startups, trade facilitation, scientific principles, regionalization and sustainability.

According to the document, the BRICS countries are ready to strengthen the mechanisms and enhance communication on major international issues, such as encouraging new solutions for increased food production, entrepreneurship in startups of agro-

technology, increased international trade, food security in developing countries and the implementation of agenda 2030 for Sustainable development.

Ministers recognize the importance of sustainable farming and the role of biotechnology to increase productivity using less land and inputs. "We share a commitment to improve efficiency through increased productivity and reduced costs, and expand the use of integrated and sustainable systems of production of plants and animals, to increase the use of precision agriculture, irrigation and elements of digital agriculture".

The letter also includes a commitment to increase the share of sustainable biofuels and other renewable energy sources in the energy mix of BRICS countries and encourage measures to prevent soil erosion, including protecting riverbanks with native vegetation.

Read more at: [DATAGRO](#)

Biogas Makes Pig Farming More Sustainable in Southern Brazil

Biogas has the potential to provide 36 percent of the electricity consumed in Brazil or replace 70 percent of diesel if purified as biomethane, according to the Brazilian Association of Biogas and Biomethane (Abiogás).

This new source of energy is only recently gaining a foothold in this country, especially in the agricultural south. Its future is promising in an agro-diverse Brazil, which is the world's largest producer or exporter of sugar, coffee, meat and soybeans.

Its expansion also serves environmental purposes, reducing soil and water pollution from livestock excrement and waste and urban sewage.

Entre Rios do Oeste, a small town of 4,400 people and 155,000 pigs in the western part of the state of Paraná, inaugurated a mini biogas thermoelectric plant on 24th July.

Read more at: [IPS News](#)



© Sérgio Dona - Fotolia

Biogas as Biomethane

Brazil's Industrial Output Posts Biggest Rise in Over a Year

Industrial production in Brazil rose in August at its fastest pace in more than a year, a sign that Latin America's largest economy may slowly be turning a corner after flirting with recession earlier in the year.

The recovery may be on an uneven footing, however, as intermediate goods production was the only one of four broad economic categories to grow, and only 10 of the 26 narrower sectors surveyed managed to expand in the month.

Overall output jumped 0.8 percent in August from July, government statistics agency IBGE said, the first increase in four months and more than twice as fast as the 0.3 percent rise expected in a Reuters poll of economists.

It was the biggest increase since a 12.8 percent surge in June last year. Barring that anomalous rebound from an 11.1 percent plunge in the previous month because of a nationwide truckers' strike, it was the fastest rate of growth since December 2017.

The biggest driver was mining. It grew by 6.6 percent on the month, the fourth monthly increase, which brought the accumulated rise in that period to 25.2

percent. But IBGE noted that this followed three monthly declines when output fell an accumulated 24.2 percent.

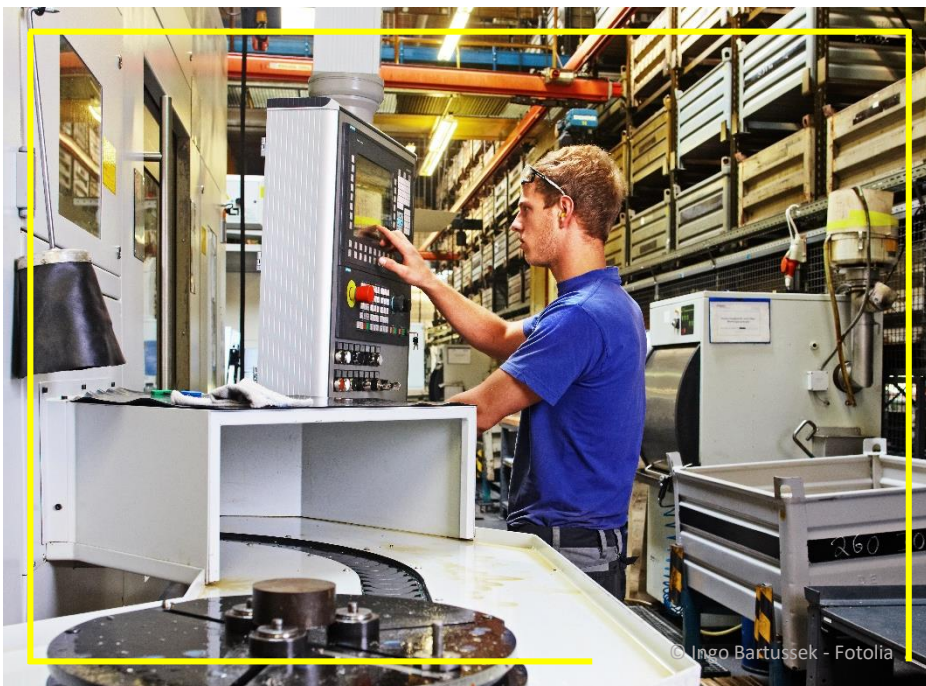
"The better-than-expected rise in Brazilian industrial production was driven by rapid growth in the mining sector, which won't be sustained," William Jackson, an economist at Capital Economics, wrote in a client note.

"Even so, the figures add to the evidence that the economic recovery gathered momentum in the third quarter."

Among the other best-performing sectors were petroleum and biofuels, which rose 3.6 percent, and food production, which was up 2.0 percent, IBGE said.

Of the four wider economic categories covered by IBGE, intermediate goods output rose 1.4 percent. Durable consumer goods production fell 1.8 percent, while output of semi-durable and non-durable consumer goods, and capital goods, shrank 0.4 percent.

Read more at: [Reuters](#)



© Ingo Bartussek - Fotolia

Mining is the biggest driver
of Increase in Brazilian
Industrial Output

Brazil Rises in the Ranking of Competitiveness of the World Economic Forum

Brazil has risen one notch in the ranking of the World Economic Forum that assesses the competitiveness of 141 countries. The country advanced from 72nd (2018) to 71st place on the 2019 list.

Brazil's best results were in the pillars of infrastructure, business dynamism and the labour market. In infrastructure, the country moved to 78th place, advancing three points over 2018; In business dynamism, it moved up from 108th to 67th, mainly due to the reduced time to start a business. Another improvement was registered in the labour market pillar: from 114th (2018) to 105th position in 2019.

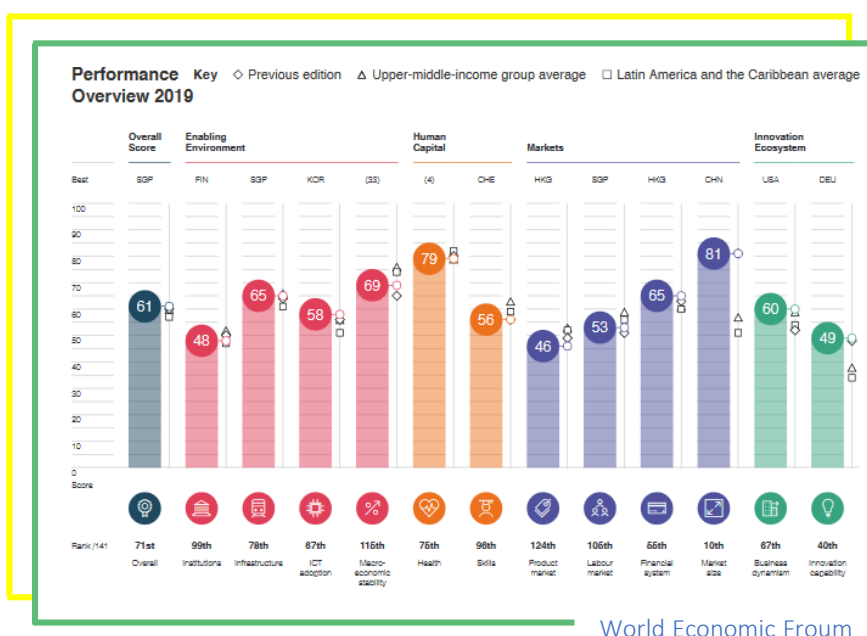
In terms of innovation, Brazil remains at place 40, same performance as last year. And in qualifying, it dropped from 94th to 96th place. In the product market, the country went from 117th to 124th place. According to the Special Secretariat of Productivity and Competitiveness of the Ministry of Economy (Sepec), the figures mainly reflect data up to 2018, and are the result of policies practiced by previous governments, which produced several obstacles in the country's business environment. Sepec recognizes all challenges diagnosed in this ranking, but it brings a vision of the future and a work plan that will transform Brazil's productivity and competitiveness.

Carlos Da Costa, special secretary for Productivity and Competitiveness at the Ministry of Economy of Brazil, said that the country's goal for 2022 is to reach 50th place through actions being developed.

In the coming years, the indicators in Global Competitiveness report should be impacted by improvements that are beginning to be implemented through six priority projects:

- I. Simplification: Removing of obstacles to business productivity and competitiveness by regulatory and legal barriers;
- II. Raising the Employment rate and the qualification level of human capital;
- III. Prosperity Competition (CPP): Increase competition and market efficiency;
- IV. Pró Infra will raise Brazilian infrastructure to international levels of price and quality;
- V. Brazil 4.0 will promote the modernization of companies through innovation, digitization and managerial skills;
- VI. Prospera MPEs will develop small and medium businesses in an innovative and sustainable way.

Read more at (Portuguese): [MDIC](#)





© Photograph Darren Baker 2011 - Fotolia

Brazil Simplifies Immigrant Registration as Individual Micro Entrepreneur

Registration as an Individual Micro entrepreneur is simplified, electronic and free. When the entrepreneur formalizes, he / she becomes corporate citizenship, enabling the issuing of invoices, purchasing financial products and services for legal entities, selling to public entities and accessing social security rights such as retirement, maternity leave and sickness allowance.

In order to simplify the formalization of the immigrant as an Individual Micro entrepreneur (MEI), the Special Secretariat of Productivity, Employment and Competitiveness of the Ministry of Economy (Sepec / ME) improved the procedure.

Before, the immigrant had to follow the same rules as the Brazilian. Now it's easier. Starting from 15th October, the foreigner who wants to formalize himself

as an Individual Micro entrepreneur (MEI) need only inform his country of origin and the number of one of the following documents: National Migration Registration Card or Provisional Document of National Migration Registry or Refugee Request Protocol.

By the previous rules, he had to present the receipt of the Individual Income Tax Return or the voter registration card. But if he did not have a voter card, he could not issue a tax return because he entered the country in the same year of issuance of the Individual Taxpayer Registration (CPF) . There are currently 46,591 foreigners from 169 nationalities formalized as MEI.

Read more at (Portuguese): [MDIC](#)

Brazilian Unicorn Ebanx will hit EUR 1.8 billion in Payments Processed by the end of the Year

Ebanx, the newly minted Brazilian financial services unicorn, expects to process USD 2 billion (≈ EUR 1.8 billion) in payments by the end of the year and is looking to expand its offerings into domestic payments as it grows.

Since its launch in 2012, Ebanx has primarily focused on helping international merchants sell locally in Brazil. The Brazilian business accounts for nearly 90 percent of the company's revenue, but as it expands into other markets the company is also broadening its suite of services.

The company moved into local payment processing in Brazil in April of this year, and recently closed on a new financing round from previous investors FTV and Endeavor Catalyst that values the company north of USD 1 billion (≈ EUR 898.4 million), according to chief executive Alphonse Voigt.

The money will be used to continue an aggressive hiring push in new markets and the launch of the

company's local payment services in other geographies, beginning with Colombia in the new year.

As credit cards penetrate the Latin American market, approval rates for local companies are increasing, which represents an attractive new source of revenue, Voigt says.

In addition to the local payment processing, Ebanx recently announced that it became a payment partner for the Uber Pay ecosystem in Latin America and would start processing cash voucher and bank transfer payments for Uber in Brazil and across Latin America. The company also inked deals with Coursera, Scribd, Trip.com and Shopify throughout Latin America. Finally, the company partnered with Visa* on an initiative to increase electronic payments in the Brazilian state of Parana.

Read more at: [Tech Crunch](#)

Brazilian Agtech boom produces 1.125 start-ups

Initiated by Embrapa (Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation), SP Ventures and Homo Ludens, the detailed research points out the number of agtech start-ups in Brazil has more than tripled in just 1 year.

In the opinion of Cleber Soares, director of Innovation and Technology of Embrapa, agtech's task is to "allow Brazilian agriculture to achieve further major technical leaps forward to be increasingly productive, efficient, sustainable and resilient in order to face the world's scale challenge of providing farm products".

"There are numerous opportunities for a rising entrepreneurial class in Brazil, which has a great capacity to mobilise talent. There is no better place to experience agtech's vibe than the Brazilian agricultural environment", says Soares.

Fernando Camargo, the Innovation and Irrigation secretary of Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (Mapa), says innovation is seen as a key factor in order for Brazil to live up to its vocational role of providing food, fibre and fuel worldwide.

"This ebullition has happened regardless from governmental support; however, Mapa understands ag innovation meets up with Brazilian destiny. First of all, we can't disturb this process and should help on many aspects such as spreading connectivity, gathering efforts, promoting partnerships and supporting a democratisation process", says Camargo.

Read more at: [Future Farming](#)

Classification of Brazilian Agtech Companies

Among the 1,125 Brazilian agtech companies, 196 or 18% are classified as "before the farms" (inputs), 397 or 35% as "inside the farms" and 532 or 47% as "after the farm". Agriculture accounts for 54,3%, food for 33,6% and animal production for 16,8%.

Geographically, 90% of these start-ups are located in the Southeast (São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Minas Gerais and Espírito Santo) and the Southern (Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina e Paraná) regions of Brazil. The most relevant cities are São Paulo (262), Piracicaba (41) and Campinas (38). Just 18 cities house 58% of the total number of companies.

"Before the farms" agtechs work on laboratory analysis (20), biological control (32), shared economy (10), fertilisers and nutrition (41), genomic and biotechnology

(40), animal health and nutrition (20), seeds and saplings (9) and financial services (24).

"Inside the farms" is divided in precision agriculture (340), fish farming (7), content and education (18), imagery diagnosis (8), waste management (21), IoT (20), machinery (34), irrigation and meteorology (21), monitoring (19), remote sensing (29), management systems (122), automation and telemetry (21) and drones (43).

The "after the farms" group delivers solutions in food (246), warehousing and logistics (29), bioenergy and biodiversity (14), consultancy (26), plant factories (13), 4.0 Industry (8), retail management (24), online shopping (29), marketplace (95), online restaurants (24), traceability (12) and packing (12).

Read more at: [Future Farming](#)

© Vitaliy Pakhnyushchyy - Fotolia

With Support from Government Funding an Accurate Diagnostic Exam of Zika Hits the Market

A new serological test that detects the presence of antibodies against Zika virus in blood samples has been approved for commercialization. The test advances compared to those available on the market for its ability to identify if the individual was infected even after the acute phase of the disease has ended. In addition, it has high accuracy even in people who have had dengue or yellow fever.

The method, tested on more than 3,000 women from different states of Brazil, was developed by the company AdvaGen Biotech, in collaboration with researchers from the Institute of Biomedical Sciences of the University of São Paulo (ICB-USP) and the Butantan Institute. The project was supported by FAPESP and Finep – Brazilian government funding organisations that provide grants and funds in support of research, education and innovation of private and public institutions and companies – through the PAPPE / PIPE Subsidy Program.

The patent-holding company is headquartered in Itu (SP) and has the capacity to produce 40,000 tests per day. With the release of the National Health Surveillance Agency (Anvisa) for commercial use, the company is validating the test kit at the Central Public Health Laboratories (Lacen) in Brasilia, for participation with the Stork Project - strategy of the Unified Health System (SUS) for the monitoring of pregnant women throughout the country.

In addition, the kit is also being presented to four private laboratories in Brazil and is under validation in Argentina and Colombia.

The goal of the company is that the low cost test enters the list of prenatal examinations of the Ministry of Health and Health Departments. In addition to determining which people have been exposed to the virus, the purpose of the product is to identify cases of women who were infected by the pathogen during pregnancy and whose babies were born without microcephaly. These children may have developmental complications such as cognitive impairment and motor difficulties

Read more at (Portuguese): [Finep](#)



© 2004 Vstock - Fotolia

The great advantage of the test over those already available on the market is the ability to measure very specific antibodies and thus identify the occurrence of blood serum Zika infection even in samples from people who have had contact with related pathogens such as the virus of dengue.

Munich Aerospace Encourages the Creation of a Course on Urban Air Mobility

Munich Aerospace - Faculty for Aeronautics and Space, from Germany, invites researchers and teachers from the State of São Paulo to participate in the construction of an online course in the area of Urban Air Mobility.

Munich Aerospace is sponsored by the Technical University of Munich, University of Munich and the German Aerospace Centre (DLR).

In order to promote collaborative research and teaching and increase visibility of aerospace regions, the German institution plans to offer the course in Brazil on an open online platform (e.g. Coursera.org). Topics such as electric aircraft, air taxis, aviation management, urban planning, etc. will be accepted.

Engineering professors can also enrol in areas such as urban planning,

psychology and business administration. Each teacher is invited to prepare a 60 minute video module and seven multiple choice tests.

To assist researchers, Munich Aerospace will hold a workshop in December 2019. Scientists from partner regions will be able to come to Munich (Germany) for the development and filming of video material. Scientists will be supported and guided by Munich Aerospace eLearning experts.

Entries must be submitted by November 4, by email to Gloria Stamm (gloria.stamm@munich-aerospace.de), who is responsible for the management of Munich Aerospace.

More information at: <http://global-aerospace-campus.org/>.

Read more at: [Agência FAPESP](#)

AN ONLINE COURSE IN THE AREA OF URBAN AIR MOBILITY



© Munich Aerospace

Excellent Opportunity in Hungary for Early Stage Researchers Through the Scholarship Programme “Stipendium Hungaricum”



© Fernanda Paiva Franguelli

by Zita Buday, RCISD

Budapest. The ENRICH in Brazil interview series continues with Fernanda Paiva Franguelli, a PhD student through the Stipendium Hungaricum Programme at Budapest University of Technology and Economics and collaborator at the Research Centre for Natural Sciences (MTA TTK).

Can you please tell us about yourself, such as your background, interests, areas of passion and expertise?

I am an environmental engineer graduated by Universidade Estadual Paulista “Júlio de Mesquita Filho” (UNESP), recently I’ve got my title of specialist in Environmental Management by Universidade de São Paulo (USP) and I’ve finished my master studies in Chemical Engineering by Universidade Estadual de Campinas (Unicamp), too. Currently I am a PhD candidate at Budapest University of Technology and Economics, in the Chemical Engineering course. During my bachelor’s studies I was always involved in research at the environmental segment. My project at that time was related to development of polymeric nanoparticles as a controlled release system of herbicide in the soil, in order to minimize the environmental impact of agricultural defenders. The Environmental issues and water pollution from various sources are topics that have gained my attention. In my master degree I worked in a project related to absorption of heavy metal focused mainly in wastewater from electroplating industries where I tried to apply natural material in order to decrease the load/concentration of metals in these effluents

(as a purification system). The use of a natural adsorbent was an attempt to show a new applicability for a residue widely found in the Brazilian territory. Nowadays I am working with several analytical techniques for the characterization of inorganic complexes with the purpose to form nano-size materials, which can be applied as a catalyst in several processes, among them, the enhancement of the degradation of several dyes.

What is the scope of your collaboration with Europe / Brazil?

I came to Budapest to do my PhD through the Stipendium Hungaricum Programme and I am working in collaboration to MTA-TTK. The main topic of my project is the development and characterization of several inorganic complexes which have a reducing ligand containing transition metal cations and oxidizing anions within one coordination compound which can result in the formation of unusual and unexpected products and further be applied in several processes as important catalyst, because mainly of their intrinsic properties.

What is the story of your collaboration? How did it start?

My story with this country started since the time of Science Without Borders (a Brazilian programme for Bsc, Msc and PhD students to perform partially the studies outside of the country) in 2013-2014. I came to Budapest during my bachelor studies and I really liked the environment of this city and the opportunities that we can find here.

◆◆◆◆

....

The Budapest University of Technology and Economics is considered one of the best in Hungary in the field of Engineering and Chemical Technology. So, I had the opportunity to come back and I was also invited to join the same group of research that I have participated, and now in collaboration with MTA-TTK.

What is the most valuable aspect of this collaboration for you?

Here I am in contact with several professors and researches that have great knowledge in the area. Not to mention the infrastructure of the university and the research institute – good labs and various equipment's on which I can operate by myself. This has been a great learning for me.

Have you experienced personally any difficulties or challenges?

I believe that in any different place we will face some difficulties and new challenges for sure. For me the hardest was adapting to the new workspace and inserting into a relatively new topic. But I am very excited, and I am looking forward to applying the materials that I have been working with in the degradation of dyes found in industrial wastewater, for example.

We thank Fernanda Paiva Franguelli very much for sharing her valuable experience and being an "Ambassador" for increasing scientific and technological cooperation between Europe and Brazil.

Top tips from Fernanda Paiva Franguelli for a successful international collaboration

- *Guarantee an effective and speedy result for the involved stakeholders*
- *Perform the partnership as an effective tool for national and international counterparts to co-funding major projects*
- *Be proactive in identifying international partners with common interests*