Audiovisual resources on the ethical processing of research in Brazil

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Abstract

Considering that the ethical processing of projects is essential for the integrity of research, the aim was to characterize audiovisual resources with guidelines on the submission of projects for ethical appraisal in Brazil, by means of bibliographical and documentary research, using the descriptors ethical review; Conep; research ethics committees; Plataforma Brasil; and information guide. The search was carried out in databases and on YouTube, the channel of the National Research Ethics Commission and those linked to universities. The analysis criteria were type of material, date, dissemination channel and institution. In total, 1,867 resources were found, 46 of which were eligible for analysis, of which 8 were written materials and 37 instructional videos, totaling around 26h40 of content, ranging from 257 to 60 thousand views. Informative videos stand out among the resources that guide Brazilian researchers in submitting projects to Research Ethics Committees.

Keywords: Ethical analysis. Ethics committees, research. Resource guide. Education, continuing.

Resumo

Recursos audiovisuais sobre tramitação ética de pesquisa no Brasil
Considerando que a tramitação ética de projetos é essencial para a integridade das pesquisas, objetivou-se caracterizar os recursos audiovisuais com orientações sobre submissão de projetos para apreciação ética no Brasil, por meio de pesquisa bibliográfica e documental, utilizando-se os descritores revisão ética; Conep; comitês de ética em pesquisa; Plataforma Brasil; e guia informativo. A busca foi efetuada em bases de dados e no YouTube, no canal da Comissão Nacional de Ética em Pesquisa e naqueles vinculados a universidades. Como critérios de análise, foram considerados tipo de material, data, canal de divulgação e instituição. Foram encontrados 1.867 recursos, sendo 46 elegíveis para análise, dos quais 8 eram materiais escritos e 37 vídeos instrucionais, que totalizam cerca de 26h40 de conteúdo, variando entre 257 e 60 mil visualizações. Evidenciou-se que, entre os recursos que orientam pesquisadores brasileiros para a submissão de projetos aos Comitês de Ética em Pesquisa, destacam-se vídeos informativos.

Palavras-chave: Análise ética. Comitês de ética em pesquisa. Guia informativo. Educação continuada.

Resumen

Recursos audiovisuales sobre el procedimiento ético en estudios en Brasil
Dado que el procedimiento ético en proyectos de investigación es esencial en los estudios, se pretende identificar los recursos audiovisuales con instrucciones sobre la presentación de proyectos para la evaluación ética en Brasil mediante una búsqueda bibliográfica y documental con los descriptores "revisión ética"; "Conep"; "comités de ética de investigación"; "Plataforma Brasil"; y "guía informativa". La búsqueda se realizó en bases de datos, en YouTube, en el canal de la Comisión Nacional de Ética en Investigación y en los vinculados a universidades. Los criterios de análisis fueron tipo de material, fecha, canal de difusión e institución. De 1.867 recursos encontrados, 46 estaban susceptibles para análisis; de los cuales 8 eran materiales escritos y 37 vídeos didácticos, que llegaba casi a 26h40 de contenido entre 257.000 y 60.000 visualizaciones. Entre los recursos que orientan a los investigadores brasileños a presentar proyectos a los Comités de Ética en Investigación, destacan los vídeos informativos.

Palabras clave: Análisis ético. Comités de ética en investigación. Guía de recursos. Educación continua.

Research

The Research Ethics Committees (CEP)/National Research Ethics Commission (Conep) system was set up in 1996 to provide guidance on research with humans. This initiative was implemented through resolutions and regulations focused on social control, scope and the protection of the rights of research participants, and enacted by the National Health Council (CNS), an agency linked to the Brazilian Ministry of Health [1].

Currently, more than 98% of analyses and decisions are carried out locally by the CEPs, and the ethical review of research projects is processed on Plataforma Brasil, a unified national registry of research with humans for the entire CEP/Conep system. On this platform it is possible to monitor research at different stages—from registration to outcome—including field studies and the submission of interim and final reports [2].

According to reports published on the official website, as of October 2023 there were over 1.1 million researchers registered with Plataforma Brasil and more than 920,000 research projects had been processed. Additionally, more than 32,000 institutions are connected to the system [3].

Considering that ethical review is an essential step in research with humans, researchers of different backgrounds and fields of activity should understand the provisions of CNS Resolutions 466/2012 [4] and 510/2016 [5], which guide research with humans. They should also be aware of the procedures required for submission on Plataforma Brasil and, in the case of projects conducted in the university hospitals of Rede Ebserh, register with the Rede Pesquisa platform. Since Plataforma Brasil is the main interface for ethical review in Brazil, this study will focus on information about this platform.

CEP and Conep are responsible for offering training to use Plataforma Brasil. However, a great number of researchers still have difficulty understanding the importance of ethics in research. An important part of this process is submitting the appropriate documents that ensure the integrity of research participants [6].

Plataforma Brasil features a Q&A section that addresses the most common questions about using the platform, with some marked areas to explore researchers' queries. Additionally, there is a chat for questions and a gallery of educational videos about the platform [2].

The official handbooks developed by Conep are available on Plataforma Brasil under "Manuais da Plataforma Brasil". There seven official documents that are updated whenever necessary. The official Plataforma Brasil handbook is shared in the first line, under the title *Manual Pesquisador – Versão 3.8.* This document provides comprehensive instructions on how to use the platform, from user registration to step-by-step guidance for each stage of the research project on the platform, with interactive images and explanations [2].

Besides the official handbook, there are other relevant documents, such as *Manual de pendências frequentes em pesquisas clínicas*, which aims to assist researchers and sponsors in preparing and submitting protocols on the platform. This is expected to substantially reduce the number of issues and, consequently, speed up the review process [7].

Given the spread of technology-mediated means of communication [8], especially online, the CEP/Conep system, aiming to reach out to researchers, has created a channel with explanatory and concise videos in user-friendly language. It offers several thematic playlists to help researchers through seminars, podcasts, handbooks and training [9]. However, researchers still have difficulty with submissions and often forward projects with missing documents or ethical shortfalls.

Therefore, this study proposes to offer an analysis and systematization of resources aimed at guiding researchers in the submission of research projects for ethical review. The goal is to characterize the information received by researchers, in different kinds of guidance material, about the submission of research projects for ethical review in Brazil.

Method

This is a bibliographic and documentary research study with a quantitative and qualitative description analysis. The following search descriptors in Portuguese were used: ethical review; Conep; research ethics committees; Plataforma Brasil; and informational handbook.

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No specific time frame was set for the analyzed materials and the search was carried out from September 1 to October 17, 2023, in the SciELO, Lilacs, Biblioteca Digital Brasileira de Teses e Dissertações (BDBTD), Google Scholar and Plataforma Brasil databases to locate papers, dissertations and theses. Free descriptors were also used to search for information in official federal government, CNS, Conep and CEP websites linked to Brazilian universities, as well as in videos linked to official university channels on YouTube.

For Google Scholar, the first 100 displayed results were analyzed. Regarding YouTube, both official and private channels that addressed ethics in research were searched.

The analysis criteria included: type of material—digital informational handbook, video, audio, multimedia—communication channel and the institution where the material was developed. Since this is a documentary research study using publicly available data, it does not require submission to the institutional CEP.

After the search terms had been selected on the Health Sciences Descriptors website, the searches were carried out in databases in Portuguese, since guidance for reviewing research with humans in Brazil follows national regulations. For each database, adjustments were made to obtain the maximum number of results for analysis
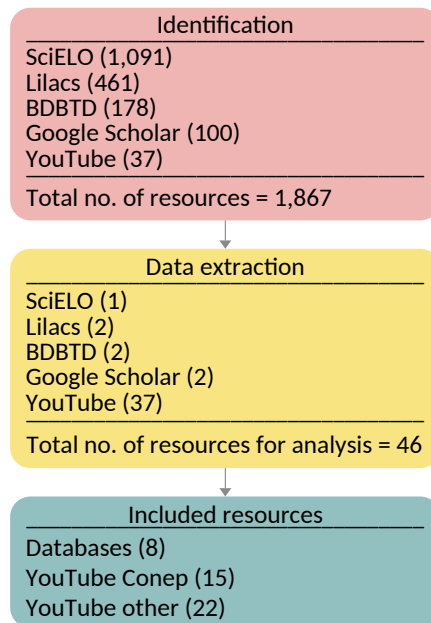
Regarding the search adjustments, in the SciELO database, the terms were used individually, marking all indexes, while in Lilacs the searches had to be made by title, abstract and subject, filtered by country and including "*ética*" (ethics), "*pesquisa*" (research) and "*comitê de ética em pesquisa*" (research ethics committee) in the subject filters of advanced searches for the main descriptors. In BDBTD, search was by title and subject and advanced search by subject. In Google Scholar, the keywords were used randomly and spontaneously, and the first 100 result pages were considered.

Results

The data were analyzed both quantitatively and qualitatively and organized according to Figure 1 and Tables 1 and 2.

As to manuals or instructional materials in video focusing on Plataforma Brasil procedures, 15 multimedia resources were found on the official Conep channel and 19 videos on official university channels, as shown in Table 2.

Figure 1. Flowchart of the search in the databases and Conep and YouTube platforms.


```
Identification
_____
SciELO (1,091)
Lilacs (461)
BDBTD (178)
Google Scholar (100)
YouTube (37)
_____
Total no. of resources = 1,867
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Data extraction
_____
SciELO (1)
Lilacs (2)
BDBTD (2)
Google Scholar (2)
YouTube (37)
_____
Total no. of resources for analysis = 46
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Included resources
_____
Databases (8)
YouTube Conep (15)
YouTube other (22)
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BDBTD: Biblioteca Digital Brasileira de Teses e Dissertações

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Table 1. Analysis of documents containing guidance on ethical review of research projects

Author; year Title [type of resource]	Objective(s)	Method	Results	Conclusion
Oliveira; 1999 [10] "Ethics Committees: Research with humans in Brazil" [paper]	To present the Brazilian resolutions that regulate the field of human research, encourage reflection on the need for control in research, provide guidance on the creation of ethics committees and procedures for registering research, and, lastly, emphasize the importance of registering research with ethics committees.	Bibliographic and documentary research on CNS guidance and CEP regulations.	The paper analyzed results from relevant searches regarding guidance for creating a CEP, its missions and the procedures researchers should follow when submitting projects. The researcher found information sources in CNS guidance from the 1988 Resolution and regulatory standards; study and research centers in administration in the city of São Paulo; data from the Federal Council of Medicine related to human research; specialization courses in bioethics, among others. Twelve information sources were used to develop the paper.	It stresses the importance of CEPs and the achievements in support of the bioethics movement in Brazil up to then.
Conselho Nacional de Saúde; 2007 [11] Operational handbook for Research Ethics Committees [handbook]	To meet the priority goal of ensuring that research with humans in Brazil is conducted ethically and safely, protecting the integrity and rights of volunteer citizens.	Bibliographic and documentary research on CNS guidance and CEP regulations, as well as on the Council's own guidance for conducting research.	Mention of historical events (without direct or numbered references) that have shaped bioethics, including the Nuremberg Code, the World Health Organization, international guidance and Brazilian resolutions up to the time of the document's release.	A set of guidelines to support the functional organization and, consequently, improved performance of CEPs. This is a preliminary text that should continue to be developed by actual CEP members, based on their professional experience. Conep expects to receive contributions in this regard.
Secretaria Municipal de Saúde de São Paulo; 2010 [12] Handbook on ethics in research with humans [handbook]	To create a handbook to inform healthcare professionals and advisors about the ethical aspects to be observed in research with humans.	Bibliographic and documentary research on CNS guidance and CEP regulations.	CNS resolutions, updates on the location of the CEP at the São Paulo Municipal Health Department and contact information for the updated protocol for submitting research to this CEP, analysis of activities over the ten years of operation and a preview of Plataforma Brasil, which was undergoing development/testing at the time.	The handbook was developed based on various guidelines and an analysis of review processes conducted over the previous ten years, with the participation of managers, healthcare providers and patients of the Unified Health System. It has been maintained as is fairly up-to-date.
Santana; 2017 [13]. Usability analysis of Plataforma Brasil: an ergonomic approach [dissertation]	To evaluate Plataforma Brasil according to the general principles of online system usability.	Descriptive and observational bibliographic and documentary research.	A number of usability issues were identified in the system, and after the analysis, recommendations for improvements were developed, aiming to adapt the interface to human characteristics and capabilities.	Platform Brasil presented a considerable number of usability issues. The feedback from the survey participants highlighted issues related to the confusing characteristics of the screens.

Table 1. Continuation

Author; year / Title [type of resource]	Objective(s)	Method	Results	Conclusion
Fronza; 2020[14] "Submission of research projects to the ethics committee: from Plataforma Brasil to substantiated opinion"[book chapter]	To present considerations about the process involved in submitting research projects for ethical review on Plataforma Brasil.	Bibliographic and documentary research on CNS guidance and CEP regulations.	Ten references were included, four of them related to the Ministry of Health: three resolutions and the operational handbook. The remaining references were papers related to analyses and concepts on research ethics, informed consent forms, etc.	There are instructions detailing the steps for submitting a research project on Plataforma Brasil. Emphasis is given to items that should be well described and presented in the documents, such as research objectives, methodology and considerations on risks and benefits.
Martins, Asato, Araújo; 2021[15] "Research Ethics in information systems: why and how to Submit projects to the Ethics Committee" [book chapter]	To discuss the ethical aspects of research with humans within the scope of information systems and their importance. Also, to present in a table the documents required for the submission and approval of a research project by the CEPs linked to Conep, using Plataforma Brasil.	Bibliographic and documentary research on CNS guidance and CEP regulations.	Book chapter with 34 references, especially the Brazilian Computer Society, papers and encyclopedias on ethics in Brazil and worldwide with searches in historical data, and guidance from the Ministry of Health and CNS.	The authors' area of expertise requires improvements in research projects and better understanding and application of ethical issues by researchers. The ethical dimension should be considered, with critical reflection on research, legislation and dialogue with the CEP.
Instituto de Medicina Integral Professor Fernando Figueira; 2022[16] IMIP and FPS researcher handbook [handbook]	To help students and professionals develop research projects.	Bibliographic and documentary research on CNS guidance and CEP regulations, as well the institute's own guidance on conducting research.	Handbook highlighting the main shortfalls in projects submitted to the institute's CEP, based on the relevant CNS resolutions and CEP regulations.	Explanation of methodological aspects for developing research with scientific rigor and complying with all ethical principles and good clinical practices.
Motta; 2023[17] Instructional handbook for submitting research projects involving humans to the Research Ethics Committee (CEP) of Instituto Federal de Educação do Espírito Santo[e-book]	To expand possibilities of access to information and guidance related to the submission of human research protocols to the CEP, as an instructional tool to assist researchers.	Development of instructional material for researchers through analysis of Conep guidance.	E-book (freely available) outlining criteria for good practices in scientific activities involving research with humans at Instituto Federal de Educação do Espírito Santo (approved by Ordinance 2,252, dated December 9, 2021).	The development of the support tool for researchers can contribute to streamlining the submission of research projects to the CEP, which can thus help improve the quality of scientific work while ensuring compliance with ethical principles and promoting the well-being of research participants.

CEP: *Research Ethics Committee; Conep: National Commission for Research Ethics; CNS: National Health Council*

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Table 2. Analysis of audiovisual manuals and materials providing guidance on the ethical review of research projects.

Title; year	Channel	Subject	Date	Running time	View count
Plataforma Brasil – Introduction; 2018 [18]	Ethics in Research (Conep)	Overview of the system.	3/2/2018	3min01	24,986
User Registration – Plataforma Brasil; 2018 [19]	Ethics in Research (Conep)	Step-by-step procedures for users/researchers to register with Plataforma Brasil.	7/30/2018	3min11	60,000
Assistant researchers; 2019 [20]	Ethics in Research (Conep)	Assistant profile on Plataforma Brasil.	3/18/2019	3min23	3,700
Institution Registration – Plataforma Brasil; 2018 [21]	Ethics in Research (Conep)	Basic procedures for institutions to register with Plataforma Brasil.	10/23/2018	3min23	8,200
Project submission on Plataforma Brasil; 2019 [22]	Ethics in Research (Conep)	Submission process tutorial.	4/3/2019	3min21	38,000
Project submission on Plataforma Brasil – Step 2; 2021 [23]	Ethics in Research (Conep)	Submission process tutorial.	2/23/2021	2min17	9,800
Project submission on Plataforma Brasil – Step 3; 2021 [24]	Ethics in Research (Conep)	Data completion instructions for specific research projects.	7/21/2021	2min16	7,500
Request for change of principal investigator; 2020 [25]	Ethics in Research (Conep)	Transfer of project ownership to a new researcher.	4/1/2020	4min38	3,400
Response to pending issues on Plataforma Brasil; 2019 [26]	Ethics in Research (Conep)	Process to address documentary and ethical issues raised in the review.	3/13/2019	6min18	30,000
Submission of amendment on Plataforma Brasil – Step 1; 2019 [27]	Ethics in Research (Conep)	Proposals for changes in original project.	10/17/2019	2min21	13,000
Request to withdraw research projects from Plataforma Brasil; 2020 [28]	Ethics in Research (Conep)	Process to request project withdrawal.	2/6/2020	2min18	5,900
Notifications on Plataforma Brasil; 2023 [29]	Ethics in Research (Conep)	Notification of relevant documents.	10/17/2023	2min50	9,500
Submission of project appeals on Plataforma Brasil; 2020 [30]	Ethics in Research (Conep)	Appealing the non-approval of projects when appeal is possible.	1/4/2020	2min16	2,700
Plataforma Brasil alert about divergent data; 2021 [31]	Ethics in Research (Conep)	Implications of the alert regarding divergent data with the Federal Revenue Service.	9/13/2021	1min	926
Processing deadlines on Plataforma Brasil; 2021 [32]	Ethics in Research (Conep)	Processing deadlines.	9/20/2021	1min05	1,500

Table 2. Continuation

Title; year	Channel	Subject	Date	Running time	View count
How to submit a research project to the Research Ethics Committee.; 2020 [33]	Liga Acadêmica de Microbiologia – UFJF	How to submit projects to the CEP.	9/24/2020	11min05	21,000
Course: "Plataforma Brasil: submission and review of research projects"; 2020 [34]	CEP Unicesumar	How to submit projects on Plataforma Brasil.	9/30/2020	1h37min10	3,300
Plataforma Brasil: submission of research projects (Day 1); 2022 [35]	CEP Unicesumar	How to submit projects on Plataforma Brasil.	4/19/2022	1h02min27	366
Plataforma Brasil: submission of research projects (Day 2); 2022 [36]	CEP Unicesumar	How to submit projects on Plataforma Brasil.	4/20/2022	58min02	284
Mini course: "Plataforma Brasil: submission of research projects"; 2022 [37]	CEP Unicesumar	How to submit projects on Plataforma Brasil.	8/12/2021	58min02	257
Tutorial: registration and submission of research on Plataforma Brasil; 2019 [38]	Santa Casa BH	Registration and submission of research on Plataforma Brasil.	8/29/2019	16min43	58,000
Guidance for submission on Plataforma Brasil; 2021 [39]	Unifebe	Step-by-step instructions on how to submit the research protocol.	6/28/2021	11min20	3,225
Understanding the Research Ethics Committee and Plataforma Brasil: processes and evaluation criteria; 2023 [40]	Escola de Pesquisadores Campus USP São Carlos	Processes on Plataforma Brasil.	4/24/2023	1h30min30	1,554
Plataforma Brasil – What and how? 2021 [41]	PROARQ UFRJ	Plataforma Brasil and ethical aspects.	3/22/2021	1h42min03	1,056
Submission of projects on Plataforma Brasil; 2021 [42]	Núcleo de Pesquisa Trabalho, Saúde e Educação, da Escola de Enfermagem	Research project submission process on Plataforma Brasil.	7/3/2021	2h13min52	574
CEP – overall guidance and Plataforma Brasil – Specialization in digital education; 2022 [43]	Unead Uneb	Guiding students on the process of submitting projects to the CEP and on the functioning of Plataforma Brasil.	7/20/2022	1h41min26	1,547

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Table 2. Continuation

Title; year	Channel	Subject	Date	Running time	View count
Training: overall guidance for submitting research with humans on Plataforma Brasil; 2022 [44]	Biblioteca Universitária Udesc	Instructions for submitting research with humans on Plataforma Brasil, including overall regulations, required documents and legal procedures.	7/20/2022	1h29min56	1,135
Webinar. CBC – submission of projects on Plataforma Brasil; 2021 [45]	Colégio Brasileiro de Cirurgiões	Submission of projects on Plataforma Brasil.	3/1/2021	2h17min50	607
Plataforma Brasil; 2021 [46]	Escola de Enfermagem de Ribeirão Preto USP	Tools for using and understanding Plataforma Brasil.	2/24/2021	1h27min35	126
Research Ethics Committee (CEPH-FFLCH) and Plataforma Brasil (Aline de Lima Benevides – USP); 2021 [47]	Departamento de Linguística – USP	How to submit projects to the CEP.	5/24/2021	1h53min48	253
Meeting – Research projects on Plataforma Brasil – 11/05/2022; 2022 [48]	IFES	Ethics in scientific research.	5/17/2022	1h46min37	596
Submission of projects on Plataforma Brasil. CEP Unifacig; 2020 [49]	Centro Universitário Unifacig	Explaining submission processes on Plataforma Brasil.	6/20/2020	1h26min43	441
CCSO Connection: Plataforma Brasil and Research Ethics Committees; 2021 [50]	Centro de Ciências Sócio-Organizacionais (CCSO)	Introduction to Plataforma Brasil.	10/1/2021	1h17min27	221
Practical tips about Plataforma Brasil – with the librarian Ágata Souza (IFSP); 2020 [51]	IFSP	Practical guidance of the main steps for submitting projects to the CEP on Plataforma Brasil.	7/15/2020	1h21min42	227
Secitec/Simpeex 2021. How to submit research projects on Plataforma Brasil; 2021 [52]	IFG	How to submit research projects on Plataforma Brasil.	12/10/2021	1h20min15	227
Procedures to submit projects on Plataforma Brasil; 2021 [53]	IFAL	Step-by-step instructions for submitting projects to the CEP.	8/9/2021	1h11min04	115
PPGET Talks: Submitting projects to the Ethics Committee – demystifying Plataforma Brasil; 2022 [54]	PPGET IFAM	Demystifying the submission of projects on Plataforma Brasil.	6/11/2022	1h17min56	567

CEP: Research Ethics Committee

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Discussion

In characterizing the materials that provide guidance for the submission of research projects to the CEPs, it was observed that there are few papers, books, book chapters, theses and dissertations relevant to the development of handbooks and checklists, as shown in Table 1. Prominent among the documents found is the development of handbooks focused on addressing common issues as a way to assist future researchers in avoiding documental and ethical issues [1-7]. That was a common feature in most of the analyzed handbooks.

Regarding written materials, five institutional handbooks were identified with a descriptive analysis of the most common submission issues in their respective CEPs, focusing on points that often lead to shortfalls. Additionally, two book chapters discussed problems and reflections on changes and cultures that need to be developed for best practices in the submission process by researchers in the field of computing, along with a straightforward informative handbook highlighted in the body of the text. Finally, a dissertation focused on ergonomic analysis was also found, stressing key aspects for researchers regarding the usability of Plataforma Brasil and suggesting improvements [10-17].

Manual operacional para comitês de ética em pesquisa [Operational Handbook for Research Ethics Committees], developed by Conep [11], provides comprehensive information on the submission process on Plataforma Brasil and was referenced in most of the addressed studies. A scarcity of published materials was observed in the searches for handbooks and manuals. It is possible that such resources are internally available in research institutions, academic centers and university departments.

The only paper, published in 1999, describes the documents required for creating CEPs and related explanations, based on the current Resolution (196/1996) [10]. In analyzing more recent handbooks and technological advances [8], it is noted that the ethical review process in Brazil keeps pace with these advances, and institutions constantly need to disclose updated information to their specific audiences.

Regarding YouTube videos, as analyzed in Table 2, many of them addressed the submission process on Plataforma Brasil, whether official channels of educational institutions or unofficial channels. Typically, these videos were independently produced by professors, researchers and experienced influencers in the field [18-54].

Conep's official channel offers a 15-video module about Plataforma Brasil, focusing on user registration, step-by-step guidance through the platform's stages, etc. Additionally, Conep supplements its content with other videos on ethical and documentary aspects, aiming to enhance knowledge among researchers [18-32]. Many educational institutions in Brazil also provide lectures and instructions on the research submission process on Plataforma Brasil on their official YouTube channels. Twenty of them were highlighted herein, totaling more than 26 hours of running time [33-54].

The content produced by Conep and the official YouTube channels of educational institutions analyzed in this study are considered of great relevance in two situations that may recur in the daily lives of many researchers. The first is to envision a context in which researchers will need content related to writing and submitting their research. The other is to consider that researchers often have little time but will need guiding materials to assist them.

In this sense, researchers' needs are meet by both longer content and shorter and more dynamic materials. However, it was observed that shorter videos (around 3 minutes each) had the highest total views.

The CNS provides instructional videos and podcasts, among other resources, which aid in disseminating information about both CEPs and the submission and review processes established by the CEP/Conep system. Two noteworthy programs are available on the official channel, "Diálogos em Pílulas" (Concise Dialogues) and "Com ciência e com respeito" (With Science and Respect), in which Conep aims to deliver engaging and accessible educational content to all individuals influenced by scientific research with humans [9].

Regarding the period of availability, there was a significant increase in the quantity of materials during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, possibly

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due to the greater use of distance learning[8] by universities. Some unofficial channels feature videos with highly relevant guidance, describing step-by-step processes on Plataforma Brasil with up to 150,000 views. These numbers exceed those of official channels, which may be attributed to factors such as channel subscriber count, video publication time, user engagement in comments, etc.

Thus, based on the analysis criteria outlined in this study, YouTube videos emerged as widely accessible materials. In addition, the shortage of published handbooks or checklists may be due to their internal use as unpublished materials in institutions.

A weakness of this study is the need to expand the search across all CEP websites nationwide to systematize information disclosed at local and regional levels. It is noteworthy that the systematization of knowledge, along with the disclosure of materials produced to date and presented as research outcomes, can contribute to locating information on the submission of research projects for ethical review.

Final considerations

There are approximately 26 hours and 40 minutes of available audiovisual resources guiding researchers on the ethical review of research projects in Brazil, with view counts ranging from 257 to 60,000, mostly produced between 2020 and 2022. Prominent among resources aiding Brazilian researchers in project submission to CEPs are instructional videos, due to their significant contributions to organizing research projects and reducing documental and ethical issues during the review process.

Despite the considerable number of informative materials, there is a need for institutional systematization and widespread dissemination to ensure streamlined research ethics review processes. This could have a positive impact not only on researchers and research participants but also on Brazilian scientific and technological development.

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Rodrigo Mateus Lima Ribeiro conceived the search strategies for the databases and wrote the manuscript. Joseli Soares Brazorotto contributed as advisor in all stages of the study, participating in the creation of search strategies, data analysis, writing and manuscript revision.

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