

III. Selection Process and Criteria

The EXPO 2000 programme Projects around the World received over 3000 project applications. The selection and approval process was finalized by the end of 1999 with a balance of 280 German Projects and 487 International Projects from 123 countries.

In the case of the international projects, the International Advisory Board constituted by 13 distinguished personalities from around the world (1128, Volume 2) established an International Selection Committee (ISC) chaired by Ricardo Díez Hochleitner, President of the EXPO International Advisory Board (IAB) and President of the Club of Rome. The IAB nominated one of its members, Alicia Bárcena, to act as the Executive Secretary of the International Selection Committee.

The ISC included an outstanding group of 9 members from all over the world with extensive experience in implementing sustainable development strategies and programmes (1129, Volume 2).

Sustainability has been the decisive basis to select the projects that will be part of this programme. The project content had to be oriented to the key theme of the World Exposition: "Humankind – Nature – Technology" and in particular towards Agenda 21, the action programme for the 21st century signed by more than 170 countries at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

The main objectives of the Projects around the World programme were discussed by the IAB and the ISC extensively. Both groups concluded that the main objective of the programme is to underpin the idea of international partnerships and to show how people live at present with a vision of the future rather than to represent the most advanced innovation.

The EXPO Projects around the World reflect the commitment of many people from multiple places and cultures to facilitate the betterment of our common future. The planet destiny depends on human choice and this is precisely what the projects display.

EXPO 2000 together with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit – GTZ (German technical cooperation) and other international organizations like Habitat, the Canadian Institute for Sustainable Development and the International Institute for Renewable Energies undertook an extensive call for projects. In 5 meetings more than 1200 exemplary projects have been reviewed and of them 487 were selected for registration as EXPO 2000 projects by the ISC. These 487 international projects from 123 countries have been selected from multiple organizations around the world representing private and public initiatives and many of them showing innovative partnerships. Many people are behind these initiatives, either as active participants or beneficiaries.

All of these projects have clearly demonstrated:

- Association with the concept of sustainability and the themes of EXPO 2000
- Implementation of practical solutions

- Orientation towards the needs of the future
- Exemplary nature
- Innovative public / private partnerships

The criteria for selection were approved in September 1996 by the Executive Board of EXPO 2000, the Supervisory Board and the International Advisory Board in order to ensure that each project submitted:

1. Shows an association with the concept of sustainability and the themes of EXPO: Humankind, Environment, Nutrition, Health, Knowledge, and Future of Work, Mobility, Energy and Basic Needs.
2. Demonstrates practical solutions
3. Is geared to the needs of the future
4. Has an exemplary nature and is transferable or replicable in other parts of the world under comparable conditions
5. Proves implementation capabilities
6. Is financially viable beyond the year 2000
7. Shows technical soundness
8. Has an identifiable physical location
9. Together present geographical balance
10. The project should be suitable for backing up theme orientation at the EXPO site if necessary

The International Selection Committee met on 5 occasions to analyze and select the projects presented by different organizations directly to EXPO 2000, to the German diplomatic missions, or to GTZ, which was engaged for this purpose by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

A draft assessment form was prepared by the EXPO 2000 Team. A process of pre-screening took place for each project by the Executive Secretary, the EXPO 2000 Team and GTZ to check the application and to ensure the compliance to the approved criteria.

A very special recognition deserve BMZ and GTZ who have been outstanding partners of the international part of the programme Projects around the World. GTZ is present in many developing countries and has first hand information of relevant initiatives. Their efforts in confirming the information presented by the projects building on the experience of the organization in development cooperation have been invaluable.

A balance of the total of projects selected by topic and by regions is presented in the following matrix.

Region / Topic	Humankind	Environment	Nutrition	Health	Knowledge	Future of work	Mobility	Energy	Basic Needs	Total
Canada / USA	1	2	-	7	8	1	-	-	-	19
Mexico / Central America	3	10	1	2	4	1	-	-	5	26
Caribbean	1	5	-	2	2	-	-	1	3	14
Andes Region	1	15	1	5	8	3	-	-	10	43
MercoSur	3	9	1	-	10	2	1	-	9	35
Mediterranean Europe	2	11	2	1	5	-	-	2	-	23
Central / Northern Europe	2	17	1	5	13	5	2	10	2	57
Eastern Europe / Russia	6	9	-	3	4	-	-	-	-	22
Central Asia	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	3
East Asia	-	6	2	1	-	-	-	-	2	11
South East Asia	8	10	4	9	11	4	-	1	33	80
Australian / Asian Region	-	6	-	3	-	2	-	-	-	11
Maghreb States + Middle - / Near-East	7	5	2	-	4	2	-	3	7	30
East / Central Africa	9	11	4	6	2	3	1	-	7	43
West Africa	-	12	2	9	3	3	-	-	14	43
Southern Africa	6	8	2	1	4	1	-	3	2	27
Total	49	137	22	55	79	27	4	20	94	487