

# Senegal's experience in Research Fairness Initiative



**(RFI)**

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# INTRODUCTION 1

- The project for the advancement of collaboration between the European Union and Sub-Saharan Africa in research and innovation (CAAST NET PLUS), sponsor of Research Fairness Initiative (RFI) in partnership with COHRED, is a network of 26 organizations, including Senegal, since 2008.
- The health working group organized a series of stakeholder consultations for RFI's implementation;
- These consultations aimed to promote fair research within the framework of North-South partnerships, based on indicators or parameters defined by the stakeholders of both continents.

## INTRODUCTION 2

- In Africa three countries were targeted for the organization of counseling workshops: Kenya, Nigeria and Senegal.
- For this purpose two meetings were organized in Senegal by CAAST NET PLUS and COHRED in collaboration with the Ministry of Higher Education and Research of Senegal and Pharmalys.

# Senegal's contribution to the RFI process 1

Senegal's contribution to the RFI process

- The first consultation workshop was organized in August 2016 in Dakar
- 15 indicators were shared for the implementation of the RFI. The utility of RFI as collaborative platform for bi-regional partnerships of research between Europe and Africa was evaluated.
- The participants confirmed that the RFI indicators must be taken into account during the three steps of a collaborative research project:
  - Upon the initial partnership phase before starting the research,
  - During the course of the project with fair processes,
  - At the end of the collaboration with fair sharing of results and benefits of research.

## Senegal's contribution to the RFI process 2

- Senegal participated in a second meeting on RFI in Brussels in September 2016. Organized by CAAST NET Plus,
- The 15 parameters were shared and validated by the assembly after several presentations and a very fruitful debate.
- I had the honor to report on the results of the first workshop held in Dakar in 2016.
- Senegal was requested to propose pilot research institutions for the implementation of RFI.

## Senegal's contribution to the RFI process 3

- The Brussels meeting provided a good opportunity to confirm the relevance and feasibility of applying ethical aspects to partnerships in research projects.
- Mrs Nienke Buisman of the EU called the RFI a very ambitious project. She believed that a trial phase is required and proposed to start the implementation of the RFI by applying it to the Leap agri project, financed by the EU H2020.

## Senegal's contribution to the RFI process 4

- As part of the RFI project implementation, Senegal organized a workshop with three pilot research institutions in June 2017 in Dakar.
- The overall objective of the workshop was to produce the draft RFI reports of each pilot institution.
- At the end of the workshop each research institution was able to:
  - Report on each indicator according to its specificities,
  - Provide supporting documentation,
  - Present future actions to improve equity and performance.

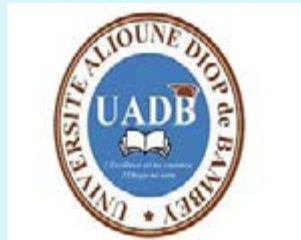
# African Center of Excellence for Mother and Child Health (CEA-SAMEF)

- Project financed by the African Development Bank (BAD). The strategic objectives include:
  - Training quality human resources in quantity,
  - Promoting applied research and technological innovation,
  - Developing sustainable scientific and technical cooperation with Research Institutions and Enterprises.





# Alioune Diop University of Bambey (UADB)



- Public institution located in the center-west of Senegal, in rural areas.
- Training and Research Units:
  - Health and sustainable development,
  - Management and legal engineering,
  - Applied sciences and information and communication technologies.

# Institute for Health Research, Epidemiological Surveillance and Training (IRESSEF)



- Initiated by Professor Souleymane Mboup,
- State-of-the-art research centre located in the new urban center of Diamniadio. It was funded by the Gilead Foundation, which operates in 130 countries and aims to develop low-cost medicines for the benefit of the poor.
- It is made up of an experienced and renowned team of researchers in the fields of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria, neglected and emerging diseases.

# Senegal's contribution to the RFI process 6

## Workshop Results:

- **Alioune Diop University of Bambey (UADB)** : The rector Professor Lamine GUEYE, and his team, recognized the **importance of notifying acts for the implementation of their research partnerships, which are sometimes carried out informally.**
- **African Center of Excellence for Mother and Child Health (ECA-SAMEF)**: Jean Charles Moreau, Director of CEA-SAMEF, and his team confirmed the **importance of setting up a research management manual to guide their partnerships according to RFI indicators.**
- **Institute for Health Research, Epidemiological Surveillance and Training (IRESSEF)**, Pr Touré and his colleagues recognized the need to **improve the partnership conditions in research at IRESSEF based on the RFI approach.** They committed themselves to drafting their RFI report according to the guide and implementing the recommendations.
- The UADB and the CEA-SAMEF have submitted their RFI report.

## Senegal's commitment to RD&I 1

- As part of the reform of Higher Education and Research in Senegal, a national consultation on the future of higher education (CNAES) was organized in 2013. At the end of these meetings, the 78 recommendations proposed have allowed the President of Senegalese Republic to take eleven (11) decisions, of which number D8 is intended to give a new vision to research and innovation.

## Senegal's commitment to RD&I 2

- Research plays a leading role in the economic and social development of a country. While in the resource-constrained countries like Senegal, research is facing a number of difficulties that hinder its development.
- To tackle these problems that block the development of research, partnerships must be developed at national, sub-regional (South-South) and international levels.

## Senegal's commitment to RD&I 3

- Partnerships make it possible to pool human, financial and material resources by promoting the organization of scientific networks. It will also serve as a framework for the sharing of experiences among the various stakeholders.
- However, research partnerships in Senegal face a number of obstacles, including:
  - Financing that is dependent on international donors and ?donors.
  - The concerns of the populations that hinder the emergence of the country's emergence are not sufficiently taken into account.
  - The brain drain because of an environment conducive to quality research.

## Senegal's commitment to RD&I 4

- Convinced that the RFI approach will offer a more formal and fair partnership framework allowing better quality research, the MESR through the DGR that I represent in the coordination of the RFI project, is committed to promoting the RFI approach in Senegal.
- The Minister suggested comparing RFI's and ANAQ-Sup approach.
- ANAQ-Sup is an agency responsible for quality in private and public higher education institutions in Senegal.

## Senegal's commitment to RD&I 5

- The DGR (General Direction of Research) and the ANAQ-SUP plan to work together to implement the vision of the Minister.
- He advise that the approach of the RFI could be integrated during the process of elaborating the new missions of the ANAQ-SUP for the Research.





**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**