

## ABOUT BCA-WA-ETHICS II

We are a partnership between Spain, Senegal, Benin, and Mali that aims to enhance the research ethics capacities in the West African sub-continent.

We also work on capacity-building in gender mainstreaming and regionally-harmonised clinical trial evaluation during situations of health emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our initiative aims to reach the National ethics committees of the 15 countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) with our training and networking activities.

## WHAT WE DO

### TRAINING

Training programs on research ethics, gender mainstreaming, audit preparedness, governance of ethics committees, and clinical trial evaluation.

### DISSEMINATION

Multilingual scientific publications that target the West African scientific community and research ethics stakeholders, to raise awareness about good research ethics practices during health emergencies.

### NETWORKING

International congresses on research ethics, gender & health emergencies with the participation of research ethics experts from Europe and West Africa.

### REGULATORY SUPPORT

Support and preparation for quality management audits and certifications in the Benin, Senegal, and Mali National ethics committees,



## WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

We have all seen the devastating damage that has resulted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in the West African region. Not only has it caused fatalities and disabilities, but also had a significant socioeconomic impact on all population groups. However, women were among the hardest hit groups by the pandemic and the gender inequities that it amplified, such as gender-based violence, increase poverty, and the lack of access to sexual and reproductive health services.

The conduct of new research projects in West Africa is on the rise, further proving the need for highly-qualified ethics committees to ensure the respect for human rights and ethical principles, and to put an end to the conduct of gender-blind research, that does not take into account gender disparities and inequities. The production of gender-conscious research can promote and catalyze health equity for all.

## CONTACT DETAILS

### EMAIL

[farahnabil@unizar.es](mailto:farahnabil@unizar.es)

### WEBSITE

[www.bcawaethicsii.com](http://www.bcawaethicsii.com)



### Partners.



**Universidad  
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MINISTÈRE DE LA SANTÉ  
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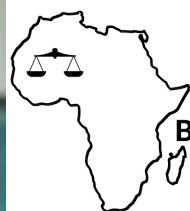
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**“SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH?**

**ONLY WHEN NOT AT THE  
COST OF ETHICS-AND FIRST  
OF ALL, THOSE OF THE  
RESEARCHERS THEMSELVES”**

**ALEKSANDR  
SOLZHENITSYN**



**BCA-WA-ETHICS I**

### **3 NATIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEES ISO-9001 CERTIFIED**

The National ethics committees of Benin, Mali, and Senegal would, by the end of 2022, be certified in quality management according to the highest international standard accreditation. This is expected to improve the services they provide to researchers and reduce processing times for research protocol clearance, which would accelerate the production of safe and effective medicinal products and interventions.



**EDCTP**



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**EXPECTED  
RESULTS**

## **2 INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES**

In 2022 and 2023, respectively, two international congresses will be held where scientists from all over the ECOWAS and Spain will be invited to showcase their perspectives, thoughts, and research results concerning the topics of research ethics during the COVID-19 pandemic, gender in research ethics, and the governance of national ethics committees during health emergencies.

## **100+ SCIENTISTS TRAINED**

In the context of the project's multiple training programs, over 100 junior and senior scientists and ethicists from all of the 15 ECOWAS countries will be trained and followed up, some of which will have the opportunity to conduct hands-on training at the Aragon research ethics committee (CEICA) in Zaragoza, Spain.

