

Press release: Bamako, 25 September 2022 – English

A virtual master class was held on Saturday 24 September from 17:00 to 19:30, focusing on the return of the results of the collaborative experiences between Conventional Medicine and Traditional Medicine in public health activities in Mali. The question asked was: “Traditional medicine and universal health coverage. Is another health system possible? The training activity was organized as part of a research program carried out in collaboration between the School of Advanced Studies in Public Health of Bamako, the Interdisciplinary Research Institute in the Sahel WEB DU BOIS and the NGO AIDEMET. The objective was to evaluate the appreciation by a group of Young Health Managers of the experiences lived in the field regarding the enhancement of the resources of Traditional Medicine (professionals, practices and products) in Public Health activities. The study population consisted of trainees from the years 2020 and 2021 of the EHESP "Traditional Medicine and Public Health" course. The authors pledged to carry out a restitution session for EHESP trainees and teaching staff at the end of the study. We analysed the responses of a total of 84 trainees. Among these, 94.76% obtained at least one successful collaboration with actors of traditional medicine. The collaboration involved 18 different areas: among others, community epidemiological surveillance (19.05%), traditional traumatology (16.76%), traditional midwives (8.33%), improved traditional drugs (8.33%), malaria (7.14%), hepatitis (5.95%), malnutrition (5.95%), reproductive health (4.76%), vaccination campaigns (4.76%) HIV-AIDS (3.57%), community health (2.38%). Overall, the results showed that collaboration between the two medicines was an indisputable and inevitable reality for public health in Mali. However, this often-overlooked reality is not always taken into account in official health policies. Moreover, since the actors of Traditional Medicine are often the first recourse of populations to health care, it is obvious that it would be very difficult to achieve universal coverage of health care without an organized and evaluated implication, with the operators, practices and products of traditional medicine. The study was presented by Dr. Sergio Giani, Pharmacist, Senior International Expert in Traditional Medicine and Community Health, Program Manager of *Aidemet* NGO, Head of Traditional Medicine and Traditional Food Supplements courses at the EHESP in Bamako, Coordinator of the IRIS WEB DU Bois Institute; by Prof Rokia Sanogo, Pharmacist, PhD, Full Professor of Pharmacognosy at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the FSTB in Bamako, Head of the Department of Traditional Medicine, Head of the Laboratory "Spaces, Society, Cultures and Health" of the IRIS WEB DU BOIS Institute and by Dr. Bakary Toumanion, Sociologist, International Expert in Evaluation of Development Projects and Programs, Manager of the TMC Consulting Group, Promoter of the EHESP in Bamako and of the Malian Spirit Center in Siby and founding member of the IRIS WEB DU Bois Institute.



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