

The MSPP will soon have a National Policy for Health Research

The Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP) through its Direction of Epidemiology, Laboratory and Research (DELR) is developing a National Policy for Health Research. This is a major innovation for the MSPP, that does not have this tool at its disposal yet, to give the strategic orientations of the Ministry for the development of the research sector in the country.



Some participants at the workshop on the National Policy for Health Research

A workshop was organized from the 26th to the 28th of March, 2018 on the coast of Arcadins to brainstorm around the first draft of this document. Organized within the framework of the project SPHaïtiLAB* cofinanced by the European Commission and the Mérieux Foundation, the main objective of the workshop was to discuss the current state of health research in the country in order to propose the main strategies to develop this sector. The purpose of this Policy is to promote the implementation of health research that respect the ethical standards and generates evidence-based information. This will help establish quality and equitable health services adapted to the Haitian context and contribute to the country's sustainable development.

SPHaïtiLAB

PROJET DE SANTÉ PUBLIQUE POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT DES LABORATOIRES



The Director of DELR, Dr. Patrick Dely, during the opening session of this workshop, drew attention to the importance of this policy which will provide guidance to researchers and any entity doing research in Haiti. Dr. Dely hopes that this document will help to structure our health research needs.

DELR is the authority of the ministry responsible for planning, promoting and developing health research and disseminating results. It will be in charge of the implementation of this policy.

Proceedings of the workshop

During this three-day workshop, more than twenty researchers from various health institutions and universities came together to discuss the issues, challenges and strategic priorities of this reference document for research. Among the participants were representatives from: PAHO/WHO, GHESKIO centers, CDC, Zanmi Lasante, the Faculties of Medicine of *Université d'Etat d'Haïti*, *Université Notre Dame d'Haïti*, *Université Quisqueya* and *Université Lumière*. Members from the cabinet of the Minister of Health and those from the National Bioethics Committee (CNB in French) also participated in the debates.



The Deputy Director of the African Institute of Public Health of Burkina Faso which is also Director of the Institute of Research in Science for Health (IRSS), Dr Seni Kouanda, was also invited to participate to this workshop and share the experience of his country regarding policies on research in health. It is important to emphasize that Dr Kouanda participation is part of a larger collaboration South-South existing between Haiti and Burkina Faso promoted by the SPHaïtiLAB project.

Six strategic axes were developed in the document: 1) Policy and legal environment, 2) Governance and leadership, 3) Development of knowledge, 4) National Research

Agenda, 5) Information Management, Dissemination of Results, and Application of Information, and 6) Financing of health research.

After the elaboration of the first draft of this document, a consultation forum will be organized with a wider group of participants to collect the consensus around this strategic document.

Once the national health research policy has been validated by the high authorities, a strategic plan and a guide on research will be developed to enable its implementation.

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Communication Officer of SPHaïtiLAB/LNSP

BOX

SPHaïtiLAB is one of the key projects which support the development of the sector of laboratories in Haiti. Its main objective is to contribute to improve the health of the population of Haiti by the analysis and the strategic advice regarding policy of laboratory. It works within the framework of the Program "Support for the Institutes of Public health" of the European Commission which supports since 2015 seven other projects for strengthening capacities of institutes or schools of public health worldwide (Bangladesh, Burundi, DRC, Kenya, Laos, Myanmar, Uganda).