Capacity development, training and research uptake

PO - (8536) - BIOMEDICAL ETHICS AND REGULATORY CAPACITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP FOR PORTUGUESE SPEAKING AFRICAN COUNTRIES (BERC-LUSO)

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BERC-Luso is a project for Ethics and Regulatory Capacity Building to be developed in 4 sub-Saharan African countries – Angola, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique and Cape Verde –, engaging National Ethics Committees (NECs) and National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) (total: 6 institutions), with the partnership of 4 Portuguese institutions (experts in ethical review and regulatory supervision), to be implemented in 2018-2021.

Considering that (1) clinical trials are fundamental to improve healthcare and develop biomedical research, (2) but can only take place within regulatory systems and under ethical review protocols, (3) and some African countries still lack adequate legislative framework and expertise to assure good ethical review and regulatory supervision, it is urgent to change the current situation.

BERC-Luso will unfold at four different levels, each aiming at a specific goal in converging dynamics:

1. Legislative level. Presentation of a comparative study of the Portuguese Speaking African Partner Countries’ legislation on NECs and NRAs, and recommendations for revision, in compliance with the international requirements. The goal is to promote adequate legislation internationally recognized.

2. Educational level. Implementation of intensive and comprehensive Education Program, both theoretical and practical, reflexive and normative, ethical and legal, addressing the needs of the countries involved, within their cultural contexts, and in their own mother tongue. The goal is to promote capacity building.

3. Training level. Organization of intensive internship, demanding participants to accurately apply everything they have learned to their everyday practice. The goal is to have knowledgeable and skilled experts.

4. Networking level. Build powerful digital tools to connect partner institutions, staff and participants along the project and beyond, creating a digital repository of documents, and different tools for ethical and regulatory evaluation.

These actions converge to provide internationally recognized legislation and expertise for the development of biomedical research in view of the benefit of the population.