



## Newsletter

This issue presents several actions carried out or underway in Burkina-Faso, the first on the organization of a survey on private universities of this country, the second on the training of library staff, and the latest giving the results of our search for collaborators for the Free University of Burkina-Faso.

In addition, since USF-AWB currently has no grants, a message from the USF-AWB Treasurer completes this issue in order to help support our action throughout the world. ■

Prof. Robert Laurini, president of USF-AWB.

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### **Private higher education in Burkina-Faso: The Ministry commits an extensive verification and monitoring campaign**

The country has currently 117 private higher education institutions, all of which have signed the commitment to implement the requirements asked by the Ministry of Higher Education and research for this sector. However, from signing protocols to their applications, there may be discrepancies.



*Ms Bintou Sessouma, director of Higher Education and Ms Mariette Miningou Director of Private Education (Ministry of Higher Education), coordinators of the monitoring campaign.*

For many years, the Ministry of Higher

Education did not have the means to ascertain whether the reality of the functioning of these institutions comply with the standards set, leaving room for many drifts. This is a recurring problem in West African countries, where the Ministry of Higher Education is often unable to check the reality of the functioning of private universities and institutes.

But, everything has just changed in Burkina Faso, since a monitoring and follow-up campaign has just been put in place with a high degree of seriousness: an investigative methodology has been developed with questionnaires designed to cover the expected specifications. For this monitoring-control, the targeted points concern the administrative management, the academic and pedagogical organization (programs, evaluation procedures, profile of the teachers, conditions of admission of the students, conventions, research, ...); financial management (costs of training, salaries of staff, ...); the infrastructure and equipment and the legal provisions. Evaluation teams have been trained and sent without prior information to institutions. A thorough examination of the functioning of the higher ensign is thus committed.

This survey, which covers all the institutions of the country, is still underway. The results will be published within a few weeks. But already, some findings seem to be able to emerge. Some institutions comply with the standards

and guidelines set by the Department, but others must adapt certain aspects. The Higher Education Ministry will be there to help them reach the standards. Some are quite out of standards and will have to close.

Overall, the survey showed that the number of private institutions has been multiplied, resulting in difficulties in obtaining sufficient student enrolment. So many were forced to close. But beyond the norms not met by some, the investigation highlighted situations that needed to be updated: some institutions mentioned premises that do not exist, others settled in a wild way without declaration, etc.

The investigation will undoubtedly help to remediate the situation in this sector, which is important for the country's future. ■

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### **A training action for the staff of the Library of the Joseph Ki-Zerbo University of Ouagadougou**

A cooperation agreement between the Joseph Ki-Zerbo University of Ouagadougou and "Academics Without Borders" was signed in 2016. In this context, it was agreed to engage support actions in the priority areas of the university. The development of the Bachelor/Master/Doctorate system and research requires an adaptation of documentation. A training of the staff of the University Central Library was hence organized.



Fourteen persons belonging to the library staff of this university benefited from this training which took place from 7 to 19 April 2017, in a happily air-conditioned room of the Central University Library, while the outside thermometer displayed 46 degrees Celsius.

The director of the Library, Ms. Fatoumata MAIGA/DIALLO, curator of the establishment, was the first to show her interest in cooperation within the framework of a convention signed between this university and USF-AWB.



"We were approached by a team of the association to detect our needs in order to provide us with support. And among the needs expressed was the need for training", says the director of the Library.

During this training, mentored by Dr. Rosalba Palermi from the University of Grenoble, the various issues of representation of content and classification languages, the use and practice of bibliographic software, as well as a reflection on the role of a university library in the framework of the Bachelor/Master/Doctorate reform initiated by the university over the past few years, have been addressed.

The present people were of different levels but, to hear them, they could all use the training material and put their previous knowledge into perspective.



The satisfaction of the learners has been evident, but the needs and demands in training remain important, whether in the updating of professional techniques, the handling of new technologies or more generally the awareness of a necessary culture of information.

As this training session is completed, the exchanges will continue by email, hoping, on both sides, that the cooperation will continue. ■

## Free University of Burkina Faso



Following the request of the Free University of Burkina Faso, in Ouagadougou, concerning the teachings of communication, law and methodology of writing dissertations, our call has

generated a dozen of replies.

Indeed, it is a matter of ensuring the supervision of seminars for Master students. Academics (lecturers, professors) are hence sought in the following disciplines:

- Private judicial law,
- Urban Planning and construction law,
- Land Law,
- Corporate Finance or internal auditor,
- And communication for development.



Given their needs, we finally sent five résumés of colleagues to this university. The Rector acknowledged us, but we do not have any news on this issue at the moment.

For contact: Prof. Yves Livian, Mail: [yves.livian@laposte.net](mailto:yves.livian@laposte.net) ■

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## The Treasurer's Word

Dear colleagues, dear friends,

Our young association is already very active on many sites as you could see from the newsletters that you receive regularly. Nevertheless, its activity is based on many points from those of an NGO because the means of the organizations with which we cooperate are very limited. As a result, we have had a lot of calls for tenders which, for the time being, are suspended because of pending funding. On the other hand, USF-AWB receives no regular subsidies except membership fees.

Since you have shown us your interest in its actions, why not becoming a member? All you have to do is to send a check to the Treasurer (A. JOUANDEAU 20 Rue du Chemin de Ronde, F-38460 VILLEMORIEU) or a transfer to the order of USF-AWB which will send you the bank data of the receiving account. We thank you in advance. For any contact: [alain.jouandeau@usf-awb.org](mailto:alain.jouandeau@usf-awb.org).

PS: In any case, do not forget to send us your complete contact details with your email address. ■

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