

30Th ANNIVERSARY OF CUCA

Special edition of the

CENTRAL AFRICA STUDENTS CHALLENGE (CASC) 2021

(October – December 2021)

In all the Campuses of the Catholic University of Central Africa in Yaoundé

METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK of the Applied and Technological Sciences Paper

Theme:

**Mitigation of the negative impact in preventing the spread of a
pandemic on the health system : innovative, sustainable and efficient
alternative solutions.**

1. GENERAL INTRADUCTION

The Foreign and National Press Observatory (OPEN), in its design, its organisation and its ambition, is a Think Tank that fulfills several roles : incubator of ideas, force of proposal and catalyst of projects and programs. It is in this spirit that it contributes to the facilitation, implementation and / or promotion of Cameroonians' projects.

Today, the unconsidered HIV / AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis, Tropical Diseases, Non-Transmittable Diseases and Diseases with Epidemic Potential are still at the forefront of health concerns in the country. However, with the onset of Covid-19 in March 2020, efforts made to limit its spread have relegated the interest in the diseases caused to the background, threatening the gains in control and surveillance concerning them.

Discovered in December 2019 in China, Covid-19 spread to all continents in early 2020, becoming a pandemic. According to the WHO¹, , to date, more than 235 million cases and 4.8 million cumulative deaths have already been reported globally. In Cameroon, the situation is hardly worrying with more than 84.2 thousand cumulative cases, 1,368 deaths as of September 14, 2021, and 135 more people hospitalized, 44 of whom are under oxygen. Despite this situation, we are witnessing a relaxation in the observation of the barrier measures recommended at the start of the epidemic by the countries. As part of the response to this pandemic, the Government of Cameroon, like many States in the world, on the one hand, immediately developed and implemented a dynamic prevention and response plan, aimed at containing the spread of COVID-19, and, on the other hand, deployed a strategy of response to COVID 19 and economic resilience and social. The first pillar of this strategy, focused on the health response, includes measures that are more treatment-oriented of cases and limit the spread of the pandemic. This could jeopardize actions of the Government to strengthen the health system.

Faced with this situation, the competition organised by the CUCA within the framework of the 30th anniversary celebrations, is a suitable occasion to debate on innovative solutions to implement, hence this theme : Reduction of the negative impact related to the prevention and the spreading of a pandemic on health systems : innovative, sustainable and efficient alternative solutions.

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 General objective

Approach young students, future health actors so as to suggest, on the basis of COVID-19, innovative, sustainable and efficient alternative solutions allowing decision-makers and investors in the health sector of a country, to reduce the negative prevention impact of the spread of a pandemic on the health system.

2.1 Specific objectives

¹ www.covid19.who.int (WHO, 5 october 2021)

Each candidate is expected to :

- Write a brief summary of notes about COVID-19 pandemic : history, epidemiology, treatment including prevention worldwide ;
- Present a brief analysis of the situation (locoregional and nationwide) as well as one's personal experience of COVID-19 ;
- Draw a list (non exhaustive) of main actions undertaken to stop the COVID-19 pandemic as well as innovative technologies in the domaine of health;
- Carry out a SWOT analysis of of main actions undertaken to curb the spreading of COVID-19 pandemic and their impact on the improvement of Cameroon's health system ;
- Suggest, from a global analysis (of effects of the prevention of COVID-19 on the health system described or experienced), innovative, sustainable and efficient alternative solutions to reduce the prevention impact of the spread of a pandemic (such as COVID-19) on Cameroon's health system, and outline the main stages for modeling.

3. METHODOLOGY

The competition includes 3 steps

The preliminary step : enrollment of teams on the competition website ;

The short-list of works step : short-list of best works for the final phase. This step is supervised by the preselection jury ;

The final step : oral presentation and defense of projects by teams before the Grand Jury.

4. EXPECTED RESULTS

- Innovative, sustainable and efficient alternative solutions to reduce the prevention impact of the spread of a pandemic (such as COVID-19) on Cameroon's health system, are proposed ;
- Mains steps to modelling are designed.