

**Decision No. EI-2024-25 on the accreditation of the WASCAL Master Research Programme in Informatics for Climate Change delivered by Joseph Ki-Zerbo University, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso**

**The President of the High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education,**

Considering the Research Code, in particular Articles L. 114-3-1 to L. 114-3-6;

Considering the Board's deliberation of 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022 on the accreditation criteria for international study programmes (except doctorates/PhDs);

Considering the Decision No. 2023-9 of 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023 on the international accreditation procedure of the High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education;

Considering the agreement DEL\_20220407 of 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022 - for the evaluation/accreditation of seven training courses, delivered by training and research centres affiliated to the WASCAL network in seven sub-Saharan African countries;

Having regard to the opinion of the Accreditation Commission of 25 April

Considering the opinion issued by the Accreditation Commission on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024;

**Decides:**

**Article 1**

Noting that the Master Research Programme in Informatics for Climate Change delivered by Joseph Ki-Zerbo University in Burkina Faso meets the four accreditation criteria, voted by the Board of the High Council on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022, as follows:

**ACCREDITATION CRITERION 1: TEACHING POLICY AND CHARACTERISATION**

The Master's Research Programme on Informatics and Climate Change (MRP-ICC) aligns well with the ambitions of the WASCAL network, boasting a highly-relevant and cross-cutting focus on data sciences. This uniqueness distinguishes it from other WASCAL programmes; however, its title and positioning vis-a-vis other programmes focusing on data sciences and their application to climate change remains somewhat unclear. The MRP fosters international mobility for students by funding research internships in Western Africa and Germany, as well as supporting their participation in international conferences. The host university does not include laboratories or research centres directly linked with informatics or data sciences. The MRP relies on external research centres and partners for research. It has only interacted with a few socio-economic partners so far.

**ACCREDITATION CRITERION 2: THE PEDAGOGICAL ORGANISATION OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME**

The course programme is consistent with the objectives of the MRP, and involves diverse and suitable pedagogical modalities. However, it lacks a skill-based approach, especially for skills related to information and communication technologies. Establishing a formal mechanism to harmonize prerequisite knowledge among students from various disciplinary backgrounds appears essential to facilitate their integration effectively. Master's students are adequately prepared for international mobility, which is an integral part of their curriculum. Courses involve only a limited number of socio-economic partners, considering the broad potential scope of applying data sciences to climate change issues.

**ACCREDITATION CRITERION 3: ATTRACTIVENESS, PERFORMANCE AND RELEVANCE OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME**

The MRP currently relies on generic channels to advertise its curriculum, resulting in variable responses that require further clarification. Notably, women are under-represented in the students' batches. Despite this, all Master's students have successfully completed the programme so far. However, there is a need to enhance job integration surveys and refine the identification of job markets for graduates.

## ACCREDITATION CRITERION 4: MANAGEMENT AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME

The MRP is managed by a pedagogical team whose composition and responsibilities are well-defined. It is financially supported by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, which provides dedicated support staff and adequate resources for all aspects of the programme. Efforts should be made to prevent changes in schedules and minimise delays. The formalisation of student feedback and course evaluations within the MRP's quality assurance process requires improvement.

### Article 2

The Master Research Programme in Informatics for Climate Change delivered by Joseph Ki-Zerbo University in Burkina Faso is accredited for a period of 3 years, which may be extended for two years, subject to a follow-up that may include an on-site visit.

### Article 3

The decision is accompanied by the following recommendations and comments:

- Adjust the programme's title to reflect its core foci and objectives.
- Increase the proportion of women in the Master's recruitment through an in-depth analysis of applications.
- Formalise the use of data collected via students' feedback forms to ensure a continuous improvement of courses.
- Deploy a skill-based approach in the training programme.
- Implement a harmonized approach to enhancing scientific knowledge to better leverage the diversity of incoming students' backgrounds, akin to the approach employed for English and French language instruction.
- Consolidate the local teaching team and strengthen links with the relevant research laboratories of UJKZ.

### Article 4

This decision will be published on the Hcéres website.

Paris, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

The acting President  
signed  
Stéphane Le Boulter