

Bi-Annual Newsletter

Issue 1 • October 2021



EU Africa PerMed

WELCOME TO THE EU-AFRICA PERMED PROJECT

The EU-Africa project on Personalised Medicine (EU-Africa PerMed) welcomes you to the first ever newsletter.

To set the stage, we want to start by giving a brief background about our cutting edge project, themed "Building Links between Europe and Africa in Personalised Medicine".

As per the project name, we are aiming at integrating African countries into CPerMed activities, envisaged to contribute to a successful implementation of Personalised Medicine (PM) in the global context and foster joint PM projects and programmes between Europe and Africa, as well as strengthening bilateral EU-AU science, technology and innovation (STI) relations in the area of health.

The EU-Africa PerMed is four (4) year project that was launched on the 1st of February 2021 and implemented by a consortium of 13 partners from both Europe and Africa.

BUILDING LINKS BETWEEN EUROPE AND AFRICA IN PERSONALISED MEDICINE

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- 13th African Society of Human Genetic
- 18th meeting of H3Africa
- EDCTP Forum

Up coming Events

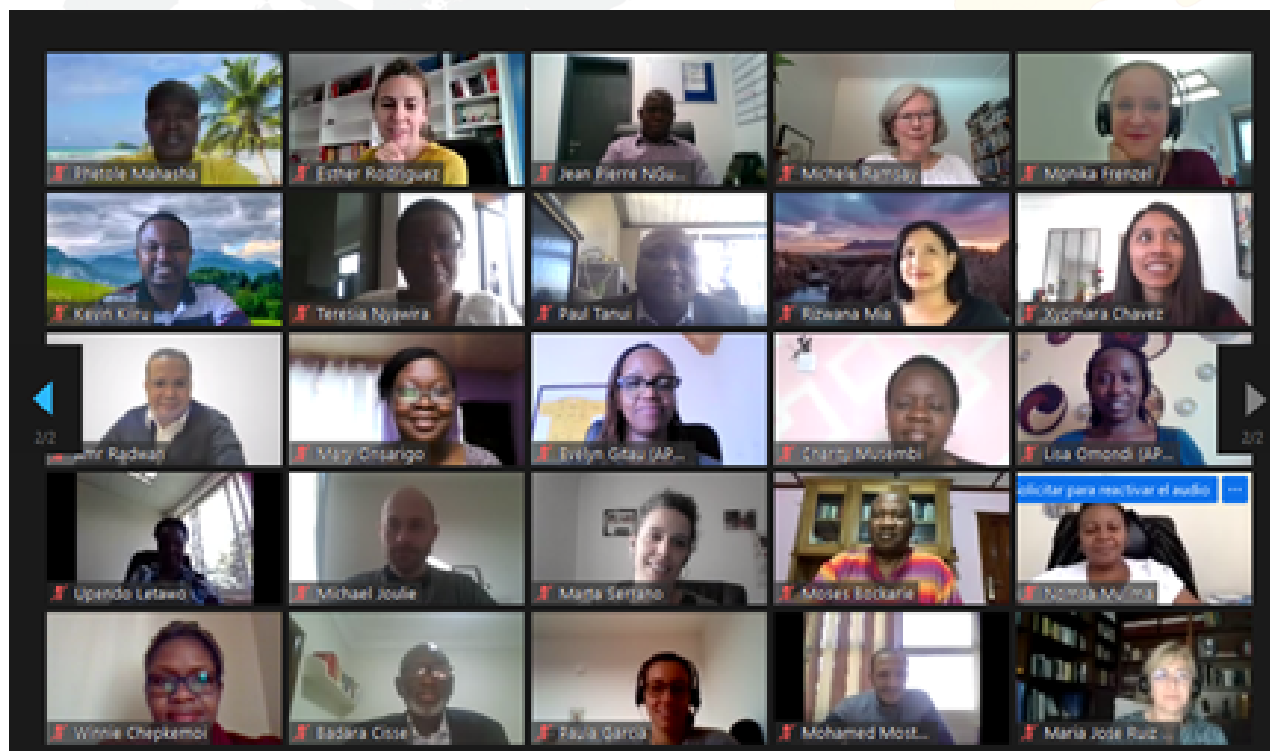
- 4th EU-Africa PerMed Family Meeting
- EU-Africa PerMed Online Information Day
- EU-Africa PerMed 1st Stakeholder workshop

EU-AFRICA PERMED LAUNCHES THE PROJECT



2021 marked a greater milestone to this ground-breaking project themed "Linking Europe to Africa in Personalized Medicine". The project kick-off meeting took place on the 4th of March 2021. Due to the COVID19 pandemic and existing travel restrictions, the meeting took place online, using the ZOOM platform. The meeting was hosted by the project coordinators INNOVATEC.

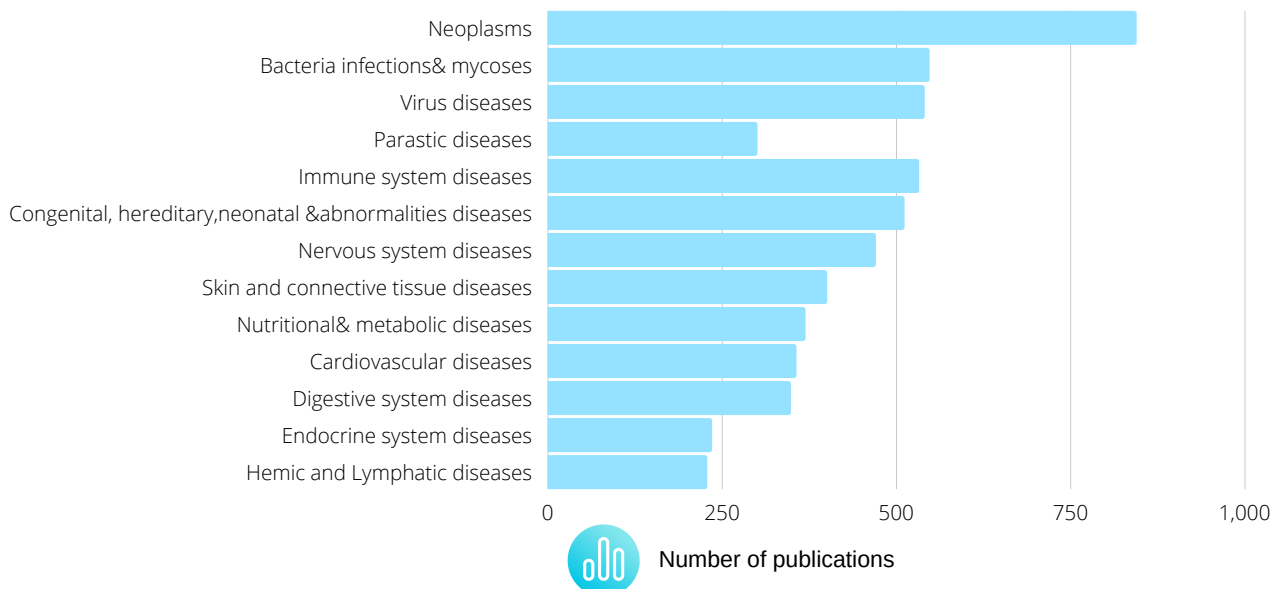
During this meeting, consortium members agreed to use one definition for Personalized Medicine, as used by the European council "a medical model using characterization of individuals' phenotypes and genotypes (e.g. molecular profiling, medical imaging, lifestyle data) for tailoring the right therapeutic strategy for the right person at the right time, and/or to determine the predisposition to disease and/or to deliver timely and targeted prevention".



RESULTS OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND POLICY MAPPING EXERCISE RELEASED

We are excited to share the preliminary findings of the Scientific and Policy Mapping exercise which the project was conducting since February 2021. The study was commissioned to gain knowledge on health, Research and Innovation and on policy landscape in Africa with specific focus on Personalized Medicine.

The review also found that there is an increase in the number of articles between 2011 and 2020, even more evidenced when comparing Bacterial infection related publications (14-times increase), followed by Cardiovascular (11-times increase), and virus diseases (almost 8-times increase).



This is also one of the project deliverables. We deployed two main tasks to gather the information: Bibliometric analysis of recent scientific literature to describe the scientific landscape of Personalized Medicine (PM) in Africa and Review of health R&I policy landscape in African countries.

As a summary, almost 82% of the articles found were related to the 13 disease categories as highlighted on figure above, predominantly infectious diseases, followed by cancer, immune systems and nervous system diseases.

The South African and Egyptian institutions: University of Cape Town, Cairo University, University of Stellenbosch, South African Medical Research Council and Ain Shams University are the leading institutions with respect to the number of articles.



The full report will be shared on the project website

www.euafrica-permed.eu/



Past events

1 Participation at the 13th African Society of Human Genetics and the 18th meeting of the H3Africa Consortium.

The meeting was held virtually between 31st August- 4th September 2021 where the EU-Africa PerMed poster was shared. ECSA-HC represented the EU-Africa PerMed consortium.

2 Participation at the 10th EDCTP forum.

Themed “ Equity in Research for Health” held between the 17th-21st October 2021, where the consortium participated virtually, making a presentation to increase the project’s visibility.

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Upcoming events

The 4th EU-Africa PerMed Family meeting

Is planned for the 25th November 2021

EU-Africa PerMed Online Information Day

A 1-hour webinar to learn about the project: its objectives, planned activities and expected results.

1st December 2021 at 11:00A am (CET) - ENGLISH

13th December 2021 at 11:00 am (CET) - FRENCH

More information and registration available in the project website

EU-Africa PerMed 1st Stakeholder workshop

Will take place as a hybrid event, on the 9-10th of February 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya.

If you are interested in participating please contact the project coordinators (erika.sela@innovatec.es)