

Newsletter



Issue 3 November • 2022

EU Africa PerMed

**WELCOME TO THE EU-AFRICA
PERMED PROJECT**

Welcome all, we hope that you will enjoy reading our 3rd Newsletter with highlights of the ongoing of our EU-Africa PerMed. We aim to integrate African countries into the International Consortium for Personalised Medicine activities, thus contributing to a successful implementation of Personalised Medicine (PM) globally.

EU  Africa
PerMed

BUILDING LINKS BETWEEN EUROPE AND AFRICA IN PERSONALISED MEDICINE

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VISION FOR PM IN AFRICA: THE NEED FOR A REGIONAL APPROACH

Substantial progress has been made to ensure patients have access to individualized treatments. The majority of pharmaceuticals conduct trials to understand genetic populations using both preclinical models and population cohorts. These efforts have however been less inclusive especially of the African continent. Despite the unparalleled genetic diversity, Africa remains largely underrepresented in research which may lead to inaccessibility of these innovations to this population. The EU-Africa PerMed project's objective is to integrate African countries into ICPeMed (International Consortium of Personalised Medicine). This will foster joint Precision Medicine (PM) projects and programmes between Europe and Africa, strengthen bilateral EU-AU Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) relations in the area of health and therefore contribute to a successful implementation of PM in the global context.

With the development of EU-Africa PerMed Consortium of stakeholders from various regions of Africa, dialogues and discussions are being facilitated to understand the gaps and guide policy for PM. This regional approach is important in that it ensures grounds for mutual learning and facilitate development of context relevant strategies for implementing PM. Incorporating African countries in the global PM agenda will ensure equity by reducing health disparities between developed and developing countries, as well as facilitate access of African countries to new tools and technologies that have the potential to make healthcare more efficient to better tackle the growing global burden of infectious diseases and noninfectious diseases. We acknowledge the funding support from the European Commission Horizon 2020 programme.

Dr. Godfrey Sama.

Project Highlights

EU-Africa PerMed consortium finally meets in Nairobi (Kenya)

On 12th July 2022, the EU-Africa PerMed consortium had its first onsite consortium meeting in Nairobi Kenya, hosted by the Kenya National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI). This was 18 months since the project started, which gave the members of the consortium an opportunity to finally discuss face to face on the evolution of the project under different work packages and exchange views with the members of the Advisory Board who managed to attend the meeting. The 1st regional stakeholder workshop was also conducted, for two days. This workshop was an important milestone for the project, as it provided a first opportunity to discuss with stakeholders from East Africa countries, about Personalised Medicine, main challenges facing the region and opportunities for collaboration with Europe. Otherwise, we continue to host ongoing work package meetings to discuss and ensure that all stakeholders are clearly engaged.



First face to face consortium



meeting in Kenya family photo

Project Highlights

East Africa regional stakeholder workshop

A two-day stakeholder workshop was held at the Winsor Golf Hotel and Country Club in Nairobi Kenya, between the 13th and 14th July 2022 and was organised by the National Commission for Science Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) on behalf of the EU-Africa PerMed project. It brought together over 70 participants from health systems policy makers, researchers, funding agencies, scientific societies, regional technology developers and international organisations in the field of Personalised Medicine (PM) and health research institutions. As the host for the meeting, NACOSTI, represented by Mr. Gideon Kirui, the Director in charge of Finance and Administration. Dr Jean-Luc Sanne, Policy officer at the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, gave an overview of the EC strategic focus, highlighting opportunities for collaboration between Europe and Africa on PM and how African organisations can leverage on EC opportunities to strengthen implementation of PM in Africa.

For more information, please visit our website and read our [Press releases - EU-Africa PerMed \(euafrica-permed.eu\)](#)

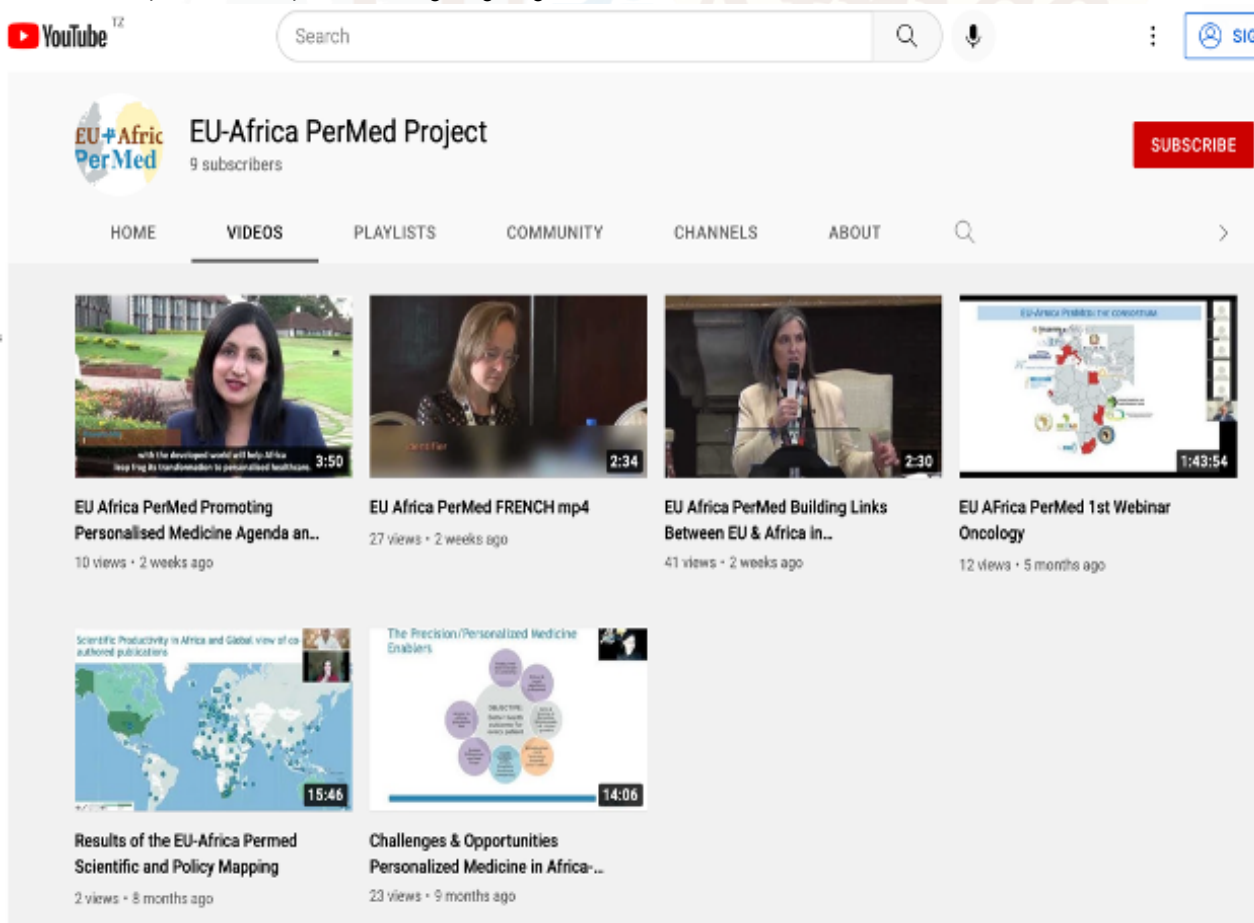


Group Photo of Workshop Participants

Project Highlights

EU-Africa PerMed launches its Project videos

We are delighted to announce the launching of our project videos, currently available in English and French. We highlight the work of EU-Africa PerMed in Building Links Between EU & Africa in Personalised Medicine, identifying areas of mutual interest, collaboration between Africa and Europe and how you can be involved in these initiatives. Regional stakeholder workshops and discussions on PM agenda in the different countries and regions and together identify challenges and opportunities for collaboration with Europe and integration the African continent in the International Consortium for Personalized Medicine (ICPerMed) are being highlighted.



The screenshot shows the YouTube channel page for the EU-Africa PerMed Project. The channel has 9 subscribers. The video grid displays six videos:

- EU Africa PerMed Promoting Personalised Medicine Agenda an...**
10 views • 2 weeks ago
- EU Africa PerMed FRENCH mp4**
27 views • 2 weeks ago
- EU Africa PerMed Building Links Between EU & Africa in...**
41 views • 2 weeks ago
- EU Africa PerMed 1st Webinar Oncology**
12 views • 5 months ago
- Results of the EU-Africa PerMed Scientific and Policy Mapping**
2 views • 8 months ago
- Challenges & Opportunities Personalized Medicine in Africa...**
23 views • 9 months ago

To watch the videos and learn more please visit and subscribe to our: EU-AFRICA PerMed Project - YouTube Channel



Ethics and Regulations of Personalized Medicine (PM) in Africa

On 29 September 2022, the first series of online webinars was conducted on PM Ethics and Regulations in Africa. The purpose of these webinars was to bring together members of National Ethics committees for an hour and half round table on PM's ethical and regulatory aspects. The key themes are the following: ethical and regulatory aspects. The key themes were the following; To introduce PM to ethical committees and PM for regulatory bodies in Africa, raise awareness on PM challenges for ethical committees and PM for regulatory bodies. These meetings were moderated by Prof Patrice Debre (Academy of Medicine, France) assisted by and Prof Souleymane Mboup (IRESSEF, Senegal).

Member

News: Project events

1st EU-Africa PerMed Summer School

Save the date! The EU-Africa PerMed project will host the first interactive training event that will take place in Cape Town, South Africa from 23rd to 24th February, 2023. This will focus on **"Standards and best practices in personalized medicine research"**. Stay tuned for more information on the program and the registration modalities that will be shared in our website and social media. Please keep an eye in our website for more information: <https://www.euafrica-permed.eu/1st-eu-africa-permed-summer-school>

2nd Stakeholder workshop

We are hoping to conduct a 2nd Stakeholder workshop hosted by the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC), planned to take place in South Africa from 20-21 Feb 2023, with contribution from other consortium members. The stakeholder workshop aims to bring together around 70-80 key stakeholders from Africa, including health system policymakers, regulators, researchers, funding agencies and science councils, health care providers, scientific societies, industry, regional, technology developers and international organisations. The workshop will support the identification and collection of areas of mutual interest between Africa and Europe and discuss options for collaboration. Participation in the workshop will be through invitation only. If you are interested, please contact the project (info@euafrica-permed.eu).

Upcoming Webinar

Join us on a live webinar on Experience, Opportunities and Challenges of Implementing Personalised Medicine in Africa on 23 November, 16h00 EAT. This webinar is organized by the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC). The session will be moderated by Evelyn Gitau of APHRC bringing three panelists: Dr Yaw Bediako from Yeemachi Biotech, Professor Julie Makani from the Muhimbili University of Health and Dr Godfrey Sama from ECSA College of Science.

Register for the webinar here: Register here:

<https://bit.ly/3SUvard>.

20th Anniversary of the African Union
EU-Africa PerMed
European Union

WEBINAR SESSION

Experiences, Opportunities, and Challenges of Implementing Personalised Medicine in Africa

November 23, 2022 | 4 - 5 pm, EAT (2 - 3 pm, CET)

Scan to register or visit: <https://bit.ly/3SUvard>

Moderator
Dr. Evelyn Gitau
Director of Research and Related Capacity Strengthening, APHRC, Kenya

Speakers

Dr. Yaw Bediako
Co-Founder and CEO, Yeemachi Biotech, Ghana

Prof. Julie Makani
Physician Scientist, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, Tanzania

Dr. Godfrey Sama
Research and Patient Outcome Coordinator, ECSA Health Community, Tanzania

Upcoming External events

African Union (AU) – European Union (EU) Innovation Agenda

The 1st Research and Innovation Ministerial Meeting of the AU-EU High-Level Policy Dialogue on Science, Technology and Innovation⁷ (HLPD on STI) met in 2020 and agreed to focus on cooperation efforts in four priority areas, namely: Public Health, Green transition, Innovation & Technology, and Capacities for Science. Ministers also agreed to start developing the joint AU-EU Innovation Agenda which provides an outline of actions to be taken in partnership with Africa to boost smart, clean and secure links in digital, energy and transport and, also strengthen health, education and research systems across the world.

As part of this initiative, the EC and the AU are organizing the AU-EU Innovation Agenda Stakeholder Event, that will take place in Nairobi from 23–24 November 2022 to review the drafted AU-EU Innovation Agenda. This presents a culmination of a stakeholder dialogue process started in February this year, to seek feedback and input from citizens and organisations on the draft version of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda. Strengthening Research and Innovation (R&I) cooperation between the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU) is a key priority, as R&I contributes to enhancing sustainable and inclusive economic growth and job generation, thereby reducing poverty and inequalities. Designing and implementing new and innovative methods and tools to counteract future health threats due to long standing, (re)emerging, or antimicrobial resistant pathogens, and to promote One Health and precision medicine, in a changing environment is among their long-term public health actions. Feedback and input received during this Stakeholder Event will be taken into account in the preparation of the final version of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda, that will be presented to the 2nd Research and Innovation Ministerial Meeting of the AU-EU HLPD on STI in 2023 for adoption. Please find more information at: <https://aeu-innovationagenda-stakeholderevent.com/>

We are pleased to announce that EU-Africa PerMed will be represented in this important event by our colleague Teresia Nyawira, from NACOSTI, who will act as rapporteur of the thematic session on Public health, that will take place on the first day.



Home Programme Download Venue Contact Us → Registration



New upcoming funding and collaboration opportunities in the field of Personalised Medicine: The European Partnership for Personalised Medicine (EP PerMed) under Horizon Europe

European Partnerships (EP) are new instruments of the European Commission (EC) under the Horizon Europe framework programme, where national and regional funders join forces, strategies and budget in defined areas of action. So far, 49 EPs are foreseen in total and nine of these are in the Cluster "Health". The European Partnership for Personalised Medicine, acronym: EP PerMed, is one of the proposed EPs and is dedicated to personalised medicine (PM). A draft proposal for the EP PerMed was already published by the EC.

The expected total budget for 7-10 years by the European Member States, associated countries and the EC will be over 300 Million Euros. Besides joint transnational calls (JTC) dedicated to PM research, other activities are planned, like events, strategic publication, communication platforms, demonstration pilots or surveys. The basis of these activities are described in the proposal and put into action during the EP PerMed runtime (~2023-2033), will be a Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA), which is currently in preparation.

International collaboration is keen and foreseen in this upcoming EP PerMed, through different means, e.g. active participation of international organisations in the EP PerMed activities as member or partner or through the different activities as outlined above. The EP PerMed proposal submission will take place in 2023 and the partnership is supposed to be launched by the end of 2023.

World Science Forum Side event

SAMRC, on behalf of EU-Africa PerMed, will organize a side event during the next World Science Forum (<https://worldscienceforum.org/>) in Cape Town, south Africa. The event, titled: EU-Africa PerMed - Building Links Between Europe and Africa in Personalised Medicine, 6th December 2022 @14:00-16:00 (S. Africa time). During the session, together with a presentation of the vision of the EU Programs in PM and the EU-Africa PerMed project, invited participants from different African regions and stakeholder groups (policy makers, researchers, funding agencies) will discuss aspects such as

- What is the scientific and policy landscape of PM in Africa?
- The gaps and needs of PM in Africa?
- How does Africa pursue developing a continental agenda for personalised medicine with a regional focus? • How would international collaboration between Africa and Europe or rather inter-African regional collaboration be useful to increase the level of awareness and understanding of PM among policy makers?
- How can African countries prioritise PM in national health/research strategies and what role can international research funding programmes play?
- The discussions will foster core stakeholder opinion from academia, government/policy makers and industry to understand the mutual benefit for collaboration.

A preliminary draft agenda and the registration for are available in the project website (<https://www.euafrica-permed.eu/world-science-forum-side-event/>)

During the months of December 2022 and January 2023, the project will organize different regional meetings to interact with stakeholders from the North, South, West and Central Africa, following the similar approach taken in the East Africa Regional Stakeholder workshop. Information about this meeting can be found in the project website: <https://www.euafrica-permed.eu/1st-regional-stakeholder-workshop-kenya/>

For any question around the EP PerMed, please contact the EP PerMed drafting group: eppermed@dlr.de

71st HEALTH MINISTERS CONFERENCE



On 5th to 7th February 2023, the East Central and Southern African Health Community (ECSA HC) in collaboration with Member States and Partners will host “Best Practices Forum (BPF)”, bringing together Senior Health Officials, experts, health researchers and heads of health training institutions from ECSA-HC member states and other countries in eastern and southern Africa, and beyond. The aim of the forum is

to identify Best and promising Practices and key policy issues and approaches emanating from the conference themes and sub-themes for approval by the Conference of Health Ministers on 7th to 8th February 2023. EU-AFRICA PerMed Project will be represented and showcase the work that we do to implement Precision Medicine in the region.

For more information please visit: [13th Best Practices Forum \(BPF\) and 28th Directors Joint Consultative Conference \(DJCC\) Meeting](#)

ICPerMed UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Update on the International Consortium for Personalised Medicine (ICPerMed)

The International Consortium for Personalised Medicine (ICPerMed) was initiated in 2016 with the aim of providing a flexible framework for cooperation between its member organisations.

Together, they:

- Support the personalised medicine science base through a coordinated research approach.
- Support research to investigate the benefits of personalised medicine to citizens and healthcare systems.
- Pave the way for personalised medicine approaches for citizens.

We are pleased to announce that the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) recently joined the ICPerMed consortium as first African country representative! More information is available [here](#). The SAMRC is the largest funder of health research in Africa with a key focus on the translation of research into new or improved policies, practices, processes and products to improve health outcomes.

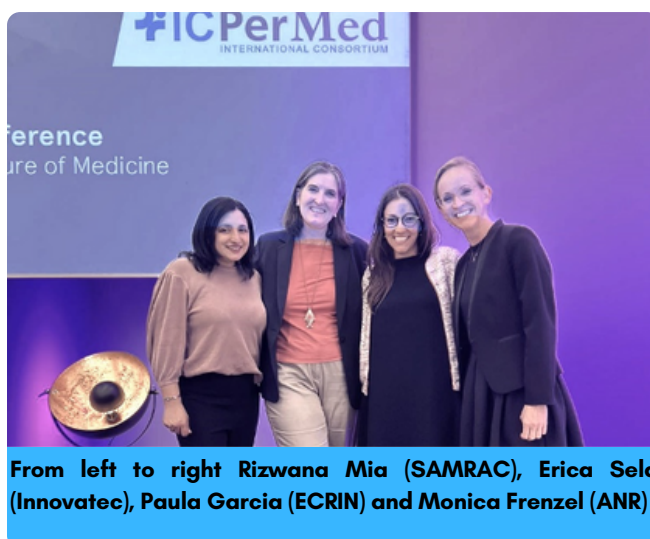
Members of ICPerMed



Figure 1: ICPerMed's members map is a derivative of "World Map for Web Data Visualizations" by Al MacDonald, used under CC BY-SA 3.0.

Past Events

On 5-6 October 2022, ICPeMed hosted the hybrid conference entitled “ICPeMed Conference – Prelude to the Future of Medicine” in Paris. This event was organised by the ICPeMed Secretariat partner the French National Research Agency (ANR, also part of the EU-Africa PerMed project) and brought together about two hundred participants onsite and online from more than 30 countries. More information and the video recording are available here: https://www.icpermed.eu/en/ICPerMed_Conference_2022.html



The second ICPeMed Training entitled “Personalised Medicine Research: Ethical and Legal Aspects of Biobanking and Data Management” took place virtually on 10 October, with 130 international participants. A short summary can be found here: <https://icpermed.eu/en/996.php>

For more information about ICPeMed, please visit the website: <https://www.icpermed.eu/index.php>

Follow ICPeMed through social media:

- Twitter: [@ICPerMed](https://twitter.com/ICPerMed)
- LinkedIn: [ICPerMed](https://www.linkedin.com/company/icpermed) – The International Consortium for Personalised Medicine

Update on the ERA-Net co-fund ERA PerMed – joint funding opportunities

In December 2021, the research funding programme ERA PerMed launched its fifth joint transnational call, JTC2022, with the support of 33 funding organisations from 26 countries on “Prevention in Personalised Medicine”: <https://erapermed.isciii.es/joint-calls/joint-transnational-call-2022/>

The aim of this call was to promote innovative interdisciplinary collaboration and to encourage translational research proposals on the topic of prevention in personalised medicine. The overarching goal was the development of tailor-made strategies for prevention of disease and disease progression, at three different levels:

- Preventive measures decreasing the rate of incidence (primary prevention)
- Early detection to increase the efficacy of a preventive therapy, even before symptoms are developed (secondary prevention)
- Interventions preventing disease recurrence or improving patients’ care and quality of life (tertiary prevention).

The South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC, South Africa) joined together with one international organisation from Taiwan and two European organisations (from Lithuania and Sweden) the ERA PerMed JTC2022 for the first time. The joining of these funding agencies represents ERA PerMed’s strive to promote international standards and global collaboration in the field of personalised medicine. 171 eligible pre-proposals, comprising of 894 participants, were submitted out of which 60 project consortia were invited to submit a full-proposal. The full-proposal final evaluation took place in September. We can already announce that one project with a coordinator located in South Africa was recommended and selected for funding. More information will follow in the next EU-Africa PerMed newsletter.

SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

We keep growing our network of stakeholders to facilitate the development of PM in the region. If you would like to join and also receive our Newsletter please sign up at:

For more information about EU-AFRICA PerMed please visit:



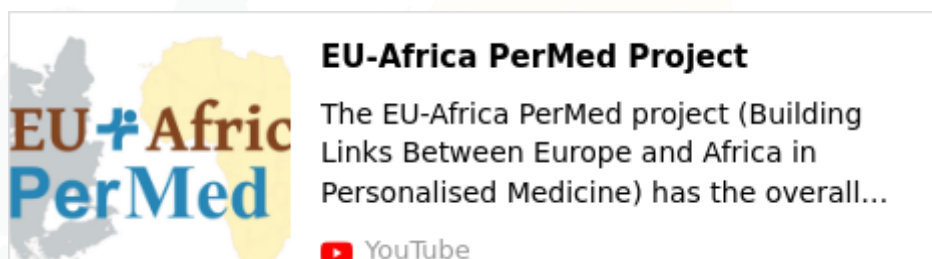
Website: <https://www.euafrica-permed.eu/>



Twitter: [@EU_AfricaPerMed](https://twitter.com/EU_AfricaPerMed)



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/eu-africa-permed-project/>



Contact us:

Ronda de Valdecarrizo 41B.

28760 Tres Cantos (Spain) Phone: +34

918049020 info@euafrica-permed.eu



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