

Newsletter

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EU Africa PerMed

WELCOME TO THE EU-AFRICA PERMED PROJECT

From the editor

Our 1st issue of the EU-Africa PerMed newsletter that was released in November 2021 received interest not only from the EU-Africa PerMed family but other external experts who work around the area of Personalized Medicine (PM) included in the mailing list. Thank you all for showing interest and support to the PM agenda. Through your support, our footprint has taken baby-steps towards linking Europe to Africa on Personalised Medicine and we are optimistic of future collaborations that we be built through this initiative, Bravo!

Personalised medicine is a topic of increasing importance globally as well as for our work. Our project commonly known as “Linking Europe to Africa on Personalised Medicine also known as EU-Africa PerMed” was launched in February 2021, bringing together 13 consortium members from both Europe and Africa. Since the project inception, consortium members have been working together to create and strengthen linkages between Europe and Africa, sharing experiences, research findings and innovations to expand knowledge of PM especially in Africa. The net has been cast wider during the 1st year of implementation, attracting newer partnerships and collaborations in PM for both Africa and Europe.

We are again delighted to release the 2nd issue of our newsletter, which mirrors the already existing forum, EU-Africa PerMed, which continues to improve the linkage between the 2 continents. This issue serves to exchange information, knowledge, research and innovations and also share upcoming events in PM around the world.

BUILDING LINKS BETWEEN EUROPE AND AFRICA IN PERSONALISED MEDICINE

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EU-Africa PerMed Online Information Day

On 1st and 13th Dec 2021 the EU-Africa PerMed Project was delighted to host a one-hour webinar on English and the later on French that focused at promoting the project towards the stakeholder's workshop which was scheduled between 9th and 10th Feb 2021 in Nairobi. The Online Information Day webinar was officiated by welcoming remarks from the European Commission, Directorate-General of Research and Innovation, Dr. Indridi Benediktsson, Policy Officer. In his opening remarks he emphasized on the importance of the project and the need for research in personalized medicine around the world as well as the fruitful collaboration between Europe and Africa through this project. ***“The project aims to boost dialogue, discussions and a learning platform as Africa has lots of knowledge of treating many diseases that are not common in Europe.”*** Dr. Indridi Benediktsson. Followed by presentations from the project coordinator that highlighted the objectives, planned activities, and expected results. Dr. Michael Joulie, ICPeMed Secretariat made a presentation that elaborated on the opportunities that societies can benefit from personalized medicine and the increased commitment for investment in PM and regional and national level. The webinar was a strong platform for stakeholders to take a deep dive of the project which was then coupled by questions and answers that clarified issues.



For details about the webinar click the
link
<https://www.euafrica-permed.eu/eu-africa-permed-online-information-day-english/>

EU-Africa PerMed Regional Stakeholder meetings

The EU-Africa PerMed project hosted its 1st Stakeholder workshop between 9th and 10th February 2022 themed **“IDENTIFYING AND PRIORITISING PERSONALISED MEDICINE NEEDS IN AFRICA”**. The stakeholder workshop was organized by the Kenya National Commission for Science Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) on behalf of the EU-Africa PerMed project.

The workshop brought together over 200 key PM stakeholders from 41 different countries in Africa and Europe. Participants had been identified through a mapping exercise from 6 stakeholder groups, including health Research Organizations, Research and Innovation Funders, Health System Policy Makers, Healthcare Providers, Industry and Private Businesses, and Civil Society Organizations. The aim of the workshop was to discuss the perceptions of PM in Africa, the main challenges and opportunities of PM in Africa and potential advantages for closer collaboration with Europe. Initially the workshop was planned to take place in Nairobi Kenya to enable face-to-face contact of stakeholders and EU-Africa PerMed family members, however due to COVID-19 travel restrictions a virtual meeting was inevitable.

During the first day participants learned about the project, the ICPeMed consortium and the vision from the European Commission about EU-Africa collaboration in PM. Presentations from different African speakers provided an overview of Personalised Medicine in Africa and across the different regions and participants were able to discuss with them about the challenges and opportunities for its implementation in Africa. The Workshop involved round table discussions and a series of break-out sessions on different thematic areas which were organized in a participative way to gain input from all stakeholders. The workshop was a success as objectives of the workshop were established and partners were able to interact and share experiences from both Europe and Africa which is the core business of the project.

The second day of the workshop was devoted to in-depth discussions to better identify PM needs and opportunities in Africa, using as a starting point the results of the preworkshop survey. Also, the South Africa Precision Medicine Programme was showcased as an example of initiatives taken at country level. The agenda was completed by a roundtable that gathered eminent scientists who discussed the opportunities the EU-AU collaboration may bring in respect to Personalised Medicine, and how these opportunities can be addressed, i.e focusing first at regional level, imitating role models such as EDCTP and rethinking the north-south relationship, to enable sustainable solutions for PM implementation.

EU-Africa PerMed Regional Stakeholder meetings



Recommendations emanating from the workshop included:

- Application of a multipronged PM approach to support advancement of PM in Africa, with continental/regional efforts guiding in agenda setting, while countries are left to set priorities, implementation and allocation of resources
- Strengthening and harmonization of ethical and regulatory aspects, at least at regional level
- Advocacy for PM, focusing on funding to support training and infrastructure development
- Awareness creation and communicating the value of PM to the society as well as engaging and empowering the community
- Channeling efforts towards characterizing African Genome to bring to light the genetic diversity of the African population and fostering genomics of infectious diseases.
- EU-Africa PerMed project to work towards strengthening the collaboration in PM between Africa and Europe considering the regional/national differences across African countries, focusing on real African needs and demands that will be identified together with African stakeholders, and contribute towards advancing in the development of PM in Africa and its integration in the global PM agenda.



For details about the workshop visit the project website

www.euafrica-permed.eu/

EU-Africa PerMed Regional Stakeholder meetings

EU-Africa PerMed is coming to your region in Africa to discuss about Personalised Medicine

As one of the major outcomes of the first Stakeholder Workshop that took place in February this year, EU-Africa PerMed is organising several regional meetings in Africa in the course of 2022: at least one meeting in each region, i.e. North, South, East, West and Central Africa. The meetings will be held virtually or, if possible, in person and bring together stakeholders from the different regions to continue the discussions we started during the first workshop:

- What is Personalised/Precision Medicine and what can this approach can bring to your country/region?
- What initiatives in Africa and Europe are already existing and how you can contribute?
- What are your interests in this field?

EU-Africa PerMed would like to understand:

- The status of development in the field of Personalised Medicine in your country and region.
- What are the needs and interests of your country/region for collaboration in this field?
- Is there any message, need or wish that EU-Africa PerMed can bring forward towards policy makers, the AU-EU policy dialogue and other initiatives in the field of Personalised Medicine?

If you are interested in attending, co-hosting or sponsoring one of the regional meetings organised by EU-Africa PerMed, please contact us: <https://www.euafrica-permed.eu/contact/>. We are looking forward to meeting you!



Upcoming Project events

1

The East Africa Regional Personalized Medicine Stakeholders meeting

This 1,5 day workshop will gather stakeholders from East Africa countries to explore and analyse the potential and advantages of collaboration of Africa and Europe in the field of PM and identify areas of mutual interest and added value. The meeting will be hosted by the National Commission of Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI). Scheduled to take place on the 12th and 13th of July 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya.

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1st First EU-Africa PerMed Webinar "Oncology: Personalised Medicine approach"

The 1st Webinar of a series of webinars and training activities with the objective to support the translation of Personalised Medicine research into practice and to create network between European and African researchers. Information about this webinar and details to register are available in the project website.

Scheduled on 17th May 2022 , 12:00 (CET, Rome)

More information and registration available in the project website

Announcements

ECSCA 13th Best Practice Forum & 29th Directors Joint Consultative Committee Meeting.

Venue: Nairobi.

Dates: 13 to 15 July 2022

For More Info about the Conference Click the Link:

<https://ecsahc.org/the-13th-best-practices-forum-and-29th-directors-joint-consultative-committee-meeting/>

EAPM Presidency Conference: Determining a path for optimal integration of Access & Diagnostics for All & Public Health Genomics

Dates: Tuesday, April 5th, 2022.

For More Info about the Conference Click the Link:

<https://www.euapm.eu/events,94.html>

Have your say! The Public Consultation on the AU-EU Innovation Agenda is open for feedback until the 13th of May 2022.

For More Info Click the Link:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/IAPublicConsultation>

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