



**EU AFRICA PerMed 2<sup>nd</sup> Stakeholder Workshop**  
**On-site Event: 20-21 FEBRUARY 2023**  
**Cape Town International Convention Centre in Cape Town, South Africa**  
**Local Hosts: South African Medical Research Council**

### **Introduction**

**EU-Africa PerMed** initiative is set to *Building Links Between Europe and Africa in Personalised Medicine*. This project is funded by the European Commission Horizon 2020 programme (Grant Agreement Number 964333) and has the final objective of integrating more African countries in the development of a global Personalised Medicine (PM) research agenda by facilitating their participation in the activities of the International Consortium for Personalised Medicine ([ICPerMed](#)) and by strengthening the collaborations between Africa and Europe in areas of mutual interest.

Incorporating African Countries to the global PM agenda can contribute to shorten existing health disparities between developed and developing countries, as well as facilitating access of African countries to new tools and technologies that have the potential to make healthcare more efficient and equitable. Africa continues to experience a comparatively high burden of disease, particularly in TB, Malaria, HIV/AIDS and neglected diseases, affecting an estimated one billion people, and leading to annual productivity loss of over USD 800 billion. The COVID 19 pandemic has widened healthcare inequities, and greatly impacted on African economies. The advent of omics technology enables new models and tools in PM. This may be the solution to sustainably address the disease burden in Africa.

The term ‘Personalised Medicine’ refers to a medical model that is used to characterise an individuals’ phenotype and genotype (e.g. molecular profiling, medical imaging, and lifestyle data), to tailor 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<sup>1</sup>. Personalised medicine relates to the broader concept of patient-centred care, which considers that, in general, healthcare systems need to better respond to patient needs. Frequent synonyms used for ‘personalised medicine, is ‘precision medicine’, as well as other terms such as ‘individualised medicine’, ‘personalised precision medicine’, and ‘genomic medicine’, etc. This definition is certainly encompassing the vast needs toward developing a better health outcome for every patient.

The EU-Africa PerMed project has initiated several core stakeholder engagement initiatives from February 2022 to January 2023. The 1<sup>st</sup> stakeholder workshop allowed discussions on the perception of PM, the main challenges and opportunities of PM in Africa and potential advantages of a closer collaboration with

<sup>1</sup> According to: Horizon 2020 and European Council Conclusions on personalised medicine for patients (2015/C 421/03)





Europe in integrating local knowledge and practice. In-depth regional engagements followed across the African continent, as a mode for advancing PM in Africa on various levels: for developing the PM agenda, building collaborations, structuring platforms, and scientific hubs, strengthening regulatory frameworks and developing regional strategies.

The EU-Africa PerMed second stakeholder workshop to take place on 20-21 February 2023 will aim to bring together around 80-100 key representatives from government, academia and industry such as health system policymakers, researchers, regulatory authorities, funding agencies, science councils, healthcare providers, researchers, scientific societies, regional technology developers and international organisations, from Africa and Europe.

Therefore, the second stakeholder workshop will provide an opportunity to reflect on the findings from prior activities to:

- Review the PM landscape in Africa from various Regional Outcomes.
- Validate the gaps and needs identified for developing areas of interest.
- Validate and refine areas of mutual interest between Africa and Europe.
- Understand the importance, challenges and opportunities as well as to develop models of collaboration between Africa and Europe (governance, funding, partnerships, training program, etc.).
- Reflect on models of collaboration for developing PM in the different regions of Africa (governance, funding, partnerships, training program, etc.).

### **Expected Outputs and Outcomes**

The results of the workshop will feed into the project activities of carrying out the identification and collection of areas of mutual interest between Africa and Europe and validation of results already obtained in the course of the project. Furthermore, it will feed into the activities concerning the exploitation and analysis of the potential and advantages of collaboration in Personalised Medicine between Africa and Europe. **The final expected outcome will be to define an Action Plan for European-African collaboration in PM.**

At the same time, the workshop will help participants to better understand the potential benefits of developing PM in their country, the region and in the African context, and what are the key enablers that can facilitate this development, raise awareness about the opportunities for cross border collaboration and stimulate networking activities within African stakeholders in the field of PM.



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