



**IDENTIFICATION OF PERSONALISED MEDICINE NEEDS AND
CROSS BORDER COLLABORATION WITH EUROPE**

EAST-AFRICA REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

13th and 14th July 2022, Nairobi (Kenya)

CONCEPT PAPER & AGENDA

Venue: Windsor Golf Hotel and Country Club, Nairobi, Kenya

EAST AFRICA REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP 13TH AND 14TH JULY 2022

Introduction

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 billion¹¹. The COVID 19 pandemic has widened healthcare inequities, and greatly impacted on African economies. There is a need to explore new models and tools brought about by advances in technology to address the disease burden in Africa, such as Personalised Medicine.

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 prevention². 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.

EU-Africa PerMed (*Building Links Between Europe and Africa in Personalised Medicine*) is a project funded by the European Commission H2020 programme that has the final objective of integrating more African countries in the 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 research collaboration between Africa and Europe in areas of mutual interest.

Incorporating African Countries to the global PM research agenda can contribute to shorten existing health disparities between developed and developing countries, as well as facilitating access of African countries to new tool and technologies that have the potential to make health care more efficient and equitable.

On 9-10th February 2022, a first PM Stakeholder workshop was organized to discuss the perception of PM in Africa, main challenges and opportunities of PM in Africa, and the potential advantages of a closer collaboration with Europe in integrating local knowledge and practice. During this workshop, the regional approach appeared to be the preferred mode among participants 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. On the other hand, a national approach was considered to be more relevant for priority setting, implementation and allocation of resources.

It was thus decided to organize regional workshops for continuing the exchanges on PM development in Africa, including concerning potential for collaborations between Africa and Europe.

¹ World Bank The World Bank; 2020. Global Economic Prospects, June 2020.

² European Commission (2015). What personalised medicine means. https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/research-area/health-research-and-innovation/personalised-medicine_en.

The East Africa Regional Stakeholder Workshop

a) Organization of the Workshop

The two-day workshop, is planned to take place in Kenya on the 13th and 14th July 2022 and will be hosted by the National Commission for Science Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI), with contribution from the EU-Africa PerMed consortium members. The venue for the workshop will be the **Windsor Golf Hotel and Country Club**. The stakeholder workshop aims to bring together key stakeholders from the East African region: health system policy makers, research and innovation funding agencies and councils, health care providers, researchers, scientific societies, industry, regional, technology developers and international organizations. The stakeholders will be drawn from five East African countries namely Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Ethiopia. During the scientific and policy mapping exercise carried out by the project, these countries were found to have capacity in PM research with R&I governance structures in place.

b) Workshop Objectives

The objective of the meeting will be to discuss the PM agenda in East Africa, and convene a regional committee to identify regional specific health needs to develop the potential for PM, as well as the challenges and opportunities for collaboration with Europe.

Specifically, the workshop will:

1. Review the landscape of PM in East Africa
2. Identify and prioritize areas of interest in the region
3. Identify gaps and needs for developing identified areas of interest
4. Reflect on consortium models for developing PM in the region (governance, funding, partnerships, training program, etc.) and on national level
5. Identify challenges and opportunities for collaboration within Africa and with Europe

Expected Outputs and Outcomes

The results of the workshop will feed into the project activities of carrying out the identification of PM needs and organisation in Africa, using a region-based approach. The final expected outcome will be to define an Action Plan for EU-AU collaboration in PM.

At the same time, the workshop will help participants to better understand the potential benefits of developing PM in the region 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 East Africa stakeholders in the field of PM.

EAST AFRICA REGION STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP AGENDA

DAY 1 -13 th July 2022 – Chairperson: Godfrey Kalerwa	
Hour	Item
08:30-09:00	REGISTRATION
09:00-09:40	<p>INTRODUCTIONS Roundtable presentation of all the participants</p> <p>WELCOME AND OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Walter Oyawa – Director General, National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation, Kenya • Dr. Jean-Luc Sanne - Policy Officer, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission • Dr. Patrick Amoth – Director General, Ministry of Health, Kenya
09:40-09:50	<p>BRIEF INTRODUCTION OF THE WORKSHOP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU-Africa PerMed Project Ms. Erika Sela (<i>Innovatec</i>) • Workshop Objectives Ms. Teresia Nyawira (<i>NACOSTI</i>)
9:50-10:10	<p>Key-Note Presentation – Vision of PM in Africa: Need for a Regional Approach –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rizwana Mia (<i>South Africa Medical Research Council</i>)
REVIEW THE LANDSCAPE OF PM IN EAST AFRICA	
10:10- 10:20	<p>PM in East Africa- Findings from the EU-Africa PerMed scientific and policy mapping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Lynette Kamau, (<i>African Population and Health Research Center, Kenya</i>)
10:20-11:00	<p>Overview of status of PM in East African Countries, 7 minutes brief presentations followed by a round table discussion Moderator: Monika Frenkel (ANR)</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Francis Makokha – Head, Human Health Research Program, Directorate of Research and Innovation, Mt. Kenya University, Kenya • Prof. Celestino Obua -Vice Chancellor, Mbarara University Uganda • Prof. Julie Makani and Dr. Agnes Jonathan – Sickle Cell Programme, Department of Haematology and Blood Transfusion, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, Tanzania • Mr. Desta Abera Shanko – Director, Policy, Strategy and Research, Ministry of Innovation and Technology, Ethiopia • Dr. Clarisse Musanabaganwa Rwanda –, Center for Human Genetics, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Rwanda

11:00-11:10	Plenary Discussion				
11:10-11:30	COFFEE BREAK AND GROUP PHOTO				
IDENTIFICATION OF PM NEEDS IN EAST AFRICA – WORKING GROUPS					
11:30-11:40	Introduction to the working group sessions WP3 – Prof. Patrice Debre (INSERM)				
11:40-13:00	WORKING GROUP SESSION				
	GROUP 1 Kenya <i>Moderator:</i> <i>Evelyn Gitau</i> <i>Rapporteur:</i> <i>Erika Sela</i>	GROUP 2 Uganda <i>Moderator: Amr</i> <i>Radwan</i> <i>Rapporteur:</i> <i>Mary Onsarigo</i>	GROUP 3 Tanzania <i>Moderator:</i> <i>Monika Frenzel</i> <i>Rapporteur:</i> <i>Nomsa Mulima</i>	GROUP 4 Rwanda <i>Moderator:</i> <i>Badara Cisse</i> <i>Rapporteur:</i> <i>Paula Garcia</i>	GROUP 5 Ethiopia <i>Moderator:</i> <i>Tomas López</i> <i>Peña</i> <i>Rapporteur:</i> <i>María José Ruiz</i>
13:00-14:00	LUNCH				
14:00-15:30	PRESENTATIONS OF THE RESULTS OF THE GROUP SESSSION - Patrice Debre				
15:30-16:00	PLENARY SESSION ON GROUP PRESENTATIONS – Patrice Debre				
16:00-16:20	COFFEE BREAK				
16:20-16:50	WRAP UP AND COMMENTS FOR THE SECOND DAY– Rizwana Mia (SAMRC)				
16:50-17:00	CLOSING OF THE DAY - Teresia Nyawira (NACOSTI)				
18:30-21:00	SOCIAL EVENT- DINNER				

AGENDA DAY 2

DAY 2 – 14 th July 2022 - Chairperson: David Njubi					
		Item			
09:00-09:10	WELCOME AND OPENING OF THE SECOND DAY OF THE WORKSHOP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>David Njubi- National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation, Kenya</i> 				
09:10-09:20	Objectives for day 2 of the workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monika Frenzel (ANR) 				
GAPS AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF EAST AFRICA PM ECOSYSTEM					
09:20-09:30	Introduction to small group sessions – SWOB analysis – Rizwana Mia (SAMRC) Discussions in the working groups fostered through guiding questions to carry out an analysis to identify the strengths weaknesses, opportunities as well as uncover any barriers for the potential to develop PM research and innovation in East Africa.				
09:30-11:00	GROUP SESSIONS				
	GROUP 1 Kenya <i>Moderator: Evelyn Gitau</i> <i>Rapporteur: Erika Sela</i>	GROUP 2 Uganda <i>Moderator: Amr Radwan</i> <i>Rapporteur: Mary Onsarigo</i>	GROUP 3 Tanzania <i>Moderator: Monika Frenzel</i> <i>Rapporteur: Nomsa Mulima</i>	GROUP 4 Rwanda <i>Moderator: Badara Cisse</i> <i>Rapporteur: Paula Garcia</i>	GROUP 5 Ethiopia <i>Moderator: Tomas López Peña</i> <i>Rapporteur: Maria José Ruiz</i>
11:00-11:20	COFFEE BREAK				
11:20-11:35	Plenary Session: Presentation of the results and compilation of findings to prepare the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Barriers (SWOB) of PM for East Africa - Rizwana Mia (SAMRC)				
11:35 - 12:30	Discussion and consolidation of the regional overview – Rizwana Mia (SAMRC)				
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break				
13:30-14:30	Reflection on consortium/collaboration models – Patrice Debre (INSERM) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For developing PM in the region • Model between Africa and Europe to foster joint activities 				
14:30-14:50	WRAP UP OF THE ENTIRE WORKSHOP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Rizwana Mia, South African Medical Research Council</i> • <i>Monika Frenzel, Agence Nationale de la Recherche, France</i> • <i>Patrice Debre, The Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale- INSERM, France</i> 				
14:50 – 15:00	Evaluation of the Workshop – Charity Musembi (NACOSTI)				

15:00 – 15:10	CLOSING OF THE WORKSHOP <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Erika Sela Project coordinador –, <i>Innovatec, Spain</i>• Jean-Luc Sanne - <i>Policy Officer, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission</i>• Prof. Walter Oyawa NACOSTI –, <i>Director General, National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation, Kenya</i>
15:10-15:30	COFFEE BREAK