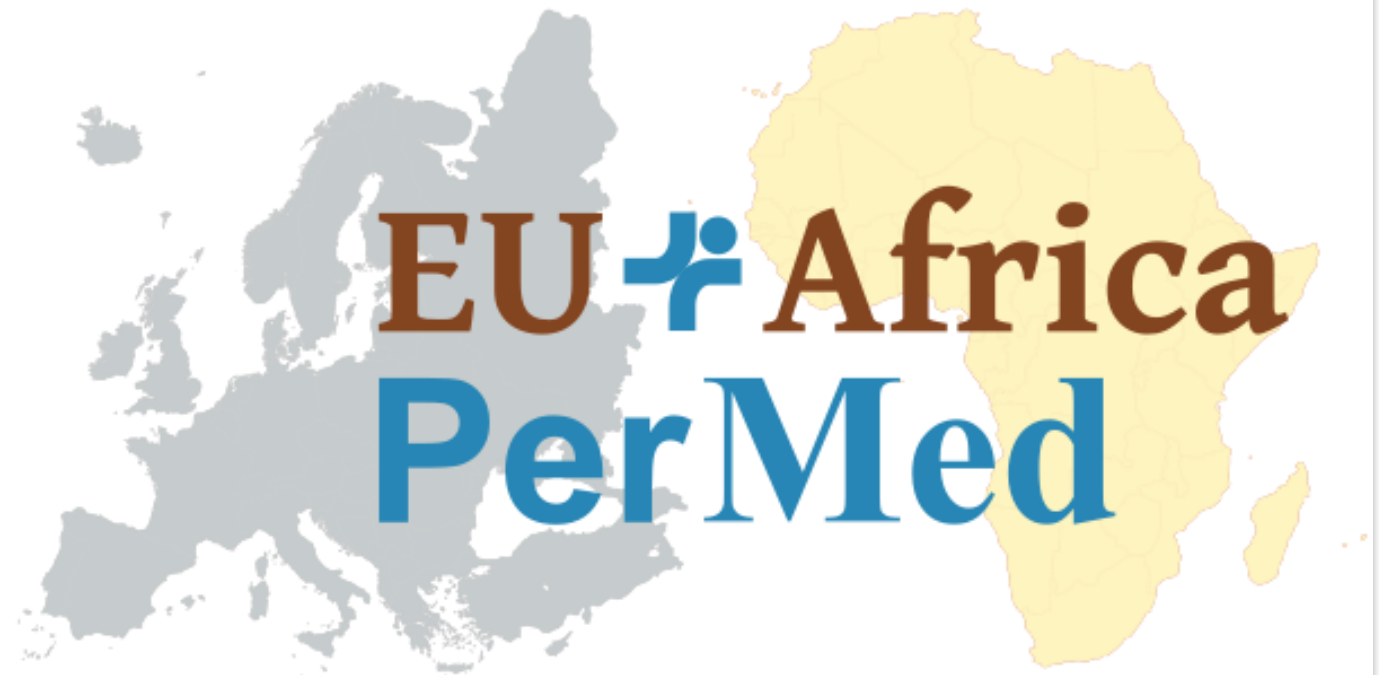


**EU-Africa PerMed  
2<sup>nd</sup> STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP**

**Cape Town, South Africa  
Feb 20-21, 2023**

**Erika Sela (INNOVATEC)**

**EU-Africa PerMed Project Coordinator**



**BUILDING LINKS BETWEEN  
EUROPE AND AFRICA IN  
PERSONALISED MEDICINE**



*EU-Africa PerMed has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme under grant agreement No 964333*

# EU-AFRICA PerMed: THE PROJECT

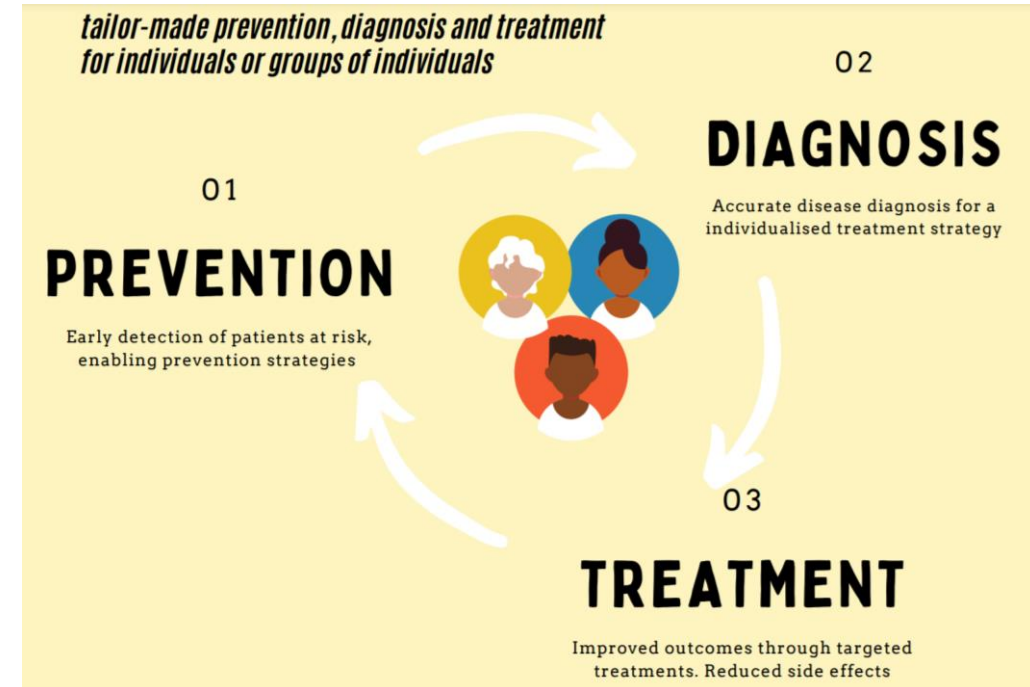
- ✓ The **EU-Africa PerMed** project seeks to facilitate and strengthen research and innovation collaboration between Europe and Africa in Personalised Medicine (PM), fostering joint projects and programmes as well as facilitating the participation of African organizations in the international Consortium for Personalized Medicine (**ICPerMed**).
- ✓ The project started in February 2021 and will run for 4 years
- ✓ Funded by the **European Commission - Horizon2020** Research and Innovation Programme

# THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE

**PERSONALISED/PRECISION MEDICINE (PM)** and other comparable terms

[ ] “refers to a medical model using Characterisation 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**”.

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



# EU-AFRICA PERMed: THE CONSORTIUM





# EU-AFRICA PERMED: SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE 1	MAPPING	<i>To understand the scientific and policy PM landscape in Africa To identify, contact and engage with relevant health-related organizations in Africa</i>
OBJECTIVE 2	CROSS BORDER COLLABORATION	<i>To explore and analyse with relevant stakeholder, the potential for and advantages of collaboration in PM between Africa and Europe</i>
OBJECTIVE 3 and 4	SCIENCE TO POLICY	<i>To foster and facilitate the integration of health research funding and policy organisations from African Union (AU) countries in the <b>ICPerMed consortium</b> To seek synergies and align with activities of ongoing EU-Africa research programmes and other by-regional policy actions</i>
OBJECTIVE 5	CAPACITY BUILDING	<i>To carry out capacity building and training activities addressing relevant PM issues for Africa</i>
OBJECTIVE 6	DISSEMINATION	<i>To contribute to raising awareness of PM and the benefits of a closer inter and intra-regional collaboration, in order to advance in the implementation of PM approaches</i>

# EU-AFRICA PERMED: WHAT HAVE WE DONE SO FAR



- REPORT: Scientific and policy mapping of Personalised Medicine in Africa
- POLICY BRIEF: Opportunities to Advance Personalised Medicine in Africa
- REPORT: Action Plan for the involvement of African countries in ICPeMed and ERA PerMed
- REPORT: List of African Personalised Medicine needs
- REPORT: Identification of areas of mutual interest for collaboration in PM for Africa and Europe



- 1<sup>st</sup> WEBINAR: Oncology: Personalised Medicine approach
- 2<sup>nd</sup> WEBINAR: Challenges of PM ethics and regulations in Africa - From principles to practice (part 1 and Part 2)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> WEBINAR: Experiences, opportunities and challenges of PM in Africa



- 1st Stakeholder workshop (online, 9-10 Feb2022)
- Regional stakeholder engagements in East, Southern, North, West and Central Africa

All documents are available in the project website <https://www.euafrica-permed.eu>

# EU-AFRICA PerMed: EXPECTED RESULTS AND IMPACTS

- Facilitate the integration of African organizations in **ICPerMed activities**, and in the new EP-PerMed
- Support the **EU-AU STI policy dialogues** relevant to health with recommendations and actions to incorporate PM in the bilateral research agenda
- **Foster collaboration and networking between EU and African** health research organisations working in PM
- Support a **wider adoption of PM research standards** to facilitate international collaboration in research projects
- Contribute to **raise awareness and gain knowledge** on the benefits that PM can have on the African population

## **On the long term, contribute to:**

- Reduce global inequities in PM research
- the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goal 3: *Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages*

## EU-Africa PerMed ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA (20-24 Feb 2023)

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Stakeholder workshop:** *Building links between Africa and Europe in Personalised Medicine* (20-21 Feb 2023, Cape Town, South Africa)
- **1<sup>st</sup> Summer school** on *Adoption and integration of standards in PM research* (22-23 Feb 2023, Cape Town, S. Africa).



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Stakeholder workshop - objectives

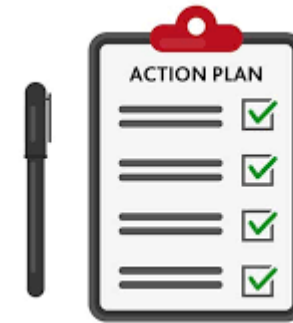
- Review the PM landscape in Africa from various Regional Outcomes.
- Validate the gaps and needs identified for developing areas of interest in PM.
- Validate and refine **areas of mutual interest for collaboration** between Africa and Europe.
- Understand the importance, challenges and opportunities 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.).

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Stakeholder workshop - outputs

- Validate **areas of mutual interest** between Africa and Europe in PM research
- Advance in the identification of best **models for AU-EU collaboration**



## EU-Africa PerMed Action Plan



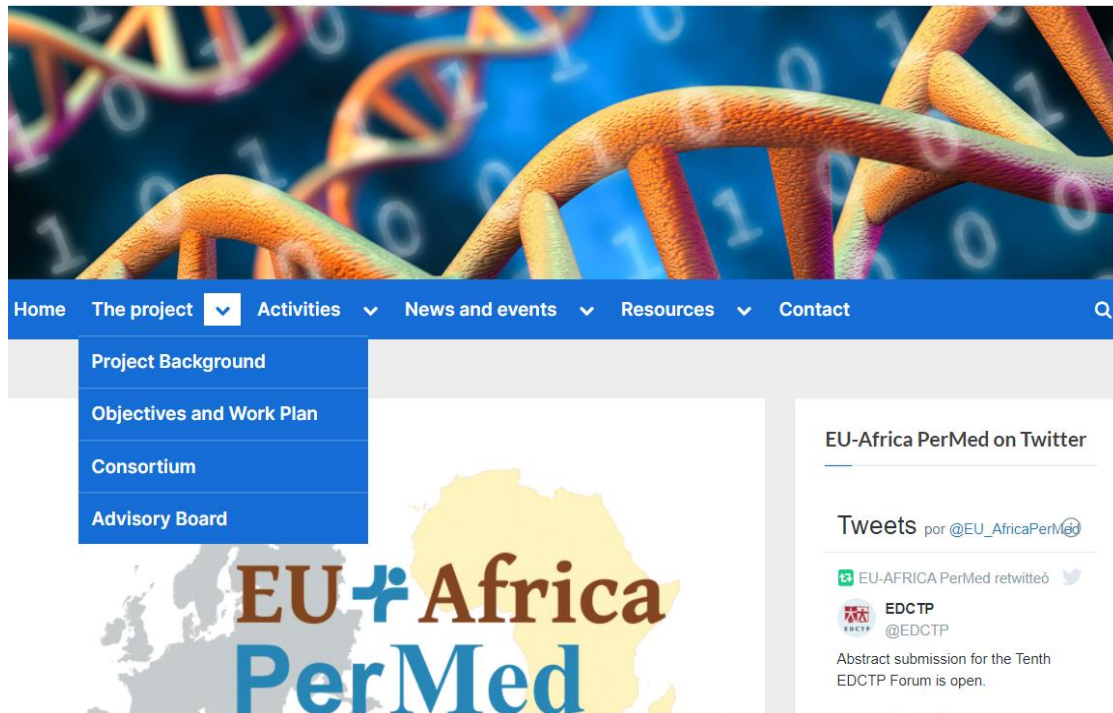
- Help participants to better understand the potential benefits of developing PM in their country, the region and in the African context.

# EU-Africa PerMed findings

- **Scientific collaboration in PM between African and European researchers already exists.** Collaboration increased significantly since 2013 (with less than 50 articles per year) and reached its peak in 2019 with more than 350 co-authored publications with African and European institutions. South Africa and Egypt lead the ranking of PM Publications.
- **African countries are at different level of development of PM research and implementation capacity,** and there is not a one-way approach for all when it comes to international collaboration. There is also a need to strengthen intercountry and regional collaborations on PM.
- **No country can achieve the benefits of PM without collaborating with other countries or regions.** Achieving benefits brought about by application of PM requires collaboration in capacity building, genetic testing, health electronic record system, health economic research among others. Cross country collaboration would facilitate important advancement of PM in Africa.
- **Strengthening the relationship with the EU at the scientific and policy level** has been identified as very important to increase efforts in PM. **What is not included in the policy agenda is not funded.**
- **Channeling efforts towards characterizing African Genome,** in order to bring to light the genetic diversity of the African population and foster genomics of infectious diseases, are important assets with which the African countries can contribute to the global PM research agenda.
- **Concerted global efforts towards genomic equity** are needed to ensure the benefits of Personalised Medicine are accessible to all.

# To know more & to keep updated

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



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<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/14014720/>