



3rd EU-Africa PerMed Stakeholder Workshop Radisson Blu Hotel, Dakar (Senegal) June 26-27, 2024

INTRODUCTION AND CONCEPTUAL SETTING

EU-Africa PerMed (www.euafrica-permed.eu) is an international project funded by the European Commission Horizon 2020 programme that has the 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 shortening 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 prevention¹. 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.

The EU-Africa PerMed project has initiated several core stakeholder engagement initiatives since its launch, in February 2021.

The **1st stakeholder workshop** was an online event that took place in February 2022. The workshop was organised 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. At the same time, the workshop served as a first opportunity of disseminating the project to African stakeholders, making them aware of the International Consortium of Personalised Medicine (ICPerMed) and how activities planned for the project in the remaining 3 years could be best implemented considering the needs and expectations of African stakeholders.

The **2nd stakeholder workshop** took place in Cape Town, South Africa in February 2023. The meeting provided an opportunity to reflect on the findings from prior project activities, including a review of the PM landscape in Africa from various regional engagements, to validate the gaps and needs identified for developing areas of interest for collaboration, and validate and refine areas of mutual interest between Africa and Europe. The workshop also served to understand the importance, challenges, and opportunities of PM as well as to develop models of collaboration between Africa and Europe.



The project now organises its **3rd and last stakeholder workshop**, hosted by IRESSEF in Dakar, Senegal. The workshop will provide an opportunity to present and discuss with relevant stakeholders from Africa and Europe, the main outputs and findings from the project, and recommendations for the future. The main objectives of this workshop are:

1. Present and disseminate the EU-Africa PerMed Action Plan to the participants.
2. Discuss and validate with relevant stakeholders the Actions proposed in the Action Plan.
3. Discuss with relevant stakeholders' recommendations for the future, how to sustain the EU-Africa PerMed work further on the project life (sustainability of collaboration).
4. Support and mentor the development of regional PerMed Consortium in Africa.

THE EU-Africa PerMed ACTION PLAN

The **EU-Africa PerMed Action Plan** aims to facilitate, foster and promote collaboration in the field of Personalised Medicine (PM) between Africa and Europe. The Action Plan proposes concrete recommendations for actions at research and policy level, such as common funding opportunities and research topics for joint scientific agendas, structural recommendations (e.g. development of infrastructures, capacity building and training), and collaboration strategies supporting the future uptake of PM in the healthcare systems.

Recommendations for collaborative actions respond to common health challenges and needs identified through exchanges with African stakeholders, and consider the differences between regions (Eastern, Western, Northern, Southern and Central Africa) and countries in Africa. Actions presented are furthermore identified to be of mutual interest for Africa and Europe.

The Action Plan is structured in two parts:

- Part I “Personalised Medicine adopting environment” is focussing on the entire PM System of Health that considers all diseases or health conditions, and a broad range of technical and medical fields around diagnostics, treatment and prevention, as well as diverse stakeholders.
- Part II “Genetics in Personalised Medicine” is presenting an example for a PM field with concrete actions related to this specific aspect, considering that Africa is the most genetically diverse continent with a wide range of ethnic groups and genetic variations but there is a lack of representation of African populations in global genetic studies and databases.

The Action Plan is addressed to all actors from Africa and Europe positioned to support the uptake and implementation of the presented recommendations: particularly policy makers (STI, health); national, international and global funders, from the public and private sector; the European Commission; the African Union; the WHO; already existing joint actions like the EDCTP; industry players; and also, to actors from academic and clinic contributing to the development and innovation of PM.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The workshop aims to bring together representatives of different stakeholder groups, including STI and health policy makers at national, regional and Pan-African level, European Commission, AU-AU STI High Level Policy Dialogue Bureau, International health organisations, health R&I funding programmes, Research organisations, Scientific community, health research networks and Centres of Excellence, Innovators of Biotech, (Pharma) Industry and Civil Society Organisations.



AGENDA DAY 1 – 26 June 2024	
TIME GMT/UTC: +00:00 hours	MORNING SESSION; 08:30 – 12:00 UTC
08:30-09:00	REGISTRATION
09:00-09:40	<p>WELCOME AND OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Souleymane Mboup, IRESSEF, Senegal • Dr. Badara Cisse, IRESSEF, Senegal • Jean-Luc Sanne DG Research and Innovation, European Commission, Europe • Erika Sela, INNOVATEC, Coordinator of EU-Africa PerMed, Spain
09:40-10:10	<p>Keynote Lecture: Personalised Medicine and its potential for healthcare and healthcare systems <i>Andres Metspalu, Estonian Genome Center, University of Tartu, Estonia</i></p>
10:10-11:00	COFFEE BREAK
11:00-12:00	<p>Keynote Lecture: EU-Africa PerMed Action Plan: a roadmap for facilitating, fostering and promoting the collaboration of Africa and Europe in Personalised Medicine. <i>Monika Frenzel, French National Research Agency (ANR), EU-Africa PerMed, France</i></p>
12:00-13:30	LUNCH BREAK
Hour	<p>AFTERNOON SESSION: Key Actions for African-European Collaboration; 13:30 – 17:30 UTC Moderator: Monika Frenzel</p>
13:30-14:00	<p>Keynote Lecture: Advantages of cross-border/international collaboration to foster PM <i>Marleen Temmerman, Aga Khan University East Africa, Kenya</i></p>
14:00-15:15	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION: Key Actions for African/European Collaboration - Findings from EU-Africa PerMed (part 1)</p> <p>Population Genomics <i>Michèle Ramsay, Division of Human Genetics, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa</i></p> <p>Infrastructures and Resources <i>Jacques Demotes, European Clinical Research Infrastructure Network (ECRIN), Europe</i></p> <p>Access to Technology and experts, education and training <i>Xavier Jouven, French National Institute for Health and Medical Research (INSERM)/Greater Paris University Hospitals (APHP), Co-Founder of the African Research Network for non-communicable diseases, France</i></p>
15:15-16:00	COFFEE BREAK
16:00-17:15	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION: Key Actions for African/European Collaboration - Findings from EU-Africa PerMed (part 2)</p> <p>Data Collection and Sharing</p>



	<p><i>Sofonias Kifle Tessema, Pathogen Genomics, Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), Ethiopia</i></p> <p>Healthcare Infrastructure and Awareness</p> <p><i>Astrid Vicente, National Institute of Health Dr. Ricardo Jorge, Portugal</i></p> <p>Ethical and Legal consideration</p> <p><i>Walter Jaoko, KAVI-Institute of Clinical Research, University of Nairobi, Kenya</i></p>
17:15- 17:30	CLOSING OF DAY 1.
19:00-21:00	SOCIAL EVENT Cocktail dinner at the Radisson Blu Hotel



AGENDA - DAY 2 – 27 June 2024	
TIME GMT/UTC: +00:00 hours	MORNING SESSION: International collaboration in science, technology and innovation: benefits, advantages and role in advancing personalised medicine; 09:00 – 12:30 UTC
08:00-08:30	REGISTRATION
08:30-08:45	Opening remarks and introduction for Day 2. <i>Erika Sela, INNOVATEC</i>
08:45-09:15	Keynote: Collaboration in Cancer <i>Christine Chomienne, Université Paris Diderot, France & Cancer Mission, Europe</i>
09:15-10:00	INTERACTIVE SESSION: Is Africa ready for personalised medicine? Opportunities from Africa-Europe collaboration. <i>Members of EU-Africa PerMed will respond to this question, from different perspectives, presenting project results and interacting with the audience.</i>
10:00-10:40	COFFEE BREAK
10:40-11:40	ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Recommendations for the future, gaining perspectives to create sustainability of collaboration aligned to the EU-Africa PerMed initiative MODERATOR; Rizwana Mia-South African Medical Research Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Industry (private sector) perspective <i>Astrid Kiermaier, Roche African Genome initiative (online)</i> ● Research/University Perspective <i>Rokhaya Ndiaye, Cheikh Anta Diop University, Senegal</i> ● European Commission Perspective <i>Vincenzo Lorusso, DG RTD European Commission, Europe (online)</i> ● African Union Perspective <i>Lukovi Seke, Strategic Initiatives, Directorate of Technical Co-operation and Programme Funding (DTCPF), AUDA-NEPAD, Africa</i> ● Funding programme perspective: the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) partnership <i>Thomas Nyirenda, (EDCTP) Programme, South Africa (online)</i> ● International Platform Perspective: The international Consortium for Personalised Medicine (ICPerMed) and European Partnership for Personalised Medicine (EP-PerMed) <i>Monika Frenzel, French National Research Agency (ANR), France</i>
11:40 -12:30	PLENARY SESSION/open discussion, exchange of the audience with roundtable participants Opportunities for collaboration in PM between Africa and Europe, and between African countries
12:30-14:00	LUNCH BREAK
Hour	AFTERNOON SESSION: Support and mentor the development of regional PerMed Consortium in Africa; 14:00 – 16:00 UTC Moderator: Patrice Debré
14:00-15:30	ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Support and mentor the development of regional personalised medicine consortia in Africa



	<p>Presenting African regional Personalised Medicine implementation agendas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● East African Region, <i>Teresia Nyawira, National Commission for Science, Technology & Innovation (NACOSTI), Kenya</i>● Southern African Region, <i>Rizwana Mia, South Africa Medical Research Council (SAMRC), South Africa</i>● West and Central African Region, <i>Badara Cisse, Institute for Health Research, Epidemiological Surveillance and Training (IRESSEF), Senegal</i>● French speaking Northern African Region – <i>Yosr Hamdi, Pasteur Institute of Tunisia, Tunisia</i>● Egypt, <i>Amr Radwan, Center for innovation & Technology Development (ECITD), Egypt (online)</i> <p>Panel Discussion</p>
15:30-15:40	<p>Summary - Final Messages</p> <p><i>EU-Africa PerMed team: Patrice Debre, Badara Cisse, Monika Frenzel and Rizwana Mia</i></p>
15:40-16:00	<p>CLOSING REMARKS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Prof. Souleymane Mboup, IRESSEF, Senegal● Stéphane Devaux, European Commission● Erika Sela, INNOVATEC, Coordinator of EU-Africa PerMed, Spain● Dr. Ibrahima Sy, Ministry Health or Research, Senegal