

International collaboration in the EP PerMed

Why international collaboration is essential for personalised medicine:

Personalised medicine (PM) represents an area that concerns everyone. Healthcare systems are heterogeneous depending on the region and country but the health needs are comparable and solutions could be found even on transnational level. This allows and even requires in some cases, e.g. for rare diseases, the development of common strategies, standards and frameworks.

Considering that PM is a global topic, with excellent experts and initiatives located around the globe, it is suggested that the European Partnership for Personalised Medicine (EP PerMed) involves organisations from European countries as well as international organisations, including third countries to the Horizon Europe framework programme. More specifically, EP PerMed will be providing a platform to:

- Increase PM-related multidisciplinary research and innovation throughout the entire value chain.
- Promote translation of basic PM research results into clinical practice.
- Promote uptake of PM innovation by the market and ensure patient benefit.
- Track and communicate on successful implementation of PM in healthcare systems and provide socio-economic evidence that PM has created value for society.

The past years demonstrated the willingness and the importance of knowledge exchange in the field of PM between European Member States and international partners, including the wider distribution of innovative PM practices. Important steps were taken to identify and connect the European and international PM community, e.g. via events but also through joint research funding activities. This has been shown to be essential in reaching a critical mass of data from various sources to develop and train algorithms and models used in PM approaches. Additionally, this has proven to be critical in ensuring that the developed approaches are applicable as broadly as possible and not limited to a specific regional context, therefore limiting the value of this development for the common good.

Global collaborations to foster strategic reflections as well as investment in PM, e.g. via research funding, started through ICPeMed, ERA PerMed and the thematically focused CSAs of the ICPeMed family and is suggested to be a core component of EP PerMed. EP PerMed will broaden the structure and interlinks through funding activities, stimulating transnational research and the development of networks. Ultimately, these efforts deployed through specific support activities will foster optimal policy development and appropriate implementation of PM. EP PerMed could be a lever to activate regional and national communities, to interlink them locally and also transnationally.

It is suggested that EP PerMed seeks from the very beginning the involvement of all EU members states and regions and international partners, independent of their current status on PM implementation. This is essential in order to include all key stakeholders that could contribute to the development of the partnership, and benefit from its outcomes.

How to integrate international partners in a co-funded European Partnership?

EP PerMed seeks, in an open and transparent way, the full engagement and active participation of the future involved organisations. A flexible, customisable framework from the side of the partnership and a clear statement for engagement from the interested organisations might represent the solution to integrate international organisations.

This information sheet is the result of ICPeMed/ERA PerMed reflections on EP PerMed aspects. The concept and legal and financial frameworks for the EP PerMed are still under development (e.g. governance, partner/member/stakeholder rules for participation, etc.), and the information sheet will be adapted in the future to integrate and outline such technical aspects when relevant. This information sheet received valuable input from the European Commission (EC) but does not represent an official EC document.

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