JOINT TRANSNATIONAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS (2020) FOR

"PERSONALISED MEDICINE – PRE-/CLINICAL RESEARCH, BIG DATA AND ICT, IMPLEMENTATION AND USER'S PERSPECTIVE"

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT

ERA PerMed is an ERA-Net Cofund, supported by 32 partners of 23 countries and co-funded by the European Commission (EC). To align national research strategies, promote excellence, reinforce the competitiveness of European players in Personalised Medicine (PM), and enhance the European collaboration with non-EU countries, 31 funding organisations have agreed to launch the third Joint Transnational Call for collaborative innovative research projects in Personalised Medicine (PM). This represents the second of three additional calls not co-funded by the EC. The funding organisations participating in this call particularly wish to promote innovative interdisciplinary collaboration and to encourage translational research proposals.

The call is planned to be launched in **December 2019** with a submission deadline for pre-proposals in **March 2020**. It is expected that consortia invited for the full-proposal stage, will need to submit their proposal **on June 15th, 2020**.
The available budget for this call is **24.6 Mio€ (approx.)**.

AIMS OF THE CALL

With its third transnational call (non-cofunded by the EC), **ERA PerMed** fosters research and innovation activities that build close linkages between basic biomedical research, clinical research, physical sciences, bioengineering, bioinformatics and biostatistics, epidemiology, socio-economic research, as well as research on the integration of PM into clinical practice and on ethical, legal and social implications across the participating countries and beyond. This implies a wide range of multidisciplinary activities brought together by different

stakeholders from academia (e.g. universities and research institutions), clinics (e.g. clinical laboratories, medical professionals), industry (e.g. pharmaceutical industry, biotechnology companies, information technology companies including health information technology – HIT), policy makers, regulatory/health technology assessment (HTA) agencies and patients/patient organisations.

The overarching goal is to improve disease prevention and disease management, based on broader and more efficiently characterised and defined patient stratification, diagnostics and tailored treatment protocols. Early involvement of regulatory authorities and close interaction with the different key players along the value chain should be included right from the project development phase to bridge the gap between first discoveries or inventions until market access. Proposals submitted under this call are expected to demonstrate the applicability of project outcomes to clinical practice. The clinical relevance of the proposed PM approach needs to be convincingly demonstrated. Moreover, proposals are expected to include research on ethical, legal and socio-economic implications, including health economics and regulation, and/or research on the optimisation of health care systems. They may also consider patient and citizen empowerment and training strategies for the different stakeholders in PM.

The overall objectives of the call are to:

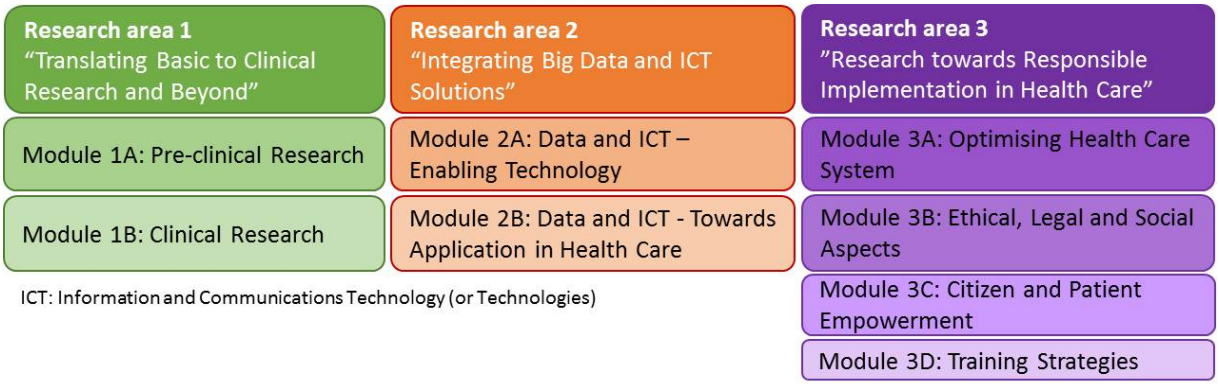
- Support **translational research projects** in the field of Personalised Medicine;
- Encourage and enable **interdisciplinary collaborations towards the implementation of PM**, combining pre-clinical and/or clinical research with bioinformatics components and research on relevant ethical, legal and social aspects and/or research on the optimisation of health care systems;
- Encourage **collaboration between academia** (research teams from universities, higher education institutions, public research institutions), **clinical/public health research** (research teams from hospital/ public health, health care settings and other health care organisations), private partners e.g. **SMEs**[1] (small and medium-sized enterprises) as well as policy makers, regulatory/HTA agencies and patient organisations.

SCOPE OF THE CALL

Proposals **must be interdisciplinary and clearly demonstrate the potential impact in PM** as well as **the added value of transnational collaboration**.

The JTC2020 of ERA PerMed will comprise three Research Areas:

[1] https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition_en



Each project proposal **MUST** address **at least one module of Research Area 3** and **at least one module of Research Area 1 or 2**. The coherent integration and combination of the different Research Areas and Modules in the proposals will be part of the evaluation process.

GENERAL (ELIGIBILITY) CONDITIONS FOR APPLICATION

Joint research proposals may be submitted by applicants belonging to one of the following categories (A, B and/or C), if eligible according to their respective regional/national funding organisation's regulations for research funding:

A. **Academia** (research teams working in universities, other higher education institutions) **or research institutes;**
B. **Clinical/public health sector** (research teams working in hospitals/public health and/or other health care settings and health organisations). Participation of clinicians (e.g. medical doctors, nurses) in the research teams is encouraged;
C. **(Industry) Private partners, e.g. SMEs**[2] (small and medium-size enterprises)**.**

Although proposals will be submitted jointly by research groups from several regions/countries, research groups will be funded by the respective funding organisation of the region/country from which they have applied. Applicants are therefore subject to the eligibility criteria of their respective funding organisations. Applicants are strongly advised to contact their regional/national representatives of the participating relevant funding organisation as soon as possible in order to confirm their eligibility (see also below "*Contact details of participating members*").

Only transnational projects will be funded. **Each consortium submitting a proposal must involve at least three partners eligible for funding coming from three different countries whose funders participate in the call** (see list below). All three legal entities must be independent of each other. The coordinator must be eligible to be funded by one of the participating funding organisations to this call. The **maximum number of partners per pre-proposal is six.** No more than 2 partners from the same country participating in the call will be accepted in one project consortium (including those partners with own funding).

Research groups not eligible for funding (e.g. from non-funding countries or not fundable according to regional/national regulations of the participating funding organisation) may participate if they are able to secure their own funding. They are considered as full partners and have to be integrated in the pre- and full-proposal templates as such. **No more than one partner with own funding** is allowed in consortia with at least 3 partners that are eligible for funding.

At the full-proposal stage, a consortium might be increased to up to seven partners in total by inclusion of a partner coming from an underrepresented country. A list of

[2] https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition_en

underrepresented countries will be provided to all coordinators invited for full-proposals submission.

Number of partners in the proposal*	Pre-proposal				Full-proposal (only by inclusion of one underrepresented country)
	3	4	5	6	7
Maximum number of partners with own funding	0	1	1	1	1
Maximum number of partners per country	1	2	2	2	2

* minimum 3 partners eligible for funding from three different countries participating to the call

ICPERMED PARTNERING TOOL

If you are looking for potential partners, please have a look also at the **ICPerMed Partnering Tool**: https://partnering.pt-dlr.de/ICPerMed

PARTICIPATING MEMBERS, ASSOCIATED COUNTRIES AND REGIONS

Belgium, Canada (Quebec), Croatia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany (Saxony), Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy (Lombardy, Tuscany), Latvia, Luxembourg, Norway, Panama, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Spain (Catalonia, Navarre) and Sweden (contact list is provided in Annex 1).

Please Note:

The information provided in this pre-announcement is indicative and may be subject to changes and is not legally binding for funding organisations. Additional funding organisations might join the call before the official publication.

Interested applicants are encouraged to initiate scientific contacts with potential project consortium partners for applications.

Final call information is expected to be published on the ERA PerMed website by **December 2019.**

ANNEX 1: CONTACT DETAILS OF PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

Country	Funding Organisation	Contact point	Email
BELGIUM	**F.R.S.-FNRS**	Joël Groeneveld Florence Quist	joel.groeneveld@frs-fnrs.be florence.quist@frs-fnrs.be
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