



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### POSTPONED!

2nd ICPerMed conference  
'Personalised Medicine – From  
Vision to Practice'

**New Date: 25-26 Feb 2021**  
Paris, France  
(at La Maison de la Chimie)

### STAY TUNED!

ERA PerMed decided  
to launch another call for  
proposals – JTC2021!  
**Preannouncement – Nov 2020**  
[www.era-permed.eu](http://www.era-permed.eu)

### SAVE THE DATE!

**Regions4PerMed** Online  
Conference on Personalising  
Health Industry  
**15-16 October, 2020** (see pg 6)

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**EULAC-PerMed** Online ELSA Events  
**Nov, 2020** (see pg 7)

### HAVE A LOOK AT:

ICPerMed and ERA PerMed  
joint statement  
"Towards the Implementation  
of Personalised Medicine  
in Europe - The Advantage  
of a European Partnership"

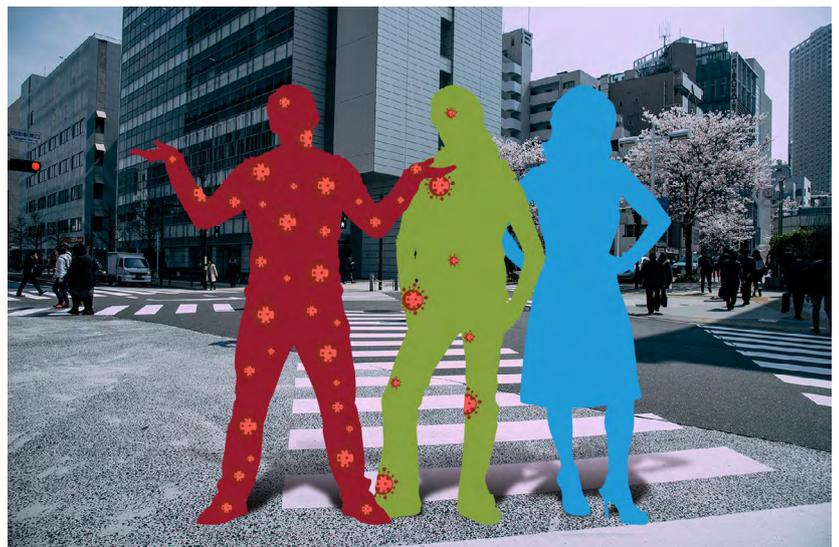
[Press Here](#)

# NEWSLETTER 4

## July 2020

*Austria, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia,  
Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel,  
Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Romania,  
Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands, Turkey*

## ERA PerMed: COVID-19, Achievements and Future Plans



**Follow us! ERA PerMed has a new twitter  
account! Follow us on @ERANET\_PerMed**



[www.era-permed.eu](http://www.era-permed.eu) is funded under the ERA-NET Cofund  
scheme of the Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation  
Framework Programme of the European Commission Research  
Directorate-General, Grant Agreement No. 779282.

According to the new EU General Data Protection Regulation  
(GDPR) the ERAPerMed webpage informs on respective policies.

## **INTRODUCTION**

### *COVID-19 and personalised medicine*

The global pandemic of COVID-19 has consumed every essence of our lives in the last few months. Healthcare professionals, public health experts, policymakers, entrepreneurs and scientists are teaming up to try and find measures for prevention of spreading, diagnostics, healing and, finally, finding a cure or a vaccine for the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The wide spectrum of disease severity and the different response to treatment indicates that there are personal characteristics, which affect the individual body's response to the virus. Personalised medicine is based on the concept that we all have our unique biological variables that influence our response to disease. Once acknowledged and identified, these differences can be utilized for improved diagnostics and therapeutics tailored specifically to the individual, as in the case of infectious diseases such as COVID-19.

The rapid worldwide spreading of COVID-19, together with today's increased global connectivity, led to unprecedented global collaboration on different aspects of handling the pandemic. The COVID-19 incidence has highlighted the importance of transnational collaboration and it serves as an opportunity for displaying the value of such collaborations in accelerating the work that needs to be done in order to restrain the virus.

Being a European programme that supports transnational research projects on personalised medicine, ERA PerMed aims to contribute to the assessment of the personalised medicine aspects in the COVID-19 pandemic, by supporting multidisciplinary transnational projects on non-communicable and communicable diseases. Meanwhile, we carry on, working from home offices around the globe, to promote ERA PerMed's activities and actions.

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### **News**

In the beginning of May, ERA PerMed held its virtual Call Steering Committee meetings and a Network Steering Committee meeting. We would like to congratulate Dr. Monika Frenzel (ANR) and Dr. Katja Kuhlmann (DLR) for their re-election as chair and vice-chair, respectively, of ERA PerMed's Network Steering Committee.

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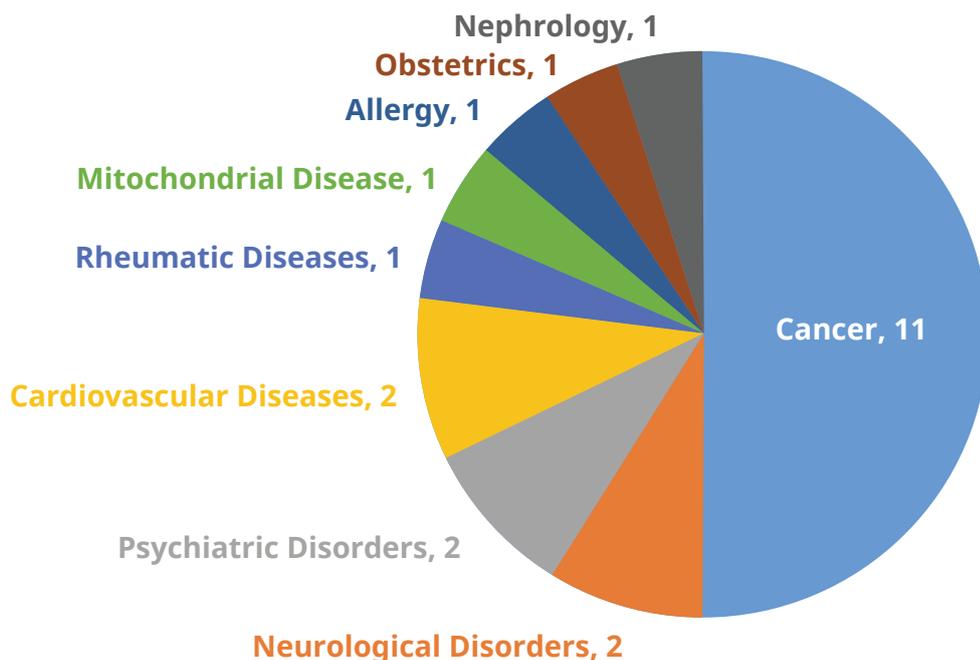
## JTC2019

The topic of the second ERA PerMed Call, JTC2019, is “Personalised Medicine: Multidisciplinary Research Towards Implementation”. Under this Call, 190 eligible pre-proposals were submitted and 56 were invited to submit full-proposals. Ultimately, 22 consortia were chosen to be funded with a total investment of about 24.6 million Euros for three years.

Our analysis shows that 55% of the funded projects address both pre-clinical and clinical research, while only one project addresses pre-clinical research alone and 32% focus solely on clinical research. Moreover, of those projects that address Data and ICT (Information and Communications Technology), 26% work on enabling technology, 21% work towards application in healthcare and 53% work on both aspects. Finally, the consortia had to address in their project either ethical, legal or social aspects or optimisation of the healthcare system. Fifty percent of the consortia focus on ethical, legal or social aspects, 36% address optimisation of the healthcare system and only 14% refer to both.

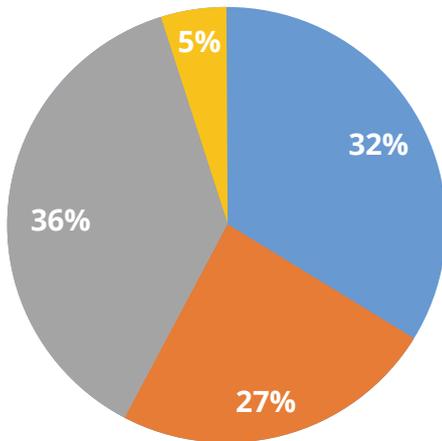
As can be seen from the chart below, the disease categories covered by the funded projects are as follows: 50% of the projects are on cancer, 9% on cardiovascular diseases, 9% on psychiatric disorders, 9% on neurological disorders and there are single projects on nephrology, allergy, obstetrics, mitochondrial disease and a rheumatic disorder.

### Disease categories



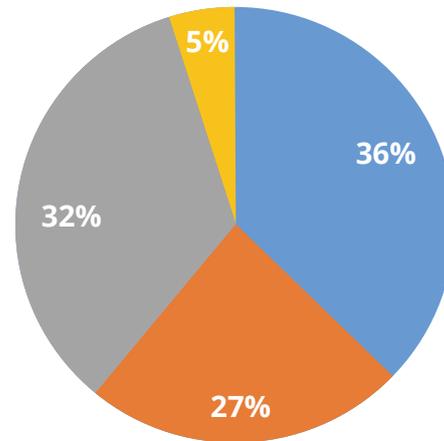
When looking at the consortium composition, it could be noted that 95% of the consortia include 4-6 partners divided more or less equally (32% have 4 partners, 27% have 5 partners and 36% have 6 partners). Regarding trans-nationality of the consortia, 95% of the consortia include groups from 3-5 different countries (36% from 3 countries, 27% from 4 countries and 32% from 5 different countries).

**Number of partners in consortia**



4 ■ 5 ■ 6 ■ 7 ■

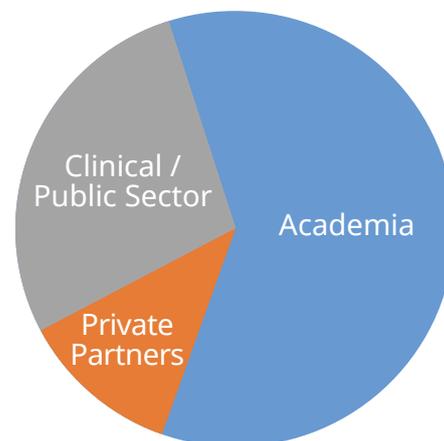
**Number of countries in consortia**



3 ■ 4 ■ 5 ■ 6 ■

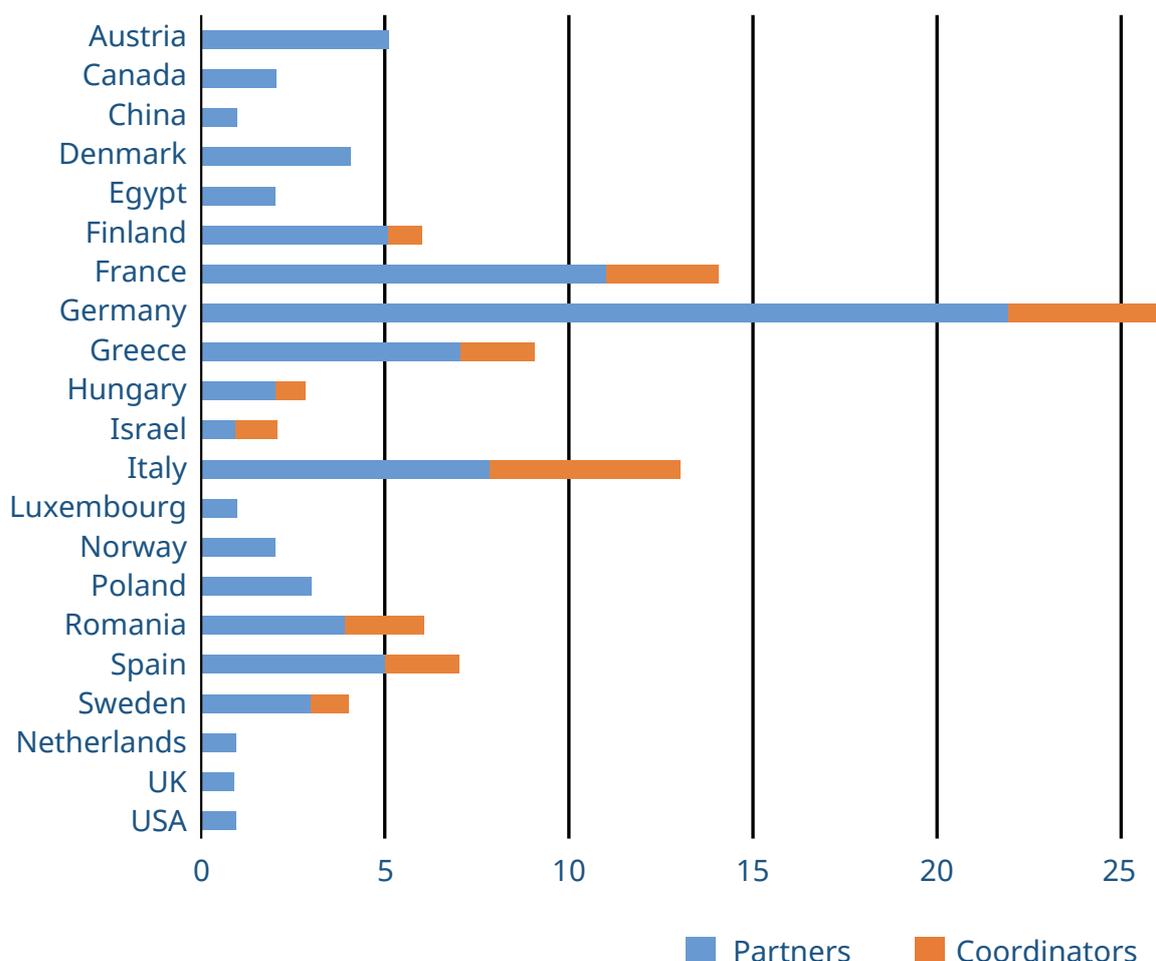
The overall distribution of partners between academia, clinical / public health research sector and the private sector is as follows: 59% of the partners are from academia, 30% are from the clinical / public health research sector and 11% are from the private sector. It should be noted that 45% of the consortia include a partner from the private sector and out of the 22 JTC2019 projects, only 2 of them include only one type of partner (from the academia, in both cases).

**Overall Distribution of Partners**



The JTC2019 projects' coordinators are from 10 different countries and 41% of them are women. The transnational aspect of ERA PerMed funded projects is well presented in the JTC2019 consortia. Partners from 21 different countries are collaborating on 22 personalised medicine-related research projects, as can be seen in the graph below.

### Geographical Distribution of JTC2019 Consortia Partners and Coordinators



### JTC2020

In January 2020, ERA PerMed launched its third Call, JTC2020, with the support of 31 funding organisations from 23 countries on the topic “Multidisciplinary Research Projects on Personalised Medicine – Pre-/Clinical research, Big Data and ICT, Implementation and User’s Perspective”. The aim of this Call is to foster research and innovation activities building close linkages between basic biomedical research, clinical research, bioinformatics, epidemiology, socioeconomic research,

as well as research on the integration of personalised medicine into clinical practice and on ethical, legal and social implications. The overarching goal is to improve disease management, with better patient stratification, diagnostics and treatment protocols, and disease prevention.

**We welcome a new funding agency that joined ERA PerMed’s JTC2020: National Secretariat for Science, Technology and Innovation of Panama (SENACYT) from Panama, which further extends ERA PerMed’s international reach.**

188 eligible pre-proposals, comprising of 876 research groups, were submitted under the JTC2020 out of which 52 were invited to submit a full-proposal. The full-proposal final evaluation will take place in September 2020.

## Future Activities in Personalised Medicine Initiatives



**Regions4PerMed Conference on Personalising Health Industry**  
15th October-16th October 2020, Online

Personalising Medicine and Healthcare is a central vision for the future of European Healthcare promising an optimised personalised, predictive, preventive, participatory and person-centred approach able to benefit citizens, scientists, policy makers and industry.



**The project Regions4PerMed explores the role that European regions can play to facilitate the implementation of personalised medicine and healthcare.** It is thus contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the European strategy launched in 2011 with the European Council Conclusion: **Towards modern, responsive and sustainable health systems (2011/C 202/04)** with the aim of modernising European Healthcare systems.

The conference on “Personalising Health Industry” will address the challenges and barriers for the health industry, specifically diagnostic and pharmaceutical

companies, and it will address the question: what does it take to deliver personalised diagnostic and therapeutic approaches for improved healthcare outcomes by introducing such products and services into the market?

**For further information about Regions4PerMed:** [www.Regions4PerMed.eu](http://www.Regions4PerMed.eu)

*Registration for the Conference will open August 31st, 2020*

**EULAC-PerMed events on Ethical, Legal and Social Aspects**

*November, 2020, Online*

Participation in both events is open to EU and LAC participants and is **FREE** of charge!

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**3RD SUMMER SCHOOL:  
IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH IN  
PERSONALISED MEDICINE: ELSA  
PERSPECTIVE**

*November 24-26, 2020*

Eligible applicants are evaluated and admitted on a competitive basis according to:

- CV
- Application Form

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEP 15TH, 2020

For details: [eulac-permed.eu](http://eulac-permed.eu)

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**TECHNICAL WORKSHOP:  
ELSA IN PM**

*Nov, 2020 (TBA)*

Details regarding the programme and registration will be provided soon.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: OCT 20TH, 2020

For details: [eulac-permed.eu](http://eulac-permed.eu)

**SAVE THE DATE!**



EULAC PERMED PRESENTS:

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**TWO VIRTUAL  
ELSA-RELATED  
EVENTS**

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3RD SUMMER SCHOOL: "IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH  
IN PM: ELSA PERSPECTIVE" - NOV 24-26, 2020

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TECHNICAL WORKSHOP: "ETHICAL, LEGAL AND SOCIAL  
ASPECTS IN PERSONALISED MEDICINE" - NOV 2020  
(EXACT DATE TBA)

**ICPerMed Best Practice Recognition in Personalised Medicine  
Launch postponed to 2021**  
**ICPerMed BPR 2020: Selected proposals are published [here](#)**  
[Press here](#)