

Opportunities for regions in relation to funding in EP PerMed

To ensure co-funding from the European Commission to EP PerMed and to ensure funding for the activities under EP PerMed, it is essential that sufficient funding is made available by the regional and national participating organisations. There are two levels to this funding need:

- Initial funding commitments to bring EP PerMed alive in relation to the Member States Group consultations
- Opportunities for funding of activities under EP PerMed

Initial funding commitments

Substantial funding from Member States and regions is essential to get EP PerMed set and running. It is expected that national players will provide a major part of the needed funding, coming from their national budgets. However, regions also play a major role in this context. It is important for regions to be aware that besides funding coming from local regional budgets, a special funding opportunity exists:

1. Regions manage substantial funding within the European Structural and Investment Funds¹ (ESIF) framework. To give an estimate of the pivotal role of regions, over half of the total EU funding is channelled through the ESIF. Two of 5 pillars are i) Research and innovation and ii) Digital innovation – both are essential for the implementation of Personalised Medicine (PM). The purpose of all these funds is to invest in job creation and a sustainable and healthy European economy and environment.
2. The European Regional Development Fund² (ERDF): under the ESIF framework ERDF, is particularly relevant in relation to EP PerMed as it aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Union by correcting imbalances between its regions. A political agreement has now been reached to continue the ERDF (and other funds) for the next budgeting period 2021-2027.³

ERDF focuses on several key areas including innovation and research, also in the health area. Therefore, funding received from ERDF for regional development of health systems can be allocated to support of EP PerMed, ideally in combination with funding coming from local regional budgets. Thus, it is important for regions to consider EP PerMed when applying for ERDF or other relevant ESIF funding or when prioritising use of already received funding.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes/overview-funding-programmes/european-structural-and-investment-funds_en

² <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets/en/sheet/95/european-regional-development-fund-erdf->

³ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/12/16-12-2020-commissioner-ferreira-welcomes-the-political-agreement-on-the-eu-cohesion-policy-legislative-package-2021-2027

Opportunities for funding of activities under EP PerMed

In practical terms, regional funds allocated to EP PerMed will come to the benefit of the region in terms of funding of local players in the field of PM, e.g. as funding for research and innovation projects in the field. Synergies between H2020 funding and ERDF funding has been possible and has been utilised (e.g. in the ERA PerMed programme):

Synergies can be achieved in various ways:

- By bringing together R&I framework and ERDF funds in the same project (that could be a single action or a group of coordinated actions/operations, but under the precondition that there is no double funding of the same expenditure item) to achieve greater impact and efficiency.
- By subsequent funding to projects that build on each other or parallel projects that complement each other.
- ESIF programmes could also be designed and implemented to take up high quality project proposals from R&I framework programmes, for which there is not enough budget available in the respective programmes.

Such synergies are expected to be feasible also under the Horizon Europe framework and this is a major opportunity for regions to obtain funding for R&I projects and thereby also for PM related projects. Thus, regions should explore this opportunity.

A further opportunity for regional funding under ERDF is the Interreg Europe⁴ which has been successful to promote innovation at interregional level especially in the health domain.⁵

This Information Sheet is the result of ICPeMed/ERA PerMed reflections on EP PerMed aspects. The concept, 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. The Information Sheet received valuable input from the European Commission (EC) but does not represent an official EC document.

Contact details of the ICPeMed/ERA PerMed preparatory group:

- ICPeMed: ICPerMed@dlr.de
- ERA PerMed: ERAPerMed@agencerecherche.fr

⁴ <https://www.interregeurope.eu/>

⁵ <https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/news/3468/personalised-medicine-and-health-brings-project-communities-together/>