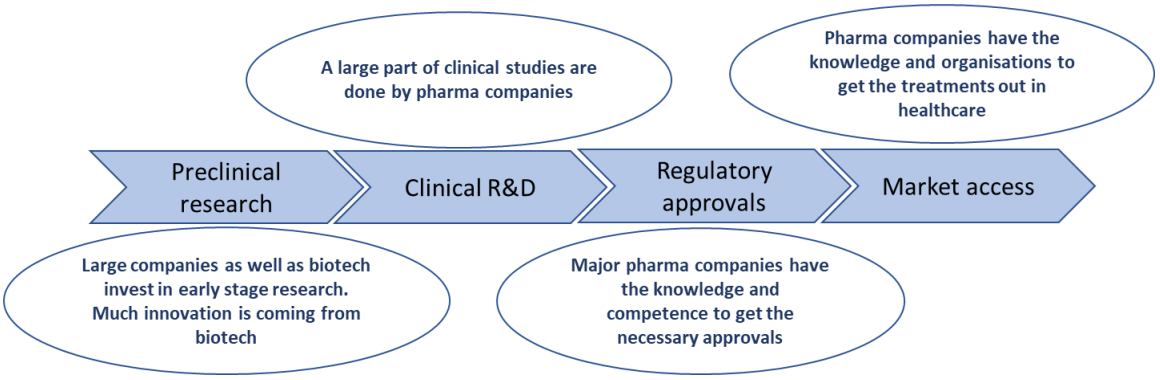
Collaboration with industry in the EP PerMed

Why industry involvement is essential for the development and implementation of personalised medicine:

Development and implementation of personalised medicine (PM) is universally recognised as one of the key drivers in achieving better healthcare for citizens and society.[1] It is also clear that all relevant players need to be involved over the full value chain to achieve full implementation of PM. Industry, both large companies and biotech, play a special role in this context, both alone and in public-private partnerships. The Covid-19 vaccine developments over the last year has clearly demonstrated the importance of such collaborations. This is also the case for e.g. the development of new drugs and companion diagnostics.



The developments over the last decade have shown the need for public-private partnerships. The scientific and technical challenges, that must be overcome to develop the new and improved personalised treatments, are too large for single entities. Thus, alliances between public research institutions/hospitals and industrial/private players are necessary.

The power of such alliances has already been shown in practice. The Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI)[2], which is the world's largest public-private initiative, co-funded by the European Commission and the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations, has run over 160 life science projects over the last 10 years totalling an investment of over €3.5 bn. Many of these projects link directly into PM needs. The successor of IMI under Horizon Europe is under way. This initiative is called Innovative Health Initiative (IHI)[3] and the major difference to IMI is that IHI not only involve pharma companies, but also other types of companies such as imaging, digital, devices, artificial intelligence etc. All these areas are critical for implementation of PM. It shall also be mentioned that many projects within the ERA PerMed framework have industrial players.

[1] https://www.icpermed.eu/media/content/Vision_Paper_2019.pdf

[2] https://www.imi.europa.eu/

[3] https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/11906-European-_Partnership-for-innovative-health

In an EP PerMed context it is therefore clear that industry as a key PM stakeholder needs to be involved.

At membership level and as suggested in the draft concept paper, member and partner status within the EP PerMed is restricted to ministries, public and private 'not-for-profit' health research funding, policy organisations and healthcare institutions.

However, EP PerMed is intending to develop close relationships with key stakeholders such as industry. For that purpose, it is suggested to set up stakeholder groups for players with strong interest in PM. This stakeholder's community will be involved in the activities of EP PerMed from the start. At project level in EP PerMed, industry is very welcome as active participants and funders in PM research projects.

In conclusion, EP PerMed seeks, in an open and transparent way, the full engagement and active participation of all relevant industrial players.

This Information Sheet is the result of ICPerMed/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.

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