

consortium



## SAPHIRE: Securing the Adoption of Personalised Medicine in Regions

The Department of Economy, Science and Innovation of the Flemish government coordinates the Horizon 2020 Coordination and Support Action [SAPHIRE](#), which started on 1 December 2018. The aim of the project is to secure the adoption of personalised medicine in all European regions, including sparsely populated and remote regions and regions with different innovation capacities. The project is meant as a support to the agenda of the [International Consortium of Personalised Medicine](#) (ICPerMed), formally established in November 2016 at the initiative of the European Commission.

To support regions in Europe to embrace personalised medicine in regional healthcare systems SAPHIRE identifies and addresses specific regional gaps and barriers. For these purposes a mapping effort was initiated that also focusses on regional policies with respect to personalised medicine and strengths and best practices.

Furthermore, SAPHIRE wants to create a network of regions and their ecosystems and stakeholders across the entire value chains. This will be done by site visits to regions and the organisation of interactive workshops.

Pilot projects in and between regions may provide the much-needed evidence for the adoption of personalised medicine. The information gathered by SAPHIRE will allow to extract region-specific recommendations on policy, funding and investments needs and interregional (cross-border) collaboration projects may be developed. Ultimately SAPHIRE aims to develop a modular roadmap for the implementation of personalised medicine in regions. Pilot projects that realise this interregional added value, can attract external (European public or private) funding, in addition to their own regional funding.

The activities of SAPHIRE are complementary to the [smart specialisation partnership on personalised medicine – S3P4PM](#), which is also coordinated by the Department of Economy, Science and Innovation.

# SAPHIRe: Securing the Adoption of Personalised Medicine in Regions

## Aim

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## Regions

Personalised medicine is strongly technological driven and will induce a transformation of how health and well-being are approached, and medicine is being implemented.

Different regions, including Flanders, are important knowledge and innovation hubs, but sparsely populated and remote regions or regions that are less strong innovators have specific challenges to make the innovative personal therapies available for all citizens. Regional development will contribute to economic value and tackle regional specific needs, including in healthcare.

Isolated populations, either culturally or geographically determined, furthermore may carry a unique genetic background. Examples include the Ashkenazi Jews, island populations, but also the Finnish population. Some genetic diseases are more or less frequent in these populations.

## Approach

To support regions in Europe to embrace personalised medicine in regional healthcare systems SAPHIRe wants to identify and address specific regional gaps and barriers. For these purposes a mapping effort was initiated that also focusses on regional policies with respect to personalised medicine and strengths and best practices.

Furthermore, SAPHIRe wants to create a network of regions and their ecosystems and stakeholders across the entire value chains. This will be done by site visits to regions and the organisation of interactive workshops.

Regions are well placed to bring personal medicine and healthcare closer to the citizen. Pilot projects in and between regions may provide the much-needed evidence for the adoption of personalised medicine. The information gathered by SAPHIRe will allow to extract region-specific recommendations on policy, funding and investments needs and interregional (cross-border) collaboration projects may be developed. Ultimately SAPHIRe is aiming to develop a modular roadmap for the implementation of personalised medicine in regions.

## Smart specialisation

The activities of SAPHIRe are complementary to the [smart specialisation partnership on personalised medicine – S3P4PM](#), which is also coordinated by the Department of Economy, Science and Innovation.

The aim of the partnership is to create added value through interregional collaboration. Pilot projects that realise this interregional added value, can attract external (European public or private) funding, in addition to their own regional funding.