



## Welcome

Welcome to the second Issue of the SAPHIRe newsletter.

SAPHIRe have been busy over the past six months. We have been engaging with our stakeholders to find out what is happening at a regional level across Europe in the field of personalised medicine. In this newsletter we have highlighted some of our activities - We hope you enjoy this issue and if you have any suggestions for future issues please let us know!

Best wishes

*The SAPHIRe Team*

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## New SAPHIRe team member

The SAPHIRe team would like to welcome our new team member Dr Katalin Szaloki. Katalin is a Public Affairs Executive with EIT Health Innostars.



# SAPHIRe launch new online Observatory

## SAPHIRe has launched its

[Observatory](#), an online database that allows the public to search for a region in Europe and which will provide an overview of regional activities in personalised medicine, as well as links to policy documents and major initiatives. Having all this information collated and available in one place, the Observatory will be extremely useful for regional

policymakers, funders and other key stakeholders to share relevant information on their policies, projects and innovation activities related to personalised medicine.



In July SAPHIRe launched a survey to gain insight into the current status of personalised medicine-related policies and activities across European regions. The information collected in the survey was used to develop the Observatory. As the Observatory is meant to be a living document and continued information gathering is crucial, the survey can still be [accessed here](#) and regular updates of the Observatory are planned.

At present, the personalised medicine landscape in Europe is fragmented, and, it is not clear what policies and strategies exist. It is also unclear what personalised medicine-related activities and initiatives European regions are involved in.

SAPHIRe's aim is to help structure the adoption and implementation of personalised medicine at regional level by creating favourable ecosystems. This however, is a particularly challenging task; regions have many different developmental needs, and readiness levels are complicated by many factors, including the fact that policies emanate from many levels including EU, national and regional level, on a multitude of topics such as research, innovation, healthcare, data protection and socio-economic issues.

The information collected in the survey will also form part of SAPHIRe's mapping exercise, which will provide SAPHIRe with an insight into specific regional needs and requirements. This will provide SAPHIRe with information about regions' current personalised medicine-related activity, and, will feed into development of the SAPHIRe Stakeholder Platform. Ultimately this Platform will be a forum for joint regional collaboration, design, partnering, and identification of opportunities for joint actions between regions.

The Observatory has been launched as a pilot phase with nine regions currently in the database. The second phase of regions will be added in early 2020.

***The database will serve as a dynamic tool and we encourage regional stakeholders to [contact us](#) with updates.***

## SAPHIRe's second workshop: Best practice in personalised health

Experts from across Europe met in Riddel Hall in Belfast to discuss collaboration, development and innovation in personalised health. The two-day event attracted nine different countries and regions from across Europe, and provided a platform to examine how countries and regions can learn from each other and break down some of the barriers to the adoption of personalised medicine.

There were expert speakers covering topics such as precision oncology, person centred care and prescription-based health apps. All of the presentations given on the day are available [here](#).

Dr Janice Bailie, Assistant Director of the Research and Development Division at the Public Health Agency Northern Ireland, and SAPHIRe Consortium member said:

*“Some of the leading figures in personalised health from across Europe attended the workshop in Belfast to look at how countries and regions across the continent can share experience and ideas and develop stronger relationships to drive forward innovation in this field. We had policy experts, as well as key figures from academic and healthcare settings, who came together to exchange experiences, with the event providing a forum for discussion of best practice and lessons learned. It also focused on identifying and assessing future approaches to improve the implementation of personalised medicine.”*

Dr Michael McBride, Chief Medical Officer for Northern Ireland, said

*“Here in Northern Ireland, personalised medicine is an area of substantial and rapidly increasing focus. A growing population with a higher number of older people, poorer health and a growth in chronic conditions are driving the need for the reform of health and social care in Northern Ireland and indeed worldwide, and this conference will enable expertise from across Europe to be shared in how we can deliver more targeted, effective and individual treatment and preventative intervention”.*



The SAPHIRe team pictured with the Chief Medical Officer Dr Michael McBride (back right)

All of the presentations given at the workshop were recorded and are available to watch [here](#)

## SAPHIRe meet with EUREGHA in Brussels to discuss possible joint initiatives

In July SAPHIRe representatives met with members of [EUREGHA](#)—European Regional and Local Health Authorities. EUREGHA’s vision is to ensure that the local and regional perspective is represented in EU health policy.



SAPHIRe were delighted to be able to present our project to EUREGHA and discuss possible joint future collaborations and working initiatives. We look forward to working together very soon.



SAPHIRe Consortium team members pictured with members of EUREGHA at a meeting in Brussels

## European Research and Innovation Days: Panel discussion on personalised medicine

Organised on 24, 25 and 26 September 2019, in Brussels, Belgium, the European Research and Innovation Days are an annual policy event that bring together world leaders from industry, finance, academia and business to debate and shape the future research and innovation landscape.

SAPHIRe’s Dr Kathleen D’hondt was part of a discussion panel on personalised medicine which focussed on highlighting the role of regions. A video of the discussion is available to watch [here](#).



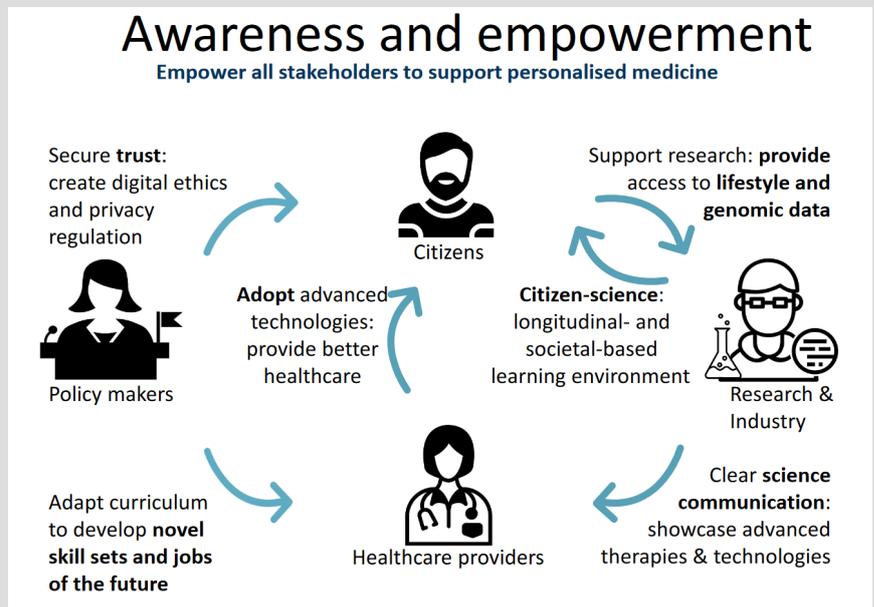
SAPHIRe’s Dr Kathleen D’hondt (second from left)

## Workshop 1 outcomes: Region specific needs and barriers

On the **12-13 March 2019** SAPHIRE held a workshop entitled “**Region specific needs and barriers**” the outcomes from the workshop are now available to view [here](#).

Some of the topics discussed included:

- Awareness and empowerment of all stakeholders
- Bringing innovation to market
- Improving manufacturing in order to upscale personalised medicine
- Improving the large scale integration of big data



## SAPHIRE Consortium meet with representative of the Portuguese Parliament

In June SAPHIRE Consortium members Dr Okker Van Batenburg, Dr Wouter Spek and Dr Daniela Dias-Santos met with Dr Antonio Sales, Deputy of the Assembly of the Portuguese Republic and member of the Parliament Commission for Health, at the Portuguese parliament.

*"The meeting with Dr Sales was very informative and productive and shows that Portuguese districts and cities are ready to work with SAPHIRE in the years to come"*

Dr Wouter Spek.



The meeting was an opportunity to discuss the current landscape of personalised medicine in Portugal and its' regions. Other topics covered included the sustainability of a patient-centred healthcare system and the existing demographic transition of an ageing population. The existence of low-density regions in Portugal, and the need for policies such as Bringing Care Home were also discussed as playing an important role in the future of the national healthcare system. SAPHIRE continues to meet and engage with stakeholders across Europe. It is through network building, and engaging with local and regional stakeholders that SAPHIRE will work to bring regional strengths, needs and barriers to the attention of national and European policy makers.

## Upcoming events

- **EUREGHA's high-level Annual Conference**

5 December 2019,

For more information visit: <http://www.euregha.net/event/euregha-high-level-annual-conference/>

- **ICPerMed Conference 2020**

The second ICPerMed Conference will take place on 15-16 October 2020 at the Maison de la Chimie in Paris, France.

For more information visit <https://www.icpermed.eu/en/activities-events.php>

- **ICPerMed Recognition Awards 2020**

For more information visit <https://www.icpermed.eu/en/recognition-2020.php>

- **SAPHIRE workshop 3**

22-23 April 2020 in Leuven, Belgium. The theme of the workshop will be personalised health and data. Visit <https://www.saphire-eu.eu/activities/categories/up-coming-events> for updates.

## Feedback

We hope you found this newsletter informative and helpful and would welcome your feedback and suggestions for future issues.

# Contact Us



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