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Deliverable D2.3

Report on complementarities across regions  
Towards prioritised themes for interregional collaboration

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## 1 Introduction

The SAPHIRE consortium supports regions in Europe - including remote, sparsely populated and less advanced regions - to structure the implementation and adoption of personalised medicine and personalised health (PM/PH) in regional healthcare systems, involving all stakeholders across the entire value chain. SAPHIRE will initiate a platform by creating a network of regions and their ecosystems. Furthermore, SAPHIRE will stimulate the development and deployment of (cross-border) interregional collaboration projects. Recommendations will be provided on funding and investments through the relevant financial instruments available.

The SAPHIRE project consists of the following work packages:

- WP1 – Coordination and Management
- WP2 – Inventory and Platform building
- WP3 – Strategy and Convergence
- WP4 – Activation and Acceleration
- WP5 – Dissemination and Exploitation
- WP6 – Ethics requirements

WP2 includes four deliverables:

- D2.1 – Information gathering methodology
- D2.2 – Regional PM profiles
- D2.3 – Complementarities across regions
- D2.4 – On-line database (Observatory)

This report describes the methodology to look for complementarities across regions and to identify specific prioritised themes for (cross-border) interregional collaboration to implement PM/ PH in regions.

## 2 Methodology: Region-Topic-Combinations (RTCs)

In order to identify complementarities and potential themes for interregional collaboration, an in-depth analysis is made using various sources of information, including the SAPHIRE survey (see Deliverable 2.2). The sources of information can be divided in two categories:

Category 1	Surveys, interviews, site-visits, workshops
Category 2	Reports, policy briefs, white papers

Both categories provide a wealth of information, but in most cases, the information is fragmented and rarely ready-to-use. For this reason our analytics methodology is using a stepwise approach to structure the information obtained, i.e. identifying the (i) regional priorities; (ii) challenges/ unmet needs of the regions; (iii) synergies; and (iv) potential for cooperation.

#### REGIONAL PRIORITIES

- Identify regional strengths and weaknesses.
- Position local actors (universities, SMEs) in the global value chain of PM.
- Distinguish/ align between local, regional, national and supra-national policy level.

#### CHALLENGES / NEEDS

- Identification of the value chain.
- Data sharing, data security and regulation.
- Cluster-based financial instruments.
- Combination of funds, including interregional investment funds.
- Adequate support and service platforms for mapping, matchmaking.

#### SYNERGIES

- Building/ creating synergies is needed between three levels: strategy level, programming level and project level.
- Clusters are critical assets in making synergies effectively happen.
- There is a need for examples of successful synergies; the Vanguard Initiative may be an inspiring model.

#### POTENTIAL FOR COOPERATION

- Many strategies and initiatives on PM exist at regional and national level; coordination is a must.
- One single region cannot cover the whole PM value chain; collaboration between complementary regions has clearly an added value.
- Collaboration should not only trans-regional, but should also involve Member States and the EC.

In this context also trends are monitored by analysing reports and publications of all sort, which are instrumental in identifying topics for collaboration.

The first round of analysis allowed setting up 'Region-Topic-Combinations' (RTCs), which may form the basis for the design, development and deployment of interregional and/or intraregional collaboration. See the figure below.

It is important to note that these rounds of information gathering and analyses will be repeated throughout the duration of SAPHIRE as a continuous process to generate updated and more complete information on PM/ PH in regions.

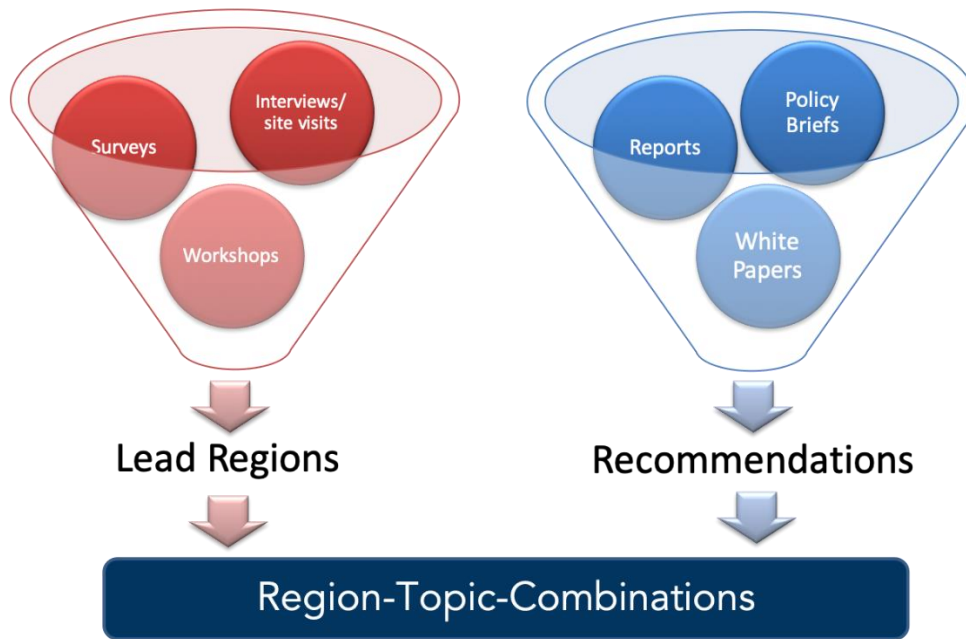


Figure: SAPHIRE methodology for identification and selection of prioritised topics for interregional collaboration

### 3 Belfast workshop on best practices in PM/PH

To exchange information on the state-of-play, best practices and emerging topics in regions, and to identify options for interregional collaboration, SAPHIRE organised its 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop on “Best practice in PM/ PH” on 17 and 18 October 2019 in Belfast. Ten regions from eight different countries attended the workshop (see the table below).

The workshop programme and the videos of the presentations can be found on SAPHIRE’s website [www.saphire-eu.eu](http://www.saphire-eu.eu).

<b>Ctry</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Topic</b>
BE	Flanders	Sofie Bekaert <i>VIB</i>	Towards improved societal impact
		Evelyn Verlinde <i>emma.health</i>	Towards a personalised lifestyle medicine society
DK	South Denmark	Henriette Hansen <i>Regional government</i>	To provide health professionals with PM skills and competences
		Henrik Ditzel <i>Odense University Hospital</i>	Precision medicine in oncology and its coordination with the Danish National Genome Center and other Danish regions
ES	Extremadura	Jonathan Gomez-Raja <i>Regional government</i>	Digital health and precision medicine initiatives
IT	Autonomous Province of Trento	Olivia Balagna <i>Regional government</i>	Enabling prescription-based health apps
NL	East Netherlands	Karolien de Bruine <i>Regional Development Agency</i>	Smart Specialisation for prevention, prediction and personalised: TopFit
PL	Podlaskie	Mirosław Kwasniewski <i>Medical University of Białystok</i>	Progress and challenges in PM implementation
SE	Västra Götaland	Per Sikora <i>Clinical Genomics Gothenburg</i>	Precision medicine in Sweden, challenges and opportunities
UK	Northern Ireland	Ian Young <i>Regional government Chief Scientific Advisor</i>	PM in Northern Ireland: A policy and practice perspective
		Michael McBride <i>Regional government Chief Medical Officer</i>	Keynote
		Tony Bjourson <i>Centre for Stratified Medicine</i>	PM: a disruptive driver of change for societal benefit
	Scotland	Alan McNair <i>Regional government</i>	Scottish Government support for precision medicine
		Andrew Biankin <i>University of Glasgow</i>	Realising the promise of precision oncology
	Wales	Sian Corrin Rhian White	All Wales Medical Genomics Laboratory
	IE	national	Mairéad O'Driscoll <i>Health Research Board Ireland (ex-chair ICPeMed)</i>

#### 4 Need for change and system transformations

Personalised medicine/ health is inducing a transformative change for health care approaches and health care systems as medicine is no longer merely aiming to treat diseases, but is moving towards prevention of diseases, health promotion and inducing lifelong well-being. Associated to these changes, there is also a changing role of all actors in the healthcare systems, which include next to patients and health care professionals also caregivers and customers or citizens in general. Such transformation requires different strategies and a cultural change. Regional ecosystems are well placed to address the challenges related to these transformations, because of the proximity in a regional ecosystem that ensures strong interconnections between the different actors, including the healthcare providers, experts in academic centres and industry, and society.

Cure & Care	>>>	Prevention & Prediction
Disease treatment	>>>	Health promotion
Population	>>>	Individual
Doctor in charge	>>>	Self management
Medicines	>>>	Life style / nutrition
Basic research	>>>	PM-adoption in HCS

One of the major challenges for PM/ PH to develop is the data to understand what determines health and disease and find novel treatment to move from symptom treatment to really cure. Regional health care actors are often very well positioned to ensure proper data acquisition, data analytics, data storage, data access and data (re-)use.

Following the first analyses of the information gathered by SAPHIRE, together with lead regions, three topics to start an RTC trajectory have been identified, i.e. on data, lifestyle medicine/wellness and skills.

These topics will be addressed in future workshops of SAPHIRE to identify possible routes for enhanced interregional collaborations. Access to regional funds and awareness in updated RIS3 plans 2021-2027 for the next framework programmes will be instrumental to move to implementation of PM/ PH in an interregional context. a special format will be developed for the EIT Health InnoStars and EIT Health RIS group member regions.