SAPHIRe Newsletter
July 2020

Welcome

Welcome to the third Issue of the SAPHIRe newsletter.

We have been engaging with regions and communicating 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 Mikolaj Gurdala a Manager with EIT Health InnoStars.

SAPHIRe Observatory: Update

SAPHIRe launched its Observatory in December 2019. To date the Observatory contains information on 45 regions. The Observatory allows the public to search for a region in Europe and provides 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 2019 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 Observatory will serve as a dynamic tool and we encourage regional stakeholders to contact us with updates.

Webinar: Exit strategies for COVID-19 lockdown, what role do regions play?

After the global spread of COVID-19, and the resulting lockdown measurements, many governments and regional authorities are slowly rolling out their lockdown exit plans.

These lockdown exit strategies usually consist of carefully balancing the role of healthy individuals, socio-economic impacts and technological solutions.
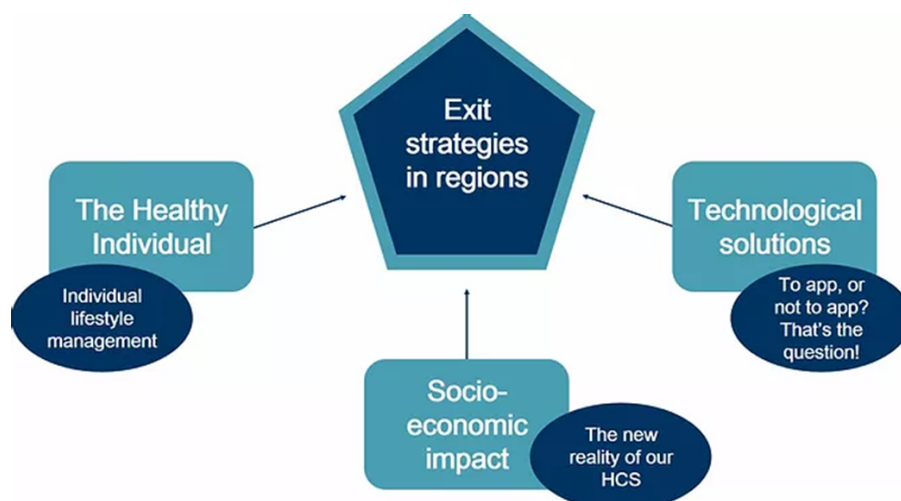
To gain a better understanding of the different regional approaches to tackling these challenges, SAPHIRe hosted a webinar on the 16 June; "Exit strategies for COVID-19 lockdown, what role do regions play".

Expert speakers included:

- Alexandre Lourenço: The new reality of our healthcare system

- Gert Van Assche: Digital transformation of hospitals, and initiatives in UZ Leuven

- Lisette van Gemert-Pijnen: Supporting intelligent build up by data-driven health care in Twente: towards a citizen science approach

- Sofia Segkouli: ICT enabled care services for seniors

- Marc van der Zande: Sports & Vitality in the post-COVID19 Economy, what will the future look like and how to prepare for it?

The webinar discussed the importance of digital approaches as part of lockdown exit strategies in the context hospital and care settings. The use of digital technology and sustainable innovation and its' application to sport in the post-COVID era were also highlighted. The need to involve citizens, and the importance of clear communication was also highlighted as an important aspect of exit strategies.

The recorded webinar presentations are available on our website and YouTube channel.
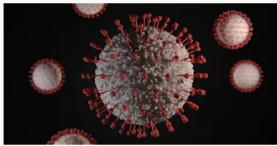
COVID-19 Hackathons

With the global outbreak of COVID-19 and the race to stop the spread of the disease, communities of tech professionals, data scientists, healthcare professionals, designers, researchers and entrepreneurs are coming together online to collaborate, innovate and quickly find solutions through hackathons.

There are many hackathons taking place across Europe; we have collated a list of past, current and upcoming hackathons on our website which we will keep updated.

If you have any updates or additions, or would like to speak to us about your hackathon please get in touch.

#BuildforCOVID19 (WHO, Microsoft, Facebook, Giphy, Pinterest, Slack, TikTok, Twitter, WeChat)

30 March

https://covid-global-hackathon.devpost.com/

Objective - The COVID-19 Global Hackathon is an opportunity for developers to build software solutions that drive social impact, with the aim of tackling some of the challenges related to the current coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

We're encouraging YOU - innovators around the world - to #BuildforCOVID19 using technologies of your choice across a range of suggested themes and challenge areas - some of which have been sourced through health partners including the World Health Organization and scientists at the Chan Zuckerberg Biohub.

The hackathon welcomes locally and globally focused solutions, and is open to all developers - with support from technology companies and platforms including AWS, Facebook, Giphy, Microsoft, Pinterest, Salesforce, Slack, TikTok, Twitter and WeChat, who will be sharing resources to support participants throughout the submission period.

#HackCorona (Data Natives)

#HackCorona
An online hackathon for public protection from COVID-19 in Germany & worldwide

March 20th - onwards

20 -22 March - closed

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hackcorona-an-online-hackathon-for-public-protection-from-covid-19-tickets-100161529832

Objective - Identifying the main pain points in the current health crisis situation. Coming up with solutions for: Protecting the elderly and medical workers; Offloading the healthcare system with faster diagnosis options and medical equipment delivery and/or assembly; Assisting with daily responsibilities for the ones who need it the most (e.g childcare, grocery shopping and medication etc.)

Outcomes:
https://dataconomy.com/2020/03/hackcorona-300-participants-41-nationalities-23-solutions-to-fight-covid-19-outbreak/

Winners 1) Distrik5- a community currency to incentivize people to volunteer and help the elderly with their needs by rewarding their time via digital currency, 2) Homenauts - platform with ideas on how to better cope with isolation where users can submit useful resources, 3) DIY ventilator scout - chatbot to help engineers build a DIY ventilator by giving instructions and data regarding the availability of components needed to build a ventilator, 4) Covid encounters - mobile app for tracking exposure and alerting citizens without compromising their privacy, 5) HacKIT-19 - easy-to-use app to help individuals, families, and decision-makers to make better decisions based on self-reported symptoms and real-time data, 6) Quantum Drug Screening -

COVID-19 Research and Innovation Repository

There were many new and unexpected challenges that emerged for researchers during the rapidly evolving COVID-19 crisis. Across Europe experts and researchers have come together to support the global effort to advance our knowledge of COVID-19.

In order to tackle the unique and emerging issues posed by COVID-19 regions and regional organisations have spearheaded numerous research and innovation initiatives to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. These include research addressing: therapies/treatments, diagnostics, prevention, behavioural approaches and e-health/apps.

We have collated a repository of the current research and innovation initiatives. We are keen to keep this repository updated, if you would like your regions' COVID-19 research and innovation-related activities added please contact us.

EIT Health RIS Regions Innovation training programme

Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) training in innovation sessions took place in Palermo, Ljubljana and Prague, where SAPHIRe was represented by SAPHIRe's Coordinator Kathleen D'Hondt, Operations Manager Okker Van Batenburg and Special Envoy Wouter Spek.

These training sessions provide EIT RIS regions with appropriate tools and skills to participate in EIT Health RIS 2019 innovation call, which aims at funding high-quality, strong and balanced projects, targeting EIT Health six main focus areas in healthcare.

You can read more about the EIT regional Innovation Scheme here

Upcoming events

- **SAPHIRe Webinar "COVID-19 apps"**

Tuesday 29 September 2020, For more information visit: https://www.saphire-eu.eu/workshop5-covid19apps

- **Second ICPerMed Conference**

"Personalised Medicine – From Vision to Practice"
The 2nd ICPerMed Conference will take place on 25-26 February 2021 at the Maison de la Chimie in Paris, France. For more information visit https://www.icpermed.eu/en/activities-events.php

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SAPHIRe
Securing Adoption of Personalised Health in Regions

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