



Deliverable 3.1

Action plan for the alignment of Chinese organisations with ICPeMed



Sino-EU PerMed has been funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under Grant Agreement (GA) No 874556

Project Acronym	SINO-EU PerMed
Project Title	Widening Sino-EU policy and research cooperation in Personalised Medicine.
Grant Agreement no.	874556
Start date of the project	01/01/2020
End date of the project	31/12/2023
Name of the deliverable	Action plan for the alignment of Chinese organisations with ICPeMed
Number of the deliverable	D3.1
Related WP number and name	WP3, Science & Policy Dialogue between China and Europe
Related task number and name	WP3, task 3.1: Alignment with ICPeMed
Deliverable dissemination level	Confidential
Deliverable due date	31/07/2021
Deliverable submission date	22/07/2021
Lead Beneficiary	Ejner Moltzen (Innofond)
Nature	Action plan for identifying and engaging relevant Chinese organisations with ICPeMed
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Summary:

This document describes the background why it is highly relevant to link key funding agencies, ministries, and decision makers in China to the activities of ICPeMed. The long-term outcome will be a further addition to the efforts done by ICPeMed to promote the development and implementation of personalised medicine to the benefit of patients and citizens. China is a key player within PerMed and there are major opportunities for learnings between EU and China in the area.

The document also describes an action plan how to engage and motivate Chinese entities to link to ICPeMed. It is the goal to reach senior level of decision makers in China and this usually requires face-to-face interactions. This is unfortunately not possible due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but the best possible efforts will be made through virtual means.

The action plan consists of four parts: 1) identification of relevant Chinese entities; 2) engaging and motivating the entities to link to ICPeMed; 3) setting up a scheme to ensure to maintain long-term relationship with the interested entities; 4) finalization of a travel grant scheme for Chinese representatives (M3.1)

Keywords:

Revisions			
Version	Submission date	Comments	Author
Draft ver1	15.07.2021	Sent to Consortium	Innofond
Recommendations	16.07.2021	Sent to Innofond	TLS, DLR
Final ver1	21.07.2021	Sent to Consortium	Innofond
Final	22.07.2021	Submitted to EU	DLR

The Sino-EU-PerMed Project

Personalised Medicine (PerMed) approaches bring along immense potentials to improve diagnosis and treatment of diseases and to development of prevention strategies by considering individuals' geno- and phenotypes, biomedical data, and lifestyle or environmental data.

“Widening Sino-EU policy and research cooperation in Personalised Medicine” (Sino-EU-PerMed) aims at connecting ICPeMed strategies and activities with relevant Chinese stakeholders. As part of the project an inventory mapping and analysis of the PerMed landscape in China has been performed and published. In addition, the Sino-EU-PerMed consortium will exchange expertise and experts via virtual workshops. Delegation trips in China and Europe is also planned if the Covid-19 pandemic allows. Thereby we will gain a better EU-Sino mutual understanding of PerMed activities and related cultural aspects. By running a series of targeted workshops Sino-EU-PerMed will promote international standards and pave the way for future communication, collaboration, and undertakings.

Our consortium aims at promoting the unique and long-term impact of personalised medicine approaches on society in cooperation and in alignment with ICPeMed. The cooperation with China will strengthen the international aspects and the planned activities in Sino-EU-PerMed will allow ICPeMed to further strengthen Europe's leading role in this area and contribute to a successful implementation of PerMed in the global context and foster joint PerMed projects between Europe and China.

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List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Explanation
CSA	Coordination and Support Action
EC	European Commission
ELSA	Ethical, Legal and Social Aspects
EU	European Union
ICPerMed	International Consortium of Personalised Medicine
R&I	Research and Innovation
Sino-EU PerMed	Acronym of the Project “Widening Sino-EU policy and research cooperation in Personalised Medicine”
WP	Work package

1 Overall considerations

ICPerMed is a Member States-led consortium with almost 50 partners from close to 30 countries, which debates and agrees on priority areas for research and innovation investment in the field of PerMed. It includes several health and research/innovation ministries, funding organisations, foundations as well as regional authorities. Only public funders or policymaking institutions are admitted as regular members. The consortium includes international partners, from e.g. Canada, Iran, and Brazil.

The main purpose of ICPerMed is to boost PerMed by an enhanced coordination and alignment of research activities and an investigation of its benefits to citizens and healthcare systems. With the Action Plan (2017), ICPerMed has designed a blueprint for a coordinated approach for PerMed research and the reasonable implementation of innovative and promising approaches in the health systems. ICPerMed members implement elements of this blueprint within their national or regional funding activities. With this ICPerMed Action Plan for the first time public and private 'not-for-profit' health research funding and policy organisations defined funding actions ready for implementation. This Action Plan facilitated consensus-building and decision-making processes in participating organisations and thereby enabled more concerted actions in this field. The Action Plan has by now become an internationally recognised key reference document for PerMed.

ICPerMed furthermore developed a vision of how the use of PerMed approaches will promote "next-generation" medicine in 2030, more firmly centered on the individual's personal characteristics, leading to increased effectiveness, economic value, and equitable access for all citizens to the best possible healthcare. This vision and its five perspectives are outlined in the ICPerMed Vision Paper (2019). According to the Vision Paper, by 2030, the PerMed vision will drive the organisation of health systems to support data management, interoperability and access, and data sharing between citizens, health professionals and researchers. Technological advances are creating the need for new skills, training programs involving health professionals, patients, and multidisciplinary teams.

The Vision Paper aims to achieve alignment amongst different countries, especially the European Member states, as well as the European Commission, and uptake of the perspectives presented in the paper in upcoming and future programs and activities. In addition, the Vision Paper is an inspiration for international partners who are interested in promoting PerMed in their region.

Thus, ICPerMed acts overall as a communication platform for existing and future initiatives and organisations related to PerMed and the perspectives presented.

It has overall become clear, that development and implementation of PerMed requires collaborations and interactions across borders. The steadily increasing number of international partners in ICPerMed

clearly indicates that the approach used by ICPeMed is being appreciated as a functioning and effective way to discuss, communicate, and align on matters relating to PerMed. It is therefore of high interest for partners of ICPeMed and for the whole PerMed area as such to extend the ICPeMed umbrella to include all major players within PerMed.

The Sino-EU PerMed project is a coordination and support action (CSA) which aims at promoting personalised medicine across China and EU. The outcomes of the project will result in increased Sino-EU learnings regarding development and implementation of PerMed and promote increased collaborations between Chinese and European players within PerMed. This impact may extend to other regions or even globally, e.g., if international standards and methodologies are defined and accepted within this action.

As part of the “ICPeMed Family” the Sino-EU will take on the task to establish a science & policy dialogue between relevant Chinese organisations and ICPeMed. This is highly relevant, considering that China is a major player within PerMed.

The task will support the active relationship between ICPeMed and this initiative. This is important for cooperation and alignment with ICPeMed to leverage possible synergies. Feedback on strategic developments of ICPeMed is expected as well as a wider communication and dissemination of ICPeMed activities. A dialogue will be established with representatives of ICPeMed eligible funding bodies and policy-making institutions to foster the consideration of Chinese requirements by ICPeMed bodies in a cross-sectional approach.

Liaison between Chinese institutions and ICPeMed will be implemented at several levels:

- Support for participation of representatives of ICPeMed in national and regional Chinese activities in China to present ICPeMed and discuss possible synergies.
- Support of Chinese institutions in preparing input to ICPeMed activities (e.g. presentation in and reporting to ExCom), information on ICPeMed communication and collaboration tools e.g. the ICPeMed partnering platform and the ICPeMed funding database.
- Offering regular web conferences to ensure the alignment of the identified priorities for the region before discussion with ICPeMed.

2. Action plan

The first step is to identify the most important organisations in China, which could be relevant to link to ICPeMed. These organisations are selected among:

- Public and private non-for-profit funding agencies
- National and regional ministries of science, technology, and health
- Relevant decision-making health organisations

Several entries will be used to identify these organisations:

- The most important entry will be the Policy Brief (D2.4) coming out of the Stakeholder workshop to be held in March 2022 (M2.2), which is expected to identify several key PerMed players in China (a one-pager describing the format and content of the Stakeholder workshop will be developed in October 2021).
- The scientific, technological, and funding mapping made within WP2.
- Input from the Chinese participants of the Sino-EU PerMed project
- Interviews with key European networking offices in China

The relevant entities will then be approached. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic it will unfortunately not be possible to make face-to-face networking. Major virtual efforts will be undertaken to establish relations to the most important Chinese players by virtual means.

When the interested parties have agreed to link with ICPeMed, the more detailed actions (e.g. meeting schemes, travel schemes (M3.1) etc) will be prepared.

3. Timelines

Task	Responsible	Time
Identifying relevant organisations by desk research and approaching these	Leads of WP3 and WP4, Coordinator's office	Sep 2021 (M20) and onwards
Identifying relevant organisations based on policy brief	Leads WP3 and WP4	March 2022 (M27)
Developing ICPeMed-interested network in China	Leads of WP3 and WP4, Coordinator's office	Oct 2021 (M22)- Apr 2023 (M40)
Travel grant scheme for Chinese representatives to ICPeMed established (M3.1)	Coordinator's office	Oct 2022 (M18)

4. ICPeMed Activities

Future ICPeMed events and activities in which Chinese members/observers/stakeholders potentially can participate:

Activity		When?	Comments
Events:	Workshop	Spring 2022	
	Conference	Autumn 2022	
	Workshop	Spring 2023	
	Workshop	Autumn 2023	
	Family Meeting	Autumn 2023	Internal meeting, only Chinese members of ICPeMed and Chinese partners of CSAs SINO-EU-PerMed and IC2PerMed will be invited.
	Training #2	Spring 2022	
	Training #3	Autumn 2022	
Other:	Stakeholder Forum	Continuously	More information and registration: Stakeholder Forum - ICPeMed
	Recognition	annually	Aims to recognise, encourage, promote and disseminate outstanding examples of best practices in personalised medicine. Annual call for proposals, candidates world-wide can apply. More information: ICPeMed Recognition - ICPeMed
	ICPeMed membership	Continuously	Membership is restricted to funding organisations. Becoming an observer before becoming a full member is possible. More information: Members of ICPeMed - ICPeMed
	ICPeMed Executive Committee	Semiannually	Only for members and observers of ICPeMed