European Commission
DG Health and Food Safety

HOME
ABOUT US
CONSULTATIONS
FUNDING
INFORMATION SOURCES
- E-publications
- Press releases
- Publications
- Videos
- Citizen summaries
- Speeches

EVENTS

SANCO related agencies
- European Food Safety Authority
- European Medicines Agency
- European Centre for Disease Control
- Community Plant Variety Office
- Executive Agency for Health & Consumer

Public Health (31-10-2013)

Commission report highlights the potential of Personalised Medicine

Public Health eNews (31/10/2013)

Commission report highlights the potential of Personalised Medicine

Today, the Commission publishes a **report** which takes stock of the progress made in the field of personalised medicine and the opportunities and challenges associated with its implementation in a healthcare setting.

The report focuses on three main areas: 1) the potential for, and issues with, the use of '-omics' technologies[1] in personalised medicine, and the related EU research funding, 2) recent developments in EU legislation for placing medicinal products and devices on the market, and 3) factors affecting the uptake of personalised medicine in health care systems.

The report concludes that personalised medicine has the potential to offer new treatment opportunities for the benefit of patients, including better targeted treatment, avoiding medical errors and reducing adverse reactions to medicines.

Personalised Medicine should be seen as an evolution of medicine, rather than a revolution, and the report recognises the challenges (e.g. in research) associated with its successful entry in healthcare systems. The European Commission will continue to monitor the developments of personalised medicine in the coming years and maintain a fruitful dialogue with stakeholders.

What is personalised medicine?

Although no official definition of personalised medicine exists, it can best be explained as a medical approach which is tailored to the patient or a group of patients – for prevention, prediction and treatment. In other words, it moves away from the common "one size fits all" medical model.

How does the EU support personalised medicine?

Since 2007 the EU has committed over €1 billion of health research funding underpinning the development of personalised medicine through its Seventh Framework Program for Research and Technological Innovation. Going forward, funding under Horizon 2020, the EU's new framework program to be launched at the end of this year, will continue to support this field.

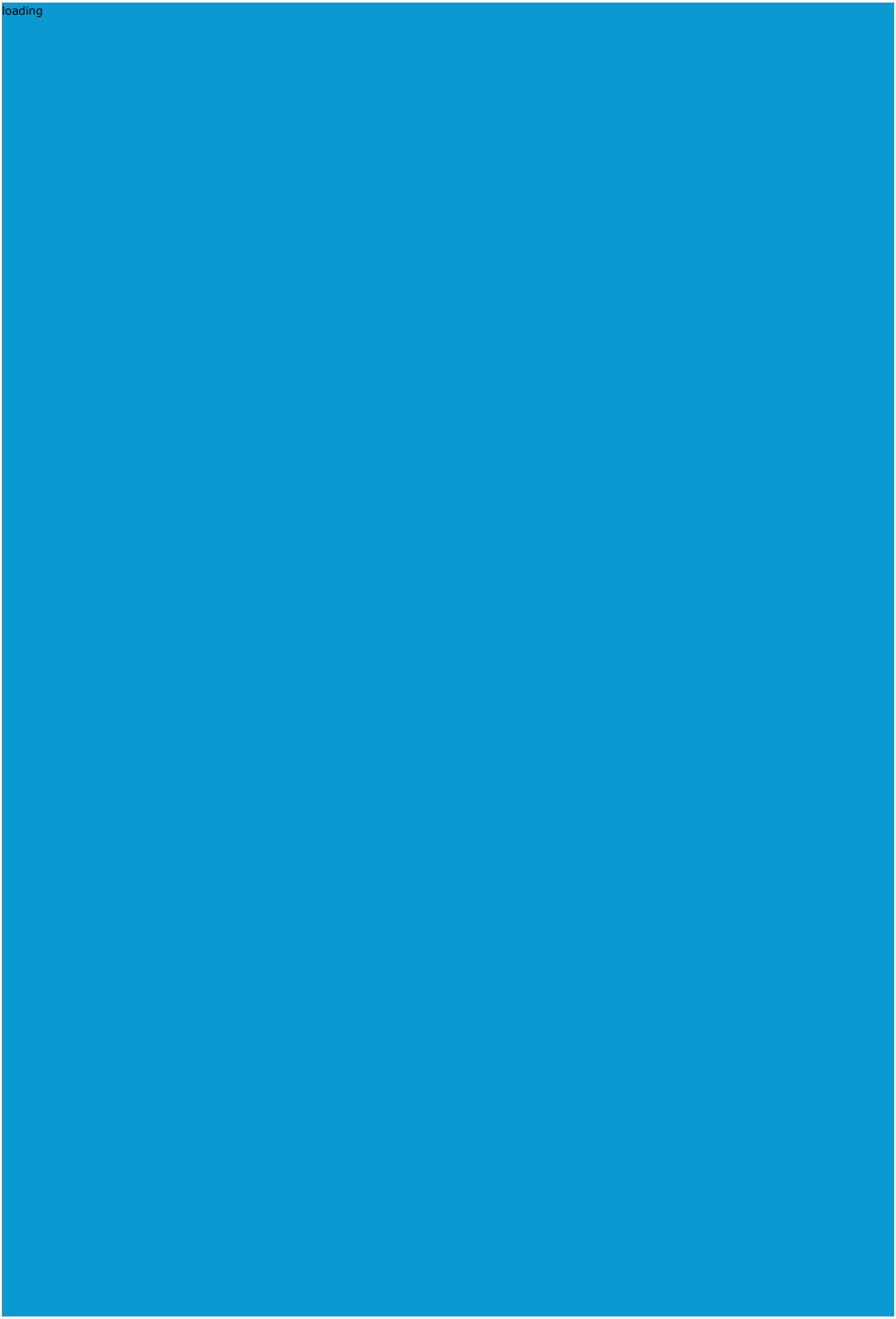
A constructive legal framework has also contributed to the development of personalised medicine. The regulatory framework for pharmaceuticals offers a number of tools and procedures to ensure that medicines placed on the market are of high quality, safety and efficacy. These tools, complemented by scientific guidelines and expert evaluation, have already worked well for innovative products including therapies relevant to personalised medicine.

The ongoing revisions of important pieces of legislation address certain challenges identified in the development of these therapies. The revision of the medical devices legislation will strengthen the legal framework of *in vitro* diagnostics and introduce a better consultation process for companion diagnostics to assess patient eligibility for treatment with a specific medicinal product. The revision of the Clinical Trials Directive is expected to simplify the conduct of clinical trials and consequently facilitate research in therapies using personalised medicine.

Finally, EU-level cooperation on Health Technology Assessment can help Member States assess the value of using personalised medicine in their health systems, i.e. judge whether their benefits will offset their costs through efficiency gains.

For more information on personalised medicine: **click here**

"'-omics' technologies" refers to a broad discipline broad discipline in science and engineering for analysing the interactions of biological information objects in various 'omes' that include the genome, proteome, metabolome, transcriptome etc


loading