

# SAPHIRe Newsletter

## April 2021



**SAPHIRe**

Securing Adoption  
of Personalised  
Health in Regions

## Welcome

Welcome to the fourth Issue of the SAPHIRe newsletter.

In this newsletter we have highlighted some of our recent activities; due to the COVID-19 pandemic the majority of our activities moved online and we have held a number of webinars that you can read more about below. These webinars cover a variety of topics, from contact tracing apps to access to health data.

We hope you enjoy this issue and if you have any suggestions for future issues please let us know!

Best wishes

*The SAPHIRe Team*

---

## CONTENTS

**New SAPHIRe team member**

**Webinar: COVID-19 contact tracing: the usefulness of mobile apps**

**Webinar: Access to health data: the role of regional actors, gatekeepers, providers and individuals**

**Webinar: Making data usable: Regional considerations, best practices and examples**

**Webinar: Health data for innovation – Opportunities and societal challenges, Smart Specialisation agenda**

**Preventive medicine interview series**

**SAPHIRe launch survey on regional competencies**

**Upcoming events**

### **New SAPHIRe team member**

The SAPHIRe team would like to welcome our new team member  
Jens Van Steerteghem , Policy Advisor, Flemish Government.

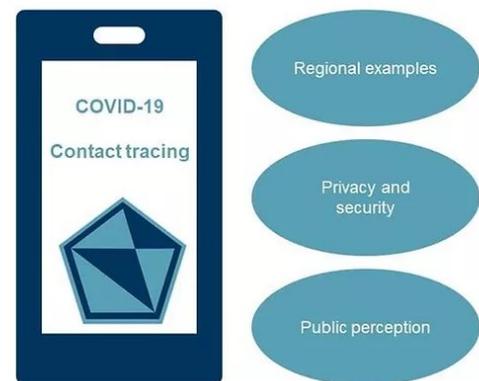


## Webinar: COVID-19 contact tracing: the usefulness of mobile apps

Contact tracing is an important tool to control infectious diseases, and digital contact tracing, using mobile apps, has shown to be an effective tool in the fight against COVID-19 spreading. During and after the first COVID-19 wave, many governments and regional authorities launched their contact tracing apps. To gain a better understanding of the different approaches of COVID-19 apps, SAPHIRe hosted an online interactive workshop in October 2020.

Speakers included:

- Professor Bart KULeuven, Flanders, Belgium
- Cathy Berx, Governor of the Province of Antwerp
- Antoni Rytel , Vice-President of GovTech, Poland
- Dr Sarah Gibney, Department of Health Ireland
- Dr Eddie O'Neill, Health & Social Care Board Northern Ireland



Webinar recordings and presentations are available [here](#)

## Webinar: Access to health data: the role of regional actors, gatekeepers, providers and individuals

To accelerate the transition in healthcare towards personalised health, the access to good quality health related data is a basic necessity. The acquisition, management, storage, (re)use and protection of data in an efficient way are the absolute preconditions to have good quality health data. In addition, access to validated health data is also essential for research, both in academia and in industry. This will also create opportunities for employment and innovation in regions across Europe. To discuss these issues we held a webinar in November 2020.

Speakers at this webinar included:

- Ilse Broeders, Lifelines Biobank
- Tine Lewi, Janssen Research & Development
- Katrin Cramer, Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics
- Anja Leist, Université du Luxembourg



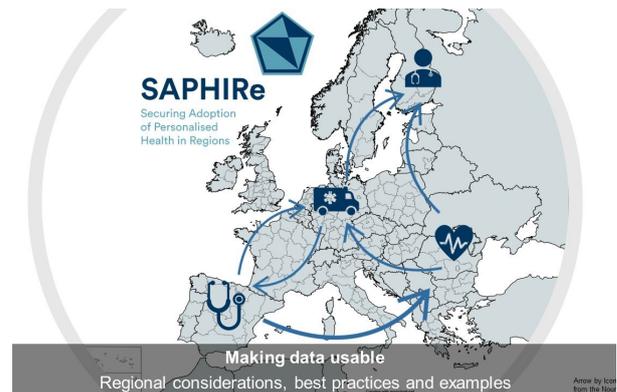
You can access the webinar recordings and presentations [here](#)

## Webinar: Making data usable: Regional considerations, best practices and examples

EU citizens have the right to access healthcare in any EU country and to be reimbursed for care abroad by their home country. To realise this right, the appropriate infrastructures and standards should be created. Regional providers of health data, such as (university or regional) hospitals, first line healthcare or genetic centres, collect massive amounts of health data. This creates a large need for interoperable and accessible data. To gain a better understanding of the regional perspectives to make health data accessible, SAPHIRe held an online interactive workshop.

Speakers at this workshop included:

- Gianni D’Errico, Regions4PerMed
- Gary Saunders, ELIXIR
- Bart Verheyden, LynxCare
- Dr Nathan Lea, i~HD
- Satu Väinämo, University of Oulu



Webinar presentations and recordings are available [here](#)

## Webinar: Health data for innovation – Opportunities and societal challenges, Smart Specialisation agenda

To gain a better understanding on the regional perspectives on health data for innovation, SAPHIRe held an online interactive workshop in December 2020. During this workshop we discussed how the Smart Specialisation agenda can leverage regional healthcare innovation and how this can be used to ameliorate the healthy lifestyle of citizens in a personalised way.

Workshop speakers included:

- Professor Jef Hooybergs, VITO
- Marc Van der Zande, Cluster Sports & Technology
- Joanne Hackett, IQVIA
- Dr Miklós Szócska, Semmelweis University

Webinar presentations and recordings are available [here](#)



## Preventive medicine interview series

Preventive, Predictive, Personalised and Participatory represents a move away from reacting to illness to prevention and maintaining health. Preventive medicine focuses on the health of individuals, it is a proactive approach towards patient care.

SAPHIRE are focusing on the domain of prevention in European regions; to showcase current operations (best practices) and provide a basis for further development, funding and partnering in the domain of preventive medicine.

We have interviewed key representatives from leading regional initiatives in Europe, which are active in preventive medicine approaches. These interviews discuss policy, future directions and past experiences. Recorded interviews are available to watch on our [website](#) and [YouTube channel](#).



## SAPHIRE launch survey on regional competencies

SAPHIRE launched a survey to understand how personalised health, health, the economy, innovation, and education are organised in European regions.

The results of the survey are accessible [here](#) and will help the development of the future European partnerships on Personalised Medicine (EP PerMed).

We are encouraging all regions to complete the survey which can be done [here](#).

# SURVEY



## Upcoming events

### SAPHIRE webinar

Problems and solutions for personalised healthcare in remote, rural, and sparsely populated regions.

Tuesday 20 April 2021, 10h00-12h30

<https://www.saphire-eu.eu/problems-and-solutions-in-remote>

### SAPHIRE webinar

Stimulating regional personalised health industry: ecosystems and EU initiatives.

Tuesday 11 May 2021, 10h00-12h30

More details to follow <https://www.saphire-eu.eu/workshops>

### SAPHIRE webinar

Personalised Medicine: Regional practices and strategies in going from bench to bedside.

June 2021 (Date TBC)

More details to follow <https://www.saphire-eu.eu/workshops>

---

## Contact Us

