



The EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation

HORIZON 2020

**Personalised medicines and
implementing the gender
dimension in health research**



Dr Gesa Hansen
Directorate Health
DG Research & Innovation



Background

Strategy on gender equality in Horizon 2020 (in part):

- Specific topics for sex specific issues and diseases in all areas (e.g. cancer, infectious diseases, ageing, maternal health etc.)
- Integrating the gender dimension in research and innovation (R&I) content to improve the scientific quality and societal relevance of the produced knowledge, technology and/or innovation as e.g. in personalised medicine

Focus on Personalised Medicine as a holistic medical approach starting from the citizen/individual for better prediction, prevention and treatment:

- A shift in care models still requiring much work
- Making advances in PM accessible to all citizens, not just to patients to provide prevention and to minimize the impact of disease
- Still a long way to go but many Member States, and regional stakeholders are interested in this approach
- PM as an area for a self-evident inclusion of the gender dimension and sex disaggregated data



Central issues

- Ownership, security and privacy of citizens/patient data in view of prevention and treatment: Digital technologies and innovations are important issues in this field
- Data analysis can only build on data based on the willingness to enable access to these data. Based on our public consultation, Europeans are very willing to share data for research purposes, even more than for their own treatment!
- Gender dimension in health research: self-evident in Personalised Medicine but more awareness raising may be needed for other areas



Recommendations

- In general: targeted training on sex and gender in research content, redefinition of the way sex and gender analysis is requested in the Horizon 2020 topic text;
- Further emphasis on the importance of collecting sex and gender disaggregated data and adequately reporting gender matters in proposal templates;
- Overcoming the following barriers: standard for data quality and reliability, standardisation of health records, common health- related cybersecurity standards, support for interoperability with open exchange formats and technical standards

**For a truly personalised
medicine**

