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| Crete: Regional Innovation Valley in Precision Medicine  **Apostolos Dimitriadis**1\*, **Maria Makridaki**1 and **Dimitrios G. Katehakis**1#  1 Center for eHealth Applications and Services, Institute of Computer Science, FORTH  # Presenting author: Dimitrios Katehakis, email: [katehaki@ics.forth.gr](mailto:katehaki@ics.forth.gr)  \* Corresponding author: Apostolos Dimitriadis, email: [adimi@ics.forth.gr](mailto:adimi@ics.forth.gr) |

abstract

The Region of Crete has recently been recognized as a Regional Innovation Valley by the European Commission [1], as part of a prestigious initiative (mission) aimed at enhancing innovation ecosystems across Europe. This recognition was achieved through the Region’s active participation in the Horizon Europe project PRECISEU [2], which focuses on advancing personalised medicine, with a total budget of 22.7 million euros. The project aims to promote precision medicine and achieve a truly personalized healthcare, through the interconnection of innovative ecosystems in 11 countries across Europe. Its core objective is to foster interregional collaboration to accelerate the development and integration of advanced therapeutic medicinal products (ATMPs) and the use of health data for personalised healthcare solutions.

The project has significant implications for Crete’s regional development [3], particularly in the healthcare sector. It aims to further strengthen Crete’s capabilities in personalised medicine by enhancing cooperation among regional stakeholders: research institutions, healthcare providers, and industry partners. A key focus of the project is the integration of innovative personalised medicine practices into the regional healthcare system, improving medical treatments tailored to the genetic and molecular profiles of patients. This approach not only enhances the quality of healthcare but also addresses the broader challenges of healthcare access and equality across the region.

Moreover, the PRECISEU project offers a unique funding opportunity for businesses and organizations in Crete to participate in high-impact, innovative research projects related to personalised medicine. With a dedicated budget allocated to support these initiatives, the Region of Crete aims to position itself as a leader in healthcare innovation, driving both scientific advancement and economic growth.

By supporting the development and implementation of cutting-edge medical technologies, the project will enhance Crete’s competitiveness in the healthcare sector, foster regional economic development, and contribute to the overall European efforts in building a robust, innovation-driven healthcare ecosystem.

**REFERENCES**

[1] <https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_24_3368>

[2] <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101161301>

[3] <https://www.ics.forth.gr/new/15874?lang=en>