



Orientation Paper 2021

for the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA)

Responsible:

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Glossary

AC	Associated Country
AWP	Annual Work Plan
BoT	Board of Trustees
CIHEAM	Centre international de hautes études agronomiques méditerranéennes
EC	European Commission
EIP	European Innovation Partnership
EIT	European Innovation Technology
ENI-CBC-MED	Cross Border Cooperation Within the European Neighbourhood Instrument - Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
HE	Horizon Europe
IA	Innovation Action
ICARDA	International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
IO	International Organisation
JPI	Joint Programming Initiative
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
MED	Mediterranean
MENA	The Middle East and North Africa region
MOOC	Massive Open Online Course
MPCs	Mediterranean Partner Country
NCPs	National Contact Points
NFA	National Funding Agency
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PRIMA	Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area
PRIMA-IS	PRIMA Implementation Structure
PSC	PRIMA Stakeholder Community
PS	Participating States
PSIAS	Participating States' Initiated Activities
RIA	Research and Innovation Action based on Horizon 2020 rules (in Section 2: R&I Activities, based on national regulations)
RoC	Rules of Contest
SAC	Scientific Advisory Committee of PRIMA Foundation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SRIA	Strategic Innovation and Research Agenda
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
TC	Third Country
TRL	Technology Readiness Level
WEFE	Water Ecosystem Food Energy

NOTICE: For UK applicants: Please be aware that following the entry into force of the EU, UK Withdrawal Agreement ¹ on 1 February 2020, and in particular Articles 127(6), and Articles 137 and 138 thereof, the references to natural or legal persons residing or established in a Member State of the European Union are to be understood as including natural or legal persons residing or established in the United Kingdom. UK residents and entities are therefore eligible to participate in calls in this work programme.

¹ Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community (OJ L 29, 31.1.2020, p. 7).

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Preamble

PRIMA, as a long-term EUR-Mediterranean research and innovation initiative, is committed to promoting solutions for more resilient and prosperous Mediterranean societies. The first two years of activities have proven successful in funding more than 80 Research and Innovation (R&I) projects.

Nowadays, we are all experiencing an unprecedented challenge that is severely affecting our countries, our region, and our people. The water management (quality and quantity), farming and agri-food sectors are also strongly impacted by the current situation. The health-related emergency is turning our societies in an economic and social crisis, likely to hit the most vulnerable and marginalised.

The current pandemic is reminding us, once again, that health and the environment are closely interlinked, should be produced sustainably, and that collective response is the only possible solution to tackle health and environmental challenges in front of us.

Solidarity among countries, the enactment of new technologies and organisation solutions and the implementation of Agenda 2030 are crucial to getting out of the present crisis. Given the intense focus of PRIMA on innovation, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the equal-footing principle, which is at the basis of our partnership between 19 countries and the European Commission, the initiative can give a valuable contribution to the recovery and the future of the Region. For this reason, we wish to promote with even more determination than ever our Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda and our thematic areas. On top of it, in 2021 PRIMA will fund a call designed explicitly on a COVID-related issue.

Joint research and innovation activities have a significant role to play to induce the transformations needed for a more sustainable, healthy and equitable Mediterranean region. The PRIMA Foundation, together with its stakeholders and the European Commission, is strongly motivated to contribute to such a collective effort.

Angelo Riccaboni and Mohamed El Shinawi

PRIMA-IS Co-Chairs

Introduction

The overall objective of the PRIMA programme is to build research and innovation capacities to develop knowledge and common innovative solutions to make agri-food systems and water provision in the Mediterranean area, more sustainable and resilient to climate change.

Through its programme, PRIMA will contribute to solving water scarcity, food security, nutrition, health, well-being and migration problems contributing significantly to the achievement of the United Nation Agenda 2030's Goals in the Mediterranean area.

The scale of the research and innovation necessary to address the challenges in the Mediterranean area is immense due to the systemic character of the major bottlenecks.

To reach these ambitious goals, an appropriate mobilisation and provision of financial resources, new technological and organisational framework and enhanced capacity development are needed.

The PRIMA programme, though a collaborative, cross-boundary approach among the PRIMA Participating States focus on common problems, aligning national programmes and increasing the required scale and scope by pooling financial and intellectual resources.

With this aim, PRIMA Participant States have developed a long-term Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda² which represents the cornerstone in the process of strengthening research and innovation efforts.

The joint efforts will contribute to improving the health and livelihoods of Mediterranean citizens, encouraging economic growth, inducing more sustainable Mediterranean societies and stability.

PRIMA SRIA is the reference document for all the actors involved in PRIMA towards the implementation of the initiative.

As of 10 April 2018, the PRIMA programme counts 19 Participating States (PS): Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey.

The Partnership has a robust strategic dimension based on the principle of equal footing applied through co-decision, co-financing and co-management and a distinctive geographical focus on the Mediterranean region.

Based on Decision (EU) 2017/1324 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2017² (PRIMA Decision)³, the PRIMA programme will run over a period from 7 August 2017 to 31 December 2028. The European Union (EU) has decided to support the programme with a maximum financial contribution of EUR 220 000 000 from the Horizon 2020 programme's Societal Challenge 2 (*'Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine, maritime and inland water research, and the bio-economy'*) and Societal Challenge 5 (*'Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials'*) and Industrial Leadership (*'Nanotechnologies, advanced materials, advanced manufacturing and processing, biotechnology'*). The conditions for the Union financial contribution are outlined in Article 4 of Decision (EU) 2017/1324.

The programme is implemented by the PRIMA Foundation, established in Barcelona in 2017 as dedicated implementation structure, which has been entrusted by the European Commission to manage the budget implementation tasks of the PRIMA programme under Article 185 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).⁴

The PRIMA Implementation Structure, legally established as a private entity under Spanish law in Barcelona, Spain, is also referred to in this document as "PRIMA-IS".

² http://prima-med.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/PRIMA-SRIA_Strategic-Research-and-Innovation-Agenda.pdf

³ Decision (EU) 2017/1324 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2017 on the participation of the Union in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) jointly undertaken by several Member States (OJ L 185, 18.7.2017, p. 1). <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32017D1324>.

⁴ Article 26(2), point (b), of the Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013 of the European Parliament and of the of 11 December 2013 establishing Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) and repealing Decision No 1982/2006/EC (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 104).

Implementation of the PRIMA programme

The PRIMA-IS implements the PRIMA programme based on Annual Work Plans.

PRIMA annual work plans are developed in compliance with the objectives and provisions set out in Decision (EU) 2017/1324, based on the priorities described in the PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda ('SRIA'), under the three thematic areas addressed by the programme, namely:

- **Thematic Area 1** Integrated and sustainable management of water arid and semi-arid Mediterranean areas
- **Thematic Area 2** Sustainable farming system under Mediterranean environmental constraints
- **Thematic Area 3** Sustainable Mediterranean Agri-food value chain for regional and local development

As from 2019 Calls, in this Annual Work Plan, in addition to the three sectorial above-mentioned thematic Areas, given the complexity of interlinkages between them, a specific action will be focused addressing the Water-Energy-Food- Ecosystem (WEFE) Nexus under one particular "Nexus theme" Call.

PRIMA programme structure

PRIMA programme activities will be implemented as follow:

- 1) **Section 1:** Actions and activities organised, managed and funded by PRIMA-IS⁵
- 2) **Section 2:** Activities selected following transnational open and competitive calls for proposals organised by PRIMA-IS and funded by the national funding bodies of PS (providing financial support mainly in the form of grants)
- 3) **Section 3: Activities organised, managed and funded by the PS**
 - a. Activities under the national programmes of the Participating States including transnational projects referred to as "Participating States' Initiated Activities" (PSIAs)
 - b. Activities organised and funded by PS supporting PRIMA programme implementation referred to as "Other activities" in this document.

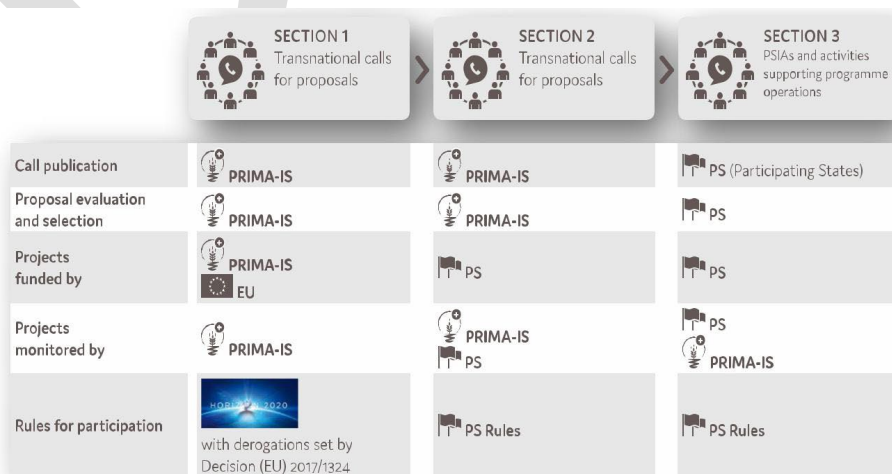


Figure 1. PRIMA programme structure

⁵ In line with Article 3(3), point (a), of Decision (EU) 2017/1324, this funding is covered by Union financial contribution. However, where appropriate, PS may also arrange for financial contributions to cover costs of indirect actions funded by PRIMA-IS (Article5(2), point (a)).

Actions / Activities	Contribution	
	EU	PS
1. SECTION 1: ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED AND MANAGED		
1.1. INDIRECT ACTIONS FUNDED BY PRIMA-IS (UNION CONTRIBUTION) FOLLOWING TRANSNATIONAL CALLS ORGANISED BY PRIMA-IS.	X	✓
1.2 ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING PROGRAMME OPERATIONS FUNDED AND IMPLEMENTED BY THE PRIMA-IS	X	
2. SECTION 2: ACTIVITIES SELECTED FOLLOWING TRANSNATIONAL CALLS		
2.1 INDIRECT ACTIONS FUNDED PRIMA PS FOLLOWING TRANSNATIONAL CALLS ORGANISED BY PRIMA-IS		X✓
2.2 PS CONTRIBUTIONS DEDICATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSALS RESULTING FROM TRANSNATIONAL CALLS ORGANISED BY THE PRIMA-IS AND FUNDED BY THE PS		X
3. SECTION 3: ACTIVITIES ORGANISED, MANAGED AND FUNDED BY THE PS		
3.1 PARTICIPATING STATES INITIATED ACTIVITIES (PSIAS)		X
3.2 OTHER ACTIVITIES		X

Figure 2. Overview of PRIMA actions and activities covered by PRIMA AWP 2021 and allocation of the corresponding contribution of the European Union and the Participating States.

Section 1

1.1 Indirect actions funded by PRIMA-IS (EU contribution) following Transnational Calls organised by PRIMA-IS.

Actions are evaluated, selected and funded in line with the Rules for Participation of Horizon 2020 according to a two-stage submission process and are centrally managed by the PRIMA-IS. Grant agreements are to be signed with PRIMA-IS based on the H2020 Model Grant Agreement.⁶

In section 1, activities of the PRIMA programme are supported along with three distinct types of actions as defined in the [General Annex D of the Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2018-2020](#).

- Research and Innovation action (RIA)
- Innovation Actions (IA)
- Prizes

While RIAs in Section 1 refers to Technology Readiness Level⁷ 3-5, IAs refers to Technology Readiness Level 6-7 as set out in Section 5 of this document (D. Type of Action General Annexes⁸). Innovation Actions should include activities directly aiming at producing plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services. For this purpose, they may include prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication. Organisational innovation activities⁹⁻¹⁰ could also be included.

Section 1, RIA and IA actions will encompass topics under the three thematic areas (water management (quality and quantity); farming system and food value chain) with a focus on the sectoral interdependencies among them (Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus). The Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus approach is gaining increasing attention in policymaking and research communities as a means of addressing sectoral interdependencies in the management of natural resources and as an approach for operationalising the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In the current Annual Work Plan, PRIMA will award international Recognition Prizes following the according to the conditions laid down by the Rules of Contest¹¹: the PRIMA WEFE Nexus Award. These Prizes will be awarded during the WEFE Nexus Science Advances Conference¹² co-organised by PRIMA, Joint Research Centre, the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean, Cyprus Institute which will take place in the third Quarter of 2021.

1.2 Activities supporting programme operations funded and implemented by the PRIMA-IS

Activities implemented by PRIMA-IS for the Evaluation of the submitted proposals in response to Section 1 Calls and monitoring of the funded projects.

Detailed supporting information about the Evaluation, selection and granting process, suitable type of grant agreements and funding levels are summarised under each call topic, described in more detail in the General Annexes (5.1: Section 1).

Section 2

2.1 Indirect actions funded by PRIMA PS following transnational calls organised by PRIMA-IS

⁶ http://prima-med.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/h2020_mga_prima_multi_en.pdf

⁷ Technology readiness levels as defined in annex G of the General Annexes to the Horizon 2020 Work Programme and Section 5.1.6 of this document

⁸ https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/wp/2018-2020/annexes/h2020-wp1820-annex-ga_en.pdf

⁹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2006:323:0001:0026:EN:PDF> Definition of "organisational innovation."

¹⁰ Organisational innovation means the implementation of a new organisational method in the undertaking's business practices, workplace organisation or external relations.

¹¹ The Rules of Contest (RoC) lay down the conditions for participation, the award criteria, the amount of the prize and the arrangements for the payment of the prize to the winners after their award. The PRIMA RoC will be available in PRIMA website.

¹² <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/event/conference/2020-wefe-nexus-science-advances-postponed-2021>

Activities are evaluated and selected based on rules, which are analogous to the Rules for Participation of Horizon 2020 following open calls for proposals centrally organised by the PRIMA-IS according to a two-stage submission process. Such activities are funded in line with common principles (see 5.2.10). Grant agreements will be signed between participants and by relevant national funding bodies following national rules.

In Section 2, activities of the PRIMA programme are supported along by Research and Innovation Activities (RIA) based on national rules¹³.

Section 2 will include activities of approximately one million EUR, encompassing all Technology Readiness Level TRL (3-7); however, the funding of projects in high TRLs will depend on national funding regulations.

PRIMA AWP 2021 provides information about Calls for Proposals to be organised by the PRIMA-IS, including the challenge, scope and expected impact, as well as the eligibility requirements and other specific conditions for applying.

Detailed supporting information about the Evaluation, selection and granting process, suitable type of grant agreements and funding levels are summarised under each call topic, described in more detail in the General Annexes (5.2: Section 2) and the national funding rules (Section 2).

2.2 Activities supporting programme operations funded and implemented by the PRIMA-IS

Activities implemented by PRIMA-IS for the Evaluation of the submitted proposals in response to Section 2 calls and monitoring of the funded projects.

Section 3

3.1 Participating States Initiated Activities (PSIAs)

PSIAs are funded following national calls with Evaluation, selection and granting processes implemented by one or several PS in line with common principles (see 5.2.10) agreed with the PRIMA-IS, on behalf of the Participating States and the European Commission.

3.2 Activities supporting programme operation funded and implemented by PS (referred to as "Other activities in this document"),

"Other activities" are funded and performed by PS. They will support programme operation and constitute an integral part of the PRIMA programme.

¹³ Please note that the acronym RIA is used both for Section 1 and for Section 2. In Section 1, the rules applying to these actions are the standard Horizon 2020 rules for participation (RfP). While the rules used in Section 2 are to some extent analogous to the Horizon 2020 RfP, specific rules, concerning participation and funding rates, apply. As the projects selected in Section 2 are funded directly by the national funding bodies, they will be subject to the respective national regulations. For more details regarding the rules for Section 2 please refer to the guidelines for applicants on the PRIMA website.

PRIMA AWP 2021 rationale

The demands of a growing global population are exerting ever-increasing pressure on the Earth's ecosystems and their life-supporting services. Exacerbated by the effects of climate change, over-exploitation of ecological capacities, impairing agricultural productivity, there are raising concerns over capability to feed a continually growing population. Continued degradation of global ecosystems and their services will influence poverty and inequality, potentially driving increased migration.

While this picture applies to all corners on our planet, the situation is particularly severe in the Mediterranean region, as stated in the "Preliminary assessment by the MedECC Network science-policy interface - 2019¹⁴". The Mediterranean region, according to the report, is facing an unprecedented combination of changes that are likely to undermine livelihoods: with the temperature's increase and water scarcity, fertile areas are increasingly suffering from desertification, thus threatening the income base for farmers and in particular of smallholders who are highly exposed to the effects of climate change.

Further to this, the COVID-19 pandemic has put an additional burden to a region where mitigation measures are urgently needed to increase the resilience to climate change and shocks.

The current epidemic has highlighted the crucial role of research and innovation and the need for pragmatic solutions for the transition to a sustainable and green economic model, as a promise for prosperity and resilience.

Reinforced international cooperation between scientists and stakeholders has the potential to contribute to the fight against global pandemics such as Covid-19, boosting recovery and green transition in the Mediterranean area.

PRIMA, in its Annual Work Plans, will focus on increasing the resilience to climate change, through the application of sustainable agroecological practices, preserving and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity, but also through the development of affordable, nutritious, healthy and safe food system produced with sustainable and rational use of natural resources.

This objective is not only consistent with the PRIMA objectives as set in Decision (EU) 2017/1324¹⁵. Still, it is entirely relevant to the new EU policy package, the EU Green Deal commitment to tackle climate and environmental-related challenges, the Horizon Europe Missions (Mission on Soil Health and Food) and Partnerships as well as to the overarching United Nation's 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals.

As we are now in the Decade of Action and Delivery of the UN Agenda 2030, the need to operationalise the achievements of the SDGs is even more urgent as also reflected the new EU framework programme Horizon Europe.

To implement the policies of the new Commission and the overarching SDGs, the PRIMA Scientific Advisory Committee recommended that research and innovation actions included in the Annual Work Plan 2021 would be focused on efforts to ensuring a smooth green transition to resilient farming and food systems.

These actions would not only satisfy the increasing need of food quality for a healthy Mediterranean population but also, would mainstream measures to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

These recommendations also stemmed from the inputs received from socio-economic stakeholders through both public open web consultations and face to face workshops which took place at the end of 2019.

The outcomes of these consultations represented a relevant contribution for the PRIMA Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), whose work fed in a concept paper, paving the way for the Annual Work Plan 2021.

14 https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/MedECC-Booklet_EN_WEB.pdf

15 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32017D1324&from=EN>

Considering the advice provided by the PRIMA SAC, the Annual work plan focuses on the following interconnected orientation lines:

Orientation Line 1: Increasing and improving the profitability, resource efficiency, and resiliency of small-scale farming systems in front of the global challenge such as climate change and acute shocks such as pandemics.

Smallholders, holding 75 to 85 per cent of agricultural lands in the Mediterranean¹⁶ are undoubtedly among the most affected by challenges such as climate change and acute shocks such as the Coronavirus pandemics. The consequences of such catastrophic events and the accompanying responses by national governments and other actors to the pandemics are likely to harmfully affect the poor and marginalised categories of societies who lack adequate resources and means to leap back after such catastrophic and unpredictable disruptions. Adaptation of the agricultural sector is vital to increase the resilience of smallholder farmers' livelihoods and shift towards a more sustainable transformation. The new climate scenarios are already severely impacting farmers and their families in fighting against it, making it necessary to work in partnership to minimise its effects and the negative social consequences they bring, such as migration and displacement. The adoption of available technologies (especially the digital technologies) and organisational innovation by smallholders is needed to improve production, manage agroecosystems and natural resources, and improve the local organisation to positively change attitudes and behaviours in light of actual and future challenges. An urgent goal is increasing their profitability and sustainability by tackling technical but mostly organisational and social changes.

PRIMA encourages the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices such as agroecology practices that will enable farmers to reduce dependence on external inputs, allowing the conservation – rather than the degradation – of the natural resources on which we depend for food production. Increased sustainability of farming practices could also be achieved through the re-introduction of the cultivation of local and old varieties. In particular to the less water consumptive crops particularly in water-stressed areas, that more adapted to the local climatic conditions. In promoting agroecological practices PRIMA is well aligned with the Horizon Europe Partnership “Accelerating farming systems transition: agroecology living labs and research infrastructures”¹⁷ aiming to “farming systems more resilient and more closely connected to society, and which would deliver sufficient, safe, nutritious and affordable food, while respecting planetary boundaries and rewarding farmers better”.

The orientation line is addressed by Thematic area 2, Farming system SRIA priorities, and specifically:

2.2 Developing sustainable and productive agro-ecosystems;

2.4 Developing farming systems able to generate income, to create employment and to contribute to a balanced territorial development.

Orientation Line 2: Implementing sustainable land management strategies for preventing land degradation and desertification and also promoting healthy soil (restoration) and food-grade quality water conservation.

Desertification¹⁸: a form of land degradation in drylands, is a growing threat in the Mediterranean with significant effects on the use of land. Drylands cover 33.8% of the Mediterranean and poor soil and water management, overgrazing, deforestation and wildfires are turning large sections of these areas into deserts. Climate change is expected to further increase desertification by creating conditions that are generally drier and hotter. Desertification can bring poverty, health problems

¹⁶ FAO, CIHEAM-IAMM & CIRAD. 2017a. Study on Small-Scale Family Farming in the Near East and North Africa – Synthesis, FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa, Cairo, Egypt. [also available at www.fao.org/3/b-i6436e.pdf]

¹⁷ Horizon Europe Partnership “Accelerating farming systems transition: agroecology living labs and research infrastructures” https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/research-area/agriculture-forestry-and-rural-areas/partnership-agroecology_en

¹⁸ The term desertification is usually used to describe human- and climate-related processes leading to problems affecting dry areas, such as diminished food production, soil infertility, decreases in the land's natural resilience, and reduced water quality. Desertification does not describe conditions in areas traditionally described as “deserts”. Rather, it refers to drylands.

due to wind-blown dust, and biodiversity loss. It can also have demographic and economic consequences, forcing people to migrate away from affected areas. Focus on Sustainable land/soil management is consistent with EU New initiatives that will impact soil including, the Green Deal for Europe, (with its implications for biodiversity, zero pollution and land degradation) and in particular with the Horizon Europe Mission “Caring for soil is caring for life” proposed by the Soil Health and Food Mission Board which aims to “*put Europe on a trajectory towards sustainable land and soil management as part of a wider, green transition (...) to codesign, co-create and implement solutions for the restoration and preservation of soils all over Europe*”¹⁹. PRIMA, aiming to increase the sustainability of land management in the Mediterranean Regions, shares with the Mission “Caring for soil is caring for life” the ambition of restoring soil health in the EU and beyond.

Finally, it responds to the need identified in the EC auditors report (ECA 33/2018)²⁰ to take action to combat the growing threat of land degradation by desertification, especially in Southern Europe. PRIMA will address land degradation with a regional focus to Southern Mediterranean Countries, with a complementary action concerning the new European Joint Programme (EJP SOIL) “*Towards climate-smart sustainable management of agricultural soils*” launched in 2020 under Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 2 aiming “*to construct a sustainable framework for an integrated community of research groups working on related aspects of agricultural soil management*”.

PRIMA, through its projects, will scale-up the existing knowledge, good practices and evidence identified by the Regional initiative aiming to counter land degradation in the Mediterranean, Near East and Eastern Europe (LANDMEDNET) between Union for the Mediterranean, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations FAO²¹ and the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM)²².

The orientation line addresses the SRIA Cross-cutting Soil Sustainability priority.

Orientation Line 3: Ensuring water governance solutions for alleviating water scarcity

The Mediterranean region is facing water scarcity in several of its countries, and the situation will be extended to the entire area according to the climatic scenarios expected for the future. Under this already fragile situation, the occurrence of extreme weather events (heatwaves, flash floods, high winds, severe droughts), predicted to be more frequent because of climate change, will lead to more disruptive effects.

Water scarcity in the Mediterranean area should be addressed not only through technological improvements increasing irrigation efficiency; water treatment feasibility; nature-based solutions and natural water retention measures but also through more efficient, sustainable and innovative water governance.

This includes the transboundary level and equitable allocation systems to guarantee appropriate water resources sharing among all users.

Technological solutions offer already a comprehensive portfolio for a more efficient irrigational water demand-supply and the safe re-use of non-conventional water resources. There is then an opportunity to implement the obtained technological and management advancements integrating them into the water governance schemes and decision support system for the whole region, ensuring water availability for irrigation. An integrated approach considering both sides of the agricultural water source/demand water balance is needed. Improved water governance mechanisms should establish limits in safe water use under climate change constraints, (considering availability across both the spatial and temporal dimensions), as well as the different water users involved in the whole water cycle, including specific needs and constraints at local and the entire water basin level. To that purpose, it is crucial to consider effective risk management and validated best practices ensuring safe and sustainable use of water resources. The developed governance models should comply with the new European regulations on water reuse²³, at the same time taking into account South Mediterranean conditions, ensuring their applicability in the whole region. Indeed, a socio-economic approach should be implemented to prevent conflicts among agricultural water users (industry, farmers, citizens) based on clear criteria, like resource maximisation, equitable allocation and multi-actor approach.

¹⁹ Mission report “Caring for soil is caring for life”, September 2020.

²⁰ Special report n°33/2018: Combating desertification in the EU: a growing threat in need of more action, <https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/Pages/DocItem.aspx?did=48393>

²¹ <http://www.fao.org/home/en/>

²² <https://www.ciheam.org/>

²³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32020R0741&from=EN>

Integrating the obtained technological and management advancements into the water governance schemes is critical to address the water scarcity challenge. PRIMA calls to establish systems of governance and regulation that are capable of forcing us on a path that will lead us toward long-term sustainable development. Water sustainability in the Mediterranean region should be ensured through improved technical tools coupled with socio-economic tools, adaptive governance, organisational and/or business models to define and effectively enforce the limits of water use in certain key regions under present and future global change scenarios.

This orientation is consistent with the UfM Political impulse to the Mediterranean agenda on water and, according to Water Expert Group (WEG) discussions and specifically to UfM Water Sustainable Financing strategy²⁴ as well as their next steps towards meeting objectives defined in the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Water (Malta, April 2017).²⁵

This orientation is also well aligned the Horizon Europe Water4All Partnership²⁶ objective to set up and promote a governance of the water cycle that allows an inclusive, integrated and sustainable management at European and international level,

The orientation line is addressed by Thematic area 1 Water management, SRIA priority 1.2 Sustainable, integrated water management.

Orientation Line 4: Increasing the adherence to the Mediterranean Diet to tackle malnutrition in the Med Area.

The Mediterranean Diet is a sustainable and healthy diet model presented as a sustainable cultural model, respectful of the environment, whose adherence in Mediterranean countries should contribute to mitigating climate change.

The IPCC recognized in its recent report on Climate change,²⁷ that "*consumption of healthy and sustainable diets presents major opportunities for reducing GHG emissions from food systems and improving health outcomes*" to reverse the rise in overweight and obesity rates.

The transition towards affordable, nutritious, healthy and safe food systems produced with minimum impact on nature is very much consistent with the Green Deal new "Farm to Fork Strategy" (F2F) and the objectives of the Horizon Europe Partnership "Safe and Sustainable Food Systems" to shift to more sustainable and healthy diets for mitigating climate change and meeting the increase in global protein demand in view of a rising population²⁸.

PRIMA activities proposed in this AWP, towards increasing the adherence to the Mediterranean diet as a valuable and culturally acceptable model of Sustainable and Healthy dietary pattern, also respond to the need to improve policies and practices concerning sustainable agriculture and diets. The Sustainable Development Report 2019, (Mediterranean Countries Edition) reports the low average values related to SDG 2 (Zero Hunger - MED average: 56.6 compared to 63.2 Europe average).

Such low figures mostly depend on unsustainable practices and critical yield gaps in agriculture and on wrong attitudes of food consumption, determining increasing rates of obesity and health diseases.

The orientation line is addressed by Thematic area 3 Agri-food value chain, SRIA priorities:

3.1 Valorising food products from the traditional Mediterranean diet.

3.4 Implications of dietary shifts and sustainable diets for the Mediterranean populations and food industry.

²⁴ https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/UfM-Financial-Strategy-for-Water_for-web-paginas.pdf

²⁵ https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Ministerial-Declaration-on-Water_Union-for-the-Mediterranean.pdf

²⁶ Horizon Europe Partnership Water Security for the Planet_Water4All https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/european-partnership-water4all-water-security-planet_en

²⁷ IPCC Special Report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems.

²⁸ Horizon Europe Partnership "Safe and Sustainable Food Systems" https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/european-partnership-safe-and-sustainable-food-system-people-planet-climate_en

Orientation Line 5: Fostering the WEFE Nexus approach in the Mediterranean Area

Sustainable development in the Mediterranean cannot be achieved by considering management of Water, Energy, Food and Ecosystems as separate resources. As these sectors are strongly coupled, an improvement of water allocation regimes is needed to cope with current and future shifts in water availability and demand. Adequate and equitable allocation of water across interdependent sectors, including Energy, is indeed a significant determinant in achieving social stability and prosperity.

The Energy component has been introduced in the Nexus Approach addressed by PRIMA, considering the intimate connections linked to Water. Increasing water and energy needs, and/or changes in water availability due to climate change could have significant effects on the energy system.

For these reasons, the use and management of energy and water resources need to be addressed simultaneously, as water resources become more stretched, energy and food sectors intimately depend on water, and the fact that all three underpin several of the Sustainable Development Goals. This integrative and cross-sectoral approach will also support the achievement of the water-related UN Sustainable Development Goals. It will help achieving UN SDG6 related to clean water and sanitation, but also SDG 2 (Zero hunger), SDG 7 (Affordable and Energy) SDG 12 (Sustainable Production and Consumption), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 15 (Life on Land). Involvement of end-users, including small farmers, and public authorities, will be a key to achieve this.

In the AWP 2021, PRIMA will foster a Nexus approach proposing the Water Energy Food and Ecosystem Nexus (WEFE Nexus) topic tackling in an integrated way the interdependencies and interactions between water, agriculture, as well as the environment and energy which are strongly interconnected with the other sectors.

Managing the WEFE Nexus is a consultative process with key stakeholders contributing and agreeing to responses to the challenges being faced. The WEFE Nexus would require the close involvement of the private sector supporting the transfer of knowledge at the industrial level.

This orientation will contribute to implementing several Union policies (e.g. the new Common Agricultural Policy, Directive 2000/60/EC, [EU Water Framework Directive \(WFD\)](#)²⁹, the Union Development Policy) as well as initiatives and agreements at international level (UN Agenda 2030 of Sustainable Development)

It will also contribute to the UFM Water Expert Group (WEG) action plan aiming to implement at scale practical and pilot local (urban, rural, coastal) water efficiency and WEFE Nexus interventions, including through promoting innovation, and upscaling them for water security and climate resilience and introduce and/or support the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus approach, catalysing action for its mainstreaming, financing and implementation in the UfM Member States, at the national and local (basin) levels as well as in the UfM region.

The orientation line addresses SRIA Nexus theme and Thematic area 1 Water management, SRIA priorities:

- 1.2 Sustainable, integrated water management.*
- 1.4 Alternative water resources.*

With an indicative budget of approximately EUR 68 million, AWP 2021 is structured around five Calls for seven topics:

- four Section 1 Calls: (four topics, one for each call) a Call on Water management, a Call on Farming systems, a Call on Agri-food value chain and a Call on Nexus theme.
- one Section 2 Call, with three topics (Multi-topic Calls).

The AWP 2021 includes three Innovation Actions (IAs), with activities demonstrating technology or organisational model validation and market replication and four Research and Innovation Actions (RIAs), exploring new areas and new technologies.

This AWP 2021 foresees that approximately thirty projects will be funded, consisting of a balanced mix of demonstrators with new technologies into operation or organisational innovations (TRL 6-7)

²⁹ Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy" (OJ L 327, 22.12.2000)

and research activities with lower Technology Readiness Level (TRL) to pave the way for future innovation and capitalisation potential (TRL 3-5).

As a general approach, Research and Innovation activities in the AWP 2021 include socio-economic aspects involving social sciences, a cross-cutting issue that engages society, ensures access to research outcomes. When gender-related issues are explicitly mentioned in the call, the gender dimension³⁰ should be considered in the proposals and will be assessed during the Evaluation of projects.

All proposals are strongly recommended to include capacity-building activities to develop capacities at many levels: individual, organisational and/or community level. This is particularly important for increasing implementation capabilities and leveraging the impact of R&I efforts. Specific training activities are strongly suggested in the scope of the topics proposed.

Also, even if not stated explicitly in any topic, proposals should always be complementary and demonstrate synergies with other EU projects Horizon 2020, LIFE programme³¹ and other EU regional programmes such as the European Neighbourhood Instrument Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme (ENI-CBC-MED)³², Interreg Med³³ and SwitchMed³⁴, but also national projects and both ongoing and concluded schemes such as the Water and Environment Support³⁵.

Supporting activities to increase the impact

To facilitate the taking over of PRIMA outputs with a direct operational or development relevance to policymaking after the projects are completed, the following actions are foreseen by PRIMA:

- Sharing PRIMA projects best practices for research, innovation through the PRIMA Monitoring and Evaluation Platform of PRIMA_MEL.
- Sharing education and research best practices in the Mediterranean through the PRIMA Observatory for Innovation-POI ³⁶.
- Providing to researchers involved in PRIMA projects, mentoring and business support services to enable market access, build capacities and skills and facilitate peer-to-peer exchange through the support of other regional EU programmes such as SwitchMed, ENI-CBC-MED and EIT Food.
- Scaling up at the policy level the results of research and innovation results of PRIMA projects, to shape policymaking by promoting key projects outputs and good practices with decision-makers at the local, national and regional level. PRIMA will take advantage of relevant Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) regional platforms for policy dialogue such as the UfM Regional Platform on Research and Innovation (R&I), to involve many stakeholders as possible. Notably, the dialogue outcomes of the UfM Regional Platform on R&I and, more generally, of the UfM Secretariat, may also contribute to identifying priority areas for intervention within PRIMA programmes, especially in the post-COVID recovery in topics such as health and climate change, and supporting cross-cutting issues such as innovation and the employability of researchers. Cooperation with UfM regional dialogue platforms will be essential to ensure evidence-based policymaking and exploiting valuable research and innovation results in their full potential. Evidence-based results from PRIMA projects will leverage additional resources from governments, the private sector, other development partners and rural communities themselves or lead to broader alliances and partnerships that can achieve policy changes and multiple sustainable impacts. A first step for leveraging those resources and the uptake of policy recommendations will come with the UfM Senior Officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs during the UfM Senior Official meetings (SOM).

30: http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/gender_en.htm

31 <https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/life>

32 <http://www.enicbcmec.eu/index.php>

33 <https://interreg-med.eu/>

34 <https://www.switchmed.eu/en>

35 Water and Environment Support (WES) project (<https://www.wes-med.eu/>) builds on the experience gained through the predecessor projects, the "Sustainable Water Integrated Management and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism" (SWIM-H2020 SM) project 2016-2019 and the "Sustainable Water Integrated Management Support Mechanism (SWIM SM) project 2010-2015.

36 POI has been produced as deliverable of Other Activities proposed in 2018 Annual Work Plan <https://primaobservatory.unisi.it/en/homepage>

A practical example on how PRIMA will foster the upscale at the policy level of the PRIMA project results is the **WEFE Nexus Science Advances Conference 2021**³⁷ to address the role of science as a driver of innovation and its interface with the policymaking process. The Conference is co-organised with the Joint Research Centre (JRC), the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), and the Cyprus Institute³⁸. The Conference will provide the opportunity of pooling together multi-disciplinary competencies to show decision-makers the co-benefits of and trade-offs between future energy, food and ecosystem security plans and water policies. In this way, scientists and stakeholders will not only be able to "speak the same language", but also to agree on best practices and solutions to be shared and used across country borders.

The outcomes of the Conference will contribute to the objectives set out in the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Water, the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda of PRIMA and the actions proposed by the European Commission in the roadmap of the new European Green Deal and the Horizon Europe Missions and Partnerships.³⁹

During the WEFE Nexus Advances Conference, PRIMA will award two international prizes (**PRIMA Nexus Award**) intended to recognise individuals that have devised and demonstrated the successful implementation of combined management practices of water, energy, food and ecosystem resources at the local or regional scale in the Mediterranean.

The prizes help support the continuation of their research and further deployment on the ground of their best practices.

Dissemination of PRIMA outcomes

PRIMA-EU Strategic Workshop

The PRIMA-EU Strategic workshop was foreseen to take place in 2020 and was postponed in the third quarter of 2021, due to the Coronavirus pandemic. This workshop aims to define strategies and activities to increase the impact of PRIMA in terms of societal- and systemic transformation for the Mediterranean area. The expected outcomes of the workshop will include recommendations to PRIMA on strategic priorities for the years to come to be considered for the elaboration of future PRIMA Annual Work Plans.

A **PRIMA networking meeting (PRIMA Project's day)** will be organised in the third quarter of 2021, with the participation of representatives of Consortia involved in PRIMA projects. The proposed meeting will facilitate knowledge exchange and foster cross-collaboration between PRIMA's Projects actors. This meeting will be key for identifying synergies or eventually overlapping themes as well to reflect the impact the projects are delivering, to identify opportunities to improve the effectiveness of their results.

Synergies and Complementarities of European and International Initiatives

PRIMA will continue to implement actions aiming to increase complementarities and consistency with other EU programmes or instruments, or international initiatives while avoiding redundancy and overlapping.

In this sense, PRIMA will strengthen cooperation with relevant European Technology Platform (ETP) such as Water Europe⁴⁰; other European Union partnerships proposed in Horizon Europe Cluster 6, including candidate partnerships with similar thematic focus such as European Partnership Water Security for the Planet, Rescuing Biodiversity to Safeguard Life on Earth, and the European Innovation Technology EIT Food⁴¹. and EIT Climate⁴².

Synergies will be sought:

³⁷ <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/event/conference/2020-wefe-nexus-science-advances-postponed-2021>

³⁸ <https://www.cyi.ac.cy/>

³⁹ European Partnerships in Horizon Europe https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe/european-partnerships-horizon-europe_en

⁴⁰ <http://watereurope.eu/>

⁴¹ <https://www.eitfood.eu/>

⁴² <https://eit.europa.eu/our-communities/eit-climate-kic>

- At planning level schedules in the definition of the priorities to be addressed in the AWP's to ensure complementarities and avoid duplications.
- At the implementation level: PRIMA will also bring together projects from different initiatives with shared interests and encourage coordination during their implementation during PRIMA Project's day.
- At the end of the projects: research results of high TRLs produced by PRIMA projects could be supported by other initiatives to create start-ups and commercialise their output.

In particular, PRIMA and EIT Food will work together to build synergies in the area of education, training and capacity building. This collaboration will aim at:

- Introducing and valorising EIT Online Courses⁴³, on thematic related to food within PRIMA community and network.
- Presenting to the PRIMA network of researchers of EIT Food's education/training programmes designed to strengthen the entrepreneurial skills of key professionals such as researchers and innovators, or to strengthen the innovation and technology skill of farmers.

PRIMA will continue cooperation with other regional programmes focused in the Mediterranean such as the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) to disseminate policy recommendations stemming from PRIMA projects. Moreover, PRIMA through selected projects will cooperate to the implementation of the UfM "2030GreenerMed" Agenda that contribute to a transition towards a green, circular and socially inclusive economy in the Mediterranean. The UfM 2030 GreenerMed Agenda will be key to operationalise the statements included 2nd UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate.

PRIMA will also continue cooperation with the European Neighbourhood Instrument Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme -ENI-CBC-MED⁴⁴ pushing forward the common interest of both organisations of supporting regional integration and development. This common objective, will be achieved through the creation of thematic clusters based on a joint analysis their projects. This process will lead to the thematic cluster strategy to foster the exchange of knowledge; strengthening synergies and complementarities among projects, benchmarking of results cross-contamination and enhancing links with a wider community of stakeholders.

Moreover, PRIMA will continue its joint activities with Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) through co-organisation of workshops and opportunities to scale-up successful cases of innovation and research results and the development of *e-learning* tools, and other capacity development activities.⁴⁵

Also, PRIMA in collaboration with FAO and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and CIHEAM⁴⁶, is involved in two initiatives: the first, the *LANDMEDNET* initiative⁴⁷, aims to counter land degradation in the Mediterranean and achieve the targets of land degradation neutrality, the second consists of a *Multi-stakeholder Sustainable Food Systems Platform* in the Mediterranean aiming to raise awareness on the benefits of the Mediterranean Diet and how the Mediterranean Diet principles can help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Synergies among the different initiatives will also be achieved, providing access to respective databases or digital Platform/Hubs.

Cooperation with European Infrastructures

E-Science European Research Infrastructure for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research_ LifeWatch ERIC⁴⁸ "is already cooperating with PRIMA to tackle biodiversity and ecosystem research and sustainable management in a global climate change scenario. LifeWatch ERIC has been a valuable source for data for PRIMA projects and a place for storage and sharing of PRIMA data.

⁴³ <http://prima-med.org/free-learning-opportunities-2020/>

⁴⁴ <http://www.enpicbcmcd.eu/>

⁴⁵ <http://prima-med.org/fao-and-prima/>

⁴⁶ <https://www.ciheam.org/>

⁴⁷ within the framework of the United Nations One Planet SFS Programme

⁴⁸ <https://www.lifewatch.eu/>

Collaboration among PRIMA projects and the E-infrastructure will contribute to increasing the participation of more Mediterranean countries in **LifeWatch ERIC**, especially of young researchers. PRIMA-IS is also seeking interaction with other European research infrastructures operating in the fields of genomics, phenomics, precision agriculture, and food science (Food and Health roadmap ESFRI, e.g. European Infrastructure for Plant Phenotyping **EMPHASIS**⁴⁹, Infrastructure for promoting metrology in Food and Nutrition **METROFOOD**⁵⁰).

Section 3 activities

Section 3 Activities encompass Participating States Initiated Activities (PSIAs), namely Research and Innovation Actions; training and mobility schemes funded and managed by PRIMA PS (France, Israel, Malta, Spain and Turkey) and supporting Activities. These activities will be mainly focused to increase participation and capacities of researchers of under-represented Countries in the PRIMA Calls and to increase synergies with other EU international initiatives such as EIT Food.

1. Section 1 – Activities and actions organised, managed by the PRIMA-IS

1.1 Indirect actions funded by PRIMA-IS (European Union contribution) following transnational calls organised by PRIMA-IS

PRIMA-IS will launch four calls in Section 1, one for each thematic area, including the Nexus theme Call, including three Innovation actions (IAs)⁵¹ and one Research and Innovation Action (RIA). Those calls will mobilise the EUR-Mediterranean scientific communities, stakeholders and private entities submitting proposals expected to produce a positive socio-economic impact in the Mediterranean area.

Participation of private entities (in their diversity, e.g., including companies/enterprises, SMEs, start-ups, non-profit organisations, NGOs...) will be encouraged in the research consortia, jointly with public research organisations, universities and end-users.

Participants to these calls will have to submit a scientific proposal to the PRIMA-IS that will be evaluated in a peer-review process.

The PRIMA-IS will do the eligibility check of proposals in line with eligibility criteria set out in Decision (EU) 2017/1324 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2017⁵². The Evaluation and selection of proposals and the monitoring of the projects will be made according to H2020 rules⁵³.

Successful projects will be funded directly by the PRIMA-IS through the signature of grant agreements between the selected consortia and the PRIMA-IS. The grant agreements will be based on the PRIMA Model Grant Agreement⁵⁴ (PRIMA MGA) based on the Horizon 2020 Model Grant Agreement.

⁴⁹ <https://emphasis.plant-phenotyping.eu/>

⁵⁰ <https://www.metrofood.eu/>

⁵¹ http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/gap/doa/h2020-doa-ria-ia-csa_en.pdf

⁵² OJ L 185, 18.7.2017

⁵³ See Section of 5.1.6 of this Document

⁵⁴ http://prima-med.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/h2020_mga_prima_multi_en.pdf

1.2 Topics in Section 1 2021 Calls

1 Thematic Area 1-Water management:

Topic 1.1.1-2021 (RIA) Sustainable soil and water management for combating land degradation and desertification and promoting ecosystem restoration.

2 Thematic Area 2-Farming systems:

Topic 1.2.1-2021 (IA) Increasing environmental and socio-economic performance of small-scale farming systems through improvements in organisational aspects and new value chain governance models.

3 Thematic Area 3-Agrofood chain:


Topic 1.3.1-2021 (IA) Increase adherence to the Mediterranean diet as a sustainable pattern including environmental, social and health aspects.

4 Nexus theme

Topic 1.4.1-2021 (IA) Leveraging knowledge on the Nexus management of Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems resources in the Mediterranean region: from concepts to practical solutions.

Thematic Area water management

Topic 1.1.1-2021(RIA) Sustainable soil and water management for combating land degradation and desertification and promoting ecosystem restoration.

	<p><i>SRIA priorities addressed</i></p> <p>1.2 Soil sustainability</p> <p>Topic 1.1.1 refers to Priority 1.2 Water sustainability in the Mediterranean region should be ensured through improved technical tools coupled with socio-economic <u>tools and governance, organisational and/or business models</u> to define the limits of water use in certain key regions under present and future global change scenarios.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2/LAND AND WATER SUSTAINABILITY - Cross-Cutting theme: SOIL SUSTAINABILITY
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Challenge

Drylands cover 33.8% of the Mediterranean and poor soil and water management, overgrazing, deforestation and wildfires are turning large sections of these areas into deserts. Some studies have estimated that 30% of semi-arid Mediterranean drylands are now affected by desertification, which is also a security issue as it has the potential to force migration from the Middle East and North Africa into Europe.

The causes of land degradation are not only environmental and technical (improper water management, soil erosion, land and water salinisation, drought, flooding and forest fires), aggravated by climate changes, but also socio-economic as a consequence of the lack of governance and appropriate policies. Small-holding farmers usually occupy areas impacted by land degradation, and agriculture is a primary source of livelihood. Therefore, the socio-economic impacts of land degradation are affecting the stability of the local population and particularly rural women and youth.

Actions taken by single countries are not sufficient to deal with the challenges, research and innovation are needed to foster efforts at the transnational level to prevent land and water degradation considering different processes and mainly both prevention of desertification and soil and water quality restoration. At the same time, the current knowledge about the economics of sustainable land and water management and recovery is still needed to support decisions on investments. As a consequence, more applied research is required to quantify the final impacts of the proposed measures.

Scope

Good practices and approaches have been developed to enhance sustainable management of agricultural soils to avoid further degradation and to support the restoration of already degraded lands. These include sustainable land/soil management practices such as agroforestry, conservation agriculture, sustainable pasture management, agroecological practices, safe use of unconventional water resources including corresponding assessment, planning and management tools. Proper and sustainable management of agricultural soils can reduce degradation of land and soils (in particular soil erosion and loss of organic matter), preserve and increase soil health and fertility.

Actions should be now taken to adapt and enhance the scaling up and out of the already available practices to increase areas under sustainable soil and water management resulting in tangible impacts on the environment and livelihoods.

The "living lab" approach should be considered to demonstrate the scaling out of successful sustainable management option at massive scale. Proposals should identify representative sites based on previous works done in different Mediterranean countries, taking into account land degradation hot spots and following a participatory method that ensures the involvement of key stakeholders and decision-makers at different levels. At the same time, tools for assessment and monitoring of land degradation should be harmonised and standardised. The identification of site-specific constraints that hinder the widespread uptake of good practices is needed. The proposals should identify actions, at different levels, to enhance the enabling environment and promote a wider uptake and implementation of sustainable land and water management options. This includes knowledge, capacity, socio-economic, such as high costs and lack of incentives, inappropriate policies and governance, access to finance and markets and absence of strategic planning among others constraints and barriers to be considered.

Indeed, the proposals should set up a methodology for the participatory assessment of the impact of the implemented solutions, for instance through living lab approach, to ensure sustainability beyond the project lifespan. Research on investment opportunities on innovative sustainable land and water management within the context of climate change should be considered. This includes the investigation of the cost and benefits (in terms of environmental, social, economic and climate-related) building up examples of business models to enhance investment, and organise the outcome of this work into a public domain available data to improve the investment on sustainable land and water management.

Expected impacts

- Restoring degraded landscapes: improve the functionality of agro-ecosystems pastures and natural Agro-Ecosystems landscapes.
- Promotion of proven and cost-effective solutions to land, water (water quality and quantity) and agro-ecosystem degradation.
- Promote the scaling-out of sustainable management options supported by an appropriate enabling environment to combat land degradation, enhance productivity and livelihoods.
- Contribution to the development of scientific decision-support tools and policy solutions to land and water degradation challenges.
- Promote public and private investment opportunities for the adoption of sustainable land and management practices.
- Decrease land degradation as a strategy to avoid migration and to increase productive livelihood, to ensure food security, and to contribute to improving employment, especially of women and youths.

Key Performance Indicators

- Number of practical solutions to land, water (quantity and quality) and agro-ecosystem degradation
- Decision-support tools and policy solutions to land and water degradation challenges.
- Number of investment opportunities for the adoption of sustainable land and management practices.

Links with EU Policies

The proposal should indicate linkages to relevant EU policies and objectives in the context of the EU Green Deal and relevant Horizon Europe Missions and Partnerships⁵⁵

- Farm to Fork Strategy⁵⁶
- Biodiversity Strategy⁵⁷
- Horizon Europe Mission on Soil Health and Food⁵⁸
- European Partnership Water Security for the Planet (Water4All)
- European Partnership accelerating farming systems transition: agroecology living labs and research infrastructures
- European Partnership Agriculture of data
- European Partnership for Safe and Sustainable Food Systems
- European Partnership for rescuing biodiversity to safeguard life on Earth

Links with SDGs

The proposal should indicate linkages to relevant SDGs and methodology to contribute to the reporting of SDG indicators

- SDG Target 1.5.3: By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world. May be measured based on whether biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services are stable or increasing in each of the focal ecosystems.
- SDG 6 Target: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all.
- SDG Target 2.3: Double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers.
- SDG Target 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.

⁵⁵ Horizon Europe Partnerships: https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe/european-partnerships-horizon-europe/candidates-food-security_en

⁵⁶ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system" https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:ea0f9f73-9ab2-11ea-9d2d-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF

⁵⁷ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 Bringing nature back into our lives" https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:a3c806a6-9ab3-11ea-9d2d-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF


⁵⁸ https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe/missions-horizon-europe/soil-health-and-food_en

Table 1. Supporting information for Section 1 Call for Proposals, Topic 1.1.1

Type of action	Research and Innovation Action (RIA)
Total indicative amount allocated to this call	EUR 8.25 million
Funding level	According to the Horizon 2020 Rules: rate of 100% applies
Technology Readiness levels (TRL)	TRL 4-5 Proposals should clearly state <u>the starting and end TRLs of the key technology or technologies targeted in the project.</u>
Budget and duration of grants	PRIMA considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU in the range of EUR 2.75 million and with a duration of 36 months would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts or duration.
Eligibility conditions for participation	Please refer to section 5.1.1 The standard admissibility (section 5.1.2) and eligibility conditions (section 5.1.3) apply.
Submission and evaluation procedure	The call will be organised according to a two-stage submission process. For the first step, a first-stage proposal (maximum ten pages) must be submitted within the first-stage submission deadline. Successful applicants in the first step will be invited to the second step to submit a full proposal (maximum 50 pages). A timeline for the submission and evaluation of applications can be found in Table 5 .
	The award criteria, scoring, thresholds and weightings for RIAs listed in part 5.1.7 will be used.
Grant agreement	PRIMA MGA (multi-beneficiary), based on Horizon 2020 MGA.
Consortium agreement	Participants in projects resulting from this Call for Proposals will be required to conclude a consortium agreement before the conclusion of the PRIMA grant agreement.

Thematic Area Farming systems

Topic 1.2.1-2021 (IA) Increasing the environmental and socio-economic performance of small scale farming systems through improvements in organisational aspects and new value chain governance models.

	<p><i>SRIA priorities addressed</i></p> <p>2.2 Developing sustainable and productive agro-ecosystems This priority tackles the challenge of food scarcity to face ever-growing food demand. The solution of the intensification of farming practices has often led to pollution, overexploitation of natural resources. A possible solution is the development of sustainable and productive agro-ecosystems.</p> <p>2.4 Developing farming systems able to generate income, to create employment and to contribute to a balanced territorial development</p> <p>- <u>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES</u></p> <p>- 4/ SMART AND SUSTAINABLE FARMING</p>
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Challenge

Small scale farming systems are the backbone of the Mediterranean farming system with an overwhelming contribution to the global food supply. However, many of the rural economies and smallholder farmers communities are struggling to sustain production, as low incomes, unsustainable and inefficient practices, lack of market connections and limited access to information are affecting their livelihood.

Fragmentation of the markets, inefficient farming practices, older age group of farmers, the disconnection between youth and their interest in agriculture are enhancing land abandonment and degradation, output quality and productivity, transparent and efficient access to markets (especially new markets based on e-commerce) and lack of valorisation of waste generated at farming level. Many organisational aspects made to support farmers, that was brought in the 20th Century, did not evolve to meet the current market demands, including the current models of cooperatives and associations that need uplifting. There is a significant need to have proper governance, less corruption, improved market intelligence, the introduction of innovative approaches in sustainable practices, market development, investment and financing. There is also a need of inclusion of the small farmers in the local value chains as a way to increase the competitiveness and access to the markets which can be achieved through education, access to technology, access to finance, policy support and innovation.

Scope

An urgent goal is to increase the profitability of smallholders by tackling technical, organisational and social challenges while at the same time being sustainable. The agro-ecosystem and the social system at stake in this type of farming must be considered together, and a strong focus on the social system is required. Proposals should revisit organisational aspects, i.e. new models of organisation of farmers, enabling them to process transformation at the farm level, new value chain governance including short and circular value chain models are to be developed.

Sustainable small-scale processes adapted to weak agricultural systems should be coupled to by-products valorisation according to the EU Circular Economy Action Plan.⁵⁹ These models need to consider a triple bottom line approach (economic, social, and environmental); and if possible, be technology-enabled for scaling and efficiency.

Proposals should exploit the multifunctional potential of Mediterranean smallholder farming systems (including livestock production systems) combining sustainable production practices with other sustainable income sources allowing value creation both locally and at the international level (eco-tourism, local products direct selling, landscape fruition, traditional cultural heritage, etc.).

⁵⁹ <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/>

The quality of the local products and their valorisation through small farm processing units (simple transformation and or processing) is to be considered, as well as the possible interconnections among these units.

Within each of the main targets, an integrated and participatory approach involving multiple disciplines and actors concerned (farmers, manufacturers, logistic suppliers, etc.). should be stimulated considering the following logic framework:

A - a detailed diagnosis of the situations; B - an ex-ante co-design of innovations; C - an implementation of innovations.

Activities must be implemented in living labs or with value-oriented approach Based on Demo, including a cost-benefit assessment of the tested innovations addressing the different dimensions of sustainability.

The approach to be proposed should be based on two main targets: i) Profitability, i.e. promote inclusive and sustainable rural development, with a specific focus on poverty eradication, women's empowerment and youth employment, including equitable and sustainable access to essential local services for rural communities and ii) Resilience and environmental sustainability, i.e. improve the resilience of Mediterranean smallholder farming systems to climate change and the sustainability of concerned agro-ecosystems through ecological approaches. These include increased use of functional biodiversity and especially agrobiodiversity, organic farming and sustainable land and water use management.

Expected Impacts

- Enable access to markets, i.e. ensure access of local producers to distribution channels and markets, providing the general population with healthy and sustainable products.
- Increase the income of the farmers, also including other possible agricultural-linked income sources and ensure transparency and fair pricing structure along the value chain.
- Promote access to work of young farmers and women.
- Improve sustainable food production systems with efficient use of natural resources and with eco-friendly processes with low GHG emission.
- Reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses and potentially valorising the waste left.

Key Performance indicators

- Number of innovations in farming systems developed, enabling sustainable and efficient agriculture and food systems.

Links with EU Policies

The proposal should indicate linkages to relevant EU policies and objectives in the context of the EU Green Deal and relevant Horizon Europe Missions and Partnerships⁶⁰

- Farm to Fork Strategy⁶¹
- Biodiversity Strategy⁶²
- Horizon Europe Mission on Soil Health and Food⁶³
- European Partnership Water Security for the Planet (Water4All)
- European Partnership accelerating farming systems transition: agroecology living labs and research infrastructures
- European Partnership Agriculture of data
- European Partnership for Safe and Sustainable Food Systems

60 Horizon Europe Partnerships: https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe/european-partnerships-horizon-europe/candidates-food-security_en

61 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system" https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:ea0f9f73-9ab2-11ea-9d2d-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF

62 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 Bringing nature back into our lives" https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:a3c806a6-9ab3-11ea-9d2d-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF

63 https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe/missions-horizon-europe/soil-health-and-food_en

- European Partnership for rescuing biodiversity to safeguard life on Earth

Links with SDGs


- 2.3: By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.
- 2.4: By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought and water scarcity, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.
- 12.2: By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources
- 12.3: By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.
- 12.5: By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.

Table 2. Supporting information for the Section 1 Call for Proposals, Topic 1.2.1

Type of action	Innovation Action (IA)
Total indicative amount allocated to this call	EUR 8.25 million
Funding level	According to Horizon 2020 Rules 70% (except for non-profit legal entities, where a rate of 100% applies)
Technology Readiness levels (TRL)	IA TRL 6-7 Proposals should clearly state the starting and end TRLs of the key technology or technologies targeted in the project.
Budget and duration of the grants	PRIMA considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU in the range of EUR 2.75 million and with a duration of 36 months would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts or duration.
Eligibility conditions for participation	Please refer to section 5.1.1 The standard admissibility (section 5.1.2) and eligibility conditions (section 5.1.3) apply.
Submission and evaluation procedure	The call will be organised according to a two-stage submission process. For the first step, a first-stage proposal (maximum ten pages) must be submitted within the first-stage submission deadline. Successful applicants in the first step will be invited to the second step to submit a full proposal (maximum 50 pages). A timeline for the submission and evaluation of applications can be found in Table 5 .
Evaluation rules	The award criteria, scoring, thresholds and weightings for IAs, listed in part 5.1.7 will be used.
Grant agreement	PRIMA MGA (multi-beneficiary), based on Horizon 2020 MGA.
Consortium agreement	Participants in projects resulting from this Call for Proposals will be required to conclude a consortium agreement before the conclusion of the PRIMA grant agreement.

Thematic Area Food value-chain

Topic 1.3.1-2021 (IA) Increase adherence to the Mediterranean diet as a sustainable pattern including environmental, social and health aspects.

	<p><i>SRIA priorities addressed</i></p> <p>3.1 Valorising food products from the traditional Mediterranean diet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to improve raw material and ingredients composition, better exploiting resilient biodiversity and valorising genotypes and phenotypes richer in health-promoting bioactive compounds, with better use of sustainable production systems and soft processing technologies preserving the content of essential food components. <p>3.4 Implications of dietary shifts and sustainable diets for the Med populations and food industry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to respond to lifestyle changes have led to dietary changes and consumption of lower quality food, deficient in essential nutrients, micronutrients and health-promoting bioactive ingredients. - to understand the complex relationship between lifestyle and health in the Mediterranean context, as well as the diet and physical activity habits, their heterogeneity and their determinants, and the vulnerability of the population. <p>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6/ NUTRITION AND HEALTH
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Challenge

The Mediterranean diet, being recognised by the UNESCO as "the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity" is not only an integral part of the tradition and culture shared by many Mediterranean countries but it is also one of the most sustainable and healthy dietary patterns ⁶⁴.

It also presents significant opportunities to preserve biodiversity (local products) and improving health outcomes.⁶⁵ The importance of healthy dietary patterns has been particularly evident during the recent COVID-19 outbreak to boost the immune system, decreasing the susceptibility to infections.⁶⁶

Adherence to the Mediterranean dietary pattern also has significant economic implications; among others, the reduction of national health expenditure, saving for consumers, and the valorisation of local companies and producers.

However, current data show a decline in adherence to the Mediterranean dietary pattern in northern as well as southern and eastern Mediterranean countries. If present trends persist, it is expected to have a growing incidence of non-communicable diseases (growing prevalence of overweight and obesity) and massive consequences on the quality of life and public health expenditure (WHO, 2015) social and economic impacts in the Mediterranean Region.

Drivers of consumption patterns and lifestyles are economic, technological, cultural, social and political. Shaping consumer food choices towards more sustainable healthy diets requires a coherent policy package that will take behaviours, economics and food environment issues into account.

Scope

64 Sustainable, Healthy diets are dietary pattern that promote all dimensions of individuals' health and wellbeing; have low environmental pressure and impact; are accessible, affordable, safe and equitable; and are culturally acceptable (FAO, 2019). Dietary patterns can be defined as "the quantities, proportions, variety, or combination of different foods, drinks, and nutrients (when available) in diets, and the frequency with which they are habitually consumed" USDA. 2015. A Series of Systematic Reviews on the Relationship Between Dietary Patterns and Health Outcomes. [online] Arlington, VA. [cited 3 October 2019]

65 IPCC 2019 Special Report on Climate Change and Land <https://www.ipcc.ch/srccl/>

66 Optimal Nutritional Status for a Well-Functioning Immune System Is an Important Factor to Protect against Viral Infections. Philip C. Calder et al. Nutrients 2020, 12, 1181; doi:10.3390/nu12041181

The present topic is in continuity with the one proposed in 2020 Calls. While the previous one⁶⁷, focused on the health aspects of the Mediterranean diet, based on its composition and effects on consumers., this one aims to enhance the adherence to the Mediterranean dietary pattern.

It focuses on increasing awareness and promotion of this healthy diet and sustainable lifestyle model across the Mediterranean region and in other parts of the world. Activities responding to this topic should analyse existing food systems to identify potential changes needed to encourage the consumption of diverse required foods and the eating behaviours consistent with the Mediterranean diet. Proposals should codify and valorise the components of the Mediterranean dietary patterns with the final goal to trigger mechanisms to attract more consumers and ensure greater recognition and competitiveness in markets of healthy Mediterranean food. This should be applied to a great variety of unprocessed or minimally processed foods present in the markets (domestic, regional, international), which are consistent with the Mediterranean dietary pattern, to counteract the mass consumption of unhealthy food. Proposals should propose new food products and related sustainable food habits, consistent with the Mediterranean diet, that meet consumers' preferences and acceptability along with tailored business models and marketing strategies. Activities could also propose a new process able to trigger the consumption of components of the Mediterranean diet or a mix between product and process.

Food behaviour drivers should be assessed to foster increasing adherence to the Mediterranean diet, to define how to influence food demand, by raising citizens' knowledge and awareness; as well as creating enabling environments for healthy and sustainable Mediterranean food choices. In this sense, activities should consider behaviour change initiatives to promote a healthy diet in Mediterranean countries among others, policy advice, communication strategies and awareness and education campaigns targeting in particular children, adolescents, and older adults, also by using attractive and tech-based aged adapted methodologies (e.g. game approaches). Scaling up of best practices already existing in the region, with continuous monitoring of their effectiveness, is encouraged.

Finally, proposals must monitor and report of the adherence to the Mediterranean Diet through the development of methodologies able to acquire data and objective indicators, distinguishing the quality of food intakes.

Expected Impacts

- Identification of socio-economic and cultural barriers (including the food behaviour change) aiming to increase adherence to the Mediterranean diet, through hands-on approaches and experiments.
- Identification and comparative analysis of local determinants of food choices (such as education, socio-economic, hedonistic, market dynamics) of different Mediterranean populations through harmonised and validated methods.
- Foster new business models and marketing of new food products and promoting eating habits consistent with the Mediterranean diet, that meet consumers' preferences and acceptability.
- Assessment, monitoring and reporting of the adherence to the Mediterranean Diet through the development of methodologies that enable the acquisition of data and appropriate indicators.
- A shift towards consumer-driven new product development that corresponds to the appreciations, preferences, (health) needs and affordability means of consumers in the Mediterranean countries and tourists as ambassadors of the Mediterranean Diet.
- Improved nutrition and health thanks to a better diet.
- Consumers' empowerment (food information /awareness/ behavioural change).

Key Performance indicators

- Number and diversity of actively engaged stakeholders (e.g. municipalities, food service, citizens, etc.) for promoting the healthy and sustainable Mediterranean dietary pattern.
- Extent to which (i) global citizenship education/awareness and (ii) education/awareness for sustainable development (including climate change education and healthy diet) are

⁶⁷ PRIMA AWP 2020 Topic 1.3.1-2020 (IA) Valorising the health benefits of the Traditional Mediterranean food products

mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) public awareness (adapted from SDG 12.8, indicator 12.8.1).

- Number of new health-related high-quality food.
- Number of socio-cultural actions and strategies promoting the healthy Mediterranean food choices through appropriate information provision to consumers and policymakers.
- Consumers' empowerment (food information /awareness/ behavioural change).

Links with EU Policies

The proposal should indicate linkages to relevant EU policies and objectives in the context of the EU Green Deal and relevant Horizon Europe Missions and Partnerships⁶⁸

- Farm to Fork Strategy⁶⁹
- Biodiversity Strategy⁷⁰
- Horizon Europe Mission on Soil Health and Food⁷¹
- European Partnership Water Security for the Planet (Water4All)
- European Partnership accelerating farming systems transition: agroecology living labs and research infrastructures
- European Partnership Agriculture of data
- European Partnership for Safe and Sustainable Food Systems
- European Partnership for rescuing biodiversity to safeguard life on Earth

Links to SDGs

- SDG Target: By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.
- SDG Indicator 2.2.1: Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age.
- SDG Indicator 2.2.2: Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height >+2 or <-2 standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight).

68 Horizon Europe Partnerships: https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe/european-partnerships-horizon-europe/candidates-food-security_en

69 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system" https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:ea0f9f73-9ab2-11ea-9d2d-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF

70 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 Bringing nature back into our lives" https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:a3c806a6-9ab3-11ea-9d2d-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF


71 https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe/missions-horizon-europe/soil-health-and-food_en

Table 3. Supporting information for Section 1 Call for Proposals, Topic 1.3.1

Type of action	Innovation Action (IA)
Total indicative amount allocated to this call	EUR 8.4 million
Funding level	According to Horizon 2020 Rules 70% (except for non-profit legal entities, where a rate of 100% applies)
Technology Readiness levels (TRL)	TRL 6-7 Proposals should clearly state the starting and end TRLs of the key technology or technologies targeted in the project.
Budget and duration of grants	PRIMA considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU in the range of EUR 2.8 million and with a duration of 36 months would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts or duration.
Eligibility conditions for participation	Please refer to section 5.1.1 The standard admissibility (section 5.1.2) and eligibility conditions (section 5.1.3) apply.
Submission and evaluation procedure	The call will be organised according to a two-stage submission process. For the first step, a first-stage proposal (maximum ten pages) must be submitted within the first-stage submission deadline. Successful applicants in the first step will be invited to the second step to submit a full proposal (maximum 50 pages). A timeline for the submission and evaluation of applications can be found in Table 5 .
Evaluation rules	The award criteria, scoring, thresholds and weightings for IAs, listed in part 5.1.7 will be used.
Grant agreement	PRIMA MGA (multi-beneficiary), based on Horizon 2020 MGA.
Consortium agreement	Participants in projects resulting from this Call for Proposals will be required to conclude a consortium agreement before the conclusion of the PRIMA grant agreement.

Nexus theme

Topic 1.4.1-2021 (IA) Leveraging knowledge on the Nexus management of Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems resources in the Mediterranean region: from concepts to practical solutions.

	<p><i>SRIA priorities addressed</i></p> <p>WEFE Nexus</p> <p>Topic 1.4.1 address</p> <p>Priority 1.2 Water sustainability in the Mediterranean region should be ensured through improved technical tools coupled with <u>socio-economic tools and governance, organisational and/or business models</u> to define the limits of water use in certain key regions under present and future global change scenarios.</p> <p>Priority 1.4 Use of alternative water resources</p> <p>Priority 2.2 Developing sustainable and productive agro-ecosystems</p> <p><u>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2/LAND AND WATER SUSTAINABILITY - 4/ SMART AND SUSTAINABLE FARMING - 7/ REDUCE LOSSES AND WASTES
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Challenge

The Sustainable Development Goals on water, energy, food and biodiversity sit at the heart of the Agenda 2030. A central principle of SDGs is to reach across all sectors and operate them in an interdependent way. This nexus is a key determinant for a successful implementation of the objectives of Agenda 2030. However, the current silo-driven disproportionate use and allocation of WEFE resources have created an imbalance in the physical and natural systems. Besides, these interlinked resources are managed by separate institutions to facilitate decision-making, which overlooks the interdependences and interconnectivity of the resources. This is especially critical in the Mediterranean region, where climate change projections make more and more relevant the need for achieving further benefits to nature, economy and society per drop of available water. Optimization of water allocation across, e.g., the irrigation and the energy sectors is central in scenario planning for regional and local development. Research has a role to play by providing convincing evidence as a basis for nexus decision making in the Mediterranean region. Integrated tools are necessary to enlighten stakeholders on the spatial-temporal dimension of social and economic drivers and the benefits deriving from trading in circular cycles of the water, energy, food and ecosystem resources. At the same time, the fact that significant nexus challenges have to be tackled at the local level should not be neglected.

However, although the systemic nature of water, energy and food securities is widely recognized, there is a relatively limited understanding of how to take action to address these relationships. Lack of knowledge and resistance to changes hinder the practical deployment of a cross-sectoral nexus approach in the management of natural resources.

Scope

The call for proposals aims at creating a PRIMA portfolio of demonstration cases at specific sites in the Mediterranean region to operationalize the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus concept and translate conceptual considerations first into practical solutions and then into specific policy-making processes. To this end, technologies, processes and management models, including decision support system tools, digital solutions, data infrastructure, should be implemented and validated in demonstration areas under a practical approach. This action should identify and implement solutions for gaining efficiency and saving of water-energy-food resources. Proposals should address the interdependency of food, water and energy securities by analysing trade-offs and synergies between sectors and potential impact on social stability due to resource shortages and climate change. Activities should analyse good practices for resource allocation and assess the economic, environmental and social implications of various choices. For the proposed cases, Nexus interventions should be identified and prioritized, also considering ecosystems and natural infrastructure, in a participatory dialogue with water right holders and stakeholders accounting for the specific social and economic circumstances. Starting from existing governance frameworks, demonstration cases should also analyze the potential for upscaling and replication of the Nexus solutions in other geographic or thematic contexts in the Mediterranean region and identify impacts on the Sustainable Development Goals. Extensive involvement of stakeholders and right holders is necessary to make projects also social innovative experiments. Projects evaluation will emphasize explicit KPI to ensure quantifiable outcomes. The project proponents should make use of lessons learned from the Nexus projects funded by H2020 and PRIMA in 2019 and 2020 calls through the development of a close partnership during the implementation of respective projects. The objective is to enlarge the portfolio of WEFE Nexus projects and case studies in PRIMA. Successful consortia are also asked to cooperate with the [EC Knowledge Hub on Water and Agriculture](https://water.jrc.ec.europa.eu/)⁷² to facilitate the uptake of project outputs by policymakers after project completion.

Expected impacts

Contributing to the ongoing implementation of the UfM Water Agenda, together with the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, toward more consistent cooperation between the EU and the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries (according to the European Neighbourhood Policy-ENP), and the delivery to the Decade of Action of the UN Agenda 2030, activities will:

⁷² <https://water.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

- Support the identification and development of practical solutions where the use of a Nexus approach can lead to improved outcomes in the integrated management of water-energy-food-ecosystems resources.
- Increased water and energy use efficiency contributing to the reduction of conflicts in the allocation of resources and adaptation and resilience to climate change.
- Enable the deployment of methodologies and guidelines stimulating the reduction of water use and deliver tools addressing the cascading effects and impacts on other sectors in a circular economy perspective.
- Demonstrate how science can strengthen institutional capacities, support the intra-regional dialogue and integration of knowledge, and positively benefit multiple SDGs.
- Ensure viability and replicability of the demonstration cases also after the end of the project.
- Demonstrate how the nexus approach provides the opportunity for building regional resilience to climate change.

Key Performance Indicators

- The proportion of sustainable agricultural production per unit area
- Degree of integration of environmental policies
- Number of stakeholders involved in innovative experiments
- Number of technologies, processes and management models, DSS tools, implemented and validated in demonstration areas
- Number of best practices assessed (economically, environmentally and socially)

Links with EU Policies

The proposal should indicate linkages to relevant EU policies and objectives in the context of the EU Green Deal and relevant Horizon Europe Missions and Partnerships⁷³

- Farm to Fork Strategy⁷⁴
- Biodiversity Strategy⁷⁵
- Horizon Europe Mission on Soil Health and Food⁷⁶
- European Partnership Water Security for the Planet (Water4All)
- European Partnership accelerating farming systems transition: agroecology living labs and research infrastructures
- European Partnership Agriculture of data
- European Partnership for Safe and Sustainable Food Systems
- European Partnership for rescuing biodiversity to safeguard life on Earth

Links with SDGs

Indicate links with the relevant SDG target.

⁷³ Horizon Europe Partnerships: https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe/european-partnerships-horizon-europe/candidates-food-security_en

⁷⁴ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system" https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:ea0f9f73-9ab2-11ea-9d2d-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF

⁷⁵ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 Bringing nature back into our lives" https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:a3c806a6-9ab3-11ea-9d2d-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF

⁷⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe/missions-horizon-europe/soil-health-and-food_en

Table 4. Supporting information for Section 1 Call for Proposals, Topic 1.4.1

Type of action	DEMO Innovation Action (IA)
Total indicative amount allocated to this call	Approx. EUR 8.1 million
Funding level	According to Horizon 2020 Rules 70% (except for non-profit legal entities, where a rate of 100% applies)
Technology Readiness levels (TRL)	TRL 6-7 Proposals should clearly state the starting and end TRLs of the key technology or technologies targeted in the project.
Budget and duration of grants	PRIMA considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU in the range of EUR 4 million and with a duration of 36 months would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts or duration.
Eligibility conditions for participation	Please refer to section 5.1.1 The standard admissibility (section 5.1.2) and eligibility conditions (section 5.1.3) apply.
Submission and evaluation procedure	The call will be organised according to a two-stage submission process. For the first step, a first-stage proposal (maximum ten pages) must be submitted within the first-stage submission deadline. Successful applicants in the first step will be invited to the second step to submit a full proposal (maximum 50 pages). A timeline for the submission and evaluation of applications can be found in Table 5 .
Evaluation rules	The award criteria, scoring, thresholds and weightings for IAs listed in part 5.1.7 will be used.
Grant agreement	PRIMA MGA (multi-beneficiary), based on Horizon 2020 MGA.
Consortium agreement	Participants in projects resulting from this Call for Proposals will be required to conclude a consortium agreement before the conclusion of the PRIMA grant agreement.

The Eligibility check will be done by the PRIMA-IS after each deadline for submission and before the evaluation takes place.

The Executive Director may decide to publish and open the call up to two weeks prior or one month after the envisaged date(s).

The Executive Director may delay other deadlines by up to two months.

All deadlines are at 17:00 CET (Central European Time).

Table 5 Timetable for Section 1 Calls for Proposals in 2021.

THEMATIC AREA	CALL TOPICS	Call publication and opening	Submission deadline Stage 1	Evaluation results Stage 1	Submission deadline Stage 2	Evaluation results Stage 2
Water management	Topic 1.1.1(RIA)	15/02/2021	13/04/2021	23/06/2021	09/09/2021	22/11/2021
Farming systems	Topic 1.2.1 (IA)	15/02/2021	13/04/2021	23/06/2021	09/09/2021	22/11/2021
Agrofood chain	Topic 1.3.1 (IA)	15/02/2021	13/04/2021	23/06/2021	09/09/2021	22/11/2021
NEXUS theme	Topic 1.4.1 (IA)	15/02/2021	13/04/2021	23/06/2021	09/09/2021	22/11/2021

1.3 Activities supporting programme operations funded and implemented by the PRIMA-IS

1.3.1 Evaluation and monitoring of projects proposals submitted to Section 1 Calls.

Objective: This activity consists of implementing the evaluation of all the eligible projects submitted to the 2021 PRIMA calls (Section 1 and Section 2) and preparing the decision of the Board of Trustees.

The evaluation process is described in the detail section [5.1.7](#).

In AWP2021, Section 1 and Section 2 calls will be organised as a **two-stage submission process**.

PRIMA-IS will assign to the independent experts the evaluation of both first-stage proposals and full proposals.

PRIMA-IS will provide guidelines to the experts for the remote evaluation and for drafting their individual assessment report. At the end of this period of individual assessment, the experts will meet in a panel to draft the consensus report for each project. When a consensus is reached for each project, the panel will agree on the final assessment and will proceed with the ranking of the projects.

After the remote evaluation of proposals, a two-day meeting will be organised to draft the consensus report and establish the ranking list.

PRIMA-IS will cover the independent expert fees, travels and accommodation and the other meetings-related expenses following international standards. In case of restrictions related to the COVID-19 outbreak, also the consensus meeting will be done in remote mode.

PRIMA-IS will also cover the meeting of the Board of Trustees, at the end of the evaluation process, to decide on projects to be funded based on the ranking list, as set in Article 6 point (q), of the PRIMA Statutes⁷⁷.

Moreover, PRIMA-IS will also cover the costs related to the monitoring of the PRIMA projects, with particular reference to the technical and financial reporting.

A meeting will be organized with Project Coordinators aiming to provide guidelines about the commencement, management, finance and monitoring of Section 1 and Section 2 funded projects. In addition, a network meeting among project coordinators of all PRIMA projects as well as other relevant projects funded by H2020, LIFE or another funding initiative, will be organized to share knowledge, experiences as well to ensure broader applicability of the project results while reducing unnecessary duplication of efforts of on-going and past projects.

Both monitoring and network meeting will be organized either physically or remote according to the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Type of activity: Expert's contracts.

Indicative budget: EUR 485 000

1.3.2 WEF E Nexus Science Advances Conference

⁷⁷ PRIMA Statutes Article 6 (q), page 4. (<https://prima-med.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/STATUTES-PRIMA-FOUNDATION.pdf>)

The Conference is co-organised with the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), the Global Water Partnership (GWP)⁷⁸ and the Cyprus Institute⁷⁹ (Cyl).

To enhance dialogue between institutional actors in the EU/MED area, ENI-CBC-MED will also have a relevant role in the event.

The outcomes of the Conference will contribute to the objectives set out in the UfM Water Declaration, the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda of PRIMA the actions proposed by the European Commission in the roadmap of the new European Green Deal the Horizon Europe Missions and Partnerships and the implementation of the UN Agenda 2030.

International events will be organized to promote dialogue between institutional actors in the EU/MED area, as well as to attract in the thematic community new stakeholders.

The 2021 WEFE Nexus Science Advances Conference will focus on the role of science as a driver of innovation and its interface with the policymaking process. The Conference will look at the four aspects of the WEFE Nexus from different perspectives (e.g. through the eyes of economists, sociologists and end-users) and canvass opinions on how to approach the cross-sectoral management of WEFE resources. Participants will include scientists, business and water practitioners, professional organisations as well as governmental and regional policymakers and NGOs from across the Mediterranean countries, all brought together to:

- Explore capacity for cross-sectoral analyses of the use of natural resources by exchanging knowledge on the development, use and demonstration of Nexus methodologies applicable across scales;
- Promote the collection of best WEFE Nexus practices in the Mediterranean region and the incorporation of lessons learnt into hands-on guidance for the development of innovative and economically viable roll-outs;
- Elaborate on the role of a WEFE Nexus Community of Practice to stimulate cross-organisation collaboration and knowledge sharing in the Mediterranean region.

Links to the Conference webpage:

<http://prima-med.org/events/conference-on-water-energy-food-ecosystems-wefe-nexus-scientific-advances-in-the-mediterranean-region/>

Type of activity: Public Procurement
Indicative budget: EUR 45 000

1.3.3 PRIMA WEFE NEXUS Award

Objective: Awards have a strong potential to drive innovation through the recognition of achievements and the promotion of role models.

In this regard, PRIMA plans to award a prestigious international prize dedicated to the promotion of scientific research and demonstration of the economic and social benefits of the Water Energy Food and Ecosystem (WEFE) Nexus in the Mediterranean Area: the **PRIMA WEFE Nexus Award**.

The PRIMA WEFE Nexus Award is assigned to “research teams and practitioners” that have devised and demonstrated the successful implementation on the ground of combined management practices of water, energy, food and ecosystem resources at local or regional scale in the Mediterranean region.

The award enables teams to showcase their best practices and achievements. This will encourage researchers to use and manage their results in the best way possible.

⁷⁸ <https://www.gwp.org/>

⁷⁹ <https://www.cyi.ac.cy/>

The winner of each of the two Prizes, will be invited to the PRIMA Nexus Science Advance Conference⁸⁰ hosted in Cyprus in 2021, which will include a selected audience of high-level representatives, policymakers, scientists, business and water practitioners, professional organisations as well as governmental and regional policymakers and NGOs from across the Mediterranean countries.

The PRIMA Nexus Award will provide the winner of each of the two Prizes, with high visibility in the form of public interest and increased media coverage.

PRIMA will further promote the winner of each of the two Prizes, by inviting them to provide testimony at other major events.

The specific rules of the contest that will be adopted by the Director of the PRIMA-IS will be published in 2021 on the PRIMA website and actively publicised elsewhere to maximise participation.

Contestants will have to provide proof of eligibility⁸¹ and a written description of their achievements in the field of the PRIMA WEFEX Nexus award, which will be presented to an independent panel of experts for evaluation.

Amount of prize:

Prize Amount(s): two awards of EUR 10 000 each
Budget of the prizes: EUR 20 000

Eligibility criteria:

The contestants for the PRIMA prizes should be at least one legal entity established in a PRIMA PS.⁸²

The demonstrated practices must be implemented in the Mediterranean Region.

Prizes will not be awarded to teams including employees of PRIMA or serving on one of the PRIMA advisory (Scientific Advisory Committee) or governing (Board of Trustees and Steering Committee) boards.

Please also be aware that participants that have already received an EU or Euratom prize cannot receive a second prize for the same activities.

Award criteria: All eligible applications will be evaluated by an independent panel of experts. The prizes will be awarded, after the closure of the contest, to the contestant(s) who, in the opinion of the panel, best addresses the following criteria:

WEFEX Nexus Award:

This award is to recognise and celebrate outstanding teams of researchers and practitioners that have used their results to demonstrate the wider socio-economic benefits of their proposed practices through a WEFEX Nexus approach in the Mediterranean region.

⁸⁰ <http://prima-med.org/events/conference-on-water-energy-food-ecosystems-wefex-nexus-scientific-advances-in-the-mediterranean-region/>

⁸¹ Participants have to comply with the eligibility criteria set out for this Prize

⁸² The latest information on the PRIMA PS can be found on PRIMA webpage: <http://prima-med.org>

In addition to their scientific excellence, the contestants should have made major contributions to the objectives of the PRIMA programme and in particular to the demonstration of the social, economic and environmental benefits of WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean region.

Applications must:

- demonstrate the wider socio-economic benefits of their proposed practices going beyond a fragmented system of sectors and players;
- demonstrate that they have directly exploited their proposed solutions or have played an active role in the uptake of the results by third parties, in particular influencing policy change;
- demonstrate the replication and upscaling potential of the proposed Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus solutions;

Type of action: Recognition prizes.

Indicative timetable: Prize contests will be launched in the first quarter of 2021 and remain open until the second quarter of 2021.

Prize winners will be announced at the 2021 WEFE Sciences Advances Conference which will be held in Cyprus Q3 of 2021 (see [Section 5.1.5](#) for Model Rules of Contest (RoC) PRIMA Prizes).

2. Section 2 – Activities selected following transnational call organised by PRIMA-IS and funded by PS

2.1 Transnational call organised by the PRIMA-IS and funded by the PS

PRIMA Section 2 call, funded by the PS, will focus on a single call for RIA.

This call will be implemented in compliance with common principles to be agreed by the Participating States and the European Commission, taking into account the principles set out in Decision (EU) 2017/1324], Part One of Title VIII of the Financial Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁸³ (the 'Financial Regulation') and Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁸⁴, in particular the principles of equal treatment, transparency, independent peer review evaluation and selection.

Section 2 call will be launched in a two-stage submission process. PRIMA-IS will be responsible for the evaluation of proposals, which will be conducted with analogous rules of H2020 rules in a peer review process with a panel that will rank the proposals.

Eligibility and admissibility of proposals will be first checked by the PRIMA-IS having regard to the eligibility criteria for participation set forth in Decision (EU) 2017/1324, and then by the national funding body according to their National Regulations.

In this context, proposals that are considered eligible for participation and funding by PRIMA-IS and the national funding bodies will enter into the evaluation process. However, in the event of a negative outcome of the verification of eligibility for funding of any participant in the applicant consortium,

⁸³ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

⁸⁴ Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 laying down the rules for participation and dissemination in "Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)" and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1906/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 81).

PRIMA-IS may require additional information from a consortium or the participant concerned, such as an attestation that the funds to cover their participation in the project will be available.

At the end of the evaluation, the panel will produce a single ranking list in order to guarantee that the highest quality projects will be funded.

If one or more projects cannot be funded (in case that a funding body runs out of budget), the projects following directly in the ranking may be selected. For details on the evaluation and selection process, please see sub-sections 5.2.6 and 5.2.7.

In Section 2, to receive the funds, the beneficiaries will have to sign a grant agreement directly with their national funding bodies.

PRIMA Section 2 call will address the topics described in sub-Section 2.2 below (according to national priorities) and the cross-cutting issues among them. Research projects can address issues that are cross-cutting between two topics as long as they are both eligible for funding by the partner countries.

PRIMA Section 2 call will fund collaborative research projects aiming at achieving clear impacts and being policy-driven.

When training and mobility activities are considered eligible by the funding bodies, these actions will be encouraged, and projects should integrate into their work plan schemes for the mobility of young researchers/postgraduates/post-doctorates, following the modalities set out in national regulation funding bodies.

Projects must deliver tangible outputs and enhance technological and social innovation, depending on the research question addressed. The projects could include the use of innovative technologies, such as artificial intelligence, smart digital technologies, space data, big data analysis. When explicitly allowed by the national regulations of the funding bodies, innovation actions should involve the private sector in the project Consortium and particularly relevant SMEs.

All participants to activities funded by the PRIMA-IS or by Participating States of the PRIMA programme are required to label or co-label any communication or publication related to their activities with the following acknowledgement "[name of the activity/grant code] is part of the PRIMA programme supported by the European Union", as well as with the PRIMA logo.

2.2 Topics for Section 2, 2021 Calls

1 Thematic Area 1-Water management:

Topic 2.1.1 (RIA) Alleviating Mediterranean water scarcity through adaptive water governance.

2 Thematic Area 2-Farming systems:


Topic 2.2.1 (RIA) Up-scaling field practices based on organic agriculture to increase ecosystem services and biodiversity, to adapt the small farming systems to climate change and to increase farmers incomes

3 Thematic Area 3-Agrofood chain:

Topic 2.3.1 Increasing the resilience of small-scale farms to global challenges and COVID-like crisis by using adapted technologies, smart agri-food supply chain and crisis management tools.

Thematic Area 1-Water management:

*Topic 2.1.1 (RIA*⁸⁵) Alleviating Mediterranean water scarcity through adaptive water governance.*

	<p>SRIA priorities addressed</p> <p>1.2 Sustainable, integrated water management Water sustainability in the Mediterranean region should be ensured through improved technical tools coupled with socio-economic <u>tools and governance, organisational and/or business models</u> to define the limits of water use in certain key regions under present and future global change scenarios.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3/WATER GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS
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Challenge

Several countries bordering the Mediterranean are facing water scarcity of increasing severity, and this problem will expand over the entire region according to future climatic scenarios. Under this already fragile situation, the occurrence of extreme weather events predicted to be more frequent because of climate change will lead to more disruptive effects. Technological solutions offer already a comprehensive portfolio for more efficient water use by agriculture and the safe use of low-quality water, including reclaimed waste-water. Still, they need to be associated with innovative institutional arrangements to produce real changes in practice. It is now commonly admitted that to implement such changes, there is a need to consider water scarcity within a more extensive scope of water governance and in terms of water management to ensure compliance with the Water Framework Directive⁸⁶. There is then an opportunity to implement the obtained technological and management advancements integrating them into innovative and adaptive water governance schemes.

⁸⁵ Please note that the acronym RIA is used both for Section 1 and Section 2. In Section 1 the rules applying to these actions are the standard Horizon 2020 rules for participation (RfP). While the rules used in Section 2 are to some extent analogous to the Horizon 2020 RfP, specific rules, concerning participation and funding rates, apply. As the projects selected in Section 2 are funded directly by the national funding bodies, they will be subject to the respective national regulations. For more details regarding the rules for Section 2 please refer to the guidelines for applicants on the PRIMA *website*.

⁸⁶ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32000L0060>

Scope

Innovative and adaptive water governance must encompass an integrated approach considering both sides of the resource/demand water balance, as well as water availability across both the spatial and temporal dimensions. Proposals should establish limits in water use under climate change constraints and should balance water competition between agriculture and other users or economic sectors, at local and entire water basin level (including the transboundary level) to be compliant with the Water Framework Directive. Ecosystems need to be considered as a “water user”, and governance measures should aim to preserve and/or restore them.

Proposals must demonstrate how the combination of innovative; alternative technologies, practices and inclusive dialogue between resource users and planners can pave the way for better water governance and decision-making, based on the integrated approach and three main criteria, namely resource maximisation, equitable allocation and multi-actor approach.

To maximise water resources in a context of scarcity, the use of non-conventional water resources, rainwater harvesting, aquifer recharge and other nature-based solutions should be considered as an opportunity to increase water availability for different uses: among others, irrigation of agricultural areas (rural, urban or peri-urban), ecosystems’ preservation and restoration, or other uses (landscaping). Under a holistic approach, it is essential to integrate such measures aiming to increase water availability into water governance, policies, and decision making. Since formal governance arrangements tackling water scarcity are often poorly enforced and traditional decision-making processes have proven to be often ineffective, proposals must demonstrate how multi-actor approach and innovative decision-making (analytic deliberation) can lead to the creation of better, more effective water governance arrangements. As part of this and to guarantee the equitable allocation principle, a full socio-economic approach should be implemented to prevent conflicts among water users (industry, farmers, citizens) while assessing their real needs. To this end, applicants are encouraged to propose multidisciplinary projects encompassing also social sciences, political sciences and economics, where relevant.

The use of disruptive ICT solutions, Artificial Intelligence and Copernicus free-of-charge operational services should also be considered for developing more effective water management mechanisms.

Expected Impact

- Development, adaptation and utilization of applications and decision-support tools, based on new computational solutions resulting in the application and integration of new and sustainable practices into water governance models applied to agro-ecosystems.
- Establishment of Mediterranean demo sites to test efficient local water governance at agro-ecosystem level, based on multi-actor approach, and to develop innovative policy solutions. This includes the integration of traditional knowledge, practices and models for efficient water management and restoration of degraded water bodies.
- Development of new water governance organizational models concerning water use at multiple levels (PPPP = People-Public-Private-Partnerships and mixed institutional types and designs, e.g., market- and state-based) protecting and respecting the social value of water.
- Conflict mitigation and increased legitimacy of policy instruments addressing water scarcity.
- Reduction of the implementation gap between rules on paper and societal compliance on the ground.
- Development and demonstration of innovative solutions to take advantage of non-conventional and low-quality water resources, rainwater harvesting, aquifer recharge and other nature-based solutions, including natural water retention measures, to mitigate regional water scarcity.

Key performance indicators

- Number of water allocation and prioritisation rules designed and implemented
- Increase in the water availability in a given demo area (m3)
- Improved efficiency of water use by agricultural and natural ecosystems

Links with EU Policies

The proposal should indicate linkages to relevant EU policies and objectives in the context of the EU Green Deal and relevant Horizon Europe Missions and Partnerships⁸⁷

- Farm to Fork Strategy⁸⁸
- Biodiversity Strategy⁸⁹
- Horizon Europe Mission on Soil Health and Food⁹⁰
- European Partnership Water Security for the Planet (Water4All)
- European Partnership accelerating farming systems transition: agroecology living labs and research infrastructures
- European Partnership Agriculture of data
- European Partnership for Safe and Sustainable Food Systems
- European Partnership for rescuing biodiversity to safeguard life on Earth

Links with SDGs

- Target 6.5. By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate
- Target 6.6B. Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management
- Target 13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries



87 Horizon Europe candidate Partnerships: https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe/european-partnerships-horizon-europe/candidates-food-security_en


88 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system" https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:ea0f9f73-9ab2-11ea-9d2d-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF

89 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 Bringing nature back into our lives" https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:a3c806a6-9ab3-11ea-9d2d-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF

90 https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe/missions-horizon-europe/soil-health-and-food_en

Thematic Area 2-Farming systems:

Topic 2.2.1 (RIA) Up-scaling field practices based on agroecology principles to increase ecosystem services and biodiversity, to adapt the small farming systems to climate change and to increase farmers incomes.

	<p>SRIA priorities addressed</p> <p>2.1 Adaptation of agriculture to climate change Genetic and plant breeding but cropping system diversification, and spatial organisation, as well as diversification of animals, are also crucial for improving resilience to climate change.</p> <p>2.2 Developing sustainable and productive agro-ecosystems Better integration of natural environmental regulation of biotic and abiotic stresses into farming systems, optimization of input use, development of new cropping systems and use of digital technologies. To do so, the specificity of Mediterranean ecosystem assets and vulnerabilities must be taken into account and solutions adapted to local conditions must be developed.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4/ SMART AND SUSTAINABLE FARMING
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Challenge

Loss of biodiversity in the Mediterranean Region has been increasingly affected by unsustainable agricultural practices (i.e. monoculture and over-tilling) that negatively affect the environment and crop yields, increase soil degradation, water over-exploitation and contamination, leaching and overuse of agriculture inputs (e.g. fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides). These negative impacts over impose the detrimental effects on farming system productivity due to climate change. There is, therefore, an urgent demand to find new practices that are respectful to the environment, enhance the biodiversity in the agro-systems, increase the benefits of the ecosystem services provided by sustainable agriculture and be able to respond to the increasing environmental threats effectively. This calls for improving the resilience of the farming community to better adapt to climate change, increase profitability, and mitigate environmental risks. Several agriculture practices and methodologies have been identified and adopted under the notion of circular agriculture and have shown to have a positive impact on the mitigation of Climate change. For example, regenerative agriculture, and permaculture showed positive applications improving ecosystem services through increasing biodiversity and farmers' incomes around the Mediterranean.

Scope

The call focuses on introducing sustainable farming practices to increase the resilience of the agro livelihood system based on agroecological principles, such as regenerative agriculture and permaculture, through recommended methodologies amongst farming communities that contribute to the zero-pollution ambition. Proposals must have a systemic approach (not focusing only on a component of the system, such as soil). Proposals must adopt agroecological or permaculture practices. They should encourage the use of functional biodiversity new and environmentally-friendly techniques for pest management and weeds control, no/minimum tillage and land cover management (control of soil erosion, soil quality, soil health, soil microbiological composition and composting increase carbon sequestration). The reintroduction of local varieties/breeds, or old varieties better adapted to climate change and Mediterranean conditions (water shortage, pest attacks, low soil fertility) is strongly encouraged. Under the notion of agroecology, projects should take care of the reduction of entrants and consider the development of new cropping systems according to the specificity of Mediterranean ecosystem assets and vulnerabilities. The proposed solutions must be adapted to local conditions. They should integrate the zero-pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment and the reduction of greenhouse gases to achieve climate neutrality by 2050 as proposed in the EU Green Deal. In parallel, it is crucial to demonstrate the socio-economic benefits for the farmers

(incomes, yields, price of the products, raw or transformed) when using sustainable farming practices. Within this holistic context, short value chain development, valorisation of the local products, certification mechanisms can be considered, as well as new organisational models for resource-sharing among the farmers that lead to a more resilient community. The research and approach should tackle technical and social challenges in the context of small-holder farmers, and identify mechanisms to measure impact assessing a triple bottom line approach on the farmer, i.e. economic, social, and environmental. Activities should be implemented in living labs and demo sites, including a cost-benefit assessment of the tested models, which addresses the different dimensions of sustainability and promotes inclusive and sustainable rural development, with a specific focus on poverty eradication, women's empowerment and youth employment.

Expected Impacts

- More sustainable agriculture and food production system with more efficient use of natural resources and better climate change resilience/adaptation and, when possible, mitigation.
- Improved economic and social resilience of Mediterranean smallholder farming systems to climate change
- Contribution to the zero waste farming systems target There is no mention of waste reduction in the text
- Decreasing use of chemical inputs and development of alternative solutions (new bio-based products, new techniques and policies)
- Increasing income of the farmers from biodiversity use, improved farming techniques and improved certification of products
- Engaged youth, empowered women.
- Encouraged consumption of food produced using more sustainable practices, e.g. in schools through EU green public procurement.

Key performance indicators

- Number of innovations in farming systems developed, enabling sustainable and efficient agriculture and food systems.
- Increase in Incomes of smallholders adopting innovations developed in PRIMA projects

Links with EU Policies

The proposal should indicate linkages to relevant EU policies and objectives in the context of the EU Green Deal and relevant Horizon Europe Missions and Partnerships⁹¹

- Farm to Fork Strategy⁹²
- Biodiversity Strategy⁹³
- Horizon Europe Mission on Soil Health and Food⁹⁴
- European Partnership Water Security for the Planet (Water4All)
- European Partnership accelerating farming systems transition: agroecology living labs and research infrastructures
- European Partnership Agriculture of data
- European Partnership for Safe and Sustainable Food Systems
- **European Partnership for rescuing biodiversity to safeguard life on Earth**

Links with SDGs

91 Horizon Europe candidate Partnerships: https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe/european-partnerships-horizon-europe/candidates-food-security_en

92 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system" https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:ea0f9f73-9ab2-11ea-9d2d-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF


93 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 Bringing nature back into our lives" https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:a3c806a6-9ab3-11ea-9d2d-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF

94 https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe/missions-horizon-europe/soil-health-and-food_en

- Target 2.4: By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality
- Target 12.2: By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources
- Target 12.3: By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses
- Target 12.5: By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

Thematic Area 3-Agro-food value chain

Topic 2.3.1 Increasing the resilience of small-scale farms to global challenges and COVID-like crisis by using adapted technologies, smart agri-food supply chain and crisis management tools.

	<p><i>SRIA priorities addressed</i></p> <p>Thematic Area Sustainable Farming systems Priority 2.4 Developing farming systems able to generate income, to create employment and to contribute to a balanced territorial development</p> <p>Thematic Area -Agro-food value chain Priority 3.3 Implementation of innovation in the Agro-food chain, promoting higher quality, sustainability and competitiveness, with particular reference to smallholders</p> <p><u>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE</u></p> <p>- 8/ NEW AGRO-FOOD BUSINESS MODELS</p>
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Challenge

COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the fragility of the Mediterranean food systems already distressed by climate change, population growth and scarcity of resources.

The outbreak of COVID-19 imposing restrictions on movement, limiting farmers' access to markets to buy inputs and sell products have decreased the capacity to produce food shrinking in purchasing power. Also, labour shortages of seasonal workers, unable to travel between regions, have caused fresh products accumulation and impressive food losses.

Incomes and thus, food security for people who rely on casual labour for their livelihoods have been severely affected. Increasing the resilience of Mediterranean smallholders is a significant challenge to face and overcome adverse and unforeseen events with similar crises due to the outbreak of diseases such as COVID-19. The purpose of this topic is to strengthen the resilience of smallholder farmers to shocks limiting or avoiding disturbances of their livelihood caused by unexpected crises (e.g. pandemic, climatic, political unrest).

Scope

Proposals should identify strategies and establish lines of resilience to the new challenges determined by the COVID-19 pandemic for producers and in particular, smallholders. The development of intelligent applications based on digital technologies will be critical to improving the agri-food value chain making smallholders able to address the inefficiencies in the production system, which are even more vital during COVID-like crisis. Applications should be investigated at the production level (farm vehicle tracking, livestock monitoring, storage monitoring, open-field monitoring) and food transformation level, leading ultimately to process optimization and automation. Innovative business models of smallholder's organization or partnership should be investigated to propose a smart agri-food supply chain to cope with any crisis similar to the one

COVID-19. Cases studies involving smallholders and critical stakeholders, including policymakers, will be crucial to maximising opportunities. Proposals could also consider e-commerce channels linking the farmers to the food processing and retail stages of the value chain to cope with unexpected product stocks like that generated by COVID outbreak.

Expected impacts

- Ensure incomes to smallholders facing COVID-like crisis
- Decrease inefficiencies and barriers to market access
- greater efficiency and sustainability in processes and the use of resources
- increase in mitigation capability;
- Increase profitability via either or both the reduction of production costs or/and the increase of quality.
- Reduce food loss

Key Performance Indicators

Models of the smart agri-food value chain
 Models for e-commerce channels
 Number of smart technological solutions

Links with EU Policies

The proposal should indicate linkages to relevant EU policies and objectives in the context of the EU Green Deal and relevant Horizon Europe Missions and Partnerships⁹⁵

- Farm to Fork Strategy⁹⁶
- Biodiversity Strategy⁹⁷
- Horizon Europe Mission on Soil Health and Food⁹⁸
- European Partnership Water Security for the Planet (Water4All)
- European Partnership accelerating farming systems transition: agroecology living labs and research infrastructures
- European Partnership Agriculture of data
- European Partnership for Safe and Sustainable Food Systems
- European Partnership for rescuing biodiversity to safeguard life on Earth

95 Horizon Europe candidate Partnerships: https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe/european-partnerships-horizon-europe/candidates-food-security_en

96 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system" https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:ea0f9f73-9ab2-11ea-9d2d-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF

97 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 Bringing nature back into our lives" https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:a3c806a6-9ab3-11ea-9d2d-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF

98 https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe/missions-horizon-europe/soil-health-and-food_en

Table 6. Supporting information for Section 2 call for Proposals

Type of action	Research & Innovation Activities (RIA* ⁹⁹)
The total indicative amount allocated to this call	EUR 35 545 000
Funding level	Depending on National Regulations
Budget and duration of grants	PRIMA considers that proposals requesting a contribution of at least EUR 1 million and with a duration of 48 months , would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts or duration, according to the national regulations.
TRL	Proposals should clearly state the starting and end TRLs of the key technology or technologies targeted in the project.
Eligibility conditions for participation	In addition to the standard admissibility, and eligibility conditions (please refer to section 5.2.2 and section 5.2.3 in this document) the following additional eligibility condition applies: each participant in a bidding consortium must check its own eligibility for participation/funding in accordance to their national regulations.
Submission and evaluation procedure	The call will be organised according to a two-stage submission process. For the first step, a first-stage proposal (maximum ten pages) must be submitted within the first-stage submission deadline. Successful applicants in the first step will be invited to the second step to submit a full proposal (maximum 50 pages). A timeline for the submission and evaluation of applications can be found in Table 8 .
Grant agreement	Each national funding body will fund the beneficiaries established in its own country; thus, the national funding rules apply. Each national funding body will sign a grant agreement (or any official documents acting as a contract) with their national beneficiaries taking part in the selected project (section 5.2.11). The coordinator of the project has to decide with his/her partners of a common starting date of the project and send this information to all the funding bodies involved in funding this project in order to ensure that the national contracts are synchronized in time to cover all the period of the project
Consortium agreement	A consortium agreement mentioning the distribution of the tasks among partners (as listed in the proposal) must be concluded. Some national funding bodies may require this document before signing the grant agreement then it is necessary to refer to the national regulations and draft this document accordingly (section 5.2.11)

⁹⁹ Please note that the acronym RIA is used both for Section 1 and Section 2. In Section 1 the rules applying to these actions are the standard Horizon 2020 rules for participation (RfP). While the rules used in Section 2 are to some extent analogous to the Horizon 2020 RfP, specific rules, concerning participation and funding rates, apply. As the projects selected in Section 2 are funded directly by the national funding bodies they will be subject to the respective national regulations. For more details regarding the rules for Section 2 please refer to the guidelines for applicants on the PRIMA *website*.

Table 7. PRIMA PS in cash financial commitments¹⁰⁰ for Section 2 in Annual Work Plan 2021 in EUR

PRIMA Participating State	Funding Agency Acronym	Financial annual commitment per National Funding Agency (EUR)	Financial annual commitment per PS (EUR)
Algeria	DGRST	2 000 000	2 000 000
Croatia	MSE	300 000	300 000
Cyprus	RIF	200000	200 000
Egypt	ASRT	1 500 000	3 650 000
	SDTF	2 150 000	
France	ANR	6 000 000	6 000 000
Germany	BMBF	2 500 000	2 500 000
Greece	GSRT	1 000 000	1 000 000
Israel	IIA/ISERD	500 000	500 000
Italy	MUR	7 000 000	7 000 000
Jordan	HCST	250 000	250 000
Lebanon	CNRS-L	100 000	100 000
Luxembourg	FNR	500 000	500 000
Malta	MCST	300 000	300 000
Morocco	MESRSFC	3 400 000	3 400 000
Portugal	FCT	1 325 000	1 425 000
	FRCT	100 000	
Slovenia	ARSS	170 000	170 000
Spain	AEI	2 500 000	3 750 000
	CDTI	1 250 000	
Tunisia	MESRS	1 500 000	1 500 000
Turkey	TUBITAK	1 000 000	1 000 000
Total		35 545 000	35 545 000

¹⁰⁰ The in-cash contributions from PRIMA PS for the AWP 2021 are provided on the basis of a formal commitment letter signed by the competent authorities of the PRIMA Funding Agencies involved.

The Executive Director may decide to publish and open the call up to two weeks prior or one month after the envisaged date(s).

The Executive Director may delay other deadlines by up to two months.

All deadlines are at 17.00.00 CET.

Table 8. Timetable for Section 2¹⁰¹ call for Proposals in 2021.

THEMATIC AREA	CALL TOPICS	CALL PUBLICATION AND OPENING	SUBMISSION DEADLINE STAGE 1	EVALUATION RESULTS STAGE 1	SUBMISSION DEADLINE STAGE 2	EVALUATION RESULTS STAGE 2
WATER MANAGEMENT	Topic 2.1.1	15/02/2021	21/04/2021	15/07/2021	21/09/2021	10/12/2021
FARMING SYSTEMS	Topic 2.2.1	15/02/2021	21/04/2021	15/07/2021	21/09/2021	10/12/2021
AGROFOOD VALUE CHAIN	Topic 2.3.1	15/02/2021	21/04/2021	15/07/2021	21/09/2021	10/12/2021

¹⁰¹ Section 2 Calls are organised according to a two-stage submission process

2.3 Activities supporting programme operations funded and implemented by the PRIMA-IS

2.3.1 PS contributions dedicated to the implementation of proposals resulting from transnational calls organised by the PRIMA-IS and funded by the PS

This section refers to the costs incurred by the PS for the management of successful proposals resulting from the calls organised by the PRIMA and funded by the PS.

These costs must not exceed 6 % of the individual financial contribution by each Participating State in Section 2. For 2021, the total amount of these contributions must not exceed EUR 2 132 700.

3. Section 3 – Activities and actions organised, managed and funded by the PS

PRIMA PS implement and fund an array of national activities that contribute to the objectives of the PRIMA programme. The participation of the PS foresees three types of activities:

- National research programmes implemented, managed and funded by the PS: Participant States Initiated Activities (PSIAs);
- Activities supporting programme operation funded and implemented by PS.

3.1 Participating States Initiated Activities (PSIAs)

Decision (EU) 2017/1324 provides that PRIMA activities may include activities under the national programmes of the Participating States, including transnational projects.

Those activities, included as so-called Participating States Initiated Activities PSIAs in the PRIMA AWP, will be implemented in compliance with common principles to be agreed by the Participating States and the European Commission, taking into account the principles set out in Decision (EU) 2017/1324, in Part One of Title VIII of the Financial Regulation No (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 and Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013, in particular the principles of equal treatment, transparency, independent peer-review evaluation and selection.¹⁰²

The Participating States Initiated Activities (PSIAs) listed below gather activities under national programmes of PS spanning from national calls for research and innovation, training actions and/or supports to a joint research project or collaborative research units managed and funded directly by the PS.

They are in-kind contributions of the PS to the PRIMA programme and constitute an integral part of the PRIMA programme contributing to the alignment of national programmes to PRIMA.

The PSIAs listed in this section of the AWP 2021 are aligned with PRIMA objectives according to the assessment of external international experts.

All participants to activities funded by the PRIMA-IS or by Participating States of the PRIMA programme are required to label or co-label any communication or publication related to their activities with the following acknowledgement "[name of the activity/grant code] is part of the PRIMA programme supported by the European Union", as well as with the PRIMA logo.

¹⁰² See Section 5.2.10 of this document

Table 9. Participating States Initiated Activities in 2021 (details of the calls are given in Section 6).

#	Code	Activity title	Keyword	Type of action	PS involved	type of budget allocation	PS indicative commitment (EUR)
1	DE.2021.1	6TH GERMAN-EGYPTIAN RESEARCH FUND (GERF) 2021		RIA	GERMANY-EGYPT	ANNUAL CALLS	500 000
2	EG.2021.1	5TH EGYPTIAN-SPANISH JOINT CALL FOR R&D&I PROJECTS		RIA	EGYPT-SPAIN	ANNUAL CALLS	300 000
3	EG.2021.2	6TH GERMAN-EGYPTIAN RESEARCH FUND (GERF)		RIA	EGYPT-GERMANY	ANNUAL CALLS	600 000
4	ES.2021.1	FUNDING FOR NATIONAL PROJECTS R+D FIELDS	AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	RIA	SPAIN	ANNUAL CALLS	30 000 000
5	ES.2021.2	NATIONAL PROGRAMS AND CALLS UNDER THE STATE PLAN FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND OF INNOVATION 2017-2010.	WATER MANAGEMENT, AGROFOOD VALUE CHAIN, FARMING SYSTEMS	RIA	SPAIN	ANNUAL CALLS	16 000 000
6	FR.2021.1	RESEARCH PROJECTS FUNDED BY ANR UNDER THE ANNUAL NATIONAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS	INNOVATION, FARMING SYSTEMS, WATER MANAGEMENT	RIA	FRANCE	ANNUAL CALLS	2 000 000
7	IL.2021.1	ISRAELI PROGRAMME SUPPORTING PRIMA CALLS		RIA/ IA	ISRAEL	PRIMA CALL	50 000
8	IL.2021.2	YOUNG SCIENTISTS EXCHANGE PROGRAM (YSEP)		TMA	ISRAEL/GERMANY	ANNUAL CALLS	50 000
9	IL.2021.3	THE GERMAN-ISRAELI WATER TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION PROGRAM CALL FOR JOINT PROPOSALS FOR 2020	WATER MANAGEMENT, FARMING SYSTEMS AND FOOD VALUE CHAIN; DIGITAL TRANSITION	RIA	ISRAEL	ANNUAL CALLS	250 000
10	IL.2021.4	JOINT PROJECTS OF EUROPEAN AND ISRAELI SMEs		RIA/IA	ISRAEL	ANNUAL CALLS	20 000
11	MT.2021.1	PRIMA PARTICIPATING STATES CALLS FOR PROPOSALS SUPPORTING PRIMA	WATER MANAGEMENT, FARMING SYSTEMS AND FOOD VALUE CHAIN	RIA/IA	MALTA	PRIMA CALL	160 000
12	TR.2021.1	PRIMA PARTICIPATING STATES CALLS FOR PROPOSALS SUPPORTING PRIMA	WATER MANAGEMENT, FARMING SYSTEMS AND FOOD VALUE CHAIN	RIA	TURKEY	PRIMA CALL	150 000
TOTAL							50 080 000

3.2 Activities supporting programme operation funded and implemented by PS

3.2.1 Update of the PRIMA Observatory on Innovation

Objectives

The PRIMA Observatory on Innovation¹⁰³ developed and cured by the University of Siena, is a digital platform that shares and promotes those best practices in the agri-food sector able to induce concrete solutions to the benefit of consumers, communities and enterprises. The platform has so far collected over 73 projects, among which many national best practices and 33 PRIMA projects funded in the response of PRIMA 2018 and 2019 Calls. Based on these already existing functionalities, the proposed activity aims to valorise further the PRIMA projects. In addition to greater visibility for each project, the updated platform will facilitate the matching between the need of enterprises solutions offered by innovators and researchers.

This activity will promote the scaling-up of PRIMA funded projects, to allow innovative ideas and research project's results to be exploited fully. The interaction with the business community and stakeholders will also be included and fostered, with the ultimate goal to generate and strengthen impactful research.

The platform will also serve to stimulate new partnerships among EUR-Mediterranean researchers and innovators, as well as to catalyse the attention of public and private investors and stakeholders.

Organised by: Italy, Siena University, Santa Chiara Lab

Type of activity: Contracts

Indicative budget: EUR 100 000

Timetable: Q3, 2021.

3.2.2 Engagement of service providers to assist coordinators in writing PRIMA proposals

Objectives

To help increase the number of project coordinators from Malta, MCST will be launching a PRIMA Proposal Writing Assistance Scheme.

The Proposal Writing Assistance scheme will be implemented as training workshops for Maltese based entities, intending to submit a PRIMA pre- / full proposal as a coordinator of a consortium, to engage service providers for support during the pre-/full proposal writing phase.

Organised by: Malta, MCST

Type of activity: Contracts

Indicative budget: EUR 25 000

Timetable: Q1-Q3

3.2.3 PRIMA Day 2021

Objectives

To professionally organise a 1-2-day webinar to help increase awareness on PRIMA and its activities.

MCST will be focusing on a widespread marketing campaign to ensure a good turnout, especially ensuring good participation from the business sector.

Organised by: Malta. MCST

Type of activity: Contracts

Indicative budget: EUR 10 000

¹⁰³ <https://primaobservatory.unisi.it/it/homepage>

Timetable: Q1, 2021

3.2.4 PRIMA Targeted Brokerage Events for 2021

Objectives

To increase collaborative links between Malta-based entities and other entities in the PRIMA PS, to increase participation in successful PRIMA projects.

In 2021, targeted brokerage activities will be organised. These will aim to foster collaborations to establish new network links and consortia building for Malta-based entities.

These will (but not necessarily limited to) take the form of online events, mainly through MCST R&I platform – [Plumtri](https://www.plumtri.org/)¹⁰⁴.

This platform serves as a tool for R&I stakeholders in the Mediterranean Region. The main aim of Plumtri is to facilitate networking and knowledge sharing and also to serve as a ‘one-stop-shop’ for information on the latest news, events and funding opportunities in the spheres of R&I.

Organised by: Malta, MCST

Type of activity: Contracts

Indicative budget: EUR 5 000

Timetable: Q1-Q3, 2021

3.2.5 Mutual Learning Exercise (MLE) workshops on National Framework Conditions for PRIMA S2 calls

Objectives

MLE process is demand-driven where several countries are facing similar or closely related challenges wish to explore the best ways to tackle them, acknowledging a need of change implementation of particular instruments and desiring to learn from evaluation and experiences of these instruments in other countries.

It's a process thus represents learning by doing supported by external expertise. Each participating country is expected to gain tailored information and knowledge from the process but is also open to other participants to learn from their best practices and experiences. All participating countries are expected to participate actively and provide friendly peer support for mutual learning.

The MLE workshops are designed to identify opportunities; lesson learned and good practices to overcome national challenges that hinder more substantial participation in the Section 2 implementation.

This activity will:

- improve the implementation of Section2 calls, which is crucial for the reputation of PRIMA towards the applicants;
- demonstrate further the efforts of PRIMA for the alignment of national regulations which is one of the specific objectives of our initiative.

Organised by:

The activity will be led by Portugal, Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) with the participation of:

Algeria, General Directorate for scientific research and technological development (DGRSDT), Croatia Ministry of Science and Education, Cyprus Research Promotion Foundation, Research and Innovation Projects Unit Egypt Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT) and Science and Technological Development Fund (SDTF), France, French National Research Agency (ANR), Germany Project Management Agency c/o German Aerospace Center (DLR PT), Greece General Secretariat for Research and Technology (GSRT), Israel, Israel Innovation Authority (IIA), Italy Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca (MUR), Jordan Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST), Lebanon, Conseil National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS-L), Luxembourg, Luxembourg National

¹⁰⁴ <https://www.plumtri.org/>

Research Fund (FNR), Malta, Malta Council for Science And Technology (MCST) , Morocco, State Secretariat for Higher Education and Scientific Research, Portugal, Azores Regional Funds for Science and Technology (FRCT), Slovenia, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Spain, Centro para el Desarrollo Tecnológico Industriales, (CDTI) and Agencia Estatal de Investigacion (AEI), Tunisia, Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique (MESRS) Turkey, The Scientific And Technological Research Council Of Turkey (TUBITAK).

Type of Action: Workshops

Indicative budget: EUR 22 800

Timetable: Q1-Q3 2021

3.2.6 Strengthening R&I Capacities in writing competitive proposals

Objectives

The primary aim of the training workshop is to enable potential applicants from Mediterranean Partners Countries to take over the coordinating role for the preparation of a competitive proposal within PRIMA and other international funding programmes. Participants will receive in-depth information and basic knowledge on proposal preparation for calls at the international level. The training workshop will also help to strengthen the participation of MPC coordinators in other multi- and even bi-lateral funding programmes for research, innovation and technological development.

The workshop will focus on the following content:

- responsibilities of a coordinator
- targeted reading and implementation of funding announcements
- principles of building international project consortia
- skills required to draft a competitive proposal like
- essential principles of grant writing
- structure of a grant proposal with a focus on H2020/PRIMA
- reviewer-oriented grant writing: understanding evaluation criteria in H2020/PRIMA
- specific requirements of the PRIMA programme
- calculating a project budget based on H2020 and national financial rules, the latter with support of PRIMA-NCPs
- expertise needed to coordinate the preparation of a project proposal with large project Consortia

Organised by: Training activity implemented by the NFAs of Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey.

Indicative Budget: Approximately EUR 1 250 per workshop (covering all fees and expenses for the trainers to design, prepare and hold the trainings, including materials).

The total budget foreseen is of EUR 10 000.

Timetable: Q3, 2021.

3.2.7 The 1st Tunis WEFEX Nexus Conference

Objectives The 1st Tunis WEFEX Nexus Conference will focus on the contribution of research and innovation from a different perspective through sharing existing studies from regional to localized levels, search for potential cross-sectoral synergies, efficient use of natural resources, and impacts of external shocks. The Conference is mainly dedicated to scientists (students, researchers, faculties) to present their research activities to share it with other scientific communities of the Mediterranean region.

The conference will be a 3-day event where scientists from different disciplines will be able to present their ideas and findings (oral presentations, posters). The idea is to explore what has been

done in term of science and technology in the region to exchange analytical tools and methodologies.

The Conference will be an opportunity for networking between southern Mediterranean countries and also will stimulate the reflection on Nexus thinking. It will shed light on policy needs and identification of policy gaps which will encourage dialogue among the triple-helix model that represents research/industry/government.

Organised by: Tunisia, Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique (MESRS).

Type of Action: Contracts

Indicative Budget: 5 000 EUR

Timetable: Q3, 2021.

4. Administrative 2021 budget of the PRIMA-IS for the implementation of the PRIMA programme

In 2021, the administrative costs of the PRIMA-IS will include the following items:

4.1. Personnel

Personnel costs will include the salaries and social costs of the following personnel: Director, Deputy Director, Project Coordinator, Project Officers (4), Legal Officer, Accounting and Finance Manager, Accounting and Finance Officer, Administrative Assistants (2), Communication Officer.

4.2. Meetings and missions

- Meetings of the Board of Trustees, the Steering Committee and the Scientific Advisory Committee
- Administrative Staff travel and accommodation costs

4.3. Consumables and supplies

- Postage and courier
- Office consumables & stationery
- Printing and photocopying
- Bank charges
- Office furniture and equipment (depreciation)
- Office utilities: electricity, water and gas
- Repairs and maintenance
- Computers and other IT equipment (depreciation)

4.4. Service contracts

- Foundation audit fees (reporting to the EC and annual statutory accounts)
- Telecommunications (voice and data)
- IT support services
- Office cleaning
- Communication and graphic layout.

4.5. Dissemination activities and materials

- Creation of materials for external communication (leaflets, posters, newsletters, etc.). (Costs will be under Service contracts section).
- Organization of an info-day in Barcelona to present the PRIMA AWP 2021, approximately in the First Quarter of 2021 depending approval's date of AWP2021. (Costs will be under Mission and travels section).

4.6 Budget overview tables

Table 10. Indicative budget for the administrative costs in EUR

Description	Amount (in EUR)
Personnel	1 137 566
Meetings and missions	74 000
Consumables and supplies	64 734
Service contracts	173 700
Total administrative costs	1 450 000

Table 1. Overview of Planned Commitments to Activities of the PRIMA Programme 2021 by the Union (EU), the Participating States (PS) in EUR.

Activities	Contributions (in EUR)		
	EU	PS	Grand Total
EU funded Transnational Calls for Proposals IA (Section 1)	33 000 000		33 000 000
Participating States Transnational co-funded Call for Proposals, managed by PRIMA-IS (Section 2)		35 545 000	35 545 000
Sub total transnational calls	33 000 000	35 545 000	68 545 000
Evaluation of Projects & Monitoring	485 000		485 000
PRIMA Prizes	20 000		20 000
Nexus Conference	45 000		45 000
Sub total activities supporting programme operations	550 000		550 000
Participating States funded activities managed by PS to support programme implementation		177 800	177 800
PS contributions dedicated to the implementation of proposals resulting from PS funded calls		2 132 700	2 132 700
Participating States Initiated Activities		50 080 000	50 080 000
Sub-Total Implementation	33 550 000	87 935 500	121 485 500
EU-funded administrative costs of the PRIMA-IS	1 450 000		1 450 000
Sub-Total Administration	1 450 000		1 450 000
Total Budget	35 000 000	87 935 500	122 935 500

Table 12 Detailed overview of planned commitments to activities of the PRIMA programme in 2021 by the European Union (EU) and the Participating States (PS) in EUR

Planned commitments (in EUR)	Programme CALLS	PRIMA-IS administrative costs	PS management costs	Activities supporting programme operations	PSIAs	Total in 2021
	Financial contributions	Financial contributions	In-kind contributions	Financial Contributions	Financial contributions	
European Union (EU)						
European Commission	33 000 000	1 450 000		550 000		35 000 000
Sub-Total EU	33 000 000	1 450 000	-	550 000		35 000 000
Participating States (PS)						
Algeria	2 000 000		120 000	2 250	-	2 122 250
Croatia	300 000		18 000	1 000	-	319 000
Cyprus	200 000		12 000	1 000	-	213 000
Egypt	3 650 000		219 000	4 500	900 000	4 773 500
France	6 000 000		360 000	1 000	2 000 000	8 361 000
Germany	2 500 000		150 000	1 800	500 000	3 151 800
Greece	1 000 000		60 000	1 000	-	1 061 000
Israel	500 000		30 000	1 000	370 000	901 000
Italy	7 000 000		420 000	101 000	-	7 521 000
Jordan	250 000		15 000	2 250	-	267 250
Lebanon	100 000		6 000	2 250	-	108 250
Luxembourg	500 000		30 000	1 000	-	531 000
Malta	300 000		18 000	41 000	160 000	519 000
Morocco	3 400 000		204 000	2 250	-	3 606 250
Portugal	1 425 000		85 500	2 000	-	1 512 500
Slovenia	170 000		10 200	1 000	-	181 200
Spain	3 750 000		225 000	2 000	46 000 000	49 977 000
Tunisia	1 500 000		90 000	7 250	-	1 597 250
Turkey	1 000 000		60 000	2 250	150 000	1 212 250
Sub-Total PSs	35 545 000		2 132 700	177 800	50 080 000	87 935 500
Sub-Total EU and PSs	68 545 000	1 450 000	2 132 700	727 800	50 080 000	122 935 500
Grand Total	68 545 000	1 450 000	2 132 700	727 800	50 080 000	122 935 500

Table 3. Overview of planned EU contributions towards PRIMA Calls for Proposals in 2021 and activities supporting the implementation of the programme in EUR

	EU-funded PRIMA activities	Indicative EU contribution (EUR)
Research & Innovation Actions	Section 1 call 1	8 250 000
	Section 1 call 2	8 250 000
	Section 1 call 3	8 400 000
	Section 1 call nexus	8 100 000
Other Activities	Activities for supporting the implementation of the programme	550 000
Administrative costs of the PRIMA-IS	Personnel, Missions, Consumables and supplies,	1 450 000
	Service contracts	
	Total planned contributions in 2021	35 000 000

Draft

5. General Annexes

5.1 Section 1 – Transnational calls and prizes organised and funded by the PRIMA-IS (Union contribution)

5.1.1 List of countries eligible for funding

Legal entities established in the following countries and territories are eligible to receive funding through PRIMA grants:

a) The PRIMA Participating States¹⁰⁵ :

The following Member States (MS) of the European Union (EU): Croatia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Slovenia. It includes the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) linked to these Member States¹⁰⁶:

The following Third Countries associated to Horizon 2020 (AC): Israel, Tunisia, and Turkey.

The following Third Countries not associated to Horizon 2020 (TC), having concluded international agreements for scientific and technological cooperation setting out the terms and conditions of their participation in PRIMA: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco.

These Associated Countries (AC) and Third Countries (TC) mentioned above are the Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC).

In addition, the following entities are eligible to receive funding through PRIMA grants:

b) Any legal entity created under Union law.

c) Any international European interest organization¹⁰⁷, as defined in point (12) of Article 2(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013

For these two types of entities (b, c), their place of establishment is not relevant for eligibility for funding.

d) Any international organisation (IO)¹⁰⁸ **OR** any legal entity established in countries not listed above as PS will be eligible for funding provided that at least one of the following conditions is fulfilled:

¹⁰⁵ New PS may join PRIMA and the regularly updated list of PS will be provided by PRIMA-IS (at the following link to be inserted to PRIMA webpage).

¹⁰⁶ Entities from Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) are eligible for funding under the same conditions as entities from the Member States to which the OCT in question is linked.

¹⁰⁷ 'international European interest organisation' means an international organisation, (IO) the majority of whose members are Member States or associated countries, and whose principal objective is to promote scientific and technological cooperation in Europe".

¹⁰⁸ the place of establishment of the IOs is not relevant for eligibility for funding.

- i. participation is deemed to be essential for carrying out the action¹⁰⁹;
- ii. such funding is provided under a bilateral scientific and technological agreement or any other arrangement between the Union and the international organisation or, for entities established in a country which is not a Participating State, the country in which the legal entity is established.

The latest information on the PRIMA PS can be found on PRIMA webpage: <http://www.prima-med.org/>

Participants from countries not listed in point 5.1.1.a), and not falling under b), c) or d) above, can participate but they have to fund their participation.

All participants with their funding have to attach to their proposal a letter from their organization (signed by a legal representative of the structure) attesting that the funds to cover their participation to the projects (task(s), attendance to meetings, etc.) will be available.

5.1.2 Standard admissibility conditions, page limits and supporting documents

For all actions under AWP 2021, proposals must comply with the admissibility requirements set out in this sub-section, unless they are supplemented or modified in the call conditions.

To be considered **admissible**, a proposal must be:

- a) Submitted in the electronic submission system before the deadline given in the call conditions
- b) Readable, accessible and printable.
- c) **Complete** and inclusive of the requested administrative data, the proposal description, and any other obligatory supporting documents specified in the call conditions;
- d) Include a draft plan for exploitation and dissemination of the results, unless otherwise specified in the call conditions. The draft plan is not required for proposals at the first step of the two-stage submission process.

In addition to the above admissibility requirements, **page limits** will apply to parts of proposals/applications. Unless stated otherwise in the call conditions, the limit for a first-stage proposal is ten pages, while the limit for a full proposal is 50 pages.

Electronic Submission System will automatically reject the proposal if it exceeds the page limits.

Proposals must be written in a legible font. Further guidance on acceptable fonts, margins and another page formatting will be included in the proposal templates.

The structure of proposals must correspond to the requirements specified under each section of the proposal template. Applicants are requested to use the template provided by PRIMA that can be downloaded from the PRIMA website under the relevant call section.

¹⁰⁹ The applicant will be eligible for funding if its participation has clear benefits for the consortium, such as: access to unique know-how, access to research infrastructures, access to geographical environments, involving key partners in emerging markets, access to data, etc.

The following supporting documents will be required to determine the **operational capacity** of each applicant in grant proposals unless otherwise specified in the call:

- a) A curriculum vitae or description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed research and/or innovation activities;
- b) A list of up to five relevant publications, and/or products, services (including widely-used datasets or software), or other achievements relevant to the call content;
- c) A list of up to five relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal;
- d) A description of any significant infrastructure and/or any major items of technical equipment, relevant to the proposed work;
- e) A description of any third parties that are not represented as project partners, but who will nonetheless be contributing towards the work (e.g. providing facilities, computing resources).

This scrutiny will be carried out by the evaluators during the evaluation process under the selection criteria, in particular the award criterion 'Quality and efficiency of the implementation'. Please refer to Section 5.1.7 "Evaluation rules".

5.1.3 Standard eligibility conditions

All proposals must comply with the eligibility conditions set out in the Rules for Participation of Horizon 2020 Regulation (EU) No. 1290/2013 and any derogations to these as specified in Decision (EU) 2017/1324.

Furthermore, proposals must comply with the eligibility conditions set out in this sub-section, unless they are supplemented or modified in the call conditions.

A proposal will only be considered eligible if:

- a) the coordinator of the proposal is a legal entity established in a PRIMA PS¹¹⁰
- b) its content corresponds, wholly or in part, to the scope and objectives of the topic to which it is submitted
- c) it complies with the eligibility conditions for participation set out in the table below, depending on the type of action:

¹¹⁰ This measure is aimed to protect the Union's financial interests and is in line with Art. Article 7(7) of Decision (EU) 2017/1324.

Table 14. Eligibility conditions for participation for PRIMA Actions Section 1.

Type of Action	Eligibility conditions for participation ^{111,112,113}
Research & Innovation Action (RIA)	<p>At least three legal entities established in three different countries considered as the Participating States¹¹⁴ as defined in point 5.1.1. Each of the three must be established in a different country considered to be PRIMA PS by submission deadline under the relevant call, out of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -at least one must be established in an EU Member State or a third country associated to Horizon 2020 and not being an MPC and -at least one must be established in a third country bordering the Mediterranean Sea (MPC) <p>All three legal entities must be independent of each other.</p>
Innovation Action (IA)	<p>At least three legal entities established in three different countries considered as Participating States¹¹⁵, as defined in point 5.1.1. Each of the three must be established in a different country considered to be PRIMA PS by submission deadline under the relevant call, out of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -at least one must be established in an EU Member State or a third country associated to Horizon 2020 and not being an MPC and -at least one must be established in a third country bordering the Mediterranean Sea (MPC) <p>All three legal entities must be independent of each other.</p>

¹¹¹ Natural or legal persons, groups or non-State entities covered by the Council sanctions in force are not eligible to participate in Union programmes. Please see the consolidated list of persons, groups and entities subject to Union financial sanctions, available at http://eeas.europa.eu/cfsp/sanctions/consol-list_en.html.

¹¹² Given that the EU does not recognise the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol, legal persons established in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea or the city of Sevastopol are not eligible to participate in any capacity. This criterion also applies in cases where the action involves financial support given by grant beneficiaries to third parties established in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea or the city of Sevastopol (in accordance with Articles 204 and 205 of the Financial Regulation No (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046). Should the illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol end, this Work Plan will be revised.

¹¹³ The eligibility criteria formulated in Commission notice Nr. 2013/C 205/05 ([OJEU C 205 of 19.07.2013, pp.9-11](#)) apply for all actions under this Work Plan, including for third parties that receive financial support under the action (in accordance with Articles 204 and 205 of the Financial Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1046), notably programme co-fund actions.

¹¹⁴ The latest information on the PRIMA PS can be found on PRIMA webpage: <http://prima-med.org/>.

¹¹⁵ The latest information on the PRIMA PS can be found on PRIMA webpage: <http://prima-med.org/>.

5.1.4 Types of action: specific provisions and funding rates ^{116,117}

Research and innovation actions (RIA) *Description:* Action primarily consisting of activities aiming to establish new knowledge and/or to explore the feasibility of new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution. For this purpose, they may include basic and applied research, technology development and integration, testing and validation on a small-scale prototype in a laboratory or simulated environment.

Projects may contain closely connected but limited demonstration or pilot activities aiming to show technical feasibility in a near to operational environment.

Funding rate: 100%

Innovation actions (IA)

Description: Action primarily consisting of activities directly aiming at producing plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services. For this purpose, they may include prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication.

A 'demonstration or pilot' aims to validate the technical and economic viability of new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution in an operational (or near to operational) environment, whether industrial or otherwise, involving where appropriate a more extensive scale prototype or demonstrator.

A 'market replication' aims to support the first application/deployment in the market of an innovation that has already been demonstrated but not yet applied/deployed in the market due to market failures/barriers to uptake. 'Market replication' does not cover multiple applications in the market of an innovation¹¹⁸ that has already been applied successfully once in the market. 'First' means new at least to PRIMA countries or new at least to the application sector in question. Often such projects involve validation of technical and economic performance at the system level in real-life operating conditions provided by the market.

Projects may include limited research and development activities.

Funding rate: 70% (except for non-profit legal entities, where a rate of 100% applies).

Prizes

Description: Prizes are financial contributions given as rewards following the publication of a contest. A 'recognition prize' is used to recognise past achievements and outstanding work after it has been performed, whereas an 'inducement prize' is used to spur investment in a given direction, by specifying a target prior to the performance of the work. The Rules of Contest lay down the conditions for participation, the award criteria, the amount of the prize and the arrangements for the payment of the prize to the winners after their award.

PRIMA Rules of Contest for prizes are published on PRIMA website.

¹¹⁶ Eligible costs for all types of action are in accordance with the Financial Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1046 and the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013. In addition, as training researchers on gender issues serves the policy objectives of Horizon 2020 and is necessary for the implementation of R&I actions, applicants may include in their proposal such activity and the following corresponding estimated costs that may be eligible for EU funding:

(a) Costs of delivering the training (personnel costs if the trainers are employees of the beneficiary or subcontracting if the training is outsourced);

(b) Accessory direct costs such as travel and subsistence costs, if the training is delivered outside the beneficiary's premises;

(c) Remuneration costs for the researchers attending the training, in proportion to the actual hours spent on the training (as personnel costs).

¹¹⁷ Participants may ask for a lower rate.

¹¹⁸ A new or improved technology, product, design, process, service or solution.

Prize amounts: The amount of the prize is specified in the contest. It is not linked to the costs incurred by the winner.

5.1.5 PRIMA Model Rules of Contest (RoC) for prizes

Model Rules of Contest for prizes are published in the PRIMA website: <https://prima-med.org/>

5.1.6 Technology readiness levels (TRL)

Where a topic description refers to a TRL, the following definitions apply, unless otherwise specified:

- TRL 1 – basic principles observed
- TRL 2 – technology concept formulated
- TRL 3 – experimental proof of concept
- TRL 4 – technology validated in lab
- TRL 5 – technology validated in relevant environment (industrially relevant environment in the case of key enabling technologies)
- TRL 6 – technology demonstrated in relevant environment (industrially relevant environment in the case of key enabling technologies)
- TRL 7 – system prototype demonstration in operational environment
- TRL 8 – system complete and qualified
- TRL 9 – actual system proven in an operational environment (competitive manufacturing in the case of key enabling technologies; or in space)

5.1.7 Evaluation rules

1. Selection Criteria

- a) *Financial capacity:* In line with the Financial Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 and the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013. For grants, coordinators will be invited – at the proposal stage – to complete a self-assessment using an on-line tool.¹¹⁹

The financial capacity of a project coordinator is checked by PRIMA-IS when the requested funding to PRIMA-IS for the action is equal or superior to EUR 500.000 unless the coordinator is:

- i. a public body;
 - ii. a higher or secondary education establishment;
 - iii. an international organisation or body whose participation is guaranteed by the government of an EU country or associated country, following the PRIMA MGA.
- b) *Operational capacity:* As a distinct operation, carried out during the evaluation of the award criterion 'Quality and efficiency of the implementation', experts will indicate whether each participant has, or will have in due time, sufficient operational capacity to carry out its tasks in the proposed work plan successfully. This assessment will be based on the competence and

¹¹⁹ <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/organisations/lfv.html>

experience of the applicant, including its operational resources (human, technical and other) and, if applicable, exceptionally the concrete measures proposed to obtain it by the time of the implementation of the tasks.

For prizes and for first-stage proposals in a two-stage submission procedure, neither financial capacity nor operational capacity is subject to evaluation.

Financial and Operational Capacity will be performed by PRIMA-IS at the evaluation phase of proposals in Second Stage calls and have the same timeline.

2. Award criteria, scores and weighting

Grant proposals will be evaluated by experts, on the basis of the **award criteria** 'excellence', 'impact' and 'quality and efficiency of the implementation' see Article 15 of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013).

The aspects to be considered in each case depend on the types of action as set out in the table below, unless stated otherwise in the call conditions:

Table 15 Aspects to be considered during the proposal evaluation for each criterion (excellence, impact, quality and efficiency of the implementation) for each Type of Actions in Section 1.

Type of Action	Excellence*	Impact*	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
	The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the topic description in the work plan.	The following aspects will be taken into account:	The following aspects will be taken into account:
Research & Innovation Activities (RIAs), Innovation actions (IA)	<p>Clarity and pertinence of the objectives;</p> <p>Soundness of the concept, and credibility of the proposed methodology;</p> <p>Fit with the scope and objectives of the PRIMA programme and the call topic description;</p> <p>Extent that the proposed work is beyond the state of the art, and demonstrates innovation potential (e.g. ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches, new products, services or business and organisational models)</p> <p>Appropriate consideration of interdisciplinary approaches and, where relevant, use of stakeholder knowledge and gender dimension in research and innovation content.</p>	<p>The extent to which the outputs of the project would contribute to one or several of the expected impacts mentioned in the work plan under the relevant topic.</p> <p>-Scores of the proposals will not depend on the number of expected impacts covered.</p> <p>-Any substantial impacts not mentioned in the work plan, that would enhance innovation capacity, create new market opportunities, strengthen competitiveness and growth of companies, address issues related to climate change or the environment, or bring other important benefits for society;</p> <p>-Quality of the proposed measures to:</p> <p>-Exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of IPR), and to manage research data where relevant.</p> <p>-Communicate the project activities to different target audiences.</p>	<p>Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, including extent to which the resources assigned to work packages are in line with their objectives and deliverables;</p> <p>Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk and innovation management;</p> <p>Complementarity of the participants and extent to which the consortium as whole brings together the necessary expertise;</p> <p>Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks, ensuring that all participants have a valid role and adequate resources in the project to fulfil that role.</p>

** In the evaluation of the first stage proposals, only aspects in bold will be considered.*

3. Scoring and weighting:

Unless otherwise specified in the call conditions:

Evaluation scores will be awarded for the criteria, and not for the different aspects listed in the above table. For full proposals, each criterion will be scored out of 5. The threshold for individual criteria will be 3. The overall threshold, applying to the sum of the three individual scores, will be 10.

For Innovation actions to determine the ranking, the score for the criterion 'impact' will be given a weight of 1.5.

For the evaluation of first-stage proposals under a two-stage submission procedure, only the criteria 'excellence' and 'impact' will be evaluated. With regard to the impact criterion, only the aspects in bold will be considered for first-stage proposals. The threshold for both individual criteria will be 4. For each indicative budget-split in the call conditions, the overall threshold, applying to the sum of the two individual scores, will be set at the level such that the total requested budget of proposals admitted to the second stage is as close as possible to three times the available budget, and in any case, not less than two and a half times the available budget.

The actual level will, therefore, depend on the volume of proposals received. The threshold is expected to normally be set at **8 or 8.5**.

4. Priority order for proposals with the same score:

Unless the call conditions indicate otherwise, the following method will be applied (except for the first step of two-stage submission process, where proposals having the same score are kept together and no prioritisation is made.)

If necessary, the panel will determine a priority order for proposals, which have been awarded the same score within a ranked list. Whether or not such a prioritization is carried out will depend on the available budget or other conditions set out in the call fiche.

The following approach will be applied successively for every group of *ex-aequo* proposals requiring prioritization, starting with the highest scored group, and continuing in descending order:

- a) Proposals that address topics, or sub-topics, not otherwise covered by more highly-ranked proposals, will be considered to have the highest priority.
- b) The proposals identified under (1), if any, will themselves be prioritized according to the scores they have been awarded for the criterion excellence. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on scores for the criterion impact.
- c) If necessary, any further prioritization will be based on the following factor: number of MPCs partners, presence of SMEs, gender balance among the personnel named in the proposal who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the research and/or innovation activities.
- d) The panel may decide to further prioritize by considering how to enhance the quality of the project portfolio through synergies between projects, or other factors related to the objectives of the call or to PRIMA in general. These factors will be documented in the report of the Panel.
- e) The method described in (a), (b), (c) and (d) will then be applied to the remaining *ex-aequo* in the group.

At the end of the panel meeting, the panel will recommend one or more ranked lists for the proposals under evaluation, following the scoring systems indicated above. A ranked list will be drawn up for every indicative budget shown in the call conditions.

For prizes, the award criteria, scoring and weighting will be set out in the Rules of contest.

5. Evaluation procedure

Calls are subject to a two-stage submission and evaluation process;

Proposals are evaluated by independent experts (see Article 15(7) Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation of Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013 for exceptional cases). As part of the evaluation by independent experts, a panel review will recommend one or more ranked lists for the proposals under the assessment, following the scoring systems indicated above and the discussion of the panel. A ranked list will be drawn up for every indicative budget shown in the call conditions.

Proposal coordinators receive an Evaluation Summary Report (ESR), showing the results of the evaluation for a given proposal with indication of general scores. For proposals that successfully pass the first step of two-stage submission process, common feedback is provided to all coordinators, but the first-stage ESR is only sent after the second-stage the evaluation

If special procedures apply, they will be set out in the call conditions.

5.1.8 Funding decision and communication

The final decision of funding will be taken according to the rank of the project as established in the ranking list produced by the panel (starting by the project rank number 1 in the list in descending order) until funds are available.

The Proposal coordinators receive an Evaluation Summary Report (ESR), showing the results of the evaluation for a given proposal. In the ESR, the overall scores will be provided. For proposals that successfully pass the first stage of two-stage submission process, common feedback is provided to all coordinators, but the first stage ESR is only sent after the second step evaluation.

Applicants whose proposal is awarded funding will receive a formal communication informing them that the grant preparation phase can start.

If special procedures apply, they will be set in the call conditions.

5.1.9 Budget flexibility

The budgets set out in AWP 2021 are indicative.

Unless otherwise stated, final budgets may vary following evaluation.

The final figures may vary by up to 20% compared to those indicated in AWP 2021, for the following budgeted activities:

Total expenditure for calls (up to 20% of the total spending for each call);
Repartition of call budgets within a call (up to 20% of the total expenditure of the call);
Evaluation and monitoring (up to 20% of the total expenditure for all these activities);

The cumulated changes above may not exceed 20% of the maximum contribution provided for this Work Plan.

5.1.10 Conditions related to open access to research data

Participants will engage in research data sharing, according to Article 29.3 of the PRIMA Model Grant Agreement(s). This means that beneficiaries must deposit and take measures to make it possible for third parties to access, mine, exploit, reproduce and disseminate, free of charge for any user: 1) data needed to validate the results presented in scientific publications ('underlying data'); 2) other data as specified by the beneficiaries in their Data Management Plan (DMP, see below).

Consortia may "opt-out" of these provisions before or after the signature of the grant agreement (thereby freeing themselves from the associated obligations) on the following grounds:

- a) Incompatibility with the Horizon 2020 obligation to protect results that are expected to be commercially or industrially exploited
- b) Incompatibility with the need for confidentiality in connection with security issues
- c) Incompatibility with rules on protecting personal data
- d) Incompatibility with the project's main aim
- e) If the project will not generate/collect any research data, or
- f) If there are other legitimate reasons not to provide open access to research data.

Please note that it is also possible to initially opt-out before signature and opt-in during project implementation.

Any costs related to the implementation of these provisions are eligible for reimbursement during the duration of the grant.

A proposal will not be evaluated more favourably if the consortium agrees to share its research data, nor will it be penalised if it opts out.

Further information on open access to research data is available on the PRIMA electronic submission system.

A Data Management Plan (DMP) details what data the project will generate, how it will be exploited and made accessible for verification and re-use, and how it will be curated and preserved. The use of a Data Management Plan is obligatory for all projects that do not opt-out. Projects that opt-out is also strongly encouraged to submit a Data Management Plan if relevant for their planned research. Further information on Data Management Plans is available on [PRIMA website](#).

5.2 Section 2 – Transnational calls organised by PRIMA-IS and funded by the Participating States

5.2.1 List of countries eligible for funding

Legal entities established in the following PRIMA Participating States¹²⁰ will, in general, be eligible to receive funding through PRIMA grants:

¹²⁰ New PS may join PRIMA and the regularly updated list of PS will be provided by PRIMA-IS (at the following link: <http://prima-med.org/about-us/participating-states/>).

- a) The following Member States (MS) of the European Union (EU): Croatia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Slovenia. It includes the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) linked to these Member States¹²¹;
- b) The following Third Countries associated to Horizon 2020 (AC): Israel, Tunisia, and Turkey.
- c) The following Third Countries not associated to Horizon 2020 (TC), having concluded international agreements for scientific and technological cooperation setting out the terms and conditions of their participation in PRIMA: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco.
- d) These Associated (AC) and Third Countries (TC) mentioned above are the Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC).

Participants from countries not listed above have to fund their own participation.

All participants with own funding have to attach to their proposal a letter from their organization (signed by a legal representative of the structure) attesting that the funds to cover their participation to the projects (task(s), participation to meetings...) will be available.

The information provided in this section is without prejudice to the national funding rules of PS, which may also envisage eligibility for funding for specific entities not established in these PS. The national funding rules of a PS will determine whether a particular entity would be eligible for funding.

After the eligibility check done by PRIMA-IS, a second eligibility check will be performed by the national funding bodies, aimed at the verification of eligibility for funding.¹²²

In this context proposals that are considered eligible for participation by PRIMA-IS (at the consortium level) will enter into the evaluation process. However, should the National Funding Bodies deem one consortium partner not eligible for funding, PRIMA-IS may require additional information from the consortium or the partner concerned, such as an attestation that the funds to cover the participation in the project will be available.

For the eligibility for funding, applicants should refer to the national regulations¹²³ and contact their national funding bodies (NCP)¹²⁴.

5.2.2 Standard admissibility conditions, page limits and supporting documents.

For all actions under AWP 2021, proposals must comply with the admissibility requirements set out in this sub-section, unless they are supplemented or modified in the call conditions.

To be considered **admissible**, a proposal must be:

- a) Submitted in the electronic submission system before the deadline given in the call conditions;
- b) Readable, accessible and printable;
- c) Complete and inclusive of the requested administrative data, the proposal description, and any other obligatory supporting documents specified in the call conditions;
- d) Include a draft plan for the exploitation and dissemination of the results, unless otherwise specified in the call conditions. The draft plan is not required for proposals at the first step of two-stage submission process.

¹²¹ Entities from Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) are eligible for funding under the same conditions as entities from the Member States to which the OCT in question is linked.

¹²² The national regulations mention the eligible structures for funding (for example, some funding bodies can fund private entities and other cannot) and a list of criteria to check for their eligibility. National regulations also provide a comprehensive list of eligible costs (for example some funding bodies can support mobility or sub-contracting and other cannot). Therefore, before applying to the call of the Section 2, applicants must verify their own national eligibility for funding by reading carefully the national regulations and by contacting the national contact point appointed for this task.

¹²³ Please refer to the National Regulations available in the PRIMA website.

¹²⁴ Find the NCP contacts at the following link <http://prima-med.org/calls-for-proposals/ncps/>.

In addition to the above admissibility requirements, page limits will apply to parts of proposals/applications. Unless stated otherwise in the call conditions, the limit for a first-stage proposal is 10 pages, while the limit for a full proposal is 50 pages.

Electronic Submission System will automatically reject the proposal if it exceeds the page limits.

Proposals must be written in a legible font. Further guidance on acceptable fonts, margins and another page formatting will be included in the proposal templates.

The structure of proposals must correspond to the requirements specified under each section of the proposal template. Applicants are requested to use the template provided by PRIMA that can be downloaded from the PRIMA website under the relevant call section.

The following supporting documents will be required to determine the operational capacity for grant proposals, unless otherwise specified in the call:

- a) A curriculum vitae or description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed research and/or innovation activities;
- b) A list of up to five relevant publications, and/or products, services (including widely-used datasets or software), or other achievements relevant to the call content;
- c) A list of up to five relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal;
- d) A description of any significant infrastructure and/or any major items of technical equipment, relevant to the proposed work;
- e) A description of any third parties that are not represented as project partners, but who will nonetheless be contributing towards the work (e.g. providing facilities, computing resources).

This scrutiny will be carried out by the evaluators during the evaluation process under the selection criteria, in particular the award criterion 'Quality and efficiency of the implementation'. Please refer to Section 5.2.6 "Evaluation rules".

5.2.3 Standard eligibility conditions.

All proposals must comply with the eligibility conditions analogous to those set out in the Rules for Participation of Horizon 2020 Regulation (EU) No.1290/2013 and any derogations to these as specified in Decision (EU) 2017/1324.

Furthermore, proposals must comply with the eligibility conditions set out in this sub-section, unless they are supplemented or modified in the call conditions.

A proposal will only be considered eligible if:

- a) the coordinator of the proposal is a legal entity established in a PRIMA PS125
- b) its content corresponds, wholly or in part, to the topic for which it is submitted
- c) it complies with the eligibility conditions for participation set out in the table below, depending on the type of action
- d) It complies with national regulations¹²⁶

¹²⁵ This measure is aimed to protect the Union's financial interests and is in line with Article 7(7) of Decision (EU) 2017/1324.the PRIMA Decision

¹²⁶ Please refer to the National Regulations in the PRIMA website at the following link: <https://prima-med.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/National-Regulations-2020-v2.pdf>

Table 16. Eligibility conditions for participation for PRIMA Actions Section 2.

Type of Action	Eligibility conditions for participation ^{127,128,129}
Research & Innovation Action (RIA)	<p>At least three legal entities established in three different countries considered as the Participating States¹³⁰ as defined in point 5.2.1. Each of the three must be established in a different country considered to be PRIMA PS by submission deadline under the relevant call, out of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -at least one must be established in an EU Member State or a third country associated to Horizon 2020 and not being an MPC <p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -at least one must be established in a third country bordering the Mediterranean Sea (MPC) <p>All three legal entities must be independent of each other.</p>
Innovation Action (IA)	<p>At least three legal entities established in three different countries considered as Participating States, as defined in point 5.2.1¹³¹ Each of the three must be established in a different country considered to be PRIMA PS by submission deadline under the relevant call, out of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -at least one must be established in an EU Member State or a third country associated to Horizon 2020 and not being an MPC <p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -at least one must be established in a third country bordering the Mediterranean Sea (MPC) <p>All three legal entities must be independent of each other.</p>

127 Natural or legal persons, groups or non-State entities covered by the Council sanctions in force are not eligible to participate in Union programmes. Please see the consolidated list of persons, groups and entities subject to Union financial sanctions, available at http://eeas.europa.eu/cfsp/sanctions/consol-list_en.html.

128 Given that the EU does not recognise the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol, legal persons established in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea or the city of Sevastopol are not eligible to participate in any capacity. This criterion also applies in cases where the action involves financial support given by grant beneficiaries to third parties established in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea or the city of Sevastopol (in accordance with Articles 204 and 205 of the Financial Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1046). Should the illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol end, this Work Plan will be revised.

129 The eligibility criteria formulated in Commission notice Nr. 2013/C 205/05 ([OJEU C 205 of 19.07.2013, pp.9-11](#)) apply for all actions under this Work Plan, including for third parties that receive financial support under the action (in accordance with Articles 204 and 205 of the Financial Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1046), notably programme co-fund actions.

130 The latest information on the PRIMA PS can be found on PRIMA webpage: <http://prima-med.org/>.

131 The latest information on the PRIMA PS can be found on PRIMA webpage: <http://prima-med.org/>.

5.2.4 Types of activities: specific provisions and funding rates¹³²

Description of the activities: Research and innovation activities (RIA)

These activities primarily consist of activities aiming to establish new knowledge and/or to explore the feasibility of new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution. For this purpose, they may include basic and applied research, technology development and integration, testing and validation on a small-scale prototype in a laboratory or simulated environment. Projects may contain closely connected, but little demonstration or pilot activities are aiming to show technical feasibility in a near to operational environment.

All the projects will have to include collaborative research. Collaborative research is compulsory and undertaken by a partnership of institutions (consortium) designed to produce new knowledge through scientific research, whereby each team within the partnership actively pursues specific tasks and objectives to pool the results to contribute to the achievement of a set of common, well-defined project objectives.

Funding level

The level of funding and the list of eligible costs are set out in the national regulations. Each applicant has to comply with the requirements stated in their national regulations. A contact point established in each country and who can be contacted directly by the applicant belonging to the same country will inform the applicants about the rules.

5.2.5 Technology readiness levels (TRL)

Where a topic description refers to a TRL, the following definitions apply, unless otherwise specified:

- TRL 1 – basic principles observed
- TRL 2 – technology concept formulated
- TRL 3 – experimental proof of concept
- TRL 4 – technology validated in lab
- TRL 5 – technology validated in relevant environment (industrially relevant environment in the case of key enabling technologies)
- TRL 6 – technology demonstrated in relevant environment (industrially relevant environment in the case of key enabling technologies)
- TRL 7 – system prototype demonstration in operational environment
- TRL 8 – system complete and qualified
- TRL 9 – actual system proven in operational environment (competitive manufacturing in the case of key enabling technologies; or in space)

5.2.6 Evaluation rules

1. Selection Criteria

- a) *Financial capacity*. Financial capacity will be checked in accordance with the rules analogous to those included in the Financial Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 and the Horizon

¹³² Participants may ask for a lower rate.

2020 Rules for Participation Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013. For grants, coordinators will be invited – at the proposal stage – to complete a self-assessment using an on-line tool¹³³.

- b) *Operational capacity*. As a distinct operation, carried out during the evaluation of the award criterion ‘Quality and efficiency of the implementation’, experts will indicate whether the participants have sufficient operational capacity to carry out the proposed work, based on the competence and experience of the individual participant(s).

2. Award criteria, scores and weighting

Grant proposals will be evaluated by experts, on the basis of the award criteria ‘excellence’, ‘impact’ and ‘quality and efficiency of the implementation’ (see Article 15 of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013).

The aspects to be considered are set out in the table below, unless stated otherwise in the call conditions:

Table 17 Aspects to be considered during the proposal evaluation for each criterion (excellence, impact, quality and efficiency of the implementation in Section 2 Calls.

Type of Action	Excellence*	Impact*	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
Research & Innovation Activities* (RIAs),	<p>The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the topic description in the work plan.</p> <p>Clarity and pertinence of the objectives;</p> <p>Soundness of the concept, and credibility of the proposed methodology;</p> <p>Fit with the scope and objectives of the PRIMA programme and the call topic description;</p> <p>Extent that the proposed work is beyond the state of the art, and demonstrates innovation potential (e.g. ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches, new products, services or business and organisational models)</p> <p>Appropriate consideration of interdisciplinary approaches and, where relevant, use of stakeholder knowledge and gender dimension in research and innovation content.</p>	<p>The following aspects will be taken into account:</p> <p>The extent to which the outputs of the project would contribute to one or several of the expected impacts mentioned in the work plan under the relevant topic.</p> <p>-Scores of the proposals will not depend on the number of expected impacts covered.</p> <p>-Any substantial impacts not mentioned in the work plan, that would enhance innovation capacity, create new market opportunities, strengthen competitiveness and growth of companies, address issues related to climate change or the environment, or bring other important benefits for society;</p> <p>-Quality of the proposed measures to:</p> <p>-Exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of IPR), and to manage research data where relevant.</p> <p>-Communicate the project activities to different target audiences.</p>	<p>The following aspects will be taken into account:</p> <p>Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, including extent to which the resources assigned to work packages are in line with their objectives and deliverables;</p> <p>Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk and innovation management;</p> <p>Complementarity of the participants and extent to which the consortium as whole brings together the necessary expertise;</p> <p>Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks, ensuring that all participants have a valid role and adequate resources in the project to fulfil that role.</p>

133 <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/organisations/lfv.html>

** In the evaluation of the first stage proposals, only aspects in bold will be considered.*

3. Scoring and weighting:

Unless otherwise specified in the call conditions:

Evaluation scores will be awarded for the criteria, and not for the different aspects listed in the above table. For full proposals, each criterion will be scored out of 5. The threshold for individual criteria will be 3. The overall threshold, applying to the sum of the three individual scores, will be 10.

For the evaluation of first-stage proposals under a two-stage submission procedure, only the criteria 'excellence' and 'impact' will be evaluated. With regard to the impact criterion only the aspects in bold will be considered for first-stage proposals. Threshold for both individual criteria will be 4. For each indicative budget-split in the call conditions, the overall threshold, applying to the sum of the two individual scores, will be set at the level such that the total requested budget of proposals admitted to stage 2 is as close as possible to three times the available budget, and in any case, not less than two and a half times the available budget.

The actual level will therefore depend on the volume of proposals received. The threshold is expected to normally be set at **8 or 8.5**.

4. Evaluation procedure

Calls are subject to a two-stage submission and evaluation process.

Individual Evaluation: Each eligible proposal is evaluated remotely by at least three expert evaluators (see Article 15 of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013), who carry out a technical evaluation on the basis of the criteria mentioned above. An Individual Evaluation Report, which includes comments and scores for all evaluation criteria, is prepared by each evaluator.

Panel review: after the remote individual evaluation, evaluators meet in a panel to discuss and find agreement on the initial comments and scores attributed to each proposal. They will prepare an Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) for each proposal, which shows the outcome of the evaluation of the project proposal. The panel is also responsible for the preparation of a ranking list of the proposals by consensus. Project funding decisions will be taken on the basis of this ranking list. The panel configuration allows evaluators to have an overview of all eligible proposals, not just the one they have evaluated, which enables them to decide fairly when ranking the proposals.

In case of disagreement or in case of project proposals with the same score (only for full proposals), the panel shall determine the priority order for proposals described in the section below.

5. Priority order for proposals with the same score:

Unless the call conditions indicate otherwise, the following method will be applied (except for the first step of two-stage submission process, where proposals having the same score are kept together and no prioritisation is made.)

If necessary, the panel will determine a priority order for proposals, which have been awarded the same score within a ranked list. Whether or not such a prioritization is carried out will depend on the available budget or other conditions set out in the call fiche.

The following approach will be applied successively for every group of *ex-aequo* proposals requiring prioritization, starting with the highest scored group, and continuing in descending order:

- a) Proposals that address topics, or sub-topics, not otherwise covered by more highly-ranked proposals, will be considered to have the highest priority.
- b) The proposals identified under (1), if any, will themselves be prioritized according to the scores they have been awarded for the criterion excellence. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on scores for the criterion impact.
- c) If necessary, any further prioritization will be based on the following factor: number of MPCs partners, presence of SMEs, gender balance among the personnel named in the proposal who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the research and/or innovation activities.
- d) The panel may decide to further prioritize by considering how to enhance the quality of the project portfolio through synergies between projects, or other factors related to the objectives of the call or to PRIMA in general. These factors will be documented in the report of the Panel.
- e) The method described in (a), (b), (c) and (d) will then be applied to the remaining *ex-aequo* in the group.

At the end of the panel meeting, the panel will recommend one or more ranked lists for the proposals under evaluation, following the scoring systems indicated above. A ranked list will be drawn up for every indicative budget shown in the call conditions.

5.2.7 Funding decision and communication

In line with Article 6(10), point (c), of Decision (EU) 2017/1324, the proposals will be ranked according to evaluation results. The selection of proposals to be funded will be made by PRIMA-IS based on this ranking. However, since the funding of participants in the activities will be responsibility of PS and not PRIMA-IS, the respective PS will need to provide adequate funding in line with the national rules. In the event that one or more projects cannot be funded by the PS, PRIMA-IS may decide to select for funding the projects directly following them in the ranking list(s).

The Proposal coordinators receive an Evaluation Summary Report (ESR), showing the results of the evaluation for a given proposal. In the ESR, the overall scores will be provided for proposals that successfully pass the first stage of two-stage submission process, common feedback is provided to all coordinators, but the first stage ESR is only sent after the second step evaluation.

Applicants whose proposal is awarded funding will receive a formal communication informing them that the grant preparation phase can start.

If special procedures apply, they will be set in the call conditions.

5.2.8 Budget flexibility

The budgets set out in AWP 2021 are indicative.

Unless otherwise stated, final budgets may vary following evaluation.

The final figures may vary by up to 20% compared to those indicated in AWP 2021, for the following budgeted activities:

- Total expenditure for calls (up to 20% of the total spending for each call);
- Repartition of call budgets within a call (up to 20% of the total expenditure of the call);
- Evaluation and monitoring (up to 20% of the total spending on all these activities);
- Other individual actions not implemented through calls for proposals (up to 20% for each one).

5.2.9 Conditions related to open access to research data

Participants are encouraged to engage in research data sharing. This means that beneficiaries are encouraged to deposit and take measures to make it possible for third parties to access, mine, exploit, reproduce and disseminate, free of charge for any user:

- (1) Data needed to validate the results presented in scientific publications ('underlying data'); and
- (2) other data as specified by the beneficiaries in their Data Management Plan (DMP, see below).

Consortia may "opt-out" of these provisions on the following grounds:

- a) Incompatibility with the need to protect results that are expected to be commercially or industrially exploited
- b) Incompatibility with the need for confidentiality in connection with security issues
- c) Incompatibility with rules on protecting personal data
- d) Incompatibility with the project's main aim
- e) If the project will not generate/collect any research data, or
- f) If there are other legitimate reasons not to provide open access to research data

Please note that it is also possible to initially opt-out before signature and opt-in during project implementation.

A proposal will not be evaluated more favourably if the consortium agrees to share its research data, nor will it be penalized if it opts-out.

Further information on open access to research data is available on the PRIMA electronic submission system.

A Data Management Plan (DMP) details what data the project will generate, how it will be exploited and made accessible for verification and re-use, and how it will be curated and preserved. The use of a Data Management Plan is encouraged for all projects that do not opt-out.

Projects that opt-out is also strongly encouraged to submit a Data Management Plan if relevant for their planned research. Further information on Data Management Plans is available on [PRIMA website](#).

5.2.10 Applicable common principles to all the actions and activities

In accordance with Article 6(9) of Decision (EU) 2017/1324) activities included in AWP 2021 that is funded by the PS without the Union financial contribution must be implemented in compliance with common principles adopted by PRIMA-IS after obtaining approval from the Commission.

Equal treatment

Participation in PSiAs, including the right to receive funding, should, in general, be open to any type of legal entity, private or public. It is understood and acceptable, however, that national legislation or specific objectives of action may dictate that only certain legal entities, e.g. public institutions, can participate and receive funding in certain actions.

Funding to PSiA actions should to the broadest possible extent be allocated through open calls for proposals, and the PRIMA programme should be mentioned in the call text. It is understood and acceptable, however, that existing national research infrastructures and organisations, e.g. publicly funded research institutes, can be used to implement parts or the entire PSiA. Funding may therefore not be allocated through open calls for proposals, but either through internal competition within the research infrastructure or according to an overall strategic research plan.

The principle of equality and non-discrimination based on gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age and sexual orientation should be observed and promoted.

Transparency

Evaluation and selection criteria and details of the review process should be published before applicants submit proposals.

The awarding of funds through calls for proposals or through institutional funding is made public.

Any communication or publication related to PSiAs, whether undertaken by the PRIMA Foundation, a Participating State or participants to an activity, must be labelled or co-labelled as '[name of the PSiA] is part of the PRIMA programme supported by the European Union'.

Independent peer-review evaluation

Applications submitted through open calls for proposals should be evaluated by panels of leading independent domestic and/or non-domestic experts (peer review).

In case of direct funding to a national research infrastructure or organisation, the quality of the research output by the national research infrastructures or organisation should be assessed on a regular basis and structured manner, preferably through independent peer review.

Ethics and scientific integrity

The principles of scientific integrity, as defined in the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity, should be observed and promoted.

Fundamental ethical principles and in particular those related to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, the European Convention on Human Rights and its Supplementary Protocols, should be adhered to and enforced, both during the selection of actions for funding and during the subsequent implementation of the actions.

Exploitation and dissemination of results

The findings of research activities included as PSIAs in the PRIMA annual work plan must be made available to the research community and the public promptly.

5.2.11 Specific additional information and relations between the beneficiaries and their national funding bodies

Grant agreement

Each beneficiary will be funded directly by its own national funding body. Therefore, a grant agreement is concluded between each beneficiary and its national funding body. The rules applying for this agreement are the national rules set in the national regulations.

The grant agreement will cover the entire duration of the project and must be synchronized in time (starting date of the activities and end of the project) between the different funding bodies involved in the funding of the project.

Consortium agreement

A consortium agreement is required and must be sent to all the funding bodies involved in the project. This consortium agreement must address at least:

- a) The repartition of the tasks between partners;
- b) The sharing of the intellectual property rights of the project results;
- c) The conditions of publication and dissemination of the results;
- d) The technology transfer and the exploitation of the results
- e) Any specific requirements from a funding body

There is no template provided by the funding bodies for the consortium agreement.

The Project Coordinator

Each Consortium needs to appoint a Coordinator, who will have the following role:

For the preparation and the submission of the proposal:

- Be the single point of contact between the PRIMA-IS secretariat and the consortium partners from proposal preparation to submission;
- Ensure that all the partners involved in the consortium are eligible for participation Submit the Application Form on behalf of the Consortium.

During the implementation of the project:

- Be the single point of contact between the PRIMA-IS secretariat and the consortium partners from the proposal preparation to submission;
- Be a point of contact between the Funding bodies and the consortium partners in case of requiring a grant extension or scientific/managerial modifications. The funding agencies

should also be in direct contact with their beneficiaries to discuss changes that affect the grant agreement;

- Ensure the role of supervision of the project workflow with the help of WP leaders;
- Joint consortium reports (e.g., progress reports for PRIMA-IS) should be sent directly by the coordinator to the PRIMA-IS, with the national funding agencies in the copy.

The Coordinator will not be responsible for the financial management of PRIMA research funding, which will be handled directly between national beneficiaries and their national funding bodies in each participating country.

Draft

6. Detailed description of the Participating States Initiated Activities (PSIAs)

Please note that in accordance with Article 6(9) of Decision (EU) 2017/1324, activities included in AWP 2021 that is funded by the PS without the Union financial contribution must be implemented in compliance with common principles adopted by PRIMA-IS after obtaining approval from the EU Commission.

For the list of common principles, please refer to sub-section 5.2.10

DE.2021.1

Code	DE.2021.1
Theme:	Wide-ranging topics of shared research interest (e.g. Climate Change, Urban Planning, De-Urbanization, ICT etc.) and societal challenges, including the PRIMA topics Water Management, Agro-food Value Chain, Farming Systems
Activity title	German Egyptian Research Fund (GERF) 2021
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	<p>In 2007, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MoHESR) agreed to establish a German-Egyptian Research Fund (GERF) for the support of joint application-oriented research projects. Both sides have decided to announce joint calls for proposals in the frame of the German Egyptian Research Fund (GERF) regularly to support innovative, application-oriented research projects.</p> <p>The grants are generally open to German-Egyptian research teams based at public or non-public Egyptian and German research organizations, public or non-public institutions of higher education, non-university research institutions or commercial companies, particularly SMEs, and non-governmental and civil society organizations. The participation of industrial/business enterprises – especially those headquartered in Germany or Egypt – is highly welcomed.</p> <p>Since the joint funding tool was implemented in 2008, the BMBF and the Egyptian Science and Technology Development Fund STDF have published five joint calls for proposals (2008, 2010, 2012, 2015 and 2018). The scientific priorities of the calls (Biotechnology, Medicine, Material Sciences, Water, Renewable Energies, Humanities and Social Sciences) evolved in the German-Egyptian Year of Science 2007 and have since then been supplemented by wide-ranging topics of shared research interest (e.g. Climate Change, Urban Planning, De-Urbanization, Transportation, ICT etc.) and societal challenges, including the PRIMA topics Water Management, Agro-food Value Chain, Farming Systems.</p>
Rationale/Impact	GERF offers research groups the opportunity to implement innovative, application-oriented, industry-relevant research projects. Furthermore, GERF supports scientific networks with their applications for funding under the HORIZON 2020 Research Programme or from national funding programmes.
Objectives	GERF provides support for German-Egyptian research cooperation in areas of mutual interest. The funding grants are intended to enable researchers – in particular young scientists – to address new areas of scientific research. Research results generated in these projects are to be developed into concrete applications. In addition, the joint research fund intends to support scientific networks with their applications for funding under the EU HORIZON2020 Research Programme or under national funding schemes.
Deliverables	Both sides finance the research fund in equal shares, with up to EUR 1 million per year on each side. In the years 2008/2009 - 2020, Germany

	<p>and Egypt have funded approximately 95 joint projects in application-oriented research and, increasingly, in industry-relevant research with a total volume of more than EUR 10 million as a result of five joint GERF funding announcements.</p> <p>On average, 3-5 research projects (i.e. EUR 300 000-500 000 on the German side) with PRIMA-relevant topics are funded per GERF call.</p>
Information on the eventual call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	German-Egyptian Research Fund FOR BILATERAL S&T COOPERATION – INVOLVING SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY (SMEs) 2021
Publication date (call 2021)	January 2021
Deadline for applications	April 2021
Expected date of award	December 2021
Scope of the Call for Proposals	<p>GERF's exemplary character as an effective instrument for other institutionalized German-Arab research cooperation programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demand-driven approach and equal financing from both sides - Agreement on thematic priorities of mutual interest, on the text of the call and the funding regulations as well as on the selection criteria and their relative importance in advance of the selection process - Joint final evaluation of the successful projects - Establishment of a joint operative steering committee with representatives from the research community and industry - Awareness-raising activities to attract the attention of potential applicants
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Research Innovation Action (RIA)
Start date of the activity	2022
Duration	The duration of the projects will generally be up to 24 months.
Funding institution	Germany: The funding will be provided jointly by the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) for the German project partners, managed by DLR PT-IB. Egypt: The Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MoHESR) for the Egyptian project partners, managed by STDF.
Funding beneficiaries	Germany: German universities, research institutions and enterprises (very small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)) are eligible for funding. Egypt: The Egyptian public higher education and scientific research institutions are eligible for funding.
Countries where research is conducted	Germany & Egypt
Collaborating partner(s)	Germany: Private sectors and companies (SMEs) Egypt: Egyptian public higher education and scientific research institutions
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for the entire duration of the activity (in EUR)	The total GERF funding volume on the German side amounts to EUR 2 000 000 for 20 research projects in all thematic priorities, which are funded for two years (i.e. EUR 1 000 000 per year). Experience shows that on average about 3-5 research projects with PRIMA-relevant topics (Water management, Agro-food value chain, Farming Systems) are funded on the German side per GERF call. On the German side, this

	corresponds to about EUR 300 000-500 000 per funding cycle of two years. Hence, the 6th GEF Call (2021) is expected to provide EUR 300 000-500 000 to support research projects with PRIMA-relevant topics.
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	The 6th GEF (foreseen to be published in 2021) with the thematic focus on wide-ranging topics of shared research interest (e.g., Climate Change, Urban Planning, De-Urbanization, Transportation, ICT etc.) and societal challenges including the PRIMA topics Water management, Agro-food value chain, Farming Systems will be in alignment with the three thematic pillars of PRIMA.
Website	https://www.bmbf.de/foerderungen/bekanntmachung-1839.html https://www.internationales-buero.de/en/current_announcements.php

EG.2021.1

Code	EG.2021.1
Theme:	Water management, Agro-food value chain, Farming Systems
Activity title	5th Egyptian-Spanish Joint Call for R&D&I Projects 2021.
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	On 30th of June, 2016, a Joint program for Cooperation was established by the Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF) and the Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology, E.P.E. (CDTI). Within this program, CDTI and STDF agreed to launch joint calls for proposals in Water management, Agro-food value chain and Farming Systems. This call for proposals aims to fund ambitious collaborative R&D projects of a high international standard between Egyptian and Spanish organizations. Potential projects will be financed by STDF in Egypt and CDTI in Spain.
Rationale/Impact	Research projects will be carried out in the following research areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agriculture and sustainable food production - Sustainable water management - Environmental sector (waste treatment)
Objectives	Objectives of the programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote market-driven research and technology development between entities from both countries. - Encourage partnerships and business-led R&D&I collaborative projects.
Deliverables	R&I&D Projects
Information on the eventual call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	Egypt-Spain Innovation Programme (ESIP)
Publication date (call 2021)	January 2021
Deadline for applications	April 2021
Expected date of award	December 2021
Scope of the Call for Proposals	This programme will fund in particular Industry-driven and market-oriented R&D projects, as well as joint technological co-operation projects between industrial partners (start-ups, SMEs and large companies) and Universities or Research Centers in Egypt and industrial partners (start-ups, SMEs and large companies), in Spain, consisting in the development or substantial improvement of new products, processes or services will be considered.
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Research Innovation Action (RIA) Innovation Action (IA) Joint research project

Start date of the activity	2022
Duration	Up to 2 years
Funding institution	SDTF, Egypt and CDTI, Spain
Funding beneficiaries	The project partners should include at least one qualified researcher from Egypt (PhD holder, affiliated to an Egyptian university or research institution), with an Egyptian industrial partner (with or without R&D units), and one qualified partner from Spain (one company from Spain with or without an R&D department).
Countries where research is conducted	Egypt and Spain
Collaborating partner(s)	Spanish Research institutes/ universities
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for the entire duration of the activity (in EUR)	It is foreseen that two projects aligned with PRIMA thematic area will be funded (EUR 75 000 -150 000 per projects) for a total of EUR 300 000.
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	Water management, Farming production and Agrofood value chain
Website	http://www.stdf.org.eg/

EG.2021.2

Code	EG.2021.2
Theme:	Water management, Agro-food value chain, Farming Systems
Activity title	6th German-Egyptian Research Fund (GERF) 2021.
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	<p>On the occasion of the closing event of the "German-Egyptian Year of Science and Technology 2007" in Berlin, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MoHESR) agreed to establish a German-Egyptian Research Fund (GERF) for the support of joint application-oriented research projects.</p> <p>Both sides have agreed to announce joint calls for proposals in the frame of the German Egyptian Research Fund (GERF) regularly in order to support innovative, application-oriented research projects.</p> <p>The grants, which are awarded bi-annually from the Joint Fund, are generally open to German-Egyptian research teams based at public or non-public Egyptian and German research organizations, public or non-public institutions of higher education, non-university research institutions or commercial companies, particularly SMEs, and non-governmental and civil society organizations. The participation of industrial/business enterprises – especially those headquartered in Germany or Egypt – is highly welcomed.</p> <p>Since the joint funding tool was implemented in 2008, the BMBF and the Egyptian Science and Technology Development Fund STDF have published a total of four joint calls for proposals (2008, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2018) in all subjects related to the fields prioritized in the Year of Science – (e.g. Biotechnology, Medicine, Material Sciences, Water, Renewable Energies, Humanities and Social Sciences etc.) - which have, in the interim, been supplemented by wide-ranging topics of shared research interest (e.g. Climate Change, Urban Planning & Transportation, ICT etc.) and societal challenges (e.g. Food, Water, Energy etc.).</p>

Rationale/Impact	Research projects will be carried out in the following research areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agriculture and sustainable food production - Sustainable water management - Environmental sector (waste treatment)
Objectives	GERF provides support for German-Egyptian research cooperation in areas of mutual interest. The funding grants are intended to give researchers – including young scientists – an opportunity to address new areas of scientific research. Research results generated in these projects are to be developed into concrete applications. In addition, a further aim of the joint research fund is to help scientific networks apply for funding under the EU's Horizon 2020 Research Programme or under national funding schemes.
Deliverables	Germany and Egypt have funded through the GERF 75 joint projects in application-oriented and, to an increasing extent, in industry-relevant research, with a total volume of over ten million EUR.
Information on the eventual call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	German-Egyptian Research Fund FOR BILATERAL S&T COOPERATION – INVOLVING SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY (GERF)
Publication date (call 2021)	January 2021
Deadline for applications	April 2021
Expected date of award	December 2021
Scope of the Call for Proposals	GERF's exemplary character as an effective instrument for other institutionalized German-Arab research cooperation programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demand-driven approach and equal financing from both sides - Agreement on thematic priorities of mutual interest, on the text of the call and the funding regulations as well as on the selection criteria and their relative importance in advance of the selection process - Joint final evaluation of the successful projects - Establishment of a joint operative steering committee with representatives from the research community and industry - Awareness-raising activities to attract the attention of potential applicants
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Research Innovation Action (RIA) Joint research project
Start date of the activity	2022
Duration	Up to 2 years
Funding institution	SDTF for Egypt and BMBF for Germany
Funding beneficiaries	German-Egyptian research teams based at public or non-public Egyptian and German research organizations, public or non-public institutions of higher education, non-university research institutions or commercial companies, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and non-governmental and civil society organizations are eligible for funding.
Countries where research is conducted	Egypt, Germany
Collaborating partner(s)	German private sectors and companies
Commitments	
Total national public commitment	It's expected that 20 projects (EUR 200 000 per project) will be approved in the period January - December 2021 for a total of EUR 4 million.

for the entire duration of the activity (in EUR)	It is foreseen that approximately three projects, for a total of EUR 600 000 are under PRIMA thematic areas: Water management, Farming systems and Agrofood value chain
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	Water management, Farming systems and Agrofood value chain
Website	www.stdf.org.eg or www.internationales-buero.de/en https://www.daad.eg/en/find-funding/gerf/

ES.2021.1

Code	ES.2021.1
Theme:	Agri-food value chain
Activity title	Funding for National projects in the Agri-food value chain, Farming and Management of water (quantity and quality) R+D fields
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	<p>CDTI finances Research and Development projects carried out by Spanish companies in a continuous open call.</p> <p>Research and Development projects are business projects of an applied nature for the creation and significant improvement of a production process, product or service submitted by one single company or by a group of businesses. These projects may comprise both industrial research activities as well as experimental development, in accordance with the definitions of the General Block Exemption Regulation (Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014</p> <p>These projects are divided into two categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Individual R&D projects - National Cooperation R&D projects <p>The length of these projects may be from 12 to 36 months, with a minimum budget of around EUR 175 000 for individual projects and EUR 500 000 for cooperative projects.</p> <p>The funding modality for the project will be Partially Reimbursable Aid, with a financial cover of up to 75% of the total approved budget which, by way of exception, may amount to up to 85%. Such aid may comprise a non-reimbursable tranche (NRT) which will depend on the characteristics of the project and the beneficiary. Therefore, CDTI aid may be distributed in the following way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reimbursable tranche (RT) within a time period of 10 years, to be counted from the centre of gravity of the project, which is calculated in accordance with the project duration and the amount of the budget targets. The first reimbursement is made 3 years after the centre of gravity of the project and at least 2 years from its completion date. The interest rate of the aforementioned RT will be fixed and equal to the one-year Euribor, which will be determined when the project is approved This RT implies a grant of an average of 7,2% that may vary taking into account the financial quality of the company and the reimbursable period.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A non-reimbursable tranche (NRT), adjusted in accordance with the characteristics of the project, the beneficiary and the source of the funds used for the funding. This tranche will be contingent upon fund availability. The average NRT calculated in May 2019 is close to 23,6%. <p>The whole average intensity of equivalent grant in R&D projects is close to 30,8 %.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="507 506 1398 898"> <thead> <tr> <th>Project Characteristics</th> <th>SMEs</th> <th>Big Company</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>R&D projects co-funded by the European Regional Development Funds 2014 - 2020*</td> <td>Up to 30%</td> <td>Up to 30%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>International Technology Cooperation</td> <td>Up to 33%</td> <td>Up to 33%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other R&D projects</td> <td>Up to 30%</td> <td>Up to 20%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Project Characteristics	SMEs	Big Company	R&D projects co-funded by the European Regional Development Funds 2014 - 2020*	Up to 30%	Up to 30%	International Technology Cooperation	Up to 33%	Up to 33%	Other R&D projects	Up to 30%	Up to 20%
Project Characteristics	SMEs	Big Company											
R&D projects co-funded by the European Regional Development Funds 2014 - 2020*	Up to 30%	Up to 30%											
International Technology Cooperation	Up to 33%	Up to 33%											
Other R&D projects	Up to 30%	Up to 20%											
Rationale/Impact	<p>It's expected that the R&D projects considered are going to foster the business competitiveness of beneficiaries, improving their portfolio of products and services as well as the increase of efficiency in their processes and activities.</p> <p>The outcomes of these projects will lead to the improvement of farming and Agri-food activities, to develop eco-friendly activities and production processes as well as more sustainable use of water. A better quality of products will be promoted as well as the traceability in the food chain. A considerable reduction of environmental impact and more efficient use of available resources are expected.</p>												
Objectives	<p>The main objective of this instrument is to support R&D activities of Spanish companies to foster their competitiveness through the development of new/ improved products, processes and services, focused on fulfilling economic, environmental and social challenges. This instrument hasn't a sectorial approach; it is focused on all sectors, among those are included the fields of water (quality and quantity), environment, farming, ecosystem, Agri-food, health, etc.</p> <p>With a bottom-up approach, R&D open call projects tackled by Spanish companies, which operates in the so related fields encouraging cooperation schemes with research bodies and other companies from Spain or other countries all around the world, aims to advance in the State of the Art of technologies, products and processes.</p> <p>Thus, technology and knowledge transfer are supported, aligning this process with real (market and social-oriented) needs.</p>												
Deliverables	It's expected that nearly 400 projects will be approved in the period of January - December 2021.												
Information on the call(s) for Proposals													
Title of the Call for Proposals	CDTI R&D continuous open call.												
Publication date	This instrument has been applied by CDTI since the end of the 70's. The financial conditions and rules have been updated by April 2018.												

Deadline for applications	Continuous open call
Expected date of award	Advanced payment up to 30% is allowed at the start of the project. Annual payments linked to milestones fulfilment are considered up to the end of the project.
Scope of the Call for Proposals	R&D and innovation activities with a TRL 4-7 carried out by companies.
Implementation	
Type of Activity	R&D projects monthly approved by the CDTI government board.
Start date of the activity	The call is continuously open. Only projects approved after the adoption of the AWP2021.
Duration	Not defined. Projects are received continuously, and once evaluated technically and financially are presented to the Board on a monthly basis.
Funding institution	Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI E.P.E) - Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities.
Funding beneficiaries	Spanish companies and Economic Interest Groupings (EIG)
Countries where research is conducted	Spain
Collaborating partner(s)	Other companies, Research bodies (Universities, Public Research Bodies and Innovation and Technology Centres)
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in EUR)	Net equivalent grant expected for the period January – December 2021 is estimated at EUR 30 000 000.
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	This CDTI R&D financial instrument supports the development of technologies, processes and products in the fields of water (quality and quantity), natural resources, Agri-food, environment, farming, etc. among others, with a bottom-up approach focused to markets and social needs. The supported projects will contribute to business competitiveness tackling technology, social and environmental challenges in such related fields, which are included in Thematic Areas 1, 2 and 3 of PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda. Activities financed with CDTI R&D instrument support interdisciplinary and cross-cutting actions that are aligned with the concept of RIAs included in PRIMA AWP 2021.
Website	www.cdti.es

ES.2021.2

Code	ES.2021.2
Theme:	These programs are multi-thematic programmes, including Water management (quantity and quality), Agrofood value chain, Farming Systems and Human Resources. Are also included pre- and post-doc contracts for Mediterranean countries beyond the EU to work in Spanish Research Centres and Universities.

Activity title	National Programmes and calls under the State Plan for Scientific and Technical Research and of Innovation 2017-2010. (a new Plan will be established in 2021)
Abstract (publishable)	<p>Within the framework of the following three programmes, five calls are launched yearly:</p> <p>Three programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Programa Estatal de I+D+I Orientada a los Retos de la Sociedad. State Program for R+D+I Oriented to the Social Challenges. - Programa Estatal de I+D+I de Generación de Conocimiento y Fortalecimiento del Sistema de I+D+I. State Program for Generating Knowledge and Scientific and Technological Strengthening of the R+D+I System - Programa Estatal de Promoción de Talento y Empleabilidad. State Programme for the Promotion of Talent and Its Employability. <p>Five calls:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proyectos I+D+I Retos Investigación y Generación de Conocimiento (two modalities): These grants contribute to the generation of knowledge, research capacities and the collaboration and internalization of teams working in research organizations. 2. Acciones de Dinamización Redes Investigación: The "Research Networks" revitalization actions are activities for the creation and development of networks of research groups. 3. FPI subprogramme, pre-doc (Formación de Personal Investigador) aims to train doctors by financing employment contracts, under the modality of a pre-doctoral contract 4. JdC Juan de la Cierva subprogramme, aims to promote young people in possession of a doctor's degree for two years for them to complete their postdoctoral research training in Spanish R&D centres 5. RyC Ramón y Cajal subprogramme, consolidation post-doc contracts aim to promote the incorporation of national and foreign researchers with a distinguished career in R&D centres.
Rationale/Impact	Expected impact of the programmes: Generation of knowledge, improvement of social, economic and technology conditions of the Spanish society.
Objectives	<p><i>Proyectos I+D Retos Investigación y Generación de Conocimiento:</i> the objectives are to finance the execution of «R+D+i Projects» tackling Social Challenges and the advancement of knowledge, regardless of the time horizon and regardless of the scope of application.</p> <p><i>Acciones Dinamización Redes Investigación:</i> "Research Networks" aim to create a network and to develop networks of research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Thematic networks made up of researchers in a similar thematic area of knowledge that requires a multidisciplinary approach. . Strategic networks made up of Spanish managers or researchers who participate in European research initiatives or who advise, expand or disseminate scientific and technological knowledge among representatives of bodies of the State. <p>All calls under the <i>State Programme for the Promotion of Talent and Its Employability</i>, aim to promote formation and incorporation of national and foreign researchers with an outstanding trajectory in R&D centres and private companies. On the one hand, young researchers are granted contracts and, on the other hand, the program promotes the creation of permanent jobs for their subsequent incorporation in the agents of the Spanish science system, technology and innovation beneficiaries. There are three different modalities open to researchers from all over the world:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -<i>FPI subprogramme</i> that aims to train doctors by financing employment contracts.

	<p>-<i>JdC Juan de la Cierva subprogramme</i> that aims to promote the recruitment, by Spanish research organizations or R&D centres, of young people in possession of a doctor's degree.</p> <p>-<i>RyC Ramón y Cajal subprogramme</i> aims to promote the incorporation researchers with a distinguished career in R&D centres.</p>
Deliverables	<p>Grant Resolution (firm commitment of the Agency)</p> <p>Individual contracts for the formation and incorporation of researchers from Mediterranean non-EU countries.</p> <p>Contracts signed by the beneficiaries.</p> <p>Doctoral thesis.</p> <p>Midterm and final reports of projects.</p>
Title of the Call for Proposals	<p>Ayudas para Proyectos I+D+i Retos Investigación y Generación de Conocimiento</p> <p>Ayudas para Acciones Dinamización Redes Investigación</p> <p>Ayudas para Contratos predoctorales para la formación de doctores</p> <p>Ayudas para Contratos Juan de la Cierva</p> <p>Ayudas para Contratos Ramón y Cajal</p>
Publication date (call 2021)	Publication date 2021 / resolution 2021-2022
Scope of the Call for Proposals	<p>National (1 and 2)</p> <p>International (3, 4 and 5)</p>
Type of Activity	<p>Research Innovation Action (RIA)</p> <p>Joint research project</p> <p>Formation and Incorporation of doctors</p>
Funding institution	Agencia Estatal de Investigación (AEI)
Funding beneficiaries	<p>Research Institutions, universities, research centres, technological centres</p> <p>Spanish and foreign Individuals for the Talent programme.</p>
Countries where research is conducted	Spain and others (mobility actions allow the researchers to collaborate with other countries through interchanges and short stays)
Total national public commitment for the entire duration of the activity (in EUR)	Expected commitment. EUR 16 000 000 The calculation made in base of the last two years funds invested in projects related to Water management (quality and quantity), Agrofood value chain, Farming Systems and in the last years of contracts to individuals from non-EU PRIMA countries.
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	<p>Capacity building for young researchers from the non-EU Mediterranean countries in PRIMA topics. This is a very open programme, which has offered the possibility for many international students to carry out their doctoral thesis in Spain.</p> <p>The number of nationals from non-EU Mediterranean countries has been increasing in the last years. It is envisaged that more and more international students will apply in the future.</p> <p>Research projects under the described programmes are aligned and complementary of the projects funded under the PRIMA scheme</p>
Website	<p>PROYECTOS I+D Retos Investigación y Generación de Conocimiento: http://www.ciencia.gob.es/portal/site/MICINN/menuitem.dbc68b34d11ccb5d52ffeb801432ea0/?vgnnextoid=6ee6cda50b1bb610VgnVCM1000001d04140aRCRD</p> <p>Acciones Dinamización Redes Investigación: http://www.ciencia.gob.es/portal/site/MICINN/menuitem.dbc68b34d11ccb5d52ffeb801432ea0/?vgnnextoid=e331aa27bfba7610VgnVCM1000001d04140aRCRD</p> <p>-FPI subprogramme: http://www.ciencia.gob.es/portal/site/MICINN/menuitem.dbc68b34d11ccb5d52ffeb801432ea0/?vgnnextoid=131955e2d5e01610VgnVCM1000001d04140aRCRD</p> <p>-JdC Juan de la Cierva subprogramme</p>

	http://www.ciencia.gob.es/portal/site/MICINN/menuitem.dbc68b34d11ccb5d52ffeb801432ea0/?vgnnextoid=909662ecfa1de610VgnVCM1000001d04140aRCRD -RyC Ramón y Cajal subprogramme http://www.ciencia.gob.es/portal/site/MICINN/menuitem.dbc68b34d11ccb5d52ffeb801432ea0/?vgnnextoid=953362ecfa1de610VgnVCM1000001d04140aRCRD
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FR.2021.1

Code	FR.2021.1
Theme:	Water, agriculture and aquaculture topics
Activity title	Research Projects funded by ANR under the annual national call for proposals
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	<p>Every year, the French National Research Agency (ANR) launches a call for proposals covering all the fields of scientific research. Inside this call, a budget of around EUR 35 000 000 is allocated to the following thematic areas: Biology of animals, photosynthetic organisms and microorganisms; Food and food systems; Dynamics of socio-ecosystems and their components to improve their sustainable management; Living Earth; Bioeconomy; and allows to fund around 80 projects.</p> <p>This call is open to French research teams, but projects can include foreign research teams (funded by their agencies). Some of these projects address PRIMA topics (Water Management (quality and quantity), Farming systems, Agro-Food Value Chain, in the Mediterranean Area) and we can estimate that every year a budget of around EUR 1 5 000 000 - 2 000 000 is allocated to projects inside the PRIMA scope.</p>
Rationale/Impact	<p>The French National Research Agency (ANR) is a public body under the authority of the Ministry of research</p> <p>ANR provides funding for project-based research in all fields of science - for both basic and applied research - to public research organisations and universities, as well as to private companies (including SMEs). Evaluation is based on competitive peer reviews according to international standards</p>
Objectives	<p>ANR activities aim at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting and funding the development of research via Competitive project-based research funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In all fields of science ○ In basic and applied research ○ For research organisations, universities, private companies & SMEs • Fostering innovation and technology transfer to industry • Implementing program and priorities decided by the Ministry of Research and Higher Education • Reinforcing European and international scientific collaboration • Analysing the research offer and assess Impact of ANR funding
Deliverables	
Information on the eventual call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	French National Research Agency: Annual Generic Call for Proposals
Publication date (call 2020)	July 2021

Deadline for applications	October 2021 (1st step of selection), End March 2022 (2nd step of selection)
Expected date of award	July 2022
Scope of the Call for Proposals	<p>This call covers fundamental and applied research projects. The following topics are related to PRIMA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Living Earth: this axis covers research projects aiming to the acquisition of fundamental knowledge on biodiversity and dynamics of continental and marine ecosystems, little- or non-anthropized, past or present - food and food systems This axis covers fundamental or applied research projects on food, food systems and global food security - biology of animals, photosynthetic organisms, and microorganisms: This axis covers fundamental and applied research projects in the biology of livestock, fish species, photosynthetic organisms, including models, and associated organisms (microorganisms, microbiota, pests, pathogens, ...) and their interactions. - Dynamics of socio-ecosystems and their components to improve their sustainable management: This axis covers basic and applied research projects aiming at i) understanding the dynamics of productive ecosystems to improve their sustainable management, ii) proposing innovations for the integrated and sustainable management of socio-ecosystems, iii) contributing to the development of pathways and scenarios to support ecological and digital transitions - bioeconomy: specific technologies (chemistry, biotechnology, processes) and system approaches (from biomass to its usages)
Implementation	
Type of Activity	RIA
Start date of the activity	Annual Basis –Projects starting dates: last quarter 2022
Duration	24 to 48 months
Funding institution	ANR
Funding beneficiaries	All type of French public research organisations and private companies
Countries where research is conducted	Besides France, field works and collaborations can be carried out in/with Mediterranean Partners, in particular, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Egypt
Collaborating partner(s)	Potentially all South Mediterranean countries
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for the entire duration of the activity (in EUR)	Around EUR/year 1 500 000 – 2 000 000 (to be confirmed once the list of selected projects is published)
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	The projects funded are in the scope of the thematic areas of PRIMA (water, agriculture and food), and/or cross-cutting issues (soil, food security)
Website	http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/en/

IL.2021.1

Code	IL.2021.1
Theme:	Water management, Farming Systems, Food Value Chain

Activity title	Israeli Programme supporting PRIMA Calls
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	Israel intends to launch calls for proposals in PRIMA-related thematic areas, aiming to build its Research and Innovation capacities in the areas of Water (quantity and quality), Food and Agriculture. The Calls will be mainly addressed to Israeli companies. Partnering with international partners from the other PRIMA Participating States will be strongly encouraged.
Rationale/Impact	<p>The focus for this call is to build research and innovation capacities and to develop knowledge and common innovative solutions for integrated water provision and management in the Mediterranean area, to make them more climate-resilient, efficient, cost-effective and environmentally and socially sustainable.</p> <p>This will be achieved through a competitive and transparent process of selection.</p> <p>The main impacts will be to:</p> <p>Increase Israel's participation and the number of projects under PRIMA Increase further science popularization of Food, Water and Agriculture Raise awareness of PRIMA-related calls Support to local researchers who have been unsuccessful in previous PRIMA Calls Encourage partnerships with other PRIMA PS,</p>
Objectives	<p>The general objective of the call is to promote national and regional research in the strategic thematic areas of PRIMA and to encourage more Israeli participation in PRIMA thematic areas.</p> <p>This call will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ generate local knowledge relevant to the thematic areas ➤ foster capacity-building through learning by doing and hands-on training ➤ strengthen the link between evidence generation and policy-making in the PRIMA thematic areas enhance experience-exchange with researchers in the other PRIMA PS.
Deliverables	<p>A progress report mentioning the scientific results obtained, the productions, the scientific events (publications, symposia, etc.), and a program sheet;</p> <p>A financial statement of the actions carried out;</p> <p>A final report is required no later than three months after the end of the projects.</p>
Information on the eventual call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	Call for Proposals for the Implementation of PRIMA-Related activities
Publication date	First half of 2021
Deadline for applications	
Expected date of award	2021
Scope of the Call for Proposals	IAA will launch a call for research proposals under the PRIMA Initiative calls for 2021. The aim of the call is to promote research in PRIMA-related topics which could address the identified national gaps in funding in these topics, and to increase the use of evidence-based actions which may not have been address through the PRIMA calls under PRIMA Sections 1 and 2.
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Research and Innovation Actions, Innovation Action

Start date of the activity	2021
Duration	Duration of the projects will be from 2 to 3 years
Funding institution	Israeli Innovation Authority
Funding beneficiaries	Researchers, SMEs
Countries where research is conducted	Israel or in another PRIMA Participating State
Collaborating partner(s)	Collaboration with researchers from other PRIMA-PS will be encouraged as long as they are self-funded to carry out the research with Israeli researchers
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for the entire duration of the activity (in EUR)	The commitment is at least EUR 50 000.
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	The Israeli Programme with the thematic focus on Agricultural Research, Water Management, and Food Value Chain, will be in alignment with the three thematic pillars of PRIMA
Website	The Calls will be published on IAA Website (https://innovationisrael.org.il/en/)

IL.2021.2

Code	IL.2021.2
Theme:	Water Technologies
Activity title	YOUNG SCIENTISTS EXCHANGE PROGRAM (YSEP)
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	Young scientists are encouraged to participate in the exchange program that was initiated by BMBF and MOST in the framework of the German-Israeli Water Technology Cooperation Program. This is an open call for young Israeli and German scientists for a training period in the partner country for up to 6 months, but not less than 1 month. Funding will be provided to cover all necessary expenses of the applicant's visit abroad, according to the provisions of the YSEP.
Rationale/Impact	This is an open call for young Israeli and German scientists for a training period in the partner country
Objectives	To encourage collaborations in the water technologies field
Deliverables	
Information on the eventual call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	YOUNG SCIENTISTS EXCHANGE PROGRAM (YSEP)
Publication date (call 2021)	Q1 2021
Deadline for applications	Q2 2021
Expected date of award	Q4 2021
Scope of the Call for Proposals	
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Training and Mobility Action (TMA): Scholarship

Start date of the activity	2022
Duration	1-6 months
Funding institution	MOST – Ministry of Science and Technology and BMBF, Germany
Funding beneficiaries	PhD Students
Countries where research is conducted	Israel and Germany
Collaborating partner(s)	Israel and Germany
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for the entire duration of the activity (in EUR)	EUR 50 000
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	Water
Website	https://www.ptka.kit.edu/young-scientists-exchange-program-ysep-2275.html

IL.2021.3

Code	IL.2021.3
Theme:	Water Technologies
Activity title	The German-Israeli Water Technology Cooperation Program CALL FOR JOINT PROPOSALS for 2021
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	<p>Within the framework of the German-Israeli cooperation in Water Technology Research, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Israeli Ministry of Science, Technology and Space (MOST) invite proposals for bilateral R&D projects.</p> <p>The research should focus on solutions to the water problems in Israel and its direct neighbourhood and/or Germany. The research should be multidisciplinary and be applicable to the needs of the water sector. In addition to scientific partners, projects should preferably include industrial partners as well as related stakeholders</p> <p>Qualifying scientific applicants in this framework may receive R&D grants, respectively, from BMBF and MOST according to the applicable national funding procedures and regulation</p>
Rationale/Impact	<p>Research projects will be carried out in the following research areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water technology to reduce the CO₂-Footprint of the water sector • Water technology to adapt to major impacts of climate change • Economical optimisation in the water sector
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve the water situation in Israel and its direct neighbourhood and/or Germany. Transferability of the results to comparable regions should preferably be ensured. • To facilitate access to new markets for Israeli and German enterprises in the water and environmental sector. • To support and strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the water sector as well as cooperation between science and industry.
Deliverables	In terms of Projects, Researchers trained, researchers under mobility
Information on the eventual call(s) for Proposals	

Title of the Call for Proposals	Water technologies
Publication date (call 2021)	Q1 2021
Deadline for applications	Q2 2021
Expected date of award	Q4 2021
Scope of the Call for Proposals	Water management
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Research Innovation Action (RIA)
Start date of the activity	2022
Duration	Three years
Funding institution	MOST – Ministry of Science and Technology and BMBF, Germany
Funding beneficiaries	Academic researchers
Countries where research is conducted	Israel and Germany
Collaborating partner(s)	Israel and Germany
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for the entire duration of the activity (in EUR)	EUR 250 000 (for IL researchers)
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	Water
Website	https://www.cogeril.de/en/deutsch_israelische_wassertechnologie_kooperation_call_2020.php

IL.2021.4

Code	IL.2021.4
Theme:	Water, Food, Agriculture
Activity title	Joint projects of European and Israeli SMEs
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	The Israeli Innovation Authority
Rationale/Impact	Joint projects of European and Israeli SMEs
Objectives	To promote collaborations in R&I between Israel and European countries

	Call for Proposals for joint R&D projects focusing on developing innovative products and applications in all technological and application areas. Applicants are expected to develop ready-to-market solutions for products, technology-based services or methods which have the strong market potential for Israel and Europe.
Deliverables	Projects
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	Joint projects of European and Israeli SMEs
Publication date (call 2021)	Q1 and Q3 2021
Deadline for applications	Q2 and Q4 2021, respectively
Expected date of award	Q3 2021 and Q1 2022, respectively
Scope of the Call for Proposals	All topics included
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Innovation Action (IA)
Start date of the activity	Q3 2021 and Q1 2022, respectively
Duration	3 years
Funding institution	Israel Innovation Authority
Funding beneficiaries	SMEs
Countries where research is conducted	Israel and Europe
Collaborating partner(s)	European Countries
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for the entire duration of the activity (in EUR)	It is expected that at least EUR 20 000 will be allocated to projects focusing on water management, farming systems and agro-food value chain.
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	Water management, Agro-food and farming are expected to be funded
Website	ISERD, Israel Innovation Authority

MT.2021.1

Code	MT.2021.1
Theme:	Water management (quality and quantity), Farming Systems, Food Value Chain
Activity title	PRIMA Participating States calls for Proposals supporting PRIMA
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	Through this action, all of the PRIMA Participating States will be allowed to launch calls for proposals in PRIMA-related thematic areas, aiming to build

	<p>their Research and Innovation capacities in the areas of Water, Food and Agriculture. Such calls will mainly be addressed to entities that are based in the PRIMA Participating State. However, partnering with international partners from the other PRIMA Participating States will be strongly encouraged. PRIMA PS will thus be given the opportunity to undertake and participate in such bilateral and multilateral calls.</p>
Rationale/Impact	<p>The focus for this call is to build research and innovation capacities and to develop knowledge and common innovative solutions for integrated water provision and management in the Mediterranean area, to make them more climate-resilient, efficient, cost-effective and environmentally and socially sustainable.</p> <p>This will be achieved through a competitive and transparent process of selection.</p> <p>The main impacts will be to (but not limited to these):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Successful projects will act as a springboard for consortium to apply for Section 1 and Section 2 PRIMA Calls - Increase awareness on the PRIMA Initiative - Further support local researchers who have been unsuccessful in previous PRIMA Calls - Encourage partnerships with other PRIMA PS to launch bilateral and multi-lateral calls to further support the collaborative nature of PRIMA
Objectives	<p>The general objective of the call is to promote national and regional research and innovation in the strategic thematic areas of PRIMA and to encourage more participation in PRIMA thematic areas.</p> <p>This call will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - generate new knowledge relevant to the PRIMA thematic areas - foster capacity-building through learning by doing and hands-on training - strengthen the link between evidence generation and policy-making in the PRIMA thematic areas - enhance experience-exchange with researchers in the other PRIMA PS.
Deliverables	<p>A progress report mentioning the scientific results obtained, the outcomes and the dissemination efforts undertaken</p> <p>A financial statement of the actions carried out;</p> <p>A final report is required no later than three months after the end of the projects.</p>
Information on the eventual call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	Call for Proposals for the Implementation of Projects under the thematic areas of PRIMA-
Publication date	May 2021
Deadline for applications	31 October 2021
Expected date of award	January 2022
Scope of the Call for Proposals	Participating States will launch a uni-/ bi-/multi- call for research proposals under the PRIMA Initiative calls Section 3 for 2021. The aim of the call is to promote research in PRIMA-related topics which could address the identified national gaps in funding in these topics, and to increase the use of evidence-based actions which may not have been addressed through the PRIMA calls under PRIMA Sections 1 and 2.

Implementation	
Type of Activity	Research and Innovation Actions or Innovation Actions
Start date of the activity	2021
Duration	Duration of the projects will be from 1 to 3 years
Funding institution	All PRIMA Funding Agencies
Funding beneficiaries	All PRIMA Funding Agencies
Countries where research is conducted	All PRIMA Funding Agencies
Collaborating partner(s)	Collaboration with researchers from other PRIMA-PS will be encouraged as long as the Funding agency participates in the calls. Collaboration with entities outside of PRIMA will also be encouraged as long as they can demonstrate that they are able to cover their own costs.
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for the entire duration of the activity (in EUR)	For Malta - EUR 160 000
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	The thematic focus on Agricultural Research, Water Management (quality and quantity), and the Food Value Chain will be in alignment with the three thematic pillars of PRIMA
Website	www.prima-med.org and plumtri.org

TR.2021.1

Code	TR.2021.1
Theme:	Water management, Farming Systems, Food Value Chain
Activity title	PRIMA Participating States Calls for Proposals supporting PRIMA
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	Through this action all of the PRIMA Participating States will be able to launch calls for proposals in PRIMA-related thematic areas, aiming to build their Research and Innovation capacities in the areas of Water, Food and Agriculture. Such Calls will mainly be addressed to entities that are based in the PRIMA Participating State. However, partnering with international partners from the other PRIMA Participating States will be strongly encouraged. PRIMA PS will thus be given the opportunity to undertake and participate in such bilateral and multilateral calls.
Rationale/Impact	<p>The focus for this call is to build research and innovation capacities and to develop knowledge and common innovative solutions for integrated water provision and management in the Mediterranean area, to make them more climate-resilient, efficient, cost-effective and environmentally and socially sustainable.</p> <p>This will be achieved through a competitive and transparent process of selection.</p> <p>The main impacts will be to (but not limited to these):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Successful projects will act as a springboard for the consortium to apply for Section 1 and Section 2 PRIMA Calls - Increase awareness on the PRIMA Initiative

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further support local researchers who have been unsuccessful in previous PRIMA Calls - Encourage partnerships with other PRIMA PS to launch bilateral and multi-lateral calls to further support the collaborative nature of PRIMA
Objectives	<p>The general objective of the call is to promote national and regional research and innovation in the strategic thematic areas of PRIMA and to encourage more participation in PRIMA thematic areas.</p> <p>This call will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - generate new knowledge relevant to the PRIMA thematic areas - foster capacity-building through learning by doing and hands-on training - strengthen the link between evidence generation and policy-making in the PRIMA thematic areas - enhance experience-exchange with researchers in the other PRIMA PS.
Deliverables	<p>Bilateral R&I projects in the field of Water Management, Agriculture and Food Value Chains.</p> <p>Mobility of researchers between the PRIMA Participating States</p> <p>Increase of the possibility of establishing consortia for future proposal submissions under Section 1 and Section 2 PRIMA Calls</p>
Information on the eventual call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	Call for Proposals for the Implementation of Projects under the thematic areas of PRIMA-
Publication date (call 2021)	March 2021
Deadline for applications	June 2021
Expected date of award	December 2021
Scope of the Call for Proposals	Participating States will launch a uni-/ bi-/multi- call for research proposals under the PRIMA Initiative calls Section 3 for 2021. The call aims to promote research in PRIMA-related topics which could address the identified national gaps in funding in these topics, and to increase the use of evidence-based actions which may not have been addressed through the PRIMA calls under PRIMA Sections 1 and 2.
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Research and Innovation Actions or Innovation Actions
Start date of the activity	2021
Duration	Duration of the projects will be from 1 to 3 years
Funding institution	All PRIMA Funding Agencies
Funding beneficiaries	All PRIMA Funding Agencies
Countries where research is conducted	All PRIMA Funding Agencies
Collaborating partner(s)	Collaboration with researchers from other PRIMA-PS will be encouraged as long as the Funding agency participates in the calls. Collaboration with entities outside of PRIMA will also be encouraged as long as they can demonstrate that they can cover their costs.
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for the entire	EUR 150 000

duration of the activity (in EUR)	
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	The thematic focus on Agricultural Research, Water Management, and Food Value Chain will be in alignment with the three thematic pillars of PRIMA
Website	www.prima-med.org

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