



ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2025

FOR THE PARTNERSHIP FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA (PRIMA)

DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Decision (EU) 2017/1324 as regards the continuation of the Union's participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) under Horizon Europe

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EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP

Co-funded by the
European Union



Glossary

AC	Associated Country
AWP	Annual Work Programme
CIHEAM	Centre International de Hautes Études Agronomiques Méditerranéennes
CoP	Community of Practice
EEA	European Environment Agency
EC	European Commission
EIP	European Innovation Partnership
EIT	European Institute of 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
H2020	Horizon 2020
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
MedECC	Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental Change
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
R&I	Research and Innovation
RIA	Research and Innovation Action based on Horizon 2020 rules
RoC	Rules of Contest
RfP	Rules for Participation
SAC	Scientific Advisory Committee
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SRIA	Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
TC	Third Country
TRL	Technology Readiness Level
UfM	Union for the Mediterranean
UNEP-MAP	United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan
WEFE	Water Energy Food Ecosystems

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) is a European Institutionalized partnership established under Article 185 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) under Decision (EU) 2017/1324 of the European Parliament and Council, dated 4 July 2017.

PRIMA endeavors to fulfil the general and specific objectives outlined in [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/695](#), particularly those articulated in Article 3 and [Decision \(EU\) 2024/1167](#), amending [Decision \(EU\) 2017/1324](#) on the Union's participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA). There are no changes to these objectives in the recently amended Decision (EU) 2024/1167, which pertains to the continuation of the Union's participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) under Horizon Europe.

The program is committed to fostering research and innovation capacities, generating knowledge and innovative solutions for sustainable agri-food systems, and the integrated provision and management of water resources in the Mediterranean area. These efforts aim to enhance climate resilience, cost-effectiveness, and environmental and social sustainability, addressing upstream issues related to water scarcity, food security, nutrition, health, well-being, and migration.

PRIMA's regional focus in the Mediterranean Region is distinguished by its geostrategic role, aiming to accelerate the transition towards more sustainable, inclusive, and healthier regional societies. This aligns with the objectives of the European Union Green Deal, particularly in the southern Mediterranean countries. Through fostering collaborative research and innovation, PRIMA aims to devise tailored solutions that account for the region's specific conditions and contribute to its green transformation towards a sustainable and green Mediterranean region, thereby extending the principles of the Green Deal beyond Europe into the Southern Neighbourhood.

Currently, the PRIMA programme comprises 20 Participating States (PS), including Bulgaria, which joined the Partnership as from 2024. The PRIMA PS are Algeria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, and Turkey. Additionally, three countries are associated with Horizon Europe, namely Israel, Tunisia, and Turkey, while five third countries—Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Morocco—have joined PRIMA through bilateral international agreements signed with the EU. These five countries will continue to be Participating States, subject to the conclusion of agreements amending and supplementing existing international agreements for scientific and technological cooperation with the Union, setting out new terms and conditions for their participation in PRIMA.

With its structure spanning both sides of the Mediterranean basin, PRIMA exemplifies a model of science diplomacy that strategically addresses geopolitical challenges in the Mediterranean Region. It operates on principles of *equal footing, co-decision, co-financing, and co-management* among Participating States. By facilitating cooperation and knowledge exchange among Mediterranean partners, PRIMA serves as a model of science diplomacy, fostering mutual understanding and contributing to the construction of a more resilient and sustainable future for the region.

Initiated in 2018 under the predecessor Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (R&I) Horizon 2020, PRIMA currently boasts a portfolio of 238 projects involving 2300 beneficiaries, focusing on water management, farming systems, and the agri-food value chain.

An interim evaluation conducted in 2022 by the Commission, evidenced PRIMA's effectiveness as an instrument for R&I collaboration in the Mediterranean, aligning with key R&I interests in accordance with the EU's geopolitical priorities. Encouraged by their positive experiences, a majority of the Participating States expressed their long-term commitment to the initiative, advocating for the continued involvement of the EU through the current institutionalized European partnership, under Article 185 TFEU.

In response to this, the European Commission proposed an amendment to Decision 2017/1324 known as the PRIMA Basic Act, to extend its active operation within the Horizon Europe framework.

On April 19, the amended basic act of the PRIMA Partnership was officially published in the Official Journal of the European Union (Decision (EU) 2024/1167) marking as a significant milestone, as it extends the duration of the partnership by three years, covering the period from 2025 to 2027. Alongside this extension, various elements of the partnership were updated to align with the and the [Rules of participation and dissemination of Horizon Europe](#). These updates include protocols for accessing proposal results, implementing monitoring and evaluation processes, and managing conflicts of interest.

Furthermore, the inclusion of Bulgaria as a new participating country is a notable development. Bulgaria's confirmation of its financial commitment to participate in PRIMA for the period from 2025 to 2027 expands the partnership's reach and potential impact, further enhancing collaboration and innovation within the initiative.

This decision underscores PRIMA's effectiveness and the recognition of its value in addressing regional challenges, being its objectives still relevant for the EU and the Mediterranean.

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. Mobilizing and providing financial resources, establishing a new technological and organizational framework, and enhancing capacity development are essential to achieve these ambitious goals.

Through a collaborative, cross-boundary approach among the PRIMA Participating States, the PRIMA programme focuses 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 Agenda (SRIA), representing the cornerstone of strengthening research and innovation efforts.

The partnership operates based on annual work plans adopted after the European Commission's and PRIMA Governing Body's approval.

As from Article 4 of the [Decision \(EU\) 2024/1167](#), the total Union contribution shall be up to EUR 325 million and shall be distributed as follows: (a) up to EUR 220 million from Horizon 2020; (b) up to EUR 105 million from Horizon Europe. The Union financial contribution shall equal the Participating States' contributions to PRIMA from national resources relevant to the objectives of PRIMA.

The continued Union financial support to PRIMA should come from the general budget of the Union allocated to the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe, established by Council Decision 2021/76421, and in particular from Pillar II 'Global challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness', and the relevant thematic cluster (vi) 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment'.

PRIMA PS has committed a financial contribution of EUR 384 million, of which 274 million for calls under PRIMA implemented from 2018 to 2024 and EUR 110 million from 2025 to 2027.

The PRIMA programme is executed by the PRIMA Foundation, established in Barcelona in 2017 as a dedicated implementation structure. The European Commission has entrusted the PRIMA Foundation with the management of budget implementation tasks for the PRIMA programme under Article 185 TFEU.

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

2. OBJECTIVES OF PRIMA AND KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

PRIMA shall contribute to the general and specific objectives of [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/695](#) and in particular Article 3 thereof and shall deliver on the PRIMA general objectives outlined in DECISION (EU) 2024/1167 amending Decision (EU) 2017/1324, to build research and innovation capacities and to develop knowledge and common innovative solutions for agri-food systems, to make them sustainable, and for integrated water provision and management in the Mediterranean area, to make those systems and that provision and management more climate resilient, efficient, cost-effective and environmentally and socially sustainable, and to contribute to solving water scarcity, food security, nutrition, health, well-being and migration problems upstream.

The development of innovative solutions will improve the efficiency and sustainability of agri-food production and processing systems and water provision in the Mediterranean basin, and stimulate a more sustainable and competitive industry, able to promote good health and lifestyles, well-being and economic growth. PRIMA addresses key priorities identified through the EU's Research and Innovation policy dialogue with countries of the Southern Neighbourhood

The general and specific objectives of PRIMA, as per Article 3 extending the Partnership under Horizon Europe are reported below.

General Goal



To build research and innovation capacities and to develop knowledge and common innovative solutions for agri-food systems, to make them sustainable

For integrated water provision and management in the Mediterranean area, to make those systems and that provision and management more climate resilient, efficient, cost-effective and environmentally and socially sustainable

To contribute to solving water scarcity, food security, nutrition, health, well being and migration problem upstream

In order to contribute to the general objective, PRIMA shall fulfil the following specific objectives:

Specific objectives



Alignment of National R&I programmes

- Orientation of relevant national research and innovation programmes towards the implementation of the strategic agenda.



CRITICAL MASS OF ACTORS AND RESOURCES

- Involvement of all relevant public and private sector actors in implementing the strategic agenda by pooling knowledge and financial resources to achieve the necessary critical mass.



STRENGTHENING R&I CAPACITIES

- Strengthening of the research and innovation funding capacities and of the implementation capabilities of all actors involved including SMEs, academia, non-governmental organisations and local research centres.

To achieve these objectives set out in the PRIMA Decision, the PRIMA Secretariat will implement Annual Work Programmes that will support development of innovation solutions by funding actions (ranging from CSAs to RIAs and IAs ending TRL 8) focusing on testing and upscaling the use of novel technologies.




As a result of the interim evaluation conducted by the European Commission, the objectives of the PRIMA program have been deemed still relevant. Consequently, there are no changes to these objectives in the recently amended Decision (EU) 2024/1167, which pertains to the continuation of the Union's participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) under Horizon Europe.

The strategic priorities identified in the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) for each PRIMA general and specific objectives will be used as baseline in each topic.

Based on the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) for PRIMA, the operational objectives are outlined under three thematic areas: Management of Water, Farming Systems, and Agri-Food Value Chain. These objectives are designed to address the challenges and opportunities within each thematic area, aiming for sustainable development and innovation in the Mediterranean region.

The table below details the connecting priorities (P) with the operational objectives (OO) for each thematic area, as derived from the provided documents.

TABLE 1 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF WATER, FARMING SYSTEMS, AND THE AGRI-FOOD VALUE CHAIN

Thematic Area	Priority (P)	Operational Objectives
 Management of Water	P1: Water resources availability and quality within catchments and aquifers	OO2. Land and water sustainability
	P2: Sustainable, integrated water management	OO2. Land and water sustainability
		OO3. Water governance systems
	P3: Irrigation technologies and practices	OO1. Water-saving solutions
P4: Use of alternative water resources	OO1. Water-saving solutions	
	OO3. Water governance systems	
 Farming Systems	P1: Adaptation of agriculture to climate change	OO4. Smart and sustainable farming
	P2: Developing sustainable and productive in agro-ecosystems	OO4. Smart and sustainable farming
	P3: Preventing emergence of animal and plant diseases	OO5. Pest and pathogens in farming
	P4: Developing farming systems to generate income, to create employment and to contribute to a balanced territorial development	OO4. Smart and sustainable farming
 Agro-Food Value Chain	P1: Valorising food products from the traditional Mediterranean diet	OO6. Nutrition and health
	P2: Food Safety in local food chains	OO7. Reduce losses and wastes
	P3: Implementation of innovation in the Agro-food chain, promoting higher quality, sustainability and competitiveness, with particular reference to smallholders	OO7. Reduce losses and wastes
		OO8. New agri-food business models
P4: Implications of dietary shifts and sustainable diets for the Med population and food industry	OO6. Nutrition and health	

Crosscutting themes: WEFU Nexus, Soil sustainability, Digital transition, Capacity development

This table illustrates how the strategic priorities set by the PRIMA SRIA are aligned with the operational objectives within each thematic area. These objectives are integral to achieving the overarching goal of PRIMA, which is to foster research and innovation capacities, develop knowledge, and find common innovative solutions for water management, agri-food systems, and integrated water provision in the Mediterranean region. The aim is to make these systems more climate resilient, efficient, cost-effective, and sustainable, contributing to solving water scarcity, food security, nutrition, health, well-being, and migration problems upstream.

PRIMA will contribute to achieving the general and specific objectives outlined in the PRIMA Decision and the main challenges described in the SRIA through its funded projects portfolio.

To ensure progress towards these goals, the program will undergo monitoring at different levels:

- Horizon Europe KPIs,¹ defined in the Horizon Europe Regulation as Key Impact Pathways and applicable for the whole Horizon Europe Programme;
- Common Partnership Indicators, as defined in the monitoring framework² developed by the Expert Group set up to support the strategic coordination process of the European R&I partnerships through a more strategic monitoring for European Partnerships, including the preparation of the Biennial Monitoring Report;
 - Specific PRIMA level, using Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) defined in the SRIA and detailed in the PRIMA KPI Handbook (to be defined) which are covering environmental, social, economic expected results for each of the operational objectives, as well as and horizontal results that are further substantiating the specific goals of the Programme.

PRIMA is committed to ensuring operational efficiency, including monitoring results in the Annual Activity Report (AAR).

Additionally, specific PRIMA KPIs outlined in the SRIA are monitored using data collected from yearly project reporting.

Progress against KPI targets at all levels is reported in the PRIMA AAR. Moreover, PRIMA-IS is legally obligated to monitor program implementation systematically and report and disseminate monitoring results annually.

¹ HE Regulation Art 50(1) & SBA Art 171(2)(a-c-d-e)

² A robust and harmonised framework for reporting and monitoring European Partnerships in Horizon Europe, 2021, RTD, <https://europa.eu/1b3TBFW>.

3. PRIMA Programme Funding Scheme

The PRIMA Programme is structured along a three-section funding scheme, as illustrated in Figure 1. The following Figure illustrates for each Section (1, 2, or 3) the source of funds (whether EU financial contribution or Participant States' contributions), the entity managing the calls and the rules of participation in PRIMA activities.



FIGURE 1 THE PRIMA PROGRAMME FUNDING SCHEME - A BREAKDOWN OF THE FUNDING SOURCES, MANAGING ENTITIES, AND PARTICIPATION RULES FOR EACH OF THE THREE SECTIONS WITHIN THE PRIMA PROGRAMME UNDER HORIZON EUROPE FRAMEWORK

In principle, PRIMA actions and activities are implemented following [Horizon Europe rules for participation \(RfP\)](#), and Articles 6 and 7 of the PRIMA Amended Decision

Nonetheless, specific rules concerning participation and funding rates apply for the activities implemented with national funds. Addressing three different programming levels with funding from either Horizon Europe or national sources, the Partnership effectively targets key R&I issues in the Region, influences R&I strategies among its members and streamlines national processes and procedures.

Each of the sections refers to the following:

Section 1: Actions and activities organised, managed, and funded by the PRIMA-IS³ with EU funds according to Horizon Europe Rules.

Section 1 encompasses:

- 1.1 Actions organised and funded by PRIMA-IS through transnational calls (EU contribution),
- 1.2 Activities supporting programme operations funded (EU contribution) and implemented by the PRIMA-IS.

³ In line with Article 3(3), point (a), of Decision (EU) 2024/1167, 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 (Article 5(2), point (a)).

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.Section 2 encompasses:

- 2.1 Activities following transnational calls organised by PRIMA-IS and funded by the PRIMA Participant States,
- 2.2 Activities supporting programme operations funded and implemented by the PRIMA-IS.

Section 3: Activities organised, managed, and funded by the PS.Section 3 encompasses:

- 3.1 Activities under the national programmes of the Participating States, including transnational projects referred to as "Participating States' Initiated Activities" (PSIAs),
- 3.2 Activities organised and funded by PS supporting PRIMA programme implementation are "Other Activities" in this document.

While the EU funds finance Section 1 actions and activities from the Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Framework Programme, Section 2 and Section 3 activities are financed by Participating States funds. Section 1 and Section 2 call activities, including proposal evaluation and selection, are managed by PRIMA-IS. The Participating States entirely manage Section 3 activities. As for the Rules of participation, Section 1 actions follow [Horizon Europe Rules for Participation \(RfP\)](#), while Section 2 and Section 3 are implemented according to national regulations.

4. Implementation of the Annual Work Programme 2025

The PRIMA programme is implemented by PRIMA-IS, which develops Annual Work Programmes in alignment with the objectives and provisions outlined in [EU Decision \(EU\) 2024/1167](#).

The Work Programme for 2025 is designed to meet the changing needs of the Mediterranean region, ensuring adherence to the priorities set forth in the PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) across its three thematic areas:

1. Integrated and sustainable management of water for arid and semi-arid Mediterranean areas.
2. Sustainable farming systems under Mediterranean environmental constraints.
3. Sustainable Mediterranean food value chain for regional and local development

PRIMA's extended activities aim to uphold its current objectives of addressing existing and emerging challenges related to water, agriculture, and food systems in the Mediterranean region. The thematic focus has become even more pertinent in recent years due to the escalating effects that climate change, the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the impact of the Russian's war on Ukraine has caused to the fragile agriculture markets in several Mediterranean countries.

The objectives of PRIMA remain relevant according to the conclusions presented on the [report of the interim evaluation conducted by the Commission in 2022](#), on the participation of the Union in PRIMA, thus the thematic areas and objectives of the PRIMA partnership, as specified in Decision (EU) 2024/1167, have not changed, emphasizing water, agriculture, and food systems. This thematic focus aligns with current EU priorities, including the [European Green Deal](#), [Farm to Fork strategy](#), [Climate Adaptation strategy](#), [Zero Pollution Action Plan](#), [EU Bioeconomy Strategy](#) and the [Common agricultural policy \(CAP\)](#).

At more regional level PRIMA plays a vital role in fostering strategic, long-term regional cooperation between the EU and the Southern Mediterranean region aligning with the EU's framework for cooperation

with Southern Neighbourhood Countries, as outlined in the Joint Communication for a [New Agenda for the Mediterranean and its Economic and Investment Plan](#).

Additionally, PRIMA contributes to the regional policy dialogue with Mediterranean partners, endorsed at the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Regional Platform for Research and Innovation and the Regional In the context of the Union for Mediterranean R&I Roadmaps, the PRIMA partnership holds significant importance for realizing the climate change roadmap, as acknowledged by the UfM R&I Ministerial Declaration in 2022. Additionally, PRIMA actively supports the implementation of the EU's Global Approach to R&I, which emphasizes the Mediterranean as a region of priority for cooperation.

Research priorities for the 2025 programme have been identified by the [PRIMA Scientific Advisory Committee](#) through an analysis of the environmental and socio-economic specificities of the Mediterranean region, alongside a thorough gap analysis of previous PRIMA projects.

Since 2019 PRIMA has recognized the undeniable interlinkages among Water, Energy, Food, and Ecosystems by addressing the mediterranean challenges through the (WEFE) nexus approach. The WEFE Nexus approach offers a transparent and well-informed framework for navigating trade-offs and synergies while ensuring the sustainability of ecosystems. This paradigm shift advocates moving beyond conventional sector-based approaches, instead focusing on achieving comprehensive security and sustainability across all resources - water, energy, and food. Recognizing the importance of WEFE nexus approach PRIMA will incorporate it into all its calls.

The Work Programme 2025 is structured around four calls for proposals:

Three dedicated calls in Section 1, one for each Individual thematic areas, and a single call in Section 2, spanning three topics, one for each thematic area.

Within this Work Programme two types of actions are envisaged: Innovation Actions (IAs) and Research and Innovation Actions (RIAs). IAs focus on demonstrating the validation of technology or organizational models and their replication in the market. RIAs, on the other hand, explore new areas and technologies, aiming to advance research and innovation in these domains.

PRIMA's plan is to fund approximately thirty projects through the 2025 calls, aiming for a well-balanced mix of initiatives. These projects will encompass demonstrators with new technologies or organizational innovations, falling within the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) range of 6-8. Additionally, there will be research activities with lower TRL, typically in the range of 3-5, laying the groundwork for future innovations and capitalization potential.

As a guiding principle, Research and Innovation Actions featured in the Work Programme 2025 are designed to integrate socio-economic aspects, including social sciences. This approach ensures active engagement with society and facilitates access to research outcomes.

According to Article 16 of Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013 requirement that gender dimension to be adequately integrated in research and innovation content, in strategies, programmes and projects and followed through at all stages of the research cycle. Consistently, PRIMA requires that the gender dimension is incorporated into its projects. Incorporating the gender dimension into PRIMA projects is a reflection of the broader commitment to fostering gender equality and inclusivity in research and innovation activities funded under this regulation.

The emphasis on integrating the gender dimension into research and innovation content is part of a broader effort to ensure that research outcomes are relevant and beneficial to all segments of society, including both men and women. This approach is in line with the European Commission's strategy for gender equality in research and innovation, which recognizes the importance of gender as a cross-cutting issue that should be considered in all EU policies and initiatives related to research and innovation.

In the evaluation process of proposals submitted to PRIMA, the inclusion of the gender dimension is assessed by evaluators alongside other relevant aspects of the proposal. This means that when proposals are being reviewed, the evaluators will specifically look at how the gender dimension has been considered and integrated into the research content and methodology.

PRIMA encourages consortia to apply to their project a "Multi-Actor Approach" (MAA)

"A Multi-Actor Approach should ensure genuine and sufficient involvement of a targeted diversity of actors, essentially the (end-) users of the project results completed with some useful intermediaries who can bring in further useful knowledge, such as farmers/farmers' groups, foresters/foresters' groups, advisors, food processors, businesses, consumer associations, local communities, citizens, civil society organisations including NGOs etc. The genuine and sufficient involvement of such actors should occur all along with the project: from participation in planning the project and experiments to implementation, the dissemination of results, and a possible demonstration phase. Building blocks for the project proposal are expected to come from science, practice, and intermediaries ("co-creation"). End-users and practitioners are to be involved, not as a study object, but to use their local knowledge and/or entrepreneurial skills for developing solutions and creating "co-ownership" of results, which speeds up the acceptance and take-up of new ideas."

In the PRIMA Work Programme for 2025, all proposals are encouraged to include capacity-development activities at individual, organizational, and/or community levels. These activities are meant to develop capacities in various areas and may include specific training activities that align with the proposed topics.

Supporting activities to increase the impact.

During the first seven years of implementation (2018-2024), the PRIMA programme has been focused on implementing innovative solutions in water management, farming systems, and food value chain. These solutions have been developed to address the challenges and realities of the region and have been piloted and demonstrated on the ground. However, to bring these solutions to the market, PRIMA project consortia need support to develop effective exploitation strategies, business plans, and go-to-market strategies.

Stimulating an entrepreneurial mindset is crucial to helping the consortia achieve their goal of reaching the market. By taking advantage of the services provided by [the Horizon Result Booster](#), PRIMA project consortia achieving the appropriate level of maturity, could improve the commercialization potential of their results, enhance the impact of their activities, and promote sustainable practices. By working with the Result Booster, PRIMA project consortia could be supported to identify funding strategies, explore implementation options, and create new job opportunities. This support can help PRIMA projects to overcome barriers and bring their innovations to the market, contributing to the achievement of sustainable development goals.

Synergies and Complementarities of European and International Initiatives

Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 establishes a robust foundation for synergies and cooperation, particularly with Horizon Europe and other Union initiatives, as well as with programs at the national and regional levels that share similar thematic or geographic focuses in the Mediterranean region. To maximize these synergies and cooperation efforts, PRIMA plans to implement specific actions in 2025.

The PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda is fully compatible with Cluster (vi) Strategic Plan. This PRIMA's annual Work Programme is closely coordinated with Cluster (vi) parts of the Horizon Europe Work Programmes and programming documents of the European Missions, including 'Soil Deal for Europe', ensuring complementarity and synergies.

Synergies with Horizon Europe programme:

- **HE missions:** PRIMA will continue ensuring synergies at both programming and projects' level with HE Mission [Restore our Ocean and Waters](#), HE Mission [A Soil Deal for Europe](#) through fostering synergies among projects. Additionally, PRIMA is establishing collaboration with the [HE Mission Climate Adaptation and Mitigation](#) for the first time. Additionally, PRIMA is establishing collaboration with the HE Mission Climate Adaptation and Mitigation for the first time. Fostering collaborations among PRIMA-funded and Mission projects PRIMA can support the EU Mission's efforts to build climate-resilient communities and ecosystems, particularly in Southern Countries. Furthermore, PRIMA's extensive network of partners from both EU Member States and third countries in the Mediterranean region can facilitate the exchange of knowledge, best practices, and innovative solutions, thereby accelerating the implementation of climate adaptation measures across Europe.

- **HE partnerships:** PRIMA remains committed to fostering strategic alignment and co-funded partnerships within the scope of Horizon Europe Cluster 6 - Food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture, and environment in particular with the Partnerships sharing similar thematic scope with PRIMA, such as FutureFoodS, [Agroecology Partnership](#), [Agriculture of Data](#), [Water4all](#), the [Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership](#) and the Safe and Sustainable Food Systems and European partnership on animal health and welfare.

PRIMA will seek synergies with relevant EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), such as [EIT Food](#), [EIT Climate KIC](#) and with Joint Undertakings such as [Circular Biobased Europe](#), [European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking \(EuroHPC JU\)](#) and [Global health EDCTP3](#).

These collaborations will involve cross-referencing efforts within call topics, identifying common objectives, and fostering thematic parallels between PRIMA and other EU Partnership calls.

To enhance impact and encourage collaboration, PRIMA will encourage project consortia funded by PRIMA and other partnerships to allocate resources for joint activities. These activities may include workshops, knowledge exchange sessions, and pilot projects. Guidelines and incentives will be provided to project consortia to facilitate participation in such joint initiatives.

FUTURE4PRIMA project

The [FUTURE4PRIMA project](#), launched in January 2024, is a four-year Coordinated Support Action funded under the HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01 call and [coordinated by PRIMA](#). The project involves 21 partners from 16 diverse countries, including six EU Widening Countries, three Horizon Europe Associated Countries, and three Southern Mediterranean Third countries.

FUTURE4PRIMA aims to enhance Mediterranean research and innovation by setting the stage for a renewed PRIMA partnership in the upcoming EU Framework Programme. The project integrates PRIMA activities to leverage synergies with EU partnerships and EU Missions, ensuring that efforts are complementary and integrated across broader EU objectives. The project is designed to expand collaboration among R&I funding bodies, seeking to enlarge the partnerships to other countries, including the Balkans and other countries in the Southern neighbourhood, and further broadening the thematic scope of PRIMA to include sectors like ecosystems, energy, and health, alongside its longstanding commitment to sustainable water management and agri-food systems.

The project also focuses on upscaling PRIMA project results, accelerating the market introduction of innovative solutions and invigorating innovation ecosystems, particularly in the widening regions and the southern Mediterranean. FUTURE4PRIMA is committed to fostering EU-Africa partnerships by strengthening R&I cooperation between national research funding organizations across European Research Area (ERA), widening countries, and beyond, addressing global and emerging resource efficiency and climate change challenges in Europe and its neighbourhood.

In addition, FUTURE4PRIMA aims to establish an enabling environment to enhance cross-sector R&I collaborations and strategic coordination among research funding organizations to address global and emerging resource efficiency and climate change challenges in Europe and beyond. The project also seeks to foster policy uptake of improved regulatory aspects to facilitate R&I cooperation, strengthening the international dimension of the ERA. Furthermore, FUTURE4PRIMA aims to accelerate the market uptake of innovations and stimulate innovation ecosystems in widening and southern neighbouring countries and grant access to information and tools to measure progress on the achievement of the EU Green Deal and the SDGs.

EU-Africa partnership:

PRIMA is complementary to the Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA) priority of the [EU-African Union research and innovation cooperation](#). The partnership aims to boost the impact of AU-EU joint research at local level by addressing the entire value-chain, strengthening capacity-building (human, research infrastructures and institutional) and focusing on demonstration projects and pilot actions to bring research and innovation results to users. It also aims to improve access to sustainably produced, nutritious and safe food, enhance income growth and promote rural development, contributing to Agenda 2030. PRIMA's collaboration with the FNSSA priority enables pan-African and cross-European cooperation, focusing on sustainable practices in the Mediterranean food value chain.

EU Regional programme:

PRIMA will further strengthen cooperation with the [Interreg NEXT MED programme 2021-2027 Interreg NEXT 'Mediterranean Sea Basin'](#) ('NEXT MED') programme pushing both organisations' shared interest in supporting regional integration and development.

This common objective will be achieved by creating thematic clusters based on a joint analysis of PRIMA and [ENI-CBC MED](#) and Interreg Next Med projects. Thematic clusters will be instrumental in fostering knowledge exchange, strengthening synergies and complementarities among projects, benchmarking results cross-contamination, and enhancing links with a broader community of stakeholders.

EU infrastructures

[LifeWatch, a European Research Infrastructure Consortium \(ERIC\)](#), plays a crucial role in supporting scientists investigating biodiversity and ecosystem functions for societal benefit. In collaboration with PRIMA, LifeWatch ERIC acts as a valuable data source and provides a platform for storing and sharing PRIMA data. The collaboration between PRIMA and LifeWatch ERIC aims to address biodiversity and ecosystem research and sustainable management in the context of global climate change. LifeWatch ERIC serves as a valuable source of data for PRIMA projects and provides a platform for storing and sharing PRIMA data. This partnership benefits both organizations and encourages the participation of more Mediterranean countries, particularly young researchers, in LifeWatch ERIC.

PRIMA seeks interaction with other European research infrastructures operating in various fields such as genomics, phenomics, precision agriculture, and food science. Some examples of such infrastructures include the Food and Health roadmap ESFR1, European Infrastructure for Plant Phenotyping (EMPHASIS), and [METROFOOD-RI](#), Infrastructure for promoting Metrology in Food and Nutrition.

Regional programmes and organisations

PRIMA is fully supporting the dialogue outcomes of the [Union for the Mediterranean \(UfM\) Environment Task force](#) to implement UfM post-2020 Environment Agenda, so-called "Towards 2030: Agenda for a Greener Med Contributing to achieving the Environmental SDGs in the Mediterranean" ([2030GreenerMed Agenda](#)) aiming to operationalise the [UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate](#) adopted in Cairo on the 4th October 2021. The PRIMA programme is consistent with [UfM R&I regional platform's Roadmaps](#) adopted during the UfM ministerial meeting in June 2022. The UfM R&I platform focuses on three roadmaps: climate change, renewable energy, and health. The PRIMA program aligns with the UfM R&I platform's Roadmaps in several ways, as it focuses on promoting sustainable practices in the food value chain, enhancing resource efficiency, and mitigating the impacts of climate change in the Mediterranean region. By developing new technologies and management practices, promoting capacity-building and collaboration, and sharing knowledge and best practices, PRIMA can contribute to achieving the goals of the UfM R&I platform's Roadmaps.

PRIMA is also collaborating with UfM, FAO, CIHEAM to a [Multi-stakeholder Sustainable Food Systems Platform in the Mediterranean](#) to foster a common understanding of the complex environment of Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) in the global context. The collaboration between Mediterranean countries within the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) process, including the recent 2-year review (UNFSS+2), has been pivotal in emphasizing the necessity for heightened regional cooperation and the formulation of collective strategies to address common challenges within agri-food systems.

In this context the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) have joined forces to create a multi-stakeholder initiative for sustainable food systems in the Mediterranean (SFS-MED platform), which takes the form of a project affiliated to the Sustainable Food Systems Programme of the One Planet Network.

The SFS-MED platform serves as a forum for fostering dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders, with a primary objective of harnessing joint efforts to ensure the sustainable transformation of agri-food systems in the Mediterranean region. Central to its mission is the promotion of shared learning on key mechanisms for driving this transformation. This involves facilitating dialogue and the exchange of technical expertise among diverse stakeholder groups, including the private sector, civil society, research institutions, and governmental bodies.

The main focus of this initiative is on promoting shared learning on the main levers for transforming agri-food systems, as well as dialogue and the exchange of technical knowledge between stakeholder groups,

including the private sector, civil society, the research community and public authorities. The SFS-MED Platform has made available to everyone an interactive tool that compiles specialist knowledge on [various levers for transforming agri-food systems](#), while recounting inspiring stories from the field about people working to transform the agri-food systems of the region through multi-stakeholder collaboration and innovative ideas. These transformation levers reflect the trends, priorities and challenges that have emerged as common to most Mediterranean countries, as part of the UNFSS process.

Through its collaboration with the Multi-stakeholder Sustainable Food Systems Platform, PRIMA can further extend its reach and impact in promoting sustainable practices in the food value chain in the Mediterranean. The platform can provide a valuable platform for sharing knowledge and best practices, developing new technologies and management practices, and promoting capacity-building and collaboration.

PRIMA office in FAO

The establishment of the PRIMA office at FAO will commence with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two organizations by the end of 2024. This initiative marks a significant stride towards fostering collaboration and synergy between the PRIMA Programme and FAO's sustainable food systems initiatives. Positioned strategically at FAO headquarters, the office will function as a vibrant hub for networking, promoting partnerships, and leveraging FAO's expertise and resources to enhance the impact of PRIMA-funded projects. Operating within FAO's premises will enable direct engagement with FAO units offering essential services to PRIMA initiatives, such as extension services and technical assistance. It will also strengthen connections with FAO's regional and country offices, thereby enhancing coordination and support for PRIMA's endeavours. Moreover, the PRIMA office at FAO will serve as a platform for engaging influential stakeholders, including permanent diplomats and EC representatives, to secure sustained support for the PRIMA Programme. Through active participation in relevant events and collaborative initiatives, the office will contribute to enhancing global visibility for PRIMA, aligning with recommendations from the Interim Evaluation Report to strengthen stakeholder engagement and awareness.

The primary objective of establishing the PRIMA office at FAO is to amplify the impact and visibility of the PRIMA Programme through institutional collaboration with a global leader in sustainable food systems. This involves facilitating networking, promoting synergies, and fostering collaborations between PRIMA projects and the broader FAO community, including entities like the FAO Office of Innovation and initiatives focused on South-South and Triangular Cooperation. By cultivating stronger relationships with FAO units and leveraging FAO's extensive network, the PRIMA office at FAO can effectively advocate for high-level commitment from member states towards the PRIMA Programme. This includes seizing opportunities to engage with diplomats at FAO and participating in thematic events that highlight PRIMA's contributions. Collaborative efforts may encompass participation in key FAO-organized events, such as the Food Systems Summit + 4, and jointly promoting initiatives that address shared thematic issues. Ultimately, the PRIMA office at FAO aims to serve as a catalyst for advancing sustainable food systems and fostering impactful global research collaborations.

PRIMA collaboration with Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT

The collaboration between PRIMA Foundation and the [Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT](#) through the Accelerate for Impact Platform (A4IP) for the [AgriTech4Egypt Innovation Challenge](#) represents a significant step towards promoting sustainable agricultural development and addressing water scarcity in the Mediterranean basin. Through this partnership, PRIMA Foundation commits to actively supporting the selection process, identifying relevant projects from its portfolio, and raising awareness among local strategic organizations and institutions about the initiative. By leveraging PRIMA's expertise and networks, the collaboration aims to accelerate the development and adoption of science-driven solutions for food

systems and water resources in Egypt, ultimately contributing to the modernization of the agriculture sector and the achievement of sustainable development goals in the region.

Dissemination of PRIMA outcomes

PRIMA networking meeting (PRIMA Project's Day)

This event aims to facilitate collaboration among consortia representatives engaged in PRIMA projects, offering them a platform to exchange knowledge and enhance the effectiveness of their endeavours. By convening representatives from various PRIMA projects, the meeting will encourage cross-collaboration and the sharing of best practices, thereby identifying synergies and preventing thematic overlap. This approach ensures a more efficient and impactful implementation of PRIMA projects.

Moreover, the networking meeting will serve as a forum to address challenges and opportunities encountered by the consortia, while also identifying potential areas for future research and innovation. This collaborative environment fosters innovation within the PRIMA community and aids in developing solutions to the region's most pressing challenges.

4.1 SECTION 1, ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES MANAGED, AND FUNDED BY PRIMA-IS WITH EU FUNDS, HE RULES.

4.1.1 SECTION1, ACTIONS ORGANISED AND FUNDED BY PRIMA-IS THROUGH TRANSNATIONAL CALLS

In Section 1, activities of the PRIMA programme are supported along with the following types of actions: Innovation Actions (IAs) and financial contributions given as rewards following the publication of a contest (Prizes) as defined in Section [Prizes —Recognition](#) of this document.

IAs refer to TRL 6-8 (see [Technology Readiness Levels \(TRL\)](#) in this document). IAs 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 activities^{4,5} could also be included.

IA actions under Section 1 will encompass topics under the three thematic areas (water management, farming systems, and food value chain) with a focus on the sectoral interdependencies among them (Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus). This means that PRIMA-IS will launch three calls in Section 1 for 3 Innovation Actions as referred to as [Innovation actions \(IA\)](#) in this document. These calls will mobilise the Euro-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., 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 in these calls will have to submit a proposal to the PRIMA-IS that will be evaluated by peer review.

The PRIMA-IS will check proposals according to the eligibility conditions in [General Annexes B-Standard eligibility section](#) of this document. Proposals are evaluated, selected, funded and monitored according to the [HE Rules of Participation](#) (see [Section 1, Evaluation procedure and ranking](#)) according to a single-stage submission process and are centrally managed by the PRIMA-IS. 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 Agreement](#) (PRIMA MGA), based on the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement.

In addition, a financial contribution in Prizes, the “PRIMA Woman Greening Food Systems Award in Mediterranean Region” is included in this Work Programme (see [SECTION Prizes —Recognition prizes](#) of this document for general definition). The prizes we propose in this Annual Work Programme 2025 are to recognise and uplift the essential role women play in innovating and transforming food systems in the Mediterranean region towards greater sustainability and resilience. The award intends to spotlight these women and their initiatives, aiming to augment visibility and thus empowering women across the region to continue their significant contributions towards the future of sustainable and resilient food systems. Beyond this, the award is envisioned to foster further innovation within green food systems and advance gender equality within the food systems sector. Explicitly targeted at women and women-led organizations within the Mediterranean Region, the award acknowledges their significant contributions to greening food systems. Nominees should have instigated innovative techniques, practices, or policies that have substantially impacted food security and environmental sustainability within their communities or broader region. In this way, the award not only gives recognition but also serves as an inspiration for further progress and innovation in the sector.

⁴ Definition of organisational innovation: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2006:323:0001:0026:EN:PDF>.

⁵ Organisational innovation means the implementation of a new organisational method in the undertaking's business practices, workplace organisation or external relations.

4.1.1.1. SECTION 1, CALLS TOPICS

Thematic Area 1-Water management in the Nexus:

Topic 1.1.1-2025 (IA) Upscaling Nature Based Solutions for sustainable water management to address extreme events in the Mediterranean

Thematic Area 2-Farming systems in the Nexus:


Topic 1.2.1-2025 (IA) Enhancement of Sustainable Farming Systems within Mediterranean Wetlands for Conservation and Coexistence

Thematic Area 3-Food value chain in the Nexus:

Topic 1.3.1-2025 (IA) Transforming Mediterranean Food Systems: Empowering Consumers for Sustainable Diets

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TABLE 2 SPECIFIC CONDITIONS FOR THE CALL 1.1.1

 THEMATIC AREA WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE NEXUS	
Topic 1.1.1-2025	Upscaling Nature Based Solutions for sustainable water management to address extreme events in the Mediterranean
Alignment with EU policies	European Green Deal EU biodiversity strategy for 2030 EU climate adaptation strategy Nature restoration law
Call Specific Conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	PRIMA estimates that a contribution of around EUR 3 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 12.00 million.
Duration	PRIMA considers that proposals with a duration of 36 months would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submitting and selecting proposals with different durations.
Type of Action	<i>Innovation Action</i>
Technology Readiness levels (TRL)	<i>Activities are expected to achieve TRL 7-8 by the end of the project</i> <i>Proposals should clearly state the starting and end TRLs of the key technology or technologies targeted in the project.</i>
Eligibility conditions	<p>Please refer to the General Annexes Section Entities eligible for funding</p> <p>Entities eligible for funding</p> <p>Due to the specific challenge of this topic, in addition to the minimum number of participants set out in the standard eligibility conditions (section), consortia must include at least an additional legal entity established in a Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC)</p> <p><u>Additional Eligibility Condition for this call</u> Due to the scope of this topic, consortia must include at least one small and medium-sized enterprises⁶ established in a PS in the research consortia</p>
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	PRIMA MGA (multi-beneficiary), based on Horizon Europe MGA The rules are described in General Annexes
Submission and evaluation procedure	The call will be organised according to a single-stage submission process. A full proposal (maximum 45 pages) must be submitted according to the timeline for submitting application (Table 6) A timeline for submitting and evaluating applications can be found in Section 1, Calendar of the Calls
Consortium agreement	Participants in projects resulting from this call for Proposals must conclude a consortium agreement before the PRIMA grant agreement's signature.
PRIMA specific KPIs	<p>Economic Impact: Number of new business models leveraging PRIMA solutions <u>Number of innovative products, processes, or methods resulting from the Programme (by type of innovation, at TRL8) & Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) applications</u></p> <p>Social Impact: Number of multi-actor collaborations established for supporting PRIMA objectives</p>

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⁶ 'Small or medium-sized enterprise' or 'SME' means a micro, small or medium-sized enterprise as defined in Article 2 of the Annex to Recommendation 2003/361/EC (27)

Environmental Impact:**Quantification of decrease in climate-related area risk levels after the Implementation of Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) considering initial baseline assessment**

Total hectares impacted by the introduction of sustainable practices

Horizontal Impact:

Number of recommendations for new/updated policies and regulations supporting PRIMA objectives

Number of Key Exploitable Results (KERs) from PRIMA, Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe, and other relevant initiatives valorised/further exploited

Expected Outcome: Aligned with the priorities of the European Green Deal, including the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030, as well as the EU climate adaptation and mitigation ambitions for 2030 and 2050, successful proposals will focus on scaling up Nature-based Solutions⁷ (NBS). These solutions will enhance water security and improve the management of water-related risks amidst a changing climate, emphasizing principles such as green, blue, and circular approaches (e.g., [Natural Water Retention Measures, NWRMs](#)) to mitigate the impacts of extreme events.

Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Improved water management, enhanced climate resilience and adaptive capacity of ecosystems and communities⁸ through the implementation of cost-effective Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) at large scale⁹.
- Increased knowledge sharing and capacity building among stakeholders at all levels to effectively design, implement, and maintain NBS.
- Improved monitoring and evaluation systems for continuous enhancement of NBS leading to their integration into environmental, agricultural, and urban planning policies, as well as climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, supported by innovative governance frameworks.

Scope: Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) are pivotal in mitigating the effects of extreme events in the Mediterranean by enhancing ecosystem resilience and promoting sustainable adaptation strategies. However, while NBS are well known in the Mediterranean, evidence on their cost-efficiency and socio-cultural impacts remain fragmented, and there is a lack of holistic approaches and guidelines for NBS uptake at large catchment scale. Moreover, there is a need for demonstrating the effectiveness of combining different types of NBS and their multiple benefits to address multiple challenges, including salinity management.

The successful proposals should:

- Identify existing Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) tailored to the diverse ecological and socio-economic contexts of the Mediterranean region to address risks like floods, droughts, and other hazards, as well as the barriers to their acceptance, with the aim to re-define regulatory frameworks accordingly.

⁷ PRIMA defines nature-based solutions as “Solutions that are inspired and supported by nature, which are cost-effective, simultaneously provide environmental, social and economic benefits and help build resilience. Such solutions bring more, and more diverse, nature and natural features and processes into cities, landscapes and seascapes, through locally adapted, resource-efficient and systemic interventions. Definition from https://rea.ec.europa.eu/funding-and-grants/horizon-europe-cluster-6-food-bioeconomy-natural-resources-agriculture-and-environment/nature-based-solutions_en

⁸ communities” in this context refers to groups of people living in specific geographic areas, such as towns, cities, or rural areas. It can encompass both human communities (e.g., residents, farmers, businesses) and ecological communities (e.g., wildlife, plant species) within a particular region. The term can also imply local administrations or regional stakeholders who are involved in decision-making and governance related to environmental management and water resources

⁹ Large scale” in the context of Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) typically refers to implementations that go beyond pilot or demonstration projects. It suggests that NBS are deployed across extensive geographic areas or applied broadly within a region or ecosystem.

- Test, validate, assess cost-effectiveness and benefits, and scale up NBS in diverse Mediterranean contexts, to mitigate droughts, floods, heat waves, storms, while improving ecosystem biodiversity and resilience, and preventing soil salinisation and erosion.
- Formulate new business models, governance approaches, and recommendations tailored for the Mediterranean region to promote widespread NBS adoption and their integration into existing policies, environmental and land use regulations.
- Explore combined NBS solutions and develop decision-support tools for optimising NBS selection based on environmental conditions and stakeholder needs.

The proposals should implement a *"A Multi-Actor Approach should ensure genuine and sufficient involvement of a targeted diversity of actors, essentially the (end-) users of the project results completed with some useful intermediaries who can bring in further useful knowledge, such as farmers/farmers' groups, foresters/foresters' groups, advisors, food processors, businesses, consumer associations, local communities, citizens, civil society organisations including NGOs etc. The genuine and sufficient involvement of such actors should occur all along with the project: from participation in planning the project and experiments to implementation, the dissemination of results, and a possible demonstration phase. Building blocks for the project proposal are expected to come from science, practice, and intermediaries ("co-creation"). End-users and practitioners are to be involved, not as a study object, but to use their local knowledge and/or entrepreneurial skills for developing solutions and creating "co-ownership" of results, which speeds up the acceptance and take-up of new ideas."*


"Multi Actor Approach" (MAA), ensuring involvement of various stakeholders. Foster stakeholder dialogue to explore collaborative opportunities and establish multi-actor platforms for continuous engagement, knowledge exchange, and capacity building in Mediterranean environments.

Projects are expected to build links with the [HE Mission "Climate Adaptation"](#). Proposals should include dedicated tasks and appropriate resources for coordination measures and joint activities with relevant projects funded by the Mission.

Proposals are encouraged to collaborate with other PRIMA and EU funded projects¹⁰, or in relevant EU Partnerships such as [Water4all](#) and [Biodiversa](#), by participating in joint and common communication and dissemination activities.

¹⁰ Find here some relevant H2020 and Horizon Europe projects https://rea.ec.europa.eu/funding-and-grants/horizon-europe-cluster-6-food-bioeconomy-natural-resources-agriculture-and-environment/nature-based-solutions_en

TABLE 3 SPECIFIC CALL CONDITION FOR CALL 1.2.1

 <p>THEMATIC AREA 2-FARMING SYSTEMS IN THE NEXUS</p>	
Topic 1.2.1-2025	Enhancement of Sustainable Farming Systems within Mediterranean Wetlands for Conservation and Coexistence
Alignment with EU policies	European Green Deal EU biodiversity strategy EU Climate Change Adaption Strategy Farm to Fork Strategy Zero Pollution Action Plan the new EU Nature Restoration Law
Call Specific Conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	PRIMA estimates that a contribution of around EUR 3 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 12.00 million.
Duration	PRIMA considers that proposals with a duration of 36 months would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submitting and selecting proposals with different durations.
Type of Action	Innovation Action
Technology Readiness levels (TRL)	Activities are expected to achieve TRL 7-8 by the end of the project Proposals should clearly state the starting and end TRLs of the key technology or technologies targeted in the project.
Eligibility conditions	<p>Please refer to the General Annexes Section Entities eligible for funding</p> <p>Entities eligible for funding</p> <p>Due to the specific challenge of this topic, in addition to the minimum number of participants set out in the standard eligibility conditions (section), consortia must include at least an additional legal entity established in a Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC) Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC)</p> <p>Additional Eligibility Condition for this call Due to the scope of this topic, consortia must include at least one small and medium-sized enterprises¹¹ established in a PS in the research consortia</p>
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	PRIMA MGA (multi-beneficiary), based on Horizon Europe MGA The rules are described in General Annexes

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¹¹ 'Small or medium-sized enterprise' or 'SME' means a micro, small or medium-sized enterprise as defined in Article 2 of the Annex to Recommendation 2003/361/EC (27)

Submission and evaluation procedure	The call will be organised according to a single-stage submission process. A full proposal (maximum 45 pages) must be submitted according to the timeline for submitting application (Table 6) A timeline for submitting and evaluating applications can be found in Section 1, Calendar of the Calls
Consortium agreement	Participants in projects resulting from this call for Proposals must conclude a consortium agreement before the PRIMA grant agreement's signature.
PRIMA specific KPIs	<p>Economic Impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable nexus-based agricultural practices introduced <p>Number of innovative products, processes, or methods resulting from the Programme (by type of innovation, at TRL8) & Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) applications</p> <p>Social Impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Percentage of local actors engaged in project collaborations, relative to the total number of stakeholders involved in the project. Percentage of local and national authorities participating in consortia, indicating their involvement in shaping policy recommendations aligned with end-users' needs <p>Environmental Impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Total hectares impacted by the introduction of sustainable practices - GHG avoided emissions per year (CO₂, CH₄, N₂O) <p>Horizontal Impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of new/updated policies and regulations supporting PRIMA objectives adopted - Biodiversity indicators (increase in species, particularly rare species, etc. - Number of Key Exploitable Results (KERs) reused from PRIMA, Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe, and other relevant EU funded initiatives

Expected Outcome: Aligned with the objectives of the European Green Deal and [EU Nature restoration law](#), the initiative to enhance wetland restoration in the Mediterranean serves as a catalyst for achieving the EU's climate goals outlined for both 2030 and 2050. It aligns with the [Union for the Mediterranean's Greener Med Agenda 2030](#), which underscores the pivotal role of wetlands in furnishing vital ecosystem services for the region's environmental well-being and economic advancement. Wetlands¹² are regions where water influences the environment, fostering a unique ecosystem rich in biodiversity. They include coastal marshes, lagoons, rivers, estuaries that are supporting different varieties of plant and animal life. Successful proposals will contribute to enhance wetlands Agro-ecosystems sustainably, to expand knowledge on wetland status in the Mediterranean and their restoration potential, and to provide evidence-based policy recommendations for a better integration and coexistence of agriculture and wetlands.

Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Enhanced resilience of Mediterranean wetland agroecosystems by preserving and improving ecosystem services provision especially for flood and drought control, while producing food (or feeds) and contributing to the socio-economic development of the region
- Comprehensive Assessment and Mitigation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and carbon sequestration, thereby contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts.
- Enhancing the biodiversity in Mediterranean wetlands through innovative practices, especially for species under threat.
- Evidence-Based Policy Recommendations for the sustainable management and conservation of Mediterranean wetlands agroecosystems, ensuring their long-term viability and contribution to

¹² <https://medwet.org/aboutwetlands/>

according to the Ramsar Convention for the Protection of Wetlands (Articles 1.1 and 2.1) wetlands are defined as:

"areas of marsh, fen, peat land or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres [...] and may incorporate riparian and coastal zones adjacent to the wetlands, and islands or bodies of marine water deeper than six metres at low tide lying within the wetlands".

regional sustainability goals.

Scope: This call aims to enhance wetland agroecosystems sustainability in the Mediterranean by fostering innovative and cost-effective solutions through a holistic Water-Ecosystems-Food-Nexus approach to comprehensively address the interdependencies and interactions between wetlands, agroecosystems, water resources, and ecosystem services. The adoption of sustainable and regenerative agricultural practices is paramount for conserving wetlands and fostering their unique biodiversity.

Specifically, the call emphasizes the development and implementation of sustainable agriculture practices that include robust drought management strategies tailored to the Mediterranean region. These strategies are crucial for preserving wetlands' functions in delivering ecosystem services, managing floods, and mitigating the impacts of drought. The overarching goal is to enhance environmental resilience and socio-economic development in the region by safeguarding the essential roles of wetlands.

Proposed activities should cover all of the following aspects:


- Conducting a comprehensive assessment of Mediterranean wetlands, evaluating their current condition, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions profiles, and potential for carbon mitigation. These assessments must consider key gases (CO₂, CH₄, and NO), as well as the carbon value of services like food production.
- Examine the trade-offs between wetland restoration for climate and biodiversity benefits and the delivery of other services, along with methods to avoid or mitigate these trade-offs.
- Exploring the integration of existing local knowledge and practices: embracing a holistic Water- Food-Ecosystems Nexus perspective is essential to comprehensively address the interdependencies between wetlands and the water, food, and ecosystems sectors. This entails integrating multidisciplinary approaches that consider the complex linkages between wetland ecosystems and the provision of water resources, ecosystem services, and ensuring food production
- These solutions will integrate sustainable agriculture practices, habitat restoration efforts, improved water management techniques, and effective drought management strategies tailored to diverse representative wetlands in the area.
- The implemented solutions should be assessed through appropriate methodologies and indicators and be translated into policies for integration of these approaches into existing environmental and land use regulations.
- Assess the socio-economic benefits of investing in wetland conservation, sustainable agriculture, and the role of wetlands in enhancing resilience to drought, and improve the livelihood of local communities

Proposals are encouraged to implement the 'Multi-actor approach' to ensure comprehensive involvement of various stakeholders. This includes universities and research centres, public authorities, civil society organizations, local communities, businesses, industry stakeholders, conservation and environmental groups, and agencies responsible for agriculture, water management, and land use planning. Local and national authorities could be part of the consortia, ensuring that policy recommendations can be formulated in a user-oriented manner, with authorities having a vested interest in their implementation.

Proposals should include a dedicated task, appropriate resources, and a plan for collaborating with other PRIMA-funded projects with similar thematic focus and to build links with the [EU Mission Climate Adaptation](#).

Collaboration and complementary with other projects funded by Horizon Europe, relevant European Partnerships such as Agroecology, [LIFE programme](#), and European Regional Development Fund ([ERDF](#)) projects addressing wetland, is encouraged.

TABLE 4 SPECIFIC CALL CONDITION FOR CALL 1.3.1

 Thematic Area 3-Food value chain in the Nexus	
<i>Topic 1.3.1 (IA) –2025</i>	Transforming Mediterranean Food Systems: Empowering Consumers for Sustainable Diets
Alignment with SRIA	Thematic area 3, Operational Objective 6/ NUTRITION AND HEALTH To innovate in the Mediterranean food products based on Mediterranean diet heritage and to enhance the links between nutrition, physical activity and health Research priorities 4 Implications of dietary shifts and sustainable diets for the Med populations and food industry
Alignment with EU Policies	European Green Deal Farm to Fork Strategy White paper 'A strategy for Europe on nutrition, overweight and obesity related issues' Common agricultural policy (CAP) and the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) EU global food security . EU Food 2030 R&I policy and pathways for action PATHWAY 7 – HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE AND PERSONALISED NUTRITION
Call Specific Conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	PRIMA estimates that a contribution of around EUR 2,9 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 8,7 million.
Duration	PRIMA considers that proposals with a duration of 36 months would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submitting and selecting proposals with different durations.
Type of Action	<i>Innovation Action</i>
Technology Readiness levels (TRL)	<i>Activities are expected to achieve TRL 6-7 by the end of the project</i> <i>Proposals should clearly state the starting and end TRLs of the key technology or technologies targeted in the project.</i>
Eligibility conditions	Please refer to the General Annexes Section Entities eligible for funding Entities eligible for funding Due to the specific challenge of this topic, in addition to the minimum number of participants set out in the standard eligibility conditions (section), consortia must include at least an additional legal entity established in a Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC) Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC) Additional Eligibility Condition for this call Due to the scope of this topic, consortia must include at least one small and medium-sized enterprises ¹³ established in a PS in the research consortia
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	PRIMA MGA (multi-beneficiary), based on Horizon Europe MGA The rules are described in General Annexes

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¹³ 'Small or medium-sized enterprise' or 'SME' means a micro, small or medium-sized enterprise as defined in Article 2 of the Annex to Recommendation 2003/361/EC (27)

Submission and evaluation procedure	The call will be organised according to a single-stage submission process. A full proposal (maximum 45 pages) must be submitted according to the timeline for submitting application (Table 6) A timeline for submitting and evaluating applications can be found in Section 1, Calendar of the Calls
Consortium agreement	Participants in projects resulting from this call for Proposals must conclude a consortium agreement before the PRIMA grant agreement's signature.
PRIMA specific KPIs	<p>Economic Impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Innovative solutions supporting PRIMA objectives at TRL7. - New public sustainable procurement schemes <p>Social Impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consumer Behaviour Change Index¹⁴ Participants in PRIMA specific capacity building initiatives <p>Horizontal Impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of new/updated policies and regulations supporting PRIMA objectives adopted - Number of Key Exploitable Results (KERs) reused from PRIMA, Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe, and other relevant EU funded initiatives

Expected Outcome: In alignment with the [European Green Deal](#) priorities, the [Farm-To-Fork strategy](#) for a fair, healthy, and environmentally friendly food system, and the [EU's climate ambitions for 2030 and 2050](#), the successful proposals will focus on supporting initiatives aimed at promoting increased adoption of the Mediterranean diet among target populations. This will involve leveraging innovative approaches and technologies to foster deeper consumer awareness and engagement through educational campaigns and strategies. Leveraging existing initiatives and digital tools, spearheading policy dialogues, and facilitating collaboration among consumers and researchers are key components. Integration of social innovation and consumer behaviour aspects is crucial, emphasizing participatory and collective approaches such as living labs.

The project is expected to achieve the following outcomes:

- Through consumer-centric initiatives, measurable improvements in the adoption of the Mediterranean diet are anticipated across target populations.
- Innovative educational campaigns and strategies are projected to deepen consumer understanding and active involvement in shaping sustainable food systems.
- Tailored policy frameworks are expected to be developed to promote the adoption of sustainable diets, with a particular emphasis on leveraging public food procurement as a strategic tool.

Scope:

This topic aims to foster the adoption of innovations that are already being developed within other PRIMA, Horizon 2020, or Horizon Europe projects to promote the Mediterranean diet. Renowned for its emphasis on plant-based, fresh, seasonal, and locally sourced foods, the Mediterranean diet offers significant health benefits and is recognized for its environmental sustainability. UNESCO acknowledges its cultural significance, emphasizing its role as both a healthy eating pattern and a cultural heritage. Adherence to the Mediterranean diet, renowned for its plant-based, local foods, and its health and environmental benefits, is declining due to urbanization and lifestyle changes. This trend, driven by reduced cooking time and increased consumption of ultra-processed and pre-packaged foods, has

¹⁴ This index measures the degree of positive change in consumer behaviour towards adopting sustainable dietary practices, particularly adherence to the Mediterranean diet. It encompasses parameters such as increased consumption of plant-based, fresh, seasonal, and local foods, reduced consumption of ultra-processed and pre-packaged foods, and active engagement in community-driven initiatives promoting sustainable food choices. The index should be calculated based on pre- and post-intervention surveys, consumer feedback, and qualitative assessments, providing valuable insights into the effectiveness of the project in influencing consumer behaviour towards sustainability.

negative implications for both health and environmental sustainability.¹⁵

To counter this decline, an initiative aims to integrate modern innovations with traditional food heritage, empowering consumers to make informed choices and promoting sustainable consumption. This involves educational campaigns and innovative engagement strategies, leveraging existing projects like PRIMA and Horizon 2020 to enhance transparency and trust in the food system. Targeted approaches for different demographics will help promote sustainable dietary practices tailored to their specific needs

Proposed activities should cover all of the following aspects:

- Innovate and promote adoption of new food products that meet dietary guidelines while considering consumer preferences and nutritional requirements. Focus on enhancing adherence and nutritional excellence within the Mediterranean diet framework.
- Leverage existing consumer engagement initiatives and digital tools developed within already funded not only PRIMA projects¹⁶ but also Horizon 2020, and Horizon Europe projects with same thematic focus, to create immersive learning experiences and foster community-driven initiatives that promote sustainable dietary practices. Tailor these initiatives to specific demographic groups such as children, teenagers, adults/families, or the elderly to ensure relevance and effectiveness.
- Spearheading policy dialogues and stakeholder consultations to co-create and implement dynamic policy frameworks aimed fostering the adoption of the Mediterranean diet and fostering sustainable food systems. Customize policy recommendations to address the diverse dietary habits and preferences across different demographic segments.
- Facilitating dynamic collaboration among consumers, researchers, to innovate solutions, including AI-driven mobile apps for personalized sustainable food choices and data-driven insights into dietary impacts.
- Launching pilot initiatives to embed Mediterranean diet principles into public food procurement systems, emphasizing innovative approaches that support local economies, environmental sustainability, and nutritional excellence. Emphasize innovative approaches that support local economies, environmental sustainability, and nutritional excellence tailored to meet the dietary requirements of children, teenagers, adults/families, or the elderly.
- Conducting hands-on capacity-building initiatives to empower individuals and communities to advocate for and implement sustainable dietary practices, including immersive training programs that leverage virtual reality and gamification techniques specifically designed to engage and educate different demographic groups on the benefits and practices of the Mediterranean diet.
- Incorporating dedicated tasks, sufficient resources, and collaborative plans with other PRIMA-funded to promote cross-project cooperation, consultations, and joint activities addressing common issues.
- Recognizing the multidimensional challenges in promoting sustainable dietary practices in the Mediterranean region, integration of social innovation and consumer behaviour aspects is essential. Proposals should consider participatory and collective (multi-actor) approaches such as living labs.
- Encouraging strategic collaboration and synergies with other Horizon Europe projects and European Partnerships such as the European partnership for a sustainable Future of Food

¹⁵ Accelerating food systems transformation in the Mediterranean in the frame of n the framework of the "SFS-MED platform that PRIMA is co-developing in partnership with FAO, the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) and the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/42c72ef4-dac2-4ba4-8b1f-a7be6374d309/content/sustainable-agrifood-systems-in-the-mediterranean-2023/lever-4.html>

¹⁶ Specifically with PRIMA projects MED4YOUTH, SWITCHTOHEALTHY, DELICIOUS Tool4MEDLife, MedDietMenus4Campus, MEDIET4ALL, FEED

Systems- FutureFoods, to maximize collective impact in promoting sustainable dietary practices and catalysing transformation in Mediterranean food systems.

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4.1.1.2. SECTION 1, [CALENDAR](#)

The PRIMA-IS will conduct the eligibility check after each submission deadline and before the evaluation.

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).

The following table shows the calendar of calls for proposals.

TABLE 5 TIMETABLE FOR SECTION 1 CALLS FOR PROPOSALS IN 2025

THEMATIC AREA	CALL TOPICS	Call publication and opening	Submission deadline Stage 1	Evaluation results Stage 1
Water management	Topic 1.1.1 (IA)	3.3.2025	25.6.2025	4.11.2025
Farming systems	Topic 1.2.1 (IA)	3.3.2025	25.6.2025	4.11.2025
Agri-food chain	Topic 1.3.1 (IA)	3.3.2025	25.6.2025	4.11.2025

4.2. SECTION 1, ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING PROGRAMME OPERATIONS FUNDED WITH EU FUNDS, IMPLEMENTED BY PRIMA-IS

PRIMA-IS implements activities to evaluate 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 types of grant agreements and funding levels are summarized under each call topic, described in more detail in the General Annexes.

4.2.1. EVALUATION AND MONITORING OF PROJECT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO SECTION 1 AND SECTION 2 CALLS.

Objective

This activity consists of implementing the evaluation of all the eligible projects submitted to the 2025 PRIMA calls (Section 1 and Section 2) and preparing the Board of Trustees' decision.

The evaluation process is described in Section 1, General Annexes [F- Evaluation procedure and ranking](#).

In Work Programme 2025, Section 1 and Section 2 calls will be organized as a **single stage submission process**. PRIMA-IS will assign independent experts to evaluate full proposals.

PRIMA-IS will provide guidelines to the experts for the remote evaluation and drafting of their assessment report. At the end of this period of individual assessment, the experts will meet in a panel to prepare the consensus report for each proposal. When a consensus is reached for each proposal, the panel will agree on the final assessment and proceed with its ranking. After the remote evaluation of proposals, a two-day meeting will be organized to draft the consensus report and establish the ranking list.

PRIMA-IS will cover the independent expert fees, travel and accommodation and the other meetings-related expenses following EC standard practices. The consensus meeting can also be held remotely. PRIMA-IS will also cover the board of Trustees' meeting 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 2 (q) PRIMA Statutes¹⁷.

Moreover, PRIMA-IS will also cover the costs related to monitoring the PRIMA projects, particularly the technical and financial reporting.

A meeting will be organised with Project Coordinators to provide guidelines about the commencement, management, finance and monitoring of Section 1 and Section 2 funded projects. Monitoring and network meetings will be organised either physically or remote.

Additionally, the event aims to facilitate collaboration among consortia representatives engaged in PRIMA projects, offering them a platform to exchange knowledge and enhance the effectiveness of their endeavours. By convening representatives from various PRIMA projects, the meeting will encourage cross-collaboration and the sharing of best practices, thereby identifying synergies and preventing thematic overlap, ensuring a more efficient and impactful implementation of PRIMA projects.

¹⁷ [PRIMA Statutes Article 6 point 2 \(q\), page 4](#).

Furthermore, the networking event will serve as a forum to address challenges and opportunities encountered by the consortia, while also identifying potential areas for future research and innovation. This collaborative environment fosters innovation within the PRIMA community and aids in developing solutions to the region's most pressing challenges.

Type of activity: Expert's contracts.

Indicative budget: EUR 400 000

4.2.2.PRIMA AWARD 2025 «PRIMA WOMAN GREENING FOOD SYSTEMS AWARD IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION»

Objective

The Prize "Woman Greening Food Systems Award in the Mediterranean Region" recognizes and celebrates the outstanding contributions of the Mediterranean women in promoting sustainable and resilient food systems. The prizes are to recognize and uplift the essential role women play in innovating and transforming sustainable food systems in the Mediterranean region. The award intends to spotlight these women and their initiatives, aiming to augment visibility and thus empowering women across the region to continue their significant contributions towards the future of sustainable and resilient food systems. Beyond this, the award is envisioned to foster further innovation within green food systems and advance gender equality within the food systems sector. PRIMA will award two winners with a recognition prize of 10 000 EUR each.

The "PRIMA Woman Greening Food Systems Award in the Mediterranean Region" will provide the winner of each of the two Prizes with high visibility in the public interest and increased media coverage. The contest's specific rules¹⁸ will be published on the PRIMA website as soon as the PRIMA 2025 calls are public and actively disseminated elsewhere to maximize participation.

Contestants will have to provide proof of eligibility¹⁹ and a written description of their achievements in the "PRIMA Woman Greening Food Systems Award in the Mediterranean Region" field, which will be presented to an independent panel of experts for evaluation.

Eligibility criteria

The contestants for the PRIMA prizes should be at least one legal entity established in a PRIMA PS²⁰. 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 note that participants who have already received an EU or Euratom prize cannot receive a prize under this Work Programme 2025 for the same activities.

¹⁸ The PRIMA Green Food Security Innovation Award rules of contest will be adopted by the Director of PRIMA.IS

¹⁹ The contestants for the PRIMA prizes should be at least one legal entity established in a PRIMA PS. The demonstrated practices must be implemented in the Mediterranean Region

²⁰ The latest information on the PRIMA PS can be found on PRIMA webpage: <http://prima-med.org>

Award criteria

An independent panel of experts will evaluate all eligible applications. The prizes will be awarded, after the closure of the contest, to the contestant(s) who, in the opinion of the panel, best address the following criteria:

In addition to their scientific excellence, the proposed solutions should,

The PRIMA Prize will be awarded to the entry(ies) that best addresses the following cumulative criteria:

Innovative Solutions for Greening Food Systems: Demonstrated implementation of innovative solutions and practices proposed and led by women, specifically aimed at greening food systems in the Mediterranean region. This includes, but not limited to, pioneering approaches in agriculture, food production, and waste reduction that prioritize environmental sustainability, biodiversity conservation, and resource efficiency.

Evidence of Impactful Implementation: Evidence of tangible outcomes resulting from the implementation of proposed solutions, showcasing measurable improvements in sustainability, resilience, and inclusivity within the food and agriculture sector. This could include quantifiable metrics such as reductions in carbon emissions, improvements in soil health, increased biodiversity, or enhanced food security and nutrition outcomes. It is essential to quantify the outcomes via measurable key indicators (for instance, number of beneficiaries and end-users, percentage of efficiency improvement....).

Women Empowerment for Green Food Systems: Active engagement and empowerment of local communities and stakeholders, facilitated by women, in decision-making processes and project implementation specifically within the context of greening food systems. This involves fostering inclusive participation, ensuring equitable access to resources, providing opportunities for capacity building, and promoting leadership roles for women and marginalized groups in initiatives aimed at enhancing the sustainability and resilience of food systems.

Type of action: Recognition prizes

Indicative timetable: Prize contests will be launched in the first quarter of 2025 and remain open until the second quarter of 2025. (Model Rule of Contest (RoC) will be published in PRIMA website at the following link: <https://prima-med.org/woman-greening-award/>).

Amount of prize:

Prize Amount(s): two awards of EUR 10 000 each

Budget of the prizes: EUR 20 000

4.2.3.PRIMA DAY

The PRIMA day is intended as a workshop that will provide a platform for the exchange of experiences, ideas, and best practices related to the successful implementation of the EU Green Deal deliverables such as the Farm to Fork Strategy, Circular Economy Action Plan, and ground-level WEF Nexus practices. Experts and stakeholders will have the opportunity to present and discuss the results and impacts of PRIMA projects, including their success stories, challenges, and opportunities for replication and scaling up. Participants will also discuss how to effectively integrate research and innovation into policy-making and decision-making processes to address the region's most pressing challenges related to water, energy, food, and ecosystems. The workshop will include interactive sessions and discussions that will explore potential solutions, strategies, and actions to accelerate the adoption and implementation of sustainable and resilient practices in the Mediterranean region. Overall, the workshop will provide a unique opportunity for experts and stakeholders to collaborate and learn from each other, share their

experiences and insights, and contribute to the development of practical solutions for the sustainable development of the Mediterranean region.

Type of action: Procurement

Indicative timetable: The event will be organized in the Second Quarter of 2025

Amount: 30.000 EUR

4.2.4. PARTICIPATION AT THE 3TH UNFCCC CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP30)

PRIMA is set to play a pivotal role at the upcoming UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP30), scheduled for November 10 to 21, 2025, in Belém, Pará, Brazil. Collaborating with the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and other regional organizations, PRIMA will establish the [Mediterranean Pavilion](#). (MedPavilion). This Pavilion aims to showcase PRIMA's projects dedicated to climate adaptation and mitigation in the Mediterranean region, highlighting innovative solutions. It marks PRIMA's third consecutive year participating in COPs, forming coalitions with regional entities such as the UfM, International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (Ciheam), Plan Bleu, and ENI CBC MED. By participating in COP 30, PRIMA intends to amplify its impact on the global climate agenda, stressing the importance of regional cooperation in addressing the climate crisis. To enhance visibility, PRIMA plans a series of events within the MedPavilion to foster dialogue and knowledge exchange, promoting collective action toward a sustainable future. The MedPavilion will serve as a dedicated Mediterranean hub, promoting collaboration among public and private sectors, scientific and academic communities, technical experts, policymakers, civil society, finance, and businesses engaged in combating the climate crisis around the Mediterranean Sea. It will function as a coordination and action center, raising awareness about challenges and showcasing advanced solutions in the region. Given the Mediterranean's unique climate challenges and socio-economic disparities, the MedPavilion aims to mitigate regional instability through resilient, equitable, and sustainable solutions. In the spirit of mutual recognition and service, it will support all entities transitioning the Mediterranean region toward climate resilience and sustainability. The MedPavilion invites participation from public institutions, civil society organizations, and private sector entities committed to catalyzing a sustainable transition through collaborative and scalable innovation.

Type of action: Procurement

Indicative timetable: The event will be organized in the Third Quarter of 2025 in the frame of the 30th Conference of the Parties under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), scheduled to take place from November 10 to 21, 2025, in Belém, Pará, Brazil.

Amount: 40.000 EUR

5. SECTION 2

5.1. SECTION 2: ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY PRIMA-IS AND FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL FUNDING BODIES OF PS

5.1.1. ACTIVITIES FOLLOWING TRANSNATIONAL CALLS ORGANISED BY PRIMA-IS AND FUNDED BY THE PRIMA PARTICIPANT STATES

Activities managed by PRIMA-IS and funded by PS are evaluated and selected based on the [Rules for Participation of Horizon Europe](#) following open calls for proposals centrally managed by the PRIMA-IS according to a single-stage submission process. Such activities are funded in line with **Applicable common principles to all the actions and activities**.

Each applicant must comply with the national funding agency's **regulations** supporting the programme²¹. Before submitting a proposal, the applicant should check the funding rates and eligible costs in the **national regulations** and contact the relevant [National Contact Points \(NCPs\)](#) for any doubts regarding Section 2 calls for proposals. Grant agreements will be signed between participants and relevant national funding bodies following national rules (See **Section 2 General Annexes** of this document).

PRIMA Section 2 call, funded by the PS, will be a single multi-topic call that includes R&I activities encompassing all TRL (3-7); however, funding activities with TRL (6-8) will depend on **national funding regulations**. If not explicitly indicated in the national regulations, the applicant should contact the relevant NCP.

PRIMA WP 2025 provides information about calls for proposals to be managed by the PRIMA-IS, including the challenge, scope and expected impacts, eligibility requirements and other conditions for applying.

Detailed supporting information about the evaluation, selection and granting process, suitable types of grant agreements and funding levels are summarised under each call topic, described in more detail in the **Section 2 General Annexes** of this document and the **national funding rules**.

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) 2024/1167], Part One of Title VIII of the Financial Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and the Council (the 'Financial Regulation') and Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council, in particular the principles of equal treatment, transparency, independent peer-review evaluation and selection.

The Section 2 call will be launched in a single-stage submission process. PRIMA-IS will be responsible for evaluating proposals conducted with rules based on H2020 rules in a peer review process with a panel that will rank the proposals.

Admissibility and eligibility of proposals will be first checked by the PRIMA-IS according to the conditions indicated respectively in **General Annexes A — Admissibility** and **B — Eligibility** of this document, 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 the evaluation process. However, in the event of a negative outcome of verifying eligibility for funding of

²¹ 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, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBWF) and Project Management Agency Karlsruhe (PTKA), Greece, General Secretariat for Research and Technology (GSRT), Israel, Israel Innovation Authority (IIA) and Ministry of Science & Technology, 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 Research Fund (FNR), Malta, Xjenza Malta (XM), Morocco, State Secretariat for Higher Education and Scientific Research, Portugal, Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), Slovenia, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Spain, Centro para el Desarrollo Tecnológico Industrial, (CDTI) and Agencia Estatal de Investigación (AEI), Tunisia, Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique (MESRS), Turkey, The Scientific And Technological Research Council Of Turkey (TUBITAK).

any participant in the applicant consortium, 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 to guarantee that the highest quality projects will be funded. If one or more projects cannot be funded (if 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 in General Annexes **F - Procedure** Evaluation procedure and ranking and **Funding decision**.

In Section 2, the beneficiaries must sign a grant agreement directly with their national funding bodies to receive the funds. PRIMA Section 2 call will address the topics described in **Section 6.1.1.1.** below (according to national priorities) and the cross-cutting issues among them. Research projects can address cross-cutting issues between two topics as long as they are both eligible for funding by the partner countries.

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.

Depending on the research question addressed, projects should deliver tangible outputs and enhance technological and social innovation. The projects could include innovative technologies like artificial intelligence, smart digital technologies, space data, and big data analysis. When explicitly allowed by the funding bodies' national regulations, 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.

5.1.1.1. SECTION 2 CALLS TOPICS

1 Thematic Area 1-Water management in the Nexus

Topic 2.1.1-2025 (RIA*²²) Enhancing Policy Development through Impact-Driven Water Footprint and Virtual Water Concepts in the Mediterranean Region

2 Thematic Area 2-Farming systems in the Nexus

Topic 2.2.1-2025 (RIA*²³) Upscaling Agroecology Practices at the Farm Level in the Mediterranean

1 Thematic Area 3-Food value chain in the Nexus

Topic 2.3.1-2025 (RIA*²⁴) Towards a Plant-Based Protein Transition in the Mediterranean Region

^{22, 31, 32} 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 based on 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](#).

Thematic Area 1-Water management in the Nexus



THEMATIC AREA WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE NEXUS

Topic 2.1.1-2025 (RIA*)	Enhancing Policy Development through Impact-Driven Water Footprint and Virtual Water Concepts in the Mediterranean Region
Alignment with EU policies	European Green Deal EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) New Nature restoration law

Call Specific Conditions

Expected EU contribution per project	PRIMA considers that proposals requesting a contribution of at least EUR 1.5 million would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submitting and selecting proposals requesting other amounts or duration, following national regulations.
Duration	PRIMA considers that proposals with a duration of 36 months would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submitting and selecting proposals with different durations.
Type of Action	<i>Type of action</i> <i>Research & Innovation Activities (RIA*)</i>
Technology Readiness levels (TRL)	Proposals should clearly state the starting and end TRLs of the key technology or technologies targeted in the project.
Eligibility conditions	<p>Please refer to section General Annexes B- Eligibility for the List of countries eligible for funding. Due to the specific challenge of this topic, in addition to the minimum number of participants set out in the standard eligibility conditions (section 5.2.3), consortia must include at least an additional legal entity established in a Mediterranean Partner Country (MPC) as defined in section, Eligibility.</p> <p>In addition to the standard admissibility and eligibility conditions (please refer to section Section 2, A Admissibility and Section 2, B Eligibility and section in this document), the following additional eligibility condition applies: each applicant must check its own eligibility for participation/funding in accordance with their national funding agencies.</p>
Grant Agreements	<p>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 Provisions concerning implementation).</p> <p>The coordinator of the project has to decide with his/her partners of a common starting date and send this information to all the funding bodies involved in funding this project in order to ensure that the national grant agreements are synchronized in time to cover all the period of the project.</p>
Submission and evaluation procedure	The call will be organised according to a single-stage submission process. A full proposal (maximum 45 pages) must be submitted according to the timeline for submitting application. A timeline for submitting and evaluating applications can be found in Section 2 Calls Calendar
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 agreements, so it is necessary to refer to the national regulations and draft the consortium agreement, accordingly (section 5.2.11).
PRIMA specific KPIs	Horizontal Impact: Number of national policies and regulations on water management assessed Number of new governance and management models in line with PRIMA objectives

Expected Outcome: In line with the European Green Deal priorities, notably the EU climate adaptation

strategy and the EU's climate mitigation ambition for 2030 and 2050, Water Framework Directive EU, Water Scarcity and Droughts Policy, the EU Circular Economy Action Plan, the successful proposals will support the development of policies based on water footprint and virtual water concept.

Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- National policies on water management decisions are revised based on the water footprint concept;
- Connecting the water footprint with the water-energy-food-ecosystems Nexus concept and its added value in the Mediterranean region;
- Strengthen resilience to climate change impacts by integrating water footprint considerations into adaptation strategies;
- Economic benefits of reducing water footprints, including cost savings from improved water efficiency and potential revenue from sustainable water use practices;
- Facilitate a dialogue among city regulators, water utilities, communities, and stakeholders, to exchange best practices and lessons learned in managing water footprints.

Scope: Recognizing the limitations of traditional water footprint and virtual water concepts as purely quantitative measures, this topic emphasizes integrating impact assessments into policy development processes in the Mediterranean region. This is critical given the region's semi-arid to arid conditions, limited freshwater resources, and escalating water demands across sectors such as agriculture, industry, and tourism, compounded by climate change impacts. Central to this approach is the establishment of clear limits not only for managing blue water resources but specifically for blue water consumption. These limits are essential for guiding sustainable water governance and resource management practices. By incorporating impact-driven considerations, policymakers can better identify areas of water stress and prioritize sustainable water management practices. This involves assessing not only the quantity of water used but also its source, quality, and broader environmental and socio-economic implications. The aim is to promote policies that ensure equitable and efficient water use, mitigate environmental degradation, and enhance resilience to climate-related challenges. Furthermore, considering the transboundary nature of water resources in the Mediterranean, collaborative approaches to policy development are essential to address cross-border water issues effectively.

The successful proposals should:

- Evaluate national policies and regulations on water management decisions from the perspective of water footprint
- Analyse virtual water trade to manage the impacts of cross-border product trade on water resources and external shocks. Water scarcity footprint should be assessed for local and imported agricultural products.
- Analyse, through case studies, the green, blue water and grey footprints at river basins with a focus on the main strategic crops and breeds.
- Model and predict future changes and trends in water footprint and virtual water trade, considering their broader impacts.
- Recommend institutional and regulatory reforms guided by impact-driven water footprint and virtual water concepts.
- Establishment of a Water Footprint Network in Mediterranean countries

Proposals are encouraged to collaborate with other PRIMA and EU funded projects, by participating in joint and common communication and dissemination activities. Proposals should encourage collaboration and complementarity with other PRIMA-funded projects including a dedicated task, with appropriate resources. Collaboration is also encouraged with other Horizon Europe and

relevant EU partnerships and EU Missions.



Thematic Area 2-Farming systems in the Nexus

Topic 2.2.1-2025 (RIA*)	<i>Upscaling Agroecology Practices at the Farm Level in the Mediterranean</i>
Alignment with SRIA	Thematic Area 2 - Operational Objective 4 - Research Priority 2 - Cross-Cutting: Digital Technologies
Alignment with EU policies	European Green Deal Biodiversity Strategy Farm to Fork Strategy Circular Economy Action Plan Water Reuse Regulation New post-2020 (2022) CAP New EU Forest Strategy for 2030 Nature restoration law
Call Specific Conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	PRIMA considers that proposals requesting a contribution of at least EUR 1.5 million would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submitting and selecting proposals requesting other amounts or duration, following national regulations.
Duration	PRIMA considers that proposals with a duration of 36 months would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submitting and selecting proposals with different durations.
Type of Action	<i>Type of action Research & Innovation Activities (RIA*)</i>
Technology Readiness levels (TRL)	Proposals should clearly state the starting and end TRLs of the key technology or technologies targeted in the project.
Eligibility conditions	<p>Please refer to section General Annexes B- Eligibility for the List of countries eligible for funding. Due to the specific challenge of this topic, in addition to the minimum number of participants set out in the standard eligibility conditions (section 5.2.3), consortia must include at least an additional legal entity established in a Mediterranean Partner Country (MPC) as defined in section, Eligibility.</p> <p>In addition to the standard admissibility and eligibility conditions (please refer to section Section 2, A Admissibility and Section 2, B Eligibility and section in this document), the following additional eligibility condition applies: each applicant must check its own eligibility for participation/funding in accordance with their national funding agencies.</p>
Grant Agreements	<p>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 Provisions concerning implementation).</p> <p>The coordinator of the project has to decide with his/her partners of a common starting date and send this information to all the funding bodies involved in funding this project in order to ensure that the national grant agreements are synchronized in time to cover all the period of the project.</p>
Submission and evaluation	The call will be organised according to a single-stage submission process. A full proposal (maximum 45 pages) must be submitted according to the timeline for submitting application

procedure	A timeline for submitting and evaluating applications can be found in Section 2, Calls Calendar
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 agreements, so it is necessary to refer to the national regulations and draft the consortium agreement, accordingly (section 5.2.11).
PRIMA specific KPIs	<p><u>Economic Impact:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Sustainable nexus-based agricultural practices introduced</u> - Number of crops and farming systems impacted - Innovative solutions supporting PRIMA objectives at TRL5. <p><u>Social Impact:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Engagement Index²⁵ - Adoption Rate of Agroecological Practices²⁶ - Number of multi-actor collaborations established for supporting PRIMA objectives <p><u>Environmental Impact:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Total hectares impacted by the introduction of sustainable practices - Agroecological Resilience Index²⁷ <p><u>Horizontal Impact:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of new/updated policies and regulations supporting PRIMA objectives adopted - <u>Number of Key Exploitable Results (KERs) reused from PRIMA, Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe, and other relevant EU funded initiatives</u>

Expected Outcome:

Aligned with the [European Green Deal](#), [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#), [EU Climate Adaptation Strategy](#), [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#), the [Common Agricultural Policy](#), in consistency with the EU [Mission "A Soil Deal for Europe"](#), this call for proposals aims to enhance the adoption and effective implementation of agroecology practices at the farm level throughout the Mediterranean region. Successful proposals will demonstrate potential to drive significant advancements in sustainable farming, contributing to the ecological resilience and economic viability of the region's agricultural sector.

Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Increased understanding, adoption, and implementation of agroecological practices, with a focus on small-scale farmers.
- Generation of evidence showcasing agroecology's potential in addressing climate change through mitigation and adaptation, highlighting its climate neutrality, biodiversity impact, and capacity to enhance farm socio-economic resilience.
- Formulation of policy recommendations aimed at supporting the scaling up of agroecology practices that should recognize the pivotal role of state regulations and support alongside business models. These recommendations should encompass a range of incentives, regulations, subsidies, and other policy instruments to foster sustainable agriculture and environmental conservation effectively.

²⁵ Community Engagement Index: This index would measure the level of participation and involvement of local communities in agroecology initiatives. It could include indicators such as the number of community members actively engaged in decision-making processes related to farming practices, the frequency of community meetings or workshops held, and the extent of collaboration between farmers, researchers, NGOs, and other stakeholders.

²⁶ Adoption Rate of Agroecological Practices Measure the percentage of farmers within a community who have adopted agroecology practices following capacity-building initiatives. This KPI would reflect the effectiveness of training programs in inspiring behavioural change and promoting the uptake of sustainable farming methods.

²⁷ This index would measure the resilience of agroecological systems to climate variability and extreme weather events. It could be calculated based on factors such as the ability of agroecological practices to maintain stable yields during periods of drought or excessive rainfall, the capacity of soil to retain moisture and nutrients, and the diversity of crops and farming practices employed.

- Implementation of scalable and cost-effective carbon measurement and verification methods tailored to agroecological practices.

Scope: Agroecology offers a comprehensive approach that blends ecological principles, traditional knowledge, and innovative techniques to enhance biodiversity, soil health, water conservation, and climate resilience. It simultaneously supports food security and livelihoods. There is an urgent call to expand agroecological practices by integrating diverse cultivation methods and interdisciplinary approaches, including leveraging microbial technologies to boost soil health and crop yields. It is crucial to develop sustainable business models that ensure profitability for small farmers, addressing challenges such as organic certification costs, market dynamics, and the need for cohesive legislation supporting micro and small enterprises. Policy recommendations should be formulated to facilitate widespread adoption of agroecology, emphasizing biodiversity conservation and the protection of endangered species in agricultural policies and practices.

Proposed activities should cover all of the following aspects

- Providing a methodology that facilitates the identification of optimal combinations of agroecological practices and strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change, while also preserving biodiversity and enhancing farm profitability.
- Emphasizing the implementation of scalable and cost-effective methods for measuring and verifying carbon sequestration efforts, empowering farmers to accurately quantify and monetize their contributions to carbon reduction.
- The proposed practices should cover a diverse range of crops and farming systems encompassing both conventional and organic practices.
- Piloting innovative mechanisms to assist farmers in transitioning to agroecological practices.
- Establishing Living Laboratories, including setting up demonstration plots, conducting participatory research with farmers, and hosting training sessions and workshops. These labs will be key to fast-tracking the adoption of agroecology practices, emphasizing microbiological solutions, with the aim of achieving targeted objectives across farms. This includes supporting and increasing plant yields and their resistance to diseases, reducing the use of artificial pesticides and fertilizers, minimizing food waste, and decreasing emissions of greenhouse gases.
- Developing strategies for scaling out and scaling up agroecology practices beyond the project's geographical area and duration. This involves identifying pathways for scaling, leveraging existing networks and institutions, and creating enabling environments for sustainable agricultural development.
- Proposal should adopt a **'Multi-actor approach'** to ensure significant involvement of the farming sector in decision-making and implementation processes.
- Proposals should encourage collaboration and complementarity with other Horizon Europe relevant projects including a dedicated task, appropriate resources, and a plan for collaborating with other PRIMA-funded projects with similar thematic focus and with the [Mission "A Soil deal for Europe"](#). In particular, proposals should include dedicated tasks and appropriate resources for coordination measures and joint activities with relevant projects funded by the Mission.²⁸
- PRIMA encourage also collaboration and complementarity with other Horizon Europe relevant projects or initiatives funded by European Partnerships such as the new [EU Partnership on](#)

²⁸ Here some indicative examples of specific activities that a project could undertake to build links with the Mission "A Soil Deal for Europe" and collaborate effectively with relevant projects funded by the Mission: Joint Workshops and Seminars: with the Mission to discuss soil health, sustainable agriculture, and policy development. Invite Mission-funded projects to participate and share insights. /Data Sharing and Integration: Collaborate on sharing soil data, research findings, and analysis tools with the Mission. /Policy Advocacy: Form a task force to align project goals

[Agroecology](#) 'Accelerating Farming Systems Transition: Agroecology Living Labs and Research Infrastructures'²⁹

²⁹ In particular projects funded under the Agroecology Partnership 2024 call: [Fostering agroecology at farm and landscape levels](#)"

Thematic Area 3-Food value chain in the Nexus



Thematic Area 3-Food value chain in the Nexus

Topic 2.3.1 RIA*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Towards a Plant-Based Protein Transition in the Mediterranean Region
Alignment with SRIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic area 3, Operational Objective 6/ NUTRITION AND HEALTH To innovate in the Mediterranean food products based on Mediterranean diet heritage and to enhance the links between nutrition, physical activity and health • Research priority 1 Valorising food products from traditional Mediterranean diet
Alignment with EU Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm to Fork Strategy • European Green Deal • Biodiversity strategy, • common agricultural policy, • The EU regulation on novel foods, the updated bioeconomy strategy³⁰, • the protein plan, the upcoming Commission report on plant proteins for a sustainable food system, Commission communication – A clean planet for all: A European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy • Commission communication – Safeguarding food security and reinforcing the resilience of food systems.
Call Specific Conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	PRIMA considers that proposals requesting a contribution of at least EUR 1.5 million would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submitting and selecting proposals requesting other amounts or duration, following national regulations.
Duration	PRIMA considers that proposals with a duration of 36 months would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submitting and selecting proposals with different durations.
Type of Action	<i>Type of action</i> Research & Innovation Activities (RIA*)
Technology Readiness levels (TRL)	Proposals should clearly state the starting and end TRLs of the key technology or technologies targeted in the project.
Eligibility conditions	<p>Please refer to section General Annexes B- Eligibility for the List of countries eligible for funding. Due to the specific challenge of this topic, in addition to the minimum number of participants set out in the standard eligibility conditions (section 5.2.3), consortia must include at least an additional legal entity established in a Mediterranean Partner Country (MPC) as defined in section, Eligibility.</p> <p>In addition to the standard admissibility and eligibility conditions (please refer to section Section 2, A Admissibility and Section 2, B Eligibility and section in this document), the following additional eligibility condition applies: each applicant must check its own eligibility for participation/funding in accordance with their national funding agencies.</p>

³⁰ Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions EU Bioeconomy Strategy Progress Report European Bioeconomy policy: stocktaking and future development

Grant Agreements	<p>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 Provisions concerning implementation).</p> <p>The coordinator of the project has to decide with his/her partners of a common starting date and send this information to all the funding bodies involved in funding this project in order to ensure that the national grant agreements are synchronized in time to cover all the period of the project.</p>
Submission and evaluation procedure	<p>The call will be organised according to a single-stage submission process. A full proposal (maximum 45 pages) must be submitted according to the timeline for submitting application</p> <p>A timeline for submitting and evaluating applications can be found in Section 2,Calls Calendar</p>
Consortium agreement	<p>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 agreements, so it is necessary to refer to the national regulations and draft the consortium agreement, accordingly (section 5.2.11).</p>
PRIMA specific KPIs	<p>Economic Impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of local/vertical food systems impacted - Innovative solutions supporting PRIMA objectives at TRL5. <p>Social Impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of consumers/final users engaged - Participants in PRIMA specific capacity building initiatives - Number of multi-actor collaborations established for supporting PRIMA objectives <p>Environmental Impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GHG avoided emissions per year (CO₂, CH₄, N₂O) <p>Horizontal Impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of new/updated policies and regulations supporting PRIMA objectives adopted - Number of Key Exploitable Results (KERs) reused from PRIMA, Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe, and other relevant EU funded initiatives

Expected Outcome: Aligned with the European Green Deal priorities, the farm-to-fork strategy for a fair, healthy, and environmentally friendly food system, and the EU's climate ambitions for 2030 and 2050, the successful proposal will support research and innovation initiatives aimed at promoting and facilitating the adoption of plant-based proteins in their diets. This endeavour is closely linked to the Food 2030 pathway "Nutrition and Sustainable Healthy Diets." It entails enhancing our understanding of the drivers influencing consumption choices in the Southern Mediterranean Countries and, consequently, gauging consumer acceptance before introducing plant-based protein to the market.

Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

Scope: The call aims to support research and development initiatives targeting sustainable dietary practices, particularly within the Mediterranean region. Driven by pressing environmental concerns, health considerations, cultural significance, and the imperative of ensuring food security, this initiative aligns closely with critical policy directives such as the European Green Deal and Farm to Fork Strategy. Given the importance of addressing environmental degradation and health challenges, interventions promoting plant-based diets are paramount. By backing projects that advocate for plant-based eating, mitigate environmental impacts, and preserve cultural heritage, the goal is to address significant challenges while promoting resilience, well-being, and sustainability. Culturally sensitive strategies are essential to effectively address the obstacles encountered by Mediterranean consumers, acknowledging the region's diverse culinary heritage and emphasizing the health and environmental benefits of plant-based diets.

Proposed activities should cover all of the following aspects:

- Develop technologies, formulation techniques, and processes to enhance the acceptability, affordability, availability, and sustainability of products based on alternative plant-based proteins. Attention should be given to optimizing food composition and processing methods to improve product quality and appeal.
- Conduct research on allergenicity and food intolerance related to various diets sources, with a focus on the Mediterranean region. This entails identifying potential allergens and evaluating their impact on consumer health and safety.
- Evaluate the nutritional adequacy, digestibility, and sensory quality of alternative proteins, with a specific focus on vulnerable population groups. This may involve conducting sensory panels, nutritional analyses, and digestion studies to assess overall quality and suitability.
- Investigate the influence of media, including social media, and education on consumer behaviour and dietary choices, particularly regarding the adoption of diets based on alternative protein sources. Analyse media trends, consumer attitudes, and educational initiatives promoting plant-rich diets.
- Strengthen education, communication, awareness, and access to information regarding food systems and dietary shifts. Initiatives such as clear labelling, educational campaigns, and community outreach programs aim to promote understanding and awareness of sustainable food choices.
- Embrace a 'multi-actor approach' by involving diverse stakeholders, particularly consumers, through collaboration with consumer organizations, national ministries, local authorities, producer organizations, academia, research centres, the private sector, and civil society.
- Incorporate dedicated tasks, sufficient resources, and collaborative plans with other PRIMA-funded projects on related field³¹ to promote cross-project cooperation, consultations, and joint activities addressing common issues. Commitment to sharing results and participating in collective meetings and communication events is essential.
- Encourage collaboration and complementarity with other Horizon Europe projects and European Partnerships to maximize synergies and collective impact in promoting sustainable dietary practices and Mediterranean food system transformation.

³¹ LOCALNUTLEG, OIPROMED, ProxiMed, ADVAGROMED

5.1.1.2. SECTION 2, CALLS CALENDAR

The PRIMA-IS will do the admissibility and eligibility check after each deadline for submission and before the evaluation takes place, followed by an eligibility check by the national funding agencies according to their [national regulations](#).

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.

TABLE 6 TIMETABLE FOR SECTION 2 CALL FOR PROPOSALS IN 2025

THEMATIC AREA	CALL TOPICS	Call publication and opening	Submission deadline	Evaluation results
Water management	Topic 2.1.1	10.03.2025	01.07.2025	02.12.2025
Farming systems	Topic 2.2.1	10.03.2025	01.07.2025	02.12.2025
Agri-food value chain	Topic 2.3.1	10.03.2025	01.07.2025	02.12.2025

5.2. SECTION 2 ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING PROGRAMME OPERATIONS FUNDED AND IMPLEMENTED BY PRIMA

This section refers to the PS's costs for managing projects resulting from the calls managed 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 2025 the total amount of these contributions must not exceed EUR 1 924 860.

6. 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 two types of activities:

- Participant 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 Applicable common principles) be included in the Annual Work Plan by PRIMA-IS after obtaining approval from the Commission.
- “Other Activities” supporting programme operations funded and implemented by PS. They support programme operations and constitute an integral part of the PRIMA programme.

6.1. SECTION 3, PARTICIPATING STATES INITIATED ACTIVITIES (PSIAs)

Decision (EU) 2024/1167 provides that PRIMA activities may include activities under the Participating States' national programmes, including transnational projects. These 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 upon by the Participating States and the European Commission, taking into account the principles set out in the Decision (EU) 2024/1167, 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 (See [section on common principles](#) of this document).

The Participating States Initiated Activities (PSIAs) listed below gather activities under the national programmes of PS. These activities are national calls for research and innovation, training actions and/or support for 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 WP 2025 are aligned with PRIMA objectives according to the assessment of external international experts.

All participants in 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.

TABLE 7 . PARTICIPATING STATES INITIATED ACTIVITIES IN 2025

#	Code	Activity title	Keyword	Type of action	PS involved
1	ES.2025.1	AEI Annual Action Plan 2025	Research Networks, R+D+I Projects tackling Social Challenges	RIA, IA, Training action Joint research project	ES- AEI
2	ES.2025.2	National R/D continuous open Call	Water management, Agrifood value chain, Farming Systems	IA	ES - CDTI
3	FR-2025 -1	Research Projects funded by ANR under the Annual National Call for proposals (AAPG) or other specific Calls on PRIMA related issues	Water management, Agrifood value chain, Farming Systems	RIA	FR - ANR
4	IL.2025.1	German-Israeli Water Technology Cooperation Bilateral R&D programme	Water management	RIA, IA	IL, DE
5	MT.2025.1	PRIMA Participating States Calls for proposals supporting PRIMA	Water management, Agrifood value chain, Farming Systems	RIA, IA,	MT, all PS
6	MT.2025.2	PRIMA Participating States Calls for Proposals supporting PRIMA	Water management, Agrifood value chain, Farming Systems	Mobility, Joint Research Project	MT
7	MT.2025.3	PRIMA Networking Support Scheme (NET2PRIMA)	PRIMA Networking Support Scheme (NET2PRIMA)		MT
8	TR.2025.1	PRIMA Participating States Calls for proposals supporting PRIMA	Water management, Agrifood value chain, Farming Systems	RIA, IA, Scholarship Mobility, Joint Research Project	TR, all PS

6.2. SECTION 3, ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING PROGRAMME OPERATION FUNDED AND IMPLEMENTED BY PS: "OTHER ACTIVITIES."

No other activities presented

7. BUDGET OVERVIEW 2025

7.1. PARTICIPATING STATES FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION FOR SECTION 2 ACTIVITIES

TABLE 8 INDICATIVE PRIMA PS PLANNED FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR SECTION 2 IN ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2025 IN EUR*

* Wherever relevant, local currencies have been converted into EUR using official exchange rates.

PRIMA Participating State	Funding Agency	Financial annual commitment per National Funding Agency	Financial annual commitment per PS
	Acronym	(EUR)	(EUR)
Algeria	DGRST	2,000,000	2,000,000
Bulgaria	MIG	250,000	500,000
	MES	250,000	
Croatia	MSE	500,000	500,000
Cyprus	RIF	400,000	400,000
Egypt	ASRT	1,530,000	1,530,000
France	ANR	4,000,000	4,000,000
Germany	BMBF	2,850,000	2,850,000
Greece	GSRI	1,600,000	1,600,000
Israel	MOST	500,000	500,000
Italy	MUR	7,000,000	7,000,000
Jordan	HCST	330,000	455,000
	SRSF	125,000	
Lebanon	CNRS-L	100,000	100,000
Luxembourg	FNR	240,000	240,000
Malta	XM	500,000	500,000
Morocco	MESRSFC	2,000,000	2,000,000
Portugal	FCT	1,226,000	1,226,000
Slovenia	ARSS	100,000	100,000
Spain	AEI	3,000,000	4,250,000
	CDTI	1,250,000	
Tunisia	MESRS	1,330,000	1,330,000
Turkey	TUBITAK	1,000,000	1,000,000
		32,081,000	32,081,000

IMPORTANT NOTE: The financial contributions from PRIMA PS for WP 2025 are provided based on a formal commitment letter signed yearly by the competent authorities of the PRIMA Funding Agencies involved.

The figures in the table have been included according to the financial commitment provided by the Countries to EC.

TABLE 9. PARTICIPATING STATES FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION FOR SECTION 3 ACTIVITIES

#	Code	PS involved	PS indicative commitment (in EUR)
1	ES.2025.1	SPAIN - AEI	14 500 000
2	ES.2025.2	SPAIN - CDTI	30 000 000
3	FR.2025.1	FRANCE - ANR	1 500 000
4	IL2025.1	IL - DE	250 000
5	MT.2025.1	MT, all PS	300 000
6	MT.2025.2	MT	25 000
7	MT.2025.3	MT	10 000
8	TR.2025.1	TR, all PS	75 000
TOTAL			46 660 000

7.2. EU CONTRIBUTION ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

In 2025, the administrative costs of the PRIMA-IS for implementing the PRIMA programme are

1. Personnel Costs:

- Totalling €1,449,448, this figure encompasses not only salaries but also social security costs for personnel roles within the program. These roles include the Director, Deputy Director, Project Coordinator, five Project Officers, Legal Officer, Accounting and Finance Manager, Account and Finance Officer, Monitoring Officer, two administrative assistants and an IT officer.

2. Meetings and Missions:

- This segment commands €138,000, covering essential gatherings such as those of the Board of Trustees, Steering Committee, and staff travel and accommodation expenses.

3. Consumables and Supplies:

- With a budget of €58,452, this category encompasses a spectrum of items including office consumables, taxes, software licenses, bank charges, repairs, maintenance, and depreciation of equipment.

4. Service Contracts:

- Amounting to €104,100, service contracts constitute a pivotal aspect of administrative expenditure. These contracts encompass various critical services such as foundation audit fees for compliance reporting, payroll, labour, fiscal services, professional services, maintenance, back-office support for software, external assessments, and communication-related expenses including graphic layout.

TABLE 10 ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

Category	Amount
Personnel Costs	1.191.962
Social Security Costs	247.525
Training Cost	9.960
Total personnel costs	1.449.448

Here's the breakdown of personnel costs for the PRIMA programme in 2025,

- Personnel Costs: This category pertains to the aggregate remuneration disbursed to personnel directly engaged in the operational and administrative costs of the PRIMA programme. The provision for base salaries amounts to EUR **1.449.448**.

- Social Security Costs: Complementary to base salaries, social security expenses constitute mandatory contributions mandated by Spanish regulatory frameworks. The allocation for social security costs totals EUR 247.525, encompassing employer obligations related to statutory social insurance schemes and contributions towards retirement, healthcare, and other social welfare provisions.

- Training Cost: A designated allocation of EUR 9,960 is apportioned towards training and development initiatives tailored to augment the competencies and proficiencies of program personnel.

Description	Amount
Personnel	1,449,448
- Salaries and social costs for specified personnel	1,449,448
Meetings and missions	138,000
- Meetings of the Board of Trustees, Steering Committee, etc.	54,000
- Administrative Staff travel and accommodation costs	84,000
Consumables and supplies	58,452
- Office consumables & stationery	8,200
- Taxes	2,000
- Software licenses	14,000
- Bank charges	7,200
- Repairs and maintenance	1,800
- Depreciation	25,452
Service contracts	104,100
- Foundation audit fees (reporting to the EC and annual accounts)	11,000
- Payroll, Labour and Fiscal services	15,000
- Other professional services	3,100
- Maintenance and back-office support for software	36,000
- Communication budget and graphic layout	39,000
Total Administrative Costs	1,750,000

TABLE 11 OVERVIEW OF PLANNED EU CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS PRIMA CALLS FOR PROPOSALS IN 2025 AND ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME

	EU-funded PRIMA activities	Indicative EU contribution (in EUR)
Research & Innovation Actions	Section 1 Call 1	12,000,000
	Section 1 Call 2	12,000,000
	Section 1 Call 3	8,760,000
Other Activities	Activities for supporting the implementation of the programme including Prizes, Monitoring and evaluation, PRIMA day, COP 30.	490,000
Administrative costs of the PRIMA-IS	Personnel, Missions, Consumables and supplies,	
	Service contracts	1,750,000
	Total planned contributions in 2025	35,000,000

TABLE 12 OVERVIEW OF PLANNED COMMITMENTS TO ACTIVITIES OF THE PRIMA PROGRAMME 2025 BY THE EU AND PS

Activities	Contributions (in €)		
	EU	PS	Grand Total
EU funded Transnational Calls for Proposals IA (Section 1)	32,800,000		32,760,000
Participating States Transnational co-funded Call for Proposals, managed by PRIMA-IS (Section 2)		32,081,000	
Sub total transnational calls	32,800,000	32,081,000	64,841,000
Evaluation of Projects & Monitoring	400,000		400,000
PRIMA Prizes	20,000		20,000
PRIMA day	30,000		30,000
COP 30 Participation	40,000		40,000
Sub-total activities supporting programme operations	490,000		490,000
Participating States funded activities managed by PS to support programme implementation		-	-
PS contributions dedicated to the implementation of proposals resulting from PS funded calls		1,924,860	1,924,860
Participating States Initiated Activities		46,660,000	46,660,000
Sub-Total Implementation	33,250,000	80,665,860	113,915,860
EU-funded administrative costs of PRIMA-IS	1,750,000		1,750,000
Sub-Total Administration	1,750,000		1,750,000
Total Budget	35,000,000	80,665,860	115,665,860

TABLE 13 DETAILED OVERVIEW OF PLANNED COMMITMENTS TO ACTIVITIES OF THE PRIMA PROGRAMME IN 2025

Planned commitments (in €)						
	Programme CALLS	PRIMA-IS administrative costs	PS management costs	Activities supporting programme operations	PSIAs	Total in 2024
	Financial contributions	Financial contributions	In-kind contributions	Financial Contributions	Financial contribution	
European Union (EU)						
European Commission	32,760,000	1,750,000		490,000		35,000,000
Sub-Total EU	32,760,000	1,750,000	-	490,000		35,000,000
Participating States (PS)						
Algeria	2,000,000		120,000			2,120,000
Bulgaria	500,000		30,000			530,000
Croatia	500,000		30,000			530,000
Cyprus	400,000		24,000			424,000
Egypt	1,530,000		91,800			1,621,800
France	4,000,000		240,000		1,500,000	4,240,000
Germany	2,850,000		171,000			3,021,000
Greece	1,600,000		96,000			1,696,000
Israel	500,000		30,000		250,000	780,000
Italy	7,000,000		420,000			7,420,000
Jordan	455,000		27,300			482,300
Lebanon	100,000		6,000			106,000
Luxembourg	240,000		14,400			254,400
Malta	500,000		30,000		335,000	865,000
Morocco	2,000,000		120,000			2,120,000
Portugal	1,226,000		73,560			1,299,560
Slovenia	100,000		6,000			106,000
Spain	4,250,000		255,000		44,500,000	49,005,000
Tunisia	1,330,000		79,800			1,409,800
Turkey	1,000,000		60,000		75,000	1,135,000

Work Programme 2025

20.06.2024

Sub-Total PSs	32,081,000	-	1,924,860	-	46,660,000	80,665,860
Sub-Total EU and PSs	64,881,000	1,750,000	1,924,860	490,000	46,660,000	115,665,860
Grand Total	64,881,000	1,750,000	1,924,860	490,000	46,660,000	115,665,860

8. GENERAL ANNEXES

8.1. SECTION 1 – TRANSNATIONAL CALLS AND PRIZES ORGANISED AND FUNDED BY THE PRIMA-IS (EUROPEAN UNION CONTRIBUTION)

8.1.1.A — ADMISSIBILITY

For all actions under Work Programme 2025, proposals must comply with the admissibility requirements set out in this sub-section unless supplemented or modified in the call conditions.

Applications must be submitted before the **call deadline**.

Applications must be **complete** and contain all parts and mandatory Annexes and supporting documents.

Part I: Administrative data

Part II: Technical annex

Main administrative data, comprising Part I, and the technical annex (Part II) should be uploaded to the PRIMA Electronic Submission System (ESS). Follow instructions in the [ESS Handbook](#).

The submission link will be announced on the PRIMA website in the corresponding [call section](#), and will be open one month before the deadline for submission.

The structure and presentation of the Part II, must align with the instructions provided in the PRIMA Call Templates available for download from the PRIMA website under the relevant [call section](#).

Paper submissions are NOT possible.

Applications must be **readable, accessible** and **printable**.

Applications must include **a plan for the exploitation and dissemination of results including communication activities**³², unless provided otherwise in the specific call conditions. If the expected exploitation of the results entails developing, creating, manufacturing and marketing a product or process, or in creating and providing a service, the plan must include a strategy for such exploitation.

Page limits

In addition to the above admissibility conditions, page limits will apply to parts of applications.

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

³² Exploitation and Dissemination obligations under article 39 of the REGULATION (EU) 2021/695 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013

Unless provided otherwise in the specific call conditions, **the limit for a full application is 45 pages.**

8.1.2.B — ELIGIBILITY

Entities eligible to participate ^{33,34,35}

Any legal entity, regardless of its place of establishment, including legal entities from non-associated third countries or international organizations (including international European research organizations³⁶) is eligible to participate (whether it is eligible for funding or not), provided that the conditions laid down in the Horizon Europe Regulation³⁷, and any derogations to these as specified in the European Parliament and Council amending Decision (EU) 2024/1167 as regards the continuation of the Union's participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) under Horizon Europe have been met, along with any other conditions laid down in the specific call topic.

A 'legal entity' means any natural or legal person created and recognized as such under national law, EU law or international law, which has legal personality and which may, acting in its own name, exercise rights and be subject to obligations, or an entity without legal personality³⁸.

Beneficiaries and affiliated entities should register in the EC [Participant Register](#) before submitting their Full proposal application, in order to get a participant identification code (PIC). Having a PIC is not a prerequisite for submitting an application.

³³ EU restrictive measures — Entities subject to EU restrictive measures under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) as well as Article 75 TFEU³³ are not eligible to participate in any capacity, including as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any).

³⁴ Legal entities established in Russia, Belarus, or in non-government-controlled territories of Ukraine — Given the illegal invasion of Ukraine by Russia and the involvement of Belarus, there is currently no appropriate context allowing the implementation of the actions foreseen in this programme with legal entities established in Russia, Belarus, or in non-government-controlled territories of Ukraine. Therefore, even where such entities are not subject to EU restrictive measures, such legal entities are not eligible to participate in any capacity. This includes participation as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any). Exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis for justified reasons.

³⁵ 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 Programme will be revised.

³⁶ 'International European research organisation' means an international organisation, the majority of whose members are Member States or Associated Countries, and whose principal objective is to promote scientific and technological cooperation in Europe.

³⁷ Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1).

³⁸ As referred to in point (c) of Article 197 (2) of the EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

Entities eligible for funding

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

a) The PRIMA Participating States³⁹:

- The following Member States (MS) of the European Union (EU): Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Slovenia. It includes the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) linked to these Member States⁴⁰:

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

- The following Third Countries not associated with Horizon Europe (TC), Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco shall continue to be Participating States for the purpose of the activities of PRIMA funded under Article 3(1), point (a) of the PRIMA Decision⁴¹. For the purpose of their participation in activities of PRIMA funded under Article 3(1), point (b), they shall only be considered Participating States subject to the conclusion of an agreement, in the form of exchange of letters, amending and supplementing the existing international agreements for scientific and technological cooperation with the Union and setting out the new terms and conditions of their participation in PRIMA.

Legal entities established in these countries, which apply for funding, will be eligible for funding if the required international agreements start producing legal effects (by the time the relevant Grant Agreement is signed).

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

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

- b) Any legal entity created under the European Union law.

- c) Any international European interest organization⁴² 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.

³⁹ 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).

⁴⁰ 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.

⁴¹ Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council, amending Decision (EU) 2024/1167 as regards the continuation of the Union's participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) under Horizon Europe

⁴² International European interest organisation means an international organisation, the majority of whose members are Member States or associated countries, and whose principal objective is to promote scientific and technological cooperation in Europe;

Unless their participation is considered essential for implementing the action by the PRIMA-IS, other international organizations (IO) are not eligible to receive funding.

Any legal entity established in countries not listed above as PS may be eligible for funding provided that participation is deemed to be essential for carrying out the action⁴³:

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

All legal entities participating with their own funding must attach to their proposal, a letter from their organization (signed by a legal representative of the structure) attesting that the funds necessary to cover their participation in the project (task(s), attendance at meetings, etc.) will be available.

Standard eligibility conditions

All proposals must comply with the eligibility conditions set out in the Rules for Participation of 5 Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe (OJ L 170 , 12.5.2021, p. 1) and any derogations to these as specified in Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision (EU) 2024/1167 as regards the continuation of the Union's participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) under Horizon Europe

Furthermore, proposals must comply with the eligibility conditions set out in this sub-section unless 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 PS⁴⁴
- 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:

⁴³ The applicant may 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.

⁴⁴ This measure is aimed to protect the Union's financial interests and is in line with Art. Article 7(7) of Decision (EU) 2024/1167.

TABLE 14 GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION FOR PRIMA ACTIONS SECTION 1

Type of Action	Eligibility conditions for participation ⁴⁵
Research & Innovation Action (RIA)	<p>At least three legal entities established in three different countries considered as the Participating States⁴⁶.</p> <p>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 Europe 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 Participating States⁴⁷. 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 Europe 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>

Eligible activities

The following activities are generally eligible for grants under Horizon Europe:

Research and innovation actions (RIA) Activities that aim primarily to establish new knowledge or to explore the feasibility of a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution. This may include basic and applied research, technology development and integration, testing, demonstration and validation of a small-scale prototype in a laboratory or simulated environment.

⁴⁵ 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 Programme 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.

⁴⁶ The latest information on the PRIMA PS can be found on PRIMA webpage: <http://prima-med.org/>.

^{47, 34} The latest information on the PRIMA PS can be found on PRIMA webpage: <http://prima-med.org/>.

Funding Rate 100% of the eligible costs for all types of organization.

Innovation actions (IA) Activities that aim directly to produce plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services. These activities may include prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication.

The funding rate for Innovation Actions (IA) depends on the legal status of the organization.

The rate is 70 percent for profit-making legal entities and 100 percent for non-profit legal entities. "Non-profit" applies to legal entities, which by their legal form are non-profit-making or which have a legal or statutory obligation not to distribute profits

Funding Rate 100% for all participants.

Other types of actions and forms of funding

In addition to the eligible activities described above, the following types of action and forms of funding are used.

Prizes — Recognition prizes: a prize to reward past achievements and outstanding work after it has been performed. Recognition prizes must help to raise public awareness of EU policies, create role models and support best practice exchange.

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

Rules of Contest (RoC) for prizes

The rules of the contest of a specific prize describe the eligibility and award criteria, the evaluation procedure, the indicative timetable and the reward.

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

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)

Ethics

According to Article 19 -Regulation (EU) 2021/695 establishing Horizon Europe, legal entities participating in an action shall provide an ethics self-assessment identifying and detailing all the foreseeable ethics issues related to the objective, implementation and likely impact of the activities to be funded, including a confirmation of compliance (...) and a description of how it will be ensured.

Applicants must include at the proposal stage an ethics self-assessment of the potential risks of misuse of the research project that could pose a threat to human beings, animals and the environment.

For preparing the ethics self-assessment, use the official guide “How to complete your ethics Self-Assessment”.

The ethics assessment follows the scientific evaluation and is performed only in case your project has been accepted for funding.

Gender equality plans and gender mainstreaming

Beneficiaries must take all measures to promote equal opportunities between men and women in implementing the action and, where applicable, in line with their gender equality plan. They must aim to achieve, to the extent possible, a gender balance at all levels of personnel assigned to the action, including at supervisory and managerial level.

In addition, to be eligible, legal entities from Member States and Associated Countries that are public bodies, research organizations or higher education establishments (including private research organizations and higher education establishments) must have a gender equality plan, covering the following minimum process-related requirements:

- publication: a formal document published on the institution’s website and signed by the top management;
- dedicated resources: commitment of resources and expertise in gender equality to implement the plan;
- data collection and monitoring: sex/gender disaggregated data on personnel (and students, for the establishments concerned) and annual reporting based on indicators;
- training: awareness raising/training on gender equality and unconscious gender biases for staff and decision-makers.

Content-wise, it is recommended that the gender equality plan addresses the following areas, using concrete measures and targets:

- work-life balance and organizational culture;
- gender balance in leadership and decision-making;
- gender equality in recruitment and career progression;
- integration of the gender dimension into research and teaching content;
- measures against gender-based violence, including sexual harassment.

A self-declaration will be requested at proposal stage.

If all the above-mentioned mandatory requirements are met through another strategic document, such as a development plan or an inclusion or diversity strategy, it can be considered as an equivalent.

This eligibility criterion does not apply to other categories of legal entities, such as private for-profit organizations, including SMEs, non-governmental or civil society organizations.

8.1.3.C — FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL CAPACITY AND EXCLUSION

Financial capacity

Applicants must have **stable and sufficient resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share. Organizations participating in several projects must have sufficient capacity to implement all these projects.

The financial capacity check will be done by PRIMA on the basis of the documents exchanged by email with PRIMA-IS, during the grant preparation stage (e.g. profit and loss account and balance sheet, business plan, audit report produced by an approved external auditor, certifying the accounts for the last closed financial year, etc.). The analysis will be based on neutral financial indicators, but will also take into account other aspects, such as dependency on EU funding and deficit and revenue in previous years.

The check will normally be done for the coordinator if the requested grant amount is equal to or greater than EUR 500 000, except for:

- public bodies (entities established as a public body under national law, including local, regional or national authorities) or international organizations or body whose participation is guaranteed by the government of an EU country or associated country, following the PRIMA MGA;
- and cases where the individual requested grant amount is not more than EUR 60 000 (low- value grant).

If needed, it may also be done for the other applicants, including affiliated entities. If the financial capacity is structurally guaranteed by another legal entity, the financial capacity of that legal entity will be verified.

If the PRIMA-IS considers that the financial capacity is not satisfactory, they may require:

- further information;
- an enhanced financial responsibility regime, i.e. joint and several responsibilities of affiliated entities and
- prefinancing paid in instalments;

or

- propose no prefinancing;
- request that the applicant concerned is replaced or, if needed, reject the entire proposal.

Operational capacity

Applicants must have the **know-how, qualifications and resources** to successfully implement their tasks in the project and contribute their share (including, when appropriate, sufficient experience in EU/transnational projects of comparable size).

This assessment of operational capacity will be carried out by external experts during the evaluation of the award criterion 'Quality and efficiency of the implementation'. It will be based on the competence and experience of the applicants and their project teams, including their operational resources (human, technical and other) or, exceptionally, the measures proposed to obtain the necessary competence and experience by the time the tasks are implemented.

If the evaluation of this award criterion leads to a score above the applicable threshold, then the applicants are considered to have sufficient operational capacity.

For this assessment, applicants will be required to provide the following information in the application form:

- description of the consortium participants; and
- for each participant:
 - identity of researchers involved in the proposal (through the researchers table);
 - up to five most relevant publications, widely-used datasets, software, goods, services, or any other achievements relevant to the call content;
 - up to five most relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal; and
 - description of any significant infrastructure and/or any major items of technical equipment, relevant to the proposed work.

Public bodies, Member State organizations and international organizations are exempted from the operational capacity check.

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

8.1.4.D — AWARD CRITERIA

If admissible and eligible, the proposals will be evaluated and ranked against the whole set of award criteria²⁴:

TABLE 15 AWARD CRITERIA SECTION 1 CALLS

	Excellence (The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the description in the work programme)	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
Research and innovation actions (RIA) Innovation actions (IA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clarity and pertinence of the project’s objectives, and the extent to which the proposed work is ambitious and goes beyond the state of the art. Soundness of the proposed [for the first stage: overall(*)] methodology, including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, inter-disciplinary approaches, appropriate consideration of the gender dimension in research and innovation content, and the quality of open science practices, including sharing and management of research outputs and engagement of citizens, civil society and end-users where appropriate. - (*) Including all aspects mentioned in the first stage proposal template, which also include the integration of the gender dimension in research and innovation content as well as open science practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the work programme, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions from the project. - Suitability and quality of the measures to maximize expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall. - Capacity and role of each participant, and the extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.

Scores and weighting

Evaluation scores will be awarded for the criteria, and not for the different aspects listed in the table. For full applications, 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.

To determine the ranking for 'Innovation actions', the score for 'Impact' will be given a weight of 1.5.

Proposals that pass the individual threshold AND the overall threshold will be considered for funding, within the limits of the available call budget. Other proposals will be rejected.

Evaluation procedure

Calls are subject to [a single stage-stage submission and evaluation process](#)

Independent experts evaluate proposals (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 panel's discussion. A ranked list will be drawn up for every indicative budget shown in the call conditions.

Individual Evaluation: Each eligible proposal is evaluated remotely by at least three independent expert evaluators (see Article 15 of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation (EU) No1290/2013), who carry out a technical evaluation based on the criteria mentioned above. An Individual Evaluation Report, which includes comments and scores for all evaluation criteria, is prepared by each evaluator. For proposals that receive very different scores by the evaluators, Consensus Meetings are convened, where the three evaluators discuss to reach consensus on the scores to assign. The evaluation process is described in detail in the [PRIMA website](#).

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 preparing a ranking list of the proposals by consensus. Project funding decisions will be taken based on this ranking list. The panel configuration allows evaluators to overview all eligible proposals, checking the consistency of comments and marks, not just the ones they have evaluated, which enables them to decide fairly when ranking the proposals.

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

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

8.1.5.E — DOCUMENTS

Submission

All proposals must be submitted **electronically** via the Electronic Submission System (accessible via the topic page [in the call section](#)). Paper submissions are NOT possible.

Proposals must be **complete** and contain all parts and mandatory annexes and supporting documents, e.g. plan for the exploitation and dissemination of the results including communication activities, etc.

The application form will have two parts:

- **Part I, Administrative form** (to be completed partly online and uploaded in PDF format

contains administrative information about the applicant organisations (future coordinator and beneficiaries and affiliated entities)

- **Part II, Technical Annex** (templates to be downloaded from PRIMA website [call section](#), uploaded as a PDF in the ESS) contains the technical description of the project.
- **The Project overall budget** in excel format is requested at stage 2 of a two-stage selection procedure

Annexes and supporting documents must be uploaded as PDF files (or other formats allowed by the system).

Proposals should be designed to stay as close as possible to the award criteria (*see Annex D above*). The application form will help to achieve this.

When submitting the proposal, the coordinator will have to confirm that they have the mandate to act for all applicants. Moreover, they will have to confirm that the information in the application is correct and complete and that all participants comply with the conditions for receiving EU funding (especially eligibility, financial and operational capacity, exclusion, etc.).

Before signing the grant, each participant will have to confirm this again by signing Accession Forms. Proposals not complying with these requirements will be rejected.

Applicants may be asked at a later stage for further documents (for legal entity validation, financial capacity check, bank account validation, etc.).

8.1.6.F — PROCEDURE

[Evaluation procedure and ranking](#)

Calls in this WP are subjected to a **single-stage submission procedure**.

Applicants will be requested to submit a full application which will be evaluated against the full set of award criteria.

Proposals will be checked for formal requirements (admissibility and eligibility) and then evaluated (for each topic separately) by an **evaluation committee** composed of independent external experts for operational capacity and award criteria and then ranked according to their quality score.

Priority order for proposals with the same score

For proposals with the same score within a single budget envelope (with the exception of the first stage of two-stage submissions) a method to establish the **priority order** will be determined, taking into consideration the objectives of the specific topic. In the absence of special arrangements in the specific call conditions, the following method will apply:

For each group of proposals with the same score, starting with the group achieving the highest score and continuing in descending order:

- 1) Proposals that address aspects of the call that have not otherwise been covered by more highly ranked proposals will be considered to have the highest priority.
- 2) The proposals identified under 1), if any, will themselves be prioritised according to the scores they have been awarded for 'Excellence'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on scores for 'Impact'. In the case of 'Innovation actions', priority will be given to the score for 'Impact', followed by that for 'Excellence'.
- 3) If necessary, the gender balance among the researchers named in the researchers table in the proposal, will be used as a factor for prioritisation.
- 4) If necessary, any further prioritisation will be based on geographical diversity, defined as the number of MPC represented in the proposal, not otherwise receiving funds from projects higher up the ranking list (and if equal in number, then by budget).
- 5) If a distinction still cannot be made, the panel may decide to further prioritise by considering other factors related to the objectives of the call, to PRIMA in general. These may include, for example, enhancing the quality of the project portfolio through synergies between projects or, where relevant and feasible, involving SMEs. These factors will be documented in the panel report.

The panel may decide to further prioritise 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 panel report.

The methods described in 1), 2), 3), 4) and 5) will then be applied to the remaining equally ranked proposals in the group.

For prizes, the award criteria, scoring, and weighting will be set out in the Rules of the contest, which will be published on the PRIMA website under the Section: [Submit your proposal](#).

Evaluation review procedure

If the consortium believes that the evaluation procedure was flawed, the coordinator can submit a **complaint** (following the deadlines and procedures also set out in the Evaluation Summary Report). (see also [PRIMA website](#)).

Only the procedural aspects of an evaluation may be the subject of a request for an evaluation review. The evaluation of the merits of a proposal will not be the subject of an evaluation review.

A request for an evaluation review must relate to a specific proposal and must be submitted within 30 days after the beneficiary accesses the evaluation results. The maximum size limit of the request is 5 000 characters.

Notifications of evaluation results by email receipt, which have not been opened within 10 days after sending are considered to have been accessed and that deadlines will be counted from the date of opening/access

An evaluation review committee will provide an opinion on the procedural aspects of the

evaluation. The evaluation review committee may recommend a re-evaluation of the proposal, to be carried out by evaluators who were not involved in the previous evaluation, or a confirmation of the initial evaluation.

Funding decision and communication

At the end of the evaluation, all applicants will be informed of the result.

The Proposal coordinators receive an Evaluation Summary Report (ESR), showing the evaluation results for a given proposal. In the ESR, the overall score will be provided. Common feedback is provided to all coordinators for proposals that successfully pass the first stage of the two-stage submission process. Still, 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.

No commitment to provide funding — Invitation to the grant preparation stage does NOT constitute a formal commitment to funding. Various legal checks are still needed before the grant can be awarded, such as legal entity validation, financial capacity, exclusion check, etc.

Budget flexibility

The budgets set out in Work Programme 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 Work Programme 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 Programme.

Indicative timetable for evaluation and for signature of the grant agreement

Unless otherwise stated in the specific call conditions, the timing for evaluation and grant preparation is as follows:

- information on the outcome of the evaluation: around 3 months from the deadline for submission for the first stage and around 5 months from the deadline for submission for the second stage
 - indicative date for the signing of grant agreements: around 8 months from the second stage deadline for submission)
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8.1.7. PROVISIONS CONCERNING PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Open access to research data

Open science, as an approach to the scientific process, emphasizes collaborative work and the dissemination of knowledge openly. It aligns with Article 39(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/695⁴⁸

Open science practices⁴⁹ are considered in the evaluation of proposals, under 'Excellence' and under the 'Quality and efficiency of implementation'. These elements are considered in the evaluation of proposals, particularly under the criteria of 'Excellence' and 'Quality and efficiency of implementation'. Proposers should be aware of both mandatory and recommended practices and integrate them into their proposals.

Mandatory open science practices

Some open science practices are mandatory for all beneficiaries per the grant agreement.

They concern:

- a) open access to scientific publications under the conditions required by the grant agreement;
- b) responsible management of research data in line with the FAIR principles of 'Findability', 'Accessibility', 'Interoperability' and 'Reusability', notably through the generalised use of data management plans, and open access to research data under the principle 'as open as possible, as closed as necessary', under the conditions required by the grant agreement;
- c) information about the research outputs/tools/instruments needed to validate the conclusions of scientific publications or to validate/re-use research data;
- d) digital or physical access to the results needed to validate the conclusions of scientific publications, unless exceptions apply;

As an exception, if providing open access would be against the beneficiaries' legitimate interests, the beneficiaries must grant non-exclusive licenses, on fair and reasonable conditions, to legal entities that need the research output to address the public emergency. These legal entities must commit to rapidly and broadly exploiting the resulting products and services on fair and reasonable conditions. This exception is limited to 4 years after the end of the action.

Data protection

Research Data Management (RDM)

⁴⁸ Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 ([//eur-lex. uropa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R0695](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R0695))

⁴⁹ Open science practices include early and open sharing of research (for example through preregistration, registered reports, pre-prints, or crowd-sourcing); research output management; measures to ensure reproducibility of research outputs; providing open access to research outputs (such as publications, data, software, models, algorithms, and workflows); participation in open peer-review; and involving all relevant knowledge actors including citizens, civil society and end users in the cocreation of R&I agendas and contents (such as citizen science). These practices are explained and relevant resources provided in a separate section further below (open science practices and resources).

Responsible management of research data shall be ensured in line with the principles 'findability', 'accessibility', 'interoperability' and 'reusability' (the 'FAIR principles'). Attention shall also be paid to the long-term preservation of data. Proper Research Data Management (RDM) is mandatory for any PRIMA project generating or reusing research data. It is a key part of Horizon Europe's open science requirements. As part of making research data findable, accessible, interoperable and re-usable (FAIR), RDM can be applied to research outputs other than data (i.e. workflows, protocols, software, samples, etc).

Beneficiaries must manage the digital research data generated in the action ('data') responsibly, in line with the FAIR principles, and should at least do the following:

Prepare a Data Management Plan (DMP) and keep it updated throughout the course of the project
Deposit data in a trusted repository and provide open access to it ('as open as possible, as closed as necessary')

Provide information (via the same repository) about any research output or any other tools and instruments needed to re-use or validate the data

As part of making research data findable, accessible, interoperable and re-usable (FAIR), a DMP should include information on:

- the handling of research data during & after the end of the project
- what data will be collected, processed and/or generated
- which methodology & standards will be applied
- whether data will be shared/made open access and
- how data will be curated & preserved (including after the end of the project).

Confidentiality and security (EU classified information)

Actions carried out under the Programme shall comply with the applicable security rules and in particular rules on the protection of classified information against unauthorised disclosure, including compliance with any relevant Union and national law.

Ethics (research integrity)

Actions carried out under the Programme shall comply with ethical principles and relevant Union, national and international law, including the Charter and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and its Supplementary Protocols.

Particular attention shall be paid to the principle of proportionality, to the right to privacy, the right to the protection of personal data, the right to the physical and mental integrity of a person, the right to non-discrimination and to the need to ensure protection of the environment and high levels of human health protection.

Legal entities participating in an action shall provide:

(a) an ethics self-assessment identifying and detailing all the foreseeable ethics issues related to the objective, implementation and likely impact of the activities to be funded, including a confirmation of compliance with paragraph 1 and a description of how it will be ensured;

(b) a confirmation that the activities will comply with the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity published by All European Academies and that no activities excluded from funding will be conducted;

(c) for activities carried out outside the Union, a confirmation that the same activities would have been allowed in a Member State; and

(d) for activities making use of human embryonic stem cells, as appropriate, details of licensing and control measures that shall be taken by the competent authorities of the Member States concerned as well as details of the ethics approvals that shall be obtained before the activities concerned start.

Proposals shall be systematically screened to identify actions which raise complex or serious ethics issues and submit them to an ethics assessment. The ethics assessment shall be carried out by the PRIMA-IS. Ethics screenings and assessments shall be carried out with the support of ethics experts. PRIMA shall ensure the transparency of the ethics procedures without prejudice to the confidentiality of the content of those procedures.

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

Beneficiaries shall own the results they generate. They shall ensure that any rights of their employees or any other parties in relation to the results can be exercised in a manner compatible with the beneficiaries' obligations in the grant agreement.

Two or more beneficiaries shall own results jointly where:

(a) they have jointly generated them; and

(b) it is not possible to: (i) establish the respective contribution of each beneficiary; or (ii) separate them when applying for, obtaining or maintaining their protection.

The joint owners shall agree in writing on the allocation and terms of exercise of their joint ownership. Unless otherwise agreed in the consortium agreement or in the joint ownership agreement, each joint owner may grant non-exclusive licences to third parties to exploit the jointly-owned results (without any right to sub-license), if the other joint owners are given advance notice and fair and reasonable compensation. Beneficiaries which have received Union funding shall adequately protect their results if protection is possible and justified, taking into account all relevant considerations, including the prospects for commercial exploitation and any other legitimate interests. When deciding on protection, beneficiaries shall also consider the legitimate interests of the other beneficiaries in the action.

8.2. SECTION 2 – TRANSNATIONAL CALLS ORGANISED BY PRIMA-IS AND FUNDED BY THE PARTICIPATING STATES

8.2.1.A — ADMISSIBILITY

For all actions under Work Programme 2025, proposals must comply with the admissibility requirements set out in this sub-section unless supplemented or modified in the call conditions.

Applications must be submitted before the **call deadline**.

Applications must be **complete** and contain all parts and mandatory Annexes and supporting documents.

Part I: Administrative data

Part II: Technical annex

Main administrative data, comprising Part I, and the technical annex (Part II) should be uploaded to the PRIMA Electronic Submission System (ESS). Follow instructions in the [ESS Handbook](#).

The submission link will be announced on the PRIMA website in the corresponding [call section](#), and will be open one month before the deadline for submission.

The structure and presentation of the Part II, must align with the instructions provided in the PRIMA Call Templates available for download from the PRIMA website under the relevant [call section](#).

Paper submissions are NOT possible.

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 not represented as project partners but who will nonetheless contribute towards the work (e.g., providing facilities and computing resources).

Applications must be **readable, accessible and printable**.

Applications must include **a plan for the exploitation and dissemination of results including**

communication activities⁵⁰. If the expected exploitation of the results entails developing, creating, manufacturing and marketing a product or process, or in creating and providing a service, the plan must include a strategy for such exploitation.

Page limits

In addition to the above admissibility conditions, page limits will apply to parts of applications. The Electronic Submission System will automatically reject the proposal if it exceeds the page limits.

Unless provided otherwise in the specific call conditions, **the limit for a full application is 45 pages**

8.2.2.B — ELIGIBILITY

Entities eligible for funding

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

The PRIMA Participating States⁵¹:

- a) The following Member States (MS) of the European Union (EU): Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Slovenia. It includes the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) linked to these Member States⁵²:
- b) The following Third Countries associated to Horizon Europe (AC): Israel, Tunisia, and Turkey.
- c) The following Third Countries not associated with Horizon Europe (TC), Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco shall continue to be Participating States for the purpose of the activities of PRIMA funded under Article 3(1), point (a) of the PRIMA Decision⁵³. For the purpose of their participation in activities of PRIMA funded under Article 3(1), point (b), they shall only be considered Participating States subject to the conclusion of an agreement, in the form of exchange of letters, amending and supplementing the existing international agreements for scientific and technological cooperation with the Union and setting out the new terms and conditions of their participation in PRIMA. Legal entities established in these countries which apply for funding will be eligible for funding if the required international agreements start producing legal effects by the time the relevant Grant Agreement is signed (TBD).

⁵⁰ Exploitation and Dissemination obligations under article 39 of the REGULATION (EU) 2021/695 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013

⁵¹ 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).

⁵² 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.

⁵³ Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council, amending Decision (EU) 2024/1167 as regards the continuation of the Union's participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) under Horizon Europe

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

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

Participants from countries not listed above have to fund their own 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 in the projects (task(s), participation in 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 PRIMA-IS does the eligibility check, the national funding bodies will perform a second eligibility check to verify eligibility for funding.

In this context, proposals considered eligible for participation by PRIMA-IS (at the consortium level) will enter 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.

Applicants should refer to the national regulations for eligibility for funding and contact their national funding bodies (NCP)⁵⁴.

Standard eligibility conditions

All proposals must comply with the eligibility conditions set out in the Rules for Participation of 5 Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe (OJ L 170 , 12.5.2021, p. 1) and any derogations to these as specified in Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision (EU) 2024/1167 as regards the continuation of the Union's participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) under Horizon Europe.

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

A proposal will only be considered eligible if:

- d) the coordinator of the proposal is a legal entity established in a PRIMA PS⁵⁵
- e) its content corresponds, wholly or in part, to the scope and objectives of the topic to which it is submitted

⁵⁴ Find the NCP contacts at the following [link](#)

⁵⁵ This measure is aimed to protect the Union's financial interests and is in line with Art. Article 7(7) of Decision (EU) 2024/1167.

- f) It complies with the eligibility conditions for participation set out in the Table below, depending on the type of action:

TABLE 16 GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION FOR PRIMA ACTIONS SECTION 2

Type of Action	Eligibility conditions for participation ⁵⁶
Research & Innovation Action (RIA)	<p>At least three legal entities established in three different countries considered as the Participating States⁵⁷ as defined in point a.</p> <p>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 Europe 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 a) 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 Europe 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>

Eligible activities

The following activities are generally eligible for grants under Section 2 calls:

These activities aim to establish new knowledge and/or 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

⁵⁶ 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 Programme 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.

⁵⁷ The latest information on the PRIMA PS can be found on PRIMA webpage: <http://prima-med.org/>.

laboratory or simulated environment. Projects may be closely connected, but little demonstration or pilot activities aim to show technical feasibility in a near-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 achieving a set of common, well-defined project objectives.

Funding Rate

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 contacted directly by the applicant from the same country (NCPs) will inform the applicants about the rules.

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).

Ethics

According to Article 19 -Regulation (EU) 2021/695 establishing Horizon Europe, legal entities participating in an action shall provide an ethics self-assessment identifying and detailing all the foreseeable ethics issues related to the objective, implementation and likely impact of the activities to be funded, including a confirmation of compliance (...) and a description of how it will be ensured.

Applicants must include at the proposal stage an ethics self-assessment of the potential risks of misuse of the research project that could pose a threat to human beings, animals and the environment.

For preparing the ethics self-assessment, use the official guide "How to complete your ethics Self-Assessment".

The ethics assessment follows the scientific evaluation and is performed only in case your project has been accepted for funding.

Gender equality plans and gender mainstreaming

Beneficiaries must take all measures to promote equal opportunities between men and women in implementing the action and, where applicable, in line with their gender equality plan. They must aim to achieve, to the extent possible, a gender balance at all levels of personnel assigned to the action, including at supervisory and managerial level.

In addition, to be eligible, legal entities from Member States and Associated Countries that are public bodies, research organizations or higher education establishments (including private research organizations and higher education establishments) must have a gender equality plan, covering the following minimum process-related requirements:

- publication: a formal document published on the institution's website and signed by the top management;
- dedicated resources: commitment of resources and expertise in gender equality to implement the plan;
- data collection and monitoring: sex/gender disaggregated data on personnel (and students, for the establishments concerned) and annual reporting based on indicators;
- training: awareness raising/training on gender equality and unconscious gender biases for staff and decision-makers.

Content-wise, it is recommended that the gender equality plan addresses the following areas, using concrete measures and targets:

- work-life balance and organizational culture;
- gender balance in leadership and decision-making;
- gender equality in recruitment and career progression;
- integration of the gender dimension into research and teaching content;
- measures against gender-based violence, including sexual harassment.

A self-declaration will be requested at proposal stage.

If all the above-mentioned mandatory requirements are met through another strategic document, such as a development plan or an inclusion or diversity strategy, it can be considered as an equivalent.

This eligibility criterion does not apply to other categories of legal entities, such as private for-profit organisations, including SMEs, non-governmental or civil society organisations.

8.2.3.C — OPERATIONAL CAPACITY AND EXCLUSION

Operational capacity

Applicants must have the **know-how, qualifications and resources** to successfully implement their tasks in the project and contribute their share (including, when appropriate, sufficient experience in EU/transnational projects of comparable size).

This assessment of operational capacity will be carried out by external experts during the evaluation of the award criterion 'Quality and efficiency of the implementation'. It will be based on the competence and experience of the applicants and their project teams, including their operational resources (human, technical and other) or, exceptionally, the measures proposed to obtain the necessary competence and experience by the time the tasks are implemented.

If the evaluation of this award criterion leads to a score above the applicable threshold, then the applicants are considered to have sufficient operational capacity.

For this assessment, applicants will be required to provide the following information in the application form:

- description of the consortium participants; and
- for each participant:
 - identity of researchers involved in the proposal (through the researchers table);
 - up to five most relevant publications, widely-used datasets, software, goods, services, or any other achievements relevant to the call content;
 - up to five most relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal; and
 - description of any significant infrastructure and/or any major items of technical equipment, relevant to the proposed work.

Additional supporting documents may be requested if they are needed to confirm the operational capacity of any applicant.

8.2.4.D — AWARD CRITERIA

If admissible and eligible, the proposals will be evaluated and ranked against the full set of **award criteria**²⁴

TABLE 17 AWARD CRITERIA SECTION 2 CALLS

	Excellence (The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the description in the work programme)	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
Research and innovation actions (RIA) Innovation actions (IA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clarity and pertinence of the project’s objectives, and the extent to which the proposed work is ambitious and goes beyond the state of the art. - Soundness of the proposed [for the first stage: overall(*)] methodology, including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, interdisciplinary approaches, appropriate consideration of the gender dimension in research and innovation content, and the quality of open science practices, including sharing and management of research outputs and engagement of citizens, civil society and end-users where appropriate. - (*) Including all aspects mentioned in the first stage proposal template, which also include the integration of the gender dimension in research and innovation content as well as open science practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the work programme, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions from the project. - Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall. - Capacity and role of each participant, and the extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.

Scores and weighting

Unless otherwise specified in the call conditions:

Evaluation scores will be awarded for the overall criteria and not for the different aspects listed in the above Table.

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.

Evaluation procedure

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

Individual Evaluation: Each eligible proposal is evaluated remotely by at least three independent expert evaluators (see Article 15 of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation (EU) No1290/2013), who carry out a technical evaluation based on the criteria mentioned above. An Individual Evaluation Report, which includes comments and scores for all evaluation criteria, is prepared by each evaluator. For proposals that receive very different scores by the evaluators, Consensus Meetings are convened, where the three evaluators discuss to reach consensus on the scores to assign.

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 preparing a ranking list of the proposals by consensus. Project funding decisions will be taken based on this ranking list. The panel configuration allows evaluators to overview all eligible proposals, checking the consistency of comments and marks, not just the ones they have evaluated, which enables them to decide fairly when ranking the proposals. i

In case of disagreement or project proposals with the same score, the panel will determine the priority order for proposals described in the section below.

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

8.2.5.E — DOCUMENTS

Submission

All proposals must be submitted **electronically** via the Electronic Submission System (accessible via the topic page [in the call section](#)). Paper submissions are NOT possible.

Proposals must be **complete** and contain all parts and mandatory annexes and supporting documents, e.g. plan for the exploitation and dissemination of the results including communication activities, etc.


The application form will have two parts:

- **Part I, Administrative form** (to be completed partly online and uploaded in PDF format) contains administrative information about the applicant organisations
- **Part II, Technical Annex** (templates to be downloaded from PRIMA website [call section](#), completed uploaded as a PDF) contains the technical description of the project.
- **The Project overall budget** in excel format is requested at stage 2.

Annexes and supporting documents will be directly available in the submission system and must be uploaded as PDF files (or other formats allowed by the system).

Proposals should be designed to stay as close as possible to the award criteria (see Annex D above). The application form will help to achieve this.

When submitting the proposal, the coordinator will have to confirm that they have the mandate to act for all applicants. Moreover, they will have to confirm that the information in the application is correct and complete and that all participants comply with the conditions for receiving EU funding (especially eligibility, financial and operational capacity, exclusion, etc.).

 Applicants should check with their NCPs if the submission has to be also made at national level.

Proposals must be complete and contain all parts and mandatory annexes and supporting documents, e.g. plan for the exploitation and dissemination of the results including communication activities, etc.

Annexes and supporting documents must be uploaded as PDF files (or other formats allowed by the system).

Proposals should be designed to stay as close as possible to the award criteria (*see Annex D above*).

8.2.6.F — PROCEDURE

Evaluation procedure and ranking

Calls in this WP are subjected to **single-stage submission procedure**.

Applicants will be requested to submit a full application which will be evaluated against the full set of award criteria.

Proposals will be checked for formal requirements (admissibility and eligibility) and then evaluated (for each topic separately) by an **evaluation committee** composed of independent external experts for operational capacity and award criteria and then ranked according to their quality score.

Priority order for proposals with the same score

For proposals with the same score within a single budget envelope (with the exception of the first stage of two-stage submissions) a method to establish the **priority order** will be determined, taking into consideration the objectives of the specific topic. In the absence of special arrangements in the specific call conditions, the following method will apply:

For each group of proposals with the same score, starting with the group achieving the highest score and continuing in descending order:

- 1) Proposals that address aspects of the call that more highly ranked proposals have yet to cover will be considered to have the highest priority.

- 2) The proposals identified under 1), if any, will be prioritized according to the scores awarded for 'Excellence'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on scores for 'Impact'. In the case of 'Innovation actions', priority will be given to the score for 'Impact', followed by that for 'Excellence'.
- 3) If necessary, the gender balance among the researchers named in the researchers table in the proposal, will be used as a factor for prioritization.
- 4) If necessary, any further prioritization will be based on geographical diversity, defined as the number of MPC represented in the proposal, not otherwise receiving funds from projects higher up the ranking list (and if equal in number, then by budget).
- 5) If a distinction still cannot be made, the panel may decide to further prioritize by considering other factors related to the objectives of the call, or to PRIMA in general. These may include, for example, enhancing the quality of the project portfolio through synergies between projects or, where relevant and feasible, involving SMEs. These factors will be documented in the panel report.

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.

The method described in 1), 2), 3) 4) and 5) will then be applied to the remaining equally ranked proposals 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 for every indicative budget shown in the call conditions will be drawn up.

Evaluation review procedure

If the consortium believes that the evaluation procedure was flawed, the coordinator can submit a **complaint** (following the deadlines and procedures also set out in the Evaluation Summary Report).

Only the procedural aspects of an evaluation may be the subject of a request for an evaluation review. The evaluation of the merits of a proposal will not be the subject of an evaluation review.

A request for an evaluation review must relate to a specific proposal and must be submitted within 30 days after the beneficiary accesses the evaluation results. The maximum size limit of the request is 5 000 characters. Notifications of evaluation results which have not been opened in the Funding & Tenders Portal within 10 days after sending are considered to have been accessed and that deadlines will be counted from the date of opening/access (see also [PRIMA website](#)).

An evaluation review committee will provide an opinion on the procedural aspects of the evaluation. The evaluation review committee may recommend a re-evaluation of the proposal, to be carried out by evaluators who were not involved in the previous evaluation, or a confirmation of the initial evaluation.

Funding decision and communication

In line with Article 6(10), point (c), of Decision (EU) 2024/1167, the proposals will be ranked according to evaluation results. PRIMA-IS will select proposals to be funded based on this ranking. Since the funding of participants in the activities will be the responsibility of PS and not PRIMA-IS, the respective PS will need to provide adequate funding in line with the national rules. If the PS cannot fund one or more projects, PRIMA-IS may select to fund the projects directly following them in the ranking list(s).

The Proposal coordinators receive an Evaluation Summary Report (ESR), showing the evaluation results for a given proposal. In the ESR, the overall scores will be provided for proposals that successfully pass the first stage of the 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.

Budget flexibility

The budgets set out in Work Programme 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 Work Programme 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 be at most 20% of the maximum contribution provided for this Work Programme.

Indicative timetable for evaluation and for signature of the grant agreement

- Unless otherwise stated in the specific call conditions, the timing for evaluation and grant preparation is as follows:
- Information on the outcome of the evaluation: around 3 months from the deadline for submission for the first stage and around 5 months from the deadline for submission for the second stage
- indicative date for the signing of grant agreements: around 6 months from communication of results.⁵⁸

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

⁵⁸ PRIMA national funding agencies may have different schedules for the signature of national contracts and to make payments to beneficiaries

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 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 project's funding.

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:

- 1) The repartition of the tasks between partners;
- 2) The sharing of the intellectual property rights of the project results;
- 3) The conditions of publication and dissemination of the results;
- 4) The technology transfer and the exploitation of the results
- 5) Any specific requirements from a funding body

The funding agencies provide no template for the consortium agreement.

The Project Coordinator

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

For the preparation and 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.

8.2.7. PROVISIONS CONCERNING PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Provisions concerning project implementation

Open access to research data

PRIMA encourages open science as an approach to the scientific process based on cooperative work and diffusing knowledge, in particular in accordance with the following elements which shall be ensured in accordance with Article 39(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/695 ⁵⁹

(a) open access to scientific publications resulting from research funded under the Programme;

(b) open access to research data, including those underlying scientific publications, in accordance with the principle 'as open as possible, as closed as necessary'.

As an exception, if providing open access would be against the beneficiaries' legitimate interests, the beneficiaries must grant non-exclusive licenses, on fair and reasonable conditions, to legal entities that need the research output to address the public emergency. These legal entities must commit to rapidly and broadly exploiting the resulting products and services on fair and reasonable conditions. This exception is limited to 4 years after the end of the action.

Data protection

Research Data Management (RDM)

Responsible management of research data shall be ensured in line with the principles 'findability', 'accessibility', 'interoperability' and 'reusability' (the 'FAIR principles'). Attention shall also be paid to the long-term preservation of data. Proper Research Data Management (RDM) is mandatory for any PRIMA project generating or reusing research data. It is a key part of Horizon Europe's open science requirements. As part of making research data findable, accessible, interoperable and re-usable (FAIR), RDM can be applied to research outputs other than data (i.e. workflows, protocols, software, samples, etc).

Beneficiaries must manage the digital research data generated in the action ('data') responsibly, in line with the FAIR principles, and should at least do the following:

1. Prepare a Data Management Plan (DMP) and keep it updated throughout the course of the project
2. Deposit data in a trusted repository and provide open access to it ('as open as possible, as closed as necessary')
3. Provide information (via the same repository) about any research output or any other tools and instruments needed to re-use or validate the data
4. As part of making research data findable, accessible, interoperable and re-usable (FAIR), a DMP should include information on:
 - the handling of research data during & after the end of the project
 - what data will be collected, processed and/or generated
 - which methodology & standards will be applied

⁵⁹ Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 ([//eur-lex. uropa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R0695](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R0695))

- whether data will be shared/made open access and
- how data will be curated & preserved (including after the end of the project).

Confidentiality and security (EU classified information)

Actions carried out under the Programme shall comply with the applicable security rules and in particular rules on the protection of classified information against unauthorized disclosure, including compliance with any relevant Union and national law.

Ethics (research integrity)

Actions carried out under the Programme shall comply with ethical principles and relevant Union, national and international law, including the Charter and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and its Supplementary Protocols.

Particular attention shall be paid to the principle of proportionality, to the right to privacy, the right to the protection of personal data, the right to the physical and mental integrity of a person, the right to non-discrimination and to the need to ensure protection of the environment and high levels of human health protection.

Legal entities participating in an action shall provide:

- (a) an ethics self-assessment identifying and detailing all the foreseeable ethics issues related to the objective, implementation and likely impact of the activities to be funded, including a confirmation of compliance with paragraph 1 and a description of how it will be ensured;
- (b) a confirmation that the activities will comply with the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity published by All European Academies and that no activities excluded from funding will be conducted;
- (c) for activities carried out outside the Union, a confirmation that the same activities would have been allowed in a Member State; and

Proposals shall be systematically screened to identify actions which raise complex or serious ethics issues and submit them to an ethics assessment. The ethics assessment shall be carried out by the PRIMA-IS. Ethics screenings and assessments shall be carried out with the support of ethics experts. PRIMA shall ensure the transparency of the ethics procedures without prejudice to the confidentiality of the content of those procedures.

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

Beneficiaries shall own the results they generate. They shall ensure that any rights of their employees or any other parties in relation to the results can be exercised in a manner compatible with the beneficiaries' obligations in the grant agreement.

Two or more beneficiaries shall own results jointly where:

- (a) they have jointly generated them; and
- (b) it is not possible to: (i) establish the respective contribution of each beneficiary; or (ii) separate them when applying for, obtaining or maintaining their protection.

The joint owners shall agree in writing on the allocation and terms of exercise of their joint ownership. Unless otherwise agreed in the consortium agreement or in the joint ownership agreement, each joint owner may grant non-exclusive licences to third parties to exploit the jointly-owned results (without any right to sub-license), if the other joint owners are given advance notice and fair and reasonable compensation. Beneficiaries which have received Union funding shall adequately protect their results if protection is possible and justified, taking into account all relevant considerations, including the prospects for commercial exploitation and any other legitimate interests. When deciding on protection, beneficiaries shall also consider the legitimate interests of the other beneficiaries in the action.

Applicable common principles to all the actions and activities

Under Article 6(9) of Decision (EU) 2024/1167, activities included in WP 2025 that the PS funds 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 PSIA, including the right to receive funding, should generally be open to any legal entity, private or public. However, it is understood and accepted 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 particular activities.

Funding to PSIA actions should be allocated to the broadest possible extent through open calls for proposals, and the PRIMA programme should be mentioned in the call text. However, it is understood and accepted that existing national research infrastructures and organizations, e.g., publicly funded research institutes, can be used to implement parts or the entire PSIA. Therefore, funding may be allocated through open calls for proposals rather than through internal competition within the research infrastructure or 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

The review process's evaluation, selection criteria, and details should be published before applicants submit proposals.

Funding awarding through calls for proposals or institutional funding is made public.

Any communication or publication related to PSIAs, whether undertaken by the PRIMA Foundation, a Participating State, or participants in 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 organization, the quality of the research output by the national research infrastructures or organization should be assessed regularly and structured manner, preferably through independent peer review.

Ethics and scientific integrity

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

Fundamental ethical principles, particularly 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 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 Work Programme should be promptly made available to the research community and the public.

9. SECTION ON ADDITIONAL PARTICIPATING STATES IN PRIMA – PRACTICAL ASPECTS

This section delineates the repercussions for the eligibility for participation and funding of legal entities established in a third country⁶⁰ for which an international agreement on terms and conditions of participation in PRIMA, at the time of adoption of this Work Programme, has not yet come into legal effect, either through its ratification or provisional application.

To maintain their status as PRIMA Participating states, such eligibility is contingent upon the finalization of agreements amending and supplementing existing international agreements for scientific and technological cooperation with the Union. These agreements will outline new terms and conditions governing their involvement in PRIMA.

Calls managed and funded by PRIMA IS (EU contribution)

Consequences for eligibility for participation: Legal entities established in these countries⁶¹ count towards the minimum number of participants in the consortium if the international agreement with the country where they are established produces legal effects (though provisional application or entry into force) at the latest by the day of the submission deadline under the relevant call for proposals organized and funded by PRIMA IS.

Consequences for funding of legal entities: Legal entities established in these countries⁶² that applied for funding in calls launched by the PRIMA IS funded from EU contribution (under Article 6(1)(a) PRIMA Decision) shall be eligible for funding if the international agreement produces legal effects at the latest on the day the Grant Agreement (GA) is signed.

If the international agreement does not produce legal effects on that day, these entities are still eligible for participation, however, without funding. If the international agreement starts producing legal effects after the GA is signed, the GA may be amended to provide for redistribution of funding (and related tasks) among the entities in the consortium. Such amendment cannot, however, give rise to additional funding for the project

Calls managed by the PRIMA IS and funded by the PS

Consequences for eligibility for participation: Legal entities established in these countries⁶³ count towards the minimum number of participants in the consortium if the international agreement with the country where they are established produces legal effects (through provisional application or entry into force) at the latest on the day of the submission deadline under the relevant call for proposals organized by PRIMA IS.

Consequences for funding of legal entities: The eligibility for funding for legal entities established in these countries are determined by the funding rules applicable to them in a given country.

^{60, 42,43} Algeria, Morocco, Egypt, Lebanon, and Jordan are deemed PRIMA Participating States subject to the finalization of agreements that modify and enhance existing international agreements for scientific and technological cooperation with the Union. These agreements will establish updated terms and conditions governing their participation in PRIMA.

10. A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTICIPATING STATES INITIATED ACTIVITIES (PSIAS)

The PRIMA Participating States implement and fund a broad array of national programme activities that contribute to the objectives of the PRIMA programme. These Participating and Partner States' Initiated Activities (PSIAs) are implemented and funded independently from the PRIMA-IS by one PS alone or by several PS without the Union's financial contribution.

PSIAs are an important contribution from PS to the PRIMA programme as they promote research collaboration in the region and enable PSs to have an overview of activities that their country (research and development agencies, different Ministries, etc.) funds on water management, farming systems and food-value chains and they support the PRIMA programme achieving its objective of promoting cooperation, networking, and integration of national research programmes. For these reasons, PSIAs are included in the PRIMA Annual Work Plans.

In line with Article 6 (8) of the [Decision \(EU\) 2017/1324](#), those activities may be included in the Work Programme only following the positive outcome of their external independent evaluation by international peer review concerning the objectives of PRIMA and may be launched only in the reference year and only after the adoption of the Annual Work Plan for that year.

Please note that the following Article 6(9) of Decision (EU) 2024/1167, activities included in WP 2025 that the PS funds without the Union financial contribution must be implemented in compliance with common principles adopted by PRIMA-IS after obtaining approval from the EU Commission. In particular the principles of equal treatment, transparency, independent peer-review evaluation and selection (provided in sub-section 5.2.10)

Any communication related to PSIAs, whether undertaken by the PRIMA-IS, a Participating State or any of the participants in a PSIA, must indicate that they are part of the PRIMA programme supported by the EU (see section 3.1).

The total cost for new PSIAs in 2025 amount to: EUR **30 670 000**

All PSIAs are listed in Table 8 and the sections below, with a brief overview of the PS, the subject matter of the activity, the countries in the Mediterranean region where the activity is conducted, and the total indicative commitment for the activity. Wherever relevant, local currencies have been converted into Euros using official exchange rates.

The European Commission's acceptance of the PSIAs as in-kind contributions of the PRIMA Participating States to the PRIMA programme will be based on assessing the information provided through the PRIMA-IS annual reporting to the European Commission.

This reporting should include reporting by the Participating States according to the requirements agreed with the European Commission in line with Article 19 of the Delegation Agreement concluded between PRIMA-IS and the European Commission.

This assessment will verify the costs incurred by the Participating States for the implementation of those PSIAs, the relevance of those PSIAs in contributing to the specific objectives of the programme, their correct labelling in any communication, and their compliance with the common principles agreed by the PRIMA-IS, on behalf of the Participating States, and the European Commission.

ES.2025.1

Code	ES -2025-1
Theme:	Water management, Agrofood value chain, Farming Systems
Activity title	AEI Annual Action Plan 2025 (will be published in 2025)
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	<p>The Annual Action Plan 2025 will be configured as a planning instrument of the State Research Agency within the framework of the management contract, which will include, on basis of available resources, the activities to be carried out in the corresponding year to achieve its objectives.</p> <p>In accordance with the provisions of article 23 of the Agency's Statute, the Annual Action Plan includes, among others, the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Those of a formative, methodological nature and determination of management indicators of the activities that correspond to the Agency. b) Those of management, monitoring and control of the actions that, in terms of scientific, technical and innovation research, correspond to the Agency in accordance with its purpose and functions. c) The organization and management of the scientific-technical evaluation of the proposals that require financing from the programs and instruments assigned to the Agency or the results of the agreement and collaboration agreements.
Rationale/Impact	Generation of knowledge, improvement of social, economic and technology conditions of the Spanish society.
Objectives	Plan the actions to implement financing, evaluation, management and monitoring of scientific and technical research activity aimed at the generation, exchange and exploitation of knowledge promoted by the General Administration of the State by its sole initiative or in concurrence with other Spanish Administrations or entities or of other countries or international organizations.
Deliverables	In terms of Projects, Researchers trained, researchers under mobility
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	Proyectos I+D Retos Investigación y Generación de Conocimiento. Acciones Dinamización Redes Investigación: -FPI subprogramme. -JdC Juan de la Cierva subprogramme. -RyC Ramón y Cajal subprogramme.
Publication date	2025
Deadline for applications	2025
Expected date of award	2025
Scope of the Call for Proposals	<p>Proyectos I+D Retos Investigación y Generación de Conocimiento: 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>Acciones Dinamización Redes Investigación: "Research Networks" aim relation and development of networks of research:</p>

	<p>Thematic networks made up of researchers in similar thematic area of knowledge that require a multidisciplinary approach.</p> <p>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> <p>All calls under the State Programme for the Promotion of Talent and Its Employability, 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> <p>-FPI subprogramme that aims to train doctors by financing employment contracts.</p> <p>-JdC Juan de la Cierva subprogramme 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>-RyC Ramón y Cajal subprogramme aims to promote the incorporation researchers with a distinguished career in R&D centres.</p>
Implementation	
Type of Activity	<p>Research Innovation Action (RIA) X</p> <p>Innovation Action (IA) X</p> <p>Training and Mobility Action (TMA): X FPI: train doctors by financing employment contracts.)</p> <p>Scholarship</p> <p>Mobility</p> <p>Training action X</p> <p>Joint research project X</p>
Start date of the activity	
Duration	
Funding institution	Agencia Estatal de Investigación (AEI)
Funding beneficiaries	<p>Spanish Research Institutions, universities, research centres, technological centres</p> <p>Spanish and foreign Individuals for the Talent programme.</p>
Countries where research is conducted	Not defined
Collaborating partner(s)	Not defined
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in EUR)	14,5M€

Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	The scientific lines "water management, farming and food" of the AEI are aligned both with those of the Ministry of Science and Innovation and of the AEI. The financing procedures of the AEI have also been adapted with the aim of expediting the financing of international collaboration projects, among which are those of PRIMA.
Website	<p>AEI Annual Action Plan 2025 (will be published in 2025).</p> <p>As similar one was published in 2024:</p> <p>Plan de Acción Anual de la Agencia Estatal de Investigación para el año 2024 (aei.gob.es)</p> <p>PROYECTOS I+D Retos Investigación y Generación de Conocimiento:</p> <p>Proyectos de Generación de Conocimiento 2023 Agencia Estatal de Investigación (aei.gob.es)</p> <p>Acciones Dinamización Redes Investigación:</p> <p>Redes de Investigación 2022 Agencia Estatal de Investigación (aei.gob.es)</p> <p>-FPI subprogramme:</p> <p>Ayudas para contratos predoctorales para la formación de doctores/as 2022 Agencia Estatal de Investigación (aei.gob.es)</p> <p>-JdC Juan de la Cierva subprogramme</p> <p>Ayudas para contratos Juan de la Cierva 2023 Agencia Estatal de Investigación (aei.gob.es)</p> <p>-RyC Ramón y Cajal subprogramme</p> <p>Ayudas para contratos Ramón y Cajal (RYC) 2023 Agencia Estatal de Investigación (aei.gob.es)</p>

ES.2025.2

Code	ES -2025-2
Theme:	Water management, Agrofood value chain, Farming Systems
Activity title	Funding allocated to National projects in the Agri-food value chain, Farming and Management of water R&D fields
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	<p>CDTI funds R&D projects carried out by Spanish companies in a continuous open call. This R&D Call is aimed to Industry-driven and market-oriented R&D projects in Spain, consisting in the development or substantial improvement of new products, processes or services.</p> <p>Only enterprises are eligible to get the funding support; participation of research institutes/universities and other organizations is welcome as self-funded participants or subcontractors. These R&D projects must have a minimum eligible budget of 175,000 EUR and its length may be from 12 to 36 months.</p> <p>The funding modality for the project will be a Partially Reimbursable Aid, covering up to 85% of the total approved budget. This CDTI funding may be distributed in the following way:</p> <p>A reimbursable tranche (RT) within a time period of 10 or 15 years, to be counted from the center 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 center of gravity of the project and at least 2 years since its completion date. The interest rate of the aforementioned RT shall be fixed and equal to the one-year Euribor, which shall be determined when the project is approved.</p> <p>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 shall be contingent upon fund availability.</p> <p>An ex-ante document to allow the beneficiary to benefit from a tax exemption related to R&D activities.</p>
Rationale/Impact	<p>It's expected to foster the business competitiveness of beneficiaries, improving their portfolio of products and services as well as increasing the efficiency of their processes and activities.</p> <p>The outcomes of these projects will lead to the improvement of farming and agro-food activities, to develop eco-friendly activities and production processes as well as a 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 a 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 to fulfil economic, environmental and social challenges. This Call hasn't a sectorial approach so is open to all sectors, including the fields of water, environment, farming, ecosystem, agri-food, etc.</p> <p>With a bottom-up approach, R&D open call projects aim to advance in the State of the Art of technologies, products and processes tackled by Spanish companies which operates in the so related fields, encouraging cooperation schemes with research entities and other companies from Spain or from other country all around the world.</p>
Deliverables	
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	

Title of the Call for Proposals	National R&D continuous open CDTI Call
Publication date	This call is continuously open since the 80's so it will be open the whole year 2025. There won't be a publication date.
Deadline for applications	31-12-2025
Expected date of award	Approval of these projects could be done throughout 2025 and 2026 (depending on the submission date)
Scope of the Call for Proposals	R&D and innovation activities with a TRL 3-6 carried out by private companies.
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Research Innovation Action (RIA) ✓ Innovation Action (IA) ✓ Mobility ✓ Joint research project ✓
Start date of the activity	Projects can be submitted since the 1st of January 2025
Duration	The whole year 2025
Funding institution	CDTI-Spanish Agency of Innovation
Funding beneficiaries	Spanish private companies and Economic Interest Groups (EIG)
Countries where research is conducted	Spain
Collaborating partner(s)	Companies, Research bodies (Universities, Public Research Bodies and Innovation and Technological Centres)
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in EUR)	According to the figures previously committed by CDTI to the PRIMA PSAs, this amount could reach up to 30 M EUR.
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	The CDTI R&D National Call funds the development of technologies, processes and products in the fields of water, natural resources, agri-food, environment, farming, etc., with a bottom-up approach focused to market and social needs. The supported projects will contribute to a business competitiveness tackling technology, social and environmental challenges in so related fields, which are included in Thematic Areas of PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda. Activities funded by the CDTI R&D instrument support interdisciplinary and cross-cutting actions that are aligned with the PRIMA WP2025
Website	https://www.cdti.es/index.asp?MP=100&MS=802&MN=2

FR.2025.1

Code	FR-2025 -1
Theme:	Water management, Agrofood value chain, Farming Systems.
Activity title	Research Projects funded by ANR under the Annual National Call for proposals (AAPG) or other specific Calls on PRIMA related issues.
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	The Generic Call for Proposals 2025 (AAPG) is the French National Research Agency's (ANR) main call. It is directed towards all scientific communities and all public and private players involved in French research. It is designed to give researchers in various scientific fields access to co-funding in a large number of research themes, basic or applied, in addition to their allocated recurrent funding.
Rationale/Impact	<p>The French National Research Agency (ANR) is a public administrative institution under the authority of the French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation. The Agency funds project-based research carried out by public operators cooperating with each other or with private companies.</p> <p>The ANR was founded in 2005 to promote French project-based research and to stimulate innovation by promoting the emergence of collaborative multidisciplinary projects and encouraging collaboration between the public and private sectors. It also aims at strengthening the position of French research at European level and worldwide. The Agency's missions, defined in the decree of 1st August 2006 amended on 24 March 2014, are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To fund and promote the development of basic and targeted research, technological innovation, technology transfer and public-private partnerships • To implement the Work Programme approved by the French Minister of Research, following consultation with the supervisory ministers of France's research bodies and public higher education institutions • To manage major government investment programmes in the fields of higher education and research and to oversee their implementation • To strengthen scientific cooperation across Europe and worldwide by aligning its Work Programme with European and international initiatives • To analyse trends in research offering and assess the impact of the funding it allocates on scientific and societal output in France. <p>The ANR's activities are thus designed to support the excellence of French research at a variety of technological readiness levels (TRL), support basic research, encourage academic and public-private scientific partnerships and promote European and international cooperation. To achieve these goals, it organises competitive calls for proposals and conducts rigorous selection processes based on peer review, in compliance with international standards: impartiality, equal treatment, confidentiality, ethics, scientific integrity and transparency.</p>
Objectives	<p>AAPG 2025 is divided into 57 research themes, each with its own Scientific Evaluation Panel (CES):</p> <p>There are 38 research themes across seven main scientific fields: environmental sciences, energy and materials sciences, digital sciences, life sciences, social sciences and humanities, mathematics and its interactions, and physics of matter, high-energy, Earth and universe sciences. There are 19 research themes covering cross-disciplinary challenges and integrating issues from various scientific fields.</p>

Deliverables	
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	Generic Call for Proposals 2025
Publication date	Publication of the work programme and Call for proposals 2025 in July 2023. Publication of the results of the Call for Proposals in July 2025.
Deadline for applications	First Quarter 2025
Expected date of award	Second Quarter 2025
Scope of the Call for Proposals	
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Please select one of the following Research Innovation Action (RIA) ✓ Innovation Action (IA) Training and Mobility Action (TMA): Please specify Scholarship Mobility Training action Joint research project - Other: Please specify the type of activity
Start date of the activity	Second Quarter 2025
Duration	One year (programme duration)
Funding institution	ANR
Funding beneficiaries	All scientific communities and all public and private players involved in French research
Countries where research is conducted	Field work and collaborations may be performed in any country
Collaborating partner(s)	All the countries participating to PRIMA Calls are included in potential collaborating partners
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in EUR)	Around 1,5 M€
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	The funded projects are in line with most of the main PRIMA SRIA thematic areas or are crosscutting between water management and farming systems. Research projects on food security and agri-food value chain are also increasingly funded.
Website	https://anr.fr/en/

IL.2025.1

Code	IL-2025-1
Theme:	Water management
Activity title	German-Israel Water Technologies Cooperation
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 and Technology (MOST) fund bilateral R&D projects.</p> <p>The research focus on solutions to the water problems in Israel and its surrounding area and/or Germany. The research should be multidisciplinary and be applicable to the needs of the water sector.</p> <p>In addition to scientific partners, projects should preferably include industrial partners as well as related stakeholders.</p>
Rationale/Impact	Finding scientific based solutions or technologies for water challenges in Middle east, Israel and Germany
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve the water situation in Israel and the surrounding area 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	Funding of 4-5 of projects every year
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the call for Proposals	German-Israel Water Technologies Cooperation Call
Publication date (call 2025)	Expected to be around Jan-Feb 2025
Deadline for applications	2 months after publication
Expected date of award	About one year after publication
Scope of the call for Proposals	To be defined
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Research Innovation Action (RIA) ✓ Innovation Action (IA) ✓ Mobility ✓ Joint research project ✓
Start date of the activity	Expected to be around Jan-Feb 2025
Duration	The program last for about 50 years, each research project is funded for 3 years
Funding institution	BMBF (Germany) & MOST (Israel)
Funding beneficiaries	Academic Researchers in Universities and Research Institutions in Germany and Israel
Countries where research is conducted	Germany and Israel
Collaborating partner(s)	DE BMBF, MOST
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for the	Around EUR 250 000 (only Israeli (MOST) contribution)

entire duration of the activity (in EUR)	
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	Applied Water Research and bi-national cooperation between two PRIMA's PS.
Website	https://www.fona.de/en/measures/german_israeli_cooperation_in_water_technology_research_copy.php

MT.2025.1

Code	MT-2025-1
Theme:	Water management, Agri-food value chain, Farming Systems
Activity title	PRIMA Participating States Calls for Proposals supporting PRIMA
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	Through this action, national and bilateral calls for proposals in PRIMA-related thematic areas may be launched by the Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST), as well as jointly launched by MCST and other PS' funding entities. These initiatives are designed to enhance the Research and Innovation capacities in PRIMA-related thematic areas of PS involved.
Rationale/Impact	<p>The focus for these calls 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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Successful projects will act as a springboard for consortia to apply for PRIMA Sections 1 and 2 Calls. 2) Increase awareness on the PRIMA Initiative. 3) Further support local researchers who have been unsuccessful in previous PRIMA Calls. 4) Encourage partnerships with other PRIMA PS to launch bi-lateral and multi-lateral calls to further support the collaborative nature of PRIMA.
Objectives	<p>The general objective of these calls is to promote national and regional Research and Innovation in the strategic thematic areas of PRIMA and to encourage more participation in PRIMA activities.</p> <p>With a bottom-up approach, Research and Innovation calls will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generate new knowledge and advancements in technologies relevant to the PRIMA thematic areas. • Foster capacity-building through learning by doing and hands-on training. • Strengthen the link between evidence generation and policymaking in the PRIMA thematic areas. • Enhance experience-exchange with researchers in the other PRIMA PS. • Enhance Malta's capacity for Research and Innovation in PRIMA-related thematic areas.
Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National/Bilateral R&I projects on Water Management, Farming Systems and Agri-Food Value Chain. • Research outcomes – scientific papers, attendance at conferences, participation in joint events between the PS as well as other dissemination efforts. • Project reporting during the interim and end of projects. • Increase the possibility of establishing consortia for future proposal submissions under PRIMA Sections 1 and 2 Calls.
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the call for Proposals	Calls for Proposals for the Implementation of Projects under the thematic areas of PRIMA

Publication date (call 2025)	1 st quarter of 2025
Deadline for applications	Multiple deadlines spanning the entire duration of 2025
Expected date of award	Project approvals will be conducted throughout 2025 depending on the submission date
Scope of the call for Proposals	Promote Research and Innovation in PRIMA-related thematic areas to address identified national funding gaps and 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 Innovation Action (RIA) ✓ Innovation Action (IA) ✓ Mobility ✓ Joint research project ✓
Start date of the activity	1st quarter of 2025
Duration	Projects duration will be between 1-2 years
Funding institution	Malta Council for Science and Technology (XM) and other PRIMA Funding Agencies
Funding beneficiaries	PRIMA Participating Countries
Countries where research is conducted	PRIMA Participating Countries
Collaborating partner(s)	PRIMA Participating Agencies
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for the entire duration of the activity (in EUR)	MT – EUR 300,000. Other PS can have a specific allocated budget.
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	The thematic focus on Agricultural Research, Water Management, and Agri Food Value Chain, will be in alignment with the three thematic pillars of PRIMA
Website	www.mcst.gov.mt

MT.2025.2

Code	MT-2025-2
Theme:	Water management, Agri-food value chain, Farming Systems
Activity title	PRIMA Participating States Calls for Proposals supporting PRIMA
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	Through this action, entities that are based in Malta, can establish collaborative links with fellow peers in Universities, Research Organizations and/or Industry that are based in another PRIMA PS. The PRIMA Training and Mobility Call will support strategic visits, placements or other joint activities that may facilitate different partners to come together and potentially submit joint applications for PRIMA.
Rationale/Impact	<p>The focus for this action is to build research and innovation capacities through training and mobility activities. Such activities would empower researchers and R&I stakeholders through training, sharing of best practices, knowledge transfer and networking, as well as establish successful partner matches for future collaborations, to propose and undertake joint R&I PRIMA projects.</p> <p>This will be achieved through a competitive and transparent process of selection. The foreseen main impacts will be to (but not limited to):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Increase awareness on the PRIMA Initiative. 2) Train researchers who are gaining expertise in the relevant thematic areas. 3) Facilitate meetings between researchers with common research interests in order to successfully applied for the PRIMA-Calls. 4) Share best practices through research visits and workshops. 5) Transfer knowledge and encourage dissemination amongst entities from different PS through the organization of seminars and workshops. 6) Further support local researchers who have been unsuccessful in previous PRIMA Calls to find new partners and to widen their network further.
Objectives	<p>The objective of the Call is to promote national and regional research and innovation in the thematic areas of PRIMA, and to encourage more participation in PRIMA, through the fostering of international collaborations.</p> <p>This Call is foreseen to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widen the research network for Mediterranean researchers and practitioners operating in the fields of PRIMA. • Foster capacity-building of researchers/practitioners by learning through hands-on training and sharing of best practices on water sustainability, land and food management. • Foster a culture for transnational research and high-quality research excellence outputs. • Provide access to research facilities.
Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mobility of researchers between Malta and other PRIMA PSs for training, workshops and research seminars. - Joint Research Actions in the PRIMA thematic areas between stakeholders in different PRIMA PS - Research outcomes – scientific papers, attendance at conferences as well as other dissemination efforts. - Technical/final Report at the end of the activity - Increase the possibility of establishing consortia for future proposal submissions under Section 1 and Section 2 PRIMA Calls
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	

Title of the call for Proposals	PRIMA Training and Mobility Award (PTMA)
Publication date (call 2025)	2 nd quarter of 2025
Deadline for applications	TBC
Expected date of award	TBC
Scope of the call for Proposals	Malta will launch a call for training and mobility under the PRIMA Section 3 initiatives for 2025. The aim of the call is to promote training and mobility activities, associated with PRIMA-related topics that could address shortcomings associated with effective partner searching, unsuccessful partner collaborations due to the lack of in-person and on-site meetings, as well as limitations in the transfer and application of existing knowledge across PS. Addressing such limitations can help increase the propensity for stronger project consortia composition.
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Mobility ✓ Training action ✓ Joint research project ✓
Start date of the activity	2 nd quarter 2025
Duration	Applicants would have the possibility to use the award within 1 year from date of award.
Funding institution	Malta Council for Science & Technology (MCST)
Funding beneficiaries	Eligible Malta-based stakeholders according to National Rules for Participation
Countries where research is conducted	PRIMA Participating Countries
Collaborating partner(s)	Stakeholders in PRIMA Participating Countries
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for the entire duration of the activity (in EUR)	MT – EUR 25 000
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	This initiative aligns well with the Capacity Building cross-cutting activity, described in Chapter 5 of the PRIMA SRIA, whereby PRIMA strives to enhance research capacity in Euro-Mediterranean countries, through training programmes for researchers and entrepreneurs.
Website	www.mcst.gov.mt

MT.2025.3

Code	MT-2025-3
Theme:	Water management, Agri-food value chain, Farming Systems
Activity title	PRIMA Networking Support Scheme (NET2PRIMA)
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	Through this action, the Malta Council for Science and Technology is committed to financially support eligible Malta-based stakeholders, facilitating their attendance at workshops, networking, and brokerage events held overseas by the PRIMA Secretariat or by PRIMA NCPs. This Scheme aims to enhance the participation of Malta-based stakeholders in proposal submissions, fostering greater engagement and collaboration within the PRIMA network.
Rationale/Impact	The primary objective of this initiative is to encourage active participation from Malta in events organized by the PRIMA Secretariat or other relevant entities associated with PRIMA. Participation in these events is expected to yield long-term benefits, such as the formation of consortia or involvement in consortia capable of submitting proposals for PRIMA Sections 1 and 2. Additionally, this initiative aims to enhance overall awareness of the PRIMA Initiative, exposing Malta-based researchers to success stories of ongoing or concluded PRIMA projects and encouraging knowledge transfer.
Objectives	The main objectives of this action are: 1) Expand the Research and Innovation network for Malta-based stakeholders within the Mediterranean region and beyond, particularly focusing on areas relevant to PRIMA. 2) Facilitating connections and collaborations with the PRIMA-related areas. 3) Encouraging knowledge transfer between successful project consortia and prospective Malta-based applicants. 4) Actively promote the formation of successful project consortia, through targeted support and networking opportunities.
Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting participation of Malta-based stakeholders at PRIMA-related workshops, networking, and brokerage events. Report at the end of the activity describing the major outcomes and potential way forward actions. Increase the possibility of establishing consortia for future proposal submissions under PRIMA Sections 1 and 2 Calls.
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the call for Proposals	PRIMA Networking Support Scheme (NET2PRIMA)
Publication date (call 2025)	1st quarter of 2025
Deadline for applications	Variable, throughout 2025
Expected date of award	Variable, throughout 2025
Scope of the call for Proposals	/
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Mobility ✓
Start date of the activity	1st quarter 2025
Duration	For the duration of the event and the subsequent submission of final reports
Funding institution	Malta Council for Science & Technology (XM)
Funding beneficiaries	Eligible Malta-based stakeholders according to National Rules for Participation
Countries where research is conducted	PRIMA Participating Countries

Collaborating partner(s)	/
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for the entire duration of the activity (in EUR)	MT – EUR 10 000
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	This initiative aligns well with the Capacity Building cross-cutting activity, described in Chapter 5 of the PRIMA SRIA, whereby PRIMA strives to enhance research capacity in Euro-Mediterranean countries, through training programmes for researchers and entrepreneurs.
Website	www.mcst.gov.mt

TR.2025.1

Code	TR-2025-1
Theme:	Water management, Agri-food value chain, Farming Systems
Activity title	PRIMA Participating States Calls for Proposals supporting PRIMA
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	Through this action, bilateral/multilateral joint calls for proposals in PRIMA-related thematic areas may be set up between Türkiye's funding agency TÜBİTAK and other PS funding agencies. Such an initiative aims to build the Research and Innovation capacities of the PS involved, in the areas of Water, Food and Agriculture.
Rationale/Impact	<p>The focus for these calls 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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Successful projects will act as a springboard for consortia to apply for Section 1 and Section 2 PRIMA Calls 2) Increase awareness on the PRIMA Initiative 3) Further support local researchers who have been unsuccessful in previous PRIMA Calls 4) Encourage partnerships with other PRIMA PS to launch bi-lateral 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 activities.</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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bilateral R&I projects on Water Management, Agriculture and Agri Food Value Chains - Mobility of researchers between the PRIMA PS - Research outcomes – scientific papers, attendance at conferences, participation in joint events between the PS as well as other dissemination efforts. - Project reporting during the interim and end of projects. - Increase the possibility of establishing consortia for future proposal submissions under Section 1 and Section 2 PRIMA Calls
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the call for Proposals	Calls for Proposals for the Implementation of Projects under the thematic areas of PRIMA
Publication date (call 2025)	1 st quarter of 2025
Deadline for applications	2 nd quarter of 2025
Expected date of award	3 rd - 4 th quarters of 2025
Scope of the call for Proposals	Participating States will launch a bi-/multilateral call for research proposals under the PRIMA Initiative calls Section 3 for 2025. The aim of such calls 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 Innovation Action (RIA) P Innovation Action (IA) P Scholarship P Mobility P Joint research project P
Start date of the activity	March-April 2025
Duration	Project duration will be 1-2 years
Funding institution	PRIMA Funding Agencies
Funding beneficiaries	PRIMA Participating Countries
Countries where research is conducted	PRIMA Participating Countries
Collaborating partner(s)	PRIMA Funding Agencies
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for the entire duration of the activity (in EUR)	TR- Up to 2.000.000 TRY (TBC) + Project Incentive Premium (max. 330.000 TRY) (TBC) + Overhead (max. 650.000 TRY) (TBC) per project. Total approx. 3.000.000 TRY (TBC)=approx. 75.000 € (TBC). Other PS can have a specific allocated budget.
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	The thematic focus on Agricultural Research, Water Management, and Agri-Food Value Chain, will be in alignment with the three thematic pillars of PRIMA
Website	www.tubitak.gov.tr



ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2025

FOR THE PARTNERSHIP FOR RESEARCH AND
INNOVATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA
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