



Λευκωσία, 19 Μαρτίου 2020

ΠΡΟΣ: Όλα τα μέλη
ΘΕΜΑ: Ετήσιο Πρόγραμμα Εργασίας PRIMA 2020 – Ενημέρωση για το πρόγραμμα Χρηματοδότησης.

Κυρία/ε,

Το Ίδρυμα Έρευνας και Καινοτομίας (ΙΔΕΚ) ενημερώνει σχετικά με το νέο Πρόγραμμα Εργασίας του Οργανισμού PRIMA (Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area) για το 2020 με συνολικό προϋπολογισμό €71 εκατομμύρια.

Η πρόσκληση για το Πρόγραμμα Εργασίας (ΠΕ 2020) αφορά την χρηματοδότηση ερευνητικών προτάσεων στις θεματικές προτεραιότητες: **1) Water Management, 2) Farming Systems και 3) Agro-food Chain.**

Στον πιο κάτω Πίνακα αναφέρεται ο Προϋπολογισμός και το χρονοδιάγραμμα των Προσκήσεων για τα δύο Μέρη του ΠΕ 2020.

Χρονοδιάγραμμα Προσκήσεων

	Budget (Million)	Expected No. Grants	Publication of Call	Stage 1 Pre- proposals Deadline	1 st Stage Evaluation Results	Stage 2 Full proposals Deadline	2 nd Stage Evaluation Results
Section 1 (EU Funding)*	€ 33	14-15	10/02/20	01/04/20	23/06/20	02/09/20	04/12/20
Section 2 (National Funding)*	€ 38	Aprox. 38	10/02/20	15/04/20	01/07/20	16/09/20	11/12/20

Επισυνάπτεται αυτούσια η Ανακοίνωση Πρόσκλησης του Προγράμματος PRIMA και το Ετήσιο Πρόγραμμα Εργασίας για το 2020.

Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες, παρακαλώ επικοινωνήστε με τον αρμόδιο λειτουργό κύριο Χρίστο Ασπρή στο τηλέφωνο 22602881.

Με εκτίμηση,

Μιχάλης Κούλλουρος
Λειτουργός Τμήματος Βιομηχανίας
Για Γενικό Γραμματέα.

Ανακοίνωση Πρόσκλησης του Προγράμματος PRIMA

Το Ίδρυμα Έρευνας και Καινοτομίας ενημερώνει τους ενδιαφερόμενους φορείς για τη δυνατότητα υποβολής προτάσεων στο πλαίσιο της Πρόσκλησης Υποβολής Προτάσεων του Προγράμματος «**Ευρωπαϊκές Πρωτοβουλίες – Τοπική Ανάπτυξη (PRIMA)**», το οποίο εντάσσεται στο πλαίσιο των Προγραμμάτων «RESTART 2016-2020» για Έρευνα, Τεχνολογική Ανάπτυξη και Καινοτομία.

Το Πρόγραμμα PRIMA αποσκοπεί στην ανάπτυξη δυναμικού έρευνας και καινοτομίας καθώς και καινοτόμων και βιώσιμων λύσεων για συστήματα παροχής και διαχείρισης νερού, συστήματα γεωργικής παραγωγής, και αλυσίδες αγρο-τροφικών προϊόντων, προκειμένου να καταστούν πιο αποτελεσματικά και αποδοτικά από περιβαλλοντικής και κοινωνικής πλευράς συμβάλλοντας στην αντιμετώπιση της ανεπάρκειας του νερού, της ασφάλειας και επάρκειας τροφίμων, της διατροφής, της υγείας, της ευημερίας και των προβλημάτων μεταναστευτικών ροών.

Στο πλαίσιο του Προγράμματος PRIMA έχουν ανακοινωθεί Προσκλήσεις που αφορούν στα **Section 1** και **Section 2** του ετήσιου Προγράμματος Εργασίας για το 2020, με συνολικό προϋπολογισμό €71 εκατομμύρια.

Section 1

Το **Section 1** αφορά Προγράμματα τα οποία χρηματοδοτούνται από πόρους της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης μέσω του οργανισμού PRIMA, ύψους €33 εκατ. στη βάση των κανόνων του προγράμματος Ορίζοντας 2020 και καλύπτει 4 θεματικές περιοχές, στις 3 θεματικές προτεραιότητες του PRIMA και σε συνδυασμό αυτών.

1. Thematic Area 1-Water management:

Topic 1.1.1-2020 (IA) Implementing sustainable, integrated management of water resources in the Mediterranean, under climate change conditions.

2. Thematic Area 2-Farming systems:

Topic 1.2.1 Genetic conservation and animal feeds

Topic 1.2.1 (RIA) Conservation and valorisation of local Animal Genetic Resources

Topic 1.2.1 (IA) Alternative animal feeds.

3. Thematic Area 3-Agrofood chain:

Topic 1.3.1 (IA) Valorising the health benefits of Traditional Mediterranean food products.

4. Nexus theme:

Topic 1.4.1 (IA) Demonstrating benefits of the Water-Ecosystem-Food Nexus approach in delivering optimal economic development, achieving high level of environmental protection and ensuring fair access to natural resources.

Για το ολοκληρωμένο πλαίσιο και διαδικασία, οι ενδιαφερόμενοι μπορούν να ανατρέξουν στην συγκεκριμένη πρόσκληση του Section 1, που τους ενδιαφέρει, στην ιστοσελίδα του PRIMA. Η Καταληκτική Ημερομηνία Υποβολής Προτάσεων της Διεθνικής Πρότασης για το πρώτο στάδιο προτάσεων του Section 1 είναι η **1^η Απριλίου 2020, ώρα 17:00** και για το δεύτερο στάδιο είναι η **2^α Σεπτεμβρίου ώρα 17:00**.

Section 2

Το **Section 2** της πρόσκλησης επικεντρώνεται στις ακόλουθες προκλήσεις, με στόχο να υποστηρίξει έργα που εμπίπτουν στις πιο κάτω ενότητες:

1. Thematic Area 1-Water management:

Topic 2.1.1 (RIA) Low cost, lean solutions for enhancing irrigation efficiency of small-scale farms

2. Thematic Area 2-Farming systems:

Topic 2.2.1 (RIA) Re-design the agro-livelihood systems to ensure resilience.

3. Thematic Area 3-Agrofood chain:

Topic 2.3.1 (RIA) New optimization models of the agro food supply chain system to fair price for consumers and reasonable profit share for farmers

Ο συνολικός προϋπολογισμός της πρόσκλησης ανέρχεται στα 600.000 Ευρώ ενώ η μέγιστη χρηματοδότηση ανέρχεται σε 175.000 Ευρώ ανά έργο και 200.000 Ευρώ ανά έργο, στην περίπτωση που κυπριακός φορέας αναλάβει το ρόλο του Συντονιστή του Διεθνικού Δικτύου Συνεργασίας. Η διάρκεια των έργων θα πρέπει να είναι τριάντα έξι (36) μήνες.

Στο πλαίσιο της Πρόσκλησης θα ακολουθηθεί διαδικασία δύο σταδίων υποβολής Πρότασης. Κατά το πρώτο στάδιο τα Δίκτυα Συνεργασίας θα υποβάλλουν Προκαταρκτικές Προτάσεις (Pre-Proposals) και στη συνέχεια όσες περάσουν στην επόμενη φάση θα κληθούν για την υποβολή Πλήρους Πρότασης (Full Proposal).

Σημειώνεται ότι, οι κυπριακοί φορείς που θα συμμετέχουν σε διεθνικές προτάσεις που θα υποβληθούν στο πλαίσιο του **Section 2**, θα πρέπει εκτός από κεντρική υποβολή της Διεθνικής Πρότασης, να υποβάλλουν και πρόταση προς το ΙΔΕΚ, μέσω της Πύλης IRIS. Η αξιολόγηση των Προτάσεων της παρούσας Πρόσκλησης θα γίνει κεντρικά από τη Γραμματεία του PRIMA.

Η Καταληκτική Ημερομηνία Υποβολής Προτάσεων της Διεθνικής Πρότασης για το πρώτο στάδιο του **Section 2** είναι η **15^η Απριλίου 2020, ώρα 17:00** και για το δεύτερο στάδιο είναι η **16^η Σεπτεμβρίου ώρα 17:00**.

Η Καταληκτική Ημερομηνία Υποβολής Προτάσεων στην Πύλη IRIS του ΙΔΕΚ για το πρώτο στάδιο του **Section 2** είναι η **22^α Απριλίου 2020, ώρα 13:00** και για το δεύτερο στάδιο είναι η **23^η Σεπτεμβρίου ώρα 13:00**.

Οι ενδιαφερόμενοι μπορούν να βρουν περισσότερες πληροφορίες στην Ηλεκτρονική Πύλη IRIS του ΙΔΕΚ ή να επικοινωνούν με τον αρμόδιο Λειτουργό. Για θέματα υποβολής και διαδικασίας στην κεντρική πύλη του PRIMA, οι ενδιαφερόμενοι μπορούν να επικοινωνούν με τη Γραμματεία της Πρόσκλησης.



ΙΔΡΥΜΑ
ΕΡΕΥΝΑΣ ΚΑΙ
ΚΑΙΝΟΤΟΜΙΑΣ



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Brussels, 10.2.2020
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ANNEX 1

ANNEX

to the

COMMISSION DECISION

on the financing of the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) for the years 2020 to 2028 and on the approval of the annual work plan for 2020

ANNEX 1



Annual Work Plan 2020

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

Responsible:	Octavi Quintana Trias PRIMA Foundation Director
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The PRIMA programme is supported and funded under Horizon 2020, the Framework European Union's Programme for Research and Innovation

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This document is strictly confidential and should not be copied, distributed or reproduced in whole or in part.

Glossary

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

NOTICE: Please note that until the UK leaves the EU, EU law continues to apply to and within the UK, when it comes to rights and obligations; this includes the eligibility of UK legal entities to fully participate and receive funding from Horizon 2020 including actions called for in this work plan. Please be aware however that the eligibility criteria must be complied with for the entire duration of the grant. If the UK withdraws from the EU during the grant period without concluding an agreement with the EU ensuring in particular that British applicants continue to be eligible, they will no longer be eligible to receive EU funding and their participation may be terminated on the basis of Article 50 of the grant agreement."

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Introduction

The overall objective of the PRIMA programme is 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 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. The scope of research and innovation is complex, and need to be addressed with a multidisciplinary, cross-border approach involving a critical mass of Stakeholders. A collaborative approach among PRIMA Participating States can help to align National programmes and focus on common problems, increasing the required scale, scope and pooling financial and intellectual resources.

With this aim, PRIMA Participant States have developed a long term Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda¹ (SRIA), which represent the cornerstone in the process of strengthening Research and Innovation efforts with the final goal of improving health and livelihoods Mediterranean citizens, encouraging economic growth, inducing more sustainable Mediterranean societies and stability. PRIMA SRIA is the reference document for all the actors involved in PRIMA towards the implementation of the Initiative.

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

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

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

The programme is implemented by the PRIMA Foundation, established in Barcelona in 2017 as dedicated implementation structure, which has been entrusted by the European Commission to manage the budget implementation tasks of the PRIMA under *art.* 185 TFEU.³

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

¹ http://prima-med.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/PRIMA-SRIA_Strategic-Research-and-Innovation-Agenda.pdf

² Decision (EU) 2017/1324 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2017 on the participation of the Union in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) jointly undertaken by several Member States. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32017D1324>.

³ Article 26(2)(b) of the REGULATION (EU) No 1291/2013 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 11 December 2013 establishing Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) and repealing Decision No 1982/2006/EC

Implementation of the PRIMA programme

The PRIMA Foundation based on Annual Work Plans implements the PRIMA programme.

PRIMA annual work plans are developed in compliance with the objectives and provisions set out in the PRIMA Decision and are based on the priorities described in the PRIMA SRIA under the three thematic areas addressed by the Programme, namely:

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

As for 2020 Calls, in addition to the three sectorial above-mentioned thematic Areas, given the complexity of interlinkages between the above-mentioned areas, especially in the Mediterranean area, a specific action will be focused on the interlinkages addressing the Water-Ecosystem-Food- (WEF) Nexus under a specific “Nexus theme ” Call.

PRIMA programme structure

PRIMA Programme activities will be implemented as follow:

- 1) **Section 1:** Actions and activities organised, managed and funded by PRIMA-IS⁴
- 2) **Section 2:** Activities selected following transnational open and competitive calls for proposals organised by PRIMA-IS and funded by the national funding bodies of PS (providing financial support mainly in the form of grants)
- 3) **Section 3: Activities organised, managed and funded by the PS**
 - a. Activities under the national programmes of the Participating States including transnational projects referred to as “Participating States’ Initiated Activities” (PSIAs)
 - b. Activities organised and funded by PS supporting PRIMA programme implementation referred to as “Other activities” in this document.

⁴ In line with Art. 3(3) (a) of the PRIMA Decision, 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 (Art. 5(2)(a)).



Figure 1 PRIMA Programme Structure

Section 1

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

Actions are evaluated, selected and funded in line with the Rules for Participation of Horizon 2020 and are centrally managed by the PRIMA-IS. Grant agreements are to be signed with PRIMA-IS based on the H2020 Model Grant Agreement.⁵

In section 1, activities of the PRIMA programme are supported along two distinct types of actions as defined in the General Annex D of the Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2018-2020.

Research and Innovation action (RIA)

Innovation Actions (IA)

While RIAs in Section 1 refers to Technology Readiness Level⁶ 3-5, IAs refers to Technology Readiness Level 6-7 as set out in Section 5 of this document (General Annexes). Innovation Actions should include Innovation 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 innovation⁷ activities⁸ could also be include

Section 1 Actions will encompass topics under the three thematic areas (water management; farming system and food value chain) and topics focusing specifically in the interdependencies (nexus) among them, under an additional thematic area devoted to the nexus theme.

⁵ http://prima-med.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/h2020_mga_prima_multi_en.pdf

⁶ Technology readiness levels as defined in annex G of the General Annexes to the Horizon 2020 Work Programme and Section 5.1.5 of this document

⁷ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2006:323:0001:0026:EN:PDF> Definition of "organisational innovation."

⁸ Organisational innovation means the implementation of a new organisational method in the undertaking's business practices, workplace organisation or external relations.

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

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

Section 2

2.1 Indirect actions funded by PRIMA PS following Transnational Calls organised by PRIMA-IS

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

In Section 2, activities of the PRIMA programme are supported by Research and Innovation Activities (RIA) based on national rules⁹

Section 2 will include activities of approximately 1 MEuro, encompassing all Technology Readiness Level (3-7); however, the funding of projects in high TRLs will depend on national funding regulations.

In Sections 1 and 2, PRIMA AWP 2020 provides information about Calls for Proposals to be organised by PRIMA Foundation, including the challenge, scope and expected impact, as well as the eligibility requirements and other specific conditions for applying.

Detailed supporting information about the evaluation, selection and granting process, applicable type of grant agreements and funding levels are summarized under each call topic, described in more detail in the General Annexes (5.1: Section 1 and 5.2: Section 2) and in the national funding rules (Section 2).

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

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

Section 3

3.1 Participating States Initiated Activities (PSIAs)

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

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

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

Actions and activities in the three Sections of PRIMA AWP 2020 will be interconnected in a coherent and well-integrated programme.

⁹ Please note that the acronym RIA is used both for Section 1 and for Section 2. In Section 1, the rules applying to these actions are the standard Horizon 2020 rules for participation (RfP). While the rules used in **Section 2** are to some extent **analogous to the Horizon 2020 RfP**, specific rules, concerning participation and funding rates, apply. As the projects selected in Section 2 are funded directly by the national funding bodies they will be subject to the respective national regulations. For more details regarding the rules for Section 2 please refer to the guidelines for applicants on the PRIMA website.

Table 1 Overview of PRIMA actions and activities covered by PRIMA AWP 2020 and allocation of corresponding contributions from the European Union and Participating States

Actions / Activities	Contribution	
	EU	PS
SECTION 1: ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED AND MANAGED		
1.1. Indirect actions funded by PRIMA-IS (Union contribution) following Transnational Calls organised by PRIMA-IS.	X	
1.2 Activities supporting programme operations funded and implemented by the PRIMA-IS	X	
SECTION 2: ACTIVITIES SELECTED FOLLOWING TRANSNATIONAL CALLS		
2. 1 Indirect actions funded PRIMA PS following Transnational Calls organised by PRIMA-IS		X
2.2 Activities supporting programme operations funded and implemented by the PRIMA-IS (evaluation of the submitted proposals, monitoring and other supporting activities)	X	
2.3 PS contributions dedicated to the implementation of proposals resulting from transnational calls organised by the PRIMA-IS and funded by the PS		X
SECTION 3: ACTIVITIES ORGANISED, MANAGED AND FUNDED BY THE PS		
3.1 Participating States Initiated Activities (PSIAs)		X
3.2 Other Activities		X

PRIMA AWP 2020 rationale

The Annual Work Plan 2020 is the third one on the path of achieving the objectives set out by the PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda.

In view of the preparation of the Annual Work Plan 2020, a public consultation was launched at the end of 2018. This public consultation allowed stakeholders (approximately one thousand respondents) to provide their inputs for the preparation of the next Annual Work Plan 2020 and related calls for proposals. The outcomes of the Public Consultation represented a relevant contribution for the PRIMA Scientific Advisory Board, whose work fed in a concept paper, which paved the way for the Annual Work Plan 2020.

In addition, the recommendations of the External Experts involved in the assessment of the AWP 2019 were taken into account. Those recommendations were mainly aimed to:

- Foster Capacity Development to enhance development of professional skills, technology transfer, innovation and knowledge exchange.
- Foster collaborations and networking among PRIMA projects
- Foster alignment of national programmes and synergies with other EC and international organisations with similar objectives

To set the priorities for Annual Work Plan 2020, the Scientific Advisory Committee, analysed the outcomes of the PRIMA 2018 calls for proposals and the content of PRIMA Annual Work Plan 2019, while considering also the objectives set out in the PRIMA SRIA.

This Work Programme is therefore structured around the following priority lines:

- Addressing Water scarcity while making more efficient use of available water resources
- Development and adoption of resilient systems on Climate change in MED.
- Creating the opportunities towards the transition to the circular economy in the Mediterranean Area in line with the recently adopted proposed Circular economy EU package and Action Plan¹⁰.
- Protecting and leveraging the value of the Mediterranean diet
- Validation of the Nexus approach in the Mediterranean Area

Research and innovation will cover the following SRIA priorities, which have been selected according to the outcomes of the public consultation process and the strategic analysis by the PRIMA SAC.



Thematic area 1 Water management

1.2 Sustainable, integrated water management

1.3 Irrigation technologies and practices



Thematic area 2 Farming system

2.2 Developing sustainable and productive agro-ecosystems

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



Thematic Area 3 Agri-food value chain

3.1 Valorising food products from traditional Mediterranean diet

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



Nexus theme

¹⁰ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52015DC0614>

The above-mentioned priority action lines will address the most pressing challenges the Mediterranean Area is facing, considering that climate change in the region is having and will continue to have a strong impact, which goes far beyond what we have experienced so far. They are consistent with the UfM Political impulse to the Mediterranean agenda on water and, more specifically, follows up the results of the Water Ministerial Declaration adopted in April 2017, and specifically the Action Plans of UfM Water, the Task Force on Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem Nexus and UfM Task force on Climate Change Adaptation.

Research and Innovation activities will be focused on providing solutions to mitigate the impacts of climate change, addressing water scarcity in the region, ensuring a smooth transition to resilient farming and food systems, and satisfying the increasing need of food quality for a healthy Mediterranean population, demonstrating a strong commitment to supporting the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Overall, the Annual Work Plan 2020 contributes to many of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, including end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture (SDG2) clean water and sanitation (SDG6); inclusive and sustainable economic growth (SDG8); responsible consumption and production (SDG12) climate action (SDG13); life on land (SDG15); revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development (SDG17).

The solutions arising from projects that will be selected under the 2020 Calls are expected to deliver new ideas, products, technologies, policy recommendations and social innovations, providing a supportive framework for genuine improvements in the way Mediterranean societies produce and consume in an environment particularly affected by climate change.

Involvement of end-users including small farmers, consumers, and public authorities will be a key to achieve this. In particular, several topics of either Section 1 and Section 2 Calls recommend the 'multi-actor approach'¹¹ as adopted in many H2020 Societal Challenges, to involve them at all stages of projects.

With an indicative budget of 70 M€, AWP 2020 is structured around five Calls for seven topics:

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

Building upon the ongoing R&I work framed in the 2018 Projects, the AWP 2020 brings, four Innovation Actions (IAs), with activities demonstrating technology or organisational model product validation and market replication and four Research and Innovation Actions (RIAs), exploring new areas and new technologies that will contribute to foster the place-based transformation of Mediterranean communities.

This AWP 2020 foresees that approximately 50 projects will be funded, consisting of a balanced mix of demonstrations with new technologies into operation or organisational innovations and research activities with lower Technology Readiness Level (TRL) to pave the way for future innovation and capitalisation potential.

As a general approach, Research and Innovation activities in the AWP 2020 include socio-economic aspects involving social sciences, a crosscutting issue that engages society, ensures access to research outcomes. When appropriate, gender dimension¹² should also be considered in the proposals.

All proposals are strongly recommended to include capacity-building activities to develop capacities at many levels: individual, organisational and/or community level. This is particularly important for

¹¹ Definition of Multi-actor approach in the Work Programme 2018-2020 .Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine, maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy:
(http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2018-2020/main/h2020-wp1820-food_en.pdf).

¹² Please refer to the following link explaining how to integrate the gender dimension in your proposal:
http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/gender_en.htm

increasing implementation capabilities and leveraging the impact of R&I efforts. Specific training activities are strongly suggested in the scope of topics proposed.

Also, even if not stated explicitly in a topic, proposals should always be complementary and demonstrate synergies with other EU projects funded under FP7 (such as ARIMNET¹³ and ERANETMed projects), Horizon 2020, LIFE programme¹⁴ and other funding schemes, but also national projects and both ongoing and concluded schemes. They should reflect awareness of the objectives of running projects in relevant fields to avoid overlap.

In AWP 2020_Section 1, the Call topic under the thematic area of water management will have a specific focus on Sustainable Integrated Water Management (IWRM). IWRM is particularly important in a water scarce region such as the Mediterranean where the sectoral approaches in water management are still prevailing in many south and east Mediterranean countries and cannot meet the contemporary needs for a sustainable resources management. Growing water-stress in these areas poses a threat to the economic development and human livelihoods, mainly among the most vulnerable populations living in arid rural areas. The region needs urgently to adopt an overall management strategy looking at the entire water cycle and integrating the environmental, social, and economic parameters.

As an outcome of the 2018 Calls, three PRIMA projects have been selected under the Thematic Area Water Management Priority 1.2 Sustainable, integrated water management. However, additional efforts are needed to demonstrate and validate the economic, environmental and social benefits of the adoption of integrated water management in the Region.

With regard to the thematic area Farming Systems, this Annual Work Plan will have a specific focus on increasing the sustainability of livestock production, which was not sufficiently addressed in previous Annual Work Plans but is a very important part of farming production in the Mediterranean region.

Means to improve sustainability and productivity of terrestrial livestock systems in the Mediterranean area need to be sought through breeding and nutrition. Local phenotypes, are better adapted to the Mediterranean ecosystems and should be valorised and re-integrated into breeding programmes.

Another important theme to be addressed is the sustainability of livestock feeding in the area.

Mediterranean countries in particular face the challenge of being dependent on overseas land for their own livestock production. Testing and adoption of new or alternative feeds, in particular as protein sources, has the potential to minimise reliance on imports and increase Mediterranean self-sufficiency.

With regard to the Food Value Chain thematic area, the AWP 2020 will address the need to a transition to the Mediterranean diet adoption, which is widely considered to be not only the most beneficial diet to human health, but also an environmentally sustainable food value chain model, contributing to mitigate climate change in Mediterranean countries. The topic proposed aims to valorising the potential bioactive compounds and increasing the health benefits and nutritional value of the traditional Mediterranean food with the aim of restoring healthy food habits. The valorisation of healthy products and the transition towards more sustainable consumption and production patterns and process represent strategic targets for Mediterranean agri-food value chains. The priority has been selected as the SRIA priority “Valorisation of healthy Mediterranean diet” has not been sufficiently addressed in 2018 and 2019 Annual Work Plans.

Finally, PRIMA AWP 2020 Section 1 includes a Nexus Call for operational projects testing good practices for the integral management of the Water, Ecosystem and Food sectors (WEF), aiming to demonstrate the economic, social and environmental benefits from the WEF Nexus approach at specific sites characterized by diverse climate conditions and socio-economic development. The objective is to enlarge the portfolio of WEF Nexus projects and case studies in PRIMA addressing trade-offs and synergies between sectors, and show how, through clever use, they can help promote stability and socio-economic development in the Mediterranean area.

In AWP 2020_Section 2, three topics are proposed under the three thematic areas:

¹³ <http://www.arimnet2.net/>

¹⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/life>

With regard to the Water Management thematic Area, the topic proposed focuses on the development of low-cost, lean, irrigation technology usable by small-scale farmers. Irrigated agriculture provides today more than 50% of the food production in the Mediterranean basin and smallholders form a vital part of Mediterranean agricultural community. For smallholders, access to irrigation water--or the means to use the water they have more productively-- is a key to increasing their crop production, their incomes, and their household food security. Proposals are expected to improve the profitability of irrigation through the adoption of lean irrigation technologies to generate income for smallholders in the Mediterranean.

The topic under the Farming thematic area will be focusing on the adoption from smallholders of agro-ecological practices as a mean to maintain/improve their livelihoods against climatic disturbances (including droughts, floods, alien pest invasions) in the Mediterranean Area.

This topic, mainly responding to the Thematic Area Farming system priority 2.4 "Developing farming systems able to generate income, create employment and to contribute to a balanced territorial development", has not been addressed in previous PRIMA Calls.

As for the Food value chain thematic area, funded projects will deliver technological and organisational improvements targeting Mediterranean Rural Communities and specifically smallholders, aiming to shorten the value chain by reducing the number of intermediates involved in order to increase the producer's income without increasing the final products' prices.

Selected projects will improve the applicability of Fairtrade and optimized agribusiness model increasing competitiveness of small- scale farmers and guarantee positive socio-economic impacts in the Mediterranean Region.

Supporting activities to increase impact

In order to facilitate the taking over of PRIMA outputs with a direct operational or development relevance to policymaking after the projects are completed, best practices will be collected in the following digital platforms:

- *PRIMA Observatory for Innovation* -POI¹⁵ is a digital platform collecting and sharing best practices for research, innovation and education in the Mediterranean Area. The platform allows collect high potential innovations and innovators in PRIMA-funded research and innovation framework. It promotes new concrete solutions for communities and enterprises and stimulates new partnerships among Euro Mediterranean researchers, innovators, businesses and stakeholders. The PRIMA Observatory platform has been developed as supporting activity by Italy, during the implementation of AWP 2018.
- *Knowledge Hub on Water and Agriculture*¹⁶ developed by the Joint Research Center. Specific solutions developed within PRIMA projects in the field of water and agriculture will be included into the HuB. The objective is to link relevant existing sources of information and generate new knowledge to support cross-sectoral policymaking and management practices in the field of water and agriculture within not only the EC but also extending it to all the Mediterranean Area.

Dissemination of PRIMA outcomes

- PRIMA Strategic Workshop

A workshop will be co-organised with EC in the second quarter 2020. This workshop aims to define strategies and activities to increase the impact of PRIMA in terms of societal- and systemic transformation for the Mediterranean area. The expected outcomes of the workshop will include recommendations to PRIMA on strategic priorities for the years to come to be considered for the elaboration of future PRIMA Annual Work Plans.

PRIMA Networking meeting

¹⁵ POI has been produced in the frame of 2018 Annual Work Plan Section 3: <https://primaobservatory.unisi.it/en/homepage>

¹⁶ <https://water.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

A PRIMA networking meeting will be organised in the third quarter of 2020, with participation of representatives of Consortia involved in PRIMA projects funded in 2018 and 2019 calls. The proposed meeting will facilitate knowledge exchange and foster cross-collaboration between PRIMA's Projects actors. This meeting will be key in identifying synergies or eventually overlapping themes as well to reflect the impact the projects are delivering, in order to identify opportunities to improve the effectiveness of their results. In addition, synergies with relevant EC funded projects from EU funding programmes (i.e. H2020, LiFE programme, ENI-CBC-MED programme) ,will be considered.

Synergies and Complementarities of European and International Initiatives

Building on its broad scope of action PRIMA is well placed to create synergies and provide complementarities with other EU programmes or instruments, or international initiatives.

PRIMA will establish synergies with other European Union partnerships such as Joint Programming initiatives (JPIs), namely: JPI Water¹⁷, FACCE JPI¹⁸, JPI HDHL¹⁹; relevant European Technology Platform (ETP) such as Water and Sanitation Technology Platform (WSSTP)²⁰; European Innovation Technology EIT Food²¹; the European Innovation Partnership: EIP_Agri²² initiative; EIP_Water²³ initiative; the Biobased Joint Undertaking²⁴ and EU programmes focused in the Mediterranean Region such as the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the EU-AU High Level Policy Dialogue Cross Border Cooperation within the European Neighbourhood Instrument Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme -ENI CBC MED²⁵.

Regular exchange of information with regard to project results and events Cooperation with other initiatives will be established through the participation, where possible and relevant, in partner events and governing bodies or through bilateral meetings aiming to mutual exchange of information and best practices. Synergies among the different initiatives will be achieved also providing access to respective databases or digital Platform/Hubs.

Collaboration with international organisations such as International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) will be fostered through the development of e-learning tools, and capacity development activities.

Section 3 activities will encompass Participating States Initiated Activities (PSIAs), namely Research and Innovation Actions; training and mobility schemes funded and managed by PRIMA PS (France, Germany, Italy, Malta, Spain and Tunisia) and supporting Activities implemented by Germany and Malta.

These activities will be mainly focused to increase participation and capacities of researchers of underrepresented Countries in the PRIMA Calls.

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

¹⁷ <http://www.waterjpi.eu/>

¹⁸ <https://facejpi.net/>

²⁰ <http://watereurope.eu/>

²¹ <https://www.eitfood.eu/>

²² <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/>

²³ <https://www.eip-water.eu/>

²⁴ <https://www.bbi-europe.eu/>

²⁵ <http://www.enpicbcmmed.eu/>

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

PRIMA-IS will launch four calls in Section 1, one for each thematic area including the Nexus theme Call, encompassing four Innovation actions (IAs)²⁶ and one Research and Innovation Action (RIA) to mobilize the Euro-Mediterranean scientific communities, stakeholders and private entities submitting proposals expected to produce a socio-economic positive impact in the Mediterranean area in the near future.

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

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

The eligibility check of proposals will be done by the PRIMA-IS in line with eligibility criteria set in the PRIMA Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2017²⁷.

The evaluation and selection of proposals as well as the monitoring of the projects will be done according to H2020 rules²⁸.

The successful projects will be funded directly by the PRIMA-IS through the signature of a grant agreement between the selected consortia and the PRIMA-IS. The grant agreements will be based on the PRIMA Model Grant Agreement²⁹ based on Horizon 2020 (PRIMA MGA).

Topics in Section 1 2020 Calls

1 **Thematic Area 1-Water management:**



Topic 1.1.1-2020 (IA) Implementing sustainable, integrated management of water resources in the Mediterranean, under climate change conditions.

2 **Thematic Area 2-Farming systems:**



Topic 1.2.1 Genetic conservation and animal feeds

- Topic 1.2.1 (RIA) Conservation and valorisation of local Animal Genetic Resources
- Topic 1.2.1 (IA) Alternative animal feeds

3 **Thematic Area 3-Agrofood chain:**



Topic 1.3.1 (IA) Valorising the health benefits of Traditional Mediterranean food products

4 **Nexus theme**



Topic 1.4.1 (IA) Demonstrating benefits of the Water-Ecosystem-Food Nexus approach in delivering optimal economic development, achieving high level of environmental protection and ensuring fair access to natural resources.

²⁶ http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/gap/doa/h2020-doa-ria-ia-csa_en.pdf


²⁷ OJ L 185, 18.7.2017

²⁸ See Section of 5.1.6 of this Document

²⁹ http://prima-med.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/h2020_mga_prima_multi_en.pdf

Thematic Area water management

Topic 1.1.1-2020 (IA) Implementing sustainable, integrated management of water resources in the Mediterranean, under climate change conditions.

	<p><i>SRIA priorities addressed</i></p> <p>1.2 Sustainable, integrated water management</p> <p>Topic 1.1.1 refers to Priority 1.2 Water sustainability in the Mediterranean region should be ensured through improved technical tools coupled with socio-economic <u>tools and governance, organisational and/or business models</u> to define the limits of water use in certain key regions under present and future global change scenarios.</p>
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Challenge

The Mediterranean is among the most arid regions in the world. Hosting more than 50 percent of the world's 'water poor' population. Water scarcity can only increase in the future and is already becoming an increasingly important limitation to society in the Region. Additionally, Mediterranean countries are particularly vulnerable to climate change, because of the predominance of agriculture in their economies, the scarcity of capital for adaptation measures, their warmer baseline climates and their heightened exposure to extreme events. Rural areas are expected to experience major impacts of climate change on water availability and supply, infrastructure and agricultural incomes, reduced agricultural production and increase food insecurity with socio-economic consequences, such as increasing poverty and migration.

In this context, "Integrated Water Resources Management" (IWRM), founded on reliable water accounting and based on three pillars, (such as social equity, economic efficiency and environmental sustainability), can facilitate adaptation to the global change promoting the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, maximizing economic and social welfare without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems. The integration of Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and IWRM should be investigated, developing and testing innovative demonstration cases on efficient and sustainable use of water, at pilot projects at various scales, from plot to basin. New solutions enhancing the real integration of social and economic components of the IWRM as well as the environmental ones have to be developed and connected to existing simulation models assessing the impact of climate change.

Scope

The IWRM approach(es) should be implemented and tested by involving all the potential stakeholders in experimental or demonstration sites representative of Mediterranean water conditions in terms of water scarcity, water accounting, water use efficiency, use of non-conventional irrigation waters (saline and waste), changing climatic and demographic conditions, crop diversification, conflicting use of available waters, as well as needs for improved governance by different authorities (including transboundary aspects), and other relevant factors.

Given that the majority of the water is consumed in the agricultural sector, a comprehensive approach to water accounting is needed to obtain robust estimates of water use by developing and testing state of the art technologies that are affordable to all users. Reliable estimates of consumptive use are needed for a) water allocation by policy makers at the basin scale and beyond; b) for validation of current remote sensing techniques; and c) for optimizing farm irrigation management under water scarcity. Pilot projects should be launched to integrate innovative water accounting approaches into CCA and IWRM.

Existing simulation models predicting the impact of climate change can be useful tools for developing and testing adaptation measures working under real conditions, involving stakeholders, and end-user groups, preferably at the river basin scale. Calibration and validation of these models is necessary to obtain site-specific results in terms of climate change impact and adaptation. These results shall be incorporated in the IWRM approach to develop water allocation strategies aimed at meeting various sectorial water demands under future climate change scenarios and with different socio-economic assumptions.

The developed approach shall be implemented through capacity development and participatory approaches, promoting coordination among various stakeholders and companies (explicitly involving SMEs), with frequent dialogues, training and advisory sessions to provide the support on designing and demonstrating real-life examples, ensuring and demonstrating linkages among diverse water resources managers and users and their involvement from the beginning of the project. Biophysical, technological, social, economic, environmental, hydrological, institutional, and financial issues to achieve higher water use efficiency and improved water allocation and management will need to be the part of the implemented IWRM approach.

Proposals might take into account and, where possible, the results of LIFE programme³⁰ and H2020 Societal Challenge projects and among others, the Sustainable Water Integrated Management and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism (SWIM-H2020 support Mechanism)³¹. The innovations identified within the projects could be disseminated within the EU Regional Project funded by DG NEAR "Water and Environment Support in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood region (WES)"

Proposals should fall under the '**multi-actor approach**' ensuring cooperation between research centres, governments, regulators, users and providers, in the field of Integrated Water Resources Management.

Expected Impacts

- Validation, testing and adoption of innovative and adapted technical, organizational, business and governance models aimed at enhancing the efficiency of water use by the integration of social and economic components into IWRM and CCA approaches.
- Demonstration(s) of how the proposed IWRM models approach will lead to better use, saving and preservation of water resources, with a positive impact in terms of quality, quantity, and sustainable use, without adverse impacts on other natural resources and in terms of benefit for users (socio economic issues) as well as ensuring preservation of natural ecosystem services.
- Optimization of management of water for irrigation obtained from various sources, in particular, abstracted of recovered water from waste water treatment systems or recovered water from other sources (such as rain water, industrial, etc.) at the basin level as well as in collective networks (water users' associations), improving water use and distribution efficiency, as well as preventing socio-economic conflicts in the use of water resources; Water exploitation index in rivers, aquifers, and other land-based sources must be also ensured.
- Improved regional, national and transboundary water governance in support of legal security and social trust;
- Strengthened institutional/organisational and individual capacities in terms of adopting and applying IWRM models, concepts and strategies;
- Improve multi-sectorial stakeholder involvement management and institutional capacity building.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



Number of applied R&I solutions to the challenges of water management



Number and efficiency performance of new irrigation technologies and scheduling protocols and models;

³⁰ <https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/life>

³¹ "SWIM - Sustainable Water Integrated Management and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism" funded by the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) South/Environment. <https://www.swim-h2020.eu/>




SDG#6: indicator 6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0-100)

Table 2 Supporting information for the Section 1 Call for Proposals, Topic 1.1.1

Type of action	Innovation Action (IA)
Total indicative amount allocated to this call	€ 7.5 million
Funding level	<i>According to Horizon 2020 Rules: 70% (except for non-profit legal entities, where a rate of 100% applies)</i>
Technology Readiness levels (TRL)	<i>TRL 6-7 Proposals should clearly state the starting and end TRLs of the key technology or technologies targeted in the project.</i>
Budget and duration of grants	PRIMA considers that proposals requesting a contribution up to EUR 2,5 million and with a duration of from 36 months to 48 months, would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.
Submission and evaluation procedure	Two-stage application procedure. For the first stage, a short proposal (maximum 10 pages) must be submitted by the first deadline. Successful applicants in the first stage will be invited to the second stage to submit a full proposal (maximum 50 pages). A timeline for the submission and evaluation of applications can be found in table 6 .
Evaluation rules	The award criteria, scoring, thresholds and weightings for IAs listed in part 5.1.6 will be used.
Grant agreement	PRIMA MGA (multi-beneficiary), based on Horizon 2020.
Consortium agreement	Participants in projects resulting from this Call for Proposals will be required to conclude a consortium agreement prior to the conclusion of the PRIMA grant agreement.

Thematic Area Farming systems

Topic 1.2.1-2020 (RIA/IA) Genetic conservation and animal feeds

	<p><i>SRIA priorities addressed</i></p> <p>2.1 Adaptation of agriculture to climate change Genetic and plant breeding cropping system diversification, and spatial organisation, as well as diversification of animals are also important for improving resilience to climate change.</p> <p>2.2 Developing sustainable and productive agro-ecosystems This priority tackle the challenge of food scarcity to face the ever-growing food demand. The solution of the intensification of farming practices has often led to pollution, overexploitation of natural resources. A possible solution is the development of sustainable and productive agro ecosystems.</p>
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Challenge

The Mediterranean's population will reach 560 million people in 2030; the demand for meat as animal products is set to climb steeply as the population increases. It is urgently needed to transform the livestock production systems into more sustainable ones respecting the environment and meeting the expectations of consumers and citizens, while providing a fair income and good working conditions to producers.

With increasing demands for animal products by an ever-growing Mediterranean population and changing societal needs, animal breeding needs to evolve to incorporate genomic information in order to speed up response and increase productivity and quality in a context of climate change. Deeper investigation on the local breeds through genetic analyses and conservation programmes to valorise them are needed, making livestock production systems more resilient.

At the same time, sustainable livestock production in the Mediterranean is affected by the decrease of availability and quality of plant forage causing import of high prices feedstuffs such as cereals, which are the base of most of the concentrates. The lack of local alternative feeds combined with the rearing of non-adapted breeds and/or the inadequate management of herds can have a strong negative impact on soil while threatening the competitiveness and the sustainability of the livestock systems, especially in the South and East of the Mediterranean Area.

Scope

Proposals should address only one of the following sub-topics:

Sub-topic A) Conservation and valorisation of local Animal Genetic Resources (RIA)

Knowledge of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture is fundamental to the sustainable use, development and conservation of these resources.

Proposals shall consider mapping, genetic characterization and monitoring of local breeds³², well adapted to the Mediterranean environment, tolerant to heat stress and diseases resistant.

Proposals shall decipher the links between epigenetic, genomic and the phenotypic adaptive³³ traits to increase the reliability of genomic breeding with the goal of increasing their resilience under a climate change context. In doing so, proposals shall take advantage of existing databases, past EC projects outputs, and existing national breeding programs to avoid duplications. Proposals should also characterize and valorise the final products of local breeds promoting the use of these breeds which can generate high quality products for the consumers (meat, milk....) and with high added value for the

³² Only local Mediterranean breeds shall be considered.

farmers (labels, genetic certification, new products..). Networks or platforms shall be established around the Mediterranean basin for genetic conservation and the promotion of adapted breeds bringing economic benefits to the farmers through capacity building and dissemination of good practises. Decision-making tools for the end users are encouraged, to select the most appropriate breeds according to the specificities of the production environment (agro-pastoralism, extensive or intensive production systems, mix crop livestock systems, ...).

Sub-topic B) Alternative animal feeds (IA)

Projects shall capitalize on what has been done in research programmes and EC projects and assess alternatives feed resources based on local agricultural production. Proposals shall evaluate the impact of using alternative animal feeds on animal productivity and on the quality of the product. Environmental impact of alternative feeds should also be considered. Proposals should analyse the socio-economic impact of the proposed alternatives animal feeds and promotion of the adoption of these new feeds by the farmers. The proposed actions should be in line with the development of national and/or regional strategies and policies. Activities shall comprise testing, demonstrating and/or piloting in a (near to) operational environment, as well as experimental production, in partnership with the main stakeholders including farmer's and consumers organisations, advising institutions and the private sector (mainly SMEs).

Proposals for both sub-topics A and B should fall under the concept of the **multi-actor approach**, ensuring that all the stakeholders, from farmers to consumers and regulators, will contribute to the building of sustainable livestock production systems to further add value to EU Mediterranean foods of animal origin³⁴.

Expected impacts

The project results are expected to contribute to:

For A proposals:

- Better knowledge of epigenetic and genetic processes leading to the adaptation of breeds to the changing Mediterranean environmental conditions
- Ensure the genetic conservation of local best adapted breeds and valorise them
- Propose to the farmers new options of breeds adapted to the local conditions (matching genetic and epigenetic with environment)
- Increase small farmers' incomes via the rearing of local breeds and the sale of products (raw or transformed) with high added value

For B proposals:

- Development and adoption of new alternative feed sources
- Adoption of a circular economy approach in the livestock production by valorising the by-products
- Valorisation of local crops or adapted species to the local conditions for animal feeding
- Reduce the cost of production and improve the quality of the final products
- Favor mix crop-livestock systems

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



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



SDG#2- Indicator 2.5.1: Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium or long-term conservation facilities

³⁴The multi-actor approach aims to make innovation more demand-driven, and therefore should ensure genuine and sufficient involvement of various actors (end-users such as farmers/farmers' groups, advisors, businesses, etc.) all along the project: from the participation in the planning of work and experiments, to implementation, the dissemination of results and a possible demonstration phase.




SDG#2- Indicator 2.5.2 Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk, not-at-risk or at unknown level of risk of extinction

Table 3 Supporting information for the Section 1 Call for Proposals, Topic 1.2.1

Type of action	Research and Innovation Action (RIA) sub-topic A and Innovation Action (IA) sub-topic B
Total indicative amount allocated to this call	€ 10.7 million
Funding level	According to Horizon 2020 Rules For the sub-topic A) RIA: 100%; For the sub-topic b) IA: 70% (except for non-profit legal entities, where a rate of 100% applies)
Technology Readiness levels (TRL)	RIA TRL 3-5 IA TRL 6-7 Proposals should clearly state the starting and end TRLs of the key technology or technologies targeted in the project.
Budget and duration of the grants	PRIMA considers that proposals requesting a contribution up to EUR 1,75 million for subtopic A and up to EUR 2.30 million for subtopic B would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts. Duration of the grants will be from 36 months to 48 months
Submission and evaluation procedure	Two-stage application procedure. For the first stage, a short proposal (maximum 10 pages) must be submitted by the first deadline. Successful applicants in the first stage will be invited to the second stage to submit a full proposal (maximum 50 pages). A timeline for the submission and evaluation of applications can be found in table 6
Evaluation rules	The award criteria, scoring, thresholds and weightings for RIAs and IAs respectively, listed in part 5.1.6 will be used.
Grant agreement	PRIMA MGA (multi-beneficiary), based on Horizon 2020.
Consortium agreement	Participants in projects resulting from this Call for Proposals will be required to conclude a consortium agreement prior to the conclusion of the PRIMA grant agreement.

Thematic Area Food value-chain

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

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

The Mediterranean diet is considered by the UNESCO as one “Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity” identifying several Mediterranean countries. Together with appropriate techniques of food processing and the correct life-style historically associated to the Mediterranean societies, a balanced diet has been recognized for having multiple health benefits. However, dietary habits of the population of the Mediterranean basin have been changing during the last decades mainly for the increasing incidence of social phenomena (e.g. fast meals/or junk food), with negative health consequences such as rises in obesity and incidence of non-communicable diseases (such as diabetes, heart attacks, cancer). The acknowledgement of Mediterranean Diet as a healthy and sustainable diet model with country-specific variations, and multiple sustainable benefits, can contribute to engage multiple stakeholders and the consumers towards an innovative and integrated food system concept that connects production, transformation and consumption, in a sustainable and healthy way, thus paving the way for tackling growing challenges facing the Mediterranean populations.

Scope

The shift in the Mediterranean food consumption patterns and trends should be appraised under a holistic approach where the acceptance and affordability of the traditional Mediterranean food products is considered into a broader Mediterranean lifestyle concept (thus including socio-economic, physical activity, psychosocial and behavioural determinants). In doing so, the overall focus of the local food production system should be on sustainable consumption of healthy diet.

The activities should aim to develop innovative food products based on consumer-centred re-design of traditional Mediterranean recipes and ingredients, in order to satisfy consumer demand in terms of healthiness, convenience, ease of preparation, taste acceptability, and use of ingredients exploiting the local biodiversity also as an element of cultural identity. The nutritional value of the developed food products should be at the centre of the process of valorisation of Mediterranean food product, along with a focus on food technologies to preserve the healthiness and quality of these products.

The activities should also consider the market receptivity for the developed products to predict the extent of the shift in the adherence to the Mediterranean diet consequent to its commercialization, according to the frequency of consumption in the target populations, based on its lifestyle determinants, such as socio-economic, physical activity, psychosocial and behavioural. Finally, the action should be in line with the development of national and/or regional strategies and policies to ensure the provision of healthy, safe and sustainable food products along the whole Agri-food value chain. Proposals should fall under the concept of the **multi-actor approach**.

Expected impacts

- Optimized eco-friendly food processing technologies and tools to preserve the original nutritional value and enrich the valuable bioactive contents in the final food products, compared to conventional methods;
- Development of new value-added foods products/forms from traditional Mediterranean diet with proven health benefits, accompanied with proper understanding of the markets and high end-customers satisfaction and trust;
- Development of efficient national/regional strategies, addressing the critical gaps and valorising the potential opportunities in the Mediterranean countries nutrition policy and considering the socio-economic and health impacts, that balance the dietary habits of Mediterranean consumers and the sustainability of Agri-food resources;
- Contribution to improved dynamics of Mediterranean lifestyle (diet, physical activity and socio-cultural habits) as an important element of the Mediterranean cultural inheritance.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- 💡 Number of new health-related high-quality food products with enhanced bioactive contents.
- 💡 Number of innovative solutions and technologies aimed to improve quality control mechanisms and techniques throughout Agri-food supply chains.
- 💡 Number of socio-cultural actions and strategies promoting the healthy Mediterranean food choices through appropriate information provision to consumers and policy makers.
- 💡 SDG#2-Indicator 2.2.2 Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height $>+2$ or <-2 standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight).

Table 4 Supporting information for the Section 1 Call for Proposals, Topic 1.3.1

Type of action	Innovation Action (IA)
Total indicative amount allocated to this call	€ 8.8 million
Funding level	According to Horizon 2020 Rules 70% (except for non-profit legal entities, where a rate of 100% applies)
Technology Readiness levels (TRL)	TRL 6-7 Proposals should clearly state the starting and end TRLs of the key technology or technologies targeted in the project.
Expected number of grants	PRIMA considers that proposals requesting a contribution up to EUR 2 million and with a duration of from 36 months to 48 months, would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.
Eligibility conditions for participation	Please refer to section 5.1.1 The standard admissibility (section 5.1.2) and eligibility conditions (section 5.1.3) apply.
Submission and evaluation procedure	Two-stage application procedure. For the first stage, a short proposal (maximum 10 pages) must be submitted by the first deadline. Successful applicants in the first stage will be invited to the second stage to submit a full proposal (maximum 50 pages). A timeline for the submission and evaluation of applications can be found in table 6
Evaluation rules	The award criteria, scoring, thresholds and weightings for IAs listed in part 5.1.6 will be used.
Grant agreement	PRIMA MGA (multi-beneficiary), based on Horizon 2020.
Consortium agreement	Participants in projects resulting from this Call for Proposals will be required to conclude a consortium agreement prior to the conclusion of the PRIMA grant agreement.

Nexus theme

Topic 1.4.1-2020 (IA) Demonstrating benefits of the Water-Ecosystem-Food Nexus approach in delivering optimal economic development, achieving high level of environmental protection and ensuring fair access to natural resources.

Challenge

The economic uses of natural resource such as water and land in the Mediterranean region are constrained by scarcity, climatic conditions and demographic pressures. Conflicts between uses and between different stakeholders, e.g. water use for agriculture, urban/industrial use and energy generation, can arise and undermine the potential for economic development and social cohesion. A Water-Ecosystem-Food Nexus approach that seeks for an optimal and fair allocation of resources can provide solutions to these conflicts and ensure more sustainable development.

The Nexus approach enables to identify the areas of conflicts between resource uses, apply participatory methods to consider needs and interests of all stakeholders make decisions based on optimisation and sharing of economic benefits, considering also the services provided by ecosystems and distributional impacts. The Nexus approach can become operational only if the decision-makers overcome compartmentalization, the allocation of resources is socially acceptable, and the stakeholders have the capacity to carry out the actions and measures resulting from Nexus-based decisions.

Scope

In response to this call, the project proponents representing relevant stakeholders from the Mediterranean region should conceive an operational project demonstrating the economic, social and environmental benefit from the Water-Ecosystem-Food Nexus approach at specific sites characterized by diverse climate conditions and socio-economic development.

Activities should test good practices for resource allocation and assess the economic, environmental and social implications of various choices, e.g. land use and type of crop grown, management of water reservoirs to balance the needs of irrigation with those of hydro- and thermal power plants and urban and industrial uses, demand adaptation measures to ensure ecological flows and renewal of groundwater resources. The emphasis should be put on making the Nexus approach operational and propose concrete site-specific solutions to potential barriers for successful application, including the cost of transfer of research results to stakeholders (e.g. farmers), and social and behavioural barriers.

Conditions and opportunities for effective engagement of the private sector should be analysed and the ways to promote market sustainable solutions should be demonstrated. The project should cover all stages of the Nexus process from identification of potential resource use conflicts, through the participatory decision making process to the establishment of implementation systems and measures ensuring the collaboration and sharing of benefits between stakeholders, necessary compliance, capacity development and transfer of knowledge in the continuum from research to institutions to beneficiaries.

Proposals should ensure the involvement of a critical mass of stakeholders involved from policy makers, public authorities, farmers and other end users through a **multiactor approach**.

The project proponents should make use of lessons learned from the Nexus projects funded by PRIMA in the 2019 call through the development of a close partnership during the implementation of respective projects. The objective is to enlarge the portfolio of WEF Nexus projects and case studies in PRIMA. Successful consortia are also asked to cooperate with the [EC Knowledge Hub on Water and Agriculture](#) in order to facilitate the uptake of project outputs by policymakers after project completion.

Expected impacts

Funded activities will contribute to the development of an operational approach to the interdependent management of Water-Ecosystems-Food resources taking into account the specificities of the Mediterranean region.

Proposals should explain how activities will:

- Ensure viability and replicability of the demonstration cases also after the end of the project
- Mobilize a wide uptake by creating strong cross-sectoral links between institutions including ground-level beneficiaries and relevant public authorities that govern the Nexus approach
- Enable achievement of interlinked SDGs at the core of WEF Nexus at different levels of governance
- Strengthen scientific capacities and the set-up of a collaborative WEF Nexus space across the Mediterranean region.

Table 5 Supporting information for the Section 1 Call for Proposals, Topic 1.4.1

Type of action	Innovation Action (IA)
Total indicative amount allocated to this call	Approx. € 6 million
Funding level	According to Horizon 2020 Rules 100% applies)
Technology Readiness levels (TRL)	TRL 6-8 Proposals should clearly state the starting and end TRLs of the key technology or technologies targeted in the project.
Expected number of grants	PRIMA considers that proposals requesting a contribution up to EUR 3 million and with a duration of from 36 months to 48 months, would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.
Submission and evaluation procedure	Two-stage application procedure. For the first stage, a short proposal (maximum 10 pages) must be submitted by the first deadline. Successful applicants in the first stage will be invited to the second stage to submit a full proposal (maximum 50 pages). A timeline for the submission and evaluation of applications can be found in table 6
Evaluation rules	The award criteria, scoring, thresholds and weightings for RIAs listed in part 5.1.6 will be used.
Grant agreement	PRIMA MGA (multi-beneficiary), based on Horizon 2020.
Consortium agreement	Participants in projects resulting from this Call for Proposals will be required to conclude a consortium agreement prior to the conclusion of the PRIMA grant agreement.

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

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

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

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

Table 6 Timetable for Section 1 Calls for Proposals in 2020

THEMATIC AREA	CALL TOPICS	Call publication and opening	Submission deadline Stage 1	Evaluation results Stage 1	Submission deadline Stage 2	Evaluation results Stage 2
Water management	Topic 1.1.1 (IA) Implementing sustainable, integrated management of water resources in the Mediterranean, under climate change conditions	10/02/2020	01/04/2020	23/06/2020	02/09/2020	04/12/2020
Farming systems	Topic 1.2.1 Genetic conservation and animal feeds	10/02/2020	01/04/2020	23/06/2020	02/09/2020	04/12/2020
Agrofood chain	Topic 1.3.1 (IA) Valorising the health benefits of Traditional Mediterranean food products	10/02/2020	01/04/2020	23/06/2020	02/09/2020	04/12/2020
NEXUS	Topic 1.4.1 (IA) Demonstrating benefits of the Water-Ecosystem-Food Nexus approach in delivering optimal economic development, achieving high level of environmental protection and ensuring fair access to natural resources.	10/02/2020	01/04/2020	23/06/2020	02/09/2020	04/12/2020

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

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

Objective: This activity consists of implementing the evaluation of all the eligible projects submitted to the 2020 PRIMA calls (Section 1) and preparing the decision of the Board of Trustees.

The evaluation process is described in detail section 5.1.6

PRIMA-IS will appoint external independent experts to evaluate the proposals and to be part of the evaluation panels.

PRIMA IS will assign to the independent experts the evaluation of both first-stage proposals and full proposals (stage 2).

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

After the remote evaluation of the first-stage proposals (or single stage proposals) and full proposals, a two-day meeting will be organised to draft the consensus report and establish the ranking list.

For section 1, there will be one evaluation panel per call.

PRIMA-IS will cover the independent expert fees, travels and accommodation and the other meetings-related expenses in accordance with international standards.

PRIMA-IS will also cover the meeting of the Board of Trustees, which will be held at the end of the second stage to decide on projects to be funded based on the ranking list, as expressed in the PRIMA Statute Art 6 (q).

Moreover, PRIMA-IS will also cover the costs related to the monitoring of the PRIMA projects, with particular reference to the technical and financial reporting. A meeting will be organized with Project Coordinators aiming to provide guidelines in relation to the commencement, management, finance and monitoring of the Section 1 funded projects. Moreover, a network meeting among project coordinators of all PRIMA projects as well as other relevant projects funded by H2020, LIFE or other funding initiative, will be organized to share knowledge, experiences as well to ensure wider applicability of the project results while reducing unnecessary duplication of efforts of on-going and past projects.

Type of activity: Expert's evaluations of proposals and meetings for monitoring of projects.

Indicative budget: € 250,000

1.2.2 Organisation of the PRIMA Strategic Workshop - Solutions for Sustainable Mediterranean Water management and Agri-food Systems

This 2-days workshop is co-organised with EC and aims to expected solutions in PRIMA projects, tailored to meet Mediterranean area needs in order to valorise, replicate such practices, stimulate policies allowing their adoption and to scaling them up to the market. For this reason, in order to increase the impact of PRIMA, a specific session will involve business angels' associations, private equity firms, chambers of commerce and associations, in order to ensure access to finance and to the market of the innovative solutions developed within PRIMA projects.

Type of Activity: Workshop

Time: 1st-2nd Quarter 2020

Indicative budget: € 50,000

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

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

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

This call will be implemented in compliance with common principles to be agreed by the Participating States and the European Commission, taking into account the principles set out in PRIMA basic act, i Part One of Title VIII of the Financial Regulation No 2018/1046³⁵ and Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013, in particular the principles of equal treatment, transparency, independent peer review evaluation and selection.

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

Eligibility of proposals will be first checked by the PRIMA-IS having regard to the eligibility criteria for participation set forth in the PRIMA Decision. In this section 2, to receive the funds, the beneficiaries will have to sign a grant agreement directly with their national funding bodies.

Thus, a second eligibility check will be performed by the national funding bodies, aimed at the verification of eligibility for funding³⁶. In this context, proposals that are considered eligible for participation by PRIMA-IS (at the consortium level) will enter into the evaluation process. However, in the event of a negative outcome of the verification of eligibility for funding of any participant in the applicant consortium by a PS, PRIMA-IS may require additional information from a consortium or the participant concerned, such as an attestation that the funds to cover their participation in the project will be available.

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

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

PRIMA Section 2 call will address the topics described in subsection 2.1 below (according to national priorities) and the cross cutting issues among them. Research projects can address issues that are cross cutting between two topics as long as they are both eligible for funding by the partner countries.

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

³⁵ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

³⁶ Please refer to [table 8](#) to see indicative budget distribution of Participating States with respect to the calls covered by section

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

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

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

Topics for Section 2, 2020 Calls

1 Thematic Area 1-Water management:

Topic 2.1.1 (RIA) Low cost, lean solutions for enhancing irrigation efficiency of smallholders farms

2 Thematic Area 2-Farming systems:


Topic 2.2.1 (RIA) Re-design the agro-livelihood systems to ensure resilience.

3 Thematic Area 3-Agrofood chain:

Topic 2.3.1 (RIA) New optimization models of the agro food supply chain system to fair price for consumers and reasonable profit share for farmers

Thematic Area 1-Water management:

Topic 2.1.1 (RIA^{*37}) Low-cost, lean solutions for enhancing irrigation efficiency of smallholder farmers

	<p><i>SRIA priority addressed</i></p> <p>1.3 Irrigation technologies and practices</p> <p>to improve irrigation water productivity while minimizing the possible environmental risks associated with irrigation also considering aspects related with the efficient use of energy in pressurized irrigation networks.</p>
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Challenge

Population growth and changing food consumption patterns are expected to lead to a big increase of food production, part of which would need to be covered through higher crop yields and greater crop intensity given limited scope for agricultural land expansion. Widening the use of efficient irrigation technologies and practices among small farmers is key to increase yields in a sustainable manner.

A lot of progress has been made in irrigation water methods and systems leading to enhanced efficiency of water use at large field scale. However, adoption of solutions enhancing irrigation efficiency has not reached the small holder farmers, primarily due to the high initial cost and high skills requested to master the technology. Efforts are needed to develop/adapt existing high-cost, high-tech solutions into low-cost, lean solutions for enhancing the irrigation efficiency, optimisation of natural resources use and income at the scale of smallholder farmers.

Scope

Research projects must develop feasible, low cost and lean technologies (or adapt already existing ones) that can enhance water efficiency at the level of smallholder farms. More specifically, technology and solutions should help Mediterranean farmers increase yields and crop quality, allow water savings and higher efficiency in the use of water, while taking into account the specificities of the agro-ecological and socio-economic contexts as well as the operation of the upstream wastewater treatment system. Efficient irrigation solutions should also help farming systems achieve better food security, sustained production and income and improvements in the living standards of small farmers. Proposals shall also take into consideration irrigation systems with sustainable and low cost systems

³⁷ Please note that the acronym RIA is used both for Section 1 and Section 2. In Section 1 the rules applying to these actions are the standard Horizon 2020 rules for participation (RfP). While the rules used in Section 2 are to some extent analogous to the Horizon 2020 RfP, specific rules, concerning participation and funding rates, apply. As the projects selected in Section 2 are funded directly by the national funding bodies they will be subject to the respective national regulations. For more details regarding the rules for Section 2 please refer to the guidelines for applicants on the PRIMA website.

for water harvesting. Proposals should encompass a participatory approach: farmers should be involved through demonstrations and capacity building actions, so that they can familiarise with the proposed technologies, tools and practices, assess them, adjust to their operational aspects and subsequently adopt them.

The proposed solutions should enhance farmers' knowledge of benefits and costs of water use for farming, while strengthening cooperation among them to achieve sustainable management of water resources. Involvement of decision-makers, water resource and irrigation planners/ scheme managers should also be sought to create synergies where possible, and inform sectoral policies, schemes and governance frameworks through the demonstration of best practices (bottom-up approach). Technical, agricultural (local customs in crop production and land use), social (social norms, as well as gender issues), climatic (variability in rainfall and temperatures, impact on crop production) and environmental (consequences of increased water use by irrigation) aspects should be analysed holistically to ensure that the proposed irrigation technologies are well tailored for the specificities of the context, as well as to guarantee their long-term viability.

Since lack of access to finance is often a constraint faced by small-scale farmers, the financial sustainability of the proposed irrigation solutions should be carefully considered, by assessing aspects like the investment, operational and maintenance costs (energy, labour), as well as the cost of agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizer, pesticides, machinery). The market value of the produce and the possibility for farmers to access credit and markets should also be considered.

Expected Impact

The project results are also expected to contribute to:

- Number and efficiency performance of new irrigation technologies to achieve optimal crop yields, while ensuring water safety and security (water quality and quantity);
- Strengthening capacities of small-scale farmers to support transition towards the use of more efficient and effective irrigation options
- Establishment of possible synergies with public authorities, as well as non-governmental actors (NGOs, private sector), to create the necessary policy/regulatory framework to support small-holder farming;
- Increase profitability of irrigation as an economic activity which can generate sustainable income for local farmers and help recover equipment costs, while decreasing use of resource inputs use (less water used to grow more higher-value crops) to preserve environmental sustainability.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS




Number and efficiency performance of new irrigation technologies and scheduling protocols and models.



SDG#6: indicator 6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time

Thematic Area 2-Farming systems:

Topic 2.2 1 -(RIA*38) Redesign agro-livelihood systems to ensure resilience

	<p><i>SRIA priorities addressed</i></p> <p>2.1 Adaptation of agriculture to climate change Genetic and plant breeding but cropping system diversification, and spatial organisation, as well as diversification of animals are also important for improving resilience to climate change.</p> <p>2.2 Developing sustainable and productive agro-ecosystems Better integration of natural environmental regulation of biotic and abiotic stresses into farming systems, optimization of input use, development of new cropping systems and use of digital technologies. To do so, the specificity of Mediterranean ecosystem assets and vulnerabilities must be taken into account and solutions adapted to local conditions must be developed.</p>
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Challenge

Intensification of agriculture in the Mediterranean region to date has been mostly supported by irrigated (also requiring high-inputs of fertilizers, chemicals and labour) at the expense of more sustainable and climate-ready crops. This has contributed to an unsustainable use and management of natural resources (soil, water, and biodiversity), and to the degradation of the Mediterranean lands (salinization, soil pollution and loss of fertility, leading to desertification). Climate change is likely to further undermine the sustainability of current farming systems, e.g. by further accelerating invasions of pest/disease and reducing water availability.

Consequently, farmers' income and welfare are also increasingly unpredictable and unstable. Increasing the resilience of the agro-systems and / or favouring the transition to new farming systems that make a correct and efficient use of biological and natural resources is urgently needed. When possible, the development of mixed systems making sustainable use of all living resources (e.g. soil microbial communities, livestock) can make a positive contribution to raise the productivity of the entire farming system. The use of these practises and of new technologies, can contribute to a positive, inclusive growth trajectory that is both ecologically and economically sustainable and resilient to climate change.

Scope of the topic

Increasing the resilience of the system is a major challenge to face and overcome adverse and unforeseen events by improving the capacity of crops to properly respond to climatic perturbations (climate-ready crops), while ensuring an economic stability of the farmers and food security in the region. Research projects should aim at providing solutions for improving agroecosystem resilience to climate change in the Mediterranean area.

Projects should identify, design and test innovative farming systems that are resilient to climate change, and that can maintain sustainable productions even after extreme climatic events, including e.g. droughts, floods and alien pest invasions.

These systems should allow sustainable and efficient use of natural resources and decrease the use of chemical inputs. The maintenance or increase of the productivity, resistance, and recovery of the agro-

³⁸ Please note that the acronym RIA is used both for Section 1 and Section 2. In Section 1 the rules applying to these actions are the standard Horizon 2020 rules for participation (RfP). While the rules used in Section 2 are to some extent analogous to the Horizon 2020 RfP, specific rules, concerning participation and funding rates, apply. As the projects selected in Section 2 are funded directly by the national funding bodies they will be subject to the respective national regulations. For more details regarding the rules for Section 2 please refer to the guidelines for applicants on the PRIMA website

system can be achieved through crop diversification and valorization of biodiversity³⁹ discovery and use of perennial crops, implementation of crop-livestock sustainable associations with a focus on the production of local and highly nutritious forage, application of agro-technologies provision of ecological services⁴⁰ with a circular economy approach.

Projects should produce outcomes concerning sustainable, widely adaptable solutions or dealing with the design of new agro-ecological farming systems supported by social or economic analyses, useful for policy decisions in terms of local governance, adaptive learning, product valorization, or incentives. The pathway to transition to more sustainable and resilient farming systems should be investigated and should provide guidance to the farmers. Resilience by the proposed farming systems should be assessed with appropriate socio-economic and ecological performance indicators.

Research and innovation proposals will be based on **multi-actor approach** and involve local stakeholders in the identification of barriers and opportunities from technical and socioeconomic point of view. Proposals should identify solutions to contribute to a balanced territorial development ensuring farmer incomes.

In this respect, innovations may be of a technical/technological, organizational/social and institutional nature and addressed to favour the adoption of the proposed systems.

Expected impact

- Systems redesigned to minimize the risk of failure associated with yield losses due to inappropriate farming systems (e.g. monoculture) and climate change, and secure the incomes of the farmers
- Adoption of environmentally, socially and economically sustainable agroecosystems productions.
- New organizations facilitating learning and coordination among actors, between farmers and along the value chain
- Increased efficiency of the use of natural resources (water)
- Increased soil fertility by the proposed farming systems.
- Increased income and satisfaction by the farmers
- Yield stability and quality in comparison to standard farming systems under challenging environmental conditions

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



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



SDG#2 Indicator 2.4.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture

³⁹ e.g. local breeds, crop wild relatives, orphan crops, underutilized plants that are adapted to arid environments such as pulses

⁴⁰ (e.g. use of sentinel plants, exploitation of plant natural defences, and of associations between plants and soil microbiota)

Thematic Area 3-Agrofood chain:

Topic 2.3.1 (RIA*41) New optimized models of Agri-food supply chain systems offering fair price for consumers and reasonable profit share for producers

	<p><i>SRIA priority addressed</i></p> <p>3.3 Implementation of innovation in the Agri-food chain, promoting higher quality, sustainability and competitiveness, with particular reference to smallholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of technological and organisational innovations for quality and sustainability among Mediterranean firms results to be very low especially with reference to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), which are a significant economic and employment driver in the area.
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Challenge

The Mediterranean Agri-food value chain represents a complex ecosystem with numerous local actors, including farmers, small-scale food manufacturers and local distributors, canteens and retailers local public authorities. However, its competitiveness is seriously challenged by increasing imported agriculture resources and food products, as processed food, or as ingredients of food productions.

Those products are produced in large volumes for global markets, at low prices, and in regions suffering less from climate and environmental constraints, compared to the Mediterranean area. In addition, the price small farmers get for their products is quite low, compared to the price that products are sold to the end customer. This is due to the presence of many powerful actors, other than smallholders, in the farm-to-fork supply chain who can position and negotiate powerfully. Hence, there is a need for innovative organisational approaches and tools (tools and machines, business models, green public procurement, software, applications, etc.) that can help overcoming this challenge. New optimization models for the local Agri-food supply chain are requested, which provide local and distinguished benefit, economically, environmentally and socially to smallholders.

Scope

Increasing the competitiveness of small-scale farmers, manufacturers, local distributors and all other intermediate actors in the food chain is of key importance in order to guarantee a fair profit share for them. Optimized business models should be investigated that allows a better positioning of smallholders in the local and international markets, including innovative green public procurement approaches for local public authorities. In addition, new supply chain arrangements may be considered, analysed and empowered (if already in place elsewhere), especially shorter supply chains and more transparent relations between actors.

The access to markets, through innovative tools, including but not restricted to multi-technologies and ICT tools (web, apps, mobile devices), should be reconsidered as well as levers to improve the direct contacts between market players (supermarkets, out-of-home and consumers, canteens) and the farmers/ manufacturers, respecting the local socio-cultural characteristics of the target groups, i.e. smallholders in rural and underserved regions. Finally, all organizational and technological innovations and underlying research approaches that help local clusters and cooperatives to be more competitive are highly appreciated; considering the characteristics of the local societies. Additionally, the actions shall empower, through a Responsible Research and Innovation Approach, the climate of creativity of the small famers/producers/SMEs in the local community (i.e. social and inclusive innovations). It shall also promote the concept and implementation of circular economy and responsible production-consumption concepts, with meaningful usage of resources via cascading eco-industrial methods and technologies highly performed at small scale.

⁴¹ Please note that the acronym RIA is used both for Section 1 and Section 2. In Section 1 the rules applying to these actions are the standard Horizon 2020 rules for participation (RfP). While the rules used in Section 2 are to some extent analogous to the Horizon 2020 RfP, specific rules, concerning participation and funding rates, apply. As the projects selected in Section 2 are funded directly by the national funding bodies they will be subject to the respective national regulations. For more details regarding the rules for Section 2 please refer to the guidelines for applicants on the PRIMA website

Expected impacts

- New technology tools and business models for access to market, suited to local clusters and SMEs, and creation of a new generations of young entrepreneurs.
- New insights in the competitiveness of local clusters of farmers, small manufacturers and distributors, with integrated innovative planning and institutional solutions for sustainability and profitability.
- New options to increase the added value of products from local clusters.
- Transparencies in fair trade and shortening Agri-food chain beneficial for smallholders.
- Verified consumer feedback on quality and safety of products from small holders, locally produced or obtained in inter-Mediterranean country trade.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORSs



Number of business models for quality and sustainability adapted to SME and smallholders.



SDG#2 Indicator 2.3.1: Volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size

Table 7 Supporting information for the Section 2 Call for Proposals

Type of action	Research & Innovation Activities (RIA)* ⁴²
Total indicative amount allocated to this call	EUR 38.152.000,00
Funding level	Depending on National Regulations
Expected number of grants	PRIMA considers that proposals requesting a contribution as from EUR 1 million and with a duration from 36 months to 48 months, would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts according to national regulations.
Expected duration of the projects	36 or 48 months according to national regulations
TRL	Proposals should clearly state the starting and end TRLs of the key technology or technologies targeted in the project.
Grant agreement	Each national funding body will fund the beneficiaries established in its own country, thus, the national funding rules apply. Each national funding body will sign a grant agreement (or any official documents acting as contract) with their national beneficiaries taking part in the selected project (section 5.2.11). The coordinator of the project has to decide with his/her partners of a common starting date of the project and send this information to all the funding bodies involved in funding this project in order to ensure that the national contracts are synchronized in time to cover all the period of the project
Consortium agreement	A consortium agreement mentioning the distribution of the tasks among partners (as listed in the proposal) must be concluded. Some national funding bodies may require this document before signing the grant agreement then it is necessary to refer to the national regulations and draft this document accordingly (section 5.2.11)

⁴² Please note that the acronym RIA is used both for Section 1 and Section 2. In Section 1 the rules applying to these actions are the standard Horizon 2020 rules for participation (RfP). While the rules used in Section 2 are to some extent analogous to the Horizon 2020 RfP, specific rules, concerning participation and funding rates, apply. As the projects selected in Section 2 are funded directly by the national funding bodies they will be subject to the respective national regulations. For more details regarding the rules for Section 2 please refer to the guidelines for applicants on the PRIMA website.

The in-cash contributions from PRIMA PS for the AWP 2020 were provided on the basis of a formal commitment letter signed by the competent authorities of the PRIMA Funding Agencies involved.

Table 8 PRIMA PS financial commitments for Section 2 in Annual Work Plan 2020

Algeria	3.000.000,00
Croatia	300.000,00
Cyprus	600.000,00
Egypt	3.600.000,00
France	6.000.000,00
Germany	3.300.000,00
Greece	1.500.000,00
Israel	500.000,00
Italy	7.000.000,00
Jordan	257.000,00
Lebanon	500.000,00
Luxembourg	300.000,00
Malta	500.000,00
Morocco	3.400.000,00
Portugal	1.225.000,00
Slovenia	170.000,00
Spain	3.500.000,00
Tunisia	1.500.000,00
Turkey	1.000.000,00
Total PSs	38.152.000,00

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

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

All deadlines are at 17.00.00 CET.

Table 9 Timetable for Section 2 Call for Proposals in 2020

THEMATIC AREA	CALL TOPICS	Call publication and opening	Submission deadline Stage 1	Evaluation results Stage 1	Submission deadline Stage 2	Evaluation results Stage 2
Water management	Topic 2.1.1 (RIA) Low cost, lean solutions for enhancing irrigation efficiency of smallholder farmers	10/02/2020	15/04/2020	17/07/2020	16/09/2020	11/12/2020
Farming systems	Topic 2.2.1 (RIA) Re-design the agro-livelihood systems to ensure resilience	10/02/2020	15/04/2020	17/07/2020	16/09/2020	11/12/2020
Agrofood Value chain	Topic 2.3.1 (RIA) New optimization models of the agro food supply chain system to fair price for consumers and reasonable profit share for farmers	10/02/2020	15/04/2020	17/07/2020	16/09/2020	11/12/2020

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

2.2.1 Evaluation of projects proposals submitted to Section 2 Calls

Objectives

This activity consists of implementing the evaluation of all the eligible projects submitted to the 2020 PRIMA Section 2 calls and preparing the decision of the Board of Trustees and of the national funding bodies for selection of projects to be funded. The evaluation process is described in 5.2.6.

PRIMA-IS will appoint external independent experts to evaluate the proposals and to be part of the evaluation panels.

PRIMA IS will assign to the independent experts the evaluation of both first-stage proposals and full proposals (stage 2). PRIMA IS will provide guidelines to the experts for the remote evaluation and for drafting their individual assessment report. At the end of this period of remote individual assessment, the experts will meet in a panel to draft the consensus report for each project. When a consensus is reached for each project, the panel will agree on the final assessment and will proceed with the ranking of the projects.

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

For Section 2, there will be a single panel covering the entire range of topics.

PRIMA-IS will cover the independent expert fees, travels and accommodation and the other meetings-related expenses in accordance with international standards.

Moreover, PRIMA-IS will also cover the costs related to the monitoring of the PRIMA projects, with particular reference to the technical and financial reporting. A meeting will be organized with Project Coordinators and Funding Agencies aiming to provide guidelines in relation to the commencement, management, finance and monitoring of the Section 2 funded projects. Moreover, a network meeting among project coordinators of all PRIMA projects as well as other relevant projects funded by H2020, LIFE or other funding initiative, will be organized to share knowledge, experiences as well to ensure wider applicability of the project results while reducing unnecessary duplication of efforts of on-going and past projects.

Type of activity: Expert's evaluations of proposals and monitoring of projects

Indicative budget: € 250,000

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

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

These costs shall not exceed 6 % of the individual financial contribution by each Participating State in Section 2. For 2020, the total amount of these contributions shall not exceed € **2.289.120,00**

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

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

- a. National research programmes implemented, managed and funded by the PS: PSIAS
- b. Activities supporting programme operation funded and implemented by PS

3.1 Participating States Initiated Activities (PSIAs)

The PRIMA Basic Act states that PRIMA activities may include activities under the national programmes of the Participating States including transnational projects.

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

The Participating States Initiated Activities (PSIAs) listed below gather activities under national programmes of PS spanning from national calls for research and innovation, training actions and/or supports to joint research project or joint research units managed and funded directly by the PS. They are in-kind contributions of the PS to the PRIMA programme and constitute an integral part of the PRIMA programme contributing to the alignment of national programmes to PRIMA. The PSIAs listed in this section of the AWP 2020 are in line with PRIMA objectives.

All participants to activities funded by the PRIMA Foundation 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 10 Participating States Initiated Activities in 2020 (details of the calls are given in Section 6)

Code	Activity title	Key words	Action	Countries involved	Duration of the PSIA (in month) or type of budget allocation	2020 Total PS indicative commitment (€)
ES-2020-1	Funding for National projects in the Agri-food value chain, Farming and Management of water R+D field	National calls, Innovation, Agriculture and Food Science and Technology	RIA/IA	National Calls	Annual call for RDI projects	22.400.000,00
FR-2020-1		National calls, Innovation	RIA/IA	National Calls	Annual call for RDI projects	2.000.000,00
DE-2020-1	Tunisian – German Call For Bilateral S&T Cooperation Involving Science And Industry (2+2 projects) 2020 [TUNGER2plus22020]	Water, agriculture and aquaculture topics	IA	Germany Tunis	Annual call for RDI projects	2.080.000,00
DE-2020-2	German Egyptian Research Fund 2020-GERF 2020	Agricultural Research and Natural Resource Management (including Water Resources, Food Production and Food Safety)	RIA	Germany Egypt	Annual call for RDI projects	4.500.000,00
IT-2020-1	Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR-Italy)/Tunisia-	Water, Energy and Food Security, Environment,	TMA	Tunis Italy	Bi-Annual Calls for	24.000,00

		Biodiversity, Digital transition			mobility scheme	
MT-2020-1	Maltese Programme supporting PRIMA Calls	Water management, Farming systems and Food Value chain	RIA	Malta and other PRIMA PS	Annual call for RDI projects	70.000,00
TU-2020-1	Hubert Curien Partnerships PHC MAGHREB	Climate and energy changes, Innovation and competitiveness of companies, Identity, value and dialogue of civilizations, migration and integration, History and heritage, Law and trade, Digital transition	TMA	Algeria, Morocco, France	Annual Call for mobility scheme	44.253,84
TU-2020-2	Hubert Curien Partnerships PHC UTIQUE, partnership Franco-Tunisian	Open to all fields or subjects, included humanities.	TMA	France Tunis	Annual Call for mobility scheme	97.103,75
TU-2020-3	German-Tunisian Scientific and Technological Cooperation TUNGER2plus22020	Water, agriculture and aquaculture topics	IA	Tunis Germany	Annual call for RDI projects	188.798,90
TU-2020-4	Tunisia-Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR-Italy)	Water, Energy and Food Security ; Environment and Biodiversity ; Digital transition	TMA	Tunis Italy	Bi-Annual Calls for Mobility scheme	24.000,00
Total provisional costs PSIAs						31.428.156,49

3.2 Activities supporting programme operation funded and implemented by PS

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

Objectives

In order to help increase Malta's success rate concerning the number of successful Maltese c projects, MCST would be looking to set up a proposal writing service specifically tailored for the needs of the PRIMA proposals.

Thus, selected candidates would be paired up with a service provider (local or foreign) who will be able to support the applicant through proposal writing and submission. This service would enable local researchers that have a good idea but are otherwise inexperienced when it comes to proposal writing, to increase their chance of being selected for PRIMA funding.

Type of activity: This initiative will be organised by Malta and will be open to Malta based researchers. A set of criteria will be set up in order to shortlist the candidates that will be awarded funding to make use of this proposal writing service. The service providers will be chosen through a detailed expression of interest that will include all the relevant PRIMA pre-proposal and proposal criteria.

Organised by: Malta

Indicative budget: €15,000

Timetable: First and Second Quarter of 2020.

3.2.2 Meeting for Kick off and monitoring of the PRIMA 2019 projects

Objectives

MCST will host a one-day meeting with PRIMA Project Coordinators and Funding Agencies aiming to provide guidelines in relation to the commencement, management, finance and monitoring of the Section 2 funded projects of PRIMA 2019 projects.

This event will allow Maltese researchers to actively network with foreign researchers that were successful in securing funding and subsequently kick-off a PRIMA project. Since one of the main shortcomings for Maltese researchers is that of a lack of established transnational networks.

Organised by: Malta

Type of activity: Logistics of a PRIMA meeting

Indicative budget: €10,000

Timetable: Second Quarter of 2020.

3.2.3 The PRIMA Awards

Objectives

MCST will organise an event to start putting the most innovative and cutting-edge researchers and their team in the spotlight. Through this event, PRIMA would be providing a formal recognition to researchers that have managed to achieve outstanding achievements and high impact within their fields of expertise.

Several different awards would be included (these would be up for discussion with the PRIMA BOT, PRIMA secretariat and the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) such as:

- Recognition in RD&I Award: Water Management
- Recognition in RD&I Award: Agriculture
- Recognition in RD&I Award: Agri-food Value Chain
- Social Impact Award
- Women in PRIMA Award
- Coordinator Role Award
- Euro-Mediterranean Collaboration Award

A set of selection criteria would need to be established, in collaboration with the BOT, the PRIMA secretariat and the SAC.

Organised by: Malta

Type of activity

The first edition of the PRIMA Awards would take place in Malta and then subsequently in different PRIMA PS, with the option of linking it with other PRIMA events such as the annual kick-off meetings of the PRIMA projects.

Indicative budget: € 10,000

Timetable: The event would be envisaged to take place in the second quarter of 2020.

3.2.4 PRIMA National Day 2020

Objectives

Malta, through MCST, would like to organise a second edition of the PRIMA National Day in 2020. This event would focus on helping to raise nationwide awareness of the PRIMA Initiative and all the benefits and opportunities that PRIMA can bring to the local researchers in the field of water management, agriculture and food value chain. MCST would be focusing on a widespread marketing campaign in order to ensure a good turnout, especially ensuring that a good level business sector engagement takes place.

Organised by: Malta

Type of activity:

The role of the Council would be to:

- Organise the logistics of the event,
- Develop the relevant material to be disseminated in the event,
- Widely disseminate information on the event through several social media platforms, and through one-to-one sessions with relevant stakeholders.

Indicative budget: €5,000

Timetable: Third Quarter 2020

3.2.5 Working with Morocco as co-leaders on an initiative to help establish a PRIMA network base amongst the 5+5 countries

Objectives

The objective of this activity is to encourage researchers of the Dialogue 5+5 Member Countries from public and private undertakings to actively participate in PRIMA. This may be achieved through a series of networking events. This network would help further facilitate interaction and cooperation between researchers from these countries for preparation of proposals.

Morocco and Malta will organise networking and brokerage events for NCPs, researchers and other legal entities engaged in R&I. Participants should be made up of delegates from each of the 10 countries forming the 5+5 dialogue. The PRIMA NCPs based on pre-set criteria will select delegates. Delegates should have an interest in performing research activities in areas that of interest to the 5+5 Dialogue Member Countries.

Expected outcomes

- Increased contacts between research communities on both sides of the Mediterranean, promoting the development of networks;
- Establishment of thematic networks between researchers;
- Identification of synergies (in terms of activities, skills and competences within research teams, etc.);
- Ultimately, quantitative and qualitative increase of funding applications for European calls for projects, with the 5+5 Dialogue providing cohesion and key added value on a regional level.

Organised by: Malta

The role MCST on behalf of Malta would be to:

- Organise the logistics of the networking event taking place in Malta;
- Elaborate the relevant material to be disseminated in the event;
- Finance the travel and accommodation costs for the chosen participants to attend the networking event in Morocco.

Indicative budget:

Budget to cover costs of 15 Maltese Delegates to participate to a Networking event in Morocco = €10,000

Budget required to host a networking event in Malta = €5,000

Timetable:

It is proposed to have a total of two (2) networking events– one in Malta and a second in Morocco. For Malta, the event could take place in September 2020.

*3.2.6 PRIMA Targeted Brokerage Events for 2020***Objectives**

In 2020, targeted brokerage events will be organised. They will aim to foster collaborations to establish new network links and foster consortia building with Malta based Researchers.

The brokerage events will be organised in hosting countries.

Organised by: MCST on behalf of Malta

Type of activity: Brokerage events.

The role of MCST would be to:

- Organise the logistics of three/four brokerage meetings taking place in the identified institutions in hosting countries.
- Fund the relevant travel and accommodation costs for the Maltese researchers
- Follow the progress of these networking meetings.

Indicative budget: €20,020

Timetable: Third Quarter 2020

*3.2.7 Organise a PRIMA Training Workshop for Mediterranean Partner Countries “How to write competitive proposals”.***Objectives**

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

The workshop will focus on the following content:

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

Type of Action: Training activity implemented and managed by Germany, in close collaboration with NCPs of Mediterranean Partner Countries (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco).

Indicative Budget: Approximately € 10.000 per workshop (covering all fees and expenses for the trainer to design, prepare and hold the trainings, including materials, as well as travel and accommodation costs for the trainer). The total budget foreseen is of 40.000 EURO

Timetable: the activity will begin in the third quarter 2020.

4 Administrative 2020 budget of the PRIMA-IS for the implementation of the PRIMA programme

In 2020, the administrative costs of the PRIMA-IS will include the following items:

4.1. Personnel

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

4.2. Meetings and missions

- Meetings of the Board of Trustees, the Steering Committee and the Scientific Advisory Committee
- Expert meetings for the evaluation of the Annual Work Plan
- Meeting for the alignment of national programmes
- Administrative Staff travel and accommodation costs

4.3. Consumables and supplies

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

4.4. Service contracts

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

4.5. Dissemination activities and materials

- Creation of materials for external communication (leaflets, posters, newsletters, etc.). (Costs will be under Service contracts section).
- Organization of an info-day to present the PRIMA AWP 2020 to the public approximately in the fourth Quarter of 2020. (Costs will be under Mission and travels section)

4.6 Budget overview tables

Table 11 Indicative budget for the administrative costs of the PRIMA-IS for the implementation of the PRIMA programme in 2020

Description	Amount
Personnel	1.108.700,00
Meetings and missions	177.000,00
Consumables and supplies	43.800,00
Service contracts	120.500,00
Total	1.450.000,00

Table 12 Overview of Planned Commitments to Activities of the PRIMA Programme 2020 by the European Union (EU), the Participating States (PS) in Euro.

Activities	Contributions (in €)		
	EU	PS	Grand Total
EU funded Transnational Calls for Proposals IA (Section 1)	33.000.000,00		33.000.000,00
Participating States Transnational co-funded Call for Proposals, managed by PRIMA-IS (Section 2)		38.152.000,00	38.152.000,00
Sub total transnational calls	33.000.000,00	38.152.000,00	71.152.000,00
Evaluation of Projects&Monitoring	550.000,00		550.000,00
Participating States funded activities managed by PS to support programme implementation		115.020,00	115.020,00
PS contributions dedicated to the implementation of proposals resulting from PS funded calls		2.289.120,00	2.289.120,00
Participating States Initiated Activities		31.428.156,49	31.428.156,49
Sub-Total Implementation	33.550.000,00	71.984.296,49	105.534.296,49
EU-funded administrative costs of the PRIMA-IS	1.450.000,00		1.450.000,00
Sub-Total Administration	1.450.000,00		
Total Budget	35.000.000,00	71.984.296,49	106.984.296,49

Table 10 Detailed overview of planned commitments to activities of the PRIMA programme in 2020 by the European Union (EU) and the Participating States (PS)

Planned commitments (in €)						
	Programme CALLS	PRIMA-IS administrative costs	PS management costs	Activities supporting programme operations	PSIAs	Total in 2020
	Financial contributions	Financial contributions	In-kind contributions	Financial Contributions	Financial contributions	
European Union (EU)						
European Commission	33.000.000,00	1.450.000,00		550.000,00		35.000.000,00
Sub-Total EU	33.000.000,00	1.450.000,00	-	550.000,00		35.000.000,00
Participating States (PS)						
Algeria	3.000.000,00		180.000,00			3.180.000,00
Croatia	300.000,00		18.000,00			318.000,00
Cyprus	600.000,00		36.000,00			636.000,00
Egypt	3.600.000,00		216.000,00			3.816.000,00
France	6.000.000,00		360.000,00		2.000.000,00	8.360.000,00
Germany	3.300.000,00		198.000,00	40.000,00	6.580.000,00	10.118.000,00
Greece	1.500.000,00		90.000,00			1.590.000,00
Israel	500.000,00		30.000,00			530.000,00
Italy	7.000.000,00		420.000,00		24.000,00	7.444.000,00
Jordan	257.000,00		15.420,00			272.420,00
Lebanon	500.000,00		30.000,00			530.000,00
Luxembourg	300.000,00		18.000,00			318.000,00
Malta	500.000,00		30.000,00	75.020,00	70.000,00	675.020,00
Morocco	3.400.000,00		204.000,00			3.604.000,00
Portugal	1.225.000,00		73.500,00			1.298.500,00
Slovenia	170.000,00		10.200,00			180.200,00
Spain	3.500.000,00		210.000,00		22.400.000,00	26.110.000,00
Tunisia	1.500.000,00		90.000,00		354.156,49	1.944.156,49
Turkey	1.000.000,00		60.000,00			1.060.000,00
Sub-Total PSs	38.152.000,00	-	2.289.120,00	115.020,00	31.428.156,49	71.984.296,49
Sub-Total EU and PSs	71.152.000,00	1.450.000,00	2.289.120,00	665.020,00	31.428.156,49	106.984.296,49
Grand Total	71.152.000,00	1.450.000,00	2.289.120,00	665.020,00	31.428.156,49	106.984.296,49

Table 11 Overview of planned EU contributions towards PRIMA Calls for Proposals in 2020 and other activities for the Implementation of the PRIMA programme, including administrative expenses of the PRIMA-IS

	EU-funded PRIMA activities	Indicative EU contribution
		(in €)
Research & Innovation Actions	Section 1 Call 1	7.500.000,00
	Section 1 Call 2	10.700.000,00
	Section 1 Call 3	8.800.000,00
	Section 1 Call nexus	6.000.000,00
Other Activities	Activities for supporting the implementation of the programme	550.000,00
Administrative costs of the PRIMA-IS	Personnel, Missions, Consumables and supplies, Service contracts	1.450.000,00
	Total planned contributions in 2020	35.000.000,00

5 General Annexes

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

5.1.1 List of countries eligible for funding

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

a) The PRIMA Participating States⁴³ :

The following Member States (MS) of the European Union (EU): Croatia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Slovenia. It includes the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) linked to these Member States⁴⁴:

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

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

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

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

b) Any legal entity created under Union law

c) Any international European interest organization⁴⁵, 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.

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

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

⁴³ 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).

⁴⁴ 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.

⁴⁵ 'international European interest organisation' means an international organisation,(IO) the majority of whose members are Member States or associated countries, and whose principal objective is to promote scientific and technological cooperation in Europe".

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

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

5.1.2 Standard admissibility conditions, page limits and supporting documents

1. For all actions under AWP 2020, proposals must comply with the admissibility requirements set out in this sub-section, unless they are supplemented or modified in the call conditions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- A *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;
- 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;
- A list of up to five relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal
- A description of any significant infrastructure and/or any major items of technical equipment, relevant to the proposed work;
- A description of any third parties that are not represented as project partners, but who will nonetheless be contributing towards the work (e.g. providing facilities, computing resources).

This scrutiny will be carried out by the evaluators during the evaluation process under the selection criteria, in particular the award criterion 'Quality and efficiency of the implementation'. Please refer to Section 5.1.6 "Evaluation rules".

5.1.3 Standard eligibility conditions

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

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

A proposal will only be considered eligible if:

- a) the coordinator of the proposal is a legal entity established in a PRIMA PS⁴⁶
- 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:

⁴⁶ This measure is aimed to protect the Union's financial interests and is in line with Art. 7(7) of the PRIMA Decision.

Table 12 Eligibility conditions for participation for PRIMA Actions Section 1

Type of Action	Eligibility conditions for participation ^{47,48,49}
Research & Innovation Action (RIA)	<p>At least three legal entities established in three different countries considered as Participating States⁵⁰ as defined in point 5.1.1. Each of the three must be established in a different country considered to be PRIMA PS by submission deadline under the relevant call, out of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -at least one must be established in a EU Member State or a third country associated to Horizon 2020 and not being a MPC and -at least one must be established in a third country bordering the Mediterranean Sea (MPC) <p>All three legal entities must be independent of each other.</p>
Innovation Action (IA)	<p>At least three legal entities established in three different countries considered as Participating States as defined in point 5.1.1.⁵¹ 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 a EU Member State or a third country associated to Horizon 2020 and not being a MPC and -at least one must be established in a third country bordering the Mediterranean Sea (MPC) <p>All three legal entities must be independent of each other</p>

Clarifications on the participation of international organisations (IO) in PRIMA actions

IOs can participate in PRIMA actions.

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

48 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 2018/1046). Should the illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol end, this Work Plan will be revised.

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

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

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

5.1.4 Types of action: specific provisions and funding rates ^{52,53}

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

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

Funding rate: 100%

Innovation actions (IA)

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

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

A 'market replication' aims to support the first application/deployment in the market of an innovation that has already been demonstrated but not yet applied/deployed in the market due to market failures/barriers to uptake. 'Market replication' does not cover multiple applications in the market of an innovation⁵⁴ that has already been applied successfully once in the market. 'First' means new at least to PRIMA countries or new at least to the application sector in question. Often such projects involve a validation of technical and economic performance at system level in real life operating conditions provided by the market.

Projects may include limited research and development activities.

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

⁵² Eligible costs for all types of action are in accordance with the Financial Regulation No 2018/1046 and the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation No 1290/2013. In addition, as training researchers on gender issues serves the policy objectives of Horizon 2020 and is necessary for the implementation of R&I actions, applicants may include in their proposal such activity and the following corresponding estimated costs that may be eligible for EU funding:

(a) Costs of delivering the training (personnel costs if the trainers are employees of the beneficiary or subcontracting if the training is outsourced);
 (b) Accessory direct costs such as travel and subsistence costs, if the training is delivered outside the beneficiary's premises;
 (c) Remuneration costs for the researchers attending the training, in proportion to the actual hours spent on the training (as personnel costs).

⁵³ Participants may ask for a lower rate.

⁵⁴ A new or improved technology, product, design, process, service or solution.

5.1.5 Technology readiness levels (TRL)

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

- TRL 1 – basic principles observed
- TRL2 – technology concept formulated
- TRL 3 – experimental proof of concept
- TRL 4 – technology validated in lab
- TRL 5 – technology validated in relevant environment (industrially relevant environment in the case of key enabling technologies)
- TRL 6 – technology demonstrated in relevant environment (industrially relevant environment in the case of key enabling technologies)
- TRL 7 – system prototype demonstration in operational environment
- TRL 8 – system complete and qualified
- TRL 9 – actual system proven in operational environment (competitive manufacturing in the case of key enabling technologies; or in space)

5.1.6 Evaluation rules

Selection Criteria

1. *Financial capacity:* In line with the Financial Regulation 2018/1046 and the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation No 1290/2013. For grants, coordinators will be invited – at the proposal stage – to complete a self-assessment using an on-line tool.⁵⁵
2. The financial capacity of a project coordinator is checked by PRIMA-IS when the requested funding to PRIMA-IS for the action is equal or superior to EUR 500,000 unless the coordinator is:
 - a. a public body;
 - b. a higher or secondary education establishment;
 - c. an international organisation or body whose participation is guaranteed by the government of an EU country or associated country, in accordance with the PRIMA MGA.
3. *Operational capacity:* As a distinct operation, carried out during the evaluation of the award criterion 'Quality and efficiency of the implementation', experts will indicate whether each individual participant has, or will have in due time, a sufficient operational capacity to successfully carry out its tasks in the proposed work plan. This assessment will be based on the competence and experience of the applicant, including its operational resources (human, technical and other) and, if applicable, exceptionally the concrete measures proposed to obtain it by the time of the implementation of the tasks.

⁵⁵ <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/organisations/lfv.html>

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.

Award criteria, scores and weighting

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

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

Table 13 Aspects to be considered during the proposal evaluation for each criterion (excellence, impact, quality and efficiency of the implementation for each Type of Actions in Section 1

Type of Action	Excellence*	Impact*	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
	The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the topic description in the work plan.	The following aspects will be taken into account:	The following aspects will be taken into account:
Research & Innovation Activities (RIAs) and Innovation Actions (IAs)	<p>Fit with the scope and objectives of the PRIMA programme and the call topic description;</p> <p>Importance, relevance/pertinence and clarity of the objectives;</p> <p>Soundness of the concept and credibility of the proposed approach/methodology.</p> <p>Extent that the proposed work is beyond the state of the art, and demonstrates innovation potential (e.g. ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches, new products, services or business and organisational models)</p> <p>Appropriate consideration of interdisciplinary approaches and, where relevant, use of stakeholder knowledge.</p>	<p>The extent to which the outputs of the project would contribute to one or several of the expected impacts mentioned in the work plan under the relevant topic.</p> <p>Any substantial impacts not mentioned in the work plan, that would enhance innovation capacity, create new market opportunities, strengthen competitiveness and growth of companies, address issues related to climate change or the environment, or bring other important benefits for society;</p> <p>Quality of the proposed measures to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of IPR), and to manage research data where relevant. <input type="checkbox"/> Communicate the project activities to different target audiences 	<p>Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, including extent to which the resources assigned to work packages are in line with their objectives and deliverables;</p> <p>Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk and innovation management;</p> <p>Complementarity of the participants and extent to which the consortium as whole brings together the necessary expertise;</p> <p>Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks, ensuring that all participants have a valid role and adequate resources in the project to fulfil that role.</p>

* In stage 1 evaluations, only aspects in bold will be considered.

Scoring and weighting:

Unless otherwise specified in the call conditions:

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

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

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

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

Priority order for proposals with the same score:

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

If necessary, the panel will determine a priority order for proposals which have been awarded the same score within a ranked list. Whether or not such a prioritisation is carried out will depend on the available budget or other conditions set out in the call fiche. The following approach will be applied successively for every group of *ex aequo* proposals requiring prioritisation, starting with the highest scored group, and continuing in descending order:

a) Proposals that address topics, or sub-topics, not otherwise covered by more highly-ranked proposals, will be considered to have the highest priority.

b) The proposals identified under (a), if any, will themselves be prioritised according to the scores they have been awarded for the criterion excellence. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on scores for the criterion impact. In the case of Innovation actions this prioritisation will be done first on the basis of the score for impact, and then on that for excellence.

c) If necessary, any further prioritisation will be based on the following factors,: number of MPCs partners involved, size of EU budget allocated to SMEs; gender balance among the personnel named in the proposal who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the research and/or innovation activities.

d) If a distinction still cannot be made, 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 Horizon 2020 in general. These factors will be documented in the report of the Panel.

e) The method described in (a), (b), (c) and (d) will then be applied to the remaining *ex aequo* in the group.

Evaluation procedure

1. Calls may be subject to either a one-stage or two-stage submission and evaluation procedure
2. Proposals are evaluated by independent experts (see Article 15(7) Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation 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 evaluation, following the scoring systems indicated above and the discussion of the panel. A ranked list will be drawn up for every indicative budget shown in the call conditions.
3. Proposal coordinators receive an Evaluation Summary Report (ESR), showing the results of the evaluation for a given proposal without indication of the scores. For proposals that successfully pass the first stage of two-stage calls, common feedback is provided to all coordinators, but the first stage ESR is only sent after the second stage evaluation.
4. If special procedures apply, they will be set out in the call conditions.

5.1.7 Funding decision and communication

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

The Proposal coordinators receive an Evaluation Summary Report (ESR), showing the results of the evaluation for a given proposal. For proposals that successfully pass the first stage of two-stage calls, common feedback is provided to all coordinators at the end of the second stage. In any case, scores will not be provided.

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

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

5.1.8 Budget flexibility

The budgets set out in AWP 2020 are indicative.

Unless otherwise stated, final budgets may vary following evaluation.

The final figures may vary by up to 20% compared to those indicated in AWP 2020, for the following budgeted activities:

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

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

5.1.9 Conditions related to open access to research data

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5.2.1 List of countries eligible for funding

Legal entities established in the following PRIMA Participating States⁵⁶ will in general be eligible to receive funding through PRIMA grants:

The following Member States (MS) of the European Union (EU): Croatia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Slovenia. It includes the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) linked to these Member States⁵⁷:

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

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

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

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

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

The information provided in this section is without prejudice to the national funding rules of PS which may also envisage eligibility for funding for specific entities not established in these PS.

The national funding rules of a PS will determine whether a particular entity would be eligible for funding.

After the eligibility check done by PRIMA-IS, a second eligibility check will be performed by the national funding bodies, aimed at the verification of eligibility for funding.⁵⁸

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

⁵⁶ New PS may join PRIMA and the regularly updated list of PS will be provided by PRIMA-IS (at the following link: <http://prima-med.org/about-us/participating-states/>).

⁵⁷ 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.

⁵⁸ The national regulations mention the eligible structures for funding (for example, some funding bodies can fund private entities and other cannot) and a list of criteria to check for their eligibility. National regulations also provide a comprehensive list of eligible costs (for example some funding bodies can support mobility or sub-contracting and other cannot). Therefore before applying to the call of the section 2, applicants must verify their own national eligibility for funding by reading carefully the national regulations and by contacting the national contact point appointed for this task.

For the eligibility for funding, applicants should refer to the national regulations⁵⁹ and contact their national funding bodies. (NCP) ⁶⁰

5.2.2 Standard admissibility conditions, page limits and supporting documents

1. For all actions under AWP 2020, proposals must comply with the admissibility requirements set out in this sub-section, unless they are supplemented or modified in the call conditions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 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;
- 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;
- A list of up to five relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal;

⁵⁹ Please refer to the National Regulations available in the PRIMA website.

⁶⁰ Find the NCP contacts at the following link <http://prima-med.org/calls-for-proposals/ncps/>.

- A description of any significant infrastructure and/or any major items of technical equipment, relevant to the proposed work;
- A description of any third parties that are not represented as project partners, but who will nonetheless be contributing towards the work (e.g. providing facilities, computing resources).

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

5.2.3 Standard eligibility conditions

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

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

A proposal will only be considered eligible if:

- a) the coordinator of the proposal is a legal entity established in a PRIMA PS⁶¹
- b) its content corresponds, wholly or in part, to the topic for which it is submitted
- c) it complies with the eligibility conditions for participation set out in the table below, depending on the type of action
- d) It complies with national regulations⁶²

Table 14 Eligibility conditions for participation for PRIMA Actions Section 2

Type of Action	Eligibility conditions for participation
Research & Innovation Action (RIA)	<p>At least three legal entities established in three different countries considered as Participating States as defined in point 5.2.1 by the submission deadline under the relevant call, out of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -at least one must be established in a EU Member State or a third country associated to Horizon 2020 and not being a MPC⁶³ and -at least one must be established in a third country bordering the Mediterranean Sea (MPC) <p>All three legal entities must be independent of each other.</p>

⁶¹ This measure is aimed to protect the Union's financial interests and is in line with Article 7(7) of the PRIMA Decision

⁶² Please refer to the National Regulations in the PRIMA website:

⁶³ These countries include Croatia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain

5.2.4 Types of activities: specific provisions and funding rates⁶⁴

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

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

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 with a view to pooling the results to contribute to the achievement of a set of common, well-defined project objectives.

Funding level

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

5.2.5 Technology readiness levels (TRL)

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

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

5.2.6 Evaluation rules

Selection Criteria

1. *Financial capacity*: Financial capacity will be checked in accordance with the rules analogous to those included in the Financial Regulation 2018/1046 and the Horizon 2020 Rules for

⁶⁴ Participants may ask for a lower rate.

Participation Regulation No 1290/2013. For grants, coordinators will be invited – at the proposal stage – to complete a self-assessment using an on-line tool⁶⁵

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

Award criteria, scores and weighting

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

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

⁶⁵ <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/organisations/lfv.html>

Table 15 Aspects to be considered during the proposal evaluation for each criterion (excellence, impact, quality and efficiency of the implementation in Section 2 Calls

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

* In stage 1 evaluations, only aspects in bold will be considered.

-Scoring and weighting:

Unless otherwise specified in the call conditions:

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

For the evaluation of first-stage proposals under a two-stage submission procedure, only the criteria 'excellence' and 'impact' will be evaluated. With regard to the impact criterion only the aspects in bold will be considered for first stage proposals. Threshold for both individual criteria will be 4.

For each indicative budget-split in the call conditions, the overall threshold, applying to the sum of the two individual scores, will be set at the level such that the total requested budget of proposals admitted to stage 2 is as close as possible to three times the available budget, and in any case, not less than two and a half times the available budget.

The actual level will therefore depend on the volume of proposals received.

The threshold is expected to normally be set at **8 or 8.5**.

Evaluation procedure

- **Individual Evaluation:** Each eligible proposal is evaluated remotely by at least three expert evaluators (see Article 15 of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation no. 1290/2013), who carry out a technical evaluation on the basis of the criteria mentioned above. An Individual Evaluation Report, which includes comments and scores for all evaluation criteria, is prepared by each evaluator.
- **Panel review:** after the remote individual evaluation, evaluators meet in a panel to discuss and find agreement on the initial comments and scores attributed to each proposal. They will prepare an Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) for each proposal, which shows the outcome of the evaluation of the project proposal. The panel is also responsible for the preparation of a ranking list of the proposals by consensus. Project funding decisions will be taken on the basis of this ranking list. The panel configuration allows evaluators to have an overview of all eligible proposals, not just the one they have evaluated, which enables them to decide fairly when ranking the proposals.

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

Priority order for proposals with the same score:

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

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

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

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

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

5.2.7 Funding decision and communication

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

Proposal coordinators receive an Evaluation Summary Report (ESR), showing the results of the evaluation for a given proposal without indication of the scores.

For proposals that successfully pass the first stage of two-stage calls, common feedback is provided to all coordinators at the end of the second stage. In any case, scores will not be provided.

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 out in the call conditions.

5.2.8 Budget flexibility

The budgets set out in AWP 2020 are indicative.

Unless otherwise stated, final budgets may vary following evaluation.

The final figures may vary by up to 20% compared to those indicated in AWP 2020, for the following budgeted activities:

- Total expenditure for calls (up to 20% of the total expenditure 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);
- Other individual actions not implemented through calls for proposals (up to 20% for each one).

5.2.9 Conditions related to open access to research data

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

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

Projects can "opt-out" of these provisions on the following grounds:

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

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

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

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

Projects that opt-out are also strongly encouraged to submit a Data Management Plan if relevant for their planned research. Further information on Data Management Plans is available on PRIMA electronic submission system.

5.2.10 Applicable common principles to all the actions and activities

In accordance with Article 6(9) of the PRIMA Decision (EU), activities included in AWP 2020 that are funded by the PS without the Union financial contribution shall be implemented in compliance with common principles adopted by PRIMA-IS after obtaining approval from the Commission.

Equal treatment

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

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

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

Transparency

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

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

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

Independent peer review evaluation

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

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

Ethics and scientific integrity

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

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

Exploitation and dissemination of results

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

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

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

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

Consortium agreement

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

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

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

The Project Coordinator

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

For the preparation and the submission of the proposal:

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

During the implementation of the project:

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

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

Please note that in accordance with Article 6(9) of the PRIMA Decision, activities included in AWP 2020 that are funded by the PS without the Union financial contribution shall be implemented in compliance with common principles adopted by PRIMA-IS after obtaining approval from the EU Commission.

For the list of common principles, please refer to Sub Section 5.2.10

Code	ES.2019.1
Theme:	Agri-food value chain
Activity title	Funding for National projects in the Agri-food value chain, Farming and Management of water R+D fields
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	<p>CDTI finance Research and Development projects carried out by Spanish companies in a continuous open call.</p> <p>Research and Development projects are business projects of an applied nature for the creation and significant improvement of a production process, product or service submitted by one single company or by a group of businesses. These projects may comprise both industrial research activities as well as experimental development, in accordance with the definitions of the General Block Exemption Regulation (EC Regulation nº651/2014)</p> <p>These projects are divided into two categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Individual R&D projects - National Cooperation R&D projects <p>The length of these projects may be from 12 to 36 months, with a minimum budget of around 175,000 € for individual projects and 500,000 € for cooperative projects.</p> <p>The funding modality for the project will be Partially Reimbursable Aid, with financial cover of up to 75% of the total approved budget which, by way of exception, may amount to up to 85%. Such aid may comprise a non-reimbursable tranche (NRT) which shall depend on the characteristics of the project and the beneficiary. Therefore, CDTI aid may be distributed in the following way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reimbursable tranche (RT) within a time period of 10 years, to be counted from the centre of gravity of the project, which is calculated in accordance with the project duration and the amount of the budget targets. The first reimbursement is made 3 years after the centre of gravity of the project and at least 2 years from its completion date. The interest rate of the aforementioned RT shall be fixed and equal to the one-year Euribor, which shall be determined when the project is approved. This RT implies a grant of an average of 7,2% that may vary taking into account the financial quality of the company and the reimbursable period. • 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. The average NRT calculated in May 2019 is close to 23,6%.

	<p>Whole average intensity of equivalent grant in R&D projects is close to 30,8 %.</p> <table><tr><td>Project Characteristics</td><td>SMES</td><td>Big Company</td></tr><tr><td>R&D projects co-funded by the European Regional Development Funds 2014 - 2020*</td><td>Up to 30%</td><td>Up to 30%</td></tr><tr><td>International Technology Cooperation</td><td>Up to 33%</td><td>Up to 33%</td></tr><tr><td>Other R&D projects</td><td>Up to 30%</td><td>Up to 20%</td></tr></table>	Project Characteristics	SMES	Big Company	R&D projects co-funded by the European Regional Development Funds 2014 - 2020*	Up to 30%	Up to 30%	International Technology Cooperation	Up to 33%	Up to 33%	Other R&D projects	Up to 30%	Up to 20%
Project Characteristics	SMES	Big Company											
R&D projects co-funded by the European Regional Development Funds 2014 - 2020*	Up to 30%	Up to 30%											
International Technology Cooperation	Up to 33%	Up to 33%											
Other R&D projects	Up to 30%	Up to 20%											
Rationale/Impact	<p>It's expected that the R&D projects considered are going to foster the business competitiveness of beneficiaries, improving their portfolio of products and services as well as the increase of efficiency in their processes and activities.</p> <p>The outcomes of these projects will lead to the improvement of farming and Agri-food activities, to develop eco-friendly activities and production processes as well as 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>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 instrument hasn't a sectorial approach so is focused to all sectors, among those are included the fields of water, environment, farming, ecosystem, Agri-food, health, etc.</p> <p>With a bottom-up approach, R&D open call projects tackled by Spanish companies, which operates in the so related fields encouraging cooperation schemes with research bodies and other companies from Spain or from other countries all around the world, aim to advance in the State of the Art of technologies, products and processes.</p> <p>Thus, technology and knowledge transfer are supported, aligning this process with real (market and social oriented) needs.</p>												
Deliverables	It's expected that near 400 projects will be approved in the period January - December 2020.												
Information on the Call(s) for Proposals													
Title of the Call for Proposals	CDTI R&D continuous open call.												
Publication date	This instrument has been applied by CDTI since the end of 70's. The financial conditions and rules have been updated by April 2018.												
Deadline for applications	Continuous open call												
Expected date of award	Advanced payment up to 30% is allowed at the start of the project. Annual payments linked to milestones fulfilment are considered up to the end of the project.												
Scope of the Call for Proposals	R&D and innovation activities with a TRL 4-7 carried out by companies.												
Implementation													

Type of Activity	R&D projects monthly approved by the CDTI government board.
Start date of the activity	The call is continuously open. Only projects approved after the adoption of the AWP2020.
Duration	Not defined. Projects are received continuously, and once evaluated technically and financially are presented to the Board on a monthly basis.
Funding institution	Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI E.P.E) - Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities.
Funding beneficiaries	Spanish companies and Economic Interest Groupings (EIG)
Countries where research is conducted	Spain
Collaborating partner(s)	Other companies, Research bodies (Universities, Public Research Bodies and Innovation and Technology Centres)
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in €)	Net equivalent grant expected for the period January – December 2020 is estimated in 22,4 M€.
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	This CDTI R&D financial instrument supports the development of technologies, processes and products in the fields of water, natural resources, Agri-food, environment, farming, etc. among others, with a bottom-up approach focused to markets and social needs. The supported projects will contribute to business competitiveness tackling technology, social and environmental challenges in so related fields, which are included in Thematic Areas 1, 2 and 3 of PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda. Activities financed with CDTI R&D instrument support interdisciplinary and cross-cutting actions that are aligned with the concept of RIAs included in PRIMA AWP 2019.
Website	http://www.cdti.es/index.asp?MP=15&MS=642&MN=3

Code	FR.2020.1
Theme:	Water, agriculture and aquaculture topics
Activity title	Research Projects funded by ANR under the annual national call for proposals
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	<p>Every year, the French National Research Agency (ANR) launches a call for proposals covering all the fields of scientific research. Inside this call, a budget of around 35 M€ is allocated to the following thematic areas : Biology of animals, photosynthetic organisms and microorganisms; Food and food systems; Dynamics of socio-ecosystems and their components to improve their sustainable management; Living Earth; Bioeconomy; and allows to fund around 80 projects.</p> <p>This call is open to French research teams but projects can include foreign research teams (funded by their own agencies). Some of these projects address PRIMA topics (Water Management, Farming systems, Agro-Food Value Chain, in the Mediterranean Area) and we can estimate that every year a budget of around 1.5 M€-2.0 M€ is allocated to projects inside the PRIMA scope.</p>
Rationale/Impact	The French National Research Agency (ANR) is a public body under the authority of the Ministry of research

	ANR provides funding for project-based research in all fields of science - for both basic and applied research - to public research organisations and universities, as well as to private companies (including SMEs). Evaluation is based on competitive peer reviews according to international standards
Objectives	<p>ANR activities aim at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting and funding the development of research via Competitive project-based research funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In all fields of science In basic and applied research For research organisations, universities, private companies & SMEs Fostering innovation and technology transfer to industry Implementing program and priorities decided by the Ministry of Research and Higher Education Reinforcing European and international scientific collaboration Analysing the research offer and assess Impact of ANR funding
Deliverables	
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	French National Research Agency: Annual Generic Call for Proposals
Publication date (call 2020)	July 2020
Deadline for applications	October 2020 (1st step pf selection), End March 2021 (2nd step of selection)
Expected date of award	July 2021
Scope of the Call for Proposals	<p>This call covers fundamental and applied research projects. The following topics are related to PRIMA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Living Earth: this axis covers research projects aiming to the acquisition of fundamental knowledge on biodiversity and dynamics of continental and marine ecosystems, little- or non-anthropised, past or present - food and food systems This axis covers fundamental or applied research projects on food, food systems and global food security - biology of animals, photosynthetic organisms, and microorganisms: This axis covers fundamental and applied research projects in biology of livestock, fish species, photosynthetic organisms, including models, and associated organisms (microorganisms, microbiota, pests, pathogens, ...) and their interactions - Dynamics of socio-ecosystems and their components to improve their sustainable management: This axis covers basic and applied research projects aiming at i) understanding the dynamics of productive ecosystems to improve their sustainable management, ii) proposing innovations for the integrated and sustainable management of socio-ecosystems, iii) contributing to the development of pathways and scenarios to support ecological and digital transitions - bioeconomy: specific technologies (chemistry, biotechnology, processes) and system approaches (from biomass to its usages)
Implementation	
Type of Activity	RIA
Start date of the activity	Annual Basis –Projects starting dates: last quarter 2021
Duration	24 to 48 months
Funding institution	ANR
Funding beneficiaries	All type of French public research organisations and private companies
Countries where research is conducted	Besides France, field works and collaborations can be carried out in/with Mediterranean Partners , in particular Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Egypt
Collaborating partner(s)	Potentially all South Mediterranean countries
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in €)	Around 1 500 000 – 2 000 000 €/year (to be confirmed once the list of selected projects is published)

Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	The projects funded are in the scope of the thematic areas of PRIMA (water, agriculture and food), and/or cross cutting issues (soil, food security)
Website	http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/en/

Code	DE.2020.1
Theme:	Water, agriculture and aquaculture topics
Activity title	TUNISIAN – GERMAN CALL FOR BILATERAL S&T COOPERATION INVOLVING SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY (2+2 projects) 2020 [TUNGER2plus22020]
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	<p>The aim is to establish a long-term research and development collaboration between German and Tunisian participants in science and industry. The funding will be provided jointly by the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) for the German project partners and by the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MoHESR) for the Tunisian project partners.</p> <p>Under this call for proposals, funding can be provided for joint R&D projects involving at least one German and one Tunisian research institution or university as well as one German and one Tunisian enterprise. The benefits for Germany and Tunisia should be clearly identifiable.</p>
Rationale/Impact	<p>It is expected that the funded projects will produce insights and exploitable research results leading to new technologies, products and/or services.</p> <p>The funding is intended to enable the foundations to be laid for a lasting R&D innovation partnership.</p> <p>Joint innovation oriented R&D projects designed to lead to innovative products, services or processes of significant economic and/or societal value (TRL 4-7) would be highly welcomed.</p>
Objectives	The aim is establish long-term research and development collaboration between German and Tunisian participants in science and industry. The funding will be provided jointly by the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) for the German project partners and by the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MoHESR) for the Tunisian project partners.
Deliverables	<p>Call text</p> <p>Reports of the funded projects</p>
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	Announcement within the framework of the Federal Government's Strategy for the Internationalization of Education, Science and Research; Regulations for the promotion of research projects with Tunisia with the participation of science and industry
Publication date (call 2019-2020)	Quarter 1 2020
Deadline for applications	Quarter 1 2020
Expected date of award	Q 3 September 2020
Scope of the Call for Proposals	<p>This call for proposals offsets out to support joint research projects in the area of application-oriented research and development in the following fields:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Water Management b. Farming Systems c. Agro-Food Value Chain d. Digitalization e. Green economy / circular economy <p>In order to strengthen the long-term nature of bilateral partnerships between German and Tunisian institutions in research and industry, so-called bilateral innovation forums can also be funded within the framework of funded joint projects. Such an innovation forum aims to establish a broad bilateral network with other German research and educational institutions and innovative companies together with corresponding proven institutions in Tunisia to initiate future research cooperations or business relationships. Within the framework of the Innovation Forum, the partners should jointly determine their position in</p>

	(national/international) competition and develop an implementation strategy for future cooperation and joint innovation goals. In this context, the feasibility and practicability of new product, process and service ideas can also be investigated. The main outcome of the Innovation Forum should be a jointly developed action plan for the development of new products, applications, processes and technologies.
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Joint innovation oriented projects would be highly welcomed. Innovation oriented projects are joint R&D projects designed to lead to innovative products, services or processes of significant economic and/or societal value (TRL 4-7)
Start date of the activity	
Duration	The duration of the projects will generally be up to 36 months.
Funding institution	On the German side funding will be provided by the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and on the Tunisian side by the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MoHESR).
Funding beneficiaries	Germany: German universities, research institutions and enterprises (particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)) are eligible for funding. Tunisia: The Tunisian public higher education and scientific research institutions are eligible for funding.
Countries where research is conducted	Germany and Tunisia
Collaborating partner(s)	DLR Project Management Agency
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in €)	Germany: 2.080 Mio. EUR
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	All three PRIMA strategic research areas are targeted by this call: Water Management Farming Systems Agro-Food Value Chain
Website	www.bmbf.de

Code	DE.2020.2
Theme:	Wide-ranging topics of common research interest (e.g. Climate Change, Urban Planning & Transportation, ICT etc.) and societal challenges (e.g. Food, Water, Energy etc.).
Activity title	German Egyptian Research Fund 2020
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	<p>On the occasion of the closing event of the "German-Egyptian Year of Science and Technology 2007" in Berlin, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MoHESR) agreed to establish a German-Egyptian Research Fund (GERF) for the support of joint application-oriented research projects. Both sides have agreed to announce joint calls for proposals in the frame of the German Egyptian Research Fund (GERF) regularly in order to support innovative, application-oriented research projects.</p> <p>The grants, which are awarded bi-annually from the Joint Fund, are generally open to German-Egyptian research teams based at public or non-public Egyptian and German research organizations, public or non-public institutions of higher education, non- university research institutions or commercial companies, particularly SMEs, and non-governmental and civil society organizations. The participation of industrial/business enterprises – especially those headquartered in Germany or Egypt – is highly welcomed.</p> <p>Since the joint funding tool was implemented in 2008, the BMBF and the Egyptian Science and Technology Development Fund STDF have published a total of four joint calls for proposals (2008, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2018) in all subjects related to the fields prioritised in the Year of Science – (e.g. Biotechnology, Medicine, Material Sciences, Water, Renewable Energies, Humanities and Social Sciences etc.) - which have in the interim been supplemented by wide-ranging topics of common research interest (e.g. Climate Change, Urban Planning & Transportation, ICT etc.) and societal challenges (e.g. Food, Water, Energy etc.).</p>

Rationale/Impact	Junior research groups in particular from Egypt and Germany are offered the opportunity through the joint funds to implement innovative, application-oriented, industry-relevant research projects. A further goal of the bilateral research fund is the support of scientific networks when applying for funding from the EU Framework Programme HORIZON2020 or from national funding programmes.
Objectives	GERF provides support for German-Egyptian research cooperation in areas of mutual interest. The funding grants are intended to give researchers – including young scientists – an opportunity to address new areas of scientific research. Research results generated in these projects are to be developed into concrete applications. In addition, a further aim of the joint research fund is to help scientific networks apply for funding under the EU's HORIZON2020 Research Programme or under national funding schemes.
Deliverables	Both sides finance the research fund to an equal degree, with up to one million euros per year on each side. Since 2008/9 – 2019 Germany and Egypt have been funded ca. 75 joint projects in application-oriented and, to an increasing extent, in industry-relevant research, through the GERF, with a total volume of over ten million euros.
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	German-Egyptian Research Fund FOR BILATERAL S&T COOPERATION – INVOLVING SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY (2+2 projects) 2020
Publication date (call 2019-2020)	Tbc (2020)
Deadline for applications	Tbc (2020)
Expected date of award	Starting from 04/2020 and Tbc (2021)
Scope of the Call for Proposals	GERF's exemplary character as an effective instrument for further institutionalized German-Arab research cooperation programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demand driven approach and equal financing from both sides - Agreement on thematic priorities of mutual interest, on the text of the call and on the funding regulations as well as on the selection criteria and their relative importance in advance of the selection process - Joint final evaluation of the successful projects - Establishment of a joint operative steering committee with representatives from the research community and industry - Awareness-raising activities to attract the attention of potential applicants
Implementation	
Type of Activity	(TBC) Funding of 20-25 bilateral innovative, application-oriented research projects (R&D)
Start date of the activity	05/2020 and (TBC) 2021
Duration	The duration of the projects will generally be up to 24 months.
Funding institution	The funding will be provided jointly by the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) for the German project partners, managed by DLR PT. The Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MoHESR) for the Egyptian project partners, managed by STDF.
Funding beneficiaries	Germany: German universities, research institutions and enterprises (particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)) are eligible for funding. Egypt: The Egyptian public higher education and scientific research institutions are eligible for funding. German-Egyptian research teams based at public or non-public Egyptian and German research organizations, public or non-public institutions of higher education, non-university research institutions or commercial companies, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and non-governmental and civil society organizations are eligible for funding.
Countries where research is conducted	Germany and Egypt
Collaborating partner(s)	BMBF (managed by DLR PT) on German side; Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF) on Egyptian side
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in €)	On the German side, plans currently foresee a funding of 450,000 € per project (10 projects in total) for a period of 3 years. This results in a total funding amount of € 4.5 million or € 1.5 million per year.
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	The GERF 2+2 Call (foreseen to be published in 2020) with the thematic focus on Agricultural Research and Natural Resource Management (including Water Resources, Food Production and Food Safety) will be in alignment with the three thematic pillars of PRIMA.
Website	https://www.bmbf.de/foerderungen/bekanntmachung-1839.html TBC GERF 2020 (https://www.bmbf.de)

Code	IT.2020.1
Theme	Mobility for researchers with South Mediterranean Countries
Activity title	Italian /Tunisian cooperation programme
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	<p>This program is implemented and financed by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Republic of Tunisia and the National Research Council of Italy.</p> <p>Both parties will support up to 4 joint research projects every year implemented on specific subjects with the participation of scientists from each country and will be mutually agreed in advance by both sides.</p>
Rationale/Impact	By funding mobility and training, this program has the objective to contribute to the development of new partnerships and to the strengthening of advanced scientific and technological exchanges between Tunisian and Italian researchers and research centers
Objectives	The objective of this program is to develop scientific and technological exchanges of excellence between laboratories in both countries, by promoting new cooperation and the participation of young researchers and PhD students.
Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A progress report mentioning the scientific results obtained, the productions, the scientific events (publications, symposia, etc.), and a program sheet; - A financial statement of the actions carried out; - A final report is required no later than three months after the end of the projects.
Information on the Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	Tunisian/ Italian Call for Proposals March 2, 2020
Publication date	2020
Deadline for applications	Deadline for submission of applications: May 29, 2020
Expected date of award	Q4, 2020
Scope of the Call for Proposals	<p>This program is designed for public or private research laboratories affiliated with institutions of higher education, research organizations, or corporations.</p> <p>Every joint call will have priority research areas chosen among this list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Humanities and Social Sciences - Cultural Heritage - Water - Energy - Agrifood - Climate change - Biodiversity - Medical Sciences - Smart cities and Artificial Intelligence
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Preparation and implementation of joint research projects
Start date of the activity	January, 2021
Duration	<p>The duration of a joint research project will normally be two years.</p> <p>Funding is granted on an annual basis, the amount granted being variable from one year to the next.</p>

Funding institution	National Research Council of Italy (CNR)
Funding beneficiaries	Research Centres & Academic Institutions
Countries where research is conducted	Tunisia, Italy
Collaborating partner(s)	Tunisia
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in €)	For each project, CNR will provide up to 6.000 € to the Italian team (4 projects in total)
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	PRIMA 3 thematic areas
Website	https://www.cnr.it/en/bilateral-agreements/agreement/76/mesrs-ministry-of-higher-education-and-scientific-research-of-tunisia

Code	MT-2020-1
Theme:	Water management, Farming Systems , Food Value Chain
Activity title	Maltese Programme supporting PRIMA Calls
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	Malta intends to launch calls for proposals in PRIMA-related thematic areas, aiming to build their Research and Innovation capacities in the areas of Water, Food and Agriculture. The Calls will be mainly addressed to researchers based in Malta. However, partnering with international partners from other PRIMA Participating States will be strongly encouraged.
Rationale/Impact	<p>The focus for this call is to build research and innovation capacities and to develop knowledge and common innovative solutions for integrated water provision and management in the Mediterranean area, to make them more climate resilient, efficient, cost-effective and environmentally and socially sustainable.</p> <p>This will be achieved through a competitive and transparent process of selection.</p> <p>The main impacts will be to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Increase Malta's participation and the number of projects under PRIMA 2) Increase further science popularization of Food, Water and Agriculture 3) Raise awareness of PRIMA-related calls 4) Support to local researchers who have been unsuccessful in previous PRIMA Calls 5) Encourage partnerships with other PRIMA PS, in particular partners with less participation PRIMA actions with reference to Section 2 calls
Objectives	<p>The general objective of the call is to promote national and regional research in the strategic thematic areas of PRIMA and to encourage more Maltese participation in PRIMA thematic areas.</p> <p>This call will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • generate local knowledge relevant to the thematic areas • foster capacity-building through learning by doing and hands-on training • strengthen the link between evidence generation and policy-making in the PRIMA thematic areas • enhance experience-exchange with researchers in the other PRIMA PS.
Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A progress report mentioning the scientific results obtained, the productions, the scientific events (publications, symposia, etc.), and a program sheet; - A financial statement of the actions carried out; - A final report is required no later than three months after the end of the projects.
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	Call for Proposals for the Implementation of PRIMA-Related activities
Publication date	August 2020
Deadline for applications	31 December 2020
Expected date of award	March 2021
Scope of the Call for Proposals	MCST will launch a call for research proposals under the PRIMA Initiative calls for 2020. The aim of the call is to promote research in PRIMA-related topics which could address the identified national gaps in funding in these topics, and to increase the use of evidence-based actions which may not have been address through the PRIMA calls under PRIMA Sections 1 and 2.
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Research and Innovation Actions
Start date of the activity	2020
Duration	Duration of the projects will be from 1 to 3 years
Funding institution	Malta Council for Science and Technology
Funding beneficiaries	Malta Based Researchers
Countries where research is conducted	Malta or in another PRIMA Participating State
Collaborating partner(s)	Collaboration with researchers from other PRIMA-PS will be encouraged as long as they are self funded to carry out the research with Maltese researchers
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in €)	The commitment is at least 70,000 EURO.
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	The Maltese Programme with the thematic focus on Agricultural Research ,Water Management, and Food Value Chaibn, will be in alignment with the three thematic pillars of PRIMA

Website	The Calls will be published on MCST Website (www.mcst.gov.mt) and PLUMTRI (www.plumtri.org)
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Code	TU.2020.1
Theme	Mobility for researchers with South Mediterranean Countries
Activity title	Hubert Curien Partnerships PHC MAGHREB Programme de coopération Franco-Maghrébin
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	<p>Hubert Curien Partnerships are designed for public or private research laboratories affiliated with institutions of higher education, research organizations, or corporations, without restriction as to field or subject. The humanities and social sciences are not excluded, nor are thematic programs bringing together several fields of science.</p> <p>Maghreb is the Hubert Curien Partnership (PHC) programme involving France, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. Each year, the four countries provide support to the projects of the PHC Maghreb within the framework of the mobilities of project managers (Senior Residency), co-supervisors (Senior Residency), doctoral students (Junior Residency) and post-docs (Junior Stay).</p> <p>The main objective is to foster collaborations and exchanges between researchers and research professors in the four countries to enable long-term collaborations, networking and also joint access to existing international networks or participation in European projects.</p> <p>Research will focus on the main theme: Towards a multi-cultural and sustainable Mediterranean area in the face of related issues to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * climate and energy changes * innovation and competitiveness of companies * identity, value and dialogue of civilizations, migration and integration, history and heritage, law and trade * the digital transition
Rationale/Impact	By funding mobility and training, the Hubert Curien Partnerships has the objective to contribute to the development of new partnerships and to the strengthening of advanced scientific and technological exchanges between research centers in Morocco, Algeria, Tunis and France.
Objectives	<p>This PHC has three main objectives:</p> <p>Foster collaborations and exchanges between researchers and research professors in the four countries to enable long-term collaboration, networking, and joint access to existing international networks or participation in European projects;</p> <p>Support training to and through research through the mandatory involvement of a PhD student in co-supervision in projects;</p> <p>Helping to promote innovative research with an impact on sustainable development, production and processing sectors and tools leading to the transfer and exploitation of results.</p>
Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A progress report mentioning the scientific results obtained, the scientific events (publications, symposia, etc.), and a program sheet; - A financial statement of the actions carried out; - A final report is required no later than three months after the end of the projects.
Information on the Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	Programme PHC-MAGHREB -APPEL À CANDIDATURES 2021
Publication date	2020
Deadline for applications	Deadline for submission of applications: February 15, 2020
Expected date of award	Q2, 2021

Scope of the Call for Proposals	Hubert Curien Partnerships are designed for public or private research laboratories affiliated with institutions of higher education, research organizations, or corporations, without restriction as to field or subject.
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Training and Mobility Actions (TMA)
Start date of the activity	Q3, 2021
Duration	The duration of the projects is 3 years maximum (subject to a presentation of the end-of-year progress report). Funding is granted on an annual basis, the amount granted being variable from one year to the next.
Funding institution	The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Tunisia, and the same in Algeria, the CNRST in Morocco and the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) and the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MESRI) in France
Funding beneficiaries	Research Centers & Academic Institutions
Countries where research is conducted	Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, France
Collaborating partner(s)	Algeria, Morocco, France
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in €)	During 2019, the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Tunisia allocated 157000 TND = 47633.49 € for the new and renewed projects 16000 TND/new project = 4854.36€/new project. In 2020, It is foreseen that the Programme will allocate 139.000 TND =44.253,84 Euro for PRIMA -themed projects
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	PRIMA 3 thematic areas
Website	https://www.campusfrance.org/fr/maghreb

Code	TU.2020.2
Theme	Mobility for researchers with South Mediterranean Countries
Activity title	Hubert Curien Partnerships PHC UTIQUE, partnership Franco-Tunisian
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	UTIQUE is the Hubert Curien Partnership (PHC) Franco-Tunisian. In France, it is coordinated by the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) and the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MESRI) and is co-financed by MEAE and MESRI. In Tunisia, it is implemented and financed by the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MESRS) and managed by the Directorate-General for Scientific Research (DGRS). This program is managed by the Joint Committee for University Cooperation (CMCU) under the responsibility of a French Co-Chair and a Tunisian Co-Chair. Calls for applications for this program are launched on an annual basis.
Rationale/Impact	By funding mobility and training, the Hubert Curien Partnerships has the objective to contribute to the development of new partnerships and to the strengthening of advanced scientific and technological exchanges between research centers Tunis and France.
Objectives	The objective of this program is to develop scientific and technological exchanges of excellence between laboratories in both countries, by promoting new cooperation and the participation of young researchers and PhD students. All areas of research are concerned by this call for proposals and especially SHS. Special attention will be given to projects:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Which involve socio-economic partnerships; - That encourage innovation and the transfer of knowledge and skills for the benefit of both countries; - Which favour the structuring of research and the networking of research teams. <p>The partnership must involve at least one team from each country.</p>
Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A progress report mentioning the scientific results obtained, the productions, the scientific events (publications, symposia, etc.), and a program sheet; - A financial statement of the actions carried out; - A final report is required no later than three months after the end of the projects.
Information on the Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	Programme PHC-Utique g��r�� par le CMCU - APPEL A CANDIDATURES 2021
Publication date	February 2020
Deadline for applications	Deadline for submission of applications: April 2020
Expected date of award	Q3, 2021
Scope of the Call for Proposals	Hubert Curien Partnerships are designed for public or private research laboratories affiliated with institutions of higher education, research organizations, or corporations, without restriction as to field or subject.
Implementation	
Type of Activity	TMA
Start date of the activity	Q1, 2021
Duration	<p>The duration of the projects is 3 years maximum (subject to a presentation of the end-of-year progress report).</p> <p>Funding is granted on an annual basis, the amount granted being variable from one year to the next.</p> <p>They must be consumed between 1 January and 31 December of the year in question.</p> <p>They can't be carried over to the next exercise.</p>
Funding institution	The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Tunisia and in France, the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) and the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MESRI)
Funding beneficiaries	Research Centers & Academic Institutions
Countries where research is conducted	France, Tunisia
Collaborating partner(s)	France
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in ��)	<p>During 2019, the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Tunisia allocated 811000 TND = 246055.82�� for the new and renewed projects between 10000 et 15000 TND/new project = 3033.98 �� and 4550.97��/ new project</p> <p>It is foreseen that the Programme will allocate 305 000 DT=97103,75 Euro for Prima-themed projects in 2020.</p>
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	PRIMA 3 thematic areas
Website	https://www.campusfrance.org/fr/utique

Code	TU.2020.3
Theme	Call for proposals – Appel �� propositions Tuniso-Allemand

Activity title	Scientific and Technological Cooperation
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	As part of the development of scientific and technological cooperation between the Republic of Tunisia and the The German Federal Government, the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MESRS) in collaboration with the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), launch the Tunisian German third Call for Proposals(TUNGER)
Rationale/Impact	<p>develop joint project ideas in subject areas that are key to research policy in the BMBF's specialist programmes and European research programmes, and undertake preliminary scientific work in relation to this for a successful application (feasibility studies/pilot measures),</p> <p>To explore the potential of both partner countries in science, research and technological development and for the application of research findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - present the strengths of German and Tunisian institutions as international partners in science, research and innovation, - establish new contact with service providers in the partner countries and enable access to internationally unique research locations and infrastructures, - support ongoing R&D activities by fostering networks amongst the next generation of scientists (PhD students) in both countries, - produce scenarios for strategic international partnerships between German and Tunisian universities and research institutions.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop and deepen bilateral scientific cooperation between German and Tunisian institutions. - Supporting German-Tunisian cooperation in the fields of scientific research and technological development
Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A progress report mentioning the scientific results obtained, the productions, the scientific events (publications, symposia, etc.), and a program sheet; - A financial statement of the actions carried out; - A final report is required no later than three months after the end of the projects.
Information on the Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	- TUNGER 2020
Publication date	- 2020
Deadline for applications	- To be discussed
Expected date of award	- End of 2020
Scope of the Call for Proposals	- Smart agriculture/ Environment/ Food Security
- Implementation	
Type of Activity	- Preparation and implementation of joint research projects
Start date of the activity	- 2020
Duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The duration of a joint research project will normally be three years. - Funding is granted on an annual basis, the amount granted being variable from one year to the next.
Funding institution	- Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Tunisia
Funding beneficiaries	- On the Tunisian side: Tunisian public higher education and scientific research institutions are eligible for funding.
Countries where research is conducted	- Germany/ Tunisia

Collaborating partner(s)	- Germany
- Commitments	
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in €)	- 600.000 MD for 10 R&D projects, equivalent to 188.798 EUR allocated in 2020
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	- PRIMA 3 thematic areas
Website	- https://www.mes.tn

Code	TU.2020.4
Theme	Mobility for researchers with South Mediterranean Countries
Activity title	Tunisian/ Italian cooperation programme
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	This programme is implemented and financed by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Republic of Tunisia and the National Research Council of Italy. Both parties will support up to 4 joint research projects every year implemented on specific subjects with the participation of scientists from each country and will be mutually agreed in advance by both sides.
Rationale/Impact	By funding mobility and training, this programme has the objective to contribute to the development of new partnerships and to the strengthening of advanced scientific and technological exchanges between Tunisian and Italian researchers and research centers
Objectives	The objective of this program is to develop scientific and technological exchanges of excellence between laboratories in both countries, by promoting new cooperation and the participation of young researchers and PhD students.
Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A progress report mentioning the scientific results obtained, the productions, the scientific events (publications, symposia, etc.), and a program sheet; - A financial statement of the actions carried out; - A final report is required no later than three months after the end of the projects.
Information on the Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	Tunisian/ Italian Call for Proposals
Publication date	March 2, 2020
Deadline for applications	Deadline for submission of applications: May 29, 2020
Expected date of award	Q4, 2020

Scope of the Call for Proposals	<p>This program is designed for public or private research laboratories affiliated with institutions of higher education, research organizations, or corporations.</p> <p>Every joint call will have priority research areas chosen among this list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Humanities and Social Sciences - Cultural Heritage - Water - Energy - Agrifood - Climate change - Biodiversity - Medical Sciences - Smart cities and Artificial Intelligence
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Preparation and implementation of joint research projects
Start date of the activity	January, 2021
Duration	<p>The duration of a joint research project will normally be two years.</p> <p>Funding is granted on an annual basis, the amount granted being variable from one year to the next.</p>
Funding institution	Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Tunisia and the National Research Council of Italy
Funding beneficiaries	Research Centres & Academic Institutions
Countries where research is conducted	Tunisia, Italy
Collaborating partner(s)	Italy
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in €)	For each project, MHESR will provide annually up to 5.000/6.000 € to the Tunisian team
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	PRIMA 3 thematic areas
Website	https://www.mes.tn