



CALL TEXT AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Call: Section 1 – Nexus 2020

IA – Topic 1.4.1: 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.

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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 impact

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

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	<i>According to Horizon 2020 Rules</i> 100% applies)
Technology Readiness levels (TRL)	<i>TRL 6-8</i> 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 of the AWP 2020
Evaluation rules	The award criteria, scoring, thresholds and weightings for RIAs listed in part 5.1.6 of the AWP 2020 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.