Call for expression of interest from experts to be appointed as members of the PRIMA Scientific Advisory Committee
1. Introduction

In accordance with the article 15 of the Statutes of the PRIMA Foundation (Ref. Ares (2018)1264463 - 07/03/2018), PRIMA is supported by a Scientific Advisory Committee - from now on, “the SAC” - which shall advise on the strategic priorities, content and scope of the PRIMA Annual Work Plans.

Members of the SAC are appointed by the PRIMA Board of Trustees for their experience and high expertise, and they shall act in a purely personal capacity and not as representatives of their institution, country or interest group. The selection criteria, complete functions, nomination process and relevant tasks are detailed below.

Following the closure of the mandate of the first SAC (2018-2021), The PRIMA Secretariat is seeking expressions of interest from external experts with a view to appoint the membership of the new SAC for a 3-year mandate (2021-2024).

2. Eligibility and selection criteria

The Call is open to experts from any professional background, i.e. from both the public (government, academia, etc.) and private sector (business, NGOs, CSOs, etc.), with relevant expertise, competences and work experience in the thematic areas addressed by the PRIMA programme and identified in the PRIMA SRIA – Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, namely:

- **Integrated and sustainable management of water for arid and semi-arid Mediterranean areas farming systems**
- **Sustainable farming systems under Mediterranean environmental constraints**
- **Sustainable Mediterranean agro-food value chain for regional and local development**
- **Water, Energy, Food Energy and Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus**
- and/or in socio-economic sciences and cross-cutting issues as knowledge and technology transfer, climate change, Information and Communication Technology

The ideal candidates, while having outstanding expertise in their field of specialisation, also possess a broad view of the interrelations among the areas mentioned above and an understanding of how multidisciplinary research can help address them.

Having relevant work experience in the Mediterranean region is a must, even though experts from non-PRIMA Countries¹ may apply. Experts from International Organisations may also apply.

The following specific selection criteria will be applied in evaluating eligible candidates:

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¹ The list of PRIMA Participating States is available here: https://prima-med.org/about-us/participating-states/
• Preferably have a postgraduate university degree (e.g., PhD) in a relevant scientific area linked to PRIMA thematic areas. Candidates with competences and work experience in cross-cutting areas, like social sciences, socio-economic sciences, climate change, Information and communication technology are also encouraged to apply;

• Have a proven track record and at least 10 years of professional experience in relevant fields linked to PRIMA thematic areas;

• Have professional experience across the research and innovation cycle, in knowledge and technology transfer, as well as in innovation promotion (quintuple helix framework), is considered an advantage (for academics, being full professor or director of research is preferable. This does not apply for candidates coming from the business sector);

• Having previous experience in providing scientific advice to relevant organisations at national or international level is considered an advantage;

• Have professional experience in multi-disciplinary scientific environments, preferably in an international context;

• Have good knowledge of the social, economic, political and environmental issues, as well as their interrelations, affecting the wider Mediterranean region, i.e. European, North African and Middle Eastern countries;

• Have a demonstrated capacity to work in English: candidates must be able to read and report in English, in writing and orally.

3. Mandate of the SAC members

• The SAC members mandate will be for 3 years (2021-2024).

• The primary role of the SAC is to provide the PRIMA Secretariat and bodies with independent, high quality scientific advice on the strategic priorities, content and scope of the PRIMA Annual Work Plans;

• The SAC is required to prepare a tentative concept paper for the Annual Work Plans/calls for proposals 2023-2024 based on the analysis of the PRIMA SRIA, national SRIAs or similar agendas of regional programs addressing the same thematic areas of PRIMA, the portfolio of projects already funded by PRIMA, UN SDGs, Horizon Europe and other EU relevant initiatives and policies;

• Where appropriate, the SAC advises the Board of Trustees on the setting up of scientific subcommittees, task forces and specialised working groups;

• The SAC, supported by the PRIMA Secretariat, may suggest the organisation of workshops and seminars, in collaboration with other initiatives and international organisations, in order to identify potential synergies and orientations for the future annual work plans;
• The SAC analyses, in collaboration with the PRIMA Secretariat, the portfolio of funded projects in order to identify possible synergies and identifies the main potential of innovations.

4. Workload and indemnities

SAC members are expected to attend meetings on a regular basis, in particular those where the concept paper of the annual work plan is discussed, drafted and/or adopted, and to actively contribute to the work of the committee and its scientific debate. This includes, in addition to the participation in the meetings, significant preparatory work, examination of documents and consultations. All meetings will be either remotely or normally take place at PRIMA headquarter in Barcelona.

SAC members are bound to participate in the activities of the SAC according to the investment of time and effort as described above.

The working language is English, the working documents are in English and the meetings are also conducted in English.

All SAC members will receive full reimbursement for their travel and accommodation costs and will receive a daily allowance, where appropriate, in accordance with the rules laid down by PRIMA. The SAC members shall also be entitled to the payment of a flat fee (fixed daily rate) in line with PRIMA rules, for each full day of work during a dedicated SAC meeting, including related preparatory work.

5. Independence and confidentiality

The work of the SAC is based on the principles of excellence, independence and transparency. Members of the SAC must act independently of any external influence and solely on the basis of scientific considerations. Moreover, SAC members are asked to commit themselves to serving PRIMA to the best of their capacity and to keep confidential all information to which they gain access to as a consequence of their membership in the SAC. To this end, Members will have to sign formal declarations of:

a) commitment to working to their best personal capacity when providing scientific advice and to act solely on the basis of scientific considerations (This declaration is to be signed by SAC Members at the time of their appointment);

b) interests that might be considered prejudicial to their independence or, if appropriate, the absence of any such interests (This declaration is to be signed by SAC Members at the time of their appointment and to be renewed at each SAC meeting where required.

6. Application procedure

• The personal data collected on this call for expressions of interest shall be protected according to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679.
• Update or compile your *Curriculum Vitae*, preferably using the Europass format, including a list of publications highlighting the 10 best publications and the papers published in the last 5 years.

• Write a motivation letter explaining the reason for applying to SAC Committee and highlighting the candidate’s suitability for Committee membership on the basis of the eligibility and selection criteria described above.

• Electronically submit the motivation letter together with the *Curriculum Vitae* to this form [https://prima-med.org/sac2021/](https://prima-med.org/sac2021/)

• The deadline for receipt of applications is May 11, 2021. Only applications submitted through this link [https://prima-med.org/sac2021/](https://prima-med.org/sac2021/) will be considered.

### 7. Selection procedure and final appointment

The selection procedure will be conducted by the PRIMA Steering Committee and supported by the PRIMA Secretariat.

1. Verification of the eligibility of the applicants.

2. Evaluation of the applicants by the Selection Committee against the selection criteria, and establishment of a shortlist with the most suitable candidates.

3. Appointment of SAC members taking into account the need to satisfy the right spread of competences and other factors such as geographic and gender balance. Seven members will be selected to which will be added two representatives from UFM and FAO.