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PRIMA, EC and UfM kicking-off the Mediterranean WEFE Nexus Community of practice

Water, energy, food and ecosystems represent the essence of long-term social and economic stability, by providing the basis for public goods, the welfare state, peace and security. Intensifying resource scarcity, population growth and climate change are likely to further endanger the sustainable provision of water, energy, food and ecosystem services (WEFE) in the Mediterranean. This requires a Nexus decision-making approach that, considering both cross-sectoral interdependencies and regionalisation, would identify co-designed management solutions based on reliable knowledge shared amongst multiple stakeholders.

Science and stakeholder engagement are key in this Nexus approach. [UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), the [EU Green Deal](#), the [Barcelona Declaration adopted at the Euro-Mediterranean Conference](#) and related [UfM Roadmap for Action](#) are already promoting science-based targets to examine the different forms of interdependencies and provide a convincing body of evidence on response strategies overcoming contrasting perspectives of the various stakeholders. Working as a team at demonstration sites, scientists and stakeholders can assess the economic and socio-ecological benefits of Nexus management options, practices and technologies and their possible impact on future WEFE decision-making.

How to translate the WEFE Nexus concept from theory into practice was the subject of the [WEFE Nexus Science Advances Conference](#) in September 2021. Panellists and ministerial representatives from the Mediterranean countries recognised the urgency of congregating scientists and stakeholders in a Mediterranean WEFE Nexus Community of Practice (NCoP) to ensure that Nexus solutions emerging from R&I activities can be applied broadly across the region.

PRIMA will kick-start and lead the development of the **Mediterranean WEFE Nexus Community of Practice** by launching a call for a Coordinated Support Action (CSA), to create the operational unit (the **Implementation Team**) engaged in the development and daily management of the NCoP. Such a CSA has been included in the [PRIMA Annual Work Plan 2022](#) and translated into a Call for Proposals that will be launched in January 2022.

The Community of Practice will be steered by a **NCoP Core Group of organisations** namely EC DG Research and Innovation, Joint Research Centre and the UfM Secretariat, led by PRIMA. The NCoP Core Group will guide the overall activities of the Community of Practice and facilitate the network's vision, development and future directions through monitoring and evaluating the impact of the initiative.

The daily operations of the NCoP will be managed by the Implementation Team, responsible for building the Community and engaging with its members to promote discussions and projects. The Implementation Team will be deployed at different demonstration sites, to achieve the widest possible coverage across the Mediterranean region.