



Brussels, 14.1.2022
C(2022) 49 final

ANNEX

ANNEX

to the

COMMISSION DECISION

on the approval of the annual work plan for 2022 of the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA)

ANNEX

Annual Work Plan 2022

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

Responsible:

Octavi Quintana Trias
PRIMA Director

Antonella Autino
Project Coordinator
antonella.autino@prima-med.org



The PRIMA programme is an Art. 185 initiative supported and funded under Horizon 2020, the European Union's Framework 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
CIHEAM	Centre international de hautes études agronomiques méditerranéennes
CoP	Community of Practice
EC	European Commission
EIP	European Innovation Partnership
EIT	European Institute of Innovation & Technology
ENI-CBC-MED	Cross Border Cooperation Within the European Neighbourhood Instrument - Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
H2020	Horizon 2020
HE	Horizon Europe
IA	Innovation Action
ICARDA	International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
IO	International Organisation
JPI	Joint Programming Initiative
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
MED	Mediterranean
MedECC	Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental Change
MENA	The Middle East and North Africa region
MOOC	Massive Open Online Course
MPCs	Mediterranean Partner Country
NCPs	National Contact Points
NFA	National Funding Agency
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PRIMA	Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area
PRIMA-IS	PRIMA Implementation Structure
PSC	PRIMA Stakeholder Community
PS	Participating States
PSIAs	Participating States' Initiated Activities
RIA	Research and Innovation Action based on Horizon 2020 rules (in Section 2: R&I Activities, based on national regulations)
RoC	Rules of Contest
SAC	Scientific Advisory Committee of PRIMA Foundation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SRIA	Strategic Innovation and Research Agenda
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
TC	Third Country
TRL	Technology Readiness Level
WEFE	Water Energy Food Ecosystems

NOTICE: For UK applicants: Please be aware that following the entry into force of the EU, UK Withdrawal Agreement ¹ on 1 February 2020, the references to natural or legal persons residing or established in a Member State of the European Union are to be understood as including natural or legal persons residing or established in the United Kingdom. UK residents and entities are therefore eligible to participate in calls in this Annual Work Plan.

¹ Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community (OJ L 29, 31.1.2020, p. 7).

Contents

Introduction	5
Implementation of the PRIMA programme	6
PRIMA programme structure	6
PRIMA AWP2022 rationale	10
1. Section 1 – Activities and actions organised, managed by the PRIMA-IS	16
1.1 Indirect actions funded by PRIMA-IS (European Union contribution) following transnational calls organised by PRIMA-IS	16
1.2 Topics in Section 1 2022 calls	18
1.3 Activities supporting programme operations funded and implemented by the PRIMA-IS	39
1.3.1 Evaluation and monitoring of projects proposals submitted to Section 1 and Section 2 calls.	39
1.3.2 EU-PRIMA Workshop	40
1.3.3 PRIMA WEFE NEXUS Award	40
2. Section 2 – Activities selected following transnational call organised by PRIMA -IS and funded by PS 42	
2.1 Transnational call organised by the PRIMA-IS and funded by the PS	42
2.2 Topics for Section 2, 2022 calls	43
2.3 Activities supporting programme operations funded and implemented by the PRIMA-IS	55
2.3.1 PS contributions dedicated to the implementation of proposals resulting from transnational calls organised by the PRIMA-IS and funded by the PS	55
3. Section 3 – Activities and actions organised, managed and funded by the PS	56
3.1 Participating States Initiated Activities (PSIAs)	56
3.2 Activities supporting programme operation funded and implemented by PS	58
3.2.1 Training scheme to assist coordinators in writing PRIMA proposals	58
3.2.2 Workshop to train stakeholders in PRIMA proposals writing	58
3.2.3 Fostering PRIMA capacity building.....	58
4. Administrative 2022 budget of the PRIMA-IS for the implementation of the PRIMA programme..	59
4.1. Personnel.....	59
4.2. Meetings and missions	59
4.3. Consumables and supplies	59
4.4. Service contracts	59
4.5. Dissemination activities and materials	59
4.6 Budget overview tables	60
5. General Annexes	63
5.1 Section 1 – Transnational calls and prizes organised and funded by the PRIMA-IS (European Union contribution)	63
5.1.1 List of countries eligible for funding	63
5.1.2 Standard admissibility conditions, page limits and supporting documents	64
5.1.3 Standard eligibility conditions	65
5.1.4 Types of action: specific provisions and funding rates	67
5.1.5 PRIMA Model Rules of Contest (RoC) for prizes	68
5.1.6 Technology Readiness Levels (TRL)	68
5.1.7 Evaluation rules	68
5.1.8 Funding decision and communication	72
5.1.9 Budget flexibility.....	72
5.1.10 Conditions related to open access to research data	73

5.2 Section 2 – Transnational calls organised by PRIMA-IS and funded by the Participating States	74
5.2.1 List of countries eligible for funding	74
5.2.2 Standard admissibility conditions, page limits and supporting documents.	75
5.2.3 Standard eligibility conditions.	76
5.2.4 Types of activities: specific provisions and funding rates	77
5.2.5 Technology Readiness Levels (TRL)	77
5.2.6 Evaluation rules	77
5.2.7 Funding decision and communication	81
5.2.8 Budget flexibility	82
5.2.9 Conditions related to open access to research data	82
5.2.10 Applicable common principles to all the actions and activities	83
5.2.11 Specific additional information and relations between the beneficiaries and their national funding bodies	84
6. Detailed description of the Participating States Initiated Activities (PSIAs)	86
6.1 EG.2022.1	87
6.2 ES.2022.1	89
6.3 ES.2022.2	91
6.4 FR.2022.1	94
6.5 IL.2022.1	96
6.6 MT.2022.1	98
6.7 MT.2022.2	100
6.8 TR.2022.1	102

Introduction

The PRIMA programme's overall objective is to build research and innovation capacities to develop knowledge and common innovative solutions to make food systems and water provision more sustainable and resilient to climate change in the Mediterranean area.

In line with the priorities of Horizon 2020, the general objectives of PRIMA² are to build research and innovation capacities and to develop knowledge and common innovative solutions for agro-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.

Through its programme, PRIMA will contribute to solving water scarcity, food security, nutrition, health, well-being and migration problems contributing significantly to the [2030 United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) in the Mediterranean Region.

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. An appropriate mobilisation and provision of financial resources, new technological and organisational framework, and enhanced capacity development are needed to reach these ambitious goals.

Through a collaborative, cross-boundary approach among the PRIMA Participating States, the PRIMA programme focuses on common problems, aligning national programmes and increasing the required scale and scope by pooling financial and intellectual resources.

With this aim, PRIMA Participant States have developed a long-term [Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda](#) (SRIA), representing the cornerstone in strengthening research and innovation efforts.

The joint efforts will improve Mediterranean citizens' health and livelihoods, encouraging economic growth, inducing more sustainable Mediterranean societies and stability.

PRIMA SRIA is the reference document for all the actors involved in PRIMA towards implementing 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 a robust 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 the Decision (EU) 2017/1324 of the European Parliament and the Council of 4 July 2017 ([PRIMA Decision](#))³, the PRIMA programme runs from 7 August 2017 to 31 December 2028. The European Union (EU) has decided to support the programme with a maximum financial contribution of EUR 220 000 000 (Article 3 of Decision (EU) 2017/1324) 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 Union financial contribution are outlined in Article 4 of Decision (EU) 2017/1324.

² Art. 2 of 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 (OJ L 185, 18.7.2017).

³ 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 (OJ L 185, 18.7.2017, p. 1).

The programme is implemented by the PRIMA Foundation, established in Barcelona in 2017 as a dedicated implementation structure, which has been entrusted by the European Commission to manage the budget implementation tasks of the PRIMA programme under Article 185 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).⁴

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

Implementation of the PRIMA programme

The PRIMA-IS implements the PRIMA programme based on Annual Work Plans.

PRIMA Annual Work Plans are developed in compliance with the general and specific objectives and provisions set out in Decision (EU) 2017/1324, 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 food value chain for regional and local development

As from 2019 Calls, in this Annual Work Plan, in addition to the three sectorial above-mentioned thematic Areas, given the complexity of interlinkages between them, specific actions will be focused on addressing the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus under one particular "Nexus theme" call.

PRIMA programme structure

PRIMA programme activities will be implemented as follows:

- 1) **Section 1:** Actions and activities organised, managed and funded by PRIMA-IS⁵
- 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 Article 26(2), point (b),) of the Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013 of the European Parliament and of the of 11 December 2013 establishing Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) and repealing Decision No 1982/2006/EC (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 104).

⁵ In line with Article 3(3), point (a),) of Decision (EU) 2017/1324, 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 (Article5(2), point (a)).

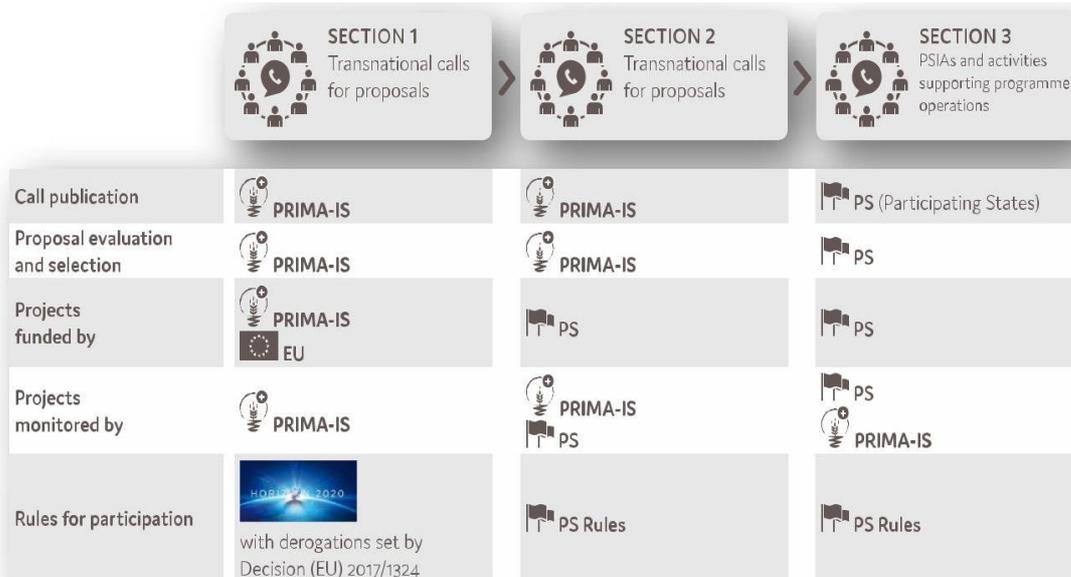


Figure 1. PRIMA programme structure

Actions / Activities	Contribution	
	EU	PS
1. SECTION 1: ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED AND MANAGED BY PRIMA-IS		
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 PRIMA-IS	X	
2. SECTION 2: ACTIVITIES SELECTED FOLLOWING TRANSNATIONAL CALLS		
2.1. INDIRECT ACTIONS FUNDED PRIMA PS FOLLOWING TRANSNATIONAL CALLS ORGANISED BY PRIMA-IS		X
2.2. PS CONTRIBUTIONS DEDICATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSALS RESULTING FROM TRANSNATIONAL CALLS ORGANISED BY THE PRIMA-IS AND FUNDED BY PS		X
3. SECTION 3: ACTIVITIES ORGANISED, MANAGED AND FUNDED BY PS		
3.1. PARTICIPATING STATES INITIATED ACTIVITIES (PSAS)		X
3.2. OTHER ACTIVITIES		X

Figure 2. Overview of PRIMA actions and activities covered by PRIMA AWP2022 and allocation of the corresponding contribution of the European Union and the Participating States.

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 according to the [Rules for Participation of Horizon 2020](#) according to a two-stage submission process and are centrally managed by the PRIMA-IS.

[Grant agreements](#) are to be signed with PRIMA-IS based on the H2020 Model Grant Agreement.⁶

In Section 1, activities of the PRIMA programme are supported along with the following types of actions: Research and Innovation Action (RIA), Innovation Action (IA) Coordination and Support Action (CSA) and financial contributions given as rewards following the publication of a contest (Prizes) as defined in Section [5.1.4](#) of this document.

While RIAs in Section 1 refers to Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 3-5, IAs refers to TRL 6-8 as set out in Section [5.1.6](#) of this document, IAs should include activities directly aiming at producing plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services. For this purpose, they may include prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, large-scale product validation, and market replication. Organisational innovation activities⁷⁻⁸ could also be included.

Section 1, RIA, IA and CSA actions will encompass topics under the three thematic areas (water management (quality and quantity), farming system and food value chain) with a focus on the sectoral interdependencies among them (Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus).

In addition, for the second consecutive year, a financial contribution in the form of Prizes, the "WEFE Nexus Award" is included in this Annual Work Plan.

As referred to in Section [5.1.4](#) of this document, PRIMA Prizes are financial contributions meant to recognise outstanding work of research teams having devised and demonstrated the successful implementation on the ground of combined management practices of water, energy, food and ecosystem (WEFE) resources in the Mediterranean.

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

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

Detailed supporting information about the Evaluation, selection and granting process, suitable type of grant agreements and funding levels are summarised under each call topic, described in more detail in the General Annexes ([5.1: Section 1](#)).

⁶ http://prima-med.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/h2020_mga_prima_multi_en.pdf

⁷ Definition of organisational

innovation:

[https://eur-](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2006:323:0001:0026:EN:PDF)

[lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2006:323:0001:0026:EN:PDF](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2006:323:0001:0026:EN:PDF).

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

Section 2

2.1 Indirect actions funded by PRIMA PS following transnational calls organised by PRIMA-IS

Activities managed by PRIMA-IS and funded by PS are evaluated and selected based on the Rules for Participation of Horizon 2020 following open calls for proposals centrally managed by the PRIMA-IS according to a two-stage submission process. Such activities are funded in line with common principles (see 5.2.10).

Each applicant must comply with the national regulations of the national funding agency supporting the programme⁹. (See Section 5.2), Before submitting a proposal, the applicant should check the funding rates and eligible costs in the national regulations and contact the relevant National Contact Points (NCPs) for any doubts regarding Section 2 calls for proposals. Grant agreements will be signed between participants and relevant national funding bodies following national rules (See 5.2.11 of this document)

Section 2 will include R&I activities encompassing all TRL (3-7); however, funding of activities with TRL (6-8) will depend on national funding regulations. If not explicitly indicated in the national regulations, the applicant should contact the relevant NCP.

PRIMA AWP2022 provides information about calls for proposals to be managed by the PRIMA-IS, including the challenge, scope and expected impacts, eligibility requirements and other specific conditions for applying.

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

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

Activities are implemented by PRIMA-IS that will manage the evaluation of 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) and must be adopted by PRIMA-IS after obtaining approval from the 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 performed by PS. They will support programme operation and constitute an integral part of the PRIMA programme.

⁹ Algeria, General Directorate for scientific research and technological development (DGRSDT), Croatia, Ministry of Science and Education, Cyprus, Research Promotion Foundation, Research and Innovation Projects Unit, Egypt, Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT) and Science and Technological Development Fund (SDTF), France, French National Research Agency (ANR), Germany Project Management Agency c/o German Aerospace Centre (DLR PT), Greece, General Secretariat for Research and Technology (GSRT), Israel, Israel Innovation Authority (IIA), Italy Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca (MUR), Jordan Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST), Lebanon, Conseil National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS-L), Luxembourg, Luxembourg National Research Fund (FNR), Malta, Malta Council for Science And Technology (MCST), Morocco, State Secretariat for Higher Education and Scientific Research, Portugal, Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) and Azores Regional Funds for Science and Technology (FRCT), Slovenia, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Spain, Centro para el Desarrollo Tecnológico Industriales, (CDTI) and Agencia Estatal de Investigación (AEI), Tunisia, Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique (MESRS), Turkey, The Scientific And Technological Research Council Of Turkey (TUBITAK).

PRIMA AWP2022 rationale

AWP2022 is the fifth Annual Work Plan out of seven foreseen to implement the PRIMA programme (2018-2028), adding a further step towards the achievement of PRIMA general objectives to increase research and innovation capacities, develop innovative solutions to improve the sustainability of agro-food systems and integrated water provision and management in the Mediterranean Region, making them more efficient and climate-resilient.

With an investment of approximately 123 million EUR, the AWP2022 responds to some of the most pressing challenges the Mediterranean Region faces, boosting climate change adaptation and mitigation through actions aiming to increase natural resources sustainability and resilience.

As pointed out in the [MedECC First Mediterranean Assessment Report](#), the Mediterranean is one of the hotspots in the world as regards climate change. Increasing climate warming and populations are projected to place additional pressure on the availability of food, energy and water in the Mediterranean Region, with severe implications for the future of ecosystems and biodiversity.¹⁰

To respond to this urgent need, PRIMA will promote R&I efforts to enhance sustainable production and consumption practices respecting people's nutritional needs and environment, but also foster the adoption of an integrated resource-use approach in the Mediterranean Region considering the interconnections (Nexus) among Water, Energy, Food and Ecosystems (WEFE).

Adopting a WEFE Nexus approach is critical for developing a sustainable and secure future in the Region and achieving the countries' global mandates as defined by the Sustainable Development Goals.

For this reason, PRIMA is committed through specific R&I actions to support the Nexus thinking in the Region. In particular, PRIMA will lead the creation of a community of practice which is the main outcome of the 2021 [WEFE Nexus Sciences Advances Conference](#), as an effective instrument for sharing knowledge, data, best practices and propose new governance models to operationalise adaptation, conservation and mitigation measures over Water, Food, Energy and Ecosystems (WEFE) resources.

Guided by the EU, international and regional policy framework, considering the R&I needs and gaps in the region and the thematic area covered by PRIMA project portfolio, PRIMA, supported by its Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), has identified for 2022, the following orientation lines:

- A. To promote affordable healthy, and environmental-friendly food systems;
- B. To create an enabling environment for improving soil's management sustainability and prevent land degradation;
- C. To promote nature-based solutions to increase the sustainability of water management;
- D. To foster the adoption of an integrated Nexus approach of water, energy, food, ecosystems ([WEFE Nexus](#)) to enhance sustainable use of natural resources to achieve sustainable development goals under the [UN Agenda 2030](#) in the region;
- E. To prevent water pollution from improving water quality and protecting water-related ecosystems.

A. Promotion of affordably healthy and environmental-friendly food systems;

Food and nutrition security in the Mediterranean is in jeopardy due to pressures on natural resources and climate change, both of which threaten the sustainability of food systems at

¹⁰ Chapter 5 of the MedECC First Mediterranean Assessment Report, http://www.medecc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/MedECC_MAR1_complete.pdf

large. For instance, over-exploitation of ecological capacities and impairing agricultural productivity, particularly animal protein sources, raise concerns over feeding a constantly growing population in the region. In this Annual Work Plan 2022, PRIMA proposes two parallel actions toward adopting a more sustainable production and consumption behaviour: the first, meeting the need raised by increasing global protein demand because of a rising population and the second, toward adopting a more environmentally friendly dietary pattern. These actions are fed by the outcomes of the [UN Food Systems Summit's Regional dialogues](#) bringing together key partners in the Mediterranean Region to advance a common understanding of the complex environment of Sustainable Food Systems in the Mediterranean Region.

The dialogues aimed to catalyse joint action, using the Mediterranean Diet as a lever to improve the sustainability and resilience of Mediterranean food systems by bridging Sustainable Consumption and Production. The transition towards affordable, nutritious, healthy and safe food systems produced with minimum impact on nature is very much consistent with the European Green Deal¹¹, [Farm to Fork Strategy](#), [the Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#), and the general objective of the future [Horizon Europe Partnership "Safe and Sustainable Food Systems"](#) to shift to more sustainable and healthy diets for mitigating climate change.

B. To create an enabling environment for improving soil's management sustainability and prevent land degradation

Desertification¹², a form of land degradation in drylands, is a growing threat in the Mediterranean. Drylands cover 33.8% of the Mediterranean. Poor soil and water management, overgrazing, deforestation, and wildfires can turn large sections of these areas into deserts. Land degradation also affects ecosystems and services (mainly food production), influencing poverty and inequality, potentially driving increased migration.

PRIMA, is proposing in AWP2022 an action in close collaboration with the Horizon Europe [EU Mission "A Soil Deal for Europe"](#) aiming to create an enabling environment increasing the sustainability of land management in the Mediterranean Region. The proposed action aims to understand and identify knowledge requirements for soil monitoring in each country, seeking to harmonise and define thresholds for soil health. The action should build on the outputs of EU H2020 projects addressing soil and the deliverables of the European Joint Programme for Soil. The call will contribute to implementing JRC Soil Atlas in the Mediterranean (planned in 2023/2024).

C. To promote nature-based solutions to increase the sustainability of water management

Sustainable water management should encourage [rational and efficient use of scarce water resources](#) through water storage and distribution infrastructure (engineering and Nature-Based Solutions). When analysing the link with water-related issues and events, water scarcity, drought, floods, and erratic water (availability) are critical for smallholders who, at most times, cannot store water and rely on rainfall and intermittent streams: this has a very apparent link with the decrease of agricultural productivity and it affects the livelihoods of smallholders.

D. To foster the adoption of an integrated Nexus approach of water, energy, food, ecosystems (WEFE Nexus) to enhance sustainable use of natural resources to achieve sustainable development goals under the UN Agenda 2030 in the region;

The challenge of unsustainably-managed natural resources is complex because of their interrelations (Water, Energy, Food, Ecosystems). The current silo-driven disproportionate use and allocation of WEFE resources have created an imbalance in the physical and natural systems. Besides, these interlinked resources are managed by separate institutions, which overlook the resources interdependences and interconnectivity. Beyond immediate or delayed

¹¹ ["The European Green Deal" \(COM\(2019\) 640\)](#)

¹² The term desertification is usually used to describe human- and climate-related processes leading to problems affecting dry areas, such as diminished food production, soil infertility, decreases in the land's natural resilience, and reduced water quality. Desertification does not describe conditions in areas traditionally described as "deserts". Rather, it refers to drylands.

effects on the biophysical state of Water, Energy, Food and Ecosystems resources, which have been considered in previous PRIMA calls, the focus of this call will be on the socio-economic impacts of a Nexus approach to the governance of WEFE resources.

This is especially critical in the Mediterranean Region, where the livelihood insecurity and inequalities deriving from local resource scarcity in the Mediterranean Region might be push factors for the internal displacement of populations into nearby urban centres.

PRIMA is also proposing a Coordination and Support Action (CSA) aiming to support PRIMA and other organisations to develop a WEFE Nexus Community of practice focused on building the capacity of Mediterranean stakeholders to operationalize adaptation, conservation and mitigation measures over Water, Food, Energy and Ecosystems (WEFE) resources.

The WEFE Nexus Community of practice is an invaluable opportunity to incorporate the experiences of practitioners promoting the transition from a sectorial approach towards integrated resource management.

The concept of such a WEFE Nexus Community of practice, which was the tangible outcome of the WEFE Nexus Sciences Advances Conference co-organised by PRIMA, EC RTD, JRC, UfM and the Cyprus Institute, was endorsed by the Ministers from the Mediterranean countries as well as by European Commission delegates recognising the leading role of PRIMA in the development of this initiative.

Centred on a network of selected demonstration cases through knowledge-sharing, capacity building, and integration of the practitioners' experiences, the Mediterranean WEFE Nexus Community of Practice will provide a proof-of-concept of the benefits of recommended Nexus measures based on tailored policies, best-available technology and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

E. To prevent water pollution: improving water quality and protecting water-related ecosystems.

In the Mediterranean, aquifers are being over-exploited, leading to **groundwater pollution**. A general groundwater quality deterioration occurs in many parts of the Mediterranean Region due to contamination in recharge areas, mismanagement during irrigation practice, over-exploitation of aquifers. Development and contamination from pesticides and herbicides, industrial pollutants, sewage spills, and other sources of pollution are degrading the quality of groundwater-dependent ecosystems.

PRIMA proposes an action to address the challenge of groundwater pollution, in alignment with the Zero pollution Action Plan consistent with the European Green Deal objectives of ensuring a safe environment for Europeans with minimal air, water, soil and consumer products pollution.

This orientation will contribute to implementing several Union key policies (e.g. the new Common Agricultural Policy, Directive 2000/60/EC¹³, EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), and the implementation of the recently adopted UfM ENV and Climate declaration.

Policy context

Guided by the overarching 2030 UN Agenda of Sustainable Development, Paris Agreement, and the current key priority EU policies such as the European Green Deal, and the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change, this Annual Work Plan will contribute to important EU deliverables such as Farm to Fork Strategy, the Zero pollution Action Plan, and the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD).

Promoting the cooperation based on equal footing in line with the Barcelona Declaration, PRIMA's activities are contributing substantially to narrowing the R&I and, consequently, socio-

¹³ Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy" (OJ L 327, 22.12.2000)

economic divide in the Southern and Eastern neighbourhood, thereby enhancing peace and stability

In this sense, PRIMA Annual Work Plan is aligned with the Green transition: climate resilience, energy, and environment key action identified in the “Joint Communication on a renewed partnership for the Southern Neighbourhood” called “[The new Agenda for the Mediterranean](#)”. This agenda will guide the cooperation 2021-2027 with the Southern Neighbourhood countries, which have also been recalled in the recently adopted EU communication on [Europe's Global Approach to Research and Innovation](#), [Europe's strategy for international cooperation in a changing world](#).

These priorities align with the UfM policy framework, including [UfM Ministerial Declaration on the UfM Water Agenda](#), the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change, the Valletta [Declaration on Strengthening Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation through Research and Innovation](#).

AWP2022 is structured around six calls for proposals for eight topics and a call for prizes:

- five Section 1 separate calls: (five topics, one call for each topic)
- one multi-topic Section 2 call (three topics)

The AWP2022 includes three Innovation Actions (IAs), with activities demonstrating technology or organisational model validation and market replication, four Research and Innovation Actions (RIAs), exploring new areas and new technologies and a Coordination and Support Action (CSA) to stimulate collaboration and knowledge-sharing across institutions within [Community of Practice](#). around WEFE Nexus demonstration cases in the Mediterranean Region.

This AWP2022 foresees that approximately thirty projects will be funded, consisting of a balanced mix of demonstrators with new technologies into operation or organisational innovations (TRL 6-8) and research activities with lower TRL to pave the way for future innovation and capitalisation potential (TRL 3-5).

As a general approach, Research and Innovation Actions in the AWP2022 include [socio-economic aspects](#) involving social sciences, a cross-cutting issue that engages society, ensures access to research outcomes.

[Gender dimension](#) should always be considered in the proposals.

PRIMA encourages consortia to apply in their projects ["Multi-Actor Approach" \(MAA\)](#)

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

All proposals are strongly encouraged to include [capacity-development activities](#) to develop capacities at many levels: individual, organisational and/or community level. Specific training activities are strongly suggested in the scope of the topics proposed.

Project proponents should consider and actively seek [synergies](#) with, national, regional, EU research and innovation programmes such as Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects, and with other relevant EU action Horizon Europe, both future (based on new existing calls) such as the [Water and Environment Support \(WES\)](#), the [SwitchMed programme](#), the [European](#)

[Neighbourhood Instrument Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme \(ENI CBC-Med\)](#), and the Neighbourhood and Development and International Cooperation Instrument Global Europe (NDICI-Global Europe)¹⁴.

Supporting activities to increase the impact

To facilitate the taking over of PRIMA outputs with a direct operational or development relevance to policymaking after the projects are completed, the following actions are foreseen by PRIMA:

- A) Sharing education and research best practices in the Mediterranean through the [PRIMA Observatory for Innovation-POI](#)¹⁵.
- B) Scaling up at the policy level, PRIMA projects' research and innovation results shape policymaking by promoting key projects outputs and good practices with decision-makers at the local, national, and regional levels.

PRIMA will take advantage of relevant [Union for the Mediterranean \(UfM\) regional platforms for policy dialogue](#), such as the [Regional Platform on Research and Innovation and the Environment Task Force](#). Cooperation with UfM regional dialogue platforms will be essential to ensure evidence-based policymaking and exploiting valuable research and innovation results to their full potential. Evidence-based results from PRIMA projects will leverage additional resources from governments, the private sector, other development partners and rural communities themselves or lead to broader alliances and partnerships to achieve policy changes and multiple sustainable impacts. A first step for leveraging those resources and the uptake of policy recommendations will come with the UfM Senior Officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs during the UfM Senior Official meetings (SOM).

- C) Actions supporting PRIMA projects to find their ways to the market: the [Horizon Result Booster](#)

In its first years of implementation, the PRIMA programme is delivering innovative solutions that are being piloted and demonstrated on the ground, adapted to the region's realities. To reach the market, PRIMA projects consortia need to be supported to enable those innovations developed in their maturation process to reach the market. Moreover, it is also crucial to stimulate an entrepreneurial mindset to help consortia to achieve this goal. PRIMA projects will take advantage of the Horizon Result Booster, a package of specialised service provided free of charge for Horizon 2020 projects (ongoing or closed) to maximise the impact of R&I projects funded by the EU and increase the exploitation potential of their research results. Under the Horizon Results Booster services, PRIMA projects consortia will improve their existing exploitation strategy, develop a business plan and go-to-market strategies that build commercialisation plans, explore implementation options and identify funding strategies.

Synergies and Complementarities of European and International Initiatives

Synergies with EU programmes and initiatives

In this Annual Work Plan 2022, PRIMA proposes a topic in close collaboration with EU Mission "A Soil Deal for Europe" and will explore synergies with other [recently adopted EU Missions](#); notably the [EU Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters](#) and the EU Mission Adaptation to Climate Change.

¹⁴ [REGULATION \(EU\) 2021/947 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe](#)

¹⁵ POI has been produced as deliverable of Other Activities proposed in 2018 Annual Work Plan

Moreover, PRIMA intends to closely collaborate with those Horizon Europe European Partnerships with a similar thematic focus, expected to start their activities in 2022, such [as the European Partnership Water Security for the Planet and the EU Partnership Rescuing Biodiversity to Safeguard Life on Earth](#).

PRIMA will also explore collaborations with EU partnerships planned to start in 2023, such as [Safe and sustainable food systems for people, planet & climate; Agro-ecology living labs and research infrastructures; Agriculture of data; Animal health and welfare](#).

Those collaborations will ensure PRIMA complement its strategic priorities and avoid overlapping.

PRIMA is complementary to the [Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture \(FNSSA\)](#) priority of the [EU-African Union research and innovation cooperation](#). The FNSSA priority opens the way to PRIMA partners for further pan-African and cross-European collaboration.

PRIMA will seek synergies with the regional, multi-country and bilateral Flagship initiatives 7, 9, 10, 11, 12 as described in the Joint Staff Working Document accompanying the Joint Communication on the Renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood_A new Agenda for the Mediterranean and with the EU initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy in the Western Mediterranean Region (WESTMed Initiative), especially focusing on priority 6 concerning Sustainable consumption and production.

Synergies with relevant regional organisations

- PRIMA fully supports the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) R&I agendas developed by the [UfM R&I regional platform](#) and is collaborating to the definition of its Implementation Plan, to be adopted during next UfM Research and Innovation ministerial meeting taking place in 2022.
- Furthermore, PRIMA is fully supporting the dialogue outcomes of [Union for the Mediterranean](#) (UfM) task forces [Environment Task force](#) to implement UfM post-2020 Environment Agenda, so-called "Towards 2030: Agenda for a Greener Med Contributing to Achieving the Environmental SDGs in the Mediterranean" ([2030GreenerMed Agenda](#)) aiming to operationalise the [UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate](#) adopted in Cairo on the 4th October 2021.
- PRIMA has been indicated in the Declaration among the initiatives along with [MEDECC](#) and [BLUEMED](#)¹⁶, enhancing cooperation and research on climate action and the environment.
- PRIMA is also collaborating with UfM, FAO CIHEAM and [One Planet network's Sustainable Food Systems Programme](#) in a Multi-stakeholder Sustainable Food Systems Platform in the Mediterranean to foster a common understanding of the complex environment of Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) in the global context.
- PRIMA will continue cooperation with the [ENI Cross-Border Cooperation](#) (ENI-CBCMED), pushing both organisations' shared interest in supporting regional integration and development. This common objective will be achieved by creating thematic clusters based on a joint analysis of PRIMA and ENI-CBC MED projects. Thematic clusters will be instrumental to fostering knowledge exchange, strengthen synergies and complementarities among projects, benchmark results cross-contamination, and enhance links with a broader community of stakeholders.
- Finally, PRIMA will explore promising synergies with the transnational cooperation programme [Interreg Med](#) and the future [Interreg Euro-MED Programme 2021-2027](#).

Cooperation with European Infrastructures

¹⁶ Initiative for Blue Jobs and Growth in the Mediterranean Region

- E-Science European Research Infrastructure for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research_ [LifeWatch ERIC](#) is already cooperating with PRIMA to tackle biodiversity and ecosystem research and sustainable management in a global climate change scenario. [LifeWatch ERIC](#) has been a valuable source of data for PRIMA projects and a place for storage and sharing of PRIMA data. Collaboration among PRIMA projects and the E-infrastructure will increase the participation of more Mediterranean countries in LifeWatch ERIC, especially young researchers.
- PRIMA-IS is also seeking interaction with other European research infrastructures operating in genomics, phenomics, precision agriculture, and food science (Food and Health roadmap ESFRI, e.g. European Infrastructure for Plant Phenotyping [EMPHASIS](#), infrastructure for promoting Metrology in Food and Nutrition [METRO FOOD](#)).

Dissemination of PRIMA outcomes

A [PRIMA-EU Strategic Workshop](#) will be organised back-to-back to the future UfM Ministerial Conference on Research and Innovation, to be held in 2022.

This workshop will be a platform for discussion at the technical level on research and innovation within the Euro-Mediterranean Region, bringing together major academics, policy-makers, industry, key stakeholders, and representative organisations. Specific attention will be given to adopting innovation and alignment of research and activities such as dissemination, scaling-up of R&I actions, capacity development, and knowledge transfer. In addition, the workshop would be ideal forum for exchanging best practices and lessons learned.

A [PRIMA networking meeting \(PRIMA Project's Day\)](#) will be organised in the third quarter of 2022, with consortia representatives involved in PRIMA projects. The proposed activity will facilitate knowledge exchange and foster cross-collaboration between PRIMA's Projects actors facilitating a network of PRIMA project's demonstration sites.

This meeting will be key for identifying synergies or eventually overlapping themes to reflect the projects' impacts and identify opportunities to improve the effectiveness of their results.

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

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

PRIMA-IS will launch five calls in Section 1, one for each thematic area, including the Nexus theme call, and a Coordination and Support Action (CSA) to foster the Community of practice (CoP). The five calls consist of three Innovation actions (IAs) and one Research and Innovation Action (RIA) and one Coordination and Support action (CSA) as referred to in [Section 5.1.4](#) of this document.

Those calls will mobilise the Euro-Mediterranean scientific communities, stakeholders and private entities submitting proposals expected to produce a positive socio-economic impact in the Mediterranean area.

Participation of private entities (in their diversity, e.g., 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 PRIMA-IS will do the eligibility check of proposals according to the eligibility conditions in [Section 5.1.3](#) of this document.

The Evaluation and selection of proposals and the monitoring of the projects will be made according to H2020 rules as referred to in [Section 5.1.7](#) of this document.

Successful projects will be funded directly by the PRIMA-IS through the signature of grant agreements between the selected consortia and the PRIMA-IS. The grant agreements will be based on the [PRIMA Model Grant Agreement](#) (PRIMA MGA), which is based on the Horizon 2020 Model Grant Agreement.

1.2 Topics in Section 1 2022 calls

- 1 **Thematic Area 1-Water management:**
Topic 1.1.1-2022 (**IA**) Sustainable and integrated management of natural and artificial water storages and distribution infrastructures
- 2 **Thematic Area 2-Farming systems:**
Topic 1.2.1-2022 (**RIA**) Developing integrated soil data for the Mediterranean Region: a gateway for sustainable soil management
- 3 **Thematic Area 3-Food value chain:**
Topic 1.3.1-2022 (**IA**) Alternative protein sources for the Mediterranean food value chain. From production, extraction, processing and marketing, to societal acceptance
- 4 **Nexus theme**
Topic 1.4.1-2022 (**IA**) Predicting and testing options of socio-economic adaptation to declining Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem (WEFE) resources in the Mediterranean Region

Topic 1.4.2-2022 (**CSA**) Development of a Mediterranean Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem (WEFE) Community of Practice

Thematic Area water management

Topic 1.1.1 (IA) Sustainable and integrated management of natural and artificial water storage systems and distribution infrastructure

	<p><i>SRIA priorities addressed</i></p> <p>Topic 1.1.1 refers to Priority 1.2 Sustainable integrated water management.</p> <p>Water sustainability in the Mediterranean Region should be ensured through improved technical tools and socio-economic studies to define water and energy use limits in critical areas under present and future global change scenarios.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2/LAND AND WATER SUSTAINABILITY - 3 WATER GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS
---	--

Challenge

The chronic water scarcity situation in the Mediterranean Region is a consequence of the seasonal mismatch between water sources and demand and the overexploitation of water resources and could be exacerbated due to the effects of climate change.

While efforts are in due course for a more efficient agricultural water demand and the use of non-conventional resources is increasing, the proper management of natural (through Nature-Based Solutions), artificial water storage, and distribution systems can be improved. This approach should go beyond the engineering construction phase focusing on the efficient management and operation of the existing infrastructures, natural bodies and management mechanisms. Water distribution within the agri-food value chain should be mainly targeted as

one of the main areas of water misuse. This is because water distribution issues are linked to water losses at the micro- (farm/ rural) and macro-level (basin/ regional). By integrating on-farm and site-specific solutions at a basin scale it should be possible to improve the water footprints in the entire area of study. This large-scale assessment is indeed needed to ensure the long-term sustainability in the management of the water-source balance.

Scope

Proposals should look into the integrated water resource management aspects by specifically dealing with the water storage and distribution system challenges through innovative technologies and solutions, when possible, nature-based, and considering the effects of climate change. The specific goal is to improve the water storage and distribution capacities in representative demo areas through a combination of soil-water conservation practices integrated into appropriate management regulations. Particular attention should also be given to the governance aspects to understand and deal with the issues of multi-functionality in water use and distribution and water network efficiency (including the use of ICT solutions to improve management of water networks) within the agri-food sector, avoiding water losses optimising the water storage potential. The entire water cycle (winter/summer) should be considered when approaching dams and reservoirs, including the proper soil and water conservation upstream of the water storage resources. This is required to ensure the optimum and efficient functioning of the entire water regulating infrastructure. The potential capabilities of natural wetlands for storing and purifying water sources should be better valorised, finding optimum equilibrium between ecological water flow and storage and water use by different economic sectors and particularly by the agri-food industry. This requires a more holistic approach under circular economy perspectives and the whole-year water cycle considering the potential roles of natural wetlands for water retention during the wet part of the seasons, water treatment and purification. Environmental and cost-benefit indicators should be determined to assess the convenience of proposed measures considering different perspectives on water resource management.

Expected impacts

- Improvement of the availability of water resources through the optimisation of the management, operation and conservation of natural and artificial water storage systems and water distribution infrastructure;
- Reduction of sedimentation in water storage facilities adopting soil and water conservation practices;
- New ecological methods for the design of nature-based solutions based on the seasonal water balance;
- Improvement of the management of natural wetlands for ecological water conservation, water treatment and re-use and water storage.
- Better designed Nature-Based-Solutions to include the whole summer/winter water cycle;

Key Performance Indicators

- Number of demonstrators
- New practices for end-users
- Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0-100)
- Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time

Links with EU Policies, HE Mission's and Partnerships

The proposal should indicate linkages to relevant EU policies and objectives in the context of the European Green Deal, [Water Framework Directive](#) (WFD) and relevant [Horizon Europe Missions and Partnerships](#):

- [Farm to Fork Strategy](#)¹⁷
- [Biodiversity Strategy](#)¹⁸
- [Horizon Europe Mission: Restore our Ocean and Waters](#)
- European Partnership Water Security for the Planet (Water4All)
- European Partnership accelerating farming systems transition: agroecology living labs and research infrastructures
- European Partnership Agriculture of data
- European Partnership for Safe and Sustainable Food Systems for people, planet and climate
- European Partnership for rescuing biodiversity to safeguard life on Earth

Links with SDGs

The proposal should indicate linkages to relevant UN SDGs and methodology to contribute to the reporting of SDGs indicators

- TARGET 6.4 By 2030 substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity
- TARGET 6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate
- TARGET 6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

¹⁷ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system"

¹⁸ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 Bringing nature back into our lives"

Table 1. Supporting information for Section 1 call for Proposals, Topic 1.1.1

Type of action	Innovation Action (IA)
The total indicative amount allocated to this call	EUR 8.2 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 6-8 Proposals should clearly state <u>the starting and end TRLs of the key technology or technologies targeted in the project.</u>
Budget and duration of grants	PRIMA considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU in the range of EUR 4.1 million and with a duration of 36 months would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude the submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts or duration.
Eligibility conditions for participation	Please refer to section 5.1.1 for the List of countries eligible for funding. The standard admissibility (section 5.1.2) and standard eligibility conditions (section 5.1.3) apply.
Submission and evaluation procedure	The call will be organised according to a two-stage submission process. A first-stage proposal (maximum ten pages) must be submitted within the first-stage submission deadline. Successful applicants in the first step will be invited to the second step to submit a full proposal (maximum 50 pages). A timeline for the submission and evaluation of applications can be found in Table 6 .
	The award criteria, scoring, thresholds and weightings for IAs listed in part 5.1.7 will be used.
Grant agreement	PRIMA MGA (multi-beneficiary), based on Horizon 2020 MGA.
Consortium agreement	Participants in projects resulting from this call for Proposals must conclude a consortium agreement before the PRIMA grant agreement's signature.

Thematic Area Farming systems

Topic 1.2.1 (RIA) Developing integrated soil data for the Mediterranean Region: a gateway for sustainable soil management

	<p><i>SRIA priorities addressed</i></p> <p>1.2 Soil sustainability</p> <p><u>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2/LAND AND WATER SUSTAINABILITY - Cross-Cutting theme: SOIL SUSTAINABILITY
---	---

Challenge

PRIMA, in close collaboration with the recently adopted [EU Mission A Soil Deal for Europe](#), is proposing an action aiming to create an enabling environment for the protection, restoration and improvement of soil health in the Mediterranean, a region already heavily distressed by the impacts of climate change and where drylands cover already 34% of the land surface. In addition to extreme climatic conditions prevailing in the area, unsustainable land and water management, overgrazing, deforestation, and wildfires turn large sections of these areas (approximately 30%) into deserts.

Degraded and salinized soils affect food security in the area and local smallholders' profitability while limiting local consumers' access to fresh, high-quality products. These conditions have significant socio-economic effects on Mediterranean populations, contributing to local displacements or migrations from the Middle East and North Africa into the EU.

To date, many efforts are made by international organisations (FAO) and by EC through the [Land Use and Coverage Area frame Survey](#) (LUCAS), the EC (Joint Research Centre) to develop methodologies, tools and indicators to collect soil information over Europe and the Mediterranean Region. There is an urgent need to harmonise methodologies and indicators to develop an easily accessible and standardised database of soil information enabling the assessment of the soil ecosystems in the region.

Scope

The main objective of this call is to derive a set of soil quality indicators (chemical, physical and biological), methods, measurements that need to be validated and harmonised to enhance the quantity, quality and availability of soil data and information in the Mediterranean for the sustainable management and protection of soil resources.

This general goal should consider the specificities of Mediterranean environmental conditions where the limited rainfall regime and low green ground cover result in a high risk for soil degradation, salinization and desertification.

In this frame, proponents should:

- Review the state of monitoring and existing soil data in the PRIMA countries to identify gaps in the monitoring networks;
- Plan an exercise of a cross-country harmonisation of data;

- Develop or adapt existing indicators (chemical, physical and biological) for a region-wide assessment of soil ecosystem health.

When relevant, applicants should take advantage of the methodologies and tools developed by other EU H2020 Projects. The outcomes from the projects selected out of this call will contribute to and will contribute to the JRC Atlas Soil Atlas of the Mediterranean Region¹⁹.

To enhance the activities, it is still needed to identify national and, in particular non-EU research infrastructures, potential and existing certified living labs in each country to better engage with the soil end-users and citizens as a whole. Attention should be paid to the sustainability of the action in the long term, mainly referring to the availability of soil data. Furthermore, these research infrastructures will be used to carry out, on-the-ground, a series of events promoting the Horizon Europe Soil Mission to better connecting with its objectives. Extensive involvement of stakeholders and, in particular, end-users is necessary to reach the expected objectives. The project's evaluation will emphasise explicit KPI to ensure quantifiable outcomes.

The project proponents should consider identifying potential synergies with other PRIMA projects focusing on research and innovation related to soil health.

Expected Impacts

In short to medium term:

- Improved monitoring of soil and land degradation in the Mediterranean context through a harmonised set of indicators.
- Mapping of research infrastructures and Living labs as enabling environment for the monitoring and assessment
- Contribution to the JRC's Soil Atlas of the Mediterranean Region

In the long term:

- Assessing the potential positive effects on the agro-ecosystem water, carbon and nutrients cycle of appropriate soil management practices through a validated and harmonised set of indicators (biological, chemical, physical).
- Enabling Improved predictions for the potential role of Mediterranean soils for soil carbon sequestration and how external disturbances can affect this potential.
- Enabling the assessment of the potential positive effects on the agro-ecosystem water, carbon and nutrients cycle of appropriate soil management practices;
- Mitigating the advance in desertification through improved soil information systems able to alert on the current risks for soil degradation.

Key Performance indicators

Please provide specific KPIs to measure the outcomes of the projects

Links with EU policies, HE Mission's and Partnerships

The proposal should indicate linkages to relevant EU policies and objectives in the context of the European Green Deal and relevant [Horizon Europe Missions and Partnerships](#)

- [Horizon Europe Mission](#) in the area of Soil Health and Food
- European Partnership accelerating farming systems transition: agroecology living labs and research infrastructures
- European Partnership Agriculture of data

¹⁹ JRC Atlas Soil Atlas of the Mediterranean Region is planned for 2023/2024.

- European Partnership for Safe and Sustainable Food Systems for people, planet and climate
- European Joint Programme soil
- EU Soil Observatory

Links with SDGs

SDG 2 (zero hunger), to ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.

SDG 3 (good health and well-being), by enhancing food security and other livelihood benefits, and by increasing the resilience of the land and the populations depending on it;

SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), through its contribution to sustainable water management

SDG 13 (climate action), by increasing resilience and creating synergistic actions for climate change adaptation and mitigation, for example, by increasing soil carbon stocks;

SDG 15 (life on land), which focuses on the achievement of land degradation neutrality, by providing a suite of targeted, appropriate land management practices that prevent the loss of healthy land and maintain or improve the land's productivity.

Table 2. Supporting information for the Section 1 call for Proposals, Topic 1.2.1

Type of action	Research and Innovation Action (RIA)
The total indicative amount allocated to this call	EUR 8.2 million
Funding level	According to Horizon 2020 Rules Funding Rate 100%
Technology Readiness levels (TRL)	RIA TRL 3-5 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 from the EU in the range of EUR 4.1 million and with a duration of 36 months would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude the submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts or duration.
Eligibility conditions for participation	Please refer to section 5.1.1 for the List of countries eligible for funding. The standard admissibility (section 5.1.2) and standard eligibility conditions (section 5.1.3) apply.
Submission and evaluation procedure	The call will be organised according to a two-stage submission process. For the first step, a first-stage proposal (maximum ten pages) must be submitted within the first-stage submission deadline. Successful applicants in the first step will be invited to the second step 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 5.1.7 , will be used.
Grant agreement	PRIMA MGA (multi-beneficiary), based on Horizon 2020 MGA.
Consortium agreement	Participants in projects resulting from this call for Proposals must conclude a consortium agreement before the conclusion of the PRIMA grant agreement.

Thematic Area Food value-chain

Topic 1.3.1 (IA) Alternative protein sources for the Mediterranean food value chain. From production, extraction, processing and marketing, to societal acceptance

	<p><i>SRIA priorities addressed</i></p> <p>Topic 1.3.1 refers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Priority 3.3 Implementation of innovation in the food chain, promoting higher quality, sustainability and competitiveness, with particular reference to smallholders - Priority 3.4 - Implications of dietary shifts and sustainable diets for the Med populations and food industry <p><u>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - /6 NUTRITION AND HEALTH. - /8 NEW FOOD BUSINESS MODELS.
---	---

Challenge

Livestock rearing represents the most important source of proteins in human diets. However, overwhelming evidence shows that overconsumption of meat leads to health issues such as Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs). Moreover, the World Health Organization (WHO) has classified processed meat as carcinogenic to humans and red meat as probably carcinogenic to humans). Still, its environmental impact is substantial since farmed animals contribute to climate change through, among others, the generation of huge amounts of GHGs, and the depletion of natural resources such as land, soil, and water, a large amount of which is needed to produce animal feed. Therefore, worldwide sustainable food and feed production systems should consider alternative and cheaper sources of proteins to be established, but in the Mediterranean Region in particular, due to an already critical situation in terms of availability of fertile soils and freshwater availability.

Proteins from sustainable sources, alternative to those currently most consumed, such as animal meat and fish, should be introduced into the Mediterranean food systems to relieve pressure on the environment and save fertile soil and water.

However, the complexity of the Mediterranean societies, with their very different cultural, religious and deep-rooted traditional aspects, may represent the biggest challenge to introducing proteins from other sources than farmed animals and fish. Therefore, societal acceptance should be also considered and studied before introducing and promoting the widespread consumption of alternative protein sources for food and feed in the Mediterranean area.

Scope

Alternative proteins from different origins and new sources (terrestrial and aquatic) should be considered for animal feed and direct human consumption, considering the possible religious and cultural resistance.

Proposals should address all potential sources of alternative proteins such as, but not limited to, traditional alternative protein sources mainly of plants origin (such as legume seeds, cassava or moringa leaves, etc.) and those that fall under the [EU "Novel food"](#) (e.g. protein concentrates from oilseeds cakes, fungal mycelia, micro-algae, insects, etc.) and others

derived from production processes such as food wastes, agro-industrial by-products or fermented foods by microorganisms. Food based on microbial fermentation - possibly inspired from traditional fermented Mediterranean foods - could be considered a lever to improve food bio-preservation, nutrition need, food security and acceptability.

For all cases, aspects related to sensory quality (e.g., flavour acceptance) should be considered. The consumers' needs and motivation towards including novel food protein in their diets should be evaluated. Thus, strategies to tackle or adapt to eventual cultural and religious barriers and resistances towards the "EU Novel foods", should be developed to increase social acceptance. Innovative industrial processing techniques and technologies, including fermentation, should be carried out for the extraction and purification of ingredients and the formulation and production of safe and nutritious novel foods.

Also, applicants should propose the more appropriate formulations and presentations of the final products in different forms, e.g., food, feed, extracts, powders, capsules, food supplements, ingredients and additives. The functionality of these novel proteins should be demonstrated by *in vitro* studies (possibly *in vivo* animal or human clinical trials) to prove their safety, including the absence of allergenicity.

In addition, the nutritional benefits should be evaluated by measuring bio-accessibility and bioavailability of nutrients and by estimating the presence of antinutritional factors. The sensory and techno-functional qualities of the new products prepared with alternative proteins should also be evaluated. Positive and/or negative aspects of each type of alternative protein (i.e. flavour, colour) proposed for food or feed should also be evaluated in terms of human and animal health, general safety and environmental impacts and the wise use of natural resources. Economic aspects should also be duly considered to make the new proteins more competitive in the markets. The new products should be developed considering the different national food and feed quality and safety regulations. This is required to facilitate the new marketing strategy for consumers' acceptance and new business models, market assessment and potential ideas for start-ups. SMEs and entrepreneurs. The project proponents should consider possible synergies with projects funded under Horizon Europe calls with the same objectives.

Expected impacts

- Improve consumers' acceptance of food based on the use of alternative source of proteins
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other negative environmental impacts (e.g. land use, deforestation, biodiversity loss, etc.) due to promoting alternative protein sources.
- Improve human health
- Easier access to cheaper and healthier protein sources as an alternative to animal sources toward healthier and sustainable diets
- Optimised environmentally friendly techniques to produce novel protein-enriched foods.
- Creating new business plans and models for commercialising the new protein sources (for food, feed and other food industrial purposes) to support the competitiveness of Mediterranean SMEs.

Key Performance Indicators

- Number of new food products with enhanced shelf-life, quality and health-related beneficial properties;
- Carbon and water footprints, as well as energy consumption per gram of protein

- Number of business models for quality and sustainability adapted to SME and smallholders;
- Percentage decrease in Food imports dependency (%imports/consumption)
- Number of raising awareness campaign promoting an environment conducive to healthy food choices through appropriate incentives and information provision to consumers and policymakers.

Links with EU Policies, Mission's and Partnerships

The proposal should indicate linkages to relevant EU policies and objectives in the context of the European Green Deal and relevant [Horizon Europe Missions and Partnerships](#)

- [Farm to Fork Strategy](#)²⁰
- [Biodiversity Strategy](#)²¹
- [Horizon Europe Mission on Soil Health and Food](#)
- European Partnership Water Security for the Planet (Water4All)
- European Partnership accelerating farming systems transition: agroecology living labs and research infrastructures
- European Partnership Agriculture of data
- European Partnership for Safe and Sustainable Food Systems for people, planet and climate
- European Partnership for rescuing biodiversity to safeguard life on Earth

Links with SDGs

SDG 2 Zero hunger

TARGET 2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round;

TARGET 2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change and climate action;

SDG 3 Good health and well-being

TARGET 3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being;

SDG 12 Responsible consumption and production

TARGET 12. 2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.

²⁰ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system"

²¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 Bringing nature back into our lives"

Table 3. Supporting information for Section 1 call for Proposals, Topic 1.3.1

Type of action	Innovation Action (IA)
Total indicative amount allocated to this call	EUR 8.2 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 6-8 Proposals should clearly state the starting and end TRLs of the key technology or technologies targeted in the project.
Budget and duration of grants	PRIMA considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU in the range of EUR 4.1 million and with a duration of 36 months would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts or duration.
Eligibility conditions for participation	Please refer to section 5.1.1 for the list of countries eligible for funding. The standard admissibility (section 5.1.2) and standard eligibility conditions (section 5.1.3) apply.
Submission and evaluation procedure	The call will be organised according to a two-stage submission process. A first-stage proposal (maximum ten pages) must be submitted within the first-stage submission deadline for the first step. Successful applicants in the first step will be invited to the second step 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 5.1.7 , will be used.
Grant agreement	PRIMA MGA (multi-beneficiary), based on Horizon 2020 MGA.
Consortium agreement	Participants in projects resulting from this call for Proposals must conclude a consortium agreement before the conclusion of the PRIMA grant agreement.

Nexus theme

Topic 1.4.1-2022 (IA) Predicting and testing options of socio-economic adaptation to declining Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem (WEFE) resources in the Mediterranean Region

	<p><i>SRIA priorities addressed</i></p> <p>WEFE Nexus</p> <p>Topic 1.4.1 address</p> <p>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 water-use limits in certain key areas under present and future global change scenarios.</p> <p>Priority 1.4 Use of alternative water resources</p> <p>Priority 2.2 Developing sustainable and productive agro-ecosystems</p> <p><u>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2/LAND AND WATER SUSTAINABILITY - 4/ SMART AND SUSTAINABLE FARMING - 7/ REDUCE LOSSES AND WASTES
---	--

Challenge

Climate change and population growth projections are on a collision path in the Mediterranean Region. Concern on how long continuing along this path can be sustained is growing. The combined action of these drivers will impinge on water availability, energy consumption, agricultural productivity and ecosystem health:

- Water is the medium through which the consequences of climate change extremes – droughts and flash floods - are directly felt by people
- Cooling needs of thermo electric generation may no longer be met, thus making the grid unable to supply households and industries with the required power
- Higher seasonal temperatures can significantly impact agricultural productivity by increasing evaporative water losses and the heat stress on crops
- Mediterranean ecosystems are likely to be pushed past critical thresholds and altered in an unprecedented way, thus degrading their capacity to deliver services to society.

Beyond immediate or delayed effects on the biophysical state of Water, Energy, Food and Ecosystems resources, which have been considered in previous PRIMA calls, the focus of this call will be on the socio-economic impacts of a Nexus approach to the governance of WEFE resources. The livelihood insecurity and inequalities deriving from local resource scarcity in the Mediterranean Region might be push factors for the internal displacement of populations into nearby urban centres. This is especially true in rural areas where the farming-based livelihoods of smallholders are more likely to be affected. Where not well managed, urbanisation can create other challenges, including human health and the labour market, change in consumption patterns, loss of traditions and culture. Agriculture may take a back seat and be unable to cope with mounting pressure on rural hinterlands for food provision amid an increasing dependency on food crop import. At the same time, local employment, better health, improvement of life standard, income development and community development can be achieved by the proper usage of energy. Cross-sectoral (Nexus) policy actions striking a balance between the competing goals of the water, energy, food and ecosystem sectors are needed now as a precondition to prompt adaptation of the Mediterranean supply systems of WEFE resources safe net against projected changes and rise of inequality.

Scope

The call supports the development of strategies and policies that boost populations' capacity to adapt to dwindling Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem (WEFE) resources in the Mediterranean

Region. As declining WEF resources tends to emerge slowly over time, making a connection with socio-economic impacts is not immediately distinguishable from acute events. Given the need to plan for the future in the present, early identification of causal connections between socio-economic impacts and measures to build local resilience of WEF resource management is necessary. To this end, proposals should be built around Nexus demonstration cases as socio-innovative adaptation experiments in different contexts. By analysing WEF production and consumption structures, proposals should identify their impacts on the life-supporting abilities and local communities' social and economic performance under climate change and demographic constraints. Actions would address the interplay of impacts, for example, of disruption of regional and international trade flows of food crops, on people's displacement. In particular, actions could explore the associations between the trading of crop products and local usages of water, energy, ecosystem resources under different scenarios. Specific methodologies are necessary for the co-development in a participatory approach of transformative Nexus solutions as a potential strategy of people's adaptation to the intensification of resource scarcity. Outcomes should then be translated into WEF resource-related indicators to monitor these strategies' qualitative and quantitative impacts and provide hints for possible futures. This would enable feedback to decision-makers to develop Nexus policies and strategies, ensuring a long-lasting adaptation capacity of potentially vulnerable populations. Extensive involvement of stakeholders and right holders is necessary to make projects also social innovative experiments. The project's evaluation will emphasise explicit KPIs to ensure quantifiable outcomes. The project proponents should identify potential synergies with other PRIMA, H2020 and Horizon Europe projects. The successful consortia should take part in the Mediterranean WEF Nexus Community of Practice created as an outcome of the [WEFE Science Advances Conference](#) to stimulate cross-organisation collaboration and knowledge sharing in the Mediterranean Region.

Expected impacts

- Integration of Nexus considerations into public and business decision-making at different governance levels through innovative toolboxes and guidelines supporting policymakers and practitioners in the implementation of adaptation strategies
- Increase resilience to climate change, ensuring good quantitative and qualitative status of water, sustainable agriculture, food and energy production, and healthy ecosystems
- Increase the socio-economic livelihood conditions of vulnerable populations
- Share best Nexus practices across disciplinary silos in a context of combined natural, economic and social systems

Key Performance Indicators

- Degree of integration between water related policies, such as environmental, climate, agriculture and energy policies
- Number of stakeholders involved in innovative experiments
- Number of Nexus demonstration cases as socio-innovative adaptation experiments in different contexts

Links with EU Policies, HE Mission's and partnerships

The proposal should indicate linkages to relevant EU policies and objectives in the context of the European Green Deal, [Water Framework Directive \(WFD\)](#) and relevant [Horizon Europe Missions and Partnerships](#)

- [Farm to Fork Strategy](#)²²
- [Biodiversity Strategy](#)²³
- [Horizon Europe Mission on Soil Health and Food](#)
- European Partnership Water Security for the Planet (Water4All)
- European Partnership accelerating farming systems transition: agroecology living labs and research infrastructures
- European Partnership Agriculture of data
- European Partnership for Safe and Sustainable Food Systems for people, planet and climate
- European Partnership for rescuing biodiversity to safeguard life on Earth

Links with SDGs

Indicate links with the relevant SDG target.

²² Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system"

²³ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 Bringing nature back into our lives"

Table 4. Supporting information for Section 1 call for Proposals, Topic 1.4.1

Type of action	Innovation Action (IA)
Total indicative amount allocated to this call	Approx. EUR 6.2 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 6-8 Proposals should clearly state the starting and end TRLs of the key technology or technologies targeted in the project.
Budget and duration of grants	PRIMA considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU in the range of EUR 3.1 million and with a duration of 36 months would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts or duration.
Eligibility conditions for participation	Please refer to section 5.1.1 for the List of countries eligible for funding. The standard admissibility (section 5.1.2) and standard eligibility conditions (section 5.1.3) apply.
Submission and evaluation procedure	The call will be organised according to a two-stage submission process. For the first step, a first-stage proposal (maximum ten pages) must be submitted within the first-stage submission deadline. Successful applicants in the first step will be invited to the second step 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 5.1.7 will be used.
Grant agreement	PRIMA MGA (multi-beneficiary), based on Horizon 2020 MGA.
Consortium agreement	Participants in projects resulting from this call for Proposals will be required to conclude a consortium agreement before the conclusion of the PRIMA grant agreement.

Topic 1.4.2-2022 (CSA) Development of a Mediterranean Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem (WEFE) Community of Practice

	<p><i>SRIA priorities addressed</i></p> <p>WEFE Nexus</p> <p>Topic 1.4.1 address</p> <p>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 water-use limits in certain key areas under present and future global change scenarios.</p> <p>Priority 1.4 Use of alternative water resources</p> <p>Priority 2.2 Developing sustainable and productive agro-ecosystems</p> <p><u>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2/LAND AND WATER SUSTAINABILITY - 4/ SMART AND SUSTAINABLE FARMING - 7/ REDUCE LOSSES AND WASTES
---	--

Challenge

Increasing climate warming and populations are projected to place additional pressure on the availability of food, energy and water in the Mediterranean Region. Implications for the future of ecosystems and biodiversity are equally daunting, impacting the supply of ecosystem services and goods to people. Improving countries' preparedness to tackle the socio-economic vulnerability and resilience of the Water, Energy, Food, Ecosystems (WEFE) sectors will require greater alignment between agricultural, energy and nature management options and policies. Moving away from sectoral silos towards an enhanced cross-sectoral collaboration in the deployment of WEFE Nexus solutions is essential to alleviate the situation and pave the way for a green economy and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. This approach needs a robust coordination mechanism where key stakeholders can better identify and prioritize solutions together, benefitting from an overall Nexus perspective.

Gathering scientists, practitioners, policymakers, investors, and other stakeholders in a Mediterranean WEFE Nexus Community of Practice (NCoP) was recognized during the 2021 WEFE Nexus Science Advances Conference as a way to link the supply of evidence to its demand. An initiative for a Community of Practice would provide stakeholders with convincing evidence of the benefits of the WEFE Nexus approach in the region as a basis for decision-making, decreasing the resistance to the practical deployment of a cross-sectoral Nexus approach in the management of natural resources in the Mediterranean Region.

Scope

Proposals are expected to contribute to the establishment of a Mediterranean WEFE Nexus Community of Practice (NCoP), which is envisaged to:

- Promote the identification and communication of WEFE Nexus best practices and technical solutions
- Act as an effective and sustainable forum/platform to attract and stimulate collaboration and knowledge sharing across stakeholders
- Interface science, policy and practice around WEFE Nexus demonstration cases as socio-innovation experiments in the Mediterranean Region.

The NCoP should be built around a network of existing WEFE Nexus demonstration cases²⁴ to disclose and make available explicit and tacit knowledge spread across the Mediterranean Region. Demonstration cases will be a distinctive feature of the NCoP, which will be more than a meeting place, but a space for learning together by directly channelling hands-on experience on applying a Nexus approach directly from demonstration cases to the table of decision-makers. Proposals are not expected to develop new demonstration cases but to take stock of the state of play in research and practice by connecting with existing relevant projects and networks.

The NCoP should involve practitioners, scientists, national-level programme teams as well as members from inter-governmental bodies, non-government (NGOs) and civil society (CSOs) organizations, who will exchange data and best practices from hands-on demonstration actions providing evidence of the economic and socio-ecological benefits of the WEFE Nexus approach. By raising awareness among stakeholders, the CSA will help increase the implementation of the outcomes and support further uptake of the NCoP.

In collaboration with selected organisations, PRIMA-IS will steer the overall activities of the NCoP Community of Practice. In cooperation with PRIMA, the CSA will be responsible for building and engaging intensely in the Community by promoting discussion and projects. The CSA will assist PRIMA in identifying priority areas and types of activities that should be taken to ensure a self-sustainable Community of Practice. The details of these coordination activities will be defined with PRIMA during the grant preparation phase.

Proposals should set out a plan on how to:

- Run a Mediterranean WEFE Nexus community of practitioners, innovators and local implementing authorities to promote the development, replication and upscaling of WEFE Nexus solutions at regional scale.
- Identify, attract and federate demonstration cases beyond the partnership of the consortium in order to ensure as much as possible the regional coverage of the Community of Practice with a critical mass of actors.
- Analyse the respective roles of scientists, local authorities, communities, and potential investors in developing governance models in the demonstration cases.
- Propose NCoP engagement measures to mobilize a diversity of institutional, research and local actors to learn from and support each other in providing solutions to overcome sectoral fragmentation in decision-making.
- Analyse and develop recommendations on how to promote the adoption of Nexus best practices accounting for regional specificities.
- Develop a mechanism for capacity building and Nexus knowledge transfer, including communication, outreach, stakeholder events and awareness-rising campaigns in Mediterranean countries.
- Instruments such as a NCoP Knowledge Hub should be developed to gather, evaluate and synthesise research outcomes for the Mediterranean Region, facilitate the exchange of information and data and provide support and advice to the NCoP members.

Expected impacts

In the long term

- To foster the shift from sectoral Water, Ecosystems, Food and Energy management towards an integrated resource-use approach in the Mediterranean Region by sharing knowledge on the Nexus approach
- To enable a long-lasting cooperation within and between demonstration areas for the development of scientifically validated socio-innovative adaptation and mitigation measures

²⁴ A WEFE Nexus demonstration case is an area where innovative technologies, processes, management and governance models, including decision support system tools, digital solutions, data infrastructure, demonstrating the economic, social, environmental benefits of a WEFE Nexus approach are implemented and validated

In the short term

- To promote/support the deployment of regional demonstration cases as laboratories for scale-up and policy design
- To contribute to the development, testing, dissemination and replication WEF Nexus solutions in the Mediterranean Region and beyond

Key Performance Indicators

- Degree of integration between water-related policies, such as environmental, climate, agriculture and energy policies
- Number of stakeholders involved in the NCoP
- Number of Nexus demonstration cases actively engaged in the NCoP

Links with EU Policies, HE Mission's and partnerships

The proposal should indicate linkages to relevant EU policies and objectives in the context of the European Green Deal and relevant [Horizon Europe Missions and Partnerships](#)

Links with SDGs

Indicate links with the relevant SDG target.

Table 5. Supporting information for Section 1 call for Proposals, Topic 1.4.2

Type of action	Coordination and Support Action (CSA)
Total indicative amount allocated to this call	Approx. EUR 2 million
Funding level	According to Horizon 2020 Rules Funding rate 100%
Budget and duration of grants	PRIMA considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU in the range of EUR 2 million and with a duration of 48 months would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts or duration.
Eligibility conditions for participation	Please refer to section 5.1.1 for the List of countries eligible for funding. The standard admissibility (section 5.1.2) and standard eligibility conditions (section 5.1.3) apply.
Submission and evaluation procedure	The call will be organised according to a single-stage submission process. <u>The page limit for a CSA proposal is 30.</u> 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 CSAs listed in part 5.1.7 will be used.
Grant agreement	PRIMA MGA (multi-beneficiary), based on Horizon 2020 MGA.
Consortium agreement	Participants in projects resulting from this call for Proposals will be required to conclude a consortium agreement before the conclusion of the PRIMA grant agreement.

The PRIMA-IS will do the Eligibility check 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).

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)	17/01/2022	15/03/2022	08/06/2022	06/09/2022	24/11/2022
Farming systems	Topic 1.2.1 (RIA)	17/01/2022	15/03/2022	08/06/2022	06/09/2022	24/11/2022
Food value chain	Topic 1.3.1 (IA)	17/01/2022	15/03/2022	08/06/2022	06/09/2022	24/11/2022
NEXUS theme	Topic 1.4.1 (IA)	17/01/2022	15/03/2022	08/06/2022	06/09/2022	24/11/2022
	Topic 1.4.2 (CSA)	17/01/2022	15/03/2022	08/06/2022		

Table 6. Timetable for Section 1 Calls for Proposals in 2022.

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

1.3.1 Evaluation and monitoring of projects proposals submitted to Section 1 and Section 2 calls.

Objective: This activity consists of implementing the evaluation of all the eligible projects submitted to the 2022 PRIMA calls (Section 1 and Section 2) and preparing the Board of Trustees' decision.

The evaluation process is described in detail in section [5.1.7](#).

In AWP2022, Section 1 and Section 2 calls will be organised as a **two-stage submission process**, apart from the CSA, where a single-stage submission process is foreseen.

PRIMA-IS will assign independent experts the evaluation of both first-stage proposals and full proposals or single stage proposals (CSA).

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

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

PRIMA-IS will cover the independent expert fees, travel and accommodation and the other meetings-related expenses following international standards. In case of restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the consensus meeting can also be held remotely.

PRIMA-IS will also cover the board of Trustees' meeting, at the end of the evaluation process, to decide on projects to be funded based on the ranking list, as set in Article 6 point (q) PRIMA Statutes²⁵.

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

A meeting will be organised with Project Coordinators to provide guidelines about the commencement, management, finance and monitoring of Section 1 and Section 2 funded projects.

A network meeting among project coordinators of all PRIMA projects as well as other relevant projects funded by H2020, LIFE or another funding initiative, will be organised to share knowledge, experiences as well to ensure broader applicability of the project results while reducing unnecessary duplication of efforts of on-going and past projects.

Both monitoring and network meetings will be organised either physically or remote according to the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Type of activity: Expert's contracts.

Indicative budget: EUR 500 000

²⁵ PRIMA Statutes Article 6 (q), page 4.

1.3.2 EU-PRIMA Workshop

Objective:

This PRIMA Workshop entitled “*The way forward on research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Region*” organised back-to-back to the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Research and Innovation.

This workshop is a platform for discussion at the technical level on research and innovation opportunities within the Euro-Mediterranean Region, bringing together academics, policy-makers, industry, key stakeholders. Specific attention will be given to the alignment of research scaling-up of R&I actions and knowledge transfer. The workshop would be ideal for exchanging best practices and lessons learned.

During the workshop, PRIMA awards the second edition of the PRIMA WEF E Nexus prize winners described below.

Type of activity: Public Procurement

Indicative budget: EUR 30 000

1.3.3 PRIMA WEF E NEXUS Award

Objective: Awards have a strong potential to drive innovation by recognising achievements and promoting role models.

In this regard, PRIMA plans to award a monetary recognition prize dedicated to promoting scientific research and demonstrating the economic and social benefits of the Water Energy Food and Ecosystem (WEFE) Nexus in the Mediterranean Area: the **PRIMA WEF E Nexus Award**.

The PRIMA WEF E Nexus Award is assigned to "research teams and practitioners" that have devised and demonstrated the successful implementation of combined management practices of water, energy, food and ecosystem resources at the local or regional scale of the Mediterranean Region.

The award enables teams to showcase their best practices and achievements. This will encourage researchers to use and manage their results in the best way possible.

PRIMA will award two winners, with a recognition prize of 10 000 EUR to each of them.

The PRIMA Nexus Award will provide the winner of each of the two Prizes with high visibility in the public interest and increased media coverage. PRIMA will further promote each of the two Prizes' winners by inviting them to provide testimony at other significant events such as the PRIMA_EU workshop on “*The way forward on research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Region*.”

The contest's specific rules²⁶ will be published on the PRIMA website as soon as the PRIMA 2022 calls will be public and actively disseminated elsewhere to maximise participation.

Contestants will have to provide proof of eligibility²⁷ and a written description of their achievements in the field of the PRIMA WEF E Nexus award, which will be presented to an independent panel of experts for evaluation.

Amount of prize:

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

²⁶ The PRIMA WEF E Nexus award rules of contest will be adopted by the Director of PRIMA.IS

²⁷ The contestants for the PRIMA prizes should be at least one legal entity established in a PRIMA PS. The demonstrated practices must be implemented in the Mediterranean Region

Budget of the prizes: EUR 20 000

Eligibility criteria:

The contestants for the PRIMA prizes should be at least one legal entity established in a PRIMA PS.²⁸ The demonstrated practices must be implemented in the Mediterranean Region.

Prizes will not be awarded to teams including employees of PRIMA or serving on one of the PRIMA advisory (Scientific Advisory Committee) or governing (Board of Trustees and Steering Committee) boards.

Please also note that participants who have already received an EU or Euratom prize cannot receive a second prize for the same activities.

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

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

- demonstrate the more comprehensive socio-economic benefits of their proposed practices going beyond a fragmented system of sectors and players;
- demonstrate that they have directly exploited their proposed solutions or have played an active role in the uptake of the results by third parties, in particular, influencing policy change;
- demonstrate the replication and upscaling potential of the proposed Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus solutions;

Type of action: Recognition prizes.

Indicative timetable: Prize contests will be launched in the first quarter of 2022 and remain open until the second quarter of 2022. (see [Section 5.1.5](#) for Model Rules of Contest (RoC) PRIMA Prizes).

²⁸ The latest information on the PRIMA PS can be found on PRIMA webpage: <http://prima-med.org>

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

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

PRIMA Section 2 call, funded by the PS, will be a single 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 Decision (EU) 2017/1324], Part One of Title VIII of the Financial Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and the Council²⁹ (the 'Financial Regulation') and Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council, in particular the principles of equal treatment, transparency, independent peer-review evaluation and selection.

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

[Admissibility](#) and [eligibility](#) of proposals will be first checked by the PRIMA-IS according to the conditions indicated respectively in [Section 5.2.2](#) and [Section 5.2.3](#) of this document, and then by the national funding body according to their [National Regulations](#).

In this context, proposals that are considered eligible for participation and funding by PRIMA-IS and the national funding bodies will enter the evaluation process. However, in the event of a negative outcome of verifying eligibility for funding of any participant in the applicant consortium, PRIMA-IS may require additional information from a consortium or the participant concerned, such as an attestation that the funds to cover their participation in the project will be available.

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

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

In Section 2, the beneficiaries must sign a grant agreement directly with their national funding bodies to receive the funds.

PRIMA Section 2 call will address the topics described in sub-Section 2.2 below (according to national priorities) and the cross-cutting issues among them. Research projects can address cross-cutting issues between two topics as long as they are both eligible for funding by the partner countries.

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

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

²⁹ 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 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

Projects should deliver tangible outputs and enhance technological and social innovation, depending on the research question addressed. The projects could include innovative technologies like artificial intelligence, smart digital technologies, space data, and big data analysis. When explicitly allowed by the funding bodies' national regulations, Innovation Actions should involve the private sector in the project Consortium and particularly relevant SMEs.

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

2.2 Topics for Section 2, 2022 calls

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

Topic 2.1.1-2022 (RIA*) Prevent and reduce land and water salinization and pollution due to agri-food activities.

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

Topic 2.2.1-2022 (RIA*) Improving the sustainability of agro-pastoralism in the Mediterranean Region under the context of climate change.

3 **Thematic Area 3-Food value chain:**

Topic 2.3.1-2022 (RIA*) Enabling the transition to healthy and sustainable dietary behaviour

Thematic Area 1-Water management

Topic 2.1.1 (RIA^{*30}) Prevent and reduce land and water salinization and pollution due to agri-food activities

	<p><i>SRIA priorities addressed</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Topic 1.1.1 refers to the Priorities: - 1.1 "Water resources availability and quality within catchment and aquifers." - 2.2 "Developing sustainable and productive agro-ecosystems." <p><u>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2/LAND AND WATER SUSTAINABILITY - 4/SMART AND SUSTAINABLE FARMING
---	--

Challenge

In the Mediterranean Region, the current increase in the surface and ground-water exploitation poses a risk that water resources and water scarcity are often combined with poor ground-water quality. This occurs mainly in areas heavily conditioned by human activities. Despite the many non-point sources of pollution carrying phosphorus, nitrogen, pesticides and other organic pollutants, metals, pathogens, salts and trace elements, agricultural practices have become the most significant non-point contributors of pollutants to the Mediterranean. Notably, the low annual rainfall, and the common occurrence of alkaline soils in the dry Mediterranean Regions, provide an environment in which agriculture production contributes to the ongoing salinization of aquifers and the frequent eutrophication problem wetlands and coastal water bodies.

Scope

Both agriculture and food industry practices, potentially determining contamination of surrounding water bodies, should reduce the risk of water pollution and salinization. Under this general aim, the specificities of the prevailing Mediterranean soils and environmental conditions should be considered. This includes the detailed study of salinity management, which often involves additional watering to displace salts from the root zone, creating a management conflict in water and soils to reduce nitrates leaching. These specific conditions, among other typically Mediterranean soil and climatic factors, should be considered when searching for technical solutions for minimising water pollution restoring water bodies to acceptable water quality standards while ensuring profitable agri-food activities. In this sense, under a circular economy approach, particular attention should be paid to water reuse and the valorisation of other by-products from the surrounding agri-food processing plants to minimise the external use of resources, avoiding further contamination of land and water. Fertilisation regimes should be improved for conventional and organic farming practices, focusing on organic matter management studying how mineralisation occurs. The goal is to provide more

³⁰ Please note that the acronym RIA is used both for Section 1 and Section 2. In Section 1 the rules applying to these actions are the standard Horizon 2020 rules for participation (RfP). While the rules used in Section 2 are to some extent based on the Horizon 2020 RfP, specific rules, concerning participation and funding rates, apply. As the projects selected in Section 2 are funded directly by the national funding bodies, they will be subject to the respective national regulations. For more details regarding the rules for Section 2 please refer to the guidelines for applicants on the PRIMA *website*.

informed decisions on organic matter and mineral fertiliser application better tailored to crop needs, soil conditions, and the agroecosystem's nitrogen cycle.

Similarly, the potential contamination of water streams due to pesticides and other potential organic pollutants should be minimised by delivering innovative solutions. The acceptance of the proposed practices by end-users should be defined by including socio-economic studies assessing the cost-benefit outputs for each of the new proposed practices. In this sense, the overall governance framework conditions at the whole water basin level influencing the final on-site application of the proposed technical measures should be considered.

Expected impacts

- Reduction in the contamination and salinization of water bodies by agri-food practices upscaling results from the farm to the whole water basin area considering the different sources of water contamination related to the agri-food activities.
- Development of a site-specific solution to reduce nitrate leaching under specific Mediterranean soil conditions (i.e. salinity and sodicity).
- Evaluation of the risks linked to pesticides and other potential organic pollutants use on water and soil contamination and rehabilitation of polluted soils and water
- The development and on-site application of innovative and environmental-friendly technical solutions for water decontamination

Key Performance Indicators

SDG#6

- 06.21 Biochemical oxygen demand in rivers;
- 06.24 Nitrate in ground-water

SRIA KPIs

- Number of practical solutions to water (quantity and quality) degradation
- Number of practical solutions to land and agro-ecosystem degradation

Links with EU Policies, HE Mission's and Partnerships

The proposal should indicate linkages to relevant EU policies and objectives in the context of the European Green Deal, Water Framework Directive (WFD), EU Action Plan: 'Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil and relevant Horizon Europe Missions and Partnerships.

- [Farm to Fork Strategy](#)³¹
- [Biodiversity Strategy](#)³²
- [Horizon Europe Mission on Soil Health and Food](#)
- [Horizon Europe Mission: Restore our Ocean and Waters](#)
- European Partnership Water Security for the Planet (Water4All)
- European Partnership accelerating farming systems transition: agroecology living labs and research infrastructures
- European Partnership Agriculture of data
- European Partnership for Safe and Sustainable Food Systems for people, planet and climate

³¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system"

³² Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 Bringing nature back into our lives"

- European Partnership for rescuing biodiversity to safeguard life on Earth

Links with SDGs

The proposal should indicate linkages to relevant SDGs and methodology to contribute to the reporting of SDG indicators

- TARGET 2.3 by 2030 double the agricultural productivity and the incomes of small-scale food producers, particularly women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment
- TARGET 2.4 By 2030 ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems and that progressively improve land and soil quality
- TARGET 6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimising the release of hazardous chemicals and materials.
- TARGET 6.6 By 2030, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes
- TARGET 15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world

Thematic Area 2-Farming systems:

Topic 2.2.1 (RIA)³³ Improving the sustainability of agro-pastoralism in the Mediterranean Region under the context of climate change.

	<p><i>SRIA priorities addressed</i></p> <p>1. Developing sustainable and productive agro-ecosystems.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4/ SMART AND SUSTAINABLE FARMING
---	---

Challenge

In the Mediterranean, agro-pastoralism³⁴ is significant, especially in marginal (or peripheral) rural settings, which account for about half of the Mediterranean territories – islands, mountainous and dryland areas where more intensive agricultural practices are unfeasible. In these settings, agro-pastoralism plays a significant role as the primary source of employment and income and ecosystem functioning and landscape management. Agro-pastoral products are closely embedded with local communities and territories, including local value chains and the tourism industry, while sustainable agro-pastoral practices also provide important socio-ecosystem services. These features are critical in mitigating the effects of climate change (i.e., carbon sequestration, soil-water conservation) and providing adaptive strategies to tackle it, including reducing natural hazards (i.e., flooding, forest fires). However, agro-pastoral systems operate under unfavourable institutional and economic conditions all over the region, leading to unsustainable practices, problems of farm economic viability, and generational renewal. With more volatile rainfall patterns and recurrent droughts, environmental and climate change further challenges the sustainable management of agro-pastoral territories. Overgrazing on the one hand and land abandonment on the other cause an intense degradation of rangelands, with the gradual disappearance of fauna, flora, and entire biotopes, increase in soil erosion and, ultimately, changes in the landscape.

In this scenario, agro-pastoral multifunctional systems represent an increasingly important asset to produce quality food through environmental-friendly practices and support the livelihood of communities inhabiting inner and remote areas.

Scope

Proposals, building on good pastoral practices in the Mediterranean Area, should promote an enabling environment for viable agro-pastoral farming and rational use of rangelands: land, water and biodiversity management (including local animal breeds), Carbon, Nitrogen and overall GHG footprint. Agroforestry practices could also be considered for supporting pastoral and agropastoral livestock production ranging from tree preservation to more intensively planted and managed systems.

³³ Please note that the acronym RIA is used both for Section 1 and Section 2. In Section 1 the rules applying to these actions are the standard Horizon 2020 rules for participation (RfP). While the rules used in Section 2 are to some extent based on the Horizon 2020 RfP, specific rules, concerning participation and funding rates, apply. As the projects selected in Section 2 are funded directly by the national funding bodies, they will be subject to the respective national regulations. For more details regarding the rules for Section 2 please refer to the guidelines for applicants on the PRIMA website.

³⁴ Agro-pastoralism: association of pastoral and agricultural activities.

Proposals should also consider products' quality in terms of consumers' health and safety, provision of socio-ecosystem services, questions of social, gender and generational dynamics. Proposals should address the policy-setting and the market frame that hold relevant implications for agro-pastoral farming to provide advice and suggestions for a more enabling institutional and economic environment.

Expected impacts

- Enhance the resilience of Mediterranean pastoral and agro-pastoral communities to societal and climate change
- Contribute to improving the economic, social and environmental conditions of agro-pastoral farming and livelihoods
- Preserve and rehabilitate pastoral ecosystems, including animal and plant biodiversity, rangeland recovery and landscape management
- Enhance the quality, typicity, diversity, value-adding and related value chains for traditional pastoral products
- Support generational renewal of agro-pastoral farming through the involvement of women, youth and newcomers

Key Performance Indicators

For KPIs, refer to the SRIA

Links with EU Policies, HE Mission's and Partnerships

The proposal should indicate linkages to **relevant** EU policies and objectives in the context of the European Green Deal and relevant [Horizon Europe Missions and Partnerships](#)

- [Farm to Fork Strategy](#)³⁵
- [Biodiversity Strategy](#)³⁶
- [Horizon Europe Mission on Soil Health and Food](#)
- European Partnership Water Security for the Planet (Water4All)
- European Partnership accelerating farming systems transition: agroecology living labs and research infrastructures
- European Partnership Agriculture of data
- European Partnership for Safe and Sustainable Food Systems
- European Partnership for rescuing biodiversity to safeguard life on Earth

Links with SDGs

The proposal should indicate linkages to relevant SDGs and methodology to contribute to the reporting of SDG indicators

³⁵ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system"

³⁶ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 Bringing nature back into our lives"

Topic 2.3.1 (RIA)³⁷ - Enabling the transition to healthy and sustainable dietary behaviour

	<p><i>SRIA priorities addressed</i></p> <p>Topic 1.3.1 refers to:</p> <p>Priority 3.1: "Valorising food products from the traditional Mediterranean." Priority 3.3: "Implementation of innovation in the Agri-food chain, promoting higher quality, sustainability and competitiveness, with particular reference to smallholders." Priority 3.4: "Implications of dietary shifts and sustainable diets for the Med populations and food industry."</p> <p>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - /6 NUTRITION AND HEALTH. - /8 NEW AGRO-FOOD BUSINESS MODELS.
---	--

Challenge

Human health is deeply affected by dietary patterns, and most of the non-transmissible and chronic diseases, which currently affect worldwide populations, are directly linked to unhealthy diets. Recent studies have highlighted the relationship between dietary habits and diseases, such as heart diseases, obesity, diabetes, strokes, Alzheimer, Parkinson's. Increasing scientific evidence shows that the Mediterranean lifestyle, including characteristic dietary patterns and psychosocial and cultural features, has beneficial effects on human health. A correct and equilibrated daily intake of food and moderate, together with regular physical exercise, has positive effects in improving children's mental and physical development and improving the quality of life at all ages in general. Moreover, healthy diets limit the insurgence of several types of cancer, improve body performances at all ages and are based on longevity. The concept of the Mediterranean diet, based on moderate consumption of meat, fish and seafood, and more use of local vegetables, legumes, nuts, fruits, olive oil, and dairy products, also includes more social behaviour, e.g., taking more time for meals and sharing this time with others, family members, friends, colleagues. All these aspects, taken together, positively affect the general mood and physical and mental health. However, in the last decades, due to the adaptation of the society to modern times, with less and less time devoted to preparing meals, even in the Mediterranean Region, the dietary habits have shifted towards the convenience of highly processed and takeout food, with evident adverse effects on the population: increase of obesity, chronic diseases and cancers in areas where they were at the lowest levels until fifty-sixty years ago.

Scope

Under this general challenge, it is of utmost importance to (i) identify, understand and measure the factors influencing the adoption of healthy dietary behaviours in the Mediterranean communities, and (ii) to implement tailored strategies to help people of all ages to shift towards Mediterranean healthy dietary behaviours. These two tasks should be

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 based on the Horizon 2020 RfP, specific rules, concerning participation and funding rates, apply. As the projects selected in Section 2 are funded directly by the national funding bodies, they will be subject to the respective national regulations. For more details regarding the rules for Section 2, please refer to the guidelines for applicants on the PRIMA website.

facilitated by combining at least two approaches, such as increasing awareness of the general benefits of the Mediterranean diets at all-age levels and increasing the availability and accessibility of highly nutritional, healthy, sustainable low processed Mediterranean food in the markets.

To achieve the desired targets and goals, it is paramount to elaborate and put effective awareness campaigns tailored to the different Mediterranean communities by using traditional communication strategies and information and communication technologies-based applications (e.g., m-application, gaming). Educational toolkits, cooking classes, demonstration facilities, and promotional materials adapted to the different socio-economic groups in respect of ages, genders, cultures also need to be developed.

To address the second task, new business models should be designed and proposed at the food industry level to produce and distribute traditional, local, low-processed, pre-prepared dishes with high nutritional value, following the accredited Mediterranean dietary patterns (i.e., nutrient-rich, prepared with healthier cooking methods, particularly salt and sugar reduction, removal of trans fats, providing consumers with better nutritional information, etc.). Besides the nutritional aspects, and in line with the concept of a low environmental-impact diet model associated with the Mediterranean diet, proposals should also consider sustainability aspects related to the consumption of the prepared meals (local and diversified ingredients, innovative and sustainable process (e.g. low energy and process), extended shelf-life, cooling, smart and sustainable packaging, ready to heat meals).

Along these lines, organic food produced without (or with less) pesticides should be considered for more sustainable and healthy consumption in line with the Farm to Fork strategy and consumer expectations.³⁸ Aligned with this strategy, applicants should also include in the proposed approaches the concept and overarching goals of reducing food waste and using by-products as beneficial food ingredients to meet the circular economy's general idea supporting the transition towards a more sustainable food system.

The project proponents should consider identifying potential synergies with other PRIMA and Horizon Europe projects with the same objectives (e.g. HORIZON-CL6-FARM2FORK-01-15).

Expected impact

- Updating, modifying and developing dietary guidelines and promotion strategies for the adoption of Mediterranean healthy and sustainable diets
- Promoting and marketing of Mediterranean dietary habits and highlighting its benefits at all levels through media coverage, TV programmes, awareness campaigns in schools and communities
- Introducing new and healthy low-processed Mediterranean food products in acceptable, attractive, accessible and affordable formats
- Improving Med people health by facilitating the shifting to a Mediterranean healthy and sustainable diet
- Decrease in obesity rate and other diet-related non-communicable diseases in the Mediterranean area

Key Performance Indicators

- Number of business models for quality and sustainability adapted to SME and smallholders;
- Number of raising awareness campaigns promoting a food environment conducive to

³⁸ COM (2020) 381 final

healthy food choices through appropriate incentives and information provision to consumers and policymakers

- Number of new food products with enhanced shelf-life, quality and health-related beneficial and sustainable properties;
- Percentage of overweight population (of which obese) and other diet-related non-communicable diseases by sex and by Country

Links with EU Policies and HE Mission's and Partnerships

The proposal should indicate linkages to relevant EU policies and objectives in the context of the European Green Deal and relevant [Horizon Europe Missions and Partnerships](#)

- [Farm to Fork Strategy](#)³⁹
- [Biodiversity Strategy](#)⁴⁰
- [Horizon Europe Mission on Soil Health and Food](#)
- European Partnership Water Security for the Planet (Water4All)
- European Partnership accelerating farming systems transition: agroecology living labs and research infrastructures
- European Partnership Agriculture of data
- European Partnership for Safe and Sustainable Food Systems for people, planet and climate
- European Partnership for rescuing biodiversity to safeguard life on Earth

Links with SDGs

The proposal should indicate linkages to relevant SDGs

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

TARGET 3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being

SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

TARGET 12. 2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.

³⁹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system"

⁴⁰ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 Bringing nature back into our lives"

Table 7. Supporting information for Section 2 call for Proposals

Type of action	Research & Innovation Activities (RIA ⁴¹)
The total indicative amount allocated to this call	EUR 36 632 500
Funding level	Depending on National Regulations
Budget and duration of grants	PRIMA considers that proposals requesting a contribution of at least EUR 1.5 million and with a duration of 48 months , would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts or duration, following national regulations.
TRL	Proposals should clearly state the starting and end TRLs of the key technology or technologies targeted in the project.
Eligibility conditions for participation	In addition to the standard admissibility and eligibility conditions (please refer to section 5.2.2 and section 5.2.3 in this document), the following additional eligibility condition applies: each applicant must check its own eligibility for participation/funding in accordance with their national funding agencies.
Submission and evaluation procedure	The call will be organised according to a two-stage submission process. For the first step, a first-stage proposal (maximum ten pages) must be submitted within the first-stage submission deadline. Successful applicants in the first step will be invited to the second step to submit a full proposal (maximum 50 pages). A timeline for the submission and evaluation of applications can be found in Table 9.
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 a 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 and send this information to all the funding bodies involved in funding this project in order to ensure that the national grant agreements are synchronized in time to cover all the period of the project
Consortium agreement	A consortium agreement mentioning the distribution of the tasks among partners (as listed in the proposal) must be concluded. Some national funding bodies may require this document before signing the grant agreements, so it is necessary to refer to the national regulations and draft the consortium agreement , accordingly (section 5.2.11)

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 based on the 20202020H2020 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 8. Indicative PRIMA PS planned financial contributions for Section 2 in Annual Work Plan 2022, in EUR*

PRIMA Participating State	Funding Agency Acronym ⁴²	Financial annual commitment per National Funding Agency (EUR)	Provisional Financial annual commitment per PS (EUR)
Algeria	DGRST	2 000 000	2 000 000
Croatia	MSE	500 000	500 000
Cyprus	RIF	400 000	400 000
Egypt	ASRT	1 500 000	3 650 000
	SDTF	2 150 000	
France	ANR	6 000 000	6 000 000
Germany	BMBF	2 500 000	2 500 000
Greece	GSRT	1 000 000	1 000 000
Israel	IIA/ISERD	500 000	500 000
Italy	MUR	7 000 000	7 000 000
Jordan	HCST	437 500	437 500
Lebanon	CNRS-L	100 000	100 000
Luxembourg	FNR	500 000	500 000
Malta	MCST	500 000	500 000
Morocco	MESRSFC	3 400 000	3 400 000
Portugal	FCT	1 125 000	1 225 000
	FRCT	100 000	
Slovenia	ARSS	170 000	170 000
Spain	AEI	3 000 000	4 250 000
	CDTI	1 250 000	
Tunisia	MESRS	1 500 000	1 500 000
Turkey	TUBITAK	1 000 000	1 000 000
Total PS		36 632 500	36 632 500

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

⁴² Algeria, General Directorate for scientific research and technological development (DGRSDT), Croatia Ministry of Science and Education, Cyprus Research Promotion Foundation, Research and Innovation Projects Unit Egypt Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT) and Science and Technological Development Fund (SDTF), France, French National Research Agency (ANR), Germany Project Management Agency c/o German Aerospace Centre (DLR PT), Greece General Secretariat for Research and Technology (GSRT), Israel, Israel Innovation Authority (IIA), Italy Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca (MUR), Jordan Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST), Lebanon, Conseil National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS-L), Luxembourg, Luxembourg National Research Fund (FNR), Malta, Malta Council for Science And Technology (MCST), Morocco, State Secretariat for Higher Education and Scientific Research, Portugal, Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) and Azores Regional Funds for Science and Technology (FRCT), Slovenia, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Spain, Spain, Centro para el Desarrollo Tecnológico Industriales, (CDTI) and Agencia Estatal de Investigación (AEI), Tunisia, Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique (MESRS) Turkey, The Scientific And Technological Research Council Of Turkey (TUBITAK).

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

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

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

All deadlines are at 17.00.00 CET.

Table 9. Timetable for Section 2 call for proposals in 2022.

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	17/01/2022	22/03/2022	17/06/2022	13/09/2022	13/12/2022
Farming systems	Topic 2.2.1	17/01/2022	22/03/2022	17/06/2022	13/09/2022	13/12/2022
Food value chain	Topic 2.3.1	17/01/2022	22/03/2022	17/06/2022	13/09/2022	13/12/2022

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

2.3.1 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 PS's costs for managing projects resulting from the calls managed by the PRIMA and funded by the PS.

These costs must not exceed 6 % of the individual financial contribution by each Participating State in Section 2. For 2022, the total amount of these contributions must not exceed EUR 2 197 950.

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

PRIMA PS implement and fund an array of national activities that contribute to the objectives of the

PRIMA programme. The participation of the PS foresees two types of activities:

- National research programmes implemented, managed and funded by the PS: Participant States Initiated Activities (PSIAs);
- Activities supporting programme operation funded and implemented by PS.

3.1 Participating States Initiated Activities (PSIAs)

Decision (EU) 2017/1324 provides that PRIMA activities may include activities under the Participating States' national programmes, 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 Decision (EU) 2017/1324, in Part One of Title VIII of the Financial Regulation No (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 and Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013, in particular the principles of equal treatment, transparency, independent peer-review evaluation and selection (See [Section 5.2.10](#) of this document)

The Participating States Initiated Activities (PSIAs) listed below gather activities under national programmes of PS. These activities are national calls for research and innovation, training actions and/or supports a joint research project or collaborative research units managed and funded directly by the PS.

They are in-kind contributions of the PS to the PRIMA programme and constitute an integral part of the PRIMA programme contributing to the alignment of national programmes to PRIMA.

The PSIAs listed in this section of the AWP2022 are aligned with PRIMA objectives according to the assessment of external international experts.

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.

Table 10. Participating States Initiated Activities in 2022 (details of the calls are given in [Section 6](#)).

#	Code	Activity title	Keyword	Type of action	PS involved	type of budget allocation	PS indicative commitment (EUR)
1	EG.2022.1	6th Egyptian-Spanish Joint Call for R&D&I Projects 2022.	WATER MANAGEMENT, AGRIFOOD VALUE CHAIN, FARMING SYSTEMS	RIA	EGYPT, SPAIN	ANNUAL CALLS	300 000
2	ES.2022.1	FUNDING FOR NATIONAL PROJECTS R+D FIELDS	AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	RIA	SPAIN	ANNUAL CALLS	30 000 000
3	ES.2022.2	NATIONAL PROGRAMS AND CALLS UNDER THE STATE PLAN FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND OF INNOVATION 2017-2010.	WATER MANAGEMENT, AGRIFOOD VALUE CHAIN, FARMING SYSTEMS	RIA	SPAIN	ANNUAL CALLS	16 000 000
4	FR.2022.1	RESEARCH PROJECTS FUNDED BY ANR UNDER THE ANNUAL NATIONAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS	INNOVATION, FARMING SYSTEMS, WATER MANAGEMENT	RIA	FRANCE	ANNUAL CALLS	1 500 000
5	IL.2022.1	THE BMBF-MOST MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL WATER TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION PROGRAM	WATER MANAGEMENT	RIA	ISRAEL, GERMANY	ANNUAL CALLS	1 500 000
6	MT.2022.1	PRIMA PARTICIPATING STATES CALLS FOR PROPOSALS	WATER MANAGEMENT, FARMING SYSTEMS AND FOOD VALUE CHAIN	RIA/IA	MALTA, other PS	PRIMA CALL	200 000
7	MT.2022.2	PRIMA Training and Mobility Call	WATER MANAGEMENT, FARMING SYSTEMS AND FOOD VALUE CHAIN	RIA/Mobility	MALTA	PRIMA CALL	25 000
8	TR.2022.1	PRIMA PARTICIPATING STATES CALLS FOR PROPOSALS	WATER MANAGEMENT, FARMING SYSTEMS AND FOOD VALUE CHAIN	RIA/IA	TURKEY Other PS	PRIMA CALL	200 000
TOTAL							49 725 000

3.2 Activities supporting programme operation funded and implemented by PS

3.2.1 Training scheme to assist coordinators in writing PRIMA proposals

Objectives

This training scheme will provide information to Malta-based entities supporting them to prepare good quality proposals.

Type of activity:

The Proposal Writing Assistance Scheme will take the form of a call open to Malta-based entities intending to submit a PRIMA proposal as a consortium coordinator.

Organised by: Malta

Indicative budget: EUR 25 000

Timetable: 1st Quarter 2022

3.2.2 Workshop to train stakeholders in PRIMA proposals writing

Objectives

This workshop will provide the opportunity for a wide array of interested applicants to learn more about the principles of writing proposals specifically for PRIMA calls.

Type of activity:

The PRIMA Proposal Writing Workshop will be an interactive, in-person, one-day workshop that will provide an opportunity for Malta-based potential applicants who wish to obtain further insight and be trained in writing PRIMA project proposals.

Organised by: Malta

Indicative budget: EUR 10 000

Timetable: 2nd or 3rd quarter of 2022

3.2.3 Fostering PRIMA capacity building

Objectives:

Considering the experienced disparities in terms of research and innovation performance among participants from PRIMA PS, action is needed to strengthen the research and innovation prospects of the countries that are less performing to enable them to engage more successfully towards the research and innovation effort in the Mediterranean area.

Capacity building activities will be organised in order to decrease disparities in the participation and scientific excellence, in particular for the less performing PRIMA PS, by developing opportunities to improve their research and innovation capacities.

The activities will notably provide assistance through multiplayers engagement, aiming to facilitate access to strong and inclusive partnerships in response of PRIMA calls for proposals.

Organised by: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey

Indicative budget: EUR 4 000

Timetable: the activity will begin in the first quarter 2022

1. Administrative 2022 budget of the PRIMA-IS for the implementation of the PRIMA programme

In 2022, 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
- 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
- Communication and graphic layout.

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 in Barcelona to provide information to applicants concerning 2022 calls for proposals, approximately in the First Quarter of 2022, depending on approval's date of AWP2022. (Costs will be under Mission and travels section).

4.6 Budget overview tables

Table 11. Indicative budget for the administrative costs in EUR

Description	Amount (in EUR)
Personnel	1 234 585
Meetings and missions	108 000
Consumables and supplies	80 000
Service contracts	127 415
Total administrative costs	1 550 000

Table 12. Overview of Planned Commitments to Activities of the PRIMA Programme 2022 by the Union (EU), the Participating States (PS) in EUR.

Activities	Contributions (in €)		
	EU	PS	Grand Total
EU funded Transnational Calls for Proposals IA (Section 1)	32 900 000		32 900 000
Participating States Transnational co-funded Call for Proposals, managed by PRIMA-IS (Section 2)		36 632 500	
Subtotal transnational calls	32 900 000	36 632 500	69 532 500
Evaluation of Projects & Monitoring	500 000		500 000
PRIMA Prizes	20 000		20 000
Workshop EU	30 000		30 000
Subtotal activities supporting programme operations	550 000		550 000
Participating States funded activities managed by PS to support programme implementation		39 000	39 000
PS contributions dedicated to the implementation of proposals resulting from PS funded calls		2 197 950	2 197 950
Participating States Initiated Activities		49 725 000	49 725 000
Subtotal Implementation	33 450 000	88 594 450	122 044 450
EU-funded administrative costs of the PRIMA-IS	1 550 000		1 550 000
Subtotal Administration	1 550 000		1 550 000
Total Budget	35 000 000	88 594 450	123 594 450

Table 13. Detailed overview of planned commitments to activities of the PRIMA programme in 2022 by the European Union (EU) and the Participating States (PS) in EUR

Planned commitments (in EUR))						
	Programme CALLS	PRIMA-IS administrative costs	PS management costs	Activities supporting programme operations	PSIAs	Total in 2022
	Financial contributions	Financial contributions	In-kind contributions	Financial Contributions	Financial contributions	
European Union (EU)						
European Commission	32.900.000	1.550.000		550.000		35.000.000
Subtotal EU	32.900.000	1.550.000		550.000		35.000.000
Participating States (PS)						
Algeria	2.000.000		120.000	500		2.120.500
Croatia	500.000		30.000			530.000
Cyprus	400.000		24.000			424.000
Egypt	3.650.000		219.000	500	300.000	4.169.500
France	6.000.000		360.000		1.500.000	7.860.000
Germany	2.500.000		150.000			2.650.000
Greece	1.000.000		60.000			1.060.000
Israel	500.000		30.000	500	1.500.000	2.030.500
Italy	7.000.000		420.000			7.420.000
Jordan	437.500		26.250	500		464.250
Lebanon	100.000		6.000	500		106.500
Luxembourg	500.000		30.000			530.000
Malta	500.000		30.000	35.000	225.000	790.000
Morocco	3.400.000		204.000	500		3.604.500
Portugal	1.225.000		73.500			1.298.500
Slovenia	170.000		10.200			180.200
Spain	4.250.000		255.000		46.000.000	50.505.000
Tunisia	1.500.000		90.000	500		1.590.500
Turkey	1.000.000		60.000	500	200.000	1.260.500
Subtotal PSs	36.632.500	-	2.197.950	39.000	49.725.000	88.594.450
Subtotal EU and PSs	69.532.500	1.550.000	2.197.950	589.000	49.725.000	123.594.450
Total	69.532.500	1.550.000	2.197.950	589.000	49.725.000	123.594.450

Table 14. Overview of planned EU contributions towards PRIMA calls for Proposals in 2022 and activities supporting the implementation of the programme in EUR

	EU-funded PRIMA activities	Indicative EU contribution
		(in EUR)
Research & Innovation Action	Section 1 Call 1	8 250 000
	Section 1 Call 2	8 250 000
	Section 1 Call 3	8 200 000
	Section 1 Call 4	6 200 000
Coordination and Support Action	Section 1 Call 5	2 000 000
Other Activities	Activities for supporting the implementation of the programme	550000
Administrative costs of the PRIMA-IS	Personnel, Missions, Consumables and supplies,	1 550 000
	Service contracts	
	Total planned contributions in 2022	35.000.000

2. General Annexes

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

5.1.1 List of countries eligible for funding

Legal entities established in the following countries and territories are 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 with 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 the European Union law.⁴⁵

c) Any international European interest organisation⁴⁶, 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.

d) Any international organisation (IO)⁴⁷ **OR** any legal entity established in countries not listed above as PS may be eligible for funding provided that at least one of the following conditions is fulfilled:

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 As set out in Art 7 (1) of H2020 Regulation and reflected in Art 7. (4) of the PRIMA Decision,

⁴⁶ '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".

⁴⁷ The place of establishment of the IOs is not relevant for eligibility for funding.

- i. participation is deemed to be essential for carrying out the action⁴⁸;
- ii. 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.

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

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

5.1.2 Standard admissibility conditions, page limits and supporting documents

For all actions under AWP2022, proposals must comply with the admissibility requirements set out in this sub-section, unless 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 ⁴⁹ 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 exploiting and disseminating the results unless otherwise specified in the call conditions. The draft plan is not required for proposals at the first step of the two-stage submission process.

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 ten pages, while the limit for a full proposal is 50 pages except for: Coordination and support action (CSA) proposals where the limit is 30 pages (one single stage)

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. Applicants are requested to use PRIMA's template that can be downloaded from the PRIMA website under the relevant call section.

⁴⁸ The applicant may be eligible for funding if its participation has clear benefits for the consortium, such as: access to unique know-how, access to research infrastructures, access to geographical environments, involving key partners in emerging markets, access to data, etc.

⁴⁹ In case the administrative data are missing for justified reasons, they can be submitted **within 24 hours from the notification from PRIMA-IS**

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) A curriculum vitae or description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed research and/or innovation activities;
- b) A list of up to five relevant publications, and/or products, services (including widely-used datasets or software), or other achievements relevant to the call content;
- c) A list of up to five relevant previous projects or activities connected to the subject of this proposal;
- d) A description of any significant infrastructure and/or any major items of technical equipment, relevant to the proposed work;
- e) A description of any third parties that are not represented as project partners but who will nonetheless be contributing towards the work (e.g. providing facilities, computing resources).

The evaluators will carry out this scrutiny during the evaluation process under the selection criteria, in particular the award criterion 'Quality and efficiency of the implementation'. Please refer to Section 5.1.7 "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 (EU) No. 1290/2013 and any derogations to these as specified in Decision (EU) 2017/1324.

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

A proposal will only be considered eligible if:

- a) the coordinator of the proposal is a legal entity established in a PRIMA PS⁵⁰
- 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:

⁵⁰ This measure is aimed to protect the Union's financial interests and is in line with Art. Article 7(7) of Decision (EU) 2017/1324.

Table 15. Eligibility conditions for participation for PRIMA Actions Section 1

Type of Action	Eligibility conditions for participation ^{51,52,53}
Research & Innovation Action (RIA)	<p>At least three legal entities established in three different countries considered as the Participating States⁵⁴ 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 an EU Member State or a third country associated to Horizon 2020 and not being an MPC <p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -at least one must be established in a third country bordering the Mediterranean Sea (MPC) <p>All three legal entities must be independent of each other.</p>
Innovation Action (IA)	<p>At least three legal entities established in three different countries considered as Participating States, as defined in point 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 an EU Member State or a third country associated to Horizon 2020 and not being an MPC <p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -at least one must be established in a third country bordering the Mediterranean Sea (MPC) <p>All three legal entities must be independent of each other.</p>
Coordination and Support Action (CSA)	<p>At least one legal entity established in a country considered as Participating State as defined in point 5.1.1.</p>

⁵¹ 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 Union financial sanctions, available at http://eeas.europa.eu/cfsp/sanctions/consol-list_en.html.

⁵² Given that the EU does not recognise the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol, legal persons established in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea or the city of Sevastopol are not eligible to participate in any capacity. This criterion also applies in cases where the action involves financial support given by grant beneficiaries to third parties established in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea or the city of Sevastopol (in accordance with Articles 204 and 205 of the Financial Regulation No (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046). Should the illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol end, this Work Plan will be revised.

⁵³ 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 (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1046), notably programme co-fund actions.

⁵⁴ The latest information on the PRIMA PS can be found on PRIMA webpage: <http://prima-med.org/>.

5.1.4 Types of action: specific provisions and funding rates ^{55,56}

Research and Innovation Actions (RIA)

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

Projects may contain closely connected but limited demonstration or pilot activities aiming to show technical feasibility near the 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 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 more extensive 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 innovation⁵⁷ 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 validation of technical and economic performance at the 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).

Coordination and Support Action (CSA)

Description: Actions consisting primarily of accompanying measures such as standardisation, dissemination, awareness-raising and communication, networking, coordination or support services, policy dialogues and mutual learning exercises and studies, including design studies for new infrastructure and may also include complementary activities of strategic planning, networking and coordination between programmes in different countries.

⁵⁵ Eligible costs for all types of action are in accordance with the Financial Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1046 and the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation (EU) 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).

⁵⁶ Participants may ask for a lower rate.

⁵⁷ A new or improved technology, product, design, process, service or solution.

Funding rate: 100%

Prizes

Description: Prizes are financial contributions given as rewards following the publication of a contest. A 'recognition prize' is used to recognise past achievements and outstanding work after it has been performed, whereas an 'inducement prize' is used to spur investment in a given direction, by specifying a target prior to the performance of the work. The Rules of Contest lay down the conditions for participation, the award criteria, the amount of the prize and the arrangements for the payment of the prize to the winners after their award.

PRIMA Rules of Contest for prizes are published on PRIMA website.

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

5.1.5 PRIMA Model Rules of Contest (RoC) for prizes

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

5.1.6 Technology Readiness Levels (TRL)

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

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

5.1.7 Evaluation rules

1. Selection Criteria

- a) *Financial capacity:* In line with the Financial Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 and the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013. For grants, coordinators will be invited – at the proposal stage – to complete a self-assessment using an on-line tool.⁵⁸

⁵⁸ <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/organisations/lfv.html>

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:

- i. a public body;
 - ii. a higher or secondary education establishment;
 - iii. an international organisation or body whose participation is guaranteed by the government of an EU country or associated country, following the PRIMA MGA.
- b) *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 participant has, or will have in due time, sufficient operational capacity to carry out its tasks in the proposed work plan successfully. 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.*

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

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.

2. Award criteria, scores and weighting

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 (1) of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation (EU) 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 16. 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:

<p>Research & Innovation Actions (RIAs), Innovation Actions (IA)</p>	<p>Clarity and pertinence of the objectives;</p> <p>Soundness of the concept, and credibility of the proposed methodology;</p> <p>Fit with the scope and objectives of the PRIMA programme and the call topic description;</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 and gender dimension in research and innovation content.</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>-Scores of the proposals will not depend on the number of expected impacts covered.</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> <p>-Exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of IPR), and to manage research data where relevant.</p> <p>-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>
<p>Coordination & Support Action (CSA)</p>	<p>Quality of the proposed coordination and/or support measures.</p>	<p>Quality of the proposed measures to:</p> <p>-Exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of IPR), and to manage research data where relevant.</p> <p>-Communicate the project activities to different target audiences</p>	

** In the evaluation of the first stage proposals, only aspects in bold will be considered.*

3. Scoring and weighting:

Unless otherwise specified in the call conditions:

Evaluation scores will be awarded for the criteria, 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 the second stage 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 be set at 8 or 8.5.

4. Priority order for proposals with the same score:

Unless the call conditions indicate otherwise, the following method will be applied (except for the first step of two-stage submission process, 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 (1), 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.
- c) If necessary, any further prioritisation 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 prioritise by considering how to enhance the quality of the project portfolio through synergies between projects, or other factors related to the objectives of the call or to PRIMA in general. These factors will be documented in the 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.

For prizes, the award criteria, scoring and weighting will be set out in the Rules of contest.

5. Evaluation procedure

Calls are subject to a two-stage submission and evaluation process;

Independent experts evaluate proposals (see Article 15(7) Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation of Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013 for exceptional cases). As part of the evaluation by independent experts, a panel review will recommend one or more ranked lists for the proposals under the assessment, following the scoring systems indicated above and the discussion of the panel. A ranked list will be drawn up for every indicative budget shown in the call conditions.

Proposal coordinators receive an Evaluation Summary Report (ESR), showing the results of the evaluation for a given proposal with indication of general scores. For proposals that successfully pass the first step of two-stage submission process, common feedback is provided to all coordinators, but the first-stage ESR is only sent after the second-stage evaluation

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

5.1.8 Funding decision and communication

The final decision on funding will be taken according to the project's rank as established in the ranking list put together by the panel (starting by the project rank number 1 in the list in descending order) until funds are available.

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

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

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

5.1.9 Budget flexibility

The budgets set out in AWP2022 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 AWP2022, for the following budgeted activities:

Total expenditure for calls (up to 20% of the total spending for each call);
Repatriation 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.

5.1.10 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).

Consortia may "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.

Please note that it is also possible to initially opt-out before signature and opt-in during project implementation.

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 is 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 website](#).

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 States⁵⁹ will, in general, be eligible to receive funding through PRIMA grants:

- a) 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 States⁶⁰:
- b) The following Third Countries associated to Horizon 2020 (AC): Israel, Tunisia, and Turkey.
- c) 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.
- d) 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 their funding have to attach to their proposal a letter from their organization (signed by a legal representative of the structure) attesting that the funds to cover their participation in the projects (task(s), participation in meetings...) will be available.

The information provided in this section is without prejudice to the national funding rules of PS, which may also envisage eligibility for funding for specific entities not established in these PS. The national funding rules of a PS will determine whether a particular entity would be eligible for funding.

After the eligibility check done by PRIMA-IS, a second eligibility check will be performed by the national funding bodies to verify eligibility for funding.⁶¹

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.

For eligibility for funding, applicants should refer to the national regulations⁶² and contact their national funding bodies (NCP) ⁶³.

⁵⁹ 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/>).

⁶⁰ 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.

⁶¹ 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.

⁶² Please refer to the National Regulations available in the [PRIMA website](#).

⁶³ Find the NCP contacts at the following [link](#)

5.2.2 Standard admissibility conditions, page limits and supporting documents.

For all actions under AWP2022, proposals must comply with the admissibility requirements set out in this sub-section unless 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 to exploit and disseminate the results unless otherwise specified in the call conditions. The draft plan is not required for proposals at the first step of the two-stage submission process.

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 another 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. Applicants are requested to use PRIMA's template that can be downloaded from the PRIMA website under the relevant call section.

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

- a) A curriculum vitae or description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed research and/or innovation activities;
- b) A list of up to five relevant publications, and/or products, services (including widely-used datasets or software), or other achievements relevant to the call content;
- c) A list of up to five relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal;
- d) A description of any significant infrastructure and/or any major items of technical equipment, relevant to the proposed work;
- e) A description of any third parties that are not represented as project partners, but who will nonetheless be contributing towards the work (e.g. providing facilities, computing resources).

The evaluators will carry out this scrutiny 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 based on the ones set out in the Rules for Participation of Horizon 2020 Regulation (EU) No.1290/2013 and any derogations to these as specified in Decision (EU) 2017/1324.

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 PS⁶⁴
- 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 regulations⁶⁵

Table 17. Eligibility conditions for participation for PRIMA Actions Section 2.

Type of Action	Eligibility conditions for participation ^{66,67,68}
Research & Innovation Action (RIA)	<p>At least three legal entities established in three different countries considered as the Participating States⁶⁹ as defined in point 5.2.1. 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 an EU Member State or a third country associated to Horizon 2020 and not being an 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 5.2.1⁷⁰ Each of the three must be established in a different country considered to be PRIMA PS by submission deadline under the relevant call, out of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -at least one must be established in an EU Member State or a third country associated to Horizon 2020 and not being an 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>

⁶⁴ This measure is aimed to protect the Union's financial interests and is in line with Article 7(7) of Decision (EU) 2017/1324.the PRIMA Decision

⁶⁵ Please refer to the National Regulations in the PRIMA website at the following link: <https://prima-med.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/National-Regulations-2020-v2.pdf>

⁶⁶ 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 Union financial sanctions, available at http://eeas.europa.eu/cfsp/sanctions/consol-list_en.html.

⁶⁷ 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 (EU, Euratom) 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.

⁶⁸ 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 (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1046), notably programme co-fund actions.

⁶⁹ The latest information on the PRIMA PS can be found on PRIMA webpage: <http://prima-med.org/>.

⁷⁰ The latest information on the PRIMA PS can be found on PRIMA webpage: <http://prima-med.org/>.

5.2.4 Types of activities: specific provisions and funding rates⁷¹

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 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 be closely connected, but little demonstration or pilot activities aim 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 to pool 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 national regulations. A contact point established in each country and 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

1. Selection Criteria

- a) *Financial capacity*: Financial capacity will be checked in accordance with the rules based on those included in the Financial Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 and the Horizon

⁷¹ Participants may ask for a lower rate.

2020 Rules for Participation Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013. For grants, coordinators will be invited – at the proposal stage – to complete a self-assessment using an on-line tool⁷².

- b) *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).

2. Award criteria, scores and weighting

Experts will evaluate grant proposals based on the award criteria ‘excellence’, ‘impact’ and ‘quality and efficiency of the implementation’ (see Article 15 (1) of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013).

The aspects to be considered are set out in the Table next page, unless stated otherwise in the call conditions:

⁷² <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/organisations/lfv.html>

Table 18. 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
Research & Innovation Activities* (RIAs),	<p>The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the topic description in the work plan.</p> <p>Clarity and pertinence of the objectives;</p> <p>Soundness of the concept, and credibility of the proposed methodology;</p> <p>Fit with the scope and objectives of the PRIMA programme and the call topic description;</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 and gender dimension in research and innovation content.</p>	<p>The following aspects will be taken into account:</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>-Scores of the proposals will not depend on the number of expected impacts covered.</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> <p>-Exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of IPR), and to manage research data where relevant.</p> <p>-Communicate the project activities to different target audiences.</p>	<p>The following aspects will be taken into account:</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 the evaluation of the first stage proposals, only aspects in bold will be considered.

3. 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. Concerning 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 funding.

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

4. Evaluation procedure

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

Individual Evaluation: Each eligible proposal is evaluated remotely by at least three independent expert evaluators (see Article 15 of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation (EU) No1290/2013), who carry out a technical evaluation based on the criteria mentioned above. An Individual Evaluation Report, which includes comments and scores for all evaluation criteria, is prepared by each evaluator.

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 based on this ranking list. The panel configuration allows evaluators to overview all eligible proposals, not just the ones they have evaluated, which enables them to decide fairly when ranking the proposals.

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

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 step of the two-stage submission process, 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 (1), 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.
- c) If necessary, any further prioritisation 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 prioritise by considering how to enhance the quality of the project portfolio through synergies between projects or other factors related to the call or PRIMA's objectives 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), point (c), of Decision (EU) 2017/1324, the proposals will be ranked according to evaluation results. PRIMA-IS will make the selection of proposals to be funded based on this ranking. However, since the funding of participants in the activities will be the responsibility of PS and not PRIMA-IS, the respective PS will need to provide adequate funding in line with the national rules. If the PS cannot fund one or more projects, PRIMA-IS may select to fund the projects directly following them in the ranking list(s).

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

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

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

5.2.8 Budget flexibility

The budgets set out in AWP2022 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 AWP2022, for the following budgeted activities:

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

Consortia may "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

Please note that it is also possible to initially opt-out before signature and opt-in during project implementation.

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 is 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 website](#).

5.2.10 Applicable common principles to all the actions and activities

Under Article 6(9) of Decision (EU) 2017/1324 activities included in AWP2022 that the PS funds without the Union financial contribution must be implemented in compliance with common principles adopted by PRIMA-IS after obtaining approval from the Commission.

Equal treatment

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

Funding to PSIA actions should to the broadest possible extent, be allocated through open calls for proposals, and the PRIMA programme should be mentioned in the call text. However, it is understood and accepted that existing national research infrastructures and organisations, e.g. publicly funded research institutes, can be used to implement parts or the entire PSIA. Therefore, funding may 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, must be labelled or co-labelled as '[name of the PSIA] is part of the PRIMA programme supported by the European Union.

Independent peer-review evaluation

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

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

Ethics and scientific integrity

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

Fundamental ethical principles and particularly those related to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, the European Convention on Human Rights and its Supplementary Protocols, should be adhered to and enforced, both during the selection of 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 should be made available to the research community and the public promptly.

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 the project's funding.

Consortium agreement

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

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

The funding agencies provide no template for the consortium agreement.

The Project Coordinator

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

For the preparation and 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 should also be in direct contact with their beneficiaries to discuss changes that affect the grant agreement;
- Ensure the role of supervision of the project workflow with the help of WP leaders;
- Joint consortium reports (e.g., progress reports for PRIMA-IS) should be sent directly by the coordinator to the PRIMA-IS, with the national funding agencies in the copy.

The coordinator will not be responsible for the financial management of PRIMA research funding, which will be handled directly between national beneficiaries and their national funding bodies in each participating country.

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

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

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

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

Please note that following Article 6(9) of Decision (EU) 2017/1324, activities included in AWP2022 that the PS funds without the Union financial contribution must be implemented in compliance with common principles adopted by PRIMA-IS after obtaining approval from the EU Commission. In particular the principles of equal treatment, transparency, independent peer review evaluation and selection (provided in sub-section [5.2.10](#))

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

The total budgeted cost for new PSIAs in 2022 (Table 9) comprises EUR 49 725 000.

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

The European Commission's acceptance of the PSIAs as in-kind contribution of the PRIMA Participating States to the PRIMA programme will be based on an assessment of the information provided through the PRIMA-IS annual reporting to the European Commission. This reporting should include reporting by the Participating States according to the requirements agreed with the European Commission in line with Article 19 of the Delegation Agreement concluded between PRIMA-IS and the European Commission.

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

6.1 EG.2022.1

Code	EG-2022.1
Theme:	Water management, Agri-food value chain, Farming Systems
Activity title	6 th Egyptian-Spanish Joint Call for R&D&I Projects 2022.
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	On the 30th of June, 2016, a Joint program for Cooperation was established by the Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF) and the Centre for Industrial Technology, E.P.E. (CDTI). Within this program, CDTI and STDF agreed to launch joint calls for proposals in Water management, Agri-food value chain and Farming Systems. This call for proposals aims to fund ambitious collaborative R&D projects of a high international standard between Egyptian and Spanish organizations. STDF will fund potential projects in Egypt and CDTI in Spain.
Rationale/Impact	Research projects will be carried out in the following research areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agriculture and sustainable food production - Sustainable water management - Environmental sector (waste treatment)
Objectives	Objectives of the programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote market-driven research and technology development between entities from both countries. - Encourage partnerships and business-led R&D&I collaborative projects.
Deliverables	R&I&D Projects
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the call for Proposals	Egypt-Spain Innovation Programme (ESIP)
Publication date (call 2022)	January 2022
Deadline for applications	April 2022
Expected date of award	December 2022
Scope of the call for Proposals	This programme will fund in particular Industry-driven and market-oriented R&D projects, as well as joint technological co-operation projects between industrial partners (start-ups, SMEs and large companies) and Universities or Research Centres in Egypt and industrial partners (start-ups, SMEs and large companies) in Spain, consisting in the development or substantial improvement of new products, processes or services will be considered.
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Research Innovation Action (RIA) ✓
Start date of the activity	2022
Duration	Up to 3 years
Funding institution	SDTF, Egypt and CDTI, Spain
Funding beneficiaries	The project partners should include at least one qualified researcher from Egypt (PhD holder, affiliated to an Egyptian university or research institution), with an Egyptian industrial partner (with or without R&D units), and one qualified partner from Spain (1 company from Spain with or without an R&D department).
Countries where research is conducted	Egypt and Spain

Collaborating partner(s)	Spanish Research institutes/ universities
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for the entire duration of the activity (in EUR)	EUR 75 000 -150 000 per project. Based on the budget allocated by SDTF for PRIMA PSIA's in previous years, a reasonable planned budget for 2022 amounts to EUR 300 000
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	Water management, Farming production and Agri-food value chain
Website	http://www.stdf.org.eg/

6.2 ES.2022.1

Code	ES-2022-1
Theme:	Water management, Agri-food value chain, Farming Systems
Activity title	Funding allocated to National projects in the Agri-food value chain, Farming and Management of water R&D fields
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	<p>CDTI funds R&D projects carried out by Spanish companies in a continuous open call. This R&D call is aimed at Industry-driven and market-oriented R&D projects in Spain, consisting of the development or substantial improvement of new products, processes or services.</p> <p>Only enterprises are eligible to get the funding support; research institutes/universities and other organizations are welcome as self-funded participants or subcontractors. These R&D projects must have a minimum eligible budget of EUR 175 000, and its length may be from 12 to 36 months.</p> <p>The funding modality for the project will be a Partially Reimbursable Aid, covering up to 85% of the total approved budget. This CDTI funding may be distributed in the following way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reimbursable tranche (RT) within 10 or 15 years is counted from the project's centre of gravity, which is calculated following the project duration and the budget targets. The first reimbursement is made three years after the project's outputs and at least two years since its completion date. The interest rate of the RT mentioned above shall be fixed and equal to the one-year Euribor, which must be determined when the project is approved. • A non-reimbursable tranche (NRT), adjusted following the characteristics of the project, the beneficiary and the source of the funds used for the funding. This tranche should be contingent upon fund availability. • An ex-ante document to allow the beneficiary to benefit from a tax exemption related to R&D activities.
Rationale/Impact	<p>It's expected to foster the business competitiveness of beneficiaries, improve their portfolio of products and services, and increase the efficiency of their processes and activities.</p> <p>The outcomes of these projects will lead to the improvement of farming and agri-food activities, develop eco-friendly activities and production processes, and more sustainable use of water. A better quality of products will be promoted as well as traceability in the food chain. A considerable reduction of environmental impact and more efficient use of available resources is expected.</p>
Objectives	<p>The main objective of this instrument is to support the R&D activities of Spanish companies to foster their competitiveness through the development of new/ improved products, processes and services, focused on fulfilling economic, environmental and social challenges. This Call hasn't a sectorial approach, so it is open to all sectors, including the fields of water, environment, farming, ecosystem, agri-food, etc.</p> <p>With a bottom-up approach, R&D open call projects aim to advance in the State of the Art of technologies, products and processes tackled by Spanish companies that operate in related fields, encouraging cooperation schemes with research entities and other companies from Spain or another country all around the world.</p>
Deliverables	
Information on the eventual call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the call for Proposals	National R&D continuous open CDTI call

Publication date (call 2022)	This call is continuously open since the 80's so it will be open the whole year 2022. There won't be a publication date.
Deadline for applications	31-12- 2022
Expected date of award	Approval of these projects could be done throughout 2022 and 2023 (depending on the submission date)
Scope of the call for Proposals	R&D and innovation activities with a TRL 3-6 carried out by private companies.
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Research Innovation Action (RIA) ✓
Start date of the activity	Proposals will be submitted from the 1st January 2022
Duration	The whole year 2022
Funding institution	CDTI-Spanish Agency of Innovation
Funding beneficiaries	Spanish private companies and Economic Interest Groups (EIG)
Countries where research is conducted	Spain
Collaborating partner(s)	Companies, Research bodies (Universities, Public Research Bodies and Innovation and Technological Centres)
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for the entire duration of the activity (in EUR)	ES_CDTI According to the figures previously committed by CDTI to the PRIMA PSIAAs, this amount could reach EUR 30 000 000
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	The CDTI R&D National Call funds the development of technologies, processes, and products in water, natural resources, agri-food, environment, farming, etc. With a bottom-up approach focused on market and social needs. The supported projects contribute to business competitiveness tackling technology, social and environmental challenges in such related fields, which are included in Thematic Areas of PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda. Activities funded by the CDTI R&D instrument support interdisciplinary and cross-cutting actions aligned with the PRIMA AWP.
Website	https://www.cdti.es/index.asp?MP=100&MS=802&MN=2

6.3 ES.2022.2

Code	ES-2022.2
Theme:	Multi-thematic programmes including capacity development in the field of water management, food value chain, farming Systems. The programmes include pre- and post-doc contracts for Mediterranean countries beyond the EU to work in Spanish Research Centres and Universities.
Activity title	AEI Annual Action Plan 2022
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	<p>Within the framework of the following three programmes, five calls are launched yearly:</p> <p>Three Programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Programa Estatal de I+D+I Orientada a los Retos de la Sociedad. State Program for R+D+I Oriented to the Social Challenges. - Programa Estatal de I+D+I de Generación de Conocimiento y Fortalecimiento del Sistema de I+D+i. State Program for Generating Knowledge and Scientific and Technological Strengthening of the R+D+I System - Programa Estatal de Promoción de Talento y Empleabilidad. State Programme for the Promotion of Talent and Its Employability. <p>Five calls:</p> <p>1 Proyectos I+D+I Retos Investigación y Generación de Conocimiento (two modalities): These grants contribute to the generation of knowledge, research capacities, and collaboration internalization of teams working in research organizations.</p> <p>2 Acciones de Dinamización Redes Investigación: The "Research Networks" revitalization actions are activities for creating and developing networks of research groups.</p> <p>3 FPI subprogramme, pre-doc (Formación de Personal Investigador) aims to train doctors by financing employment contracts, under the modality of a pre-doctoral contract</p> <p>4 JdC Juan de la Cierva subprogramme seeks to promote young people in possession of a doctor's degree for two years for them to complete their postdoctoral research training in Spanish R&D centres.</p> <p>5 RyC Ramón y Cajal subprogramme, The consolidation of post-doc contracts aims to promote the incorporation of national and foreign researchers with a distinguished career in R&D centres.</p>
Rationale/Impact	Expected impact of the programmes: Generation of knowledge, improvement of Spanish society's social, economic and technological conditions.
Objectives	<p>. Proyectos I+D Retos Investigación y Generación de Conocimiento: the objectives are to finance the execution of «R+D+I Projects», tackling Social Challenges and the advancement of knowledge, regardless of the time horizon and regardless of the scope of application</p> <p>. Acciones Dinamización Redes Investigación: "Research Networks" aim relation and development of networks of research: Thematic networks made up of researchers in a similar thematic area of knowledge that require a multidisciplinary approach. Strategic networks made up of Spanish managers or researchers who participate in EU research initiatives or who advise, expand or disseminate scientific and technological knowledge among representatives of bodies of the State.</p>

	<p>All calls under the State Programme for the Promotion of Talent and Its Employability aim to promote the formation and incorporation of national and foreign researchers with an outstanding trajectory in R&D centres and private companies. On the one hand, young researchers are granted contracts. On the other hand, the program promotes the creation of permanent jobs for their subsequent incorporation in the agents of the Spanish science system, technology and innovation beneficiaries. There are three different modalities open to researchers from all over the world:</p> <p>-FPI subprogramme that aims to train doctors by financing employment contracts.</p> <p>-JdC Juan de la Cierva subprogramme aims to promote the recruitment, by Spanish research organizations or R&D centres, of young people in possession of a doctor's degree.</p> <p>-RyC Ramón y Cajal subprogramme aims to promote the incorporation of researchers with a distinguished career in R&D centres.</p>
Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grant Resolution (firm commitment of the Agency) - Individual contracts for the formation and incorporation of researchers from Mediterranean non-EU countries. - Contracts signed by the beneficiaries. - Doctoral thesis. <p>Midterm and final reports of projects.</p>
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ayudas para Proyectos I+D+i Retos Investigación y Generación de Conocimiento 2. Ayudas para Acciones Dinamización Redes Investigación 3. Ayudas para Contratos predoctorales para la formación de doctores 4. Ayudas para Contratos Juan de la Cierva 5. Ayudas para Contratos Ramón y Cajal
Publication date (call 2022)	2022
Deadline for applications	2022
Expected date of award	2022
Scope of the call for Proposals	National (1 and 2) and International (3, 4 and 5)
Implementation	
Type of Activity	<p>Research Innovation Action (RIA) ✓</p> <p>Joint research project ✓</p> <p>Formation and Incorporation of doctors ✓</p>
Start date of the activity	Indicate the month when the call will be launched, if applicable
Duration	Indicate here the Duration of the programme if applicable
Funding institution	Agencia Estatal de Investigación (AEI), Spain
Funding beneficiaries	Research Institutions, universities, research centres, technological centres Spanish and foreign Individuals for the Talent programme.
Countries where research is conducted	Spain and others (mobility actions allow the researchers to collaborate with other countries through interchanges and short stays)
Collaborating partner(s)	Spanish Research institutes/ universities
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in EUR)	<p>ES_AEI planned contribution: EUR 16 000 000.</p> <p>Calculation made based on the last two years invested in projects related to Water management, Agri-food value chain, Farming Systems, and in the last years of contracts to individuals from non-EU PRIMA countries.</p>

<p>Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda</p>	<p>Capacity building for young researchers from the non-EU Mediterranean countries in PRIMA topics. This is a very open programme, which offers many foreign students the possibility to carry out their doctoral thesis in Spain.</p> <p>The number of nationals from non-EU Mediterranean countries has been increasing in the last few years. It is envisaged that more and more international students will apply in the future.</p> <p>Research projects under the described programmes are aligned and complementary of the projects funded under the PRIMA scheme.</p>
<p>Website</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PROYECTOS I+D Retos Investigación y Generación de Conocimiento - Acciones Dinamización Redes Investigación - FPI subprogramme - JdC Juan de la Cierva subprogramme - RyC Ramón y Cajal subprogramme

6.4 FR.2022.1

Code	FR-2022-1
Theme:	Water management, Agri-food value chain, Farming Systems
Activity title	Research Projects funded by ANR under the Annual National Call for proposals (AAPG) on PRIMA related issues
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	The Generic Call for Proposals (AAPG) is the French National Research Agency's (ANR) main call. It is directed towards all scientific communities and all public and private players involved in French research. It is designed to give researchers in various scientific fields access to co-funding in a large number of research themes, basic or applied, in addition to their allocated recurrent funding.
Rationale/Impact	<p>The French National Research Agency (ANR) is a public administrative institution under the French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation. The agency funds project-based research carried out by public operators cooperating or with private companies.</p> <p>The ANR was founded in 2005 to promote French project-based research and to stimulate innovation by promoting the emergence of collaborative multidisciplinary projects and encouraging collaboration between the public and private sectors. It also aims to strengthen the position of French research at the EU level and worldwide. The Agency's missions, defined in the decree of 1 August 2006 amended on 24 March 2014, are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To fund and promote the development of basic and targeted research, technological innovation, technology transfer and public-private partnerships • To implement the Work Programme approved by the French Minister of Research, following consultation with the supervisory ministers of France's research bodies and public higher education institutions • To manage major government investment programmes in the fields of higher education and research and to oversee their implementation • To strengthen scientific cooperation across EU and worldwide by aligning its Work Programme with EU and international initiatives • To analyse trends in research offering and assess the impact of the funding it allocates on scientific output in France <p>The ANR's activities are thus designed to support the excellence of French research at a variety of TRL, support basic research, encourage academic and public-private scientific partnerships and promote EU and international cooperation. To achieve these goals, it organises competitive calls for proposals. It conducts rigorous selection processes based on peer review in compliance with international standards: impartiality, equal treatment, confidentiality, ethics, scientific integrity and transparency.</p> <p>As part of its quality policy, the ANR is strengthening the reliability of its procedures and continuously adapting them to guarantee selection quality, optimising the quality of the service delivered to its community of users, and ensuring its activities efficiency. The Agency has ISO 9001 certification for its selection processes.</p>
Objectives	<p>AAPG 2022 is divided into 50 research themes, each with its own Scientific Evaluation Panel (CES):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 37 research themes across seven main scientific fields: environmental sciences, energy and materials sciences, digital sciences, life sciences, social sciences and humanities, mathematics

	<p>and its interactions, and physics of matter, high-energy, Earth and universe sciences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 13 research themes covering cross-disciplinary challenges and integrating issues from various scientific fields. <p>ANR aims at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding and promoting the development of basic and targeted research, technological innovation, technology transfer and public-private partnerships • Implementing the Work Programme approved by the French Minister of Research, following consultation with the supervisory ministers of France's research bodies and public higher education institutions • Managing major government investment programmes in the fields of higher education and research and overseeing their implementation • Strengthening scientific cooperation across EU and worldwide by aligning its Work Programme with EU and international initiatives • Analysing trends in research offering and assess the impact of the funding it allocates on scientific output in France
Deliverables	
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the call for Proposals	Generic Call for Proposals 2022
Publication date (call 2022)	Publication of the work programme and call for proposals in July 2022. Publication of the results of the call for proposals in July 2022
Deadline for applications	Deadline April 2022
Expected date of award	July 2022
Scope of the call for Proposals	
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Research Innovation Action (RIA) ✓
Start date of the activity	July 2022
Duration	One year (programme duration)
Funding institution	ANR
Funding beneficiaries	All scientific communities and all public and private players involved in French research
Countries where research is conducted	Fieldwork and collaborations may be performed in any country
Collaborating partner(s)	All the countries participating in PRIMA calls are included in potential collaborating partners
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in EUR)	FR – EUR 1 500 000
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	The funded projects align with most of the main PRIMA Calls thematic areas or crosscutting water management and farming systems. Research projects on food security and the agri-food value chain are also increasingly funded.
Website	https://anr.fr/en/

6.5 IL.2022.1

Code	IL-2022-1
Theme:	Water management
Activity title	The BMBF-MOST Middle East Regional Water Technology Cooperation Program
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	The Israeli Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) invites proposals for multi-lateral R&D projects dealing with the development of water technologies and other water issues in the Middle East. The awarded proposals will join the regional program established within the framework of the German-Israeli cooperation in Water Technology Research managed by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and MOST.
Rationale/Impact	The research should focus on solutions to the water problems in the Middle East. The research should be conducted by at least one German research group, one Israeli research group and one non-Israeli research group from the Middle East. The research should be multidisciplinary and should demonstrate potential applicability and relevance to the needs of the water sector in the Middle East.
Objectives	To promote collaborations in the Mediterranean and to promote innovation in water technologies
Deliverables	
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the call for Proposals	The BMBF-MOST Middle East Regional Water Technology Cooperation Program
Publication date (call 2022)	<u>TBD – in 2022</u>
Deadline for applications	TBD
Expected date of award	Q4 2022
Scope of the call for Proposals	Research projects will be carried out in the following research areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technologies to increase water use efficiency • Water resources management
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Research Innovation Action (RIA) ✓ Joint research project ✓
Start date of the activity	Indicate the month when the call will be launched, if applicable
Duration	Three years
Funding institution	The Israeli Ministry of Science and Technology and BMBF
Funding beneficiaries	Academic researchers
Countries where research is conducted	Israel and a third country in the Middle east
Collaborating partner(s)	Germany, Israel and a third country from the Middle east
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in EUR)	IL – EUR 1 500 000
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic	Tri-lateral projects in Water management

Research and Innovation Agenda	
Website	https://www.gov.il/en/departments/ministry_of_science_and_technology

6.6 MT.2022.1

Code	MT-2022-1
Theme:	Water management, Farming Systems, Agri-Food Value Chain
Activity title	PRIMA Participating States Calls for Proposals supporting PRIMA
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	Through this action, bilateral/multilateral joint calls for proposals in PRIMA-related thematic areas may be set up between Malta's funding agency MCST and other PS funding agencies. Such an initiative aims to build the Research and Innovation capacities of the PS involved, in the areas of Water, Food and Agriculture.
Rationale/Impact	<p>These calls focus on building research and innovation capacities and developing 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. The main impacts will be to (but not limited to these):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Successful projects will act as a springboard for consortia to apply for Section 1 and Section 2 PRIMA Calls 2) Increase awareness on the PRIMA Initiative 3) Further support local researchers who have been unsuccessful in previous PRIMA Calls 4) Encourage partnerships with other PRIMA PS to launch bilateral and multi-lateral calls to support the collaborative nature of PRIMA further
Objectives	<p>The general objective of the call is to promote national and regional research and innovation in the strategic thematic areas of PRIMA and to encourage more participation in PRIMA activities.</p> <p>This call will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • generate new knowledge relevant to the PRIMA thematic areas • foster capacity-building through learning by doing and hands-on training • strengthen the link between evidence generation and policy-making in the PRIMA thematic areas • enhance experience-exchange with researchers in the other PRIMA PS.
Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bilateral R&I projects on Water Management, Agriculture and Agri-Food Value Chains - Mobility of researchers between the PRIMA PS - Research outcomes – scientific papers, attendance at conferences, participation in joint events between the PS as well as other dissemination efforts. - Project reporting during the interim and end of projects. <p>Increase the possibility of establishing consortia for future proposal submissions under Section 1 and Section 2 PRIMA Calls</p>
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the call for Proposals	Calls for Proposals for the Implementation of Projects under the thematic areas of PRIMA
Publication date (call 2022)	2 nd Quarter of 2022
Deadline for applications	3 rd Quarter of 2022
Expected date of award	November 2022
Scope of the call for Proposals	Participating States will launch a bi-/multi- call for research proposals under the PRIMA Initiative calls Section 3 for 2022. The aim of such calls is to promote

	research in PRIMA-related topics that could address the identified national gaps in funding in these topics and increase the use of evidence-based actions that may not have been addressed through the PRIMA calls under PRIMA Sections 1 and 2.
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Research Innovation Action (RIA) ✓
Start date of the activity	March / April 2022
Duration	Project Duration will be between 1-3 years
Funding institution	PRIMA Funding Agencies
Funding beneficiaries	PRIMA Participating Countries
Countries where research is conducted	PRIMA Participating Countries
Collaborating partner(s)	PRIMA Funding Agencies
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in EUR)	MT – EUR 200 000. Other PRIMA PS can have a specific allocated budget
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	The thematic focus on Agricultural Research, Water Management, and Agri-FoodValue Chain, will be in alignment with the three thematic pillars of PRIMA
Website	www.mcst.gov.mt

6.7 MT.2022.2

Code	MT-2022-1
Theme:	Water management, Farming Systems, Agri-Food Value Chain
Activity title	Training and Mobility Call
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	Through this action, entities based in Malta can establish collaborative links with fellow peers in Universities, Research Organisations and/or Industry based in another PRIMA PS. The PRIMA Training and Mobility Call will support strategic visits, placements or other joint activities that may facilitate different partners to come together and potentially submit joint applications for PRIMA
Rationale/Impact	<p>The focus of this action is to build research and innovation capacities through training and mobility activities. Such activities would empower researchers and R&I stakeholders through training, sharing best practices, knowledge transfer and networking, and establishing successful partner matches for future collaborations to propose and undertake joint R&I PRIMA projects.</p> <p>This will be achieved through a competitive and transparent process of selection.</p> <p>The foreseen main impacts will be to (but not limited to):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase awareness of the PRIMA Initiative. 2. Train researchers who are gaining expertise in the relevant thematic areas. 3. Facilitate meetings between researchers with common research interests. 4. Share best practices through research visits and workshops. 5. Transfer knowledge and encourage dissemination amongst entities from different PS through the organisation of seminars and workshops. 6. Further support local researchers who have been unsuccessful in previous PRIMA Calls to find new partners and to widen their network further
Objectives	<p>The objective of the Call is to promote national and regional research and innovation in the thematic areas of PRIMA and encourage more participation in PRIMA through the fostering of international collaborations.</p> <p>This Call is foreseen to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • widen the research network for Mediterranean researchers and practitioners operating in the fields of PRIMA. • foster capacity-building of researchers/practitioners by learning through hands-on training and sharing of best practices on water sustainability, land and food management. • foster a culture for transnational research and high-quality research excellence outputs. • provide access to research facilities
Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mobility of researchers between Malta and other PRIMA PSs for training, workshops and research seminars. - Joint Research Actions in the PRIMA thematic areas between stakeholders in different PRIMA PS - Research outcomes – scientific papers, attendance at conferences as well as other dissemination efforts. - Technical Report at the end of the activity - Increase the possibility of establishing consortia for future proposal submissions under Section 1 and Section 2 PRIMA Calls
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	

Title of the call for Proposals	NA
Publication date (call 2022)	2 nd quarter of 2022
Deadline for applications	2 nd quarter of 2022
Expected date of award	3 rd quarter 2022
Scope of the call for Proposals	Malta will launch a call for training and mobility under the PRIMA Section 3 initiatives for 2022. The call aims to promote training and mobility activities, associated with PRIMA-related topics that could address shortcomings associated with effective partner searching, unsuccessful partner collaborations due to the lack of in-person and on-site meetings, and limitations in the transfer and application of existing knowledge across PSs. Addressing such limitations can help increase the propensity for stronger project consortia composition.
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Training and Mobility Action (TMA): ✓ : - Mobility ✓ - Training action - Joint Research Action ✓
Start date of the activity	2 nd quarter of 2022
Duration	Applicants would have the possibility to use the award within 6 months from date of award.
Funding institution	Malta Council for Science & Technology
Funding beneficiaries	Stakeholders in Malta
Countries where research is conducted	PRIMA Participating Countries
Collaborating partner(s)	NA
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in EUR)	MT – EUR 25 000
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	This initiative aligns well with the Capacity Building cross-cutting activity, described in Chapter 5 of the PRIMA SRIA, whereby PRIMA strives to enhance research capacity in Euro-Mediterranean countries through training programmes for researchers and entrepreneurs
Website	www.mcst.gov.mt

6.8 TR.2022.1

Code	TR-2022-1
Theme:	Water Management, Farming Systems, Agri-Food Value Chain
Activity title	PRIMA Participating States Calls for Proposals supporting PRIMA
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	Through this action, bilateral/multilateral joint calls for proposals in PRIMA-related thematic areas may be set up between Turkey's funding agency TUBITAK and other PS funding agencies. Such an initiative aims to build the PS involved in the Research and Innovation capacities of the areas of Water, Food and Agriculture.
Rationale/Impact	<p>These calls focus on building research and innovation capacities and developing knowledge and common innovative solutions for integrated water provision and management in the Mediterranean area to make them more climate-resilient, efficient, cost-effective, and environmentally and socially sustainable.</p> <p>This will be achieved through a competitive and transparent process of selection.</p> <p>The main impacts will be to (but not limited to these):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Successful projects will act as a springboard for consortia to apply for Section 1 and Section 2 PRIMA Calls 2) Increase awareness of the PRIMA Initiative 3) Further support local researchers who have been unsuccessful in previous PRIMA Calls 4) Encourage partnerships with other PRIMA PS to launch bilateral and multi-lateral calls to support the collaborative nature of PRIMA further
Objectives	<p>The general objective of the call is to promote national and regional research and innovation in the strategic thematic areas of PRIMA and to encourage more participation in PRIMA activities.</p> <p>This call will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • generate new knowledge relevant to the PRIMA thematic areas • foster capacity-building through learning by doing and hands-on training • strengthen the link between evidence generation and policy-making in the PRIMA thematic areas • enhance experience-exchange with researchers in the other PRIMA PS.
Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilateral R&I projects on Water Management, Agriculture and Agri-Food Value Chains • Mobility of researchers between the PRIMA PS • Research outcomes – scientific papers, attendance at conferences, participation in joint events between the PS and other dissemination efforts. • Project reporting during the interim and end of projects. • Increase the possibility of establishing consortia for future proposal submissions under Section 1 and Section 2 PRIMA Calls
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the call for Proposals	Calls for Proposals for the Implementation of Projects under the thematic areas of PRIMA
Publication date (call 2022)	1 st quarter of 2022
Deadline for applications	2 nd quarter of 2022

Expected date of award	November 2022
Scope of the call for Proposals	Participating States will launch a uni-/ bi-/multi- call for research proposals under the PRIMA Initiative calls Section 3 for 2022. The aim of such calls is to promote research in PRIMA-related topics, which could address the identified national gaps in funding in these topics and increase the use of evidence-based actions that may not have been addressed through the PRIMA calls under PRIMA Sections 1 and 2.
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Research Innovation Action (RIA) ✓
Start date of the activity	March/April 2022
Duration	Project Duration will be between 1-3 years
Funding institution	PRIMA Funding Agencies
Funding beneficiaries	PRIMA Participating Countries
Countries where research is conducted	PRIMA Participating Countries
Collaborating partner(s)	PRIMA Funding Agencies
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in EUR)	TR – EUR 200 000. Other PRIMA PS can have a specific allocated budget.
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	The thematic focus on Agricultural Research, Water Management, and Agri-Food Value Chain will be in alignment with the three thematic pillars of PRIMA
Website	www.tubitak.gov.tr