



# RULES OF CONTEST – WEFEX AWARD 2023



The PRIMA Programme is supported and funded under Horizon 2020, the European Union's Programme for Research and Innovation

## 1. THEME PRIMA WEFE NEXUS Award

### 1.1 Objectives pursued

The objective of the prize is:

- to promote scientific research and demonstration of the economic and social benefits of the Water Energy Food and Ecosystem (WEFE) Nexus in the Mediterranean Area.

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

The award enables teams to showcase their best practices and achievements. This action aims to illustrate the wider socio-economic benefits of the EU investment in R&I and to encourage project beneficiaries to best manage and use their research results.

In particular, two winners will be selected, by the evaluation jury, for their achievements.

The prizes are monetary and each of the two winners will receive EUR 10 000.

The prizes will be awarded by PRIMA during the Workshop entitled "The way forward on research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Region" to be 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

The PRIMA Nexus Award will provide the winner of each of the two Prizes, with high visibility in the form of public interest and increased media coverage.

PRIMA will further promote the winner of each of the two Prizes, by inviting them to provide testimony at other major events.

### 1.2 Expected results

With this award, the PRIMA aims to champion the successful implementation on the ground of combined management practices of water, energy, food and ecosystem resources at local or regional scale in the Mediterranean region. It is expected that the award, through showcasing best practices, will create role models for the adoption and replication of WEFE integrated approach in the Mediterranean Region.

## 2. PRIZE AMOUNT(S):

two awards of EUR 10 000 each
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### 3. DEADLINES & ADMISSIBILITY

Deadlines	
Opening of the submission:	25 January 2023
Closing date for submission:	22 May 2023 at 17:00:00 CET <sup>1</sup>

Joint applications by a group of participants are admitted. In this case, the participants must appoint a 'lead participant' to represent them towards PRIMA. The participants will be jointly responsible and must all fulfil and respect the conditions set out in these Rules of Contest.

Applications must be submitted by the (lead) participant via the <https://aap.agencerecherche.fr/>

Applications must be readable, accessible and printable. Incomplete applications may be considered inadmissible if essential elements are missing (see Section 5.1.5 of the AWP2023).

The applications must be created by the lead participant and consists of two main parts: Part I: the administrative data (to be filled directly on the ESS, and uploaded as well using Part I template), and Part II: the prize application (Part II), which is the description of Nexus WEFE solution.

The page-limit for your prize application (Part II) is: **max 10 pages**.

The templates Part I and application form are available on the PRIMA website <http://prima-med.org/>.

**NON-COMPULSORY:** If the participants have previously created an audio-visual material (i.e. video) that reflects on how they used the research results to create societal benefits, they may include an online link to this already existing video (max 90 seconds). The video will not be evaluated as part of the application but it may be used by PRIMA for its communication and publicizing activities

in accordance with article 8.2.2. of Rules of Contest. Participants can include this link under the section 'Other Information' in the Template Part II. This is NOT a compulsory requirement

### 4. ELIGIBILITY

#### 4.1 Eligibility criteria

The contest is open to all legal entites (i.e. natural or legal persons, including international organisations) or groups of legal entities

The contestants for the PRIMA prizes should be at least one legal entity established in a PRIMA PS.<sup>2</sup>

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 be aware that participants that have already received an EU or Euratom prize cannot receive a second prize for the same activities.

<sup>1</sup> Central European Time = Barcelona local time

<sup>2</sup> The latest information on the PRIMA PS can be found on PRIMA webpage: <http://prima-med.org>

## 4.2 Exclusion criteria

Participants will be excluded if they (or one of them):

- A) are subject to an administrative sanction (i.e. exclusion)<sup>3</sup>
- B) are in one of the following situations<sup>4</sup>:
  - bankrupt, being wound up, having their affairs administered by the courts, entered into an arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or subject to any other similar proceedings or procedures under national law (including persons with unlimited liability for the participant's debts)
  - declared in breach of social security or tax obligations by a final judgment or decision (including persons with unlimited liability for the participant's debts)
  - found guilty of grave professional misconduct<sup>4</sup> by a final judgment or decision (including persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control)
  - convicted of fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control)
  - shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under a procurement contract, grant agreement or grant decision financed by the EU or Euratom budget (including persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control)
  - found guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No 2988/95 (including persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control)
- C) have misrepresented information required for participating in the contest or fail to submit such information
- D) were involved in the preparation of the prize documents and this entails a distortion of competition.

## 5. AWARD CRITERIA

The prize will be awarded to the entry that best addresses the following cumulative criteria:

1. **From results to societal benefits** –demonstrate the wider socio-economic benefits of their proposed practices going beyond a fragmented system of sectors and players;
2. **Uptake of solutions** - 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;
3. **Replicability of solutions**- demonstrate the replication and upscaling potential of the proposed Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus solutions;

## 6. DOCUMENTS

The mandatory supporting documents are set out in the application form.

Participants may be asked at a later stage for further documents (for legal entity validation, bank account validation, ethics review, declaration of honour on exclusion grounds, etc).

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<sup>3</sup> See Articles 131(4) and 106(1) Financial Regulation.

<sup>4</sup> See Articles 138(2) and 106(1), 107 of the Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 (OJ L 218, 26.10.2012, p.1). <sup>4</sup>

Professional misconduct includes: violation of ethical standards of the profession, wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility, false declarations/misrepresentation of information, participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition,

## 7. PROCEDURE

Each eligible application is evaluated remotely by independent experts (see Article 15 of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation no. 1290/2013), who carry out a technical evaluation on the basis of the criteria mentioned above. An Individual Evaluation Report, which includes comments and scores for all evaluation criteria, is prepared by each evaluator. The jury members meet in a panel to discuss and rank the applications and select the best 3 applications to be invited for an interview.

The pre-selection panel/jury will evaluate each application against the three award criteria and score them as follows (half marks are possible decimals are not)

Criterion	Threshold	Maximum points
1. Societal benefits of Nexus Solutions	3	5
2. Uptake of solutions	3	5
3. Replicability of solutions	3	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>[insert total, e.g. 15]</b>

For applications with the same score, the pre-selection panel/jury will determine a priority order according to the following approach: The score for the criterion No 3 will be given a weight of 1.5

If two or more applications tie for the first rank, the prize will be equally divided and awarded to all.

On the basis of the evaluation by the jury, PRIMA will decide on the award of the prize.

All participants will be informed the 15 of June 2023 on the outcome of their application.

## 8. OTHER CONDITIONS

### 8.1 Payment arrangements

The prize money (EUR 10.000) will be paid to the (lead) participant in one instalment after the award ceremony by bank transfer, provided all the requested documents have been submitted.

### 8.2 Publicity — Promoting the prize — Visibility of EU funding

#### 8.2.1 Publicity by the winner(s)

Both finalist(s) and/ winner(s) must promote the prize and its results, by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public) in a strategic and effective manner.

Unless the *PRIMA* requests or agrees otherwise or unless it is impossible, any communication activity related to the action (including in electronic form, via social media, etc.) must:

- (a) display both PRIMA logo and the EU emblem and
- (b) include the following text:

"This action/activity/person was [finalist for/] winner of the PRIMA WEFÉ Nexus Award supported by the EU Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme".

When displayed together with another logo, the EU emblem and PRIMA logo must have appropriate prominence.

For the purposes of their obligations, the /finalist(s) and/ winner(s) may use the PRIMA and EU emblem without first obtaining approval from PRIMA

This does not, however, give it the right to exclusive use.

Moreover, they may not appropriate the EU emblem or any similar trademark or logo, either by registration or by any other means.

### 8.2.2 Publicity by the PRIMA

PRIMA may use, for its communication and publicising activities, information relating to the action, documents notably summaries for publication as well as any other material, such as pictures or audio-visual material that it receives from the participants (including in electronic form).

PRIMA will publish the name of /both the finalist(s) and/ the winner(s), their origin, the amount of the prize and its nature and purpose — unless they have requested to waive this publication (because disclosure risks threatening its security and safety or harm its commercial interest).

Photos and videos taken by PRIMA either in preparation of the award ceremony or during the award ceremony are the sole property of PRIMA.

### 8.3 Dissemination and exploitation of results

The winner(s) must comply with the obligations set out in Title III of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation No 1290/2013<sup>5</sup>

For more information and best practice, see Articles 23a-31 of the [https://prima-med.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/h2020\\_mga\\_prima\\_multi\\_en.pdf](https://prima-med.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/h2020_mga_prima_multi_en.pdf)

### 8.4 Processing of personal data

#### 8.4.1 Processing of personal data by PRIMA

Any personal data will be processed by the PRIMA under Regulation No 45/2001<sup>6</sup>

All /finalist(s) and/ winner(s) consent that PRIMA publish/es/ the following information:

- name
- PS of origin (address)
- their activities in relation to the award of the prize (via the summary for publication they provided)
- prize amount in whatever form and medium.

#### 8.4.2 Processing of personal data by the participants

The participants must process personal data in compliance with applicable EU and national law on data protection (including authorisations or notification requirements, if any).

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<sup>5</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 laying down the rules for participation and dissemination in “Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)” (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013 p.81).

<sup>6</sup> Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data (OJ L 8, 12.01.2001, p. 1).

## 8.5 Ethics

The activities must be carried out in compliance with:

- (a) ethical principles (including the highest standards of research integrity) and
- (b) applicable international, EU and national law.

No prize will be awarded for activities carried out outside the EU, if they are prohibited in all Member States.

The participants must ensure that the activities have an exclusive focus on civil applications.

The participants must ensure that the activities do not:

- (a) aim at human cloning for reproductive purposes
- (b) intend to modify the genetic heritage of human beings which could make such changes heritable (with the exception of research relating to cancer treatment of the gonads) or
- (c) intend to create human embryos solely for the purpose of research or for the purpose of stem cell procurement, including by means of somatic cell nuclear transfer.

The participants must respect the highest standards of research integrity — as set out, for instance, in the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity<sup>7</sup>.

## 8.6 Conflict of interests

The participants must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective award of the prize is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest ('conflict of interests').

They must inform PRIMA without delay of any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interests and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation.

PRIMA may verify that the measures taken are appropriate and may require additional measures to be taken by a specified deadline.

## 8.7 Liability for damages

PRIMA cannot be held liable for any damage caused to the participants or to third parties as a consequence of the prize, including for gross negligence.

PRIMA cannot be held liable for any damage caused by any of the participants in the context of the prize.

## 8.8 Checks, audits and investigations

PRIMA the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and the European Court of Auditors may carry out checks, audits and investigations in relation to the prize.

## 8.9 Withdrawal of the prize — Recovery of undue amounts

PRIMA may withdraw the prize after its award and recover all payments made, if it finds out that:

- (a) false information, fraud or corruption was used to obtain it

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<sup>7</sup> European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity of ALLEA (All European Academies) and ESF (European Science Foundation) of March 2017 [http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/hi/h2020-ethics\\_code-of-conduct\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/hi/h2020-ethics_code-of-conduct_en.pdf).

- (b) a winner was not eligible or should have been excluded
- (c) a winner is in serious breach of its obligations under these Rules of Contest.

### **8.10 Administrative sanctions**

If a participant has committed irregularities or fraud or has made false declarations, PRIMA may also:

- (a) exclude the participant from all future contracts, grants and contests financed from PRIMA for a maximum of five years (or 10 years in case of repetition) and/or
- (b) impose a financial penalty between 2% and 10% of the value of the prize (or between 4% and 20% in case of repetition).

### **8.11 Cancellation of the contest**

PRIMA may cancel the contest or decide not to award the prize — without any obligation to compensate participants —, if:

- (a) no applications are received
- (b) the jury does not find a winner
- (c) the winner is not eligible or must be excluded
- (d) the objective of the contest has already been achieved.

### **8.12 Complaints**

Complaints against decisions negatively affecting the rights of a participant or winner should follow the following procedure

## **CONTACT**

For more information, please see the PRIMA website.

In case of questions, please contact:

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