

# PRIMA

The Partnership for Research and  
Innovation in the Mediterranean Area

# PRIMA: A partnership with a focus on the Mediterranean

PRIMA is a partnership focused on the Mediterranean, uniting 20 **Participating States (PS)** from both the Northern and Southern shores.

The partnership includes:  
12 EU and 3 H2020 associated countries and 5 third countries signing an international agreement for S&T with the European Commission.

PRIMA offers a unique platform for strengthening cooperation between EU Member States and third countries, fostering joint projects to address common challenges in the region and beyond.

EU PS and non-EU PS work together on an equal basis, sharing decisions, funding, and management responsibilities.



**BARCELONA**  
(Since June 2017,  
Foundation under  
the Spanish law)



**Financial contribution:**

€ 274M PSs  
€220M EU\*

+ an increase of EUR 105 million from the European Union budget, matched by Participating States, for the period 2025-2027



**20 PSs members**



## VISION

**“Inclusive, healthy and prosperous Mediterranean societies through innovative solutions in agro-food and water systems, contributing, by the end of the programme, to sustainable use of natural resources, economic growth and stability.”**

# PRIMA: Deploying innovative solutions in the Mediterranean



PRIMA's vision is to foster joint **research and innovation (R&I)** approaches among Mediterranean countries to improve **water availability, sustainable agriculture** and **food production** in a region heavily distressed by climate change.



With a budget of **EUR 700 million**, PRIMA implements the Programme mainly through calls for proposals.



PRIMA's projects deploy **innovative solutions** for inclusive, healthy and prosperous Mediterranean societies, increasing competitiveness at the local, sub-regional and regional levels.



PRIMA is boosting **innovation** in the Mediterranean and is empowering businesses with ready-to-use sustainable solutions to increase their productivity and incomes



# Programme thematic focus

PRIMA is a unique R&I instrument in the Mediterranean to break conventional silos and address the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems nexus.

PRIMA has a well-balanced project portfolio with international projects demonstrating tangible impacts on socio-economic development, gender equality, and cross-cutting actions in the region.

PRIMA is a pioneer for the WEF E Nexus: this strategic axis will help decrease environmental risks and ecological scarcities under conditions of climate change and will ensure the economic development in the region.



## Water management

Integrated and sustainable management of water for arid and semi-arid Mediterranean areas.



## Farming Systems

Sustainable farming systems under Mediterranean environmental constraints



## Agri-food value chain

Sustainable Mediterranean agro-food value chain for regional and local development



## WEFE Nexus

Water, Energy, Food and Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus



# PRIMA achievements board (2018 - 2023)

**ALL**

PRIMA PS  
received funds



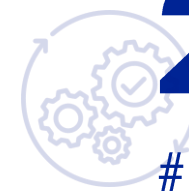
**21K+**

# of participating  
entities



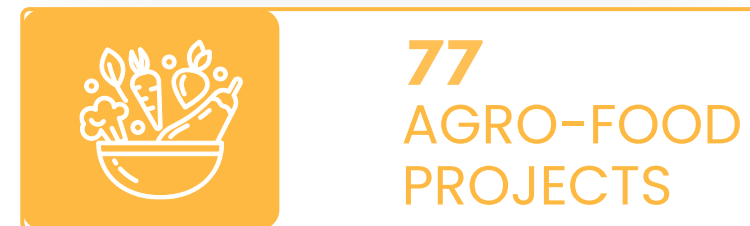
**2310+**

# of total  
Beneficiaries



**238**

# of funded  
projects



**349M€**

Total Budget  
allocated



**30%**

MPC Total Budget  
share



**20%**

Budget share of  
private sector





## Clustering of the projects by SRIA Priorities

# Water management

The 53 water projects are covering the four SRIA priorities where most of the projects are targeting the two priorities sustainable integrated water management and water resources availability with catchments and aquifers.





## Clustering of the projects by SRIA Priorities

# Farming Systems

The 96 projects within farming systems address all SRIA priorities, with a particular emphasis on adapting to climate change and promoting sustainable agroecosystems.

Over the past two years, there has been a heightened focus on sustainable land management and the restoration of degraded lands







**77**  
AGRO-FOOD  
PROJECTS

## Clustering of the projects by SRIA Priorities

# Agri-food value chain

The 77 agri-food projects also encompass the four priorities but place a greater emphasis on implementing innovation within agri-food systems and ensuring food safety.





## Clustering of the projects by SRIA Priorities

# WEFE Nexus

**The 13 WEFE Nexus projects center on the integrated management and governance of resources, utilizing diverse Nexus solutions including modeling and platforms, Circular economy solutions, Nature-based solutions, and agro-ecology solutions.**

### ***PRIMA: a pioneer for the WEFE Nexus***

PRIMA's integration of the WEFE Nexus theme since 2019 is crucial for achieving its objectives. Recognizing the interconnectedness of Water, Energy, Food, and Ecosystems (WEFE), PRIMA emphasizes the importance of holistic management rather than siloed approaches. PRIMA aims to reduce environmental risks, address scarcities, and promote economic development, aligning with UN Agenda 2030 and the European Green Deal goals.



# AWARDS

Since 2021, PRIMA introduced two Prizes into its activities, to be funded with EU funds (Section 1):

- the PRIMA WEFE Nexus Award (2021, 2022, 2023)
- the PRIMA Woman Greening Food Systems in the Mediterranean Award (2024).



## Recognition prize

- 3 editions
- 6 winners (2 winners per edition)
- 10.000€ cash prize for each winner



## Recognition prize

- first edition launched in 2024
- application period currently open
- 10.000€ cash prize for each winner

# Key successes in the region

## SCIENCE DIPLOMACY

PRIMA has proven to be an instrument facilitating cooperation between teams from North/South and South/South countries.

## ALIGNING NATIONAL REGULATIONS

Aligning national regulations and administrative procedures: PRIMA effectively fostered collaboration among countries that had not previously worked together.

# PRIMA'S NEW HORIZON: FUTURE4PRIMA

The recently granted CSA FUTURE4PRIMA project (Horizon Europe), led by PRIMA Program, (starting in January 2024 with 21 partners).

Objectives: prepare for a possible extension of PRIMA from 2028, potentially broadening the thematic focus, extending the partnership to other potential candidates, to prepare for a possible EC impact assessment, foster policy adoption and accelerate the adoption of innovations by the market with a pilot proof of concept.



# PRIMA: Strategically positioned and internationally visible

**PRIMA clearly has a significant geostrategic role to play.**

It fosters the green transition in the Mediterranean, capitalising its results and leveraging on the new opportunities of the European Green Deal.

## European Level

PRIMA is collaborating with Horizon Europe instruments, e.g. the Horizon Europe Missions (mission soil, ...).  
PRIMA is exploring interesting synergies with present Horizon Europe Partnerships such as EIT Food and EIT Climate-KIC, Water4All and other upcoming partnerships sharing relevant thematic objectives.

## Collaborations

PRIMA is considered a key player at the international level, thanks to its collaboration with international organisations such as FAO and ICARDA, and at the regional level, in particular with the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). PRIMA is a candidate for the implementation of the newly established Mediterranean priorities, defined in the context of the EC-UfM Research and Innovation Platform.

# Conclusion

## Strong institutional support

European Commission & 19 States at Ministerial Level

## A strategic R&I Agenda coherent with global and regional challenges

Profound scientific integration through a common long-term Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA).

## PRIMA: uniting EU and non-EU-PS

Based on equal footing, shared interest and mutual benefit.

## PRIMA is a successful example of R&I cooperation

Aligning national regulations and administrative procedures

## PRIMA: a solid instrument of Science Diplomacy

with a major geostrategic role in the Mediterranean.

## A well balanced project portfolio

239 Projects selected out of Section 1 and 2 Calls cover all SRIA priorities under PRIMA thematic areas showing the progress of PRIMA for scientific integration.

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