



Amended Annual WorkPlan 2019

for the

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

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Glossary

AC	Associated Country
AWP	Annual Work Plan
BoT	Board of Trustees
EC	European Commission
EIP	European Innovation Partnership
ENI CBC MED	Cross Border Cooperation Within The European Neighbourhood Instrument Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme
EU	European Union
IA	Innovation Action
MED	Mediterranean
MENA	Middle East and North Africa region
MOOC	Massive Open Online Course
MPCs	Mediterranean Partner Country
NCPs	National Contact Points
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: Research and Innovation Activities, based on national rules ¹)
SAC	Scientific Advisory Committee of PRIMA Foundation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SRIA	Strategic Innovation and Research Agenda
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
TC	Third Country
TMA	Training and Mobility Actions
TRL	Technology Readiness Level
WEF	<u>W</u> ater <u>E</u> cosystem <u>F</u> ood

¹ 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 analogous to 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.

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Preamble

The overall objective of the PRIMA programme is 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.

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. The scope of research and innovation is complex, and should be addressed with a multidisciplinary, cross-border approach involving a critical mass of Stakeholders. A collaborative approach among PRIMA Participating States can help to align National programmes and focus on common problems, increase the required scale and scope and pooling financial and intellectual resources. 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.

Based on Decision (EU) 2017/1324 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2017² (PRIMA Decision) PRIMA programme will run over a period from 7 August 2017 to 31 December 2028. The European Union (EU) has decided to support the programme with a maximum financial contribution of up to € 220 million 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 EU financial contribution are set forth in Art. 4 of the PRIMA Decision.

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

The PRIMA Foundation, in early February 2018 has been entrusted by the European Commission to manage the budget implementation tasks of the Article 185 initiative PRIMA and according to its first annual work plan 2018, as approved by the European Commission on 24th January 2018.

Introduction

PRIMA Annual Work Plan (AWP 2019), takes into account the input of the PRIMA Scientific Advisory Board, as well as the recommendations of the External Experts involved in the evaluation of the PRIMA AWP 2018.

² OJ L 185, 18.7.2017, page 1

With a view to exploiting synergies and avoiding overlaps, priorities set by other EU initiatives (amongst others JPI Water, JPI FACCE, JPI HDHL, JPI Urban Europe and JPI Climate) and work programmes of H2020 Societal Challenge 2 and Societal Challenge 5, have been analysed and taken into account. At the same time coordination between PRIMA and other current and planned European-led and Mediterranean initiatives (amongst others, Nexus Dialogue, EU-Africa High Level Policy Dialogue, Cross Border Cooperation within the European Neighbourhood Instrument Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme -ENI CBC MED- and the Union for the Mediterranean-UfM) have been established to avoid fragmentation, overlap and duplications.

PRIMA AWP 2019 is also consistent with the UfM Political impulse to the Mediterranean agenda on water and, more specifically, follows up the results of the Water Ministerial Declaration adopted in April 2017³, and specifically the UfM Water Task Force on Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem Nexus and on Climate Change Adaptation.

Implementation of the PRIMA programme

The PRIMA programme is implemented by the PRIMA Foundation on the basis of annual work plans.

PRIMA annual work plans are developed in compliance with the objectives and provisions set out in the PRIMA Decision and are based on the priorities described in the PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda -SRIA⁴- 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 agro-food value chain for regional and local development

In addition, in line with the PRIMA SRIA, given the complexity of interlinkages between the three areas especially in the Mediterranean area, more focused actions are needed to better understand interactions between policies addressing the Water-Ecosystem-Food- (WEF) Nexus. It is at the heart of the Euro Mediterranean Cooperation frame, as it represents a big challenge faced by the societies in both shores of the Mediterranean Basin.

These actions will be under a specific “Nexus” Call focusing on the analysis of best practices and trade-offs ensuring that integral policies addressing different sectors make sense and improve efficiency.

3 http://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Ministerial-Declaration-on-Water_Union-for-the-Mediterranean.pdf

4 http://prima-med.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/PRIMA-SRIA_Strategic-Research-and-Innovation-Agenda.pdf

PRIMA programme structure

PRIMA programme activities will be implemented as following:

- 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.

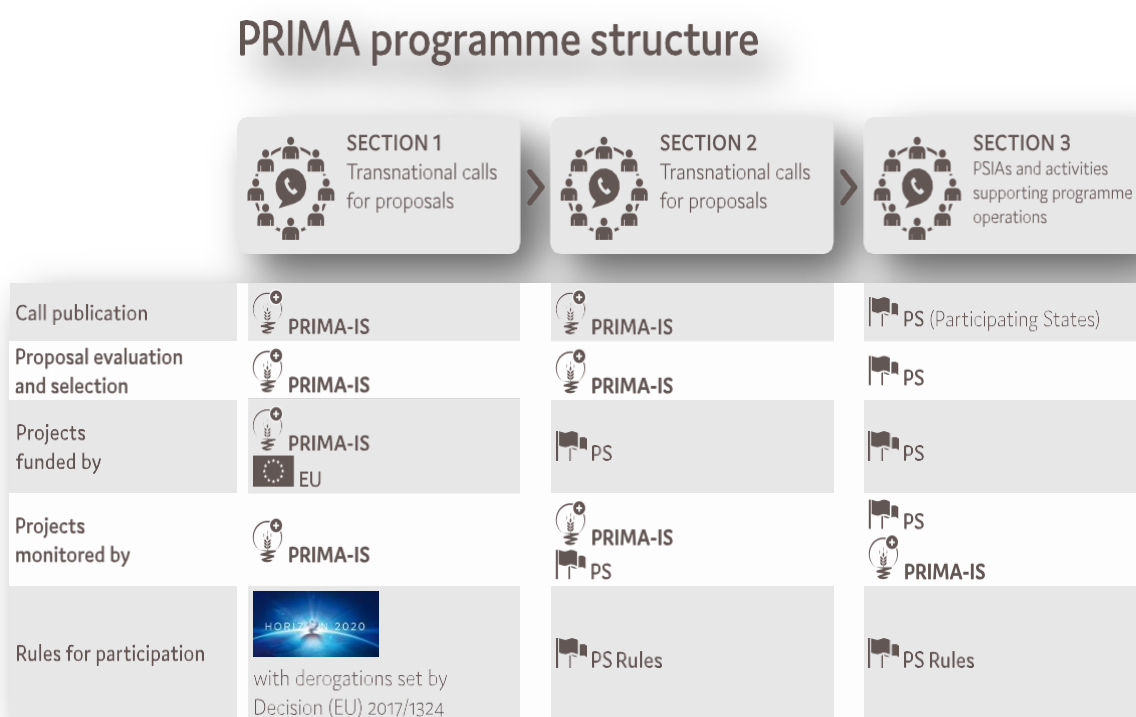


Figure 1 PRIMA Programme Structure

⁵ In line with Art. 3(3)(a) of the PRIMA Decision, 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 (Art. 5(2)(a)).

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 in line with the Rules for Participation of Horizon 2020 and are centrally managed by the PRIMA-IS. Grant agreements are to be signed with PRIMA-IS on the basis of the H2020 Model Grant Agreement.

In section 1, activities of the PRIMA programme are supported along three distinct types of actions as defined in the General Annexes of H2020:

- Research & Innovation Actions (RIA)
- Innovation Actions (IA)
- Coordination & Support Actions (CSA)

In the AWP 2019, Section 1 will include activities encompassing all Technology Readiness Level (3-8).⁶ (TRL) meaning that the funding scheme will be appropriate for all activities from R&D-intensive projects, typical of products positioned in lower TRL levels, to mature projects with higher probability of getting to the market.

Section 1 Actions will encompass topics under the three thematic areas (water management; farming system and food value chain) and topics focusing specifically in the interdependencies (nexus) among them, under an additional thematic area devoted to the nexus theme.

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

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

Section 2

2.1 Indirect actions funded by PRIMA PS following Transnational Calls organised by PRIMA-IS

Activities are evaluated and selected based on rules which are analogous to the Rules for Participation of Horizon 2020, following open calls for proposals centrally organised by the PRIMA IS. Such activities are funded in line with common principles (see 5.2.10). Grant agreements will be signed between participants and by relevant national funding bodies in accordance with national rules.

In Section 2, activities of the PRIMA programme are supported by

- Research and Innovation Activities (RIA⁷) based on national rules

Section 2 will include activities encompassing all Technology Readiness Level (3-8), however the funding of projects in high TRLs will depend on national funding regulations.

⁶ Technology readiness levels as defined in annex G of the General Annexes to the Horizon 2020 Work Programme and Section 5.1.5 of this document

⁷ 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 analogous to 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.

Section 2 encompasses activities of around 1 M € supporting Section 1 actions or further developing their implementation.

In Sections 1 and 2 PRIMA AWP 2019 provides information about Calls for Proposals to be organised by PRIMA Foundation in 2019 including the challenge, scope and expected impact, as well as the eligibility requirements and other specific conditions for applying.

Detailed supporting information about the evaluation, selection and granting process, and applicable type of grant agreements and funding levels is summarized under each call topic, and described in more detail in the General Annexes (5.1: Section 1 and 5.2: Section 2) and in national funding rules (Section 2).

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

Activities implemented by PRIMA-IS for the evaluation of the 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](#)) agreed with the PRIMA-IS, on behalf of the Participating States, and the European 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 implemented by PS. They will support programme operation and constitute an integral part of the PRIMA programme.

Actions and activities in the three Sections of PRIMA AWP 2019, will be interconnected in a coherent and well-integrated programme.

Table 1 Overview of PRIMA actions and activities covered by PRIMA AWP 2019 and allocation of corresponding contributions from the Union and Participating States

Actions / Activities	Contribution	
	EU	PS
SECTION 1: ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED AND MANAGED BY THE 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 the PRIMA-IS (evaluation of the submitted proposals and monitoring of the funded projects)	X	
SECTION 2: ACTIVITIES SELECTED FOLLOWING TRANSNATIONAL CALLS ORGANISED BY PRIMA-IS AND FUNDED BY THE PS		
2. 1 Indirect actions funded PRIMA PS following Transnational Calls organised by PRIMA-IS		X
2.2 Activities supporting programme operations funded and implemented by the PRIMA-IS (evaluation of the submitted proposals and monitoring of the funded projects)	X	
2.3 PS contributions dedicated to the implementation of proposals resulting from transnational calls organised by the PRIMA-IS and funded by the PS		X
SECTION 3: ACTIVITIES ORGANISED, MANAGED AND FUNDED BY THE PS		
3.1 Participating States Initiated Activities (PSIAs)		X
3.2 Activities supporting programme operation funded and implemented by PS		X

Follow- up of the 2018 calls for proposals

On 6th February 2018, PRIMA IS has launched the following calls:

3 Calls (1 Topic/ Call) for SECTION 1

Call 1:



Topic RIA 1.1.1 Water reuse and water desalination for agricultural and food production

Call 2:



Topic RIA 1.1.2 Improving the sustainability of Mediterranean agro-ecosystems

Call 3:



Topic IA 1.1.3 Implementing innovation in Mediterranean Agro-food chains by smallholders and SMEs

1 Call (Multi-topic) for SECTION 2

1 Call Multitopic:



Topic RIA 2.1.1 Water resources availability and quality within catchments and aquifers



Topic RIA 2.1.2 Sustainable, integrated water management



Topic RIA 2.1.3 Irrigation technologies and practices



Topic RIA 2.2.1 Adaptation of agriculture to climate change



Topic RIA 2.2.2 Preventing emergence of animal and plant diseases



Topic RIA 2.2.3 Developing farming systems able to generate income, to create employment and to contribute to a balanced territorial development.



Topic RIA 2.3.1 Valorising food products from traditional Mediterranean diet



Topic RIA 2.3.2 Topic Food Safety in local food chains



Topic RIA 2.3.3 Topic Implications of dietary shifts and sustainable diets for the Med populations and food industry.

PRIMA Section 1 and Section 2 Calls closed respectively on 4th September 2018 (Section 2) and 17th September 2018 (Section 1).

Proposals are evaluated by independent experts and selected according to Horizon 2020 rules. The ranking list of projects to be funded is expected to be adopted by the PRIMA BoT and Funding Agencies at the end of 2018. Grant Agreements preparation phase is expected to be concluded during Q1/Q2 2019, according to national regulations (for Section 2 Calls).

Table 2 Finalisation of the 2018 call management process () for Section 1 and Section 2 Calls*

Finalisation of evaluations (information on outcome of the evaluation)	Q4 2018
Preparation and signature of the grant	Q1 -2019

agreements for the selected proposals	
Pre-financing payments	Q1 2019
Follow-up of project implementation	Starting Q2 - 2019

(*) maximum 8 months from the final date for submission of completed proposals (respectively 17/09/2018 for section 1 calls and 4/09/2018 for section 2 calls⁸) according to Horizon 2020 rules

PRIMA AWP 2019 rationale

PRIMA AWP 2019 will ensure continuity with AWP 2018, boosting cooperation in research and innovation to address the current pressing challenges of the Mediterranean region.

However, improvements are needed as recommended by external experts' assessment in order to foster the interaction between the three thematic areas (water management, farming systems and agri-food value chain) and in the coordination among activities.

In this direction, PRIMA AWP 2019 proposes to tackle specifically a nexus theme embracing the three thematic areas in a separate call.

In fact, PRIMA AWP 2019 is structured around five calls (four calls for Section 1 and one call for Section 2):

3 Calls within **Section 1** will be dedicated to priorities in each of the three thematic areas of PRIMA (a Call for each thematic area).

A fourth call in Section 1 will be dedicated to Nexus theme, in particular addressing the Nexus of the Water-Ecosystems and Food systems.

Section 2 (as for PRIMA AWP 2018) will have a single multi-topic Call.

The objective of Section 1 and 2 Calls of PRIMA AWP 2019 will focus on **the following SRIA priorities⁹**



Thematic area 1 Water management

Priority 1 *Water resources availability and quality within catchments and aquifers*

Priority 2 *Sustainable Integrated water management*



Thematic area 2 Farming system

Priority 1 *Adaptation of farming systems to climate change*

Priority 2 *Developing sustainable and productive agro-ecosystems*



Thematic Area 3 Agro-Food value chain

Priority 2 *Food Safety in local food chains*

Priority 3 *Implementation of innovation in the Agro-food chain, promoting higher quality, sustainability and competitiveness, with particular reference to smallholders*

Tackling these priorities requires a systemic approach to research and innovation, affecting the system's economic, social and environmental dimensions as well as their interconnections. This

⁸ According to National Rules

⁹ Annex 1 of this document pages 108-111: Table linking AWP 2019 call topics expected impact to SRIA expected outcomes

implies a challenge-driven, solutions-oriented, trans-disciplinary perspective that integrates knowledge, technology, business models and economic organisation, finance, governance and regulation.

For PRIMA, **innovation** may be technological, organisational, or social, but it shall be generated with an interactive approach tending to deliver solutions tailored to the needs, cost-effective and easier to implement.

PRIMA AWP 2019 will implement innovative solutions by involving all the users and sectors of farming and water management fostering extended cross-border and cross-sectorial cooperation, in alignment with the innovation models promoted by other EC initiatives such as EIP AGRI, EIP Water and others¹⁰.

In fact, the challenges of water security and food production in the Mediterranean region are transnational and multi-sectorial and involve co-creation of knowledge and co-delivery of outcomes with as many actors as possible (especially end users).

PRIMA AWP 2019 will contribute to the specific objective of **improving innovation capacity** also through the creation of local innovation structures in the Mediterranean region (Innovation Living Labs¹¹), which are tools, according to the open innovation and open science approach¹², that facilitates the involvement of many actors in the innovation process (from researchers to entrepreneurs to governments, to end users)

Proposals should build primarily on the outcomes of the EC projects (Mediterranean Living Lab for Territorial Innovation-MED LAB¹³; Energy, Water and Agriculture in the South Mediterranean Neighbourhood -STOI-4EWAS¹⁴) and other projects supported and funded by the ENI CBC Med programme¹⁵. In addition, links between the PRIMA initiative and the ongoing regional project SWIM-H2020¹⁶ Sustainable Water Integrated Management and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism 2016-2019, support mechanisms will have to be build. The innovation tested within the PRIMA can then be disseminated through the regional trainings and/or the study tours organised within that project.

This is the added value of the PRIMA initiative, which will allow a wide range of actors from both shores of the Mediterranean to jointly achieve tangible results for the sustainable development of all concerned territories. It will boost resilience to global challenges and propose solutions to implement jointly PRIMA-related SDGs, exchange of good practices for the improvement of public policies, producing new knowledge or end results such as products and services and involving among others civil society whilst establishing a sense of mutual trust.

In addition to the above mentioned priorities and in line with the PRIMA SRIA, as pointed out by PRIMA AWP 2018 external experts evaluators, given the complexity of the interlinkages between the three thematic areas, more focused actions are needed to better understand both economic and environmental benefits of the Water-Ecosystem-Food (WEF) Nexus, which is at the heart of the Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation frame.

10 WssTP Water Vision 2030 'Towards a future-proof model for a European water-smart society' http://wsstp.eu/wp-content/uploads/sites/102/2016/10/WssTP-Vision_english.pdf

11 http://www.stoi.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/MOVING-TOWARDS-NEXUS-LLs-IN-THE-MEDITERRANEAN_final.pdf

12 EC (2016). Open Innovation, Open Science, Open to the World - A Vision for Europe. DG Research and Innovation. doi:10.2777/061652. 108 pp

13 <http://www.enpicbmed.eu/enicbmed-2014-2020>

14 <http://www.stoi.eu/>

15 <http://openinnovation.netkite.eu/>

16 <https://www.swim-h2020.eu/>

The integrated perspective provided by the Water- Ecosystem-Food- Nexus will be fundamental in meeting the needs of the ecosystem protection and balanced water management in the Mediterranean area.

It will stimulate appropriate investments on the basis of consistent and integrated water and agricultural policy and governance towards a Green Economy in the Mediterranean Area while securing and preserving scarce water resources and balancing agricultural development.

The nexus approach will allow to shift policy approaches from a sectorial focus (mainly concentrated to produce more food and quite often ignoring water balances), which can result in competing and counterproductive actions, to an integrated approach with policy coherence among the sectors to maximize gain, optimize trade-offs, and avoid negative environmental and health impacts.

This approach is shared with the EU Nexus Dialogue Programme¹⁷ addressed at global level including the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Countries and the Union of the Mediterranean (UfM) Water Agenda¹⁸ building on the outcomes of the activities underway in the Union for Mediterranean Task Force on the Water- Ecosystems- Food- Nexus. Actions will be based on previous or existing projects relevant to WEF and will be aimed to the assessment of social and economic benefits of a joint governance among the different interlinked sectors i.e. agriculture, food production, water and maintenance of ecosystem services).

These actions will be under a specific “Nexus Theme” Call focusing on the analysis of strategies and trade-offs aiming to promote a coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources.

In order to facilitate the taking over of PRIMA outputs with a direct operational or development relevance to policymaking after the projects are completed, best practices and tailor-made policy tools offering solutions in the field of water and agriculture will be included into the Knowledge Hub on Water and Agriculture¹⁹. It is developed by the JRC and should be available online during 2019. The objective is to link relevant existing sources of information and generate new knowledge to support cross-sectoral policy making and management practices in the field of water and agriculture not only within the EC but extending it to all the Mediterranean Area.

Considering the nexus approach, PRIMA AWP 2019, further demonstrates a strong commitment to supporting the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In fact the nexus approach offers a real opportunity to implement effectively many SDGs, and offers an appropriate framework to track impacts of WEF-related measures in the Mediterranean region.²⁰ Indeed, among the 17 SDGs, four specific goals are dedicated to nexus problems. These are:

- 1) sustainable management of Water (SDG 6 – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all);
- 2) conservation, protection, and sustainable use of marine and terrestrial resources and Ecosystems (SDGs 14 and 15)
- 3) Food security (SDG 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture);

Many other aspects related water resources sustainable management, food production systems, and clean energy also cut across different goals (cross-cutting issues). This means that improving efficiency and sustainability in the WEF Nexus can have a positive dominated effect, promoting progress in other goals.

17 <https://www.nexus-dialogue-programme.eu/>

18 UfM Water Agenda

19 https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/sustainable-usage-water-agriculture_en

20 Linking the water-energy-food nexus and sustainable development indicators for the Mediterranean region Saladini et al. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1470160X18302887>

As in the previous Annual Work Plan, PRIMA AWP 2019 will also support capacity building activities as a key transversal component of call topics and thus to be included in the project proposals. However, no specific capacity building actions will be addressed within Section 1 and Section 2 Calls. Such activities will be encouraged within each proposal aiming at promoting open innovation approach in the implementation of the projects and will be aimed to increase knowledge, actions for cross-sectorial collaboration, exchange of best practices and networking within and among PRIMA Participating States and their local communities.

Conversely, in Section 3, apart from mobility schemes proposed in the frame of the national programmes (PSIAs), a focused capacity building of training of innovator broker in the Mediterranean, supported and implemented by Italy is proposed among “the Other activities” (Activity 3.2.3).

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

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

PRIMA-IS will launch 4 calls in Section 1, encompassing research and innovation actions (RIAs), Innovation actions (IAs) and a Coordinated Support Actions (CSA) ²¹ to mobilize the Euro-Mediterranean scientific communities, stakeholders and private entities submitting proposals expected to produce a socio-economic positive impact in the Mediterranean area in the near future.

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 eligibility check of proposals will be done by the PRIMA-IS in line with eligibility criteria set in the PRIMA Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2017²².

The evaluation and selection of proposals as well as the monitoring of the projects will be done according to H2020 rules²³.

The successful projects will be funded directly by the PRIMA-IS through the signature of a grant agreement between the selected consortia and the PRIMA-IS. The grant agreements will be based on the PRIMA Model Grant Agreement²⁴ based on Horizon 2020 (PRIMA MGA)

Priorities identified for the PRIMA AWP 2019 have been identified from the PRIMA SRIA:

Four Calls will be launched, one for each thematic areas; an additional Call will be devoted to two topics dealing with Nexus theme.

21 http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/gap/doa/h2020-doa-ria-ia-csa_en.pdf

22 OJ L 185, 18.7.2017, p. 1

23 See Section 5.1.6 of this Document

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

Topics for Section 1

Thematic Area Water management



Topic 1.1.1 RIA Sustainable groundwater management in water-stressed Mediterranean areas

Thematic Area Farming systems



Topic 1.2.1 RIA Conserving water and soil in Mediterranean dry-farming, smallholder agriculture.



Topic 1.2.2 IA Sustainability and competitiveness of Mediterranean greenhouse and intensive horticulture

Thematic Area Agro-food value chain



Topic 1.3.1 IA Implementation of analytical tools and digital technology to achieve traceability and authenticity control of traditional Mediterranean foods.

Nexus theme



Topic 1.4.1 RIA Assessing social, technical and economic benefits of a cross-sectoral governance of the Water-Ecosystems-Food Nexus.



Topic 1.4.2 CSA Platform for mapping and capitalisation of best practices from on-going and past experiences related to Farming system, Water management and Food Value chain in the Med area

Section 1 TOPICS Thematic Area Water management



Topic 1.1.1 RIA Sustainable groundwater management in water-stressed Mediterranean areas

Challenge

Groundwater is recognized as a critical source of water in the Mediterranean. However, underground water bodies are seriously threatened by overexploitation and, in coastal areas, salinization due to seawater intrusion. Pollution is an additional long-term threat, as sub-surface and surface water, soil-water and agricultural soil pollution often takes years before it is detected in groundwater. Pressure on Mediterranean groundwater resources is currently jeopardizing both farming activities and ecosystem functioning, including the associated wetlands.

Close links of this topic with the priorities, operational objectives and outcome indicators indicated in PRIMA SRIA are presented in Annex 1²⁵ to this document.

Scope

In order to ensure sustainable use and protection of Mediterranean groundwater aquifers in the frame of climate change, water over-abstraction in the region, all water balance components and water quality and quantity risks related to the intensive agricultural activities need to be comprehensively assessed and analysed. This includes: i) water demands and their management; ii) the geo-physical aspects of water recharge and depletion; iii) non-conventional water recharge options and their quality aspects; and iv) the processes leading to seawater intrusion and groundwater pollution. Activities should be devoted to the development and validation of effective water management – in particular groundwater balances and optimised allocation systems for agricultural purposes, monitoring (on site and distant monitoring) and modelling tools to assess and forecast quantitative and qualitative aquifer status and trends.

Solutions are to be built upon the already achieved results in the region in sustainable groundwater management (including quantitative and qualitative aspects).

Special attention should be dedicated to the temporal water availability and variability of groundwater quality. In parallel, there is a strong need to improve advanced monitoring and early warning systems associated to the transport of pollutants from the soils and the vadose zone to groundwater. These systems need to focus on both point and non-point sources that causes the increasing groundwater pollution trends, as well as on a number of relevant pollutants (including organic pollutants). Systems will also provide real-time assessment of aquifer remediation efficiency. Advanced monitoring will provide data for the evaluation of impacts and trends, for the integrated planning of the allocation and quality management of urban, industrial and agricultural groundwater abstractions according to the impact of these activities on water quality, and for the assessment of possible future scenarios combined with optimisation processes. The socio-economic dimensions of sustainable management of groundwater resources will be analysed, focusing on issues like water pricing and water access for irrigation. Tools and solutions for decision support on remediation strategies will be produced considering local and regional water governance constraints. Capacity building activities on groundwater resources knowledge and sustainable management to support decision makers on remediation strategies are strongly recommended. Representative monitoring areas should be

²⁵ Annex 1 of this document pages 108-111: Table linking AWP 2019 call topics expected impact to SRIA expected outcomes

either initiated or maintained, ensuring replicability of the efforts in other Mediterranean areas with similar geological and environmental constraints

Expected impacts

Proposals should contribute to implement priorities set in the PRIMA SRIA and show the clear link of how expected impacts from the projects are going to implement the expected outputs indicated in PRIMA SRIA.

The project results must contribute to PRIMA Operational objectives 2/LAND AND WATER SUSTAINABILITY^{26 27}

The project results are also expected to contribute to:

- Strengthening the understanding of the analysis of basic components of the groundwater cycle in the selected Mediterranean study areas, and their temporal variability, including hydrologic, environmental and socio-economic aspects.
- Improved resilience and security for groundwater resources, both in coastal and in-land areas²⁸.
- Early warning systems on aquifer overexploitation and pollution.
- Management strategies for the sustainable exploitation of aquifer water sources.
- Cost-effective and high-efficiency managed aquifer recharge (indirect and direct for potable water)
- New modelling routines for determining the basic components of groundwater cycle, including economic, social and technical aspects (e.g. groundwater accumulation and storage);

Table 3 Supporting information for the Section 1 Call for Proposals, Topic 1.1.1

Type of action	Research & Innovation Action (RIA)
Total indicative amount allocated to this call	€ 6,4 million
Funding level	According to Horizon 2020 rules Funding rate: 100%
Technology Readiness levels (TRL)	3 to 5
Expected number of grants	Up to 4 (projects up to € 1,6 million each – indicative amount)
Expected duration of the projects	36-48 months
Eligibility conditions for participation	Please refer to section 5.1.1 The standard admissibility (section 5.1.2) and eligibility conditions (section 5.1.3) apply.

26 PRIMA SRIA Expected Outcomes Thematic Area Water Management Operational objectives 2/LAND AND WATER SUSTAINABILITY page 25

27 Annex 1 of this document pages 108-111: Table linking AWP 2019 call topics expected impact to SRIA expected outcomes

28 Such as comprehension of water balance, effective monitoring and early warning systems, integrated planning, socio-economic assessments, etc.

Submission and evaluation procedure	Two-stage application procedure. For the first stage, a short proposal (maximum 10 pages) must be submitted by the first deadline. Successful applicants in the first stage will be invited to the second stage to submit a full proposal (maximum 50 pages). A timeline for the submission and evaluation of applications can be found in table 9.
Evaluation rules	The award criteria, scoring, thresholds and weightings for RIAs listed in part 5.1.6 will be used.
Grant agreement	PRIMA MGA (multi-beneficiary), based on Horizon 2020.
Consortium agreement	Participants in projects resulting from this Call for Proposals will be required to conclude a consortium agreement prior to the conclusion of the PRIMA grant agreement.

Section 1 TOPICS Thematic Area Farming systems



Topic 1.2.1 RIA Conserving water and soil in Mediterranean dry-farming, smallholder agriculture

Challenge

Research results have proven that conservation agriculture²⁹, as part of agro-ecological practices, has the capacity to increase crop water availability, and to control soil erosion. However, its adoption in Mediterranean environments has been moderate to date. This is particularly true for the smallholders prevailing in the region. Their vulnerability and limited access to specific farming machinery, the difficulties in maintaining crop residues on the ground and avoiding soil compaction, and the lack of alternative crops to temperate cereals adapted to conservation agriculture can partially explain this moderate adoption rate. This in spite of indications that conservation agriculture can reduce labour and energy costs. Profitable and successful applications of conservation agriculture to arable and perennial crops require understanding local agro-systems and socioeconomic barriers. Addressing the barriers limiting the adoption of conservation agriculture considering agroecology innovations will increase the sustainability of their farming operations and to the conservation of soil and water in the region.

Scope

Mediterranean crops agroecology, systems and farmers can benefit from the widespread application of conservation agriculture in the region. While conservation agriculture has been widely adopted in semiarid regions in North and South America and Australia, large opportunities remain for its application in the Mediterranean Area. Action is required to increase crop water availability and to control soil erosion. A socioeconomic analysis is required to identify the

²⁹ Conservation Agriculture is characterized by three linked principles: continuous minimum mechanical soil disturbance, permanent organic soil cover and diversification of crop species grown in sequences and/or associations (www.fao.org/ag/ca/1a.html). It has the capacity to control erosion and in certain conditions increase crop water availability.

barriers preventing widespread application of these techniques. The vulnerability of the smallholder farmers in the region, the availability of specific machinery, the competition for residues, the control of weeds and the lack of alternative crops to temperate cereals adapted to conservation agriculture stand as candidate variables explaining the situation. Research and innovation proposals should foster local stakeholders' cooperation in the identification of technical, policy and socioeconomic barriers preventing the adoption of conservation agriculture. Proposals should also address technical barriers through the development of site-specific solutions in demonstration sites located in different agro systems. Local conservation agriculture adopters and/or local long-term experiments should be identified characterized and their systems, in terms of resources conservation and profit, should be evaluated.

Proposals should also consider capacity building activities addressed to farmers in the region to foster adoption of conservation agriculture. Proposals should also develop societal, technological and policy innovations facilitating the adoption of Conservation Agriculture in the region.

Expected impact

Proposals should contribute to implement priorities set in the PRIMA SRIA and show the clear link of how expected impacts from the projects are going to implement the expected outputs indicated in PRIMA SRIA.

The project results must contribute to PRIMA Operational Objective 4/ SMART AND SUSTAINABLE FARMING3031

The project results are expected to contribute to:

- Reduced and optimised use of scarce natural resources (water, energy, nutrients) and potentially toxic substances (synthetic pesticides, mineral fertilizers, antibiotics) in agriculture;
- Redesigned cropping systems, more resilient to climate uncertainties, based for example on crop associations, agro-forestry, multi-crop rotations, and enhancement of pulses and other leguminous plants;
- Demonstrate increased rainfall water availability and water use efficiency for Mediterranean dry farming crops
- Improved (more, better, safer) production of Mediterranean crops with efficient water management
- Improved knowledge of soil erosion mechanisms to enhance fertility under conditions of water scarcity and to develop management recommendations for soil conservation;
- Improved knowledge of the technical, spatial and organizational dynamics of Mediterranean production systems to promote adoption of innovations by farmers also by integrating farmers' knowledge in the innovation process;

Table 4 Supporting information for the Section 1 Call for Proposals, Topic 1.2.1

Type of action	Research & Innovation Action (RIA)
Total indicative amount allocated to this call	€ 4.5 million

30 PRIMA SRIA Expected Outcomes Thematic Area Farming Systems, Operational Objective 4 page 27.

31 Annex 1 of this document pages 108-111; table linking AWP 2019 call topics expected impact to SRIA expected outcomes.

<i>Funding level</i>	According to Horizon 2020 rules <i>Funding rate: 100%</i>
<i>Technology Readiness levels (TRL)</i>	3 to 5
<i>Expected number of grants</i>	Up to 3 (projects up to € 1,5 million each – indicative amount)
<i>Expected duration of the projects</i>	36-48 months
<i>Eligibility conditions for participation</i>	Please refer to section 5.1.1 The standard admissibility (section 5.1.2) and eligibility conditions (section 5.1.3) apply.
<i>Submission and evaluation procedure</i>	Two-stage application procedure. For the first stage, a short proposal (maximum 10 pages) must be submitted by the first deadline. Successful applicants in the first stage will be invited to submit a full proposal (maximum 50 pages) for the second stage. A timeline for the submission and evaluation of applications can be found in table 9.
<i>Evaluation rules</i>	The award criteria, scoring, thresholds and weightings for RIAs listed in part 5.1.6 will be used.
<i>Grant agreement</i>	PRIMA MGA (multi-beneficiary), based on Horizon 2020.
<i>Consortium agreement</i>	Participants in projects resulting from this Call for Proposals will be required to conclude a consortium agreement prior to the conclusion of the PRIMA grant agreement.



Topic 1.2.2 IA Sustainability and competitiveness of Mediterranean greenhouse and intensive horticulture

Challenge

Mediterranean intensive horticulture systems, especially greenhouse cultivation, can provide high quality product all-year round with an efficient use of external resources and hand-labour. But the current productive capacity and sustainability in Mediterranean horticulture systems, in terms of quantity and quality can be further improved with adequate use of new biological agro-ecological technologies. Moreover, intensive horticulture and particularly the greenhouse farming sector has often exemplified unsustainable exploitation of resources, especially energy, soil and water, thus representing nowadays a poor environmental system that needs urgent and dedicated attention. Among new greenhouse technologies that are demanded to make sustainable greenhouse agriculture are e.g. efficient greenhouse climate control, efficient use of resources, and sustainable and integrated pest and pathogen control. In the Mediterranean basin, technological update of greenhouse industry and in general the intensive horticulture sector is strongly needed in order to face increasing competition arising from globalisation of production and marketing.

Scope

In the Mediterranean area, the intensive cultivation of horticulture products, such as tomato, pepper and lettuce, can take advantage of favourable environmental conditions for organisational and technological development to result in higher productive efficiency. Technology innovations should include greenhouse climate control, sensors and robotics tools and agronomical practices to improve the efficient use of resources, ultimately fulfilling a circular recovery approach, and also providing environmentally friendly and ecological control of pest and pathogens for production of safe food. Furthermore, special attention must be paid to controlling nutrient leakages to the receiving surface, sub-surface and groundwaters with the purpose to fight growing eutrophication trends.

New soilless systems (including freshwater aquaponics) should be also incorporated and tested in order to facilitate the adoption of efficient fertigation strategies, particularly under conditions of water scarcity and low water quality while ensuring nutrient balance strict and smart control systems to fight eutrophication. Successful technological implementation rests on the effective use by single users or consortia in tight connection with processing industries. This should include integrating sensors data and algorithms into decision support systems. Proposals should then properly analyse the grower's needs and offer solutions that will be successfully exploited. A socio-economic study is also advocated to demonstrate economic feasibility while preserving and protecting receiving environmental systems (water and soil) of the proposed measures and proper education and training of growers through specific capacity building activities, and to help promoting a new generation of entrepreneurs, less conservative and more aware of the state-of-the art practices. The greenhouse technology providers, mainly SMEs, constitute an important source of employment for the agri-business. The proposals should aim to better connect private companies and public research, facilitating the exchange of know-how from research centres and academy to the private sector and vice versa.

The proposed innovative technologies should be tested in small-scale research and demonstration studies, taking in consideration sustainability of technologies related to intensive horticulture, as well as environmental protection (not to increase eutrophication) social aspects, including labour conditions with particular reference to gender issue. The demonstration sites should consider a wide range of environmental conditions and should also ensure that ensuring no adverse impact to degradation of surface and groundwater water quality of receiving waters and ensuring quality of soil is maintained.

Expected impacts

Proposals should contribute to implement priorities set in the PRIMA SRIA and show the clear link of how expected impacts from the projects are going to implement the expected outputs indicated in PRIMA SRIA

The project results must contribute to PRIMA Operational Objective 4 32 33
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The project results are expected to contribute to:

- Improved efficiency and cost-effective climatic control procedures and technologies for Mediterranean year round greenhouse cultivation.

32 PRIMA SRIA Expected Outcome Thematic Area Farming Systems Operational Objective 4 page 27.

33 Annex 1 of this document pages 108-111: Table linking AWP 2019 call topics expected impact to SRIA expected outcomes.

- Development of innovative technologies and practices for the production of organic crops.
- Development of innovative and environmental friendly integrated pest management practices.
- Development of new bio-degradable materials to be used in the cultivation systems able to minimize the disposal of residues and contaminants to the environment.
- Cost-effective and socially accepted new cultivation methods aimed at improving hand-labour conditions.
- Novel tools (best practices, decision support system, models, discussion and co-development platforms, ICT, etc.) assisting farmers to improve management.

Table 5 Supporting information for the Section 1 Call for Proposals, Topic 1.2.2

Type of action	Innovation Action (IA)
<i>Total indicative amount allocated to this Call</i>	€ 6.4 million
<i>Funding level</i>	According to Horizon 2020 Rules 70% (except for non-profit legal entities, where a rate of 100% applies)
<i>Technology readiness levels</i>	5 to 8
<i>Expected number of grants</i>	Up to 4 (projects up to € 1,6 million each, – indicative amount)
<i>Expected duration of the projects</i>	36-48 months
<i>Eligibility conditions for participation</i>	Please refer to section 5.1.1 The standard admissibility (section 5.1.2) and eligibility conditions (section 5.1.3) apply.
<i>Submission and evaluation procedure</i>	Two-stage application procedure. For the first stage, a short proposal (maximum 10 pages) must be submitted by the first deadline. Successful applicants in the first stage will be invited to submit a full proposal (maximum 50 pages) for the second stage. A timeline for the submission and evaluation of applications can be found in table 9.
<i>Evaluation rules</i>	The award criteria, scoring, thresholds and weightings for IAs listed in part 5.1.6 will be used.
<i>Grant agreement</i>	PRIMA grant agreement (multi-beneficiary), based on Horizon 2020 Model Grant Agreement.
<i>Consortium agreement</i>	Participants in projects resulting from this Call for Proposals will be required to conclude a consortium agreement prior to the conclusion of the PRIMA grant agreement.

Section 1 TOPICS Thematic Area -Agrofood chain

Topic 1.3.1 IA Implementation of analytical tools and digital technology to achieve traceability, authenticity control of traditional Mediterranean foods.

Challenge

The Mediterranean traditional food products are generally recognized for their high nutritional and sensorial value, based also on local specificities and natural biodiversity of their sources, and on traditional know how and experience in food processing, preparation and nutrition requirements. Mediterranean biodiversity is outstanding comprising 15.000 – 25.000 botanical species, 60% of which are unique to the region. However, it is estimated that only 10% of the crop varieties cultivated in the past are still being farmed, mainly because of their low productivity. The valorisation of Mediterranean animal breeds and plant varieties, as sources of foods and natural bioactive compounds, requires their unequivocal traceability and characterization, based on state-of-the-art methods and technologies which univocally define their Mediterranean origin in a global context, as well as their quality and safety. Although several initiatives aiming at collecting molecular information about farming plants and livestock, and the derived foods, are currently going on, a comprehensive shared repository of digital information about the Mediterranean foods is still lacking. The creation of reference databases would foster the necessary harmonisation of the analytical methods and data validation among different laboratories, two stringent requirements for the creation of a trans-national authenticity and traceability system that specifically address the identification of animal breeds, plant varieties, geographical origin and production protocols characterizing the traditional Mediterranean foods.

Scope

Proposals should focus on developing and implementing innovative solutions, technological tools and/or digital solutions and protocols to achieve traceability and confirm authenticity of Mediterranean food products (excluded Olive oil) aiming to detect fraud in traditional Mediterranean food products.

Proposals should focus on products with high added value, most exposed to fraud and valorise productions that have been discontinued but hold nutritional value and are important for biodiversity conservation. Proposal should also aim at creating trans-national networks of laboratories, validating and harmonizing protocols, sharing open-data on food products of the Mediterranean tradition, providing a robust support for certification and control bodies, and building capacity in key enabling technologies related to authenticity and traceability.

The proposals are encouraged to optimise the use of pre-existing databases and research infrastructures (with particular reference to those identified on the roadmap of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures - ESFRI) and the opportunities granted by big data management tools, thus ensuring interoperability, standard methods and enhanced networking.

Proposals should build on the outcomes of H2020 projects to develop an openly available harmonised set of terms and definitions for use in food authenticity and undertake stocktaking and analysis of existing data.

Expected impact

Proposals should contribute to implement priorities set in the PRIMA SRIA and show the clear link of how expected impacts from the projects are going to implement the expected outputs indicated in PRIMA SRIA.

The project results must contribute to PRIMA Operational Objective 8/ NEW AGRO-FOOD BUSINESS MODELS³⁴

The project results are expected to contribute to:

- Development of efficient methods for assessing food traceability and safety.
- Increased added-value for Mediterranean food products linked to their proven biological and geographic origin, production protocols, processing technologies and low environmental footprint;
- Improve confidence of consumers and markets in authenticity of Mediterranean food products by implementing dedicated services;
- Foster joint integrative activities with existing data base networks and infrastructures in the health & food domain;
- Improve harmonization and data interoperability.

Table 6 Supporting information Table . Supporting information for the Section 1 Call for Proposals, Topic 1.3.1

Type of action	Innovation Action (IA)
<i>Total indicative amount allocated to this Call</i>	€ 6,4 million
<i>Funding level</i>	According to Horizon 2020 Rules 70% (except for non-profit legal entities, where a rate of 100% applies)
<i>Technology readiness levels</i>	5 to 8
<i>Expected number of grants</i>	Up to 4 (projects up to € 1,6 million each, – indicative amount)
<i>Expected duration of the projects</i>	36-48 months
<i>Eligibility conditions for participation</i>	Please refer to section 5.1.1 The standard admissibility (section 5.1.2) and eligibility conditions (section 5.1.3) apply.
<i>Submission and evaluation procedure</i>	Two-stage application procedure. For the first stage, a short proposal (maximum 10 pages) must be submitted by the first deadline. Successful applicants in the first stage will be invited for the second stage to submit a full proposal (maximum 50 pages). A timeline for the submission and evaluation of applications can be found in table 9.

34 PRIMA SRIA Expected Outcomes Thematic Area Food Value Chain, Operational Objective 8 page 29.

35 Annex 1 of this document pages 108-111: Table linking AWP 2019 call topics expected impact to SRIA expected outcomes.

<i>Evaluation rules</i>	The award criteria, scoring, thresholds and weightings for IAs listed in part 5.1.6 will be used.
<i>Grant agreement</i>	PRIMA grant agreement (multi-beneficiary), based on Horizon 2020 Model Grant Agreement.
<i>Consortium agreement</i>	Participants in projects resulting from this Call for Proposals will be required to conclude a consortium agreement prior to the conclusion of the PRIMA grant agreement.

Section 1 TOPICS 4- Nexus theme

Topic 1.4.1 RIA Assessing social, technical and economic benefits of a cross-sectoral governance of the Water-Ecosystems-Food Nexus

Challenge

Integrated management of resources through the Nexus approach can be a sustainable solution to the dichotomy between the increasing demand for food and water and the diminishing availability of supplies. The southern Mediterranean countries, in particular, face this challenge, which is worsened by the effects of climate change. The Nexus approach advocates the efficient, integrated use and management of land, water and other vital resources, as a way to minimise trade-offs and maximise synergies across sectors and generate shared economic, environmental and societal benefits. It is therefore equally important to identify already existing Nexus approaches and tools, as well as their proven benefits, and to develop novel ones, while codifying and upscaling knowledge in the Nexus field. The upscaling of knowledge and tools promoting the Nexus approach and the integrated management of resources should be accompanied by its acceptance by relevant stakeholders, in particular policymakers and the public sector at large, national and international donors and investors, and all those who can contribute to creating/offering the necessary enabling environment.

Scope

In response to this call, relevant stakeholders from the Mediterranean region should conceive a demonstration project to assess existing Nexus tools and approaches and develop novel ones, for reaching social, environmental and economic benefits through integrated governance of the different water-using sectors, i.e. agriculture, food production and maintenance of ecosystem services. The involvement of the relevant stakeholders at all levels is necessary to ensure the sustainability of the solutions identified. Objectives of the call will be to create knowledge or fill knowledge gaps, collect and make available data to allow for the scaling-up of Nexus-related good practices. This knowledge should be codified and disseminated widely. Proposals should identify the obstacles to the creation of an enabling environment for new policies as well as governance, organisational and business models, which can enhance the Nexus approach and the scaling-up of good practices. Well-known obstacles are for example the lack of integration among WEF-related policies, strategies and management plans, which remain most of the times sectoral, and the absence of resources and/or financial instruments to enable private and public investment to implement Nexus solutions. Proposals should identify solutions to overcome these obstacles as well as targeted Nexus-based measures for each site and case. Such measures should be integrated in the

planning and/or strategic documents of a sector that is most appropriate in each case and implemented in cooperation with the competent authorities.
Consortia implementing the action shall cooperate with the EC Knowledge Hub on Water and Agriculture [1] in order to facilitate the uptake of project outputs by policymakers after project completion.

Expected impact

Proposals should contribute to implement priorities set in the PRIMA SRIA and show the clear link of how expected impacts from the projects are going to implement the expected outputs indicated in PRIMA SRIA

The project results must contribute to Operational Objective 3/ WATER GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS³⁶.2/LAND AND WATER SUSTAINABILITY, 4/SMART AND SUSTAINABLE FARMING³⁷

The project results are expected to contribute to:

- Breaking of disciplinary silos that prevent cross-sectoral planning and integrated management of water, food, soil and ecosystems.
- Improvement of systems approach to ensure smart water balances and allocation mechanisms, water safety that support the transition to a sustainable agriculture that is economically and socially beneficial and environmentally safe
- Uptake of multi-sectoral solutions by local and regional stakeholders by improving connection and coordination between research and policy-making
- Leveraging knowledge for innovation of technologies in the WEF sectors
- Increase of farmers' food-water security and resilience through dissemination of best practices.

36 PRIMA SRIA Expected Outcomes Thematic Area Water Management, page 25.

37 Annex 1 of this document pages 108-111: Table linking AWP 2019 call topics expected impact to SRIA expected outcomes.

Table 7 Supporting information for the Section 1 Call for Proposals, Topic 1.4.1

Type of action	Research & Innovation Action (RIA)
<i>Total indicative amount allocated to this call</i>	€ 3.2 million
<i>Funding level</i>	According to Horizon 2020 rules <i>Funding rate: 100%</i>
<i>Technology Readiness levels (TRL)</i>	3 to 5
<i>Expected number of grants</i>	Up to 2 (projects up to € 1,6 million each, – indicative amount)
<i>Expected duration of the projects</i>	36-48 months
<i>Eligibility conditions for participation</i>	Please refer to section 5.1.1 The standard admissibility (section 5.1.2) and eligibility conditions (section 5.1.3) apply.
<i>Submission and evaluation procedure</i>	Two-stage application procedure. For the first stage, a short proposal (maximum 10 pages) must be submitted by the first deadline. Successful applicants in the first stage will be invited for the second stage to submit a full proposal (maximum 50 pages). A timeline for the submission and evaluation of applications can be found in table 9.
<i>Evaluation rules</i>	The award criteria, scoring, thresholds and weightings for RIAs listed in part 5.1.6 will be used.
<i>Grant agreement</i>	PRIMA MGA (multi-beneficiary), based on Horizon 2020.
<i>Consortium agreement</i>	Participants in projects resulting from this Call for Proposals will be required to conclude a consortium agreement prior to the conclusion of the PRIMA grant agreement.



Topic 1.4.2 CSA Platform for mapping and capitalisation of results and best practices from past and on-going projects related to farming system, water and food in the Mediterranean Area

Challenge

Currently, around 150 research and innovation projects have been directly funded in EU FP6, FP7, H2020, ENI CBC MED and by international organisations such as FAO, ICARDA, CGIAR that are relevant to PRIMA topics in the Mediterranean Area. Around 100 more have been funded by

Participating States indirectly through ERAnets or related initiatives (mainly ARIMNet, ARIMNet2, ERANETMED, projects funded under ENI CBC MED programme). Extensive research has been carried out on aspects related to PRIMA objectives and more is expected to be funded through PRIMA Calls. Most of those projects are currently on-going and will produce results in the coming years. As result of the PRIMA AWP 2018 calls, a large amount of projects have been submitted, demonstrating the existing and/or potential networks among scientific communities in the Mediterranean Area and their willingness to collaborate. Results from previously funded research and innovation projects often remain more at the scientific level because of the insufficient connection between public and private sector, the low interest and lack of incentives of researchers to develop a business oriented career and the chronic scarce involvement of the Mediterranean private sector in research and innovation.

Scope

Proposals should be devoted to better capitalize on previous results in terms of best practices achieved by all the relevant players in the Mediterranean area in the frame of EU- initiatives and H2020 projects but also by relevant international organisations such as FAO, IFAD, ICARDA, which have promoted R&D activities in the past years focusing on PRIMA SRIA related priorities.

Proposals should analyse the impacts of projects using complementary methodologies: impact pathways, case studies, indicators, expert groups, bibliometric. The overall objective of this call is to develop and disseminate widely an interactive platform of best practices in the Mediterranean Area that summarises the existing best practices focusing on PRIMA SRIA related priorities. The identified best practices and the interactive platform will include information on existing tools, practices, capacities, techniques, governance models infrastructure, and standards that will enable a faster implementation of practical, eco-efficient and cost-effective solutions for businesses and Euro-Mediterranean societies. The platform developed will help stakeholders to become aware of what already has been developed and implemented and use the experience of the existing tools available in the Mediterranean Area. This initiative will also allow stakeholders to avoid duplication of efforts, and to use and consolidate existing knowledge and experience to reinforce the information exchange among different stakeholders from public, private and civil society sectors. Proposals should determine those projects results better suited for commercialization and facilitate the connection between researchers and private investors in order to ensure viable commercialization plans and final impacts on the ground.

Proposals should preferably build on previous related platforms supported by EC, after analysing and assessing their relevance and potential for PRIMA.

Expected impact

The project results are expected to contribute to:

- Identification of the results better suited to be considered in innovation actions
- Identification of innovative solutions towards implementing SDGs
- To raise social awareness of the inherent value of research and innovation.
- Promote the uptake of the project results by the private sector to ensure that the more relevant previous outputs can be incorporated into the innovation system; this includes the need of better disseminating the previous project results, increasing the replicability of the offered solutions
- A concrete strategy plan and policy recommendations to ensure long-term sustainability and maintenance of this platform

Table 8 Supporting information for the Section 1 Call for Proposals, Topic 1.4.2

Type of action	Coordinated and Support Action (CSA)
Total indicative amount allocated to this call	€ 1.1 million
Funding level	According to Horizon 2020 rules Funding rate: 100%
Technology Readiness levels (TRL)	
Expected number of grants	1
Expected duration of the projects	approx. 36 months
Eligibility conditions for participation	Please refer to section 5.1.1 The standard admissibility (section 5.1.2) and eligibility conditions (section 5.1.3) apply.
Submission and evaluation procedure	Single stage application procedure. The page limit for a CSA proposal is 30. A timeline for the submission and evaluation of applications can be found in table 9.
Evaluation rules	The award criteria, scoring, thresholds and weightings for CSAs listed in part 5.1.6 will be used.
Grant agreement	PRIMA MGA (multi-beneficiary), based on Horizon 2020.
Consortium agreement	Participants in projects resulting from this Call for Proposals will be required to conclude a consortium agreement prior to the conclusion of the PRIMA grant agreement.

Table 9 Timetable for Section 1 Calls for Proposals in 2019

The Eligibility check will be done by the PRIMA-IS 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)

Action	Call Topics	Call publication and opening	Submission deadline Stage 1	Evaluation results Stage 1	Submission deadline Stage 2	Evaluation results Stage 2
RIA	Topic 1.1.1 RIA Sustainable groundwater management in water-stressed Mediterranean areas	05/12/2018	13/02/2019	13/05/2019	16/07/2019	30/10/2019
RIA	Topic 1.2.1 RIA Conserving water and soil in Mediterranean dry-farming, smallholder agriculture	05/12/2018	13/02/2019	13/05/2019	16/07/2019	30/10/2019
IA	Topic 1.22 IA Sustainability and competitiveness of Mediterranean greenhouse and intensive horticulture	05/12/2018	13/02/2019	13/05/2019	16/07/2019	30/10/2019
IA	Topic 1.3.1 IA Implementation of analytical tools and digital technology to achieve traceability and authenticity control of traditional Mediterranean foods.	05/12/2018	13/02/2019	13/05/2019	16/07/2019	30/10/2019
RIA	Topic 1.4.1 RIA Assessing social, technical and economic benefits of a cross-sectoral governance of the Water-Ecosystems-Food-Energy Nexus.	05/12/2018	13/02/2019	13/05/2019	16/07/2019	30/10/2019
CSA	CSA Platform for mapping and capitalization of results and best practices from past and projects related to farming system, water and food in the Mediterranean Area	05/12/2018	13/02/2019	13/05/2019	n.a.	n.a

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

1.2.1 Evaluation of projects proposals submitted to Section 1 Calls

Objective: This activity consists of implementing the evaluation of all the eligible projects submitted to the 2019 PRIMA calls (Section 1) and preparing the decision of the Board of Trustees
The evaluation process is described in detail section [5.1.6](#)

PRIMA-IS will appoint external independent experts to evaluate the proposals and to be part of the evaluation panels.

PRIMA IS will assign to the independent experts the evaluation of both first-stage proposals and full proposals (stage 2) or single stage proposal (CSA).

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

After the remote evaluation of the first-stage proposals (or single stage proposals) and full proposals, a two-day meeting will be organised to draft the consensus report and establish the ranking list.

For section 1, there will be one evaluation panel per call (4 panels). In addition, considering that different type of actions for the Farming System Call (RIA, IA) and for the Nexus theme (RIA and CSA), two additional panels will be needed: one for the evaluation of CSA proposals (Nexus theme) and one for the evaluation of IA proposals (Farming system Thematic Area).

Hence, six panels of evaluators will be needed for Section 1 Calls)

PRIMA-IS will cover the independent expert fees, travels and accommodation and the other meetings-related expenses in accordance with international standards.

Type of Action: Expert Contracts, Direct costs for meetings

Indicative budget: € 250,000

1.2.2 Fostering PRIMA Capacity building

Objective: 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.

Indicative Budget: € 17.500

Timetable: the activity will begin in the third quarter 2019

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

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

PRIMA Section 2 Call, funded by the PS, will focus on a unique 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 PRIMA basic act, in

Part One of Title VIII of the Financial Regulation No 2018/1046³⁸ and Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013, in particular the principles of equal treatment, transparency, independent peer review evaluation and selection.

Section 2 call will be launched in a two-stage process. PRIMA-IS will be responsible for the evaluation of proposals, which will be conducted with analogous rules of H2020 rules in a peer review process with a panel that will rank the proposals.

Eligibility of proposals will be first checked by the PRIMA-IS having regard to the eligibility criteria for participation set forth in the PRIMA Decision. In this section 2, to receive the funds, the beneficiaries will have to sign a grant agreement directly with their national funding bodies.

Thus, a second eligibility check will be performed by the national funding bodies, aimed at the verification of eligibility for funding³⁹. In this context, proposals that are considered eligible for participation by PRIMA-IS (at the consortium level) will enter into the evaluation process. However, in the event of a negative outcome of the verification of eligibility for funding of any participant in the applicant consortium by a PS, 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, a single ranking list will be produced by the panel in order to guarantee that highest quality projects will be funded.

In the event that one or more projects cannot be funded (in case that 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](#).

PRIMA Section 2 call will address the topics described in subsection 2.1 below (according to national priorities) and the cross cutting issues among them. Research projects can address issues that are cross cutting 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 is eligible by the funding bodies, these actions will be encouraged and projects should integrate in their work plan schemes for the mobility of young researchers / post graduates / post doctorates, in accordance with the modalities set out in national regulation funding bodies.

Projects must deliver tangible outputs and enhance technological and social innovation, depending on the research question addressed. The projects could include the use of innovative technologies, such as smart digital technologies, space data and related data and technologies. When explicitly allowed by the

38 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 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

39 Please refer to table 10 to see indicative budget distribution of Participating States with respect to the calls covered by section 2.

national regulations of the funding bodies, 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.

Proposed Topics for Section 2

1- Thematic Area 1-Water management:



Topic 2.1.1 RIA Bridging the gap between potential and actual irrigation performance in the Mediterranean



Topic 2.1.2 RIA Management of low quality waters under water scarcity and climate change conditions

2- Thematic Area 2-Farming systems:



Topic 2.2.1 RIA Small scale farming systems innovation.



Topic 2.2.2 RIA Use and management of biodiversity as a major lever of sustainability in farming systems

2- Thematic Area 3-Agrofood chain:



Topic 2.3.1 RIA Extending shelf-life of perishable Mediterranean food products



Topic 2.3.2 RIA Enhancing horizontal and vertical integration in Mediterranean agro-food value-chains

Section 2 TOPICS Thematic Area 1-Water management:



Topic 2.1.1 RIA Bridging the gap between potential and actual irrigation performance in the Mediterranean:

Challenge

In a context of increased population and water demand, expectations of increased aridity and salinity due to climate change, and raising environmental standards, Mediterranean water balances and thus, water used for irrigation and the irrigation performance must be close to optimum. However, a wide gap extends between actual water balances and optimum irrigation performance in terms of surface water ecological flow or groundwater levels to be abstracted for irrigation, irrigation efficiency, irrigation economic efficiency, social inequalities water and soil pollution and energy for pumping. This gap concerns both individual farmers and their water users associations. Irrigation is by far the largest water consumer in the Mediterranean basin. Therefore, bridging the water balances optimal management and irrigation performance gap in all its dimensions will lead to progress in sustainable water use and water levels protection (water security and safety) in Mediterranean aquifers and rivers.

Scope

In the Mediterranean basin, water balances and water used for irrigation including irrigation performance is often lower than potential at the farm and at the water users association level. This gap is evident for average performance, but it is particularly important when the dispersion among farmers and their associations is considered. Attaining Sustainable Mediterranean irrigation requires to assess the real water balances in the area of irrigation, amount of water available for irrigation ensuring that water levels are environmentally safe for ecosystems and other needs. Furthermore, optimising irrigation performance requires to combine technological, managerial and governance innovations taking into account the availability, safety and quality of water resources, existing institutional arrangements, as well as crop agronomy planning.

Proposals need to identify representative case study areas; characterize the right water balances and availability (ensuring ecologically safe water levels), the magnitude and the dispersion of the gap in technical and economic irrigation efficiency, water and soil pollution and energy use; establish a dialogue with local stakeholders to identify the causes for low performance; develop a set of site-specific, technical, organizational and policy innovations targeting the detected bottlenecks; cooperate with local actors to pilot these innovations in the case study areas also through capacity building activities. The latter are particularly important to improve the long-term impact of the new management practices. For this purpose, proposals should develop and demonstrate suitable means to support the qualification of local professionals (e. g. water utilities, regulatory bodies, water users' associations, and individual farmers) to ensure the right knowledge to calculate water balances, assess water availability and amount available for irrigation and ensure knowledge for optimisation of irrigation performance techniques. Wherever needed and appropriate, proposals should take into account both academic and vocational training and education activities.

Proposals should also quantify plausible gap reductions at the farm, water users association and basin levels and contribute to the sustainability of Mediterranean aquifers and rivers in qualitative and quantitative terms.

Expected impact

Proposals should contribute to implement priorities set in the PRIMA SRIA and show the clear link of how expected impacts from the projects are going to implement the expected outputs indicated in PRIMA SRIA⁴⁰.

The project results must contribute to PRIMA Operational Objective 1/WATER SAVING SOLUTIONS. 41

The project results are expected to contribute to:

- Develop right water balances and estimate right amount of water available for irrigation ensuring water safety and security (water quality and quantity)
- Decision support systems based on cost-effective devices and sensors for irrigation under water quality/quantity constraints;
- Water treatment technology for specific irrigation requirements (e.g., precision irrigation);
- Improved performance indicators at the on-farm and collective irrigation levels
- Water use converging to irrigation water requirements for optimised irrigation efficiency.

40 PRIMA SRIA Expected Outcomes Thematic Area Water Management, page 25.

41 Annex 1 of this document pages 108-111: Table linking AWP 2019 call topics expected impact to SRIA expected outcomes.

- Economic efficiency leading to high water balance protection, water productivity, similar or higher to that of alternative societal water uses.
- Attaining stable, safe water levels and ecological flows and soil salinity levels, compatible with common local crops.
- Limiting the nitrate load of irrigation return flows through improvements in fertilization, irrigation and ensuring right strict measures to fight eutrophication of water bodies
- Combine the protection of farmers' income with the environmental protection of Mediterranean water bodies thus contributing to the livelihoods of rural communities while preserving environment
- Enhanced skills and capacities of local professionals in support of employability and economic empowerment, understanding water balances and real availability of water, ensuring integrated planning skills balancing agricultural activities with water availability and, in the longer term, reduced shortage of skilled labour



Topic 2.1.2 RIA Management of low quality waters under water scarcity and climate change conditions

Challenge

The decreasing availability of freshwater makes increasingly necessary the use of saline-sodic and/or of treated wastewaters for irrigation to sustain crop productivity, with the consequence of increasing the risk of soil and water salinization/sodification.

Inappropriate or non-existing water balances and availability estimates, poor irrigation management and governance (with cases of illegal irrigation), lack of drainage and groundwater overexploitation have been identified as the main drivers of soil salinization and sodification. External pressures intensify these processes, which are favoured by typical Mediterranean climatic conditions (i.e., low rainfall, high air temperature and evapotranspiration).

The main impacts of soil salinization/sodification are unemployment, land abandonment, desertification and degradation of local water resources (in quantitative and qualitative terms). Sound water management can lead to strategies and policies protecting soil against salinization and sodification. Since these processes result from the interaction between soil, water and climate, the challenge is to explore site-specific management options leading to sustainable use of saline-sodic waters in areas susceptible to salinization and sodification.

Scope

The application of physically-based simulation models makes it possible to examine the effects of climate (and climate change) and soil-water management on soil salinization and sodification, as well as to identify viable management and policy options leading to sustainable land use. The characterization of soil physical and chemical properties is a key step for the application of these simulation models.

Experimental and demonstration sites representative of different Mediterranean conditions in terms of water scarcity, presence and use of low-quality irrigation waters (saline-sodic and/or treated wastewater), climate, crops, conflicting water uses and governance schemes, should be set up. These study cases will lead to the development of sustainable solutions for the use of low-quality water in Mediterranean agricultural systems. Solutions may focus on water allocation, water use and water reuse. Physically-based simulation models, novel technologies, management practices and governance schemes should be investigated, experimented and showcased through activities focusing on:

- Impacts of using untreated (waste and saline-sodic) or treated (desalinated) water on (i) soils having different physical, chemical and hydrological properties; (ii) soil salinization at different depths, including the risk of groundwater salinization; (iii) surface and groundwater, and the associated ecosystems.
- Development of water balances (supported by simulation, experimentation and observations) leading to: optimal water allocation, analysis of long-term scenarios and long-term impacts on soil, water and crops
- Design of long-term, large-scale management and governance strategies to prevent and control soil/water salinization and sodification.

Proposals are strongly encouraged to consider capacity building to improve the long-term impact of the recommended practices. Proposals should engage with relevant stakeholders for developing and demonstrating suitable means to support the qualification of local professionals (e.g., water utilities, regulatory bodies, water users' associations, individual farmers). Wherever needed and appropriate, proposals should take into account both academic and vocational training and education.

Expected impact:

Proposals should contribute to implement priorities set in the PRIMA SRIA and show the clear link of how expected impacts from the projects are going to implement the expected outputs indicated in PRIMA SRIA⁴².

The project results must contribute to PRIMA Operational Objective 1/WATER SAVING SOLUTIONS.⁴³

The project results are expected to contribute to:

- Preserve soil and water productivity by maintaining adequate balances of water and salts during the use of low-quality waters.
- Integrate desalination and treated wastewater into Mediterranean water management systems, assessing their economic and environmental impacts with a regional perspective.
- Improve soil and water management practices in relation to salinization/sodification, taking into account the regional variability of soils, water management schemes and groundwater.
- Develop adaptation strategies in relation to the effect of climate change on crop productivity.
- Build capacities of local professionals in support of employability and economic empowerment.
- Optimize the management of low quality waters for irrigation at the farm and collective levels (water users associations or basin authorities), preventing social conflicts in the use of water resources of different qualities.

Section 2 TOPICS Thematic Area 1-Farming System



Topic 2.2.1 RIA Small scale farming systems innovation.

Challenges

Small-scale farmers, including fisher folks, forest dwellers and pastoralists, contribute between 50 and 70 percent of the global food supply. The small-scale farming system is considered one of the

⁴² PRIMA SRIA Expected Outcomes Thematic Area Water Management, page 25.

⁴³ Annex 1 of this document pages 108-111: Table linking AWP 2019 call topics expected impact to SRIA expected outcomes.

most important factors in agricultural and rural development in all Mediterranean countries, since smallholders and family farmers remain essential actors for food security, employment, poverty eradication and environmental conservation. This is especially so because of the growing phenomenon of land fragmentation and its negative impact on agricultural production, efficiency in the use of natural resources and food security, as well as on the living conditions of small farmers and their families. The question of small-scale farming systems is also directly linked to a need for more coordination among actors along the value chains. Despite this important role, small-scale family farming and its actors face several challenges which hinder their active participation in sustainable agricultural rural and territorial development in Mediterranean countries. Their specific needs in terms of technological innovation are not always considered, and the main innovations are often not tailored to the specific conditions of small holders. To respond to the Small holders' specific needs, it is necessary to link better the provider of innovation and the users. All these challenges require an innovation-friendly environment, developing co-innovation and acting for their local deployment, suitable for local deployment, based on experimental physical and virtual spaces (living labs platforms) that enable participation of relevant stakeholders into the research and innovation process, facilitating an open innovation approach to increase the technological providers' capacity to bring innovation close to the market. ⁴⁴

Scope

Proposals must target improved innovation capacity of small farming systems to give effective solutions to the identified challenges, taking into consideration the specificities of the Mediterranean climate, agro-ecosystems, food diets and social structure.

Proposals shall contribute to make agriculture more sustainable, attractive, profitable, inclusive and a credible employment option for youth, as potential drivers of innovation and income. The living lab should focus on a multi-actor approach and engage as final users: farmers, grower cooperative boards, farming technology suppliers, research and extension services, with the scope to facilitate the cooperation between different stakeholders.

Project could deal with farming systems and/or livestock systems in an integrative way.

Proposals should contribute to territorial development and operate new sustainable production systems, which improve interactions among local, national and regional agents of the agri-food chains, and support the creation of added value for smallholder productions, while preserving natural resources and relying on agro-ecological principles. The financed living labs could support the testing of the innovations proposed by the companies.

Despite the local nature of living labs, regional and international proposals could rely on virtual spaces organization or networks, and include the analysis of the variability of solutions resulting from the innovation process in the Med region.

Expected impact

Proposals should contribute to implement priorities set in the PRIMA SRIA and show the clear link of how expected impacts from the projects are going to implement the expected outputs indicated in PRIMA SRIA⁴⁵.

The project results must contribute to PRIMA Operational Objective 4/ SMART AND SUSTAINABLE FARMING. ⁴⁶

44 Almirall, E., Wareham, J. (2011). Living Labs: Arbiters of Mid- and Ground- Level Innovation. Technology Analysis and Strategic Management, 23(1), 2011 pages 87-102.

45 PRIMA SRIA Expected Outcomes Thematic Area Farming System, page 27;2.

46 Annex 1 of this document pp. 108-111: Table linking AWP 2019 call topics expected impact to SRIA expected outcomes.

The project results are expected to contribute to:

- Enhance innovation capacities and appropriate technology transfer of existing or new infrastructures-
- Enhance sustainability of the small-scale farming systems and preservation of natural resources.
- Enhance the capacity of the staff of the living labs to provide assistance to the SMEs and to continue the project activities after the end of the project.
- Sharing experiences and innovations (including process) among multi-stakeholders development of innovations targeted to the final users' needs.
- Foster better access to the market of the innovation developed.



Topic 2.2.2 RIA Use and management of biodiversity as a major lever of sustainability in farming systems

Challenge

The agro-biodiversity depletion represents a threat to the planet because it reduces variety of available food and the ability of agroecosystems to effectively respond to environmental challenges. Nowadays only three crops – rice, wheat, and maize - provide more than half of plant-derived calories consumed worldwide. The mono-cultural approach of intensive agriculture decreases the ability to naturally cope with biotic and abiotic stresses exacerbated by climate change, and to reduction of soil fertility, despite intensive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, for maintaining high agricultural production. Biodiversity restoration and the use of wild crop relatives is a new production paradigm that guarantees a wider range of food and more sustainable agronomic practices. Mixing cropping systems yielded beneficial effects in term of soil and water conservation, nutrient recycling, carbon sequestration, pest and disease control, and better ecosystems services. The valorisation and management of functional biodiversity to enhance ecosystem functions and resulting ecosystem services, is a major area of investigation. Traditional agricultural systems are important sources of information that, combined with the recent advances of scientific knowledge, may usefully assist in the application of biodiversity-based agriculture. Different fields of research and innovation can be explored for managing biodiversity in the agriculture systems, integrating the large variety of local natural resources in the Mediterranean area, with the involvement and contribution of local farming systems and private and public stakeholders of the agri-business system.

Scope

Proposals shall implement activities contributing to the development of a biodiversity-based agriculture in the Mediterranean countries, which will be able to enhance the sustainability of farming systems.

Proposals analysing how traditional agricultural systems make use of biodiversity, identifying the strengths and weaknesses of these systems and showing how they can provide lessons for the cropping systems of tomorrow, are encouraged. Integration with new knowledge and technologies in assessing biodiversity and its role in adaptation and sustainable crop production is especially sought. The bases to implement biodiversity-based agriculture should be investigated. This includes the evaluation of performances of wide ranges of species (including service plants) and

varieties/breeds (for crops and/or integrated crop systems). Understanding, modelling and valorising the multiple biotic interactions at play (including aboveground-belowground interactions and resistance/resilience effects) and their management by agricultural practices are also at stake. Proposals addressing new biodiversity-based crop systems impacts on the agroecosystem functioning and performances over time, for example in terms of sustainable productivity, maintenance of soil fertility, and long-term control of pests and diseases, are in the scope of the call. Integrative approaches looking for farming systems that exploit synergies and minimise problems due to mono-culture, thus ensuring sustainable crop performances are encouraged. Interdisciplinary approaches based on agro-technical, biotechnical and socio-economic research to design biodiversity-based farming systems and social procedures supporting them, such as local governance, adaptive learning or product valorisation will be fostered. Transdisciplinary proposals seeking complementarities between scientific and stakeholders' approaches and knowledge are also expected.

Expected impact

Proposals should contribute to implement priorities set in the PRIMA SRIA and show the clear link of how expected impacts from the projects are going to implement the expected outputs indicated in PRIMA SRIA⁴⁷.

The project results must contribute to PRIMA Operational Objective 4/ SMART AND SUSTAINABLE FARMING.⁴⁸

The project results are expected to contribute to:

- Valorisation of traditional and novel use of biodiversity in farming systems
- Increase sustainability and resilience of farming systems, particularly regarding the environmental and social (e.g. health of farmers) dimensions
- Increase of farmers' income through ecologically sustainable productions
- Preservation of natural resources, including biodiversity
- Improvement of agroecosystem services and valorisation of soils and crops

Section 2 TOPICS Thematic Area 1-Agro-food Value Chain



Topic 2.3.1 RIA Extending shelf-life of perishable Mediterranean food products by sustainable technologies and logistics and by optimized pest and microbial control.

Challenge

Post-farming losses remain very high in many Mediterranean countries, representing in some cases up to 30% of the production, while population growth in the region requires more and more actions to guarantee food security and minimize food waste. Transportation inefficiencies, broken cold chains and non-optimal logistics negatively affect the quality and durability of products that often become inaccessible to remote rural areas. Climate change in Mediterranean will result in the temperature increase of 2-4°C by 2050, thus adding another negative threat to food storability and transportation. Efficient functioning of food chains is greatly requested to face the challenge, but it

⁴⁷ PRIMA SRIA Expected Outcomes Thematic Area Farming System, page 27 and Cross cutting themes on Soil sustainability page 30.

⁴⁸ Annex 1 of this document pages 108-111: Table linking AWP 2019 call topics expected impact to SRIA expected outcomes.

relies upon physical infrastructure providing up-to-date technologies, and services specifically studied for the Mediterranean production and distribution system. Ultimately, the food chain should make smooth and possible agro-food exportations between the two Mediterranean shores, facilitated by sharing common standards for quality and safety. As agro-food production is characterised by significant volumes of wastes derived by post-farming processes, with a deep impact on the water/carbon footprint, implementation of alternative processes that valorise side- and by-products derived by the mainstream production system should be considered.

Scope

Proposals should focus on developing and implementing context-adapted solutions to reduce post-farming food losses, also extending shelf-life of perishable Mediterranean food products such as added value fruits and vegetables, meat products and dairy. Proposals should also include capacity building activities supporting dissemination of good practices and relative information for storage and handling, and training activities dedicated to food chain operators. Proposals should fall under the concept of the “multi-actor approach” by engaging retailers, consumers or other stakeholders including SMEs and facilitating the cooperation between different stakeholders.

Application of ICT technologies based on cost-effective devices and sensors to support consumption of Mediterranean productions should also be considered.

Proposals should also include at least one of the following aspects:

- Application of post-farming strategies and logistic solutions to reduce food losses during storage and transportation;
- Adoption of sustainable preservation technologies based on physical treatments, mild-heating sanitisation, natural preservatives and smart packaging technologies with low risk of microbial cross-contamination, validated in actual Mediterranean production systems;
- Demonstration of the efficacy of natural antimicrobials and probiotics from the Mediterranean biodiversity (bio-preservation) to guarantee product stability and reduce incidence of foodborne pathogens;
- Exploration of traditional knowledge and know-how for Med food storage (e.g. fermentation), demonstration of their efficiency and transfer to SMEs
- Application of ICT technologies based on cost-effective devices and sensors to support Mediterranean consumers on the management of food stocks contributing to reduce food waste;
- Implementation of alternative processes valorising side- and by-products derived by the mainstream food production system, currently constituting environment impacting wastes.

Expected impact

Proposals should contribute to implement priorities set in the PRIMA SRIA and show the clear link of how expected impacts from the projects are going to implement the expected outputs indicated in PRIMA SRIA⁴⁹.

The project results must contribute to PRIMA Operational Objective 7/ REDUCE LOSSES AND WASTES⁵⁰

The project results are expected to contribute to:

⁴⁹ PRIMA SRIA Expected Outcomes Thematic Area Farming System, page 27.

⁵⁰ Annex 1 of this document pages 108-111: Table linking AWP 2019 call topics expected impact to SRIA expected outcomes.

- Improved processing and storage efficacy and efficiency providing food products with longer shelf-lives and more favourable microbial stability;
- Improved food chains sustainability by using alternative agri-food processes or tools focused mainly on meat and vegetable production
- Identification and exploitation of added value by- and side-products derived from the Mediterranean agro-food system;
- Optimization of logistics for food storage and distribution either at local or transnational level resulting in higher income for small holders and SMEs.



Topic 2.3.2 RIA Enhancing horizontal and vertical integration of Mediterranean agro-food value-chains to foster innovation and sustainability.

Challenge

The integration of the Mediterranean agro-food value-chains could be a valid response to growing market complexity because it allows faster decisions, higher profitability for all the partners, greater product quality and sustainability and more responsiveness to markets demand and adoption of innovation.

The Mediterranean agro-food value-chains are mainly represented by small actors, which are not able to reach the minimum conditions for investing in innovation. Moreover, the high number of disconnected enterprises makes it difficult to achieve an efficient cooperation and integration of the different actors. These characteristics pose a challenge in the effective management of the quality along the food chain with food losses, slow responding safety systems, the uneven market distribution, especially between rural and urban areas. Besides the weak vertical links among the different stakeholders in the same food supply chain, also the absence of trans-sectorial interactions among different productive systems, possibly from the same territory, provoke lower performances in the utilization of natural resources, resulting in low uptake of by-products from one value chain in another that prevent a complete valorisation.

Scope

Proposals should aim to strengthen the vertical (from production to consumption) and horizontal (collaboration between actors in the same segment of the same or other connected value chains) integration of the Mediterranean agro-food value-chains. Both vertical and horizontal integration are important for the business success, representing two approaches with the same aim to exchange information, competences and knowledge among different players supporting the growth of all of them. Proposals should promote the creation of local/national/trans-Mediterranean innovation structures (Med PRIMA-Communities) that under the open innovation and open science approach will identify common challenges and develop technological innovative solutions to enhance the integration of the Mediterranean agro-food value-chains. PRIMA-Communities should be led by local knowledge providers/local innovation brokers with the scope to elaborate new agro-food business models and action plans to improve supply chain management, sustainability and valorisation of Mediterranean local food products. Proposals should fall under the concept of the “multi-actor approach” engaging of retailers, consumers and SMEs and facilitating the cooperation between different stakeholders. Proposals should focus on innovative mechanisms and tools supporting chain’s leaders to induce greater profitability and sustainability along the agro-food value chain.

Expected impact

Proposals should contribute to implement priorities set in the PRIMA SRIA and show the clear link of how expected impacts from the projects are going to implement the expected outputs indicated in PRIMA SRIA⁵¹.

The project results must contribute to PRIMA Operational Objective 8/ NEW AGRO-FOOD BUSINESS MODELS⁵²

The project results are expected to contribute to:

- New business models for quality and sustainability, suited especially to SMEs, and creation of a new generation of young entrepreneurs;
- Innovative planning and management control systems for quality and sustainability;
- Innovative horizontal and vertical organisational reorient mind-set, considering entrepreneurship, education, capacity building and information sharing
- Improve social inclusion and increase economic development through fair distribution of profitability along the chain, due to strengthening of partnerships between different organizations and institutions
- Increase the overseas export of the local products through market access and share added value among companies.
- Increase the overseas exports to improve the added value of the local products

Table 10. Supporting information for the Section 2 Call for Proposals

<i>Type of action</i>	<i>Research & Innovation Activities (RIA^{*53})</i>
<i>Total indicative amount allocated to this call</i>	EUR 34.9 million
<i>Funding level</i>	depending on National Regulations
<i>Expected number of grants</i>	Approximately 35
<i>Expected duration of the projects</i>	36 or 48 months according to national regulations
<i>Additional eligibility conditions</i>	The standard admissibility, and eligibility conditions apply (section 5.2.2 and 5.2.3)
<i>Submission and evaluation procedure</i>	Two-stage application procedure. For the first stage, a pre-proposal (maximum 10 pages) must be submitted by the first deadline. Successful applicants in the first stage will be invited to submit a full proposal (maximum 50 pages) for the second stage. A timeline for the submission and evaluation of applications can be found in table 12 of the AWP 2019.

51 PRIMA SRIA Expected Outcomes Thematic Area Farming System , page 27 0.

52 Annex 1 of this document pages 108-111: Table linking AWP 2019 call topics expected impact to SRIA expected outcomes.

53 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 analogous to 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*.

<i>Evaluation rules</i>	The scoring, thresholds and weightings for RIAs listed in section <u>5.2.6</u> will be used.
<i>Grant agreement</i>	<p>Each national funding body will fund the beneficiaries established in its own country, thus, the national funding rules apply.</p> <p>Each national funding body will sign a grant agreement (or any official documents acting as contract) with their national beneficiaries taking part in the selected project (section <u>5.2.11</u>). The coordinator of the project has to decide with his/her partners of a common starting date of the project and send this information to all the funding bodies involved in funding this project in order to ensure that the national contracts are synchronized in time to cover all the period of the project.</p>
<i>Consortium agreement</i>	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 agreement then it is necessary to refer to the national regulations and draft this document accordingly (section <u>5.2.11</u>)

Table 11 Planned activities and indicative budget distribution of Participating States

Participating States	Algeria	Croatia	Cyprus	Egypt	France	Germany	Greece	Israel	Italy	Jordan	Lebanon	Luxembourg	Malta	Morocco	Portugal	Slovenia	Spain	Tunisia	Turkey	TOTAL
Total commitment (K€)	2.000.000	300.000	400.000	3.000.000	4.000.000	3.300.000	2.500.000	750.000	7.000.000	1.500.000	500.000	300.000	500.000	2.000.000	1.250.000	150.000	3.000.000	1.500.000	1.000.000	34.950.000
Topics																				

Table 12 Timetable for Section 2 Call for Proposals in 2019

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.

Action	Call Topics	Call publication and opening	Submission deadline Stage 1	Evaluation results Stage 1	Submission deadline Stage 2	Evaluation results Stage 2
RIA*	Topics 2.1.1; 2.1.2 (2 Topics)	05/12/2018	29/01/2019	03/05/2019	04/07/2019	15/11/2019
RIA*	Topics 2.2.1; 2.2.2 (2 Topics)	05/12/2018	29/01/2019	03/05/2019	04/07/2019	15/11/2019
RIA*	Topics 2.3.1; 2.3.2 (2 Topics)	05/12/2018	29/01/2019	03/05/2019	04/07/2019	15/11/2019

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

2.2.1 Evaluation of projects proposals submitted to Section 2 Calls

Objective: This activity consists of implementing the evaluation of all the eligible projects submitted to the 2019 PRIMA Section 2 calls and preparing the decision of the Board of Trustees and of the national funding bodies for selection of projects to be funded. The evaluation process is described in [5.2.6](#)

PRIMA-IS will appoint external independent experts to evaluate the proposals and to be part of the evaluation panels.

PRIMA IS will assign to the independent experts the evaluation of both first-stage proposals and full proposals (stage 2). PRIMA IS will provide guidelines to the experts for the remote evaluation and for drafting their individual assessment report. At the end of this period of remote individual assessment, the experts will meet in a panel to draft the consensus report for each project. When a consensus is reached for each project, the panel will agree on the final assessment and will proceed with the ranking of the projects.

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

For Section 2, there will be a single panel covering the entire range of topics.

PRIMA-IS will cover the independent expert fees, travels and accommodation and the other meetings-related expenses in accordance with international standards.

Type of Action: Expert Contracts, Direct costs for meetings

Indicative budget: € 250.000

2.3 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 costs incurred by the PS for the management of successful proposals resulting from the calls organised by the PRIMA foundation and funded by the PS.

These costs shall not exceed 6 % of the individual financial contribution by each Participating State in Section 2. For 2019, the total amount of these contributions shall not exceed € 2 097 000.

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 three kind of activities:

- a. National research programmes implemented, managed and funded by the PS: PSIAS
- b. Activities supporting programme operation funded and implemented by PS

3.1 Participating States Initiated Activities (PSIAs)

The PRIMA Basic Act states that PRIMA activities may include activities under the national programmes of the Participating States 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 PRIMA basic act, in Part One of Title VIII of the Financial Regulation No 2018/1046 and Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013, in particular the principles of equal treatment, transparency, independent peer review evaluation and selection.

The Participating States Initiated Activities (PSIAs) listed below gather activities under national programmes of PS spanning from national calls for research and innovation, training actions and/or supports to joint research project or joint 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 AWP 2019 are in line with PRIMA objectives.

All participants to activities funded by the PRIMA Foundation 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 13 Participating States Initiated Activities in 2019 (details of the calls are given in Section 6.

Code	Activity title	Key words	Action	Countries involved	Duration of the PSIA (in month) or type of budget allocation	2019 Total PS indicative commitment (€)
DE-2019-1	German-Egyptian Research Fund (GERF)	Biotechnology, Water, Renewable energies	RIA, TMA	Egypt	Bi-annual calls	1.000.000
DE-2019-2	German-Moroccan programme for scientific research (PMARS)	Water, Environmental research, Food and Agricultural	TMA	Morocco	Annual call	300.000

		Sciences, Renewable energies				
DZ-2019-1	Research projects funded by DGRSDT 'General Directorate for Scientific Research and Technological Development' – public body under the authority of the Ministry of higher education	Health, demographic change and wellbeing ; Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry marine and maritime and inland water research Bioeconomy;	RIA	Algeria Potentially France, Spain, Italy, Germany	annual call for RDI Projects	1.500.000
EG-2019-1	SDTF-TC	Agriculture, Water	RIA	Egypt	Annual Call	2.300.000
EG-2019-2	SDTF-GERF	Agricultural Research and Natural Resource Management (including Water Resources, Food Production and Food Safety	RIA IA	Egypt, Germany		1.000.000
EG-2019-3	Jesor Programme	Management of water, Farming systems, Agrofood value chain	TMA			240.960
ES-2019-1	Funding for National projects in the Agro-food value chain, Farming and Management of water R+D field	National calls, Innovation, Agriculture and Food Science and Technology	RIA	National Calls	Annual call for RDI projects	43.500.000
FR-2019-1	Research Projects funded by ANR under the Annual National Call for proposals on PRIMA related issues	Water, agriculture, food, Mediterranean Area	RIA	France, potentially non-EU med countries.	annual call for research proposals	1 500 000
IL- 2019-1	Israel Innovation Authority, Bilateral Programmes with Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Slovenia, Spain etc.	Water, agriculture and food	IA	Bilateral programmes with France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Cyprus	Annual call	1.000.000
LB. 2019.1	CNRS-L	Agriculture and food, environment and	RIA, TMA, supp	Lebanon	Several calls/year	2.500.000

		natural resource	ort to resea rch			
LB.2019.2	CNRS-L	PhD Scholarships	TMA, RI, schol arshi p	Lebanon (+ Europe, USA)	Annual call	750.000
LB.2019.3	CNRS-L	Food security, water	RIA, TMA, supp ort to resea rch	Lebanon, Italy	Annual call	16.000
MO.2019. 1	Moroccan-German programme for scientific research (PMARS)	-Water and environment, -Food and agricultural sciences, -Renewable energies -Humanities -social sciences	collab oratio n proje cts TMA	Germany	Annual call	34.850
TU-2019-1	MAGHREB Partenariat Hubert Curien (PHC) Maghreb Tuniso-Maghrebin	Human and social sciences, sciences and technologies, chemistry, engineering, agronomy , animal, plant and food production, health sciences, veterinary sciences	TMA	Morocco, Algeria, Tunis and France	Annual call	53.224,79
TU-2019-2	UTIQUE Partenariat Hubert Curien (PHC) franco-tunisien	Innovation, all technological fields : renewable energy, resource efficiency, agronomy, engineering	TMA	Tunis and France	Annual call	92.279,00

3.2 Activities supporting programme operation funded and implemented by PS

3.2.1 PRIMA Stakeholder Committee

Objectives

This activity aims to establish a PRIMA Stakeholders Committee, able to support, give impulse and promote innovation practices and projects in the field of agro-food and water management system. The PRIMA Stakeholders Committee will gather together some relevant public and private sectors willing to enhance a dialogue between different backgrounds and perspectives, business actors, investors and SMEs.

The PRIMA Stakeholders Committee is meant to liaise with and take advantage of similar experiences already active at national level. The Committee will be also called to give some inputs and suggestions on how the role of social innovation among companies could be facilitated within and through PRIMA annual work plans. A launch meeting will be held in 2019 in order to formally convene the different Stakeholders. The activation of the PRIMA Stakeholders Committee is intended to further promote the legacy of PRIMA and the political commitment behind the programme, through a long-term alliance of Stakeholders keen on having an impact vis-à-vis the challenges that the Med area is facing.

Type of action: Implemented and Managed by Italy

Indicative budget: € 50,000

Timetable: the activity will begin in the first quarter 2019.

3.2.2 Training and Education: Massive Open Online Course

Taking advantage of the creation of a Massive Open Online Course on PRIMA related fields made available in 2018, this activity will further expand the outreach of this educational tool by promoting the use of it among small entrepreneurs, policy makers, and young innovators.

The flexibility of the educational tool will also allow implementing it within vocational training courses or at school level, thus spreading the awareness and understanding of key elements of Agenda 2030, with a focus on the three thematic areas of PRIMA.

Specific attention will be given to the enlargement of the faculty and modules, so to include the learners as the new educators able to give new insights and perspectives through the possibility of a constant interaction with the experts and circular interaction among them.

Type of action: Implemented and Managed by Italy

Indicative budget: € 50,000

Timetable: the activity will begin in the first quarter 2019.

3.2.3 Innovator broker in the Mediterranean Area

Innovator Broker are “enablers” of innovation trained to create, support, and drive the innovation in the network. The innovator broker in the Mediterranean will be a facilitator, bringing relevant stakeholders to the table, to develop and drive regional competitiveness plans, and to make connections among actors and will facilitate the multi-actor innovation approach used.

In order to facilitate the knowledge transfer between research and agri-food firms and, more generally, among all relevant actors of agri-food innovation systems a training activity of 2 weeks aimed to the creation of a new professional figure of innovator broker will be organised.

This professional figure is in charge of catalysing innovation through bringing together actors and facilitating their interaction, adopting a broad systemic, multi-actor, innovation systems perspective.

Type of action: Implemented and Managed by Italy

Indicative budget: € 80,000

Timetable: the activity will begin in the second quarter 2019.

3.2.4 PRIMA Observatory on Innovation (POI)

This activity will establish a Mediterranean Agro-food sector Observatory able to understand the features of present and future agro-food business scenario, to monitor the state of art of Mediterranean agro-food sector during the programme implementation, with the aim to disseminate periodically PRIMA impacts, best practices and emerging innovations/issues and to support and facilitate the match between the need of enterprises and the solutions offered by innovators and researchers. The Observatory, will be hosted by a web platform and collects the most innovative research and innovation projects in the Agri-Food sector: in this first phase of implementation will be collected projects already financed and completed, with the possibility later to give visibility also to those not yet completed. In addition to a powerful consultation tool, the POI Observatory will also offer a narrative showcase to the virtuous and paradigmatic cases of research that have produced (or will produce) innovations in the production or management of agri-food resources. The aim is not only to enhance the work of researchers and operators in the Agri-Food sector, it is also and above all to increase social awareness of the intrinsic value of research and innovation and of the consequent economic, social and environmental impacts thanks to a diffusion correct, complete and authoritative of information, news, success stories from scientifically authoritative sources. For this reason, the Observatory will be engaged in communication through social networks and is defining connections with the media interested in success stories.

Type of action: Implemented and Managed by Italy

Indicative budget: € 70,000

Timetable: the activity will begin in the first quarter 2019.

3.2.5 PRIMA Targeted Brokerage Events

Description of the Objectives of the Activity

Through the vast number of meetings that were undertaken in the last two years with potential PRIMA beneficiaries, it was noted that the main hurdle that local researchers are facing is the issue of lack of networking opportunities. Because of their limited contacts, Maltese researchers have very good research ideas in relation to the thematic areas of PRIMA but are unfortunately approached much less by foreign researchers to join project consortia and also find it more challenging to identify and approach foreign entities to join a Maltese-led project.

It is proposed that a preliminary mapping exercise is undertaken on the results of the first two PRIMA Calls, by analysing the countries that Malta is participating with the most. From this information, the Council would be able to also identify the institutions that Maltese partners are partnering with. Moreover, other institutions with high success rates in the previous two PRIMA Calls will also be sought. With this data in hand, a series of targeted brokerage events will be undertaken, where a carefully selected group of researchers (this selection will be undertaken through a transparent open call) will have

the opportunity to meet and actively engage with fellow peers within these institutions.

The number of targeted countries would be limited to around 3-5, ideally finding a balance between EU member countries and Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs).

Type of Activity:

The role of the Council would be to:

Undertake preliminary mapping exercise to identify target countries and respective institutions

Establish initial links with these institutions either directly or through their Consulate

Develop a Call Criteria to select the most appropriate candidates

Launch the Call

Choose the participants

Assist the participants to develop a sound proposal from their ideas.

Organise the logistics of the different envisaged networking meetings taking place in the identified institutions abroad

Fund the relevant travel and accommodation costs for the Maltese researchers

Local PRIMA NCP would need to work on establishing links with these institutions so as other local researchers would be able to benefit from these established networks

Follow the progress of these networking meetings

Indicative budget: € 25,000

Timetable: Third Quarter 2019

3.2 6 Organise and Implement a Call that will enable the selection of Malta-based researchers to participate in the PRIMA project Kick-Off Meeting

Description of the Objectives of the Activity

PRIMA will be organising the first PRIMA projects Kick-Off Meeting, where the successful projects for the 2018 Calls will be showcasing their project and preliminary ideas. All the project coordinators of the PRIMA Section 1 and Section 2 Calls will be present, together with quite a good number of researchers that will be taking part in the projects. Moreover, the event is open to all researchers that are interested in the PRIMA thematic areas. Thus, the participation of local researchers in such a considerable networking event can prove quite beneficial in enabling the establishment of PRIMA research networks for Malta-based beneficiaries.

Type of Activity:

The role of the Council would be to:

- *Undertake preliminary mapping exercise to identify target countries and respective institutions*
- *Establish initial links with these institutions either directly or through their Consulate*
- *Develop a Call Criteria to select the most appropriate candidates*
- *Launch the Call*
- *Evaluate and select participants*
- *Assist the participants to develop a sound proposal from their ideas.*
- *Organise the logistics of the different envisaged networking meetings taking place in the identified institutions abroad*

- *Fund the relevant travel and accommodation costs for the Malta-based researchers*
- *Local PRIMA NCP would need to work on establishing links with these institutions so as other local researchers would be able to benefit from these established networks*
- *Follow the progress of these networking meetings*

Indicative budget: € 12,000

Timetable: Third Quarter 2019

3.2.7 Organise a PRIMA National Day and Board of Trustees Meeting

Description of the Objectives of the Activity

Through this event, Malta will be hosting the high-level PRIMA delegates from all the PRIMA Member States and the PRIMA Mediterranean Partner Countries to discuss pertinent issues in relation to the PRIMA initiative.

The Council would also like to organise an Information and Networking Session to provide more information on the PRIMA 2020 Calls. The Council would be focusing on a widespread marketing campaign for this, utilising several social media streams to aid in the dissemination process of the event. Ensuring good private sector engagement will also be one of the main priorities of the event and this will be tackled in a very strategic approach to enable a much higher attendance rate from this sector.

Type of Activity

The role of the Council would be to:

In relation to the PRIMA National Day

- *Organise the logistics of the event*
- *Finance the premises and the refreshments of the event*
- *Finance the travel and accommodation expenses of the PRIMA secretariat member/s that will be attending*
- *Develop the relevant material to be disseminated in the event*
- *Widely disseminate information on the event through several social media platforms and through one-to-one sessions with relevant private stakeholders.*

In relation to the Board of Trustees Meeting

- *Organise the logistics of the event in collaboration with the PRIMA secretariat*
- *Finance the premises and the refreshments of the event*

Indicative budget: € 7,500

Timetable: Third Quarter 2019

3.2.8 Synergies with other related initiatives

Description of the Objectives of the Activity

Organise a two-days' workshop with other existing related initiatives. One-day meeting with European initiatives representatives (e.g. JPI Water, KIC Climate, KIC Food, JPI FACCE, HDHL, etc.) in order to identify synergies and possible areas of collaboration having in mind the strategic agendas and also the calls already launched and the gaps still not covered. This action will support all costs necessary to organize the workshop, including the travel costs of selected PRIMA staff and coordinators of pre-selected projects funded by the different initiatives. A two-day meeting to enhance participation in and uptake by international programmes in the fields of water and food (FAO, CGIAR, IPGRI, ICARDA, SDSN)

Type of Activity

Workshop implemented by Greece Indicative

Indicative budget: € 100,000

Timetable: Third Quarter 2019

3.2.8 Organise a PRIMA Training Workshop for Mediterranean Partner Countries “How to write competitive proposals”.

Description of the Objectives of the Activity

PRIMA Training Workshop for Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC) „How to write competitive proposals”

The primary aim of the training workshop is to enable potential applicants from MPCs to take over the coordinating role for the preparation of a competitive proposal within PRIMA and other international funding programmes. In addition, participants will receive in-depth information and basic knowledge on proposal preparation for calls on international level. The training workshop will also help to strengthen participation of MPC coordinators in other multi- and also bi-lateral funding programmes for research, innovation and technological development.

The workshop will focus on the following content:

- ☑ responsibilities of a coordinator
- ☑ targeted reading and implementation of funding announcements
- ☑ principles of building international project consortia
- ☑ skills required to draft a competitive proposal like
 - o important principles of grant writing
 - o structure of a grant proposal with a focus on H2020/PRIMA
 - o reviewer-oriented grant writing: understanding evaluation criteria in H2020/PRIMA
 - o specific requirements of the PRIMA programme
 - o calculating a project budget based on H2020 and national financial rules, the latter with support of PRIMA-NCPs

- ☑ expertise needed to coordinate the preparation of a project proposal with large project Consortia

Type of Action: implemented and managed by Germany, in close collaboration with the host countries, supported by the PRIMA IS

Indicative Budget: € 10.000 per workshop (all fees and expenses for the trainer to design, prepare and hold the trainings, including materials, as well as travel and accommodation costs for the trainer. 4 Workshops will be organised.

Timetable: the activity will begin in the third quarter 2019

4. Administrative 2019 budget of the PRIMA-IS for the implementation of the PRIMA programme

In 2019, 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 (AFM), Accounting and Finance Officer (AFO), Administrative Assistants (2), IT Technician

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

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 to present the PRIMA AWP 2020 to the public approximately in the fourth Quarter of 2019. (Costs will be under Mission and travels section)

4.6 Budget overview tables

Table 14 Indicative budget for the administrative costs of the PRIMA-IS for the implementation of the PRIMA programme in 2019

Description	Amount
Personnel	1.100.000,00
Meetings and missions	190.000,00
Consumables and supplies	50.000,00
Service contracts	110.000,00
Dissemination activities and materials	50.000,00
Total	1.500.000,00

Table 15 Overview of Planned Commitments to Activities of the PRIMA Programme 2019 by the European Union (EU), the Participating States (PS) in Euros

Activities	Contributions (in €)		
	EU	PS	Grand Total
EU funded Transnational Calls for Proposals RIA and IA (Section 1)	27.982.500,00		27.982.500,00
Participating States Transnational co-funded Call for Proposals, managed by PRIMA-IS (Section 2)		34.950.000,00	34.950.000,00
Sub-Total transnational calls	27.982.500,00	34.950.000,00	62.932.500,00
Evaluation of Projects and supporting activities	517.500,00		517.500,00
Participating States funded activities managed by PS to support programme implementation		444.050,00	444.050,00
PS contributions dedicated to the implementation of proposals resulting from PS funded calls		2.097.000,00	2.097.000,00
Participating States Initiated Activities		55.749.827,84	55.749.827,84
Sub-Total Implementation	28.500.000,00	93.240.877,84	121.740.877,84
EU-funded administrative costs of the PRIMA-IS	1.500.000,00		1.500.000,00
Sub-Total Administration	1.500.000,00		1.500.000,00
Total Budget	30.000.000,00	93.240.877,84	123.240.877,84

Table 16 Detailed overview of planned commitments to activities of the PRIMA programme in 2019 by the European Union (EU) and the Participating States (PS)

Planned commitments (in €)						
	Programme CALLS	PRIMA-IS administrative costs	PS management costs	Activities supporting programme operations	PSIAs	Total in 2019
	Financial contributions	Financial contributions	In-kind contributions	Financial Contributions	Financial contributions	
European Union (EU)						
European Commission	27.982.500	1.500.000,00		517.500,00		30.000.000,00
Sub-Total EU	27.982.500	1.500.000,00	-	517.500,00		30.000.000,00
Participating States (PS)						
Algeria	2.000.000,00		120.000,00	1.000,00	1.500.000,00	3.621.000,00
Croatia	300.000,00		18.000,00			318.000,00
Cyprus	400.000,00		24.000,00			424.000,00
Egypt	3.000.000,00		180.000,00	1.000,00	3.540.960,84	6.721.960,84
France	4.000.000,00		240.000,00		1.500.000,00	5.740.000,00
Germany	3.300.000,00		198.000,00	40.000,00	1.300.000,00	4.838.000,00
Greece	2.500.000,00		150.000,00	100.000,00		2.750.000,00
Israel	750.000,00		45.000,00		1.000.000,00	1.795.000,00
Italy	7.000.000,00		420.000,00	250.000,00		7.670.000,00
Jordan	1.500.000,00		90.000,00	1.000,00		1.591.000,00
Lebanon	500.000,00		30.000,00		3.266.000,00	3.796.000,00
Luxembourg	300.000,00		18.000,00			318.000,00
Malta	500.000,00		30.000,00	50.050,00		580.050,00
Morocco	2.000.000,00		120.000,00	1.000,00	34.850,00	2.155.850,00
Portugal	1.250.000,00		75.000,00			1.325.000,00
Slovenia	150.000,00		9.000,00			159.000,00
Spain	3.000.000,00		180.000,00		43.500.000,00	46.680.000,00
Tunisia	1.500.000,00		90.000,00		108.017,00	1.698.017,00
Turkey	1.000.000,00		60.000,00			1.060.000,00
Sub-Total PSs	34.950.000,00		2.097.000,00	444.050,00	55.749.827,84	93.240.877,84
Sub-Total EU and PSs	62.932.500,00	1.500.000,00	2.097.000,00	961.550,00	55.749.827,84	123.240.877,84

Grand Total	62.932.500,00	1.500.000,00	2.097.000,00	961.550,00	55.749.827,84	123.240.877,84
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Table 17 Overview of planned EU contributions towards PRIMA Calls for Proposals in 2019 and other activities for the implementation of the PRIMA programme, including administrative expenses of the PRIMA-IS

	EU-funded PRIMA activities	Indicative EU contribution (in €)
Research & Innovation Actions	Section 1 Call 1	6.400.000,00
	Section 1 Call 2	10.900.000,00
	Section 1 Call 3	6.400.000,00
	Section 1 Call Nexus	4.282.500,00
Other Activities	Activities for supporting the implementation of the programme	517.500
Administrative costs of the PRIMA-IS	Personnel, Missions, Consumables and supplies,	1.340.000,00
	Service contracts	110.000
	Dissemination activities	50.000
Total planned contributions in 2018		30.000.000,00

5. General Annexes

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

5.1.1 List of countries eligible for funding

Legal entities established in the following countries and territories will be eligible to receive funding through PRIMA grants:

a) The PRIMA Participating States⁵⁴ :

- 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 States⁵⁵.
- The following Third Countries associated to Horizon 2020 (AC): Israel, Tunisia, and Turkey.
- 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.

These Associated (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 Union law

c) Any international European interest organization⁵⁶, as defined in point (12) of Article 2(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013⁵⁷

For these two types of entities (b, c), their place of establishment is not relevant.

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

- participation is deemed to be essential for carrying out the action;
- such funding is provided under a bilateral scientific and technological agreement or any other arrangement between the Union and the international organisation

⁵⁴ 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).

⁵⁵ 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.

⁵⁶ '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".

⁵⁷ These are international organizations, the majority of whose members are Member States or associated countries, and whose principal objective is to promote scientific and technological cooperation in Europe.

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 have to fund their own participation

All participants with their own 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 to the projects (task(s), participation to meetings, etc.) will be available.

5.1.2 Standard admissibility conditions, page limits and supporting documents

1. For all actions under AWP 2019, proposals must comply with the admissibility requirements set out in this sub-section, unless they are 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 for exploitation and dissemination** of the results, unless otherwise specified in the call conditions. The draft plan is not required for proposals at the first stage of two-stage procedures.

2. 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 except for:

Coordination and support actions (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. Applicant are requested to use the template provided by PRIMA that can be downloaded from the PRIMA website under the relevant call section.

3. 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 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;

- 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;
- A list of up to five relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal;
- A description of any significant infrastructure and/or any major items of technical equipment, relevant to the proposed work;
- 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).

This scrutiny will be carried out by the evaluators during the evaluation process under the selection criteria, in particular the award criterion 'Quality and efficiency of the implementation'. Please refer to Section 5.1.6 "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 No. 1290/2013 and any derogations to these as specified in the PRIMA Decision.

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 PS⁵⁸
- 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:

⁵⁸ This measure is aimed to protect the Union's financial interests and is in line with Art. 7(7) of the PRIMA Decision.

Table 18 Eligibility conditions for participation for PRIMA Actions Section 1

Type of Action	Eligibility conditions for participation ⁵⁹⁶⁰⁶¹
Research & Innovation Action (RIA)	<p>At least three legal entities established in three different countries considered as Participating States⁶² 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 a EU Member State or a third country associated to Horizon 2020 and not being a 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 actions (IA)	<p>At least three legal entities established in three different countries considered as Participating States as defined in point 5.1.1.⁶¹ 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 a EU Member State or a third country associated to Horizon 2020 and not being a 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>
Coordination and Support Actions (CSA)	<p>At least one legal entity established in a PRIMA PS⁶³</p>

Clarifications on the participation of international organisations (IO) in PRIMA actions

IOs can participate in PRIMA actions.

If the IO is located (having its statutory seat) in a PRIMA PS, the IO counts towards the minimum number of partners. (which make a consortium eligible). However, the objective of balanced cooperation between two groups of PS, as intended by Article 7(2) of the PRIMA Decision, has to be preserved. This means that the consortium must – apart from the IO – be composed by one legal entity established in a Participating State falling under Article 7(2)(a) of PRIMA Decision and one legal entity established in a Participating State falling under Article 7(2)(b) of that decision.

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

60 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 2018/1046). Should the illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol end, this Work Plan will be revised.

61 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 No 2018/1046), notably programme co-fund actions.

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

63 The minimum condition of participation in a Coordination Support Action within the PRIMA AWP 2019 should be of at least a single legal entity established in a PRIMA PS. This condition, is introduced in line with Art. 9(5) RfP and is justified by the need to achieve the objectives of PRIMA, taking into account the programme's geographical scope.

It is the statutory seat of the IO that is taken into account, not the local offices without legal personality.

5.1.4 Types of action: specific provisions and funding rates^{64,65}

Research and innovation actions (RIA)

Description: Action primarily consisting of activities aiming to establish new knowledge and/or to explore the feasibility of a 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 in a near to 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 a 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 larger 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 innovation⁶⁶ 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 a validation of technical and economic performance at 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).

⁶⁴ Eligible costs for all types of action are in accordance with the Financial Regulation No 2018/1046 and the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation 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).

⁶⁵ Participants may ask for a lower rate.

⁶⁶ A new or improved technology, product, design, process, service or solution.

Coordination and Support Actions (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.

Funding rate: 100%

5.1.5 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)

5.1.6 Evaluation rules

Selection Criteria

1. *Financial capacity:* In line with the Financial Regulation 2018/1046 and the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation No 1290/2013. For grants, coordinators will be invited – at the proposal stage – to complete a self-assessment using an on-line tool.⁶⁷

⁶⁷ <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/organisations/lfv.html>

2. 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:
 - a. a public body;
 - b. a higher or secondary education establishment;
 - c. an international organisation or body whose participation is guaranteed by the government of an EU country or associated country, in accordance with the PRIMA MGA.
3. **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 individual participant has, or will have in due time, a sufficient operational capacity to successfully carry out its tasks in the proposed work plan. 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.

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.

Award criteria, scores and weighting

1. 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 of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation 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 19 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 Calls

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 ⁶⁸ :

⁶⁸ Not all aspects are relevant to proposals involving just one beneficiary.

All Types of Actions	<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>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>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>Research & Innovation Actions (RIAs);</p> <p>Innovation actions (IA)</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>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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of IPR), and to manage research data where relevant. -Communicate the project activities to different target audiences. 	
Coordination & support actions (CSA)	Quality of the proposed coordination and/or support measures.	<p>Quality of the proposed measures to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of IPR), and to manage research data where relevant. -Communicate the project activities to different target audiences 	

*

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

3. **Priority order** for proposals with the same score:

Unless the call conditions indicate otherwise, the following method will be applied (except for the first stage of two-stage calls, 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:

- Proposals that address topics, or sub-topics, not otherwise covered by more highly-ranked proposals, will be considered to have the highest priority.
- The proposals identified under (a), 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. In the case of Innovation actions this prioritisation will be done first on the basis of the score for impact, and then on that for excellence.
- If necessary, any further prioritisation will be based on the following factors,: number of MPCs partners involved, size of EU budget allocated to SMEs; gender balance among the personnel named in the proposal who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the research and/or innovation activities.
- If a distinction still cannot be made, 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 Horizon 2020 in general. These factors will be documented in the report of the Panel.
- The method described in (a), (b), (c) and (d) will then be applied to the remaining *ex aequo* in the group.

Evaluation procedure

- Calls may be subject to either a one-stage or two-stage submission and evaluation procedure.
- Proposals are evaluated by independent experts (see Article 15(7) Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation 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 evaluation, 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.

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

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

5.1.7 Funding decision and communication

The final decision of funding will be taken according to the rank of the project as established in the ranking list produced by the panel (starting by the project rank number 1 in the list in a descending order) until funds are available.

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

5.1.8 Budget flexibility

The budgets set out in AWP 2019 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 AWP 2019, for the following budgeted activities:

- └ Total expenditure for calls (up to 20% of the total expenditure 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 expenditure for all these activities);

The cumulated changes above may not exceed 20% of the maximum contribution provided for this Work Plan.

5.1.9 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'); and (2) other data as specified by the beneficiaries in their Data Management Plan (DMP, see below).

Projects can "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.

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 are 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 electronic submission system.

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 States⁶⁹ will in general be eligible to receive funding through PRIMA grants:

- 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 States⁷⁰:
- The following Third Countries associated to Horizon 2020 (AC): Israel, Tunisia, and Turkey.

⁶⁹ 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/>).

⁷⁰ 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.

- 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.

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 own 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 to the projects (task(s), participation to 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, aimed at the verification of eligibility for funding.⁷¹

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 the eligibility for funding, applicants should refer to the national regulations⁷² and contact their national funding bodies. (NCP)⁷³

5.2.2 Standard admissibility conditions, page limits and supporting documents

1. For all actions under AWP 2019, proposals must comply with the admissibility requirements set out in this sub-section, unless they are 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

⁷¹ 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.

⁷² Please refer to the National Regulations available in the PRIMA website: <http://prima-med.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/PRIMA-National-regulations-March-15.pdf>

⁷³ Find the NCP contacts at the following link <http://prima-med.org/calls-for-proposals/ncps/>.

(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 for the exploitation and dissemination of the results**, unless otherwise specified in the call conditions. The draft plan is not required for proposals at the first stage of two-stage procedures.

2. 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 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. Applicant are requested to use the template provided by PRIMA that can be downloaded from the PRIMA website under the relevant call section.

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

- 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;
- 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;
- A list of up to five relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal;
- A description of any significant infrastructure and/or any major items of technical equipment, relevant to the proposed work;
- 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).

This scrutiny will be carried out by the evaluators 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 analogous to those set out in the Rules for Participation of Horizon 2020 Regulation No.1290/2013 and any derogations to these as specified in the PRIMA Decision.

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 PS⁷⁴
- 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 regulations⁷⁵

Type of Action	Eligibility conditions for participation,
Research & Innovation Action (RIA)	<p>At least three legal entities established in three different countries considered as Participating States as defined in point 5.2.1 by the submission deadline under the relevant call , out of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -at least one must be established in a EU Member State or a third country associated to Horizon 2020 and not being a MPC⁷⁶: 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>

5.2.4 Types of activities: specific provisions and funding rates⁷⁷

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 a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution. For this purpose they may include basic and applied prototyped 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 in a near to operational environment.

⁷⁴ This measure is aimed to protect the Union's financial interests and is in line with Article 7(7) of the PRIMA Decision.

^{75 75} Please refer to the National Regulations in the PRIMA website: <http://prima-med.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/PRIMA-National-regulations-March-15.pdf>

⁷⁶ These countries include Croatia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain.

⁷⁷ Participants may ask for a lower rate.

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 with a view to pooling 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 own national regulations. A contact point established in each country and who can be 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

Selection Criteria

1. *Financial capacity*: Financial capacity will be checked in accordance with the rules analogous to those included in the Financial Regulation 2018/1046 and the Horizon 2020 Rules for

Participation Regulation No 1290/2013. For grants, coordinators will be invited – at the proposal stage – to complete a self-assessment using an on-line tool⁷⁸.

2. *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).

Award criteria, scores and weighting

1. 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 of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation No 1290/2013).

The aspects to be considered are set out in the table below, unless stated otherwise in the call conditions:

⁷⁸ <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/organisations/lfv.html>

Table 20 Aspects to be considered during the proposal evaluation for each criterion (excellence, impact, quality and efficiency of the implementation in Section Calls

Type of Action	Excellence The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the topic description in the work plan.	Impact The following aspects will be taken into account:	Quality and efficiency of the implementation The following aspects will be taken into account:
Research & Innovation Activities (RIAs)	<p>Fit with the scope and objectives of the PRIMA programme and the call topic description;</p> <p>Importance, relevance/pertinence and clarity of the objectives;</p> <p>Soundness of the concept and credibility of the proposed approach/methodology.</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.</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>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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of IPR), and to manage research data where relevant. -Communicate the project activities to different target audiences 	<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>

-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. With regard to the impact criterion only the aspects in bold will be considered for first stage proposals. 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 budget.

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

Evaluation procedure

- Individual Evaluation: Each eligible proposal is evaluated remotely by at least three expert evaluators (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.
- 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 on the basis of this ranking list. The panel configuration allows evaluators to have an overview of all eligible proposals, not just the one they have evaluated, which enables them to decide fairly when ranking the proposals.

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

Priority order for proposals with the same score:

Unless the call conditions indicate otherwise, the following method will be applied (except for the first stage of two-stage calls, 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 prioritization 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 prioritization, 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 (a), if any, will themselves be prioritized 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 prioritization 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 prioritize 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.

5.2.7 Funding decision and communication

In line with Article 6(10)(c) of the PRIMA Decision, the proposals will be ranked according to evaluation results. The selection of proposals to be funded will be made by PRIMA-IS based on this ranking. However, since the funding of participants in the activities will be responsibility of PS and not PRIMA-IS, the respective PS will need to provide adequate funding in line with the national rules. In the event that one or more projects cannot be funded by the PS, PRIMA-IS may decide to select for funding the projects directly following them in the ranking list(s).

Proposal coordinators receive an Evaluation Summary Report (ESR), showing the results of the evaluation for a given proposal. For proposals that successfully pass the first stage of two-stage calls, common feedback is provided to all coordinators, but the first stage ESR is only sent after the second stage 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 out in the call conditions.

5.2.8 Budget flexibility

The budgets set out in AWP 2019 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 AWP 2019, for the following budgeted activities:

- └ Total expenditure for calls (up to 20% of the total expenditure 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 expenditure for 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).

Projects can "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

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 are 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 electronic submission system.

5.2.10 Applicable common principles to all the actions and activities

In accordance with Article 6(9) of the PRIMA Decision (EU), activities included in AWP 2019 that are funded by the PS without the Union financial contribution shall 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. It is understood and acceptable however, that national legislation or

specific objectives of an action may dictate that only certain legal entities, e.g. public institutions, can participate and receive funding in certain actions.

Funding to PSIA actions should to the largest possible extent be allocated through open calls for proposals, and the PRIMA programme should be mentioned in the call text. It is understood and acceptable however that existing national research infrastructures and organisations, e.g. publicly funded research institutes, can be used to implement parts or the entire PSIA. Funding may therefore 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, shall 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 on a regular basis and structured manner, preferably through independent peer review.

Ethics and scientific integrity

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

Fundamental ethical principles and in particular 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 selection of actions 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 must be made available to the research community and the public in a timely manner.

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 funding of the project.

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:

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

There is no template provided by the funding bodies for the consortium agreement.

The Project Coordinator

Each Consortium need 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 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 shall 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 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.

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

Please note that in accordance with Article 6(9) of the PRIMA Decision, activities included in AWP 2019 that are funded by the PS without the Union financial contribution shall be implemented in compliance with common principles adopted by PRIMA-IS after obtaining approval from the Commission.

For the list of common principles, please refer to Sub Section 5.2.10

Code	DE.2019.1
Theme:	<p>International cooperation in education, science and research is important for Germany to tap into this wealth of knowledge and to secure its competitive position as a location for science and business. The German Federal Cabinet adopted the new Strategy of the Federal Government for the Internationalization of Education, Science and Research in February 2017. The Strategy was developed under the leadership of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). It follows up on the Federal Government's Internationalization Strategy of 2008 in response to new trends and challenges which have arisen and have significant impact on international collaboration in education, science and research. These trends and challenges include increasing globalization, digitalization, the further development of the European Research Area and the emergence of new global centres of innovation outside of established scientific hubs. (https://www.bmbf.de/en/internationalization-strategy-2209.html).</p> <p>The joint research fund GERV supports the bilateral Cooperation in Science, Research and Innovation with development and emergency countries facing global and societal challenges as defined in the mentioned thematic areas 1-3.</p>
Activity title	German-Egyptian Research Fund (GERF)
Activity description	

Abstract (publishable)	<p>On the occasion of the closing event of the "German-Egyptian Year of Science and Technology 2007" in Berlin, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MoHESR) agreed to establish a German-Egyptian Research Fund (GERF) for the support of joint application-oriented research projects.</p> <p>Both sides have agreed to announce joint calls for proposals in the frame of the German Egyptian Research Fund (GERF) regularly in order to support innovative, application-oriented research projects.</p> <p>The grants, which are awarded bi-annually from the Joint Fund, are generally open to German-Egyptian research teams based at public or non-public Egyptian and German research organizations, public or non-public institutions of higher education, non-university research institutions or commercial companies, particularly SMEs, and non-governmental and civil society organizations. The participation of industrial/business enterprises – especially those headquartered in Germany or Egypt – is highly welcomed.</p> <p>Since the joint funding tool was implemented in 2008, the BMBF and the Egyptian Science and Technology Development Fund STDF have published a total of five joint calls for proposals (2008, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2018) in subjects related to the fields prioritised in the Year of Science – (e.g. Biotechnology, Medicine, Material Sciences, Water, Renewable Energies, Humanities and Social Sciences etc.) - which have in the interim been supplemented by wide-ranging topics of common research interest (e.g. Climate Change, Urban Planning & Transportation, ICT etc.) and societal challenges (e.g. Food, Water, Energy etc.).</p> <p>Since 2011, GERF is in funds of a total of €1 million per year from each side and can provide grants up to €200.000 for each joint project (German and Egyptian side up to €100.000 each). The maximum duration of a joint project is 24 months.</p>
Rationale/Impact	<p>Junior research groups in particular from Egypt and Germany are offered the opportunity through the joint funds to implement innovative, application-oriented, industry-relevant research projects. A further goal of the bilateral research fund is the support of scientific networks when applying for funding from the EU Framework Programme HORIZON2020 or from national funding programmes.</p>
Objectives	<p>GERF provides support for German-Egyptian research cooperation in areas of mutual interest. The funding grants are intended to give researchers – including young scientists – an opportunity to address new areas of scientific research. Research results generated in these projects are to be developed into concrete applications. In addition, a further aim of the joint research fund is to help scientific networks apply for funding under the EU's HORIZON2020 Research Programme or under national funding schemes.</p>
Deliverables	<p>Publication of Call text</p> <p>Provision of funding</p> <p>Since 2008/9 – 2018 Germany and Egypt have been funded ca. 75 joint projects in application-oriented and, to an increasing extent, in industry-relevant research, through the GERF, with a total volume of over ten million €.</p>

Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	<p>Federal Ministry of Education and Research - Announcement within the framework of the Federal Government's Strategy for the Internationalization of Science and Research</p> <p>Sixth Joint announcement(s) by the Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF) of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) of the Federal Republic of Germany of regulations governing the funding of joint innovative projects in the field of applied research through the "German-Egyptian Research Fund" (GERF).</p>
Publication date	The GERF Call for proposals is foreseen to be published in 2019.
Deadline for applications	For GERF: Foreseen deadline in the second quarter of 2019
Expected date of award	Starting 2019/2020
Scope of the Call for Proposals	<p>GERF's exemplary character as an effective instrument for further institutionalized German-Arab research cooperation programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demand driven approach and equal financing from both sides - Agreement on thematic priorities of mutual interest, on the text of the call and on the funding regulations as well as on the selection criteria and their relative importance in advance of the selection process - Joint final evaluation of the successful projects - Establishment of a joint operative steering committee with representatives from the research community and industry - Awareness-raising activities to attract the attention of potential applicants
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Funding of bilateral innovative, application-oriented research projects (R&D)
Start date of the activity	2019/2020
Duration	Every project/activity will be funded up to 24 months maximum.
Funding institution(s)	Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF) on Egyptian side and Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) (- managed by DLR PT) on German side.

Funding beneficiary(ies)	German-Egyptian research teams based at public or non-public Egyptian and German research organizations, public or non-public institutions of higher education, non-university research institutions or commercial companies, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and non-governmental and civil society organizations are eligible for funding.
Countries where research is conducted	Egypt and Germany
Collaborating partner(s)	BMBF (managed by DLR PT) on German side; Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF) on Egyptian side Universities and research centres, SME's
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in €)	BMBF provides up to 100.000 € funding per project for the duration of 2 years. In sum national funding can be provided up to 1 Mio. € per year.
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	The GERF Call (foreseen to be published in the second quarter 2019) with the thematic focus on Agricultural Research and Natural Resource Management (including Water Resources, Food Production and Food Safety) will be in alignment with pillar 1 -3.
Website	Please indicate the exact URL of the website dedicated to the initiative. https://www.bmbf.de/foerderungen/bekanntmachung-1839.html (as an example - 2019 call not yet published) https://www.internationales-buero.de/en/expired_announcements_2018.php

Code	DE.2019.2
Theme:	The German-Moroccan programme PMARS (Programme Maroc-Allemand de Recherche Scientifique) is carried out under the German Federal Government's Strategy for the Internationalization of Science and Research (BMBF) and the BMBF's International Cooperation Action Plan with the aim of promoting joint research projects of mutual interest, thus contributing to intensified scientific and technological cooperation with Morocco.
Activity title	"Programme Maroc-Allemand de Recherche Scientifique" (PMARS IV).
Activity description	

Abstract (publishable)	The German-Moroccan programme PMARS (Programme Maroc-Allemand de Recherche Scientifique) has the aim to promote the further development of the bilateral cooperation between Germany and Morocco. PMARS aims at deepening the collaborative networks among German and Moroccan researchers, the preparation of consecutive projects under national or European programmes (H2020), the promotion of young researchers and research capacity building in both countries. Main thematic areas are water and environment, food and agricultural sciences, renewable energies and energy efficiency, biomedical, as well as humanities and social sciences. Since 2010 three calls for proposals were announced under PMARS. A new call (PMARS IV) is planned for 2019.
Rationale/Impact	PMARS is designed to deepen the relationship between German and Moroccan institutions in the area of education and research. The programme supports the creation and strengthening of partnerships between German and Moroccan researches, which can then be further developed within the frame of other existing programmes, e.g. the European research framework programmes. A further goal of the bilateral research programme is to support young researchers and projects that include partners from industry, in particular small and medium-sized businesses.
Objectives	Funding will be provided for research projects which enable innovation through international cooperation in the priority areas to be specified by BMBF and MENFPESRS. The aim is to generate added value for the participating partners by pooling the knowledge, experience, research infrastructures and other resources of both sides. A major focus of this programme is on supporting close cooperation between companies and university and non-university research institutions, the involvement of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and a sustainable contribution to the value chains in the specified priority areas.
Deliverables	Within the PMARS Programme (2010-2019), 53 projects in the following main thematic areas were funded so far: Water and Environment Research, Food and Agricultural Sciences, Health Sciences and Biomedicine, Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency, humanities and social sciences. Since 2010 three calls for proposals were announced under PMARS Under PMARS III Germany funds up to 100.000 EUR per project. The new call, which will be published in 2019 will be within a similar frame.
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	"Programme Maroc-Allemand de Recherche Scientifique" (call PMARS IV).
Publication date	The PMARS IV Call for proposals is foreseen to be published in 2019.
Deadline for applications	Foreseen deadline in the second quarter of 2019
Expected date of award	2019/2020

Scope of the Call for Proposals	With this PMARS-Call BMBF and the Moroccan Research Ministry are supporting both new and existing partnerships on topics of mutual interest. This is to create new partnerships, intensify synergies in education and research between German and Moroccan institutions with joint priorities and foster young scientists.
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Funding of bilateral innovative, application-oriented research projects (R&D).
Start date of the activity	Starting 2019/2020
Duration	Funding for a maximum period of 36 months.
Funding institution(s)	The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Moroccan Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research Morocco (MENFPESRS).
Funding beneficiary(ies)	Recipients of funding may be universities or non-university research institutions as well as commercial companies, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)* - as well as other institutions which provide contributions to research and fulfil the funding purpose and funding prerequisites.
Countries where research is conducted	Germany and Morocco
Collaborating partner(s)	BMBF (managed by DLR PT) on German side; Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research Morocco (MENFPESRS); Universities and research centres, SME's
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in €)	German Contribution: 1 Mio. EUR: (up to 150,000 € per project for the duration of 3 years).
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	The PMARS Call IV (planned to be published in the first quarter 2019) with the thematic focus on water and environment, food and agricultural sciences, renewable energies and energy efficiency will be in alignment with pillar 1 -3.
Website	PMARS-IV call is planned for 2019 and will be published under the following websites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - https://www.bmbf.de/foerderungen/ (BMBF) - https://www.internationales-buero.de (DLR PT)

Code	DZ.2019.1
Theme:	All PRIMA thematic areas and topics
Activity title	Research Projects funded by DGRSDT under the annual national call for proposals aimed at implementing the national research programmes
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	<p>During the period 2018-2022, the General Directorate for Scientific Research and Technological Development (DGRSDT) launches annually a call for proposals covering all fields of research aimed at implementing the national research programmes. Each year 150 research projects are selected with a dedicated budget of around of around 66 M€ for the period 2018-2022. The 2018 call addresses the Algerian societal challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health, demographic change and wellbeing ; - Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry marine and maritime and inland water research, and the Bioeconomy; - Secure, clean and efficient energy. <p>This call is open to Algerian research teams but projects can include foreign researchers. Most of these projects address PRIMA topics (Water, agriculture or Food in the Mediterranean Area) and the estimated annual budget is around 1,5 M€ for projects inside the PRIMA scope.</p>
Rationale/Impact	<p>The General Directorate for Scientific Research and Technological Development (DGRSDT) is a public body under the authority of the Ministry of higher education and scientific research. It is in charge of implementing, collectively with other sectors, the national policy of scientific research and technological development.</p> <p>DGRSDT provides funding for national research entities that undertake projects in all fields of science. Entities from both public or private sectors, universities and research centres can benefit from these funds. The Evaluation of the research projects is based on competitive peer reviews according to international standards</p>
Objectives	<p>The main DGRSDT missions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Programming and evaluating research activities; - Human resources development; - organizing and funding of research activities; - promote scientific cooperation and collaboration - valorising research results

Deliverables	
Information on the Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	<p>Algerian National Research Programmes calls: Annual Generic Call for Proposals</p> <p>societal challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health, demographic change and wellbeing ; - Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry marine and maritime and inland water research, and the Bioeconomy; - Secure, clean and efficient energy.
Publication date	February each year
Deadline for applications	May each year
Expected date of award	November each year
Scope of the Call for Proposals	<p>The research activities carried out in the Algerian national research programmes and that fit within the framework of PRIMA have as a strategic objective ; the Consolidation of a sustainable agricultural policy able to reinforce the country's food security, reduce the imbalance in the balance of trade in agricultural commodities and contribute to the diversification of the national economy. The call will address the following research areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food Industries - Genetic Improvement and Selection - Agriculture and Sustainable Development - Animal Production and Health - Biotic agents of plant species - Physical Environments, Climate and Agriculture - Agricultural Economics, Agro-food and Rural Sociology - Quantitative and mobilization of water resources - Management, quality and preservation of water resources - Water management and engineering - Intensification of irrigated agriculture - the protection of water resources against pollution
Implementation	
Type of Activity	RIA
Start date of the activity	Annual Basis –Projects starting dates first quarter N+1
Duration	Research projects duration :36 months
Funding institution(s)	DGRSDT

Funding beneficiary(ies)	All type of Algerian public and private research entities
Countries where research is conducted	Essentially in Algeria
Collaborating partner(s)	Potentially France, Spain, Italy, Germany
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in €)	Around 1 500 000 €/year
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	The projects funded are in the scope of the thematic areas of PRIMA (water, agriculture and food), and/or cross cutting issues (soil, food security)
Website	http://www.dgrsdt.dz/En/

Code	EG-2019-1
Theme:	<p>In 2009, The Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF) developed the Targeted Call (TC) as a top-down funding mechanism, which is directed to research projects in the priority areas identified by the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST). The first TC was announced in the area of Renewable Energy (RE), followed by the Health TC (specifically in HCV), both were announced in 2009. In 2010 three TCs were announced, namely The Improvement of Sustainable Food Production (ISFP) TC, Health TC (in HCV) (Call2) and Water Desalination (WD) TC. In 2013, STDF announced three TCs, namely Sustainable Development of Fish Resources (SDFR), Development of National Pharmaceuticals Industries (DNPI) and Sustainable Development of Sinai (DoS). In 2015, STDF announced three TCs, the first TC was announced in the area of Energy, followed by the Health TC and the Water TC.</p> <p>In 2015 the ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research started an extensive exercise to develop the Egyptian National Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation (2030), and accordingly STDF developed its plan to launch new TCs, that will address the priority areas as set by the national strategy, and it's worth noting that these areas include the challenges defined by 2 of PRIMA main thematic areas</p>
Activity title	SDTF TC targeted call
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	According to the Presidential decree number 218/2007, under which the Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF) was founded, the STDF mandate is to promote science and technology (S&T) through funding scientific research and technological development in a way that supports the complete cycle of innovation. The STDF vision is to act as a tool of change for the improvement of the life of Egyptians. Its mission is to generate a critical mass of human, logistic

	<p>and infrastructure resources that are needed for a complete cycle of innovation. Consequently, the STDF specific objectives are to fund S&T activities, develop innovation capacity, enhance and monitor S&T systems and develop appropriate and flexible funding mechanisms for S&T.</p> <p>A major component of the STDF general plan is to implement its objectives within the context of the national Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation (2030), which is the direct product of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, through STDF top-down funding mechanism, namely The Targeted Calls.</p> <p>The grants funded through The Targeted Calls are generally open to any researcher (PhD/MD holder), or group of researchers, affiliated to an Egyptian Research Entity (Universities, Research Centres/institutes ...etc.) in Egypt</p> <p>STDF provides generous grants through the Targeted Calls. The maximum duration of a project is 24 months.</p>
Rationale/Impact	Egyptian researchers are offered the opportunity through the Targeted Calls to implement innovative, application-oriented, industry-relevant research projects in national priority areas, also research results generated from these projects are to be developed into concrete applications, which positively contributes to the national efforts to transform knowledge into added value.
Objectives	STDF TCs provide support for Egyptian research in priority areas. The program is designed to provide researchers with generous funds that would enable them to achieve the call objectives. Research results generated in these projects are to be developed into concrete applications.
Deliverables	<p>The first TC was announced in the area of Renewable Energy (RE), followed by the Health TC (specifically in HCV), both were announced in 2009. In 2010 three TCs were announced, namely The Improvement of Sustainable Food Production (ISFP) TC, Health TC (in HCV) (Call2) and Water Desalination (WD) TC. In 2013, STDF announced three TCs, namely Sustainable Development of Fish Resources (SDFR), Development of National Pharmaceuticals Industries (DNPI) and Sustainable Development of Sinai (DoS). In 2015, STDF announced three TCs, the first TC was announced in the area of Energy, followed by the Health TC and the Water TC.</p> <p>In 2015 the ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research started an extensive exercise to develop the Egyptian National Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation (2030), and accordingly STDF developed its plan to launch new TCs, that will address the priority areas as set by the national strategy, and it's worth noting that these areas include the challenges defined by PRIMA thematic areas</p> <p>Since 2009, STDF has funded ca. 180 projects in application-oriented and, to an increasing extent, in industry-relevant research, through the TCs, with a total volume of over fourteen million euros.</p>
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	Targeted Call.
Publication date	Targeted Call : Agriculture (foreseen to be launched by Feb 2019) Targeted Call: Water (foreseen to be launched by May 2019)
Deadline for applications	Targeted Call: : Agriculture (foreseen deadline March 2019) Targeted Call: Water (foreseen deadline June 2019)
Expected date of award	Date of award / signing contracts : Targeted Call: Agriculture (foreseen deadline June 2019) Targeted Call: Water (foreseen deadline August 2019)

Scope of the Call for Proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing the sub-thematic areas, the text of the call - Launching the Call - Awareness-raising activities to attract the attention of potential applicants - Evaluating the submitted proposals - Announcing the results and contacting the applicants of the finally chosen proposals. - Contracting process - Following up the technical and financial progress of the awarded projects
Implementation	
Type of Activity	<p>Funding of innovative, application-oriented research projects (R&D), which might include within the framework of conducting the projects' tasks, training activities, holding workshops and mobility.</p> <p>Also, as a result of the research activity conducted within the framework of the funded projects, many members of the research teams are able to obtain PhD degrees.</p>
Start date of the activity	<p>Targeted Call: Agriculture - planned start of projects/activities not before July 2019</p> <p>Targeted Call: Water - planned start of projects/activities not before Sep 2019 (for a duration of two years).</p>
Duration	Every project/activity will be funded up to 24 months maximum.
Funding institution(s)	Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF).
Funding beneficiary(ies)	Egyptian researchers (PhD/MD holder), or group of researchers, affiliated to an Egyptian Research Entity (Universities, Research Centres/institutes ...etc.).
Countries where research is conducted	Egypt.
Collaborating partner(s)	Solely funded by The Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF)
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in €)	<p>Please indicate the exact amount committed by public institution for the entire period of reference of the initiative, expressed in euros.</p> <p>Based on the National Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation (2030):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- STDF plans to support The Targeted Call: Agriculture, with a total budget of € 1.5 million 2- STDF plans to support The Targeted Call: Water, with a total budget of € 0.8 million
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	<p>Please indicate to under which PRIMA SRIA Pillar the activity is encompassed. In other, argument the answer provided by enlisting, and describing, the reason(s) according to which the activity is in line with PRIMA SRIA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Each Targeted call announces the thematic areas of interest, and these areas include PRIMA thematic areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Thematic areas 1: Agriculture o Thematic areas 2: Water
Website	<p>Please indicate the exact URL of the website dedicated to the initiative.</p> <p>www.stdf.org.eg</p>

Code	EG-2019-2
Theme:	<p>Within the context of the Egyptian National Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation (2030), The Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF) aims at supporting the Egyptian researchers in conducting joint research projects with their international partners, throughout the different programs of its International Cooperation Grants.</p> <p>The impact of supporting such cooperation is directly related to STDF vision; since a broader exposure of the Egyptian researchers will definitely contribute to a knowledge based economy. Egyptian researchers through these programs can share their experience and knowledge with their partners to reach the objectives of their projects which serve the needs of both funding partners and at the same time the researchers will also transfer the acquired knowledge back to their home land.</p>

	<p>The policy that STDF has followed through the different international cooperation programs depends on matching funds with international partners to support research in areas of mutual interest with its partners; so that through a joint research project STDF supports the Egyptian researchers while the other funding partner supports its researchers.</p> <p>The joint research fund GERF supports the bilateral Cooperation in Science, Research and Innovation, and encourages projects targeting the challenges defined in the mentioned pillars 1-3.</p>
Activity title	German-Egyptian Research Fund (GERF)
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	<p>On the occasion of the closing event of the "German-Egyptian Year of Science and Technology 2007" in Berlin, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MoHESR) agreed to establish a German-Egyptian Research Fund (GERF) for the support of joint application-oriented research projects.</p> <p>Both sides have agreed to announce joint calls for proposals in the frame of the German Egyptian Research Fund (GERF) regularly in order to support innovative, application-oriented research projects.</p> <p>The grants are generally open to German-Egyptian research teams based at public or non-public Egyptian and German research organizations, public or non-public institutions of higher education, non- university research institutions. The participation of industrial/business enterprises – especially those headquartered in Germany or Egypt – is highly welcomed.</p> <p>Since the joint funding tool was implemented in 2008, the BMBF and the Egyptian Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF) have published a total of four joint calls for proposals (2008, 2010, 2012, 2015) in all subjects related to the fields prioritised in the Year of Science – (e.g. Biotechnology, Medicine, Material Sciences, Water, Renewable Energies, Humanities and Social Sciences etc.) - which have in the interim been supplemented by wide-ranging topics of common research interest (e.g. Climate Change, Urban Planning & Transportation, ICT etc.) and societal challenges (e.g. Food, Water, Energy etc.). Since 2011, GERF is in funds of a total of €1 million per year from each side and can provide grants up to €200.000 for each joint project (German and Egyptian side up to €100.000 each). The maximum duration of a joint project is 24 months.</p>
Rationale/Impact	<p>Junior research groups in particular from Egypt and Germany are offered the opportunity through the joint funds to implement innovative, application-oriented, industry-relevant research projects in areas of mutual interest, also research results generated from these projects are to be developed into concrete applications. A further goal of the bilateral research fund is the support of scientific networks, which serves researches when applying for funding from the EU Framework Programme HORIZON2020 or from national funding programmes.</p>
Objectives	<p>GERF provides support for German-Egyptian research cooperation in areas of mutual interest. The funding grants are intended to give researchers – including young scientists – an opportunity to address new areas of scientific research. Research results generated in these projects are to be developed into concrete applications. In addition, a further aim of the joint research fund is to help scientific networks apply for funding under the EU's HORIZON2020 Research Programme or under national funding schemes.</p>
Deliverables	<p>Since the joint funding tool was implemented in 2008, the BMBF and the Egyptian Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF) have published a total of four joint calls for proposals (2008, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2018) in all subjects related to the fields prioritised in the Year of Science - Biotechnology, Medicine, Material Sciences, Water, Renewable Energies, Humanities and Social Sciences - which have in the interim been supplemented by wide-ranging topics of common research interest. Both sides finance the research fund to an equal degree, with up to one million euros per year on each side. Since 2008/9 – 2017</p>

	Germany and Egypt have been funded ca. 70 joint projects in application-oriented and, to an increasing extent, in industry-relevant research, through the GERF, with a total volume of over ten million euros from both partners.
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	The next call: sixth joint announcement(s) by the Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF) of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) of the Federal Republic of Germany of regulations governing the funding of joint innovative projects in the field of applied research through the "German-Egyptian Research Fund" (GERF).
Publication date	The V. GERF Call for proposals was launched 15 April 2018. The VI. GERF Call for proposals is foreseen to be published in May 2019.
Deadline for applications	For V. GERF Call: proposals were submitted by 15 June 2018. For VI. GERF Call: Foreseen deadline end of July 2019.
Expected date of award	For VI. GERF Call: expected/planned date of award not before Oct 2019
Scope of the Call for Proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreement on thematic priorities of mutual interest, on the text of the call and on the funding regulations as well as on the selection criteria and their relative importance in advance of the selection process - Launching the Joint Call - Awareness-raising activities to attract the attention of potential applicants - Establishment of a joint operative steering committee with representatives from the research community and industry - Joint final evaluation of the successful projects - Demand driven approach and equal financing from both sides - following up the technical and financial progress of the awarded projects
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Funding of bilateral innovative, application-oriented research projects (R&D), which might include within the framework of conducting the projects' tasks, training activities, holding workshops and mobility.
Start date of the activity	For V. GERF Call: planned start of projects/activities not before SEP 2019 (for a duration of two years 2019-2021)
Duration	Every project/activity will be funded up to 24 months maximum.
Funding institution(s)	Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF) on Egyptian side and Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) (managed by DLR PT) on German side.
Funding beneficiary(ies)	German-Egyptian research teams based at public or non-public Egyptian and German research organizations, public or non-public institutions of higher education, non-university research institutions.
Countries where research is conducted	Egypt & Germany
Collaborating partner(s)	BMBF (managed by DLR PT) on German side; Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF) on Egyptian side
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in €)	STDF is committed through the GERF Program with a total of €1 million per year and can provide grants up to €100.000 for each joint project (German and Egyptian side up to €100.000 each). The maximum duration of a joint project is 24 months.
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	<p>Each GERF call announces the thematic areas of interest, and these areas include the two thematic area:</p> <p>Thematic Area 1: Sustainable management of water for arid and semi-arid Med areas</p> <p>Thematic Area 2: Sustainable farming systems under Med environmental constraints</p> <p>The GERF VI Call (foreseen to be published in May 2019) with the thematic focus on Agricultural Research and Natural Resource Management (including Water</p>

	Resources, Food Production and Food Safety) - in alignment with pillar 1-2.
Website	www.stdf.org.eg

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Code	EG-2019-3
Theme:	Jesor Development -PRIMA 2019
Activity title	Collaborative Research
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	JESOR-D offers a grant up to 1 million EGP for each successful applicant based on the published calls for proposals. Proposals are submitted by public or private Egyptian organizations aimed at tackling local or societal challenges where some of the tasks will be carried out or supported by Egyptian Expert(s) in Diaspora. The engagement of Egyptian expert(s) abroad is a must during the implementation phase.
Rationale/Impact	JESOR-D is a multipurpose program by allowing mechanisms for public or private organizations in Egypt to benefit from the expertise of Egyptian Expatriates and for Egyptian Experts abroad to visualize local challenges and requests for development. JESOR-D has an integrative approach because it integrates diverse experiences of Egyptian expatriates, of both academic and industrial backgrounds, in the local development. Unlike other similar programs, JESOR-D doesn't focus on reintegration of Egyptian experts abroad but in developing strong ties and allowing a mechanism that could easily contribute in the local challenges and problems. JESOR-D Initiative is neither a Repatriation Program nor an Employment Scheme; it provides grants to Egyptian organizations to support local challenges through working collaboratively with Egyptian experts in the diaspora. JESOR-D allows Egyptian industry and research institutions to work jointly with Egyptian experts abroad in a joint project. JESORD actions are collaborative research, Technology Demonstration and innovation activities, capacity building, Mobility and international networking.
Objectives	The main objective is to increase the coherency and connectivity of Egyptian experts abroad with the national research & industrial communities and stimulating the acquisition of highly potential expatriates using structured schemes. Specifically it provides: 1. Contribute to development efforts to rebuild the country capitalizing on Egypt's own resources and expertise 2. Engage Egypt scientific professionals abroad in tackling national problems through collaborative research and innovation projects. 3. Reduce the impact of brain drain and Support national capacity building 4. Transfer latest know how and cutting edge technology from development countries to Egypt through Egyptian professionals abroad.
Deliverables	
Information on the Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	Targeted Call JESOR Programme
Publication date	May 2019
Deadline for applications	August 2019

Expected date of award	First quarter of 2020
Scope of the Call for Proposals	Management of water Farming systems Agrofood value chain
Implementation	
Type of Activity	IA,RIA ,CSA
Start date of the activity	After the adoption of AWP 2019.
Duration	2 to 3 years
Funding institution	ASRT
Funding beneficiaries	Any legal entity in Egypt
Countries where research is conducted	Egypt
Collaborating partner(s)	PRIMA PS
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in €)	Commitment for the activity is 5.000.000 LE corresponding to 240960,84 €
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	All PRIMA thematic areas
Website	www.asrt.sci.eg/index.php/grants/jesor

Code	ES. 2019.1
Theme:	Agro-food value chain
Activity title	Funding for National projects in the Agro-food value chain, Farming and Management of water R+D fields
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	<p>CDTI finance Research and Development projects carried out by Spanish companies in a continuous open call.</p> <p>CDTI R&D projects in the so related fields, Agro-food value chain, Farming and Management of water, have an average budget per project near 450.000 €. Only enterprises are eligible to get the financial support; research entities can participate in the project subcontracted by a company.</p> <p>Net grant applied by CDTI In 2017 to the above cited sectors had reached 52,7 M€.</p>

	<p>Research and Development projects are business projects of an applied nature for the creation and significant improvement of a production process, product or service submitted by one single company or by a group of businesses. These projects may comprise both industrial research activities as well as experimental development, in accordance with the definitions of the General Block Exemption Regulation (EC Regulation nº651/2014)</p> <p>These projects are divided into three categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Individual R&D projects- National Cooperation R&D projects- Entrepreneurial Spanish participation in International Technological Cooperation Projects <p>The length of these projects may be from 12 to 36 months, with a minimum budget of around 175.000 € for individual projects and 500.000 € for cooperation projects.</p> <p>The funding modality for the project will be Partially Reimbursable Aid, with financial cover of up to 75% of the total approved budget which, by way of exception, may amount to up to 85%. Such aid may comprise a non-reimbursable tranche (NRT) which shall depend on the characteristics of the project and the beneficiary. Therefore, CDTI aid may be distributed in the following way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A reimbursable tranche (RT) within a time period of 10 years, to be counted from the centre of gravity of the project, which is calculated in accordance with the project duration and the amount of the budget targets. The first reimbursement is made 3 years after the centre of gravity of the project and at least 2 years from its completion date. The interest rate of the aforementioned RT shall be fixed and equal to the one-year Euribor, which shall be determined when the project is approved. This RT implies a grant of an average of 7,2% that may vary taking into account the financial quality of the company and the reimbursable period.• A non-reimbursable tranche (NRT), adjusted in accordance with the characteristics of the project, the beneficiary and the source of the funds used for the funding. This tranche shall be contingent upon fund availability. The average NRT calculated in May 2018 is close to 23,6%. <p>The whole average grant of a R&D project is close to 30,8 %.</p> <table><tr><th>Project Characteristics</th><th>SMES</th><th>Big company</th></tr><tr><td>R&D projects co-funded by the European Regional Development Funds 2014 - 2020*</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>International Technology Cooperation</td><td>Up to 33%</td><td>Up to 33%</td></tr><tr><td>Other R&D projects</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	Project Characteristics	SMES	Big company	R&D projects co-funded by the European Regional Development Funds 2014 - 2020*			International Technology Cooperation	Up to 33%	Up to 33%	Other R&D projects		
Project Characteristics	SMES	Big company											
R&D projects co-funded by the European Regional Development Funds 2014 - 2020*													
International Technology Cooperation	Up to 33%	Up to 33%											
Other R&D projects													
Rationale/Impact	<p>It's expected to foster the business competitiveness of beneficiaries, improving their portfolio of products and services as well as the increase of the efficiency of their processes and activities.</p> <p>The outcomes of these projects will lead to the improvement of farming and agro-food activities, to develop eco-friendly activities and production processes as well as a more sustainable use of water. A better quality of products will be promoted as well as the traceability in the food chain. A considerable reduction of environmental impact and a more efficient use of available resources are expected.</p>												

Objectives	<p>Main objective of this instrument is to support R&D activities of Spanish companies to foster their competitiveness through the development of new/improved products, processes and services, focused to fulfil economic, environmental and social challenges. This instrument hasn't a sectorial approach so is focused to all sectors, among are included the fields of water, environment, farming, ecosystem, agro-food, health, etc.</p> <p>With a bottom-up approach, R&D open call projects aims to advance in the State of the Art of technologies, products and processes tackled by Spanish companies which operates in the so related fields, encouraging cooperation schemes with research bodies and other companies from Spain or from other country all around the world.</p> <p>Thus, technology and knowledge transfer are supported, aligning this process with real (market and social oriented) needs.</p>
Deliverables	It's expected to be approved near 450 projects could be funded in 2019 after the adoption of the AWP 2019.
Information on the Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	R&D continuous open call of the CDTI
Publication date	This instrument has been applied by CDTI since the end of 80's. The financial conditions and rules have been updated by April 2018
Deadline for applications	Continuous open call
Expected date of award	Advanced payment up to 25% is allowed at the start of the project. Annual payments linked to milestones fulfilment are considered up to the end of the project.
Scope of the Call for Proposals	R&D and innovation activities with a TRL 3-6 carried out by companies.
Implementation	
Type of Activity	R&D projects monthly approved in a CDTI government board.
Start date of the activity	The call is continuously open. Only projects approved after the adoption of the AWP 2019 will be considered.
Duration	undefined
Funding institution	Centro for the Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI E.P.E) - Spanish Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness.
Funding beneficiaries	Spanish companies and Economic Interest Groupings (EIG)

Countries where research is conducted	Spain
Collaborating partner(s)	Companies, Research bodies (Universities, Public Research Bodies and Innovation and Technology Centres)
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in €)	Net grant applied to the period January – October 2019 it's estimated about 43,5 M€.
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	The CDTI R&D financial instrument supports the development of technologies, processes and products in the fields of water, natural resources, agro-food, environment, farming, etc. among others, with a bottom-up approach focused to markets and social needs. The supported projects will contribute to a business competitiveness tackling technology, social and environmental challenges in so related fields, which are included in Thematic Areas1, 2 and 3 of PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda. Activities financed with CDTI R&D instrument support interdisciplinary and cross-cutting actions that are aligned with the concept of Water-Ecosystem-Food-Energy Nexus included in PRIMA WP 2019.
Website	http://www.cdti.es/index.asp?MP=15&MS=642&MN=3

Code	FR.2019.1
Theme:	All PRIMA thematic areas and topics
Activity title	Research Projects funded by ANR under the annual national call for proposals
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	<p>Each year the French National Research Agency launches a call for proposals covering all fields of research; Inside this call, a budget of around 35 M€ is allocated to the following thematic areas; Biology of animals, photosynthetic organisms and microorganisms; Food and food systems; Dynamics of socio-ecosystems and their components to improve their sustainable management; biodiversity and dynamics of ecosystems and allows to fund around 80 projects.</p> <p>This call is open to French research teams but projects can include foreign research teams (funded by their own). Some of these projects address PRIMA topics (Water, agriculture or Food in the Mediterranean Area) and we can estimate that each year a budget of around 1.5M€ is allocated to projects inside the PRIMA scope.</p>

Rationale/Impact	<p>The French National Research Agency (ANR) is a public body under the authority of the Ministry of research</p> <p>ANR provides funding for project-based research in all fields of science - for both basic and applied research - to public research organisations and universities, as well as to private companies (including SMEs). Evaluation is based on competitive peer reviews according to international standards</p>
Objectives	<p>ANR's activities aim at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> └ Developing science and technology └ Speeding up knowledge creation and transfer, and fostering academic-industry partnerships └ Promoting collaborative work and interdisciplinary dialogue └ Preparing a new generation of talents └ Facilitating European and international collaborations
Deliverables	
Information on the Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	French National Research Agency: Annual Generic Call for Proposals
Publication date	July 2019
Deadline for applications	October 2019
Expected date of award	July 2020
Scope of the Call for Proposals	<p>This call covers fundamental and applied research projects. The following topics are related to PRIMA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - food, food systems and global food security. - biology of livestock, photosynthetic organisms, including models, and associated organisms (microorganisms, microbiota, pests, pathogens, ...) and their interactions - sustainable management of the ecosystems for i) understanding the dynamics of productive ecosystems to improve their sustainable management, ii) proposing innovations for the integrated and sustainable management of socio-ecosystems, iii) contributing to the development of pathways and scenarios to support ecological and digital transitions - biodiversity and dynamics of continental and marine ecosystems

Implementation	
Type of Activity	RIA
Start date of the activity	Annual Basis –Projects starting dates first quarter 2018
Duration	Research projects duration :24-48 months
Funding institution(s)	ANR
Funding beneficiary(ies)	All type of French public research organisations and private companies associated
Countries where research is conducted	Besides France, field works and collaborations can be carried out in/with Mediterranean Partners , in particular Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Egypt
Collaborating partner(s)	Potentially all south med countries,
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in €)	Around 1 500 000 €/year
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	The projects funded are in the scope of the thematic areas of PRIMA (water, agriculture and food), and/or cross cutting issues (soil, food security)
Website	http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/en/

Code	IL.19.1
Theme:	The framework supports joint industrial R&D projects, focusing on developing innovative products and applications in all technological and application areas. All the PRIMA thematic
Activity title	The bilateral programmes for parallel support of industrial R&D are based on government-to-government (G2G) international agreements and implementation agreements between government agencies and regional authorities that constitute a platform for promotion of technological innovation among industrial and research entities.
Activity description	

Abstract (publishable)	Promote international cooperation in R&D based on significant technological innovation, in order to increase competitiveness and the relative advantage of Israeli companies in the global market. In addition to providing a conditional grant that allows the sharing of the risk inherent in project funding, these programmes also offer assistance in finding technology and business partners, as well as access to governmental support for the project.
Rationale/Impact	
Objectives	<p>Technological industrial companies from all industry sectors that wish to develop or upgrade the development of products, services or manufacturing processes with an industrial company from a foreign country.</p> <p>Israeli technology companies and start-ups seeking to create strategic alliances and partnerships with companies and organizations abroad, to expand their operations, gain access to innovative R&D infrastructure abroad (labs, simulators, etc.), locate additional sources of financing, break into new markets and benefit from the access to knowledge and technology existing overseas.</p>
Deliverables	
Information on the Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	Bilateral Programmes with Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Slovenia, Spain etc.
Publication date	<p>Once a year, depends on the specific call</p> <p>In 2019 the following bilateral programme call is foreseen:</p> <p>Call for bilateral programme France Israel: Opening of the Call end of 2018</p>
Deadline for applications	Call Bilateral programme France Israel : submission deadline is February 28th, 2019 and 12-SEP-2019
Expected date of award	Q1 2020
Scope of the Call for Proposals	The France-Israel Industrial R&D Cooperation Framework (FIRAD) promotes R&D collaboration between French and Israeli companies interested in jointly developing and commercializing new, innovative products, applications or services. FIRAD's mission is to foster collaborative R&D links between French and Israeli science and technology organizations and to assist in the establishment of long term French-Israeli alliances based on technological cooperation.

Implementation	
Type of Activity	<p>The support provided is subjected to the provisions of the R&D Law applicable to the relevant incentive programme, and in accordance with the various bilateral agreements. The criteria for submission of applications to the bilateral programmes are detailed in specific calls for proposals, and in most cases include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> └ The product, service or industrial process to be developed within the framework of cooperation should be innovative, suitable for commercialization in the target markets, and have added value for the Israeli economy and for the project partner. └ The partner companies must have the ability to implement the project and the R&D processes necessary for its completion, as well as the ability to fund their proportionate share in the process required for project realization. └ Research institutes and academic entities are allowed to take part in the cooperation as subcontractors. └ The partner companies must demonstrate that the cooperation between them is necessary for the development of a value-added technology, resulting from the transfer of knowledge between the companies, as well as from sharing of resources, infrastructure or commercial relationships, innovative application of existing technologies to new markets and more. └ The partner companies will sign an agreement to regulate the rights to their intellectual property (IP) and ownership of new IP, which will be produced during the project and its commercialization. This agreement is to be subject to the national R&D Law.
Start date of the activity	
Duration	
Funding institution(s)	
Funding beneficiary(ies)	
Countries where research is conducted	
Collaborating partner(s)	
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in €)	During 2018, the Israel Innovation Authority, provided financial support of about € 1 million through the various bi-lateral programmes, as describe above in thematic area related to PRIMA. We assume that during 2019, similar budget will be allocated

Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	
Website	http://www.iserd.org.il/Bi-National_Programs https://innovationisrael.org.il/en/page/calls-proposals

Code	LB.2019.1
Theme:	Support to Research
Activity title	CNRS-L Grant Research Programme
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	The Grant Research Programme is one of the first CNRS-L Programmes established in 1962. The aim of this programme is to provide financial support and guidance to Lebanon's universities, research centres and CNRS-L research centres.
Rationale/Impact	Calls for proposals are launched covering priority scientific fields of the country to encourage researchers all over Lebanon to carry on their scientific research with the hope of reaching endeavours and constantly innovating science in Lebanon.
Objectives	
Deliverables	Final Reports, Minimum 1 Publication, Conferences, Patents
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	CNRS-L Grant Research Programme
Publication date	Based on national agreements (TBC): Expected First Part of 2019
Deadline for applications	Based on national agreements (TBC) Expected Mid 2019
Expected date of award	January, 2020
Scope of the Call for Proposals	Calls cover the following thematic: Cultural Heritage; Arabic Language and History; Sociology and Ethics; Business, Economic and Finance; Medical Sciences; Agriculture and Food; Environment and Natural Resources; Basic Science and Engineering. (Detailed Priorities are available on: http://www.cnrs.edu.lb/Library/Files/Uploaded%20Files/priorities%202017.pdf Project are evaluated by independent peer review.
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Research & Innovation Action; Training & Mobility Action; Support to Research
Start date of the activity	2020
Duration	2 Years
Funding institution(s)	National Council for Scientific Research – Lebanon (CNRS-L); Some Calls Co-Funded by participating universities (based on signed agreements).
Funding beneficiary(ies)	Lebanese Public or Private Universities & Research Centres
Countries where research is conducted	Lebanon
Collaborating partner(s)	Lebanese Public or Private Universities & Research Centres
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in €)	Total Programme Budget (2019-2020): around 7 million Euros Total Budget for PRIMA Thematic Topics within the GRP Call: estimated at 2.5 Million Euros (TBC)
Alignment with PRIMA	PRIMA 3 Thematic Areas

Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	
Website	http://www.cnrs.edu.lb/english/fellowship-and-awards/research-programs-and-funding/cnrs-l-grant-research-program-grp http://www.cnrs.edu.lb/english/call-of-interest/calls-for-proposals-by-cnrs/the-grant-research-programme

Code	LB.2019.2
Theme:	Support to PhD Scholarships (Human Development & Research)
Activity title	CNRS-L PhD Scholarship Programme
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	The PhD Scholarship Programme aims to help Lebanese students who wish to pursue their postgraduate studies within its vision and aim to build research and academic capacities in all fields, especially those related to urgent societal challenges. Every year, the scholarships are distributed through the various programmes/agreements, benefiting graduates from most Lebanese universities.
Rationale/Impact	<p>Calls for PhD Candidates are launched yearly covering priority scientific fields of the country.</p> <p>In 2017-2018, priority areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Science and Technology: priority is given to topics related to natural resources and the environment, energy and its efficient use, sustainable water management, mitigation and prevention of natural disasters, agriculture and nutrition, biodiversity, air quality and treatment methods for air pollution, medical sciences and biology, forensic chemistry, green chemistry, molecular physics, the use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, actuarial science and financial risk management, applied mathematics and informatics in financial and economic sciences ... • In social sciences: priority is given to topics related to cultural heritage, Arabic linguistics, cognitive linguistics (in Arabic), the history of science in the Arab civilization, the sociology of migration and displacement, conflict resolution and post-conflict societies, gender and women studies, media coverage of conflicts, university leadership and innovation, the economy in conflict-affected areas, Lebanon as a potential actor in the global economic repositioning, etc. ...
Objectives	The PhD Scholarship Programme aims to help Lebanese students who wish to pursue their postgraduate studies within its vision and aim to build research and academic capacities in all fields, especially those related to urgent societal challenges.
Deliverables	PhD Diploma, scientific publications, Reports
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	CNRS-L PhD Scholarship Programme
Publication date	March-July, 2019 (TBC)
Deadline for applications	May-September, 2019 (TBC)
Expected date of award	September-October, 2019 (TBC)
Scope of the Call for Proposals	<p>Calls for applications are launched every year to cover, among others, the following thematics: Cultural Heritage; Arabic Language and History; Sociology and Political Science; Business, Economic and Finance; Medical Sciences; Agriculture and Food; Environment and Natural Resources; Basic Science and Engineering.</p> <p>In addition to the criteria related to the scientific qualifications of the candidate and the supervisor, the evaluation also considers criteria for matching the subject of the thesis with the research priorities set by the CNRS-</p>

	L. In accordance with the CNRS-L's policy encouraging innovation, and technology transfer, the PhD Scholarship Programme promotes applied theses involving innovation and development.	
Implementation		
Type of Activity	Human Resources Development, Training, Mobility, Research & Innovation	
Start date of the activity	September-October 2019	
Duration	3 Years (2019-2021)	
Funding institution(s)	The CNRS-L signed joint funding agreements for PhD scholarships with main research universities in Lebanon: the Lebanese University (2009), the American University of Beirut (2012), Université Saint-Joseph (2013), and Université Saint-Esprit de Kaslik (2013) Lebanese American University (2016) BAU (2015) In parallel, the CNRS-L signed joint cooperation agreements for a number of PhD scholarships with French universities:	
	CNRS-L / Université du Littoral Côte d'Opale (ULCO)	Environment, Air Pollution, Water Pollution, Nutrition and Obesity
	CNRS-L / Université de Montpellier (UM)	Topics of common interest such as: Sustainable Water Management, renewable energy, natural hazards, etc.
	CNRS-L / UM / Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF)	Human & Social Sciences
	CNRS-L / ARCUS (CNRS-L/ AUF /Lille1 /UVHC/ULCO)	Environment, energy and sustainable development
	CNRS-L / Université Paris-Descartes (UPD)	Health and Medical Sciences
	CNRS-L / Université of Pau and Pays de l'Adour	Geophysics, Eco construction, archaeology, food safety, aquatic resources
Funding beneficiary(ies)	Lebanese PhD Candidates in Public or Private Universities & Research Centres	
Countries where research is conducted	Mainly Lebanon (+ France, Europe, USA...)	
Collaborating partner(s)	Lebanese Public or Private Universities & Research Centres (+ France for Joint PhD Programmes outlined above) + Foreign universities	
Commitments		
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in €)	Total Programme Budget (2019-2020): around 2 million Euros Total Budget for PRIMA Thematic Topics within the PhD Programme: estimated at 0.75 Million Euros (TBC)	
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	PRIMA 3 Thematic Areas	
Website	http://www.cnrs.edu.lb/english/fellowship-and-awards/doctoral http://www.cnrs.edu.lb/english/fellowship-and-awards/scholarships	

Code	LB.2019.3
Theme:	Mobility & Research Programme between the CNRS-Lebanon and CNR-Italy
Activity title	CNR-CNRS Joint Research Programme
Activity description	

Abstract (publishable)	<p>In 2011, an Agreement was signed between the National Council for Scientific Research of Lebanon (CNRS-L) and the National Research Council of Italy (CNR) towards strengthening cooperation in scientific research between the 2 countries.</p> <p>The agreement included a Cooperative Programme to establish Joint Research Projects between Lebanese and Italian researchers. The CNRS-L & the CNR undertake to promote and support cooperation between qualified scientists in those research areas of most interest to both parties.</p> <p>In accordance with the text of the Agreement on Scientific Cooperation and the Cooperative Programme signed, a yearly Call for Proposal for joint research projects is launched by CNR and CNRS-L.</p>
Rationale/Impact	By funding mobility and research, the CNR-CNRS Joint Research Programme aims to contribute to the enhancement of Lebanese-Italian partnerships, support networking and build on excellence in research and strengthen scientific and technological exchange between research centres in Lebanon and Italy.
Objectives	The programme intends to provide opportunities for enhancing partnerships that can benefit of new opportunities for collaborations within regional and international funding programmes.
Deliverables	Final Reports, Publications, Conferences
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	CNR-CNRS Call for Proposals
Publication date	Yearly: March 2019 (TBC)
Deadline for applications	Yearly: May 2019 (TBC)
Expected date of award	January 2020 (TBC)
Scope of the Call for Proposals	<p>An annual call is opened to cover the following thematic: 1) Marine Sciences and Biodiversity, 2) Management of Natural Resources, 3) Renewable Energy, 4) Food Security, 5) Archaeology & 6) Water.</p> <p>Calls are evaluated by independent peer review by both the CNRS-Lebanon and the CNR-Italy to fund 4 projects annually</p>
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Research & Innovation Action; Training & Mobility Action; Support to Research,
Start date of the activity	January 2020 (TBC)
Duration	2 Years (2020-2021)
Funding institution(s)	National Council for Scientific Research – Lebanon (CNRS-L) National Research Council of Italy (CNR)
Funding beneficiary(ies)	Lebanese Public or Private Universities & Research Centres
Countries where research is conducted	Lebanon & Italy
Collaborating partner(s)	TBC
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in €)	<p>Total Budge/call: 40,000 Euros from CNRS-Lebanon + 40,000 Euros from CNR-Italy</p> <p>Total Budget for PRIMA Thematic Projects (accepted) within the Call – estimated at 16,000 Euros from Lebanon (To Be Confirmed)</p>
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	PRIMA 3 Thematic Areas
Website	<p>http://www.cnrs.edu.lb/english/fellowship-and-awards/research-programs-and-funding/cnr/cnrs-l-fifth-call-for-proposals-2017-2018-is-now-open</p> <p>http://www.cnrs.edu.lb/english/fellowship-and-awards/research-programs-and-funding/regional-research-programmes/euro-mediterranean-cooperation-through</p>

Code	MO.2019.1
Theme:	<p>Main thematic areas are water and environment, food and agricultural sciences, renewable energies and energy efficiency, biomedical, as well as humanities and social sciences.</p> <p>The funded projects are also expected to prepare the submission of applications for further funding with the BMBF and other funding providers such as Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) or the European Union (EU).</p>
Activity title	"Programme Maroc-Allemand de Recherche Scientifique" (PMARS IV).
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	The PMARS IV Programme (Programme Maroc-Allemand de Recherche Scientifique) is carried out under with the aim of promoting joint research projects of mutual interest, thus contributing to intensified scientific and technological cooperation with Germany. The aim is to generate added value for the participating partners by pooling the knowledge, experience, research infrastructures and other resources of both sides. Funding will be provided for research projects which enable innovation through international cooperation in the priority areas specified below. A major focus of this programme is on supporting close cooperation between companies and university and non-university research institutions, the involvement of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and a sustainable contribution to the value chains in the specified priority areas.
Rationale/Impact	PMARS is designed to deepen the relationship between Moroccan and German institutions in the area of education and research. The programme supports the creation and strengthening of partnerships between Moroccan and German researches, which can then be further developed within the frame of other existing programmes, e.g. the European research framework programmes. A further goal of the bilateral research programme is to support young researchers and projects that include partners from industry, in particular small and medium-sized businesses.
Objectives	Funding will be provided for research projects which enable innovation through international cooperation in the priority areas to be specified by BMBF and MENFPESRS. The aim is to generate added value for the participating partners by pooling the knowledge, experience, research infrastructures and other resources of both sides. A major focus of this programme is on supporting close cooperation between companies and university and non-university research institutions, the involvement of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and a sustainable contribution to the value chains in the specified priority areas.
Deliverables	Within the PMARS Programme (2018), 17 projects in the following main thematic areas were funded so far: Water and Environment Research, Food and Agricultural Sciences, Health Sciences and Biomedicine, Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency, humanities and social sciences. The new call, which will be published in 2019 will be within a similar frame.
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	"Programme Maroc-Allemand de Recherche Scientifique" (call PMARS IV).

Publication date	The PMRAS IV Call for proposals is foreseen to be published in 2019.
Deadline for applications	Foreseen deadline in the second quarter of 2019
Expected date of award	2019/2020
Scope of the Call for Proposals	With this PMARS-Call BMBF and the Moroccan Research Ministry are supporting both new and existing partnerships on topics of mutual interest. This is to create new partnerships, intensify synergies in education and research between German and Moroccan institutions with joint priorities and foster young scientists.
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Funding of bilateral innovative, application-oriented research projects (R&D).
Start date of the activity	Starting 2019/2020
Duration	Funding for a maximum period of 36 months.
Funding institution(s)	<p>The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Moroccan Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research Morocco (MENFPESRS).</p> <p>Project grants will be awarded according to the following legislative and regulatory texts:</p> <p>Dahir n°1-00-199 du 15 safar 1421 (19 mai 2000), portant promulgation de la loi n° 01-00 portant organisation de l'Enseignement Supérieur, de la Recherche Scientifique et de la formation des cadres ;</p> <p>Dahir n°1602625 du 19 moharrem 1423 (3 avril 2002) portant promulgation de la loi n° 61-99 relative à la responsabilité des ordonnateurs, des contrôleurs et des comptables publics;</p> <p>Loi n° 69-00 relative au contrôle financier de l'Etat sur les entreprises publiques et autres organismes ;</p> <p>Décret royal n°330-66 du 10 Moharrem 1387 (21 avril 1967) portant règlement général de la comptabilité publique tel qu'il a été modifié et complété ;</p> <p>Décret n°2-07-1235 du 5 Kaada 1429 (04 novembre 2008) relatif au Contrôle des dépenses de l'Etat ;</p>
Funding beneficiary(ies)	Recipients of funding are primarily public universities. Other Moroccan institutions of higher education and/or scientific research could also benefit from PMARS if they support themselves the participation of their researchers. These institutions should provide the engagement letter to contribute in funding the selected projects.
Countries where research is conducted	Germany and Morocco
Collaborating partner(s)	BMBF (managed by DLR PT) on German side; Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research Morocco (MENFPESRS); Universities and research centres, SME's
Commitments	

Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in €)	Moroccan contribution in 2018 has been of 34.850,00 EUR: (up to 2050 € per project, approximately 17 projects will be funded). We assume that during 2019, similar budget will be allocated
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	The PMARS Call IV (planned to be published in the first quarter 2019) with the thematic focus on water and environment, food and agricultural sciences, renewable energies and energy efficiency will be in alignment with pillar 1 -3.
Website	PMARS-IV call is planned for 2019 and will be published under the following websites: From the Moroccan side https://www.cnrst.ma/ From German side: https://www.bmbf.de/foerderungen/ (BMBF) https://www.internationales-buero.de (DLR PT)

Code	TU-2019-1
Theme:	Mobility for researchers with South Mediterranean countries
Activity title	Hubert Curien Partnerships PHC Maghreb Programme de cooperation Tuniso-Maghrebin
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	<p>Hubert Curien Partnerships are designed for public or private research laboratories affiliated with institutions of higher education, research organizations, or corporations, without restriction as to field or subject. The humanities and social sciences are not excluded, nor are thematic programs bringing together several fields of science.</p> <p>Maghreb is the Hubert Curien Partnership (PHC) programme involving France, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. Each year, the four countries provide support to the projects of the PHC Maghreb within the framework of the mobility of project managers (senior residency), co-supervisors (senior residency), doctoral students (junior residency) and post-docs (junior stay).</p> <p>The main objective is to foster collaborations and exchanges between researchers and research professors in the four countries to enable long-term collaborations; networking and also joint access to existing international networks or participation in European projects. Research will focus on the climate and energy issues in the Mediterranean Area.</p> <p>This theme allows all disciplines (human and social sciences, sciences and technologies, chemistry, engineering, sciences and technologies of information and communication, agronomy , animal, plant and food production, health sciences, veterinary sciences ...) to integrate into a project. The particular societal, environmental, climatic, technological and energy aspects and the training of the students will be considered.</p>

Rationale/Impact	By funding mobility and training, the Hubert Curien Partnerships has the objective to contribute to the development of new partnerships and to the strengthening of advanced scientific and technological exchanges between research centres in Morocco, Algeria, Tunis and France
Objectives	<p>This PHC has three main objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Foster collaborations and exchanges between researchers and research professors in the four countries to enable long-term collaboration, networking, joint access to existing international networks or participation in European projects. 2. Support training to and through research through the mandatory involvement of a PhD student in co-supervision in projects, 3. Helping to promote innovative research with an impact on sustainable development, production and processing sectors and tools leading to the transfer and exploitation of results.
Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A progress report mentioning the scientific results obtained, the scientific events (publications, symposia, etc....), and a program sheet • A financial statement of the actions carried out • A final report is required no later than three months after the end of the projects;
Information on the Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	Appel a proposition PHC Maghreb Programme de cooperation Tuniso-Maghrebin
Publication date	2019
Deadline for applications	Deadline for submission of applications: Q3 2019
Expected date of award	Q2 2020
Scope of the Call for Proposals	Hubert Curien Partnerships are designed for public or private research laboratories affiliated with institutions of higher education, research organizations, or corporations, without restriction as to field or subject. The humanities and social sciences are not excluded, nor are thematic programs bringing together several fields of science.
Implementation	
Type of Activity	TMA
Start date of the activity	Q3 2020
Duration	<p>The duration of the projects is 3 years maximum (subject to a presentation of the end-of-year progress report);</p> <p>Funding is granted on an annual basis, the amount granted being variable from one year to the next;</p>
Funding institution	Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Tunisia

Funding beneficiaries	Research Centres & Academic Institutions
Countries where research is conducted	Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, France
Collaborating partner(s)	Algeria, Morocco, France
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in €)	During 2019, the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Tunisia allocated 170.000,00 TND = 53.224,79 € 48.000,00 TND/project = 14.736,00 €/project ⁷⁹
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	PRIMA 3 thematic areas
Website	https://www.campusfrance.org/fr/maghreb

Code	TU-2019-2
Theme:	Mobility for researcher with South Mediterranean countries
Activity title	Hubert Curien Partnerships PHC UTIQUE, partnership Franco-Tunisian
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	<p>UTIQUE is the Hubert Curien Partnership (PHC) Franco-Tunisian. In France, it is coordinated by the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) and the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MESRI) and is co-financed by MEAE and MESRI.</p> <p>In Tunisia, it is implemented and financed by the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MESRS) and managed by the Directorate General of Scientific Research (DGRS). This program is managed by the Joint Committee for University Cooperation (CMCU) under the responsibility of a French Co-Chair and a Tunisian Co-Chair.</p> <p>Calls for applications for this program are launched on an annual basis.</p>
Rationale/Impact	By funding mobility and training, the Hubert Curien Partnerships has the objective to contribute to the development of new partnerships and to the strengthening of advanced scientific and technological exchanges between research centres Tunis and France

⁷⁹ Using Exchange rate of September 2018 | INFOREURO:
http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/infoeuro/index_fr.cfm

Objectives	<p>The objective of this program is to develop scientific and technological exchanges of excellence between laboratories in both countries, by promoting new cooperation and the participation of young researchers and PhD students.</p> <p>All areas of research are concerned by this call for proposals and especially SHS.</p> <p>Special attention will be given to projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which involve socio-economic partnerships; • That encourage innovation and the transfer of knowledge and skills for the benefit of both countries; • Which favour the structuring of research and the networking of research teams. <p>The partnership must involve at least one team from each country.</p>
Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A progress report mentioning the scientific results obtained, the productions, the scientific events (publications, symposia, etc. ...), and a program sheet • A financial statement of the actions carried out • A final report is required no later than three months after the end of the projects;
Information on the Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	<p>Programme de cooperation entre la Tunisie et la France</p> <p>Cooperation programme between Tunisia and France</p>
Publication date	2019
Deadline for applications	Deadline for submission of applications: Q1 2019 (April)
Expected date of award	Q 3 2019
Scope of the Call for Proposals	<p>Hubert Curien Partnerships are designed for public or private research laboratories affiliated with institutions of higher education, research organizations, or corporations, without restriction as to field or subject. The humanities and social sciences are not excluded, nor are thematic programs bringing together several fields of science.</p>
Implementation	
Type of Activity	TMA
Start date of the activity	Q1 2020
Duration	<p>The duration of the projects is 3 years maximum (subject to a presentation of the end-of-year progress report);</p> <p>Funding is granted on an annual basis, the amount granted being variable from one year to the next;</p> <p>They must be consumed between 1 January and 31 December of the year in question. They cannot be carried over to the next exercise.</p>

Funding institution	Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Tunisia
Funding beneficiaries	Please indicate the exact name(s) of the beneficiary (ies) of the funds allocated to the initiative. Research Centres & Academic Institutions
Countries where research is conducted	France, Tunisia
Collaborating partner(s)	France
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in €)	During 2019, 30.000,00 TND/project = 92.279,00 €/project will be allocated
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	PRIMA 3 thematic areas
Website	https://www.campusfrance.org/fr/utique https://www.phc-france-maghreb.org/phc-franco-tunisien/appel-a-projets-2017

ANNEX 1

Table linking AWP 2019 Section 1 call topics expected impact to SRIA expected outcomes

Topic	Thematic Area/ Crosscutting themes	SRIA Priority	Operational Objective/Specific Objectives	Outcome Indicators KPIs
Topic 1.1.1 RIA Sustainable groundwater management in water-stressed Mediterranean areas	1	1/Water resources availability and quality within catchments and aquifers	2/LAND AND WATER SUSTAINABILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new modelling routines for determining basic components of water cycle related to groundwater accumulation; • Number of efficiency enhanced technologies for wastewater treatment for unconventional renewable water resource production;
Topic 1.2.1 RIA Conserving water and soil in Mediterranean dry-farming, smallholder agriculture	2	1/Adaptation of agriculture to climate change 2/Developing sustainable and productive agro-ecosystems	4/ SMART AND SUSTAINABLE FARMING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved Knowledge of soil erosion mechanisms to enhance fertility and mitigate salinization under conditions of water scarcity improving nutrient balance; • Number of integrated solutions for pest and diseases management for plant and animal production systems; • Number of innovations in farming systems developed enabling sustainable and efficient agriculture and food systems.

Topic 1.2.2 IA Sustainability and competitiveness of Mediterranean greenhouse and intensive horticulture	2	2/Developing sustainable and productive agro-ecosystems	4/ SMART AND SUSTAINABLE FARMING	Number of integrated solutions for pest and diseases management for plant and animal production systems; • Number of innovations in farming systems developed enabling sustainable and efficient agriculture and food systems.
Topic 1.3.1 IA Implementation of analytical tools and digital technology to achieve traceability, authenticity control of traditional Mediterranean foods.	3	2/Food Safety in local food chains 3/Implementation of innovation in the Agro-food chain, promoting higher quality, sustainability and competitiveness, with particular reference to smallholders	8/ NEW AGRO-FOOD BUSINESS MODELS	• Number of innovative solutions aimed to improve quality control mechanisms and techniques throughout supply chains; • Number of businessmodels for quality and sustainability adapted to SME and smallholders;
Topic 1.4.1 RIA Assessing social, technical and economic benefits of a cross-sectoral governance of the Water-Ecosystems-Food Nexus	4 Socio-Economic Research Food Security		3/WATER GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS 2/LAND AND WATER SUSTAINABILITY,	
Topic 1.4.2 CSA Platform for mapping and capitalization of results and best practices from past and projects related to farming system, water and food in the Mediterranean Area	4		CONTRIBUTING TO specific objectives ALIGNMENT RESEARCH PROGRAMMES	

Table linking AWP 2019 Section 2 call topics expected impact to SRIA expected outcomes

Topic	Thematic Area/ Crosscutting themes	SRIA Priority	Operational Objective/Specific Objectives	Outcome Indicators KPIs
Topic 2.1.1 RIA Bridging the gap between potential and actual irrigation performance in the Mediterranea n	1 • SOIL SUSTAINABI LITY • DIGITAL REVOLUTIO N	3/Irrigation technologies and practices	1/WATER SAVING SOLUTIONS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and efficiency performance of new irrigation technologies and scheduling protocols and models; • Number of water treatment technologies for specific irrigation requirements.
Topic 2.1.2 RIA Management of low quality waters under water scarcity and climate change conditions	1	1/Water resources availability and quality within catchments and aquifers	1/WATER SAVING SOLUTIONS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new modelling routines for determining basic components of water cycle related to groundwater accumulation; • Number of efficiency enhanced technologies for wastewater treatment for unconventional renewable water resource production;
Topic 2.2.1 RIA Small scale farming systems innovation.	2 • SOIL SUSTAINABI LITY • CAPACITY BUILDING	2/Developing sustainable and productive agro- ecosystems	4/ SMART AND SUSTAINABLE FARMING.	
Topic 2.2.2 RIA Use and management of biodiversity as a major	2	2/Developing sustainable and productive agro- ecosystems	4/ SMART AND SUSTAINABLE FARMING.	

lever of sustainability in farming systems				
Topic 2.3.1 RIA Extending shelf-life of perishable Mediterranean food products by sustainable technologies and logistics and by optimized pest and microbial control.	3 • DIGITAL REVOLUTION	<i>2/Food safety in local food chains 3/ Implementation of innovation in the Agro-food chain, promoting higher quality,</i>	7/ REDUCE LOSSES AND WASTES	
Topic 2.3.2 RIA Enhancing horizontal and vertical integration of Mediterranean agro-food value-chains to foster innovation and sustainability.		<i>3/ Implementation of innovation in the Agro-food chain, promoting higher quality, sustainability and competitiveness, with particular reference to smallholders</i>	8/ NEW AGRO-FOOD BUSINESS MODELS	