Partnership on R&I in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA)
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Introduction

The Partnership for R&I in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) is a Public-Public Partnership in the Mediterranean area.

The PRIMA initiative acts under the legal framework of Article 185 of the Treaty of the Functioning of the EU, allowing EU participation in research programmes undertaken by the EU and Associated Member States in a framework of complete integration and alignment of national research policies at scientific, management and financial level on specific topics identified in a strategic and long-term perspective.

PRIMA aims to implement a joint programme to foster R&I capacities and to develop knowledge and common innovative solutions for improving the efficiency, safety, security and sustainability of agro-food systems and of integrated water provision and management in the Mediterranean area. PRIMA should contribute to the achievement of the recently agreed Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s) and to the forthcoming European Sustainable Development Strategy as well as to the goals of the Paris Agreement (COP21).

Integrated water provision and management, including reuse and treatment of water, means that all the different uses of water resources are considered.

Sustainable agro-food systems should aim to meet the requirements of citizens and the environment for safe, healthy and affordable food and to make food and feed processing, distribution and consumption more sustainable with the aim of minimising food losses and agro-food waste.

With regard to water resources and agro-food systems, open, democratic and participatory governance is crucial to ensure that the most cost-effective solutions are implemented for the benefit of society as a whole.

With a view to ensuring participation of the third countries not associated to Horizon 2020 in PRIMA, namely Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco, international agreements for S&T cooperation have been signed.

Implementation

PRIMA will be implemented on the basis of annual work plans setting out the activities to be undertaken in a given year. PRIMA Foundation should monitor regularly the results of calls for proposals and the actions it funds and the extent to which scientific topics, expected impacts and oversubscription in terms of proposals above threshold that could not be funded have been adequately addressed. In justified cases, PRIMA Foundation should undertake corrective actions by amending the annual work plan or in subsequent annual work plans.

Participants

The Union shall participate in the Partnership for R&I in the Mediterranean Area (‘PRIMA’), jointly undertaken by:

A. Member States: Croatia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Slovenia. It includes the Overseas Countries & Territories (OCT) linked to these MS (‘Participating States’).
B. Third Countries associated to Horizon 2020 (AC): Israel, Tunisia, and Turkey.
C. Third Countries NOT associated to Horizon 2020: Algeria, Jordan, Egypt*, Lebanon* and Morocco*

* The eligibility is conditional upon the entry into force or start of provisional application of international agreements with the Union setting out the terms and conditions of their participation in PRIMA.
Synergies

In order to have a greater impact, coherence between PRIMA and other research and innovation projects under Horizon 2020, such as the European Institute of Innovation and Technology Food Knowledge and Innovation Community (‘Food KIC’), or other Union instruments, such as the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument, should be sought and possible overlaps should be avoided.

Challenges in the Mediterranean Area:

- Climate change
- Population growth and food security
- Water scarcity and overexploitation of natural resources
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Agro-biodiversity loss
- Reinforcing Mediterranean lifestyle: diet, physical activity, socio-cultural
- Mediterranean agro-food value chains
PRIMA - Thematic areas

The priorities described in the PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) are:

1. MANAGEMENT OF WATER: Integrated and sustainable management of water for arid and semi-arid Mediterranean areas
   a. Better understanding of water resources availability, especially for catchments and aquifers of medium or small size, which is the most common scenario.
   b. The successful adoption of new irrigation strategies and technologies and their integration into farm management practices and the off-farm constraints;
   c. A new holistic approach addressing soil and underground water degradation accompanied by land and water monitoring mechanisms must be promoted;
   d. Efficient governance at different levels: watersheds, districts, national;
   e. Use of alternative water sources, e.g. treated waste water or water from desalination, through efficient and competitive technologies;

2. FARMING SYSTEMS: Sustainable farming systems under Mediterranean environmental constraints
   a. Development of production systems able to cope with climate risk and uncertainty;
   b. Restore or development of new varieties and hybrids, crops and breeds, taking into consideration the richness of M biodiversity, through long-term programs to share resources and objectives;
   c. Cope with emergence of animal and plant pests and diseases;
   d. Adoption of innovations and achieving changes in farming practices also from the socio/economic point of view;

3. AGRO-FOOD VALUE CHAIN: Sustainable Mediterranean agro-food value chain for regional and local development
   a. Introduction of ambitious agricultural and food policies;
   b. The integration of small producers into formal supply channels;
   c. Shift towards more eco-innovative and sustainable business models, in particular for SMEs
   d. Development of new processing technologies and valorisation of agricultural products and by-products for better valorising the local typical products, to boost rural economy, and to create new jobs;
   e. Better understanding of the complex relationship between diet and health in the Mediterranean context, as well as genetic, epigenetic and behavioural determinants of chronic disease;

<table>
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<tr>
<th>3 THEMATIC AREAS</th>
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<tr>
<td>MANAGEMENT OF WATER</td>
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PRIMA - CALLS FOR PROPOSALS 2018

PRIMA programme activities will be implemented by as following:

- SECTION 1: Actions and activities (Research & Innovation Actions (RIA), and Innovation actions (IA), as defined in the General Annexes of H2020) organised, managed and funded by PRIMA Foundation.

- SECTION 2: Activities (Research and Innovation Activities (RIA) based on national rules) selected following transnational open and competitive calls for proposals, organised by PRIMA Foundation and funded by the national funding bodies of PS.

Section 1 - Topics

These topics are based on the H2020 standard.

Tree calls for research and innovation proposals to mobilize the Euro-Mediterranean scientific communities, stakeholders and private entities and to support a wide range of research and innovation projects expected to produce a socio-economic impact in the near future.

Participation of private entities will be encouraged in the research consortia, jointly with public research organizations, universities and end-users.

1.1.1. RIA Call – Topic 1: Water reuse and water desalination for agricultural and food production

The scope of the call is to provide end-users with new more economically feasible water treatment technologies (such as seawater desalinization) taking into account the main environmental, socio-economic and legal and/or institutional constraints regulating the adoption of these technologies.

1.1.2 RIA Call – Topic 2: Improving the sustainability of Mediterranean agro-ecosystems

The scope of the call is to develop Mediterranean innovative cropping and livestock systems including inland aquaculture, able to cope with limited resources and environmental constrains while enhancing food production stability over time and ensuring a production of high quality agricultural outputs that will allow increase in farmers’ income and preserve agro-ecosystems integrity and services.

1.1.3 IA Call – Topic 3: Implementing innovation in Mediterranean Agro-food chains by smallholders and SMEs.

The scope of the call is to foster adoption of technological and organizational innovations by smallholders and SME able to meet the needs of the food market, food security needs, taking advantage of the opportunities given by Mediterranean values, heritage and biodiversity. This is key to address Horizontal and vertical fragmentation of the Mediterranean value chains and the lack of integration among the main food system actors.

Application procedure:

Two-stage application procedure:

- **Stage 1** - Call Publication and opening: 06-Feb-18
  - Submission deadline **Stage 1**: 17-Apr-18 – Pre-proposal (10 pages)
  - Evaluation Results Stage 1 will be available by 15-Jun-18
- **Stage 2** - Submission
Deadline **Stage 2: 15-Sep-2018** - Full proposal (up to 70 pages)
Evaluation Results Stage 2 will be available 05-Dec-18

**Expected number of funded projects:** up to 9 (section 1)

**Total budget:** Section 1: EUR 18.3 million: EUR 6.1 million per Call.

## Section 2 – Topics

In Section 2, topics are funded directly by the national funding bodies they will be subject to the respective national regulations.

In this section, PRIMA will support the research and innovation only through RIA (Research and Innovation Activities) and addressing 9 topics reported below (according to national priorities).

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 national regulations of the funding bodies, innovation actions should involve the *private sector* in the project Consortium, and particularly relevant SMEs.

### Thematic area 1: Sustainable water management for arid and semi-arid Mediterranean area

#### Topic 2.1.1: Water resources availability and quality within catchments and aquifers

The scope of the call is to develop more efficient water management modelling and monitoring, water management models that addresses the broad impacts of global changes on hydrological and hydraulic balance at catchment and aquifer level in the Mediterranean region.

#### Topic 2.1.2: Sustainable, integrated water management

This call intends to improve water governance taking into consideration both the socio-economic context and the meteo-climatic trends of the Mediterranean basin, since both of them are considered as important drivers of current and future water resources management.

#### Topic 2.1.3: Irrigation technologies and practices

The scope of this call is to improve irrigation water productivity while minimizing the potential environmental risks associated with irrigation at the farm and irrigation district level. This can be potentially appraised by introducing more efficient irrigation technologies aimed at reducing soil evaporation and water run-off while improving crop water use efficiency.

### Thematic area 2: Sustainable farming systems under Mediterranean environmental constraints

#### Topic 2.2.1: Adaptation of agriculture to climate change

The scope of this call is to better understand how plants, soil biota and animals adapt to environmental constraints and why certain varieties/breeds are tolerant or resilient to biotic and abiotic single or multiple stresses, such as drought, multiple summer stresses, warm winters, salinity, etc. It will allow valorizing local genotypes taking advantage of spontaneous and domesticated biodiversity in the Mediterranean agricultural and animal husbandry systems.
**Topic 2.2.2: Preventing emergence of animal and plant diseases**

The scope of this call is to better understand the ecology and physiology of pests and pathogens, and the interactions between hosts, pests and pathogens, and other organisms at multiple trophic levels. Tackling these challenges requires trans-disciplinary research, involving plant/animal health specialists, plant breeders, agronomists and zoo-technicians, food technologists and social sciences to understand the determinants of current situation and study the acceptability of the proposed solutions.

**Topic 2.2.3: Developing farming systems able to generate income, to create employment and to contribute to a balanced territorial development** → SPAIN DOES NOT PARTICIPATE IN THIS TOPIC.

The scope of this call is to enhance the potential benefits of agriculture in terms of employment and poverty alleviation. The objective is to encourage the development of labour-intensive agricultural activities and the design of profitable farming systems for small-scale agriculture, of technologies adapted to diverse farming systems.

**Thematic area 3: Mediterranean Food Value Chain for regional and local development**

**Topic 2.3.1 Valorising food products from traditional Mediterranean diet**

The aim of this Call for Proposal is to characterize and valorise Mediterranean traditional foods by collecting reliable and detailed information about their objective quality (e.g., health-promoting nutrients and other food components, as well as peculiar sensorial attributes) linked to the traditional production practices and preparation recipes. Such knowledge should be exploited to preserve the quality while promoting a better use of more sustainable production protocols and processing technologies to softly adapt innovation to the foods that have characterized the Mediterranean diet and the culinary traditions over history.

**Topic 2.3.2: Food Safety in local food chains**

The scope of this Call is to guarantee food safety in the Mediterranean environment while preserving the cultural heritage, along the entire food chain. The selected projects should address research activities focused on the elaboration and adoption of innovative solutions aimed to improve quality and quality-control mechanisms and techniques throughout supply chains at both local and territorial levels in order to guarantee food safety along the entire food chain.

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

The scope of this Call is to strengthen the link between the Mediterranean diet and health benefits through the identification of evident positive effects exerted by different active substances contained in local products. Research actions can also encompass the assessment of the eating habits, their heterogeneity and their determinants in order to stimulate particularly younger generations to adopt Mediterranean traditional eating habits and abandon imbalanced diets.

**Application procedure:**

Provisional Timeline for the Call on Section 2

**Stage 1**

Call Publication and opening: 06-Feb-18

Submission deadline **Stage 1**: 27-Mar-2018 (10 pages – Pre-proposal)

Evaluation Results Stage 1 will be available by 6-Jun-18
Stage 2

Submission Deadline Stage 2: 04-Sep-2018 (up to 70 pages – full proposal)
Evaluation Results Stage 2: 05-Dec-2018
Type of grant: Research & Innovation Action (RIA)

Expected number of funded projects: 20 - 30 (section 2)

Total budget of the SPANISH funding body: Section 2: 3M€.

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### PRIMA Structure

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<td>Rules of participation</td>
<td>Horizon 2020</td>
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### Eligible consortia

A. Member States: **Croatia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Slovenia**. It includes the Overseas Countries & Territories (OCT) linked to these MS (‘Participating States’).

B. Third Countries associated to Horizon 2020 (AC): **Israel, Tunisia, and Turkey**.

C. Third Countries NOT associated to Horizon 2020: **Algeria, Jordan, Egypt*, Lebanon* and Morocco**

Minimum requirement to have an eligible consortium:

\[ 1A + 1B + 1C + 1A \text{ or } 1B \text{ or } 1C \]

**Examples:**

- Spain + Jordan + Italy + ...
- Spain + Israel + Tunisia

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### Cross cutting themes and activities

- Soil sustainability
- Food security
- Digital revolution
- Socio-economic research and stakeholders involvement
- Capacity building

- **Strategic R&I Agenda (SRIA)**


- **Decision (EU) 2017/1324 of the EP and of the Council of 4 July 2017 on the participation of the EU in the Partnership for R&I in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) jointly undertaken by several MS.**