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

Work Plan [2018]

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1. Introduction

This PRIMA Annual Work Plan for 2018 has been elaborated on the basis of the PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA). It will cover the priorities described in the PRIMA SRIA under the three PRIMA thematic areas: 1) Integrated and sustainable management of water for arid and semi-arid Mediterranean areas (hereafter referred as Water Management); 2) Sustainable farming systems under Mediterranean environmental constraints (Farming systems); 3) Sustainable Mediterranean agro-food value chain for regional and local development (Agro-food Value Chain). This work plan will also address the crosscutting issues highlighted in the SRIA.

PRIMA will support a wide range of research and innovation activities. PRIMA will launch Calls for Research and Innovation Actions, RIAs, Innovation Actions (IA) completed by additional activities aimed at reinforcing links between research and innovation (empowerment of young entrepreneurs, involvement of relevant stakeholders and end-users in PRIMA activities, etc.).

Calls will be launched inside a unique framework. This unique framework will comprise two sections: Section 1 Calls will be funded by the EU contribution and Section 2 Call will be funded by the National Contributions of PRIMA participating countries. The preannouncement of the Calls will be done in January and Calls schedules have been established for being able to sign the grant agreements with research consortia before the end of 2018. Detailed schedules will be communicated to applicants in January 2018.

The budget from the EU in PRIMA WP 2018 is planned to be 20.5 million euros, whereas the total funding commitments from Participating States (including EU Members, Associated Countries and Mediterranean Participant Countries) will be at least 30 million euros, and probably even more considering participating countries already initiated activities (section 3)

2. Actions

2.1 Section 1- Transnational Calls centrally managed and financed by the PRIMA-IS (Union contribution)

- The aim of Section 1 Calls is to support a wide range of research and innovation projects expected to produce a socio-economic impact in a 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 and universities. Proof of concepts type of projects, prototypes, small pilots or demonstrators as well as research projects leading to social innovations will be supported in the WP2018. Results should prepare the ground for larger, more operational demonstrators to be supported in the following years WPs.

For the 2018 WP, three priorities from the PRIMA SRIA have been selected by the PRIMA participating countries as particularly crucial for addressing PRIMA challenges, and have been developed into topics:

- Thematic Area 1-Water management : Priority 1.4 “Water reuse and water desalination for agricultural and food production”
- Thematic Area 2-Farming systems : Priority 2.2 “Sustainable productive ecosystems”

- Thematic Area 3-Agrofood chain: Priority 3.3. “Implementation of innovation in the Agri-food chain, promoting higher quality, sustainability and competitiveness, with particular reference to smallholders”

Calls for thematic area 1 and 2 will be dedicated to RIA. In the two selected topics, research (TRL 2 to 5) is still needed to find new solutions able to address the identified challenges. But, in order to maximize the chance that the research and innovation projects produce an impact, participation of private entities will be mandatory inside the projects.

Call for thematic area 3 will be for IA, in order to enhance of adoption of innovations adopted by different actors of the agro-food value chains for the benefit of consumers and societies.

- Besides RIA et IA Calls, PRIMA will also implement activities aimed at reinforcing the capacities of Mediterranean entrepreneurs and decision-makers to be involved in the Water-Agro-Food knowledge and innovation systems.

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

Challenge:

In a scenario where the fresh water available for agriculture and food processing industries is not enough to cover the current demand and additional gains in the water use efficiency are difficult to achieve, re-using water for multiple purposes is a possible solution. The challenge, in this sense, is to provide end-users with new more economically feasible water treatment technologies and adapted irrigation systems, taking into account the main environmental, socio-economic and legal constraints limiting the adoption of these technologies.

Scope

The reuse of wastewater is one of the main options available for water-supply decision-makers in the field of a sustainable water and soil management, of agrifood chain production and agriculture. However, an appropriate wastewater management has to be promoted, including peri-urban areas where uncontrolled effluent disposal is still practiced. A decentralised approach needs to be fostered in order to ensure both economic and environmental long-term sustainability. However, in the Mediterranean, water reuse faces numerous barriers. Among them, regulatory, safety risks, economic including energy concerns and social acceptance can be currently defined as the main barriers considering that 1) safety risks (environment, human health) have been linked to the use of improperly treated wastewater; 2) cost is probably the first driven force in fresh produce production and 3) public acceptance of reclaimed water varied according to its potential use. In addition, in the Mediterranean area treated wastewaters usually have the drawback of their salinity levels, which might limit the mid, long-term crop productivity. As a consequence, energy-efficient desalinization treatments should be developed for treating both wastewater from municipal and industrial use and also seawater, issues regarding the disposal and treatment of brines after seawater or wastewater treatment should be considered to ensure a low impact of water treatment on the environment, or in the fishery practices. On the other hand, treated wastewater can be also a source of nutrients, particularly for crop production, which should be better valorised and wastewater treatment technologies able to selectively maintain important macro-nutrients should be promoted. Innovative techniques may be developed in terms of energy sources and bioengineering to reduce pollutants loads including pathogens and emergent pollutants (i.e. pharmaceutical residues), to produce water of appropriate quality regarding the uses. For irrigation, appropriate practices and techniques should also be promoted to ensure good water reuse applications conditions at field level, to avoid clogging of drip irrigation systems and soil degradation. In addition, wastewater treatment techniques have to

be developed not only for a direct reuse of water for agriculture, but also for an indirect use, considering hybrid approach including aquifer storage recovery. The recharge of reclaimed water from into the subsoil can be considered as an additional treatment, reducing the cost and energy needs. Recharge into coastal aquifers may be considered as a hydraulic barrier against salt water intrusion. Finally, multidisciplinary studies should be enriched by analysing the economic and environmental suitability of the current implementation of the system, taking also into account the agronomic and food processing validation needed for its implementation, as well as the public acceptance. Under this proposed multi-actor approach, different type of entities should be involved in the proposals; industrial entities (including SMEs) may play an important role, having a great potential for further replication and market uptake of the solutions developed. Innovative development of circular economy (i.e. zero waste concept, nutrients reuse) could also proposed in the field of agro food chain production, considering the recycling of production water, in terms of quantity and quality.

Expected impact

- Increasing the quantity, quality and safety of non-conventional water use for agriculture and food processing (direct use and indirect use of reclaimed water, i.e. artificial recharge, aquifer storage recovery approach)
- Decreasing the cost of treating wastewater and, particularly, desalination by using more energy-efficient processes
- Obtaining socio-economic, environmental (soil conservation in particular) and technical information to influence Mediterranean countries policies in terms of wastewater use
- Deriving new solutions for brine disposal considering an holistic approach for desalination water

Table 1 Supporting information for the Section 1 Call for Proposals, Topic 1: “Water reuse”

Type of action	Research & Innovation Action (RIA)
Funding level	According to H2020 rules <i>Funding rate: 100%</i>
Expected number of grants	Up to 3
Additional eligibility conditions for participation	In addition to the standard admissibility and eligibility conditions (described in part 5.1), the following additional eligibility condition for participation applies to this Call for Proposals: -The requested PRIMA contribution per project shall not exceed € 2 millions. -Participation of at least one Private Entity is required (including non-profit entities)
Submission and evaluation procedure	Two-stage application procedure. For the first stage, a short proposal must be submitted by the first deadline. Successful applicants in the first stage will be invited to submit a full proposal for

	the second stage.
Evaluation rules	The award criteria, scoring, thresholds and weightings for RIAs listed in part 5.5 will be used.
Grant agreement	General PRIMA grant agreement (multi-beneficiary)
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.

2.1.2 RIA Call – Topic 2: Sustainable productive ecosystems

Challenge

In the last decades a substantial proportion of agriculture in the Mediterranean area has been modernized and intensified via improved farming practices and systems. However, yield increases are still insufficient to face the ever-growing food demand. Furthermore, unsustainable intensification of farming practices has often led to pollution, overexploitation of natural areas and resources, loss of fertility of agricultural land, soil erosion and salinization, runoff, and in some cases desertification.

The objective of this call for proposals is to develop innovative cropping and livestock systems (including in land aquaculture) , able to cope with limited resources and environmental constraints while enhancing food production stability over time and ensuring a production of high quality agricultural outputs that will allow increase in farmer's income.

Scope

The projects should provide solutions to reach several of the following objectives : reduction and optimization of use of natural resources in particular water and/or potentially polluting (e.g. pesticides and fertilizers, antibiotics); development of innovative cropping/livestock systems which include social, economic and environmental aspects ; Development of the integration between crop and livestock inside farming systems valorising existing biodiversity through diversification; Promotion and development of a sustainable use of underexploited and new species, breeds or varieties of interest in farming systems; Provision of knowledge and management recommendations for soil conservation (organic matter, biogeochemical cycles, erosion and salinization, plant cover, compost and livestock management) and for conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity; reduction of waste and reuse of by-products in farming systems, and testing new cropping systems for their tolerance to salinity stresses and diverse kinds of water reuse.

The inclusion of private entities (especially SME) and end-users (farmers' organisations, extension services, farmers , food industry) is expected to increase the up-take of new technology by the end-users and support the socio-economic development of the region. Projects should consider the involvement of the different type actors as part of the Agricultural and Knowledge Innovation System. Projects should envisage the implementation of transnational networks for innovation, using

already existing experimental stations or creating new networks for local experiments and participatory research with farmers. The actions should increase the cooperation, training and mobility of researchers between both sides of the Mediterranean area, should promote the collaborations between public and private sectors and should result in the development of new farming systems properly assessed for productivity and sustainability that will ensure in a safe and sustainable way the Mediterranean food production.

Expected Impacts

Projects funded under this call for proposals should contribute to develop and propose new sustainable production systems that are respectful of the environment, able to increase in sustainable way over long-term yields, able to generate incomes and viability to farms (social aspects and employment) and to reduce waste and contaminations.

More specifically, the impacts expected from the projects should concern several of the points below:

- Development of low-input systems with high productivity and low environmental impact
- A more appropriate use of lands by diversified ecosystems, and cross-valorisation of plant and animal activities is expected.
- Integration of ecological , agronomical and socio-economic knowledge to design and assess efficient productive systems based on agroecological concepts
- Promotion and development of a sustainable use of underexploited and new species
- Better integration of agriculture and livestock farming within the entire farming process
- Integrated approaches linking technical and socio-economic issues to address the issues of transition of technical practices.
- Improved local species / breeds / products and farming systems best suited to Mediterranean conditions

Table 2 Supporting information for the Section 1 Call for Proposals, Topic 2: “Sustainable Ecosystems”

Type of action	Research & Innovation Action (RIA)
Funding level	According to H2020 rules <i>Funding rate: 100%</i>
Expected number of grants	Up to 3
Additional eligibility conditions for participation	In addition to the standard admissibility and eligibility conditions (described in part 5.1), the following additional eligibility condition for participation applies to this Call for Proposals: -The requested PRIMA contribution per project shall not exceed € 2 millions. Participation of at least one Private Entity is required (including non-profit entities)

Submission and evaluation procedure	Two-stage application procedure. For the first stage, a short proposal must be submitted by the first deadline. Successful applicants in the first stage will be invited to submit a full proposal for the second stage.
Evaluation rules	The award criteria, scoring, thresholds and weightings for RIAs listed in part 5.5 will be used.
Grant agreement	General PRIMA grant agreement (multi-beneficiary)
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.

2.1.3 IA Call – Topic 3: Implementation of innovation in the Agri-food chain, promoting higher quality, sustainability and competitiveness, with particular reference to smallholders

Challenge

New and emerging problems about food safety and quality management in the Mediterranean agro-food system, due to various factors including climate and demographic changes, global trade, and new determinants for consumers' choices, need to be tackled through innovative and sustainable solutions. In this regard, however, the informal and fragmented setting within which the most part of the Mediterranean agro-food firms operates does not favour the adoption of integrated solutions suitable for a rapid crisis handling. Furthermore, the uptake of innovations and new technologies among Mediterranean agro-food firms is very limited, especially, but not only, with reference to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), representing a significant economic and employment driver in the area.

Given this premise, the present topic aims, on the one hand, to enhance business competitiveness and sustainability through the adoption of technological, organisational and cultural innovations among them while promoting quality of productions based on local Mediterranean heritage, efficiency and the waste valorisation, while, on the other hand, it aims to integrate small producers into formal supply chains better connect them to urban areas.

Scope

Projects should address innovation for quality, sustainability and competitiveness of Mediterranean agro-food sector firms. In this regard, actions should encompass:

- The design and implementation of innovative business models based on novel collaborations between farms, food companies, food distribution services (e.g. retailers, restaurants and procurers) and networks,
- The design and implementation of planning, management control and performance measurement systems to support the execution of sustainability, consumer and quality-oriented corporate and marketing business strategies as well as to promote efficiency and waste valorisation,

- The design and implementation of quality systems for sustainability of typical high value Mediterranean productions and agro-clusters and harmonization with the current EU certification schemes, both at single-firm and value chain level,
- The building of networks to disseminate knowledge and practices, promoting reliability of data measurement, harmonization, integration, sharing and interoperability.

Actions should also encompass the development of the adoption of strategies and technologies (particularly KETs) suitable for supply chain models.

Projects should address the process of inclusion of smallholders into formal agro-food supply chains to ensure economic competitiveness, compliance to social and safety international and national regulation and the alignment with the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development. The improvement of organisation within such chains should also be considered. In this regard, actions should encompass:

- The elaboration and adoption of strategies and supply chain configurations enhancing the innovation potential and competitiveness of SMEs in urban markets and localized agro-food systems,
- The elaboration and adoption of activities and territorial pathways able to integrate local agro-food productions within the broader geographical system and to support territorial policies and collective action,
- The elaboration and application of preservation and processing innovations for optimizing all processes along the whole agro-food chain and creating both new value chains and environmentally sustainable production systems.

Expected Impacts

The projects supported under this topic should lead to:

- The improvement of coordination of food chains through the implementation of preservation and processing innovations,
- The strengthening of the competitiveness of smallholders in urban markets and local agro-food systems through the implementation of novel strategies, supply chain configurations also based on differentiation of business activities,
- The increase in the adoption of innovative business models, planning and management control, as well as performance management and measurement systems for quality, traceability and sustainability,
- The implementation of public policies at territorial level based on novel relations between all the key supply chain actors,
- The improvement of data harmonization and interoperability throughout the value chains, as well as the development of cooperation networks, new web-based applications and services based on data integration and sharing.

Particular attention should be given to policies, mechanisms and solutions able to translate organisations and technological innovations into concrete initiatives, making such innovations adopted by actors of the agro-food value chains for the benefit of consumers, communities and stakeholders.

Table 3 Supporting information for the Section 1 Call for Proposals, Topic 3: “Innovation in the Agro-food chains”

Type of action	IA
Funding level	<i>According to H2020 Rules</i> 70% (except for non-profit legal entities, where a rate of 100% applies)
Expected number of grants	Up to 3
Additional eligibility conditions for participation	In addition to the standard admissibility and eligibility conditions (described in part 5), the following additional eligibility condition applies to this Call for Proposals: -The requested PRIMA contribution per project shall not exceed € 2 millions.
Submission and evaluation procedure	Two-stage application procedure. For the first stage, a short proposal must be submitted by the first deadline. Successful applicants in the first stage will be invited to submit a full proposal for the second stage.
Evaluation rules	The award criteria, scoring, thresholds and weightings for RIAs listed in part 5.5 will be used.
Grant agreement	General PRIMA grant agreement (multi-beneficiary)
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.

2.1.4 CSA Call – Topic 1: Enhance Youth entrepreneurship

Note for the GA: To be discussed in relation with the section 1 Other activities

The objective of this action is to create a new generation of young entrepreneurs, able to create spin-offs and other service oriented or technologically-based business models, enhancing job creation and impacts of research and innovation projects funded by PRIMA calls. This action will be implemented through a dedicated CSA. The CSA will have to address training activities for young

Mediterranean Agro-food entrepreneurs and researchers, aimed at educating them on the crucial role played by sustainable innovations for achieving competitive advantage, in particular of management and operational mechanisms, processes and procedures allowing the further development and implementation of such innovations. It will also develop skills related to implementing detailed business plans, analysing financial statements and projections, accurate timing in a knowledge based business, networking and relationships with stakeholders, etc. It should raise the interest, skills and engagement of young people in terms of development of business ideas, design thinking and implementation of novel business models. *NB There is a need to define "sustainable innovations" here, and to refer to the work done by the H2020 CASI project <https://zenodo.org/record/583432#.WUJHVP5dCUI>*

Challenge

Agro-food firms represent a key element of Mediterranean economies, playing a crucial role also from a social and environmental point of view. Young generations of entrepreneurs have the capability to imagine, build and introduce new technological, organizational and social innovations, and can conjugate experience and best practices in an original way. Despite this, youth unemployment is still an urgent issue in many countries across the Mediterranean region, where 25.4 million people are unemployed, of whom 7-8 million are aged 15-24¹. Moreover, levels of innovation within agro-food sector, especially with reference to organizational and management ones, result to be quite low. The aim of this Call for Proposal is therefore to orient youth to the industry towards the creation of business models that are built around ensuring environmental sustainability, with the objective of favoring job creation and business opportunities through innovation acceleration and market uptake on PRIMA relevant areas of research.

Scope

The selected project should address training activities for young Mediterranean Water and Agro-food entrepreneurs, aimed at educating them on the crucial role played by innovations for achieving competitive advantage, in particular of management and operational mechanisms, processes and procedures allowing the implementation of such innovations. The selected project should address support activities to young Mediterranean Water and Agro-food entrepreneurs, especially in terms of development of business ideas, design and implementation of novel business models inspired by sustainable innovation, as well as in measurement and monitoring of effects of innovation introduced.

Moreover, the selected project should address the promotion of a culture of sustainability among Industrial players and young Mediterranean Water and Agro-food entrepreneurs. In this regard, it is crucial to pursue activities such as, for example conferences, meetings and seminars with business operators (large and small) representing best practices and stakeholders in general, as well as brokerage events able to put in contact young entrepreneurs needing sustainable innovations in their business models with the various members of innovation community, matching innovation demand with supply, and therefore paving the way for the realization of mutual benefits and for the increase of awareness about the importance of introducing sustainable and eco-innovations within business models.

Finally, the selected project should encourage the connection between public and private sector, by increasing interest of researchers to develop a business-oriented career and involvement of the Mediterranean private sector in research and innovation. In this regard, activities should focus on training of both public and private researchers in business markets to help them in converting their novel ideas into practical solutions. Particular emphasis should be placed on PRIMA areas of research better suited to technological innovation and cross cutting issues across the PRIMA thematic

¹ World Bank 2014; United Nations World Population Prospects 2015.

research areas. In doing this, training courses and their related bibliographic material should be available and open to the Mediterranean audience through on-line mechanics, through new development in ICT and tools such as Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).

Expected Impacts

Actions supported under this Call for Proposal should lead to an increase in the awareness about the importance of introducing sustainable innovations within business models among Industrial players and young Mediterranean Water and Agro-food entrepreneurs, as well as in the levels of matching between sustainable innovations needs of entrepreneurs and innovations proposed by members of the scientific community. Moreover, actions should lead to the increase in the interest of young researchers to create spin-offs and other service oriented or technological-based business models, paving the way for job creation and greater technological impacts of parallel research and innovation projects funded by PRIMA calls.

Table 4 Supporting information for the Call for Proposals, Topic 1: “Youth Entrepreneurship”

Type of Action	Coordination & Support Action (CSA)
Funding level	100% of eligible costs
Expected number of grants	1
Additional eligibility conditions	In addition to the standard admissibility and eligibility conditions, the following additional eligibility condition applies to this Call for Proposals: the requested PRIMA contribution shall not exceed 1 million euro.
Submission and evaluation procedure	One stage application procedure. An indicative timeline for the submission and evaluation of applications can be found in table 5
Evaluation rules	The award criteria, scoring, thresholds and weightings for CSAs listed in part 5.5 will be used.
Grant agreement	General PRIMA grant agreement (mono or multi-beneficiary)
Consortium agreement	Participants will be required to conclude a consortium agreement prior to the conclusion of the PRIMA grant agreement.

Table 5: Indicative timetable for Section 1 Call for Proposals in 2018

Type of Action	Call Topics	preannouncement	Announcement and/or opening of the submission website		Indicative deadline for applications		Evaluation results are planned to be available on or before these dates	
RIA	Water reuse and water desalination for agricultural and food production	15 January 2018	Stage 1 15 February 2018	Stage 2 15 July 2018	Stage 1 1st April 2018	Stage 2 1st September 2018	Stage 1 17 June 2018	Stage 2 15 December 2018
RIA	Sustainable productive ecosystems	15 January 2018	Stage 1 15 February 2018	Stage 2 15 July 2018	Stage 1 1st April 2018	Stage 2 1st September 2018	Stage 1 17 June 2018	Stage 2 15 December 2018
IA	Implementation of innovation in the Agri-food chain(..)	15 January 2018	Stage 1 15 February 2018	Stage 2 15 July 2018	Stage 1 1st April 2018	Stage 2 1st September 2018	Stage 1 17 June 2018	Stage 2 15 December 2018
CSA	Youth entrepreneurs	15 January 2018	1 april 2018		10 June 2018		30 september 2018	

2.2 Section 2- Transnational Call managed by the PRIMA -IS and financed by PS at national level

PRIMA SRIA identifies 12 priorities for facing Mediterranean challenges related to Water management, Farming systems and Agro-food chains. In 2018, the PRIMA Section 2 RIAs' Call, co-funded by PRIMA participating countries, will encompass all priorities except the three of them that will be addressed in Section 1 as described previously.

Section 2 will focus on a unique RIAs' Call, as several priorities/topics are strongly interrelated (leading to several cross-cutting issues that have been highlighted as in the PRIMA SRIA, e.g. soil conservation and restoration and food security).

Small to medium size projects will be supported (0.5 to 1 million euro). Thus, based on a total of 30 million euros committed we can expect to fund around 30 to 40 projects.

The Call will be launched in a 2 stages process, and evaluation will be done according to international standards, combining external referees and collegial debate in evaluation committees. Eligibility will be done by the PRIMA-IS regarding PRIMA eligibility criteria and, at the National level, by checking compliance with National Regulations.

PRIMA Section 2 Call will address the following topics (according to national priorities) and the Nexus among them.

Thematic area 1

Topic 1.1: Water resources availability and quality within catchments and aquifers

The challenges now faced by water planners call for a new generation of water management models that addresses the broad impacts of global changes on aquifer storage and depletion trajectory management, groundwater-dependent ecosystems, seawater intrusion and salinization, anthropogenic and geogenic contamination of the whole water cycle, and long-term sustainability. On the other hand, Mediterranean surface water bodies are characterized by intermittent streams: ephemeral streams convey runoff from mountain headwaters to lowlands and help recharge alluvial aquifers, sustain water resources and provide the same hydrological and ecological functions as perennial streams by moving water and sediments throughout the watershed. Understanding the complexity of the system under present and future climatic and socio-economic conditions is of crucial importance for ensuring the long-term availability of water resources

Topic 1.2: Sustainable, integrated water management

Water sustainability in the Mediterranean region should be ensured through improved technical tools coupled with socio-economic studies to define the limits of water and energy use in certain key regions under present and future global change scenarios. In this sense, it is necessary to recognize water-energy-food synergies and balance the potential trade-offs between water and energy-use efficiency. The issue of water transboundary cooperation through sound legal and institutional arrangements has to be taken into consideration in certain critical parts of the Mediterranean area.

Topic 1.3: Irrigation technologies and practices

In the Mediterranean basin, agriculture is by far the main user of water resources, and irrigation is a crucial field practice influencing crop productivity and product quality. In addition, irrigation is a major driver of solute transport in arid and semi-arid environments, having an important role in the potentially negative impacts of improper water management on soil salinization and aquifer pollution. The challenge is therefore to improve irrigation water productivity while minimizing the possible environmental risks associated with irrigation.

Thematic area 2

Topic 2.1: Adaptation of agriculture to climate change

Climate change is dramatically impacting the Mediterranean area and solutions need to be found to adapt agricultural practices to rising temperatures, drought and soil salinity, and increasing occurrence of extreme events. The situation is predicted to worsen in the near future, with the northern part of the region experiencing similar conditions to those existing today on the southern shores. Adapting to climate change is therefore a common necessity for Mediterranean agriculture. Genetic and plant breeding is key for this topic, but cropping system diversification, and spatial organisation, as well as diversification of animals and mixed farming are also important for improving resilience to climate change.

Topic 2.2: Preventing emergence of animal and plant diseases

The Mediterranean Region is a hotspot for biodiversity but it is also a rich and well-known centre of origin and dispersion for virulent plant and animal pests and diseases. They increase under the influence of climate change and of the intensification of trade flows inside the Mediterranean. The recent outbreak of *Xylella fastidiosa* in olive groves is a clear example of such kind of threat, but Mediterranean area faces many other similar situations where the invading species rapidly colonize the entire region. Plant and animal diseases and pests cause significant decreases in yield and

quality of Mediterranean crops, in particular fruit, cereal and vegetables as well as Mediterranean animal productions, and have strong economic and social consequences. The objective of this call is to gain scientific knowledge in order to understand and foresee outbreaks and to develop preventive measures and Integrated Pest Management solutions.

Topic 2.3: Developing farming systems able to generate income, to create employment and to contribute to a balanced territorial development

Integrated and multidisciplinary research approaches should be developed 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. The growth of rural employment is critical for fighting rural poverty. Potential synergies among activities of the various economic sectors in rural areas and rural/urban synergies should be enhanced. Integrated approaches should be implemented at different levels (farms, region, territories...)

Thematic area 3

Topic 3.1 Valorising food products from traditional Mediterranean diet

Mediterranean areas are characterised by traditional diets connected to traditional local products. However, life-style changes have led to dietary changes and consumption of lower quality food, poor in essential nutrients, micronutrients and health-promoting bioactive ingredients. Research is needed to develop new products and processes to increase the quality of Mediterranean foods by combining improvement of raw material composition with better use of innovative and soft production and processing technologies. The result will be a better nutritional quality of food products, as well as stable (micro)nutrient-dense ingredients, , bioactive extracts, functional ingredients and new products.

Topic 3.2: Food Safety in local food chains

Food safety is a key issue for the Mediterranean agro-food sector. Lack of efficiency and food safety problems are recurrent in Mediterranean agro-food value chains, both regarding upstream suppliers who struggle to assess the quality of raw materials, and downstream suppliers, who struggle to comply with the increasingly stringent standards of quality, traceability, product homogeneity and supply regularity required by the sector. Research should focus on the elaboration and adoption of innovative solutions aimed at improving quality control in supply chains at local and regional levels in order to ensure food quality and safety throughout the food chain, as well as enhancing links between place of origin, food processing and food quality and safety.

Topic 3.3 Implications of dietary shifts and sustainable diets for the Med populations and food industry

While the traditional Mediterranean lifestyle composed by three main pillars (Mediterranean diet, physical activity pattern and socio-cultural behaviours) is considered an ideal combination and particularly healthy, the Mediterranean is paradoxically one of the areas of the world where overweight and obesity are most prevalent—a clear sign of lifestyle shift in progress in several modifiable factors: excess consumption of carbohydrates, sugars, saturated fat and salt, lower consumption of fruits, vegetables and fibres; decreased physical activity; loss of Mediterranean traditional socio-cultural habits. The emergence of chronic diseases related with lifestyle such as diet and physical activity (heart disease, cancer, chronic respiratory disease and diabetes) is massive in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean. The complex Relationship between lifestyle and health in the Mediterranean context needs to be understood, as well as the diet and physical activity habits, their heterogeneity and their determinants, and the vulnerability of populations should be addressed. The goal is also to prevent lifestyle-related diseases by raising awareness among both Mediterranean population and policy-makers.

Table 6: Indicative timetable for Section 2 Call for Proposals in 2018

Type of Action	Call	Preannouncement	announcement and/or opening of website for applications		Indicative deadline for applications		Evaluation results are planned to be available on or before these dates	
RIA	Sustainable water management, farming systems and innovation in the agri-food chain (9 topics)	15 January 2018	Stage 1 30 January 2018	Stage 2 1 July 2018	Stage 1 15 March 2018	Stage 2 1 September 2018	Stage 1 10 June 2018	Stage 2 15 December 2018

Table 7: TOPICS funded by country - PRIMA Section 2 Call for Proposals in 2018

	PT	EG	DZ	SI	LB	JO	CY	EL	FR	TN	ES	TR	DE	MA	HR	IT	LU	MT	IL
Thematic area 1 Sustainable water management for arid and semi-arid med areas																			
TOPIC 1.1 Water resources availability and quality within catchments and aquifers	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
TOPIC 1.2 Sustainable, integrated water management	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
TOPIC 1.3 Irrigation technologies and practice	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Thematic area 2 Sustainable farming systems under Med environmental constraints																			
TOPIC 2.1 Adaptation of agriculture to climate change	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
TOPIC 2.2. Preventing emergence of animal and plant pests and diseases	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
TOPIC 2.3. Farming Systems able to create employment and territorial development	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X

Thematic area 3 Mediterranean Food Value Chain for Regional and Local development																			
TOPIC 3.1. valorising food products from traditional Mediterranean diet	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
TOPIC 3.2. Food safety and quality in local food chains	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
TOPIC 3.3. Health effects of the dietary shifts and promotion of healthy and sustainable diets for the Med populations	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X

Table 8 Information about the PRIMA Section 2 Call - 2018

Type of action	Research & Innovation Action (RIA)
Funding level	depending on National Regulations
Expected number of grants	30 to 40
Additional eligibility conditions	<p>In addition to the standard admissibility, and eligibility (see part 5.2) the following additional eligibility condition applies to this Call for Proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The requested PRIMA contribution per project shall not exceed € 1 million in total. • All participants in a bidding consortium must check their eligibility referring to their national regulations. <p>Participants have to check eligibility of topics per country (table 7 and part 5.2)</p>
Submission and evaluation procedure	Two-stage application procedure. For the first stage, a letter of intent must be submitted by the first deadline. Successful applicants in the first stage will be invited to submit a full proposal for the second stage. An indicative timeline for the submission and evaluation of applications can be found in table 5 .
Evaluation rules	The scoring, thresholds and weightings for RIAs listed in section 5.5 will be used.
Grant agreement	<p>Each national funding body will fund its national teams.</p> <p>Each national funding body will enter into a contract (or</p>

	any official documents acting as contract) with the relevant researchers and will ensure in collaboration with other funding agencies that these contracts are synchronized both in time and content
Consortium agreement	Participants in actions resulting from this Call for Proposals will be required to conclude a consortium agreement in the first year of the National grant agreement.

2.3 - Section 3-Activities of participating states managed and financed at national level

PRIMA Participating States (PS) implement and fund an array of national activities that contribute to the objectives of the PRIMA programme. These Participating States' Initiated Activities (PSIAs) are implemented and funded by one PS alone or by several PS.

PSIAs are an important contribution from PS to the PRIMA programme, with the objective of alignment of national programmes within PRIMA scope.

This section is still in elaboration and will be completed as soon as possible

For the moment, we received inputs from France and Germany

Table XXX : Participating States Initiated Activities supported in 2018. Details of the activities are given in Annex XXX

To be completed

3. Programme administration and activities of the PRIMA-IS in 2018

3.1 Activities supporting programme operations

Activities for the implementation of the programme: projects evaluation and Work Plan

3.1.1. Evaluation of projects proposals submitted to 2018 Calls

Objective. This activity consists of realising the evaluation of all the projects submitted to the 2018 PRIMA calls (Section 1- Section 2) to prepare the decision of the Board of Trustees and Funding Agencies for selection of projects to be funded. It covers the independent expert fees, the evaluation committees' members' fees, travels and accommodations and the other meetings-related expenses. For each of the three section 1 calls : 1 day for project allocation and presentation of the process+ 2 days meeting for the first step + 3 days meetings for final evaluation
For section 2 calls : 2 days for presentation of the process + 3 for the first step + 4 for final evaluation
External referees and evaluation committees' members will be paid according to international standards. Transportation and accommodation of Committee members will be taken in charge

Type of Action: Expert Contracts, Direct costs for meetings

Indicative budget: 500,000 euros

(ALL THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE REDUCED AND/OR SHIFT TO AN OTHER SECTION)

3.1.2 Dissemination activities and materials

Objective: The objective of the dissemination actions are, on one hand, to debate on the research policy in the fields related to PRIMA and to ensuring the dissemination of programme objectives and research outputs of PRIMA, obtaining feedback of stakeholders. On the other hand, to create a wider public interest in the research policy issues raised by PRIMA programme by placing them on the policy agendas at local, regional, national and European levels.

- Creation of a digital research platform :This platform will serve as information and communication platform and offer substantial guidelines as well as online working spaces to facilitate and enhance the development of future concrete joint initiatives. The idea is to create a sustainable and long-term framework for the uptake, follow-up and future development of the results and concrete collaborations generated in the Mediterranean area.

The proposed activities are:

-To create a public website

-Issuing an informative material for external communication (leaflet, posters, newsletters, etc.)

-To organise an Info-day

Type of Action: Public procurement

Budget: 130.000 euros

Indicative timetable: first quarter of 2018

3.1.3 Monitoring, impact analysis and follow-up of the funded research projects

Objective:

Monitoring and Impact analysis of the PRIMA funded projects on PRIMA thematic areas will be implemented since the beginning of the programme. It will also cover the projects funded in PRIMA related ERA-Nets that will be ongoing in 2018. It will apply for all projects, for projects that might be encountering problems as well as projects that are encountering particular success.

One important issue for the PRIMA programme will be the capitalization of research results and the design of annual work plans that will be able to build on previous results. These analysis, capitalization and dissemination of results should cover PRIMA funded projects as well as those implemented at national level and in other related initiatives (H2020, JPIs) . This will allow PRIMA to achieve efficiently its role towards alignment of National Programmes. We expect that the large amount of projects that will be funded through PRIMA produces a real advance in research and impacts, but this requires ensuring a strong action to share data, results and progress in knowledge. This will be addressed since the beginning of the programme, and procedures (open data, dedicated dissemination tasks inside research projects..) will be established to facilitate the capitalization of the knowledge that will be produced by PRIMA funded projects;

For projects funded in section 2 call, monitoring will have to be carefully implemented since the beginning of the project to avoid delays in contract signature, to ensure homogeneous starting dates in the different countries involved and to prevent and manage any type of administrative problems in the implementation of the projects. Procedures will be established during 2018.

A kick off meeting for projects selected in the 2018 calls will be organized in the beginning of 2019. During this meeting, the procedure for monitoring and follow up of the projects will be presented to the research coordinators as well as the process for the evaluation of the research projects at midterm and at the end.

Impact analysis will consist in analyzing research and innovation output and impact in economic, social and environmental impact using quantitative methods such as citation counts, journal impact factors and specific metrics, but also qualitatively in terms of social and cultural applications and measures of esteem.

In 2018, a methodology for analyzing research projects impacts will be established. It will be complemented by a benchmarking knowledge transfer: Analyze and compare the knowledge transfer procedures used in different programmes or projects and learn from the best practices in this field. Furthermore, a systematic individual, collection and classification of previous Euro-Mediterranean projects on agro-food and water, critical, qualitative-quantitative, and sustainability-oriented analysis of research and innovation outputs will be performed

Type of action: Directly managed by the PRIMA-IS

Indicative budget: 150,000 €

Indicative timetable: The activity will begin in the first quarter of 2018.

Networking and dissemination activities

3.1.4 PRIMA Forum

Objective: 1-day forum could provide an international platform for the presentation and discussion of research and innovation initiatives involved in water, agriculture and food, and the appropriate capacity development and networking activities. The Forum is a valuable opportunity to develop and reinforce cooperation and synergy among PRIMA stakeholders at various levels including scientific and technical, policy, funding and political interactions. Participants involved in funding are particularly encouraged to use this opportunity to share the developments and results from their projects.

PRIMA-IS will invite keynote speakers for the plenary sessions. Oral and poster presentations will be selected on merit from abstracts submitted to a call for abstracts launched in the second quarter of 2018. Details of submission of abstracts and applications for scholarships will be published in the call for abstracts.

Type of action: Public Procurement

Indicative budget: 150,000 €

Indicative timetable: The procurement process for some of the services will begin in the second quarter of 2018 with the objective of ensuring all procurements are made before the scheduled date of the Forum, which is in the fourth quarter of 2018. All procurements will be made in accordance with PRIMA procurement policies and procedures.

3.1.5 Synergies with other related initiatives

Objective: Organize a 2-DAYS workshop with other existing related initiatives.

One-day meeting with European initiatives representatives (e.g. JPI Water, KIC Climate, KIC Food JPI FACCE, ERANETMED, 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 second-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 action: Public Procurement

Indicative budget: 100,000 €

Indicative timetable: The procurement process will begin in the first quarter of 2018 with the objective of holding the stakeholder meeting/workshop in the second quarter of 2018. All procurements will be made in accordance with PRIMA procurement policies and procedures.

3.1.6 Exploitation of innovations generated by previous Mediterranean agro-food and water research projects

Objective: systematic individuation, collection and classification of previous Euro-Mediterranean projects on agro-food and water, and subsequent critical, qualitative-quantitative, and sustainability-oriented analysis of research and innovation outputs generated by them. Subsequent organisation of a 1-2 days event, involving all relevant stakeholders, to foster discussion on possible ways and mechanisms through which exploiting such results, with particular reference on how innovations produced can be implemented in the Mediterranean basin, according to socio-economic and political specificities and peculiarities of single geographical areas.

Type of action: Public Procurement

Indicative budget: 75 000 euros

Indicative timetable: The procurement process for some of the services will begin in the first quarter of 2018.

Activities related to Digital revolution, ICT and Open data

3.1.7 Opening digital research infrastructures

Opening existing research infrastructures: e.g. **opening LifeWatch** ("e-Science European Infrastructure for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research"), Emphasis, Elixir, Metrofood and other research infrastructures in line with the ESFRI roadmap, to the south Mediterranean countries

Type of action: Public Procurement

Indicative budget: 150,000 euros

Indicative timetable ???

Activities speeding up innovation in the Mediterranean area

3.1.8 Establishment of a community of innovation brokers in the Mediterranean area

Objective: 2-weeks training aimed to train innovation brokers, as new professional figures acting as facilitators between research and agro-food firms and, more generally, among all relevant actors of agro-food innovation systems, which are therefore in charge of catalyzing innovation through bringing together actors and facilitating their interaction, adopting a broad systemic, multi-actor, innovation systems perspective.

Training will particularly focus on the development of professional skills related to:

The participatory assessment of problems and opportunities present in the agro-food innovation system;

The facilitation of linkages between research and enterprises, and among all relevant actors of agro-food innovation system, and the matchmaking of possible partners possessing complementary resources;

The building of strong and durable coalitions among relevant stakeholders of agro-food innovation system.

Moreover, a community of innovation brokers in the Mediterranean area will be established.

Type of action: Public Procurement

Indicative budget: 100,000 €

Indicative timetable: The procurement process for some of the services will begin in the first quarter of 2018

3.1.9 Networking, engagement and communication to enterprises

Objective: This activity aim to engage Stakeholders through the creation of a platform of enterprises involved in Research and Innovation on food and water themes. An open web-based platform of enterprises will be setup and updated during the whole duration of the programme. In the platform, a specific section will be dedicated to a detailed explanation on the procedures of participation to the calls with particular attention to the opportunities and advantages of their involvement in PRIMA. In this regard, a PRIMA Enterprises (stakeholder) Committee (PSC) will be established to advise the Board of Trustees, by informing it on needs and priorities of Mediterranean agro-food business sector that PRIMA should take into consideration also underscoring criticalities in the implementation of the programme. The PSC will also suggest how participation of companies in PRIMA could be further extended over time and will directly involve other relevant agro-food business actors in the Mediterranean area through dedicated engagement activities.

Moreover, 2 workshops (Business Speed Dating and Matchmaking events) will take place in both shore of the Mediterranean aiming to engage industrial actors in the Euro-Mediterranean Research and Innovation reinforcing the link between research, innovation and industrial know-how and at promoting and stimulating adoption of innovation in Mediterranean companies of the agro-food sector.

Type of action: Public Procurement

Indicative budget: 325,000 €

Indicative timetable: The procurement process for some of the services will begin in the first quarter of 2018.

3.1.10 Hackathons and Application Development Contests on food and water solutions in the Mediterranean Area

Objective: 2 (1-2 day) events occurring on both shores of the Mediterranean will involve participants with a different background (including engineering, agriculture, ICT and software development, design, science, and business) that will provide them with a platform to meet and collaborate to solve a specific, real-life challenge on food systems and water resources in the Mediterranean area, and that might will also consist in the development of hardware or software application. The purpose is that of finding novel solutions for the given problem, being it already existing or emerging.

Type of action: Public Procurement

Indicative budget: 200,000 €

Indicative timetable....?

Activities on PRIMA socio-economic aspects

3.1.11 Scientific diplomacy dimension of research and innovation in food systems and water resources

Objective: 1-2 days workshops aimed at fostering discussion on PRIMA scientific diplomacy dimension among the public players (ministers, national entities, local administrative bodies, Universities, schools etc.), through an in-depth understanding of its multidisciplinary aspects. In particular, the workshops should address the question of how effectively enhance the positive effects resulting from the PRIMA Research and Innovation programme on its proper ground in terms of socio-economic and political terms, especially with reference to unemployment rates, internal migration, and empowerment and presence of women in agriculture and farming. In this regard, the workshops will foster a culture of sustainability within the main actors of the public administrations and will reinforce all the sustainable development-oriented policies in the water management and agro-food system, as pivotal elements in tackling the societal challenges that are currently affecting the Mediterranean area.

Type of action: Public Procurement

Indicative budget: 75,000 €

Indicative timetable: The procurement process for some of the services will begin in the first quarter of 2018.

3.2 Administrative costs of the PRIMA-IS for the implementation of the PRIMA programme

The administrative costs of the PRIMA-IS will include

3.2.1. Personnel

- Personnel costs, will include the salaries and social costs of the following personnel : Director, Vice Director, Scientific Officers (2), Legal Officer , Grants Finance Officer, Audit Officer, IT manager, Communication Officer, Administrative Assistants (2).

3.2.2. Meetings and missions

- Meetings of the Board of Trustees, the Steering Committee and the Scientific Advisory Committee
- Administrative Staff travel and accommodation costs

3.2.3. Consumables and supplies

- Postage and courier
- Office consumables & stationery
- Printing and photocopying
- Bank charges
- Office furniture and equipment (amortisation)
- Office utilities: electricity, water and gas
- Repairs and maintenance
- Computers and other IT equipment (amortisation)

3.2.4. Service contracts

- Foundation audit fees (reporting to the EC and annual statutory accounts)
- Telecommunications (voice and data)
- IT support services
- Office cleaning

Table 9: Indicative budget for the administrative costs of the PRIMA-IS for the implementation of the PRIMA programme in 2018

Description	Amount
Personnel	913 000
Missions	40 000
Consumables and supplies	20 000
Service contracts (including non-recoverable taxes)	70 000
Service contracts (including non-recoverable taxes)	70 000
Others (to be completed)	
Total	1 200 000

4. Budget overview table

TABLE 10: OVERVIEW OF PLANNED COMMITMENTS TO ACTIVITIES OF THE PRIMA PROGRAMME IN 2018 BY THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU) AND THE PARTICIPATING STATES (PSs) IN MILLIONS EUROS

Activities	Contributions (in Million €)		
	EU	PSs	Total
PRIMA-IS funded Calls for Proposals RIA and IA (3 calls, 6 million each)	18		
Supporting Activities			
CSA	0.8		
Evaluation of projects	0.5		
Other PRIMA IS-funded Activities	-		
Non-EU funded Calls for Proposals managed by the PRIMA-IS and funded by the PSs		30	
Other Activities of PSs managed and financed at national level		>5	
Sub-Total Implementation		35	
EU-funded administrative costs of the PRIMA-IS	1.2		
Non-EU funded administrative costs of the PRIMA-IS			
Sub-Total Administration			
Total Budget	20.5	35	

Table 11 : Detailed overview of planned commitments to activities of the PRIMA programme in 2018 by the European Union (EU) and the Participating States (PSs)

	Planned commitments (in €)			
	Cash contributions	In-kind contributions	Total in 2018	Total cumulative commitment in [year-year]
European Union (EU)				
European Commission (EC)	20 500 000			
Sub-Total EU				
Participating States				
Algeria	2 000 000			
Croatia	287 715			
Cyprus	200 000-400 000			
Egypt	1 500 000			
France	4 000 000			
Germany	2 100 000			
Greece	2 000 000			
Israel	1 000 000			
Jordan	1 500 000			
Italy	5 000 000 to 7 000 000			
Lebanon	500 000			
Luxembourg	300 000			
Malta	500 000			
Morocco	2 000 000			
Portugal	750 000			
Slovenia	100 000			
Spain	3 000 000			
Tunisia	1 000 000			
Turkey	1 000 000			
Sub-Total PSs	28 737 715 to 30 937 715			
Grand Total				

Table 13 : Overview of planned EU contributions towards PRIMA Calls for Proposals in 2018 and other activities for the implementation of the PRIMA programme, including administrative expenses of the PRIMA-IS

EU-funded PRIMA activities		Indicative budget (in €)	Indicative EU contribution (in €)
Research & Innovation Actions	Section 1 Call 1	6 000 000	6 000 000
	Section 1 Call 2	6 000 000	6 000 000
	Section 1 Call 3	6 000 000	6 000 000
	Section 2 Call 1	0	0
Coordination & Support Actions			
	Section 1 Call CSA 1	800 000	800 000
Other Activities	Activities for supporting the implementation of the programme	500 000	500 000
Administrative costs of the PRIMA-IS	Personnel, Missions, Consumables and supplies, Service contracts	1 200 000	1 200 000
Total planned contributions in [year]			20 500 000

5. General Annexes

5.1 Transnational calls centrally managed and financed by the PRIMA-IS (Union contribution)

5.1.1 List of countries eligible for funding

1. Legal entities established in the following countries and territories will be eligible to receive funding through PRIMA grants provided that these countries are Participating States to PRIMA by the submission deadline under the relevant call for proposals thereby contributing financially to the programme or are deemed essential by the PRIMA-IS or if funding is provided for under an international agreement or arrangement:

a) The PRIMA participating States are :

- 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 States²;
- The following Mediterranean associated countries (AC): Israel, Tunisia, and Turkey.
- Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco; their participation being subject to the conclusion to international agreements with the Union setting out the terms and conditions of their participation in PRIMA

b) Any Member State and any country associated to H2020 other than those listed in point a) may participate in PRIMA provided it contributes financially to PRIMA. *(Check if it has to be developed according to basic act)*

The latest information on which countries are associated, or in the process of association to Horizon 2020 can be found in the online manual³.

c) Any third country not associated to H2020 other than those previously mentioned in point a) may participate in PRIMA provided that: 1) it contributes financially to PRIMA and takes the legislative, regulatory and other measures necessary for protecting the Union's financial interests 2) the PRIMA-IS approves its participation in PRIMA after examining the relevance of its participation for achieving the objectives of PRIMA and 3) it concludes an international agreement with the EU. *(check if it has to be developed according to basic act)*.

d) If in the meantime a country associated to Horizon 2020 or a third country becomes PRIMA Participating State, entities established in this country will also be eligible to receive funding from PRIMA-IS

2. International European interest organisations⁴ will also be eligible to receive funding from Horizon 2020.

² 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.

³ http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/international-cooperation_en.htm

3. Legal entities established in countries not listed above will be eligible for funding when such funding is explicitly foreseen in the call.

4. In addition, legal entities established in countries not listed above and international organisations (IOs) will be eligible for funding:

- When funding for such participants is provided for under a bilateral scientific and technological agreement or any other arrangement between the EU and an international organisation or a third country;
- When PRIMA-IS deems participation of the entity essential for carrying out the action funded through Horizon 2020;
- For Prizes, any legal entity, regardless of its place of establishment, or international organisation may receive funding⁵.

5.1.2 Standard admissibility and related requirements

1. For all actions under this Work Plan, proposals/prize applications must comply with the admissibility conditions set out in this Annex, unless they are supplemented or modified in the call conditions or rules of contest.

To be considered admissible, a proposal/application must be:

- (a) submitted in the electronic submission system before the deadline given in the call conditions or rules of contest;
- (b) readable, accessible and printable.

2. Incomplete proposals/applications may be considered inadmissible. This includes the requested administrative data, the proposal description, and any supporting documents specified in the call/contest.

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).

4. Grant proposals must 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.

5. In addition, to the above admissibility conditions, the following related requirements apply.

Page limits will apply to proposals/applications. The limits will be clearly set out in the electronic submission system of PRIMA. If a proposal exceeds the limits, the proposal cannot be submitted in the

⁴ These are international organisations, the majority of whose members are Member States or associated countries, and whose principal objective is to promote scientific and technological cooperation in Europe.

⁵ Provided that natural or legal persons, groups or non-State entities are not covered by the Council sanctions in force.

system and the applicant will receive an automatic warning that the proposal must be revised before submission.

Proposals must be written in a legible font, further guidance on the use of 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.

5.1.3 Standard eligibility conditions

All proposals must comply with the eligibility conditions set out in Rules for Participation of Horizon 2020 Regulation No.1290/2013 and any derogations to these as specified in the PRIMA Basic Act.

Furthermore, for actions under this PRIMA work plan proposals/prize applications must comply with the eligibility conditions set out in this Annex, unless they are supplemented or modified in the call conditions.

A proposal/application will only be considered eligible if:

- (a) its content corresponds, wholly or in part, to the topic/contest description for which it is submitted
- (b) it complies with the eligibility conditions for participation set out in the table below, depending on the type of action:

Type of Action	Eligibility conditions for participation ^{6, 7,}
Research & Innovation Action (RIA)	<p>At least three legal entities, established in three different countries considered as Participating States as defined in point 5.1.1 of which:</p> <p>(a) at least one must be established in a Member State or in a country associated to Horizon 2020 not comprised in point (b)</p> <p>(b) at least one must be established in a third country bordering the Mediterranean Sea considered as a Participating State.</p> <p>Category a) includes :</p> <p>Croatia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Slovenia</p> <p>Category b) includes:</p> <p>Tunisia, Turkey, Israel Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco (for these 5 countries - see point 5.1.1.),</p>
Innovation actions (IA)	Same conditions than for IA
Coordination & Support Action (CSA)	At least one legal entity established in a Participating State, which is a Member State, a country associated to Horizon 2020 or a third country considered as a Participating State.

⁶ Some entities from third countries are covered by the Council sanctions in place and are not eligible to participate in EU-funded activities. 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.htm.

⁷ The eligibility criteria formulated in Commission notice Nr. 2013/C 205/05 (OJEU C 205 of 19.07.2013, pp.9-11: "Guidelines on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards") shall apply for all actions under this Work Plan, including with respect to third parties receiving financial support in the cases where the respective action involves financial support to third parties by grant beneficiaries in accordance with Article 137 of the EU's Financial Regulation.

5.1.4 Types of action: specific provisions and funding rates⁸⁹

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 innovation¹⁰ that has already been applied successfully once in the market. ‘First’ means new at least to Europe 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)

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.

In the PRIMA programme CSAs address activities such as: i) activities to develop and strengthen the research capacities in the Participating States, ii) activities to promote networking and

⁸ Eligible costs for all types of action are in accordance with the Financial Regulation No 966/2012 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).

⁹ Participants may ask for a lower rate.

¹⁰ A new or improved technology, product, design, process, service or solution.

collaboration among researchers and research institutions, as well as iii) activities to foster coordination and cooperation between public and private funders. Actions may involve activities of standardisation, dissemination, awareness-raising and communication, conduct of preparatory and accompanying studies, networking, coordination or support services, policy dialogues and mutual learning exercises and studies. Actions may also include complementary activities of strategic planning, networking and coordination between regional and national programmes. Actions may also involve targeted measures to maximise the impact of research results stemming from PRIMA-funded activities by promoting their translation and supporting their uptake in policy-making at national and/or international level.

Funding rate: 100%

5.2. Transnational calls managed by the PRIMA-IS and financed by the Participating States at the national level

5.2.1 List of countries and applicable rules for funding

Projects under these calls will be funded through a virtual common pot mechanism. The funding principle is that each country funds its own research group(s), while it benefits from the research fruits of the multinational team of the Project Consortium.

5.2.1.1 Countries providing national funding to these calls

Researchers participating in projects that have been selected for funding will receive the grant directly from their national funding organisation after meeting their national regulations. Funding will be administered according to the terms and conditions of respective national funding body. Industry may in some countries also bid for funding as members of consortia, but should first check the Parties' national rules for details on funding eligibility of SMEs or large industries.

Countries participating in the PRIMA Joint Calls

Names of the Funding Agencies should be added (note that in some countries, there are more than one funding agency participating)

	PT	EG	DZ	SI	LB	JO	CY	EL	FR	TN	ES	TR	DE	MA	HR	IT	LU	MT	IL
Total commitment (K€)	750	1500	2000	100	500	1500	200 to 400	2000	4000	1000	3000	1000	2100	2000	285	7000	300	500	1000
Thematic area 1 Sustainable water management for arid and semi-arid med areas	250	900	700			500		750			1100	400	1500		55			200	
TOPIC 1.1 Water resources availability and quality within catchments and aquifers	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
TOPIC 1. 2 Sustainable, integrated water management	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
TOPIC 1.3 Irrigation technologies and practice	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Thematic area 2 Sustainable farming systems under Med environmental constraints	200	600	800			500		600			800	300	300		135			150	
TOPIC 2.1 Adaptation of agriculture to climate change	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
TOPIC 2.2. Preventing animal and plant pests and diseases outbreaks	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
TOPIC 2.3. Farming Systems able to create employment and territorial development	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Thematic area 3 Mediterranean Food Value Chain for Regional and Local development	250		500			500		650			1100	300	300		95			150	
TOPIC 3.1. valorising food products from traditional Mediterranean diet	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
TOPIC 3.2. Food safety and quality in local food chains	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X

TOPIC 3.3. Health effects of the dietary shifts and promotion of healthy and sustainable diets for the Med populations	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	x
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5.2.1.2 Countries not providing funding to these calls

Applicants from countries not providing funding to calls, even if formally members of the PRIMA initiative are welcome in research consortia, but they will have to fund their own participation to the research projects. Applicants have to provide a letter attesting that the necessary funds for the realization of the project will be available. They cannot coordinate a project nor have a vital contribution to the project.

5.2.3. Applicable common principles

The PRIMA basic act stipulates that PRIMA activities may include joint calls with funding provided by Participating States that are not funded by the PRIMA-IS, including activities undertaken by public or private not-for-profit research organisations. Those activities included as joint calls with national funding in the PRIMA Annual Work Plan shall 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 Title VI of the Financial Regulation No 966/2012 and in the Rules for Participation of Horizon 2020 No 1290/2013, in particular the principles of equal treatment, transparency, independent peer review evaluation and selection.

The European Commission and the PRIMA-IS on behalf of the Participating States have agreed to the common principles outlined below:

Equal treatment

Participation in joint calls, 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. Joint calls should to the largest possible extent be allocated through open calls for proposals, and the PRIMA programme should be mentioned in the call text.

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.

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).

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.¹¹

¹¹ http://www.esf.org/fileadmin/Public_documents/Publications/Code_Conduct_ResearchIntegrity.pdf

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.

Appeal and complaints

A peer review appeal system should be established to provide applicants the opportunity to seek reconsideration of the initial review results if they believe the review process was flawed.

Exploitation and dissemination of results

The findings of research activities in the PRIMA annual work plan must be made available to the research community and the public in a timely manner.

5.2.3. Eligible research topics

This part will be described in the Final Call Text according to section 2.2 above.

5.2.4 Eligible types of actions

All 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 task objectives with a view to pooling the results to contribute to the achievement of a set of common, well-defined project objectives.

Collaborative research should have high impact and contribute to demand and policy driven research. When explicitly mentioned in the National Rules of Funding Agencies, actions related to Training and Mobility are strongly encouraged and their inclusion in the project work plan will be carefully considered and positively evaluated.

More specifically, projects will deliver tangible outputs and/or align projects towards enhancing innovation or social innovation, depending on the research question addressed. When explicitly allowed by the National Rules of Funding Agencies, Innovation actions should involve the private sector in the project Consortium, and particularly relevant SMEs. However, this will not result into a penalization of applicants whose national Funding Agencies do not allow private sector funding in their National Rules.

As for Mobility, projects are encouraged to integrate in their work plan schemes for the mobility of young researchers / post graduates, in accordance with the modalities set out in National Rules of Funding Agencies.

Cross-cutting issues

Applicants are encouraged to take into account for their research important cross-cutting issues, particularly: governance, ICT and gender. The inclusion of cross-cutting issues will be carefully considered and positively evaluated.

5.2.5 Eligible applicants

5.2.5.1 Applicants

Applicants must be eligible for funding according to the regulations of their respective national Funding Parties. They can represent research and higher education entities, companies, and other legal entities such as NGOs, once again subject to institutional restrictions set by individual Funding Parties.

5.2.5.2 Overall consortium requirements

The project consortium must comprise project partners from :

- (a) at least one must be established in a Member State or in a country associated to Horizon 2020 not comprised in point (b)
- (b) at least one must be established in a third country bordering the Mediterranean Sea considered as a Participating State.

Category (a) includes :

Croatia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Slovenia

Category (b) includes:

Tunisia, Turkey, Israel , Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco

Additional researchers from other institutions /countries are welcome in a Project Consortium, but will have to fund their own contribution to the research project.

The Project Consortium designates a Project Coordinator which must belong to an entity legally established in one of the countries funding this Joint Call.

5.2.5.3 The Project Coordinator

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

- ✓ Be the single point of contact between the PRIMA-IS secretariat and the consortium partners from proposal submission to project end;
- ✓ Ensure that all the partners involved in the consortium are eligible;
- ✓ Submit the Application Form on behalf of the Consortium;
- ✓ Compile and submit reports/deliverables to the PRIMA-IS secretariat on behalf of the Consortium;
- ✓ Ensure the role of supervision of the project workflow with the help of WP leaders;

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

5.2.5.4 Other collaborators

In principle, any person from a legal entity from any country may participate as collaborator in a PRIMA funded project as long as the minimal consortium requirements are met. Additional researchers from other institutions /countries are welcome in a Project Consortium, but will have to fund their own contribution to the research project.

The collaborators of the submitted project need to adhere to the following requirements:

- ✓ All collaborators involved should hold at least a university degree in the relevant areas of their activity. Collaborators with less experience should normally apply in collaboration with a more experienced and senior colleague.
- ✓ Retired researchers may have the role of collaborator in the application.
- ✓ Any collaborator who knows that he or she will change employment during the course of the trial needs to state his or her new employer and, if applicable, his or her successor, in the application.

5.2.5.6 Duration of projects

The duration of a project ranges between 24 and 48 months.

5.2.6 Technological Readiness Levels

Please refer to section 5.4. This depends on the calls' specific scope. This also depends on the applicable national rules.

5.2.7 Standard admissibility conditions for grant proposals, and related requirements

Please refer to section 5.1.2.

5.2.8 Evaluation rules

Please refer to section 5.7.

5.2.9. Relations with national funding agencies

Any eligible institution from a country participating in the first PRIMA calls under this section can submit a proposal directly to the PRIMA-IS (online submission only).

The participating Funding Parties have appointed PRIMA National Contact Points (NCP) that will help institutions from the respective countries to submit applications. If you need special support and assistance for your project preparation, please contact your National Contact Point (a list of National Contact Points is provided in the Annex and also at the PRIMA website at <http://www.>).

5.2.10 Applicable grant agreement model

Partners in proposals retained for funding will sign a grant agreement with the respective national funding agency.

5.2.11 Applicable consortium agreement model

This needs to be checked with the EC services. In principle, it may be whatever model the proposal's coordinator finds appropriate.

5.3. Common principles applying to national programme activities (PSIAs)

The PRIMA basic act stipulates that PRIMA activities may include national programme activities of Participating States that are not funded by the PRIMA-IS, including activities undertaken by public or private not-for-profit research organisations. Those activities included as so-called Participating States Initiated Activities (PSIAs) in the PRIMA Annual Work Plan shall 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 Title VI of the Financial Regulation No 966/2012 and in the Rules for Participation of Horizon 2020 No 1290/2013, in particular the principles of equal treatment, transparency, independent peer review evaluation and selection.

The European Commission and the PRIMA-IS on behalf of the Participating States have agreed to the common principles outlined below:

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. It is further understood and acceptable that in exceptional situations, allocation of funding through open calls may neither be practical or timely. In these situations, earmarked funding to a named beneficiary can be acceptable.

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-IS, 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 infrastructure 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.¹²

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.

Appeal and complaints

A peer review appeal system should be established to provide applicants the opportunity to seek reconsideration of the initial review results if they believe the review process was flawed.

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.

5.4. 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)

¹² http://www.esf.org/fileadmin/Public_documents/Publications/Code_Conduct_ResearchIntegrity.pdf

5.5. Evaluation rules (applicable to both types of calls)

Selection Criteria

1. *Financial capacity*: In line with the Financial Regulation No 966/2012 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.
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).
3. For prizes, neither financial capacity nor operational capacity is subject to evaluation.

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:

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:
All Types of Actions	<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>	The extent to which the outputs of the project would contribute to each of the expected impacts mentioned in the work plan under the relevant topic.	<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>

Research & Innovation Actions (RIAs) ; Innovation actions (IA)	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) Appropriate consideration of interdisciplinary approaches and, where relevant, use of stakeholder knowledge.	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; Quality of the proposed measures to: <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 (CSAs)	Quality of the proposed coordination and/or support measures.	Quality of the proposed measures to: <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 the evaluation of first-stage proposals under a two-stage submission procedure, only the criteria ‘excellence’ and ‘impact’ will be evaluated. 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:

- 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 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, and the SME instrument (phases 1 and 2), this prioritisation will be done first on the basis of the score for impact, and then on that for excellence.
- c) If necessary, any further prioritisation will be based on the following factors, in order: 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.
- d) 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.
- e) The method described in (a), (b), (c) and (d) will then be applied to the remaining ex aequos in the group.

-Evaluation procedure

1. Calls may be subject to either a one-stage or two-stage submission and evaluation procedure.
2. 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. 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.

5.6 Budget flexibility (applicable to both types of calls)

The budgets set out in this work plan 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 this Work Plan, 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).

Changes within these limits shall not be considered to be substantial within the meaning of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1268/2012.

5.7 Actions involving financial support to third parties

Where a topic allows for grant proposals which foresee a financial support to third parties (in accordance with Article 137 of the Financial Regulation No 966/2012), the proposal must clearly detail the objectives and the results to be obtained and include at least the following elements:

- A fixed and exhaustive list of the different types of activities for which a third party may receive financial support,
- The definition of the persons or categories of persons which may receive financial support,
- The criteria for awarding financial support,
- The criteria for calculating the exact amount of the financial support,
- The maximum amount to be granted to each third party (may not exceed EUR 60 000 for each third party unless it is necessary to achieve the objectives of the action) and the criteria for determining it.

Projects must publish widely their open calls and adhere to Horizon 2020 standards with respect to transparency, equal treatment, conflict of interest and confidentiality. All calls for third parties must be published on the PRIMA website and linked with the Horizon 2020 Participants Portal, and on the projects' own web site. The calls must remain open for at least three months. If call deadlines are changed this must immediately be published on the call page on the participant's portal and all registered applicants must be informed of the change.

The calls must have a clear Euro-Mediterranean dimension – either by carrying out cross border experimentation or in other ways expanding the impact of local experiments to Euro-Mediterranean scale.

The financial support may also take the form of a prize awarded following a contest organised by the beneficiary.

In this case, proposals must clearly detail at least the following elements:

- The conditions for participation;
- The award criteria;
- The amount of the prize;
- The payment arrangements.

Further boundary conditions regarding the above listed elements or other elements may be laid down in the relevant call allowing a financial support to third parties.

The grant beneficiary must ensure that recipients of the financial support allow the PRIMA-IS Association, the European Commission, the European Anti-fraud Office and the Court of Auditors to exercise their powers of control, on documents, information, even stored on electronic media, or on the final recipient's premises.

5.8 Co-labelling requirements (applicable to both types of calls and PSiAs)

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". Whenever relevant and feasible, the PRIMA logo should also be included.

5.9 Conditions related to open access to research data

Grant beneficiaries under this work plan will engage in research data sharing, according to Article 29.3 of the Horizon 2020 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 Horizon 2020 Participant Portal.

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 the Horizon 2020 Participant Portal.