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ANNEX

to the

COMMISSION DECISION

on the financing of the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) for the year 2025 and on the adoption of the annual work programme for 2025



ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2025

FOR THE PARTNERSHIP FOR RESEARCH AND
INNOVATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA
(PRIMA)

*DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
amending Decision (EU) 2017/1324 as regards the continuation of the Union's
participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area
(PRIMA) under Horizon Europe*

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Glossary

AC	Associated Country
AWP	Annual Work Programme
CIHEAM	Centre International de Hautes Études Agronomiques Méditerranéennes
CoP	Community of Practice
EC	European Commission
EEA	European Environment Agency
EIP	European Innovation Partnership
EIT	European Institute of Innovation & Technology
ENI-CBC-MED	Cross Border Cooperation Within the European Neighbourhood Instrument - Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme
ESS	Electronic Submission System
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
H2020	Horizon 2020
HE	Horizon Europe
IA	Innovation Action
ICARDA	International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
IO	International Organisation
JPI	Joint Programming Initiative
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
MED	Mediterranean
MedECC	Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental Change
MOOC	Massive Open Online Course
MPCs	Mediterranean Partner Country
NCPs	National Contact Points
NFA	National Funding Agency
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PRIMA	Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area
PRIMA-IS	PRIMA- Implementation Structure
PS	Participating States
PSC	PRIMA Stakeholder Community
PSIAs	Participating States' Initiated Activities
R&I	Research and Innovation
RfP	Rules for Participation
RIA	Research and Innovation Action based on Horizon 2020 rules
RoC	Rules of Contest
SAC	Scientific Advisory Committee
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
SRIA	Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda
TC	Third Country
TRL	Technology Readiness Level
UfM	Union for the Mediterranean
UNEP-MAP	United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan
WEFE	Water Energy Food Ecosystems

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Introduction

The [Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area \(PRIMA\)](#) stands as an Institutionalised European partnership under [Article 185 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union \(TFEU\)](#)¹.

With a significant **geopolitical role**, PRIMA extends the principles of the [European Green Deal](#) to Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries, addressing the Mediterranean region's distinct environmental and socio-economic challenges. PRIMA promotes sustainable development and resilience through climate-adaptive, cost-effective, and sustainable practices in agri-food systems and water management, underscoring the EU's commitment to its geopolitical and neighbourhood policies.

PRIMA was initially established under Horizon 2020 by [Decision \(EU\) 2017/1324](#). The Union participates in PRIMA, jointly undertaken by Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, and Turkey (the "Participating States"), under the conditions set forth in [Decision \(EU\) 2024/1167](#), aligned with Horizon Europe, the EU Research and Innovation Framework Programme ([Regulation \(EU\) 2021/695](#)). Additionally, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Morocco will maintain their participation through exchange of letters updating their [bilateral agreements for scientific and technological cooperation](#) between the EU and Non-EU countries to participate in PRIMA.

PRIMA's foundation in *mutual benefit, equal footing, co-ownership, and co-financing* has created a collaborative framework fostering stability and prosperity in the Mediterranean, with PRIMA exemplifying science diplomacy by addressing both sectoral and geopolitical needs. PRIMA's collaborative model exemplifies science diplomacy by addressing both sectoral and geopolitical needs, and it has become a highly effective instrument of international cooperation in research and innovation for this region of strategic importance to the EU. This significance is underscored by the new portfolio for the Mediterranean under Commissioner Dubravka Šuica, aligning with [President Ursula von der Leyen's Political Guidelines for the next European Commission 2024-2029](#), to deepen partnerships and enhance cooperation within the EU's neighbourhood.

PRIMA's achievements as a flagship initiative for research and innovation (R&I) cooperation in the Mediterranean were highlighted at the [2022 Union for the Mediterranean \(UfM\) Ministerial Conference](#), which provided renewed impetus to regional research and innovation (R&I) cooperation. The [UfM Ministerial Declaration](#) reaffirmed PRIMA's role—five years after the [Valletta Declaration](#)—in advancing shared Mediterranean priorities and strengthening EU-neighbourhood partnerships. The UfM Ministerial Declaration reaffirmed PRIMA's role as a key driver for Mediterranean R&I cooperation, emphasizing its impact on shared Mediterranean priorities and strengthening EU-neighbourhood partnerships.

In 2022, an interim evaluation conducted by the European Commission confirmed PRIMA's effectiveness as a tool for addressing EU geopolitical priorities, demonstrating its impact in advancing the Green Deal beyond EU borders.

[The interim evaluation report](#) highlighted PRIMA's role in aligning national R&I strategies with EU objectives, catalyzing funding reforms, and fostering cooperation levels that would be challenging without the EU's institutional framework. These results led Participating States to renew their commitment to PRIMA, advocating for the Union's continued involvement under Article 185 TFEU.

In 2024, the European Parliament and the Council approved the continuation of the Union's participation in PRIMA, extending its funding under Horizon Europe for an additional three years

¹ Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - PART THREE: UNION POLICIES AND INTERNAL ACTIONS - TITLE XIX: RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND SPACE - Article 185 (ex-Article 169 TEC)

(2025–2027). This decision aligns PRIMA's programme cycle with the multiannual framework of Horizon Europe

The amended Decision (EU) 2024/1167 provides for a contribution of up to €325 million from the Union budget (€220 million from Horizon 2020 and €105 million from Horizon Europe). An additional amount of approximately €384 million, to match the Union's contribution, is anticipated based on financial commitments made by the Participating States but is not specified in the amended Decision.

Funding for extending PRIMA's implementation under Horizon Europe is allocated through appropriations in the [general budget of the Union](#), allocated to the relevant parts of the [specific programme implementing Horizon Europe](#), established by [Council Decision \(EU\) 2021/764](#). Specifically, this funding comes from [Pillar II](#), "Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness", under [Cluster VI](#): "Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment", in accordance with [Article 62\(1\), point \(c\)\(vii\), of Regulation \(EU, Euratom\) 2018/1046](#).

This amendment also aligns PRIMA with [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/695](#)² and [financial standards under Regulation \(EU, Euratom\) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union \(recast\)](#)³, ensuring harmonized participation rules, financial transparency, and introducing enhanced monitoring, evaluation, and conflict-of-interest management mechanisms.

New agreements amending the existing scientific and technological agreements with the Union setting out the terms and conditions of their participation in PRIMA are required for Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Morocco to continue their involvement under Horizon Europe, formalized through an exchange of letters to align with the updated terms. The updated decision also brings PRIMA into alignment with current EU regulations, specifically Regulation (EU) 2021/695⁴ and the financial standards "Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast)"⁵.

This regulatory alignment ensures harmonized participation rules and compliance with EU financial and transparency standards, along with new provisions for monitoring, evaluation, and conflict of interest management⁶.

PRIMA partnership exemplifies the EU's commitment to sustainable development, demonstrated through PRIMA's support for 238 collaborative projects and the introduction of innovative, place-based solutions that address the Mediterranean's socio-economic and environmental challenges. PRIMA's achievements reflect its strategic importance in promoting science diplomacy and establishing a resilient framework for sustainable regional cooperation as exemplified by

The PRIMA Implementation Structure (PRIMA-IS), established in 2017 as a private entity under Spanish law and headquartered in Barcelona, serves as the dedicated implementation structure

² Council Decision (EU) 2021/764 of 10 May 2021 establishing the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe — the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, and repealing Decision 2013/743/EU (OJ L 167 I, 12.5.2021, p. 1).⁷

³ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast)ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013

⁵ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast)ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>

⁶ Decision (EU) 2024/1167 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 amending Decision (EU) 2017/1324 as regards the continuation of the Union's participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) under Horizon Europe

for the PRIMA programme. Entrusted by the European Commission, PRIMA-IS is responsible for managing the unified budget and executing PRIMA's mandate under Article 185 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). This entrustment is formalized through delegation agreements (Partnership agreement), ensuring alignment with EU financial regulations, including Regulation (EU) 2021/695 on Horizon Europe and Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast).⁷ PRIMA-IS operates under strict oversight from the European Commission, ensuring transparency, accountability, and compliance with EU standards.

The PRIMA Partnership operates through Annual Work Programmes based on a [Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda](#), which defines the partnership's mission, vision, and objectives. This SRIA provides strategic guidance, ensuring that PRIMA's actions are aligned with its overarching goal of fostering sustainable development and resilience across the Mediterranean to tackle the region's pressing challenges.

⁷ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast)ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>

Objectives of PRIMA

The PRIMA partnership specifically addresses critical challenges in the Mediterranean driven by climate change, rapid demographic growth, and regional conflicts. Primary concerns include water scarcity, food security, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation, all underscored by a commitment to enhancing cooperation between the EU and Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries. Socio-economic disparities, high youth unemployment, migration pressures, and the need for sustainable agricultural practices further emphasize the importance of PRIMA's region-specific solutions.

Drivers

The PRIMA partnership specifically addresses critical challenges in the Mediterranean driven by climate change, rapid demographic growth, and regional conflicts. Primary concerns include water scarcity, food security, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation, all underscored by a commitment to enhancing cooperation between the EU and Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries. Socio-economic disparities, high youth unemployment, migration pressures, and the need for sustainable agricultural practices further emphasize the importance of PRIMA's region-specific solutions.

Objectives

The PRIMA framework is structured with a clear hierarchy that connects its general goal to specific objectives and operational objectives, organized within thematic priorities and cross-cutting themes. PRIMA is committed to achieving both the objectives of [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/695](#), particularly [Article 3](#) thereof, and fulfilling the general objectives outlined in [Article 3 of Decision \(EU\) 2024/1167](#), which amends [Decision \(EU\) 2017/1324](#), and shall deliver on the **general objectives** of:

“building research and innovation capacities and developing knowledge and common innovative solutions for agri-food systems, making them sustainable, and for integrated water provision and management in the Mediterranean area, in order to make them, their management and their provision more climate resilient, efficient, cost-effective and environmentally and socially sustainable, and to enhance their contribution to solving water scarcity, food security, nutrition, health, well-being and migration problems upstream.”

Specific Objectives: These objectives contribute to achieving the general goal by setting the conditions necessary for developing innovative and sustainable solutions:

- Developing and implementing a long-term strategic agenda focused on sustainable agri-food systems and water management, ensuring alignment of national research and innovation (R&I) policies with PRIMA's strategic goals to promote cohesive regional efforts.
- Actively engaging a diverse range of stakeholders from both private and public sectors to encourage collaboration, shared goals, and resource pooling.
- Strengthening capacities for effective collaboration within R&I activities to enhance innovation and deliver impactful outcomes across the region.

Operational Objectives (OOs): Defined in the PRIMA SRIA, these objectives are structured within three core thematic areas (Fig 1) through an integrated approach (Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus

Since 2024, ([PRIMA 2024 AWP](#)) PRIMA has incorporated the **Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus** approach within its thematic areas. This integrated approach recognizes that actions in one sector, such as water use, directly impact others, including food production, energy needs, and ecosystem health. The WEFE Nexus framework ensures that solutions are developed holistically, fostering sustainable and resilient outcomes across interconnected systems.

Crosscutting themes: WEFE Nexus, Soil sustainability, Digital transition, Capacity development



Figure 1. Operational objectives by thematic area (with a WEFE Nexus approach)

PRIMA Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

The PRIMA Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) framework offers a structured approach to monitor and evaluate the Partnership's impact, ensuring that its activities align with both PRIMA's objectives and broader EU research goals. Here's a detailed breakdown of PRIMA's KPI framework:

1. Common Partnership Indicators

- Purpose: Developed by an EU expert group, these indicators evaluate PRIMA's contributions to the EC-supported [Biennial Monitoring Report \(BMR\)](#) on Partnerships under Horizon Europe', on the 'Performance of the European Partnerships. The BMR aims to provide a strong evidence base to guide the implementation of partnerships and inform strategic discussions on the effectiveness of the new policy approach to European Partnerships and, where relevant, how this should evolve.
- Data Collection: Collected by the PRIMA-IS (Partnership Secretariat).

2. [Horizon Europe Key Impact Pathways \(KIPs\)](#)

- Purpose: Defined within the Horizon Europe framework, these indicators assess scientific, societal, and economic impacts across Horizon Europe, ensuring PRIMA's alignment with EU research priorities.
- Data Collection: Collected via PRIMA's [Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning \(MEL\)](#) system.

3. Specific PRIMA-Level Indicators

- Purpose: Tailored specifically for PRIMA, these KPIs evaluate outcomes in environmental, social, and economic domains, aligned with PRIMA's Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA).
- Data Collection: Data is gathered at continuous and periodic reporting via the [MEL system](#).

Applicant Requirements

At least three PRIMA-specific KPIs must be selected by applicants at the proposal stage. These should reflect expected project outcomes and PRIMA's broader goals. A **KPI Handbook** will be available at the call opening, the handbook provides detailed descriptions, data collection methods, reporting guidelines, and baselines for each KPI.

Optional Custom KPIs: While PRIMA-specific KPIs are required, applicants are encouraged to propose custom KPIs to capture unique project impacts.

Table 1. PRIMA-Specific KPIs, Linked Operational Objectives, and Descriptions

Category	KPI	Description
Economic Impact	KPI 1: Percentage of projects that have developed solutions for cost reduction in agri-food/farming/water practices. (OO4: <i>Smart and Sustainable Farming</i>)	Measures the percentage of PRIMA-funded projects implementing solutions that reduce specific costs, such as production, operational, or management costs, contributing to smarter, more sustainable agriculture and water management
	KPI 2: Number of startups created using solutions developed by PRIMA projects.	Tracks the number of startups launched due to PRIMA-driven innovations, supporting economic growth and entrepreneurship.
	KPI 3: Number of patents registered using solutions developed by PRIMA projects.	Measures patents registered for PRIMA-created solutions, indicating technological innovation and IP protection.

	KPI 4: Number of jobs created in beneficiary entities for the PRIMA Partnership, categorized by sector.	Tracks job creation across sectors like agriculture and water management, supporting socio-economic growth.
Societal Impact	KPI 5: Number of beneficiaries from vulnerable or marginalized groups (e.g., women, youth, rural communities).	Measures the inclusivity of PRIMA projects by tracking the benefits provided to recognized vulnerable groups, fostering social equity.
	KPI 6: Number of social innovations (e.g., farmers' organizations, consumer behavior changes).	Tracks social innovations such as new organizations or behavioral shifts, promoting societal sustainability.
	KPI 7: Identification of specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) addressed by each project.	Requires projects to identify which specific SDGs (e.g., SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 13: Climate Action) they address, demonstrating alignment with EU policy priorities and global sustainability goals.
Technological Impact	KPI 8: Number of types of solutions developed (e.g., validated solutions, prototypes).	Counts the types of solutions developed, including prototypes and other categories such as community-led practices, market-ready products, and technological models.
	KPI 9: Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of developed technologies (average or range of TRLs reached).	Tracks TRLs of technologies, allowing for an average or range if multiple solutions are developed, to show readiness for implementation or commercialization.
Scientific Impact	KPI 10: Number of peer-reviewed scientific publications involving researchers from Southern Mediterranean.	Measures peer-reviewed publications with Southern Mediterranean researchers, supporting regional collaboration.
	KPI 11: Number of datasets made available in open repositories.	Tracks datasets shared openly, promoting data accessibility and open science.
	KPI 12: Total number of individuals trained through structured sessions (e.g., workshops, research exchanges).	Counts people trained via structured PRIMA-funded activities, excluding passive attendees of webinars and conferences without a training component.
Environmental Impact	KPI 13: Percentage of solutions that achieved a 20% increase in water-use efficiency. OO1: Water-Saving Solutions	Measures PRIMA solutions improving water-use efficiency, supporting sustainable water management.
	KPI 14: Percentage of solutions that achieved a 20% increase in energy efficiency. OO4: Smart and Sustainable Farming	Tracks energy efficiency improvements in agri-food systems through PRIMA projects.
	KPI 15: Number of solutions capable of addressing land degradation. OO4: Smart and Sustainable Farming Soil sustainability cross cutting theme	Counts solutions aimed at combating land degradation, promoting soil health.
	KPI 16: Percentage of solutions that achieved a 20% reduction in carbon footprint. OO4: Smart and Sustainable Farming	Tracks solutions reducing carbon footprint, supporting climate action.
	KPI 17: Number of large-scale Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) implemented, specified by area or ecosystem scale. OO2: Land and Water Sustainability	Measures large-scale NBS implementations, encouraging ecosystem-based management and specifying the scale of application.

	KPI 18: Number of sustainable agricultural practices implemented at large scale (defined in hectares). OO4: Smart and Sustainable Farming	Tracks sustainable practices applied on a large scale, promoting practices that may include energy-efficient methods, soil management, crop rotation, etc.
	KPI 19: Number of large-scale pest and pathogen control/IPM techniques implemented. OO5: Pests and Pathogens in Farming	Counts large-scale pest control/IPM implementations, enhancing crop protection.
	KPI 20: Number of new food items with improved nutrition or health benefits. OO6: Nutrition and Health	Measures new, healthier food products from PRIMA projects, supporting public health.
	KPI 21: Number of circular economy solutions implemented, contributing to waste reduction or reuse. OO7: Reduce Losses and Wastes	Tracks circular economy solutions reducing waste, improving food supply chain sustainability.
	KPI 22: Number of agri-food business models benefiting smallholders and communities. OO8: New Agri-food Business Models	Counts new business models for smallholders, supporting sustainable local economies.
Policy-Making Impact	KPI 23: Successful implementation of WEFE Nexus model. OO3: Water Governance System OO2: Land and Water Sustainability OO4: Smart and Sustainable Farming WEFE Nexus Cross-cutting theme	Measures practical application of the WEFE model for resource optimization across sectors.
	KPI 24: Number of policy briefs developed by PRIMA projects.	Tracks policy briefs generated by PRIMA projects, ensuring research informs policy-making.
	KPI 25: Number of policies influenced or developed through PRIMA projects.	Measures policies shaped by PRIMA projects, integrating scientific findings into policymaking.
	KPI 26: Number of inclusive water governance case studies.	Tracks case studies on inclusive water governance, encouraging participatory water management.
	KPI 27: Number of policies integrated with WEFE Nexus approach.	Measures the integration of policies with the WEFE Nexus, promoting cohesive cross-sectoral solutions.

PRIMA Partnership Funding Scheme

The PRIMA Partnership is structured into a three-section funding scheme, as illustrated in Figure 2. This figure provides an overview of each Section (1, 2, or 3), detailing the source of funds (whether from the EU financial contribution or contributions from Participating States), the entity responsible for managing the calls, and the applicable rules for participation in PRIMA activities.

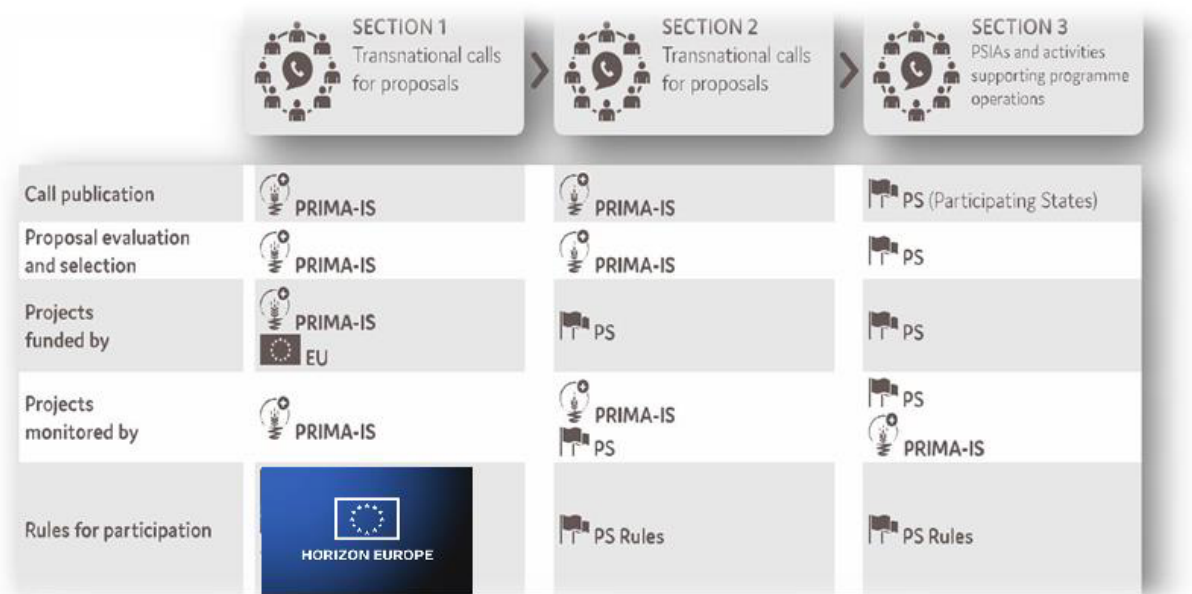


FIGURE 2. THE PRIMA PARTNERSHIP FUNDING SCHEME - A BREAKDOWN OF THE FUNDING SOURCES, MANAGING ENTITIES, AND PARTICIPATION RULES FOR EACH OF THE THREE SECTIONS WITHIN THE PRIMA PARTNERSHIP UNDER HORIZON EUROPE FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

PRIMA actions and activities funded by PRIMA-IS with Union funds are implemented following [Horizon Europe rules for participation \(RfP\)](#). and Articles 6 and 7 of the [PRIMA Amended Decision](#). Nonetheless, specific rules concerning participation and funding rates apply for the activities implemented with national funds. Addressing three different programming levels with funding from either Horizon Europe or national sources, the Partnership effectively targets key R&I issues in the region, influences R&I strategies among its members and streamlines national processes and procedures.

Section 1: Actions and activities organised, managed, and funded by the PRIMA-IS⁸ with EU funds according to Horizon Europe Rules.

Section 1 encompasses:

1.1 Actions organized and funded by PRIMA-IS through transnational calls (EU contribution).

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

Section 2: Activities selected following transnational open and competitive calls for proposals organised by PRIMA-IS and funded by the national funding bodies of PS.

Section 2 encompasses:

2.1 Activities following transnational calls organized by PRIMA-IS and funded by the PRIMA Participating States.

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

Section 3: Activities organised, managed, and funded by the PS.

Section 3 encompasses:

3.1 Activities under the national programmes of the Participating States, including transnational projects referred to as "Participating States' Initiated Activities" (PSIAs).

3.2 Activities organised and funded by PS supporting PRIMA programme implementation are "Other Activities" in this document.

While the EU funds finance Section 1 actions and activities from the Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Framework Programme, Section 2 and Section 3 activities are financed by Participating States funds. Section 1 and Section 2 call activities, including proposal evaluation and selection, are managed by PRIMA-IS. The Participating States entirely manage Section 3 activities.

As for the Rules of participation, Section 1 actions follow [Horizon Europe Rules for Participation \(RfP\) and Article 7 of Decision 2024/1167](#), while Section 2 and Section 3 are implemented according to national regulations and according to the common principles in compliance with Art 6(9) of the PRIMA Amending Decision. These common principles will incorporate the guidelines set forth in the PRIMA Amending Decision, [Title VIII of Regulation \(EU, Euratom\) 2018/1046](#), and Chapter II of [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/695](#).

⁸ In line with Article 3(3), point (a), of Decision (EU) 2024/1167, this funding is covered by Union financial contribution. However, where appropriate, PS may also arrange for financial contributions to cover costs of indirect actions funded by PRIMA-IS (Article 5(2), point (a)).

Priorities of Annual Work Programme and policy contribution

PRIMA's 2025 Work Programme responds to the priorities identified by the PRIMA Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), grounded in a gap analysis of PRIMA's 2018-2024 calls and ongoing projects. This analysis pinpointed areas where additional emphasis is essential to address the evolving needs of the Mediterranean region amid heightened water scarcity, climate adaptation challenges, food security issues, and increasing sustainability demands within the agri-food sector. These interconnected challenges have become more urgent due to the compounded effects of climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, and recent geopolitical tensions, including the unjustified and unprovoked Russian military invasion of Ukraine.

These factors, along with climate-induced events like recent flooding in Southern Europe (including Valencia, Spain, and Eastern Europe), have disrupted agriculture and resource stability, leaving many Mediterranean countries vulnerable.

The SAC's review of PRIMA-funded projects from 2018 to 2024 revealed critical areas for improvement, which guided the 2025 priorities outlined in PRIMA's Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA). Over the years, PRIMA's funded topics have demonstrated a progressive focus across key areas such as water management, agroecology, sustainable farming, and the agri-food value chain. This progression reflects PRIMA's dual approach: strengthening foundational work while responding to emerging regional challenges. The 2025 Work Programme capitalizes on insights gained over the years, strategically addressing identified gaps to enhance PRIMA's impact on resilience, sustainability, and inclusivity in the Mediterranean, while showcasing PRIMA's adaptability to shifting conditions across the region.

Recognizing the importance of environmental resilience, the 2025 Work Programme highlights the need for **ecosystem restoration** across the Mediterranean, especially through nature-based solutions in farming and water management. Mediterranean ecosystems, including crucial wetlands, play an essential role in biodiversity, water regulation, and climate adaptation. However, these ecosystems face increasing threats from pollution, climate change, and land degradation. Nature-based solutions—such as reforestation, wetland restoration, and sustainable land management—are essential for restoring these ecosystems, supporting biodiversity, and mitigating extreme weather events. By integrating these solutions, PRIMA promotes a sustainable and resilient approach to environmental management in the region.

For the **water management thematic area**, early projects established groundwork by focusing on governance, irrigation efficiency for small farmers, and pollution control from agri-food wastes. As new needs emerged, later projects expanded to water accounting and broader resource management models, creating a solid foundation in governance and pollution mitigation. However, there are still gaps to fill. Advanced approaches involving digital tools like artificial intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT), which could significantly enhance adaptive water management and resilience, remain underfunded. Moreover, limited attention has been given to impact assessments, which are essential for policy development and resilience planning.

For the **farming systems thematic area**, PRIMA's funding has supported a wide range of projects, from agroecological practices and agro-pastoralism sustainability to renewable energy integration in agriculture. These projects have been crucial in promoting sustainable practices, particularly in PRIMA's early years. As time went on, the scope broadened to include agroforestry and more comprehensive agroecological practices, aligning well with the Mediterranean's agricultural landscape. However, notable gaps remain. Precision agriculture tailored for smallholders, which could enhance farming efficiency, has not been sufficiently addressed. There is also a pressing need for enhanced support for biodiversity, soil health, and inclusive farming practices that serve marginalized groups, including women and youth, underscoring the importance of resilience and inclusivity in agriculture.

For the **agri-food value chain thematic area**, PRIMA has funded topics covering sustainable food packaging, food waste reduction, and informal sector integration. Early projects emphasized food safety and waste reduction, with later initiatives shifting toward sustainable consumption patterns, such as consumer education on the Mediterranean diet and digital distribution channels. Notably, in 2023, several projects focused on sustainable packaging, tackling a crucial component of the food system's environmental footprint. However, key gaps remain, especially in fostering consumer engagement to drive behaviour change towards sustainable choices. While progress has been made in promoting the Mediterranean diet, there is still limited focus on plant-based proteins, which support dietary sustainability goals. Enhanced traceability solutions and efforts to empower consumers to make informed choices are also essential to advancing the region's food systems toward greater sustainability and resilience.

As outlined in [2024 Work Plan](#), PRIMA is also embedding the WEF Nexus approach across all thematic areas, emphasizing the interconnections between water, energy, food, and ecosystems. By adopting a sector-specific focus—such as "Water in the Nexus," "Farming in the Nexus," and "Food in the Nexus"—PRIMA encourages a holistic perspective. This integrated approach acknowledges that sustainable solutions in any one area are intrinsically linked to others, enabling a more effective response to vulnerabilities through coordinated, cross-sectoral actions.

The 2025 Work Programme addresses these identified gaps with targeted call topics designed to bridge divides across each thematic area. Selected topics include climate adaptation in water management through Nature-Based Solutions, sustainable farming practices in sensitive ecosystems, consumer empowerment for dietary shifts, and plant-based protein adoption in the Mediterranean.

The identified gaps in PRIMA's 2025 Work Programme underscore the urgency of addressing evolving challenges within the Mediterranean region. By strategically responding to these gaps, PRIMA not only strengthens its ongoing work but also ensures alignment with critical EU and regional policies. Each thematic area—water management, farming systems, and the agri-food value chain—addresses specific needs that directly support key EU priorities such as the European Green Deal,

Policy Alignment

PRIMA significantly advances multiple EU policies within the Mediterranean by addressing region-specific challenges through a targeted thematic focus. By tackling issues like water scarcity, climate impacts, biodiversity loss, food insecurity, and resource inefficiency, PRIMA supports the EU's ambition for a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive Europe.

PRIMA plays a pivotal role in advancing the [European Green Deal](#) and the [Farm to Fork Strategy](#) within the southern Mediterranean region. Through its regional, targeted focus, PRIMA aligns with the objectives of the [EU FOOD 2030 Research and Innovation framework](#), as outlined in the [Food 2030 Report – Pathways for Action 2.0](#)⁹. PRIMA promotes resilience and sustainability in food systems by addressing climate-smart and sustainable practices, circularity and resource efficiency, community empowerment, and nutrition for sustainable diets. This regional focus complements FOOD 2030's broader European and global scope.

PRIMA's efforts complement other EU policies, including the [Water Framework Directive](#), the upcoming European Water Resilience Strategy, the [Climate Adaptation Strategy](#), and the [Zero Pollution Action Plan](#). PRIMA also supports objectives set by the [EU Bioeconomy Strategy](#), the

⁹ European Commission: Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, Bizzo, G., Fabbri, K., Gajdzinska, M., Haentjens, W. et al., *Food 2030 – Pathways for action 2.0 – R&I policy as a driver for sustainable, healthy, climate resilient and inclusive food systems*, Publications Office of the European Union, 2023, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/365011>

[Common Agricultural Policy \(CAP\)](#), and the [Biodiversity Strategy](#), along with the [Soil Monitoring Law](#) and the [EU Soil Strategy](#).

The focus on ecosystem restoration in PRIMA's 2025 Work Programme aligns closely with the EU's proposed [Nature Restoration Regulation](#). This legislation, effective as of August 2024, mandates restoration of degraded ecosystems across the EU. PRIMA's emphasis on nature-based solutions in farming and water management directly supports these objectives, contributing to EU goals for enhancing (agro)biodiversity, mitigating climate change, and fostering sustainable development across the Mediterranean.

PRIMA, regarded as a flagship initiative for research and innovation in the Mediterranean, aligns closely with the EU's [Global Approach to Research and Innovation](#), which prioritizes Mediterranean cooperation. Supporting the political guidelines of President [Ursula von der Leyen](#), PRIMA fosters regional stability, resilience, and sustainable development to further the EU's neighbourhood resilience goals. Through cooperation on [climate resilience](#), [sustainable energy](#), and [digital transformation](#), PRIMA contributes to initiatives envisioned by EU leadership for the Mediterranean, supporting a "just transition" for local communities, including marginalized groups.

At the regional level, PRIMA supports the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Regional Platform for Research and Innovation. PRIMA plays an essential role in implementing the climate change roadmap endorsed by the 2022 UfM R&I Ministerial Declaration. PRIMA also backs the regional Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus strategy, supported by UfM, UNEP MAP, and the European Commission, essential for optimizing resource security and mitigating risks tied to climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

Implementation of the PRIMA Work Programme 2025

PRIMA plans to fund approximately **thirty projects** through the 2025 calls, aiming for a balanced mix of Research and Innovation Actions (RIAs) and Innovation Actions (IAs).

- **Innovation Actions (IAs)** will focus on demonstrators involving new technologies or organizational innovations, generally falling within the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) range of 6-8.
- **Research and Innovation Actions (RIAs)** will concentrate on research activities with lower TRL, typically in the range of 3-5, to lay the groundwork for future innovations and their potential applications. As a guiding principle, RIAs in the Work Programme 2025 will integrate socio-economic aspects, including social sciences, ensuring active engagement with society and facilitating access to research outcomes.

The **2025 Work Programme** is organized around four calls:

- **Section 1 (EU-funded):** Three calls for each thematic area (Water Management, Farming Systems, Agri-food Value Chain) under the WEFE Nexus approach, with projects focusing on practical implementation and scalability (TRL 6-8). Actions in this section follow the standard Horizon Europe Rules for Participation (RfP). Around 12 projects are expected, each with a budget of around €2,7 million.
- **Section 2 (Participating States-funded):** A multi-topic call across the three thematic areas. Analogous to Research and Innovation actions (spanning TRL 3-8)¹⁰. Approximately 20 projects, with a budget of €1.5 million each, are expected.

While some rules are based on Horizon Europe RfP, specific **participation** and **funding rate regulations** apply¹¹. Projects selected under Section 2 are funded directly by **national funding bodies** and, therefore, adhere to respective **national regulations**.

Proposal submissions to PRIMA-IS, under Section 1 calls, will undergo a peer review and evaluation process based on the eligibility criteria specified in the [PRIMA Work Programme 2025 General Annexes](#) - which set out the general conditions applicable to calls and topics for grants and other forms of funding under the PRIMA Partnership. They also describe the evaluation and award procedures and other criteria for PRIMA funding, and the legal and financial framework.

For Section 1 calls, the PRIMA Work Programme 2025 General Annexes outline the following:

- **Admissibility and Eligibility Criteria:** These define requirements for participation and funding eligibility, including criteria for financial and operational capacity and exclusion conditions (see Annexes A-C).
- **Award Criteria and Evaluation Procedure:** These include the award criteria, mandatory documents, and evaluation processes used to assess proposals (see Annexes D-F).
- **Legal and Financial Set-Up:** This covers the structure of grant agreements, including financial provisions and obligations for recipients (see Annex G).

¹⁰ Please note that the acronyms IA (Innovation Action) and RIA (Research and Innovation Action) are used in Section 1 and Section 2, respectively. In Section 1, the actions follow the standard Horizon Europe Rules for Participation (RfP). However, in Section 2, while some rules are based on Horizon Europe RfP, specific participation and funding rate regulations apply. Projects selected in Section 2 are funded directly by national funding bodies and are therefore subject to respective national regulations. For more details regarding the rules for Section 2, please refer to the guidelines for applicants on the PRIMA website.

¹¹ Refers to the applicable national regulations governing participation and funding. For details, check the National Regulations at the following link: <https://prima-med.org/documents-reports/>

If a topic deviates from these general conditions or includes additional requirements, such deviations are explicitly stated under the specific conditions for that topic.

Specifically, in PRIMA Work Programme 2025, a mandatory eligibility condition for Innovation Actions (IA) under Section 1 calls requires the participation of at least one for-profit organization, such as an SME¹². This criterion ensures that each Innovation Action benefits from the expertise and practical perspective of the private sector, enriching project outcomes through a blend of scientific, technical, and business-oriented insights. By including SMEs and other for-profit entities, PRIMA aims to foster solutions with high potential for market impact and socio-economic relevance in the Mediterranean region.

For Section 2, each applicant must comply with the national funding agency's regulations supporting the programme¹³. Before submitting a proposal, the applicant should check the funding rates and eligible costs in the national regulations and contact the relevant [National Contact Points \(NCPs\)](#) for any doubts regarding Section 2 calls for proposals. Grant agreements will be signed between participants and relevant national funding bodies following national rules (See Section 2 PRIMA Work Programme 2025 General Annexes).

Detailed supporting information about the evaluation, selection and granting process, suitable types of grant agreements and funding levels are summarised under each call topic, described in more detail in [the Section 2 PRIMA Work Programme 2025 General Annexes](#) of this document and the national funding rules.

Integrating Socio-Economic Dimensions for Inclusive Impact

In the 2025 Work Programme, PRIMA encourages integrating socio-economic aspects, including perspectives from [social sciences](#). This approach ensures that projects not only advance scientific and technological knowledge but also actively engage with society and consider the broader impacts of their research. By embedding socio-economic dimensions, R&I actions aim to address societal needs more comprehensively, creating research outcomes that are accessible, relevant, and beneficial to a wide range of stakeholders. This inclusive approach enhances the potential for research to support sustainable development, inform policy, and empower communities by making research outcomes more impactful and applicable in real-world contexts.

Gender Equality Plan (GEP) Requirement for PRIMA 2025 Calls

In alignment with [Article 7 of Regulation \(EU\) 2021/695](#), PRIMA 2025 calls require organizations participating in PRIMA actions to develop and implement a Gender Equality Plan (GEP).

¹² 'Small or medium-sized enterprise' or 'SME' means a micro, small or medium-sized enterprise as defined in Article 2 of the Annex to Recommendation 2003/361/EC (27)

¹³ Algeria, General Directorate for scientific research and technological development (DGRSDT), Bulgaria, Ministry of science and Education, Croatia, Ministry of Science and Education, Cyprus, Research Promotion Foundation, Research and Innovation Projects Unit, Egypt, Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT) and Science and Technological Development Fund (SDTF), France, French National Research Agency (ANR), Germany, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) Greece, General Secretariat for Research and Technology (GSRT), Israel, Israel Innovation Authority (IIA) and Ministry of Science & Technology, Italy Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca (MUR), Jordan, Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST), Lebanon, Conseil National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS-L), Luxembourg, Luxembourg National Research Fund (FNR), Malta, Xjenza Malta (XM), Morocco, State Secretariat for Higher Education and Scientific Research, Portugal, Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), Slovenia, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Spain, Centro para el Desarrollo Tecnológico Industriales, (CDTI) and Agencia Estatal de Investigación (AEI), Tunisia, Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique (MESRS), Türkiye, The Scientific And Technological Research Council Of Türkiye (TUBITAK).

This will be an eligibility criterion for all public bodies, higher education institutions, and research organizations from EU Member States and associated countries wishing to participate. However, it will not yet be required for organizations established in Third countries.

At the initial proposal submission stage, organizations are required to submit a self-declaration through a dedicated questionnaire to be uploaded with the proposal, confirming their commitment to establishing a GEP. While a fully implemented GEP is not mandatory at this stage, it must be in place by the time of the Grant Agreement signature.

To support institutions in meeting this eligibility requirement, the European Commission has created a detailed [Guidance document on GEPs](#). This document outlines each mandatory "building block" and recommended thematic areas, providing practical examples and resources to facilitate the development, implementation, and evaluation of GEPs in line with Horizon Europe's gender equality goals.

Moreover, at PRIMA proposal evaluation process, the inclusion of the gender dimension integration of the gender dimension into the content of research and innovation will be assessed as an integral part of the review. Evaluators specifically examine how the gender dimension has been considered and integrated into the research content and methodology, ensuring that gender considerations are effectively embedded in the project's design and objectives.

Promoting a Multi-Actor Approach (MAA) in PRIMA Projects

PRIMA encourages consortia to incorporate a [Multi-Actor Approach \(MAA\)](#) in their projects. *"A Multi-Actor Approach should ensure genuine and sufficient involvement of a targeted diversity of actors, essentially the (end-) users of the project results completed with some useful intermediaries who can bring in further useful knowledge, such as farmers/farmers' groups, foresters/foresters' groups, advisors, food processors, businesses, consumer associations, local communities, citizens, civil society organisations including NGOs etc. The genuine and sufficient involvement of such actors should occur all along with the project: from participation in planning the project and experiments to implementation, the dissemination of results, and a possible demonstration phase. Building blocks for the project proposal are expected to come from science, practice, and intermediaries ("co-creation"). End-users and practitioners are to be involved, not as a study object, but to use their local knowledge and/or entrepreneurial skills for developing solutions and creating "co-ownership" of results, which speeds up the acceptance and take-up of new ideas."*

The MAA encourages active involvement throughout the project lifecycle—from planning and implementation to dissemination of results and demonstration phases. The goal is to foster co-creation, where scientific, practical, and intermediary insights shape the project. End-users and practitioners contribute not merely as study subjects but as essential collaborators, using their local knowledge and entrepreneurial skills to develop solutions. This co-ownership of results enhances the acceptance and uptake of new ideas, promoting broader impact and innovation that is well-aligned with community needs.

Supporting activities to increase the impact

During the first seven years of implementation (2018-2024), the PRIMA Partnership has concentrated on delivering innovative solutions in water management, farming systems, and food value chains tailored to the Mediterranean region's unique challenges and needs. These solutions have been effectively piloted and demonstrated on the ground, but for further market integration, PRIMA project consortia require support to develop robust exploitation strategies, business plans, and go-to-market frameworks.

PRIMA encourages PRIMA projects to take advantage to the [Booster](#) services provided free of charge to boost the dissemination and exploitation of EU-funded project's research results. This initiative aims to help consortia that have reached the necessary maturity level to enhance their commercialization potential, maximize the impact of their outcomes, and advance sustainable

practices. The Result Booster offers valuable guidance in identifying funding strategies, exploring implementation pathways, and creating new job opportunities, thus reinforcing the long-term viability of project results.

PRIMA encourages project's synergies

Under the Work Programme 2025, PRIMA explicitly promotes internal synergies across its funded projects. **Applicants are explicitly required in each PRIMA call to allocate a dedicated budget** for collaborative activities, such as knowledge sharing, data exchange, joint policy briefs, and publications. These collaborative efforts enable projects to consolidate findings, align on best practices, and deliver comprehensive recommendations to policymakers, thereby enhancing the overall impact of PRIMA's initiatives.

The **annual PRIMA Networking Meeting (Project Day)** remains a key event within the Work Programme 2025, offering a platform for project representatives to exchange knowledge, share best practices, and discuss strategic directions. This event fosters stronger collaboration, maximizes the benefits of PRIMA-funded projects, and reinforces PRIMA's mission to promote sustainable development in the Mediterranean region.

Synergies and Complementarities with European and International Initiatives

PRIMA's collaborative approach with European Partnerships is grounded in the PRIMA amended Decision, ensuring alignment with Horizon Europe, as defined in Regulation (EU) 2021/695, which establishes the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation and its rules for participation and dissemination. This alignment fosters synergies and coordinated efforts in research and innovation.

These synergies offer significant benefits to PRIMA projects by providing opportunities for collaboration, resource sharing, and alignment with broader European and international efforts. By engaging with these initiatives, PRIMA projects can enhance their impact, access additional expertise, and contribute to achieving common goals in sustainable development.

At the programme level, PRIMA collaborates with EU-Missions and partnerships within [Horizon Europe Cluster 6](#) (*Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment*), aligning on objectives to maximize impact, responding to [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/2085](#) requirements.

EU Missions and Partnerships

PRIMA collaborates with the following EU missions:

- [EU Mission 'A Soil Deal for Europe'](#)
- [EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change](#)
- [EU Mission 'Restore our Ocean and Waters'](#). Collaboration between demonstration sites and the Mission Ocean could be enhanced when it comes to maintaining the integrity and sustainability of freshwater ecosystems.

PRIMA is starting collaborations with the following EU partnerships within Horizon Europe's Cluster 6, including:

- [Partnership for Sustainable Food Systems for People, Planet and Climate \(FUTUREFOODS\)](#)
- [European Partnership on Agroecology Living Labs and Research Infrastructures](#)
- [Agriculture of Data](#)
- [Water4All](#)
- [Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership](#)
- [Biodiversa+](#)
- [European Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare](#)

PRIMA will also continue to seek collaborations with EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) such as [EIT Food](#) and the upcoming EIT Water, as well as Joint Undertakings such as the [Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking](#), and the [Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking](#).

EU-Funded Regional Programs

PRIMA works closely with the [ENI-CBC-MED](#) (*European Neighbourhood Instrument Cross-Border Cooperation Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme*) and the newly launched [INTERREG NEXT MED](#) EU-funded regional programme to strengthen transnational cooperation in the Mediterranean. This partnership tackles common challenges and promotes sustainable development across the region. Key collaborative efforts include:

- **Joint Events and Webinars:** PRIMA and ENI-CBC-MED regularly organize joint events to enhance and capitalize on project findings, they enable knowledge exchange and strengthen project results.
- **Contribution to Inventories of Best Practices:** [MEDWAYCAP's](#) an open platform for the water community to document and share non-conventional water use solutions. This inventory serves as a valuable resource for practitioners in sustainable water management.

EU-Africa Partnership

PRIMA complements the [Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture \(FNSSA\)](#) priority of the EU-African Union research and innovation cooperation. This partnership aims to enhance the impact of AU-EU joint research at the local level by addressing the entire value chain and focusing on demonstration projects to translate research into practical applications.

PRIMA projects can benefit by accessing collaborative networks in Africa, sharing knowledge, and developing solutions applicable across both continents. This fosters pan-African and cross-European cooperation, bolsters regional resilience, and enhances collective efforts to achieve food security and sustainability.

EU Infrastructures

[LifeWatch ERIC](#), a European Research Infrastructure Consortium, supports scientists investigating biodiversity and ecosystem functions. In collaboration with PRIMA, LifeWatch ERIC provides a platform for storing and sharing PRIMA data.

PRIMA projects can benefit by utilizing LifeWatch ERIC's infrastructure for data storage and analysis, fostering collaborations, and enhancing data availability. This partnership encourages participation from more Mediterranean countries and young researchers.

PRIMA also interacts with other European research infrastructures, such as:

- [European Infrastructure for Plant Phenotyping \(EMPHASIS\)](#)
- [METROFOOD-RI](#)

Regional Programmes and Organisations

- PRIMA contributes to the [Union for the Mediterranean \(UfM\) R&I platform's Roadmaps](#), focusing on climate change, renewable energy, and health. PRIMA's projects promote sustainable food value chains and drive climate change mitigation.
 - PRIMA is included and contributes to the [Euromed Research and Innovation Hub](#), which fosters collaboration and innovation across the Mediterranean.
- PRIMA, through its projects contributes to [Post-2020 Environment Agenda "Towards 2030: Agenda for a Greener Med"](#) on its main axes of work including:
 - Green Economy – Support the transition towards a Green, Circular and Socially Inclusive Economy.
 - Depollution and pollution prevention – Prevent and reduce pollution on land, air, and sea.

- Protect, preserve, manage, and restore natural resources – Foster an integrated ecosystem approach for the Mediterranean region, including terrestrial, marine, and coastal dimensions.
- Climate Change
- PRIMA is actively contributing to the definition of a Strategy for the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus in the Mediterranean Source-to-Sea (S2S) Continuum in collaboration with EC, [UNEP-MAP](#) and the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean.
- PRIMA [WEFE Community of Practice \(CoP\)](#), along with EC DG Research and Innovation, the Joint Research Centre (JRC), and the UfM Secretariat, steers the WEFE CoP. Initiatives are operationalized through the PRIMA-funded project [WEFE4MED](#) which is aimed to the adoption and operationalization on the ground of the WEFE Nexus approach. will manage the community, fostering engagement, facilitating discussions, and coordinating projects and knowledge-sharing activities. This platform will enable stakeholders to collaborate and promote sustainable, climate-resilient policies throughout the region.

Additionally, PRIMA is collaborating with the [Food and Agriculture Organization \(FAO\)](#) and the [International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies \(CIHEAM\)](#) within a [Multi-stakeholder Sustainable Food Systems Platform in the Mediterranean](#) (SFS-MED Platform). The [SFS-MED platform](#) serves as a forum for dialogue among diverse stakeholders to promote shared learning and drive sustainable transformation of agri-food systems. Through the [SFS-MED platform](#), PRIMA projects can benefit by accessing resources, enhancing knowledge sharing, and contributing to collective efforts in transforming food systems.

PRIMA collaboration with Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT

The collaboration between PRIMA and the [Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT](#) through the Accelerate for Impact Platform (A4IP) for the AgriTech4Egypt Innovation Challenge a program designed specifically for early-stage agri-tech ventures in Egypt. This program will support and prepare to build a solid go-to-market strategy through technical validation and access to the market.

Section 1: Actions and activities managed, and funded by PRIMA-IS with EU funds, HE rules

Actions organised and funded by PRIMA-IS through transnational calls

Under Work Programme 2025, PRIMA-IS will launch **three calls** under Section 1, each classified as **Innovation Actions (IA)**¹⁴.

In PRIMA, Innovation Actions (IAs) target Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 6-8¹⁵, encompassing a range of practical and development-focused activities, including:

- Prototyping: Creating functional prototypes to test and refine innovative concepts.
- Testing and Demonstrating: Conducting trials and demonstrations to validate effectiveness and feasibility.
- Piloting: Implementing pilot projects that simulate real-world conditions, facilitating assessment of scalability.
- Large-Scale Product Validation: Verifying the viability of innovations on a larger scale to ensure market readiness.
- Market Replication: Replicating successful solutions in different contexts to broaden impact.

Applicants are encouraged to use the [TRL self-assessment tool](#)¹⁶ to accurately determine the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of their proposal. It is also recommended that applicants clearly indicate the TRL level at both the start and the conclusion of the project to demonstrate progression in technology readiness.

Proposal submissions to PRIMA-IS will undergo a peer review and evaluation process based on the eligibility criteria specified in the [PRIMA Work Programme 2025 General Annexes \(B\)](#) section of this document. (For detailed information on the evaluation process, refer to the [PRIMA Evaluation Process Description](#)).

These proposals are evaluated, selected, funded, and monitored in line with the [Horizon Europe \(HE\) Rules of Participation](#), using a [single-stage submission process](#) managed centrally by PRIMA-IS.

Successful projects will be funded directly by PRIMA-IS, with [grant agreements](#) signed between the selected consortia and PRIMA-IS. These agreements will follow the [PRIMA Model Grant Agreement \(PRIMA MGA\)](#), which is aligned with the [Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement](#).

Other activities under Section 1

This work programme will also include financial contributions provided as [prizes](#) following a contest announcement, as detailed in the [Prizes—Recognition](#) section of this document.

¹⁴ Innovation actions (IA) — Activities that aim directly to produce plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services. These activities may include prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication.

¹⁵ TRL 6 — Technology demonstrated in a relevant environment (industrially relevant environment in the case of key enabling technologies) • TRL 7 — System prototype demonstration in an operational environment • TRL 8 — System complete and qualified

¹⁶ The tool, along with this user's guide, is available on the Horizon Europe NCP Portal. For details, visit: <https://horizoneuropencpportal.eu/store/trl-assessment>.

PRIMA will grant a maximum of two awards, each valued at EUR 10,000: the PRIMA Woman Greening Food Systems Award, a monetary recognition for women who have made significant contributions to advancing sustainable and resilient food systems in the Mediterranean region. This award highlights their innovative approaches, impactful achievements, and dedication to addressing challenges in food security, sustainability, and environmental resilience. It aims to showcase exemplary initiatives that integrate green practices into food systems, inspire broader adoption of sustainable solutions, and celebrate the critical role of women in fostering a sustainable future for the region.

At the launch of the calls, applicants will have access to the [**Award Rules of Contest \(RoC\) for the PRIMA Award – Woman Greening Food Systems in the Mediterranean**](#). These rules provide clear guidelines and eligibility criteria for the award, supporting applicants in understanding the objectives and requirements of this recognition.

Section 1 Calls Topics

Thematic Area 1-Water management in the Nexus:

Topic 1.1.1-2025 (IA) Upscaling Nature Based Solutions for sustainable water management to address extreme events in the Mediterranean

Thematic Area 2-Farming systems in the Nexus:

Topic 1.2.1-2025 (IA) Enhancement of Sustainable Farming Systems within Mediterranean Wetlands for Conservation and Coexistence

Thematic Area 3-Food value chain in the Nexus:

Topic 1.3.1-2025 (IA) Transforming Mediterranean Food Systems: Empowering Consumers for Sustainable Diets

Topic Section 1 - Water Management in The Nexus

TABLE 4 SPECIFIC CONDITIONS FOR THE CALL 1.1.1

 Thematic Area-1 Water management in the Nexus	
Topic 1.1.1-2025	Upscaling Nature Based Solutions for sustainable water management to address extreme events in the Mediterranean
Contribution to SRIA	Operational Objective: 2/LAND AND WATER SUSTAINABILITY 4/SMART AND SUSTAINABLE FARMING.
Contribution to EU policies	European Green Deal , EU biodiversity strategy for 2030 , EU Adaptation Strategy , Nature Restoration Law , European Water Resilience Strategy
CALL SPECIFIC CONDITIONS	
Expected EU contribution per project	PRIMA estimates that a contribution of around EUR 2.725 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 10.9 million
Duration	PRIMA considers that proposals with a duration of 36 months would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submitting and selecting proposals with different durations.
Type of Action	Innovation Action (IA)
Technology Readiness levels (TRL)	Activities are expected to achieve TRL 6-8 by the end of the project. Proposals should clearly state the starting and end TRLs of the key technology or technologies targeted in the project. Applicants are encouraged to use the TRL self-assessment tool to accurately determine the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of their proposal.
Eligibility conditions	Please refer to PRIMA Work Programme 2025 General Annexes Section Entities eligible for funding. Due to the specific challenge of this topic, in addition to the minimum number of participants set out in the standard eligibility conditions section, in this Work Programme, consortia must include at least an additional legal entity established in a Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC). Additional Eligibility Condition for this call Due to the scope of this topic, consortia must include at least one small and medium-sized enterprises ¹⁷established in a PS in the research consortia.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	PRIMA MGA (multi-beneficiary), based on Horizon Europe MGA . The rules are described in the PRIMA Work Programme 2025 General Annexes section.
Submission and evaluation procedure	The call will be organised according to a single-stage submission process. A full proposal (maximum 45 pages) must be submitted according to the timeline for submitting application (Table 6). A timeline for submitting and evaluating applications can be found in Section 1, Calendar of the Calls .
Consortium agreement	Participants in projects resulting from this call for Proposals must conclude a consortium agreement before the PRIMA grant agreement's signature.
PRIMA specific KPIs	Applicants must select at least three PRIMA-specific Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) from Table 2: PRIMA-specific KPIs, Linked Operational Objectives, and Descriptions. A KPI Handbook will be available at the call opening, detailing descriptions, data collection methods, and targets for each KPI to help applicants align selections with their project goals. Additionally, applicants propose custom KPIs to capture project-specific impacts that align with PRIMA's objectives for enhanced impact measurement.

Expected Outcomes: Aligned with the priorities of the European Green Deal, including the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030, as well as the EU climate adaptation and mitigation ambitions for

¹⁷ 'Small or medium-sized enterprise' or 'SME' means a micro, small or medium-sized enterprise as defined in Article 2 of the Annex to Recommendation 2003/361/EC (27)

2030 and 2050, successful proposals will focus on scaling up Nature-based Solutions¹⁸ (NBS). These solutions will enhance water security and improve the management of water-related risks amidst a changing climate, emphasising principles such as green, blue, and circular approaches (e.g., [Natural Water Retention Measures, NWRMs](#)) to mitigate the impacts of extreme events and water pollution.

Project results are expected to contribute to the following expected outcomes:

- Improved water management, enhanced climate resilience and adaptive capacity of ecosystems and communities¹⁹ through the implementation of cost-effective Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)
- Increased knowledge sharing and capacity building among stakeholders at all levels to effectively design, implement, and maintain NBS.
- Improved monitoring and evaluation systems for continuous enhancement of NBS leading to their integration into environmental, agricultural, and urban planning policies, as well as climate adaptation and mitigation and environmental protection strategies, supported by innovative governance frameworks.

Scope: Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) are pivotal in mitigating the effects of extreme events and water pollution in the Mediterranean by enhancing ecosystem resilience and promoting sustainable adaptation strategies. Despite their well-recognised importance, several key challenges remain. Evidence on the cost-efficiency and socio-cultural impacts of NBS is still fragmented, and there is a notable lack of holistic approaches and guidelines for their uptake at large catchment scales.

Moreover, there is a pressing need to demonstrate the effectiveness of combining different types of NBS. This includes showcasing their multiple benefits in addressing a range of challenges, such as salinity management and pollution control, especially from diffuse sources (e.g., agriculture). For instance, certain vegetation types can play a significant role in improving water quality by filtering pollutants and enhancing ecosystem health. Effective integration of these solutions is crucial for managing both salinity and pollution, thus providing comprehensive and sustainable responses to the diverse environmental challenges faced in the Mediterranean region.

The successful proposals should cover at least one of the following aspects:

- Identify existing Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) tailored to the diverse ecological and socio-economic contexts of the Mediterranean region to address risks like floods, droughts, water pollution and other hazards, as well as the barriers to their acceptance, with the aim to re-define regulatory frameworks accordingly.
- Test, validate, assess cost-effectiveness and benefits, and scale up NBS in diverse Mediterranean contexts (i.e., urban and rural scenarios), to mitigate droughts, floods, water pollution, heat waves, storms, while improving ecosystem biodiversity and resilience, recharge aquifer and preventing soil salinisation and erosion.

¹⁸ PRIMA defines nature-based solutions as "Actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services, resilience and biodiversity benefits" (UNEA/EA.5/Res.5).

¹⁹ "Communities" in this context refers to groups of people living in specific geographic areas, such as towns, cities, or rural areas. It can encompass both human communities (e.g., residents, farmers, businesses) and ecological communities (e.g., wildlife, plant species) within a particular region. The term can also imply local administrations or regional stakeholders who are involved in decision-making and governance related to environmental management and water resources

- Formulate new business models, governance approaches, and recommendations tailored for the Mediterranean region to promote widespread NBS adoption and their integration into existing policies, environmental and land use regulations.
- Explore combined NBS: A system of NBS interventions and also highlight the potential to combine NBS with other kinds of solutions/interventions (hybrid infrastructure).
- Develop decision-support tools for optimising NBS selection based on environmental conditions and stakeholder needs.

Proposals should actively implement a [Multi-Actor Approach \(MAA\)](#), engaging a wide range of stakeholders—including researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and end-users—throughout the project lifecycle to ensure relevance and impact. Additionally, **policy briefs** are encouraged as key outputs, distilling research findings into actionable insights for decision-makers.

Projects should establish links with the [EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change](#) by including dedicated tasks and resources for coordination and joint activities with relevant Mission-funded projects. Proposals should also allocate resources for collaboration with other PRIMA and EU-funded initiatives, [Network Nature](#) and its Task Forces, and European Partnerships like [Water4All](#), to participate in joint communication and dissemination activities.

TOPIC SECTION 1 – FARMING SYSTEMS IN THE NEXUS

TABLE 5 SPECIFIC CALL CONDITION FOR CALL 1.2.1



Thematic Area 2-Farming systems in the Nexus

Topic 1.2.1-2025	Enhancement of Sustainable Farming Systems within Mediterranean Wetlands for Conservation and Coexistence
Contribution to SRIA	Operational Objective: 2/LAND AND WATER SUSTAINABILITY 4/ SMART AND SUSTAINABLE FARMING.
Contribution to EU policies	European Green Deal: EU biodiversity strategy ; EU Adaption Strategy ; Farm to Fork Strategy ; Zero Pollution Action Plan ; the new EU Nature Restoration Law
CALL SPECIFIC CONDITIONS	
Expected EU contribution per project	PRIMA estimates that a contribution of around EUR 2.7 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 10.8 million
Duration	PRIMA considers that proposals with a duration of 36 months would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submitting and selecting proposals with different durations.
Type of Action	Innovation Action
Technology Readiness levels (TRL)	Activities are expected to achieve TRL 6-8 by the end of the project. Proposals should clearly state the starting and end TRLs of the key technology or technologies targeted in the project. Applicants are encouraged to use the TRL self-assessment tool to accurately determine the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of their proposal.
Eligibility conditions	Please refer to PRIMA Work Programme 2025 General Annexes Section Entities eligible for funding. Due to the specific challenge of this topic, in addition to the minimum number of participants set out in the standard eligibility conditions (section), in this Work Programme, consortia must include at least an additional legal entity established in a Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC). Additional Eligibility Condition for this call Due to the scope of this topic, consortia must include at least one small and medium-sized enterprises²⁰ established in a PS in the research consortia.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	PRIMA MGA (multi-beneficiary), based on Horizon Europe MGA . The rules are described in the PRIMA Work Programme 2025 General Annexes Section.
Submission and evaluation procedure	The call will be organised according to a single-stage submission process. A full proposal (maximum 45 pages) must be submitted according to the timeline for submitting application (Table 6). A timeline for submitting and evaluating applications can be found in Section 1, Calendar of the Calls .
Consortium agreement	Participants in projects resulting from this call for Proposals must conclude a consortium agreement before the PRIMA grant agreement's signature.
PRIMA specific KPIs	Applicants must select at least three PRIMA-specific Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) from Table 2: PRIMA-specific KPIs, Linked Operational Objectives, and Descriptions. A KPI Handbook will be available at the call opening, detailing descriptions, data collection methods, and targets for each KPI. Additionally, applicants propose custom KPIs to capture project-specific impacts that align with PRIMA's objectives for enhanced impact measurement.

Expected Outcomes: Aligned with the objectives of the European Green Deal and [EU Nature restoration law](#), and the upcoming European Water Resilience Strategy, the initiative to enhance

wetland restoration in the Mediterranean serves as a catalyst for achieving the EU's climate goals outlined for both 2030 and 2050. It aligns with the [Union for the Mediterranean's Greener Med Agenda 2030](#), which underscores the pivotal role of wetlands in furnishing vital ecosystem services for the region's environmental well-being and economic advancement. Wetlands²¹ are regions where water influences the environment, fostering a unique ecosystem rich in biodiversity. They include coastal marshes, lagoons, rivers, estuaries that are supporting different varieties of plant and animal life. Successful proposals will contribute to enhance wetland agro-ecosystems sustainably, to expand knowledge on wetland status in the Mediterranean and their restoration potential, and to provide evidence-based policy recommendations for a better integration and coexistence of agriculture and wetlands.

Project results are expected to contribute to the following expected outcomes:

- Increased resilience of Mediterranean wetland agroecosystems by safeguarding ecosystem services provisions especially for flood and drought control, while producing food (or feeds) and contributing to the socio-economic development of the region
- Comprehensive Assessment and Mitigation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and carbon sequestration, unique to Mediterranean wetlands, thereby contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts.
- Promote innovative, Mediterranean-specific practices that support agrobiodiversity within wetland agroecosystems. Examples include integrating traditional crop varieties like salt-tolerant barley, durum wheat, and native legumes that thrive in wetland-adjacent soils, thereby preserving genetic diversity while adapting to local conditions.
- Evidence-Based Policy Recommendations for the sustainable management and conservation of Mediterranean wetland agroecosystems, ensuring their long-term viability and contribution to regional sustainability goals.

Scope: This call aims to enhance wetland agroecosystems sustainability in the Mediterranean by fostering innovative and cost-effective solutions through a holistic Water-Ecosystems-Food-Nexus approach to comprehensively address the interdependencies and interactions between wetlands, agroecosystems, water resources, and ecosystem services. The adoption of sustainable and regenerative agricultural practices is paramount for conserving wetlands and fostering their unique biodiversity.

Specifically, the call emphasizes the development and implementation of sustainable agriculture practices that include robust drought management strategies tailored to the Mediterranean region. These strategies are crucial for preserving wetlands' functions in delivering ecosystem services, managing floods, and mitigating the impacts of drought. The overarching goal is to enhance environmental resilience and socio-economic development in the region by safeguarding the essential roles of wetlands.

Proposed activities should cover at least one of the following aspects:

- Conducting a comprehensive assessment²² of Mediterranean wetlands, evaluating their current condition, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions profiles, and potential for carbon

²⁰ 'Small or medium-sized enterprise' or 'SME' means a micro, small or medium-sized enterprise as defined in Article 2 of the Annex to Recommendation 2003/361/EC (27)"

²¹ According to the Ramsar Convention for the Protection of Wetlands (Articles 1.1 and 2.1) wetlands are defined as: "areas of marsh, fen, peat land or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres [...] and may incorporate riparian and coastal zones adjacent to the wetlands, and islands or bodies of marine water deeper than six metres at low tide lying within the wetlands". <https://medwet.org/aboutwetlands/>

²² A comprehensive assessment of Mediterranean wetlands involves evaluating their ecological health, measuring greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂, CH₄, N₂O), and determining their carbon sequestration potential. It also includes assessing the economic and social value of their ecosystem services, such as food production and water filtration.

mitigation. These assessments must consider key gases (CO₂, CH₄, and NO), as well as the carbon value of services like food production.

- Examine the trade-offs between wetland restoration for climate and biodiversity benefits and the delivery of other services (including food production), along with methods to avoid or mitigate these trade-offs.
- Exploring the integration of existing local knowledge and practices: embracing a holistic Water- Food-Ecosystems Nexus perspective is essential to comprehensively address the interdependencies between wetlands and the water, food, and ecosystems sectors. This entails integrating multidisciplinary approaches that consider the complex linkages between wetland ecosystems and the provision of water resources, ecosystem services, and ensuring food production. Including new or existing insights from other regions facing similar challenges in wetland restoration is also recommended to enhance understanding and applicability. These solutions will integrate sustainable agriculture practices, habitat restoration efforts, improved water management techniques, and effective drought management strategies tailored to diverse representative wetlands in the area. The implemented solutions should be assessed through appropriate methodologies and indicators and be translated into policies for integration of these approaches into existing environmental and land use regulations.
- Evaluate the socio-economic costs and benefits of investing in wetland conservation, sustainable agriculture practices, and the role of wetlands in enhancing drought resilience and improving local community livelihoods. Insights into these costs and benefits at the farming practice level are essential for encouraging adoption by farmers.

Proposals should actively implement a [Multi-Actor Approach \(MAA\)](#), engaging a wide range of stakeholders—including universities and research centers, public authorities, civil society organizations, local communities, businesses, conservation and environmental groups, farmers, and agencies responsible for agriculture, water management, and land use planning.—throughout the project lifecycle to ensure relevance and impact. Additionally, **policy briefs** are encouraged as key outputs, distilling research findings into actionable insights for decision-makers.

Projects may choose to establish links with the [EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change](#), and [A Soil Deal for Europe](#), dedicating resources for coordination and joint activities, such as shared communication and dissemination efforts with relevant Mission-funded projects. Projects producing data relevant to Mission Soil objectives are encouraged to contribute their findings to the [European Union Soil Observatory \(EUSO\)](#) via [SoilWISE](#) and may collaborate with the [Mission Soil Living Labs](#) to test PRIMA innovations in sustainable soil management. Complementary efforts with [Horizon Europe](#) projects and partnerships, such as [European Partnership on Agroecology](#), the [LIFE programme](#), and [European Regional Development Fund \(ERDF\)](#) projects focused on wetlands, are also encouraged to maximize impact.

The assessment identifies the wetlands' resilience to climate change and develops policy and management recommendations based on the findings. Additionally, it establishes a monitoring framework to track changes and ensure effective strategies for carbon mitigation. Some projects related, already working on similar approaches: [ALFAwetlands](#), [WaterLANDS](#), [REWET](#), [RESTORE4Cs](#).

Topic Section 1 - Agri-food Value Chain in The Nexus

TABLE 6. SPECIFIC CALL CONDITION FOR CALL 1.3.1

 Thematic Area-3-Food Value Chain in The Nexus	
Topic 1.3.1 (IA) –2025	Transforming Mediterranean Food Systems: Empowering Consumers for Sustainable Diets
Contribution to SRIA	Operational Objective 6/ NUTRITION AND HEALTH
Contribution to EU Policies	Farm to Fork Strategy , White Paper: 'A Strategy for Europe on Nutrition, Overweight, and Obesity-Related Issues' , Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) , Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) , EU Global Food Security , Organic Farming
CALL SPECIFIC CONDITIONS	
Expected EU contribution per project	PRIMA estimates that a contribution of around EUR 2.7 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 10.8 million
Duration	PRIMA considers that proposals with a duration of 36 months would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submitting and selecting proposals with different durations.
Type of Action	Innovation Action
Technology Readiness levels (TRL)	Activities are expected to achieve TRL 6-8 by the end of the project. Proposals should clearly state the starting and end TRLs of the key technology or technologies targeted in the project. Applicants are encouraged to use the TRL self-assessment tool to accurately determine the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of their proposal.
Eligibility conditions	Please refer to the PRIMA Work Programme 2025 General Annexes Section Entities eligible for funding Due to the specific challenge of this topic, in addition to the minimum number of participants set out in the standard eligibility conditions section, in this Work Programme, consortia must include at least an additional legal entity established in a Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC). Additional Eligibility Condition for this call Due to the scope of this topic, consortia must include at least one small and medium-sized enterprises²³ established in a PS in the research consortia.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	PRIMA MGA (multi-beneficiary), based on Horizon Europe MGA. The rules are described in the PRIMA Work Programme 2025 General Annexes Section.
Submission and evaluation procedure	The call will be organised according to a single-stage submission process. A full proposal (maximum 45 pages) must be submitted according to the timeline for submitting application (Table 6). A timeline for submitting and evaluating applications can be found in Section 1, Calendar of the Calls .
Consortium agreement	Participants in projects resulting from this call for Proposals must conclude a consortium agreement before the PRIMA grant agreement's signature.
PRIMA specific KPIs	Applicants must select at least three PRIMA-specific Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) from Table 2: PRIMA-specific KPIs, Linked Operational Objectives, and Descriptions. A KPI Handbook will be available at the call opening, detailing descriptions, data collection methods, and targets for each KPI. Additionally, applicants propose custom KPIs to capture project-specific impacts that align with PRIMA's objectives for enhanced impact measurement.

Expected Outcome: Contributing to the [European Green Deal](#) priorities, the [Farm-to-Fork Strategy](#) for a fair, healthy, and environmentally friendly food system, and the [EU's climate goals for 2030 and 2050](#), this approach emphasizes initiatives that introduce the **Mediterranean diet and organic products** in schools, aiming to instill healthy eating habits

²³ 'Small or medium-sized enterprise' or 'SME' means a micro, small or medium-sized enterprise as defined in Article 2 of the Annex to Recommendation 2003/361/EC (27)

in children from a young age. The strategy should integrate innovative technologies and methods to boost consumer awareness and engagement through educational campaigns. Key components include leveraging existing initiatives and [digital tools](#), promoting policy dialogue, and fostering partnerships between consumers and researchers. Focusing on social innovation and consumer behaviour, participatory methods such as **living labs** are essential for facilitating meaningful and sustainable dietary shifts.

The project is expected to achieve the following outcomes:

- Proposals should aim to demonstrate and implement innovative approaches that enhance the adoption of the Mediterranean diet across diverse age groups, such as children, adults, and older adults. Applicants are encouraged to select one or more of these demographics, promoting healthy eating habits in children through school-based programs, raising awareness among adults through community and workplace initiatives, and offering personalized dietary support for older adults.
- Proposals must incorporate cutting-edge educational campaigns, engagement strategies, and digital tools that deepen consumer understanding and participation in sustainable food systems. Additionally, proposals should address policy innovation by promoting tailored policy frameworks at EU, national, and regional levels, with a focus on using public food procurement as a strategic lever to drive demand for sustainable foods.
- As an Innovation Action, proposals should also deliver evidence-based recommendations, actively engage stakeholders, and establish monitoring mechanisms. This will support the development and deployment of effective policies that drive the widespread and sustainable adoption of the Mediterranean diet, ultimately contributing to PRIMA's broader objectives.

Scope: This topic aims to accelerate the adoption of innovations from PRIMA, Horizon 2020, and Horizon Europe projects to promote the **Mediterranean diet**, celebrated for its focus on plant-based, fresh, seasonal, and locally sourced foods. Renowned for its health benefits and environmental sustainability, the Mediterranean diet also holds cultural importance, recognized by **UNESCO** as both a nutritious eating pattern and valuable cultural heritage.

However, adherence to the Mediterranean diet is waning due to urbanization and lifestyle changes. Increasingly, people are opting for ultra-processed and pre-packaged foods, reducing cooking time but negatively impacting health and environmental sustainability. To address this, the initiative seeks to blend modern innovations with traditional food heritage, empowering consumers to make sustainable, informed choices.

The strategy includes educational campaigns and engagement activities that leverage existing projects, enhancing transparency and trust in the food system. By targeting specific demographics, the initiative aims to support dietary practices tailored to different needs, fostering sustainable adoption across communities. To reinforce this, the concept of **local farming** and the role of farmers in supplying fresh, locally sourced foods—a foundation of the Mediterranean diet—should be integral to this proposal. Emphasizing local food systems strengthens sustainable dietary practices by reconnecting consumers with producers, enhancing the accessibility and appeal of the Mediterranean diet, and making it easier for individuals to adopt this healthy, eco-friendly lifestyle.

Proposed activities should cover the following aspects:

- Encourage the development and adoption of sustainable, healthy, and preferably organic food products that align with dietary guidelines, taking into account consumer preferences and nutritional needs, to reinforce adherence to the Mediterranean diet.

- Implement hands-on training using virtual reality and gamification to educate different demographic groups on the benefits of the Mediterranean diet.
- Leverage digital resources from [PRIMA](#), [Horizon 2020](#), and [Horizon Europe](#) to build community-driven learning experiences. Tailor these initiatives to specific demographics—children, teenagers, adults, families, and the elderly—to maximize impact and promote sustainable dietary habits.²⁴
- Foster partnerships between consumers and researchers to develop innovative, personalized food solutions. Examples include **AI-driven mobile apps** that support sustainable food choices and provide data-driven dietary insights tailored to individual needs.²⁵
- Promote co-creation of adaptable frameworks that support the Mediterranean diet and sustainable food systems. Tailor **policy recommendations** to reflect dietary habits and preferences across different demographic segments, ensuring relevance and feasibility.
- Embed Mediterranean diet principles into **public food procurement** through pilot programs that support local economies, environmental sustainability, and nutritional quality. Customize these programs for various age groups, gather feedback, and scale effective practices to inform adaptable policy development.²⁶

Applicants should actively implement a [Multi-Actor Approach \(MAA\)](#), such as living labs, to bring together consumers, farmers, and experts to co-develop sustainable food practices. Living labs will deepen consumer understanding of local food sources, provide education, products should blend traditional Mediterranean ingredients with innovative elements to enhance flavor and nutrition, supporting adherence to the Mediterranean diet.²⁷

Proposals should include dedicated tasks, sufficient resources, and collaborative plans with other PRIMA-funded initiatives to foster cross-project cooperation, consultations, and joint activities. PRIMA encourages synergies with other PRIMA, Horizon Europe, and **European Partnerships** projects—such as the [European Partnership on Sustainable Food Systems for People, Planet, and Climate \(FutureFoodS\) and Agroecology](#)—to maximize collective impact in promoting sustainable dietary practices and transforming Mediterranean food systems.

²⁵ Collaboration with projects under Horizon Europe call Citizens' Science as an Opportunity to Foster the Transition to Sustainable Food Systems (HORIZON-CL6-2024-FARM2FORK-01-6) can enhance consumer-researcher interactions for sustainable food innovations. ↩

²⁶ Living labs as participatory approaches foster collaboration across the food system, aligning with objectives in projects like [MED4YOUTH](#) and [SWITCHTOHEALTHY](#) to strengthen sustainable practices. ↩

²⁷ Proposals may build on PRIMA projects such as [MED4YOUTH](#), [SWITCHTOHEALTHY](#), [DELICIOUS](#), [Tool4MEDLife](#), [MedDietMenus4Campus](#), [MEDIET4ALL](#), and [FEED](#) to advance Mediterranean diet practices and sustainable food innovations. ↩

Section 1 Call Calendar

All deadlines are at **17:00 CET** (Central European Time). The PRIMA-IS will conduct the eligibility check after each submission deadline and before the evaluation.

The Executive Director may decide to publish and open the call up to two weeks prior or one month after the envisaged date(s). The Executive Director may delay other deadlines by up to two months.

The following table shows the calendar of calls for proposals. Please note the single submission step.

TABLE 7. TIMETABLE FOR SECTION 1 CALLS FOR PROPOSALS IN 2025

THEMATIC AREA	CALL TOPICS	CALL PUBLICATION AND OPENING	SUBMISSION DEADLINE	EVALUATION RESULTS
Water management	Topic 1.1.1 (IA)	7.4.2025	15.7.2025	10.12.2025
Farming systems	Topic 1.2.1 (IA)	7.4.2025	15.7.2025	10.12.2025
Agri-food chain	Topic 1.3.1 (IA)	7.4.2025	15.7.2025	10.12.2025

Section 1 activities supporting programme operations with EU funds, implemented by PRIMA-IS

PRIMA-IS oversees the evaluation of proposals submitted under Section 1 Calls and monitors the funded projects. Detailed information on the evaluation, selection, and granting processes, as well as suitable types of grant agreements and funding levels, are outlined under each call topic and further elaborated in the PRIMA Work Programme 2025 General Annexes.

Evaluation and monitoring of project proposals

OBJECTIVE

This activity consists of implementing the evaluation of all the eligible projects submitted to the 2025 PRIMA calls (Section 1 and Section 2) and preparing the Board of Trustees' decision. The evaluation process is described in Section 1, PRIMA Work Programme 2025 PRIMA Work Programme 2025 General Annexes [F- Evaluation procedure and ranking](#).

In Work Programme 2025, Section 1 and Section 2 calls will be organized as a single stage submission process.

PRIMA-IS will assign independent experts to evaluate full proposals and will provide guidelines to the experts for the remote evaluation and drafting of their assessment report. At the end of this period of individual assessment, the experts will meet in a panel to prepare the consensus report for each proposal. When a consensus is reached for each proposal, the panel will agree on the final assessment and proceed with its ranking. After the remote evaluation of proposals, a two-day meeting will be organised to draft the consensus report and establish the ranking list. PRIMA-IS will cover the independent expert fees, travel and accommodation and the other meetings-related expenses following EC standard practices. The consensus meeting can also be held remotely. PRIMA-IS will also cover the board of Trustees' meeting at the end of the evaluation process to decide on projects to be funded based on the ranking list, as set in Article 6-point 2 (q) PRIMA Statutes²⁸. Moreover, PRIMA-IS will also cover the costs related to monitoring the PRIMA projects, particularly the technical and financial reporting.

A meeting (Project Day) will be organised with Project Coordinators to provide guidelines about the commencement, management, finance and monitoring of Section 1 and Section 2 funded projects. Monitoring and network meetings will be organised either physically or remote. Additionally, the event aims to facilitate collaboration among consortia representatives engaged in PRIMA projects, offering them a platform to exchange knowledge and enhance the effectiveness of their endeavours. By convening representatives from various PRIMA projects, the meeting will encourage cross-collaboration and the sharing of best practices, thereby identifying synergies and preventing thematic overlap, ensuring a more efficient and impactful implementation of PRIMA projects. Furthermore, the networking event will serve as a forum to address challenges and opportunities encountered by the consortia, while also identifying potential areas for future research and innovation. This collaborative environment fosters innovation within the PRIMA community and aids in developing solutions to the region's most pressing challenges.

Type of activity: Expert's contracts.

Indicative budget: EUR 340 000

²⁸ PRIMA Statutes Article 6 point 2 (q), page 4.

Other actions not subject to calls for proposals: PRIMA Award 2025

PRIMA Woman Greening Food Systems Award in the Mediterranean Region

Objective

The Prize “Woman Greening Food Systems Award in the Mediterranean Region” recognises and celebrates the outstanding contributions of the Mediterranean women in promoting sustainable and resilient food systems. The prizes are to recognise and uplift the essential role women play in innovating and transforming sustainable food systems in the Mediterranean region. The award intends to spotlight these women and their initiatives, aiming to augment visibility and thus empowering women across the region to continue their significant contributions towards the future of sustainable and resilient food systems. Beyond this, the award is envisioned to foster further innovation within green food systems and advance gender equality within the food systems sector. PRIMA will award two winners with a recognition prize of EUR 10 000 each.

The “PRIMA Woman Greening Food Systems Award in the Mediterranean Region” will provide the winner of each of the two Prizes with high visibility in the public interest and increased media coverage. The contest’s specific rules²⁹ will be published on the PRIMA website as soon as the PRIMA 2025 calls are public and actively disseminated elsewhere to maximize participation.

Contestants will have to provide proof of eligibility³⁰ and a written description of their achievements in the “PRIMA Woman Greening Food Systems Award in the Mediterranean Region” field, which will be presented to an independent panel of experts for evaluation.

Eligibility criteria

The contestants for the PRIMA prizes should be at least one legal entity established in a PRIMA PS³¹. The demonstrated practices must be implemented in the Mediterranean region. Prizes will not be awarded to teams including employees of PRIMA or serving on one of the PRIMA Advisory (Scientific Advisory Committee) or governing (Board of Trustees and Steering Committee) boards. Please also note that participants who have already received an EU or Euratom prize cannot receive a prize under this Work Programme 2025 for the same activities.

Award criteria

An independent panel of experts will evaluate all eligible applications. The prizes will be awarded, after the closure of the contest, to the contestant(s) who, in the opinion of the panel, best address all the following criteria:

- **Innovative Solutions for Greening Food Systems:** Demonstrated implementation of innovative solutions and practices proposed and led by women, specifically aimed at greening food systems in the Mediterranean region. This includes, but not limited to, pioneering approaches in agriculture, food production, and waste reduction that prioritize environmental sustainability, biodiversity conservation, and resource efficiency.
- **Evidence of Impactful Implementation:** Evidence of tangible outcomes resulting from the implementation of proposed solutions, showcasing measurable improvements in sustainability, resilience, and inclusivity within the agriculture and sector. This could include quantifiable metrics such as reductions in carbon emissions, improvements in soil health, increased biodiversity, or enhanced food security and nutrition outcomes. It

²⁹ The PRIMA Green Food Security Innovation Award rules of contest will be adopted by the Director of PRIMA.IS

³⁰ The contestants for the PRIMA prizes should be at least one legal entity established in a PRIMA PS. The demonstrated practices must be implemented in the Mediterranean Region

³¹ The latest information on the PRIMA PS can be found on PRIMA webpage: <http://prima-med.org>

is essential to quantify the outcomes via measurable key indicators (for instance, number of beneficiaries and end-users, percentage of efficiency improvement).).

- **Women Empowerment for Green Food Systems:** Active engagement and empowerment of local communities and stakeholders, facilitated by women, in decision-making processes and project implementation specifically within the context of greening food systems. This involves fostering inclusive participation, ensuring equitable access to resources, providing opportunities for capacity building, and promoting leadership roles for women and marginalized groups in initiatives aimed at enhancing the sustainability and resilience of food systems.

Type of action: Recognition prizes

Indicative timetable: Prize contests will be launched in the first quarter of 2025 and remain open until the second quarter of 2025. (Model Rule of Contest (RoC) will be published in PRIMA website at the following link: <https://prima-med.org/woman-greening-award/>).

Amount of prize:

Prize Amount(s): two awards of EUR 10 000 each

Budget of the prizes: EUR 20 000

Workshop with EC (PRIMA DAY)

The PRIMA Day is intended as a workshop that will provide a platform for the exchange of experiences, ideas, and best practices related to the successful implementation of the EU Green Deal deliverables such as the [Farm to Fork Strategy](#), [Circular Economy Action Plan](#),. Experts and stakeholders will have the opportunity to present and discuss the results and impacts of PRIMA projects, including their success stories, challenges, and opportunities for replication and scaling up. Participants will also discuss how to effectively integrate research and innovation into policy-making and decision-making processes to address the region's most pressing challenges related to water, energy, food, and ecosystems. The workshop will include interactive sessions and discussions that will explore potential solutions, strategies, and actions to accelerate the adoption and implementation of sustainable and resilient practices in the Mediterranean region. Overall, the workshop will provide a unique opportunity for experts and stakeholders to collaborate and learn from each other, share their experiences and insights, and contribute to the development of practical solutions for the sustainable development of the Mediterranean region.

Type of action: Procurement

Indicative timetable: The event will be organized in the Second Quarter of 2025, indicatively in June 2025

Amount: 40.000 EUR

Section 2: Activities organised by PRIMA-IS and funded by the national funding bodies of PS

11.1 Section 2 activities following transnational calls organised and funded by the PRIMA PS

Activities managed by PRIMA-IS and funded by PS are evaluated and selected based on the [Rules for Participation of Horizon Europe](#) following open calls for proposals centrally managed by the PRIMA-IS according to a single-stage submission process. Such activities are funded in line with applicable common principles to all the actions and activities.

Each applicant must comply with the national funding agency's regulations supporting the programme³². Before submitting a proposal, the applicant should check the funding rates and eligible costs in the national regulations and contact the relevant [National Contact Points \(NCPs\)](#) for any doubts regarding Section 2 calls for proposals. Grant agreements will be signed between participants and relevant national funding bodies following national rules (See Section 2 PRIMA Work Programme 2025 General Annexes).

PRIMA Section 2 call, funded exclusively by the PS, will be a **single multi-topic call** that includes R&I activities encompassing all TRL (3-7); however, funding activities with TRL (6-8) will depend on national funding regulations. If not explicitly indicated in the national regulations, the applicant should contact the relevant NCP.

PRIMA WP 2025 provides information about calls for proposals to be managed by the PRIMA-IS, including the challenge, scope and expected impacts, eligibility requirements and other conditions for applying. Detailed supporting information about the evaluation, selection and granting process, suitable types of grant agreements and funding levels are summarised under each call topic, described in more detail in the Section 2 PRIMA Work Programme 2025 General Annexes of this document and the national funding rules.

This call will be implemented in compliance with common principles to be agreed by the Participating States and the European Commission, taking into account the principles set out in [Decision \(EU\) 2024/1167](#), Part One of Title VIII of the Financial Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and the Council (the 'Financial Regulation') and Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council, in particular the principles of equal treatment, transparency, independent peer-review evaluation and selection.

The Section 2 call will be launched in a single-stage submission process. PRIMA-IS will be responsible for evaluating proposals conducted with rules based on H2020 rules in a peer review process with a panel that will rank the proposals.

Admissibility and eligibility of proposals will be first checked by the PRIMA-IS according to the conditions indicated respectively in PRIMA Work Programme 2025 PRIMA Work Programme

³² Algeria, General Directorate for scientific research and technological development (DGRSDT), Bulgaria, Ministry of science and Education, Croatia, Ministry of Science and Education, Cyprus, Research Promotion Foundation, Research and Innovation Projects Unit, Egypt, Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT) and Science and Technological Development Fund (SDTF), France, French National Research Agency (ANR), Germany, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) Greece, General Secretariat for Research and Technology (GSRT), Israel, Israel Innovation Authority (IIA) and Ministry of Science & Technology, Italy Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca (MUR), Jordan, Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST), Lebanon, Conseil National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS-L), Luxembourg, Luxembourg National Research Fund (FNR), Malta, Xjenza Malta (XM), Morocco, State Secretariat for Higher Education and Scientific Research, Portugal, Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), Slovenia, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Spain, Centro para el Desarrollo Tecnológico Industriales, (CDTI) and Agencia Estatal de Investigación (AEI), Tunisia, Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique (MESRS), Türkiye, The Scientific And Technological Research Council Of Türkiye (TUBITAK).

2025 General Annexes A — Admissibility and B — Eligibility of this document, and then by the national funding body according to their National Regulations. In this context, proposals that are considered eligible for participation and funding by PRIMA-IS and the national funding bodies will enter the evaluation process. However, in the event of a negative outcome of verifying eligibility for funding of any participant in the applicant consortium, PRIMA-IS may require additional information from a consortium, or the participant concerned, such as an attestation that the funds to cover their participation in the project will be available.

At the end of the evaluation, the panel will produce a single ranking list to guarantee that the highest quality projects will be funded. If one or more projects cannot be funded (if a funding body runs out of budget), the projects following directly in the ranking may be selected. For details on the evaluation and selection process, please see sub-sections in PRIMA Work Programme 2025 PRIMA Work Programme 2025 General Annexes F - Procedure Evaluation procedure and ranking and Funding decision.

In Section 2, the beneficiaries must sign a grant agreement directly with their national funding bodies to receive the funds. PRIMA Section 2 call will address the topics described in Section 6.1.1.1. below (according to national priorities) and the cross-cutting issues among them. Research projects can address cross-cutting issues between two topics as long as they are both eligible for funding by the partner countries.

When training and mobility activities are considered eligible by the funding bodies, these actions will be encouraged, and projects should integrate into their work plan schemes for the mobility of young researchers/postgraduates/post-doctorates, following the modalities set out in national regulation funding bodies.

Depending on the research question addressed, projects should deliver tangible outputs and enhance technological and social innovation. The projects could include innovative technologies like artificial intelligence, smart digital technologies, space data, and big data analysis. When explicitly allowed by the funding bodies' national regulations, Innovation Actions should involve the private sector in the project consortium and particularly relevant SMEs.

All participants to activities funded by the PRIMA-IS or by Participating States of the PRIMA Partnership 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 Partnership supported by the European Union*", as well as with the PRIMA logo.

Section 2 Calls topics

1 Thematic Area 1-Water management in the Nexus

Topic 2.1.1-2025 (RIA*³³) Enhancing Policy Development through Impact-Driven Water Footprint and Virtual Water Concepts in the Mediterranean Region

2 Thematic Area 2-Farming systems in the Nexus

Topic 2.2.1-2025 (RIA*³⁴) Upscaling Agroecology Practices at the Farm Level in the Mediterranean

1 Thematic Area 3-Food value chain in the Nexus

Topic 2.3.1-2025 (RIA*³⁵) Towards a Plant-Based Alternative Protein products Transition in the Mediterranean Region

^{33, 30, 31} Please note that the acronyms IA (Innovation Action) and RIA (Research and Innovation Action) are used in Section 1 and Section 2, respectively. In Section 1, the rules applying to these actions follow the standard Horizon Europe Rules for Participation (RfP) established in Regulation (EU) 2021/695. In contrast, while the rules used in Section 2 are partially based on the Horizon Europe RfP, specific provisions concerning participation and funding rates apply. Projects selected in Section 2 are funded directly by national funding bodies and are therefore subject to the respective national regulations. For more detailed information regarding the rules for Section 2, please refer to the guidelines for applicants available on the PRIMA website.

12.1 Topic Section 2 - Water management in the Nexus

TABLE 8. SPECIFIC CALL CONDITION FOR CALL 2.1.1

 Thematic Area-1 Water management in the Nexus	
Topic 2.1.1-2025 (RIA*)	Enhancing Policy Development through Impact-Driven Water Footprint and Virtual Water Concepts in the Mediterranean Region
Contribution to SRIA	3/ WATER GOVERNANCE SYSTEM
Contribution to EU policies	European Green Deal , EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) , New Nature restoration law , European Water Resilience Strategy
CALL SPECIFIC CONDITIONS	
Expected EU contribution per project	PRIMA considers that proposals requesting contribution of at least EUR 1,5 million would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submitting and selecting proposals requesting other amounts or duration, following national regulations.
Duration	PRIMA considers that proposals with a duration of 36 months would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submitting and selecting proposals with different durations.
Type of Action	Research & Innovation Activities (RIA* ³⁶)
Technology Readiness levels (TRL)	Proposals should clearly state the starting and end TRLs of the key technology or technologies targeted in the project. Applicants are encouraged to use the TRL self-assessment tool to accurately determine the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of their proposal.
Eligibility conditions	Please refer to section PRIMA Work Programme 2025 General Annexes B-Eligibility for the list of countries eligible for funding. Due to the specific challenge of this topic, in addition to the minimum number of participants set out in the standard eligibility conditions consortia must include at least an additional legal entity established in a Mediterranean Partner Country (MPC) as defined in section, Eligibility. In addition to the standard admissibility and eligibility conditions (please refer to section Section 2, A Admissibility and B Eligibility sections in this document), the following additional eligibility condition applies: <u>each applicant must check its own eligibility for participation/funding in accordance with their national funding agencies.</u>
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	Each national funding body will fund the beneficiaries established in its own country; thus, the national funding rules apply. Each national funding body will sign a grant agreement (or any official documents acting as a contract) with their national beneficiaries taking part in the selected project (section Provisions concerning implementation). The coordinator of the project has to decide with his/her partners of a common starting date and send this information to all the funding bodies involved in funding this project in order to ensure that the national grant agreements are synchronized in time to cover all the period of the project
Submission and evaluation procedure	<u>The call will be organised according to a single-stage submission process.</u> A full proposal (maximum 45 pages) must be submitted according to the timeline for submitting application. A timeline for submitting and evaluating applications can be found in Section 2 Calls Calendar
Consortium agreement	A consortium agreement mentioning the distribution of the tasks among partners (as listed in the proposal) must be concluded. Some national funding bodies may require this document before signing the grant agreements, so it is

³⁶ Please note that the acronyms IA (Innovation Action) and RIA (Research and Innovation Action) are used in Section 1 and Section 2, respectively. In Section 1, the actions follow the standard Horizon Europe Rules for Participation (RfP). However, in Section 2, while some rules are based on Horizon Europe RfP, specific participation and funding rate regulations apply. Projects selected in Section 2 are funded directly by national funding bodies and are therefore subject to respective national regulations. For more details regarding the rules for Section 2, please refer to the guidelines for applicants on the PRIMA website.

	necessary to refer to the national regulations and draft the consortium agreement
PRIMA specific KPIs	Applicants must select at least three PRIMA-specific Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) from Table 2: PRIMA-specific KPIs, Linked Operational Objectives, and Descriptions. A KPI Handbook will be available at the call opening, detailing descriptions, data collection methods, and targets for each KPI to help applicants align selections with their project goals. Additionally, applicants propose custom KPIs to capture project-specific impacts that align with PRIMA's objectives for enhanced impact measurement.

Expected Outcome: In line with the European Green Deal priorities, notably the [EU climate adaptation strategy](#) and the EU's climate mitigation ambition for 2030 and 2050, the [Zero Pollution Action Plan](#), the [Water Framework Directive](#) EU and other EU water legislation addressing water scarcity and droughts, the EU Circular Economy Action Plan, the successful proposals will support the development of policies based on water footprint and virtual water concept.

Project results are expected to contribute to the following expected outcomes:

- National policies on water management decisions are revised based on the water footprint concept;³⁷
- Connecting the water footprint with the water-energy-food-ecosystems Nexus concept and its added value in the Mediterranean region;
- Strengthen resilience to climate change impacts by integrating water footprint considerations into adaptation strategies;
- Economic benefits of reducing water footprints, including cost savings from improved water efficiency and potential revenue from sustainable water use practices;
- Facilitate a dialogue among city regulators, water utilities, communities, farmers and stakeholders, to exchange best practices and lessons learned in managing water footprints.
- Encourage the adoption of crop varieties and industrial practices that require less water, while increasing the use of treated and reused water sources, to alleviate pressure on freshwater resources in the Mediterranean.

Scope: Recognising the limitations of traditional water footprint and virtual water concepts as purely quantitative measures, this topic highlights the need for **integrated impact assessments** in policy development across the Mediterranean. This approach is crucial given the region's semi-arid to arid climate, limited freshwater resources, and rising water demands in sectors such as agriculture, industry, and tourism—further intensified by climate change impacts.

A key component of this approach is the establishment of clear limits specifically for **blue water consumption**, rather than just overall resource availability. These limits serve as a foundation for sustainable water governance, helping policymakers to assess not only the quantity of water used but also its source, quality, and broader environmental and socio-economic impacts.

The objective is to drive policies that promote **equitable and efficient water use**, reduce environmental degradation, prevent water pollution, and strengthen resilience to climate-related challenges. Given the transboundary nature of many Mediterranean water resources,

³⁷ water footprint concept, measures the total volume of freshwater used to produce goods and services across different sectors. This includes the blue (surface and groundwater), green (rainwater), and grey (water needed to assimilate pollutants) water footprints, helping policymakers assess water use efficiency and pollution impacts.

fostering **collaborative policy development** is essential for effectively addressing cross-border water issues. Additionally, supporting **less water-demanding crops** and expanding **water recycling and reuse systems** in agriculture and industry are critical strategies to alleviate pressure on freshwater resources.

This integrated, impact-focused approach will enable a more adaptive and sustainable water management framework tailored to the Mediterranean's unique challenges.

Proposed activities should cover at least one of the following aspects:

- Evaluate national policies and regulations on water management decisions from the perspective of water footprint
 - Define the limitations of common water footprint and virtual water concepts and propose methodologies to improve them.
 - Analyse virtual water trade to manage the impacts of cross-border product trade on water resources and external shocks. Water scarcity footprint should be assessed for local and imported agricultural products.
 - Analyse, through case studies, the green, blue water and grey footprints at river basins with a focus on the main strategic crops and breeds.
 - Model and predict future changes and trends in water footprint and virtual water trade, considering their broader impacts.
 - Recommend institutional and regulatory reforms guided by impact-driven water footprint and virtual water concepts.
 - Establish a Water Footprint Network in Mediterranean countries
- Encourage Water-Efficient Practices: Promote the use of less water-demanding crops and the implementation of systems for water recycling and reuse in agriculture and industry. These measures are critical for enhancing water conservation efforts, supporting sustainable water management, and improving water efficiency in the region.

Proposals are encouraged to collaborate with other [PRIMA](#) and [EU-funded projects](#) by participating in joint and common communication and dissemination activities. Proposals should promote collaboration and complementarity with other PRIMA-funded projects, including a dedicated task with appropriate resources for this purpose. Collaboration is also encouraged with [Horizon Europe](#) initiatives, relevant **European Partnerships**, and [EU Missions](#), such as the [Water4All Partnership](#) and the [EU Mission: Restore our Ocean and Waters](#), to enhance collective impact in water sustainability efforts across the Mediterranean region.

12.2 Topic Section 2 - Farming systems in the Nexus

TABLE 9. SPECIFIC CALL CONDITION FOR CALL 2.2.1

	
Thematic Area 2-Farming systems in the Nexus	
Topic 2.2.1-2025	Upscaling Agroecology Practices at the Farm Level in the Mediterranean
Contribution to SRIA	Operational Objective 4 Cross-Cutting: Digital Technologies
Contribution to EU policies	European Green Deal: EU Biodiversity Strategy , EU Adaptation Strategy , Farm to Fork Strategy , Zero Pollution Action Plan , EU Nature Restoration Law , Circular Economy Action Plan , Water Reuse Regulation , Post-2020 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) , EU Forest Strategy for 2030 , Biodiversity Strategy
CALL SPECIFIC CONDITIONS	
Expected EU contribution per project	PRIMA considers that proposals requesting contribution of at least EUR 1,5 million would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submitting and selecting proposals requesting other amounts or duration, following national regulations.
Duration	PRIMA considers that proposals with a duration of 36 months would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submitting and selecting proposals with different durations.
Type of Action	Research & Innovation Activities (RIA ³⁸)
Technology Readiness levels (TRL)	Proposals should clearly state the starting and end TRLs of the key technology or technologies targeted in the project. Applicants are encouraged to use the TRL self-assessment tool to accurately determine the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of their proposal.
Eligibility conditions	Please refer to section PRIMA Work Programme 2025 General Annexes B-Eligibility for the list of countries eligible for funding. Due to the specific challenge of this topic, in addition to the minimum number of participants set out in the standard eligibility conditions consortia must include at least an additional legal entity established in a Mediterranean Partner Country (MPC) as defined in section, Eligibility. In addition to the standard admissibility and eligibility conditions (please refer to section Section 2, A Admissibility and B Eligibility sections in this document), the following additional eligibility condition applies: each applicant must check its own eligibility for participation/funding in accordance with their national funding agencies.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	Each national funding body will fund the beneficiaries established in its own country; thus, the national funding rules apply. Each national funding body will sign a grant agreement (or any official documents acting as a contract) with their national beneficiaries taking part in the selected project (section Provisions concerning implementation). The coordinator of the project has to decide with his/her partners of a common starting date and send this information to all the funding bodies involved in funding this project in order to ensure that the national grant agreements are synchronized in time to cover all the period of the project
Submission and evaluation procedure	<u>The call will be organised according to a single-stage submission process.</u> A full proposal (maximum 45 pages) must be submitted according to the timeline for submitting application. A timeline for submitting and evaluating applications can be found in Section 2 Calls Calendar

³⁸ Please note that the acronyms IA (Innovation Action) and RIA (Research and Innovation Action) are used in Section 1 and Section 2, respectively. In Section 1, the actions follow the standard Horizon Europe Rules for Participation (RfP). However, in Section 2, while some rules are based on Horizon Europe RfP, specific participation and funding rate regulations apply. Projects selected in Section 2 are funded directly by national funding bodies and are therefore subject to respective national regulations. For more details regarding the rules for Section 2, please refer to the guidelines for applicants on the PRIMA website.

Consortium agreement	A consortium agreement mentioning the distribution of the tasks among partners (as listed in the proposal) must be concluded. Some national funding bodies may require this document before signing the grant agreements, so it is necessary to refer to the national regulations and draft the consortium agreement
PRIMA specific KPIs	Applicants must select at least three PRIMA-specific Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) from Table 2: PRIMA-specific KPIs, Linked Operational Objectives, and Descriptions. A KPI Handbook will be available at the call opening, detailing descriptions, data collection methods, and targets for each KPI to help applicants align selections with their project goals. <u>Additionally, applicants propose custom KPIs to capture project-specific impacts that align with PRIMA's objectives for enhanced impact measurement.</u>

Expected Outcome: Aligned with the [European Green Deal](#), [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#), [EU Climate Adaptation Strategy](#), [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#), the [Common Agricultural Policy](#), in consistency with the EU [Mission "A Soil Deal for Europe"](#) this call for proposals aims to enhance the adoption and effective implementation of agroecology practices at the farm level throughout the Mediterranean region. Successful proposals will demonstrate potential to drive significant advancements in sustainable farming, contributing to the ecological resilience and economic viability of the region's agricultural sector.

Project results are expected to contribute to all the following expected outcomes:

- Increased understanding, adoption, and implementation of agroecological practices, with a focus on small-scale farmers.
- Generation of evidence showcasing agroecology's potential in addressing climate change through mitigation and adaptation, highlighting its climate neutrality, biodiversity impact, and capacity to enhance farm socio-economic resilience.
- Formulation of policy recommendations aimed at supporting the scaling up of agroecology practices that should recognise the pivotal role of state regulations and support alongside business models. These recommendations should encompass a range of incentives, regulations, subsidies, and other policy instruments to foster sustainable agriculture and environmental conservation effectively.
- Implementation of scalable and cost-effective carbon measurement and verification methods tailored to agroecological practices.

Scope: Agroecology offers a comprehensive approach that blends ecological principles, traditional knowledge, and innovative techniques to enhance biodiversity, soil health, water conservation, and climate resilience. It simultaneously supports food security and livelihoods. There is an urgent call to expand agroecological practices by integrating diverse cultivation methods and interdisciplinary approaches, including leveraging microbial technologies to boost soil health and crop yields. It is crucial to develop sustainable business models that ensure profitability for small farmers, addressing challenges such as organic certification costs, market dynamics, and the need for cohesive legislation supporting micro and small enterprises. Policy recommendations should be formulated to facilitate widespread adoption of agroecology, emphasizing biodiversity conservation and the protection of endangered species in agricultural policies and practices.

Proposed activities should cover all the following aspects:

- Providing a methodology that facilitates the identification of optimal combinations of agroecological practices and strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change, while also preserving biodiversity and enhancing farm profitability.
- Emphasizing the implementation of scalable and cost-effective methods for measuring and verifying carbon sequestration efforts, empowering farmers to accurately quantify and monetize their contributions to carbon reduction.
- The proposed practices should cover a diverse range of crops and farming systems encompassing both conventional and organic practices.

- Piloting innovative mechanisms to assist farmers in transitioning to agroecological practices.
- Establishing Living Laboratories, including setting up demonstration plots, conducting participatory research with farmers, and hosting training sessions and workshops. These labs will be key to fast-tracking the adoption of agroecology practices, emphasizing microbiological solutions, with the aim of achieving targeted objectives across farms. This includes supporting and increasing plant yields and their resistance to diseases, reducing the use of artificial pesticides and fertilizers, minimizing food waste, and decreasing emissions of greenhouse gases.
- Developing strategies for scaling out and scaling up agroecology practices beyond the project's geographical area and duration. This involves identifying pathways for scaling, leveraging existing networks and institutions, and creating enabling environments for sustainable agricultural development.

Proposals should adopt a [Multi-Actor Approach \(MAA\)](#) to ensure significant involvement of the farming sector in decision-making and implementation processes.

PRIMA strongly encourage collaboration and complementarity with other Horizon Europe relevant projects including a dedicated task, appropriate resources, and a plan for collaborating with other PRIMA-funded projects with similar thematic focus and with the [Mission "A Soil Deal for Europe"](#). In particular, proposals should include dedicated tasks and appropriate resources for coordination measures and joint activities with relevant projects funded by the Mission.³⁹ PRIMA also encourages collaboration and complementarity with other Horizon Europe relevant projects or initiatives funded by European Partnerships such as the [Agroecology Partnership](#)⁴⁰.

³⁹ Here some indicative examples of specific activities that a project could undertake to build links with the Mission "A Soil Deal for Europe" and collaborate effectively with relevant projects funded by the Mission such as DeliSoil, Waste4Soil or SOILUTIONS: Joint Workshops and Seminars with the Mission to discuss soil health, sustainable agriculture, and policy development. Invite Mission-funded projects to participate and share insights. / Collaborate with the network of 100 Mission Soil Living Labs and Lighthouses that is now being deployed. Innovations and sustainable soil management practices developed by PRIMA projects can be further adapted, tested or showcased in real-life conditions in the living labs to accelerate the uptake of solutions. /Data Sharing and Integration: Collaborate on sharing soil data, research findings, and analysis tools with the Mission through, for example, the Mission project SoilWISE. /Policy Advocacy: Form a task force to align project goals

⁴⁰ In particular projects funded under the Agroecology Partnership 2024 call: Fostering agroecology at farm and landscape levels"

12.3 Topic Section 2 - Agri-food Value chain in the Nexus

TABLE 10. SPECIFIC CALL CONDITION FOR CALL 2.3.1

 Thematic Area-3-Food Value Chain in The Nexus	
Topic 2.3.1 RIA*	Towards a Plant-Based Alternative Protein products Transition in the Mediterranean Region
Contribution to SRIA	Operational Objective 6/ NUTRITION AND HEALTH
Contribution to EU Policies	Farm to Fork Strategy, White Paper: 'A Strategy for Europe on Nutrition, Overweight, and Obesity-Related Issues', Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), EU Global Food Security, Organic Farming
CALL SPECIFIC CONDITIONS	
Expected EU contribution per project	PRIMA considers that proposals requesting contribution of at least EUR 1,5 million would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submitting and selecting proposals requesting other amounts or duration, following national regulations.
Duration	PRIMA considers that proposals with a duration of 36 months would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submitting and selecting proposals with different durations.
Type of Action	Research & Innovation Activities (RIA* ⁴¹)
Technology Readiness levels (TRL)	Proposals should clearly state the starting and end TRLs of the key technology or technologies targeted in the project. Applicants are encouraged to use the TRL self-assessment tool to accurately determine the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of their proposal.
Eligibility conditions	Please refer to section PRIMA Work Programme 2025 General Annexes B-Eligibility for the list of countries eligible for funding. Due to the specific challenge of this topic, in addition to the minimum number of participants set out in the standard eligibility conditions consortia must include at least an additional legal entity established in a Mediterranean Partner Country (MPC) as defined in section, Eligibility. In addition to the standard admissibility and eligibility conditions (please refer to section Section 2, A Admissibility and B Eligibility sections in this document), the following additional eligibility condition applies: each applicant must check its own eligibility for participation/funding in accordance with their national funding agencies.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	Each national funding body will fund the beneficiaries established in its own country; thus, the national funding rules apply. Each national funding body will sign a grant agreement (or any official documents acting as a contract) with their national beneficiaries taking part in the selected project (section Provisions concerning implementation). The coordinator of the project has to decide with his/her partners of a common starting date and send this information to all the funding bodies involved in funding this project in order to ensure that the national grant agreements are synchronized in time to cover all the period of the project.
Submission and evaluation procedure	The call will be organised according to a single-stage submission process. A full proposal (maximum 45 pages) must be submitted according to the timeline for submitting application. A timeline for submitting and evaluating applications can be found in Section 2 Calls Calendar

⁴¹ Please note that the acronyms IA (Innovation Action) and RIA (Research and Innovation Action) are used in Section 1 and Section 2, respectively. In Section 1, the actions follow the standard Horizon Europe Rules for Participation (RfP). However, in Section 2, while some rules are based on Horizon Europe RfP, specific participation and funding rate regulations apply. Projects selected in Section 2 are funded directly by national funding bodies and are therefore subject to respective national regulations. For more details regarding the rules for Section 2, please refer to the guidelines for applicants on the PRIMA website.

Consortium agreement	A consortium agreement mentioning the distribution of the tasks among partners (as listed in the proposal) must be concluded. Some national funding bodies may require this document before signing the grant agreements, so it is necessary to refer to the national regulations and draft the consortium agreement
PRIMA specific KPIs	Applicants must select at least three PRIMA-specific Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) from Table 2: PRIMA-specific KPIs, Linked Operational Objectives, and Descriptions. A KPI Handbook will be available at the call opening, detailing descriptions, data collection methods, and targets for each KPI to help applicants align selections with their project goals. <u>Additionally, applicants propose custom KPIs to capture project-specific impacts that align with PRIMA's objectives for enhanced impact measurement.</u>

Expected Outcome: In alignment with the [European Green Deal priorities](#), the [Farm-to-Fork Strategy](#) for a fair, healthy, and environmentally friendly food system, and the EU's [climate ambitions for 2030 and 2050](#), this proposal will bolster research and innovation initiatives aimed at promoting and facilitating the adoption of plant-based protein alternative products (PBAPs)⁴² in Mediterranean diets.

This initiative closely connects to the [Food 2030 pathway "Nutrition and Sustainable Healthy Diets"](#) by expanding knowledge on factors shaping consumption choices in Southern Mediterranean countries. Key areas of focus include evaluating the potential market response to the increased availability of PBAPs and assessing consumer openness and readiness for these products. By examining these aspects, the proposal will yield valuable insights on how plant-based protein alternatives can be introduced and effectively integrated into current dietary patterns across the region.

Project results are expected to contribute to the following expected outcomes:

Scope: The objective is to support projects that advocate for plant-based protein alternative products (PBAPs) in Mediterranean diets, reduce environmental impacts, and celebrate cultural heritage. By addressing key challenges in the region, this initiative aims to promote resilience, well-being, and long-term sustainability. Proposed strategies should be culturally sensitive, acknowledging the unique culinary heritage of the Mediterranean and addressing obstacles faced by local consumers. This approach will highlight the health and environmental advantages of PBAPs while respecting traditional dietary practices, fostering an inclusive transition towards sustainable, plant-based eating.

Proposed activities should cover all the following aspects:

- Innovate technologies, formulation methods, and processing techniques to increase the acceptability, affordability, availability, and sustainability of plant-based protein alternative products (PBAPs) in Mediterranean diets. Focus on optimizing food composition and refining processing methods to enhance product quality, appeal, and shelf life.
- Conduct studies on allergens and food intolerances associated with plant-based protein sources, focusing on the Mediterranean region. This includes identifying potential allergens and assessing their impact on consumer health and safety to ensure PBAPs are safe and accessible.
- Assess the nutritional value, digestibility, and sensory quality of plant-based protein alternatives, with a particular focus on vulnerable population groups, including young people, pregnant individuals, and older adults. This may involve conducting sensory panels, nutritional analyses, and digestion studies to ensure these alternative proteins meet the specific nutritional and dietary needs of these groups, providing a thorough evaluation of overall quality and suitability.

⁴² Plant-based protein alternative products (PBAPs) are food items derived from plants that serve as substitutes for traditional animal-based proteins. Examples include, but are not limited to, chickpeas, lentils, tofu, tempeh, seitan, quinoa, almond-based products, oat yogurt, jackfruit.

- Investigate the influence of media, including social media, and education in shaping consumer behaviour and dietary choices, particularly regarding PBAP adoption
Enhance efforts to educate and inform consumers about sustainable food choices through initiatives such as clear labeling (targeted to improve clarity for consumers), educational campaigns, and community outreach programs. These activities aim to increase understanding and awareness of sustainable dietary options, empowering individuals to make informed food choices that support both health and environmental goals.

Proposals should embrace a **'Multi-actor approach'** by involving diverse stakeholders, particularly farmers and agricultural cooperatives, consumer organizations, national ministries, local authorities, producer organizations, food industry representatives, academia, research centers, private sector and technology providers, civil society organizations, NGOs, healthcare and nutrition experts, media and communication specialists, educational institutions, and community organizations.

Proposals are encouraged to incorporate dedicated tasks, sufficient resources, and collaborative plans with other PRIMA-funded projects on related field⁴³ to promote cross-project cooperation, consultations, and joint activities addressing common issues. Commitment to sharing results and participating in collective meetings and communication events is essential. Proposals are also encouraged to seek complementarity/synergies with other Horizon Europe projects⁴⁴ to maximize synergies and collective impact in promoting sustainable dietary practices and Mediterranean food system transformation.

⁴³ Projects could coordinate activities with other PRIMA projects such as LOCALNUTLEG, CIPROMED, ProxIMed, and ADVAGROMED. These collaborations can promote synergies and maximize impact across initiatives addressing Mediterranean food system sustainability.

⁴⁴ Engaging with Horizon Europe projects selected under the following calls can enhance collaborative efforts: Horizon Europe projects HORIZON-CL6-2024-FARM2FORK-01-7: Impact of the development of novel foods based on alternative sources of proteins HORIZON-CL6-2024-FARM2FORK-01-2: New healthy and sustainable food products and processes

Section 2 Calls Calendar

All deadlines are at **17:00 CET** (Central European Time). The PRIMA-IS will conduct the admissibility and eligibility check after each deadline for submission and before the evaluation takes place, followed by an eligibility check by the national funding agencies according to their [national regulations](#).

The Executive Director may decide to publish and open the call up to two weeks prior or one month after the envisaged date(s). The Executive Director may delay other deadlines by up to two months.

The following table shows the calendar of calls for proposals. Please note the single submission step.

TABLE 11. TIMETABLE FOR SECTION 2 CALL FOR PROPOSALS IN 2025

THEMATIC AREA	CALL TOPICS	CALL PUBLICATION AND OPENING	SUBMISSION DEADLINE	EVALUATION RESULTS
Water management	Topic 2.1.1 (RIA)	7.4.2025	8.7.2025	10.12.2025
Farming systems	Topic 2.2.1 (RIA)	7.4.2025	8.7.2025	10.12.2025
Agri-food chain	Topic 2.3.1 (RIA)	7.4.2025	8.7.2025	10.12.2025

1. Section 2 activities supporting programme operations funded and implemented by PRIMA

This section refers to the PS's costs for managing projects resulting from the calls managed by the PRIMA and funded by the PS. These costs must not exceed 6% of the individual financial contribution by each Participating State in Section 2.

For 2025 the total amount of these contributions must not exceed **EUR 2.170.000**.

Section 3 – Activities and actions organised, managed and funded by the PS

PRIMA PS implement and fund an array of national activities that contribute to the objectives of the PRIMA Partnership. The participation of the PS foresees two types of activities:

- Participant States Initiated Activities (PSIAs); PSIAs are funded following national calls with evaluation, selection and granting processes implemented by one or several PS in line with common principles (see Applicable common principles) be included in the Annual Work Programme by PRIMA-IS after obtaining approval from the European Commission.
- “Other Activities” supporting programme operations funded and implemented by PS. They support programme operations and constitute an integral part of the PRIMA Partnership.

14.1 Participating States Initiated Activities (PSIAs)

[Decision \(EU\) 2024/1167](#) provides that PRIMA activities may include activities under the PSs' national programmes, including transnational projects. These activities, included as so-called PSIAs in the PRIMA AWP, will be implemented in compliance with common principles to be agreed upon by the PS and the European Commission, taking into account the principles set out in the [Decision \(EU\) 2024/1167](#), in Part One of Title VIII of the Financial [Regulation No \(EU, Euratom\) 2018/1046](#) and [Regulation \(EU\) No 1290/2013](#), in particular the principles of equal treatment, transparency, independent peer-review evaluation and selection (See [section on common principles](#) of this document).

The PSIAs listed below gather activities under the national programmes of PS. These activities are national calls for research and innovation, training actions and/or support for a joint research project or collaborative research units managed and funded directly by the PS. They are in-kind contributions of the PS to the PRIMA Partnership and constitute an integral part of PRIMA contributing to the alignment of national programmes to PRIMA. The PSIAs listed in this section of the WP 2025 are aligned with the PRIMA objectives according to the assessment of external international experts.

All participants in activities funded by the PRIMA-IS or by Participating States of the PRIMA Partnership 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 Partnership supported by the European Union", as well as with the PRIMA logo.

TABLE 12. PARTICIPATING STATES INITIATED ACTIVITIES IN 2025

#	Code	Activity title	Keyword	Type of action	PS involved
1	ES.2025.1	AEI Annual Action Plan 2025	Research Networks, R+D+I Projects tackling Social Challenges	RIA, IA, Training action Joint research project	ES- AEI
2	ES.2025.2	National R/D continuous open Call	Water management, Agri-food value chain, Farming Systems	IA	ES - CDTI
3	FR-2025 - 1	Research Projects funded by ANR under the Annual National Call for proposals (AAPG) or other specific Calls on PRIMA related issues	Water management, Agri-food value chain, Farming Systems	RIA	FR - ANR
4	IL.2025.1	German-Israeli Water Technology Cooperation Bilateral R&D programme	Water management	RIA, IA	IL, DE
5	MT.2025.1	PRIMA Participating States Calls for proposals supporting PRIMA	Water management, Agri-food value chain, Farming Systems	RIA, IA	MT, all PS
6	MT.2025.2	PRIMA Participating States Calls for Proposals supporting PRIMA	Water management, Agri-food value chain, Farming Systems	Mobility, Joint Research Project	MT
7	MT.2025.3	PRIMA Networking Support Scheme (NET2PRIMA)	PRIMA Networking Support Scheme (NET2PRIMA)		MT
8	TR.2025.1	PRIMA Participating States Calls for proposals supporting PRIMA	Water management, Agri-food value chain, Farming Systems	RIA, IA, Scholarship Mobility, Joint Research Project	TR, all PS

Budget overview 2025

- Participating States financial contributions (Section 2)

TABLE 13. INDICATIVE PRIMA PS PLANNED FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR SECTION 2 IN ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2025 IN EUR*

PRIMA Participating State	Funding Agency		Financial annual commitment per National Funding Agency	Financial annual commitment per PS
	Acronym	Full name	(EUR)	(EUR)
Algeria	DGRST	Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research	2,000,000	2,000,000
Bulgaria	BNSF	Bulgarian National Science Fund	500,000	500,000
Croatia	MSE	Ministry of Science and Education	500,000	500,000
Cyprus	RIF	Research and Innovation Foundation	400,000	400,000
Egypt	ASRT	Academy of Scientific Research & Technology	1,500,000	
Egypt	STDF	Science, Technology and Innovation Funding	2,150,000	3,650,000
France	ANR	Agence Nationale de la Recherche	4,000,000	4,000,000
Germany	BMBF	German Ministry for Education and Research	2,850,000	2,850,000
Greece	GSRI	General Secretariat for Research and Innovation - Ministry of Development	2,000,000	2,000,000
Israel	MOST	Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology Office	300,000	
Israel	IIA	Israel Innovation Authority	150,000	450,000
Italy	MUR	Ministry of University and Research	7,000,000	7,000,000
Jordan	HCST	The Higher Council for Science and Technology	330,000	
Jordan	SRSF	The Scientific Research and Innovation Support Fund	125,000	455,000
Lebanon	CNRS-L	National Council for Scientific Research of Lebanon	100,000	100,000
Luxembourg	FNR	Luxembourg National Research Fund	400,000	400,000
Malta	XM	Xjenza Malta	500,000	500,000
Morocco	MESRSFC	Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur, de la Recherche Scientifique et de la Formation des Cadres	2,000,000	2,000,000
Portugal	FCT	Fundacao para a Ciencia e a Tecnologia	1,200,000	1,200,000
Slovenia	ARIS	Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency	170,000	170,000
Spain	AEI	Agencia Estatal de Investigación	3,500,000	
Spain	CDTI	Centro para el Desarrollo Tecnológico y la Innovación, Spanish Funding Agency	2,000,000	5,500,000
Tunisia	MESRS	Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research/Tunisia	1,500,000	1,500,000
Türkiye	TUBITAK	The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye	1,000,000	1,000,000
Total amount committed				36,175,000

* Wherever relevant, local currencies have been converted into EUR using official exchange rates.

TABLE 14. PARTICIPATING STATES FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION FOR SECTION 3 ACTIVITIES

#	Code	PS involved	PS indicative commitment (in EUR)
1	ES.2025.1	SPAIN - AEI	14 500 000
2	ES.2025.2	SPAIN - CDTI	30 000 000
3	FR.2025.1	FRANCE - ANR	1 500 000
4	IL2025.1	IL - DE	250 000
5	MT.2025.1	MT, all PS	300 000
6	MT.2025.2	MT	25 000
7	MT.2025.3	MT	10 000
8	TR.2025.1	TR, all PS	75 000
TOTAL			46 660 000

- EU financial contribution (Section 1)
- Administrative budget

The total administrative costs of the PRIMA-IS for implementing the PRIMA Partnership in 2025 amount to **EUR 1,750,000**. These costs encompass personnel expenses, meetings, supplies, and essential service contracts required to ensure the effective and efficient functioning of the program. Below is a detailed description of the various components:

1. Personnel Costs: Totalling **EUR 1,395,012**, this category includes salaries and social costs for the program's core personnel. This allocation covers remuneration for key roles such as the Director, Deputy Director, Project Coordinator, Project Officers, Legal Officer, Accounting and Finance staff, Monitoring Officer, IT Officer, and Administrative Assistants. The costs include both base salaries and mandatory employer social contributions in line with regulatory requirements.
2. Meetings and Missions: With a total allocation of **EUR 138,000**, this category covers essential program-related gatherings and staff travel expenses:
 - Meetings of Governance Bodies: EUR 54,000 is dedicated to organizing meetings of the Board of Trustees, Steering Committee, and other key governance and coordination events.
 - Administrative Staff Travel and Accommodation: EUR 84,000 covers travel, accommodation, and related costs incurred by administrative staff attending missions, program-related meetings, and field visits.
3. Consumables and Supplies: Budgeted at **EUR 62,888**, this category addresses essential office and operational needs:
 - Office Consumables and Stationery: EUR 8,200 for general office supplies and consumables.

- Taxes and Insurances: EUR 3,200 for various statutory taxes and insurance provisions.
 - Software Licenses: EUR 14,000 allocated for the purchase and renewal of necessary software licenses.
 - Bank Charges: EUR 7,200 to cover fees for banking and financial transactions.
 - Repairs and Maintenance: EUR 1,800 for minor repairs and maintenance of office equipment and infrastructure.
 - Depreciation: EUR 28,488 for depreciation costs associated with office equipment and assets.
4. Service Contracts: Totalling **EUR 154,100**, this segment includes critical outsourced services necessary for PRIMA's operations:
- Foundation Audit Fees: EUR 11,000 allocated for audits required for annual reporting to the European Commission and compliance with financial regulations.
 - Payroll, Labour, and Fiscal Services: EUR 15,000 for outsourced payroll management, labour, and fiscal advisory services.
 - Other Professional Services: EUR 3,100 for specialized services as needed.
 - Maintenance and Back-Office Software Support: EUR 40,000 allocated to ensure the maintenance and operational efficiency of essential software systems and platforms.
 - Communication Budget and Graphic Layout: EUR 85,000 designated for communication activities, including the design, graphic layout, and dissemination of program-related materials to enhance visibility and stakeholder engagement.

TABLE 15. ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

Description	Amount (in EUR)
Personnel	1 395 012
- Salaries and social costs for specified personnel	1 395 012
Meetings and missions	138 000
- Meetings of the Board of Trustees, Steering Committee, etc.	54 000
- Administrative Staff travel and accommodation costs	84 000
Consumables and supplies	62,888
- Office consumables & stationery	8 200
- Taxes and insurances	3 200
- Software licenses	14 000
- Bank charges	7 200
- Repairs and maintenance	1 800
- Depreciation	28 488
Service contracts	154 100
- Foundation audit fees (reporting to the EC and annual accounts)	11 000
- Payroll, Labour and Fiscal services	15 000
- Other professional services	3 100
- Maintenance and back-office support for software	40 000
- Communication budget and graphic layout	85 000
Total Administrative Costs	1 750 000

- **Operational budget**

TABLE 16. OVERVIEW OF PLANNED EU CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS PRIMA CALLS FOR PROPOSALS IN 2025 AND ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME

	EU-funded PRIMA activities	Indicative EU contribution (in €)
Research & Innovation Actions	Section 1 Call 1	10.900.000
	Section 1 Call 2	10.800.000

	Section 1 Call 3	10.800.000
Other Activities	Activities for supporting the implementation of the programme including Prizes, Monitoring and evaluation, PRIMA Day	400.000
Administrative costs of the PRIMA-IS	Personnel, Missions, Consumables and supplies,	1.750.000
	Service contracts	
	Total planned contributions in 2025	34.650.000

- Overview budget (EU and PS financial contributions)

TABLE 17. OVERVIEW OF PLANNED COMMITMENTS TO ACTIVITIES OF THE PRIMA PARTNERSHIP 2025 BY THE EU AND PS

Activities	Contributions (in €)		
	EU	PS	Grand Total
EU funded Transnational Calls for Proposals (Section 1)	32,500,000		32,500,000
Participating States Transnational Call for Proposals, managed by PRIMA-IS (Section 2)		36,175,000	
Subtotal transnational calls	32,500,000	36,175,000	68,675,000
Evaluation of Projects & Monitoring	340,000		340,000
PRIMA DAY (Workshop EU)	40,000		40,000
Prizes	20,000		20,000
Sub total activities supporting programme operations	400,000		400,000
Participating States funded activities managed by PS to support programme implementation		-	-
PS contributions dedicated to the implementation of proposals resulting from PS funded calls		2,170,500	2,170,500
Participating States Initiated Activities		46,660,000	46,660,000
Sub-Total Implementation	32,900,000	85,005,500	117,905,500
EU-funded administrative costs of PRIMA-IS	1,750,000		1,700,000
Total Budget	34,650,000	85,005,500	119,655,500

TABLE 18. DETAILED OVERVIEW OF PLANNED COMMITMENTS TO ACTIVITIES OF THE PRIMA PARTNERSHIP IN 2025

Planned commitments (in €)						
	Grants	PRIMA-IS administrative costs	PS management costs	Activities supporting programme operations	PSIAs	Total in 2025
	Financial contributions	Financial contributions	In-kind contributions	Financial Contributions	Financial contributions	
European Union (EU)						
EU Horizon Europe (operational funds)	32,500,000			400,000		32,900,000
EU Horizon 2020 (administrative funds)		1,750,000				1,750,000
Sub-Total EU	32,500,000	1,750,000	-	400,000		34,650,000
Participating States (PS)						
Algeria	2,000,000		120,000			2,120,000
Bulgaria	500,000		30,000			530,000
Croatia	500,000		30,000			530,000
Cyprus	400,000		24,000			424,000
Egypt	3,650,000		219,000			3,869,000
France	4,000,000		240,000		1,500,000	5,740,000
Germany	2,850,000		171,000			3,021,000
Greece	2,000,000		120,000			2,120,000
Israel	450,000		27,000		250,000	727,000
Italy	7,000,000		420,000			7,420,000
Jordan	455,000		27,300			482,300
Lebanon	100,000		6,000			106,000
Luxembourg	400,000		24,000			424,000
Malta	500,000		30,000		335,000	865,000
Morocco	2,000,000		120,000			2,120,000
Portugal	1,200,000		72,000			1,272,000
Slovenia	170,000		10,200			180,200

Spain	5,500,000		330,000		44,500,000	50,330,000
Tunisia	1,500,000		90,000			1,590,000
Türkiye	1,000,000		60,000		75,000	1,135,000
Sub-Total PSs	36,175,000	-	2,170,500	-	46,660,000	85,005,500
Sub-Total EU and PSs	68,675,000	1,750,000	2,170,500	400,000	46,660,000	119,655,500
Grand Total	68,675,000	1,700,000	2,170,500	400,000	46,660,000	119,655,500

PRIMA-Work Programme 2025-General Annexes

- Section 1 – Transnational calls and prizes organised and funded by the PRIMA-IS (European Union contribution)
- A — Admissibility

For all actions under Work Programme 2025 proposals must comply with the admissibility requirements set out in this sub-section unless supplemented or modified in the call conditions. Applications must be submitted before the **call deadline**. Applications must be **complete** and contain all parts and mandatory Annexes and supporting documents.

- **Part I:** Administrative data
- **Part II.** Technical annex

Main administrative data comprising Part I and the technical annex (Part II) should be uploaded to the PRIMA Electronic Submission System (ESS). Please follow the instructions in the [ESS Handbook](#). The submission link will be announced on the PRIMA website in the corresponding [call section](#) and will be open one month before the deadline for submission. The structure and presentation of Part II must align with the instructions provided in the PRIMA Call Templates available for download from the PRIMA website under the relevant [call section](#).

Paper submissions are NOT possible. Applications must be **readable** accessible and **printable**. Applications must include **a plan for the exploitation and dissemination of results including communication activities**⁴⁵ unless provided otherwise in the specific call conditions. If the expected exploitation of the results entails developing creating manufacturing and marketing a product or process or in creating and providing a service, the plan must include a strategy for such exploitation.

Page limits

In addition to the above admissibility conditions page limits will apply to parts of applications. The ESS will automatically reject the proposal if it exceeds the page limits. Unless provided otherwise in the specific call conditions the **limit for a full application is 45 pages**.

⁴⁵ Exploitation and Dissemination obligations under article 39 of the REGULATION (EU) 2021/695 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013

- **B — Eligibility**

Entities eligible to participate ^{46 47, 48, 49}

Any legal entity, regardless of its place of establishment including legal entities from non-associated third countries or international organizations (including international European research organizations⁵⁰) is eligible to participate (whether it is eligible for funding or not) provided that the conditions laid down in the Horizon Europe Regulation⁵¹ and any derogations to these as specified in the amending Decision (EU) 2024/1167 of the European Parliament and Council as regards the continuation of the Union's participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) under Horizon Europe have been met along with any other conditions laid down in the specific call topic.

⁴⁶ EU restrictive measures — Entities subject to EU restrictive measures under the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) (Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the EU Sanctions Map.), are not eligible to participate in any capacity, including as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any). Special rules also apply to entities covered by Commission Guidelines No 2013/C 205/052

⁴⁷ In line with the Commission Recommendation (EU) 2019/534 on the Cybersecurity of 5G Networks (2019) and the EU Toolbox on 5G Cybersecurity (2020), which outline measures to mitigate cyber threats and security risks, particularly concerning 5G and post-5G technologies, entities classified as high-risk suppliers, and their affiliates are ineligible to participate in PRIMA calls. These restrictions aim to prevent technology transfer, supply chain dependencies, and cybersecurity vulnerabilities in European networks. The implementation of these restrictions follows the EU 5G Cybersecurity Toolbox and national risk assessments. Entities assessed as “high-risk suppliers”, are currently set out in the NIS Cooperation Group, Second report on Member States’ progress in implementing the EU Toolbox on 5G Cybersecurity, June 2023 and the related Communication from the Commission: Implementation of the 5G cybersecurity Toolbox, Brussels, 15.6.2023 C(2023) 4049 final.

⁴⁸ Legal entities established in Russia, Belarus, or in non-government-controlled territories of Ukraine — Given the illegal invasion of Ukraine by Russia and the involvement of Belarus, there is currently no appropriate context allowing the implementation of the actions foreseen in this programme with legal entities established in Russia, Belarus, or in non-government-controlled territories of Ukraine. Therefore, even where such entities are not subject to EU restrictive measures, such legal entities are not eligible to participate in any capacity. This includes participation as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any). Exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis for justified reasons.

⁴³ Restrictions on participation in Innovation Actions — Legal entities established in China are not eligible to participate in Horizon Europe Innovation Actions in any capacity. This includes participation as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any). Exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis for justified reasons. The above eligibility criteria may be reviewed in the future in accordance with policy developments. This exclusion is justified under Article 22(6) of the Horizon Europe Regulation given the substantive concerns regarding the use of intellectual property generated under this publicly funded programme, and the ongoing discussions

⁵⁰ Measures for the protection of the Union budget against breaches of the principles of the rule of law in Hungary — Following the Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506, as of 16 December 2022, no legal commitments can be entered into with Hungarian public interest trusts established under the Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity they maintain. Affected entities may continue to apply to calls for proposals. However, as long as the Council measures are not lifted, such entities are not eligible to participate in any funded role (beneficiaries, affiliated entities, subcontractors, recipients of financial support to third parties, etc). In case of multi-beneficiary grant calls, applicants will be invited to remove or replace that entity and/or to change its status into associated partner. Tasks and budget may be redistributed accordingly.

⁵¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1).

A 'legal entity' means any natural or legal person created and recognised as such under national law EU law or international law which has legal personality, and which may act in its own name exercise rights and be subject to obligations or an entity without legal personality⁵².

Beneficiaries and affiliated entities should register in the EC [Participant Register](#) before submitting their full proposal application to get a participant identification code (PIC). While having a PIC isn't mandatory for PRIMA for submitting an application, it's strongly recommended to facilitate the application process and subsequent checks.

By way of derogation from [Article 10\(1\) and \(2\) of Regulation \(EU\) No 1290/2013](#) and [Article 23\(1\) and \(2\) of Regulation \(EU\) 2021/695](#), the Legal entities established in the following countries and territories are eligible to receive funding through PRIMA grants:

a) The PRIMA Participating States⁵³

- The following EU Member States (MS): Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Slovenia, including the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT)⁵⁴ linked to these Member States.
- The following third countries associated with Horizon Europe (AC): Israel⁵⁵, Tunisia, and Türkiye.
- The following Third Countries not Associated with Horizon Europe (TC): Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Morocco. These countries will continue to be considered PRIMA Participating States only upon the conclusion of an agreement, in the form of an exchange of letter with the Union setting new terms for their continued participation in PRIMA to update the scientific and technological cooperation international agreements⁵⁶.
- These Associated Countries (AC) and Third Countries (TC) mentioned above are the Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC).

In addition, the following entities are eligible to receive funding through PRIMA grants: Legal entities in third countries applying for PRIMA funding will be eligible if the required international agreements have come into legal effect by the time the relevant Grant Agreement is signed. In cases where these agreements are not in effect by the adoption of this Work Programme, please refer to the [Section on Additional Participating States in PRIMA – Practical Aspects](#). For the most up-to-date information on PRIMA Participating States, applicants should consult the [PRIMA webpage](#).

b) European Research and Innovation Organisations (ERIOs)

Any European Research and Innovation Organisations (ERIOs), as defined in [Article 22 of the Horizon Europe Regulation \(EU\) 2021/695](#), are eligible for funding, regardless of where they are established.

c) International European Interest Organisations

⁵² As referred to in point (c) of Article 197 (2) of the EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

⁵³ New PS may join PRIMA and the regularly updated list of PS will be provided by PRIMA-IS (at the following link to be inserted to PRIMA webpage).

⁵⁴ 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.

⁵⁵ Commission guidelines No 2013/C 205/05 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 (OJEU C 205 of 19.07.2013, pp. 9-11).

⁵⁶ The status of these countries regarding their participation with PRIMA will be provided in the PRIMA website

d) Any **international European interest organisation**⁵⁷, as defined in [Article 2\(1\), point \(12\), of Regulation \(EU\) No 1290/2013](#), or **Entities outside Participating States** is eligible for funding for activities under Article 3(1), point (a), of Decision (EU) 2024/1167. The place of establishment for these organisations does not affect their eligibility for funding.

In the case of a participating international organisation or of a participating legal entity established in a country that is not a Participating State, neither of which is eligible for funding by PRIMA-IS may be granted provided that at least one of the following conditions is fulfilled:

(a) participation of the international organisation or legal entity concerned is deemed to be essential by PRIMA-IS for implementing the action. An applicant from such an organization may be eligible for funding if their involvement provides distinct benefits to the consortium, including but not limited to access to unique know-how or expertise; specialized research infrastructures; specific geographical environments relevant to the research; involvement of key partners in emerging markets; access to exclusive data or resources.

These criteria ensure that the participation of international entities contributes substantial added value to the project, facilitating the achievement of PRIMA's strategic objectives.

(b) participation of such entities is foreseen in the annual work programme and the possibility of such funding is provided for under a bilateral scientific and technological agreement or under any other arrangement that ensures the protection of the financial interests of the Union, which is concluded between the Union and the international organisation or, for an entity established in a country that is not a Participating State, the country in which that legal entity is established.

Participants not eligible for funding

Participants from countries not listed in points (a), (b), (c), or (d) may still participate in PRIMA projects but they shall not be eligible for funding. Such entities must include a letter in their proposal from their organisation, signed by a legal representative, confirming that sufficient funds are available to support their role in the project, covering specific tasks, meeting attendance, and related activities. For further details, please refer to [Decision \(EU\) 2024/1167](#).

Standard eligibility conditions

All proposals must comply with the eligibility conditions set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe (OJ L 170 12.5.2021 p. 1) and subject to any derogations to these as specified in amending Decision (EU) 2024/1167 as regards the continuation of the Union's participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) under Horizon Europe. **Furthermore, proposals must comply with the eligibility conditions set out in this subsection unless supplemented or modified in the call conditions.**

A proposal will only be considered eligible if:

- a) Proposals content corresponds wholly or in part to the scope and objectives of the topic to which it is submitted.
- b) It complies with the eligibility conditions for participation set out in Table 19, depending on the type of action.

⁵⁷ International European interest organisation' means an international organisation, (IO) the majority of whose members are Member States or associated countries, and whose principal objective is to promote scientific and technological cooperation in Europe

TABLE 19. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION FOR PRIMA ACTIONS SECTION 1

Type of Action	Eligibility conditions for participation ^{58,59}
Innovation Action	At least three legal entities established in three different countries considered as the Participating States⁶⁰. Each of the three must be established in a different country considered to be PRIMA PS^{61 62}. Each of the three must be established in a different country considered to be PRIMA PS by the time the relevant Grant Agreement is signed, out of which: - at least one must be established in an EU Member State or a third country associated to Horizon Europe and not being an MPC and - at least one must be established in a third country bordering the Mediterranean Sea (MPC) All three legal entities must be independent of each other.

Eligible activities

The following activities are generally eligible for grants under Horizon Europe:

Innovation actions (IA): Activities that aim directly to produce plans and arrangements or designs for new altered or improved products processes or services. These activities may include prototyping testing demonstrating piloting large-scale product validation and market replication. The funding rate for IAs depends on the legal status of the organization. The rate is 70 percent for profit-making legal entities and 100 percent for non-profit legal entities. “Non-profit” applies to legal entities which by their legal form are non-profitmaking or which have a legal or statutory obligation not to distribute profits.

Funding Rate Innovation action: 70% (except for non-profit legal entities where a rate of up to 100% applies)

Other types of actions and forms of funding

In addition to the eligible activities described above the following types of action and forms of funding are used.

⁵⁸ The eligibility criteria formulated in Commission notice Nr. 2013/C 205/05 (OJEU C 205 of 19.07.2013, pp.9-11) apply for all actions under this Work Programme including for third parties that receive financial support under the action (in accordance with Articles 204 and 205 of the Financial Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1046), notably programme co-fund actions.

⁵⁹ Third countries that are not yet participants in PRIMA at the time of proposal submission due to the absence of an effective international agreement with the European Union may act as coordinators of a PRIMA proposal only if the relevant international agreement is duly signed and has entered into force by the time of the conclusion of the grant agreement.

⁶⁰ The latest information on the PRIMA PS can be found on PRIMA webpage: <http://prima-med.org/>.

⁶¹ The status of PRIMA PS is to the extent of their participation in activities of PRIMA funded under Horizon Europe.

⁶² PS are considered the following EU Member States (MS): Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Slovenia, including the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) linked to these Member States; the following third countries associated with Horizon Europe (AC): Israel, Tunisia, and Türkiye; the following Third Countries not Associated with Horizon Europe (TC): Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Morocco under the condition that these countries update their scientific and technological agreements with EU setting the conditions of their participation in PRIMA

Prizes - Recognition prizes: a prize to reward past achievements and outstanding work after it has been performed. Recognition prizes must help to raise public awareness of EU policies create role models and support best practice exchange.

- **Prize amounts:** The amount of the prize is specified in the contest. It is not linked to the costs incurred by the winner.
- **Rules of Contest (RoC) for prizes:** The rules of the contest of a specific prize describe the eligibility and award criteria the evaluation procedure the indicative timetable and the reward. Rules of Contest for prizes are published on the PRIMA website: <https://prima-med.org/>

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 an operational environment (competitive manufacturing in the case of key enabling technologies; or in space)

Ethics

According to Article 19 of [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/695](#) establishing Horizon Europe legal entities participating in an action shall provide an ethics self-assessment identifying and detailing all the foreseeable ethics issues related to the objective implementation and likely impact of the activities to be funded including a confirmation of compliance (...) and a description of how it will be ensured.

Applicants must include at the proposal stage an ethics self-assessment of the potential risks of misuse of the research project that could pose a threat to human beings animals and the environment.

For preparing the ethics self-assessment use the official guide [“How to complete your ethics Self-Assessment”](#). The ethics assessment follows the scientific evaluation and is performed only in case that a proposal has been accepted for funding.

Gender equality plans and gender mainstreaming

Beneficiaries must take all measures to promote equal opportunities between men and women in implementing the action and where applicable in line with their gender equality plan. They must aim to achieve to the extent possible a gender balance at all levels of personnel assigned to the action including at supervisory and managerial level.

In addition to be eligible legal entities from Member States and Associated Countries that are public bodies research organizations or higher education establishments (including private research organizations and higher education establishments) must have a gender equality plan covering the following minimum process-related requirements:

- publication: a formal document published on the institution's website and signed by the top management;
- dedicated resources: commitment of resources and expertise in gender equality to implement the plan;
- data collection and monitoring: sex/gender disaggregated data on personnel (and students for the establishments concerned) and annual reporting based on indicators;
- training: awareness raising/training on gender equality and unconscious gender biases for staff and decision-makers.

Content-wise, it is recommended that the gender equality plan addresses the following areas using concrete measures and targets:

- work-life balance and organizational culture;
- gender balance in leadership and decision-making;
- gender equality in recruitment and career progression;
- integration of the gender dimension into research and teaching content;
- measures against gender-based violence including sexual harassment.

A self-declaration will be requested at proposal stage.

If all the above-mentioned mandatory requirements are met through another strategic document such as a development plan or an inclusion or diversity strategy it can be considered as an equivalent. This eligibility criterion does not apply to other categories of legal entities such as private for-profit organizations including SMEs non-governmental or civil society organizations.

• C — Financial and operational capacity and exclusion

Financial capacity

Applicants must **have stable and sufficient resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share. Organizations participating in several projects must have sufficient capacity to implement all these projects.

The financial capacity check will be done by PRIMA based on the documents exchanged by email with PRIMA-IS during the grant preparation stage (e.g profit and loss account and balance sheet business plan audit report produced by an approved external auditor certifying the accounts for the last closed financial year etc.). The analysis will be based on neutral financial indicators but will also consider other aspects such as dependency on EU funding and deficit and revenue in previous years.

The check will normally be done for the coordinator if the requested grant amount is equal to or greater than EUR 500 000 except for:

- public bodies (entities established as a public body under national law including local regional or national authorities) or international organizations or body whose participation is guaranteed by the government of an EU country or associated country following the PRIMA MGA;
- and cases where the individual requested grant amount is not more than EUR 60 000 (low- value grant).

If needed it may also be done for the other applicants including affiliated entities. If the financial capacity is structurally guaranteed by another legal entity the financial capacity of that legal entity will be verified.

If the PRIMA-IS considers that the financial capacity is not satisfactory they may require:

- further information;
- an enhanced financial responsibility regime i.e. joint and several responsibilities of affiliated entities and
- pre-financing paid in instalments;

or

- propose no pre-financing;
- request that the applicant concerned is replaced or if needed reject the entire proposal.

Operational capacity

Applicants must have the **know-how qualifications** and **resources** to successfully implement their tasks in the project and contribute their share (including when appropriate sufficient experience in EU/transnational projects of comparable size).

This assessment of operational capacity will be carried out by external experts during the evaluation of the award criterion 'Quality and efficiency of the implementation'. It will be based on the competence and experience of the applicants and their project teams including their operational resources (human technical and other) or the measures proposed to obtain the necessary competence and experience by the time the tasks are implemented.

If evaluating this award criterion leads to a score above the applicable threshold then the applicants are considered to have sufficient operational capacity.

For this assessment applicants will be required to provide the following information in the application form:

- Description of the consortium participants; and
- for each participant:
 - o Identity of researchers involved in the proposal (through the researchers table);
 - o up to five most relevant publications widely used datasets software goods services or any other achievements relevant to the call content;
 - o up to five most relevant previous projects or activities connected to the subject of this proposal; and
 - o description of any significant infrastructure and/or any major items of technical equipment relevant to the proposed work.

Public bodies, Member State organizations, and international organizations are exempt from the operational capacity check.

Neither financial capacity nor operational capacity is subject to evaluation for prizes.

PRIMA-IS will perform check on the operational capacity at the evaluation phase of proposals. Financial capacity check is performed before the grant agreement is signed.

• D — Award criteria

If admissible and eligible the proposals will be evaluated and ranked against the whole set of award criteria²⁴:

TABLE 20 AWARD CRITERIA SECTION 1 CALLS

	Excellence (The following aspects will be taken into account to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the description in the work programme)	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
Innovation actions (IA)	- Clarity and pertinence of the project's objectives and the extent to which the proposed work is ambitious and goes beyond the state of the art. - Soundness of the proposed methodology including the underlying concepts models assumptions inter-disciplinary approaches appropriate consideration of the gender dimension in research and innovation content and the quality of open science practices including sharing and management of research outputs and engagement of citizens civil society and end-users where appropriate.	- Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the work programme and the likely scale and significance of the contributions from the project. - Suitability and quality of the measures to maximize expected outcomes and impacts as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan including communication activities.	- Quality and effectiveness of the work plan assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages and the resources overall. - Capacity and role of each participant and the extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.

Scores and weighting

Evaluation scores will be awarded for the criteria and not for the different aspects listed in the table. 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. To determine the ranking for 'Innovation actions' the score for 'Impact' will be given a weight of 1.5.

Proposals that pass the individual and overall threshold will be considered for funding within the limits of the available call budget. Other proposals will be rejected.

• E — Documents

Submission

All proposals must be submitted **electronically** via the [Electronic Submission System](#) (accessible via the topic page [in the call section](#)). Paper submissions are NOT possible. Proposals must be **complete** and contain all parts and mandatory annexes and supporting documents e.g. plan for the exploitation and dissemination of the results including communication activities etc.

The application form will have two parts:

- **Part I Administrative form** (to be completed partly online and uploaded in PDF format contains administrative information about the applicant organisations (future coordinator and beneficiaries and affiliated entities)
- **Part II Technical Annex** (templates to be downloaded from PRIMA website [call section](#) uploaded as a PDF in the ESS) contains the technical description of the project.
- **The Project's overall budget** in Excel format

Annexes and supporting documents must be uploaded as PDF files (or other formats the system allows).

Proposals should be designed to stay as close as possible to the award criteria (*see Annex D above*). The application form will help to achieve this.

When submitting the proposal, the coordinator must confirm that they have the mandate to act for all applicants. Moreover, they must confirm that the information in the application is correct and complete and that all participants comply with the conditions for receiving EU funding (especially eligibility GEP, financial and operational capacity exclusion etc.).

Before signing the grant agreement each participant must confirm their commitment to the terms and conditions of the grant [by signing an Accession Forms](#), annexed to the Grant agreement (Annex 3). Applicants may be asked later for further documents (for legal entity validation financial capacity check bank account validation etc.).

• F — Procedure

Evaluation procedure and ranking

Calls in Work Programme 2025 are subjected to **a single-stage submission procedure**. Applicants will be requested to submit a full application which will be evaluated against the full award criteria set.

Proposals will be checked for formal requirements (admissibility and eligibility) and then evaluated (for each topic separately) by an **evaluation committee** see Article 49 Horizon Europe

Regulation (EU) 2021/695).⁶³ composed of independent external experts for operational capacity and award criteria. Then they will be ranked according to their quality score.

Ranked list will be drawn up for every indicative budget shown in the call conditions.

Individual Evaluation: Each eligible proposal is evaluated remotely by at least three independent expert evaluators (Article 14 Horizon Europe Regulation (EU) 2021/695) who perform a technical evaluation based on the abovementioned criteria. An Individual Evaluation Report which includes comments and scores for all evaluation criteria is prepared by each evaluator. For proposals that receive very different scores from the evaluators consensus meetings are convened where the three evaluators discuss to reach a consensus on the scores to assign. The evaluation process is described in detail in the [PRIMA website](#).

Panel review: after the remote individual evaluation evaluators meet in a panel to discuss and find agreement on the initial comments and scores attributed to each proposal. They will prepare an Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) for each proposal which shows the outcome of the project proposal evaluation. The panel is also responsible for preparing a consensus ranking list of proposals. Project funding decisions will be taken based on this ranking list. The panel configuration allows evaluators to overview all eligible proposals checking the consistency of comments and marks not just the ones they have evaluated. This enables them to make fair decisions when ranking the proposals.

In case of disagreement or project proposals with the same score the panel will determine the priority order for proposals described in the section below. Special procedures will be set out in the call conditions if they apply.

Priority order for proposals with the same score

For proposals with the same score within a single budget envelope a method to establish the **priority order** will be determined taking into consideration the objectives of the specific topic. In the absence of special arrangements in the specific call conditions the following method will apply:

For each group of proposals with the same score starting with the group achieving the highest score and continuing in descending order:

- 1) Proposals that address aspects of the call that more highly ranked proposals have not otherwise covered will be considered to have the highest priority.
- 2) The proposals identified under 1) if any will themselves be prioritized according to the scores they have been awarded for 'Excellence'. When these scores are equal priority will be based on scores for 'Impact'. In the case of 'Innovation actions' priority will be given to the score for 'Impact' followed by that for 'Excellence'.
- 3) If necessary, any further prioritization will be based on geographical diversity defined as the number of MPCs represented in the proposal not otherwise receiving funds from projects higher up the ranking list (and if equal in number, then by budget).
If a distinction still cannot be made the panel may decide to further prioritise by considering other factors related to the objectives of the call to PRIMA in general. These may include for example enhancing the quality of the project portfolio through synergies between projects or where relevant and feasible involving SMEs. These factors will be documented in the panel report.

⁶³ Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013

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 PRIMA in general. These factors will be documented in the panel report.

The methods described in 1) 2) 3) 4) and 5) will then be applied to the remaining equally ranked proposals in the group.

For prizes the award criteria scoring and weighting will be set out in the Rules of the contest which will be published on the PRIMA website under the Section: [Submit your proposal](#).

An evaluation review committee will provide an opinion on the procedural aspects of the evaluation. The evaluation review committee may recommend a re-evaluation of the proposal to be carried out by evaluators who were not involved in the previous evaluation or a confirmation of the initial evaluation.

Funding decision and communication

At the end of the evaluation all applicants will be informed of the result.

The Proposal coordinators receive an Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) showing the evaluation results for a given proposal. In the ESR the overall score will be provided.

Applicants whose successful proposal will receive a formal communication informing them that the grant preparation phase can start.

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

No commitment to provide funding — Invitation to the grant preparation stage does NOT constitute a formal commitment to funding. Various legal checks are still needed before the grant can be awarded such as legal entity validation, financial capacity, exclusion check etc.

Evaluation review procedure

If the consortium believes that the evaluation procedure was flawed the coordinator can submit a **complaint** (following the deadlines and procedures also set out in the Evaluation Summary Report). (see also [PRIMA website](#)).

Only the procedural aspects of an evaluation may be the subject of a request for an evaluation review. The evaluation of the merits of a proposal will not be the subject of an evaluation review. A request for an evaluation review must relate to a specific proposal and must be submitted within 30 days after the beneficiary accesses the evaluation results. The maximum size limit of the request is 5 000 characters.

Notifications of evaluation results by email receipt which have yet to be opened within 10 days after sending are considered to have been accessed and that deadlines will be counted from the date of opening/access.

Budget flexibility

The budgets set out in the Work Programme 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 the Work Programme for the following budgeted activities:

- Total expenditure for calls (up to 20% of the total spending for each call);

- Repartition of call budgets within a call (up to 20% of the total expenditure of the call);
- Evaluation and monitoring (up to 20% of the total expenditure for all these activities);

The cumulated changes above may vary at most by 20% of the total budget provided for in this Work Programme. Changes within these limits will not be considered substantial within the meaning of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1046.

Indicative timetable for evaluation and for signature of the grant agreement

Unless otherwise stated in the specific call conditions the timing for evaluation and grant preparation is as follows:

- information on the outcome of the evaluation: around 5 months from the deadline for proposal submission
- indicative date for the signing of grant agreements: around 8 months from the deadline of the proposal submission

- Provisions concerning project implementation

Open access to research data

Open science as an approach to the scientific process emphasizes collaborative work and the dissemination of knowledge openly. It aligns with Article 39(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/695⁶⁴.

Open science practices⁶⁵ are considered in the evaluation of proposals under 'Excellence' and under the 'Quality and efficiency of implementation'. These elements are considered in the evaluation of proposals particularly under the criteria of 'Excellence' and 'Quality and efficiency of implementation'. Proposers should be aware of both mandatory and recommended practices and integrate them into their proposals.

Mandatory open science practices

Some open science practices are mandatory for all beneficiaries per the grant agreement. They concern:

- open access to scientific publications under the conditions required by the grant agreement;
- responsible management of research data in line with the FAIR principles of 'Findability' 'Accessibility' 'Interoperability' and 'Reusability' notably through the generalised use of data management plans and open access to research data under the principle 'as open as possible as closed as necessary' under the conditions required by the grant agreement;
- information about the research outputs/tools/instruments needed to validate the conclusions of scientific publications or to validate/re-use research data;
- digital or physical access to the results needed to validate the conclusions of scientific publications unless exceptions apply;

As an exception if providing open access would be against the beneficiaries' legitimate interests the beneficiaries must grant non-exclusive licenses on fair and reasonable conditions to legal entities that need the research output to address the public emergency. These legal entities must commit to rapidly and broadly exploiting the resulting products and services on fair and reasonable conditions. This exception is limited to four years after the end of the action.

⁶⁴ Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 ([//eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R0695](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R0695))

⁶⁵ Open science practices include early and open sharing of research (for example through preregistration, registered reports, pre-prints, or crowd-sourcing); research output management; measures to ensure reproducibility of research outputs; providing open access to research outputs (such as publications, data, software, models, algorithms, and workflows); participation in open peer-review; and involving all relevant knowledge actors including citizens, civil society and end users in the cocreation of R&I agendas and contents (such as citizen science). These practices are explained and relevant resources provided in a separate section further below (open science practices and resources).

Data protection⁶⁶

Research Data Management (RDM)

Responsible management of research data shall be ensured in line with the principles 'findability' 'accessibility' 'interoperability' and 'reusability' (the 'FAIR principles'). Attention shall also be paid to the long-term preservation of data. Proper Research Data Management (RDM) is mandatory for any PRIMA project generating or reusing research data. It is a key part of Horizon Europe's open science requirements. As part of making research data findable accessible interoperable and re-usable (FAIR) RDM can be applied to research outputs other than data (i.e. workflows protocols software samples etc).

Beneficiaries must manage the digital research data generated in the action ('data') responsibly in line with the FAIR principles and should at least do the following:

- Prepare a Data Management Plan (DMP) and keep it updated throughout the course of the project
- Deposit data in a trusted repository and provide open access to it ('as open as possible as closed as necessary')
- Provide information (via the same repository) about any research output or any other tools and instruments needed to re-use or validate the data

As part of making research data findable accessible interoperable and re-usable (FAIR) a DMP should include information on:

- the handling of research data during & after the end of the project
- what data will be collected processed and/or generated
- which methodology & standards will be applied
- whether data will be shared/made open access and
- how data will be curated & preserved (including after the end of the project).

Confidentiality and security (EU classified information)

Actions carried out under the Programme shall comply with the applicable security rules and in particular rules on the protection of classified information against unauthorised disclosure including compliance with any relevant Union and national law.

Ethics (research integrity)

Actions carried out under the Programme shall comply with ethical principles and relevant Union national and international law including the Charter and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and its Supplementary Protocols.

Particular attention shall be paid to the principle of proportionality to the right to privacy the right to the protection of personal data the right to the physical and mental integrity of a person the right to non-discrimination and to the need to ensure protection of the environment and high levels of human health protection.

Legal entities participating in an action shall provide:

⁶⁶ PRIMA ensures compliance with EU data protection regulations, aligning with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) – Regulation (EU) 2016/679, which governs the lawful processing of personal data, ensuring privacy, security, and fundamental rights protection in research activities. Additionally, PRIMA follows the principles outlined in Regulation (EU) 2021/695 (Horizon Europe Framework Programme) regarding open science, research data management, and ethical data handling.

- a) an ethics self-assessment identifying and detailing all the foreseeable ethics issues related to the objective implementation and likely impact of the activities to be funded including a confirmation of compliance with paragraph 1 and a description of how it will be ensured;
- b) a confirmation that the activities will comply with the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity published by All European Academies and that no activities excluded from funding will be conducted;
- c) for activities carried out outside the Union a confirmation that the same activities would have been allowed in a Member State; and
- d) for activities making use of human embryonic stem cells as appropriate details of licensing and control measures that shall be taken by the competent authorities of the Member States concerned as well as details of the ethics approvals that shall be obtained before the activities concerned start.

Proposals shall be systematically screened to identify actions which raise complex or serious ethics issues and submit them to an ethics assessment. The ethics assessment shall be carried out by the PRIMA-IS. Ethics screenings and assessments shall be carried out with the support of ethics experts. PRIMA shall ensure the transparency of the ethics procedures without prejudice to the confidentiality of the content of those procedures.

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

Beneficiaries shall own the results they generate. They shall ensure that any rights of their employees or any other parties in relation to the results can be exercised in a manner compatible with the beneficiaries' obligations in the grant agreement.

Two or more beneficiaries shall own results jointly where:

- (a) they have jointly generated them; and
- (b) it is not possible to: (i) establish the respective contribution of each beneficiary; or (ii) separate them when applying for obtaining or maintaining their protection.

The joint owners shall agree in writing on the allocation and terms of exercise of their joint ownership. Unless otherwise agreed in the consortium agreement or in the joint ownership agreement each joint owner may grant non-exclusive licences to third parties to exploit the jointly owned results (without any right to sub-license) if the other joint owners are given advance notice and fair and reasonable compensation. Beneficiaries which have received Union funding shall adequately protect their results if protection is possible and justified considering all relevant considerations including the prospects for commercial exploitation and any other legitimate interests. When deciding on protection beneficiaries shall also consider the legitimate interests of the other beneficiaries in the action.

- Section 2 – Transnational calls organised by PRIMA-IS and funded by the Participating States

- A — Admissibility

For all actions under Work Programme 2025 proposals must comply with the admissibility requirements set out in this sub-section unless supplemented or modified in the call conditions. Applications must be submitted before the **call deadline**. Applications must be **complete** and contain all parts and mandatory Annexes and supporting documents.

- **Part I: Administrative data**
- **Part II. Technical annex**

Main administrative data comprising Part I and the technical annex (Part II) should be uploaded to the PRIMA Electronic Submission System (ESS). Follow instructions in the [ESS Handbook](#). The submission link will be announced on the PRIMA website in the corresponding [call section](#), and will be open one month before the deadline for submission. The structure and presentation of the Part II must align with the instructions provided in the PRIMA Call Templates available for download from the PRIMA website under the relevant [call section](#). Paper submissions are NOT possible.

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

- (a) 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;
- (b) 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;
- (c) A list of up to five relevant previous projects or activities connected to the subject of this proposal;
- (d) A description of any significant infrastructure and/or any major items of technical equipment relevant to the proposed work;
- (e) A description of any third parties not represented as project partners but who will nonetheless contribute towards the work (e.g. providing facilities and computing resources).

Applications must be **readable accessible** and **printable**. Applications must include **a plan for the exploitation and dissemination of results including communication activities**⁶⁷. If the expected exploitation of the results entails developing creating manufacturing and marketing a product or process or in creating and providing a service, the plan must include a strategy for such exploitation.

Page limits

In addition to the above admissibility conditions page limits will apply to parts of applications. The Electronic Submission System will automatically reject the proposal if it exceeds the page limits. Unless provided otherwise in the specific call conditions **the limit for a full application is 45 pages**.

⁶⁷ Exploitation and Dissemination obligations under article 39 of the REGULATION (EU) 2021/695 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013

- **B — Eligibility**

Entities eligible for funding^{68,69, 70, 71}

Any legal entity regardless of its place of establishment including legal entities from non-associated third countries or international organizations (including international European research organizations⁷²) is eligible to participate (whether it is eligible for funding or not) provided that the conditions laid down in the Horizon Europe Regulation⁷³ and any derogations to these as specified in the amending Decision (EU) 2024/1167 of the European Parliament and Council as regards the continuation of the Union's participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) under Horizon Europe have been met along with any other conditions laid down in the specific call topic.

⁶⁸ EU restrictive measures — Entities subject to EU restrictive measures under the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) (Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the EU Sanctions Map.), are not eligible to participate in any capacity, including as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any). Special rules also apply to entities covered by Commission Guidelines No 2013/C 205/052

⁶⁹ In line with the Commission Recommendation (EU) 2019/534 on the Cybersecurity of 5G Networks (2019) and the EU Toolbox on 5G Cybersecurity (2020), which outline measures to mitigate cyber threats and security risks, particularly concerning 5G and post-5G technologies, entities classified as high-risk suppliers, and their affiliates are ineligible to participate in PRIMA calls. These restrictions aim to prevent technology transfer, supply chain dependencies, and cybersecurity vulnerabilities in European networks. The implementation of these restrictions follows the EU 5G Cybersecurity Toolbox and national risk assessments. Entities assessed as “high-risk suppliers”, are currently set out in the NIS Cooperation Group, Second report on Member States’ progress in implementing the EU Toolbox on 5G Cybersecurity, June 2023 and the related Communication from the Commission: Implementation of the 5G cybersecurity Toolbox, Brussels, 15.6.2023 C(2023) 4049 final.

⁷⁰ Legal entities established in Russia, Belarus, or in non-government-controlled territories of Ukraine — Given the illegal invasion of Ukraine by Russia and the involvement of Belarus, there is currently no appropriate context allowing the implementation of the actions foreseen in this programme with legal entities established in Russia, Belarus, or in non-government-controlled territories of Ukraine. Therefore, even where such entities are not subject to EU restrictive measures, such legal entities are not eligible to participate in any capacity. This includes participation as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any). Exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis for justified reasons.

⁷¹ Restrictions on participation in Innovation Actions — Legal entities established in China are not eligible to participate in Horizon Europe Innovation Actions in any capacity. This includes participation as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any). Exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis for justified reasons. The above eligibility criteria may be reviewed in the future in accordance with policy developments. This exclusion is justified under Article 22(6) of the Horizon Europe Regulation given the substantive concerns regarding the use of intellectual property generated under this publicly funded programme, and the ongoing discussions

⁷² Measures for the protection of the Union budget against breaches of the principles of the rule of law in Hungary — Following the Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506, as of 16 December 2022, no legal commitments can be entered into with Hungarian public interest trusts established under the Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity they maintain. Affected entities may continue to apply to calls for proposals. However, as long as the Council measures are not lifted, such entities are not eligible to participate in any funded role (beneficiaries, affiliated entities, subcontractors, recipients of financial support to third parties, etc). In case of multi-beneficiary grant calls, applicants will be invited to remove or replace that entity and/or to change its status into associated partner. Tasks and budget may be redistributed accordingly.

⁷³ Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1).

A 'legal entity' means any natural or legal person created and recognized as such under national law EU law or international law which has legal personality and which may act in its own name exercise rights and be subject to obligations or an entity without legal personality⁷⁴.

While having a PIC isn't mandatory for PRIMA for submitting an application, it's strongly recommended to facilitate the application process and subsequent checks.

By way of derogation from [Article 10\(1\) and \(2\) of Regulation \(EU\) No 1290/2013](#) and [Article 23\(1\) and \(2\) of Regulation \(EU\) 2021/695](#), the Legal entities established in the following countries and territories are eligible to receive funding through PRIMA grants:

a) The PRIMA Participating States⁷⁵

- The following EU Member States (MS): Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Slovenia, including the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT)⁷⁶ linked to these Member States.
- The following third countries associated with Horizon Europe (AC): Israel⁷⁷, Tunisia, and Türkiye.
- The following Third Countries not Associated with Horizon Europe (TC): Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Morocco. These countries will continue to be considered PRIMA Participating States only upon the conclusion of an agreement, in the form of an exchange of letter with the Union setting new terms for their continued participation in PRIMA to update the scientific and technological cooperation international agreements⁷⁸.
- These Associated Countries (AC) and Third Countries (TC) mentioned above are the Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC).

In addition, the following entities are eligible to receive funding through PRIMA grants: Legal entities in third countries applying for PRIMA funding will be eligible if the required international agreements have come into legal effect by the time the relevant Grant Agreement is signed. In cases where these agreements are not in effect by the adoption of this Work Programme, please refer to the [Section on Additional Participating States in PRIMA – Practical Aspects](#).

For the most up-to-date information on PRIMA Participating States, applicants should consult the [PRIMA webpage](#).

Participants from countries not listed above shall not be funded by PRIMA.

All participants with their funding have to attach to their proposal a letter from their organization (signed by a legal representative of the structure) attesting that the funds to cover their participation in the projects (task(s), participation in meetings...) will be available.

The information provided in this section is without prejudice to the national funding rules of PS, which may also envisage eligibility for funding for specific entities not established in these PS. The national funding rules of a PS will determine whether a particular entity would be eligible for

⁷⁴ As referred to in point (c) of Article 197 (2) of the EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

⁷⁵ New PS may join PRIMA and the regularly updated list of PS will be provided by PRIMA-IS (at the following link to be inserted to PRIMA webpage).

⁷⁶ 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.

⁷⁷ Commission guidelines No 2013/C 205/05 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 (OJEU C 205 of 19.07.2013, pp. 9-11).

⁷⁸ The status of these countries regarding their participation with PRIMA will be provided in the PRIMA website

funding. After the eligibility check is done by PRIMA-IS, a second eligibility check will be performed by the national funding bodies to verify eligibility for funding⁷⁹.

In this context, proposals that are considered eligible for participation by PRIMA-IS (at the consortium level) will enter the evaluation process. However, should the National Funding Bodies deem one consortium partner not eligible for funding, PRIMA-IS may require additional information from the consortium, or the partner concerned, such as an attestation that the funds to cover the participation in the project will be available.

Applicants should refer to the national regulations for eligibility for funding and contact their national funding bodies (NCP)⁸⁰.

Standard eligibility conditions

All proposals must comply with the eligibility conditions set out in the Rules for Participation of Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe (OJ L 170 12.5.2021 p. 1) as well as any derogations specified in the Decision (EU) 2024/1167 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 amending Decision (EU) 2017/1324 as regards the continuation of the Union’s participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) under Horizon Europe. Furthermore, proposals must comply with the eligibility conditions set out in this sub-section unless supplemented or modified in the call conditions.

A proposal will only be considered eligible if:

- (a) the coordinator of the proposal is a legal entity established in a PRIMA PS⁸¹
- (b) its content corresponds wholly or in part to the scope and objectives of the topic to which it is submitted
- (c) It complies with the eligibility conditions for participation set out in the Table below depending on the type of action:

TABLE 21. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION FOR PRIMA ACTIONS SECTION 2

Type of Action	Eligibility conditions for participation ⁸²
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⁷⁹ The national regulations mention the eligible structures for funding (for example, some funding bodies can fund private entities and other cannot) and a list of criteria to check for their eligibility. National regulations also provide a comprehensive list of eligible costs (for example some funding bodies can support mobility or sub-contracting and other cannot). Therefore, before applying to the call of the Section 2, applicants must verify their own national eligibility for funding by reading carefully the national regulations and by contacting the national contact point appointed for this task.

⁸⁰ Find the NCP contacts at the following link :<https://prima-med.org/ncps-contacts/>

⁸¹ This measure is intended to safeguard the financial interests of the Union. .

⁸² The eligibility criteria formulated in Commission notice Nr. 2013/C 205/05 (OJEU C 205 of 19.07.2013, pp.9-11) apply for all actions under this Work Programme including for third parties that receive financial support under the action (in accordance with Articles 204 and 205 of the Financial Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1046), notably programme co-fund actions.

Analogous to Research & Innovation Action (RIA)⁸³	At least three legal entities established in three different countries considered as the Participating States⁸⁴. Each of the three must be established in a different country considered to be PRIMA PS^{85,86}. Each of the three must be established in a different country considered to be PRIMA PS by the time of the signature of the relevant grant agreement. - at least one must be established in an EU Member State or a third country associated to Horizon Europe and not being an MPC and - at least one must be established in a third country bordering the Mediterranean Sea (MPC) All three legal entities must be independent of each other.
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Eligible activities

The following activities are generally eligible for grants under Section 2 calls:

Description of the activities: Activities analogous to Research and Innovation activities (RIA)⁸⁷.

Funding Rate

The level of funding and the list of eligible costs are set out in the national regulations. Each applicant has to comply with the requirements stated in their national regulations. A contact point established in each country and contacted directly by the applicant from the same country ([NCPs](#)) will inform the applicants about the rules.

Technology Readiness Levels (TRL)

Where a topic description refers to a TRL the following definitions apply unless otherwise specified:

- TRL 1 – basic principles observed

⁸³ Please note that the acronyms IA (Innovation Action) and RIA (Research and Innovation Action) are used in Section 1 and Section 2, respectively. In Section 1, the actions follow the standard Horizon Europe Rules for Participation (RfP). However, in Section 2, while some rules are based on Horizon Europe RfP, specific participation and funding rate regulations apply. Projects selected in Section 2 are funded directly by national funding bodies and are therefore subject to respective national regulations. For more details regarding the rules for Section 2, please refer to the guidelines for applicants on the PRIMA website.

⁸⁴ The latest information on the PRIMA PS can be found on PRIMA webpage: <http://prima-med.org/>.

⁸⁵ The status of PRIMA PS is to the extent of their participation in activities of PRIMA funded under Horizon Europe.

⁸⁶ PS are considered the following EU Member States (MS): Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Slovenia, including the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) linked to these Member States; the following third countries associated with Horizon Europe (AC): Israel, Tunisia, and Türkiye; the following Third Countries not Associated with Horizon Europe (TC): Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Morocco under the condition that these countries update their scientific and technological agreements with EU setting the conditions of their participation in PRIMA

⁸⁷ Please note that the acronyms IA (Innovation Action) and RIA (Research and Innovation Action) are used in Section 1 and Section 2, respectively. In Section 1, the actions follow the standard Horizon Europe Rules for Participation (RfP). However, in Section 2, while some rules are based on Horizon Europe RfP, specific participation and funding rate regulations apply. Projects selected in Section 2 are funded directly by national funding bodies and are therefore subject to respective national regulations. For more details regarding the rules for Section 2, please refer to the guidelines for applicants on the PRIMA website.

- 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 an operational environment (competitive manufacturing in the case of key enabling technologies; or in space).

Ethics and scientific integrity

According to Article 19 of Regulation (EU) 2021/695 establishing Horizon Europe, legal entities participating in an actions shall provide at the proposal stage an ethics self-assessment of the potential risks of misuse of the research project that could pose a threat to human beings animals and the environment. For preparing the ethics self-assessment use the official guide “[How to complete your ethics Self-Assessment](#)”. The ethics assessment follows the scientific evaluation and is performed only in case your project has been accepted for funding.

As defined in the [European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#) the principles of scientific integrity should be observed and promoted. Fundamental ethical principles particularly 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 the selection of funding and during the subsequent implementation of the actions.

Gender equality plans and gender mainstreaming

Beneficiaries must take all measures to promote equal opportunities between men and women in implementing the action and where applicable in line with their gender equality plan. They must aim to achieve to the extent possible a gender balance at all levels of personnel assigned to the action including at supervisory and managerial level.

In addition to be eligible legal entities from Member States and Associated Countries that are public bodies research organizations or higher education establishments (including private research organizations and higher education establishments) must have a gender equality plan covering the following minimum process-related requirements:

- publication: a formal document published on the institution’s website and signed by the top management;
- dedicated resources: commitment of resources and expertise in gender equality to implement the plan;
- data collection and monitoring: sex/gender-disaggregated data on personnel (and students for the establishments concerned) and annual reporting based on indicators;
- training: awareness raising/training on gender equality and unconscious gender biases for staff and decision-makers.

Content-wise it is recommended that the gender equality plan addresses the following areas using concrete measures and targets:

- work-life balance and organizational culture;
- gender balance in leadership and decision-making;
- gender equality in recruitment and career progression;
- integration of the gender dimension into research and teaching content;
- measures against gender-based violence including sexual harassment.

A self-declaration will be requested at the proposal stage.

If all the above-mentioned mandatory requirements are met through another strategic document such as a development plan or an inclusion or diversity strategy it can be considered as an equivalent.

This eligibility criterion does not apply to other categories of legal entities such as private for-profit organisations including SMEs, non-governmental or civil society organisations.

- **C —Operational capacity and exclusion**

Operational capacity

Applicants must have the know-how qualifications and resources to successfully implement their tasks in the project and contribute their share (including when appropriate sufficient experience in EU/transnational projects of comparable size).

This assessment of operational capacity will be carried out by external experts during the evaluation of the award criterion 'Quality and efficiency of the implementation'. It will be based on the competence and experience of the applicants and their project teams including their operational resources (human technical and other) or exceptionally the measures proposed to obtain the necessary competence and experience by the time the tasks are implemented.

If the evaluation of this award criterion leads to a score above the applicable threshold then the applicants are considered to have sufficient operational capacity.

For this assessment applicants will be required to provide the following information in the application form:

- description of the consortium participants; and
- for each participant:
 - o identity of researchers involved in the proposal (through the researchers table);
 - o up to five most relevant publications widely used datasets software goods services or any other achievements relevant to the call content;
 - o up to five most relevant previous projects or activities connected to the subject of this proposal; and
 - o description of any significant infrastructure and/or any major items of technical equipment relevant to the proposed work.

Additional supporting documents may be requested if they are needed to confirm the operational capacity of any applicant.

- **D — Award criteria**

If admissible and eligible the proposals will be evaluated and ranked against the full set of **award criteria**:

TABLE 22. AWARD CRITERIA SECTION 2 CALLS

	Excellence (The following aspects will be taken into account to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the description in the work programme)	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
Research and innovation actions (RIA) Innovation actions (IA)	- Clarity and pertinence of the project's objectives and the extent to which the proposed work is ambitious and goes beyond the state of the art. - Soundness of the proposed methodology including the underlying concepts models assumptions inter-disciplinary approaches appropriate consideration of the gender dimension in research and innovation content and the quality of open science practices including sharing and management of research outputs and engagement of citizens civil society and end-users where appropriate.	- Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the work programme and the likely scale and significance of the contributions from the project. - Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan including communication activities.	- Quality and effectiveness of the work plan assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages and the resources overall. - Capacity and role of each participant and the extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.

Scores and weighting

Unless otherwise specified in the call conditions:

- Evaluation scores will be awarded for the overall criteria and not for the different aspects listed in the above Table.
- 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.

• E — Documents

Submission

All proposals must be submitted **electronically** via the Electronic Submission System (accessible via the topic page [in the call section](#)). Paper submissions are NOT possible. Proposals must be **complete** and contain all parts and mandatory annexes and supporting documents e.g. plan for the exploitation and dissemination of the results including communication activities etc.

The application form will have two parts:

- **Part I Administrative form** (to be completed partly online and uploaded in PDF format) contains administrative information about the applicant organisations
- **Part II Technical Annex** (templates to be downloaded from PRIMA website [call section](#) completed uploaded as a PDF) contains the technical description of the project.
- **The Project overall budget** in excel format.

Annexes and supporting documents will be directly available in the submission system and must be uploaded as PDF files (or other formats allowed by the system).

Proposals should be designed to stay as close as possible to the award criteria (see Annex D above). The application form will help to achieve this.

When submitting the proposal, the coordinator will have to confirm that they have the mandate to act for all applicants. Moreover, they will have to confirm that the information in the application is correct and complete and that all participants comply with the conditions for receiving EU funding (especially eligibility financial and operational capacity exclusion etc.).

 **Applicants should check with their NCPs if the submission must be also made at national level.**

Proposals must be complete and contain all parts and mandatory annexes and supporting documents e.g. plan for the exploitation and dissemination of the results including communication activities etc.

Proposals should be designed to stay as close as possible to the award criteria (see Annex D above).

• F — Procedure

Evaluation procedure and ranking

Calls in this WP are subjected to a **single-stage submission procedure**.

Applicants will be requested to submit a full application which will be evaluated against the full award criteria set.

Proposals will be checked for formal requirements (admissibility and eligibility) and then evaluated (for each topic separately) by an **evaluation committee** see Article 49 Horizon Europe

Regulation (EU) 2021/695). composed of independent external experts for operational capacity and award criteria. Then they will be ranked according to their quality score.

Ranked list will be drawn up for every indicative budget shown in the call conditions.

Individual Evaluation: Each eligible proposal is evaluated remotely by at least three independent expert evaluators (Article 14 Horizon Europe Regulation (EU) 2021/695) who perform a technical evaluation based on the abovementioned criteria. An Individual Evaluation Report which includes comments and scores for all evaluation criteria is prepared by each evaluator. For proposals that receive very different scores from the evaluators consensus meetings are convened where the three evaluators discuss to reach a consensus on the scores to assign. The evaluation process is described in detail in the [PRIMA website](#).

Panel review: after the remote individual evaluation evaluators meet in a panel to discuss and find agreement on the initial comments and scores attributed to each proposal. They will prepare an Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) for each proposal which shows the outcome of the project proposal evaluation. The panel is also responsible for preparing a consensus ranking list of proposals. Project funding decisions will be taken based on this ranking list. The panel configuration allows evaluators to overview all eligible proposals checking the consistency of comments and marks not just the ones they have evaluated. This enables them to make fair decisions when ranking the proposals.

In case of disagreement or project proposals with the same score the panel will determine the priority order for proposals described in the section below.

Special procedures will be set out in the call conditions if they apply.

Priority order for proposals with the same score

For proposals with the same score within a single budget envelope a method to establish the **priority order** will be determined taking into consideration the objectives of the specific topic. In the absence of special arrangements in the specific call conditions the following method will apply.

For each group of proposals with the same score starting with the group achieving the highest score and continuing in descending order:

- 1) Proposals that address aspects of the call that more highly ranked proposals have yet to cover will be considered to have the highest priority.
- 2) The proposals identified under 1) if any will be prioritized according to the scores awarded for 'Excellence'. When these scores are equal priority will be based on scores for 'Impact'. In the case of 'Innovation actions' priority will be given to the score for 'Impact' followed by that for 'Excellence'.
- 3) If necessary, the gender balance among the researchers named in the researchers table in the proposal will be used as a factor for prioritization.
- 4) If necessary, any further prioritization will be based on geographical diversity defined as the number of MPC represented in the proposal not otherwise receiving funds from projects higher up the ranking list (and if equal in number, then by budget).
- 5) If a distinction still cannot be made the panel may decide to further prioritize by considering other factors related to the objectives of the call or to PRIMA in general. These may include for example enhancing the quality of the project portfolio through synergies between projects or where relevant and feasible involving SMEs. These factors will be documented in the panel report.

The panel may decide to further prioritize by considering how to enhance the quality of the project portfolio through synergies between projects or other factors related to the objectives of the call

or to PRIMA in general. These factors will be documented in the report of the Panel. The method described in 1) 2) 3) 4) and 5) will then be applied to the remaining equally ranked proposals in the group.

At the end of the panel meeting the panel will recommend one or more ranked lists for the proposals under evaluation following the scoring systems indicated above. A ranked list for every indicative budget shown in the call conditions will be drawn up.

Funding decision and communication

In line with Article 6(10) point (c) of Decision (EU) 2024/1167 the proposals will be ranked according to evaluation results. PRIMA-IS will select proposals to be funded based on this ranking. Since the funding of participants in the activities will be the responsibility of PS and not PRIMA-IS the respective PS will need to provide adequate funding in line with the national rules. If the PS cannot fund one or more projects PRIMA-IS may select to fund the projects directly following them in the ranking list(s).

The Proposal coordinators receive an Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) showing the evaluation results for a given proposal. In the ESR the overall scores will be provided for proposals that successfully pass the one stage submission process. Common feedback is provided to all coordinators.

Applicants whose proposal is awarded funding will receive a formal communication informing them that the grant preparation phase can start. If special procedures apply, they will be set in the call conditions.

Evaluation review procedure

If the consortium believes that the evaluation procedure was flawed the coordinator can submit a **complaint** (following the deadlines and procedures also set out in the Evaluation Summary Report).

Only the procedural aspects of an evaluation may be the subject of a request for an evaluation review. The evaluation of the merits of a proposal will not be the subject of an evaluation review.

A request for an evaluation review must relate to a specific proposal and must be submitted within 30 days after the beneficiary accesses the evaluation results. The maximum size limit of the request is 5 000 characters. Notifications of evaluation results which have not been opened in the Funding & Tenders Portal within 10 days after sending are considered to have been accessed and that deadlines will be counted from the date of opening/access (see also [PRIMA website](#)).

An evaluation review committee will provide an opinion on the procedural aspects of the evaluation. The evaluation review committee may recommend a re-evaluation of the proposal to be carried out by evaluators who were not involved in the previous evaluation or a confirmation of the initial evaluation.

Budget flexibility

The budgets set out in Work Programme 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 Work Programme for the following budgeted activities:

- Total expenditure for calls (up to 20% of the total spending for each call);
- Repartition of call budgets within a call (up to 20% of the total expenditure of the call);
- Evaluation and monitoring (up to 20% of the total expenditure for all these activities);

The cumulated changes above may be at most 20% of the maximum contribution provided for this Work Programme.

Indicative timetable for evaluation and for signature of the grant agreement

Unless otherwise stated in the specific call conditions the timing for evaluation and grant preparation is as follows:

- Information on the outcome of the evaluation: around 5 months from the deadline for submission.
- Indicative date for the signing of grant agreements: around 6 months from communication of results.⁸⁸

- **G —Specific additional information and relations between the beneficiaries and their national funding bodies**

Grant agreement

Each beneficiary will be funded directly by its own national funding body. Therefore, a grant agreement is concluded between each beneficiary and its national funding body. The rules for this agreement are the national rules set in the national regulations.

The grant agreement will cover the entire duration of the project and must be synchronized in time (starting date of the activities and end of the project) between the different funding bodies involved in the project's funding.

Consortium agreement

A consortium agreement is required and must be sent to all the funding bodies involved in the project. This consortium agreement must address at least:

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

The funding agencies provide no template for the consortium agreement.

The Project Coordinator

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

For the preparation and submission of the proposal:

- Be the single point of contact between the PRIMA-IS secretariat and the consortium partners from proposal preparation to submission;
- Ensure that all the partners involved in the consortium are eligible for participation.
- Submit the application form on behalf of the consortium to the ESS.

During the implementation of the project:

- Be the single point of contact between the PRIMA-IS secretariat and the consortium partners from the proposal preparation to submission;

⁸⁸ PRIMA national funding agencies may have different schedules for the signature of national contracts and to make payments to beneficiaries

- Be a point of contact between the Funding bodies and the consortium partners in case of requiring a grant extension or scientific/managerial modifications. The funding agencies should also be in direct contact with their beneficiaries to discuss changes that affect the grant agreement;
- Ensure the role of supervision of the project workflow with the help of WP leaders;
- Joint consortium reports (e.g. progress reports for PRIMA-IS) should be sent directly by the coordinator to the PRIMA-IS with the national funding agencies in the copy.

The coordinator will not be responsible for the financial management of PRIMA research funding which will be handled directly between national beneficiaries and their national funding bodies in each participating country.

• Provisions concerning project implementation

Open access to research data

PRIMA encourages open science as an approach to the scientific process based on cooperative work and diffusing knowledge in particular in accordance with the following elements which shall be ensured in accordance with Article 39(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/695⁸⁹.

- (a) Open access to scientific publications resulting from research funded under the Programme;
- (b) open access to research data including those underlying scientific publications in accordance with the principle 'as open as possible as closed as necessary'.

As an exception if providing open access would be against the beneficiaries' legitimate interests the beneficiaries must grant non-exclusive licenses on fair and reasonable conditions to legal entities that need the research output to address the public emergency. These legal entities must commit to rapidly and broadly exploiting the resulting products and services on fair and reasonable conditions. This exception is limited to 4 years after the end of the action.

Data protection⁹⁰

Research Data Management (RDM)

Responsible management of research data shall be ensured in line with the principles 'findability' 'accessibility' 'interoperability' and 'reusability' (the 'FAIR principles'). Attention shall also be paid to the long-term preservation of data. Proper Research Data Management (RDM) is mandatory for any PRIMA project generating or reusing research data. It is a key part of Horizon Europe's open science requirements. As part of making research data findable accessible interoperable and re-usable (FAIR) RDM can be applied to research outputs other than data (i.e. workflows protocols software samples etc). Beneficiaries must manage the digital research data generated in the action ('data') responsibly in line with the FAIR principles and should at least do the following:

⁸⁹ Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 ([//eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R0695](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R0695))

⁹⁰ PRIMA ensures compliance with EU data protection regulations, aligning with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) – Regulation (EU) 2016/679, which governs the lawful processing of personal data, ensuring privacy, security, and fundamental rights protection in research activities. Additionally, PRIMA follows the principles outlined in Regulation (EU) 2021/695 (Horizon Europe Framework Programme) regarding open science, research data management, and ethical data handling.

- 1) Prepare a Data Management Plan (DMP) and keep it updated throughout the course of the project
- 2) Deposit data in a trusted repository and provide open access to it ('as open as possible as closed as necessary')
- 3) Provide information (via the same repository) about any research output or any other tools and instruments needed to re-use or validate the data
- 4) As part of making research data findable accessible interoperable and re-usable (FAIR) a DMP should include information on:
 - the handling of research data during & after the end of the project
 - what data will be collected processed and/or generated
 - which methodology & standards will be applied
 - whether data will be shared/made open access and
 - how data will be curated & preserved (including after the end of the project).

Ethics (research integrity)

Actions carried out under the Programme shall comply with ethical principles and relevant Union national and international law including the Charter and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and its Supplementary Protocols.

Legal entities participating in an action shall provide:

- a) an ethics self-assessment identifying and detailing all the foreseeable ethics issues related to the objective implementation and likely impact of the activities to be funded including a confirmation of compliance with paragraph 1 and a description of how it will be ensured;
- b) a confirmation that the activities will comply with the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity published by All European Academies and that no activities excluded from funding will be conducted;
- c) for activities carried out outside the Union a confirmation that the same activities would have been allowed in a Member State; and

Proposals shall be systematically screened to identify actions which raise complex or serious ethics issues and submit them to an ethics assessment. The ethics assessment shall be carried out by the PRIMA-IS. Ethics screenings and assessments shall be carried out with the support of ethics experts. PRIMA shall ensure the transparency of the ethics procedures without prejudice to the confidentiality of the content of those procedures.

Applicable common principles to all activities

Under Article 6(9) of Decision (EU) 2024/1167 activities included in WP 2025 that the PS funds without the Union financial contribution must be implemented in compliance with common principles adopted by PRIMA-IS after obtaining approval from the Commission.

Equal treatment

Participation in PSIAs including the right to receive funding should generally be open to any legal entity private or public. However, it is understood and accepted that national legislation or specific objectives of action may dictate that only certain legal entities e.g. public institutions can participate and receive funding in particular activities.

Funding to PSIA actions should be allocated to the broadest possible extent through open calls for proposals and the PRIMA Partnership should be mentioned in the call text. However, it is

understood and accepted that existing national research infrastructures and organizations e.g. publicly funded research institutes can be used to implement parts or the entire PSIA. Therefore, funding may be allocated through open calls for proposals rather than through internal competition within the research infrastructure or an overall strategic research plan. The principle of equality and non-discrimination based on gender racial or ethnic origin religion or belief disability age and sexual orientation should be observed and promoted.

Transparency

The review process's evaluation selection criteria and details should be published before applicants submit proposals. Funding awarding through calls for proposals or institutional funding is made public. Any communication or publication related to PSIA's whether undertaken by the PRIMA-IS a Participating State or participants in an activity must be **labelled or co-labelled** as '[name of the PSIA] is part of the PRIMA Partnership 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 organization the quality of the research output by the national research infrastructures or organization should be assessed regularly and structured manner preferably through independent peer review.

Exploitation and dissemination of results

The findings of research activities included as PSIA's in the PRIMA Work Programme should be promptly made available to the research community and the public.

Section on Additional Participating States in PRIMA – practical aspects

This section delineates the repercussions for the eligibility for participation and funding of legal entities established in a third country⁹¹ for which an international agreement on terms and conditions of participation in PRIMA at the time of adoption of this Work Programme has not yet come into legal effect either through its ratification or provisional application.

To maintain their status as PRIMA Participating states such eligibility is contingent upon the finalization of agreements amending and supplementing existing international agreements for scientific and technological cooperation with the Union. These agreements will outline new terms and conditions governing their involvement in PRIMA.

Calls managed and funded by PRIMA IS (EU contribution)

Consequences for eligibility for participation: Legal entities established in these countries⁹² count towards the minimum number of participants in the consortium if the international agreement with the country where they are established produces legal effects (though provisional application or entry into force) at the latest by the day of the submission deadline under the relevant call for proposals organized and funded by PRIMA IS.

Consequences for funding of legal entities: Legal entities established in these countries⁹³ that applied for funding in calls launched by the PRIMA IS funded from EU contribution (under Article 6(1)(a) PRIMA Decision) shall be eligible for funding if the international agreement produces legal effects at the latest on the day the Grant Agreement (GA) is signed.

If the international agreement does not produce legal effects on that day these entities are still eligible for participation however without funding. If the international agreement starts producing legal effects after the GA is signed the GA may be amended to provide for redistribution of funding (and related tasks) among the entities in the consortium. Such amendment cannot however give rise to additional funding for the project.

Calls managed by the PRIMA IS and funded by the PS

Consequences for eligibility for participation: Legal entities established in these countries⁹⁴ count towards the minimum number of participants in the consortium if the international agreement with the country where they are established produces legal effects (through provisional application or entry into force) at the latest on the day of the submission deadline under the relevant call for proposals organized by PRIMA-IS.

⁹¹, ^{42,43} Algeria, Morocco, Egypt, Lebanon, and Jordan are deemed PRIMA Participating States subject to the finalization of agreements that modify and enhance existing international agreements for scientific and technological cooperation with the Union. These agreements will establish updated terms and conditions governing their participation in PRIMA.

Consequences for funding of legal entities: The eligibility for funding for legal entities established in these countries are determined by the funding rules applicable to them in a given country.

Section 3: description of the Participating States Initiated Activities (PSIAs)

The PRIMA Participating States implement and fund a broad array of national programme activities that contribute to the objectives of the PRIMA Partnership. These Participating and Partner States' Initiated Activities (PSIAs) are implemented and funded independently from the PRIMA-IS by one PS alone or by several PS without the Union's financial contribution.

PSIAs are an important contribution from PS to the PRIMA Partnership as they promote research collaboration in the region and enable PSs to have an overview of activities that their country (research and development agencies different Ministries etc.) funds on water management farming systems and food-value chains and they support the PRIMA Partnership achieving its objective of promoting cooperation networking and integration of national research programmes. For these reasons PSIAs are included in the PRIMA Annual Work Programmes.

In line with Article 6 (8) of the [Decision \(EU\) 2017/1324](#) those activities may be included in the Work Programme only following the positive outcome of their external independent evaluation by international peer review concerning the objectives of PRIMA and may be launched only in the reference year and only after the adoption of the Annual Work Plan for that year.

Please note that the following Article 6(9) of [Decision \(EU\) 2024/1167](#) activities included in WP 2025 that the PS funds without the Union financial contribution must be implemented in compliance with common principles adopted by PRIMA-IS after obtaining approval from the EU Commission. The principles of equal treatment transparency independent peer-review evaluation and selection (provided in sub-section 5.2.10).

Any communication related to PSIAs whether undertaken by the PRIMA-IS a Participating State or any of the participants in a PSIA must indicate that they are part of the PRIMA Partnership supported by the EU (see section 3.1).

The total cost for new PSIAs in 2025 amount to: 46,660,000.

All PSIAs are listed in Table 12 and the sections below with a brief overview of the PS the subject matter of the activity the countries in the Mediterranean region where the activity is conducted and the total indicative commitment for the activity. Wherever relevant local currencies have been converted into Euros using official exchange rates.

The European Commission's acceptance of the PSIAs as in-kind contributions of the PRIMA Participating States to the PRIMA Partnership will be based on assessing the information provided through the PRIMA-IS annual reporting to the European Commission. This reporting should include reporting by the Participating States according to the requirements agreed with the European Commission in line with Article 19 of the Delegation Agreement concluded between PRIMA-IS and the European Commission. This assessment will verify the costs incurred by the Participating States for the implementation of those PSIAs the relevance of those PSIAs in contributing to the specific objectives of the Partnership their correct labelling in any communication and their compliance with the common principles agreed by the PRIMA-IS on behalf of the Participating States and the European Commission.

ES.2025.1

Code	ES -2025-1
Theme:	Water management Agri-food value chain Farming Systems
Activity title	AEI Annual Action Plan 2025 (will be published in 2025)
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	The Annual Action Plan 2025 will be configured as a planning instrument of the State Research Agency within the framework of the management contract which will include on basis of available resources the activities to be carried out in the corresponding year to achieve its objectives. In accordance with the provisions of article 23 of the Agency's Statute the Annual Action Plan includes among others the following activities: a) Those of a formative methodological nature and determination of management indicators of the activities that correspond to the Agency. b) Those of management monitoring and control of the actions that in terms of scientific technical and innovation research correspond to the Agency in accordance with its purpose and functions. c) The organization and management of the scientific-technical evaluation of the proposals that require financing from the programs and instruments assigned to the Agency or the results of the agreement and collaboration agreements.
Rationale/Impact	Generation of knowledge improvement of social economic and technology conditions of the Spanish society.
Objectives	Plan the actions to implement financing evaluation management and monitoring of scientific and technical research activity aimed at the generation exchange and exploitation of knowledge promoted by the General Administration of the State by its sole initiative or in concurrence with other Spanish Administrations or entities or of other countries or international organizations.
Deliverables	In terms of Projects Researchers trained researchers under mobility
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	Proyectos I+D Retos Investigación y Generación de Conocimiento. Acciones Dinamización Redes Investigación: -FPI subprogramme. -JdC Juan de la Cierva subprogramme. -RyC Ramón y Cajal subprogramme.
Publication date	2025
Deadline for applications	2025
Expected date of award	2025
Scope of the Call for Proposals	Proyectos I+D Retos Investigación y Generación de Conocimiento: the objectives are to finance the execution of «R+D+I Projects tackling Social Challenges and the advancement of knowledge regardless of the time horizon and regardless of the scope of application Acciones Dinamización Redes Investigación: "Research Networks" aim relation and development of networks of research: Thematic networks made up of researchers in similar thematic area of knowledge that require a multidisciplinary approach.

	Strategic networks made up of Spanish managers or researchers who participate in European research initiatives or who advise expand or disseminate scientific and technological knowledge among representatives of bodies of the State. All calls under the State Programme for the Promotion of Talent and Its Employability aim to promote formation and incorporation of national and foreign researchers with an outstanding trajectory in R&D centres and private companies. On the one hand young researchers are granted contracts and on the other hand the program promotes the creation of permanent jobs for their subsequent incorporation in the agents of the Spanish science system technology and innovation beneficiaries. There are three different modalities open to researchers from all over the world: -FPI subprogramme that aims to train doctors by financing employment contracts. -JdC Juan de la Cierva subprogramme that aims to promote the recruitment by Spanish research organizations or R&D centres of young people in possession of a doctor's degree. -RyC Ramón y Cajal subprogramme aims to promote the incorporation researchers with a distinguished career in R&D centres.
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Research Innovation Action (RIA) X Innovation Action (IA) X Training and Mobility Action (TMA): X FPI: train doctors by financing employment contracts.) Scholarship Mobility Training action X Joint research project X
Start date of the activity	
Duration	
Funding institution	Agencia Estatal de Investigación (AEI)
Funding beneficiaries	Spanish Research Institutions universities research centres technological centres Spanish and foreign Individuals for the Talent programme.
Countries where research is conducted	Not defined
Collaborating partner(s)	Not defined
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in EUR)	14 5 million
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	The scientific lines "water management farming and food" of the AEI are aligned both with those of the Ministry of Science and Innovation and of the AEI. The financing procedures of the AEI have also been adapted with the aim of expediting the financing of international collaboration projects among which are those of PRIMA.
Website	AEI Annual Action Plan 2025 (will be published in 2025). As similar one was published in 2024: Plan de Acción Anual de la Agencia Estatal de Investigación para el año 2024 (aei.gob.es) PROYECTOS I+D Retos Investigación y Generación de Conocimiento: Proyectos de Generación de Conocimiento 2023 Agencia Estatal de Investigación (aei.gob.es)

	Acciones Dinamización Redes Investigación: Redes de Investigación 2022 Agencia Estatal de Investigación (aei.gob.es) -FPI subprogramme: Ayudas para contratos predoctorales para la formación de doctores/as 2022 Agencia Estatal de Investigación (aei.gob.es) -JdC Juan de la Cierva subprogramme Ayudas para contratos Juan de la Cierva 2023 Agencia Estatal de Investigación (aei.gob.es) -RyC Ramón y Cajal subprogramme Ayudas para contratos Ramón y Cajal (RYC) 2023 Agencia Estatal de Investigación (aei.gob.es)
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ES.2025.2

Code	ES -2025-2
Theme:	Water management Agri-food value chain Farming Systems
Activity title	Funding allocated to National projects in the Agri-food value chain Farming and Management of water R&D fields
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	CDTI funds R&D projects carried out by Spanish companies in a continuous open call. This R&D Call is aimed to Industry-driven and market-oriented R&D projects in Spain consisting in the development or substantial improvement of new products processes or services. Only enterprises are eligible to get the funding support; participation of research institutes/universities and other organizations is welcome as self-funded participants or subcontractors. These R&D projects must have a minimum eligible budget of 175 000 EUR and its length may be from 12 to 36 months. The funding modality for the project will be a Partially Reimbursable Aid covering up to 85% of the total approved budget. This CDTI funding may be distributed in the following way: A reimbursable tranche (RT) within a time period of 10 or 15 years to be counted from the center of gravity of the project which is calculated in accordance with the project duration and the amount of the budget targets. The first reimbursement is made 3 years after the center of gravity of the project and at least 2 years since its completion date. The interest rate of the aforementioned RT shall be fixed and equal to the one-year Euribor which shall be determined when the project is approved. A non-reimbursable tranche (NRT) adjusted in accordance with the characteristics of the project the beneficiary and the source of the funds used for the funding. This tranche shall be contingent upon fund availability. An ex-ante document to allow the beneficiary to benefit from a tax exemption related to R&D activities.
Rationale/Impact	It's expected to foster the business competitiveness of beneficiaries improving their portfolio of products and services as well as increasing the efficiency of their processes and activities. The outcomes of these projects will lead to the improvement of farming and agro-food activities to develop eco-friendly activities and production processes as well as a more sustainable use of water. A better quality of products will be promoted as well as the traceability in the food chain. A considerable reduction of environmental impact and a more efficient use of available resources are expected.
Objectives	The main objective of this instrument is to support R&D activities of Spanish companies to foster their competitiveness trough the development of new/ improved products processes and services focused to fulfil economic environmental and social challenges. This Call hasn't a sectorial approach so is open to all sectors including the fields of water environment farming ecosystem agri-food etc. With a bottom-up approach R&D open call projects aim to advance in the State of the Art of technologies products and processes tackled by Spanish companies which operates in the so related fields encouraging cooperation schemes with research entities and other companies from Spain or from other country all around the world.
Deliverables	
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	National R&D continuous open CDTI Call
Publication date	This call is continuously open since the 80's so it will be open the whole year 2025. There won't be a publication date.

Deadline for applications	31-12-2025
Expected date of award	Approval of these projects could be done throughout 2025 and 2026 (depending on the submission date)
Scope of the Call for Proposals	R&D and innovation activities with a TRL 3-6 carried out by private companies.
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Research Innovation Action (RIA) ✓ Innovation Action (IA) ✓ Mobility ✓ Joint research project ✓
Start date of the activity	Projects can be submitted since the 1st of January 2025
Duration	The whole year 2025
Funding institution	CDTI-Spanish Agency of Innovation
Funding beneficiaries	Spanish private companies and Economic Interest Groups (EIG)
Countries where research is conducted	Spain
Collaborating partner(s)	Companies Research bodies (Universities Public Research Bodies and Innovation and Technological Centres)
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in EUR)	According to the figures previously committed by CDTI to the PRIMA PSIAs this amount could reach up to 30 million.
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	The CDTI R&D National Call funds the development of technologies processes and products in the fields of water natural resources agri-food environment farming etc. with a bottom-up approach focused to market and social needs. The supported projects will contribute to a business competitiveness tackling technology social and environmental challenges in so related fields which are included in Thematic Areas of PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda. Activities funded by the CDTI R&D instrument support interdisciplinary and cross-cutting actions that are aligned with the PRIMA WP2025
Website	https://www.cdti.es/index.asp?MP=100&MS=802&MN=2

FR.2025.1

Code	FR-2025 -1
Theme:	Water management Agri-food value chain Farming Systems.
Activity title	Research Projects funded by ANR under the Annual National Call for proposals (AAPG) or other specific Calls on PRIMA related issues.
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	The Generic Call for Proposals 2025 (AAPG) is the French National Research Agency's (ANR) main call. It is directed towards all scientific communities and all public and private players involved in French research. It is designed to give researchers in various scientific fields access to co-funding in a large number of research themes basic or applied in addition to their allocated recurrent funding.
Rationale/Impact	The French National Research Agency (ANR) is a public administrative institution under the authority of the French Ministry of Higher Education Research and Innovation. The Agency funds project-based research carried out by public operators cooperating with each other or with private companies. The ANR was founded in 2005 to promote French project-based research and to stimulate innovation by promoting the emergence of collaborative multidisciplinary projects and encouraging collaboration between the public and private sectors. It also aims at strengthening the position of French research at European level and worldwide. The Agency's missions defined in the decree of 1st August 2006 amended on 24 March 2014 are: • To fund and promote the development of basic and targeted research technological innovation technology transfer and public-private partnerships • To implement the Work Programme approved by the French Minister of Research following consultation with the supervisory ministers of France's research bodies and public higher education institutions • To manage major government investment programmes in the fields of higher education and research and to oversee their implementation • To strengthen scientific cooperation across Europe and worldwide by aligning its Work Programme with European and international initiatives • To analyse trends in research offering and assess the impact of the funding it allocates on scientific and societal output in France. The ANR's activities are thus designed to support the excellence of French research at a variety of technological readiness levels (TRL) support basic research encourage academic and public-private scientific partnerships and promote European and international cooperation. To achieve these goals it organises competitive calls for proposals and conducts rigorous selection processes based on peer review in compliance with international standards: impartiality equal treatment confidentiality ethics scientific integrity and transparency.
Objectives	AAPG 2025 is divided into 57 research themes each with its own Scientific Evaluation Panel (CES): There are 38 research themes across seven main scientific fields: environmental sciences energy and materials sciences digital sciences life sciences social sciences and humanities mathematics and its interactions and physics of matter high-energy Earth and universe sciences. There are 19 research themes covering cross-disciplinary challenges and integrating issues from various scientific fields.
Deliverables	
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the Call for Proposals	Generic Call for Proposals 2025
Publication date	Publication of the work programme and Call for proposals 2025 in July 2023. Publication of the results of the Call for Proposals in July 2025.
Deadline for applications	First Quarter 2025

Expected date of award	Second Quarter 2025
Scope of the Call for Proposals	
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Please select one of the following Research Innovation Action (RIA) ✓ Innovation Action (IA) Training and Mobility Action (TMA): Please specify Scholarship Mobility Training action Joint research project - Other: Please specify the type of activity
Start date of the activity	Second Quarter 2025
Duration	One year (programme duration)
Funding institution	ANR
Funding beneficiaries	All scientific communities and all public and private players involved in French research
Countries where research is conducted	Field work and collaborations may be performed in any country
Collaborating partner(s)	All the countries participating to PRIMA Calls are included in potential collaborating partners
Total national public commitment for entire duration of the activity (in EUR)	Around 1 5 million
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	The funded projects are in line with most of the main PRIMA SRIA thematic areas or are crosscutting between water management and farming systems. Research projects on food security and agri-food value chain are also increasingly funded.
Website	https://anr.fr/en/

IL.2025.1

Code	IL-2025-1
Theme:	Water management
Activity title	German-Israel Water Technologies Cooperation
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	Within the framework of the German-Israeli cooperation in Water Technology Research the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Israeli Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) fund bilateral R&D projects. The research focus on solutions to the water problems in Israel and its surrounding area and/or Germany. The research should be multidisciplinary and be applicable to the needs of the water sector. In addition to scientific partners projects should preferably include industrial partners as well as related stakeholders.
Rationale/Impact	Finding scientific based solutions or technologies for water challenges in Middle east Israel and Germany
Objectives	• To improve the water situation in Israel and the surrounding area and/or Germany. Transferability of the results to comparable regions should preferably be ensured. • To facilitate access to new markets for Israeli and German enterprises in the water and environmental sector. • To support and strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the water sector as well as cooperation between science and industry.
Deliverables	Funding of 4-5 of projects every year
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the call for Proposals	German-Israel Water Technologies Cooperation Call
Publication date (call 2025)	Expected to be around Jan-Feb 2025
Deadline for applications	2 months after publication
Expected date of award	About one year after publication
Scope of the call for Proposals	To be defined
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Research Innovation Action (RIA) ✓ Innovation Action (IA) ✓ Mobility ✓ Joint research project ✓
Start date of the activity	Expected to be around Jan-Feb 2025
Duration	The program last for about 50 years each research project is funded for 3 years
Funding institution	BMBF (Germany) & MOST (Israel)
Funding beneficiaries	Academic Researchers in Universities and Research Institutions in Germany and Israel
Countries where research is conducted	Germany and Israel
Collaborating partner(s)	DE BMBF MOST
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for the entire duration of the activity (in EUR)	Around EUR 250 000 (only Israeli (MOST) contribution)
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	Applied Water Research and bi-national cooperation between two PRIMA's PS.
Website	https://www.fona.de/en/measures/german_israeli_cooperation_in_water_technology_research_copy.php

MT.2025.1

Code	MT-2025-1
Theme:	Water management Agri-food value chain Farming Systems
Activity title	PRIMA Participating States Calls for Proposals supporting PRIMA
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	Through this action national and bilateral calls for proposals in PRIMA-related thematic areas may be launched by the Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST) as well as jointly launched by MCST and other PS' funding entities. These initiatives are designed to enhance the Research and Innovation capacities in PRIMA-related thematic areas of PS involved.
Rationale/Impact	The focus for these calls is to build Research and Innovation capacities and to develop knowledge and common innovative solutions for integrated water provision and management in the Mediterranean area to make them more climate resilient efficient cost-effective and environmentally and socially sustainable. This will be achieved through a competitive and transparent process of selection. The main impacts will be to (but not limited to these): 1) Successful projects will act as a springboard for consortia to apply for PRIMA Sections 1 and 2 Calls. 2) Increase awareness on the PRIMA Initiative. 3) Further support local researchers who have been unsuccessful in previous PRIMA Calls. 4) Encourage partnerships with other PRIMA PS to launch bi-lateral and multi-lateral calls to further support the collaborative nature of PRIMA.
Objectives	The general objective of these calls is to promote national and regional Research and Innovation in the strategic thematic areas of PRIMA and to encourage more participation in PRIMA activities. With a bottom-up approach Research and Innovation calls will: • Generate new knowledge and advancements in technologies relevant to the PRIMA thematic areas. • Foster capacity-building through learning by doing and hands-on training. • Strengthen the link between evidence generation and policymaking in the PRIMA thematic areas. • Enhance experience-exchange with researchers in the other PRIMA PS. • Enhance Malta's capacity for Research and Innovation in PRIMA-related thematic areas.
Deliverables	• National/Bilateral R&I projects on Water Management Farming Systems and Agri-food Value Chain. • Research outcomes – scientific papers attendance at conferences participation in joint events between the PS as well as other dissemination efforts. • Project reporting during the interim and end of projects. • Increase the possibility of establishing consortia for future proposal submissions under PRIMA Sections 1 and 2 Calls.
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the call for Proposals	Calls for Proposals for the Implementation of Projects under the thematic areas of PRIMA
Publication date (call 2025)	1 st quarter of 2025
Deadline for applications	Multiple deadlines spanning the entire duration of 2025
Expected date of award	Project approvals will be conducted throughout 2025 depending on the submission date
Scope of the call for Proposals	Promote Research and Innovation in PRIMA-related thematic areas to address identified national funding gaps and increase the use of evidence-based actions which may not have been addressed through the PRIMA calls under PRIMA Sections 1 and 2.
Implementation	

Type of Activity	Research Innovation Action (RIA) ✓ Innovation Action (IA) ✓ Mobility ✓ Joint research project ✓
Start date of the activity	1st quarter of 2025
Duration	Projects duration will be between 1-2 years
Funding institution	Malta Council for Science and Technology (XM) and other PRIMA Funding Agencies
Funding beneficiaries	PRIMA Participating Countries
Countries where research is conducted	PRIMA Participating Countries
Collaborating partner(s)	PRIMA Participating Agencies
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for the entire duration of the activity (in EUR)	MT – EUR 300 000. Other PS can have a specific allocated budget.
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	The thematic focus on Agricultural Research Water Management and Agri Food Value Chain will be in alignment with the three thematic pillars of PRIMA
Website	www.mcst.gov.mt

MT.2025.2

Code	MT-2025-2
Theme:	Water management Agri-food value chain Farming Systems
Activity title	PRIMA Participating States Calls for Proposals supporting PRIMA
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	Through this action entities that are based in Malta can establish collaborative links with fellow peers in Universities Research Organizations and/or Industry that are based in another PRIMA PS. The PRIMA Training and Mobility Call will support strategic visits placements or other joint activities that may facilitate different partners to come together and potentially submit joint applications for PRIMA.
Rationale/Impact	The focus for this action is to build research and innovation capacities through training and mobility activities. Such activities would empower researchers and R&I stakeholders through training sharing of best practices knowledge transfer and networking as well as establish successful partner matches for future collaborations to propose and undertake joint R&I PRIMA projects. This will be achieved through a competitive and transparent process of selection. The foreseen main impacts will be to (but not limited to): 1) Increase awareness on the PRIMA Initiative. 2) Train researchers who are gaining expertise in the relevant thematic areas. 3) Facilitate meetings between researchers with common research interests in order to successfully applied for the PRIMA-Calls. 4) Share best practices through research visits and workshops. 5) Transfer knowledge and encourage dissemination amongst entities from different PS through the organization of seminars and workshops. 6) Further support local researchers who have been unsuccessful in previous PRIMA Calls to find new partners and to widen their network further.
Objectives	The objective of the Call is to promote national and regional research and innovation in the thematic areas of PRIMA and to encourage more participation in PRIMA through the fostering of international collaborations. This Call is foreseen to: • Widen the research network for Mediterranean researchers and practitioners operating in the fields of PRIMA. • Foster capacity-building of researchers/practitioners by learning through hands-on training and sharing of best practices on water sustainability land and food management. • Foster a culture for transnational research and high-quality research excellence outputs. • Provide access to research facilities.
Deliverables	- Mobility of researchers between Malta and other PRIMA PSs for training workshops and research seminars. - Joint Research Actions in the PRIMA thematic areas between stakeholders in different PRIMA PS - Research outcomes – scientific papers attendance at conferences as well as other dissemination efforts. - Technical/final Report at the end of the activity - Increase the possibility of establishing consortia for future proposal submissions under Section 1 and Section 2 PRIMA Calls
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the call for Proposals	PRIMA Training and Mobility Award (PTMA)
Publication date (call 2025)	2 nd quarter of 2025
Deadline for applications	TBC
Expected date of award	TBC
Scope of the call for Proposals	Malta will launch a call for training and mobility under the PRIMA Section 3 initiatives for 2025. The aim of the call is to promote training and mobility activities associated with PRIMA-related topics that could address shortcomings associated with effective partner searching unsuccessful partner collaborations due to the lack of in-person and on-site meetings as well as limitations in the transfer and application of existing

	knowledge across PS. Addressing such limitations can help increase the propensity for stronger project consortia composition.
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Mobility ✓ Training action ✓ Joint research project ✓
Start date of the activity	2 nd quarter 2025
Duration	Applicants would have the possibility to use the award within 1 year from date of award.
Funding institution	Malta Council for Science & Technology (MCST)
Funding beneficiaries	Eligible Malta-based stakeholders according to National Rules for Participation
Countries where research is conducted	PRIMA Participating Countries
Collaborating partner(s)	Stakeholders in PRIMA Participating Countries
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for the entire duration of the activity (in EUR)	MT – EUR 25 000
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	This initiative aligns well with the Capacity Building cross-cutting activity described in Chapter 5 of the PRIMA SRIA whereby PRIMA strives to enhance research capacity in Euro-Mediterranean countries through training programmes for researchers and entrepreneurs.
Website	www.mcst.gov.mt

MT.2025.3

Code	MT-2025-3
Theme:	Water management Agri-food value chain Farming Systems
Activity title	PRIMA Networking Support Scheme (NET2PRIMA)
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	Through this action the Malta Council for Science and Technology is committed to financially support eligible Malta-based stakeholders facilitating their attendance at workshops networking and brokerage events held overseas by the PRIMA Secretariat or by PRIMA NCPs. This Scheme aims to enhance the participation of Malta-based stakeholders in proposal submissions fostering greater engagement and collaboration within the PRIMA network.
Rationale/Impact	The primary objective of this initiative is to encourage active participation from Malta in events organized by the PRIMA Secretariat or other relevant entities associated with PRIMA. Participation in these events is expected to yield long-term benefits such as the formation of consortia or involvement in consortia capable of submitting proposals for PRIMA Sections 1 and 2. Additionally this initiative aims to enhance overall awareness of the PRIMA Initiative exposing Malta-based researchers to success stories of ongoing or concluded PRIMA projects and encouraging knowledge transfer.
Objectives	The main objectives of this action are: 1) Expand the Research and Innovation network for Malta-based stakeholders within the Mediterranean region and beyond particularly focusing on areas relevant to PRIMA. 2) Facilitating connections and collaborations with the PRIMA-related areas. 3) Encouraging knowledge transfer between successful project consortia and prospective Malta-based applicants. 4) Actively promote the formation of successful project consortia through targeted support and networking opportunities.
Deliverables	- Supporting participation of Malta-based stakeholders at PRIMA-related workshops networking and brokerage events. - Report at the end of the activity describing the major outcomes and potential way forward actions. - Increase the possibility of establishing consortia for future proposal submissions under PRIMA Sections 1 and 2 Calls.
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the call for Proposals	PRIMA Networking Support Scheme (NET2PRIMA)
Publication date (call 2025)	1st quarter of 2025
Deadline for applications	Variable throughout 2025
Expected date of award	Variable throughout 2025
Scope of the call for Proposals	/
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Mobility ✓
Start date of the activity	1st quarter 2025
Duration	For the duration of the event and the subsequent submission of final reports
Funding institution	Malta Council for Science & Technology (XM)
Funding beneficiaries	Eligible Malta-based stakeholders according to National Rules for Participation
Countries where research is conducted	PRIMA Participating Countries
Collaborating partner(s)	/
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for the entire duration of the activity (in EUR)	MT – EUR 10 000

Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	This initiative aligns well with the Capacity Building cross-cutting activity described in Chapter 5 of the PRIMA SRIA whereby PRIMA strives to enhance research capacity in Euro-Mediterranean countries through training programmes for researchers and entrepreneurs.
Website	www.mcst.gov.mt

TR.2025.1

Code	TR-2025-1
Theme:	Water management Agri-food value chain Farming Systems
Activity title	PRIMA Participating States Calls for Proposals supporting PRIMA
Activity description	
Abstract (publishable)	Through this action bilateral/multilateral joint calls for proposals in PRIMA-related thematic areas may be set up between Türkiye's funding agency TÜBİTAK and other PS funding agencies. Such an initiative aims to build the Research and Innovation capacities of the PS involved in the areas of Water Food and Agriculture.
Rationale/Impact	The focus for these calls is to build research and innovation capacities and to develop knowledge and common innovative solutions for integrated water provision and management in the Mediterranean area to make them more climate resilient efficient cost-effective and environmentally and socially sustainable. This will be achieved through a competitive and transparent process of selection. The main impacts will be to (but not limited to these): 1) Successful projects will act as a springboard for consortia to apply for Section 1 and Section 2 PRIMA Calls 2) Increase awareness on the PRIMA Initiative 3) Further support local researchers who have been unsuccessful in previous PRIMA Calls 4) Encourage partnerships with other PRIMA PS to launch bi-lateral and multi-lateral calls to further support the collaborative nature of PRIMA.
Objectives	The general objective of the call is to promote national and regional research and innovation in the strategic thematic areas of PRIMA and to encourage more participation in PRIMA activities. This call will: • generate new knowledge relevant to the PRIMA thematic areas • foster capacity-building through learning by doing and hands-on training • strengthen the link between evidence generation and policy-making in the PRIMA thematic areas • enhance experience-exchange with researchers in the other PRIMA PS.
Deliverables	- Bilateral R&I projects on Water Management Agriculture and Agri Food Value Chains - Mobility of researchers between the PRIMA PS - Research outcomes – scientific papers attendance at conferences participation in joint events between the PS as well as other dissemination efforts. - Project reporting during the interim and end of projects. - Increase the possibility of establishing consortia for future proposal submissions under Section 1 and Section 2 PRIMA Calls
Information on the eventual Call(s) for Proposals	
Title of the call for Proposals	Calls for Proposals for the Implementation of Projects under the thematic areas of PRIMA
Publication date (call 2025)	1 st quarter of 2025
Deadline for applications	2 nd quarter of 2025
Expected date of award	3 rd - 4 th quarters of 2025
Scope of the call for Proposals	Participating States will launch a bi-/multilateral call for research proposals under the PRIMA Initiative calls Section 3 for 2025. The aim of such calls is to promote research in PRIMA-related topics which could address the identified national gaps in funding in these topics and to increase the use of evidence-based actions which may not have been addressed through the PRIMA calls under PRIMA Sections 1 and 2.
Implementation	
Type of Activity	Research Innovation Action (RIA) P Innovation Action (IA) P Scholarship P Mobility P Joint research project P
Start date of the activity	March-April 2025
Duration	Project duration will be 1-2 years

Funding institution	PRIMA Funding Agencies
Funding beneficiaries	PRIMA Participating Countries
Countries where research is conducted	PRIMA Participating Countries
Collaborating partner(s)	PRIMA Funding Agencies
Commitments	
Total national public commitment for the entire duration of the activity	TR- Up to 2.000.000 TRY (TBC) + Project Incentive Premium (max. 330.000 TRY) (TBC) + Overhead (max. 650.000 TRY) (TBC) per project. Total approx. 3.000.000 TRY (TBC)=approx. EUR 75.000 (TBC). Other PS can have a specific allocated budget.
Alignment with PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	The thematic focus on Agricultural Research Water Management and Agri-food Value Chain will be in alignment with the three thematic pillars of PRIMA
Website	www.tubitak.gov.tr



ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2025

FOR THE PARTNERSHIP FOR RESEARCH AND
INNOVATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA
(PRIMA)

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