Pre-announcement of PRIMA Calls

The PRIMA Foundation would like to announce the PRIMA Section 1 and 2 Calls for proposals for 2018 of the PRIMA Programme.

PRIMA is a new Partnership on Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area based on the Decision (EU) 2017/1324[1] of the European Parliament and of the Council entered into force on 7th August 2017.

The PRIMA programme counts 15 Participating States (PS): ALGERIA, CROATIA, CYPRUS, FRANCE, GERMANY, GREECE, ISRAEL, ITALY, LUXEMBOURG, MALTA, PORTUGAL, SLOVENIA, SPAIN, TUNISIA, and TURKEY. In addition, it is expected that EGYPT, JORDAN, LEBANON, MOROCCO are to be considered for the time being to be Participating States.[2] (tbPS). Their full participation will be announced on the PRIMA website **(http://www.prima-med.org).**

Through Resarch Collaborative Projects PRIMA aims to build research and innovation capacities and to develop knowledge and common innovative solutions for agro-food systems, and water provision in the Mediterranean area to make to make them sustainable, in line with the UN 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

PRIMA CALLS FOR PROPOSALS 2018

PRIMA programme activities will be implemented by as following:

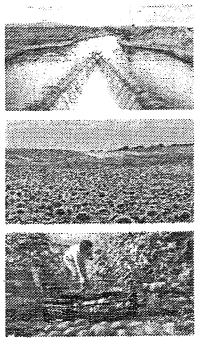
- SECTION 1: Actions and activities (Research & Innovation Actions **(RIA)**, and Innovation actions **(IA)**, as defined in the General Annexes of H2020) organised, managed and funded by PRIMA Foundation.
- SECTION 2: Activities (Research and Innovation Activities **(RIA)** based on national rules) selected following transnational open and competitive calls for proposals, organised by PRIMA Foundation and funded by the national funding bodies of PS.

The calls for proposals are part of the PRIMA Annual Work Plan 2018[3] which covers the priorities described in the PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) under the three PRIMA thematic areas:

1 Article 1(2) Decision (EU) 2017/1324 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2017(OJ L 185, 18.7.2017, p. 1)

[2] Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco are to be referred as 'to be Participating States' (tbPS). They will become Participating States, upon entry into force or, at least, upon provisional application of their respective international agreements for scientific and technol ogical cooperation with the Union setting out the terms and conditions of their participation in PRIMA. When the required international agreements start producing legal effects, these 'to be Participating States' will become Participating States.

[3] *PRIMA annual work plan for 2018 (PRIMA AWP 2018) has to be approved by the European Commission and adopted by the PRIMA Foundation Board of Trustee.*



MANAGEMENT OF WATER
Integrated and sustainable management of water for arid and semi-arid Mediterranean areas

FARMING SYSTEMS
Sustainable farming systems under Mediterranean environmental constraints

AGRO-FOOD VALUE CHAIN
Sustainable Mediterranean agro-food value chain for regional and local development

A) SECTION 1 CALLS 2018:

The PRIMA Foundation will launch 3 Calls for research and innovation proposals to mobilize the Euro-Mediterranean scientific communities, stakeholders and private entities and to support a wide range of research and innovation projects expected to produce a socio-economic impact in the near future.

Participants to these calls will have to submit a scientific pre- proposal (10 pages) to the PRIMA Foundation that will be evaluated in a peer review process according to the H2020 standard. The successful projects will be funded directly by the PRIMA Foundation through the signature of a grant agreement between the selected consortia and the PRIMA Foundation. The criteria for the evaluation and selection of the proposals will be done according to H2020 rules.

Participation of private entities will be encouraged in the research consortia, jointly with public research organizations, universities and end-users. The eligibility check of proposals will be done by the PRIMA Foundation in line with eligibility criteria established in the H2020 rules with derogations set by Decision (EU) 2017/1324.

- Section 1 Topics

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

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

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

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

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

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

Detailed supporting information about the challenge, scope and the expected impacts for each topic is provided in the guidelines for applicants that will be available on the PRIMA website at the opening of the calls (**www.prima-med.org**).

- Provisional timeline for the 3 calls on Section 1

Two-stage application procedure4:
Stage 1 *– Call Publication and opening: 08-Feb-18*
Submission deadline Stage 1: 17-Apr-18
Evaluation Results Stage 1 will be available by 15-Jun-18

Stage 2
Submission Deadline Stage 2: 15-Sep-2018
Evaluation Results Stage 2 will be available 05-Dec-18

B) SECTION 2 CALLS 2018:

In Section 2, PRIMA will support the research and innovation only through **RIA[5] (Research and Innovation Activities)**, based on **National Regulations**. The calls will be organized by PRIMA FOUNDATION and funded by the Participating States (PS).

Section 2 will focus on a unique call for Research and innovation Action RIA, addressing **9 topics** reported below (according to national priorities) and the cross cutting issues among them. In fact, several topics are strongly interrelated (leading to several cross-cutting themes such as soil sustainability and food security and enabling technologies e.g digital revolution, highlighted in the PRIMA SRIA).

When funding for training and mobility is allowed by the funding bodies these actions will be encouraged and projects should integrate in their work plan schemes for the mobility of young researchers / post graduates / post doctorates, in accordance with the modalities set out in national regulation funding bodies. PRIMA Section 2 call will fund collaborative research projects that should have an impact and contribute to demand and policy driven research.

- Section 2 Topics

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



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

Topic 2.1.2: Sustainable, integrated water management



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

Topic 2.1.3: Irrigation technologies and practices



The scope of this call is to improve irrigation water productivity while minimizing the potential environmental risks associated with irrigation at the farm and irrigation district level. This can be potentially appraised by

[4] Two-stage application procedure. For the first stage, a short proposal (maximum 10 pages) must be submitted by the first deadline. Successful applicants in the first stage will be invited to submit a full proposal (maximum 70 pages) for the second stage.

[5] Please note that the acronym RIA is used both for Section 1 and Section 2. In Section 1 the rules applying to these actions are the standard Horizon 2020 rules for participation (RfP). While the rules used in Section 2 are to some extent analogous to the Horizon 2020 RfP, specific rules, concerning participation and funding rates, apply. As the projects selected in Section 2 are funded directly by the national funding bodies they will be subject to the respective national regulations. For more details regarding the rules for Section 2 please refer to the guidelines for applicants on the PRIMA website.

introducing more efficient irrigation technologies aimed at reducing soil evaporation and water run-off while improving crop water use efficiency.

Topic 2.2.1: Adaptation of agriculture to climate change



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

Topic 2.2.2: Preventing emergence of animal and plant diseases



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

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



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

Topic 2.3.1 Valorising food products from traditional Mediterranean diet



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

Topic 2.3.2: Food Safety in local food chains



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

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



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

Projects must deliver tangible outputs and enhance technological and social innovation, depending on the research question addressed. The projects could include the use of innovative technologies, such as smart digital technologies, space data and related data and technologies. When explicitly allowed by the national regulations of the funding bodies, innovation actions should involve the private sector in the project Consortium, and particularly relevant SMEs. Detailed supporting information about the challenge, scope and the expected impacts for each topic is provided in the guidelines for applicants that will be available on the prima-med.org website at the opening of the calls.

- Provisional Timeline for the Call on Section 2

Two-stage application procedure6:
Stage 1 *– Call Publication and opening: 08-Feb-18*
Submission deadline Stage 1: 27-Mar-2018
Evaluation Results Stage 1 will be available by 6-Jun-18

Stage 2
Submission Deadline Stage 2: 04-Sep-2018
Evaluation Results Stage 2: 05-Dec-2018
Type of grant: Research & Innovation Action (RIA)

BASIC INFORMATION FOR ALL CALLS (Section 1 and 2)

- Call process: a **two stage process** and a **centralized evaluation** by PRIMA Foundaton.
- Total estimated **budget:** Section 1: 18M€ (from the UE) and Section 2: 32M€ (from the countries).
- Estimated **calls launch**: early February 2018 (both sections).
- Estimated opening of the **electronic submission website**: one month before the deadline (both sections).
- Estimated **calls deadline stage 1**: 17 April 2018 (section 1) and 27 March 2018 (section 2)
- Estimated **calls deadline stage 2:** 15 Sep 2018 (section 1) and 4 Sep 2018 (section 2)
- Publication of the **calls documents** (guidelines for applicants, templates, etc.): early February 2018 (both sections).
- Expected **number of funded projects**: up to 9 (section 1) and 20 – 30 (section 2).
- Eligible consortium**: Three entities** from three different PRIMA countries:
    - At least one is established in a Member State : Croatia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain,
      and
    - At least one is established in Algeria, or a To be Participating States (TbPs): Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco[7] or in a third country bordering the Mediterranean Sea : Israel , Tunisia, Turkey.

  (more details will be published in call section of thePRIMA website).

LOGISTIC INFORMATION

- **More information PRIMA website:** www.prima-med.org
- **Call Secretariat -PRIMA FOUNDATION.** Contact details will be announced in the calls documents.
- **Electronic Submission Site (ESS)**: the link will be announced on the PRIMA website.
- **Partnering tool:** the link will be announced in the calls documents / PRIMA website.
- **National Contact Points (NCPs):** they will be listed in calls documents /PRIMA website.

Disclaimer:

[6] Two-stage application procedure. For the first stage, a short proposal (maximum 10 pages) must be submitted by the first deadline. Successful applicants in the first stage will be invited to submit a full proposal (maximum 70 pages) for the second stage.

[7] Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco are to be referred as 'to be Participating States' (tbPS). They will become Participating States, upon entry into force or, at least, upon provisional application of their respective international agreements for scientific and technol ogical cooperation with the Union setting out the terms and conditions of their participation in PRIMA. When the required international agreements start producing legal effects, these 'to be Participating States' will become Participating States.

As publication of the official call text by PRIMA will depend on approval of the PRIMA annual work plan for 2018 (PRIMA AWP 2018) by the European Commission and the adoption by the PRIMA Foundation Board of Trustee, this pre-announcement is provided for early information purposes only. All dates and amounts are to be confirmed. The official Call Announcement, *to be published later, shall prevail.*