



Guidelines for Applicants

PRIMA Call-2019 Section 1 - RIA & IA (Two Stage Submission)

Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area

PRIMA

Version 3.0
13 December 2018

The PRIMA programme is an Art. 185 initiative supported and funded under Horizon 2020, the European Union's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation'



DISCLAIMER

This document was prepared by PRIMA-IS to provide guidance to applicants, the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains. In case of discrepancies between this document and the AWP 2019, the latter legally prevails.

Glossary

AC: Associated Countries
AWP: Annual Work Plan
CA: Consortium Agreement
CSA: Coordination and Support Action
CV: Curriculum Vitae
DMP: Data Management Plan
ESR: Evaluation Summary Report
ESS: Electronic Submission System
EU: European Union
FPs: Full Proposals
GA: Grant Agreement
IPR: Intellectual Property Right
KPI: Key Performance Indicators
MPC: Mediterranean Partner Countries
NCP: National Contact Point
OCT: Overseas Countries and Territories
PI: Principal Investigator
PRIMA-IS: PRIMA – Implementation Structure
PS: Participating State
RIA: Research and Innovation Action
RfP: Rules for Participation
SDG: Sustainable Development Goals
SMEs: Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
SRIA: Scientific Research and Innovation Agenda
TC: Third Countries
TRL: Technology Readiness Level
UfMS: Union for Mediterranean Secretariat

SUBMISSION INFORMATION***Stage 1 Pre-proposals******Deadline for Submission 28/02/2019 17:00h CET******Documents for Stage-1:***

- ✓ *Administrative and financial data, the full cost and requested amount per partner (to be filled directly on the ESS)*
- ✓ *PART I: Administrative data (template to be uploaded as pdf on the ESS)*
- ✓ *Scientific document- pre proposal (Part II, to be uploaded as pdf on the ESS)*

Stage-2 Full proposals***Deadline for Submission 16/07/2019 17:00h CET******Documents for stage 2:***

- ✓ *Administrative and financial data, the full cost and requested amount per partner (to be checked directly on the ESS)*
- ✓ *PART I: Administrative data (template to be uploaded as pdf on the ESS, (as an annex))*
- ✓ *PART II: Detailed Scientific document – full proposal (template to be uploaded as pdf on the ESS)*
- ✓ *Detailed budget (template to be uploaded as an Excel file in the ESS)*

One month before the deadline for submission, the Electronic Submission System link will be announced on the PRIMA web page in the section corresponding to the call.

Download all templates and reference documents from www.prima-med.org

Contents

Glossary	2
I. Actions funded by PRIMA.....	5
II. Before the Submission of Proposal	6
III. Preparing the Proposal.....	7
IV. List of Countries Eligible for Funding	8
V. Standard of admissibility and related requirements.....	9
VI. Standard Eligibility Conditions.....	10
VII. Evaluation Rules	11
VIII. Communication of Evaluation Results	15
IX. Call Secretariat – PRIMA-IS	15
X. National Contact Points.....	16
XI. Use of the Electronic Submission System	16
 Annexes	
A1. Common timeline for all calls in Section 1.....	17
A2. List of KPIs.....	19

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The calls will follow a two-stage evaluation procedure.

For the First Stage, a short Scientific pre-proposal, Part II (10 pages), as well as Part I for administrative data, must be submitted to the Electronic Submission System **by the first stage deadline (28/02/2019, 17:00h CET)**.

Guidance about the Electronic Submission System is provided in “Electronic Submission System Handbook 2019”. **The link to the electronic submission system will be announced ONE MONTH before the submission deadline on the PRIMA web page, in the section corresponding to the call.**

Please note that when these guidelines refer to “proposal”, this means that the conditions apply to both pre-proposal (First Stage) and full proposal (Second Stage).

The Annual Work Plan 2019 (AWP2019) contains the full description of the actions; please refer to this document to have more detailed information on participation.

I. Actions funded by PRIMA

Thematic Area Water Management



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

Thematic Area Farming Systems



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



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

Thematic Area Agro-food Value Chain



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

Cross-cutting Themes (Nexus)



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

** for CSA, check the ‘Guideline for the Applicant- Section 1, CSA’ on PRIMA website.*

Types of Action: Specific Provisions and Funding Rates

Research and innovation actions (RIA)

Description: Action primarily consisting of activities aiming to establish new knowledge and/or to explore the feasibility of a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution. For this purpose, they may include basic and applied research, technology development and integration, testing and validation on a small-scale prototype in a laboratory or simulated environment.

Projects may contain closely connected but limited demonstration or pilot activities aiming to show technical feasibility in a near to operational environment.

Funding rate: 100%

Innovation actions (IA)

Description: Action primarily consisting of activities directly aiming at producing plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services. For this purpose they may include prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication.

A 'demonstration or pilot' aims to validate the technical and economic viability of a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution in an operational (or near to operational) environment, whether industrial or otherwise, involving where appropriate a larger scale prototype or demonstrator.

A 'market replication' aims to support the first application/deployment in the market of an innovation that has already been demonstrated but not yet applied/deployed in the market due to market failures/barriers to uptake. 'Market replication' does not cover multiple applications in the market of an innovation¹ that has already been applied successfully once in the market. 'First' means new at least to PRIMA countries or new at least to the application sector in question. Often such projects involve a validation of technical and economic performance at system level in real life operating conditions provided by the market.

Projects may include limited research and development activities.

Funding rate: 70% (except for non-profit legal entities, where a rate of 100% applies).

All participants to activities funded by the PRIMA are required to label or co-label any communication or publication related to their activities with the following acknowledgement "[name of the activity/grant code] is part of the PRIMA Programme supported by the European Union", as well as with the PRIMA logo.

II. Before the Submission of Proposal

There are some important steps to get ready before starting the preparation of the proposal. They are as follows:

- Carefully read the Guideline for applicant and check the eligibility and admissibility conditions (e.g. minimum number of required partners or their place of establishment).
- Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact PRIMA Officers as well as PRIMA National Contact Points (NCPs), published on PRIMA website, to receive more information and guidance on PRIMA calls.
- Get familiar with the standard administrative and technical documentation to fill in. These templates are available on the PRIMA website (Reference Documents) to allow an early preparation of the proposal. Please note that a different template is used for Section 1 pre-proposal and full proposal stages with different information.
- The PRIMA website (www.prima-med.org) features a "find partners tool" which allows applicants to search for potential partners.
- Each consortium consists of several teams, each one with a Principal Investigator (PI), who is the leader of the team, lab or institution. One of these PIs shall be nominated as Project Coordinator, whose responsibilities during the submission and the evaluation phase are to:
 - Ensure that all members of the consortium are eligible;
 - Submit the pre proposal and full proposal, and all other requested documents, on behalf of the consortium;

¹ A new or improved technology, product, design, process, service or solution.

- Be the single point of contact between the PRIMA-IS and the consortium;

III. Preparing the Proposal

The proposal must be created by the Project Coordinator and consists of two main parts: Part I: the **administrative & financial data** (to be filled directly on the ESS, and uploaded as well using Part I template), and Part II: the **scientific document** (Part II), **which** is the description of the planned project. The project budget breakdown (excel table) is needed only during the Second Stage. All templates are available on www.prima-med.org.

The applied page limits are:

- Stage-1, for the scientific document (Part II): max 10 pages, all sections included;
- Stage-2, for the scientific document (Part II): max 50 pages, all sections included;

Proposals, all Annexes and any additional documents **must be written in English**, in a legible font. Further guidance on the use of fonts, margins and other page formatting will be included in the pre-proposal and full proposal templates available on the PRIMA website.

The work described in the proposal must correspond to the PRIMA Call Section 1. The proposal has to meet all eligibility and admissibility conditions described in these guidelines. Proposals that do not comply with such requirements will be considered ineligible or not admissible.

Between Stage-1 and Stage-2, NO MODIFICATIONS are allowed in the consortium composition (Organizations, Coordinator and PIs), budget and scientific objectives.

During First Stage, and on the online submission system, for each partner, the Project Coordinator should indicate the requested amount to PRIMA and the total cost of the project (please refer to the Electronic Submission System Handbook). Please ensure that your requested contribution to PRIMA does not exceed the maximum per grant as stated in the call text. The project total cost = requested amount to PRIMA + own funding.

A detailed explanation of eligible and ineligible costs can be found in the **Art. 6 of the PRIMA Model Grant Agreement** (available on www.prima-med.org). A detailed budget breakdown will be requested for the full proposal (Second Stage).

Applications, including all required forms and annexes, must be received by the PRIMA-IS, only via the electronic submission system, **before each stage deadline** as stated in this document. Therefore, it is strongly recommended to do not wait until the last moment to submit your proposal. **Proposals submitted after the deadline are not eligible** for evaluation and will be automatically rejected. No extenuating circumstances will be taken into consideration.

It is possible for the consortium to withdraw an already submitted proposal at any time before the deadline, or even during the review process. Correcting or revising of proposals is only possible before the deadline. PRIMA will use the latest version of the proposal submitted by the deadline for review.

ONLY consortia whose pre-proposals are selected by PRIMA-IS (based on the evaluation panel's ranking list, please refer to Section VIII of these guidelines for more information on the evaluation process), will be invited to submit a full proposal (Stage-2). The submission of a pre-proposal is mandatory.

Proposals submitted by coordinators will be opened and authenticated by the PRIMA-IS, which will perform the admissibility and eligibility check. No clarification or integration requests will be accepted

after the call deadline. If the admissibility and eligibility criteria are met, the proposal will be then sent to evaluators.

Table 1. Main steps for the preparation and submission of a proposal

Main steps for the preparation and submission of a proposal	
1	Consortium composition and appointment of the Project Coordinator;
2	Verification of the eligibility conditions for all partners;
3	Pre-proposal writing (check the evaluation criteria, fill in the appropriate template);
4	Check Financial capacity: In line with the Financial Regulation No 966/2012 and the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation No 1290/2013 by following this link: https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/organisations/lfv.html
5	<p>Stage-1 'Pre-proposal Submission' by the Project Coordinator with the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Administrative and financial data (names of the partners, contact details, institutions....). Information to be filled in online. See ESS Handbook for details. Budget: Total cost per partner and required amount per partner to PRIMA, to be filled online. ✓ Administrative Data (Part I, names of the partners, contact details, institutions, ethical issues....). PDF to be uploaded on the ESS. ✓ A Detailed Scientific Document (PART II, PDF to be uploaded on the ESS). <p>Note that for Stage-2 'Full Proposal', the Project Coordinator will have to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Administrative data (Part I, names of the partners, contact details, institutions, ethical issues....). PDF to be uploaded on the ESS. ✓ A Detailed Scientific Document (Part II, PDF to be uploaded on the ESS). CVs of the PIs including all the information listed in Section V of these guidelines (point 3) must be integrated in Part II. ✓ A detailed budget table (Excel file to be uploaded on the ESS). <p>The PI is the team leader=1 person per team, lab or institution.</p>

IV. List of Countries Eligible for Funding

Legal entities established in the following countries and territories will be eligible to receive funding through PRIMA grants, Section 1:

a) The PRIMA Participating States (PS)²:

- The following Member States (MS) of the European Union (EU): Croatia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Slovenia. It includes the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) linked to these Member States ³.
- The following Third Countries associated to Horizon 2020 (AC): Israel, Tunisia, and Turkey.
- The following Third Countries not associated to Horizon 2020 (TC), upon condition that they have concluded international agreements for scientific and technological cooperation setting

² New PS may join PRIMA and the regularly updated list of PS will be provided by PRIMA-IS (at the following link: <http://prima-med.org/about-us/participating-states/>).

³ 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.

out the terms and conditions of their participation in PRIMA: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco.

These Associated (AC) and Third Countries (TC) mentioned above are the Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC).

The latest information on the PRIMA PS can be found on PRIMA webpage (in the “about us” section): www.prima-med.org

In addition, the following entities are eligible to receive funding through PRIMA grants:

b) Any legal entity created under Union law.

c) Any international European interest organization, as defined in point (12) of Article 2(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013⁴.

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

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

- Participation is deemed to be essential for carrying out the action;
- Such funding is provided under a bilateral scientific and technological agreement or any other arrangement between the Union and the international organization or, for entities established in a country, which is not a Participating State, the country in which the legal entity is established.

Participants from countries not listed in point 5.1.1.a), and not falling under b), c) or d) above, can participate but they have to fund their own participation.

All participants with their own funding have to attach to their proposal a letter from their organization (signed by a legal representative of the structure) attesting that the funds to cover their participation to the projects (task(s), participation to meetings, etc.) will be available. This letter should be uploaded on the ESS as Annex.

V. Standard of admissibility and related requirements

After the corresponding deadlines, PRIMA-IS will check if the proposal is **admissible** (complete and properly put together) and **eligible**. After the eligibility check done by PRIMA-IS, a second eligibility check will be performed by the national funding bodies, aimed at the verification of eligibility for funding.

Eligibility checks include basic checking: if the contents of proposals are in line with the topic description, if they meet standard and any other eligibility conditions listed in these guidelines. Only proposals which are **admissible and eligible** will be evaluated.

1. To be considered **admissible**, a proposal must be:

- (a) Submitted in the Electronic Submission System before the deadline given in the call conditions;
- (b) Readable, accessible and printable;
- (c) **Complete** and inclusive of the requested administrative data, the proposal description, and any other obligatory supporting documents specified in the call conditions;
- (d) Include a **draft plan for the exploitation and dissemination of the results**. The draft plan is **not required at the first stage**.

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

2. In addition to the above admissibility requirements, page limits will apply to parts of proposals. The limit for a **Stage-1 'Pre-Proposal'** is **10 pages (THIS APPLIES ONLY TO THE SCIENTIFIC Document, Part II)**, while the limit for a **Stage-2 'Full Proposal'** is **50 pages (THIS APPLIES ONLY TO THE SCIENTIFIC Document, Part II)**.

Electronic Submission System will automatically reject the proposal if it exceeds the page limits.

Proposals must be written in a legible font. Further guidance on acceptable fonts, margins and other page formatting will be included in the proposal templates. The structure of proposals must correspond to the requirements specified under each section of the proposal template. Applicant are requested to use the templates provided by PRIMA that can be downloaded from the PRIMA website under the relevant call section.

We strongly encourage you to write your proposal in a concise and precise way (please bear in mind that the length of the proposal is not considered as a guarantee of quality and evaluators appreciate to receive precise and clear documentation).

3. The following **supporting documents** will be required to determine the operational capacity for grant proposals (for Stage-2 only, as integral part under Section 4 of the Part II 'Full Proposal', count toward the max page limit):

- A curriculum vitae or description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed research and/or innovation activities;
- A list of up to five relevant publications, and/or products, services (including widely-used datasets or software), or other achievements relevant to the call content;
- A list of up to five relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal;
- A description of any significant infrastructure and/or any major items of technical equipment, relevant to the proposed work;
- A description of any third parties that are not represented as project partners, but who will nonetheless be contributing towards the work (e.g. providing facilities, computing resources).

This scrutiny will be carried out by the evaluators during the evaluation process under the selection criteria, in particular the award criterion 'Quality and efficiency of the implementation'.

VI. Standard Eligibility Conditions

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

Furthermore, proposals must comply with the eligibility conditions set out in these guidelines.

A proposal will only be considered **eligible** if:

- a) the coordinator of the proposal is a legal entity established in a PRIMA PS⁵;
- 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:

⁵ This measure is aimed to protect the Union's financial interests and is in line with Art. 7(7) of the PRIMA Decision.

Type of Action	Eligibility conditions for participation
Research & Innovation Action (RIA)	At least three legal entities established in three different countries considered as Participating States as defined in point 5.1.1. AWP 2019. Each of the three must be established in a different country considered to be PRIMA PS by submission deadline under the relevant call, out of which: -at least one must be established in a EU Member State or a third country associated to Horizon 2020 and not being a MPC; and -at least one must be established in a third country bordering the Mediterranean Sea (MPC) All three legal entities must be independent of each other.
Innovation actions (IA)	At least three legal entities established in three different countries considered as Participating States as defined in point 5.1.1. AWP 2019. Each of the three must be established in a different country considered to be PRIMA PS by submission deadline under the relevant call, out of which: -at least one must be established in a EU Member State or a third country associated to Horizon 2020 and not being a MPC and -at least one must be established in a third country bordering the Mediterranean Sea (MPC) All three legal entities must be independent of each other.

Between Stage-1 and Stage-2, NO MODIFICATIONS are allowed in the consortium composition (Organizations, Coordinator and PIs), budget and scientific objectives.

NB:

For section 1, the PI can submit more than one proposal as coordinator but in case that more than one proposal is selected for funding, the coordinator will have to choose one project to be funded and withdraw the others (one funding per year). The PI can be partner in other projects.

For Section 2, the PI cannot be a coordinator in both Section 1 & Section 2 of the same year, but can be a partner in other proposals in both Sections, with an eligibility condition that proposals must be different in terms of objectives, methodology and consortium composition.

VII. Evaluation Rules

-Selection Criteria

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

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

In cases where the requested funding for the action is equal to or superior to EUR 500,000 and whenever there are grounds to doubt the financial and operational capacity of the coordinator or other participants on the basis of available information, the PRIMA-IS shall verify their financial and operational capacity as reported in paragraphs 10 and 11 of Article 15 RfP H2020, unless the coordinator is:

- a. A public body;
- b. A higher or secondary education establishment;
- c. An international organisation or body whose participation is guaranteed by the government of an EU country or associated country, in accordance with the PRIMA MGA.

2. *Operational Capacity:* As a distinct operation, carried out during the evaluation of the award criterion 'Quality and efficiency of the implementation', experts will indicate whether each individual participant has, or will have in due time, a sufficient operational capacity to successfully carry out its

tasks in the proposed work plan. This assessment will be based on the competence and experience of the applicant, including its operational resources (human, technical and other) and, if applicable, exceptionally the concrete measures proposed to obtain it by the time of the implementation of the tasks.

Financial and Operational Capacity will be performed by PRIMA-IS at the evaluation phase of proposals in Second Stage calls and have the same timeline.

- Award criteria, Scores and Weighting

1. Grant proposals will be evaluated by experts, on the basis of the **award criteria** 'Excellence', 'Impact' and 'Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation' (see Article 15 of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation No 1290/2013).

The aspects to be considered in each case depend on the types of action as set out in the table below:

Table 2. Aspects to be considered in the evaluation.

Type of Action	Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
	The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the topic description in the work plan.	The following aspects will be taken into account:	The following aspects
All Types of Actions	<p>Clarity and pertinence of the objectives;</p> <p>Soundness of the concept, and credibility of the proposed methodology;</p> <p>Fit with the scope and objectives of the PRIMA programme and the call topic description;</p>	<p>The extent to which the outputs of the project would contribute to one or several of the expected impacts mentioned in this document under the relevant topic.</p> <p>Scores of the proposals will not depend on the number of expected impacts covered.</p>	<p>Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, including extent to which the resources assigned to work packages are in line with their objectives and deliverables;</p> <p>Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk and innovation management;</p> <p>Complementarity of the participants and extent to which the consortium as whole brings together the necessary expertise;</p> <p>Appropriateness of the allocation of</p>

Research and Innovation Actions (RIA) And Innovation Actions (IA)	<p>Extent that the proposed work is beyond the state of the art, and demonstrates innovation potential (e.g. ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches, new products, services or business and organizational models)</p> <p>Appropriate consideration of interdisciplinary approaches and, where relevant, use of stakeholder knowledge and gender dimension in research and innovation content.</p>	<p>Any substantial impacts even if not mentioned in this document, that would enhance innovation capacity, create new market opportunities, strengthen competitiveness and growth of companies, address issues related to climate change or the environment, or bring other important benefits for society;</p> <p>Quality of the proposed measures to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of IPR), and to manage research data where relevant. • Communicate the project activities to different target audiences. 	
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-Scoring and Weighting:

- Evaluation scores will be awarded for the criteria, and not for the different aspects listed in the above table. For full proposals, each criterion will be scored out of 5. The threshold for individual criteria will be 3. The overall threshold, applying to the sum of the three individual scores, will be 10.
- For Innovation actions to determine the ranking, the score for the criterion 'impact' will be given a weight of 1.5.
- For the evaluation of First Stage proposals under a two-stage submission procedure, only the criteria '**Excellence**' and '**Impact**' will be evaluated. With regard to the impact criterion only the aspects in **bold** will be considered for first stage proposals. The threshold for both individual criteria will be 4. For each indicative budget-split in the call conditions, the overall threshold, applying to the sum of the two individual scores, will be set at the level such that the total requested budget of proposals admitted to Stage-2 is as close as possible to three times the available budget, and in any case, not less than two and a half times the available budget. In any case, not less than two and a half times the available budget.
- The actual level will therefore depend on the volume of pre-proposals received. The threshold is expected to normally be set at least at 8 or 8.5 (stage 1).

Table 3. Score description for the evaluation criteria.

Score description for the evaluation criteria (half point scores may be given)		
0	Weak	The proposal fails to address the criterion under examination or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information.
1	Poor	The criterion is addressed in an inadequate manner, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
2	Fair	While the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses.
3	Good	The proposal addresses the criterion well, although improvements would be necessary.
4	Very Good	The proposal addresses the criterion very well, although certain improvements are still possible.
5	Excellent	The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor.

Evaluation Procedure

- **Individual Evaluation:** Each eligible proposal is evaluated remotely by at least three expert evaluators (see Article 15 of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation no. 1290/2013), who carry out a technical evaluation on the basis of the criteria mentioned above. An Individual Evaluation Report, which includes comments and scores for all evaluation criteria, is prepared by each evaluator.
- **Panel Review:** after the remote individual evaluation, evaluators meet in a panel to discuss and find agreement on the initial comments and scores attributed to each proposal. On consensual way, the panel review will recommend one ranked list for the proposals under evaluation, following the scoring systems indicated above and the discussion of the panel. They will prepare an Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) for each proposal, which shows the outcome of the evaluation of the project proposal.

Project funding decision will be taken based on this ranking list. The panel configuration allows evaluators to have an overview of all eligible proposals, not just the one they have evaluated, which enables them to decide fairly when ranking the proposals.

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

-Priority order for proposals with the same score:

The following method will be applied (except for the pre-proposal stage, where proposals having the same score are kept together and no prioritization is made).

If necessary, the panel will determine a priority order for proposals, which have been awarded the **same score** within a ranked list. Whether or not such a prioritization is carried out will depend on the available budget or other conditions set out in the call text. The following approach will be applied successively for every group of *ex aequo* proposals requiring prioritization, starting with the highest scored group, and continuing in descending order:

- Proposals that address topics, or sub-topics, not otherwise covered by more highly-ranked proposals, will be considered to have the highest priority.

b) The proposals identified under (a), if any, will themselves be prioritized according to the scores they have been awarded for the criterion excellence. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on scores for the criterion impact.

c) If necessary, any further prioritisation will be based on the following factors,: number of MPCs partners involved, size of EU budget allocated to SMEs; gender balance among the personnel named in the proposal who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the research and/or innovation activities.

d) If a distinction still cannot be made, the panel may decide to further prioritise by considering how to enhance the quality of the project portfolio through synergies between projects, or other factors related to the objectives of the call or to Horizon 2020 in general. These factors will be documented in the report of the Panel.

e) The method described in (a), (b), (c) and (d) will then be applied to the remaining ex aequos in the group.

At the end of the panel meeting, the panel will recommend one ranking list for the proposals under evaluation, following the scoring systems indicated above.

VIII. Communication of Evaluation Results

Coordinators will receive an Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) at the end of the evaluation process, showing the results of the evaluation.

The final decision of funding will be taken according to the ranking list produced by the evaluation panel after the evaluation of full proposals, starting by the project ranked number 1 in the list in a descending order, until funds are available.

Applicants whose proposal is awarded funding will receive a formal communication informing them that the grant preparation phase can start. A positive result **does not constitute a confirmed offer of a grant**.

Information on the means of redress

You may request an evaluation review on the procedural aspects of the evaluation. This procedure is intended for applicants who believe that the evaluation of their proposal has not been carried out in accordance with the procedures set out in the Annual Work Plan. This procedure covers only the procedural aspects of the evaluation, and not the merits of the proposal.

The request must be sent by the coordinator to the legal officer of PRIMA secretariat via e mail and to the project officer in charge of the thematic area concerned (contacts available at <http://prima-med.org/about-us/secretariat/>) within 1 month after receiving the result of the evaluation.

An evaluation review committee chaired by the DoS and composed of the POs who have not been involved in the call evaluation, as well as the LO, shall provide an opinion on the procedural aspects of the evaluation process.

The committee may recommend one of the following:

- a) Re-evaluation of the proposal primarily by evaluators not involved in the previous evaluation;
- b) Confirmation of the initial evaluation.

IX. Call Secretariat – PRIMA-IS

The Call Secretariat of the **PRIMA-IS** will provide administrative support to applicants regarding the calls, call documents and procedures.

Project Officers:

For Management of Water: Marco Orlando

Phone: +34 93 401 08 40

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For Farming Systems: Fabrice Dentressangle

Phone: +34 93 401 18 41

e-mail: fabrice.dentressangle@prima-med.org

For Agro-food Value Chain: Mohamed Ahmed Wageih

Phone: +34 93 401 67 89

e-mail: mohamed.wageih@prima-med.org

For Nexus: Ali Rhouma

Phone: +34 93 401 19 46

e-mail: ali.rhouma@prima-med.org

X. National Contact Points

Besides the Call Secretariat, each country has nominated representatives at national level as National Contact Point (NCP). These representatives give support to the applicants and are the primary points of contact for all general matters related to the calls, and can act as a link between PRIMA and the coordinator of the project. A list of the National Contact Points is provided on the PRIMA website (<http://prima-med.org/calls-for-proposals/ncps/>).

XI. Use of the Electronic Submission System

The proposal submission occurs online via Electronic Submission System. It is the duty of the Project Coordinator to enter the data online. Please READ CAREFULLY THE ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION SYSTEM HANDBOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION.

The ESS will ask for the following information:

- Project Title;
- Project Acronym;
- Project duration;
- Topic;
- Keywords. You can select predetermined keywords for main topic selected or add any new keyword;
- Abstract;
- Documents. You can upload the required documents (Scientific document, budget table, in PDF or EXCEL files). Max allowed file size: 10 MB;
- The ESS will ask you for the total cost / partner and the requested amount to PRIMA / partner.
For information Total cost = requested amount to PRIMA + own funding;

The Project Coordinator has to list all partners of the consortium. After having entered the required information, each partner will receive a confirmation email and will be able to edit his/her administrative and financial data.

Annex 1: Timeline for PRIMA-2019 Calls, Section 1

Action	Call Topics	Call Publication and Opening	Submission Deadline Stage-1	Evaluation Results Stage-1	Submission Deadline Stage-2	Evaluation Results Stage-2
RIA	Topic 1.1.1 RIA Sustainable groundwater management in water-stressed Mediterranean areas	17/12/2018	28/02/2019	13/05/2019	16/07/2019	05/11/2019
RIA	Topic 1.2.1 RIA Conserving water and soil in Mediterranean dry-farming, smallholder agriculture	17/12/2018	28/02/2019	13/05/2019	16/07/2019	05/11/2019
IA	Topic 1.22 IA Sustainability and competitiveness of Mediterranean greenhouse and intensive horticulture	17/12/2018	28/02/2019	13/05/2019	16/07/2019	05/11/2019
IA	Topic 1.3.1 IA Implementation of analytical tools and digital technology to achieve traceability and authenticity control of traditional Mediterranean foods.	17/12/2018	28/02/2019	13/05/2019	16/07/2019	05/11/2019
RIA	Topic 1.4.1 RIA Assessing social, technical and economic benefits of a cross-sectoral governance of the Water-Ecosystems-Food-Energy Nexus.	17/12/2018	28/02/2019	13/05/2019	16/07/2019	05/11/2019

Important events	Date
STAGE-1 (Pre-proposals)	
Announcement publication	17/12/2018
Opening of the Electronic Submission System	28/01/2019
Deadline for Pre-Proposals submission	28/02/2019, 17:00 CET (Central European Time)
Publication of results and communication to coordinators	13/05/2019
STAGE-2 (Full-Proposals)	
Opening of the Electronic Submission System	16/06/2019
Deadline for full proposals submission	16/07/2019, 17:00 CET (Central European Time)
Publication of results and communication to coordinators	05/11/2019

Annex 2: Key Performance Indicators

PRIMA programme will be implemented in compliance with the objectives and provisions set out in the Decision (EU) 2017/1324 and will be based on the priorities described in the PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA).

The successful implementation of the PRIMA programme will be measured against specific key performance indicators (KPIs), which have been set out in the SRIA.














PRIMA is expected to have significant impact in the Mediterranean area.

The most important assessment criteria will be the ability of the PRIMA programme to develop and eventually adopt innovative and sustainable solutions for water management and provision and agro-food systems contributing to the implementation of UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

Potential socio-economic benefits include creation of new jobs, increased competitiveness of companies in both shores of the Mediterranean area, social and environmental impacts.

Below is the table containing the PRIMA KPIs that will measure the PRIMA expected impacts.

Consortia shall consider in their proposal how and to which extent it will contribute to the targeted research and innovation objectives of the PRIMA programme and to its overall expected impacts.

IMPACT INDICATORS	
General goals	KPIs
	SDGs implementation ¹
	 <p>Innovation for MANAGEMENT OF WATER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of applied R&I solutions to the challenges of water management • SDG#6 - 06.21 Biochemical oxygen demand in rivers; • SDG#6 - 06.24 Nitrate in groundwater • SDG#6 - 06.26 Phosphate in rivers every year • SDG#6 - 06.41 Water exploitation index (WEI) 
	 <p>Innovation for FARMING SYSTEMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG#2 - 2.4.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture • SDG#2 - 2.5.2 Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk, not-at-risk or at unknown level of risk of extinction • SDG#11 - 11.3.1 Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate.  
	 <p>Innovation for AGRO-FOOD VALUE CHAIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG#12 - 12.3.1 Global food loss index • Percentage increase in Mediterranean agro-food products exported • Percentage decrease in Food imports dependency (%imports/consumption) 
	 <p>Economic Growth/ Competitiveness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New water and food quality oriented business models and strategies • Start-ups created adopting organisational and technological innovation • SDG#10 - 10.2.1 Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by sex, age and persons with disabilities • SDG#8 - 8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita  
	 <p>Diet/Health/Well-being</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease in overweight population percentage (of which obese) by sex and by Country • SDG#6 - 6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services 
	 <p>Migration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multidimensional Poverty Index (SDG) by Country^{2,3}




¹ Sachs, J., Schmidt-Traub, G., Kroll, C., Durand-Delacre, D. and Teksoz, K. (2017). *SDG Index and Dashboards Report 2017*.

² Alkire, S., Apablaza, M., and Jung, E. (2014). *Multidimensional poverty measurement for EUSILC countries*. OPHI Research in Progress 36b.

³ Alkire, S. and Robles, G. (2017). *Multidimensional Poverty Index Summer 2017: Brief methodological note and results*. OPHI Methodological Note 44, University of Oxford.

SDG. Sustainable Development Goals: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

OUTCOMES INDICATORS KPIs

Thematic Areas and Priorities	 <p>1/MANAGEMENT OF WATER</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Water resources availability; 2 Sustainable integrated water management; 3 Irrigation technologies; 4 Use of alternative water resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new modelling routines for determining basic components of water cycle related to groundwater accumulation; • Number of efficiency enhanced technologies for wastewater treatment for unconventional renewable water resource production; • Number and efficiency performance of new irrigation technologies and scheduling protocols and models; • Number of water treatment technologies for specific irrigation requirements.
	 <p>2/ FARMING SYSTEMS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Adaptation of agriculture to climate change; 2 Developing sustainable and productive agro-ecosystems; 3 Preventing emergence of animal and plant diseases; 4 Developing farming systems, create employment etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new varieties/species adaptable to climate change; • Improved Knowledge of soil erosion mechanisms to enhance fertility and mitigate salinization under conditions of water scarcity improving nutrient balance; • Number of integrated solutions for pest and diseases management for plant and animal production systems; • Number of innovations in farming systems developed enabling sustainable and efficient agriculture and food systems.
	 <p>3/ AGRO-FOOD VALUE CHAIN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Valorising food products; 2 Food safety in local chains; 3 Implementation of innovation in the agro-food chain; 4 Implications of dietary shifts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new food products with enhanced shelf-life, quality and health-related beneficial properties; • Number of innovative solutions aimed to improve quality control mechanisms and techniques throughout supply chains; • Number of business models for quality and sustainability adapted to SME and smallholders; • Number of raising awareness campaign promoting an environment conducive to healthy food choices through appropriate incentives and information provision to consumers and policy makers.