



# Guidelines for Applicants

## PRIMA Call-2026-Section 2

RIA – Research and Innovation Action

**funded by Participating States**

**(Two-Stage Submission)**

Version 1  
15 March 2026

### 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 Work Programme 2026, the latter legally prevails.*

**PRIMA Partnership**  
[www.prima-med.org](http://www.prima-med.org)



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## Glossary

AC: Associated Countries  
CA: Consortium Agreement  
DMP: Data Management Plan  
ESR: Evaluation Summary Report  
ESS: Electronic Submission System  
EU: European Union  
GA: Grant Agreement  
IPR: Intellectual Property Right  
KPI: Key Performance Indicators  
MPC: Mediterranean Partner Countries  
NCP: National Contact Point.  
NFA: National Funding Agency  
OCT: Overseas Countries and Territories  
PI: Principal Investigator  
PRIMA-IS: PRIMA – Implementation Structure  
PS: Participating State  
RIA: Research and Innovation Activities  
RfP: Rules for Participation  
SMEs: Small and Medium-sized Enterprises  
SRIA: Scientific Research and Innovation Agenda  
TC: Third Countries  
TRL: Technology Readiness Level  
WP: Work Programme

## SUBMISSION INFORMATION

### **Stage 1 Pre-proposals**

**Deadline for Submission: 15/05/2026, 13:00 Spain Time**

#### **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, as an annex)
- **PART II: Technical Annex** (pre proposal template to be uploaded as PDF on the ESS)

### **Stage 2 Full proposals**

**Deadline for Submission: 29/09/2026, 17:00 Spain time**

#### **Documents for Stage 2:**

- **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, as an annex)
- **PART II: Technical Annex** (full proposal template to be uploaded as PDF on the ESS)
- **Detailed Budget Table** (template to be uploaded as an Excel file in the ESS)

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

Download all templates and reference documents from:

<https://prima-med.org/documents-reports/>

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**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

The call will follow a two-stage evaluation procedure.

For the first stage, a short scientific pre-proposal (10 pages), as well as Part I for administrative and financial data, must be submitted to the Electronic Submission System by the first deadline (15 May 2026, 13:00h CET).

Guidance about the Electronic Submission System is provided in “Electronic Submission System Handbook”. **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 Work Programme 2026 (WP2026) contains the full description of the actions; please refer to this document to have more detailed information on participation.

**AS THIS CALL IS FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL FUNDING BODIES, PLEASE READ CAREFULLY THE NATIONAL REGULATIONS OF YOUR COUNTRY (available on the PRIMA website) TO VERIFY YOUR ELIGIBILITY. PRIMA strongly recommends all applicants to communicate with their national funding agencies to check their national regulations. You can find all their contacts on the PRIMA official [website](#).**

## **I. Activities funded under Section 2**

### **Description of the Activities: Research and Innovation Activities (RIA)<sup>1</sup>**

Activities primarily aim to establish new knowledge and/or to explore the feasibility of a new or improved technology, product, process, service, or solution. For this purpose, projects 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.

All projects will have to include collaborative research. Collaborative research is compulsory and undertaken by a partnership of institutions (consortium) designed to produce new knowledge through scientific research, whereby each team within the partnership actively pursues specific tasks and objectives with a view to pooling the results to contribute to the achievement of a set of common, well-defined project objectives.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

## Funding Level

The level of funding and the list of eligible costs are set out in the National Regulations document. Each applicant must comply with the requirements stated in their own national regulations. A contact point established in each country and who can be contacted directly by the applicant belonging to the same country, will inform the applicants about the rules (list of NCPs can be found: <http://prima-med.org/calls-for-proposals/ncps/>).

## 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)

Applicants are encouraged to use the [TRL self-assessment tool](#) 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.

## II. Section 2 Call Overview

The Section 2 Call 2026 will focus on a unique call for RIA, addressing the following topics:

### 1. Thematic Area 1-Water management in the Nexus

Topic 2.1.1-2026 (RIA) Leveraging Ecosystem Functions and Enhancing Water Allocation for the Protection and Restoration of Non-Perennial Watercourses in the Mediterranean

### 2. Thematic Area 2-Farming systems in the Nexus

Topic 2.2.1-2026 (RIA) Novel remote and non-invasive ICT monitoring and control systems against disease and pest infestation

### 3. Thematic Area 3-Food value chain in the Nexus

Topic 2.3.1-2026 (RIA) Empowering Mediterranean Food Value Chains through Context-Aware Digital Traceability

The Section 2 Call will be launched in a two-stage process. The PRIMA-Secretariat (PRIMA-IS) will be responsible for evaluating proposals, which will be conducted under rules analogous to those of Horizon Europe, through a peer review process involving a panel that will rank the proposals.

Admissibility and eligibility of proposals will be first checked by the PRIMA-IS having regard to the eligibility criteria set forth in the PRIMA Decision. After the eligibility check done by PRIMA-IS, a second eligibility check will be performed by the NFAs, aimed at the verification of eligibility for funding.

Only proposals that are considered eligible both by PRIMA-IS and by the NFAs will enter the evaluation process. At the end of the evaluation, the evaluation panel will produce a unique ranking list in order to guarantee that highly ranked projects will be funded. In the event that one or more projects cannot be funded (in case that a funding body runs out of budget), the projects following directly in the ranking may be selected.

To receive the funds, the beneficiaries will have to sign a grant agreement directly with their NFAs. Thus, to ensure compliance of the beneficiary with the national regulations, a second eligibility check will be performed by the NFAs at the end of the announcement of results.

PRIMA Section 2 call will address the topics described above and the cross-cutting issues among them. A full description of the topics is available in the “Call text and Supporting Information” on the PRIMA website. Research projects can address issues that are cross cutting between two topics as long as they are both eligible for funding by the NFAs of the PRIMA Participating States. PRIMA Section 2 call will fund collaborative research projects aiming at achieving clear impacts and being policy driven.

When training and mobility is eligible by the funding bodies, these actions will be encouraged and projects should integrate in their work plan schemes for the mobility of young researchers/ postgraduates/ post doctorates, in accordance with the modalities set out in the national regulations of the funding bodies.

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, 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 and EU logos. Additionally, it is important that Section 2 projects also provide visibility to their NFAs by including their full names on the website, along with logos and links to their websites. For this, they should follow the visibility rules outlined in their national contracts.

### III. Before the Submission of a Proposal

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

- Carefully read the text of the call and this 'Guidelines for Applicants' document and check the general eligibility conditions (e.g. minimum number of required partners or their place of establishment) and the national regulations applying to your consortium (available on the PRIMA website).
- Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact PRIMA Officers as well as PRIMA [National Contact Points \(NCPs\)](#), 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 section) to allow an early preparation of the proposal.
- The [PRIMA website](#) features a "[Find Partners Tool](#)" which allows applicants to search for potential partners.
- Each consortium is formed by 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 Coordinator of the project, whose responsibilities during the submission and the evaluation phase are to:
  - Ensure that all the consortium partners are eligible (according to PRIMA rules and their NFA regulations);
  - Submit the proposal, and all other requested documents, on behalf of the consortium;
  - Be the single point of contact between the PRIMA-IS and the consortium partners.
- The coordinator will not be responsible for the financial management of PRIMA research funding, which will be handled directly between national beneficiaries and their NFAs in each Participating State.

### IV. Preparing and submitting the proposal

The proposal must be submitted via the Electronic Submission System (ESS) by the Project Coordinator and consists of three main parts:

- Part I – **Administrative Data**, which comprise both those to be filled out directly on the ESS, and those to be uploaded by using the Part I template.
- Part II - **Technical Annex** (scientific document), which is the description of the planned project.
  - o Stage 1: the page limit is 10 pages, all sections included
  - o Stage 2: the page limit is 40 pages, all sections included
- **Detailed Budget Table** (excel table).

All templates are available on <https://prima-med.org/documents-reports/>

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 Part II proposal template available on the PRIMA website.

The work described in the proposal must correspond to the PRIMA Call for Section 2. The proposal must meet all eligibility and admissibility conditions described in these guidelines and in the WP2026. Proposals that do not comply with such requirements will be considered ineligible or inadmissible.

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

During the First Stage, and on the online submission system, for each partner, the project coordinator must indicate the total cost of the whole project and each partner's requested amount to their national funding body (total cost = amount requested + own funding). Please ensure that the total value of your requested budget respects the national regulations. Not all costs are eligible for all countries. A detailed explanation of which costs are eligible and which are not eligible can be found in the national regulations on PRIMA website. Please, read these carefully. A detailed budget will be required for the Second stage.

Applications, including all required forms and annexes, must be received by the PRIMA-IS, only via the ESS, **by the deadline** as stated in this document. Therefore, it is strongly recommended to not wait until the last moment to submit your proposal.

Please note that there is **no "Submit" button** on the ESS. The last version of all the uploaded documents will be automatically submitted at the call deadline's closure time.

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 proposals is only possible before the deadline. PRIMA will use the latest version of the proposal submitted by the deadline for review. **Proposals sent after the deadline are not eligible** for evaluation and will be automatically rejected. No extenuating circumstances will be taken into consideration.

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 |                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b>                                                    | Consortium composition and appointment of the coordinator                       |
| <b>2</b>                                                    | Verification of the eligibility conditions for the partners                     |
| <b>3</b>                                                    | Proposal writing (check the evaluation criteria, fill in the appropriate forms) |

|   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4 | <p><b>Stage-1 ‘Pre-proposal Submission’</b> by the Project Coordinator with the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Administrative and financial data (names of the partners, contact details, institutions....). Information to be filled in online. See ESS Handbook for details.</li> <li>Budget: Total cost per partner and requested amount per partner, to be filled online.</li> <li>✓ Part I - Administrative Data (names of the partners, contact details, institutions,...). PDF to be uploaded on the ESS.</li> <li>✓ Part II – Technical Annex (a detailed scientific document, PDF to be uploaded on the ESS).</li> </ul> <p><b>Stage-2 ‘Full Proposal’</b>, the Project Coordinator will have to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Part I - Administrative Data (names of the partners, contact details, institutions, ethical issues....). PDF to be uploaded on the ESS.</li> <li>CVs of the PIs must be integrated in the ‘Part I: Administrative Data’ document.</li> <li>✓ Part II – Technical Annex (a detailed scientific document, PDF to be uploaded on the ESS).</li> <li>✓ Detailed Budget Table (Excel file to be uploaded on the ESS).</li> </ul> <p>The PI is the team leader= One person per team, lab or institution.</p> |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## V. List of Countries Eligible for Funding

Legal entities established in a PRIMA Participating State or created pursuant to Union law<sup>2</sup> will, in general, be eligible to receive funding through PRIMA grants:

- 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)<sup>3</sup> linked to these Member States.
- The following **Third countries associated with Horizon Europe (AC)**: Egypt<sup>4</sup>, Israel, Tunisia, and Türkiye.
- The following **Third Countries not Associated with Horizon Europe (TC)**: Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, and Algeria<sup>5</sup>

<sup>2</sup> New PS may join PRIMA and the regularly updated list of PS will be provided by PRIMA-IS

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Egypt has signed the Horizon Europe Association Agreement in October 2025, and, following the exchange of Notes Verbales, its association is now legally effective. Egypt is therefore considered an Associated Country to Horizon Europe, and legal entities established in Egypt participate in PRIMA under the same terms and conditions as those established in EU Member States

<sup>5</sup> Status of Participation and Eligibility of Third Countries not Associated to Horizon Europe at the time of adoption of this WP:

- Jordan and Lebanon have completed the required steps for participation in accordance with Decision (EU) 2017/1324, as amended by Decision (EU) 2024/1167.
- The eligibility of legal entities established in Morocco remains conditional upon the signature and entry into force, or provisional application, of an exchange of letters amending the existing international agreement on scientific and technological cooperation with the European Union.
- Algeria possible consideration as a Participating State, and consequently as a Mediterranean Partner Country, is subject to the outcome of ongoing negotiations with the European Union and to further assessment in accordance with applicable EU legislation.

**! The eligibility of legal entities from non-associated third countries is conditional upon the entry into force of an agreement with the Union, in the form of an exchange of letters amending their existing international agreements on scientific and technological cooperation.**

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 the Work Programme 2026, please refer to 'General Annex I on practical aspects: participation and eligibility' of the WP2026.

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 own funding must attach to their proposal a letter from their organisation (signed by a legal representative of the structure) attesting that the funds to cover their participation to the projects (task(s), participation to 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 funding. After the eligibility check done by PRIMA-IS, a second eligibility check will be performed by the NFAs, aimed at the verification of eligibility for funding.<sup>6</sup>

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 NFAs 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.

For the eligibility for funding, applicants should refer to the national regulations and contact their National Contact Points (NCP).<sup>7</sup>

Please refer to the table below, which presents indicative financial commitments of Participating States with respect to the call covered by Section 2. The latest information on the PRIMA PS can be found on PRIMA webpage: <http://http://prima-med.org//>

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<sup>6</sup> The national regulations mention the eligible structures for funding (for example, some funding bodies can fund private entities and others 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 others 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 NCP appointed for this task.

<sup>7</sup> Please refer to the National Regulations available in the PRIMA website. Find the NCP contacts at the following link: <https://prima-med.org/ncps-contacts/>

**Table 2. Indicative PRIMA PS planned financial contributions for Section 2 in Work Programme 2026 in EUR****N.B.:** Wherever relevant, local currencies have been converted into EUR using official exchange rates

| 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                                                                | 310,000                                                 | 310,000                            |
| Egypt                     | ASRT           | Academy of Scientific Research & Technology                                                       | 1,500,000                                               | 3,650,000                          |
| Egypt                     | STDF           | Science, Technology and Innovation Funding                                                        | 2,150,000                                               |                                    |
| 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                         | 1,750,000                                               | 1,750,000                          |
| Israel                    | MOST           | Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology Office                                             | 300,000                                                 | 800,000                            |
| Israel                    | IIA            | Israel Innovation Authority                                                                       | 500,000                                                 |                                    |
| Italy                     | MUR            | Ministry of University and Research                                                               | 7,000,000                                               | 7,000,000                          |
| Jordan                    | HCST           | The Higher Council for Science and Technology                                                     | 540,000                                                 | 540,000                            |
| 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                                               | 5,500,000                          |
| Spain                     | CDTI           | Centro para el Desarrollo Tecnológico y la Innovación, Spanish Funding Agency                     | 2,000,000                                               |                                    |
| 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 |  |  |  | 36,270,000 |
|------------------------|--|--|--|------------|

Please note that if you are submitting a proposal that is cross-cutting between two topics, you must declare it in the relevant section of the ESS by ticking the two relevant topics. To be eligible, the two topics selected must be funded by all the NFAs involved.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: The financial contributions from PRIMA PS for WP2026 are provided based on a formal commitment letter signed yearly by the competent authorities of the PRIMA NFAs involved.**

## VI. Standard of admissibility and related requirements

1. Proposals must comply with the admissibility requirements set out in this sub-section, unless they are supplemented or modified in the call conditions.

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

- (a) Submitted in the ESS 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**.

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**, while the limit for **Stage-2 'Full Proposal'** is **40 pages (THIS APPLIES ONLY TO THE 'PART II – TECHNICAL ANNEX' Document)**.

The ESS will automatically reject the proposal if it exceeds the page limits.

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 receiving precise and clear documentation).

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. Applicants are requested to use the templates provided by PRIMA that can be downloaded from the PRIMA website under the relevant call section.

## VII. Standard eligibility conditions

All proposals must comply with the eligibility conditions set out in the [Rules for Participation of Regulation \(EU\) 2021/695](#) as well as any derogations specified in the [Decision \(EU\) 2024/1167](#). 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 coordinating institution of the proposal is a legal entity established in a PRIMA PS<sup>8</sup>
- (b) its content corresponds, wholly or in part, to the scope and objectives of the topic for which it is submitted
- (c) it complies with the eligibility conditions for participation set out below, depending on the type of action
- (d) It complies with PRIMA PS National Regulations
- (e) Where applicable, it complies with the **Gender Equality Plan (GEP) eligibility requirement**, as set out below.

**Table 3. Standard eligibility conditions**

| Type of Action                                    | Eligibility conditions for participation <sup>9</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Analogous to Research & Innovation Action (RIA)   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>At least three independent legal entities</b>, each established in a different PRIMA Participating State (<b>by the time of grant agreement signature</b>) out of which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>at least one must be established in an EU Member State or a third country associated to Horizon Europe that <u>is not a Mediterranean Partner Country (MPC)</u><sup>10</sup> and</li> <li>at least one must be established in a third country bordering the Mediterranean Sea (MPC)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>All three legal entities must be independent of each other.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>In addition</b>, the consortium must include <b>at least one additional</b> independent legal entity established in a Mediterranean Partner Country (MPC). This additional entity may be established in the same PRIMA Participating State as another MPC participant or in a different one.</li> </ul> <p><b>The minimum consortium size is therefore four independent legal entities.</b></p> |
| So, the eligibility rules can be read as follows: | <p>At least <b>four legal entities</b> established in at least <b>three different countries</b> considered as PRIMA Participating States, out of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-at least <b>one</b> must be established in an EU Member State or a third country associated with Horizon Europe and not being an MPC</li> <li>-at least <b>two</b> must be established in third country/countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea (MPC): Algeria, Jordan, Israel, Tunisia, Morocco, Lebanon, Egypt, Türkiye</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Examples:                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Germany-Greece-Morocco-Türkiye: is <b>eligible</b></li> <li>Germany-Greece-Morocco entity1-Morocco entity2: is <b>eligible</b></li> <li>Morocco-Greece-Germany entity1-Germany entity2: is <b>NOT ELIGIBLE</b> due to lack of a second partner from an MPC</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

<sup>8</sup> This measure is aimed to protect the Union's financial interests and is in line with Art. Article 7(7) of Decision (EU) 2024/1167.

<sup>9</sup> 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 the Work Programme 2026 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.

<sup>10</sup> A Mediterranean Partner Country (MPC) refers to a third country bordering the Mediterranean Sea participating in PRIMA in accordance with the applicable international agreements and legal acts in force at the time of the Grant Agreement signature namely: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Türkiye.

- |  |                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>France-Algeria-Egypt: is <b>NOT ELIGIBLE</b> due to lack of a 4th partner that can be from an MPC OR from an EU PRIMA PS</li> </ul> |
|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### National Funding Regulations

Applicants must refer to their national funding regulations for detailed rules on:

- Eligible applicant types (e.g., some funding bodies may fund private entities, others may not);
- Topics supported at national level;
- Eligibility criteria for funding;
- Eligible costs (e.g., support for mobility or subcontracting may vary).

In some countries, funding agencies require a **parallel submission at national level**, to be completed by the same deadlines as the PRIMA call. **Failure to meet such national requirements may result in ineligibility**. Applicants are therefore strongly advised to consult their **National Contact Point (NCP)** prior to submission. The list of NCPs is available at: <http://prima-med.org/calls-for-proposals/ncps/>.

### Restrictions between Stage 1 and Stage 2

- No changes are permitted to the **consortium composition** (organisations, Coordinator, Principal Investigators), budget, or scientific objectives between Stage 1 and Stage 2.

### Restrictions on the Role of the Principal Investigator (PI)

- In Section 2, a PI **cannot act as Coordinator in both Sections 1 and 2** in the same year.
- A PI may act as **Partner** in proposals in both Sections, provided they differ in objectives, methodology, and consortium composition.
- In Section 1, a PI may submit more than one proposal as Coordinator, but if more than one is selected for funding, only one may be funded (one project per year). The PI may be Partner in other projects.

### Gender Equality Plan (GEP) – Eligibility requirement

To be eligible, legal entities established in EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries that are public bodies, research organisations, or higher education establishments (including private research organisations and private higher education establishments), applying as beneficiaries or affiliated entities, must have a Gender Equality Plan (GEP) in place at the time of grant agreement signature and for the entire duration of the grant.

The GEP must meet the following minimum process-related requirements:

- Publication: a formal document published on the institution's website and signed or formally adopted by top management
- Dedicated resources: commitment of human and financial resources and gender equality expertise for implementation
- Data collection and monitoring: sex/gender-disaggregated data on personnel (and students, where applicable), with regular monitoring and reporting at least every two years
- Training: awareness-raising and training activities on gender equality, including unconscious gender bias, for staff and decision-makers

In terms of content, it is recommended that the GEP addresses, through concrete measures and targets:

- work-life balance and organisational culture
- gender balance in leadership and decision-making
- gender equality in recruitment and career progression

- integration of the gender dimension in research and teaching content
- measures against gender-based violence, including sexual harassment

Compliance with the GEP requirement shall be confirmed through a self-declaration at full proposal submission stage (stage 2 submission) via the PRIMA Electronic Submission System (ESS). The existence and compliance of the GEP will be verified during the grant preparation phase.

If all the above mandatory requirements are fulfilled through another formal strategic document (e.g. a development plan, inclusion strategy, or diversity strategy), this may be considered equivalent.

This eligibility requirement does not apply to:

- private for-profit organisations, including SMEs
- non-governmental or civil society organisations
- legal entities established in non-associated third countries

## VIII. Evaluation rules

### - 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’**, at the second-stage submission. 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.

### - Award criteria

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

**Table 4. Aspects to be considered in the evaluation**

|                                              | <b>Excellence</b><br><br>(The following aspects will be considered to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the description in the WP2026)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Impact</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Quality and efficiency of the implementation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Research and innovation actions (RIA)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>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.</b></li> <li>- <b>Soundness of the proposed [for the first stage: overall (*)] methodology</b> 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.</li> </ul> <p><i>(*) Including all aspects mentioned in the first stage proposal template which also include the integration of the gender dimension in research and innovation content as well as open science practices.</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the WP</b></li> <li>- Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan including communication activities.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages and the resources overall.</li> <li>- Capacity and role of each participant and the extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.</li> </ul> |

**!** For two-stage submission procedures, only the aspects in **bold** are considered for the evaluation of first stage.

#### - Scoring and weighting:

- At Stage 1, proposals will be evaluated only on the '**Excellence**' and '**Impact**' criteria. Within these criteria, only the aspects indicated in bold in the evaluation forms and proposal templates will be assessed.
  - o The individual threshold for each of these two criteria is 4.
  - o An overall threshold, applied to the sum of the two scores, will be set with the aim of inviting proposals that together request approximately three times, but not less than twice, the available budget for the topic.
  - o This overall threshold is typically set at 8 or 8.5, depending on the volume and quality of proposals received.
  - o Only proposals meeting or exceeding both individual and overall thresholds at Stage 1 will be invited to submit a full proposal for Stage 2.
- At Stage 2, proposals will be evaluated against all three award criteria: **Excellence**, **Impact**, and **Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation**. The standard thresholds of 3 per criterion and 10 overall will apply.

**Table 5. Score description for the evaluation criteria**

| Score description for the evaluation criteria (half point scores may be given) |                  |                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>0</b>                                                                       | <b>Weak</b>      | The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information. |
| <b>1</b>                                                                       | <b>Poor</b>      | The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.                          |
| <b>2</b>                                                                       | <b>Fair</b>      | The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.                         |
| <b>3</b>                                                                       | <b>Good</b>      | The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.                        |
| <b>4</b>                                                                       | <b>Very Good</b> | The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.             |
| <b>5</b>                                                                       | <b>Excellent</b> | The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.      |

#### - Evaluation procedure

Section 2 calls under the WP2026 follow a two-stage submission procedure. At Stage 2, applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal, which will be evaluated against the full set of award criteria as described in Annex D of the WP2026.

Proposals will first undergo formal checks for admissibility and eligibility, and will then be evaluated per topic, by an evaluation committee composed of independent external experts, in accordance with

Article 49 of the Horizon Europe Regulation (EU) 2021/695. These experts assess both the operational capacity of the applicants and the proposal's performance against the award criteria.

A separate ranking list will be established for each **indicative budget line** outlined 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**

In cases where proposals receive the same final score within a single budget envelope under Section 2 of the PRIMA WP2026, a priority order will be established to determine which proposals are retained for funding.

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 have not been covered by more highly ranked proposals will be given the highest priority.
2. The proposals identified under 1), if any, will themselves be prioritised according to the scores they have been awarded for 'Excellence'. When these scores are equal, priority will be given to the 'Impact' score. 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 with a leading role named in the researchers' table in the proposal will be used as a factor for prioritisation.
4. If necessary, any further prioritisation will be based on geographical diversity, defined as the number of MPCs represented in the proposal that are not otherwise receiving funds from projects higher up the ranking list (and, if equal in number, by budget).
5. 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, or to Horizon Europe 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 method described in 1), 2), 3) and 4) will then be applied to the remaining equally ranked proposals in the group.

At the conclusion of the panel meeting, the panel will recommend one or more ranked lists of proposals for each topic under evaluation, in accordance with the scoring system and priority rules described above. A separate ranked list will be established for each indicative budget line as set out in the call conditions.

## IX. Communication of evaluation results

In accordance with Article 6(10)(c) of [Decision \(EU\) 2024/1167](#), proposals submitted under Section 2 will be ranked based on the results of the evaluation. PRIMA-IS, as the entity responsible for managing the central evaluation process, will establish a ranking list for each topic and budget envelope.

However, for Section 2, the funding of participants is the sole responsibility of the relevant Participating States (PS), not PRIMA-IS. Funding decisions will therefore be taken by the respective National Funding Agencies in accordance with their national funding rules. In cases where a Participating State is unable to fund one or more of its participants, PRIMA-IS may, in coordination with the PS, proceed to select subsequent projects in the ranking list, provided that those projects meet the quality thresholds and eligibility criteria.

Each proposal coordinator will receive an ESR, presenting the outcome of the evaluation for their proposal. For proposals submitted under a two-stage procedure, the ESR issued at the end of Stage 1 will include the overall scores and an indication of whether the proposal has been invited to Stage 2. Common feedback may also be provided to applicants whose proposals were not retained. Applicants whose proposals are recommended for funding will receive a formal notification of the outcome and, where applicable, information on the grant preparation process from their respective National Funding Agency. Any special procedures or deviations applicable to specific topics or funding arrangements will be clearly stated in the relevant call conditions.

### Information on the means of redress

If a consortium believes that a procedural error or factual shortcoming has occurred during the evaluation of its proposal, the coordinator may submit a request for evaluation review (appeal), following the process detailed in the Proposal Outcome Letter and ESR.

 *The evaluation review procedure may only address procedural irregularities or factual errors that may have affected the outcome of the evaluation. It cannot be used to contest the expert evaluators' scientific judgments or scores. If the notification of evaluation results is not accessed within 10 calendar days of dispatch, the system will consider the notification as accessed, and the 30-day deadline will start from that date.*

An **Evaluation Review Committee** will assess the complaint and issue a recommendation. The committee may:

- Re-evaluation of the proposal by new independent experts, only if the procedural shortcoming or factual error is clearly demonstrated and materially relevant to the evaluation outcome
- Or confirmation of the original evaluation result, if no flaw or relevant impact is identified

The decision of the PRIMA Executive Director, based on the committee's recommendation, will be communicated by letter to the coordinator. PRIMA aims to process and issue the final outcome within six weeks from the close of the appeal window. Further information on the evaluation review process is available on the [PRIMA website](#).

## X. Conditions related to 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) 2021/695<sup>11</sup>:

- (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 protection<sup>12</sup>**

#### **Research Data Management (RDM)**

Responsible management of research data shall be ensured in line with the principle's '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:

- 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).

<sup>11</sup> 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)).

<sup>12</sup> 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.

**Please make sure you also check the relevant sections of the WP2026 addressing other important aspects i.e.: Ethics (research integrity), Applicable common principles, Equal treatment, Transparency, Exploitation, and dissemination of results.**

## XI. Gender-related aspects in research and innovation

In line with [Article 7 of Regulation \(EU\) 2021/695](#), the requirement to have a **Gender Equality Plan (GEP)** is an **eligibility condition** for public bodies, research organisations, and higher education establishments, including private entities falling under these categories, participating in PRIMA actions. While [Decision \(EU\) 2017/1324](#) as amended by [Decision \(EU\) 2024/1167](#) does not explicitly refer to this provision of the [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/695](#), this requirement is applied **by** analogy, in line with Horizon Europe practices.

The **applicable eligibility rules, scope, and minimum requirements for the GEP** are set out in [Section 1 – General Annex B \(Eligibility\)](#) of the Work Programme 2026. Applicants are required to comply with those provisions.

**Support and Guidance:** To help institutions meet this requirement, the European Commission has prepared a [Guidance document on Gender Equality Plans](#) that PRIMA advises referring to when preparing it. Applicants are encouraged to refer to this guidance when preparing or updating their institutional GEP. In addition, the [HE Programme Guide](#) provides practical guidance on identifying, analysing, and appropriately integrating the gender dimension into research and innovation content, including when such integration is relevant and how it may be addressed in project design.

The integration of the gender dimension in research and innovation content, should be duly considered where relevant.

For more information on the GEP and gender-related aspects, please check the PRIMA WP2026 and its General Annexes.

## XII. Responsible use of generative AI in research

The European Commission and the European Research Area countries and stakeholders have prepared a set of guidelines on the responsible use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) in research. The contents of the guidelines are relevant for any researchers from PRIMA Participating States. You can find more information [here](#) and download the guidelines from [here](#). Please take some time to read them, and make sure that you follow the principles they outline when developing your proposal.

## XIII. Key Performance Indicators

The PRIMA partnership will be implemented in compliance with the objectives and provisions set out in the Decision (EU) 2024/1167 and will be based on the priorities described in the PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA).

For the proper evaluation and monitoring of the projects, consortia must consider in their proposal how and to which extent it will contribute to the targeted research and innovation objectives of the PRIMA partnership and to its overall expected impacts.

For this purpose, proposals should clearly define KPIs - Key Performance Indicators that will allow the evaluation and measurement of the progress of the project and its impact.

At the proposal stage, applicants should **select at least three PRIMA KPIs** from the PRIMA KPI Table 5 included in WP2026. Detailed definitions and methodological guidance are provided in the **PRIMA KPI Handbook for Applicants**. The selected KPIs should clearly correspond to the expected outcomes of the project, align with the PRIMA SRIA and its Operational Objectives (OOs).

Where relevant, applicants are encouraged to include at least one KPI from each of the following:

- Scientific or technological output
- Socio-economic or environmental benefit
- Policy, capacity-building, or governance uptake

For certain topics, **recommended KPIs may be indicated directly in the topic description**.

For each selected KPI, the proposal should indicate the baseline, meaning the situation at the start of the project, and the target value expected to be achieved by project end. It should also describe the methodology and data sources that will be used to monitor, measure, and verify progress over time. Each KPI should be quantified, when appropriate, using a numerical metric, and qualified with a brief explanation of its relevance to the project objectives. KPIs must also be linked to the project's expected outputs and outcomes, with supporting evidence provided where applicable—for example, publications, demonstration records, training materials, or stakeholder engagement documentation.

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. Please make sure you check the KPI handbook as well as the relevant sections on KPIs of the WP2026 and call texts.

## **XIV. Project Monitoring and Reporting for Funded Projects**

In addition to the specific requirements of the NFAs, project coordinators will be required to provide a scientific and financial **mid-term and final report** to PRIMA-IS. All project partners will have to provide inputs to these reports. In addition, it will be expected to include evidence of impact in these mid-term and final reports.

Detailed information on the reporting and monitoring procedures as well as templates will be provided to the coordinators of the funded projects in due course.

## **XV. Additional information and relations between beneficiaries and NFAs**

### **Grant Agreement (GA)**

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 (CA)**

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

There is no template provided by NFAs or PRIMA-IS for the CA. The DESCA model CA can be used, but beneficiaries are free to use whatever template they prefer.

### **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
- 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.

## **XVI. Call Secretariat – PRIMA-IS**

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

|                                                                     |                             |                                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Nur Eda Demir</b><br/>E-mail:<br/>eda.demir@prima-med.org</p> | <p><b>Marco Orlando</b></p> | <p><b>Kindly refrain from forwarding identical inquiries to each officer through distinct emails.</b></p> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|  |                                       |                                                                                                                |
|--|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | Email:<br>marco.orlando@prima-med.org | <b>Feel free to communicate your message to either one of them or to both parties in a consolidated email.</b> |
|--|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## XVII. 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.

The National Contact Points list is provided on the PRIMA website (<http://prima-med.org/calls-for-proposals/ncps/>).

## XVIII. Use of the Electronic Submission System

The proposal submission occurs online via ESS. It is the duty of the Project Coordinator to enter the data online. Please **READ CAREFULLY THE ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION SYSTEM HANDBOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION** (available on the PRIMA website).

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 (Part I-Administrative Data, Part II-Technical Annex, Budget Table). 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 must 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 the call in Section 2

| THEMATIC AREA                      | CALL TOPICS       | Call publication and opening | Stage 1 - Submission deadline | Stage 1 - Evaluation results | Stage 2 – Submission deadline | Stage 2 – Evaluation results |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Water management in the nexus      | Topic 2.1.1 (RIA) | 20/03/2026                   | 15/05/2026, 13h00 Spain time  | 24/07/2026                   | 29/09/2026, 17h00 Spain time  | 16/12/2026                   |
| Farming systems in the nexus       | Topic 2.2.1 (RIA) | 20/03/2026                   | 15/05/2026, 13h00 Spain time  | 24/07/2026                   | 29/09/2026, 17h00 Spain time  | 16/12/2026                   |
| Agri-food value chain in the nexus | Topic 2.3.1 (RIA) | 20/03/2026                   | 15/05/2026, 13h00 Spain time  | 24/07/2026                   | 29/09/2026, 17h00 Spain time  | 16/12/2026                   |