



**PRIMA**  
**Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Med Area**

**An integrated programme on food systems and water resources  
for the development of inclusive, sustainable and healthy Euro-  
Mediterranean societies**

**3° EMEG Meeting**  
**Malta, 30 September-2 October 2015**

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# Mediterranean Area

Exploitation of natural resources, climate change, urbanisation



The sustainable production and provision of adequate quantity and quality of food and water



Socio-economic conditions, wellbeing and health of people, and the societal stability of the Region /the whole EU

# To address these challenges



Recent years -> many cooperation networks/initiatives:

- bilateral (state-to-state and EU-single state)
- multilateral (framework programme or major regional programmes)



**Interesting achievements**

- INCONET : MIRA and MED SPRING to favor S&T policy dialogue and support with concrete actions the process towards an Art.185
- BILAT: EARN (DZ), EU-JORDAN Net II (JO), MOBILISE (MO)
- ERA-WIDEs
- ERANET with MPCs: ARIMNET 1 and 2 (Agri-food); FORESTERRA, SEAS-ERA, MARINERA; MARIFISH...
- ERANETMED (ERANET in the frame of INCO CAPACITY)
- other projects dealing with the Mediterranean area (es. Perseus)

**An integrated approach is needed**

**Given the MED challenges and experience gained**

**EU countries and MPCs:**

**An integrated programme on food systems and water resources for the development of inclusive, sustainable and healthy Euro-Mediterranean societies**

Co-ownership, mutual interest and shared benefit

Co-financed and Co-designed

- Long-term orientation
- Avoiding fragmentation and duplications in R&I
- Focused on Research, Innovation and Adoption of solutions

# Towards an initiative under article 185 TFEU

**2-3 April 2012, Barcelona**

EuroMediterranean conference on R&I - Conclusions *“initiative under article 185”*

**July 2012, Nicosia** Informal meeting of the ministers in charge of research, *Creation of an Open-end Core Group, transformed in General Assembly (9-14)*

**Meetings:** Nicosia (7/2012), Paris (7/2012), Marrakech (1/2013), Rome (4/2013) Beirut (7/2013), Istanbul (11/2013), Paris (12/2013), Rome (2/2014), Beirut (3/2014), Bari (7/2014), Brussels (9 and 10/2014)

**13 May 2014, Athens** Informal meeting of the Ministers in charge of research

**26 May 2014, Brussels** Competitiveness Council

**5 December 2014, Brussels** Competitiveness Council

**22 December 2014**

Submission of PRIMA Joint Programme Proposal to the Commission

# Goal

**To develop innovative solutions and promote their adoption  
for improving the efficiency and sustainability of food  
productions and water provision**

**in order to support an inclusive well-being and socio-  
economic development in the Mediterranean Area**

**within the framework of a reinforced  
Euro-Mediterranean co-operation**

# Specific OBJECTIVES

- **To enhance knowledge and unlock its innovation potential for food security and water availability**
- **To advance existing knowledge and innovations for water and food quality and safety**



Criticalities	Operational Objectives
Overexploitation of natural resources and unsustainable ways of farming	To develop <u>smart and sustainable farming systems</u> to maintain natural resources and to increase production efficiency
On-farm irrigation inefficiencies	To test and stimulate adoption of context-tailored <u>water-saving solutions</u> , in particular in agriculture
Changes in food demand and their consequences on food supply chains, nutrition and health	To innovate in <u>the Mediterranean food products based on Mediterranean diet heritage</u> and to enhance the links between nutrition and health
Food and water losses and wastes	To find context-adapted solutions to <u>increase food and water chain efficiency</u> , and reduce losses and wastes

## Criticalities

## Operational Objectives

Animal and plant diseases

To design and promote the adoption of novel approaches to reduce the impact of pests and pathogens in farming, including their consequences on human health

Business Food systems unable to create employment and economic growth

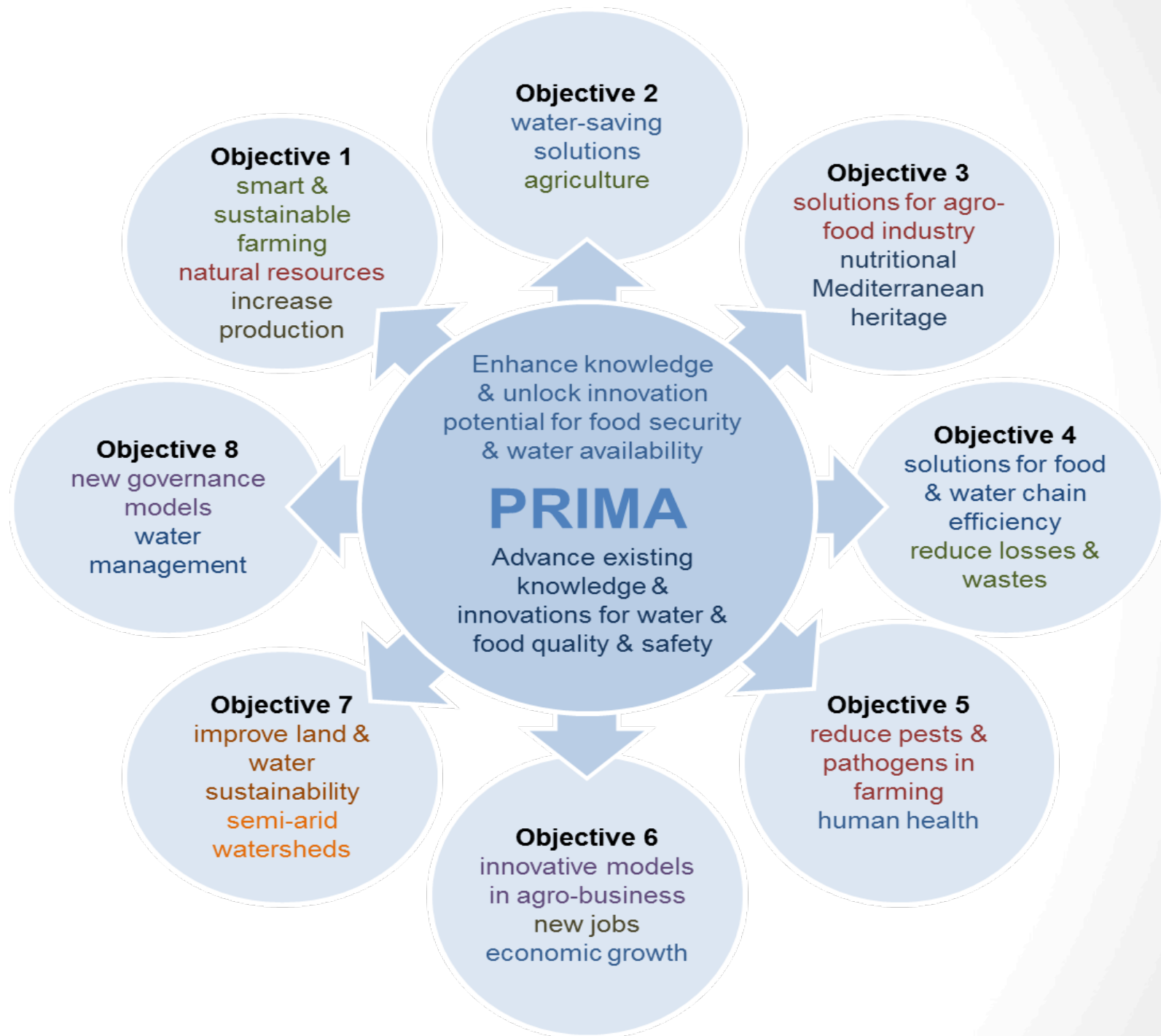
To conceive and implement innovative, quality oriented models in agro-business as potential sources of new jobs and economic growth

Erosion of soil and mismanagement of water cycle at the watershed level

To improve land and water sustainability in arid and semi-arid watersheds

Inequitable water allocation and unsustainable water management

To elaborate and stimulate adoption of new models for the governance of water management systems



# Appropriateness of an Art 185 TFEU initiative

*An article 185 initiative is the most suitable instrument to tackle the global challenges of the Mediterranean region in an integrated way.*

## **Scientific integration**

Multi-annual **joint implementation** of a **common agenda**  
optimizing national R&I activities and programmes

## **Management integration**

**Joint management** operated through an **independent legal entity**

- the Dedicated Implementation Structure -  
reduction of transaction costs; avoid duplications;  
alignment of existing programmes

## **Financial integration**

**High level and solid multiannual financial commitments** by participating states

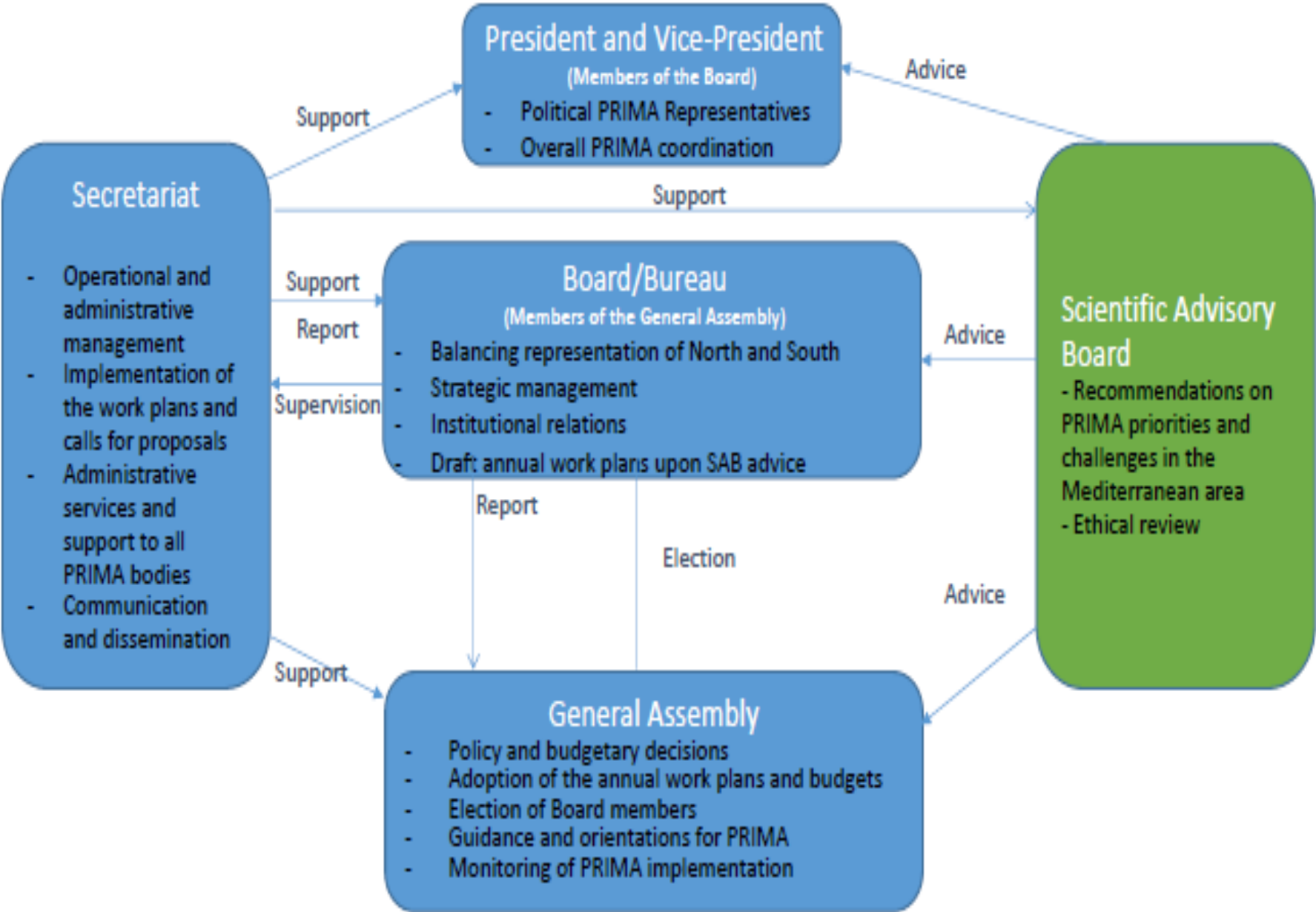
# Added Value

## For European and MED citizens

- MED opportunities for researchers and capacity building (training, mobility, research infrastructures)
- Competitiveness and job creation
- Development of inclusive, sustainable and healthy societies
- Stability

Scientific diplomacy

# Governance



# Dedicated Implementation Structure

- The UfM Secretariat as possible location of the PRIMA's dedicated implementation structure
  - ✓ its rules are based on the financial regulation applicable to the EC
  - ✓ all its activities and projects are based on the principle of variable geometry
- Both structures would stand as two autonomous but associated institutions

# Financial issues

- Contribution of participating states on a voluntary basis
- In cash and in kind contribution
- Virtual common pot
- EC contribution: up to 50%

**Commitment by MSs and MPCs up to now:**

**More than 200 mln EUR cash**



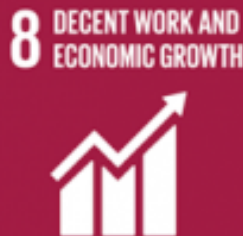
## Dec 5 - Competiveness Council Meeting, Brussels

The Council invited the EC, in full respect of its right of initiative, to launch an Impact Assessment

## Dec 22 - Submission of PRIMA Joint Programme proposal to the EC by Minister Giannini

Inviting the Commission to undertake the impact analysis to assess EU participation in the initiative, on the basis of Article 185 TFEU

# September 25, UN, Adoption Sustainable Development Goals



29 Sept Validation of the Inception Impact Assessment

# Next steps

## The PRIMA process

- Set-up of an expert group comprised of 9 members from 9 different countries
- Stakeholder consultation
- Finalisation of the Impact Assessment (IA) report
- Call for a dedicated Coordination and Support Action (CSA)  
*SC5-12-2016: Food systems and water resources for the development of inclusive, sustainable and healthy Euro-Mediterranean societies.* **Deadline:**  
**26 January 2016**

Launch of dedicated **Coordination and Support Action (CSA)**

*“SC5-12-2016: Food systems and water resources for the development of inclusive, sustainable and healthy Euro-Mediterranean societies”*

*Scope: Bring together the main national research funding owners and/or managers involved in the PRIMA joint programming process, including the non-European participating states and their institutions, around a jointly designed Strategic Research Agenda with appropriate governance and implementation structures.*

**Funding: Up to EUR 2 million**

**Deadline: 26 January 2016**

## **A Task force for the Impact Assessment and CSA application agreed at the General Assembly July 8 in Rome**

- 1. General Coordination** (Co-Chairs with the support of Cécile Heriard for relationships with the Commission)
- 2. Data for Impact** (Claudio Bogliotti)
- 3. Responsible of scientific proposal** (Florence Jacquet)
- 4. Governance/Dis** (Hamid El Zoheiry and Juan Climent)
- 5. Financial Issues** (Abdelilah Afifi and Ian Gauci Borda)

## **If the impact assessment will be positive:**

**2016** Submission of EC Proposal to EU Council and EP

**2017** Launch of the initiative under Maltese Presidency

The background is a classical painting of a coastal town. It features a harbor with a small white-sailed boat, a large church with a dome and a bell tower, and a town with red-tiled roofs and stone walls. The scene is set on a hillside overlooking the sea.

**PRIMA**

**Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Med Area**

**Co-ownership, mutual interest and shared benefit**

**Co-financed and Co-designed**

**Science**

**a leading role in strengthening the partnership  
between the two shores of the Mediterranean**