



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**

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UN SDSN Mediterranean General Assembly
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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

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**

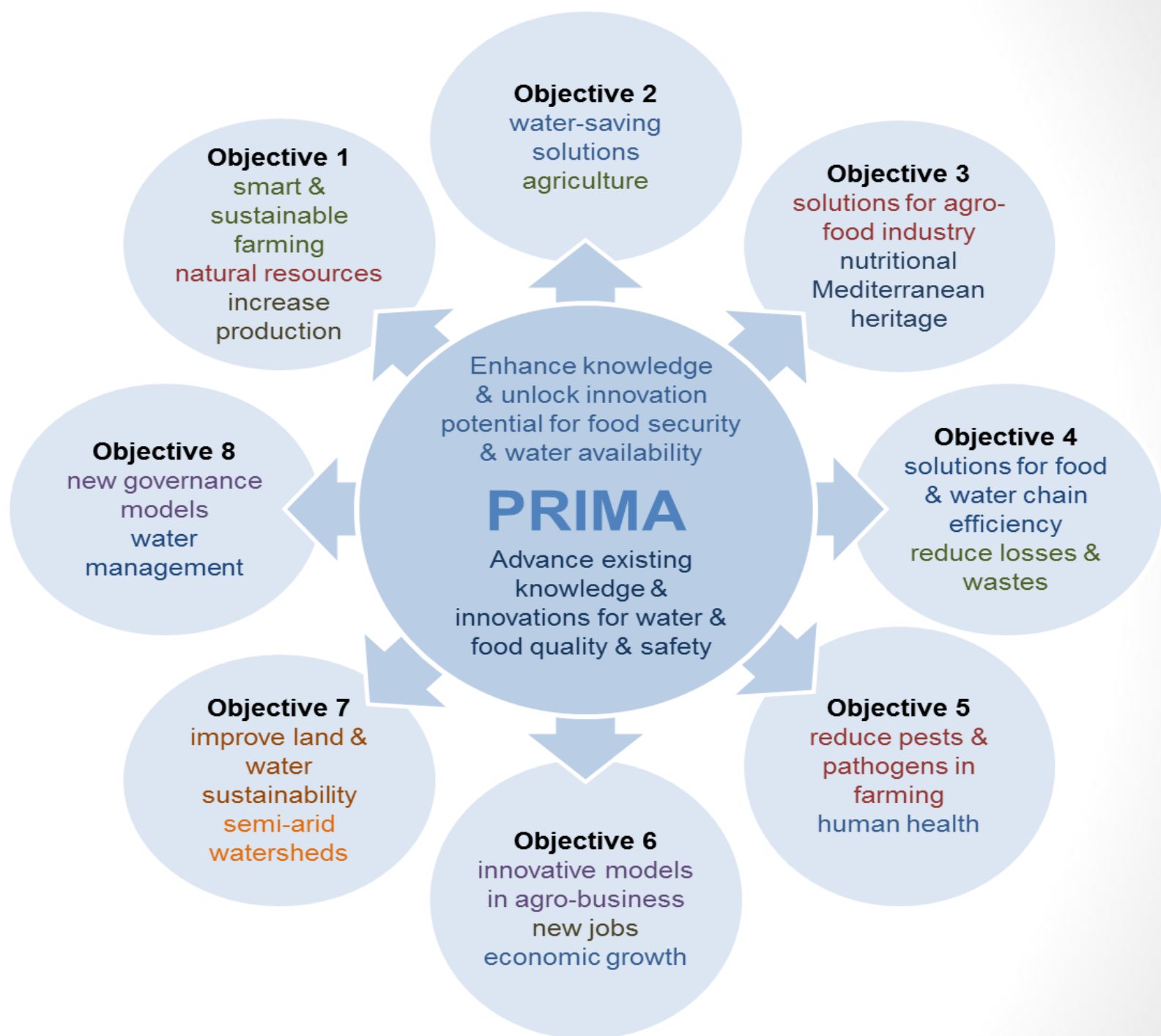
**within the framework of a reinforced
Euro-Mediterranean co-operation**

Specific OBJECTIVES

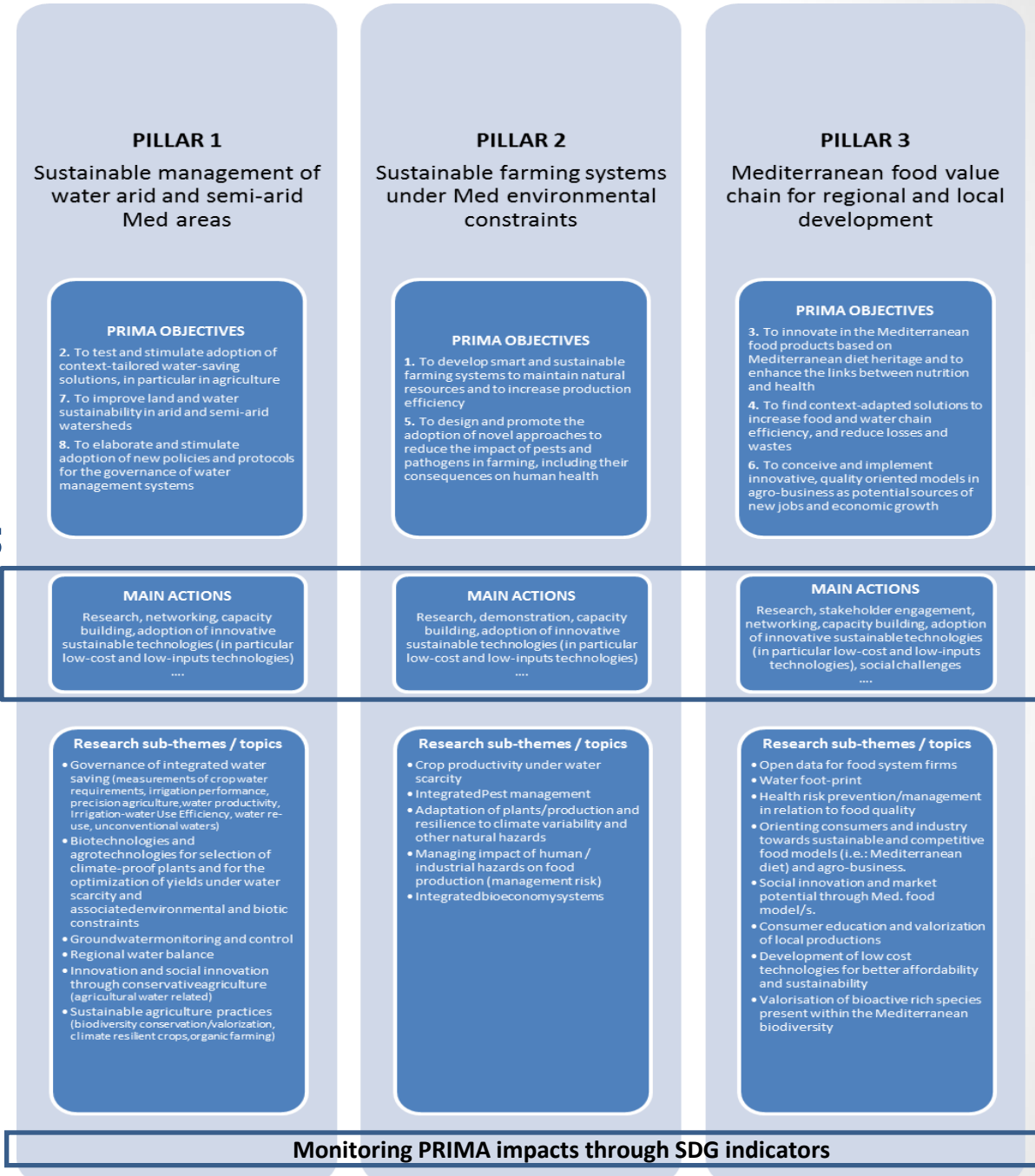
- **To enhance knowledge and unlock its innovation potential for food security and water availability**
- **To advance existing knowledge and innovations for water and food quality and safety**

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 <u>to 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 <u>to reduce the impact of pests and pathogens in farming</u> , including their consequences on human health
Business Food systems unable to create employment and economic growth	To conceive and <u>implement innovative, quality oriented models in agro-business</u> as potential sources of new jobs and economic growth
Erosion of soil and mismanagement of water cycle at the watershed level	To improve <u>land and water sustainability</u> 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 <u>water management systems</u>



8 PRIMA Objectives grouped in 3 Pillars



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

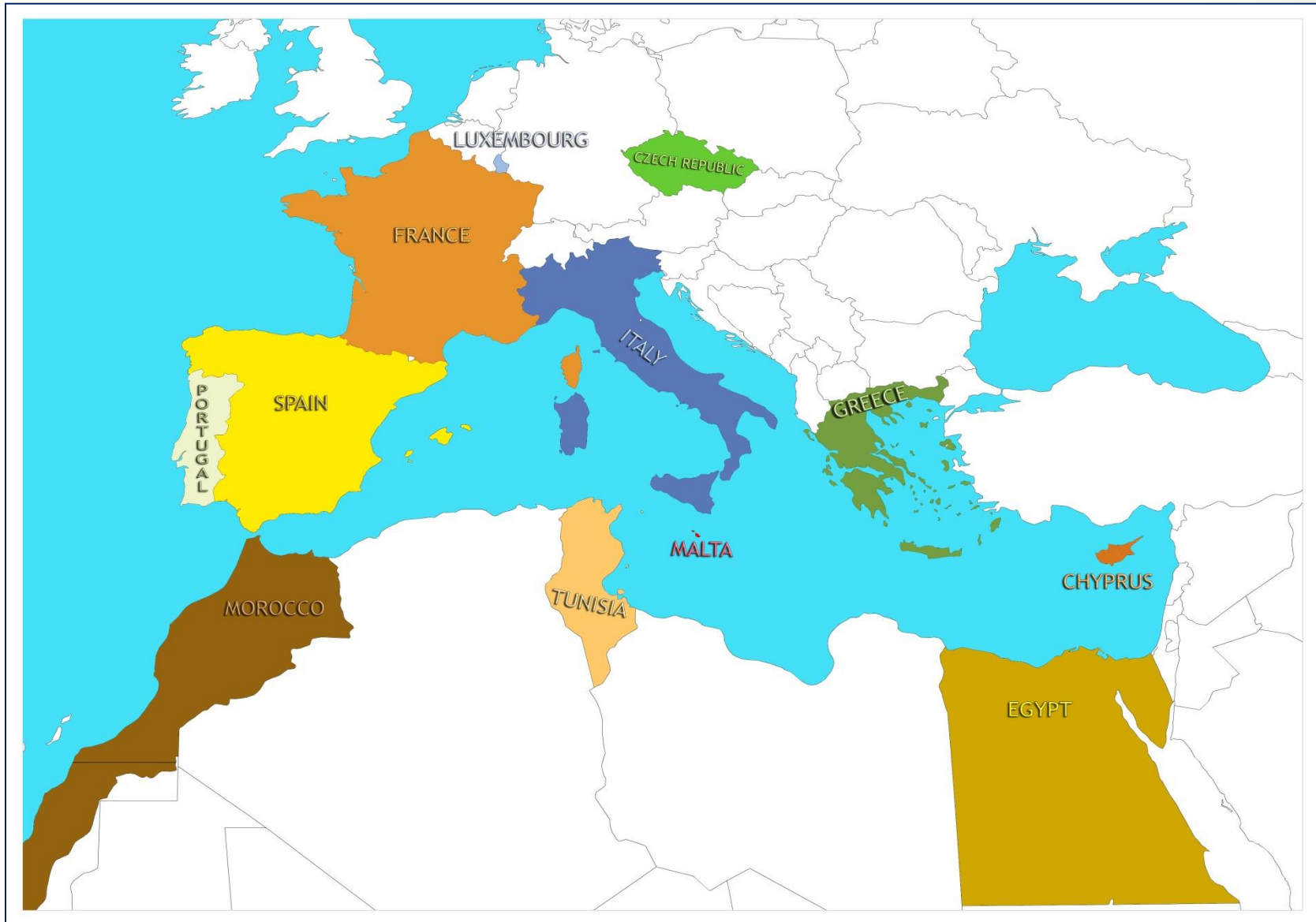
- MED opportunities for researchers and capacity building (training, mobility, research infrastructures)
- Competitiveness and job creation
- Development of inclusive, sustainable and healthy societies
- Stability

Scientific diplomacy

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 Commitment Expressed



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

Feb 16, 2015 - Letter by Ministers of the Member States participating in PRIMA to Commissioner Moedas to urge early start of the impact assessment

Mar 19 - Commissioner Moedas announced that, convinced by the quality of the project, will start the procedures for the impact assessment as soon as possible, proposing a parallel accompanying measure

May 15 - Min Giannini: appreciation for having stressed political significance” of PRIMA and “role of science as a bridge between the two shores of the MED”

May 26 - Commissioner Moedas proposes a CSA and asks his services to liaise with PRIMA

Growing support of ministers for agriculture and foreign affairs.

Importance of the PRIMA reaffirmed by “5+5 Dialogue” held in Madrid in March 2015.

The science diplomacy nature of the PRIMA initiative is also clearly emerging.

Coordination and Support Action (CSA)



Submitted to the EC on January 26, 2016

Coordination and Support Action (CSA)

The 4PRIMA Coordination and Support Action:

- Activities aimed at supporting the establishment of a long-term, well-structured and integrated partnership for research and innovation (R&I) on food systems and water resources
- Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) and an associated implementation plan
- Extensive participatory process that will target a critical mass of key players at international level and all relevant stakeholders of the sectors

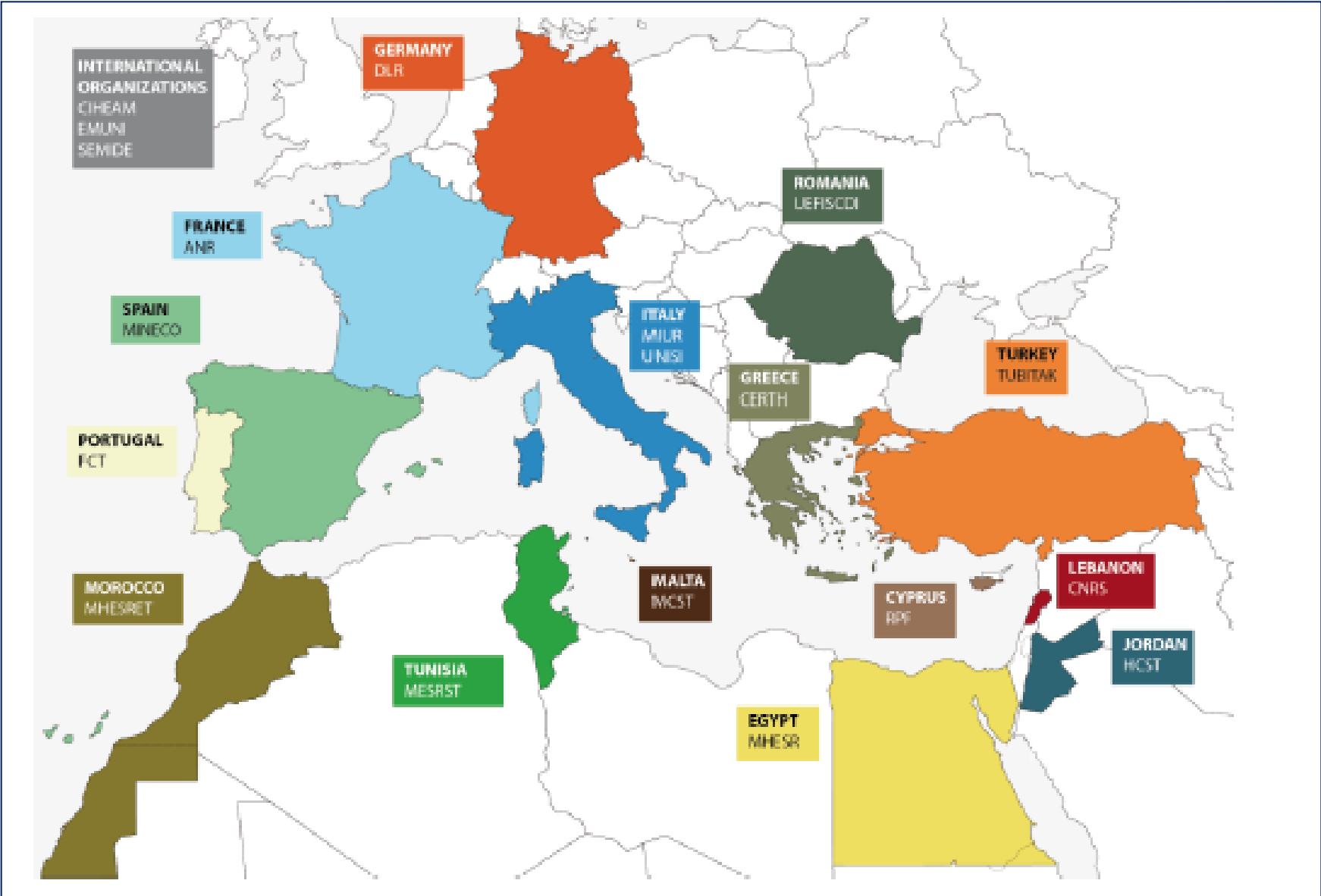


Coordination and Support Action (CSA)

The 4PRIMA Coordination and Support Action:

- Wide portfolio of results and relationships generated in previous and on-going EU projects, seeking cooperation between EU and Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs)
- Exploration of avenues for awareness raising and development of strategic alliances with key stakeholders

Coordination and Support Action (CSA)



Next steps

- set-up of an expert group (comprised of 9 members from 9 different countries);
- stakeholder consultation;
- finalisation of the impact assessment (IA) report;
- launch of a possible dedicated Coordination and Support Action (CSA);
- adoption of the proposal by the EC;
- final adoption of the proposal by the Council and the European Parliament in the first half of 2017 under the Malta Presidency.

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. In the foreground, a harbor with a small white-sailed boat is visible. The middle ground shows a dense cluster of buildings with red-tiled roofs and a prominent church with a dome. The background features a hilly landscape with a large stone archway and a tower. The sky is a deep blue with a few birds.

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**