PRIMA Impact Assessment Stakeholder Event

Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST)
Main Hall, Villa Bighi- Kalkara, Malta
17 March 2016

Short Summary Report
Annex III
PRIMA Impact Assessment
Stakeholder Event

17 March, Malta

ERANETMED: paving the way to PRIMA

Claudio Bogliotti
ERANETMED

Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation through ERANET joint activities and beyond

• FP7 last generation of ERANET

• A result of the Euro-Mediterranean policy dialogue in the former MoCo (now GSO)

• Not thematic but supported by FP7 INCO-Capacities
 Regions

- 23 partners
- 16 countries
- 2 regions

DURATION
WP1 - Project coordination and management

Call strategy, Strategic agenda, paving the way to PRIMA

WP2
Analysis and strategy for project joint activities

WP3
Sustainable Research through a Long-Lasting and Stable Cooperation

Preparation and launch of joint activities, monitoring

WP4
Preparation of the call

WP5
Call implementation

WP6
Call monitoring and impact assessment

WP7 - Project portal, knowledge management and dissemination
First Joint Call: key facts

1. **Countries engaged:** 15 + 1 International Organization (CIHEAM)

2. **Funding Agencies committed:** 18 (7 from MPCs)

3. **Funds Committed:** 13,000 MEuro (40% from MPCs)

4. **Themes:** Renewable energy and energy efficiency; Water resources management; Water-Energy Nexus

5. **Actions addressed:** Collaborative research (mandatory), Innovation, Mobility, Capacity building.
Three call topics

1. Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
   Hybrid renewable energy system integration
   Smart micro-grids
   Renewable energy, energy efficiency for smart and rural communities

2. Water resources management
   Integrated water management from the catchment to coastal zone
   Integrated water use efficiency
   Water reuse in agriculture
   Water desalination

3. Renewable energy-Water nexus (Trans-disciplinary theme)
First joint call: submitted proposals

190 proposals submitted
- 107 Energy
- 57 Water
- 26 Nexus

148 eligible proposals
- 86 Energy
- 47 Water
- 15 Nexus

20 countries involved in proposals

1136 participants!
First joint call: Evaluation & Funding

**EVALUATION**

- **445** evaluations by **147** evaluators (peer review)
- Scientific panel (**15 experts**) for scientific excellence ranking

**FUNDING**

- **21** projects retained for funding
  - **11** Energy
  - **7** Water
  - **3** Nexus
- **73** Beneficiaries in **14** Countries
- Operated funding: **11M** Euro
- **12.5** MEuro collected
- **11** MEuro operated
- **21** projects funded
- **15** countries
- **100** institutions involved
2nd Joint Call

Environmental challenges and solutions for vulnerable communities

The aim of the call is to propose sustainable solutions for the environmental challenges of “Euro-Mediterranean vulnerable communities” intended as those communities leaving in areas – coastal zones or inland - in which local resources like biodiversity, land and water, energy or food are under serious threat by factors such as migration, demographic change, climate/environment, socio-economic factors.
Actions

- Collaborative research
- Innovation
- Mobility

Cross-cutting issues

- Gender
- ICT
- Governance

Launching of the call: 21 March (tentative date)

Tentative planned budget: 11 MEuro
Some reflections and conclusions

- Mobilized resources through ERANET/JPI/COFUND joint activities having focus on Mediterranean (period: FP7 – H2020 today): > 170 MEuro.

- ERANETMED + ARIMNET: ~ 20 MEuro / year.

- Med Countries contribution: ~ 50 %.

- PRIMA expected to go beyond and do more !!
THANK YOU!!

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Cooperation in Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area: state of the art and future perspectives

Lessons learnt from ARIMNet and ARIMNet2

Florence Jacquet, INRA (France)

PRIMA Impact Assessment - Stakeholder Event - Malta - 17 March 2016
ARIMNet – ARIMNet2
Coordination of Agricultural Research in the Mediterranean Area

ERA-Nets funded by the EU:
- ARIMNet (2008-2012)

- Network of Funding Agencies and Agricultural Research Organisations
- Mediterranean countries from the EU (France, Italy, Spain, Greece, Portugal, Cyprus + Malta, Slovenia, Croatia) and from South and East of the Mediterranean (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Turkey, Israel)
- Objective: to improve the coordination of Agricultural Research Programmes
Rationale

Food and Agriculture are major sectors in the Mediterranean Economies, in terms of: economics, employment, rural development, natural resources management. However they are threatened by pressures of various types.

Most of the problems and challenges that Mediterranean agriculture is facing are shared by all the countries in the area. Some problems that are very accurate in the Southern Mediterranean countries could become more severe on the Northern side of the Med in the future.

- Climate change
- Water scarcity

Links between the EU Mediterranean Countries and their Mediterranean Partners are strong in terms of trade, economic partnerships, human mobilities. Common issues are:

- Plant and animal health
- Food safety
- Food security
Mediterranean paradox

- Mediterranean basin concentrates almost all the key global challenges that agriculture is facing
- The region as a whole has no visibility at the scale of the global arena or world research initiatives

- Mediterranean issues are too often looked each side separately, while it needs to be considered and addressed jointly
- Problems are global and research systems to address them are local
- Agricultural Research Capacity in the Mediterranean is scattered and fragmented
History : ARIMNet 2008

• It was the first time that Ministries & funding agencies in the Mediterranean region are strengthening efforts for funding research in a coordinated way

• In Agriculture Research

• Pioneer in Med Region
• Connecting researchers with same objectives in research
• Bringing solutions and innovation for med agriculture
Developing sustainable production systems in a context of increasing ecological and climatic stresses
Increase in resilience, rusticity and productivity of Mediterranean agricultural production systems
Sustainable management of Water and Other Natural Resources used by Agriculture
Food chain: from production to consumption
Cattle herds, sheep and goat breeding flocks (million of heads) in Mediterranean countries in 2010 (GIRA Meat Club, USDA & FAO)

Smallholdings integration into formal supply chains
Food safety and food policies
Food consumption patterns: consumers’ behavior, quality of products, diet and nutrition
Funding international research Projects

- **ARIMNet Call 2011**
  - Sustainable agriculture and Food systems (Production Systems, Food Chains, Land and Natural Resources Management)
  - 6.5 million euros virtual pot
  - 78 eligible projects
  - 10 selected projects

- **ARIMNet2 Call 2015**
  - Similar topics than 2011
  - 7.3 million euros virtual pot
  - 146 eligible preprojects (2 steps procedure)
  - 10 selected projects

- **ARIMNet2 Call 2016**
  - Enhancing Mediterranean agricultural and food Value Chains
  - xx million euros virtual pot
Projects involving researchers from different countries of the Med

ARIMNet 2011:
78 eligible projects
4,62 countries per project

ARIMNet2 2015:
146 preproposals submitted
4,42 countries per project
Learning Process

FUNDING AGENCIES - first time working at multilateral level

RESEARCHERS
First time working together
Linking Research to Innovation

- Common reflexion on the actions to develop for enhancing the link from Research to Innovation

- Young Researchers School June 2016.

How to improve the innovation relevance of a research project? Dissemination, end-users involvement, adoption by farmers...

- Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System - Stakeholders Conference October 2016

What is the relevance of AKIS for the Mediterranean Countries? How to better link Research and Innovation in the Research Programmes for the Mediterranean Agriculture?

Cluster Academics/Private Sector, Farmers Extension services, Innovation Potential of a Research Project
Implementing an interactive dialogue

Farmers
Society
Policy-makers

Funding agencies

Researchers

Funding agencies

Researchers
ARIMNet2 Strategic Agenda

- Increasing the efficiency and sustainability of production systems
- Enhancing value chains
- Promoting a balanced territorial development

Instruments to implement strategy

1. Instruments to capacity strengthening
2. Instruments to develop shared equipments
3. Instruments to enhance collaborative projects.
Instruments to implement strategy (1)

Instruments to capacity strengthening

- **Yearly summer schools**, 3-4 days, turning within the countries (by thematic area and including field visits);
- **Young researchers specific seminars** (i.e. PhD < 5 years) to favor interactions and create a transnational community of researchers sensitive to projects build in partnership with stakeholders;
- **A mobility program** of exchange of researchers, PhD students, post-docs, etc. to earn new competences or use specific devices.
Instruments to implement strategy (2)

Instruments to develop shared equipments

• To develop **specialized platforms** (5-6 for the Region) with outstanding infrastructure about several high level technologies (genotyping, phenotyping, bioinformatics, data mining, remote sensing ecc.) to carry on any possible joint activities (i.e. collaborative projects, host colleagues, organize courses)

• To create a **network of greenhouses** sharing compared trials as well as shared experiments on several pathologies in safe conditions;

• To carry out a virtual **network of Common Data Bases** in order to monitor surveys along the region, share data and improve their compatibility and reliability.
Instruments to implement strategy (3)

Instruments to enhance collaborative projects

- Launching **thematic transnational calls** years grounded on the priorities with enhancing criteria for a real wide cooperation;
- Supporting researcher groups from different countries of the region aiming to submit a bid to an international call by **small grants of seed money** to help them to meeting, writing, making literature review, designing original proposals, etc.;
- Carrying out a **PhD grant program** for thesis in "co-tutelle" with supervisors/tutors in two countries of the Region, linked to current collaborative projects, in order to build a transnational community of researchers.
Conclusions

It needed time to build trust between funding agencies involved in the coordination of Agricultural Research in the Mediterranean area.

Now the road is open to continue and:

• Foster collaboration between researchers in agriculture in Med region by increasing support and funding of research projects

• Reinforce the dialogue between researchers, funding agencies and stakeholders to define research priorities for the future

• Improve dissemination of results and interactions with farmers and end-users

• Improve knowledge transfer to the agrifood sector, policy-makers and other stakeholders
THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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