Coordination of the Agricultural Research
In the Mediterranean Area

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

ARIMNet 2 Call 2014-15

SUBMISSION

Pre-proposal by December 1st, 2014

Full Proposal by May 11th 2015

on

http://arimnet-call.eu/

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Introduction

The ARIMNet 2 Project (Agricultural Research In the Mediterranean Network) ERA NET (FP7), aims at coordinating National Agricultural Research Programmes to strengthen the capacities of its members to address in a coordinated way the major challenges that the Mediterranean agriculture is facing.
While agriculture in the countries around the Mediterranean is facing common issues and challenges, Agricultural Research in the Mediterranean is scattered and requires a coordination effort to step up the cooperation and coordination of research activities carried out at national level by joining forces to promote innovative research and cooperation. It is the purpose and the ambition of the members of the ARIMNet 2 Project.
For more information about ARIMNet 2, please connect to www.arimnet2.net

1. A joint transnational Call

ARIMNet 2 is launching a Joint transnational call for research projects proposals based on funds from participating countries.
It will enable collaborative interdisciplinary projects based on complementarities between scientists, disciplines and countries, and sharing of knowledge in a broad scope of research topics. It aims to promote international collaboration to create research consortia in order to respond appropriately to the global stakes and challenges Mediterranean Agriculture is facing.

The call is fitted for large projects involving several partners from different countries. Based on a common virtual pot of around 7 million Euros, we expect to finance from 8 to 13 projects.

2. Scope and topics

- **A. Developing sustainable production in the context of increasing ecological and climatic stresses**:
  - 1.Increase in resilience, rusticity and productivity of Mediterranean agricultural production systems
  - 2. Improving inputs management, on the level of the production systems, for economic and environmental impacts
  - 3. Common Mediterranean challenges in animal and plant health
  - 4. Sustainable Mediterranean Aquaculture and Fisheries

- **B. Food chain from production to consumption: enhancing the advantages of Mediterranean agriculture and food:**
  - 5. Innovation in the agroindustry
  - 6. Logistics, supply chain organization, transportation
  - 7. Food safety, food sanitary issues
  - 8. Food consumption patterns: consumers' behaviour, quality of products, diet and nutrition
  - 9. Agricultural and food policies

- **C. Sustainable management of landscape and resources used by agriculture:**
  - 10. Sustainable management of water and other resources used by agriculture
  - 11. Landscape and spatial management, competition with other land uses, peri-urban and urban agriculture

(**More information in Annex 2 "Scientific Scope of the Call"**)

3. Participation and funding of Research Projects

The funding for the transnational projects will be based on a virtual common pot instrument. The funding principle is that each country funds its own research group(s), while it benefits from the research fruits of the multinational team of the Project Consortium.
Participating countries, funding organisations and funds available are listed in annex 1.

3.1 Participation from ARIMNet 2 network with national funding

Researchers participating in projects that have been selected for funding will receive the grant directly from their national funding organisation after meeting their national regulations. Funding will be administered according to the terms and conditions of responsible national funding body taking into account all other applicable national regulations and legal framework.
Industry may in some countries also bid for funding as members of consortia, but should first check the Parties' national rules for details on funding eligibility of SMEs or large industries.

3.2 Participation from ARIMNet2 network with institutional funding

Research groups from countries with "In Kind" participation will have to provide a letter from their laboratory director attesting that the funds necessary for the realization of the project will be available. Travel expenses and joint workshop must be funded in cash with an order of magnitude of 10 000 euros per year. The funding of a PhD thesis is recommended. The research team cannot coordinate the project.

3.3 Participation from outside ARIMNet 2 network

Research groups or industry from countries not participating in the call are eligible to apply as part of a project consortium but on own resources only. They have to provide a letter attesting that the necessary funds for the realization of the project will be available. They can however not coordinate a project or have any other vital contribution to the project

4. Call Schedule

The review will be carried out in a 2-step procedure following step 1 – submission of Pre-proposals (5 pages) and step 2 – submission of Full Proposals (30 pages). **Only applicants invited to submit a full proposal can participate to the second step of the selection process.**

Call time schedule:

30 June 2014	Pre-announcement
15 September 2014	Launch of the call
STEP 1 EVALUATION OF PRE PROPOSALS	
1 December 2014	**Deadline for submitting pre-proposals**
Early December 2014	Eligibility checking
Mid December	First SEC meeting: declaration of conflict of interest and pre-



	proposal attribution to the SEC members
From mid December 2014 to February 2015	Review of the pre-proposals by the SEC members
15 February 2015	Second SEC meeting: pre-proposal ranking, preparation of the second step evaluation process (proposition of external reviewers for proposals invited to submit to the 2nd step, attribution of the selected projects to a reader and a rapporteur).
27 February	Communication to the applicants of the first step evaluation results.
STEP 2 EVALUATION OF FULL PROPOSALS	
11 May 2015	**Deadline for submission of the full proposal**
From May to September 2015	Peer review process
~ 15 September	Third SEC meeting: Ranking of the full proposals
30 September 2015	Approval by the CB of the ranking list (Final selection)
30 October 2015	Final funding decisions
From november 2015	Communication of the final results to applicants. Contract signature between partners and funding bodies for the successful projects.
Jan- April 2016	Start of the projects

5. Call Management and Secretariat

The Call Secretariat will provide administrative support to applicants regarding the call, call documents and procedures. It is the primary point of contact between the research project consortium and the ARIMNet 2 Members for all general matters in relation to the call.

The National Contacts are supporting the Call Secretariat and should be contacted for all matters regarding national regulations and funding. Please see an overview of the National Contacts in the national regulations annex (on arimnet website)

Call Secretariat:
Fabrice Dentressangle fabrice.dentressangle@agencerecherche.fr
Sanaa Zebakh :dcpd@iav.ac.ma; sanaa.zebakh@yahoo.com

6. Submission of Pre-Proposals

The submission of a **pre-proposal is mandatory** to participate to this call for proposals. **Applications will be accepted only via the ARIMNet 2 online submission website.**
Only one single Pre-Proposal is required for each project covering all of the Research Partners of the consortium. The project details should be completed by the Research Partners and submitted by the Research Consortium Coordinator on behalf of the Research Consortium in line with the stated deadlines.

6.1 The Research Consortium Coordinator

Each consortium must identify a Research Consortium Coordinator, who will have a specific role during the submission process and afterwards, if the project is funded.
The Research Consortium Coordinator, who will have the following role:

- Be the single point of contact between the ARIMNet 2 Call Office and the Researchers in the pre-proposal and in any successful project, from submission of the proposal onward;
- Submit the Application Form on behalf of the Research Consortium;
- In any commissioned project, compile and submit reports/deliverables to the ARIMNet 2 Call Secretariat on behalf of the Research Consortium

The Research Consortium Coordinator will NOT be responsible for the financial management of ARIMNet 2 research funding, which will be handled directly between national researchers and their national funding organisations in each participating country.
The Research Consortium Coordinator shall inform the Call Secretariat and each of the national funding organisations of any event that might affect the implementation of the project.

6.2 Content of the pre-proposals

The Pre-proposal has to be submitted on line and must not exceed 5 pages (annexes are not allowed). The following format should be used: Arial, 10 pt, single space, 2 cm left/right margins, 3 cm top/bottom margin. It is mandatory to upload the Forms as **unprotected** Adobe PDF file. Pre-proposals must be completed in English. Pre-proposals should be precise and concise.

The pre-proposal must address at least the following items:

- Project Title, acronym and selected topic
- Relevance of the project to the scientific scope of this call, main results for the sector that can be expected, main target group and how this will be involved and/or targeted in the Project, state of the art relevant to the topic
- Innovative approach: scientific and technological objectives, scientific hypothesis, scientific methods/work plan.
- Added-value of the partnership for the Mediterranean of the project being carried out transnationally.
  Mediterranean added value is the value resulting from the European and Mediterranean research project, which is additional to the value that would have resulted from research projects funded at national level. The added value may vary, depending on the type of project. It may include: relevance to international policy statements, legislative framework or management plans; added value to national research projects by linking expertise and efforts across national teams; bringing about comparisons at the local level between researchers who are not used to working together; standardisation of methods, general increase of common knowledge relative to the call, *etc*.



6.3 Information to be completed through the online submission tool

Administrative details will have to be fulfilled on line using the ARIMNet 2 submission website. The following items will be asked:

1. Project title (max 200 characters)
2. Project Acronym (max 20 characters)
3. Topic
4. Summary of the (pré) proposal (3100 characters space included)
5. Keywords (project specific) (max 5 keywords) (max 100 characters)
6. Duration of the proposed research project (in months)(max 36 months)
7. Coordinator and partner information:

These forms are filled in with information about one member of the consortium at a time.
The filled in information is collated automatically in the generated proposal

Coordinator / Partner	
Contact person	
Title / position	
Organisation	
Type of organisation	
Acronym	
Address	
Country	
Email	
Phone	

8. Financial plan

N° of the partner	Country	Funding	Man-months (months)	Personnel costs			Consumables	Travel & subsistence	Equipment	Other costs (to be specified)*	Overheads	TOTAL
				Permanent staff	Temporary staff except PHD	PHD						
		Required funding										
		Own funding										
		Total										

7. Eligibility check

For both step of evaluation, two sets of eligibility criteria in the selection process will be checked: i) ARIMNet 2 criteria, ii) national criteria.
All participants in a bidding **consortium should check their eligibility by reference to the guidance provided by their potential national funding organisation at the earliest possible stage** – please consult Annex 1 for the list of national funding organisations and for the list of contacts points and funder's priorities and national guidelines (on www.arimnet2.net or http://arimnet-call.eu).
The ARIMNet 2 Call Office will be the primary point of contact throughout the application process.

7.1 ARIMNet 2 eligibility criteria

Each project proposal must:

- Involve researchers eligible for funding from at least three countries members of the ARIMNet 2 project (at least one from the EU and one from NON EU, see annex 1A) providing funds for this call. Additional researchers from other countries are welcome in a Project Consortium, but will have to fund their own contribution to the research project (see 3.2 and 3.3)
- Projects should be of a duration of maximum three years
- Be written in English, using the ARIMNet 2 Application Forms provided on the submission website
- Be uploaded completed and correctly (including all required documents) via the submission website before the call deadline (1st December 2014, 5 PM CET)
- Fit the formal requirements for proposal submission

MODIFICATIONS OF CONSORTIUM COMPOSITION BETWEEN STEP 1 AND STEP 2 ARE NOT ALLOWED

7.2 National criteria

Each partner of the consortium have to read carefully the national regulation rules on www.arimnet2.net or http://arimnet-call.eu to know what budget items are eligible and annex 1B for topics priorities.

To receive funding, applicants must be eligible for funding by the national funding organisations participating in the call (see annex 1). All participants in a bidding consortium should check their eligibility by reference to the guidance provided by their potential national funding organisation at the earliest possible stage.
Eligible costs will be determined by the regulations and conditions of each national funding organisation. Subcontracting will be allowed according to the regulations of the national funding organisation involved.

7.3 Applicants from countries not providing funds for the call

Applicants from countries not partners in the ARIMNet 2 network and thereby not providing funding for the call are welcome in Research Consortia, but will have to fund their contribution to the research projects themselves. They are not taken into account in the minimum requirement of eligible partners and countries in the ARIMNet 2 eligibility criteria.

Applicants have to provide a letter attesting that the necessary funds for the realization of the project will be available. They cannot coordinate a project nor have a vital contribution to the project.

8. STEP 2 submission of full proposals

ONLY PROJECTS THAT HAVE BEEN SUCCESFULLY SELECTED IN THE FIRST STEP AND HAVE BEEN INVITED TO SUBMIT A FULL PROPOSAL CAN PARTICIPATE TO THIS SECOND STEP.

Applications must not exceed 30 pages and will be accepted only via the ARIMNet 2 online submission website.

Only one single Proposal is required for each project covering all of the Research Partners of the consortium. The project details should be completed by the Research Partners and submitted by the Research Consortium Coordinator on behalf of the Research Consortium in line with the stated deadlines.

8.1 Content of the full proposals

Full proposals should address at least the following items:

PART B form - full proposal (max **30 A4 pages in total**, max 2 A4 pages per partner)

Part B should be uploaded to the submission site as an unprotected .pdf (not scanned). Please name the file as: [proposal identification number]_[project acronym (for example: 99_ARIMNet). The following format should be used: Arial, 10 pt, single space, 2 cm left/right margins, 3 cm top/bottom margin.

B1 Project acronym

B2 Project summary suitable for web publishing (not more than 3100 characters space included)

B3 Background and “State of the Art“ in the field (not more than. 2 pages)

B4 Description of the project: (not more than 10 pages, all sections and tables of B4 included)

a) Aim, objectives and hypotheses

b) Description of work plan & methods, including list and description of the work packages, description of deliverables and timetable (with work package/responsible partner and deliverables, optionally in a Gantt Chart).

Please use the templates below for deliverables.

Deliverables list						
No 1	Deliverable name	WP no.	Lead participant	Nature	Dissemination level	Delivery month

Deliverable numbers in order of delivery dates. Please use the numbering convention <WP number>.<number of deliverable within that WP>. For example, D4.2 would be the second deliverable from work package 4.

2 Please indicate the nature of the deliverable. For example Report, Paper, Book, Protocol, Prototype, Website, Database, Demonstrator, Meeting, Workshop…

3 Please indicate the dissemination level using one of the following codes: PU = Public; INT= Internal (Restricted to other project participants); RE = Restricted to a group specified by the consortium; CO = Confidential, only for members of the consortium.

4 Measured in months from the project start date (month 1).

c) Description of novelty in methods

d) Expected results and their impact/application including the impact in terms of innovation.

e) Governance and global organization of the project. The management plan should in particular specify the different meetings planned and describe the project management structure and capacity (Qualification of the individual persons involved in the management of the project, organisation structure of the project team [including subcontractors])

f) Dissemination plan and/or exploitation of results. The dissemination plan should specify the planned national and international dissemination activities, communication and publication plans..

g) Description and definition of potential risk to the implementation and success of the project (e.g. in research methods, farm studies, stakeholder involvement), describe how the chances for success are maximized, and describe the contingency plan.

B5 Statement describing how/why the proposal has a clear added value of being carried out on a transnational basis (Mediterranean added value, transnational impact of the proposed project, including added value for participating countries and cross border problems, description of the specific integration of participants in the transnational consortium structure) (not more than 1 page).

B6 Description of training opportunities if any (description of training/exchange activities foreseen within the project, if applicable) (not more than 0.5 page).

B7 Description of the societal and ethical aspects (aspects of the project such as environmental, human or animal welfare, intellectual or cultural development, that could cause societal or ethical concerns or contribute to progress in these areas) (not more than 0.5 page).

B8 References used for the project description (please use a format containing the following information: Surname, A., Surname, B. and Surname, C. (Year): Title of paper, Journal, Volume, Pages) max. 30 references.

B9 Scientific justification of required funds

In this part, each partner should justify from a scientific and technical point of view, the various expenses items mentioned in the part C1 (Financial Plan) (not more than 2 pages per partner).

B9.1 Partner 1

B9.2. Partner 2

B9.n Partner n….

8.2 Information to be completed through the online submission tool

See §6.3. The information about the consortium will be saved from the first step evaluation, hence the coordinator will have to verify this information and complete/modified if necessary.

A more detailed budget will be asked for the second step.

9. Process overview and Selection Criteria

9.1 General organisation

The organisation of the decision making process relies on three bodies:

- The Call Board

The ARIMNet 2 Programme Call Board (CB) comprises the nominated representatives from each funding body signing this Memorandum, the Coordinator of the ARIMNet 2 network and the Work Package Leaders in charge of transnational activities within the ARIMNet 2 Project. The CB is responsible for defining and organising the call, the application procedures and the review of proposals. All decisions concerning the call procedures will be taken by the CB. The nominees are entitled to make the joint final decision on the basis of the proposals of the scientific Evaluation Committee (SEC) of ARIMNet 2 Programme, taking into account the rating by this scientific Evaluation Committee.

- Scientific Evaluation Committee

The **Scientific** Evaluation Committee (SEC) will be composed of 10 to 20 Mediterranean experts based on their acknowledged scientific excellence in the research areas covered by the call. The members of the SEC are nominated by the JTC 2014-2015 Call Board. The SEC Chair should be independent (preventing any conflict of interest) and the members of the SEC must not represent the parties or adopt national considerations. In order to avoid any conflict of interest, the SEC members must not apply to this call.

- The Call Secretariat

The central coordinating body for the ARIMNet 2 call is the Call Secretariat (CS) under the responsibility of the Work Package Leaders in charge of transnational activities within the ARIMNet 2 project and the Coordinator. This central coordinating organisation is responsible for the overall organisation of the call and the management of the joint international review process according to the rules agreed upon by the ARIMNet 2 CB, and will be assisted by the CB.

9.2 The process

The evaluation process is designed with a two-step procedure. The pre-proposal evaluation and full proposal evaluation based on a common (ARIMNet 2 rules) and national eligibility check and a scientific assessment.

- **Eligibility of the pre-proposal**: After pre-proposal submission online the CS will check the formal eligibility of proposals according to the common eligibility criteria (5.1). On this list of



formally eligible proposals, parties will check pre-proposal eligibility regarding national and institutions' priorities (annex 1 and national regulations). The CS will coordinate with the representatives of the funding organisations this eligibility step.

- **Scientific evaluation of the pre-proposals:** The SEC will review the pre-proposals following 3 criteria 1) project relevance to the call,2) innovative approach and 3) quality of the Mediterranean partnership (see details below). The SEC will propose to the CB a list of projects in 2 categories: A: Invited to submit a full proposal or B : not selected for the second step. The CB will decide on that list which projects to invite for a full proposal submission (second step). All the applicants will be informed by the CS of the final results and a short SEC reviewer report will be sent.
- **Full proposal eligibility:** A second eligibility check will be performed by the CS to verify if the full proposal is identical to the pre-proposal. Parties will check full proposal eligibility regarding national formal administrative eligibility criteria. The CS will address all the full eligible proposals to the Scientific Evaluation Committee**.**
- **Full proposal scientific assessment** is an external written peer review of full proposals performed by international experts covering all fields of research addressed in the call (SEC members and international external reviewers). The step is managed by the SEC, which in a review meeting discusses the applications and ranks them by consensus in a list. The final selection of funded projects is performed by the CB based on the ranked list provided by the SEC.

All proposals submitted will be treated confidentially by the ARIMNet 2 Partners and their appointed evaluation experts.

9.3 Step 1: Pre-proposal evaluation criteria

During a first meeting pre-proposals will be attributed among the SEC members according to their scientific skills. For the evaluation, each pre-proposal will be attributed to a rapporteur and a reader. **The rapporteur and the reviewer will evaluate independently each criteria giving a mark ranging from 0 to 5 (**from poor to excellent, see details § 9.7**) and writing a short comment on each criteria and a general comment highlighting the major strength and weakness of the pre-proposal.**

- Criteria 1: Relevance to the scientific scope of this call (Relevance and strategic nature of the project with regard to the call's orientations) (score 0-5).

- Criteria 2: Innovative approach: soundness of scientific and technological objectives (importance of the subject, ability to generate results, potential for progress in the field, ambition, innovation and potential breakthroughs) (score 0-5).

- Criteria 3: Added-value of the partnership for the Mediterranean (score 0-5).

9.4 Pre-proposal selection

During the second meeting of the SEC (schedule on 15 February 2015), according to the evaluation made by the reviewer and the reader, the SEC classify by consensus the pre-proposals in two categories: A) Invited to submit a full proposal and B) not invited.

The Chair of the SEC presents to the CB the list giving motivated reason of the selection. The list will be validated by the CB which will take the final decision for full proposal submission.

The CS will announce to the coordinators if they are successful or not to be invited to submit a full proposal to the second step and will send a short report (written by the SEC reviewer).

9.5 STEP 2: Full-proposal evaluation criteria

The full proposals will be evaluated on **peer review process by external reviewers managed by the Scientific Evaluation Committee** of the first step. Similarly to the first step, each **full proposal will be attributed to a rapporteur and a reader of the SEC and for this second step two additional external reviewers will be appointed**.

External reviewers (2 for each full proposal) and the SEC members (1 rapporteur and 1 reader for each full proposal) will have to evaluate the project by scoring the four criteria (see below) on the scale 0-5 (from poor to excellent, see details § 9.7) and by justifying their score with a short comment (each criteria has the same weight):

- **Criteria 1: Scientific and/or technological excellence - innovation and international competitiveness of the transnational project (score 0-5).**
  - scientific excellence in terms of progress of knowledge with respect to the state of the art, conceptual breakthrough.
  - innovative nature in terms of technological innovation or of innovation potential with respect to the current situation.
  - integration of the different disciplinary fields.

- **Criteria 2: Quality and efficiency of the implementation and the management (score 0-5).**
  - level of scientific excellence or expertise of the teams, appropriateness of the partnership for the scientific and technical objectives.
  - scientific and technical feasibility of the project, choice of methods, structuring of the project, rigour in presenting the final results (deliverables), identification of milestones.
  - appropriateness of the project management means implemented, quality of the coordination plan (project management related to the functional, technical, organisational, temporal and financial aspects), involvement of the coordinator.
  - Time schedule feasibility.
  - appropriateness and justification of the requested funding (justification of the permanent personnel resources, appropriateness of the coordination costs, justification of the temporary personnel resources (trainees, PhD students, post-doctoral researchers), evaluation of the sum for investments and equipment purchases, evaluation of the other financial items (travel, subcontracting, consumables, etc.).

- **Criteria 3: Potential impact: contribution to the advancement of knowledge and innovation approaches and socio-economic aspects, stakeholder involvement (score 0-5).**
  - strategy for technology transfer and for exploiting the potential of the project results, if relevant; industrial or technological application prospects and economic and commercial

potential, business plan, integration in the industrial activity. Credibility of the described technology transfer and the method for exploiting the results.
  - potential for utilisation or integration of the project results by the scientific or industrial community or society, and impact of the project in terms of knowledge acquisition.
  - benefit for society, public health, consideration of environmental issues.
  - openness to stakeholders.

- **Criteria 4: Contribution to capacity building, transnational activities (score 0-5).**
  - complementarity of the partnership for the Mediterranean.
  - actions to promote scientific and technical culture and communication.
  - actions for the dissemination of scientific results in higher education.
  - Training and mobility (for partners funded on these items by their corresponding party)

During a third meeting, proposals are ranked by consensus in the Scientific Evaluation Committee meeting in descending order based on the average overall score and discussions. This will lead the SEC to classify full-proposals in three categories:

(A) very good, should be accepted
(B) good but would need further improvements to be financed
(C) to be refused

In the first category (A) the projects will be ranked according to their scientific quality and an A+ category will concentrate the few outstanding projects.

9.6 STEP 2: Full-proposal selection

The Chair of the SEC will present to the Call Board the ranking list and explains it. Based on this ranking, a list of projects will be recommended for National funding by the parties.

After the approval of the final list by respective funding agencies, the CS will – on behalf of the Parties to this agreement – send notification letters and the reviewer's report to all project consortia coordinators to inform them of the result of the final funding decision. Only after this communication, sent in copy to the funders involved, each Party will enter into the contracting process with the national researchers of successful Project Consortia.

9.7 Score description for the evaluation criteria

0	**weak**	The (pre-) proposal fails to address the criterion under examination or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information.
1	**poor**	The criterion is addressed in an inadequate manner, or there are serious inherent weaknesses
2	**fair**	While the (pre-) proposal broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses.
3	**good**	The (pre-) proposal addresses the criterion well, although improvements would be necessary.

4	**Very good**	The (pre-) proposal addresses the criterion very well, although certain improvements are still possible.
5	**excellent**	The (pre-) proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor.

10.Funding

10.1 Terms of participation

The national funding for the ARIMNet 2 Call is offered under the coordination of the FP7 ERA-NET ARIMNet "Coordination of Agricultural Research in the Mediterranean". Research participants are required to recognise the coordinating role of ARIMNet 2 throughout the duration of funded research projects until approval of the final report. Research Consortia will be asked for feedback on processes in order to help refine these for future use.

10.2 Contractual relationships

Regarding the call and the funding, ARIMNet 2 has a coordination role and does not directly provide funding. All of the contracts and funding procedures remain the full responsibility of the national research funding agencies.
Each national funding agency will enter into a contract (or any official documents acting as contract) with the relevant researcher and it has to ensure that these contracts are synchronised both in time and content, so that the Project Consortium can deliver transnational outputs as described in the project proposal. The national funding agencies have to ensure that common ARIMNet 2 conditions are met (e.g. common commencement date of a given project, reporting requirements etc.).

10.3 Funding contracts

For the whole duration of the contract it is the responsibility of the Project Consortium Coordinator to inform the Call Secretariat of any changes which might affect the implementation of the project (e.g. work plan, consortium modifications) and other changes such as changes in contact details. The Research Partners shall also inform their national funding agency of those changes affecting the national contract.
If a change occurs to the Project Consortium which poses a risk to the project, the issue has to be solved by the consortium (in line with any Consortium Agreement). The Call Secretariat must be kept informed of such events.
Any changes in the work plan should be only minor, but will need to be authorised by all of the funding agencies involved before amendments to the contract by the national funding agencies can be issued.

10.4 Research Consortium Agreement

The consortia selected for funding must enter into a Consortium Agreement, in order to manage the delivery of the project activities, finances, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and to avoid disputes which might be detrimental to the completion of the project.
It will be the responsibility of the Project Consortium Coordinators to draw up a Consortium Agreement suitable to their own group. The Consortium Agreement will normally be under the law and legal system of the country of the Project Consortium Coordinator. The purpose of this document is:

- To underpin the Project Partners collaboration and provide the Project Partners with mutual assurance on project management structures and procedures, and their rights and obligations towards one another;

- To assure the funding agencies involved that the Project Consortia have a satisfactory decision making capacity and that Project Partners are able to work together in a synergistic manner.

The following items (as a minimum) should be addressed by the Consortium Agreement:

- purpose of and definitions used in the Consortium Agreement

- names of organisations involved

- organisation and management of the project

- role and responsibilities of the Research Consortium Coordinator and the Research Partners: person in charge, their obligations and key tasks, conditions for their change

- deliverables (transnational reports and if relevant requirements for national reports where coordination is required)

- resources and funding

- confidentiality and publishing

- Intellectual Property Rights (how this issue will be handled between Research Partners)

- decision making within the consortium

- handling of internal disputes

- the liabilities of the Research Partners towards one another (including the handling of default of contract).

It is recommended that Project Consortia use the DESCA (Developed Simplified Consortium Agreement) standard model for Consortium Agreements. More information about DESCA can be found from their website: http://www.desca-2020.eu

The Consortium Agreement must be signed by all Parties of the Project Consortium.

10.5 Intellectual property rights and use and access to results

The ARIMNet 2 partners will take all reasonable steps to ensure that information provided in the application is treated as confidential subject to submission to the members of its committees and merit review and to any obligations under law.
Results and new Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) resulting from projects funded through the ARIMNet 2 Call will be owned by the Project Partners according to the regulations in their Consortium Agreement and if not conflicting with the respective national regulations.
Researchers are encouraged to actively exploit the results of the research project and make them available for use, whether for commercial gain or not, in order for public benefit to be obtained from the knowledge created.
All ARIMNet 2 Partners shall have the right to use documents, information and results submitted by the Project Partners for their own purposes, provided that this is compatible with the protection of

intellectual property rights, confidentiality obligations, and the legitimate interests of the owner of any foreground involved.

10.6 Commencements of projects

A project can commence as soon as the Call Office has been informed by the Project Consortium Coordinator about the conclusion of the national contracts. Once the national contract comes into force, eligible national costs may be claimed as per national procedures. In the interim period, researchers may commence work on the project at their own risk and costs.

11. Project monitoring

Interim monitoring procedures will be mandatory for all applicants involved in the funded projects. These will be independent of other specific national requirements.

Additionally, there will be a final report at the end of the project, which has to be delivered to the Call Secretariat within two months following project conclusion. Two meetings (one mid-term meeting and a final one) will be organised to share and capitalise experience to the benefit of the ARIMNet 2 community and beyond. Those meetings that would gather the coordinators of the projects should be included in the budget required.

Written reports and deliverables will be sent out for evaluation by the international experts and the relevant national funding agencies. The project deliverables shall only be deemed approved when the Call Secretariat confirms approval to the Project Consortium Coordinator, or (if modifications are required) confirms to the Project Consortium Coordinator approval of the modified version of any deliverable.

Project reports must be produced in English, and may be produced in other languages at the Project Partners' discretion. The Project Partners are jointly responsible for the delivery of work, and the Call Secretariat will only accept reports delivered by the Research Consortium Coordinator on behalf of the consortium.

Where required, each participant must report progress on its own component of the work to the national funding organisations in line with national contractual obligations. This also applies to financial reports.

ANNEX 1

1. A Funder Contribution Table

Country	Funding Partner	Contribution up to (in k€)	EU or Non EU country
Algeria	MESRS	In Kind	NON EU
Croatia	KRS	In Kind	EU
Egypt	ASRT	600	NON EU
Egypt	ARC	40	NON EU
France	ANR	2000	EU
Greece	DEMETER	100 in cash 100 In Kind	EU
Israel	MOARD	300	NON EU
Italy	MIPAAF	800	EU
Malta	MCST	In kind	EU
Morocco	MESRSFC	800	NON EU
Portugal	FCT	400	EU
Slovenia	MIZS	300	EU
Spain	INIA	200	EU
Tunisia	MESR	600	NON EU
Tunisia	IRESA	300	NON EU
Turkey	GDAR	600	NON EU

1.B Funding Scheme per Country

TOPICS 2014 Call	ANR	MIZS[1]	MIPAAF	INIA	FCT	DEMETER	KRS	GDAR	MOARD	MESRSFC	MESR	IRESA	MESRS	ASRT	ARC	MCST
	France	Slovenia	Italy	Spain	Portugal	Greece	Croatia	Turkey	Israel	Morocco	Tunisia	Tunisia	Algeria	Egypt	Egypt	Malta
1. Increase in resilience, rusticity and productivity of Mediterranean agricultural production systems	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X
2. Improving inputs management , at the level of the production systems	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3. Common Mediterranean challenges in animal and plant health	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X		X
4. Sustainable Mediterranean Aquaculture and Fisheries	X								X	X		X	X			X
5. Innovation in the agroindustry	X	X			X			X		X		X	X	X		X
6.Logistics, supply chain organization, transportation	X			X	X			X					X		X	X
7.Food safety, food sanitary issues	X	X			X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
8.Food consumption patterns: consumers' behavior, quality of products, diet and nutrition	X				X									X		X
9.Agricultural and food policies	X	X			X			X		X	X		X	X		X
10. Sustainable management of water and other resources used by agriculture	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X		X
11. Landscape and spatial management, competition with other land uses, peri-urban and urban agriculture	X				X	X						X	X			X

Annex 2

Scientific Scope of the Call

Context

The countries of the Mediterranean basin face a number of similar problems in relation to agriculture, mainly as regards the use and management of natural resources, such as soil and water, crop protection and threats to the security and sustainability of agricultural production resulting from climate change.

To this respect, Mediterranean basin concentrates almost all the key global challenges agriculture is facing in the world, and thus should concentrate intense research efforts. But for the moment, that is not the case. Issues are too often looked separately each side of the Mediterranean Sea. There is a great need to enhance research effort through multilateral cooperation both to strengthen the economies of the Mediterranean countries and to help to find solutions to global challenges. This has been underlined in several global forum and reports during last years like IAASTD Report on CWANA region (2008), AARINENA e-consultation for the GCARD (2010), CIHEAM Report on the Future of agriculture and food in Mediterranean countries (2008) and the PARME analysis of foresights concerning the Mediterranean area (2010, presented in Palma October 2010). All these documents are a sound and strong basis for designing the call.
The first characteristic of the Mediterranean area is that its natural environment is characterized by a high level of vulnerability. And today, its sensitive ecosystems are threatened by pressures of various kinds. The Mediterranean region is considered one of the regions of the world most threatened by climate change which could worsen stresses that are already high: drought, extreme climatic events frequency, crop and animal endemic and emerging diseases.

Secondly, the Mediterranean region is one of the hotspots of the global biodiversity, with a remarkable richness in cultivated and wild species characterising this area. This diversity is clearly an asset for the region that could be valued through specific agricultural and food products and that could be used to face new challenges such as climate change adaptation. It also has to be preserved as a common heritage.

Thirdly, water is a scarce resource in most of the Mediterranean countries and its availability decreases. In several countries water use is reaching the level of available resources. Besides, overexploitation of ground water raises several other environmental problems such as soil salinity. In the future, agriculture will be more and more seriously in competition with other users, which implies to find solutions for limiting losses and ensuring more efficient use of the water resource.

A better management of natural resources is thus a condition to maintain the sustainability of agriculture. Agriculture has a significant role to play in producing environmental services for the entire society. However, simultaneously, developing agricultural production is a priority for most countries in the Mediterranean region.

Agriculture is already contributing significantly to the economy in particular in the south and eastern Mediterranean countries, where agriculture accounts for 10 to 15% of the GDP (against 2 to 3% in the Mediterranean EU member states) and where people working in agriculture is around 20 % of total employment. In the south and eastern Mediterranean countries rural population is showing no decline in absolute term, and is highly dependent on agriculture, due to the lack of employment in other sectors. Consequently, the development of agriculture in Mediterranean countries cannot

follow the same historical path of European agriculture modernization based on a strong decrease of rural population.

Productivity growth in agriculture has been high during the past (often higher in south Mediterranean countries than in EU member countries) but remains globally insufficient to respond to the increase in food demand associated with the high population growth rate. Several Mediterranean countries are large importers of agricultural and food products, with a declining food trade balance. South Mediterranean countries are importing on international markets basic commodities (cereals, meat, vegetable oils), however they are also exporters of products for which they have a comparative advantage: fruits, vegetables and olive oil.

In this context, Mediterranean agriculture should find specific paths to develop simultaneously a sustainable agriculture for producing basic food commodities and to take advantage of its specific assets for more specific products that can generate income all over the supply chains. This development should necessarily be implemented with a high level of attention towards resources management and environmental impacts of land uses.

The present call is part of the ERANET- ARIMNet project that involves 12 partner countries from north, east and south of the Mediterranean, and whose purpose is to strengthen multilateral cooperation in Agricultural Research.

Under this call, we will support projects that will add to the existing programs by addressing the Mediterranean agriculture issues in a collaborative way between Mediterranean countries research teams and through innovative approaches. Different topics and issues can be addressed in the research proposals, compatible with the fields identified by stake holders, through mobilizing a large set of disciplines going from genetic to social sciences and combining/integrating them.

Therefore, the call is mainly defined by impacts and targets as challenge facing Mediterranean basin. Projects should contribute to build sustainable research cooperation dynamics and if possible initiate or strengthen joint structures. Proposals should necessarily include teams from at least three countries of ARIMNet (including at least one from the EU and one from the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries)

Scope of the call

Research proposal should address scientific issues that could help to meet the challenges faced by Mediterranean agriculture and fisheries. Those challenges, for this first joint action, are defined in the three following topics and 11 subtopics. Answers could be more focused on some specific points or address transversal issues. Integrated and multidisciplinary approaches would be appreciated, as they are generally needed to address complex issues.

A. <u>Developing sustainable production in the context of increasing ecological and climatic stresses</u>

Facing climatic change and pressure in water availability, protecting the natural resources and the environment need an evolution of the current production practices. Simultaneously, the challenge for agriculture and fisheries is to face an increasing food demand and to contribute to economic and

social development. This implies innovations in the production systems and requires researches on several issues that concern different aspects of agricultural production, aquaculture and fisheries.

1. Increase in resilience, rusticity and productivity of Mediterranean agricultural production systems

In the Mediterranean area, climatic conditions, in particular climate variability, lead to the need for developing production systems able to cope with risk and uncertainty. Rusticity and flexibility of the different components and the whole is a major factor of resilience of the systems and this is required to improve their competitiveness and sustainability. Therefore, research is needed to improve simultaneously the productivity of agricultural system and their sustainability and resilience. Several issues have to be addressed in this perspective: genetic breeding of varieties tolerant to abiotic (drought, high air temperature, soil salinity, soil pollution, soil water depletion, and ground water level rising etc., and to other climate hazards), and/or biotic (major pests and diseases) stresses, genetic breeding of species, use of local biodiversity, development of new farming systems combining different activities and species, diversification of cropping systems using local crop species, development of rich protein crops...

2. Improving inputs management, on the level of the production systems, for economic and environmental impacts

Irrigation induced in many areas of the Mediterranean region a significant increase in agricultural production. However, problems associated with overuse of water have emerged that threaten the water resources in terms of quantity. Other problems emerged from non-sustainable ways of farming. Erosion and loss of soil fertility is becoming a major problem in several places in the Mediterranean. Intensive use of chemicals (fertilizers and pesticides) has also generated water quality and other environmental problems. Moreover Agriculture generates co products, by products and waste waters that are currently not properly taken care of both in environmental and economic terms. Several research issues should be considered in order to improve the sustainability of those production systems: water saving techniques, on-farm improved efficiency of input uses integrated water and nutrient management, integrated crop and pest management, recycling and reuse of agricultural wastes and waste waters and design of innovative farming systems. These issues should be addressed through different approaches and by collaborative research between different disciplines. The projects dealing with issues raised at a larger level than the farm level should be submitted in the subtopic 10.

3. Common Mediterranean challenges in animal and plant health

The development of endemic or emerging animal and plant diseases is a major problem for both the productivity and human health all around the Mediterranean. The Mediterranean is a hotspot not just for biodiversity but also for the emergence of animal and plant diseases. The effects of climate change favor the persistence of pandemic animal diseases, the resurgence of epidemics and the emergence of new pathogens. This issue of animal and plant health must be addressed taking into account different levels of integration: from the ecology and biology of pathogens and vectors, to the issues of sanitary monitoring, health control and socioeconomics both at the farm and regional level.

4. Sustainable Mediterranean Aquaculture and Fisheries.



Coastal zones are of strategic importance to the Mediterranean Countries. They are a source of work and a living area for a large part of the population and they are a major source of food and raw materials. Research to increase the sustainability of aquaculture and fisheries should be done taking into consideration the need to increase the economic performance of the activities while preserving natural resources.

B. Food chain from production to consumption: enhancing the advantages of Mediterranean Agriculture and Food

Several products benefiting from specific Mediterranean natural advantages and know-how are already competitive and provide high value-added to farmers and other actors in the supply chains (fruit, vegetables, olive oil...) They already benefit from a domestic and international demand for products entering in the Mediterranean diet. However, researches are needed to enhance their development in a way that they can really contribute to the economic development of rural areas. Research topics can concern different stages of the food chain: production, food processing, transport, marketing, policies.

5. Innovation in the agroindustry

The technological aspects of production and transformation are important issues and are closely related to market and food chain organisation and to industrial strategies. In particular, it is necessary to develop new processing technologies and valorisation of agricultural products and by-products for better valorising the local typical products, to boost rural economy, to contribute to a transition towards a bio-based society and to create new jobs. The utilisation of the Mediterranean biodiversity, the traditional knowledge and culinary heritage could help to develop territories and regions as typical products can benefit from “niche” markets. Researches on these issues are expected on different fields, and different disciplines from genetics to technological sciences, social and management sciences.

6. Logistics, supply chain organization, transportation

Logistics is the core of efficient food chain governance. Improving supply chain management is of major importance to better link agricultural producers to urban markets. Increasing the efficiency all along the food chain includes also reducing post-harvest losses. These remain very high in many Mediterranean countries. In some cases, they may represent up to 30-40%. Reducing these losses can contribute significantly to improve food security. Research is needed to better understand the mechanisms and to find solutions to reduce losses all along the chain, from production to storage, transportation and commercialisation.

7. Food safety, food sanitary issues

A better control of the quality all along the food chain is an important issue for food safety. In urban areas, where food supply is ensured through important amounts of products generally coming from agro-industrial systems, problems are often related to technologies that have to be suitable for treating large quantities (i.e. cold chain). Improving the articulation between the domestic production of small or medium enterprises and the food demand of urban population raises specific questions of how to ensure food security. Food safety in rural areas may be less important due to the

proximity between producers and consumers, and to the smaller scale of the firms, however several improvements need to be made. Researchers from food technologies sciences and from social sciences are invited to address those issues in the production, processing, storage, transportation and marketing fields.

8. Food consumption patterns: consumers' behaviour, quality of products, diet and nutrition

Food quality is a major component of food security. The Mediterranean Area faces major change in terms of diet regimes. There are still certain micronutrient deficiencies for categories of population. Furthermore diet- and lifestyle-related chronic diseases (diabetes and other diet related diseases…) are dramatically increasing. While the traditional Mediterranean diet is considered particularly healthy, the Mediterranean is paradoxically one of the areas of the world where overweight and obesity are most prevalent—a clear sign of dietary shifts in progress: excess consumption of carbohydrates, sugars, saturated fat and salt, lower consumption of fruits, vegetables and fibers. The challenges of research in this area are considerable. The complex relationship between diet and health in the Mediterranean context needs to be understood, as well as we must better understand eating habits, their heterogeneity and their determinants. There are also needs for technological innovation in the industrial development of traditional products, nutritional and health quality of processed foods,

9. Agricultural and food policies

Public policies have a major role to play to regulate the food system, the impact of agriculture on the environment and to help to the development of rural areas. Good functioning of food chains relies highly on physical infrastructure but also to a good management of the whole chain by a better organization of information systems and administration. These improvements need public investments and will help to appeal for private investments and arrival of foreign capital. Implementing new production systems, ensuring spatial organization of land and field patterns that could improve the resources management, developing environmental services produced by agriculture will also require specific policy instruments. Fields of research on public policies are open that will have to address the following issues: land tenure regimes and policies, spatial organisation of land uses, sharing of resources between users, long term management of resources compatible with the development of rural areas, quality of food and nutrition... Regarding export markets, complying with public and private quality standards is an important issue. These standards are required by the consumers in the domestic markets as well. On this aspect research is needed on various issues that could highlight issues such as quality certification, geographical indications and labelling.

C. Sustainable management of landscape and resources used by agriculture

10. Sustainable management of water and other resources used by agriculture

Conservation of water resources and soil fertility, protection of biodiversity, sustainable management of agricultural solid wastes and waste waters, are major challenges in the Mediterranean area. Risks of degradation are high, in relation with unsustainable agricultural techniques, increase of inputs use, climate change. They have to be addressed at the farm level (topic 1), but also at larger scale. Some issues need to be tackled at the river basin level, some others



on larger areas, even in some cases (e.g. water management) on international level. They need integrated approaches combining different disciplines.
The increase of the population living in coastal areas is a major change in the Mediterranean area. Seasonal and permanent inhabitants living in coastal cities increased as a consequence of population growth and/or tourism development. It implies a concentration of population in the cities and an urban sprawl along the coasts. Urbanisation competes with agriculture for land that is often the most fertile or easier to irrigate. It can also result in an increase in flood risk. Consequences of these population dynamic changes should be better analysed in order to find ways to manage this development and the relationship between coastal areas and hinterlands.

11. Landscape and spatial management, competition with other land uses, peri-urban and urban agriculture

The diversity of production systems valorises the diversity of soils, slopes, wet areas but can also play a non- negligible role in water circulation, fauna and flora dissemination or soil distribution. This leads to understand the role of the spatial organization of land and field patterns, the eventual role played by network of hedges, woods... on the natural resources and the environment and to define the means to improve ecological regulations through spatial organization of farming systems. At a higher level, the spatial organization of agriculture, forest and pastoral areas, have a strong influence in terms of soil quality, water resources and biodiversity. The current dynamics in land uses produce new spatial patterns and new relationships between urbanized areas, agricultural areas, hybrid spaces between city and countryside, intensive and extensive agricultural zones, pastoral areas and uncultivated zone (forest, wetland). This has to be analyzed in a perspective of landscape and land uses regulation. Development of peri-urban and urban agriculture raises specific issues of environmental and resources management and of marketing channels organisation. These types of agricultural systems represent in some countries significant sources of income for poor households, but can generate health problems and pollution as well as positive contributions to the urban environment or resource management (use of waste water, environmental amenities). It is necessary to better understand these dynamics and their impact on resources and the environment.