



European  
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# EU - Mediterranean cooperation in Research & Innovation



27 June 2022

The EU and the Mediterranean seek to enhance their Partnership based on:



co-decision



co-ownership



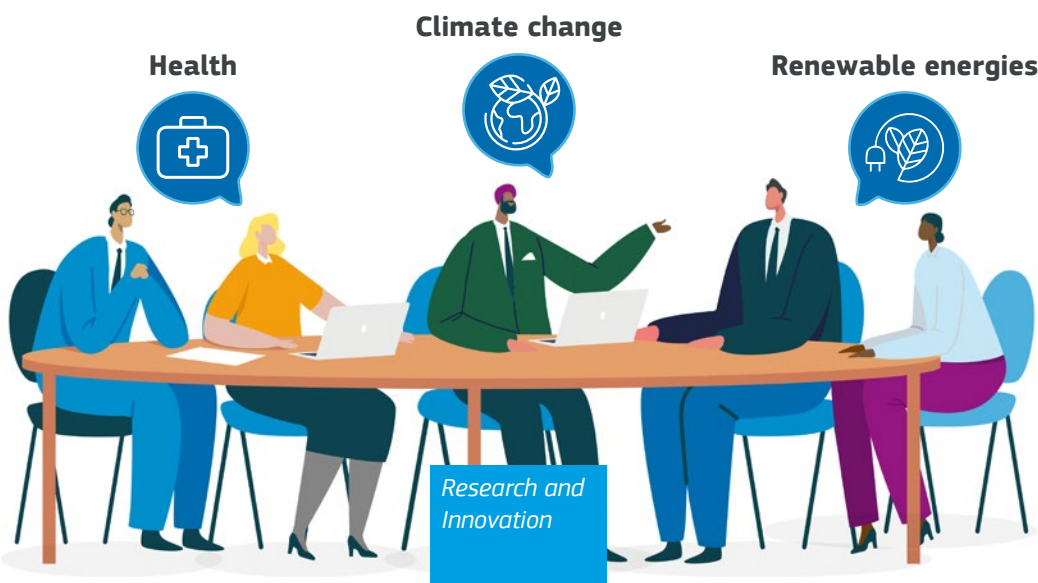
shared benefits

The cooperation in the region underlines the importance of common solutions to address major challenges, such as skills mismatch, youth unemployment and brain drain.

The **New Agenda for the Mediterranean** sets out clear objectives for the years to come to build fairer, more prosperous and inclusive societies for the benefit of people, especially the youth, where Research & Innovation is crucial for sustainable development. In addition the EU's **Global Approach to Research & Innovation** prioritises the Mediterranean as one of its regions for cooperation.

The EU and the Mediterranean region are engaged in a very active policy dialogue in the context of the **Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Regional Platform in Research and Innovation (R&I)**, which brings together 42 member states (27 EU Member States and 15 third Countries).

## The three priorities for EU-Mediterranean cooperation in research and innovation adopted in 2022





## What's new?

With the UfM R&I Ministerial declaration of 27 June 2022 there is an opportunity to pave the way for further R&I cooperation while recognising the need to level the playing field and collaborate on the basis of fundamental R&I values and principles in the region, through:

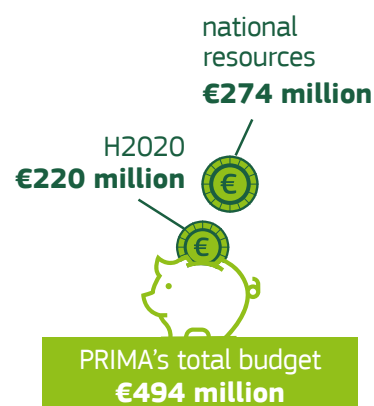
- **Acknowledging the R&I Roadmaps** on the three agreed priorities areas as a catalyser for future cooperation;
- Transform these jointly agreed political priorities into specific actions, **committing to mobilising resources from national and EU level programmes, namely:**
  - Support from **Horizon Europe** towards implementing the **UfM R&I Roadmaps** on Health, Climate change and Renewable Energy;
  - Ensuring the rolling out of the **Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area** and other cooperation initiatives including the implementation and deployment of **Mission “Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030”** and the **BLUEMED Initiative**.



## Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area - PRIMA

**PRIMA**, the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean, is a Horizon 2020 Article 185 (TFEU) initiative with 19 EU and non-EU Participating States, which tackles water management, farming and agro-food systems in the region to respond to climate change, manage resources more sustainably and address water, energy, food and ecosystems nexus issues.

To cite one example, PRIMA funded the 3-year Research and Innovation Action **FIT4REUSE**, with a budget of about €2 million and involving seven Mediterranean countries focussing on safe and sustainable solutions for the integrated use of non-conventional water resources in the Mediterranean agricultural sector, to provide consistently high-quality water for the local population throughout the year.



## BlueMED and Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030

The **BlueMed Initiative**, set up in the framework of the European Strategy on Blue Growth, is a political initiative aiming at advancing a shared vision for a healthy, productive, resilient, better known and valued Mediterranean Sea. It promotes citizens' social well-being and prosperity, now and for future generations, and boosting economic growth and jobs.

The new Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda was developed in 2021 to understand the specific priority and needs to prepare the path for the implementation of the Mediterranean lighthouse of Horizon Europe **Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030**.

## SOME KEY FACTS & FIGURES

### HORIZON 2020

The EU Framework Programmes have been instrumental in pushing forward research and innovation cooperation. About 294 public and private entities from the South Mediterranean participated in Horizon 2020. Those were involved in 177 projects and received an EU contribution of around €34 million, with an own contribution of about €9.5 million. Most active participants in the region include Tunisia and Morocco followed by Egypt. Environment, food and Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions were among the top collaboration areas.

### BILATERAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENTS AND ASSOCIATION TO HORIZON EUROPE

The EU has bilateral agreements with individual countries around the region, aiming to increase cooperation in research and innovation (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan and Morocco).

Israel, Turkey and Tunisia are associated to Horizon Europe. Morocco association negotiations are ongoing and Egypt has expressed its interest to become associated to Horizon Europe.

Find out more:

[Research and innovation in the Mediterranean region](#)



[#InvestEUresearch](#) | [#EUGlobalApproach](#)  
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