

4PRIMA CONCLUSIVE EVENT, LARNACA, CYPRUS, 18 JANUARY 2018

The Research Promotion Foundation (RPF) of Cyprus, organised the 4PRIMA Conclusive Event in Cyprus, on 18 January 2018, in Larnaca, Cyprus, back to back with the PRIMA General Assembly Meeting, which took place on 17th January 2018. The Event aimed to summarize and disseminate the 4PRIMA efforts and findings with focus on the PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) and the Annual Work Plan. The Event gathered representatives from 4PRIMA partners and boards, representatives/policy makers from the PRIMA Countries, European initiatives related to the Project and a wide selection of stakeholders. In total forty-seven (47) participants attended the Event.

A welcome address was given by the RPF's Director General, Dr Vassilios Tsakalos, highlighting the Foundation's commitment towards the successful implementation of the PRIMA Work Programme. Mr. Octavi Quintana Trias, the Director of the PRIMA Foundation was the Keynote Speaker.

The Conclusive Event covered two broad topics. Session 1 was focused on the PRIMA Initiative. Ms. Katja Klasinc, Policy Officer from the European Commission opened the session presenting Europe's efforts to strengthen Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation through R&I. PRIMA's Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda was presented by Mr. Diego Intrigliolo, from the Spanish National Research Council, and the PRIMA Annual Work Plan for 2018, with emphasis on the forthcoming PRIMA Calls for Proposals, was presented by Ms. Florence Jacquet, from the French National Research Agency.

Session 2, focused on the implementation of joint research and innovation activities among Mediterranean countries in the Water and Food Systems Areas, namely the good practices and the way forward. Ms. Florence Jacquet (ANR), presented the evolution of activities towards the development of PRIMA Initiative following the implementation of the ARIMNET Project and Dr Maroun El Moujabber (CIHEAM), of the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari and ERANETMED Project Manager, presented the activities of the ERANETMED and shared his experiences in Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation through ERANETs. Mr. Maurice Heral, Head of Environment, Ecology and Biological Resources Department in the French National Research Agency presented WATER JPI and FACCE JPIS, the Joint Programming Initiatives, in the areas of water and agro-food and stressed the importance of taking on board specific actions in order to avoid competition and duplication and to share new results for innovation in Mediterranean area. The second part of Session 2, focused on good practices of partnerships and activities towards the development of innovative solutions to address challenges in the areas of water and agro-food systems. Mr. Alberto Soraci, Head of Technology Transfer in INNOVA Business Innovation Center in Italy, presented the concept of open innovation and technology transfer, as well as the activities of the 5TOI Project in the area of university – industry collaboration in the MED area. Then Dr. Amr Helal, CEO of the Health Tech Company in Egypt, shared his experiences in the development of innovative solutions in Africa in the area of food security. Finally, Dr. Irene Michael, a Senior Researcher at the "NIREAS International Water Research Center" of the University of Cyprus presented the challenges and solutions in Water Management in South-Eastern Mediterranean and the relevant activities of the NIREAS Research Center.

At the Concluding Session of the Event, a Panel Discussion on the following issues was held:

- How to engage businesses from Southern Mediterranean Countries.
- How to stimulate innovation uptake.

- How to maximise synergies and avoid overlapping with other initiatives dealing with PRIMA topics (e.g JPI Water).
- How to stimulate, foster participation from Southern Mediterranean Countries.

Mr. Octavi Quintana Trias was the Moderator of the Panel. The Discussion Panel was consisted of the following:

- Prof. Francesco Capozzi
- Dr Maroun El Moujabber
- Dr. Amr Helal,
- Mr. Maurice Heral,
- Prof. Helena Pereira, and
- Mr. Alberto Soraci.

Participants from the audience had the opportunity to intervene during the Panel Discussion. The Panel concluded with the following messages:

- **Technical Skills**, together with **Entrepreneurial Mind** and **Financial Support** are key ingredients for the successful implementation of the PRIMA Initiative.
- **Diversity is Richness**: Countries of the Mediterranean region should complement each other rather than compete and join efforts and activities through their existing mechanisms, in order to act as one to address common challenges. All research instruments should be mobilised, in order to address challenges in the Mediterranean Basin and **translate science into innovation**.
- It is important during the implementation of the PRIMA Initiative to safeguard that exchange of knowhow/technologies and property of solutions should be done fairly and transparently on an **Equal Footing** basis (meaning for European but also the Mediterranean Partner Countries).

Agenda / Presentations

1. [AGENDA](#)
2. [Keynote Speech on PRIMA Initiative: Octavi QUINTANA TRIAS, PRIMA Foundation Director](#)
3. [Strengthening Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation through Research and Innovation: Katja KLASINC, Policy Officer, DG RTD, European Commission](#)
4. [PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda \(SRIA\) / Annual Work Plan for 2018: Mr. Diego INTRIGLIOLO, Spanish National Research Council and Ms. Florence JACQUET, ANR](#)
5. [From ARIMNet to PRIMA: Florence JACQUET, ANR](#)
6. [ERANETMED - Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation Through ERANET Joint Activities and Beyond: Dr. Maroun EL MOUJABBER, CIHEAM - IAM BARI - ERANETMED Project Manager](#)
7. [Joint Programming Initiatives - WATER JPI / FACCE JPI: Maurice HERAL, Head of Department – ANR](#)
8. [Technology Transfer and Economic Growth through Research and Innovation / Generating Innovation in the South Mediterranean Region \(The 5TOI Project\): Alberto SORACI, Innova BIC](#)
9. [Innovation in Africa Food Security: Dr. Amr M. HELAL, CEO ITM/Health TECH](#)

Photos







Video

https://youtu.be/PfAp-r_kWvc