



ΙΔΡΥΜΑ  
ΕΡΕΥΝΑΣ ΚΑΙ  
ΚΑΙΝΟΤΟΜΙΑΣ

# CYPRUS INFO DAY PRIMA CALL 2023

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# PRIMA

PARTNERSHIP FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION  
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA



The PRIMA programme is an Art. 185 initiative supported and founded under Horizon 2020, the European Union's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation



THE CYPRUS  
INSTITUTE

RESEARCH • TECHNOLOGY • INNOVATION

# CONTENTS

- 2: Contents (You are here 😊)**
- 3-5: CYI PRIMA Projects (2018 – 2022 Calls)**
- 6-7: CYI PRIMA Proposals that didn't make it (2019-2022 Calls)**
- 8-15: PRIMA REACT4MED Project (2021, Section 1 – Water)**

# CYI PRIMA Projects



**PRIMA 2018, Section 2 – Multi-topic (1.1.2 and 1.1.1 Water), RIA**

**SWATCH:** Strategies for increasing the water use efficiency of semi-arid Mediterranean watersheds and agrosilvopastoral systems under climate change

2020-2023, budget: € 1.6 million, CYI: € 80k

<https://swatchprima.com/>

## Partners

1. Università di Cagliari, IT
2. Ente Acque della Sardegna, IT
3. Agenzia forestale regionale... Sardegna, IT
4. INRA Bordeaux Sciences Agro, FR
5. The Cyprus Institute, CY
6. Ain Shams University, EG
7. Ecole Nationale d'Ingénieurs de Tunis, TN
8. Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Hydraulique, Algeria





# CYI PRIMA Projects

## PRIMA 2022, Section 1 – NEXUS, Coordination and Support Action

### WEFE4MED: Towards a Mediterranean WEFE Nexus Community of Practice

Oct 2022-Sep 2026, budget: € 2 million, CYI: € 268k

#### Partners

1. The Cyprus Institute (Cyl)
2. Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development - GWP-Med, GR
3. The Energy and Water Agency, Malta
4. Jožef Stefan Institute, Slovenia
5. MED CITIES, Spain
6. Berytech Foundation, Lebanon
7. Arab Water Council, Egypt
8. Egyptian Center for Innovation & Technology Development, EG
9. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research, TU
10. Global Water Partnership Organisation
11. International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas



# CYI PRIMA Projects

## PRIMA 2022, Section 2 – Water, RIA

**Safe-H2O-Farm:** Innovative farm strategies that integrate sustainable N fertilization, water management and pest control to reduce water and soil pollution and salinization in the Med.  
Jun 2023 – May 2026, budget: € 1.65 million, CYI: € 200k

### Partners

1. University of Perugia, IT
2. Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research, DE
3. The Cyprus Institute, CY
4. Institute for Adriatic Crops and Karst Reclamation, HR
5. University of Almería, Spain
6. Agricultural Research Organization, Israel
7. Akdeniz University, Turkey



# CYI PRIMA Proposals that didn't make it

PRIMA 2019, Section 1 – Water (RIA)

PRIMA 2019, Section 2 – Multi-topic (RIA), 1. Irrigation water management, coordinator

PRIMA 2020, Section 1 – Water (RIA), two proposals

PRIMA 2021, Section 2 – Multi-topic (RIA), 2.2.1 Upscaling agro-ecological practices

PRIMA 2022, Section 1 – Water (IA), coordinator (2nd stage)

## The evaluations are good!

- Not close enough answer to the Call
- Potential impacts not clear enough
- Progress beyond the state of the art not evident
- Budget unequally distributed

## Diverse partners are important

- Not only research, include SMEs, NGOs, regional organizations/authorities
- There are **many** good non-EU partners, we need to do more effort to engage them!

# CYI PRIMA Proposals that didn't make it - Stage 1: Evaluation example

## **Section 1, Topic 1.1.1-2020 (IA) Water Management: Implementing sustainable, integrated management of water resources in the Mediterranean, under climate change conditions**

### **Excellence – Strengths**

- Draw on the latest developments in remote sensing, hydrological modelling, hydro-economic modelling, institutional analysis and participatory approaches
- Collaborative aspects between scientists, stakeholders (institutional and governmental), farmers and public
- Consideration of interdisciplinary approaches and use of stakeholder knowledge

### **Excellence – Weaknesses**

- Objectives not sufficiently developed to allow a fair assessment and to be completely credible
- Upscaling to basins lacks clarity
- Remote sensing based monitoring tools not adequately described
- Hydro-economic models not referenced

### **Impacts – Strengths**

- Clear performance indicators are given
- Partners have already carried out significant studies at the project sites, which assures that impacts are feasible

### **Impacts - Weaknesses**

- What benefits would farmers gain?
- Lacks clarity on how water accounting systems would be improved
- Lacks clarity on what approaches will be available to stakeholders for water savings
- Lacks clarity on adaptation options





Inclusive outscaling of agro-ecosystem **RE**storation **ACT**ions for the **MED**iterranean

**PRIMA Section 1 - Water 2021, RIA**

**May 2022 – Apr 2025**

**Budget: € 2,75 million, CYI: € 285k**



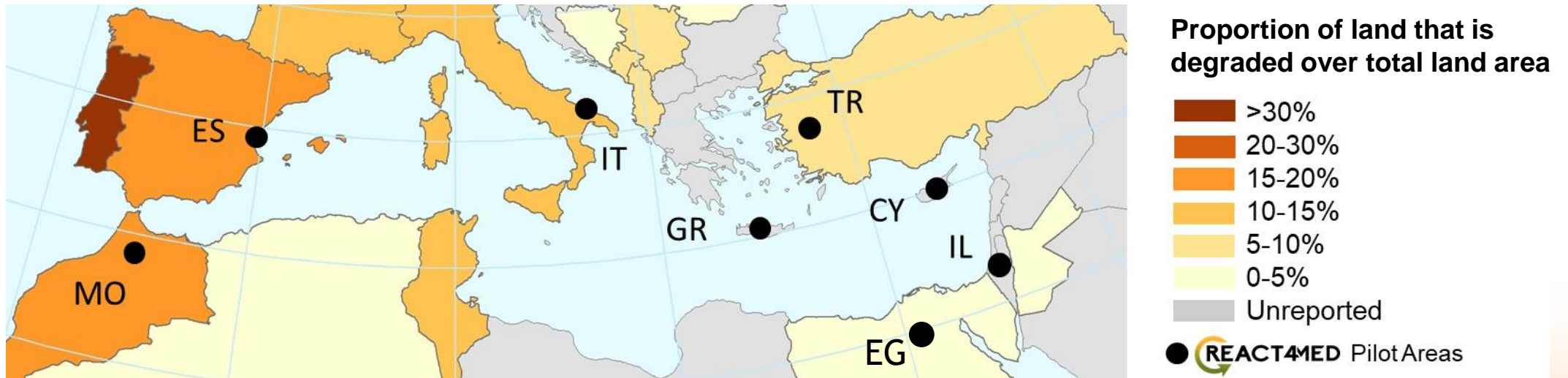


# Partners

Partner	Organisation
1. HMU	Hellenic Mediterranean University, GR
2. SOFTW	SoftWater s.r.l., IT
3. TUC	Technical University of Crete, GR
4. UOS	Osnabrück University, DE
5. CYI	The Cyprus Institute, CY
6. UH	University of Haifa, IL
7. UVEG	University of Valencia, ES
8. INRA	Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, MA
9. CIHEAM Bari	Centro Internazionale di Alti Studi Agronomici Mediterranei - Bari, IT
10. UTAEM	Uluslararası Tarımsal Araştırma ve Eğitim Merkezi, TR
11. PDS	Participatory Development Solutions, EG



# Land degradation is a severe problem in the Mediterranean...



# Therefore, the project aims to...

- enhance Sustainable Land and Water Management to support increased agricultural productivity,
- accelerate technological innovation and dissemination,
- reverse land degradation,
- and improve the livelihoods of Mediterranean communities.

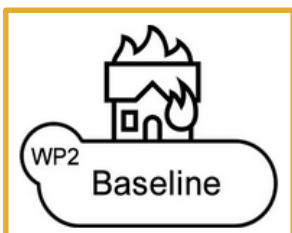


# Learning from pilot areas for the entire Mediterranean

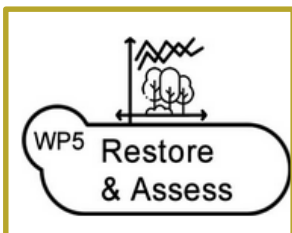


- Outscaling: Implementation of proven good practices in other suitable sites
- Upscaling: Integration of findings in policies
- Understanding conditions for successful implementation
- Focus on individual settings to understand the benefits of soil and water conservation
- Similar problems, yet distinct problem contexts

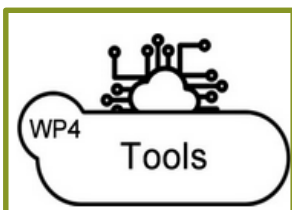
# Research to assist the farming community



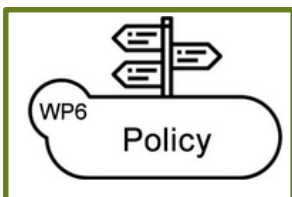
- Knowledge base of assessment indicators and restoration measures
- Identification of areas with potential degradation trends and areas for outscaling of measures



- Implementation of practical restoration actions
- Biophysical and (socio-)economic assessment of restoration actions
- Establish a monitoring system for long-term sustainability of restoration actions



- Land degradation Decision-Support Toolbox: a geo-referenced data repository & land degradation assessment and evaluation of impacts of restoration measures



- Policy information for upscaling of restoration actions

Pilot Areas	size	Soil erosion	Salinisation	Groundwater decline	Biodiversity decline	SLWM practices
Troodos Mountains (CY)	27 km <sup>2</sup>	x				Terracing
Heraklion (GR)	82 km <sup>2</sup>	x				Shift to silvopastoral system
Stornara and Tarra Apulia (IT)	21 km <sup>2</sup>		x	x		Advanced irrigation systems, remote technology for water use efficiency, water harvesting
Cànyoles (ES)	157 km <sup>2</sup>	x				Mulching
Merchouch (MO)	21 km <sup>2</sup>	x				Conservation agriculture, diversified cropping systems, integrated soil fertility management
Bethlehem of Galilee (IL)	42 km <sup>2</sup>				x	Food forest
Menemen (TR)	16 km <sup>2</sup>		x			Rhizobacteria, green manure, enhancing organic matter, enhancing drainage
Tamia (EG)		x	x			Soil amendments, mulching, drainage, modern irrigation, salt-tolerant varieties



# Sharing Living Labs experiences among project partners







**Thank you for your attention**