

HORIZON EUROPE WORK PROGRAMME 2025

Research & Innovation

Mediterranean Initiative III

January 2026



Mediterranean Initiative III

Building on the success of the Mediterranean Initiative I and II, the Mediterranean Initiative III under the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026-2027 is intended to continue to support the implementation of the joint regional priorities:



HEALTH

- Vaccine development
- Antiviral therapeutics
- Monoclonal antibodies



CLIMATE CHANGE

- Biodiversity
- Plant health



RENEWABLE ENERGY

- RES-based electricity grids

The **Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026-27 supports this initiative by focusing on 18 topics, with approximately €420 million allocated to Calls for Proposals promoting R&I cooperation with the Mediterranean region.**

This Initiative is part of a broader effort to strengthen the partnership between the EU and Southern Mediterranean countries, focusing on consolidates EU instruments and financial resources within a coherent governance architecture to advance shared priorities, including **innovation, competitiveness, sustainable development, digital transformation, climate resilience, and migration management**.

Enhancing EU-Southern Mediterranean partnership

The Mediterranean Initiatives are a direct outcome of the first- ever **Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Ministerial Declaration on R&I, adopted in June 2022**.

The initiatives enhanced EU-Mediterranean research collaboration through 52 topics and a potential investment of around 500 million euro! They focused on key priorities — Health, Climate Change, and Renewable Energy — and their corresponding roadmaps.

In the Mediterranean Initiative I only a total of 18 funded projects involve at least one Mediterranean country. Approximately €245 out of €320 of the EU contribution is allocated to these projects.



HEALTH

- 2 projects
- EU contribution: **€ 156 892 877,99**



CLIMATE CHANGE

- 12 projects
- EU contribution: **€ 62 663 887,31**



RENEWABLE ENERGY

- 4 projects
- EU contribution: **€ 25 089 677**



EU CONTRIBUTION

- to projects with at least one mediterranean country involved total **€ 244 646 442,30**

Thanks to the success of its predecessor, the European Commission launched [Mediterranean Initiative II](#). The Horizon Europe Work Programme 2025 underpins this initiative through 12 dedicated topics, allocating approximately €165 million to calls for proposals that foster research and innovation cooperation with the Mediterranean region.

Main actions involving the Mediterranean Region

[The Pact for the Mediterranean](#), “One Sea, One Pact, One Future,” constitutes the EU’s new flagship framework for deepening cooperation with partners across the Southern Mediterranean. In the field of research and innovation (R&I), the Pact aims at:

- establishing **Mediterranean R&I hubs**, support for the **scaling-up of innovative solutions**.
- the creation of an **Euro-Mediterranean Science Diplomacy Centre**,
- the integration of a research pillar within a future **Mediterranean University**,
- enhanced cooperation on **marine and blue economy activities**,

Communication & Stakeholders

[The Euro-Med HUB for R&I](#)

- One stop-shop for information and resources useful for the R&I stakeholders’ community in the region

Other EU funding

[PRIMA - Partnership on Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area](#) boosts R&I on water scarcity, food security, and sustainable agriculture, aligning with UfM and EU goals. It fosters regional collaboration and capacity-building for a sustainable future.

- [Blue Mission MED](#): supports the mediterranean sea basin for the implementation of the EU Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters.
- [Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership](#): promotes a climate-neutral, sustainable, productive, and competitive blue economy, to restore the health of the ocean, its resilience, and the services it provides to people.



Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe is open to researchers and innovators from around the world. It encourages working with EU partners on proposals and includes initiatives to support cooperation with key strategic regions.

Practical information on the Mediterranean Initiative II:

The Calls for Proposals under the [Mediterranean Initiative III](#) in the 2025 Work Programme of Horizon Europe can be found on the [EU Funding & Tenders portal](#).

More information on cooperation in research and innovation between the EU and the Mediterranean can be found [here](#).



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