



5TOI 4EWAS, Quintuple Helix Approach to Targeted Open Innovation in Energy, Water, Agriculture in the South Mediterranean Neighborhood

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Rules and Scope for the Evaluation and Selection of “Research and Innovation H2020 Champions (training and capacity building)”

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The present document defines the 5TOI_4EWAS rules for participation and selection of “Research and Innovation H2020 Champions” for training and capacity building activities that will be organized during the framework of the project. Such rules include a brief description of the guidelines and scope of the activities together with the eligibility criteria, the procedure, the requested candidates’ profiles, the application form to be filled in, the funding principles, the contact details for the submission of applications as well as the timeframe for the submission.

2. INTRODUCTION

5TOI_4EWAS project focuses on Targeted Open Innovation in energy, water and agriculture societal challenges through a balanced innovation-friendly ecosystem in the Southern Mediterranean Neighbourhood (SMN) based on quintuple helix and NEXUS approach (Energy, Water, Food/Agriculture). These issues are obviously at the top of the Research and Innovation agenda in MPC countries, keeping in mind countries’ specificities. The project involves the widest possible range of stakeholders through the Quintuple Helix approach. Therefore, an enhanced and more reliable definition of the priority setting mechanisms in the region from an innovation point of view is expected.

The project aim is to enhance and support regional smart specialization and development by increasing research capacity, effective mobility of young innovators/researchers and shared knowledge to improve their participation in the EU research area. Project contributes to the establishment of favourable and stable conditions for international cooperation and the set-up of a Common Knowledge and Innovation Space of specialization in the SMN for a real socio-economic impact, based on co-ownership and mutual benefits. This will also facilitate to set-up of the Common Knowledge and Innovation Space of specialization in the Southern Mediterranean Neighbourhood for a real socio-economic impact, based on co-ownership and mutual benefits.

The project allows easily building of synergies among several on-going initiatives thanks to the established Think Tanks Network of Science Counsellors in the MPC area and the observatory of current initiatives. In this way, the project seeks continuous complementarity and coherence with the activities of the Strategic Forum for International Cooperation to enhance the cooperation and close synergies through the involvement of the widest possible range of stakeholders, from funding agencies, research organizations, industry to civil society. Through these activities and by the definition of a Join Action Plan, the project effectively use the science diplomacy and facilitates the identification of remaining obstacles, conflicts for cooperation and support the R&I bilateral policy dialogue addressing sensitive challenges between EU and MPC through the dialogue and coordination platform.

The Project contributes to increase Southern Mediterranean researchers’ access to scientific excellence through capacity building activities, making available Large Research Infrastructures and relevant research facilities and by developing joint research and entrepreneurial activities across the South Mediterranean Neighbourhood, to improve their participation in the European research area. In this sense, the project ensures the availability of the skills needed for the successful deployment of new technologies in the addressed societal challenges and contribute to bridge the innovation and technology gap as well as opening up new markets within the Energy, Water and Food sectors.

3. GUIDELINES

These rules govern the “Research and Innovation H2020 Champions (training and capacity building)”, 10 participants from different MENA countries composed mainly by PhD students, researchers, professors, innovators and stakeholders (companies, public administrations and governments) that have a good scientific level and English language skills. Due to the foreseen program of the Training Courses, the selection will be primarily directed to scientific degrees¹. The hosting institutions will accept participants with a different degree but with a consistent and demonstrable experience in the topics of 5TOI_4EWAS project (water, energy, food and/or nexus related fields)². The choice of the participants must be consistent with the objective of the same foreseen training courses which is to motivate and strengthen the collaboration of young researchers and companies to encourage applied research and innovation in the nexus related fields.

The main sources of participants to be selected to attend to the courses should come from MENA Consortium partners and from stakeholder entities such as:

- × MENA Ministries of Environment, Research and Enterprises;
- × National public agencies related to R&D (focused on nexus);
- × Universities, Research Centres and other Institutions involved in Water R&D and Innovation;
- × Nexus Industrial associations;
- × Large and Small Companies known to be involved in Nexus Research and innovation.

After approval of the selected candidates the successful participants will be distributed according to the following agenda of secondments:

- × 2 people will stay in UAB.
- × 2 people will stay in INNOLABS.
- × 2 people will stay in INNOVABIC.
- × 2 people will stay in GIRAF.
- × 2 people will stay in MUAS.

4. SCOPE

These training and capacity building activities will allow “Research and Innovation H2020 Champions”, to gain access to the knowledge and practical understanding relevant to their activity sector, at national and international level, in order to be able to detect challenges affecting their activity, get wide understanding of the issue matter, and gain possibility for best practices and experience sharing.

The selected persons will be future pivotal persons that will have the objective to increase the Research and Innovation capacity of their institutions and of its networks. These persons via training stays with the project partner’s organizations will be trained and coached in regards of H2020 and other EU cooperation programs. This action will lead to development and promotion of cooperation between EU and MPC researchers and establish strong backgrounds for the further capacity building and knowledge sharing in the frame of targeted three abovementioned topics.

These settlements will create potential for three (mutual) dimensional benefit system for all participating stakeholders, such as for professionals from hosting institutions, it will give an opportunity by cooperating with innovative scientists to get the scientific opinions and solutions

¹Since the Lisbon Recognition Convention elaborated by the UNESCO and the Council of Europe, degrees in Europe are being harmonised through the Bologna process, based on the three-level hierarchy of degrees: Bachelor (Licence in France, Poland and Portugal), Master and Doctor. This system is gradually replacing the two-stage system in use in some countries. The Bologna Process currently has 47 participating countries. Although a country is a Bologna Process member state, this does not necessarily mean that the Bologna Accords have been implemented yet in that country.

²To define if a competence should be related to “nexus”, please refer to the 5TOI_4EWAS DoW and to the article on the Quintuple Helix innovation model innovation-entrepreneurship.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/2192-5372-1-2

regarding the before risen questions in the frame of the selected topics, to the scientists instead it will give an opportunity to collaborate with experienced professionals in the field and by visits to real sites to apply not only theoretical but also practical knowledge and finally the project by pulling the forces of mentioned specific stakeholders will reach its objective that will encourage applied research and innovation in the nexus related fields.

5. REQUESTED CANDIDATE PROFILE

- × Have a postgraduate degree and/or at least three years' full time experience in research, engineer in water, food, energy or nexus;
- × Be a permanent member or an employee of a research institution and/or of a network of organizations and/or of a higher education institution and/or a SME enterprise working on research nexus field innovation and needs or implementation and/or manager or public authority dealing with nexus activities;
- × Thematic Area of research;
- × Have a concrete research & development (RD) or innovation (I) project underway;
- × Good English skills;
- × Have carried out RDI projects in his/her own country and/or region during the last five years;
- × Research/Cooperation on a regional/international level within or beyond the MPC region;
- × Impact of the participation to the 5TOI_4EWAS activities: benefits for the researcher and his/her research activity or transfer the technology to the industry in the case of SME participants;
- × Giving evidence of the participation in the events;
- × Attended impact of the visit at the selected research centre/research institution/SME – expected results;
- × Participation in research networks clusters.

6. ELEGIBILITY CRITERIA

The evaluation of individuals for the “Research and Innovation H2020 Champions” will be done by each MENA Partner Country of 5TOI_4EWAS project formality and eligibility check. Reviewers will be provided with guidance and will use an evaluation model based on given criteria, as described by the following scoring matrix. Each reviewer will give a score for each evaluation criterion and a total score for each application. Each MENA Partner Country will compile the evaluation results and provide a ranking list of the applications, based on the total score achieved in the evaluation.

Applications which do not comply with the complete and correct forms and documents, meeting the deadlines, addressing thematic priorities, will not be considered within the evaluation process. The range of evaluation is from 1 to 5. The candidates who have reached the maximum points will be considered for the next stage.

Evaluation criteria ACADEMIC APPLICANTS	Judgement based upon	Scoring
Have a postgraduate degree and/or at least three years' full time experience in research, engineer in the fields of 5TOI_4EWAS Project	Application form	Y/N
Be a permanent member or an employee of a research institution and/or of a network of organizations and/or of a higher education institution and/or a SME-enterprise working on research water field innovation and needs or implementation and/or manager or public authority dealing with water	Letter of endorsement of the employing institution	Y/N

treatment activities		
Thematic Area of research	Is the research within the defined thematic areas?	Y/N
Have a concrete research development (RD) or innovation (I) project underway	Title of the project (application form)	Y/N
Sufficient English	Application form	Y/N
Have carried out RDI projects in your country and/or region during the last five years	Application form	0-2
Research/Cooperation on a regional/international level within or beyond the MPC region	Application form	0-2
Impact of the participation to the selected event: benefits for the researcher and his/her research activity or transfer the technology to the industry in the case of SME participants	Motivation letter, expression of interest and application form	0-2
Giving evidence of the participation in the events	Certificate of attendance or equivalent	0-2
Attended impact of the visit at the selected research centre/research institution/SME – expected results	Motivation letter, expression of interest and application form	0-2
Participation in research networks, clusters	Application form	0-2

Evaluation criteria MPC PROFESSIONALS	Judgement based upon	Scoring
Have at least five years' full time experience in the topics of 5TOI_4EWAS Project as technician, engineer or expert	Application form and Letter of endorsement of the employing or references	Y/N
Thematic Area of work	Is the work is within the defined thematic areas?	Y/N
Have a concrete activity underway	Description	Y/N
Sufficient English skills	Application form	Y/N
High skills in 5TOI_4EWAS topics	References	0-2

Is the applicant already developing a new technology in some of the topics of 5TO_4EWAS?	Application form	0-2
Impact of the visit for the company	Motivation letter, expression of interest and application form	0-2

7. PROCEDURE

The Candidates should submit a complete application form along with the required documentation within the indicated deadlines following the indication of each MENA Country Partner. Application forms can be found at each MENA Country's specific website. A developed registration and application form with the supportive instructions will be available from April 2017. This will permit the submission of complete application forms and will lead to the creation of short list candidates per country within the indicated deadlines.

The following information will be collected from interested participants:

Personal data	Background information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Name × Family name × Gender (female, male) × Nationality (choice of MENA Countries) × Date of birth × Address × Country × Telephone × E-mail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Education (BA, MA, PHD, Post doc) × Applicant present position × Name of organisation × Address × Website × Research area × CV × Motivation and Interests in attending the 5TOI_4EWAS activities × Hosting institution where holding the secondment (5 preferences in order: UAB, INNOLABS, INNOVABIC, GIRAF, MUAS)

Fig. 1 – Information to be collected from each applicant

Formality and eligibility check. Applications which do not comply with the complete and correct forms and documents, meeting the deadlines, addressing thematic priorities, will not be considered within the evaluation process.

The selection will follow the rules set by European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers³. This Code of Conduct consists of a set of general principles and requirements that should be followed by MENA partners when appointing or selecting researchers.

These principles and requirements should ensure observance of values such as transparency of the recruitment process and equal treatment of all applicants, in particular with regard to the development of an attractive, open and sustainable “market” for researchers, and are complementary to those outlined in the European Charter for Researchers. MENA Partners adhering to the Code of Conduct will openly demonstrate their commitment to act in a responsible and respectable way and to provide fair framework conditions to researchers, with a clear intention to contribute to the advancement of the European Research Area.

³See the criteria here: ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/rights/codeOfConduct

When these lists will be ready, a Committee composed by INNOLABS, UAB, INNOVABIC, MUAS, GIRAF will proceed to select final champions (10 people). Considering the composition of the consortium, minimum one champion per 5TOI_4EWAS MENA Country partner will be selected. The selected successful candidates will be invited for a short 10-15 minutes interview, for English skills final evaluation.

As required by the above-mentioned Code of Conduct, the Selection Committee will bring together diverse expertise and competences, with an adequate gender balance and, include members from different sectors (public and private) and disciplines; and with relevant experience to assess the candidate.

A “Selection Kit” created by INNOLABS and composed by a letter of invitation, an electronic leaflet with a brief presentation of the activities that will be implemented in the frame of 5TOI_4EWAS Project and the cost procedures to be followed will be sent to each selected participant at least 1 month before the beginning of the secondment.

8. FUNDING PRINCIPLES

Each secondment will last 1 month. The participation will be facilitated through scholarships. Each person involved in this kind of secondment will receive a reimbursement of 1.500,00 Euros (managed by the hosting institutions). The hosting institutions will receive 1.000,00 Euros per participant per month to cover travel and accommodation costs and all costs for necessary teaching materials required during the whole period of Secondment.

9. TIMETABLE

19/04/2017	Publication of TOR in member countries
26/04/2017	Deadline of the call of the proposals
03/05/2017	Evaluation and selection
05/05/2017	Information of the applicants
Depends on each participants immediate available date	Start of the secondments

The call will be published on each MENA Country’s website and disseminated in the MPC and EU region through the 5TOI_4EWAS partners.