



ARIMNET2 - Joint Transnational Research Call-2016
National Rules for Participation

Version 1.1
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1. Introduction

Funding Party: Malta Council for Science and Technology for and on behalf of the Foundation for Science and Technology,
Villa Bighi, Kalkara, KKR 1320
Malta

1.1 ARIMNET2

The ARIMNET2 Project (Agricultural Research in the Mediterranean Network) FP7 ERA NET aims at coordinating National Agricultural Research Programmes to strengthen the capacities of its members to address in a coordinated way the major challenges that the Mediterranean agriculture is facing.

While agriculture in the countries around the Mediterranean is facing common issues and challenges, Agricultural Research in the Mediterranean is scattered and requires a coordination effort to step up the cooperation and coordination of research activities carried out at national level by joining forces to promote innovative research and cooperation. It is the purpose and the ambition of the members of the ARIMNET2 Project.

More information about ARIMNET2 can be found at the following link: www.arimnet2.net.

1.2 Scope and Focus

ARIMNET2 is launching a Joint Transnational Call for research projects proposals based on funds from participating countries.

It will enable collaborative interdisciplinary projects based on complementarities between scientists, disciplines and countries, and sharing of knowledge in a broad scope of research topics. It aims to promote international collaboration to create research consortia in order to respond appropriately to the global stakes and challenges Mediterranean Agriculture is facing.

The Joint Call will enable the implementation of collaborative research projects based on complementarities between scientists, disciplines, and exchange of expertise within the scope of the research themes addressed by the Call. Integrated and multidisciplinary approaches would be encouraged, as they are generally needed to address complex issues.

Each project proposal must:

- Involve researchers from at least three countries members of ARIMNET2 (at least one from the EU/Associated Countries and one from the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries) providing funds for this Joint Call. Additional researchers from other countries are welcome in a project consortium, but will have to fund their own contribution to the research project.
- Be of a maximum duration of 36 months.
- Be written in English, using the ARIMNET2 Application Forms provided on the submission website and details found in the ARIMNET2 Guidelines for Applicants.
- Be uploaded completed and correctly (including all required documents) via the submission website before the call deadline (June 1st 2016), through the following link: www.arimnet-call.eu.
- Fit the formal requirements for proposal submission.

Selection and funding of projects under this joint initiative shall be on a competitive basis.

Funding under this joint initiative is made available on the basis that an Applicant does not benefit from any other grant or financial incentive in respect of the expenses related to execution of the project.

The call process is shown in the table below:

Schedule	Call Action
1st April 2016	Launch of the call.
1st June 2016	Deadline for submission of proposal.
November 2016	Communication of the final results to Applicants. Contract signature between partners and funding bodies for the successful projects.
	Start of the projects.

1.3 National Contact Points

Correspondence should be directed to:

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1.4 Definitions

Research and Development is defined as the systematic investigation, work or research carried out in any field of science or technology through experiment, theoretical work or analysis undertaken in order to acquire new knowledge, primarily directed towards a specific practical aim or objective, and includes:

- (a) **Basic Research** comprising activities undertaken for the advancement of scientific or technological knowledge that may draw on existing knowledge gained from research and practical experiences and is directed to produce new materials, products and devices, the implementation of new processes, systems or services, or to substantially improve those already produced, installed or existing;
- (b) **Applied Research** where a final specific application is in view;
- (c) **Development** involving the use of the results of basic or Applied Research as aforesaid for the purpose of creating new or of improving existing material, devices, products or processes, but excludes routine or periodic design, testing and analysis of equipment or products for the purposes of quality or quantity control, routine or periodic alterations to existing products or processes, or routine activities where there is no appreciable novelty or problem resolution.

Innovation is defined as the internationally novel scientific/technological development of a technological process, product or service. Also, the definition of innovation within the same context, can also be applied to non-novel, yet step-change/ground-breaking enhancement of existing technological processes, products or services, or even the application of existing knowledge to new novel applications of these solutions to deliver step-change competitiveness through such an application

ARIMNET2 Project Consortium involves researchers from at least three countries members of ARIMNET2 Project (at least one from the EU/Associated Countries and one from the Mediterranean Partner Countries) providing funds for this Joint Call. Additional researchers from other countries are welcome in a project consortium, but will have to fund their own contribution to the research project.

Industrial Entity is defined as a Maltese Legal Entity having more than 50% private shareholding, including but not limited to, a privately owned company or commercial enterprise the objects and activities of which include the output of a specified product and service, and have the financial means to execute the project and a potential to use the results. In addition to research and innovation contributions and knowledge transfer, the entity may contribute to the Arimnet2 Project Consortium by developing, testing, commercializing or using such a product or service. Provided that a registered NGO, or a Professional Body as defined in this Section is considered as forming part of this definition.

Maltese Legal Entity means any entity created under the laws of Malta which has legal personality and which may, acting under its own name, exercise rights and be subject to obligations.

Public Entity means any Maltese Public Service Department or Maltese Public Sector Entity, or any Maltese Legal Entity which has more than 50% government shareholding.

Public Entities also include foundations, local councils and public academic entities. In the case of public academic entities, this includes but is not limited to a higher education entity or a research institute, whether as a whole body or as a component unit or department within such body, This, provided that the higher education entity must be in possession of a license for Higher Education according to Article 8(3) of the Act of Education, Chapter 327 of the Laws of Malta. This does not include the license for a tuition centre.

NGO means any Voluntary or Non-Governmental Organisation set up in accordance with The Voluntary Organisations Act (Cap. 492 of the Laws of Malta).

Professional Body may be an organisation, an association, a chamber, society, institute or a group of professional persons not being enrolled or registered in terms of The Voluntary Organisations Act (Cap. 492 of the Laws of Malta) or not being otherwise recognised in terms of Law, and which is generally recognised and acknowledged by the professional persons it seeks to represent as their representative Body. For the purposes of this Definition, a professional person is one who has undergone a period of study at a university or a recognised institution of higher learning and has obtained the formal qualification entitling the person to practise the respective profession; and who provides a specialised service to the public, based primarily on a fiduciary relationship between himself and the party to whom he provides such service on his own personal credibility and responsibility.

Applicant means anyone eligible for participation in an ARIMNET2 Project in terms of these Rules for Participation and who consequently applies for funding under this joint initiative.

Project Contact Point is the individual, appointed to act on behalf of the Applicant and who is responsible for communicating with the Council about the ARIMNET2 Project.

2. Eligibility for Participation

2.1 Eligibility for Participation

Any Industrial Entity and any Public Entity as described in Section 1.4 may apply for an ARIMNET2 project and will be eligible for funding subject to the terms and conditions laid out in this document as well as in the ARIMNET2 Guide for Applicants.

Professional Bodies and NGOs are eligible to participate in a project, but will only be eligible for funding under this joint initiative in respect of a research and innovation activity.

Applicants, who fall within the definition of Industrial Entity, will be required to provide (together with their application) the following documents which will be considered during the evaluation:

- Memorandum & Articles of Association or other constitutive document;
- Audited financial statements for last 3 fiscal years (2 sets).

In the event that the Applicant is a start-up and the above documents are not available, the Applicant shall provide the financial projections for three (3) years signed by an auditor, including:

- an income statement,
- a cash flow statement, and
- a statement of financial position

In the event that the evaluation may result in too high an exposure risk to the Council, the Applicant will no longer be entitled to participate in the project.

Any application submitted by or including the participation of any legal person or legal entity having, in totality or in majority ownership, the same shareholders, partners or persons holding and / or exercising a controlling power in any other legal entity which will have been at any time prior to such application declared as non-compliant or defaulting on any other contract or agreement entered into with the Council, shall be automatically declared as inadmissible.

2.2 Eligibility under the State Aid Regime

This joint initiative operates under the *de minimis* State Aid regime, which stipulates that a single undertaking cannot receive more than €200,000 in aid over any 3-year period through schemes operating under this regime. Applicants are required to ensure they are eligible for the requested grant under State Aid rules before submitting an application.

For the purposes of this Section, an “undertaking” shall mean any entity engaged in an economic activity, regardless of its legal status and the way in which it is financed.

Each undertaking must complete and execute the State Aid *de minimis* declaration form given to them by the Council prior to benefitting from the funding under this joint initiative.

For the purposes of the *de minimis* Regulation, “Single Undertaking” includes all enterprises having at least one of the following relationships with each other:

- a. One enterprise has a majority of the shareholders’ or members’ voting rights in another enterprise;
- b. One enterprise has the right to appoint or remove a majority of the members of the administrative, management or supervisory body of another enterprise;
- c. One enterprise has the right to exercise a dominant influence on another enterprise pursuant to a contract entered into with that enterprise or to a provision in its memorandum or articles of association;

- d. One enterprise, which is a shareholder in or member of another enterprise, controls alone, pursuant to an agreement with other shareholders in or members of that enterprise, a majority of shareholders' or members' voting rights in that enterprise.

Enterprises having any of the relationships referred to in points (a) to (d) above through one or more other enterprises shall be considered to be a single undertaking,

The terms and conditions set out in these guidelines are in line with the Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to *de minimis* aid.

Specific sectors (agriculture[‡], fisheries and aquaculture[†]) are excluded from this regime and applications in these sectors are therefore outside the scope of this joint initiative. The successful Applicants are expected to sign the necessary forms before any funds are transferred and provide the necessary reports in accordance with *de minimis* State Aid regulations.

This Scheme is not available to undertakings in difficulty within the meaning of the Community guidelines on State Aid for rescuing and restructuring firms in difficulty.

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Undertakings active in the sector of agricultural production means undertakings active in the primary production of agricultural products. Agricultural products are those products listed in Annex I to the Treaty.

† Undertakings active in the fisheries and aquaculture sector means undertakings active in the production, processing and marketing of fisheries products which covers both products caught at sea and the products of aquaculture. Fishery products are listed in Article 1 of Council Regulation (EC) No 104/2000 of 17 December 1999 on the common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products.

3. Funding Criteria

The funds for the national beneficiaries participating in the ARIMNET2 project consortium will be made available in accordance with these rules and regulations.

3.1 Submission of Project Proposals to ARIMNET2

Proposals will be submitted, evaluated and decided upon according to the procedures described in ARIMNET2 Guide for Applicants.

Submissions should only be made via the ARIMNET2 online submission system: www.arimnet-call.eu.

3.2 Project Duration

The duration of a project should be a maximum of 36 months.

The projects are expected to start not later than five months after the conclusion of the Grant Agreement.

3.3 Grant Value

The total maximum National Budget for this Call is of €39,000.

Funding for successful project submissions will be on the basis of a periodic cash advance, and will be regulated through a contractual agreement establishing the terms and conditions governing the financing of the project.

Funding under this joint initiative is made available on the basis that an Applicant does not benefit from any other grant or financial incentive in respect of the expenses related to execution of the project.

3.4 Project Contact Point

The Applicant shall appoint a Project Contact Point. The Project Contact Point shall have the following responsibilities:

- To ensure compliance with their obligations in terms of the Contractual Agreement;
- To compile Travel, Periodic Reports and Final Reports including their timely submissions and effective execution of the project;
- To execute the project activities according to set timeframes and deliverables.

3.5 Activities and Deliverables

Eligible Activities

The following activities are eligible:

- Collaborative Research & Interdisciplinary Projects that can promote R&I, mobility & training, Seminars & Workshops (incl. midterm scientific meeting and final workshop).

- The call expects projects based on complementarities between scientists, disciplines & countries, & sharing of knowledge in a broad scope of research topics.
- It aims to promote international collaboration to respond appropriately to the global stakes & challenges Mediterranean Agriculture is facing.

Mandatory deliverables

The project plan must give details of certain activities which are required by the Council's R&I Unit. These should be included as deliverables in the project proposal and include:

1. A showcase of the project to the general public by the national project partner through:
 - The publication of at least two articles per year in local newspapers or magazines. These should not contain intellectual property but should raise awareness about the project and its benefits.
 - The organisation of at least one half-day event to be held at the Council's premises or as otherwise directed by the Council's R&I Unit.
2. Reporting on project progress as per the list hereunder in line with the templates provided by the Council;
 - End of Stage Technical and Scientific reports;
 - End of Stage Financial report;
 - End of Project Technical and Scientific Report;
 - End of Project Audited Financial Report

The reports are to include sufficient evidence on the achievement of the project objectives as well as the parameters indicated in the application.

Changes to the project objectives, work-packages and all the parameters committed in the applications are to be detailed, justified and approved by the Council's R&I Unit.

Recommended deliverables

Further to the mandatory deliverables, the Council invites applications to also include deliverables as recommended below:

1. Monograph/s and/or peer-reviewed paper/s for accepted publication in international journal/s of repute based on the work carried out through the Project. The subscription levels or Impact Factor of journals are important considerations. Similar papers published on open source media would also be considered favourably.
2. Oral presentation/s at international conference/s on the work carried out through the Project;
3. The attainment of undergraduate degrees and/or postgraduate degrees and/or post-doctoral research. In cases where the project duration is insufficient for the purpose of submitting a degree, there has to be a commitment to complete the degree outside the duration of the project utilising other sources of funding.
4. Registration of a patent or other Intellectual Property Rights stemming from the Project, in Malta as well as in any other country;

5. Commercial commitments such as technology innovations to be included in a partner's existing product or service.
6. Commercial commitments such as technology transfer licences.

3.6 Confidentiality of Submissions

Unless otherwise indicated, all project application submissions except for the abstract shall be treated in strict confidence.

4. Theme/s to be funded

Through this call, ARIMNet2 consortium will support integrated and trans-disciplinary research projects aimed at **producing innovations for enhancing contribution of agricultural and food systems to sustainable social and economic development.**

The 2016 joint transnational call will cover two topics.

- **Topic 1 : Promoting sustainable agriculture for socio-economic development**
- **Topic 2 : Valorising local products through food value chains improvement**

Topic 1: Promoting sustainable agriculture for socio-economic development

Climatic conditions, in particular climate variability, require the development of production systems able to cope with risk and uncertainty. Rusticity and flexibility of the different components and of the whole are two major factors of resilience of the systems and their competitiveness and sustainability is required to be improved. Therefore, research is needed in order to improve simultaneously the productivity of agricultural systems and their sustainability. Facing climatic change and pressure in water availability, protecting the natural resources and the environment need an evolution of the current production practices to contribute to the economic and social development.

Adaptation of agriculture to climate change calls for solutions to be found in terms of genetics and agronomics to cope with water scarcity, changes in temperatures and increase in climate variability. Several issues have to be addressed in this perspective: Genetic breeding of varieties resistant to drought and to climate hazards; adaptation to climate change; use of local biodiversity; development of new farming systems combining different activities and species; diversification of cropping systems using local crop species; water-saving techniques and water efficient cropping systems; development of protein rich crops. The diversity of production systems can help to valorize the diversity of soils, slopes, and wet areas but can also play a non-negligible role in water circulation, fauna and flora dissemination or soil distribution.

Soil is a major resource for Mediterranean agriculture sustainability. The "4%" Cop 21 Initiative[‡] aims to develop practical measures on restoration, improvement and/or preservation of carbon stocks in soils. Management of soil carbon will contribute to climate change adaptation. The scientific approaches should develop: Studies of mechanisms and assessment of the potential for carbon storage in soils across Mediterranean regions; performance evaluation of best farming practices for soil carbon and their impact on food security and on other regulation and production services; monitoring and estimating variations in soil carbon stock, especially at farmers level; increasing water holding capacity of soils rich in organic matter.

Intensive use of chemicals (fertilizers, pesticides, antibiotics) has also generated environmental and human health problems. Several research issues should be considered in order to improve the

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[‡] http://agriculture.gouv.fr/sites/minagri/files/4pour1000-gb_nov2015.pdf

sustainability of production systems such as on-farm improved efficiency of input uses and integrated pest management. Development of low-input systems using integrated approaches between ecology and agronomy should also be addressed.

Topic 2: Valorising local products through food value chains improvement

Improvement in the agricultural systems should take into account the potential outlets and markets for agricultural products. Thus, food chain organisation is a requirement for local economic development. The enhancement of Mediterranean food value chains is closely related to technological aspects of production and transformation, market and food chain organisation and industrial strategies. In particular, it is necessary to develop processing technologies for better valorisation of typical local products, to boost rural economy, and to create new jobs. The utilisation of the Mediterranean biodiversity, the traditional knowledge and culinary heritage should be encouraged.

A valorisation of the nutritional qualities of Mediterranean foods and the development of new products based on the traditional Mediterranean products should also consider the convenience and the accessibility of food for households. A better control of the quality throughout the food chain is a condition for food safety (hazards and risk assessment, improvements in food shelf life, storage and transportation conditions). Better management of the food chain, organisation and logistics, should allow for the reduction of food wastes and losses.

Development of new products and technologies, food safety improvement, should consider different extensions along the whole food chain, i.e. Consumer needs, outlets and markets, and agricultural systems, within a global value chain approach. Social organization of food chains, coordination among actors, norms and standards and the promotion of territorial products through geographical indications and designation of origin should also be addressed.

Expected impacts of the projects

- Integrated approaches to address complex challenges linking technical and socio-economic issues;
- Improved soil and water quality and agronomic practices with limited input use (e.g. pesticides, chemical fertilisers, energy and water);
- Improved local products and farming systems best suited to Mediterranean conditions;
- Diversification and increase of farmers' incomes through access to new markets;
- Innovations along the whole food chain contributing to local development.

5. Actions to be funded

The following actions will be eligible for funding:

- a. **Collaborative research**, accounting for an impact, demand and policy driven research, accounting also for a relevant technology dimension and inclusion of SMEs.

The collaborative research is a joint undertaking by a partnership of institutions ("consortium") designed to produce new knowledge through scientific research, whereby each team within the partnership actively pursues specific task objectives with a view to pooling the results to contribute to the achievement of a set of common, well-defined project objectives. Collaborative research should take into account to develop an impact, demand and policy driven research, also accounting the inclusion of SMEs and enhancing innovation.

- b. **Innovation**, including prototype development and demonstration actions.

In particular, it is a joint undertaking by a partnership of institutions (“consortium”) designed to bridge the gap between the outcomes of research projects and commercialisation, by supporting activities related to the first application and further market uptake of innovative techniques, processes, products or services, and helping overcome barriers that could hamper their commercial success.

Some combination of the above mentioned activities is possible or even desirable. As a basic condition, all projects must be collaborative research projects. Therefore, it will be mandatory for each proposal to include at least action a) (Collaborative research).

6. List of Eligible and Ineligible Costs

6.1 Eligible Costs

Eligible direct costs are those costs incurred directly by the national beneficiaries during the duration of the project and used primarily for the purpose of achieving the objectives of the project. All eligible expenses must be incurred between the Start Date and the End Date of the Project and must be limited to the budgeted value.

Start Date means the date which is stated on the grant agreement.

End Date means the date when the Project period, having commenced on the Start Date, expires, The Project period is the time required to execute the Project as indicated by the national beneficiaries, in terms of Section [3.23.2](#).

Project Value means the entire project budget including any co-financing (25%) for industrial partners.

Project Grant means the granted funding provided.

The percentage of costs attributed to each category should be proportional and rationalised as this will be taken into account during the evaluation stage.

6.2 Ineligible Costs

The following expenditure shall be considered as ineligible costs:

~~• Any Research and Innovation costs being direct or indirect costs.~~

- Expenses related to loans, interest, etc
- Recoverable value added tax.
- Expenses which are recoverable through other funding mechanisms.
- Re-purchase of equipment originally procured through other funding mechanisms.
- Purchase of equipment from partners or their subsidiaries.
- Opportunity costs related to foregone production and production downtime arising from the allocation of resources to the Project.
- Any activity related to the reproduction of a commercial product or process by a physical examination of an existing system or from plans, blueprints, detailed specifications or publicly available information.
- Standard office equipment.
- Personnel hours for travelling.

7. Evaluation

Project applications will be evaluated by ARIMNET2 in accordance with their stipulated evaluation criteria.

The eligibility check phase is divided in two steps, each of them aimed at verifying the compliance with two sets of criteria: i) ARIMNET2 criteria, ii) National criteria.

7.1 ARIMNET2 criteria for eligibility check

ARIMNET2 Criteria, each proposal should:

- Involve researchers eligible for funding from at least 3 ARIMNET2 countries (1 from the EU & 1 from NON EU) providing funds for this call.
- Additional researchers from other countries are welcome but will have to fund their own contribution.
- Projects should be of a duration of maximum 3 years.
- Be written in English, using the ARIMNet2 Application Forms provided on the submission website: www.arimnet-call.eu.
- Be uploaded completed and correctly submitted via the online submission system before the call deadline (by 1 June 2016).
- Fit the formal requirements for proposal submission as specified in the ARIMNET Guide for Applicants.

The Proposal

- Applications must not exceed 30 pages and will be accepted only via ARIMNET2 online submission website.
- 1 Proposal for each project covering the whole Arimnet2 Project Consortium.
- The project details should be completed by the Partners and submitted by the Research Consortium Coordinator on behalf of the Consortium.
- For the content of the Proposal view the Guide for Applicants on www.arimnet-call.eu.
- For the Information to be completed through the online submission tool view the Guide for Applicants on www.arimnet-call.eu.

7.2 National eligibility criteria

As a second step, the Call Secretariat asks the members of the Executive Committee of Funding Parties to check and confirm the eligibility of Applicants participating in a proposal consortium according to these rules and regulations.

To receive funding, Applicants must be eligible for funding by the national funding organisations participating in the call. All participants in a bidding consortium should check their eligibility in the guide provided by their potential national funding organisations/agencies at the earliest possible stage.

For more details refer to Section 2 of this document.

7.3 Scientific Evaluation

The evaluation process is designed with a one-step procedure. After proposal submission the Call Secretariat will check the formal eligibility of proposals according to the common eligibility criteria of the call. The Call Secretariat will then address all the eligible proposals to the Scientific Evaluation Committee. The evaluation committee will review by itself the different projects according to evaluation criteria. The final selection of funded projects is performed by the Call Board based on the ranked list provided by the Scientific Evaluation Committee. All the applicants will be informed by the Call Secretariat of the final results and a Scientific Evaluation Committee report will be sent.

All proposals submitted will be treated confidentially by the ARIMNET2 Partners and their appointed evaluation experts.

The following is the Evaluation Criteria:

- **Criteria 1:** Relevance to the scientific scope of this call (yes/no).
 - **Criteria 2:** Scientific and/or technological excellence - innovation and international competitiveness of the transnational project (score 0-5).
 - **Criteria 3:** Quality & efficiency of the implementation & the management (score 0-5).
 - **Criteria 4:** Potential impact: contribution to the advancement of knowledge & innovation approaches and socio-economic aspects, stakeholder involvement (score 0-5).
- Criteria 5:** Contribution to capacity building, transnational activities (score 0-5).

8. Post Selection Process

8.1 The Grant Agreement

For each collaborative project approved for funding, individual **Grant Agreements** will be signed between the Applicant and the Malta Council for Science and Technology. This Agreement will regulate the transfer of funds to national beneficiaries based on these regulations. They will establish the legal ground for project funding according to these rules and regulations.

Following the final decision taken by the ARIMNET2 Executive Committee of Funding Parties, the Call Secretariat will present all necessary documents to the Council in order to start in-parallel contract negotiations with the national beneficiaries which have been selected for funding. The final consortium agreement must be signed before the conclusion of the national Grant Agreement.

Overall consistency between all contracts / agreements will be ensured by the Members of Executive Committee of Funding Parties.

The Call Secretariat will be responsible for the overall monitoring of the projects according to the terms set out in the Terms of Reference.

The outcome will contribute to the overall evaluation of the ARIMNET2 Joint Call.

The Council reserves the right not to proceed with signing any National Grant Agreement in the event that it results that doing so would be too high an exposure risk to the Council.

The Project Contact Point must provide two (2) images related to the project and an abstract upon signing the Grant Agreement. These will be used to publicise the award.

8.2 Start Date and End Date

The project will start on a pre-determined date as agreed by all the respective parties and determined in the Grant Agreement.

In view of the particular nature of the Grant Agreement, the said agreement will not be signed simultaneously by all parties but will be signed by all the parties separately. Each party will signify the date of signing and the Grant Agreement will come into force on the date on which the final signature is made thereon (hereinafter the “**Agreement Date**”).

Between the Agreement Date and the Start Date, the Project Contact Point should ensure that all activities required for a smooth project start are completed.

To be eligible for funding, all expenses must be incurred between the Start Date and the End Date of the Project.

8.3 Double Funding

Funding under this joint initiative is made available on the basis that the Applicant has not benefited and will not benefit from any other grant or financial incentive of whatever nature, applied for and/or utilised for the same scope as that subject of the funding requested under this joint initiative. Provided that, in the case where the application covers work that is part of a larger project, the Applicant must submit a table as an appendix to the application form that shows a comprehensive list of the items of work and the source of funding for each item.

The Applicant will be required to sign a declaration to this effect and authorising the Council to exchange essential information related to the project with other funding agencies, both local and overseas, for any necessary checks.

9. Funding, Management and Progress Monitoring

9.1 Allocation and Disbursement of Funding

Following the termination of the project or expiry of the Grant Agreement, the Project Contact Point will be required to submit a Final Technical and / or Scientific Project Report for the whole project, thus covering the work undertaken.

9.2 Dissemination & Externalisation

Any articles and text material related to the project should include the words:

‘Project <Project Name> funded through ARIMNET2 joint initiative of Members States, Associated Countries and Mediterranean Partner Countries’

Any websites or printed material related to the project should also include the Council logo, the FP7 logo and the ARIMNET2 logo. Such material should follow the specifications described in the Council’s **and** ARIMNET2 Guidelines. For copies of all the logos vide Annex 1.

During the Term of Agreement and for five (5) years thereafter, the Applicant shall include and prominently feature the Council and ARIMNET2 in any publicity related to the project.

All publicity material shall be vetted and approved by the Council's R&I Programmes Unit before publication and should make mention of ARIMNET2 and the Council. In the case where printed material is published without a mention of ARIMNET2 and the Council, the Applicant shall be obliged to publish a correction at its own expense in the subsequent issue of the publication. This is also applicable for published material produced by persons who are not members of the ARIMNET2 project. In the case where such publicity does not mention the ARIMNET2 joint initiative and the Council, associated costs will be considered ineligible.

9.3 Final Report

At the end of the project, the Project Contact Point is required to submit a Technical and / or Scientific Project Report.

The Council reserves the right to request additional project-related information.

In the event that a project is found to be in breach of the Grant Agreement or to materially depart from the submitted application, the Council reserves the right to discontinue the award and the Applicant may be required to refund the Grant in part or in full. In any such event, the Council may also exclude an Applicant from participating in future calls.

9.4 Supervening Circumstances

The Project Contact Point is obliged to immediately advise the Council's R&I Programmes Unit of any internal or extraneous significant event which might affect the validity or implementation of the project. This obligation applies to the entire period between the submission of the project application and the completion of the project.

The Council's R&I Programmes Unit shall then, at its own discretion either give such directives as it deems necessary for the furtherance of the project or re-assess the project in its entirety accordingly.

Failure on the part of the Project Contact Point to respect this obligation may lead the Council to suspend or terminate funding for the project and request a refund of funds already paid out.

If during the course of a project a partner withdraws from the ARIMNET2 Project Consortium, the Applicant will immediately advise the Council's R&I Programmes Unit. In this event, the relevant articles of the ARIMNET2 Project Consortium Agreement and the National Grant Agreement shall apply.

9.5 Default

If the implementation of a project becomes impossible or if the Applicant fails to implement it, the Council shall be entitled to collect refunds of money already paid out.

9.6 Interpretation of Rules

This document endeavours to establish comprehensive and unambiguous rules governing participation in the ARIMNET2 joint initiative. However, should circumstances arise where the rules are inadequate, unclear, ambiguous or conflicting, the Council's R&I Programmes Unit shall exercise its discretion in the interpretation of the rules through the setting up of an *ad hoc* committee.

10. ANNEX 1: Logos

