



# **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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## VERSIONING AND CONTRIBUTION HISTORY

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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, addressed to the 5TOI MENA Country Partners, 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 and the timeframe for the submission. Each 5TOI4\_EWAS MENA Country Institution will proceed in selecting 3 candidates with the skill indicated in the present document. The Commission - composed by the 5 hosting Institutions members of 5TOI4\_EWAS Project- will identify 10 Champions who will be asked to manage the Innovation helpdesk (in each own MENA Institutions partner of 5TOI4\_EWAS Project) expected in T5.3 of the project itself. Each Champion will benefit of a "scholarship" to perform a secondment of 1 month long in the 5 EU Hosting Institutions.

## 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 Neighborhood (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 favorable 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 Neighborhood for a real socio-economic impact, based on co-ownership and mutual benefits.

The project allows easily building of synergies among several ongoing initiatives thanks to the established Network Think Tanks 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 Neighborhood, 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 degrees<sup>1</sup>. 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).<sup>2</sup> 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, Energy & Food, 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 FHMÜNSTER.

### 4. SCOPE

These training and capacity building activities will allow "Research and Innovation H2020 Champions", researchers 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 practice and experience sharing.

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<sup>1</sup>Since 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.

<sup>2</sup>To 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 <https://innovation-entrepreneurship.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/2192-5372-1-2>

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 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 is to 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 to international/relevant 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 formality and eligibility check of individuals for the "Research and Innovation H2020 Champions" will be done by each MENA Partner Country of 5TOI\_4EWAS project. 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.

<b>Evaluation criteria ACADEMIC APPLICANTS</b>	<b>Judgement based upon</b>	<b>Scoring</b>
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, energy, food, nexus field innovation and needs or implementation and /or manager or public authority dealing with water treatment activities	Letter of endorsement of the employing institution	Y/N
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 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



<b>Evaluation criteria MPC PROFESSIONALS</b>	<b>Judgement based upon</b>	<b>Scoring</b>
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 iwithin the defined thematic areas?	Y/N
Have a concrete activity underway	Description	Y/N
Sufficient English skills	Application form	Y/N
High skill 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 Institution	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 5TOI4\_EWAS MENA Country Partner. Each 5TOI4\_EWAS MENA Country Partner will define the modality by which selecting the candidates with required skills. Via this procedure, each 5TOI4\_EWAS MENA Country Partner will lead to the creation of a short list of 3 candidates per each Institution within the indicated deadlines.

The following information will be collected, by each 5TOI4\_EWAS MENA Country Partner, (using the following application form) from interested participants:

<b>Personal data</b>	<b>Background information</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name</li> <li>• Family name</li> <li>• Gender (female, male)</li> <li>• Nationality (choice of MENA Countries)</li> <li>• Date of birth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education (BA, MA, PHD, Post doc)</li> <li>• Applicant present position:</li> <li>• Name of organisation:</li> <li>• Address:</li> <li>• Website:</li> <li>• Research area:</li> </ul>

Personal data	Background information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address</li> <li>• Country</li> <li>• Telephone</li> <li>• Email</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CV: uploading facility</li> <li>• Motivation and Interests in attending the 5TOI_4EWAS activities</li> <li>• Hosting institution where holding the secondment (5 preferences in order: UAB, INNOLABS, INNOVABIC, GIRAF, FHMÜNSTER)</li> </ul>

Fig. 1 – Information to be collected for each applicant (application form)

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 Researchers.<sup>3</sup> 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.

When this list will be ready, a Committee composed by INNOLABS, UAB, INNOVABIC, FHMÜNSTER, GIRAF will proceed to select final champions (10 people). Considering the composition of the consortium, minimum one champion per 5TOI\_4EWAS MENA Country will be selected. To evaluate the candidates, the Commission will use the information gathered by each MENA Consortium member using the application form indicated in §7 (see Fig. 1). 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 (Annex 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. EXPECTED ACTIVITIES

Selected candidates while on secondment will be trained and dedicated to exchange best practices such as:

- Systematic search of public and private funding sources, especially detection of opportunities to participate in European partnerships and networks. (Daily)

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

- Administrative support and advice to researchers writing, management and coordination of projects to obtain public and private funding (regional, national and international). (Weekly)
- Monitoring and economic justification of expenditure projects (Weekly)
- Adapt the services offered by their institutions to the market needs (Weekly)
- Finding new customers for their institutions and new fields of action (Weekly)
- Attract and encourage SMEs towards joint participation in European research projects. (Weekly)
- Promote the acquisition of new knowledge and technical resources for the exercise of the professional activity of the worker. (Daily)
- Increase the motivation and involvement of members of their institution, promoting personal and professional development in their organization. (Daily)
- Influencing people adapt to changes and facilitate this adaptation. (Daily)
- Increase the competitiveness of their institutions in the labor market. (Daily)
- Preparation and review of Grant Agreements and Consortium Agreements, as necessary, of the European projects. (Daily)
- Establishment of agreements / contracts collaborative research and technology transfer with private companies, based on their institution's experience in different areas covering research developed such as water, energy and food. (Daily)
- Preparation of project proposals for national and regional competitive bidding with the active participation of companies to promote an efficient technology transfer. (Daily)

## 9. FUNDING PRINCIPLES

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) to cover travel and accommodation costs. The hosting institutions will receive 1.000,00 Euros per participant per month to cover all the internal organization costs and the necessary teaching materials required during the whole period of Secondment.

## 10. DEADLINES

05/05/2017	Publication of TOR in member countries.
20/05/2017	Deadline of the call of the proposals
31/05/2017	Evaluation and selection
10/06/2017	Information of the applicants
Depends on each participants immediate available date	Start of the secondments