

OT-Med: Objectiva Terra - Mediterraneum

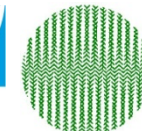
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A*Midex
Initiative d'excellence Aix-Marseille



IRD
Institut de recherche
pour le développement



INRA
Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique



Context

The OT-Med Labex has been defined in this context

- ❑ The Mediterranean Basin has been a key area of human-environment interactions for thousands of years, inducing a large diversity of cultures and ecosystems
- ❑ It is at the interface of temperate and tropical climates, with large population densities and high seismicity
- ❑ Several labs of the Aix-Marseille University have an active role in the meta-programme MISTRALS launched by CNRS/IRD to stimulate studies dedicated to Mediterranean



Objectives

- ❑ To coordinate and stimulate research on human – environment interactions in Mediterranean ecosystems, accounting for ecosystem functioning, biodiversity and socio-economics
- ❑ To identify and evaluate innovative strategies to help decision-making by opening up environmental, economic and social opportunities for sustainability
- ❑ To increase the international visibility of regional research in this domain
- ❑ To establish an interdisciplinary centre for environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean Basin and arid regions (Sahel), with a focus on climate, natural hazards and associated risks

Implementation

□ Research:

- stimulate interdisciplinarity and collaboration between labs
- build a bridge between geo-physico-biological and human-social sciences
- design an integrated approach to drive decision-making

□ Training:

- our students: at the master, doctoral and post-doctoral levels
- attract excellent international students and researchers (especially from Mediterranean countries)

□ Connection to the socio-economical world:

- communication, transfer of knowledge
- common projects (*Pôles de compétitivité*, local governments, NGOs ...)



Units	Disciplines and key words	Authorities
CEREGE	Terrestrial and marine geosciences, paleoclimatology, seismology, coastlines, geomorphology, climatology, hydro(geo)logy	AMU, CNRS, IRD, Coll.Fr
ECCOREV	All	AMU, CNRS
GREQAM	Environment economics	AMU, EHESS, CNRS
MIO	Marine geosciences: physics, biogeochemistry, ecology, resources, contaminations	AMU, CNRS, IRD, U.Toulon
IMBE	ecology, terrestrial and marine biodiversity ecosystem services, paleoecology, land use, conservation	AMU, CNRS, IRD, U. Avignon
CERIC/DPCDIDE	International law, environment law	AMU, U. Pau, U. Toulon, CNRS
GSE	Soil biogeochemistry, land use	INRA
ESPACE/DESMID	Sociology, geography, water resource	AMU, CNRS
REAX	Risks, hydraulic, forests, hydrology, hydrobiology	IRSTEA
ECODEV	Economics, agronomy	INRA

Also under the umbrella of the UMS PYTHEAS

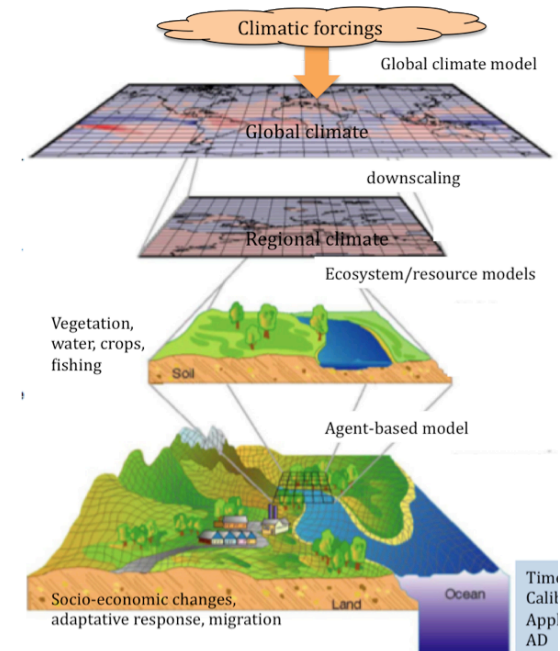
Three work packages

1. Understand and evaluate impacts of climate changes and natural hazards in Mediterranean
2. Assess the services provided by the Mediterranean ecosystems to society
3. Human-environmental interactions: perception, adaptation and mitigation



Two transverse work packages

1. The observation systems and databases: data for the scientific community, public and modelling
2. Toward an integrated modelling of the Mediterranean systems: a excellent tool for understand and projections into the future



Training activities

- ❑ Reception of visiting researchers, post-docs and Ph.D. fellows, and exchanges with all the Mediterranean countries
- ❑ Support participation of our young scientists to international symposia and workshops
- ❑ Organise workshops, summer schools and conferences
- ❑ Interdisciplinary exchanges and training with Master and Doctoral level programmes, with particular emphasis on North African and Near East countries

Transfer to the society

- Science communication to the public, conferences, website
- Share projects with private partners, NGOs etc.
- Reference portal of expertise: document archives, databanks, scientific information on climate change and natural risks
- Scientific support for both local and national governments, *pôles de compétitivité*, businesses and NGOs
- Stronger stakeholder involvement in scientific projects

The international dimension

- ❑ The “Earth Institute” of Columbia University
- ❑ The “Grantham Institute for Climatic Change” of Imperial College and the London School of Economics
- ❑ Consolidate and extend relationships with scientific institutes and universities from the south
- ❑ Give a key role to the International Scientific Committee
- ❑ Organisation and participation to international conferences
- ❑ Invitation of young and senior scientists (scientific residences)

Governance of OT-Med

- ❑ Management Board (conseil de direction): key decisions for the science, 25 members from all labs
- ❑ Executive committee: director and four co-directors
- ❑ **International scientific committee: evaluation of the strategy and other advice**
- ❑ Administrative supervision committee (comité des tutelles): AMU and other universities, CNRS, IRD, INRA, IRSTEA
- ❑ Working groups: transfer, training, international
- ❑ Management team: administrative director, scientific manager, financial manager

The first call for proposals

- ❑ June 2012: four doctoral fellowships
- ❑ December 2012: four post-doc fellowships
- ❑ January 2013: call for proposals (130 k€)
 - joint projects from labs participating in OT-Med
 - organisation of summer schools, conferences, or workshops
 - incoming and outgoing mobility fellowships
- ❑ Spring 2013: next call for Ph.D. fellowships

The management board evaluates proposals and selects the projects, with the help of external referees