



A review of the main results of the MedCLIVAR project in promoting the research on the Mediterranean Climate

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The MedCLIVAR (Mediterranean Climate Variability and Predictability) is a research network project that is sponsored by the European Science Foundation and endorsed by CLIVAR programme. The objects of MedCLIVAR include the reconstruction of Mediterranean climate past evolution, description of patterns and mechanisms characterizing its space-time variability, the identification of the forcing parameters responsible for the observed changes, assessment of the possible feedbacks of the Mediterranean dynamics on the global climate system, identification of the environmental and climatic effects caused by the strong anthropogenic influence at regional scale, dissemination of scientific information and data on regional climate to public opinion, authorities and stakeholders in the Mediterranean countries.

During five years of activity, the networking capabilities of MedCLIVAR has put together all expertises in different research sectors and created a forum where to interchange the results and create synergies. The programme has included the organization of workshops, schools, a scientist exchange program and dissemination of scientific information.

Among the last activities, MedCLIVAR is establishing a systematic archive of observations and model simulations of the Mediterranean Climate, in order both to share these data within the scientific community and to ensure their availability beyond the duration of the project. Moreover, MedCLIVAR is publishing a book "The Mediterranean climate: from past to future" describing the evolution and characteristics of the regional climate over a wide range of time scales, from the origin of the Mediterranean Sea to the 21st century projections.

Finally MedCLIVAR is organizing a Conference titled "Mediterranean Climate. From Past to Future", in order to discuss the "state of the art" on the Mediterranean climate and analyze its variability and trends. This conference will offer a forum where to present the available knowledge on past, present and future climate at regional scale, to provide the basis for analysis of climate change impacts on environment and societies, to present and discuss results of international and national research projects, to identify research hotspots and critical issues. The conference will bring together experts from different fields of climate research and favour exchange of information to identify future challenges of climate research in the Mediterranean region.