

A Mediterranean atmospheric observatory in Corsica within the framework of HyMEx and ChArMEx

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In the western Mediterranean basin, Corsica is at a strategic location for oceanographic and atmospheric studies in the framework of the Mediterranean projects HyMEx and ChArMEx. The development of a multi-site instrumented platform located on this island is the core of the project CORSiCA (Corsican Observatory for Research and Studies on Climate and Atmosphere-ocean environment). Several measurement sites are planned in various places in Corsica, but the main site gathering the largest panel of measurements will be located near Ersa at the northern tip of the island (Cap Corse). This area is relevant for many reasons: it is open to the Gulf of Genoa and is not impacted by local and regional anthropogenic inputs. In the close area of Ersa, five sites are particularly interesting: the Semaphore du Cap Corse belonging to the French Navy, the wind-mill farm on the mountain crest, two sites at Centuri and Tollare, and the Giraglia island.

Contacts and partnerships have been established with local partners in Corsica: Departmental Centres of Météo-France (CDM 2B and CDM 2A), OEC (the Corsica environmental office, a regional agency co-funding the CORSiCA observatory), the University of Corsica, Qualitair Corse (the local air quality agency) and STARESO (Station de Recherches Sous-marines et Océanographiques, an oceanographic station located on the west coast of Corsica).

CORSiCA will be operated for the HyMEx and ChArMEx Long Observation Period (LOP), Enhanced Observation Period (EOP) and Special Observation Periods (SOP). In addition, this observatory will also be of interest for the MERMEx experiment (Marine Ecosystems Response in the Mediterranean Experiment). Furthermore, it will be supported by the MOOSE network (Mediterranean Ocean Observing System on Environment) to maintain long-term observations of key atmospheric parameters on this site.

In the present communication we will expose the scientific objectives and we will describe the type of instrumentation and observations that have been proposed for a deployment at CORSiCA. Updated informations dedicated to the CORSiCA observatory can be found on the web: <http://www.aero.obs-mip.fr/spip.php?article658>. All atmospheric and oceanographic initiatives in Corsica are welcome to join the project.