

TerMEx session

Reconstruction of Neogene and Quaternary peri-Mediterranean continental environments: a goal of the TerMEx Program

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To reconstruct Mediterranean paleoenvironments, and particularly the continental landscapes, is an important target of the TerMEx Program. The results will allow to discriminate on a long-term approach natural changes from recent disturbances caused by human activities. Establishment of three-dimensional modeled paleogeographic maps should be the exciting target of such a long-term project.

Land-sea distribution changes are almost known along the Neogene but detailed improvements are still necessary, especially in combining paleogeographic maps drafted on a geodynamic vs. sedimentary background.

The Neogene geodynamic evolution of the Mediterranean region (Africa-Eurasia convergence, slab retreat) now benefits from a high-resolution chronology as also the resulting back-arc successive basin openings.

The climatic context of the Mediterranean region *sensu lato* is well-known for the last 23 million years according to pollen records, marked by a continuous contrast between the north humid lands and the south dry ones. Tentative paleovegetation maps have been already constructed which provide also information on geographic transfer of the uplifting areas.

A special effort is to be done in quantifying paleoaltitudes of the present-day massifs. Some past marine corridors are located in presently uplifted areas, that contributes also to paleogeographic reconstructions.