



Save the date

13-15 March 2018: 4th VAO Symposium

The fourth Virtual Alpine Observatory (VAO) Symposium 2018 will take place on 13 - 15 March 2018 at OSUG in Grenoble (France). The symposium provides an ideal forum for obtaining up-to-date information about the latest developments, exchanging ideas, identifying future trends, and networking with the international high altitude research community. There will also take place splinter meetings for preparing joint EU R&D-projects.

The special focus of the symposium will be on the following topics and specific challenges:

I. Atmospheric and climatic variability

- Understanding the coupling mechanisms among atmosphere, clouds and land surface and their changes in view of impact on the greenhouse effect
- Understanding the impact of the Alps (mountains) on atmospheric dynamics in the middle atmosphere (10-100km height)
- Understanding the impact of climate change on cosmic radiation in the atmosphere
- Monitoring and understanding of the contamination of the Alps
- Impact of meteorological extremes in the Alps and surrounding regions on natural hazards

II. Climate impact on Alpine environment, hazards and risks

- Understanding the dynamics of the Alpine vegetation in response to climate (change)
- Interrelation of the environment with seismic activity

III. Alpine water cycle

- Understanding the Alps as a water tower for the pre-Alpine regions under climate change

IV. Environment and human health

- Understanding the impact of pollutants, radiation and meteorological stress on human health

V. Improving the research infrastructure

- Improving the validation of satellite-based measurements through in-situ and remote sensing measurements
- Establish a powerful IT-linkage between all observatories, high-performance computing centres and data repositories

Date: 13 - 15 March 2018
Registration & Oral/Poster presentations: Registration will be possible as from autumn 2017. Authors who wish to give an oral presentation or present a poster will be requested to indicate so when registering and have to submit an abstract.

Venue: OSUG, Grenoble/France
Accommodation: Accommodation information will be announced at a later date. Travel costs and costs for accommodation have to be paid by each participant.

Background Information:

Alpine high altitude research stations contribute significantly to the monitoring, understanding, and forecasting of processes in the Earth system. Their exposed location creates almost ideal conditions for the investigation of many physical and chemical processes in the atmosphere, geosphere, cryo- and hydrospheres, and biosphere. The **Virtual Alpine Observatory** supports the research activities of the alpine high altitude research stations by aggregating their measurements and performing joint research projects.

In case you have questions or require additional information, please contact the VAO office (Birgit Einhellinger) at the Bavarian State Ministry of Environment and Consumer Protection at info@vao.bayern.de. Hosted by: **Dr Michel Dietrich (Director OSUG)**, **Prof Dr Michael Bittner (Coordinator VAO)** and the **Bavarian State Ministry of Environment and Consumer Protection**