

CIP	
Programme title	COST296/IHY
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Other proposers	COST296/IHY Coordination Team Members http://ionos.ingv.it/IHY/ihy_index.html
Discipline	Ionized atmospheres
Scientific synopsis	Since the 90's the COST Actions relating to ionospheric physics are particularly useful in creating a critical mass of researchers to increase the knowledge of the ionosphere and its effects on navigation and communication systems. Nowadays COST296 Action (2005-2009) (www.COST296.rl.ac.uk) provides a unique European forum for the progression of such matters. In the IHY frame the idea is to maintain the necessary European cooperation for a multi instrument monitoring of the middle-upper atmosphere and improving scientific joint efforts to investigate on the interconnection between low, mid and high latitude ionosphere. This proposal hopes for an integration of other interested middle-upper atmosphere scientific groups.
Description of Programme	<p>The European cooperation under the umbrella of COST296 Action could serve as a valid support to IHY 2007 initiatives throughout:</p> <p>Development and maintenance of COST296/IHY Web site to exchange general information, expertise, know-how, links to the data archive and databases produced by this Action among the IHY community.</p> <p>Coordination of multi-instruments observation campaigns in synergy with the I*Y community. The data archive created during the observation periods and/or severe heliogeophysical conditions will also form a baseline collection against which later forecasting efforts may be compared.</p> <p>Stimulate joint investigations on interconnection between low, middle and high latitude ionosphere and plasmasphere as disturbances of the plasma distribution at low-latitude can also affect the mid and high latitude ionosphere in some large storm events.</p>
Summary of resources	Digital Ionosonde Network, GPS Scintillation and TEC monitoring, magnetometers and all-sky cameras, riometer network. Other type of instruments for different monitoring purposes (SID, Schumann resonance, whistlers...) is also available as well as access to data and products. Details can be found at http://ionos.ingv.it/IHY/ihy_index.html
Wider programmes	IPY, ICESTAR-IHY, CAWSES.
Educational opportunities	The proposal intends to contribute to outreach initiatives on the base of the experience achieved in the frame of national events and exhibitions supported by some Institutions participating in COST296/IHY. We will organize public conferences to be hosted in the COST296/IHY participating Institutes and a competition open to the schools to prepare a calendar for 2007-2008 on the base of the best drawings selected by a jury. The calendar would be distributed to the participating schools with a prize to the winners.
Developing Nations	Scientific cooperation is in progress between COST296 community and Vietnam (Institute of Geophysics, NCST).
Additional comments	
Website	http://ionos.ingv.it/IHY/ihy_index.html