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Get to know HELYCON –The alternative cosmic ray telescope

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The Hellenic LYceum Cosmic Observatories Network is a collaboration between Greek and Universities and the Cypriot open University as well as national Research Centres and Educators of the western greek prefecture.

HELYCON is an original telescope-array, which detects extensive Air Showers of very energetic cosmic rays coming from galactic and extragalactic sources. It is used not only for scientific purposes, but also for educational ones allowing students, teachers and pupils to participate to the experiment.

It consists of scintillation counters and radio antennas. The antennas are going to be used to detect radio signals coming from the cosmic rays detected by the counters. Each station consists of 3 detectors and one antenna. Such stations are distributed over greater Patra, Thessaloniki, the Chios and Cyprus Islands.

HELYCON is also used for the calibration of KM3NeT, the future Mediterranean neutrino telescope. We report on the design, construction and performance of this prototype detector array.

Auteur principal: Dr GIZANI, Nectaria (Hellenic Open University, School of Science and Technology)

Co-auteurs: Dr LEISOS, A (HOU); Dr TSIRIGOTIS, A. (HOU); Dr CHRISTOPOULOU, E (Univ. of Patras); M. BOURLIS, G (HOU); Prof. TZAMARIAS, S. (HOU)

Orateur: Dr GIZANI, Nectaria (Hellenic Open University, School of Science and Technology)

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