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## **Observational astronomy in North Africa**

In this letter of Interest, we would like to address the opportunity for North African countries to unite in contributing to build and lead a series of local observatories and/or one large facility. In doing so, they will have to involve in many aspects of science and society such as building trades, geology, technology and instrumentation, physics education and research. This will give the North African countries the opportunity to develop education, knowledge transfer skills and develop relations with local and regional industries and retain the scientists and the young people, thus improving employment. The increase of the scientific research and development (R&D) is known to have an impact in the increase of the development and progress of a country and its GDP.

## **Primary Category**

Astrophysics & Cosmology

## **Secondary Category**

Commnuity Engagement

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