



We Care for Clean Air! The Contribution of ACCENT to Education and Communication

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A new booklet on: “We Care for Clean Air! Motivating the Next Generation of Atmospheric Scientists” (ISBN 978-88-95665-01-6) as recently published by the education community in ACCENT (www.accent-network.org/portal/education) is presented. Promoting creative and innovative researchers and teachers and encouraging the next generation to move into the field were among the key issues in ACCENT “Training and Education” (T&E). During the 5-year programme, a wealth of educational events (e.g. workshops) and programmes (e.g. “ACCENT FAR EAST”) were organized and tools developed for teachers and learners at Universities and Schools around the globe. Activities such as National ACCENT Days or Cafés Scientifiques also targeted stakeholders, policy makers and the general public to increase the expertise in atmospheric composition change to a common level across Europe. The volume introduces the integrated learning environment, high-quality tools and methods for air quality and climate change science education created by ACCENT T&E, and provides an overview on the unbiased scientific information that has been didactically translated based on knowledge available from ongoing research projects. The core messages are that (i) the translation of complex issues in atmospheric composition and climate change science to non-scientists should be scientifically acceptable and that (ii) scientists should stay in control of the translation process. After the publication of the 4th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) in 2007, ACCENT intensified its efforts to reach greater visibility and distribute the body of know-how, skills and competencies within the networked community of atmospheric scientists in the World Wide Web. For example, a Special Issue of the “Global Change Magazine for Schools” on IPCC 2007 contains a compact introduction to the basics of global warming for direct application in the classroom, also focusing on uncertainties and controversial issues as often discussed in the media. More information can be found in a Special Issue of Atmospheric Environment (Schuepbach et al., 2009, 43/33, 5415-5422). The booklet and all interactive learning and teaching material can be downloaded from www.accent-network.org/portal/education.