



ENHANCING THE AWARENESS OF THE INTERACTION OF THE SPACE WEATHER AND PUBLIC: Some Case Studies in Turkey

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Space Weather has important effects on many systems and peripherals that human interacts with. However, most of the people are not aware of those interactions. During the FP6 SWEETS, COST 724 and the 'I love my Sun' activities it was aimed to create basis to bring together academicians from universities, experts from industry, scientific institutes, and the public, especially the school children of age 7-11, in order to enhance the awareness of space weather effects and to discuss appropriate countermeasures by different education and promotion methods including non-technical ones. This work mentions the activities performed in Turkey within the framework.

Since 1990, a small group at METU has been developing data driven models in order to forecast some critical system parameters related with the near-Earth space processes. With the background on the subject the group feels responsible to organise activities in Turkey to inform public on enhancing the awareness of space weather effects.

In order to inform and educate public on their interaction with the Space Weather, distinct social activities which take quick and strong attention were organised. Those include art shows and workshops, quizzes, movies and entertainments, special programs for school children of age 7-11 under the 'I love my Sun' activities, press releases, audio-visual media including webpages [Tulunay, 2007]. The impact of the activities can be evaluated considering the before and after activity record materials of the participants. For instance, under the 'I love my Sun' activities, the school children drew pictures related with Sun before and after the informative programs. The performance of reaching the school children on the subject is very promising.

Sub-activities conducted under the action are:

1. Space Weather Dance Show "Sonnensturm"
2. Web Quiz all over Europe: In Türkiye
3. Space Weather / Sun / Heliospheric Public Science Festivals in 27 Countries: In Türkiye
4. Space Weather on Tour-Mobile Bus
5. Rocket / balloon launch participation for European web quiz winner and journalists
6. Space Weather / Solar / Aurora / Rocket / Balloon movie production for TV
7. Space Weather / Sun / Heliospheric public science festival & public fair in Schwerin castle (main SWEETS festival during ESW 2007)
8. Space Weather telescope video link with Australian (Antarctic Mawson station) and Japanese locations for Schwerin castle festival (no. 7 deliverable)
9. Space Weather planetarium show in Poland, Finland, France and Portugal (4 new languages)
10. Updated Space Weather / Solar CD-Rom / DVD in 7 new languages, poster / flyer
11. Cosmic ray spark chambers
12. Space Weather storm forecast map
13. Mirror system for solar movie
14. FP6 SWEETS / IHY / COST 724 Case Sub-project: "I LOVE MY SUN" (An outreach Activity in Turkey:

The Space Weather and the Sun as conceived by the School Children of age 7-11)

15. Press Releases

16. FP6 SWEETS Related Art

17. Turkish Translations in IHY and COST webpages

18. Impact of the SWEETS

References

Tulunay Y. (2007), FP6 SWEETS (SSA) Activity Report of the Participant No. 16: the METU in Ankara, Türkiye, 31 December 2007, www.ae.metu.edu.tr/~cost.