



Teaching forecasting competencies through practical examples in Romania

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The National Meteorological Administration in Romania has already a rich experience in hosting national and international training workshop oriented toward specific topics like severe weather forecasting.

Over the years the trainers involved in these events tried to identify which are the most difficult steps in the forecasting process. Thunderstorms forecasting appeared to be the most challenging one.

The trainers, searchic for efficient methods, had to move from knowledge – oriented to competency -oriented training.

The teaching methods and materials to be used in this process had to be competency-oriented. The assessment in competencies can not be done through multiple-choice examinations and so the idea of “projects” and case - studies were more appropriate for examination.

We present in this paper an illustration of how case-studies and practical problems have been used as a way to assess, train and evaluate during a Train the Trainer for Thunderstorms workshop in Romania, September 2008. The cases selected for the experiment where famous severe cases in the region, familiar to forecasters and scientists.

The trainers invited to participate as trainees were experienced forecasters too and, not to be ignored, passionate thunderstorms people. The workshop was well received by the participants and the holistic approach of the training made the event a special one among similar events.