



METEONETWORK: 2002-2012, 10 years of activities

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The role of citizen-scientists in collecting data and observations has been increasingly crucial in the last 10 years of atmospheric sciences.

Meteonetwork is a non-profit organization founded by citizen scientists in 2002, in Lombardia, with the aim of raising public awareness about meteorological and climatological issues.

Throughout the years the organization, besides the continuous holding of events such as meeting, conferences and talks, has been standing out because of its forum and its wide network of weather stations.

Meteonetwork's forum is, in this field, the most read and followed in the country and with its 8459 members and over 4,217,505 posts turns out to be the 17th forum over the entire country.

Its network is operated in cooperation with Centro Epson Meteo and collects amateur semi-professional stations distributed all over the Italian territory, providing real-time and daily data. It consists of 706 stations, among which more than 400 regularly updated; volunteers constantly work to perform quality control and ensure data reliability. Meteonetwork has also developed several collaborations with private and public institutions, among which DRIHM - Cima Research Foundation, Centro Epson Meteo di Milano, Arpa Veneto, Arpa Emilia-Romagna, Arpa Lombardia, Arpa Friuli – Venezia Giulia, Servizio Glaciologico Lombardo, C. N. R. – C. I. S. A, Università di Pisa, Università di Milano, University of Aberdeen, Protezione Civile - Regione Lombardia, Protezione Civile - Regione Piemonte stand out.

As WMO emphasized in 2001 World Meteorological Day “Volunteers for the weather, climate and water” the contribution of citizen-scientists to scientific studies is remarkable. In this perspective Meteonetwork and the University of Milan, in April 2011, started a project of technical and scientific cooperation called Weatherness. The university is provided with data gathered by Meteonetwork's stations with the aim of improving the knowledge of the impact that heat waves and cold advections have on human health.

Following the encouraging results of the “Weatherness” project the organization decided to invest even greater resources into such cooperations and during the summer 2012 started a fruitful collaboration with the DRIHM project.

The data collected by its network of weather stations will be transferred to the DRIHM platform where will be used in the context of hydro-meteorological research. High-end model simulations will be performed with the aim of investigating the dynamics involved in hydro-meteorology.

Several different projects are still underway but the results obtained in these 10 years of hard work encourage us to pursue our activity and look for new challenges and opportunities.