



I Love My Sun: An Educational Space Weather Outreach Tool for Children and Senior People

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In the present day society, there is a vital need for setting up education and outreach activities in the Space Weather field for creating a healthy environment for the proper development of Space Weather markets along with the fundamental and applied research activities.

It is important to educate children about the important role that the Sun has in their lives. This presentation gives an educational outreach tool entitled “I Love My Sun” that has been developed for school children in the approximate age group 7 through 11 years. Its main objective is to make children aware of space weather, the Sun, Sun-Earth relations and how they, the children, are part of this global picture. Children are given a lecture about the Sun; this is preceded and followed by the children drawing a picture of the Sun.

The activity was initiated by Y. Tulunay in Ankara, Turkey as national project in the context of the 50th anniversary of Space Age and IHY activities. Since then it has been extended into a spatial (Europe) and temporal dimensions. A metric has been developed to facilitate an objective evaluation of the outcomes of the Events.

In this presentation, the background behind the “I Love My Sun” initiative is given and it is described how to perform an “I Love My Sun” event. Impressions and main results from the case studies are given.

As a new extension, preliminary examples are also given concerning senior people.