

Eumetcal blended courses: European cutting edge know-how and collaboration will into meteorological training

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Eumetcal is the European virtual meteorological training organization pooling knowledge in distance and e-learning throughout Europe. The Eumetcal programme is managed by the Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI).

Beyond the traditional activities, in the latest years Eumetcal has combined the experience and know-how gained so far to deliver several complete training courses in meteorology using a blended learning approach. The courses have been delivered through cooperation between European NMSs using both classroom sessions and distance learning material and lectures. This approach has significantly reduced the cost associated with travel and subsistence when compared to traditional courses. Moreover this approach has turned out successful: the relatively long distance phase creates an optimal background, both of specific know-how and reciprocal contacts, for the traditional classroom phase. Attendees and teachers from all over Europe meet together after a solid warm up and exploit the course like if they had known each other for a long time. On the other hand the distance phase allows teachers to assess the level and background of the participants and gives attendees the possibility to improve and reach the required skills and know-how to exploit with the best profit the classroom phase.

This approach has revealed an optimal solution to carry out meteorological courses with participants coming from several different countries and therefore bearing with them not only different know-how but also different cultural approaches, needs and expectations.

The presentation aims at illustrating to the audience the structure of the blended courses, the experience gathered in the last years of blended course activities (with some real life examples), challenges and future plans and developments.