



Meteorological Service of Catalonia. Educational activities

M. Busto and M. Carreras

Meteorological Service of Catalonia, Climatology Department, Barcelona, Spain (mbusto@meteo.cat, +34 3 567 61 02)

The Meteorological Service of Catalonia has a special interest in transmitting Meteorology science to young people. With this aim, an educational program has been developed for schools which includes talks about meteorology and climate science, guided visits to facilities related to Meteorology and special activities in the context of the World Meteorological Day. All these activities have been organised since 2007.

School talks are specifically designed for children from 9 to 14 years old. Any school can ask for a free speech about the basics of meteorology, atmosphere and climate. We only require that the school provides a computer and a projector to show the presentation. The presentation are given by volunteer technicians from the Meteorological Service of Catalonia for all the schools of the region.

Other groups or communities that have been included in this programme in the last two years are senior centers (most of them concerned by climate change), prisoners and physically or mentally handicapped children.

Guided visits to radar or to an automatic weather station are done by an external company that explain to the public how a radar or an AWS works. The visit is completed by a showing of a DVD about this subject. Also students from the university visit our facilities in Barcelona and talk with technicians of different units.

During the "World Meteorological Day" the Meteorological Service of Catalonia deploy a rawinsonde from the Barcelona Science Museum and explain the importance of the knowledge of the information transmitted from the upper atmosphere during the communication via radio with the computer that stores all the variables in real-time. The Meteorological Service of Catalonia also supports specific activities that civil meteorological associations prepare for the day.