

European Cooperation in Education in Atmospheric Sciences

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In most European countries the necessity of education in Science and Mathematics to achieve higher standard and competitiveness in research and technology development has been formulated after the Lisboa meeting. However, the reasonable development of position of these subjects in educational systems in individual countries across Europe is not so fast. Most European countries are witnessing a shortage of science students, which can be dramatic in ten years' time, at a time where society and the basis for economical and societal well-being is getting more and more technological and scientifically-driven. In the context of European initiatives in climate change mitigation and adaptation the strength on the education in atmospheric science increasing the public awareness of meteorological consequences and overall impacts of climate change on life on the Earth should be of a higher priority. Up to now there is no concentrated systematic effort based on broad Europe-wide cooperation in this field except the initiative EUMETCAL of the European Meteorological Services Network EUMETNET, which is, however, professional oriented and not targeting academic and school sectors. Certain task in this field including academia has been played by EC project ACCENT and directed to the public and school sectors it was project ESPERE.

One of the strategic goal of the EMS is to support the activities to promote public understanding of meteorology (and sciences related to it), and the ability to make use of it. EMS is performing this task through the Educational Project which is trying to work under this EMS mission and objectives to contribute to the process by means of its own activities and supporting some activities of EMS as a whole, e.g. organizing educational session of EMS Annual Meetings. One of the elements of its own activity is the analysis of the position of atmospheric science in framework of curricula in educational systems of European countries as well as in more general sense, the place of Math and Science education in the system as an necessary condition for development of understanding, awareness and interest in our topics.