



Education for Atmospheric Sciences in Europe

T. Halenka

Charles University in Prague, Fac. of Math. & Physics, Dept. of Meteorology and Environment Protection, Czech Republic,
tomas.halenka@mff.cuni.cz

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. However, the progress of position of these subjects in educational systems in individual countries across Europe is not so fast as documented by the PISA or more specified TIMSS assessments. 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. We will have a look on these analysis in the context of European initiatives in climate change mitigation and adaptation, where the strength on the education in atmospheric science increasing the public awariness 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 targetting 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, where actually Poland contributed quite significantly.

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 or maintaining the Educational Portal. One of the elements of its own activity was 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, awariness and interest in our topics. In near future we would like to have a look for some support options for these activities via existing infrastructures like COST. The main task of such an integrated effort should be comprehensive inputs from our fields to mainly science curricula of different grades in Europe-wide education systems.