



Project-based learning: interactive weather forecast laboratory at the Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest

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A new practice-oriented program has been introduced a few years ago in the Synoptic Meteorology Laboratory at the Eötvös Loránd University. With this complex education program, students get familiar with modern techniques in weather forecasting, they gain a lot of practical experience with real weather situations, which will be beneficial after graduating and starting to work as “official” forecasters.

In addition to traditional classroom lectures, students have the opportunity to use in practice the HAWK-3 meteorological workstation, the operationally used visualization tool of the Hungarian Meteorological Service. Using this tool and the meteorological information available on the internet, students participate in entire week long operational task for actual weather prediction. The students prepare weather forecasts on each day, and these are regularly published at the website of the Department of Meteorology. In the Synoptic Meteorology Laboratory public prognosis discussion is organized every day at noon, this is lead by the students on duty.

Another important activity of the Synoptic Meteorology Laboratory is the weather forecast competition. In each semester, once a week any student, lecturer, professor may submit forecast for a specific time and place according to the guidelines available on the website of the competition. The forecasts are verified and compared to the persistence prognosis, then, at the end of each semester accumulated forecast skill scores serve as ranking the participants.

Practical experience in the education of students in meteorology is important thus enabling to develop necessary skills for young forecaster meteorologist for real weather prediction.