From face-to-face teaching to blended learning – eLearning at the European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecast (ECMWF)

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Education is a key element of our work at ECMWF. We provide training to professionals and post-graduates to enable them to get the most from ECMWF's data and services and develop an understanding of forecasting.
The extensive learning programme covers numerical weather prediction, computing and use of forecast products. In the last few years we have worked on including eLearning elements in the comprehensive educational programme. A set of publicly available online modules, initially on foundational material for our numerical weather prediction, software and product courses have been developed. eLearning has a number of potential benefits: it can expand the reach of training, and it can give learners flexibility in terms of when, where and how they want to learn.
The new online modules provide the background knowledge on which face-to-face courses at ECMWF can build. This enable us to spend the course time on more complex contents or on more practical activities or to shorten training events reducing costs associated to staff training. Other training initiatives aimed at professionals may also find the new ECMWF online modules useful as resources for their activities.
The ECMWF initial phase of development focuses on topics (meteorology and software applications) that are often requested by users and used in multiple training settings. The self-contained modules, which can be used stand-alone or as part of blended courses, follow a learner-centred approach to allow for different knowledge levels and learning styles. The modules are being created in collaboration with instructional designers who are working with ECMWF experts.
It will be possible to try some of these modules, which are freely available.