



Climate testimonies: a educational project for recovering the climatic memory

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Since decades, scientists have used to study the climate change data from instrumental devices, such as thermometers, rain gauges, etc... The objective data provided by these devices allow climatologist to find out tendencies, average values, so determining and quantifying the rate of the change in weather along the last decades.

Complementary to these instrumental data, there are great valuable data about the past weather located in the memory of the population, specially on the older people. These data can't be measured in an objective way, as occurs with the instrumental data. People who has memory about the prevailing weather during the period 1940 to 1960, have potentially rich climatic data for improving the knowledge of the climatic change, and above all, to recover the climatic memory of the past.

The project "climate testimonies" aims to recover the weather memories in the period 1940-1970 in Viladecans, a municipally located 15 km South to Barcelona city, in Catalonia (Spain). The municipality of Viladecans with the support of the University of Barcelona promotes this project, within the frame of the Education for Sustainable Development network from the UNESCO.

Several people aged more than 75, has been selected to explain and recover the weather from 40's to 70's to kids, and younger people. In a video, these testimonies explain how the weather was during 1940-1970, comparing with the present weather. In addition, a questionnaire has been designed in order to answer several key questions to get objective data from the climatic memories, with the to improve this comparison the past weather with the present one.

In addition to this video, a education project has been designed for all the elementary school in the municipally, especially to kids aged 9 to 11 years old, in order to popularize and promote the reality of the climate change among kids, as well as the younger population.

By using numerical models and simulations, the IPCC reports (e.g. 2007, 2014) state that the Mediterranean regions will be one of the most hit by global warming. By analyzing and comparing the comments and memories that the selected climate testimonies participating in this project, a clear conclusion can be done: climate change is a reality in the region, with large changes in several items in addition to the atmospheric one, such as social and cultural.

The project has been a new tool for teaching in the elementary schools of the city, involving teachers, students and old people. Similar projects in other cities can be a way to create a network for improving the knowledge of climate change by using subjective data, a complementary data than those provided by instrumental devices.