



Training and Education in ACCENT – the European Network of Excellence in Atmospheric Composition Change

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ACCENT (www.accent-network.org; 2004-08) is a European Network of Excellence in the Framework Programme VI of the European Union. The Task “Training & Education” (T&E) has outlined its strategies in a Position Paper. It aims at preparing the next generation of atmospheric scientists for the future of scientific endeavour in the field. Educational events, training workshops and internet-based courses are offered both on subjects in atmospheric composition change and on essential skills (e.g., non-verbal communication, interdisciplinarity). These offers are paralleled by leadership sessions and Science Cafés to increase the expertise to a common level across Europe (including Accession countries). Integration of female scientists and (young) scientists from newly associated and emerging countries is realised through specific schemes (e.g., mentoring, fellowships). Other target groups in T&E are school children, lower graduates (age 12-17), and science teachers. Multilingual, educational software is mounted on the ACCENT Educational Platform for use across the globe to stimulate interest with the next generation of atmospheric scientists. Science teachers are also invited to apply for ACCENT fellowships, participate in teacher training workshops, and implement the subject of atmospheric composition change in the curricula of their educational institution. T&E in ACCENT promotes the use of New Information and Communication Technologies (NICT) and innovations in learning and teaching in, and by using a Network (of Excellence). Best practice is compiled in a Dynamical Compendium, including pedagogical concepts for the electronically-supported teaching and learning, cross-cultural supervision, and simple methods to enrich classical frontal teaching. This contribution presents an overview on T&E in ACCENT and illustrates educational material as disseminated on the ACCENT Educational Platform, to encourage international exchange and collaboration.