



European Space Weather Portal

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Since November 2003 the COST 724 community has been developing the scientific basis for monitoring, modelling and predicting Space Weather. The efforts and results of the different COST 724 working groups are now being merged and made available to the public in an integrated website called the "European Space Weather Portal". Besides the functionalities (e.g. remote model and database access) intended for scientists and engineers, the European Space Weather Portal places a lot of emphasis on outreach and has a specific section dedicated to this. The outreach section consists of an introductory text to inform and educate the layman on the causes and effects of Space Weather and has been translated by the COST 724 community into many different languages in order to bring scientific understanding as close to the general public as possible. There is also a Space Weather image gallery that shows drawings made by young European school children "artists". These drawings can for example be used by a scientist visiting the respective classroom when introducing Space Weather to the children. Placing these drawings on an official website has resulted in excellent feedback from both the school children and teachers showing that when sufficient effort is made in education and outreach there is positive communication. Although most of these children will never become scientists themselves, websites such as the European Space Weather Portal can promote a positive attitude towards the sciences in general. The European Space Weather Portal is being developed and hosted by the Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy and can be accessed through <http://www.spaceweather.eu>.