



CarboEurope Educational Activity

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Science is an exciting adventure without which one cannot understand the world and its evolution: we have to feel responsible to impulse this positive feeling from schools' age. Around this concern shared by many scientists, the CarboEurope educational activity will offer an opportunity to develop and put resources in common, circulate ideas and impulse a concerted strategy at the European level.

The approach will consist in developing an initial set of contents (educational web-pages, comprehensive introductory booklet) to be used as a starting-point for activities aiming at helping secondary school students to better understand global change research. Activities will be centred around research institutions within the CarboEurope project. We will explore new ways of involving research institutions proactively into educational outreach with the general goals of

- * Promoting the research-education-society interface at the local/regional level
- * Improving the efficiency of existing strategies in that domain (increasing time/benefice ratio)
- * Improving the capacity of scientists to talk to a non-specialist audience
- * Contributing to educational innovation (interdisciplinary approaches, project teaching...).

Traditional multipliers such as NGOs, teacher associations, science museums and other networks interested in science & environmental education will be approached as well, especially in the perspective of developing adaptations in national languages & related training & dissemination activities.

Specific goals are:

1. Encouragement of school projects run by secondary school students (ca. y. 12-18, in group or individually) supported by interdisciplinary teams of teachers, with follow-up from a CE scientist acting as a mentor. Such projects could be either group or individual initiatives characterised by a high level of motivation and involvement, with either long-term extensive (> 6 months) or short term intensive approaches (eg. Internships). They would basically aim at
 - (a) understanding & experiencing global change research through CE edu. website, interviews, field visits, observations & small experiments etc.
 - (b) investigating global change in the local community with a focus on problems & solutions
 - (c) communicating project outcomes to a wider audience by any means of communication (conference, exhibition, school newspaper, video, theatre...)
2. Exploitation of school productions as innovative contents & supports for existing PR events: e.g. open days, science week. . .
3. Exchange of experience, materials, tools on educational/society strategies between CE institutions