



Training programmes for the dissemination of climatological and meteorological applications using GIS technology.

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In the framework of national and international collaboration and projects IBIMET-CNR has acquired a relevant training capacity for support partners—countries in improving their methodological and operational capability in using innovative tools and instruments, such as Geographical information Systems, for meteorological applications development.

Training addresses in particular Countries' Partner National Meteorological Services and/or other Specialized Centres within the frame of Italian Cooperation Programmes promoted by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

From 2002 IBIMET, in collaboration with the Florence University, hosts each year an Advance Master in Applied Meteorology, and following the decision (1987) of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) Executive Council, Institute organises in cooperation with the Italian National Meteorological Service the WMO-Regional Meteorological Training Centre for Region VI (Europe).

In this context specialized training courses with international value are delivered (1 par years) in the fields of Meteorology, Climatology and Remote Sensing applied to environment and agriculture. Training is structured in theoretical and practical (case studies) modules in order to improve operational capabilities of technical personnel and promote new applications development for high quality decision-making information production.

Starting from 2005 IBIMET-CNR aims at promoting itself as a 'link-institution' between Mediterranean Countries following the objective of an ambitious long-term

training programme that will be developed in cooperation with the United Nation Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Secretariat : *Mediterranean Training Programme for the Harmonization of Early Warning Systems and Operational Instruments for Monitoring Climate Change and Desertification (MTP)*.

MTP aims at improving technical cooperation and information exchange among National Meteorological Services and Institutions of Mediterranean Region facilitating the building-up of a scientific network among institutions for harmonization of methodologies and instruments in climate change and desertification impacts monitoring.

Moreover a COST 719 Action summer schools on “Application of GIS in meteorology” has been planned for this year to enhance the potential of GIS applications in the fields of climatology and meteorology through the improve understanding and knowledge of procedures and capabilities for integrate data from different sources. The specific objective of the course is to facilitate the building-up of a scientific network among COST 719 Institutions for the harmonization of GIS methodologies and instruments used in promoting the development of applications for climate and meteorological analysis.

This training initiative wishes at strengthening, through theoretical and practical training, the operational capacities of countries’ experts and the technical cooperation between European Institutions, promoting the know-how sharing and the establishment of a common and integrated approach, operational methods and techniques using GIS applications in meteorology as decision making supports tools for climate and environmental monitoring.