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Learning about inter- and transdisciplinarity in atmospheric sciences - training of early career scientists in ACCENT

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In order to tackle an environmental problem, different scientific fields (e.g., air pollution modelling, analytical chemistry, toxicology) need to be involved (interdisciplinarity). The collaboration between academic disciplines is, however, not sufficient, as the expertise required is not restricted to the academic world alone, and other parts of society (e.g., politicians) must participate (transdisciplinary collaboration). This paper describes the organisation, outcome and lessons learned of the first ACCENT training workshop in inter- and transdisciplinarity in atmospheric sciences for early career scientists. It aimed at training participants in cooperation, consensus-forming and communication skills, and media analysis. A real-life example, namely the burning of a waste disposal site in northern Greece, was selected as the topic of study, where unintended emissions of dioxins, PCBs, PAHs and heavy metals were encountered. The participants reported on a positive, new learning experience and expressed the wish to be offered further opportunities to learn about inter- and transdisciplinarity in atmospheric sciences.