



## **Experiences in geo-environmental science education and outreach at the University of West-Hungary, Sopron**

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At the Sopron university the earth sciences are considered as one of the components of the environmental science. This geo-environmental approach includes both near-surface- and global aspects, including the Sun-Earth connection. We provide a brief presentation about our geo-environmental courses, where a special attention is paid to field trainings. We have noticed that the percentage of students, entering university with some paranormal beliefs is increasing slightly from year to year. In the modern societies it clearly indicates (together with a lot of other signs) a degradation of the level of scientific knowledge of the general public. Therefore, in such circumstances, both in environmental science education and outreach, it is crucial to make it clear, what is science. This the main topic of our course "Introduction to environmental science". The International Year of Planet Earth (2008) and other earth-science initiatives in the coming years should attend also to this basic problem.