The concept of integrated learning environments in ACCENT

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The European Network of Excellence (NoE) in Atmospheric Composition Change (ACCENT) aims at motivating and training the next generation of atmospheric scientists in the field. Although the strategies for learning and teaching in ACCENT aim at satisfying the needs of all defined target groups (e.g., lower graduates), a special emphasis is placed on integrated learning environments for early career scientists. Expert feed-back on a pre-ACCENT pilot training in 2003 indicated that certain learning environments should become standard elements. These including the whole cyberspace infrastructure, tools to enhance interactivity in learning, interdisciplinary peer and expert groups, stakeholders and the general public for transdisciplinary collaboration, networking and communication platforms with V.I.P.s, partnerships and mentoring schemes, and knowledge trains. These elements were incorporated in a Position Paper and an associated Implementation Plan to describe the Next Generation Programme in ACCENT. Here, some specific learning environments and application in training events for early career scientists are illustrated.