

Update of ECTOM - European catalogue of training opportunities in meteorology

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In most European countries the process of integration of education at university level was started after Bologna Declaration (1999) with the aim to have the system where students on certain level could move from university to university. For that purpose six actions were formulated: a system of academic grades which are easy to read and compare introducing the diploma supplement for international "transparency" and academic and professional recognition of qualifications; a system based on two cycles: a first cycle geared to the employment market and lasting at least three years, a second cycle (Master) conditional upon the completion of the first cycle; a system of accumulation and transfer of credits (similar as used in Programme Socrates-Erasmus); mobility of students, teachers and researchers; cooperation with regard to quality assurance; and the European dimension of higher education. The goal is to achieve the compatibility between the systems and levels in individual countries to have no objections for students when transferring between the countries. From this point of view it is useful to provide the information about the possibility of education in different countries in centralised form, with uniform shape and content, but validated on national level. In case of meteorology and climatology this can be reasonably done on the floor of European Meteorological Society, by means of individual National Meteorological Societies and their guidance.

Brief history of the original ECTOM I is given. Further need of update of the content is discussed with emphasis to several aspects. There are several reasons for such an update of ECTOM I. Firstly, there are new EMS members which could contribute to the catalogue. Secondly, corrected, new, more precise and expanding information will be available in addition to existing record, particularly in sense of some changes in education systems of EC countries and associated countries approaching the EC following the goal of Bologna Declaration. Thirdly, contemporary technology to organize the real database with the possibility of easier navigation and searching of the appropriate information and feasibility to keep them up to date permanently through the WWW should be adopted. In this presentation, practical information how to find and submit information on access to education or training possibilities in ECTOM II will be given as well. The rules and structure of the information is provided keeping EMS organized database with the philosophy of permanent possibility of information update and maintenance of the data. A few examples are shown.