

Raising public awareness on climate research: necessity and challenge

V. Alexandrov, **A. Yotova**

National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology, Sofia 1784, Bulgaria

(Vesselin.Alexandrov@meteo.bg ; Antoaneta.Iotova@meteo.bg / Fax: +3592 988 03 80)

The right acceptance and understanding of results from climate research are of essential importance for adequate attitude and respective actions by policy and decision-makers, business community and general public. Recently, climate change issues become of great interest due to the increase of extreme meteorological events and related damages. This makes it necessary, together with the traditional practices for information provision, to pay more attention to user-specified communication of results from climate research. International agreements in the field of climate change (the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the European Climate Change Programme, etc.) call for “development and application of programmes for public education and information in climate change issues and their impacts; participation of the public in solving climate change problems ... “. To answer the diverse society needs, a number of initiatives and actions are under way worldwide and across Europe. Review of such initiatives is made in the framework of project “European practices for use of results from climate change research”, supported by the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science, and is briefly presented in the paper. Emphasis is given to good practices examples that, respectively adopted, can be recommended for application in other countries.