

Education of personnel in meteorology in Croatia

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Panorama of education at all levels, from elementary to university education, with special emphasis on education of personnel in meteorology, is discussed in the paper. There is long tradition in specialized education of personnel in meteorology and hydrology. Before dissolution of former Yugoslavia, the secondary education was organized at the Hydrometeorological School in Belgrade. It was a school with long tradition, good curriculum and quality teaching staff, and the students educated there covered the needs of all republics (now independent states). Since its independence till the year 2000 there was not a special education program for meteorological technicians in Croatia. In September 2000 first students started with lectures in meteorology in the School of Forestry and Woodworking in Karlovac. The course of study of Geophysics with Meteorology at Zagreb started with a number of subjects as early as 1898 while the study of Geophysics as a separate academic field was founded only in 1947. This course of study is organized in several branches: Meteorology, Geophysics (Seismology, Gravity and Earth Magnetism) and Physical Oceanography. There is also an overall picture of meteorological practise as well as institutions dealing with meteorology in Croatia. The biggest institution is Meteorological and Hydrological Service (MHS), the National authority for meteorology and hydrology and Croatian international representative. Beside MHS, specialized meteorological services are organized within Air Traffic Control and Croatian Army, and not long ago there are also some private companies dealing with meteorology and hydrology. Regardless of development of new technical means and technologies applicable to the meteorological and hydrological observations as well as practice, engagement of well educated and trained personnel remains necessary. Different possibilities of targeted training are proposed and discussion on this issue encouraged, particularly regarding to small countries.