



EUMETCAL AVIATION METEOROLOGY COURSE - A full scale pilot blended learning approach to training

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The concept of blended learning (combination of several distance online sessions and one or more classroom training sessions) and the related projects in Europe were been presented during the 6th EMS Annual Meeting in September 2006. It has been explored for the first time on a demonstration basis under the aegis of the EUMETCAL programme in early 2007 with an aviation meteorology course delivered by of Météo-France through its National School of Meteorology. This course was divided into a distance learning phase from 5 February to 20 March, followed by a five days classroom session in Toulouse from 26 to 30 March 2007.

The detailed objectives of the course were to :

- enable the trainees to update and deepen general knowledge in aviation and practical knowledge in meteorology needed for aeronautical forecasting, particularly the awareness of significant weather phenomena for aeronautics,
- demonstrate a new blended learning approach to training,
- further develop the design and content of the course with the contributions of the participants.

The target audience consisted of meteorologist personnel or equivalent involved in forecasting or meteorological services for the world of aeronautics. This very first session was especially designed for attendees having already some experience in aviation

meteorology. Due to the peculiar and experimental nature of the course, each student was invited to make sure to have access to local assistance from technical (ICT) and aviation meteorology experts. The availability of local expertise was requested in order to provide a valuable link with the local working environment. Finally, as a very first trial in the field of ongoing training delivered by the National School of Meteorology, a certificate of completion was issued to the trainees based on the results of a final test at the end of classroom session (in quiz form with 30 questions). The presentation will particularly outline the sequence and results of this course as to the efficiency of this new way of training.