



Gender Access in Science @ Equal Terms - Training and Learning Experiences

A. Stan-Sion

National Meteorological Administration, Bucharest, Romania (aurora.stan@meteo.inmh.ro)

The National Meteorological Administration in Romania passed in the last six years through a process of rejuvenation of the personnel due to retirement among forecasters. The process was coincident with the implementation of a modern meteorological system based on the installation of 9 new Doppler radars. The solution applied by the NMA in order to overcome these transition periods, was the development of a system of training of the new employees.

One of the most difficult tasks was to establish the selection criteria for the future forecasters. Among these, the gender equality had a very special aspect. The presentation will explain the evolution of the gender balance among the forecasters during the increasing of the difficulties of the forecasting process.

The same aspect will be commented in relation with the selection process for training, with special emphasis on the most recent event: the summer school that took place in July 2007, in Iasi Romania, and the topic was on "Boundary Layer Research with Instrumented Aircraft". It was the first summer school organized by the Education and Training activity of the European Fleet for Airborne Research, an integrated infrastructure initiative of the 6th framework program of the European Commission. The trainees were young scientists at postgraduate level and the approach was to blend the academic lectures on "in situ measurements" and their background science, with the field experiment.

The EUFAR summer school was the first event of this kind aimed to take care of the future of the fleet.

We will present the criteria of selection of the participants and also the impact of these

criteria on the general output of the summer school. Among these we will mention the exceptional atmosphere of "group" working in very advanced science, the high ability of both gender to communicate and assume responsibility, the reciprocal support during the different phases of the school - from theory to experiment, from the design of a project to data interpretation and the editing of the results.

The presentation will be enhanced by the comments of the students themselves on several aspects as they resulted during the assessment and evaluation of the summer school, by movies and pictures that are relevant to define the intellectual stimulation and the creativity of a gender balanced group of trainees in front of a gender biased group of lecturers and expert.