

DACH @ CALMet

Virtual Classroom at DACH's *Forecasting and Nowcasting of Relevant Weather Phenomena* course

Two main difficulties

How to stimulate the interaction between instructor and participants as well as the interaction among the participants?



Welcome to the Virtual Classroom Session about Summer Convection!

During this session you will listen to different experts talking about their favorite aspects of summer convection. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss with the experts. There will be interactive tasks where you can challenge your knowledge and group tasks that enable you to get to know the other participants.

How to create meaningful tasks with different technical resources available?

- Before the course start, check the technical facilities that are available to course participants, ensure that the technical means (conferencing tools and meteorological tools) work properly and organize a technical support for the sessions.
- Communicate the course organisation and expectations to the participants before the course starts.
- Build evenly populated groups for practical training sessions.
- Start with warm-up games to make people feel comfortable.
- Keep presentations short and compact and use annotation tools during the inputs.

- Ensure that in each group there are people with access to the respective software, then work with screensharing.
- Provide important charts / maps as jpg-documents, so the people can download it previously. However, consider not to offer too many images in order to avoid confusion.
- Research the possibilities of online training platforms and think about applications that can be used in the virtual classroom.
- Let people contribute local case studies that they prepared before the course.

What people think...

"I enjoyed most the group work, because it was an uncomplicated and fruitful exchange between forecasters of different weather services." (participant)

"I enjoyed the group sessions very much, because it was possible to work together with colleagues from other weather services and to see what charts they use and how they interpret the weather models, what experience they have and exchange opinions and learn from each other. It was a very refreshing time in good atmosphere." (participant)

"Pure online training has many shortcomings compared to classroom training, but it also offers possibilities that are provided by the training tools and last but not least the comfortable meeting without travelling from home or from the office." (A.Wirth, trainer ZAMG)

"Before running a virtual classroom phase the first time I was not sure how it works. However, now I am convinced that this training technique could be very useful, especially if training in a classroom is not possible." (W. Jacobs, trainer DWD)

"Above all, many exercises in small groups and many discussions. This meant that cooperation was not only desired, but absolutely necessary - which is exactly what this course is about and promotes the exchange between the weather services." (participant)