



WMO-CGMS Virtual Laboratory
for Education and Training in Satellite Meteorology

ACTIVITY REPORT

Period: September 2012 to December 2013
Centre of Excellence: Niger

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (CoE) AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF VLAB TRAINING ACTIVITIES

1) What were the major achievements of your CoE during this reporting period?

The major achievements of our CoE during the period under consideration are:

- ◆ The organisation of two ESAC courses (ESAC-X-F and XI-F) with an overall of trainees. Note that ESAC-XI-F was organised in two parts: online and face-to-face.
- ◆ The facilitation of two Virtual Round Tables on Competence Requirements for Aeronautical Meteorological Personnel with the support of EUMETSAT and VLAB.
- ◆ The contribution, in the framework of the collaboration between VLABs, to the face-to-face training organised by the CoE of Casablanca.
- ◆ The publication of an ASMET module on convective weather and aviation in West and Central Africa.

2) What were the main difficulties of your CoE during this reporting period?

The main difficulty during this reporting period is the poor Internet connexion which prevented our CoE to initiate the monthly weather briefing. The online activities organised during the period were made possible thanks to a special ADSL connexion contracted by EUMETSAT for the activities of the CoE.

3) Who provides support in the production of your training materials (e.g. produced by own trainers, support from Satellite Operators, IT staff, University researchers and lecturers, etc)?

The training materials are produced by the trainers of the CoE using the official training materials from EUMETSAT. For ASMET modules, support is mainly obtained from EUMETSAT but also from COMET.

4) Is any kind of Learning Management System (e.g. Moodle, Blackboard, etc) used by your CoE to conduct training activities?

Prior to 2013 our Learning Management System comprises mainly Blackboard and PowerPoint Presentations for face-to-face training and CD/Internet for the ASMET modules, and a few RFG using Moodle. From 2013 our Learning Management System comprises Moodle for the online phase of ESAC (EUMETSAT platform), blackboard and PowerPoint presentations. We use the satellite reception and display stations for practicals and McIdas for hands-on exercises.

The Web is also used for the publication of our ASMET modules

5) Is any kind of Online Conferencing System (e.g. Saba Centra, Blackboard Collaborate, GoToWebinar, etc) used by your CoE to conduce training activities?

With the support of EUMETSAT, we use from time to time Saba Centra for presentations. And EUMETSAT Moodle platform for our RFG.

6) What kind of training is provided to the trainers of your CoE and at what frequency?

Training of Trainers organised by EUMETSAT/WMO for CoEs. The frequency is variable (one to three years).

7) Can you suggest ways for the VLab (including CoEs, Supporting Satellite Agencies, Partner Programmes, WMO Space Programme, VLab Co-chairs and TSO) to provide better support to your CoE?

- ◆ Provide a platform for sharing of training materials among all CoEs.
- ◆ sharing of expertise among CoEs

8) Please use the table below to list any training materials you may have developed over this reporting period:

Title of training material	Type of resource (e.g. text book, video, recorded presentation, Moodle course, webcast, PowerPoint slides)	Availability of resource (e.g. open educational resource ¹ , institutional use only)	Submitted to ESRC (Yes/No)
Convective weather and aviation in West and Central Africa	Online, USB and CDROM	Open educational resource	-

9) Is your CoE working closely together with the CoE's sponsoring Satellite Operator/Agency in VLab training activities? Can you suggest ways to improve this collaboration?

There is a strong collaboration between our CoE and EUMETSAT which is the Satellite Operator sponsoring our CoE regarding VLab training activities. EUMETSAT provides online platforms (Saba Centra, Moodle) to host our online training activities, is the main

¹ Please also indicate if the Creative Commons License was applied to the resource.

financial sponsor for the production of our ASMET modules, and provides support in all the training activities undertaken by our VLab including training of the trainers.

10) Please use this space for additional remarks you may wish to make relating to the delivery of training by your CoE.

We are planning to organize monthly weather briefing to start by the month of May. EUMETSAT has agreed to support in contracting a special Internet connexion for this activity which should start as soon as the connexion is effective.

11) The next page presents a table containing all training events entered by this CoE in the VLab Online Calendar of Events during this reporting period. Please complete the table with information about the number of trainees and Country of origin of trainees that attended the events. If the CoE had conducted other training events considered as part of their VLab activities, that for some reason were not submitted to the Online Calendar of Events, please add them to the table.

Date	Title	Location	WMO region	Host	Type	Language	Number of trainees	Country of origin of trainees
2013/05/15 - 2013/05/15	Virtual Round Table Event on Competence Requirements for Aeronautical Meteorological Personnel	Online	I Africa	EAMAC	Online course	French	26	Brussels, Canada (2), Comoros (2), Cameroon (4), Central Africa Republic, Congo (4), Côte d'Ivoire, France, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger (5), Togo.
2013/09/26 - 2013/09/26	Virtual Round Table on Aeronautical Meteorological Competences - Second Session - French	Online	I Africa	EAMAC	Online course	French	22	Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Madagascar, Mauritania (2), Morocco (2), Niger (4), Senegal (4), Togo (2)
2012/11/19 - 2012/11/30	ESAC-X-F	Niamey, Niger	I Africa	EAMAC	Classroom course	French	19	Algeria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central Africa Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Conakry, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Tunisia
2013/10/07 - 2013/10/31	ESAC-XI-F	Niamey, Niger	I Africa	EAMAC	Online course	French	17	Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Conakry, Mali, Mauritania, Rwanda, Togo, Tunisia
2013/11/25 - 2013/11/29	ESAC-XI-F	Niamey, Niger	I Africa	EAMAC	Classroom course	French	15	Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Conakry, Mauritania, Rwanda, Togo, Tunisia