



Call for associated partners in new EU member states

CarboSchools promotes partnerships between Carbon science researchers and secondary schools in Europe. In the period 2008-2010, in the frame of the EU Science in Society programme partnerships will be coordinated in 9 western European regions. We are inviting interested groups from new member states to join this initiative.

Project overview

CarboSchools links researchers from several leading carbon science laboratories in Europe with secondary schools. In these partnerships, young Europeans conduct experiments on the impact of greenhouse gases and learn about climate research and the reduction of emissions. Scientists and teachers co-operate over several months to give young people a practical experience of research through real-time experiments, site visits, debates etc. A final output (e.g. article, exhibition) allows to share the findings with parents, friends, community etc.

Nine research institutes in seven countries explore how they can best motivate and support such partnerships at the regional level in a wide variety of contexts, approaches, topics and age-groups. European co-operation makes it possible to compare results, learn from each other and develop replicable good practice. Pupils gain European experience by doing comparative measurements through a common "school CO₂-web". An in-depth evaluation of attitudes, beliefs and skills will give a better understanding of the project's educational impact.



Started in 2004 by [CarboEurope](#) and [CARBOOCEAN](#), two major research projects on the carbon cycle, CarboSchools is currently funded until 2010 by the Science in Society programme of the EU with a target of ca. 100 schools directly involved. We hope that students experience how to "ask precise questions to nature" and learn about the biggest uncontrolled scientific experiment in human history. We hope that they become fascinated and empowered to search for solutions, and experience how Europe broadens horizons. We hope to make science learning more engaging and challenging for young people as future workers, consumers and citizens.

Partners:

Max Planck Institut fuer Biogeochemie (MPI-BGC), Jena, Germany (coordinator)
Teacher Scientist Network (TSN), Norwich, UK
Rijksuniversiteit Groningen (RuG), the Netherlands
Leibniz-Institut für Meereswissenschaften an der Universität Kiel (IFM-GEOMAR), Kiel, Germany
Institut Pierre-Simon Laplace (LSCE), Paris, France
Universitetet i Bergen og Bjerknessenteret for klimaforskning (UiB-BCCR), Norway
Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA EPHYSE/EPOC), Bordeaux, France
Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche – Istituto di Biometeorologia (CNR-IBIMET), Firenze, Italy
Fundació Parc Científic de Barcelona, Laboratori de Recerca del Clima (PCB-LRC), Barcelona, Spain

Associated partners

We are looking for a limited number of associated partners from countries which joined the EU in 2004 and 2007. Associated partners are research institutes involved in carbon-related topics, willing to structure a *CarboSchools regional project* and interested in sharing experience with other regional projects at the European level.

The objectives of CarboSchools regional projects are:

- to stimulate & support scientists & teachers willing to get involved in partnership projects;
- to demonstrate the value & management model of educational initiatives integrated with research institutions;
- to invest in lasting relationships and impact on partner schools;
- to activate and involve key local players such as school authorities, teacher associations, parents associations, teacher training institutes, science museums etc.;
- to create a climate for cooperation, co-production and exchange of tools, know-how, materials, methodologies at a European level and reach a critical mass of players able to stimulate & take inspiration from each other;
- beyond school projects themselves, to reach families & local communities, and larger numbers of teachers through the dissemination of project materials; and ultimately contribute to the advancement of science teaching & a science closer to society within the EU.

At the European level, the coordination between regional projects follows a principle of diversity and cooperation: rather than trying to streamline the projects to be more or less similar to each other, we want to use a wide variety of approaches in methods, topics and target-groups (eg. young & older students, marine & terrestrial carbon science, science & language-communication teachers etc.), to find out which tools are best suitable to better link scientific research and school education. Close cooperation between this wide range of approaches to the same overall aim will allow us to compare the results, learn from each other to refine the strategies, and publish exemplary materials of best practice.

Associated partners do not receive direct funding from CarboSchools in the frame of the current EU funding. Support at the European level will take the form of

- when relevant, consultancy in project design through visits of coordinator & follow-up
- sharing of information, materials, know-how within the CarboSchools network
- travel grants for joining the next project meeting in 27-30 April 2009 in Florence, Italy and to the final conference in Jena, Germany in the Spring of 2010.

Associated partnership will be decided by CarboSchools partners based on expressions of interests providing information on the structure & goals of the envisaged regional project.

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