

Education and Public Outreach: an Overview

Norma Crosby¹

¹ Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy, Brussels, Belgium

Sprites, jets and elves, also referred to as “Transient Luminous Events (TLEs)”, are phenomenon well-suited for educational purposes (formal and informal) as well as for public outreach activities. The first part of this talk will give an introduction to what is meant by “Education and Public Outreach (EPO)”, emphasizing the usefulness and effectiveness of such activities. This will be followed by an example of how such activities can be implemented into a scientific research project. In 2002 the four year Coupling of Atmospheric Layers (CAL) Research Training Network (RTN) project was funded by the European Commission to study TLEs. CAL consisted of ten scientific work-packages and two work-packages specifically dedicated to the training and outreach programme of the project. CAL is an example and inspiration of how a scientific research project can be a unique opportunity to provide EPO learning activities to both young and senior scientists.