

The European Space Weather Week

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(on behalf of the ESWW program committee)

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In 1997, the European Space Agency was wondering whether or not to set up a space program devoted to space weather.

Two consortia were selected to address this question. The answer resulted in different initiatives:

- The space weather space program would be part of the « Space Situational Awareness » (SSA) space program

- The European community would be coordinated through a European initiative (COST 724)

This coordination group (COST 724; 2003 - 2007) was created by Jean Lilensten and continued by another COST action (2009 – 2013) held by Anna Belehaki. Several important initiatives were taken:

- Strong support for creating a network of regional space weather centers, with a particular support to the Royal Observatory of Belgium.

- Creation of the Journal of Space Weather and Space Climate

- Creation of the European Space Weather Week (ESWW)

The First ESWW was held at ESTEC in 2004 with about 125 participants (Lilensten et al, **23**, 2967–2968, *Annales Geophysicae*, 2005).

It settled down rapidly in Belgium and grew constantly since then, thanks to the strong support of Belgium.

Starting from the ESWW7, the five continents were represented.

For the last four years, we have around 400 participants.

The ESWW is today main annual event in the Space Weather calendar

It aims at bringing together the diverse groups throughout the world working on different aspects of Space Weather: scientists, engineers, satellite operators, power grid technicians, communication and navigation specialists, people working in aviation, space weather service providers, etc.

ESWW is an excellent place to meet people, to exchange knowledge and ideas, to discuss the latest on solar activity, how space weather influences the earth environment and our technologies and how to deal with space weather.

Countries represented at the ESWW15 (2018)

Algeria – Australia – Austria – Belgium – Brazil – Bulgaria – Canada – China – Croatia - Czech Republic – Denmark – Finland – France – Georgia – Germany – Greece – Hungary – Ireland – Italy – Japan – Korea – Lithuania – Mexico – Netherland - New Zealand – Norway – Portugal – Poland – Romania - Russian Federation - South Africa – Spain – Sweden – Switzerland - United Arab Emirates – UK – USA – Venezuela.

Develloping and emergent countries are largely under-represented in spite of their dynamism in space weather activities.

Program Committee

It includes scientists from UK, Greece, Germany, France, ESA, Belgium, Italy.

Developing and emergent countries are totally absent from this committee.

We wish to include more colleagues from different horizons

- Space weather is international per se. It cannot belong to a set of countries involved in space activities
- Space weather has strong components in ground measurements for which international involvement is mandatory
- Space weather consequences may affect all the countries. Therefore scientists from all the countries should meet at the ESWW and work alltogether

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Maybe more important : we need to improve or
practices, to enlarge our horizons, to open our
minds:

**We need more inputs and involvements from
develloping and emergent countries both as
ESWW participants and in the organizing
committee.**

How to proceed ?

We need ISWI's expertise and support. The ESWW remains still relatively cheap compared to the other main meetings. But it is still too expensive to allow many colleagues to join. How to fund them?

Can we start to discuss this issue?