

**THE ESPERE PROJECT**  
Environmental Science Published for Everybody Round the Earth  
[www.espere.net](http://www.espere.net)

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## INTRODUCTION

At present no global web site written by scientists of the respective fields is available that provides a reliable overview of climate related science comparable to the basic contents of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report for a wider public.

Within the project ESPERE (**E**nvironmental **S**cience **P**ublished for **E**verybody **R**ound the **E**arth) representatives of the scientific community, mediators to the public, educationists, teachers and students should build up in a concerted effort a user-friendly informative Network on climate change and related environmental processes. The address [www.espere.net](http://www.espere.net) should become the multilingual gate to the current knowledge of scientists, presented in an easily understandable way for the public with a strong focus on schools.

## METHODS

A developing consortium builds up on the one hand a multilingual web atlas on the climate system, written in an understandable way for the public and basing on the results of the IPCC report 2001. The structure of this atlas is based on thematic fields as ENSO/NAO, solar cycle, paleoclimate, etc. as investigated by various research groups. The contents should be reviewed as usual for scientific journals in order to provide a reliable source of information. On the other hand educationists and teachers accompany this effort in order to put together topics from these fields for the use in classes and to complement the online sources with appropriate teaching material.

The dualism of the Internet as a medium of information (e.g. scientific journals) and a medium of communication (e.g. chat rooms) makes possible, not comparable to any other former tool, the selected connection and direct interaction of all involved groups in the course of education. ESPERE is going to use this opportunity of direct feedback, in order to evaluate and improve scientific publications already in the stage of their development. This way an optimisation of the contents with respect to demands of the user and comprehensibility can be achieved. This will help to bridge the gap between science and the public and to ease the way leading to a knowledge society (Figure 1).

At present ESPERE is already working and developing on a smaller scale and providing teaching materials with partner schools in Germany, which are currently translated into other languages.

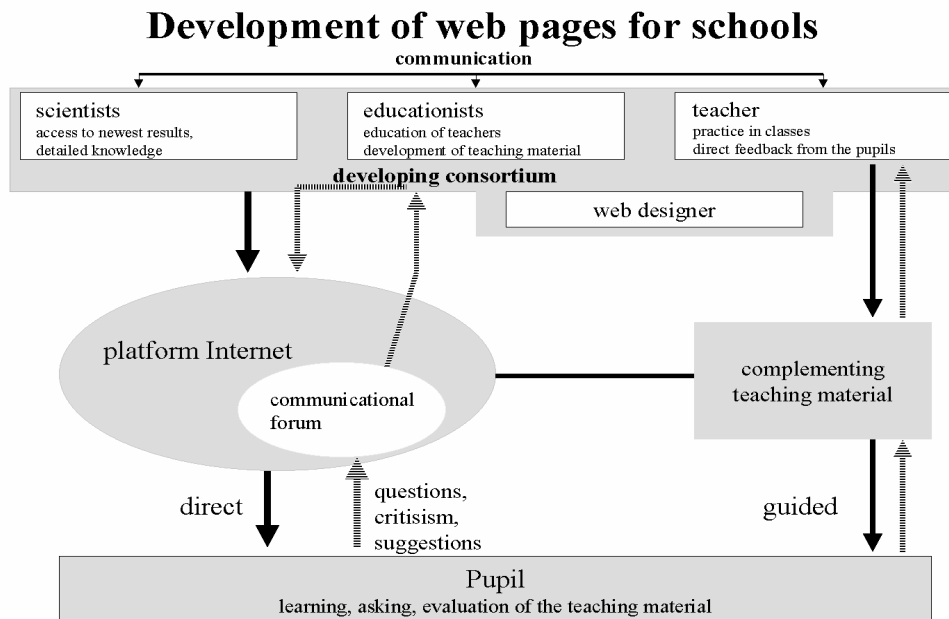


Figure 1: The interactive development of web pages for schools

## CONCLUSIONS

ESPERE is a pilot project, which is designed to make accessible topical and reviewed scientific knowledge in an understandable manner directly for students and a wider public. The current experiences show that this effort could work out on an international scale and contribute significantly to a raise in public awareness. Since the progress strongly depends on the readiness of researchers to make available their knowledge for a wider public, the ESPERE community invites scientists as well as representatives of the educational system in the respective countries to join this effort.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The work of ESPERE, presented so far on the web site [www.espere.net](http://www.espere.net), has been built up by members of the scientific community on a voluntary basis. We thank all supporters who have made possible a good start for this promising effort.

## REFERENCES

IPCC, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Third Assessment Report (TAR), Climate Change 2001, The Scientific Basis, Contribution of Working Group I to the Third Assessment Report of the International Panel on Climate Change, Houghton, J. T., et al. (Eds.), Cambridge University Press, 801 pp., 2001.