

AA2019 Advanced Aerobiology Course on automatic and real-time pollen monitoring

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Automatic and real-time pollen monitoring. Inspirational (and challenging) topic for the World Aerobiology. 35 participants coming from 25 countries from all over the world trying to update our knowledge regarding terms that are becoming more and more popular in these last years. Also the advantages for the real time monitoring compared with traditional methods. However, we will not be able to discard these devices in a short term, and its value, far from being a solid reference, sometimes has to be considered as one.

This week in Payerne gave us the opportunity to check all the state-of-the-art devices at the same time, explained by the providers and thinking in their pros and cons in a nice workshop. Different and supplementary information is offered by all of them and frequently the best approach could be to work with different ones side by side. With nice facilities and in a beautiful location, it was indeed easy to be 'wrapped' for the topic. It was exciting to see how people was discussing in the hotel, in the bus, during the meals and breaks, etc. Every corner had nice and productive conversations. We also were introduced in calibration techniques, machine learning, data management and time series analysis by using Python and R.

After all the motivating lectures, we were grouped to work with different databases corresponding to each device. The last day, we did show our progress with the data management and we delivered a presentation. But man does not live by bread alone, and we also had time to visit the wonderful landscape in Gruyères, including a chocolate, a cheese factory and even some of us we got into the castle. We had the opportunity to visit the facilities of Meteoswiss in Payerne as well.

Under my point of view, we are starting to go deeper in something that is going to revolutionize our discipline and we will have to live up with these changes. For sure during the next years we are going to live the proliferation of articles coming in this direction. New pollen networks with high data resolution and offering the information to the public in a time framework that is better for allergy patients, allergists, urban planners and policy makers. We have, as scientists, the big challenge of bringing this information and make it accessible to everyone in an attractive way.

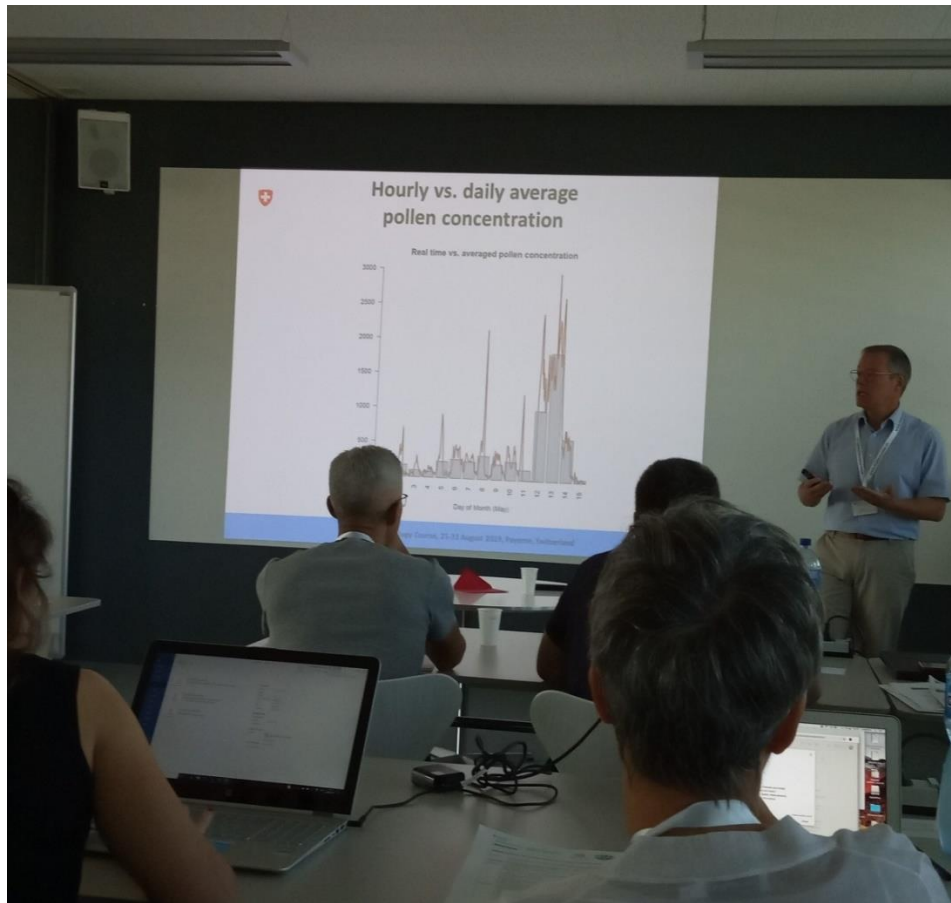
Finally, I would like to give thanks to the lecturers for the quality of their teaching and the enthusiasm that they shared with all the attendants, and also to the companies for being involved with the seriousness that the event deserved. Special thanks to Meteoswiss for the nice organisation of this training course that leaves us wanting to see a lot more.

Now, coming back home, it is time to reflect about all that we have learnt, and most important, try to assimilate it in our networks. Events like that prove that Aerobiology is aware of their new goals for the future.

The beautiful village of Estavayer-le-Lac



Getting to the point



Ice-breaking the first day, doing some networking



During the meals



Introducing us into Machine learning techniques





During the workshops we had time to check the functioning of all the devices



Visiting Gruyères



Moment to compare and evaluate the different devices under our opinion

