

SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
New Worlds - Innovative Space Education and Outreach (7)

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EIGHT YEARS OF THE GERMAN-SWEDISH STUDENT PROGRAMME REXUS/BEXUS -
OVERVIEW AND OUTLOOK -

Abstract

The German-Swedish student programme REXUS/BEXUS is now running for more than eight years. The programme was established in 2007 by a bilateral Agency Agreement between the German Aerospace Center (DLR) and the Swedish National Space Board (SNSB). The programme is carried out in collaboration with European Space Agency (ESA). On an annual basis, the programme provides the opportunity to student teams to fly a self-developed and self-built experiment on a stratospheric balloon or a sounding rocket. Undergraduate as well as graduate students from Germany, Sweden, and from the other member and associated states of ESA can apply. Two BEXUS balloons and two REXUS rockets are launched from Esrange, Sweden, every year. Now, after completion of the seventh REXUS/BEXUS project cycle it is time for an overview of the achievements of the REXUS/BEXUS programme and capabilities of REXUS rockets and BEXUS balloons as platforms for student projects within science and engineering. A review of BEXUS resp. REXUS project schedules and project events will also be given. Some statistics will be presented concerning the number of performed experiments and their research/test fields, including also details of the student teams such as country and university of study, team size and gender of team members. Data of a survey to the REXUS/BEXUS students have been evaluated mainly focusing on the study at time of participation in the programme, involvement in the project, benefits from the programme, and occupation after the participation in the programme. The REXUS/BEXUS programme has become an important element in European students hands-on education with respect to space research and engineering. The eighth project cycle is in progress. The new call of the REXUS/BEXUS programme will be released in the middle of June, deadline will be in the second half of October 2015.