

1. DATA ACQUISITION, PROCESSING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES RELATING TO SEVERE STORM ASSESSMENT IN HUNGARY BASED ON A NATIONAL CIVIL ASSOCIATION

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I. PRELIMINARIES

The first comprehensive study on damaging storms of the recent decade in Hungary – covering systematic national data acquisition, GIS processing, risk assessment and synoptic classification – was given by Sárközi on the ECSS-2002 (Sárközi, 2007). (Earlier and recent works were dealt only with historical records, case studies or a specific part of the area (Kecskés, 1988; Horváth, Geresdi, 2001). This study was based on the official data accumulated by the pyramidal body of the national disaster management, but due to repetitive cutbacks of the organization this capability is completely lost by the 2000s.

Though meanwhile another land of possibilities was arising, but in the self-organizing civil world of the internet.

II. THE NEW BASE

The "MetNet.Hu" web-site was started in 2001 as a small independent site by a dozen of young meteorologists and enthusiastic amateurs to publish their private reports and forecasts, but as the unlimited home internet access became available at considerable prices in Hungary too, the site grew up the most visited home of real-time public share of weather observations – now having more hundreds of volunteer observers (for our 93,000 km² state) reporting more times every day, and 30-60 thousands visitors occasionally for real-time tracking of observed weather on our maps.

The A-MET Association is formed in 2005 to step out from cyber space, and to handle the movements of this never thought community by our professional meteorologists – from organizing regular public gatherings through instrument calibration to scientific trainings. By now the Association is the acknowledged by the Hungarian national meteorological service as one of their civil base.

III. PRESENT ACTIVITIES

Considering its capabilities mentioned above, the ever started severe storm assessment activities now is reorganizing within the association.

Any volunteer observer visiting our site can report defined types of severe weather events as well (from snowdrifts to tornadoes), on a customized, standard form via

Internet, in order to achieve detailed proper data for further procession by professional meteorologists involved, and reviving the national severe storm database.

Last year our core team was the first at the scenes by the immediate reports. Now we organize special courses – with contribution of professional lecturers in meteorology, hydrology, mapping and disaster management – for volunteer storm damage surveyors, in order to have specially trained persons and thus proper documentation from any hidden place of our country. In this training program local official disaster management representatives are taking part from more counties.

Considering public relations, we are working together with news agencies to share information, photos and videos. On the other side, for public benefit we hold conferences and process special informative and educational media from our results, on what severe storms can do and how to avoid or reduce its consequences.

The presentation is intended to give a short overview of our activities and results mentioned above related to severe storms in Hungary.

IV. REFERENCES

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- Sárközi Sz., 2007: A systematic approach to synoptic tornado climatology of Hungary for the recent years (1996-2001) based on official damage reports. *Atmos.Res.*, 83 263-271.