



ESSL in 2020

Dear all,

The year 2020 is coming to a close. It was full of uncertainties and challenges, but we hope you are all well and in good health, and are looking forward to the coming holidays.

The ESSL team wants to thank you for your active support in the year that has brought us new opportunities and experiences, which stimulated us to further develop our training activities and to continue our research.

Although we did not have the opportunity to welcome you at our expanded premises in Wiener Neustadt due to the COVID-19 restrictions, we have successfully completed a series of workshops and courses online, including several new ones. In early summer, we offered you free short one-day webinars each of which had more

than 80 participants per webinar. For the first time the [ESSL Testbed](#) was held online. This was a great challenge to us, but the evaluation showed high scores, giving us a strong push for the events in autumn.

We organized two new types of workshop on the *Optimal Use of Satellite Data in Forecasting Severe Convection* with the help from [EUMETSAT](#), and on *Convective Storm Risk*, respectively, with many external experts in the field.



Participants and lecturers of the Convective Storm Risk workshop

[Our research team](#) has been enlarged by one new member; Francesco Battaglioli joined us as researcher in the project entitled "[Convective Hazard Evolution Under Climate Change \(CHECC\)](#)", part of the ClimXtreme research programme funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

In addition, one more project started this year, PreCAST which is carried out jointly with ESSL member [ZAMG](#) and with support from [ECMWF](#). Our senior researcher and trainer Tomáš Púčik leads the project, whose main goal is the development of probabilistic forecast system for

prediction of convective hazards in short to medium-range.



Looking forward to 2021

ECSS

Let's get this out of the way first: we have to inform you that 11th European Conference on Severe Storms planned for November 2021 will be rescheduled and shifted to 2022. Together with our local partners in Meteo Romania we decided to postpone the conference. Although we have made this decision with regret, in the current conditions the epidemic still casts doubts over the feasibility in November 2021. We are contemplating organizing a shorter duration online event in November 2021 as a compensation for the disappointment.

Course: Forecasting Severe Convection

In 2021 we will be organizing several courses. From 3 to 7 May, we will be organizing our "standard" course Forecasting Severe Convection taught by Tomáš Púčik and Christoph Gatzert. From 4 to 8 October, our course tailored to aviation meteorologists is scheduled. To register for any of the events, please visit the [ESSL Event Calendar](#).

ESSL Testbed 2021

In June we hope to be able to organize the ESSL

Testbed on site, but we are ready to switch back to an online event if needed. We are expecting to work with new nowcasting, warning and NWP products and improved versions of the products we evaluated in 2020 including convection-permitting NWP ensembles from DWD and ZAMG, the the CAPE and CAPESHEAR extreme forecast index from ECMWF and a number of improved nowcasting products from DWD. To register for any of the events, please see the [ESSL Event Calendar](#).

Displayer

In 2021, we will be working with ECMWF and possibly EUMETSAT to increase the reliability and capacity of the Data Displayer, the interface to meteorological data that we use at ESSL courses and the Testbed. The plan is that this will enable ESSL to offer it to third parties, in particular public weather services across Europe. We will keep you updated about the progress.

Upcoming Job Advertisement

ESSL will in January 2021 advertise a job vacancy for a part-time or full-time researcher position for work to be carried out from Germany for the [CHECC project](#) (See above) and other tasks. Even though some details still need to be clarified at this moment, we recommend you to keep a close eye on the ESSL website if this has your interest.

All in all, ESSL is staying strong through the pandemic and full of activity for the next year. Our research and training activities will continue and we will adapt to the situation where needed. In the next Newsletter, we hope to share some first results from the newly started projects.



We wish you happy Holidays and a great New Year!

Unsure which course to attend? [Try our online quiz!](#)

For further information about the registration for these events, please contact us at: events@essl.org

Or approach us for [tailored trainings or forecaster training on-the-job](#).



