



Tooming Award

The Tooming Award is the ESSL award with the longest tradition. It fosters the idea of pan-European collaboration in the severe storms research community.

The list of awardees:

Year	Winners	ECSS Contribution
2007	Marianne König (DE), Monika Pajek (PL), and Piotr Struzik (PL)	<i>Air stability indices derived from satellite data as convection and storm predictors</i>
2009	Jean-Baptiste Cohuet (FR), Romualdo Romero (ES), Víctor Homar (ES), Véronique Ducrocq (FR) and Climent Ramis Noguera (ES)	<i>Maritime convective initiation of the severe thunderstorm of 4th October 2007 in Mallorca: Numerical experiments</i>
2011	Mária Putsay (HU), Martin Setvák (CZ), André Simon (HU) and Jochen Kerkmann (DE)	<i>Simultaneous BTD (WV6.2-IR10.8) anomaly and above-anvil ice-plume observed above the storm of 06 July 2010, North Italy</i>
2013	Eric Defer, Sylvain Coquillat, Jean-Pierre Pinty, Serge Soula, Jean-Michel Martin, Serge Prieur, Evelyne Richard, William Rison, Paul Krehbiel, Ronald Thomas, Daniel Rodeheffer, Veronique Ducrocq, Olivier Bousquet, Odile Roussot, Laurent Labatut, Thomas Farges, Christian Vergeiner, Wolfgang Schulz, Graeme Anderson, Stephane Pedebay, Hans-Dieter Betz, Kostas Lagouvardos, Pascal Ortega, Gilles Molinie and Patrice Blanchet	<i>An overview of the electrical activity recorded during PEACH, the atmospheric electricity component of HYMEX</i> 
2015	Keul, Alexander; Brunner, Bernhard; Korff, Melanie; Sharma, Sanjay; Roy, Partha; Allen, John; Bowden, Katie A.; Aini, Mat Said; Elistina, Abu Bakar; Ab Kadir, Mohd Zainal Abidin; Gomes, Chandima; Taszarek, Mateusz	<i>Severe weather and psychology – Analysis of international survey data</i> 

<p>2017</p>	<p>Gatzen, Christoph; Kreitz, Michaël; Leprince, Sébastien; Schielicke, Lisa; Rabrenović, Maja; Enno, Sven-Eric</p>	<p><i>Combined analysis of severe convective wind gusts in European data sets</i></p> 
<p>2019</p>	<p>Dr. Jean Dessens</p> <p><i>Special Lifetime Achievement Tooming Award</i></p>	<p>A special Lifetime Achievement Heino Tooming Award was given to Dr. Jean Dessens for his important role in the initial phase of the ECSS conference series. We celebrated the 10th edition of the ECSS in 2019, a great opportunity to commemorate how the series of conferences started with the first European Conference on Tornadoes and Severe Storms in Toulouse in 2000, and how the conference has evolved through time.</p>  <p><i>In 2019 no regular Tooming Award was given.</i></p>

The Heino Tooming award was instigated in 2007 in the memory of the outstanding Estonian scientist Prof. Dr. Heino Tooming (see photo to the right).

Eligible is any excellent scientific presentation at the European Conference on Severe Storms (ECSS) by a group led by a European scientist and involving collaborators from at least one other European country, fostering in this way collaboration across this continent in the field of severe weather research.



The Heino Tooming award consists of a certificate and an amount of 300 Euro.

The award is presented at each European Conference on Severe Storms for an outstanding contribution to the conference achieved as a result of intra-European collaboration. Prerequisite is that the authors have affiliations with organizations in at least two different European countries.

Heino Tooming was born in Mustvee, Estonia, a small town near Lake Peipsi on 22 October 1930. He received the diploma of a geophysicist, graduating from the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of Tartu University in 1954 and began his career at the Institute of Physics and Astronomy as an engineer and meteorologist at the Actinometric Station. From 1957, he continued his work as a junior researcher. In his Candidate's thesis, Heino Tooming investigated the reflection and absorption of solar radiation in plant stands. He defended the thesis at the University of Tartu in 1961. From 1962, Heino Tooming continued his career as a senior researcher. His main research during the following three decades covered the investigation of production process of plants and their communities. However, he was also fascinated by thunderstorms and tornadoes. Together with Dr. Vello Ross, he established the first network of thunderstorm observations at the Estonian Naturalists' Society. As these observations provided also data on tornadoes, he published a number of articles on them from 1960 onwards and organized mappings of their paths.



In 1972, Heino Tooming defended his doctoral thesis on "Radiation regime and productivity of vegetation" at the University of Tartu. He was the first physicist in the Soviet Union to receive the degree of D.Sc. in biology. In 1990, Heino Tooming received a professional certificate of a professor of meteorology, climatology and agricultural meteorology, issued by the Higher Evaluation Commission of the Soviet Union. This certificate can be regarded the highest scientific degree in the former Soviet Union. In the early nineties he was one of the main authors of the conception of meteorology and hydrology of the newly independent Estonia.

Contacts with Dr. Richard E. Peterson from Texas Tech University led Heino Tooming back to his favourite topic: Tornadoes. He organised an international conference dedicated to the 110th anniversary of Johannes Letzmann's birth. Johannes P. Letzmann, who had studied tornadoes while working at the University of Tartu before World War II, was decades ahead of his time.

Heino Tooming composed a map of all tornadoes recorded in Estonia during the last two centuries and published a lot of articles about this phenomenon. He also encouraged younger colleagues to study tornadoes. Heino Tooming represented Estonia at numerous conferences dealing with severe storms and tornadoes. From 1996 to 2001 he was the Estonian contact of the International Association for Wind Engineering. The renowned Estonian geophysicist died on 18 September 2004.

The motivation for the European Severe Storms Laboratory to establish the Heino Tooming Award comes from his great enthusiasm for severe thunderstorm phenomena and his talent to motivate and encourage younger scientists from all over Europe to pursue their own research on tornadoes and other severe weather and to strengthen the collaboration among the European atmospheric science community. It is his young spirit that he shared with the participants of the European Conferences on Severe Storms in 2000 and 2002 that the ESSL intends to memorise and hopes to carry on to the future by awarding this prize at the ECSS conferences.