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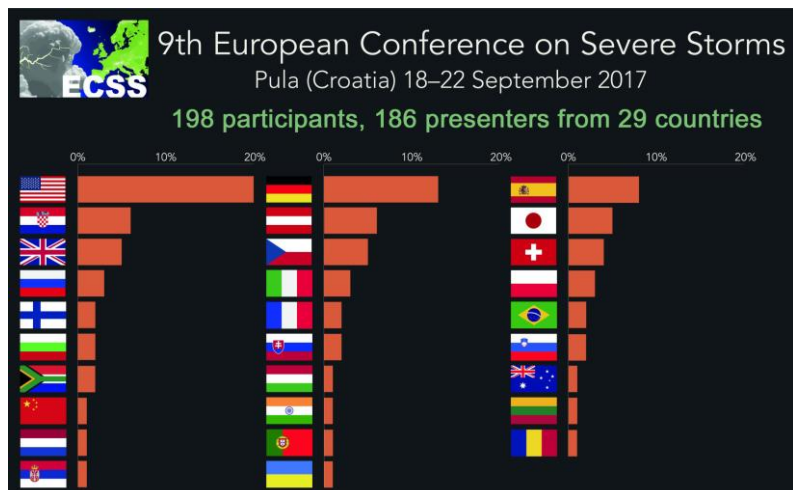
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ECSS 2017

The 9th European Conference on Severe Storms - ECSS2017 was held during 18-22 September in Pula, Croatia. 186 presenters from 29 European and non-European countries showed their research at the conference during twelve sessions. In addition to the presentations, the ESSL General Assembly and a Convective Working Group (CWG) meeting took place during the ECSS.



About 40 % (75 persons) of the conference participants filled out a feedback form at the end of the ECSS. They graded the conference with a mean 8.7 points out of 10 possible points. The grades ranged from 6 to 11. According to the feedback forms 27 persons (most votes) liked most the interesting and wide ranged presentations and programme. 16 participants remarked that they were most annoyed by technical issues including the quality of the projector. Several participants complained about timing issues leading to delays in the programme and suggested more rigorous time keeping of presentations and breaks.

Overall, the ECSS was a great success and we are looking forward to the next European Conference on Severe Storms in Kraków, Poland from 4-8 November 2019.



Fig.: Conference photo. (c) ESSL, Thomas Schreiner

Awards during the ECSS 2017

The European Severe Storms Laboratory bi-annually presents two awards to outstanding scientists: the [Nikolai Dotzek Award](#) for an outstanding contribution to the science of severe storms and the [Heino Tooming Award](#) for pan-European collaboration in the severe storms research community.

Dr. Joshua Wurman is the **2017 Nikolai Dotzek awardee**. He has been given the award for a) his work on radar techniques including bistatic radar and mobile radars, b) his groundbreaking work in developing the Doppler-on-Wheels radars that were first operated in the large field program VORTEX in the mid 1990's, and c) the outstanding research he has done with the Doppler-on-Wheels and the work which he supervised. This research has revealed



the structure of flow in tornadoes in extreme detail; it has also contributed to important new insight into the immediate environment of tornadoes, and into other weather phenomena that the Doppler-on-Wheels have scanned around the world. The scientific community owes a lot to Dr. Josh Wurman for creating an abundance of research opportunities with the Doppler-on-Wheels data, and for having inspired many future researchers around the world.



The **Heino Tooming Award 2017** has been given to Christoph Gatzert, Michaël Kreitz, Sébastien Leprince, Lisa Schielicke, Maja Rabrenović, and Sven-Eric Enno for their joint work on “Combined analysis of severe convective wind gusts in European data sets”.

In addition, outstanding posters, oral presentations and student contributions were awarded at the ECSS:

The **Best Oral Presentation Jury Award** was given to Alexander Chernokulsky, Michael Kurgansky, Igor Mokhov, Evgeniya Selezneva, Andrey Shikhov, Igor Azhigov, Denis Zakharchenko, Bogdan Antonescu, and Thilo Kühne for: “The modern climatology of Northern Eurasia tornadoes and waterspouts”.

The **Best Poster Jury Award** was given to Shiho Onomura, Kenichi Kusunoki, Hanako Inoue, Naoki Ishitsu, Ken-ichiro Arai and Chusei Fujiwara for: “Statistical features of near-ground tornadic vortices in comparison with radar-observed vortices aloft”.

The **Best Oral Presentation Audience Award** was given to Matthew Parker for: “What have we learned about high-shear low-CAPE severe weather? A review”.

And the **Best Poster Audience Award** was given to Anja Rädler, Tomas Pucik, Pieter Groenemeijer and Lars Tijssen for: “Comparison between European and US severe convective weather environments”.

The ECSS 2017 was organized in cooperation with the Meteorological and Hydrological Service of Croatia, [DHMZ](#), and was kindly supported by [Munich RE](#).



Introduction of: ESSL Research Associate -

Christopher Castellano

We want to give you a view behind the scenes by introducing our ESSL employees. We already introduced our Assistant to the Board, Katja Dorninger, and our ESWD Quality Control Manager, Thilo Kühne. In this issue, we would like to introduce our new research associate, Christopher Castellano.



ESSL: Chris, what was your first impression about ESSL and its activities, when you first got in touch with us?

CC: I must admit that prior to applying for this position, I was not very familiar with ESSL. I found out about this position through the Met-Jobs mailing list maintained by the University of Reading. The job description caught my interest, and after reading more about ESSL on the organization's website, I decided to send my application materials and cover letter to Pieter. My first contact with the ESSL was during the interview process for this position. The Skype interview and subsequent on-site visit provided great opportunities to learn about prior and ongoing research projects, as well as the expectations of the new Research Associate. Ultimately, these positive interactions with Pieter, Alois, and other ESSL staff helped solidify my decision to become a member of the ESSL team.

ESSL: What do you think is the most fascinating part of ESSL?

CC: In my opinion, the most fascinating aspect of ESSL is the diversity of its activities despite limited funding and personnel. ESSL is involved in research (e.g. RAIN, STEPCLIM, ARCS), education (e.g., ESSL Summer School), forecasting (e.g., ESSL Testbed, ESTOFEX), and data collection (ESWD), as well as the organization and execution of an international conference on severe weather (ECSS). The ESSL clearly plays a leading role in advancing scientific knowledge and public awareness of severe weather in Europe.

ESSL: Why did you want to start working for ESSL?

CC: Multiple factors influenced my decision to start working at ESSL. First and foremost, I viewed this position as an incredibly unique life and career opportunity. As an American citizen, living and working in Europe offers many valuable experiences, such as learning a new language and immersing yourself in a foreign culture. More importantly, this position will allow me to build upon the technical skills acquired from previous work experiences and enhance my understanding of topics such as decadal predictability, convective hazards, and risk assessment. Second, my positive interactions with Pieter, Alois, and other ESSL staff convinced me that ESSL would provide a suitable work environment where employees were valued and respected.

ESSL: What are the main challenges you see within your area of responsibility within the coming year?

CC: As an ESSL employee working on both the STEPCLIM and ARCS projects, I foresee two main challenges. First, the limited availability of certain observational datasets and inadequacies in severe weather reporting present major obstacles to improving our understanding of convective hazards in Europe. Second, the fact that ESSL staff and project collaborators are located in several different places makes it more difficult to meet in person and effectively communicate about research problems.

ESSL: Thank you for the interview!

Upcoming Activity Calendar

4 – 8 Jun 2018	Seminar: Forecasting Severe Convection II Dynamics and Prediction of Severe Thunderstorms, by Prof. Paul Markowski from PennState Univ., USA. NEW!	Early bird fee until 1 Feb 2018.
11 – 15 Jun 18 – 22 Jun 2 – 6 Jul 9 – 13 Jul 2018	ESSL Testbed 2018	Early bird fee until 1 Feb 2018.
3 – 7 Sep 2018	EMS Annual Meeting: European Conference for Applied Meteorology and Climatology co-sponsored by ESSL, in Budapest, Hungary	
4 – 7 Sep 2018	International Tornado Standard Working Group Meeting and 3rd ESSL Workshop on Tornado and Windstorm Damage Assessment by ESSL staff and expert guests.	Early bird fee until 30 April 2018.
10 – 14 Sep 2018	Seminar on Forecasting Convective Precipitation and Flash Floods by Prof. Russ Schumacher from Colorado State University, USA NEW!	Early bird fee until 30 April 2018.
1 – 5 Oct 2018	Seminar: Forecasting Severe Convection I by Dr. Tomáš Púčik (ESSL/ESTOFEX)	Early bird fee until 30 April 2018.

The current calendar can always be found on the website: **www.essl.org**

For more information, feel free to contact us at events@essl.org