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European Severe Storms Laboratory e. V. (ESSL) Newsletter 2011-1

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ESSL General Assembly 2010



Last year's ESSL General Assembly (GA) was held during the 2010 Annual Meeting of the European Meteorological Society on 14 September 2010 in Zürich, Switzerland. Besides formal topics, the assembly focused on the future perspectives of the ESSL including some amendments to the Articles of Association, the election of a new extended Executive Board and of a new Advisory Council member. The Advisory Council meeting was prior to the GA.

Pieter Groenemeijer informed the General Assembly about a project proposal, called STEPCLIM, in which ESSL is involved. The goal of STEPCLIM is to investigate the trends of severe storm climatology in Europe within the next decades under the influence of global warming. Furthermore, he gave an update about the recent development within the EWENT (Extreme Weather impacts on European Networks of Transport) project. It has been proposed, that ESSL's share in this project will be increased. ESSL is looking for opportunities to initiate or to participate in future research projects.

New ESSL Executive Board (EB)

The growing number of tasks requires a broader Executive Board which should concentrate on science and management. The new constitution of the Executive Board elected by the General Assembly upon recommendation of the Advisory Council is shown in the following table. The core tasks are defined in the Rules of Procedure of the EB:

<p>Director</p> 	<p>Dr. Pieter Groenemeijer</p> <p>Strategy and Planning International collaboration and external representation Representation towards the bodies of the ESSL Office of Executive Board Technical infrastructure, data protection and IT-security Functionality and development of the ESWD database</p>
<p>Deputy Director</p> 	<p>Dr. Aurora Bell</p> <p>Relations to the public and the media. Development of training activities and workshops Relations to the National Meteorological Services Internal communication to the ESSL members and partners</p>

<p>Deputy Director</p> 	<p>Dr. Bernold Feuerstein</p> <p>Relations to and information exchange with the scientific community and spotter organizations Presentations and scientific media talks Internal quality control manager</p>
<p>Deputy Director</p> 	<p>Dr. Víctor Homar Santaner</p> <p>Scientific development. Scientific project proposals and management. Security and environmental protection</p>
<p>Treasurer</p> 	<p>Mr. Alois M. Holzer</p> <p>Administrative infrastructure Member, employee and customer supervision Financial budget and controlling Finance planning and payroll accounting</p>

The new EB members elected on the General Assembly took over responsibilities on 9 February 2011 after the new Articles of Association have been approved by the registration court.

ESSL Advisory Council (AC)

	<p>Hans-Joachim Koppert</p> <p>The GA elected Hans-Joachim Koppert (DWD) as a new member of the Advisory Council. He is the successor of Gerhard Steinhorst (DWD) who left the Advisory Council due to his retirement.</p>
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New institutional members

DLR (supporting member) – German Aerospace Centre

FMI (full member) – Finnish Meteorological Institute

NMA (full member) – National Meteorological Administration of Romania

CHMI (full member) – Czech Hydrometeorological Institute

New Honorary Members

The General Assembly appointed Nikolai Dotzek's widow Birgit Büsing and his sons Gregor Dotzek and Armin Dotzek as honorary ESSL members in honour of all their support and outstanding merits for the ESSL. They were not only passively supporting the ESSL, but also actively in bringing in new ideas and also in hosting numerous ESSL working dinners in their home. Birgit Büsing stated that ESSL still is and will stay a part of her family and life, and that she has a vivid interest, that ESSL will succeed in its goals.

ESSL Development 2010

Status of the ESWD by 31 December 2010 : 33519 entries.

The total amount of ESSL Executive Board and Staff working hours in 2010 was 4520. Out of this, more than 2400 working hours incurred for ESWD activities like data entries or quality control of severe weather reports.

New ESSL Staff members

Susanne Haeseler (D), ESWD Quality Controller (part time job)

Magdalena Pichler (A), Assistant to the Executive Board (part time job)

Mathias Stampfl (A), ESWD Quality Controller (part time job)

ESSL Scientific Projects



EWENT

ESSL takes part in the European Commission's project EWENT (Extreme Weather impacts on European Networks of Transport) since December 2009. ESSL's share in the project has been expanded in order to perform research on convective wind gusts and low visibility situations, that were initially assigned to the German Aerospace Center DLR. Because of DLR (and ESSL's) loss of Dr. Nikolai Dotzek, these tasks could not be performed at DLR any more and were assigned to ESSL.

The current activities within event concentrate on assessing the capability of reanalysis model data to represent small-scale and short-lived wind gusts, and to assess the temporal trend of the occurrence of low visibility at major European airports. The work is carried out in particularly close collaboration with the Finnish Meteorological Institute. Results of ESSL's research activities within EWENT are expected to become available to the public later this year.

Validation of a new hail parameterization for use in climate models

ESSL is involved in a project in collaboration with the U.K. Met Office which will start at a kick-off meeting later in the spring of 2011. This project comprises the evaluation and improvement of a new hail parameterization developed at the Met Office to be applied to a climate model. For the evaluation and calibration of the parameterization data from the ESWD will be used.

Training and Testbed

In addition to the above ongoing projects, and the STEPCLIM project application mentioned above in the General Assembly section, ESSL is working together with partners in Europe to set up a training facility for forecasters directed to forecasting severe storms. This training facility will at the same time function as a testbed for experimental forecasting tools. More information about this will follow on the website and in upcoming Newsletters.

DWD Tornado Workshop

ESSL participated at the second DWD Tornado Workshop in Offenbach, during 18-19.11.2010. In conjunction with this workshop was organized an ESSL meeting including new EB members on November 20th ; have been and established new roles of EB members, organizing ECSS milestones and strategy with new projects and cooperation.

6th European Conference on Severe Storms (ECSS) 2011



The organizers of the 6th ECSS, the Universitat de les Illes Balears and the European Severe Storms Laboratory cordially invite you to participate in the conference which will be held in Palma de Mallorca, Balearic Islands, Spain, from 3 to 7 October 2011.

More information regarding the conference is found at the Conference website: www.ecss.eu/2011

Local website:

<http://www.uibcongres.org/congresos/ficha.en.html?cc=200>

The EB members visited the conference site during their meeting in Palma from 23 to 25 January 2011.

New ESSL Website

The EB acknowledges Pieter Groenemeijer's work for the new website now CMS-based: <http://www.essl.org/>

German TV documentary on windstorms

ESSL members Bernold Feuerstein and Pieter Groenemeijer appeared in a German TV documentary on windstorms of the Bayerischer Rundfunk (Bavarian Broadcasting). It aired on 20 February 2011 and is available online:

<http://www.br-online.de/bayerisches-fernsehen/faszination-wissen/faszination-wissen-video-stuerme-ID1298384242802.xml>

Aurora Bell
(Deputy Director)

Bernold Feuerstein
(Deputy Director)

Pieter Groenemeijer
(Director)