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European Severe Storms Laboratory Newsletter 2013-2

No. 9 September 2013



2013

ESSL Testbed

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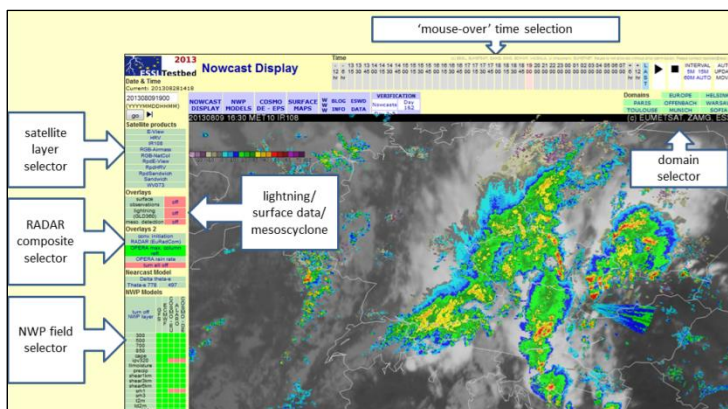
From 1 to 26 July 2013, the second edition of the ESSL Testbed took place at ESSL's Research and Training Centre in Wiener Neustadt, Austria.

Over 50 participants from 20 different countries, including both researchers and forecasters, worked closely together on putting new forecast supporting products and methods to the test.



Testbed participants discussing a severe weather event

This year, the following new products were evaluated: the Mesocyclone Detection Algorithm and the Convective Initiation product from DWD as well as the Nearcast Model of Ralph Peterson of the University of Wisconsin. New versions of the products NowcastMix, GLD360 and COSMO-DE-EPS were once more part of the Testbeds product evaluations.



Testbed "Nowcast Display"

The Testbed 2013 featured an upgraded workstation-like "Date Interface" for the participants to work with. It featured new possibilities to combine model satellite and radar data and to use it for severe convective storms forecasting using the ingredients-based method. For example, maps of low level moisture and mid tropospheric lapse rates could be used to track these two basic ingredients for deep moist

convection which combine to form CAPE. After the Testbed, the “Data Interface” can be accessed at <http://www.essl.org/testbed/data>

Given the variety of backgrounds of the participants, an important goal of the Testbed was again to acquaint its participants with severe weather forecasting methods and techniques that work universally.

The cooperation with EUMETCAL made it possible to broadcast 19 “Expert Lectures” online to remote participants all over Europe, in the USA and even to Hongkong. The participating researchers and developers provided background information on their products and internationally renowned experts in forecasting presented their viewpoints on storm forecasting.

The 2013 Testbed was organized in close collaboration with the Austrian Central Institute for Meteorology and Geodynamics (ZAMG) and supported by EUMETSAT, DWD, WMO Region VI, VAISALA, the state of Lower Austria and EUMETCAL.

The registration for the 2014 Testbed, to be organized from 2 – 27 June and 13 – 24 October 2014, will open soon at <http://essl.org/testbed>. Early rates will be available until 1 January 2014, and ESSL-members (or their employees) benefit from additional discounts.

ECSS2013 in Helsinki

From 3 to 7 June 2013 the 7th European Conference on Severe Storms took place in the Marina Congress Center in Helsinki, Finland.



FINNISH METEOROLOGICAL INSTITUTE

The conference was jointly organized by ESSL and the Finnish Meteorological Institute FMI. The Scientific Programme Committee was chaired by Dr. Harold Brooks from the National Severe Storms Laboratory in the USA.

210 participants from around the world attended the conference. A conference blog together with a selection of photos can be found on the ESSL conference webpage at <http://www.ecss.eu>.

At the closing session two awards were given by ESSL to outstanding scientists. The second **Nikolai Dotzek Award** was presented to Dr. Charles A. Doswell III for his lifetime achievement.

The fourth **Heino Tooming Award** to 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 Pedeboy, Hans-Dieter Betz, Kostas Lagouvardos, Pascal Ortega, Gilles Molinie and Patrice Blanchet for their presentation "An overview of the electrical activity recorded during PEACH, the

atmospheric electricity component of HYMEX". More information about these Awards is available on the ESSL website.

A side-meeting of the ECSS was dedicated to the "Convection Working Group" (CWG), which is jointly chaired by EUMETSAT (Dr. Marianne König) and ESSL (Dr. Martin Setvak, CHMI).

The next ECSS will take place from 14 to 18 September 2015 in Wiener Neustadt, Austria.

Parties interested in organizing one of the upcoming ECSS events (2017, 2019) are invited to contact the ESSL Executive Board (eb@essl.org). For the 2017 ECSS candidates should indicate this interest to the ESSL board before the end of this year, in order that they can be considered.

ESSL General Assembly 2013

On 4 June 2013, the annual ESSL General Assembly took place as a side meeting of the ECSS in Helsinki, Finland.

After the reports of the members of the Executive Board and the acceptance of the last Annual Accounts and Annual Report, the General Assembly voted positively on the exoneration of the Executive Board.



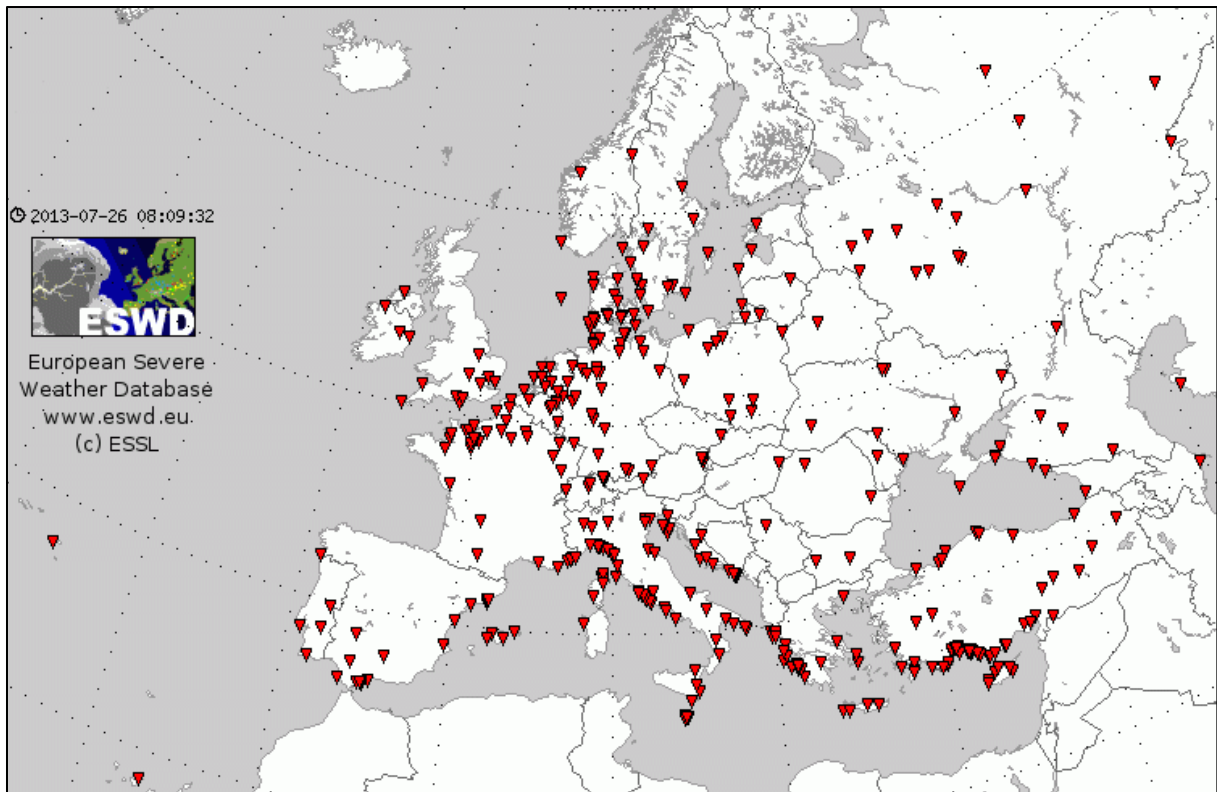
The next General Assembly is planned as a side meeting of the EMS annual meeting in Prague (6 – 10 October 2014).

ESWD Overview 2012 - II



In our last newsletter we informed about the total number of severe weather reports entered in 2012 and the respective quality control levels.

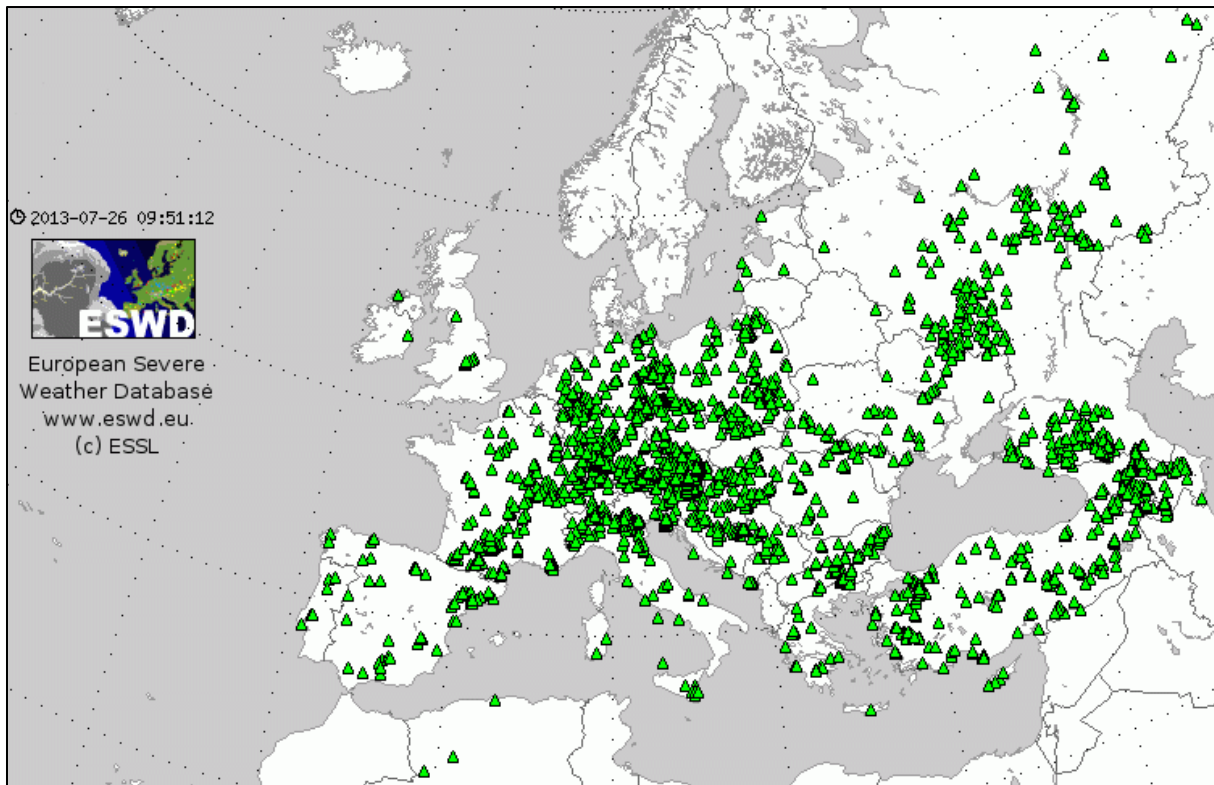
In this edition, we present the number of events in the different severe weather types.



All tornado reports (QC0 – QC2) of the year 2012: 459 total over land and water

	Tornadoes over land	Tornadoes over water	Large hail reports	Heavy rain reports	Severe wind gust reports	All reports including other types
≥QC0	190	269	2258	1988	2708	9019
≥QC0+	176	219	2186	1923	2588	8600
≥QC1	138	201	1691	1602	2286	7307
Max values ≥QC1	F3	11 waterspouts at one event	9 cm	415 mm / 36 h 343 mm / 12 h 212 mm / 24 h 136 mm / 6 h	F2 48,3 m/s	

Table data as of 26 July 2013



All ESWD large hail reports (QC0 – QC2) from 1 January to 31 December 2012: 2258 reports in total

New Members

Recently two national hydro-meteorological services became new full institutional ESSL members, the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute with seat in Bratislava and the Meteorological and Hydrological Service of Croatia with seat in Zagreb.



Državni hidrometeorološki zavod



In addition “Guy Carpenter Ltd.” and “AIR Worldwide” became institutional supporting members. We wholeheartedly welcome also the new personal ESSL members!

Wessling, 10 September 2013

Pieter Groenemeijer, Director
 Kathrin Riemann-Campe, Deputy Director
 Alois M. Holzer, Treasurer