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# European Severe Storms Laboratory

## Newsletter 2019-1

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### ESSL develops new EWOB backend and cooperation model

ESSL has now upgraded its APIs for the exchange of crowd-sourced weather data on the basis of a new list of weather phenomena established at the ESWD and EWOB User Forum in March 2018. The system now allows data from various sources, including nationally operated weather apps, storm spotters and emergency services to be uploaded and downloaded from the international EWOB database hosted by ESSL. Interested weather services are invited to start using this possibility in test mode. In addition ESSL have developed a draft collaborative agreement that could serve as a model for the cooperation. ESSL are happy to send you more information. Please contact [pieter.groenemeijer@essl.org](mailto:pieter.groenemeijer@essl.org).

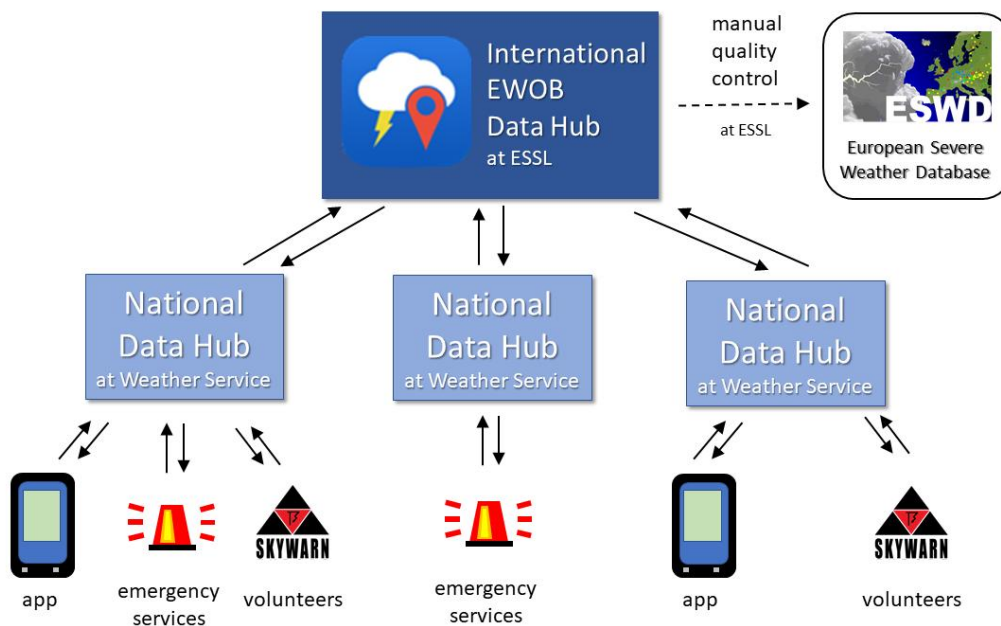


Fig: EWOB cooperation scheme.



## Seminar on Forecasting Severe Convection

Tomáš Púčik will present his seminar on 'Forecasting Severe Convection' (FSCI) at the ESSL Research and Training Centre in Wiener Neustadt, Austria, during October 7-11 this year.

Púčik is as passionate about forecasting severe convective storms as one can be. And alongside his past experience in forecasting severe weather at the CHMI, at the SHMU, and at ESTOFEX, he is an active researcher in severe storm environments at the ESSL – Dr. Tomáš Púčik, our senior trainer for this seminar.



Figure: Tomáš Púčik

Tomáš Púčik says:

“Basic concepts of (severe) convection forecasting are introduced with an emphasis on the ingredients based methodology. For each ingredient I will present its importance for the convection along its diagnosis and prognosis. A special emphasis is put on the identification of “lift” or the process of convective initiation. After the basic ingredients, we are going to look into vertical wind shear, especially on its influence on the different organisational forms of convection (single cells, multicells, supercells). For each form, we are going to investigate its basic conceptual model and relate it to the potential for severe weather. Further, we will concentrate on the synoptic and mesoscale patterns that are supportive of severe convection and negative factors that may degrade the severe convection risk. In the end, we are going to look at different types of severe weather, their link to the large-scale conditions and individual storm types.”

The four afternoon exercises will deal with interesting cases of severe convection in Europe. Tomáš Púčik: “Afternoon exercises will involve forecasting convection either in the current situation or using past cases for different parts of Europe in the groups. After the forecast, a discussion will follow with an emphasis on the subject that was studied during the morning”.

Optionally, ESSL offers the opportunity to take an exam (“[European Testimonial on Forecasting Severe Convection I / II](#)”) in connection with our seminars. The Friday afternoon on-site Testimonial can be taken without extra cost to the regular seminar fee.

More detailed information on the [seminar FSC I](#) and how to register can be found on our [web pages](#).



## Introduction of: Deputy Director – Kathrin Riemann-Campe

We want to give you a view behind the scenes by introducing our ESSL employees. In this issue, we would like to introduce our deputy director, Kathrin Riemann-Campe.



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

Fig: Kathrin Riemann-Campe

**KRC:** I made my first contacts with the severe storms community during an exchange semester with the School of Meteorology in Oklahoma in 2004, which led to Harold Brooks supervising my Bachelor Thesis. It was actually Harold who told me about the ESSL. Afterwards, I was able to convince Nikolai Dotzek to become part of my PhD committee, at the University of Hamburg between 2007 and 2010. I first met Nikolai and the ESSL team during the ECSS in Trieste in 2007. I was and I am still fascinated not only by the science of severe storms but also the passion and energy with which the ESSL team is working on this topic.

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

**KRC:** The passion with which people are working at ESSL, which is visible to me in two ways: 1) ESSL is a non-profit association. Several employees and members of the ESSL team work for little or no money. They could do similar work at other companies and earning a lot more. However, the team working for ESSL prefers to stay at ESSL and give it their energy and time. They rank work done at ESSL over work done somewhere else with higher pay checks. 2) Even though ESSL's statutory seat is located in southern Germany, the majority of the ESSL team works several hundreds of kilometres away in several different countries, which makes work sometimes complicated. Moreover, many team members work for ESSL in addition to other job positions, e.g. I am also working as a Postdoc in the sea-ice physics section at the Alfred Wegener Institute in northern Germany.

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

**KRC:** In 2011, I received a phone call by Pieter Groenemeijer who informed me that the ESSL team was recruiting. I was thrilled to become part of the ESSL team. Even though I had just started a Postdoc position in the field of sea-ice physics, joining the ESSL team gave me the chance to stay in the field of severe storms research, too. My personal wish is to combine both fields of research. And thus I joined the ESSL team as deputy director in 2012.

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

**KRC:** As mentioned above, I not only enjoy working in the field of severe storms research but also being a member of a team which is highly motivated. I always get a high motivation boost after meeting my colleagues either virtually or in person. At the same time, I love the time with my family and enjoy working as a Postdoc. My very personal challenge is to give everybody its fair share of time.

**ESSL:** Kathrin, thank you for the interview!



## ESSL Event calendar

Date(s)	Event (click on the respective link for more information)	
3 – 7 Jun 24 – 28 Jun 1 – 5 Jul 15 – 19 Jul 2019	<a href="#">ESSL Testbed 2019</a>	
9 – 13 Sep 2019	<b><a href="#">EMS Annual Meeting: European Conference for Applied Meteorology and Climatology</a></b> co-sponsored by ESSL, in Copenhagen, Denmark	
23 – 27 Sep 2019	<b>Seminar: <a href="#">Aviation Forecasting of Severe Convection</a> <span style="color: red;">NEW!</span></b> by Dr. Tomáš Púčik (ESSL/ESTOFEX)	Early bird fee until 30 Apr 2019.
7 – 11 Oct 2019	<b>Seminar: <a href="#">Forecasting Severe Convection (FSC I)</a> <span style="color: red;">New course dates!</span></b> by Dr. Tomáš Púčik (ESSL/ESTOFEX)	Early bird fee until 30 Apr 2019.
21 – 25 Oct 2019	<b>On site training: Forecasting of Severe Convection – closed event (non-public) at ARPAL in Genova, IT</b> by Dr. Tomáš Púčik (ESSL/ESTOFEX)	
4 – 8 Nov 2019	<b><a href="#">ECSS 2019</a></b> in Kraków, Poland Local Organizing Partner: <a href="#">IMGW</a>	Abstract deadline: 24 April 2019, early bird fee until 14 July 2019
Late summer 2020	<b><a href="#">4th ESSL Workshop on Tornado and Windstorm Damage Assessment</a></b> by ESSL staff and expert guests.	
Autumn 2020	<b>Seminar: <a href="#">Forecasting Convective Precipitation and Flash Floods</a></b>	
Autumn 2021	<b>ECSS2021 – European Conference on Severe Storms</b> open for local partnership proposals	

**Unsure which seminar to attend? [Try out our Quiz!](#)**

For further information about the registration for these events, please contact us at: email: [events@essl.org](mailto:events@essl.org)

In addition please approach us for tailored trainings or forecaster training on-the-job.