ANNUAL REPORT 2007



European Severe Storms Laboratory

ESSL e. V.

c/o Dr. Nikolai Dotzek DLR-IPA, Oberpfaffenhofen Münchner Str. 20 82234 Wessling Tel.: +49-8153-28-1845 Fax: +49-8153-28-1841

nikolai.dotzek@essl.org

http://essl.org

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1. INTRODUCTION

Severe thunderstorms inflict a total damage of 5 to 8 billion € all over Europe each year.

Even without any climate change impact, this annual amount of damage is far too high to be neglected. The European Severe Storms Laboratory, ESSL, tackles this problem by:

- Fundamental and applied research on severe convective storms in Europe;
- Operation of the European Severe Weather Database, ESWD;
- Organisation of the European Conferences on Severe Storms, ECSS.

The European Severe Storms Laboratory e. V. was founded as a private, non-profit research organisation in December 2006, so 2007 was ESSL's first full business year. It is a spin-off of German Aerospace Center DLR in Oberpfaffenhofen, and relies on the long-term expertise of its international team. Presently, the ESSL office is located at DLR-*Institut für Physik der Atmosphäre*.

ESSL recruited its first part-time collaborators in 2007. The mid-term goal is to reach fulltime employment of the Executive Board members by 2010 and a critical mass of about 10 full-time equivalent positions until 2012. The long-term vision is to create permanent ESSL facilities in central Europe hosting about 100 employees, about half of which are funded by research project third-party funds.

The present Annual Report reviews ESSL's very first steps in this direction.

Nikolai Dotzek, ESSL Director

The Annual Report was approved by the

- ESSL Advisory Council on 2 October 2008, and by the
- ESSL General Assembly on 2 October 2008.

4 Scientific report



2. SCIENTIFIC REPORT

2.1. SCIENCE

One major building block of ESSL's scientific activities is the application of its European Severe Weather Database (ESWD) to climatological studies of severe thunderstorms in Europe. Other potential applications of the ESWD lie in the verification of forecast and nowcast products, or warnings. The latter applications must be done in collaboration with national weather services or research organisations involved in forecasting or warning, as these are not within the scope of ESSL's activities. Verification studies of this kind in cooperation with the German weather service DWD have been described by Dotzek et al. (2006) or Dotzek et al. (2007c). Here, we highlight climatological results which had been unavailable before the establishment of the ESSL.



Figure 1: Left: Short-term (2000-2007) map of tornado incidence in Europe as a primary metric of tornado hazard is given in number of ESWD reports per year per 10,000 km² on a 1° x 1° latitude-longitude grid. Right: Comparison of long-term tornado intensity distributions from the USA (boxes, 1920-1999) and Europe (diamonds, 1880-2006) over wind speed and Fujita scale. The smooth curves are fits by Weibull distributions from F1 to F5 intensity (www.essl.org/research/ and Dotzek et al., 2007c).

Fig. 1 shows an enhanced tornado hazard extending from the United Kingdom over the Benelux countries, Germany and Poland towards the Baltic States. This corroborates the earlier findings by Wegener (1917), but needs further substantiation as the ESWD records grow. Presently, about 3500 reports are added to the ESWD each year, with growing homogeneity all over Europe. So while the years 2000-2004 are still subject to an inhomogeneous reporting also reflected in Fig. 1, this should improve quickly in the future. Similar results follow for other main ESWD phenomena, see www.essl.org/research/.

The right panel of Fig. 1 presents an analysis in which inhomogeneous reporting does not play a significant role, as only the numbers of tornado reports with F-scale rating enter this intensity distribution. In comparison with data from the USA, a remarkable similarity of the two distributions emerges, except for the weak F0 tornadoes for which strong underreporting seems to persist in Europe. Of course, the number of reported events has risen strongly over time both in the USA (since 1950) and Europe (since 2000). For this reason, long time series have been used which both include this reporting trend. From the similarity of the two distributions for higher intensities, we can expect strongly rising numbers of weak tornado reports in Europe – and a hazard of even F4 and F5 tornadoes.



In late 2006 and 2007, ESSL was involved in four proposals to the European Commission or the European Science Foundation for research projects. The rules of EU-projects specify that the ESSL has to cover up to 25% of its total costs in the project from its own resources. The first three proposals were coordinated by the ESSL Director and dealt with development of the ESWD database (ESWD, eContent*plus* programme), European storm risk (ESTRAGO, FP7 collaborative project) and with the effects of climate change on severe storms (STORM-CLIMATE, ERC starting grant). The fourth was a proposal for a COST Action on "Severe thunderstorm forecasting" coordinated by ESSL founding member Jenni Teittinen of the Finnish Meteorological Institute FMI. The ESWD eContent*plus* and the ESTRAGO proposal were backed up by a number of Statements of Interest by potential ESWD users, see Table 1. Yet unfortunately, none of these proposals was invited for grant agreement negotiations, despite generally good evaluation results.

Table 1: Statements of Interest received for use of ESSL research services or the ESWD database within the ESWD eContent*plus* and ESTRAGO proposals.

	Organisation	CC	Sector
1	Munich Re Group AG	DE	Reinsurance
2	Deutsche Rück AG	DE	Reinsurance
3	Louis Braun GmbH	DE	Reinsurance
4	Risk Prediction Initiative, Garrett Park	US/BM	Reinsurance
5	Allianz Zentrum für Technik GmbH	DE	Insur. / Consult.
6	Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co., Ltd	JP/US	Insurance
7	Association of Insurance Companies Greece	GR	Insurance
8	WMO-Global Climate Observing System	INT	Research
9	NOAA-National Severe Storms Laboratory	US	Research
10	Naval Research Laboratory	US	Research
11	NowCast mobile GmbH	DE	Research
12	ESPERE Association	PL	Training
13	Panagia Philanthropini	GR	Social / Health
14	Bulgarian State Agency for Information Technology & Communications	BG	Information
15	Hellenic Republic Region of Central Macedonia	GR	Administration

However, other collaborative actions on a smaller scale were more successful. First of all, climatological research results based on the ESWD data for Germany contribute to the BMBF-funded project RegioExAKT. Another small applied and third-party-funded research project aiming at the specific damaging wind hazard in the Munich region in southern Germany was successfully completed.

A further collaboration within a small research and development project is still in progress with German weather service DWD and will terminate in 2008. This DWD-funded project enabled the development of a major upgrade of the ESWD-Software and in addition creation of software to read and apply ESWD reports in the verification of severe weather forecasts and warnings issued by DWD.

An already existing collaboration could also be put on a firmer basis in 2007. At the EMS Annual Meeting 2007, a cooperation agreement with the European Meteorological Society was signed. There had already been an individual collaboration with the EMS in which Fulvio Stel and Dario Giaiotti, two of ESSL's founding members, had organised a dedicated "Atmospheric Hazards" session at the EMS Annual Meetings in recent years. Establishing tighter cooperation with the EMS was one of ESSL's statutory tasks.



2.2. ECSS CONFERENCE AND HEINO TOOMING AWARD

The ESSL hosted and initiated the web pages for the European Conference on Severe Storms (ECSS) 2007, see www.essl.org/ECSS/2007/). Two ESSL founding members (Fulvio Stel and Dario Giaiotti) were the main organisers of this successful conference which took place from 10-14 September 2007 in the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Trieste. The ECSS was attended by about 150 participants from Europe and the USA. From 5-7 September 2007, the organisers had already held the traditional dedicated EUMETSAT training workshop. Members of the ESSL Executive Board further contributed to the scientific programme committee (SPC) of the ECSS and so assured the quality of the submitted conference presentations as well as of the proceedings prepared later on as refereed publications in the journal *Atmospheric Research*.

The Heino Tooming award presented for the first time at the ECSS 2007 commemorates this late Estonian tornado researcher (22 Oct 1930-18 Sept 2004) who had inspired so many younger scientists at the ECSS conferences in 2000 and 2002. The Tooming award is endowed with a prize of $300 \in$.

Eligible for the award is any outstanding scientific presentation at the ECSS conference 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.

At the ECSS 2007, the first Heino Tooming award was presented to Marianne König (EUMETSAT), Monika Pajek, and Piotr Struzik (both IMGW, Poland) for their poster "Air stability indices derived from satellite data as convection and storm predictors". The poster is reproduced in Appendix A.1.

2.3. PUBLICATIONS AND OUTREACH

The ESSL web site (www.essl.org) was further developed and enhanced by more information for the public. This aimed at presenting the newly-founded ESSL and at raising awareness of the ESWD database with its public web interface www.essl.org/ESWD/. Background information on the ESWD can be found at www.essl.org/projects/ESWD/.

For the same purposes, and to attract new ESSL members or registered ESWD data users, an information flyer, a poster and tailored presentations for NMHS and private-sector users were developed, updated and presented at various meetings, workshops and conferences. In addition to the list of meetings in Sec. 2.3.1, ESSL members also attended the *3rd Extremwetterkongress* in Hamburg, Germany, with its special audience of scientists and weather services as well as the public and the media.

Several ESSL Executives and founding members had presentations at national and international meetings or forecaster training and public educational workshops. A number of manuscripts for formal publications have been prepared (Sec. 2.3.2), and the ESSL Director is a Contributing Author of the current IPCC 4th Assessment Report (IPCC, 2007).

For a more educational academic purpose, the ESSL also makes a number of important older publications available in electronic form. These papers and books are neither copyright-protected any more, nor easily available from libraries nowadays, and yet they



still bear a great significance as resources for contemporary research. Among others, these are the works by Reye (1872), Wegener (1917), Letzmann (1923, 1939), or Koschmieder and Letzmann (1939).

We have received the feedback at the ECSS 2007 conference that ESSL's outreach was too much focused on Central Europe in its first year, and that a more balanced distribution of ESSL activities or representatives in the bodies of the association should be pursued. This message was heard and understood.

While the ten founding members already represented seven European countries, ESSL's activities in 2007 were indeed focused on more local collaborations in order to quickly and effectively advance the new association in its first business year. We intend to broaden the perimeter of ESSL activities in 2008 and also to enlist candidates to the Advisory Council from a balanced distribution of countries.

Suggestions by the ESSL members are welcome!

2.3.1. PRESENTATIONS AND POSTERS

- Berling, A., and B. Feuerstein, 2007: War der Tornado von Hamburg vorhersehbar? 2nd Extremwetterkongress, Hamburg, 23 March 2007.
- Dotzek, N., and P. Groenemeijer, 2006: European Severe Weather Database, ESWD: Eine europaweite Unwetter– Datenbank für Klimatologie, Risikoanalyse, und Verifikation von Vorhersagen und Warnungen. 7. Deutsche Klimatagung, Munich, 10 October 2006.
- Dotzek, N., 2006: Tornados und lokale Unwetter in Deutschland (Statistische) Klimatologie auf Basis von Ereignismeldungen. *Fachschaftstagung Cusanuswerk*, Bonn, 14 October 2006.
- Dotzek, N., T. Kratzsch, and P. Groenemeijer, 2006: The European Severe Weather Database ESWD: An inventory of convective high-impact weather events for forecast and warning evaluation, climatology, and risk assessment. *2nd THORPEX Int. Science Symposium (STISS)*, Landshut, 4-8 December 2006. (Poster)
- Dotzek, N., P. Groenemeijer, F. Stel, and D. Giaiotti, 2007: European Severe Weather Database, ESWD: Motivation and Current Status. 2nd EU–India Strategic S&T Workshop on Climate Change Research Needs, New Delhi, 9 February 2007.
- Dotzek, N., B. Feuerstein, and P. Groenemeijer, 2007: European Severe Storms Laboratory. 2nd Extremwetterkongress, Hamburg, 22-23 March 2007. (Poster)
- Dotzek, N., 2007: Potential benefits for pan-European forecasting of severe storms from the establishment of a "European Storm Prediction Centre" according to the US model. *2nd Int. Workshop "Severe Storms over Europe – A Cross–Border Perspective of Disaster Reduction*", Akademie Schloss Hohenkammer, DKKV, 27 March 2007.
- Dotzek, N., B. Feuerstein, and P. Groenemeijer, 2007: European Severe Storms Laboratory. *Stiftung Umwelt und Schadenvorsorge, Symposium 2007 Extremwetter: Vorhersage und Schadensvorbeugung*, Sparkassenakademie Rastatt, 29-30 March 2007. (Poster)
- Dotzek, N., 2007: Derivation of physically motivated wind speed scales The E-scale concept. *4th European Conference on Severe Storms*, Trieste, 10-14 September 2007. (Poster)
- Dotzek, N., P. Groenemeijer, and B. Feuerstein, 2007: Overview of ESSL research on severe storms climatology -ESWD database and reporting, intensity distributions, and verification. *4th European Conference on Severe Storms*, Trieste, 11 September 2007.
- Dotzek, N., P. Groenemeijer, and B. Feuerstein, 2007: The European Severe Weather Database (ESWD) Design, quality-control and applications. *7th EMS Annual Meeting*, San Lorenzo de El Escorial, 1 October 2007.
- Dotzek, N., P. Groenemeijer, and B. Feuerstein, 2007: The European Severe Weather Database (ESWD) Design, quality-control and applications. *3rd ESA International Geohazards Workshop*, Frascati, 8 November 2007.
- Friedrich, A., 2007: Tornadoes in Germany Treatment at DWD. *4th European Conference on Severe Storms*, Trieste, 10-14 September 2007.
- Peyraud, L., C. Salamin, A. Hering, and U. Germann, 2007: Analysis of the 18 July 2005 Tornadic Supercell over the Lake Geneva Region. *4th European Conference on Severe Storms*, Trieste, 10-14 September 2007. (Oral and Poster)



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- Doswell, C. A. III, H. E. Brooks, and N. Dotzek, 2007: On the implementation of the Enhanced Fujita scale in the USA. Submitted to *Atmos. Res.*
- Dotzek, N., 2007a: Potential benefits for pan-European forecasting of severe storms from the establishment of a "European Storm Prediction Centre" according to the US model. Prepr., 2nd Int. Workshop "Severe Storms over Europe – A Cross-Border Perspective of Disaster Reduction", Akademie Schloss Hohenkammer, DKKV, 26-28 March 2007, 3 pp.
- Dotzek, N., 2007b: Derivation of physically motivated wind speed scales. Submitted to Atmos. Res.
- Dotzek, N., and P. Groenemeijer, 2006: European Severe Weather Database ESWD Eine europaweite Unwetter-Datenbank für Klimatologie, Risikoanalyse, und Verifikation von Vorhersagen und Warnungen. Preprints, 7. Deutsche Klimatagung, Munich, 9-11 October 2006, 3 pp.
- Dotzek, N., and K. Friedrich, 2007: Downburst-producing thunderstorms in southern Germany: Radar analysis and predictability. Submitted to *Atmos. Res.*
- Dotzek, N., T. Kratzsch, and P. Groenemeijer, 2006: The European Severe Weather Database (ESWD): An inventory of convective high-impact weather events for forecast and warning evaluation, climatology, and risk assessment. Preprints, 2nd THORPEX Int. Science Symposium (STISS), Landshut, 4-8 December 2006, WMO/TD No. 1355, WWRP/THORPEX No. 7, 228-229.
- Dotzek, N., P. Lang, M. Hagen, T. Fehr, and W. Hellmiss, 2007a: Doppler radar observation, CG lightning activity, and aerial survey of a multiple downburst in southern Germany on 23 March 2001. *Atmos Res.*, **83**, 519-533.
- Dotzek, N., R. E. Peterson, B. Feuerstein, and M. Hubrig, 2007b: Comments on "A simple model for simulating tornado damage in forests". *J. Appl. Meteor. Climatol.*, in press.
- Dotzek, N., P. Groenemeijer, B. Feuerstein, and A. M. Holzer, 2007c: Overview of ESSL's severe convective storms research using the European Severe Weather Database ESWD. Submitted to *Atmos. Res.*
- Groenemeijer, P. H., and A. J. van Delden, 2007: Sounding-derived parameters associated with large hail and tornadoes in the Netherlands. *Atmos. Res.*, **83**, 473-487.
- IPCC (Eds.), 2007: Climate Change 2007 The Physical Science Basis. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 996 pp.
- Kaltenböck, R., G. Diendorfer, and N. Dotzek, 2007: Evaluation of thunderstorm indices from ECMWF analyses, lightning data and severe storm reports. Submitted to *Atmos. Res.*
- Koschmieder, H., and J. P. Letzmann, 1939: Erforschung von Tromben (Research on tornadoes). Anlage XI, 85-90. In: Secretariat de l'Organisation Météorologique Internationale (Ed.), Klimatologische Kommission, Protokolle der Tagung in Salzburg, 13.-17. September 1937. IMO Publ. Nr. 38, Edouard Ijdo, Leyde, 149 pp. [In German, with commenting English letters by J. B. Kincer, U. S. Weather Bureau, available at www.essl.org under "References"]
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- Letzmann, J. P., 1939: Richtlinien zur Erforschung von Tromben, Tornados, Wasserhosen und Kleintromben (Guidelines for research on tornadoes, waterspouts, and whirlwinds). Anlage XI, 91-110. In: Secretariat de l'Organisation Météorologique Internationale (Ed.), Klimatologische Kommission, Protokolle der Tagung in Salzburg, 13.-17. September 1937. IMO Publ. Nr. 38, Edouard Ijdo, Leyde, 149 pp. [In German, available at www.essl.org under "References"]
- Rauhala, J., and D. M. Schultz, 2007: Severe thunderstorm and tornado warnings in Europe. Submitted to *Atmos. Res.*, submitted.
- Reye, T., 1872: Die Wirbelstürme, Tornados und Wettersäulen in der Erdatmosphäre mit Berücksichtigung der Stürme in der Sonnen-Atmosphäre (The cyclones and tornadoes in the earth's atmosphere, considering also storms in the solar atmosphere). Carl Rümpler, Hannover, 250 pp. [In German, available at www.essl.org under "References"]
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3. TECHNICAL REPORT

3.1. ESWD VERSION 2

The technical work in 2006 and 2007 focused on the operation and development of the European Severe Weather Database (ESWD). Version 2 of the database software was installed on the web server prior to the formal founding of ESSL in December 2006. With help of volunteers, several translations of the English interfaces have been developed. Version 2 is available in the following additional languages: German, French, Spanish, Finnish, Italian, Dutch, and Slovenian.

The ESWD V1.40 data format description appeared as ESSL Technical Report 2006-1. It is available from the ESSL website under "Publications". The ESWD V.2 output for registered users is illustrated in Sec. 3.5.

3.2. New users

The statutory cooperation of the ESSL with national meteorological services (NMHS) has been advanced by finding three of them as partners of the ESWD. To facilitate this, an ESWD software version and associated data transfer procedure were developed that allows the ESWD to be installed locally. The partner organisations are thus enabled to access and submit severe weather events through their locally installed ESWD. Once per day, their data is synchronised with that of the ESSL database by FTP (file transfer protocol) file exchange. Partners DWD (Germany), ZAMG (Austria) and INM (Spain) have received the version 2 software and have installed those on their local computer systems. With DWD and ZAMG, a regular data transfer has successfully been set up.

In addition to the partners above, one commercial user of the data has registered in 2007.

3.3. ESWD VERSION 3 DEVELOPMENT

ESWD Version 2 lacks the possibility of editing or deleting severe weather reports simultaneously in both the partner's dataset and that of the ESSL: any deleted entry would remain present in the other instance of the same data. Additionally, editing submitted data is still relatively cumbersome. DWD started a project with ESSL to improve the ESWD in those respects and enable the usage of ESWD data for the verification of DWD's warnings and forecasts. This required a redesign of the ESWD database to make it compatible with established professional database packages such as Oracle and MySQL. The work on this assignment started in October 2007 and continues into 2008.

3.4. ECSS CONFERENCE WEBSITES

The ESSL provided the web space and resources on its server for the websites of the 4th ECSS 2007 conference (www.essl.org/ECSS/2007/). Initial web pages were set up by the Director. These were then modified and extended by Fulvio Stel and Dario Giaiotti, two of the ESSL funding members, who were the organisers of the ECSS 2007.



3.5. TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION OF ESWD VERSION 2 OUTPUT

a) Digital, geo-referenced maps



Figure 2: All ESWD reports from 1 January 1950 to 31 December 2007 (n = 9868, **left**) and for the year 2007 (n = 3413, **right**). Red: tornadoes, yellow: straight-line winds >25 m/s, green: hail >2 cm, blue: heavy precipitation / flash flooding, white: funnel clouds, orange: lesser whirlwinds (gustnadoes, dust devils). Database enquiry: 7 September 2008.

b) HTML table (Selected event: F4 Pforzheim tornado, Germany, 10 July 1968)

Ittersbach, Pforzheimterrain: hilly land use: rural area (crops, grassland, both or unknown), town or city land use where event was first observed: rural area (crops, grassland, both or unknown) F4 T8, the intensity rating was based on a written account of the damage (e.g. in a newspaper). total event duration: 20 min. The funnel cloud was observed. Suction vortices were not observed. path length: 35 km, maximum path width: 1000 m, direction of movement: W-E damage to property: DM:150M, damage to crops and forests: 170kFm number of people injured: 300, number of people dead: 2 Same cell as T7/F3 tornado at Sarrebourg, Eschbourg, Hagenau This report has been verified.	Tornado	based on: information from an eye-witness report, a report in scientific literature, a newspaper report, a television or radio broadcast, a report by a weather service, a report on a website
BW, Germany (48.9055 N, 08.5270 E)Iand use where event was first observed: rural area (crops, grassland, both or unknown) F4 T8, the intensity rating was based on a written account of the damage (e.g. in a newspaper). total event duration: 20 min. The funnel cloud was observed. Suction vortices were not observed. path length: 35 km, maximum path width: 1000 m, direction of movement: W-E damage to property: DM:150M, damage to crops and forests: 170kFm number of people injured: 300, number of people dead: 2 Same cell as T7/F3 tornado at Sarrebourg, Eschbourg, Hagenau This report has been verified.	Ittersbach, Pforzheim	terrain: hilly land use: rural area (crops. grassland, both or unknown), town or city
 contact: TorDACH V1.6.00, tordach.org/de, de@tordach.org; D. Fuchs, Promet 4'81, 8-10 ==> Monatl. Witterungsber. DWD;; Monatsarbeit der Wetterdienst-Referendarausbildung, 1978, 56 S.;; Pers. comm. 2000; R. Nestle, Meteor. Rdschau. 22 (1969), 1-3; Becht H. P., Stadtarchiv Pforzheim, pers. comm. (1998); Fulks, H.W., 1969: A synoptic review of the Pforzheim tornado of; 10 July 1968. 2nd Wea. Wing Tech. Bull, Air Wea. Service, US Air Force.; April 	BW, Germany (48.9055 N, 08.5270 E) 10 07 1968 (Wednesday) 20:30 UTC (+/- 1 hrs.)	land use where event was first observed: rural area (crops, grassland, both or unknown) F4 T8, the intensity rating was based on a written account of the damage (e.g. in a newspaper). total event duration: 20 min. The funnel cloud was observed. Suction vortices were not observed. path length: 35 km, maximum path width: 1000 m, direction of movement: W-E damage to property: DM:150M, damage to crops and forests: 170kFm number of people injured: 300, number of people dead: 2 <i>Same cell as T7/F3 tornado at Sarrebourg, Eschbourg, Hagenau</i> This report has been verified. contact: TorDACH V1.6.00, tordach.org/de, de@tordach.org; D. Fuchs, Promet 4'81, 8-10 ==> Monatl. Witterungsber. DWD;; Monatsarbeit der Wetterdienst-Referendarausbildung, 1978, 56 S.;; Pers. comm. 2000; R. Nestle, Meteor. Rdschau. 22 (1969), 1-3; Becht H. P., Stadtarchiv Pforzheim, pers. comm. (1998); Fulks, H.W., 1969: A synoptic review of the Pforzheim tornado of; 10 July 1968. 2nd Wea. Wing Tech. Bull, Air Wea. Service, US Air Force;; April

c) Raw ASCII data (Selected event: F4 Pforzheim tornado, Germany, 10 July 1968)

INFO|10|V01.40|3|QC2|EYEWTN LIT NWSP TV WXSVC WWW|TorDACH V1.6.00, tordach.org/de, de@tordach.org; D. Fuchs, Promet 4'81, 8-10 ==> Monatl. Witterungsber. DWD;; Monatsarbeit der Wetterdienst-Referendarausbildung, 1978, 56 S.;; Pers. comm. 2000; R. Nestle, Meteor. Rdschau. 22 (1969), 1-3; Becht H. P., Stadtarchiv Pforzheim, pers. comm. (1998); Fulks, H.W., 1969: A synoptic review of the Pforzheim tornado of; 10 July 1968. 2nd Wea. Wing Tech. Bull, Air Wea. Service, US Air Force;; April 1969, 26-43.|1|Nikolai Dotzek, ESSL|20051231

TIME&PLACE | 19| 1968 | 07| 10| WED | 20| 30| 1H| DE| BW| Ittersbach, Pforzheim ||| 48.9055 | 08.5270 | HILLS| RURAL | RURAL URBAN | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |

 $TORNADO|23||4|8|DMGTEXT||FNLOBS|NOSVTCSOBS||||20|35||1000|W-E|DM:150M|170kFm||300|2|Same \ cell \ as \ T7/F3 \ tornado \ at \ Sarrebourg, \ Eschbourg, \ Hagenau\#$

Note the high level of detail in the ESWD report (b), as well as how much this information is condensed in the raw data (c) to minimize the physical data volume – an important point in accessing online data.



4. FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

The goal of the financial management was to ensure a stable development, to secure the non-profit-status of the ESSL, and before all, to provide the necessary funds for the three statutory purposes of the ESSL:

- Advance meteorology and related sciences in the field of research on severe convective storms and extreme weather events on a European level;
- Operate and extend the European Severe Weather Database (ESWD);
- Support or organise the European Conferences on Severe Storms (ECSS).

4.1. OVERVIEW

The first full year of operation, 2007, was dominated by further establishing the accounting structures and also by the transfer of the financial duties from the Director, who served both as Director and as Treasurer during the founding stage, to the newly elected ESSL Treasurer Alois M. Holzer, who stepwise took over responsibility between his election at the General Assembly in September 2007 and the first months of 2008.

According to the three main statutory purposes of ESSL, cost centres have been established in the financial accounting and controlling. As required by the tax authorities, these distinguish also between the ideational branch of ESSL (*Ideeller Bereich*, i.e. management of the association) and its branches directly serving the statutory purposes of the ESSL (*Zweckbetriebe*). Thus, the cost centres comprise:

- Cost centre 0: Ideational field of activity;
- Cost centre 1: ESSL fundamental and applied research;
- Cost centre 2: ESWD data and research;
- Cost centre 3: ECSS conferences.

4.2. FINANCIAL STATUS 2006

The financial year 2006 started only on 28 September with the founding of the association and the establishment of ESSL e. V. on 8 December. Revenues were restricted to the membership fees of the ten founding members (840.- €) while founding costs summed up to $119.32 \in$ That led to a positive yearly balance of $720.68 \in$.

4.3. FINANCIAL STATUS 2007

The first full accounting year was dominated by establishing administrative structures and the build-up of a thorough accounting, conforming to the law and tax regulations and allowing efficient controlling by the Treasurer. The cash-based accounting for 2007 can be found in the "Statement of revenues and expenditures" below. Both, most of the income and most of the costs were generated within cost centre 2, ESWD activities.



Statement of revenues and expenditures 2007

	Cash at bank	: 1 Jan 2007 720.68 €
A. Ideational field of a Cost centre 0a	activity	
Revenues	Membership fees	5.035.00 €
Expenditures	Third party services Travel costs Registration fees Office expenses	25.19 € 213.80 € 90.71 € 94.01 €
Balance ideational fie	ld	4.611.29 €
B. Asset managemen	t	
Cost centre 0b		
Revenues	VAT 2006	3.93 €
	VAT	376.50 €
	Advance turnover tax return	11.38 €
Expenditures	Input VAT	44.77 €
	Advance turnover tax return	370.09 €
Balance Asset manag	ement	-23.05 €
C. Zweckbetriebe (bu	siness branches pursuing the p	urpose of the association)
Revenues	search	0.00 €
Expenditures	Office expenses	33.44 €
Balance ESSL researc	ch	-33.44 €
Cost centre 2 - ESWD d	ata and research	
Revenues	Data use and software development	5.450.00 €
Expenditures	Third party services, data protection	50.27 €
	Travel costs	78.99€
	<i>Übungsleiterpauschalen</i> (simplified labour allowances specific to e.V.s)	3.234.00 €
Balance ESWD data a	nd research	2.086.74 €
Cost centre 3 - ECSS co	onferences	
Revenues		0.00€
Expenditures	Third party services, domain acquisition	on 224.37 €
	Office expenses	38,.24 €
	Heino Tooming Award	300.00 €
Balance ECSS confer	ence	-562.61 €
Balance total		6.078.93 €
	Cash at bank	:: 31 Dec 2007 6799.61 €



In summary, the financial figures for 2006 and 2007 show a stable upward trend on a still modest level, due to the start-up phase. Financial controlling in 2008 and planning for 2009 gives us confidence that ESSL will be able to securely bear the costs for participation in proposed scientific projects as well as for support of the ECSS conference 2009 in Landshut, Germany.

4.4. Administrative report

The year 2007 saw the completion of the ESSL founding process which had started with the founding meeting on 28 September 2006 and the grant of legal body with status of a registered association (*eingetragener Verein*, short: e. V.) on 8 December 2006. The document granting the non-profit status and corresponding taxation benefits arrived at the ESSL secretariat on 21 December 2006.

In order to professionally run its businesses, in particular the branches assigned to cost centres 1 (research), 2 (ESWD), and 3 (ECSS), the ESSL had to apply for a VAT number and sign up with the employers' liability insurance association. After being assigned a VAT number, ESSL also started to submit regular advance VAT notifications to the tax authorities as well as the VAT declaration for 2006.

Many administrative documents also had to be drafted and completed in 2007, in order to build up the necessary tools for business operations. This reached from simple documents like membership application forms to more advanced ones, like financial accounting tools or draft versions of rules of procedure for the Executive Board, cooperation agreements for users and NMHS partners, an ESWD data protocol, or specifications for the organisers of future ECSS conferences. The process of finalising all these documents will extend into 2008. For some of them, also assistance by ESSL's legal advisors will be necessary.

In addition, the foundation of ESSL e. V. was reported to the German Meteorological Society (DMG), the European Meteorological Society (EMS), and the National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) in the USA. The EMS responded by mail, and the NSSL launched an online press release on the foundation of the ESSL

Another major task from late 2006 until summer 2007 was ESSL's participation in the Munich Business Plan Contest (MBPW, www.mbpw.de). In three stages, a full business plan was developed and reviewed by a jury of entrepreneurs, management consultants, and venture capitalists. Like other such business plan contests, the MBPW is mainly focused on commercial start-up enterprises. Nevertheless, ESSL was nominated for an award both in stage 1 (Ideas Stage) and stage 3 (Excellence Stage), see for instance www.mbpw.de/index.php?id=153. This was an encouraging success for the ESSL, also from the point of view of DLR's technology marketing department, which had provided valuable advice during the start-up phase.

The regular annual General Assembly took place during the ECSS 2007 conference in Trieste, Italy. The main topics were to confirm the initial Executive Board members, to elect the Treasurer, and to implement minor amendments to the Articles of Association. In 2007, the activities of the Director – and later on the Treasurer – mainly comprised:

- Opening and management of bank accounts;
- Fiscal reports, social security system handling and tax handling;
- Accounting and costing management;



- Financial staff administration;
- Continuous and long-term budgeting;
- Setting up a member-, staff- and cooperation partner-database.

Early in 2007, there were only the ten individual founding members of the ESSL. Yet at the end of the year, the ESSL had

- 15 Individual Full Members
- 1 Institutional Full Member (DWD)
- 1 Institutional Supporting Member (Munich Re)

The complete member list is shown in Appendix A.2.

4.5. EXECUTIVE BOARD AND ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Executive Board and the Advisory Council are two of the three bodies forming the ESSL. Fig. 3 outlines these and their responsibilities.



Figure 3: Bodies of the ESSL. The Advisory Council in final form will consist of nine members from three groups (three members each): (1) Science, (2) NMHS / EUMETNET, (3) other ESSL user groups.

4.5.1. EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dr. Nikolai Dotzek, Director:

He has over 12 years' expertise in research on severe thunderstorms, a topic for which he was Contributing Author for the IPCC 4th Assessment Report (IPCC, 2007). He has done extensive ESSL-related preparatory networking since founding and heading the TorDACH research network in 1997. In 2002, he was visiting scientist at the National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) in the USA, where he prepared an award-winning ESSL Pilot Study.

His professional duties at DLR are coordination and management of national (e.g. RegioExAKT, 11 partners) and EU-projects (e.g., QUANTIFY, 41 partners), and the



preparation of research proposals also involving the ESSL. To complement his main skills, he has participated in several workshops on start-up entrepreneurship by the Chamber of Industry and Commerce (*Industrie- und Handelskammer*, IHK).

Dr. Bernold Feuerstein, deputy Director:

He is a scientist at the Max-Planck Institute for Nuclear Physics (MPIK) in Heidelberg and a university lecturer at the Faculty of Physics there. Very much interested in severe weather phenomena, he joined the TorDACH Centre of Competence for Severe Local Storms in 2003 and the storm spotter association Skywarn Deutschland e. V. in 2004. Several publications in peer-reviewed journals and invited talks testify his active research in tornado climatology.

From 2007 on, he has taken the position of Chief of Press and Public Relations at the MPIK. Consequently, within the ESSL, he is responsible for public affairs and outreach.

M.Sc. Pieter Groenemeijer, Technical Director:

He is currently pursuing his PhD at Research Centre Karlsruhe (FZK), *Institut für Meteorologie und Klimaforschung*, studying the differences between environments producing severe and non-severe thunderstorms in Europe. He earned his M.Sc. degree in Physics and Astronomy at Utrecht University for research on radiosonde measurements nearby large hail and tornadoes. In 2002, he studied the topic of severe thunderstorms at the University of Oklahoma and worked on the application of Doppler radar to severe weather detection at the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute, KNMI.

He is the main developer of the ESWD database software and handles the technical operations of the ESSL web server and data exchange with the collaborating NMHSs.

Mr. Alois M. Holzer, Treasurer:

He is currently senior forecaster at the weather department of the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation (ORF) in Vienna with a main focus on extreme events, severe weather warnings, development and in-house training. He is an ESSL-member from the very first in matters of severe weather and tornado research. He had already joined the TorDACH Centre of Competence for Severe Local Storms in 1997 and has been coordinator for Austria since then. He offers a wide economic and fiscal experience not only because of his 5 year term in business school, but much more because of the long-term experience in the business management of his own scientific small enterprise. Further, he has been organizing and funding many international workshops and seminars.

Short-term and long-term budgeting of different projects has been part of his day-to-day work, and that has earned him the position of ESSL treasurer.

4.5.2. ADVISORY COUNCIL

At the 2007 General Assembly, the first ESSL Advisory Council member (of a maximum of 9) was elected in the NMHS group. This is **Dr. Gerhard Steinhorst** (DWD), who is a member of DWD's Executive Board and heads the weather forecasting branch of DWD.

The Advisory Council will be introduced in greater detail in the 2008 Annual Report.





A. APPENDIX

A.1 HEINO TOOMING AWARD 2007 POSTER





A.2 MEMBER LIST 2007

The following table shows all ESSL members as of 31 December 2007. The 10 founding member names are printed in italics.

	Member name	CC	Туре	Status
1	Nikolai Dotzek	DE	Individual	Full
2	Bernold Feuerstein	DE	Individual	Full
3	Dario Giaiotti	IT	Individual	Full
4	Pieter Groenemeijer	NL	Individual	Full
5	Alois M. Holzer	AT	Individual	Full
6	Thomas Krennert	AT	Individual	Full
7	Thilo Kühne	DE	Individual	Full
8	Zhongjian Liang	CN	Individual	Full
9	Maria-Carmen Llasat	ES	Individual	Full
10	Georg Pistotnik	AT	Individual	Full
11	Romualdo Romero	ES	Individual	Full
12	Martin Setvák	CZ	Individual	Full
13	Fulvio Stel	IT	Individual	Full
14	Jenni Teittinen	FI	Individual	Full
15	Helge Tuschy	DE	Individual	Full
16	Deutscher Wetterdienst	DE	Institutional	Full
17	Münchener Rückversicherungs-Gesellschaft AG	DE	Institutional	Supporting