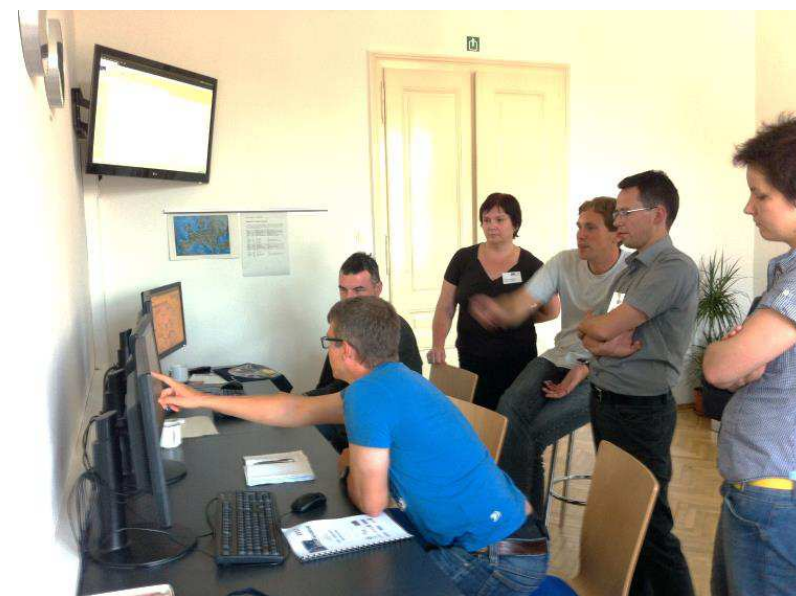




The ESSL Testbed's role in forecaster training

Pieter Groenemeijer  
Alois M. Holzer  
Georg Pistotnik



organized in cooperation  
with:



Photos courtesy of Magdalena Pichler, Lucia Sokolová, Alois M. Holzer

# The European Severe Storms Laboratory

- non-profit research organization
- legally, an association with members
- statutory purposes:



1. Perform and support severe weather research at a European level



2. Management and development of the European Severe Weather Database ESWD



3. Organization or support of the European Conference on Severe Storms

Subsidiary (non-profit) ESSL – Science and Training in Wiener Neustadt, Austria:  
Forecaster Trainings, Seminars, **ESSL Testbed**.



## ESSL Team

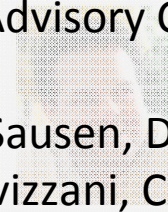
### ESSL Advisory Council



Robert Sausen, DLR, *chair*

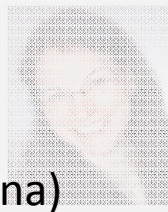
Peter Groenemeier  
Director

Vincenzo Levizzani, CNR (Bologna)



Alex M. Holzer  
Director of Operations

David Schultz, Univ. Manchester



Kathrin Blummann-Campe  
Director



Hans-Joachim Koppert, DWD, *vice-chair*

Timo Köhne  
ESSL Quality Control Manager

Michael Staudinger, ZAMG

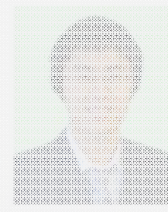


Magdalena Fichter  
Assistant to the Executive Board

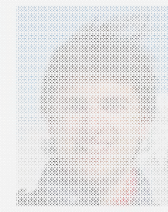
Pertti Nurmi, FMI



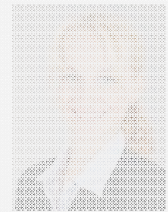
Georg Fiedorik  
Research Associate



Zhonglian Liang  
ESSL Database Programmer



Thomas Schreiner  
ESSL Quality Control and User Support



Anja Westermayer  
Research Associate (Munich RE)

## ESSL members

### Individual members

- researchers
- supporting members

### Institutional members

- 10 National (Hydro-) Meteorological Services / EUMETSAT
- 2 Research Institutes
- 7 Reinsurance / Risk modelling companies



Guy Carpenter

Research Center for Environmental Changes, Taiwan

AIR worldwide



Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V.  
in der Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft

## Financing

ESSL has these sources of income:

### 1. Membership fees

### 2. Third-party projects

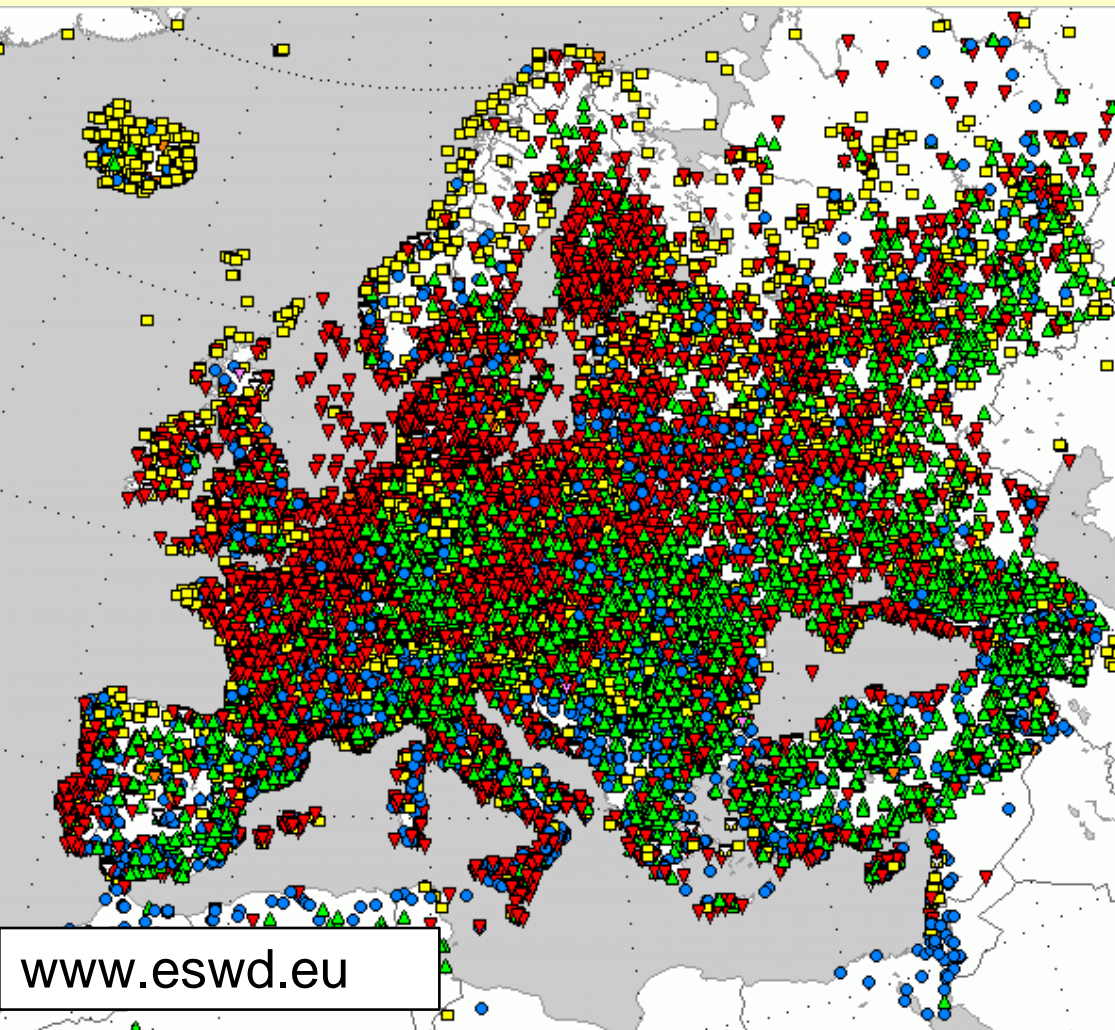
- European Commission
- National and regional governments
- Partner research organizations

### 3. Fees for „own projects“:

- ECSS – European Conference on Severe Storms
- ESSL Testbed (participants, product evaluations)
- Trainings, Seminars, Workshops

## The European Severe Weather Database

- almost 60 000 individual reports of severe weather

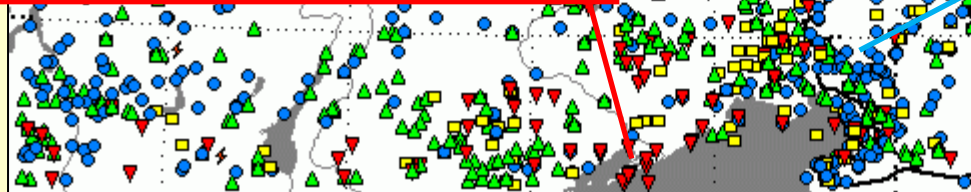
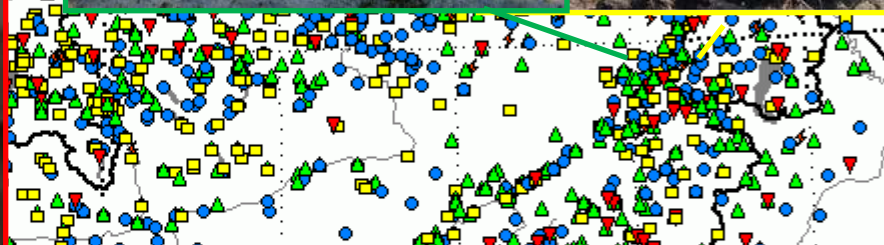


**Tornadoes**  
**Severe wind gusts**  
**Large hail**  
**Extreme rainfall**

Avalanches  
Heavy snowfall  
Damaging Lightning  
Freezing rain...

## ESWD data

**Tornadoes**  
**Severe wind gusts**  
**Large hail**  
**Extreme rainfall**





# ESSL Testbed

in 2012, 2013, 2014 and beyond...

Pieter Groenemeijer  
Alois M. Holzer  
Georg Pistotnik

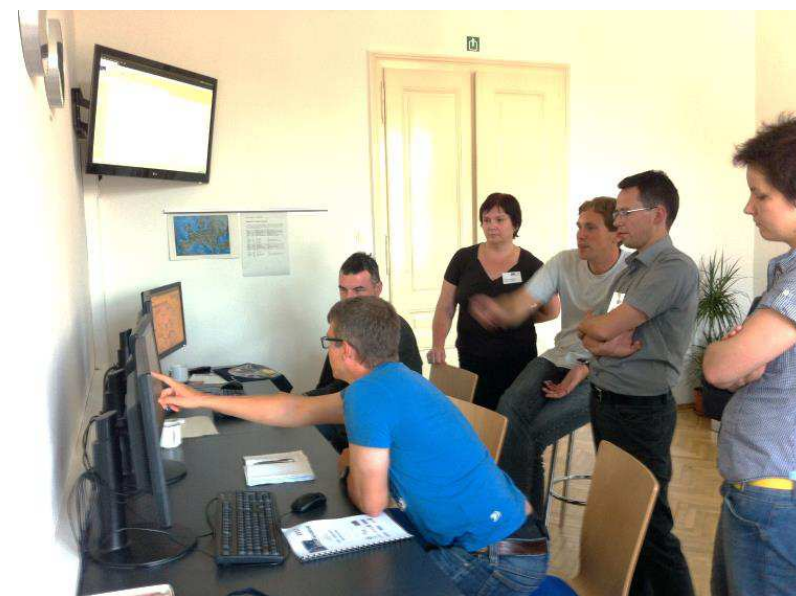
supported by:



Deutscher Wetterdienst  
Wetter und Klima aus einer Hand



NIEDERÖSTERREICH  
HINEIN INS LEBEN.



organized in cooperation  
with:



**ZAMG**

ZentralAnstalt für Meteorologie und Geodynamik

## The Testbed concept

- loosely modelled after NOAA's HWT Spring Program
- bring **forecasters** and **researchers** together to evaluate new forecast-supporting products (satellite, radar, NWP, other...)
- ... and get trained in severe storm forecasting
- participants take part for one week **on-site** and/or join **online** sessions






## The procedure

1. Participants jointly **make nowcasts and forecasts**
2. Forecasts are **verified against observations**
3. **Products are discussed**
  - Person-to-person feedback
  - Testbed Blog
  - Questionnaires, optional summary report by ESSL





**ESSL Testbed**

[home](#) » [feedback](#) » [product feedback](#) "Overshooting top, Enhanced-V Cold Ring, Detection"

Note: Some questions must be answered daily, some questions only at the end of the week.

**Question 1:** (To be answered daily) What was the convective regime for today's event (i.e. supercells, mesoscale convective system, squall line, airmass thunderstorms)? Where were the storms located?

**Question 2:** (To be answered daily) How well were OTs or enhanced-V/ring signatures correctly detected when apparent in visible and/or IR imagery?

## Forecast

An example with verification data

**Red lines indicate where severe weather is forecast in the next 2 hours**

Characters indicate the expected type of severe weather: **R**ain **H**ail, **W**ind, or **T**ornadoes.

Verification data are small coloured symbols and lightning detections in **magenta**.

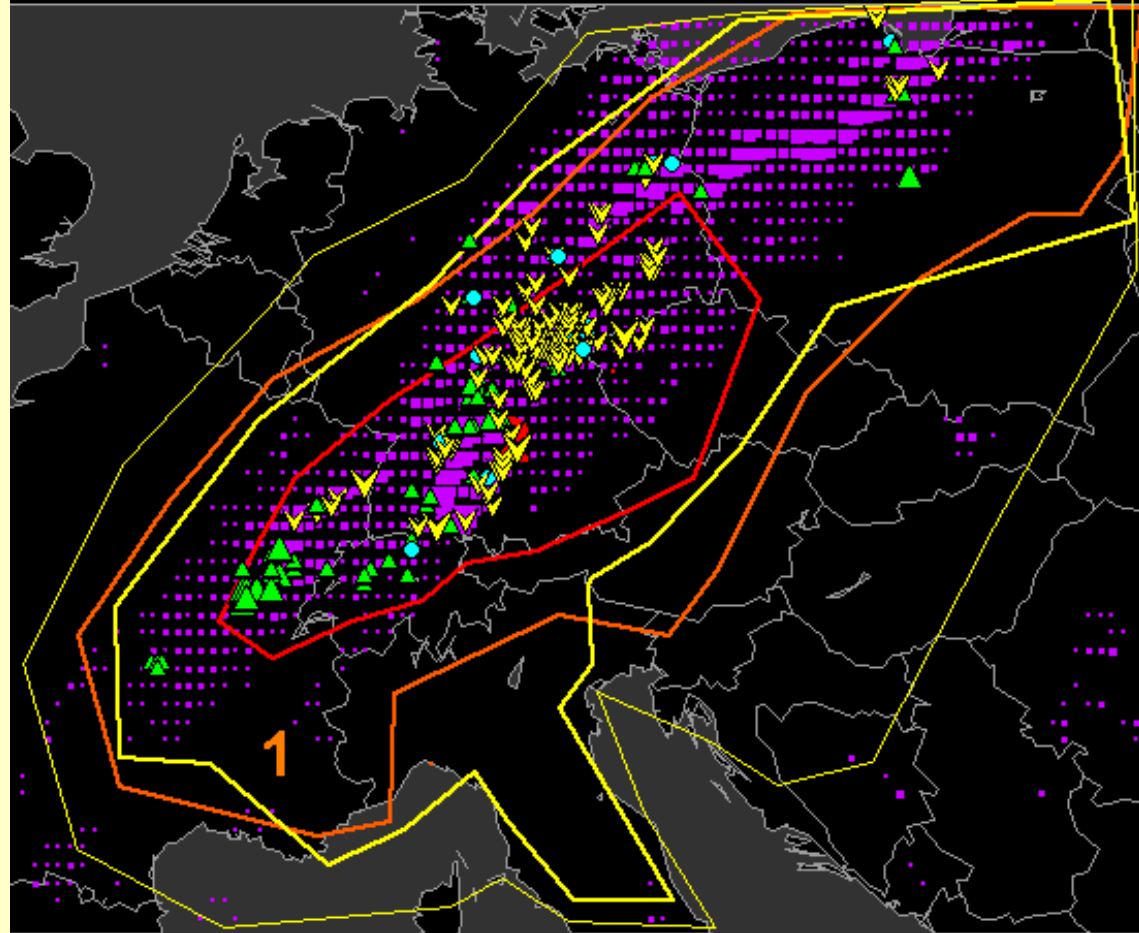
Day 2 Forecast valid Sat 30 Jun 2012 06:00 - Sun 01 Jul 2012 06:00 UTC

Issued: Fri 29 Jun 2012 08:56 UTC. Forecaster: ESSL TESTBED

Reported severe weather is plotted on the map, source: [www.eswd.eu](http://www.eswd.eu)

Legend: tornadoes (red); heavy rain (cyan); large hail (green); severe winds (yellow)

EUCLID data available at: 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 00 01 02 03 04 05



Forecast for the **next day** (coloured lines) with verification data (symbols reflect severe weather reports, magenta = lightning).

## Nowcast

### Activity:

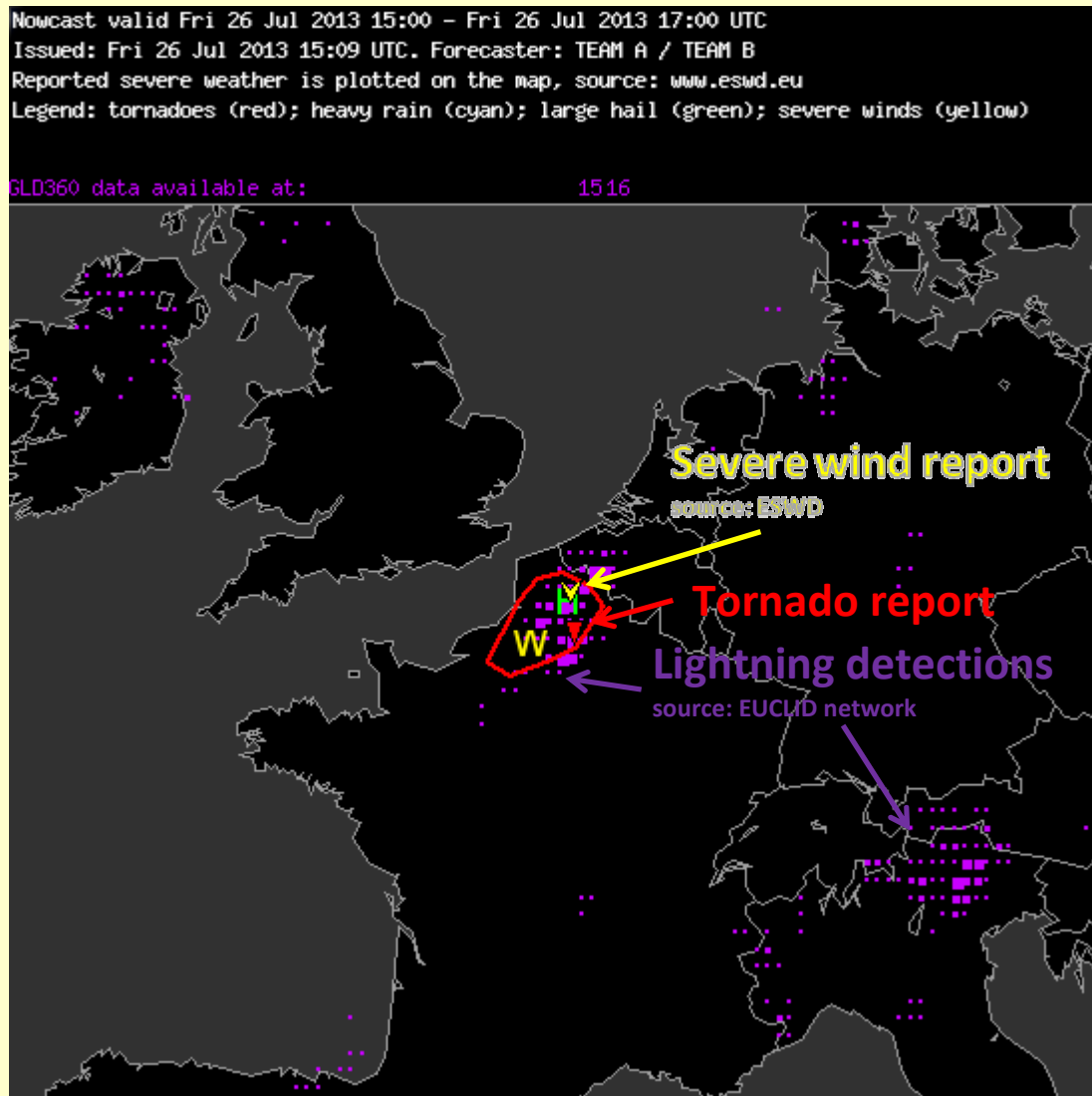
Compare forecast to the real observed severe weather.

**Red lines indicate where severe weather is forecast in the next 2 hours**

Characters indicate the expected type of severe weather: **R**ain **H**ail, **W**ind, or **T**ornadoes.

Verification data are small coloured symbols and lightning detections in **magenta**.

## EXAMPLE 0-2 HOUR NOWCAST



## Testbed Data Interface

'mouse-over' time selection

**satellite layer selector**

**RADAR composite selector**

**NWP field selector**

2013  
**ESSL Testbed Nowcast Display**

Date & Time  
Current: 201308281418

201308091900  
(YYYYMMDDHHMM)

go ▶

**Satellite products**

- E-View
- HRV
- IR108
- RGB-Airmass
- RGB-NatCol
- RpdE-View
- RpdHRV
- RpdSandwich
- Sandwich
- WV073

**Overlays**

- surface observations off
- lightning (GLD360) off
- meso. detection off

**Overlays 2**

- conv. initiation
- RADAR (EuRadCom)
- OPERA max. column refl.
- OPERA rain rate
- turn all off

**Nearcast Model**

- Delta theta-e
- Theta-e 778 497

**NWP Models**

| turn off NWP layer | OS | SS | OS | OS | OS | OS | OS | OS | OS |
|--------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|                    | OS | OS | OS | OS | OS | OS | OS | OS | OS |
| 300                |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 500                |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 700                |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 850                |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| cape               |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| ipv320             |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| lmoisture          |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| precip             |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| shear1km           |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| shear3km           |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| shear6km           |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| srh1               |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| srh3               |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| t2m                |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| td2m               |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| vort500            |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |

**domain selector**

lightning/  
surface data/  
mesocyclone



2013

ESSI Testbed

# Nowcast Display

Time

(c) ESSL, EUMETSAT, Z...

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| -  | -  | 08 | 08 | 08 | 09 | 09 | 09 | 09 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 12 | 1  |
| 12 | 6  | 15 | 30 | 45 | 00 | 15 | 30 | 45 | 00 | 15 | 30 | 45 | 00 | 15 | 30 | 45 | 00 | 15 | 30 |
| hr | hr |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |

Date & Time

Current: 201308290955

201307271400  
(YYYYMMDDHHMM)

go ▶

|                        |                   |                       |                     |              |                  |                  |  |
|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|--|
| <b>NOWCAST DISPLAY</b> | <b>NWP MODELS</b> | <b>COSMO DE - EPS</b> | <b>SURFACE MAPS</b> | <b>W W W</b> | <b>BLOG INFO</b> | <b>ESWD DATA</b> | <b>VERIFICATION</b><br>Nowcasts Day 1&2<br>Day 3-5 |
|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|--|

20130727 10:00 MET10 HRV

Satellite products

- E-View
- HRV
- IR108
- RGB-Airmass
- RGB-NatCol
- RpdE-View
- RpdHRV
- RpdSandwich
- Sandwich
- WV073

Overlays

- surface observations  off
- lightning (GLD360)  off
- meso. detection  off

Overlays 2

- conv. initiation
- RADAR (EuRadCom)
- OPERA max. column refl
- OPERA rain rate
- turn all off

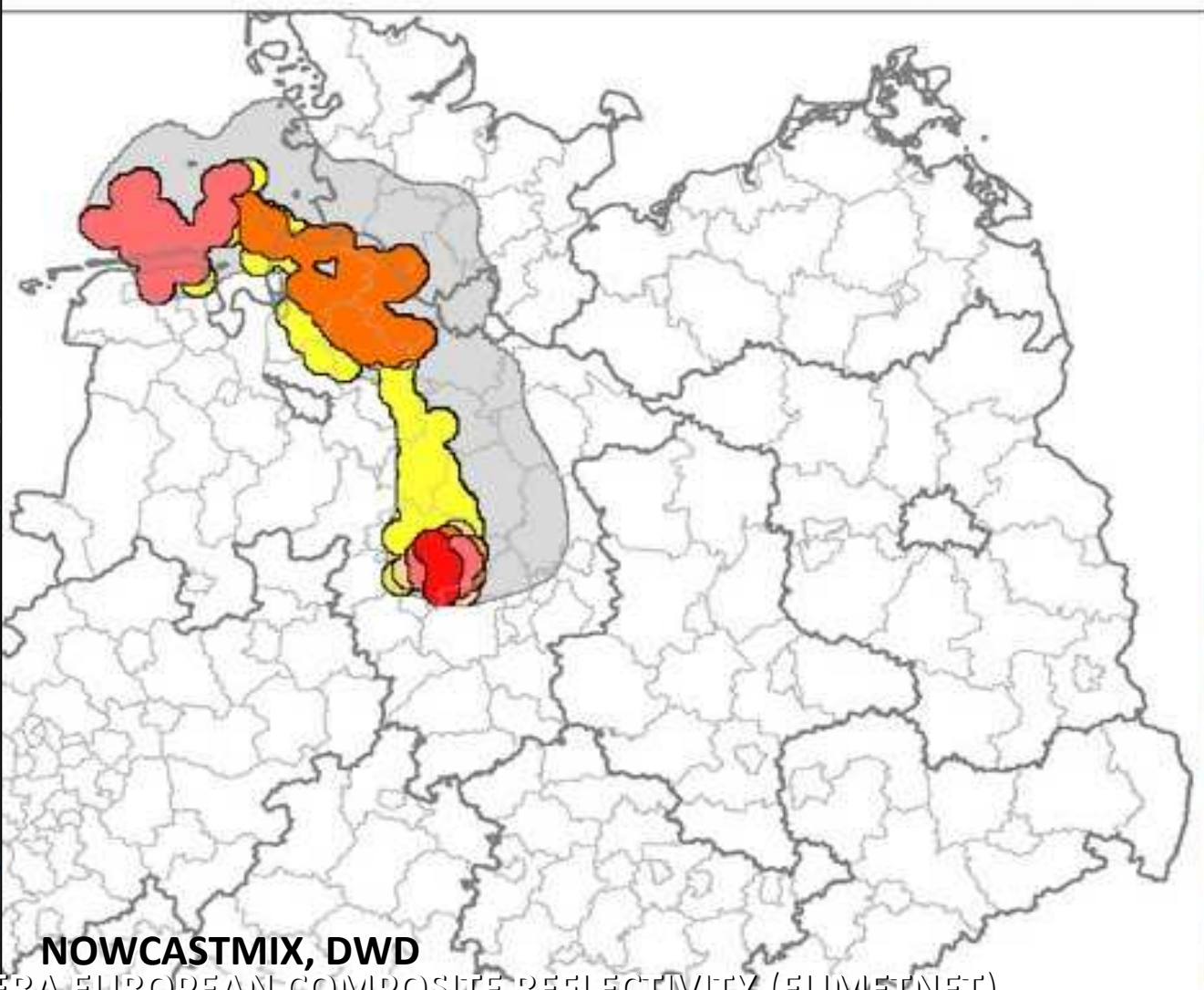
Nearcast Model

- Delta theta-e
- Theta-e 778 497

NWP Models

- turn off NWP layer
- GGFS
- ECMWF
- COSMO-EU
- ALARO
- COSMO-DE

27 Jul 2013 von 15:00 bis 16:00 UTC Analyse, Warngebiete

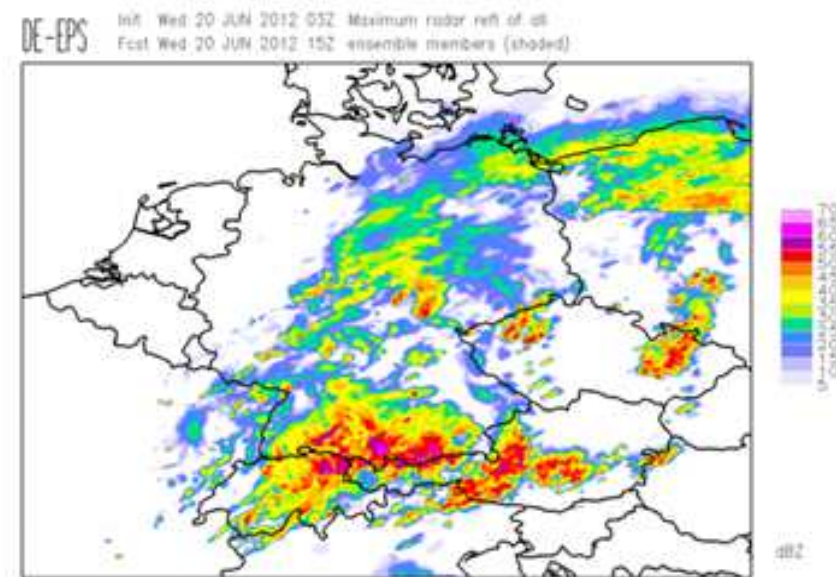
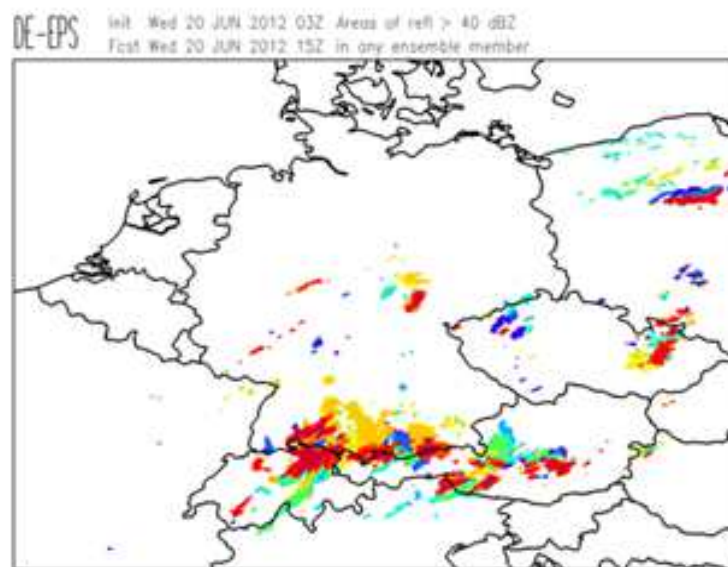
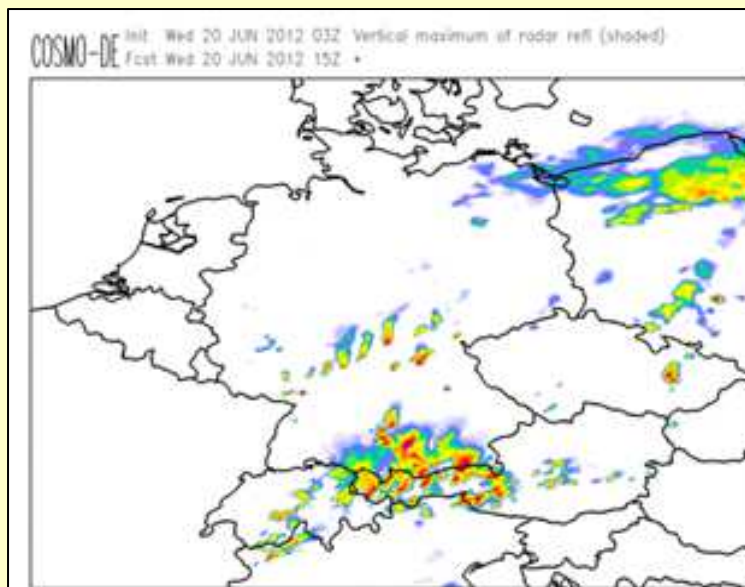


| Fläche ( km <sup>2</sup> ) |      |
|----------------------------|------|
| 31                         | 7540 |
| 33                         | 0    |
| 34                         | 874  |
| 36                         | 55   |
| 38                         | 4810 |
| 40                         | 0    |
| 94                         | 4128 |
| 46                         | 762  |
| 95                         | 0    |
| 48                         | 0    |
| 61                         | 0    |
| 62                         | 0    |
| 66                         | 0    |

NOWCASTMIX, DWD  
OPERA EUROPEAN-COMPOSITE REFLECTIVITY (EUMETNET)

## NWP products

COSMO-DE-EPS 2.8 km ensemble visualizations



[Link](#)

## Products of 2012 and 2013

- Overshooting Top detection (NOAA/GOES-R)
- Enhanced U/V-shape / ring detection (GOES-R)
- Cloud Top Cooling (U. Wisc.)
- Convective Initiation (DWD/ EUMETSAT/UAH)
- NearCast (U. Wisc. / EUMETSAT)
- WREP (ECWMF)
- GLD360 (VAISALA)
- COSMO-DE-EPS visualizations (DWD)
- NowCastMIX (DWD)
- Mesocyclone Detection Algorithm (DWD)
- OPERA European radar composite (EUMETNET)

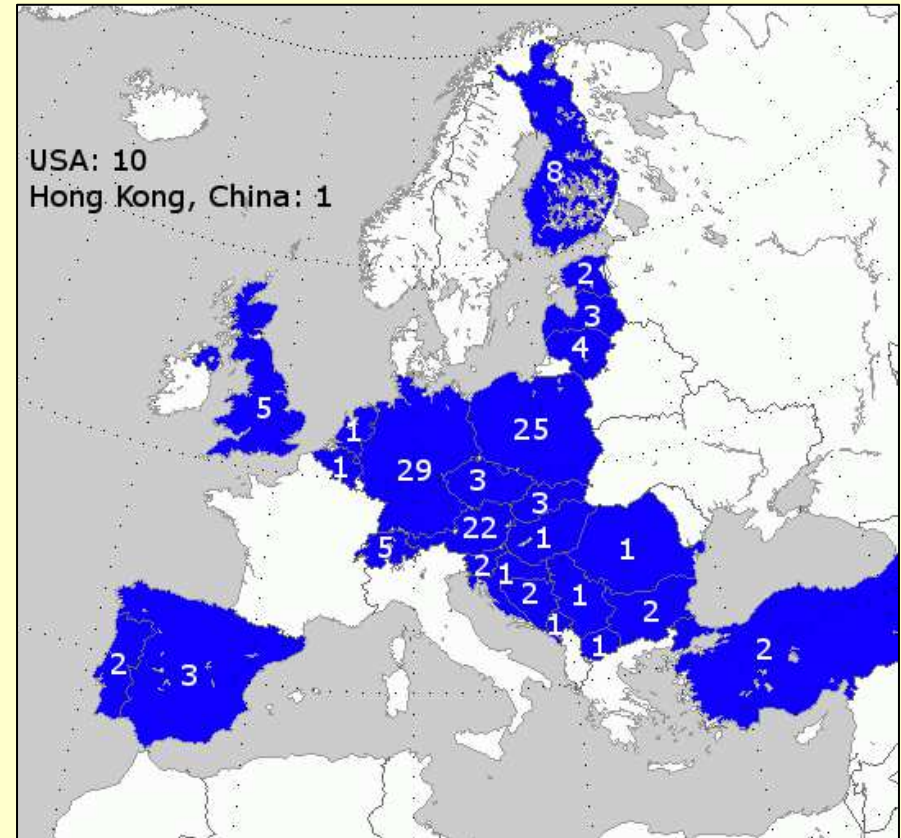


## Participants



Participants from several countries during a random Testbed week.

Average grade given by participants on a scale from 1 (terrible) to 10 (fantastic): 8.6



Testbeds 2012 - 2014 total:

**145** unique on-site participants from **27** countries

A limited number of NHMS employees additionally take part in the online-sessions only in cooperation with EUMETCAL.

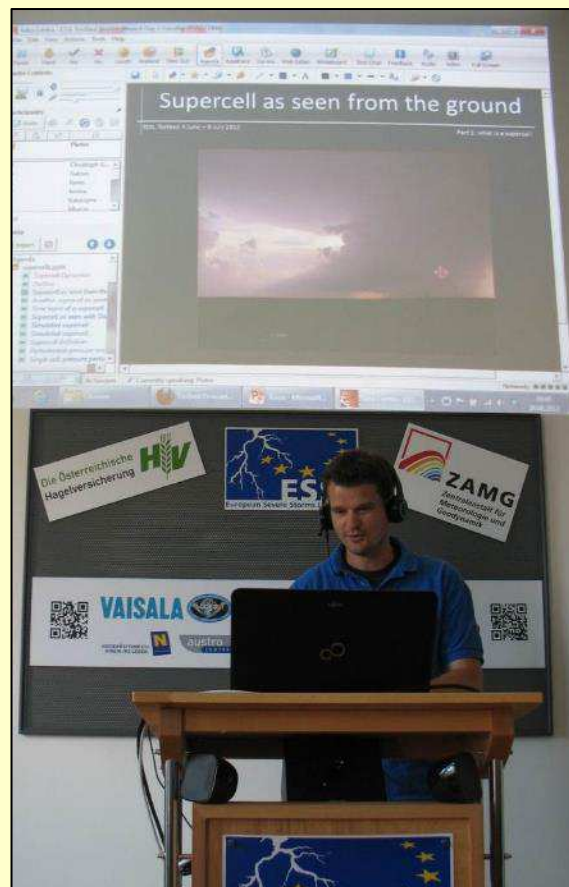


## Training

1. Operations Plan
2. Lectures
3. Online and on-site lectures by researchers on lightning detection systems... on supercells... and overshooting tops.

### Activity:

A researcher / developer or forecasting expert presents a tool or discusses a forecasting topic.



## Possible roles of ESSL in the second phase of DRR-SEE Project

ESSL can offer:

1. The ESSL Testbed as a platform for **training** and **education** in nowcasting for hazardous weather, in particular convective storms to both **forecasters** and **researchers**
2. On-site training courses on the topic of convection given by ESSL and external experts
3. Facilitation of other small-scale training events in Wiener Neustadt
4. Contribution to the exchange of quality-controlled near **real-time 'ground truth' observations of severe weather** (ESWD)





# European Severe Storms Laboratory

**2014**

**ESSL Testbed**

2 - 27 June, 13 – 24 October  
ESSL Research and Training Centre  
Wiener Neustadt, Austria

## Scheduled events:

**1 – 5 September:**

**Workshop Tornado and Wind Damage  
Assesment**

**8 – 12 September: Seminar**

**Forecasting Severe Convection I – Basic Level**

**13 – 24 October:**

**ESSL Autumn Testbed**

**2015: Seminar Forecasting Severe Convection  
II – Advanced (2015)**



**June 2015:**

**ESSL Summer Testbed**

**15 – 18 September:**

**European Conference on Severe Storms**



European Severe Storms Laboratory

**Upcoming conference**  
**14 - 18 Sept 2015**  
**Wiener Neustadt**



Der Wasserturm



Der Dom



Der Reckturm



Die Militärakademie



## Bonus slides

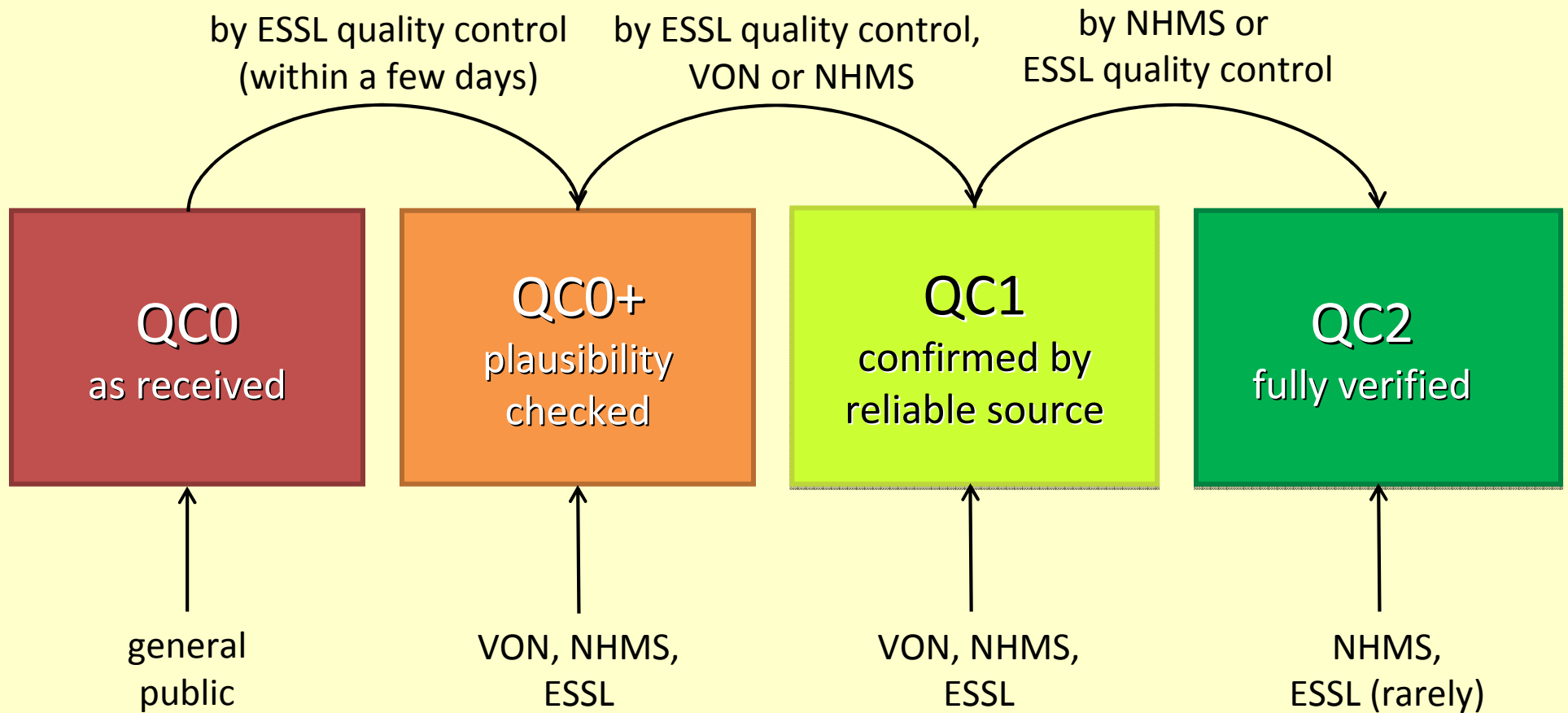
## Convection Working Group products

An incomplete list of potential products:

- Convective Initiation product(s)
- Global Instability Index
- Temperature & humidity retrievals (NearCast !)
- Overshooting Top detection
- Rosenfeld – Storm Severity ( $R_{\text{eff}}$ ) \*
- Rosenfeld – Low-level humidity \*
- Lightning Imager proxy data
- ...

Q: What is possible with polar orbiting satellites across Europe?

## Quality control



\* reliable sources include:

- conclusive photo and/or video material, with accurate time & location
- certified storm spotter reports

VON = Voluntary Observer Network

NHMS = National Hydro-Meteorological Service