

## Report

of the 11<sup>th</sup> EMS Annual Meeting  
and the 10<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Applications of Meteorology  
12 - 16 September 2011, Berlin, Germany

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From 12 to 16 September 2011 I had the opportunity to attend the 11<sup>th</sup> EMS Annual Meeting and the 10<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Applications of Meteorology in Berlin – Dahlem. I am very happy and thankful that an EMS Young Scientist Travel Award allowed me to participate in the conference. I would deeply thank the EMS for the support.

The award enabled me to present and discuss the latest results of my recently finished PhD work on the topic “Quantification of the impact of extratropical transition on the midlatitude flow using potential vorticity inversion”. The meeting further gave me the opportunity to make new contacts and to talk to colleagues from other institutions. Overall I was impressed by the high quality of the contributions and the clear orientation along this year's conference theme “Forecasting the weather – ensemble techniques in probabilistic weather predictions”.

The strategic lectures during the opening session gave a very good overview on ensemble forecasting from the various perspectives of decision makers, weather services, researchers, and users. Already during the short discussions afterward one of the leading questions of the meeting was raised: “Why do we need to motivate the use of ensemble forecasts again and again, and when will ensemble prediction be integral part of the weather forecast?”. Interestingly, the social sciences perspective by Sebastien Norbert on Tuesday gave valuable input for the leading topic of the conference by pointing out the major problem of correctly communicating a probabilistic forecast so that civil protection authorities and other end users can take the right decisions. All this lead to an informative panel discussion on Wednesday. Again the social science perspective made the main issue regarding ensemble forecasting clear in my opinion: that it shifts the responsibility for coping with forecast uncertainty from the forecasts to the user. It emerged from the discussion that a simple solution to this problem does not exist, but that understandable and transparent information on the validity of probabilistic forecast is needed for a proper communication to the public. It also emerged that deterministic forecasts are still needed as a testbed for future ensemble prediction systems.

The course of this main discussion reflects the well-considered outline of the programme by the conference committee. The strategic lectures, invited talks and the panel discussion were efficiently coordinated so that the conference theme became an excellent guideline throughout the meeting.

I evenly appreciated the EMS Silver Medal Lecture by Jean François Geleyn. This lecture based on an enormous experience and knowledge gave me valuable thoughts on how to do good research and how to benefit from collaborations. Next to the general conference programme I have also profited a lot of the individual talks on current research efforts. This gave me new perspectives on my own work and some ideas for future projects.

Lastly, I want to thank the organisation committee for the perfect management of the conference which I think contributed to an overall success and to make the conference a valuable forum for scientific exchange. I will hopefully be able to attend the EMS annual meeting in future years.