

## EMS YSTA Report – Lenka Novak

I would like to thank the European Meteorological Society for providing me with the Young Scientist Travel Award to support of my attendance at the Open IFS user workshop in Trieste, Italy.

I am at a late stage of my current postdoctoral position, and so my travel funds are somewhat limited. Nevertheless, I was very keen to attend this workshop because of its unique focus on one specific atmospheric forecast model, OpenIFS, which I am planning to use for my work in the coming months. I was eager to find out more about the technical details of the model and to engage with the scientists that use and maintain it.

Having now attended the workshop, I am grateful that I was able to take advantage of its technical specialisation as well as many other aspects that made it an outstanding event in many respects. It was an ideal combination of lectures, presentations, and practical activities, allowing the participants to advertise their work, find out about the most recent advancements in the field, and learn how to use the model via a numerical experiment.

I delivered an oral presentation, after which I received positive feedback on my current work and a suggestion for a possible future direction. In particular, I was recommended to adjust my current numerical experiments in a different model to improve the robustness of my current results, and received tips on how to design an equivalent experiment in the OpenIFS model. Since using OpenIFS to test my current results was the main motivation for my attendance at the workshop, I found these discussions extremely helpful.

I also found the lectures and other researchers' presentations very stimulating for future work, and have made contacts with scientists worldwide. With some, we made concrete plans to collaborate in the near future. Furthermore, I was able to meet with some of my current collaborators in person, which was productive in terms of discussing and planning the next steps of our work together. I was also able to engage with scientists at the hosting institution, the International Centre for Theoretical Physics, and find out more about how research works outside the university environment and outside the UK.

Finally, the modelling practical was extremely helpful at providing me with a step-by-step guide on how to produce idealised forecasts using the OpenIFS model. I also learned a substantial amount about the El Niño event in winter 2015/16, which was the general theme of the practical. Within this theme the workshop participants (split into several groups) were able to design their own experiments, which meant that I was able to join a group of researchers who were also interested in how and why this El Niño event affected weather over the North Atlantic. We found insightful results, and since this was a state-of-the-art experiment, this work should yield at least one publication.

Finally, the icebreaker evening and workshop dinner were fantastic networking events, organised in a buffet-style format that helped all participants to mingle and socialise with each other in an informal setting.

I am therefore very grateful to the European Meteorological Society for enabling me to attend this successful event and thereby allowing me effectively to advance my technical knowledge, advertise my work and expand on my collaborative network.