

## 5th European Conference on Severe Storms 12 – 16 October 2009, Landshut, Germany

### Report by Zoltán Polyánszky

- Recipient of an EMS Young Scientist Travel Award

After the conference, that was organised in Triest in 2007, I had the possibility to take part in the fifth ECSS conference with a poster in Landshut. The title of my poster was ***Non mesocyclone tornadoes in Hungary.***

In the conference, I could meet excellent European and American researchers as Doswell and Brooks. 207 participants from 41 countries attended the conference, the atmosphere was friendly. One evening I talked with Doswell about severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, stormchasings.

This conference was organized by ESSL, like two years ago. The ESSL was founded as an association in 2006 and it advances meteorology and related sciences in the field of research on severe convective storms and extreme weather events on European level. It operates and extends the European Severe Weather Database (ESWD) and supports and organizes the European Conferences on Severe Storms, ECSS.

Dr Nikolai Dotzek, the main organiser of the conference held a *STORM* side meeting one evening. *STORM* could be the name of a new COST action (Severe Thunderstorms over Europe and the Mediterranean – Reporting, Verification and Dissemination). Most European countries announced their participation. I was delegated by the Hungarian Meteorological Service.

Another interesting organisation is Skywarn Germany; it is an independent non-profit incorporated association maintaining a pool of voluntary weather spotters. They distinguish basic spotters and advanced spotters. Advanced spotters also provide real time reports via a telephone hotline. The Skywarn is organised in the following countries: Switzerland, Germany, France, Holland, Poland, Slovenia, Czech and Slovakia, England and USA. The reports of advanced storm chaser and spotters are considered especially in DWD next year, when tornado warning will start in Germany. We talked a lot with the young organizer of Skywarn (Schlenzek), the exchange of ideas was very useful for us. Our website [www.szupercella.hu](http://www.szupercella.hu) is similar to Skywarn, since we also organize many stormchasings and damage survey in Hungary.

On wednesday after the conference dinner, the *Young Scientist Travel Awards* were presented; that ceremony was very honorific for me. Me and a german colleague got this award. After the ceremony, many people congratulated and came to see my poster and to talk to me. One of them was Wade Szilagyi, who lives in Canada and has Hungarian parentage. He deals with waterspouts in Canada from 1994, this phenomena examined by him has relation to non mesocyclone tornadoes, he published his results in the *Atmospheric Research*.

The most interesting presentation for me was *The impact of dryline misocyclones on convection initiation on 19 June 2002 during IHOP* by Yvette Richardson, Conrad Ziegler, Michael Buban, James Marquis, Erik Rasmussen, and Joshua Wurman. They examined the misoscale vortices with kinematic observations along boundaries. I have read these articles already.

To summarize, I got a lot of experiences at the conference. My opinion is, that in the future, we should concentrate more on the collection of severe weather data and the research of severe storms in Hungary. This would be significantly important in the aspect of storm warning and life and possession protection.

The most interesting topics for me were the following ones:

- Severe weather case studies and measuring programs (CSIP, VORTEX2, IHOP):
- The impact of climate change on severe storms

I will prepare an article on my presentation for the conference volume.