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Experience after 1 year of EWOB

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In 2016, the European Weather OBserver App (EWOB) was launched by the European Severe Storms Laboratory (ESSL) as a crowd-sourcing tool for real-time human weather observations and observations of severe weather impacts.

We will detail on usage frequency, distribution of reports and the background of jumps in the reporting density. The question will be discussed if EWOB can milden or even overcome the growing gap that is caused by decreasing numbers of manned weather stations. While such traditional human weather reports rarely cover hotspots of very local extreme events, and conventional codes were not designed to report about impacts, EWOB can provide this kind of information – supplemented by photos and short comments.

We present examples of high EWOB activity during interesting weather episodes. In addition we will propose future improvements, especially regarding the selection of reporting options and the availability of possible additional data layers from third parties (like METEOALARM official weather warnings).