



Crowd Sourcing of Weather Observations at European National Meteorological Services

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Operational human weather observers become increasingly rare among national meteorological services (NMSs) across Europe. Networks of automated weather stations are clearly limited in their ability to reflect the characteristics and consecutive damages of severe weather events which are unevenly distributed over space and time. In this regard, the need for reliable ground truth information becomes more and more important for NMSs to fulfil their respective tasks to provide impact related forecasts and warnings for the public and civil authorities. In order to achieve this goal, collaborations between NMSs and voluntary spotter- and chaser organizations occurred more frequently during the last years. So far, no European-wide overview about these collaborations can be found. In our contribution we give a summary of such activities based on a survey of European NMSs. We address aims and structures of these collaborations between spotter organizations and NMSs. Our contribution also includes information about legal aspects, usability and data evaluation, education and training, quality management, data transfer and crowd sourcing platforms as well as the maintenance of these networks.