



Baltic+ 2017 course on Convection - Collaborative Effort for High Quality Convection Training

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Baltic+ training course is an initiative of four hydrometeorological institutes from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, and supported by EUMETSAT. The first Baltic+ course was held in 2014. Each year one of the countries is responsible for organizing the training course on an agreed theme. Operational forecasters from neighbouring countries are also invited to participate.

The main goal of the course is to enhance the skills of operational meteorologists within the region. To enable a wider participation the courses are in blended format, containing both an online and a classroom phase. During the three weeks online phase the participants get acquainted with the various online resources. They improve their skills in using satellite products together with other observations and NWP material. They also work on weather analyses, forecasts and collaborative case studies for practice. Later selected participants deepen their skills during a three day classroom course.

In spring 2017 the Lithuanian Hydrometeorological Service was responsible for delivering the course with course theme “Severe summer convection in the Baltic region”. Nearly 40 participants enrolled in the online phase of the course, and later 27 participants and instructors took part in the classroom phase in Vilnius. Several international as well as Baltic experts supported this training event in preparing resources and exercises.

This convection course structure followed the structure presented in Recent Concepts and Practices document by Convection Working Group. Both online weeks and classroom days had a similar approach, starting with pre-convective stage and ending with mature stage convection products and applications. The structure helped the organizers in grouping the relevant training material and activities effectively. Course evaluations show that the participants appreciated the structure and contents of the course.

The main aspects of the online and classroom training will be presented at ECSS. We will particularly demonstrate how the case studies and simulations can enhance the learning experience. Our course showcase will be a convective event 11 July 2016 in Lithuania.