Training and forecast tool evaluation at the ESSL Testbed in 2012 and 2013

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The ESSL Testbed is a programme that offers evaluation of forecast tools and training in forecasting severe weather. On a yearly basis, it brings together forecasters and developers of forecast-supporting tools from around the world, who will jointly engage in experimental forecasting operations. These operations take place on-site at the Research and Training Centre in Wiener Neustadt, Austria.

The aims of the Testbed are to foster interaction between developers and forecasters, and among their international peers. The Testbed also provides a platform for the international exchange of "best practices" of forecasting extreme weather events.

Supported by various National Meteorological Institutes and by EUMETSAT and WMO RA VI among others, the Testbed edition in 2012 was very successful according to the collected participant feedback. In 2013, in response to feedback, new features have been added to the Testbed concept, including a portal to access Testbed data remotely, and a Testbed blog, aiding dissemination of the findings. We will report on this second edition of the ESSL Testbed, carried out in June and July 2013, and present plans for the Testbed in 2014.