

EMS 2015 report

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The 2015 edition of the European Meteorological Society took place in Sophia, the capital of Bulgaria. Unfortunately, due to agenda and budget limitations, I spent there only one day. Both the meeting, which was full of interesting sessions, and the city deserved more time. However, this day was a long and interesting day. The first session I attended was entitled “Interfacing hydrological and meteorological models in forecasting systems”. Although I do not work with hydrological models, I am interested in the general problem of integrating impact models with probabilistic climate or weather forecasts. The speakers explained different approaches for solving this problem.

After this session I found some time to enter to the poster room. I was truly impressed by the high level of the posters in this congress. Many of them contained as much information as a full-fledged journal paper. I was especially interested on a poster about heat stress related mortality in Prague, by Alés Urban and Jan Kysely, as this is one of the main research lines of my group.

The next session I attended was Synoptic Climatology. This session was diverse, encompassing different research lines. Miguel Angel Gaertner presented an interesting study on the tropical cyclones in the subtropical eastern North Atlantic, showing a surprising upward trend in this area. When this session finished I had quick sandwich and I went to the Urban Climate session, where I was the first speaker. I found a very good audience, and afterwards I did receive feedback from other researchers interested on different aspects of the research I presented. The rest of the session included many other interesting studies. For example, Sorin Cheval, from the National Meteorological Administration of Romania, showed results of a project where they measured the effects of the Urban Heat Island inside buildings in Bucharest in order to determine the thermal risk and issue early warnings.

The day ended with the Big Data discussion, which is a very hot topic nowadays. The different speakers discussed about the meaning of “Big Data”, which is not very well defined, and its usefulness in meteorology and climatology. Some speakers, like Ken Mylne from Met Office, argued that, due to the large volume of data handled by their institution, their actual workflow can be already considered as Big Data, while other speakers defended an interpretation more related to the massive data gathering by taking advantage of new technologies, such as the measurement of meteorological variables using smartphones.

In summary, my short trip to the EMS 2015 in Sofia was intense, interesting and fruitful. I want to thank the organization for their good work and their support through the young scientist travel award. This was my first EMS meeting and I look forward to attend the next editions.