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Report from the 6th European Conference on Radar in Meteorology and Hydrology
2010

The 6th European Conference on Radar in Meteorology and Hydrology was hosted in Sibiu, Romania, a beautiful medieval city in south Transylvania. The conference started after a few welcoming words from Romanian authorities. The Minister of Environment and Forests, the Prefect of Sibiu and the General Manager of the National Meteorological Administration told us about the Romanian meteorological advances and the beauty of the city of Sibiu. After that, Aurora Bell, conference chair and NMA director, officially inaugurated the conference. She did a very job organizing such a big event; we were hundreds of scientists from all over the world.

Two years ago I attended the ERAD conference in Helsinki. I have very good memories of that conference, since it was the first time I participated in such a scientific event. Meeting so many important scientists, meteorologists, engineers, was really inspiring. Thank to that conference I could travel from Spain to Norman, Oklahoma, and spend there 6 months working with NSSL scientists. This is why I think these conferences must be seen as opportunities. It's not only about giving a talk or presenting a poster about your work. It means interacting with others, it is all about sharing knowledge. Two years ago I was absolutely thrilled about meeting the scientists whose books and papers I had been reading for so long. It is amazing how much one can learn with others, the amount of good ideas they can give to you.

From the scientific point of view, the conference was a huge success. Due to the elevated number of participants some oral sessions were parallel and it was very difficult to choose which one to attend. In addition, there were so many interesting posters that the organizers found complicated to end the sessions. The good quality of the contributions was proven by the high participation. In the oral sessions a lot of questions were asked after every single presentation. Some of the questions led to interesting discussions that had to be moved to the coffee breaks. In the poster sessions it was difficult to walk due to the amount of people participating. There were always different opinions and ideas, and that was really the richness of the conference. Although I am more focused in signal processing, I found very interesting other topics such as polarimetry, and I could learn a lot about severe weather (which is something we can find not only in the Great Plains but also in Romania!). I really enjoyed learning about weather radar advances both in signal processing and technology. We also discussed about the future of radar systems in a remarkable workshop. More and more countries are installing and improving weather radars and we have seen in this conference how they help us to protect lives and goods, which is the final goal of all of us.

From a more personal point of view the conference was also a success. We should always highlight the "human" side. It is always nice to meet people around the world, with different cultures and backgrounds. We spent time together, during the ice-breaker, the coffee breaks and, naturally, visiting Sibiu. It was really nice to find people with "orange bags" all around Sibiu and discover that we have many things in common in spite of living thousands of kilometers away. We also had a lot of fun visiting Bran castle. After a late lunch/early dinner in the House of Wolf we visited the historic fortress of count Vlad Tepes (not the vampire... according to Aurora, Dracula was born in Hollywood!).

Finally I would like to thank Aurora, Ian and the local committee for organizing this fabulous conference and the European Meteorological Society for its support.