I would like to thank EMS for granting me a Young Scientist Travel Award (YSTA) to attend the Nordic Meteorological Meeting (NMM31) in Reykjavik. It was an honour to receive this award and to participate in the conference which focuses on the challenges of meteorological observations and modelling in the Nordic countries.

NMM31 conference had 7 thematic sessions (Observations, NWP and forecasting, Remote Sensing, etc.) and there were 44 oral presentations from experts from different research and operational institutions. I attended this conference for the first time and I was glad to get acquainted with many experienced and young researchers from the Nordic countries.

During the conference, I gave an oral presentation titled “Creating a cloud-free MODIS snow cover product using spatial and temporal interpolation and temperature thresholds” in the Remote Sensing session on the 19th June. Presented results are part of my PhD thesis and the feedback from other participants of the conference will be used to improve the ongoing research. This should help to yield the scientific publication.

The NMM31 had a broad overview of the research and applications in the field of meteorology and climatology. My main interest was in the Remote Sensing session, but I enjoyed all presentations about observations and communication of meteorology. The broad variety of topics gave a lot of inspiration how to use the existing observations to produce innovative operational products. Several presenters emphasized the importance of communication of weather and climate topics with the general public and end users. An added value of the conference was networking. By participating in the conference I had a great opportunity to meet a lot of specialists and experts from different countries and different institutions.

These outcomes would be impossible without the travel support provided by EMS, so I would like to thank you once again. Your support for young specialists and scientist builds a strong foundation for future cooperation. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the great work done by the NMM31 Organizing Committee for organizing the conference and social events.

Justinas Kilpys
PhD student at Institute of Geosciences
Vilnius University (Lithuania)