At this year’s EMS annual meeting 2019 in Lyngby (Denmark) I was among four young scientists who were selected for the Young Scientist Travel Award (YSTA) and I would like to express my honest gratitude for receiving this award and the associated funding grant. The YSTA made it possible for me to attend this conference for the first time, to present my latest work to an expert community and to connect and exchange with international scientists in this research field.

My oral presentation was scheduled on Friday morning in the session on synoptic climatology and I presented the latest results of my PhD work on Detecting the dynamics of heavy precipitation Vb-cyclones under climate change using neural networks. In my PhD project I am working on machine learning techniques in order to analyze large climate ensembles like the single model large ensemble produced in the climate change and extreme events (ClimEx-) project at LMU Munich in which I am enrolled as a PhD student.

Besides the oral and poster sessions, which I attended to learn about recent studies close to my research field, I especially enjoyed the keynote talks and sessions that facilitated the exchange on science communication. In the light of climate change the question on how to transport scientific messages to a broad, non-specialized community is an important challenge for the scientific community. I especially liked that at the EMS Annual Meeting the topic of science communication had a very high value and commitment in that direction was appreciated, e. g. via awards or keynotes. One of my highlights of the conference was the keynote by the Executive Director of the European Environment Agency (EEA) Hans Bruyninckx in which he delivered interesting insights into policy making.

Furthermore, I especially appreciate the effort that is made by the EMS to support particularly young scientists. I experienced this not only through the provision of the YSTA with a subsequent invitation to an awardees lunch, but also through the offer of the Early Career Scientist Café. At this innovative workshop (PhD) students had the chance to discuss important career topics in small groups with experienced experts. This was the perfect chance to gain new insights and ask all kind of questions a young scientist has on mind.