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I am writing to express my gratitude to the committee of the European Meteorological Society (EMS) for awarding me the Young Scientist Conference Award (YSCA). I am honored by this recognition and I greatly appreciate the support that allowed me to participate in this conference.

Being a researcher in a meteorological service, EMS 2024 presents an invaluable opportunity for me to engage with a very diverse community, from Universities to other researchers in meteorological services, including researchers in the private sector. Such variety of interests and focus is very hard to come by in any other event with such participation, and EMS provides the perfect framework for discussion and engagement, allowing both specific sessions and time for discussion during multiple coffee breaks.

This year EMS award Lectures, strategic lectures and invited talks were very interesting, and three of them resonated with both my interest and my vision of EMS. The first was the talk by Prof. Sue Grimmond, a very clear academic presentation of the impact that the urban areas has on the physical Earth system. The second was the strategic lecture by Ana Romero Càlix, where we could clearly see the impact of climate change on the cities, and how the city of Barcelona is adapting, not only as an abstract policy change, but as clear examples. These two talks, which were very well organized one after the others, took us from the very technical and physical approach of the urban problem, to the actual implementations of measures both at a city and neighbor level. Coming from a southern European country, but living in a northern European one, I felt that connecting the two talks was a clear reminder of the challenges in adaptation that we face ahead, which were clearly explained to a non-policy audience by Ana Romero Càlix. The third, was the invited talk by Francisco J. Doblas-Reyes, on the need of the operationalization of the climate projections. While this topic might seem relevant for the people involved in the day-to-day work, I found it eye-opening in the sense of the standards. While I knew that the community that is involved in the productions of such projections did develop their own standards and requirements, I did not know that such standards were not WMO-standards. I found extremely interesting, and challenging for the community, the need of a more flexible approach in producing, especially to reflect the needs of the socio-economic context. While not directly affecting my own research field, I believe that such changes in paradigm are crucial turn-points, and I look forward to see its development.

My contribution to the meeting was a presentation in the UP3.6 session of “global and regional reanalyses”. While my contribution title and abstract pointed towards a development phase of the new regional reanalyses produced by DWD, the work proceeded further than expected. In fact, at the end I present the new global and regional reanalyses, ICON-DREAM, that I produced with the help of many colleagues in the past year. The audience of EMS provided the perfect target audience to do this first presentation, allowing me to get insights of interests and requirements of possible future reanalyses’ users. I was able to connect with other researchers producing reanalyses, and get their insight to understand their prior challenges, or connecting to further increase the exchanges of data. These are invaluable insights and knowledge for an Early Career Scientist like me, which only recently started to work on this topic.

Further, I enjoyed also all the other sessions, from the ones addressing Machine Learning (ML) topics, to more classical meteorological sessions, e.g. the Urban Session, or the climate extremes one, or the atmospheric measurements one. While it was always interesting to follow new developments across several topics, these all provides me insights on how reanalyses are used and where they might have still issues of representation.

In summary, I really enjoyed participating to the EMS 2024, and I found that it provided me an unique perspective and overview of the current active research topics and where the community is leading in the next years. The YSCA allowed me to travel to Barcelona, and it gave me the possibility to expand my network as an early career scientist, including both other ECSs and more experienced researchers.