

I had the privilege to attend the European Meteorological Society Annual Meeting 2025 in Ljubljana as a Young Scientist Conference Award recipient. The conference was a great experience in many aspects, from science to networking and everything in between.

My conference week got off to an adventurous start when after the icebreaker event a bunch of us young scientists went to see the lunar eclipse occurring that night. Despite climbing on top of the hill where the Ljubljana castle is situated and having a significant density of meteorologists in the city for support, the clouds were too persistent to allow us to witness the red glow of the lunar eclipse.

After the slightly more relaxed start to the week, the scientific programme began on Monday. In general, I appreciated the high level of quality in oral presentations and posters. Many a time the selection of parallel sessions matched the quality and it was difficult to choose which sessions to attend. Based purely on what I recall from my previous two times I have attended the EMS annual meeting, I felt like this year the variety in sessions was larger than before and attendees were from more diverse backgrounds. One of my favourite things about attending conferences is that one gets easily a lot of perspective on what is happening in the field as opposed to just reading papers in ones office. This year topics that seemed popular and relevant were extreme precipitation, climate change and naturally the focus of this year's conference, the growing use of artificial intelligence and machine learning methods in atmospheric sciences and meteorological applications.

Outside of scientific interests, of the plenary sessions I enjoyed the awards ceremony the most, not because of being an awardee myself but because I got to witness the wonderful support and respect fellow scientists have for each other in the community. I especially enjoyed the laudation and lecture of the EMS Silver Medal given to the director-general of ECMWF, Florence Rabier. Naturally, the outstanding respect was present also in the scientific sessions where fellow scientists showed fascination and admiration for each other's research that is as deserving of an award as any.

I attended both the reception and the speed networking event for early career scientists. I enjoyed hearing from senior scientists and people outside academia about their careers and perspectives on problems and opportunities face. Even more so I enjoyed talking to other young scientists and receiving valuable insights into the research and careers of fellow early career researchers, not to of course forget mandatory discussions on topics frequently covered in international company: differences in language and culture.

The session in which I presented my work, *UP1.1 Atmospheric and Climate dynamics, predictability, and extremes* also offered a wide range of topics, and the presentations and posters sparked many interesting discussions. I was glad to see high attendance throughout the session and have both more senior and young scientists ask me relevant questions and give me interesting suggestions on my research.

The city of Ljubljana was a great location for the conference. The beautiful, compact and vibrant city took care of us scientists after hours and offered us nicely variable weather from pouring rain to sunny and warm September weather (at least to a Finn like me).

Finally, I would like to thank the EMS and the awards committee for awarding me with this honour, and all the organisers and attendees for contributing to an unforgettable conference.