

First results of the European Severe Weather Database ESWD

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The European Severe Weather Database (ESWD) was initiated in 2002 and has been expanded in 2004. Its purpose is to facilitate the collection, storage, editing and sharing of data on severe weather events that have occurred in Europe. The characteristics of the ESWD are a universal, exchangeable data format and web-based access and data input. These features were identified to be needed to overcome the present fragmentation of severe weather databases in Europe, and to gain acceptance by the national weather services. After finishing its first year of experimental operation, our presentation reviews the underlying data format and the technical concept of the database. The merits of a European Severe Weather Database for forecasting, forecast verification and climatology will be discussed, as well as the current state of involvement by European weather services and an outlook on the future evolution of the ESWD database.