

---

---

# baltrad Newsletter

July 2010

## **An advanced weather radar network for the Baltic Sea Region**

*The innovation lies in the development of an ICT network architecture which allows real-time data exchange and processing of weather radar data using common methods according to local needs in each country.*

**Highlights:** *BALTRAD now, End-user event in Aalborg, BALTRAD at other events, forthcoming events*

### **BALTRAD now**

Project Manager's message

The project started in February 2009 and is now reaching its mid-term milestone. The work on developing the innovative ICT system for collecting, exchanging, and processing weather radar data is constantly progressing. After creating the main building blocks of the system, the first release of the BALTRAD software proved that the system performs as planned. Currently, the first partners are feeding their radar data into the system, the on-line exchange of data is becoming reality now in the Baltic Sea Region. Since BALTRAD has a focus to deliver customized high-quality products for end users (e.g. road management authorities, air-traffic control, local rescue services) the needs of potential end-users have been investigated and a set of cases where the BALTRAD system can be applied have been designed. One of the cornerstones to foster the cooperation with users is the so-called "End User Event" that was already planned for April 2010, where over 50 participants were registered. Unfortunately, we had to cancel this because of the Icelandic volcano eruption. This event will now take place on 26th October 2010 in Aalborg, Denmark. Please mark this date in your calendar, you will get further information in due course.

### **End user event in Aalborg**

The workshop "Improved use of information from weather radar in transport, public safety and recreation sectors" is geared towards the needs and expectations of potential end users of the BALTRAD system who are interested in accurate and high

resolution information on rain, snow, hail and wind. The workshop will bring end users from various sectors such as road- and transport administration, aviation-meteorology, radiation and nuclear safety, defence forces, disaster management, meteorologists, and hydrologists together. The aim is that our specialists and invited experts explain how more and more BALTRAD radars are able not just to show where precipitation is falling, but also whether it is rain, snow or hail. The workshop will highlight how such advanced technology can increase the quality of quantitative precipitation estimates from radar, thereby improving short forecasts that use such estimates. The event will take place on 26th October 2010 in Aalborg, Denmark. Details will be soon available on the project's website and on the BALTRAD community on Facebook.

### **BALTRAD at other events**

#### **Nordic Meteorology Meeting**

The 27th Nordic Meteorology Meeting was arranged in Helsinki 7–11 June 2010. The topics of the meeting were on several meteorological themes, working methods and research. This year the focus was on weather and safety, climate and climate change, air quality, developing a learning process, satellite and radar applications. Also the Iceland volcano eruption was discussed in several presentations. Participants were meteorologists from different fields, forecasters and researchers, and marine researchers. The BALTRAD project was presented by Project Manager Daniel Michelson. Meteorologists, who are primary users of weather radar data got fresh news on radar network development. Daniel Michelson encouraged the users to describe their needs and requirements on radar network products to the project, and invited the audience to take part in the project event in October.

#### **IRPA conference**

The Third European IRPA Congress on "Radiation protection – science, safety and security" took place in Helsinki 14–18 June 2010 and attracted nearly 800 participants. The programme consisted of plenary lectures, topical sessions and related poster sessions, specialist workshops, refresher courses, organisations forums and technical visits (to Olkiluoto nuclear power plant, for example). In addition, there were satellite events dealing with two major European activities in the field of radiation biology. The topics of the congress covered all fields of radiation protection, ranging e.g. from radon and medical use of radiation to radiation detection technologies and to issues of radiation and society. As a response to new radiation-related threats one of the 19 topical

sessions was devoted solely to nuclear security and malevolent use of radiation. The BALTRAD project was described in a poster titled "BALTRAD – An advanced weather radar network for the Baltic Sea Region meteorological institutes and authorities" that was presented by Juhani Lathinen under the session "Nuclear and radiological emergencies and incidents". This session included also a Belgian weather-radar-related poster "The use of rain-radar data in the early phase nuclear emergency response". The presentation of BALTRAD at this conference was motivated by the fact the agencies responsible for nuclear safety are important end-users of BALTRAD, the project develops a pilot applications for this group of users.

### BALTEX

Project Manager Daniel Michelson presented BALTRAD at the 6th Study Conference on BALTEX (The Baltic Sea Experiment, see <http://www.baltex-research.eu/>), held 14–18 June in Międzyzdroje, Island of Wolin, Poland. Besides informing the BALTEX community about the project, he emphasized that BALTRAD would never have been possible without the research and development activities on weather radar conducted within the framework of BALTEX. He also underpinned the value to society when research results are pulled through to become part of regional infrastructure, as is the case with BALTRAD.

### Forthcoming events

#### ERAD 2010

The 6th European Conference on Radar in Meteorology and Hydrology takes place from 6–10 September in Sibiu, Romania. The conference is the most important event of its kind for the European weather radar community, and it takes place every other year. Since ERAD will take place roughly halfway through our project's lifetime, this is an excellent forum for us to showcase the project. Several abstracts have been submitted, and there will be both oral and poster presentations. A special session will be held on the morning of September 8 where a number of BALTRAD presentations will present the project, its technical platform, how dual-polarization data are being processed, how radar data are merged together to form so-called composites, and how we are treating data quality. You are welcome to join us at ERAD. To register please visit [www.erad2010.org](http://www.erad2010.org)



*Nordic Meteorology Meeting – a fifty year-old tradition*



Part-financed by the European Union  
(European Regional Development Fund  
and European Neighbourhood  
and Partnership Instrument)

Disclaimer: This leaflet has been produced with the assistance of the European Union (<http://europa.eu>). The content of this publication is the sole responsibility of BALTRAD and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.