

8th April 2013

Third User Forum for the Baltic Sea Weather Radar project BALTRAD+

The project-team is taking its four-year experience to a new level with a radar networking system and radar-based information in support of society's needs. The project team is eager to attract new users and to foster the interaction with existing users of the BALTRAD system. The Third User Forum will be held in Vilnius, Lithuania from 15th to 16th May.

Weather forecasts that warn of hazardous conditions, e.g. snow storms or floods, help save lives and property. Accurate and timely forecasts also help optimize activities for several sectors of the economy. Weather radar systems are capable of monitoring rain, snow, hail, and wind over large geographical areas with high resolution in both time and space. Several weather radar systems can be networked to cover countries, regions, and even continents.

The BALTRAD partnership has delivered the world's first international weather radar network supporting the latest generation of advanced radar technology and now continues in the extension project BALTRAD+. The project team consists of partners in Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Belarus, Germany, Denmark, Norway and Ukraine.

The result of the initial project BALTRAD was a software providing real-time high-quality data with demonstrated value for end-users. This software has been produced according to open source principles, and is available for everybody at <http://git.baltrad.eu/>.

The Third User Forum in Vilnius continues to inform how users can access and use the BALTRAD software and the radar data in the network. The project is eager to foster cooperation with potential users and is ready to customize the system to meet user's needs. Users are invited to present their cases where weather radar data can be integrated. The User Forum is accompanied by a Workshop on Quality Algorithms that are needed to ensure the high quality of the available radar data.

Further information on BALTRAD and BALTRAD+ will be available on www.baltrad.eu.

The project is lead by the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute. Project manager is Daniel Michelson daniel.michelson@smhi.se.