

Experiences after the first years of EWOB

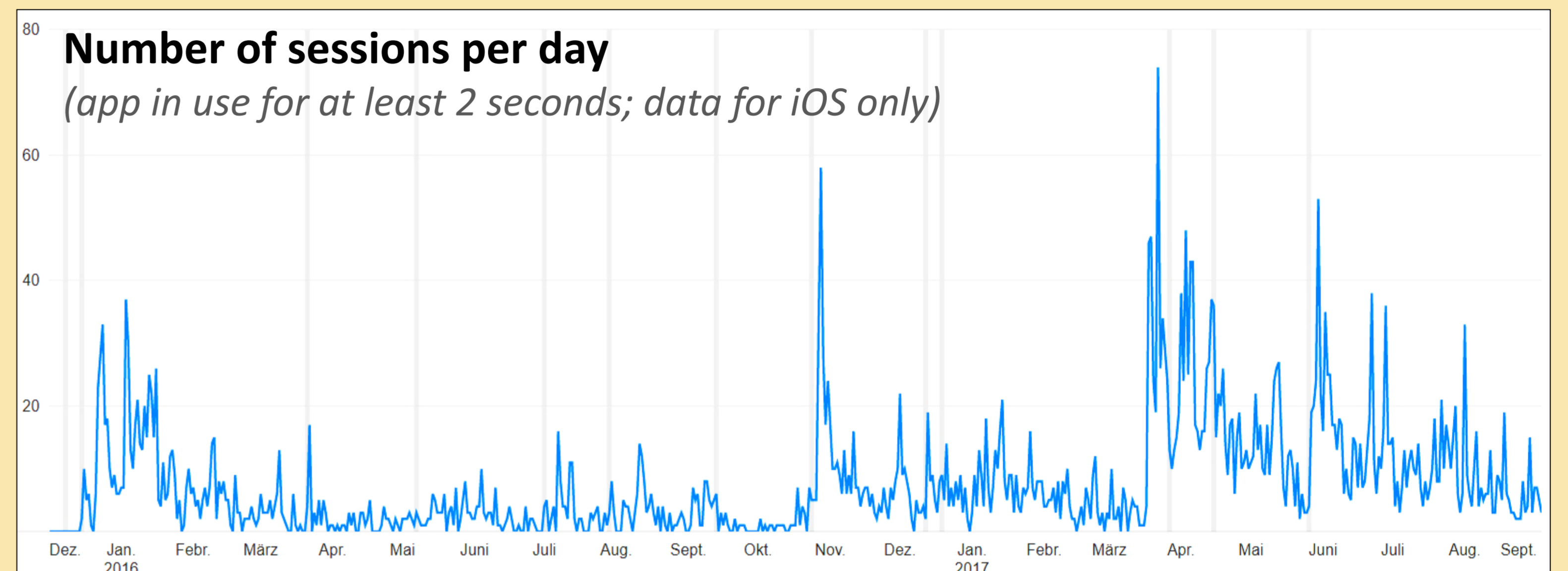
Alois M. Holzer*, Pieter Groenemeijer, Kathrin Riemann-Campe, and Bogdan Antonescu



EWOB Key Facts

EWOB, the **European Weather OBserver** app: a free citizen science and crowd-sourcing app for sending and retrieving weather reports and impact or damage reports

- Available in **35 languages** spoken in Europe
- Installations: 8 200 * (*iOS* and **Android**)
- **Number of reports: 13 700 ***
- **Number of reports with photos: 3 650 ***

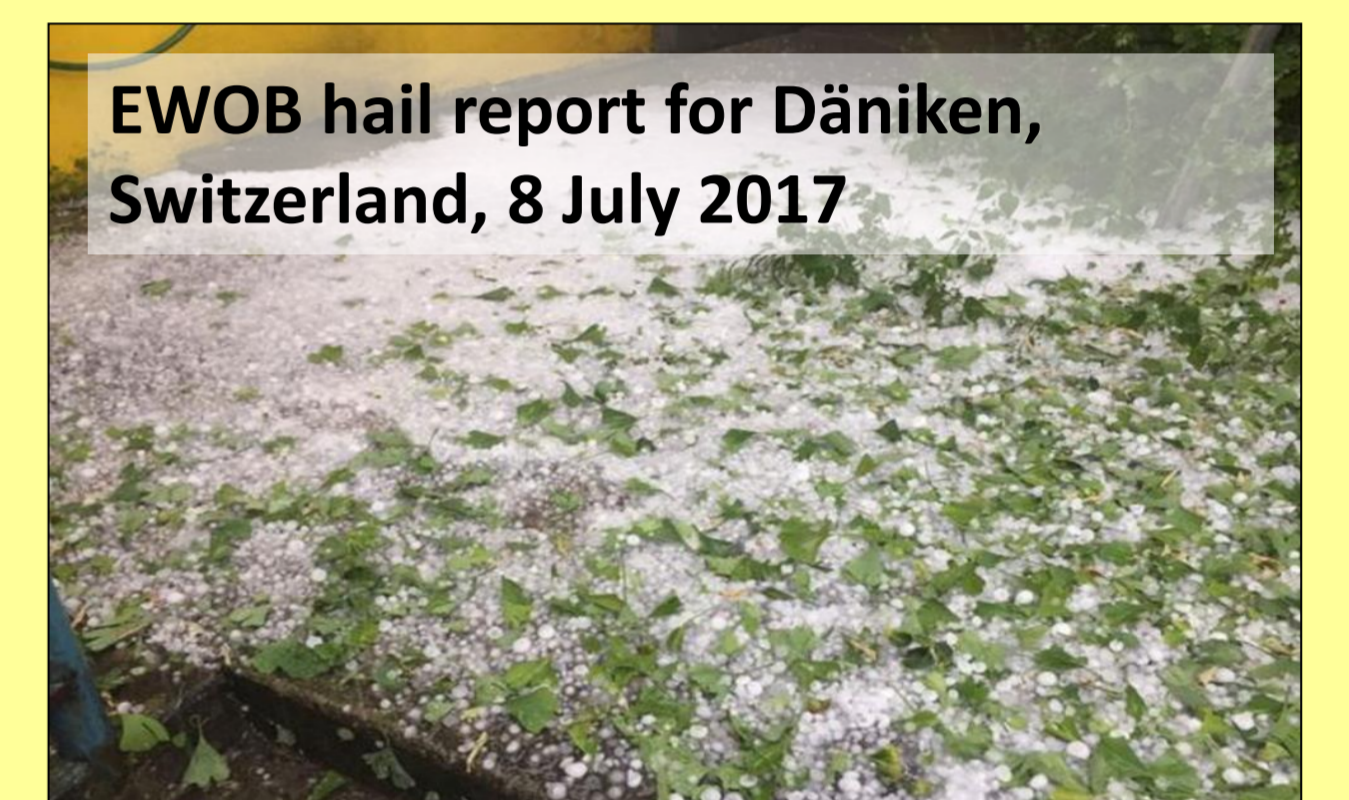
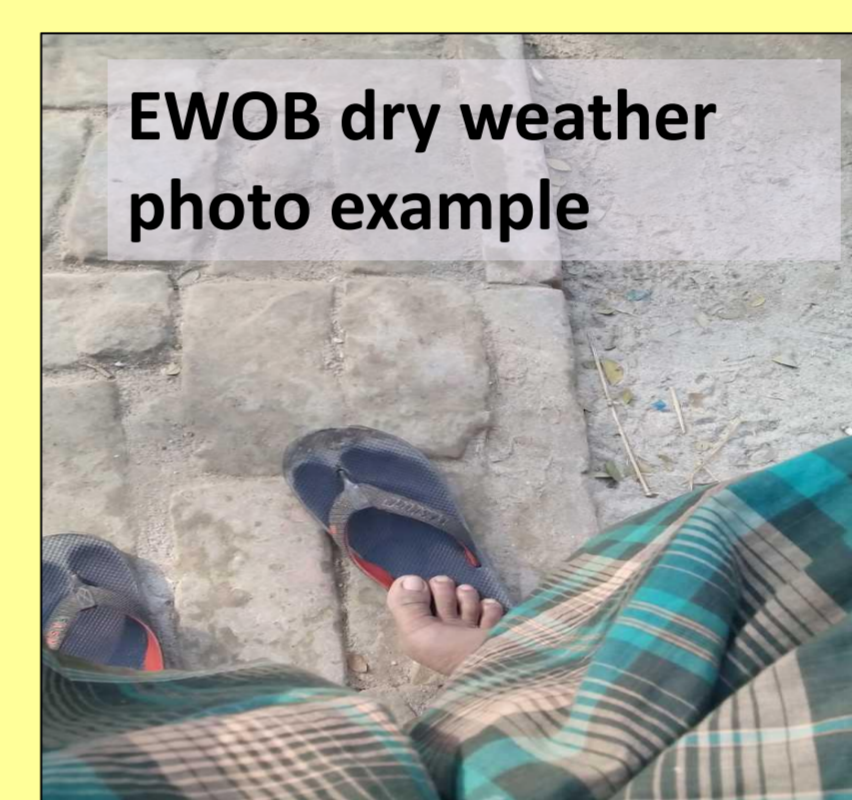
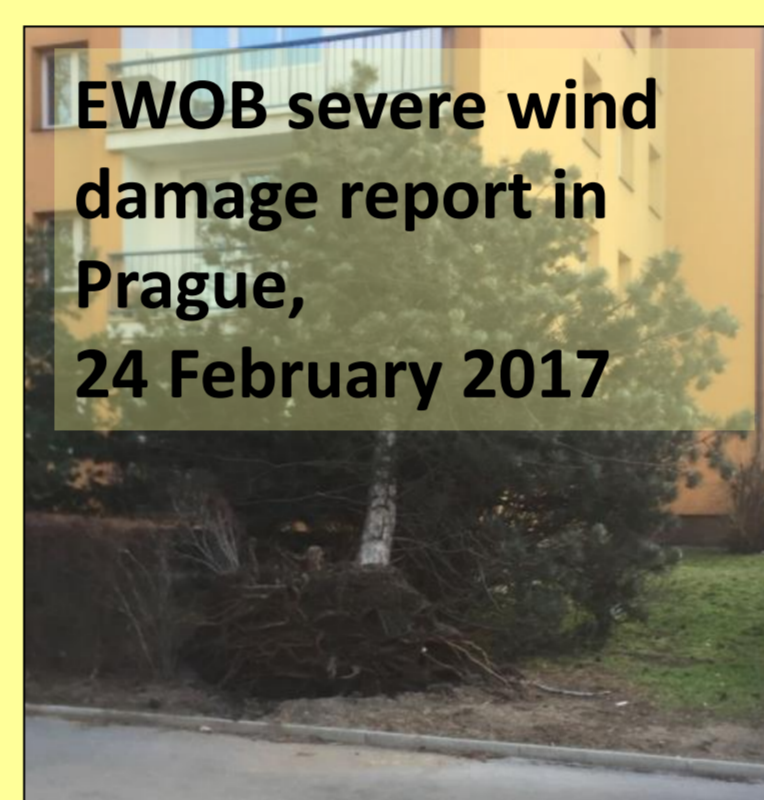


*Numbers as of 5 September 2017

EWOB was launched in December 2015 (in English and German) and relaunched in December 2016 in 35 languages

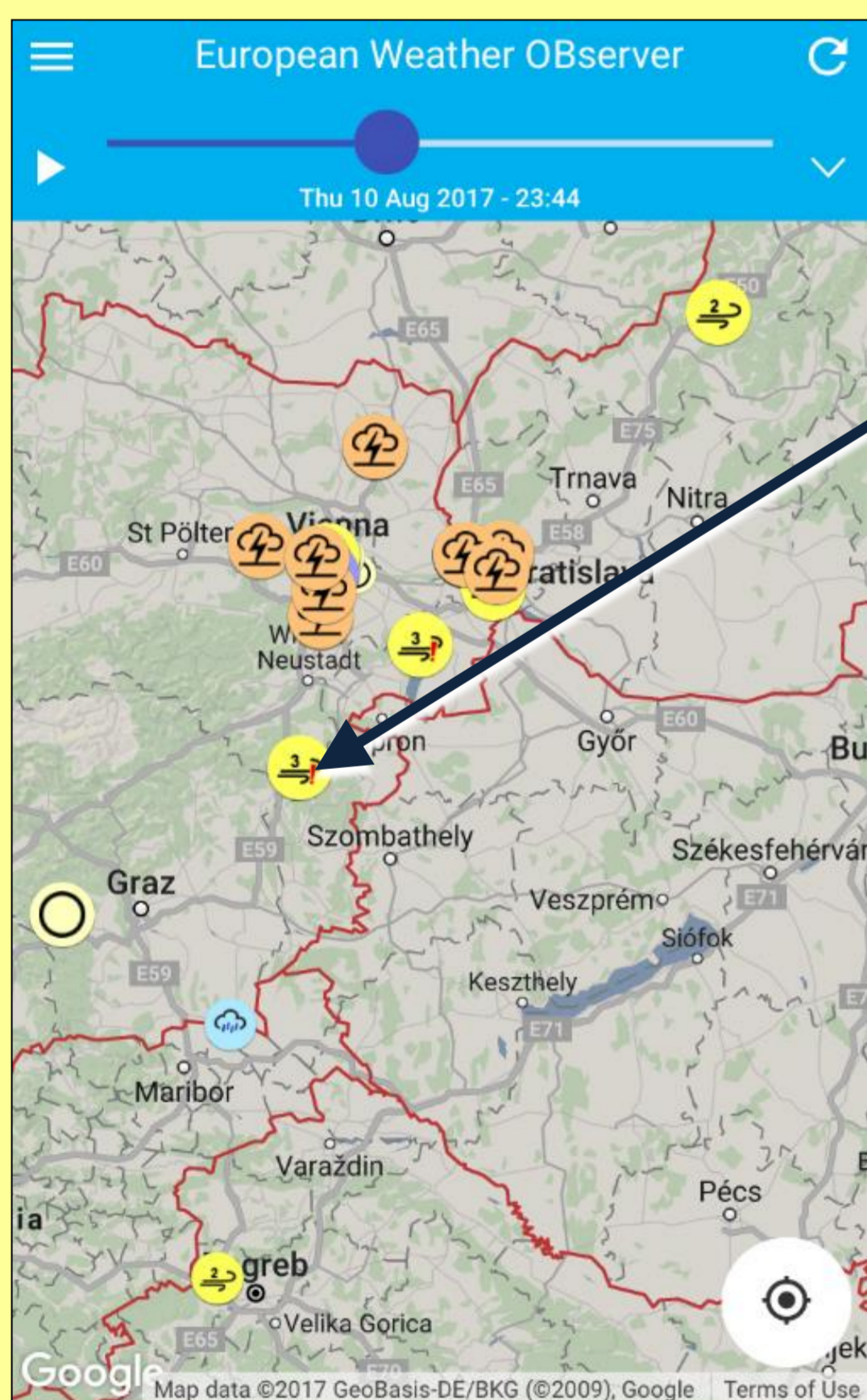
Activity level of EWOB modulated by

- **posts** in well-frequented blogs of weather enthusiasts that advertise EWOB
- **tweets or facebook posts** with many followers mentioning EWOB
- **articles** in newspapers or online journals
- **news** about EWOB (re-)launch by ESSL and its partners
- the **weather** situation

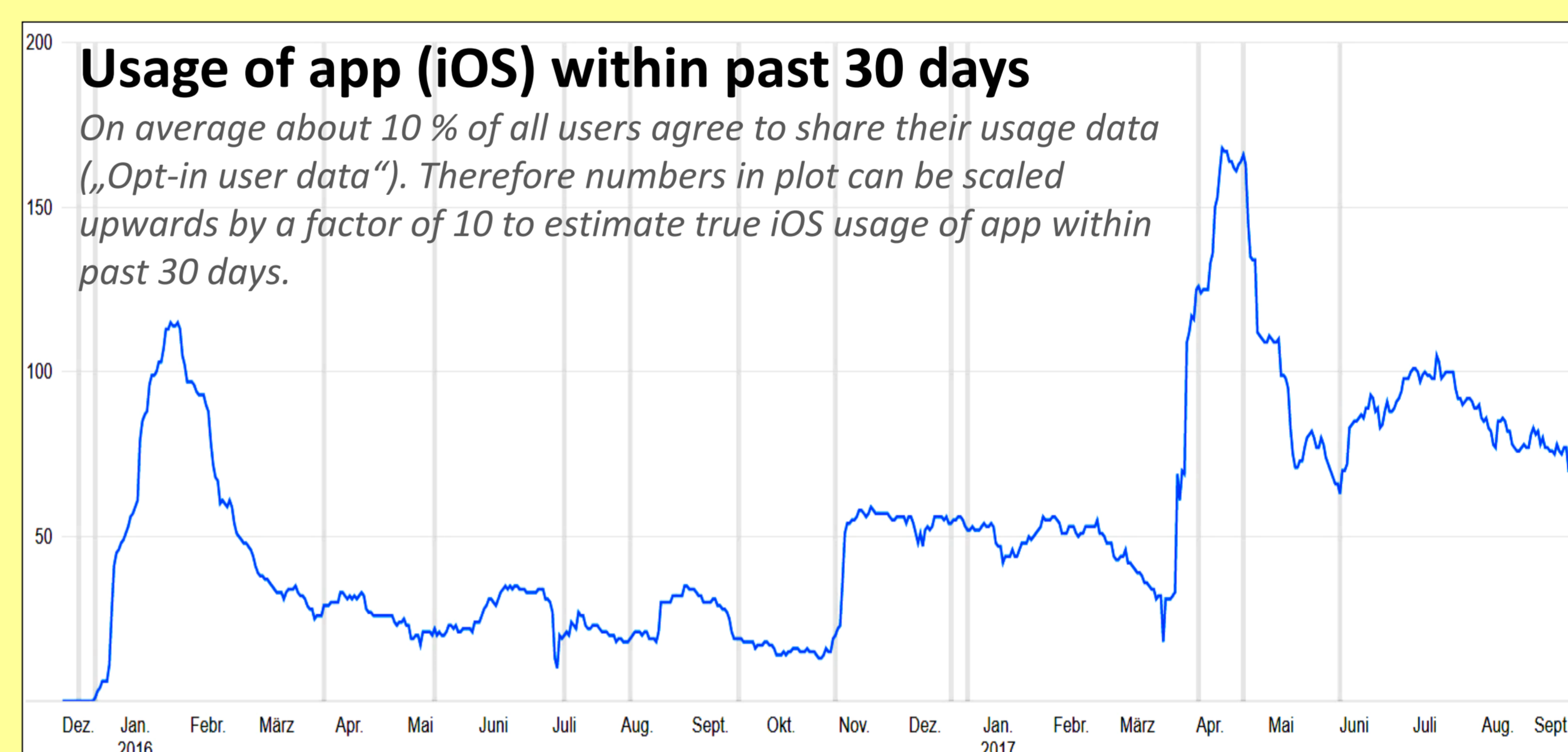


Attractiveness of EWOB appears to be influenced by

- **availability** of alternative ways to communicate high impact weather in the country of residence
- **usability** of the app in daily life (still limited, plans for future improvements)
- **emotional ties** to the preferred weather app provider *and possibly:*
- **added value** by interlaced data layers (see *Enhancements* below)



EWOB display screenshot for the 10 August 2017 derecho (left). Map detail of region between Zagreb and Bratislava with a number of high intensity wind impact reports. Grade 3 means that large branches are broken or single trees snapped.



Left: During summer 2017 on average about 1,000 iOS users activated their app in the past 30 days of a given reference day.

That is about one third of all iOS users with installed EWOB app.

No data available for Android devices.

EWOB Enhancements being considered

1. **additional data layers**, e.g.
 - official MeteoAlarm warnings
 - weather maps
 - weather station reports
2. **sending push-messages** to request reports from users in case of warnings or nearby severe weather reports
3. **EWOB-Pro** version (with login) for trusted spotters of Skywarn-type organizations

Standardization of crowd sourced report formats

ESSL is involved in the standardization of a data format and interface for the exchange of crowd-sourced reports of severe weather, its impact and damage in collaboration with National Weather Services.

If you are interested, please approach the authors for more details. See also poster ECSS2017-172 by Krennert and Csekits.

*Corresponding author: Alois M. Holzer
e-mail: alois.holzer@essl.org