

A preliminary end-to-end ATLID validation chain using ACTRIS-EARLINET data

Stefan-Marius Nicolae^{1,2}, Gabriela Ciocan^{1,3}, Andrei-Valentin Dandocsi^{1,2}, Doina Nicolae¹, Alexandru-Marius Dandocsi¹

¹ National Institute of R&D for Optoelectronics, Magurele, Romania.

² National University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania.

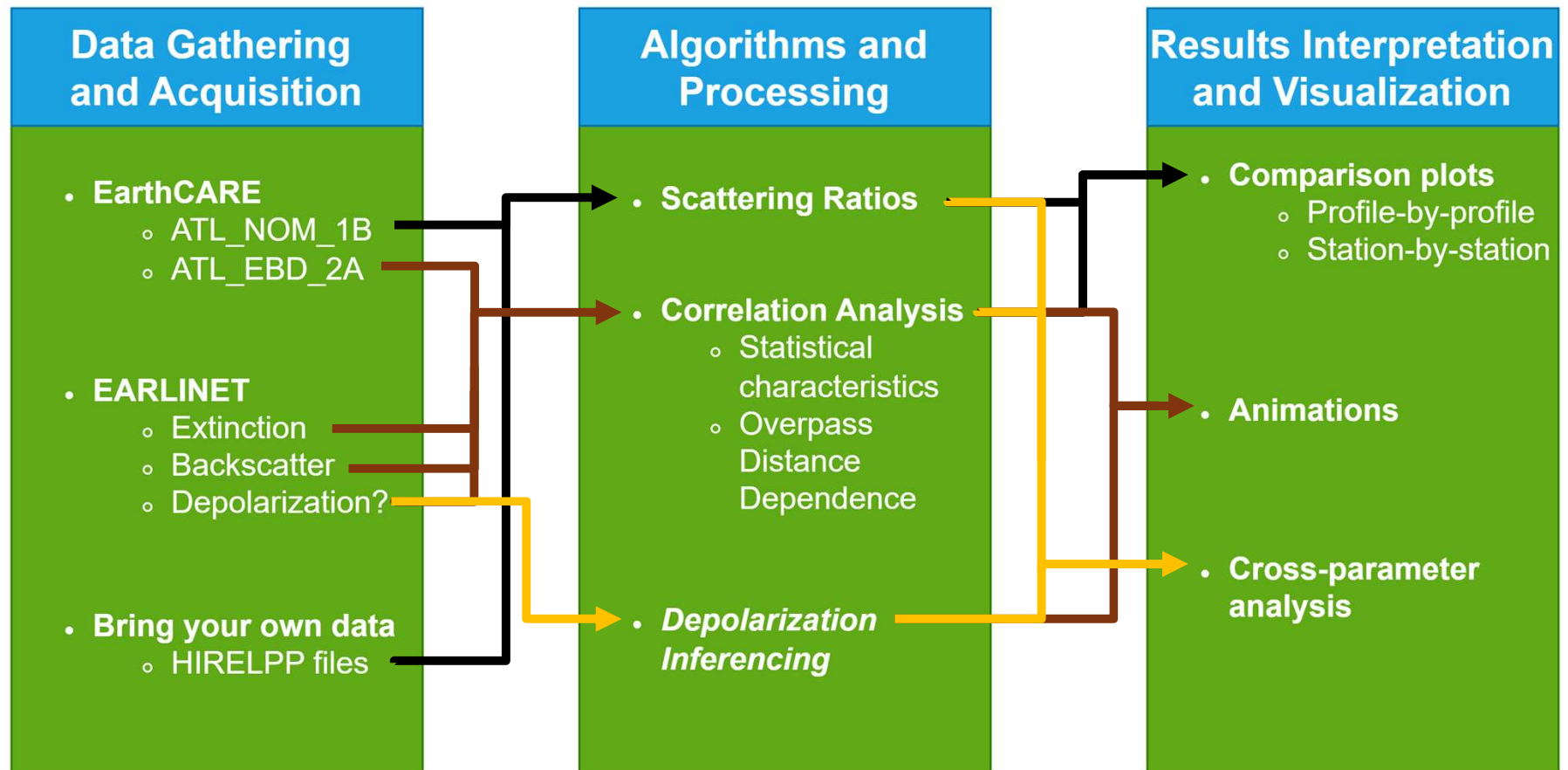
³ Faculty of Physics, University of Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania



Context

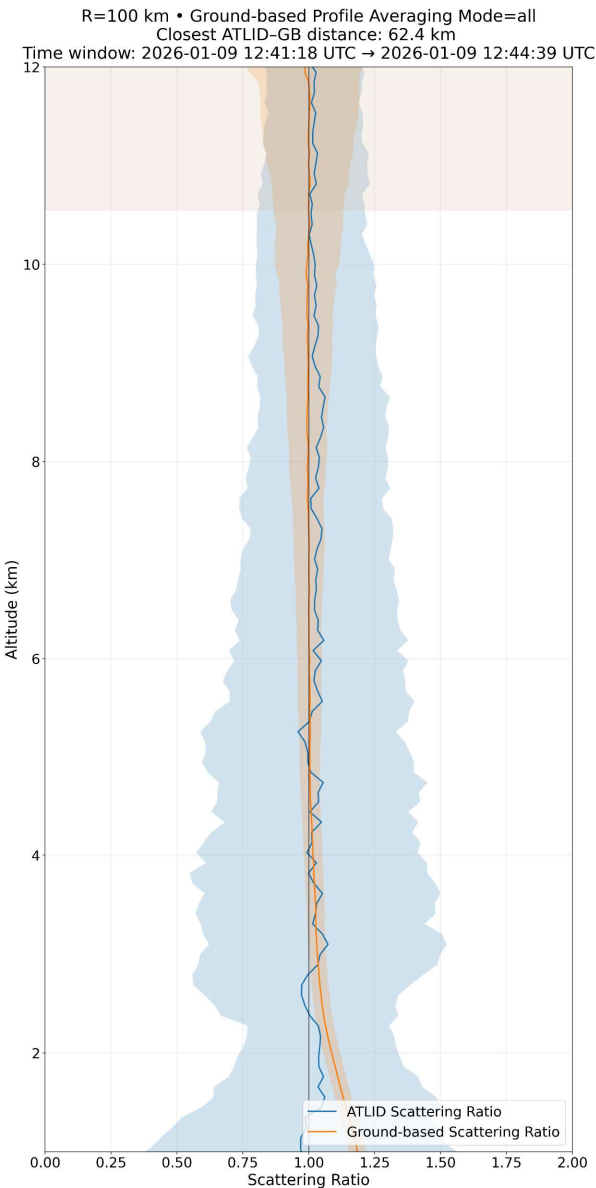
- Objective: Develop a ***complete*** validation chain for ATLID products
- Motivation: Lots of algorithms, lots of products, lots of data => hard to ensure cross-comparability between results and have a “complete picture”; ***Leverage EARLINET***
- Solution: Use an open collaborative platform ([DIVA](#)) to **centralize and publish algorithms** for the various data products

Methodology



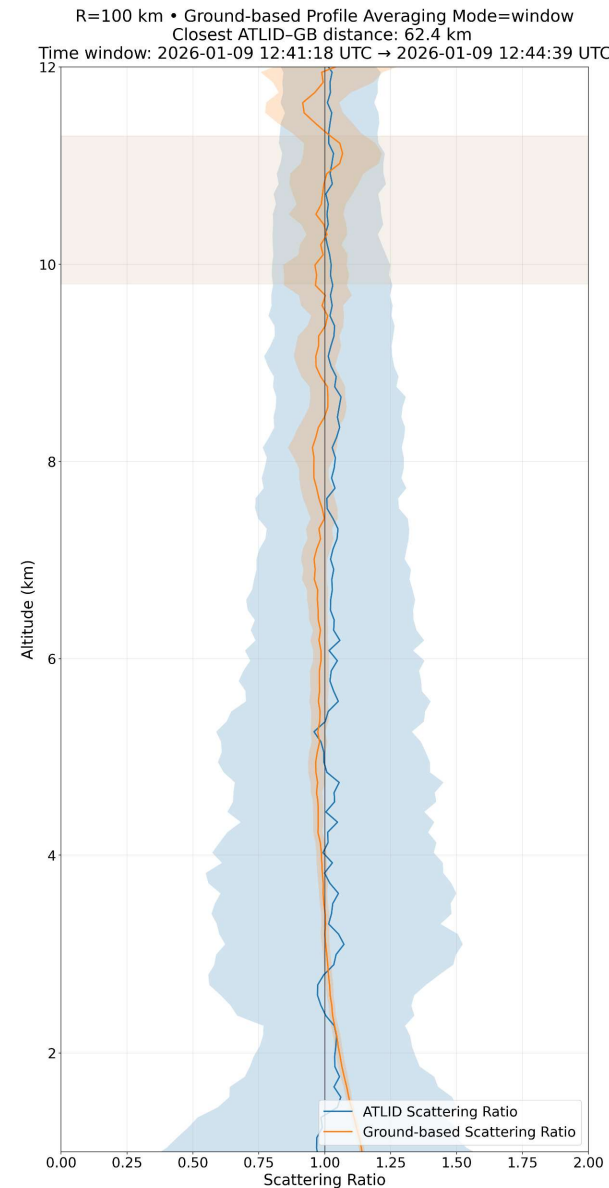
Showcase

- Will use INO station EARLINET data from 2026
- In total, 6 overpasses found – only 5 have optical products in EARLINET
- No depolarization measurements present – will infer them with the ML module (experimental)



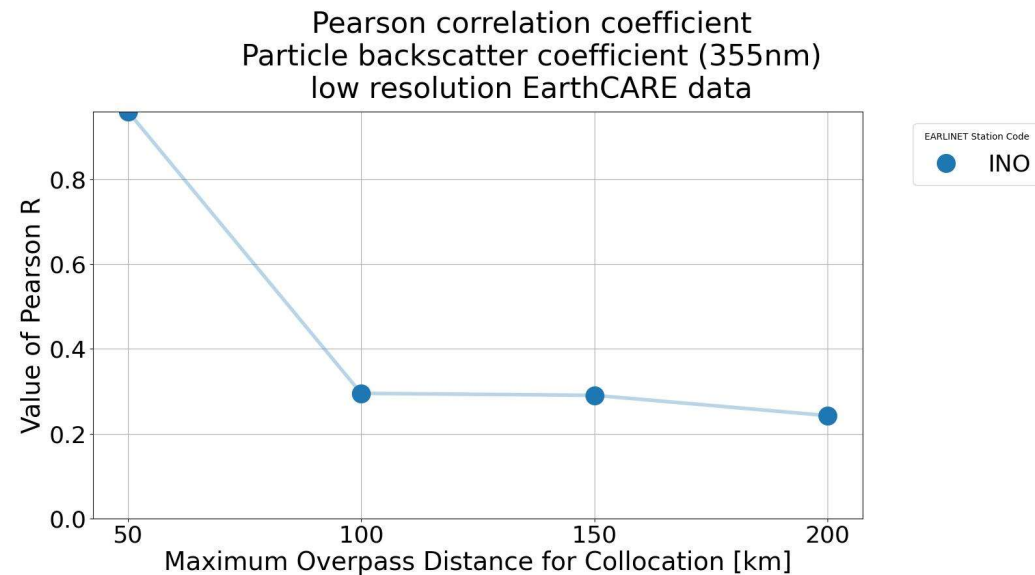
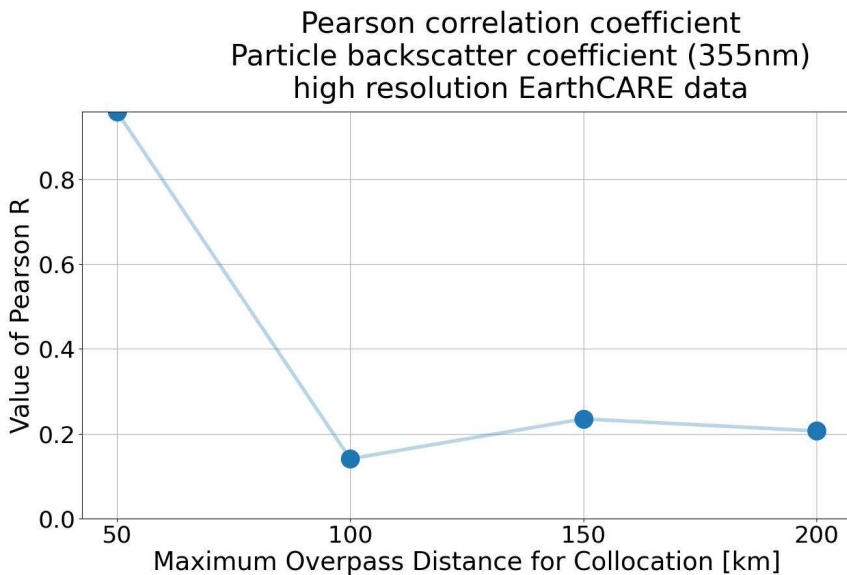
ATLID_NOM_1B and RALI HIRELPP data

- Left pane: Scattering ratios of ATLID profiles averaged within overpass distance compared and entire 2-hour average measurement from ground-based lidar
- Right pane: Scattering ratios of ATLID profiles averaged within overpass distance and 5-min averaged lidar profile from ground-based instrument
- Obtained from calibrated ATLID and ground-based attenuated backscatters
- Shaded area between 10km and 12km altitude is the calibration window
- Configurable overpass distance and time filters



Level 2 ATLID products

- Statistical analysis of the 5 overpasses with optical products
- 100km Pearson R value lower than for 150km – why is that?
- Why does the low resolution ATLID product agree better for higher overpass distances than the high resolution one?

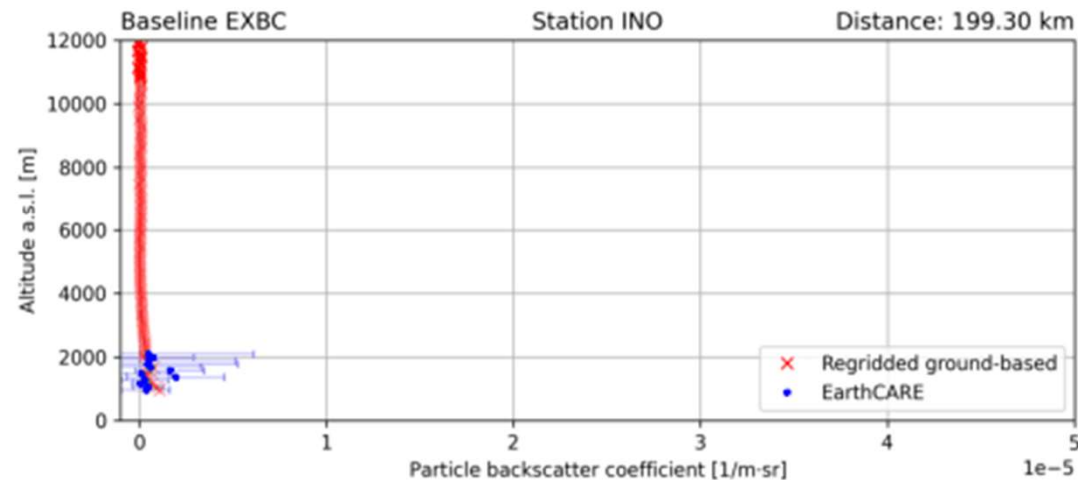


Backscatter comparison

- Low layer at ~1.7km – better represented in the low resolution data
- Low resolution products have lower uncertainties and variability along track

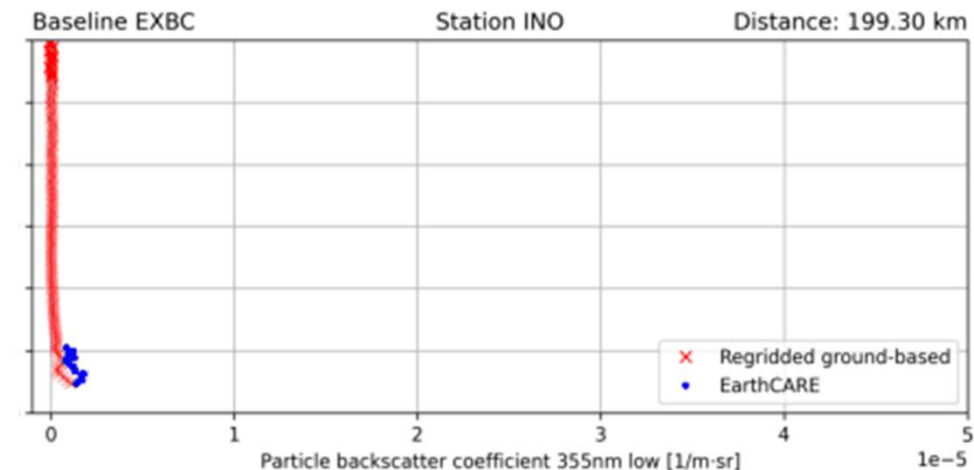
High resolution ATLID_EBD_2A backscatter

Particle backscatter coefficient at 355nm on 2026-03-09 12:39

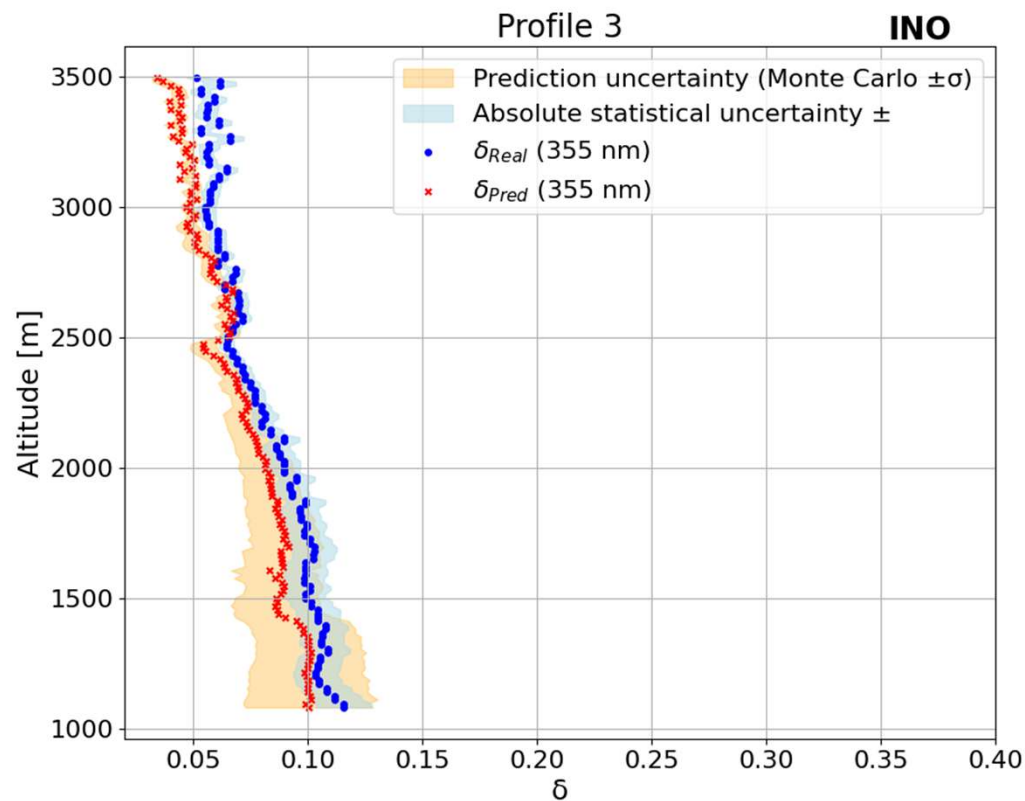


Low resolution ATLID_EBD_2A backscatter

Particle backscatter coefficient at 355nm on 2026-03-09 12:39



Depolarization inferencing (experimental)

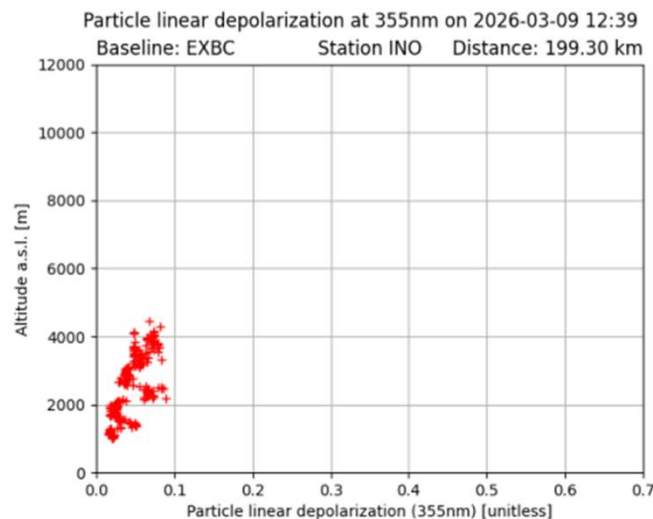


- Inferred from backscatter at 1064, 532 and 355nm and depolarization at 532nm
- Trained using known depolarization at 355nm from colocated system as ground truth
- XGBoost ML model

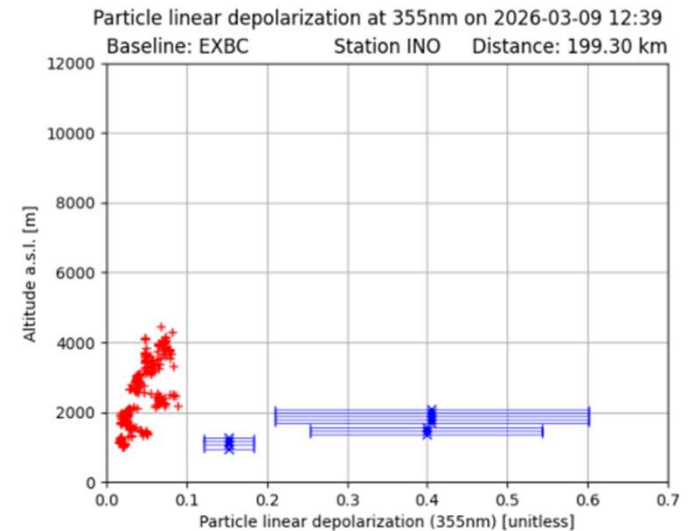
Depolarization comparison

- Depolarizing layer at $\sim 1.7\text{km}$ captured from satellite
- High resolution product is too noisy to characterize the depolarization values predicted from ground-based data

**High resolution
ATLID_EBD_2A depolarization**



**Low resolution
ATLID_EBD_2A depolarization**



Conclusions and future work

Key Takeaways

- Complete processing chain for level 1 and 2 data for ATLID cal/val
- Good agreement for the showcased example
- Cross-parameter analysis helps with proper cal/val

Next developments

- Validate depolarization inferencing model
- Expand the algorithm and processing chain
- Fine-tune the attenuated backscatter calibration routine

Thank you for your attention!

This work was financed by the Core Program within the Romanian National Research Development and Innovation Plan 2022-2027, carried out with the support of MCID, project no. PN 23-05, and was supported by a grant of the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitization, CNCS/CCCDI – UEFISCDI, project number PN-IV-P8-8.1-PRE-HE-ORG-2025-0264, within PNCDI IV and by the European Commission, under the HORZION Europe Programme, GA No. 101182795, the ESA project DIVA, contract 4000121773/17/I-EF. The authors utilized data from the ESA EarthCARE ATLID EBD Level 2A(version BA), ATLID NOM Level 1B (version BA). The authors wish to acknowledge ACTRIS for its essential role in providing access to high-quality data, facilities, and technical support that were integral to the execution of this research.

The main author received financial support (ITC conference grant) from the COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) under the Action CA24135 EARLICOST (European Atmospheric Research Lidar COoperation on Science and Technology). The main author also received a student grant from the organizing committee of the ACTRIS Science Conference 2026.

COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a funding agency for research and innovation networks. Our Actions help connect research initiatives across Europe and enable scientists to grow their ideas by sharing them with their peers. This boosts their research, career and innovation.

