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Verification of different precipitation forecasts during extended winter-season in Estonia.

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Results from a verification study of precipitation forecasts are presented. Precipitation forecasts by three numerical weather prediction models and by duty forecaster are compared against observations in three meteostations in Estonia. The models used in the study are ECMWF operational model with 25 km, HIRLAM with 11 km and nonhydrostatic extension of HIRLAM with 3.3 km resolution. Various multi-category verification scores for categorised precipitation intensity and precipitation phase are computed over extended winter period from November 2006 to March 2007. The objective of the study is to obtain quality characteristics of duty forecaster predictions and numerical weather prediction models available in Estonian Meteorological Hydrological service when applied locally.