Dialogue on risks in mountainous regions

Swiss Experience with an Integrated Approach and Lessons Learnt for International Cooperation
Introduction

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Keywords of the Workshop

- Mountainous regions
- Experiences
- Dialogue
There are mountainous regions everywhere

Mountainous regions

Mountains:
- Home for 10% of world’s population
- Water for 50% of world’s population
Mountainous regions

Switzerland

a mountainous region
Many people are living in the “Penalty area”
In mountainous regions …

- the space for living and livelihood is limited
- safe places and those at risk are close to each other
- access in times of disaster is difficult
- people’s risk perception is very particular
- multi-hazard conditions prevail
- processes are fast, warning time is short
Mountainous regions

**Problems**

- More intense land-use and increasing economic value in endangered areas
- Increasing vulnerability of buildings and infrastructure
- Sensitivity to climate change
Integrated approach

- all types of hazards
- all types of measures
- all concerned actors
- according to sustainability principles
- international cooperation and solidarity
Swiss experiences

Goals

Federal Government:

- reduce the resulting risks to a bearable level
- involve all affected people
Federal Government:

- Implementation of a National Platform

- New comprehensive and interlinked strategy for an improved protection against natural hazards
National Platform Natural Hazards (1997)

- dealing with natural hazards on a strategic level

- composed of representatives (20) of the
  - federal government,
  - cantons (states),
  - research community,
  - professional associations,
  - private sector,
  - insurance sector,
  - NGOs

- www.planat.ch
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PAST</th>
<th>FUTURE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Question</strong></td>
<td>how can we protect ourselves?</td>
<td>what security at what price?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Planning of measures</strong></td>
<td>specific</td>
<td>interdisciplinary</td>
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<td><strong>Management of the committed funds</strong></td>
<td>sector-based</td>
<td>priorities according to a global approach</td>
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<td><strong>Safety</strong></td>
<td>for the present generation, high in certain sectors</td>
<td>solidarity with future generations, balanced for the overall system</td>
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reduce the resulting risks to a bearable level
Dialogue

- Exchange with partners abroad
- Get new ideas and answers
- . . . .
Dialogue

Short presentations + dialogue

Problems with Natural Hazards
Risk Concept
Sustainability
Risk dialogue
Solutions
Solidarity dialogue
Natural Disasters in Valais, Switzerland: Problems

Next speaker: Charly Wuilloud
Cantonal Forest Service
Valais, Sion