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Reply on RC2

Dorothea Wabbels and Gian Reto Bezzola

Author comment on "Invited Perspectives: "Small country, big challenges – Switzerland's hazard prevention research"" by Dorothea Wabbels and Gian Reto Bezzola, Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/nhess-2021-190-AC2>, 2021

- I wonder what the naming of priorities in the perspective (and in the research concept) actually means. Is this a list of equally important research fields? As I have not seen a prioritization between them, the concept might be a "first come first served" concept. Alternatively, is the idea that all areas are equally covered?
The order does not express any prioritisation. We will add this information in the article.
- While it appears that the research priorities are subject to regular change ("concept 2021-2024"), the challenges named in the first part appear to be rather persistent. It should be mentioned, if possible, what basically determines the longer term changes in the research concept.
The Research Concept itself is adjusted every 4 years, but measures and research goals in hazard prevention are only adjusted if knowledge gaps are identified or existing ones are closed
- It appears that the FOEN's perspectives is be limited to hazards relevant to Switzerland. As basic tsunami research is mentioned, it might be worthwhile to mention in how far work on non-Swiss hazards are part of the FOEN perspective or left to the consideration of other agencies.
Our applied tsunami research aims for hazard assessment along Swiss lakeshores. Established cooperations between Swiss research institutions and foreign partners exist. The FOEN maintains a continuous exchange of knowledge with administrations in other countries, e.g. in the INTERPRAEVENT and in the context of the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine ICPR, Platform on Natural Hazards of the Alpine Convention (PLANALP) and with the EU in the framework of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP).
- How is the final pledge for a role of everyone supported? With respect to a research perspective, could it be, for example, that sociological research is needed to improve the readiness of "everyone" to improve their personal responsibility in the field of natural hazards?
Natural hazard prevention is a cross-sectional task, encompassing land use, spatial planning, water protection, environmental and civil protection by the government, cantons and communes, the private sector as well as insurance companies and individuals. These actors are involved in the process as a joint task, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity. Investigation of the social science component in risk perception and communication is part of the research concept. Voters in Switzerland decide on political issues up to four

times a year. Votes are e.g. held on major expenditures, as e.g. for natural hazard protection projects. Thus, there is a regular influence of the citizens on expenditures through this approval process.

- (line 15) The storm Lothar could be combined with the storm Martin, as both form a storm sequence affecting the area (see, e.g., <https://doi.org/10.5194/nhess-21-279-2021>).

The storm Martin did not cause large damages in Switzerland, but we will add Burglind 2018, the 2nd strongest storm after Lothar in Switzerland.

- In Figure 1, it is difficult to distinguish the different shades of grey. A coloured layout would improve readability significantly.
e will modify the figure to make it readable. The references given appear to be links, but these links are not explicitly included. If possible, DOIs should be given, and regular publication information if possible
no DOI available (grey literature)