

Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., referee comment RC1
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Comment on nhess-2021-190

Anonymous Referee #1

Referee 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-RC1>, 2021

The Invited Perspectives: "Small country, big challenges – Switzerland's hazard prevention research" provides an interesting overview of the Swiss Research Concept for hazard prevention and describes some aspects of practical risk management.

I have two main suggestions to further improve the manuscript:

The list of research topics provides a rough overview. However, this part of the paper would gain a lot if 3-4 of these topics were dealt with more soundly and in more detail. Thus, I suggest that you pick 3-4 topics as examples and describe the state of the art of this research topic and what innovations are expected via this research plan within the next 4 years. Clear examples of ongoing research projects to improve knowledge in these areas would be very helpful.

The paragraph "What concerns everyone can only be resolved by everyone" is too general to provide any interesting information. Please describe the integrated risk management approach in Switzerland in more detail. How is it organized? How well does it work? What are remaining challenges and ideas how to solve current problems. The concept, that all actors need to work together to achieve an effective risk management is good, but what is done to achieve this vision? For instance, in Germany, according to § 5 of the German Federal Water Resource Act that was enacted in 2009, every person that could be affected by a flood is obliged to undertake appropriate actions that are reasonable and within one's means to reduce flood impacts and damage. Does a similar law exist in Switzerland? What incentives are provided to motivate private precaution?

Minor comments:

Line 17: No "seashore" in Switzerland. Better "along rivers and lakes".

Fig. 1 Do you have the right to publish this figure? Please provide evidence of this, e.g. written consent from WSL.