

Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., referee comment RC2
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Comment on nhess-2021-190

Anonymous Referee #2

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-RC2>, 2021

The perspective from a governmental institution like the Swiss Federal Office of the environment is a particularly relevant contribution to the Special Issue. These Institutions have a very large influence on research. In particular, their view determines which topics are intensively supported, either by themselves or by the related funding bodies. Their influence can even provide a basic requisite for research on natural hazards, the availability of data. The FOEN perspective on hazard prevention research presented is based on the cited "research concept environment 2021-2024", published in 2020. It consists of a list of rather detailed tasks for research. The manuscript is, in my opinion, a valuable contribution to the special issue, and should be published. I have a few questions and suggestions, and would expect that the authors can provide answers in their manuscript.

- 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?
- 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.
- 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.
- 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?

Minor remarks

(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>).

In Figure 1, it is difficult to distinguish the different shades of grey. A coloured layout would improve improve readability significantly.

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