



Ho do affected people perceive natural hazards? A comparative study in Ubaye (France) and Valtellina (Italy)

Marjory Angignard

Institute for Spatial Planning, Technical University of Dortmund, Dortmund, Germany (marjory.angignard@tu-dortmund.de)

In the last decades natural hazards related decision making was a closed environment where only experts and scientists were admitted. However the importance of involving all relevant stakeholders in this process has since been acknowledged. Nowadays the challenge is to include the public in decision making.

An important gap has been observed between the risk evaluated by the experts and the risk perceived by the public. A first step into bridging this gap would be to understand each others' view. It is with this idea in mind that we conducted our survey.

The work was carried out in the context of a PhD research in spatial planning, supported by the Mountain Risks project, a multidisciplinary training network. We conducted a survey about risk perception and expectations towards risk management in two mountain areas with comparable risk settings. We chose our sites in two different countries (France and Italy), which allowed us to identify the main differences in their risk cultures.

The results show interesting differences in risk perception in those areas, as well as unexpected requirements from the public. The results will be used by the local authorities to adapt their strategies.