



Every link is important as long as they work within the same chain

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The improvement of living standards increase concentration of people, infrastructure and goods in environmentally privileged but often hazardous places. Communities in mountainous regions are exposed to several hazardous processes, including snow avalanches, storms, floods, landslides, rockfalls and debris flows. The disastrous events over last decades clearly show that adequate security in mountain areas remains limited despite preventive measures. Thus, advanced development and improvement of mountain risk issues is of importance.

Within the "Mountain Risks" project a lot of research attention is concentrated on the Ubaye Valley, in French Alps. Researchers working in this region cover the whole chain of the 'living with risk' process: from improving predictions to decision-making, through understanding of natural processes, quantitative risk assessment and socio-economic aspects.

As "insiders", we have observed interesting differences between representatives from different sciences, for instance in the terminology, the priorities defined, the value granted to each others' work. It has been challenging to adapt our way of thinking and acting in order to build up useful and valuable results than can be of use for every interested part of the chain.

Herein we want to share the lessons learnt during this project. How does "multidisciplinarity" works on the ground? What are the gaps between the different sciences involved? How can we bridge those gaps?