



EconoMe - Instruments for Assessing the Benefit-Cost-Ratio of Mitigation Measures

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Public money is used to finance the protection of human life, material assets and the environment against natural hazards. This limited resource should be used in a way that it achieves the maximum possible effect by minimizing as many risks as possible. Hence, decision-makers are facing the question which mitigation measures should be prioritised. Cost-benefit analysis is a recognized method for determining the economic efficiency of investments and mitigation measures.

Due to new regulations for the subsidy of mitigation measures against natural hazards in Switzerland, the Federal Office for the Environment requires that projects with an investment scope of more than EUR 800 000 have to be proofed as cost-effective. Thus, it initialised the development of the calculation tool EconoMe in 2006, which has been introduced to practitioners in the last two years. The tool was continuously enhanced and is now available online and offline for registered users in version 2.1.

At the moment, the generic concept of EconoMe serves as basis for the development of specific instruments for risk assessment and evaluation of mitigation measures along traffic routes (railways and roads). Additionally, the research and development tool EconoMe-Develop has been realised in the last year, allowing for specific adaptations and sensitivity analyses. In this paper we will present the general setup and principles of the EconoMe-Tools and will provide an outlook to future developments.