Geophysical Research Abstracts
Vol. 17, EGU2015-9659-2, 2015
EGU General Assembly 2015

Local stakeholders' perception of landslide and flood risks in Iasi County, Romania

Mihai Ciprian Margarint, Mihai Niculita, and Lucian Rosu
Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Geography, Iasi, Romania (margarint.ciprian@yahoo.com)

Risk perception is an important issue for an efficient management and mitigation measures of natural hazards and theirs negative consequences on social and economic activity. At administrative unit scale (LAU2), local stakeholders play an effective role in case of an emergency situation, regarding the warning and alerting the population, collaboration with specialized institution and managing material assistance during and after the crisis. In addition they are among the best connoisseurs of local community and places, and consequently they could substantial help the national level forces during emergency situations. These issues argues the high degree of responsibilities assigned to Romanian mayors, and is reflected in the legislation in terms of evaluation of damages produced and the management of natural hazards, like landslide and floods. Also their degree of awareness can assess more accurately the collective perception against the individual one. In this work we have assessed the local stakeholders' perception for natural risks in general, and particularly for landslides and floods. We have tested the discrepancies of the specific risks perception and an assessment of correspondence between scientific outputs versus the subjective judgement the administrative decision makers. This approach was based on a questionnaire which was applied in the summer of 2014, to all 98 mayors from Iasi County, north-east Romania. It contained 12 questions structured in a specific mode, from general to particular. The assessment of the answers provided from the commune halls, was realized with integration in a GIS environment of codes assigned to each question, and the overlay with the scientific outputs regarding landslide occurrence and susceptibility and floods risk maps. The differences between the outputs of the questionnaires and the scientific outputs of landslide and flood risk was further analyzed and interpreted. There were registered large variations of answers and important discrepancies between scientific results and the stakeholders' estimations, both for landslides and flood components. Farther multicriterial analysis (clustering method) was applied for highlighting a correspondance between the distance to certain risk areas and stakeholders perception. As a main conclusion we can state that the decision makers perception is strongly influenced by their personal and recent experiences but also by the distance to the source of risk.