Geophysical Research Abstracts
Vol. 20, EGU2018-4681, 2018
EGU General Assembly 2018

Review of event documentation techniques for extreme weather events including gender disaggregated data: the EXTEND project

Susanna Wernhart (1), Karin Weber (2), Doris Damyanovic (2), and Maria Papathoma-Köhle (1)

(1) Institute of Mountain Risk Engineering, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria (maria.papathoma-koehle@boku.ac.at), (2) Institute of Landscape Planning, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria

The frequency and the intensity of heavy precipitation is expected to increase in the future affecting at the same time the frequency and the intensity of natural hazards worldwide. This change in combination with socio-economic and demographic changes (urbanization, ageing population, migration) poses new challenges for the management of natural hazards to government, authorities, scientists and affected communities.
Several institutions at the local, regional and national level are responsible for the damage assessment in the aftermath of extreme events. The data gathered within these assessments include mainly information on the natural process (intensity, extent, timeline), number of affected people and some information on damages on buildings and infrastructure. However, although, recent scientific research shows that social aspects (e.g. gender, age, ethnicity) influence the impacts and consequences of natural hazards significantly they are often ignored by post-event documentation. A systematic collection of data regarding the socio-economic consequences following catastrophic events in a disaggregated manner as far as gender, age and ethnic background etc. is concerned, would highlight the connections between socio-economic characteristics and consequences of natural hazards and would support the development of risk reduction strategies significantly.
The new research project EXTEND focuses on the review of existing methods for damage and consequence documentation in the Alpine region (Austria, Swiss, Germany, Italy) following extreme weather events. The project outlines existing gaps in the documentation of events and aims at the development of a guideline for the improvement of event documentation in Austria which includes both physical and social aspects. This will eventually contribute to a better understanding of the interaction between natural processes and communities but also to the improvement of community preparedness towards natural hazards. Preliminary results from interviews with experts in the field are presented.