

Summary workshop 3: Climate change and natural hazards: is spatial planning prepared sufficiently?

Experts agree that natural hazards like floods, heavy rain, melting permafrost, will increase in consequence of climate change.

The **challenge** is, according to the impulse presentation of Mr. Sauermoser from the Austrian Dienst für Wildbach- und Lawinenverbauung: “Spatial planning was not in the position to react on the socioeconomic changes of the last decades. So how should spatial planning take into account unknown changes of the future?”

For a stronger position of spatial planning, it is important to strengthen spatial planning on a **supralocal level** in order to prevent from local private economic influences. To reach this, a clear legislation is required.

Interdisciplinary cooperation and communication is essential. So far spatial planning, flood prevention and prevention of geological natural hazards often are separated into different administrations with little communication and interdisciplinary thinking. “Everybody knows, what the others should do”, was a statement in the workshop addressing the problem.

In some **Swiss** cantons, like Graubünden, there is a **good danger zone planning approach**. So called danger commissions are authorized to suggest danger zones based on traditional knowledge as well as on modern computer simulations. Communities are free to accept these danger zones within their spatial planning. In very rare cases, where communities do not accept the suggestions, the cantonal government decides about the plans. The experience shows, that the plans of the danger commissions have finally been accepted in all cases. This contributes to a good prevention of natural hazards in the future.

In other countries, the position of spatial planning is not as strong as in these cantons. In Tyrolia (like probably in other parts of the Alps as well) it is extremely difficult to define flood retention areas to save these areas for possible future measurements.