

OCCR Flash – News from the Oeschger Centre

The Oeschger Centre actively promotes the exchange between research and practice. Among other activities, we have recently published an evaluation of flood control projects and organized a workshop on storms and their impacts on society and economy.

Success factors for flood control projects

In a recent report, the OCCR's *Mobililar Lab for Natural Risks* has evaluated 71 Swiss flood control projects in order to determine its key success factors. The assessment shows that flood control measures lead to a risk reduction in the short term. However, the risk development in the long term is uncertain. Due to current socio-economic developments in Switzerland (increasing population and construction activity etc.) flood risk is likely to increase in the future. The report stresses the importance of including all stakeholders at an early stage and to enhance the exchange of information among them. Additionally, the integration of spatial aspects (watershed management, coordination of up- and downstream land owners etc.) and sectoral characteristics (urban drainage, revitalization, recreation) should be promoted to make a successful flood protection project. This approach creates strong co-benefits.

On the occasion of the publication of «Was macht Hochwasserschutzprojekte erfolgreich?», the OCCR organized a well-attended public event on 12 November 2015. It included talks by researchers and representatives of the different political levels in charge of Swiss flood protection as well as a roundtable discussion.



The report «Was macht Hochwasserschutzprojekte erfolgreich?» can be downloaded from www.mobililarlab.unibe.ch -> Dienstleistungen -> Publikationen

Cyclones and the insurance industry

The 5th Workshop on «European Storms – Impacts and Predictability» organized by the OCCR on 31 August – 2 September 2015 saw a growing interest of the insurance industry. The 50 dynamical meteorologists, climatologists and statisticians from academia were joined by 30 representatives from insurance, reinsurance and engineering consultant companies, namely risk model developers. Extreme cyclones can have devastating effects on society and economy as events like the cluster of more than 10 extreme storms in many parts of Europe demonstrated in winter 2013/14. Increasing exposure due to population growth as well as to climate change may even heighten associated impacts like casualties and losses in the future. Building on the experience of the preceding interdisciplinary storm workshops, the participants discussed how to better understand risk and predictability of such extreme events.

www.stormworkshops.org

Swiss Climate Summer School 2016

The Swiss Climate Summer School 2016 organized by the OCCR will take place on 28 August–2 September 2016 in Grindelwald. Its general theme is «Climate Risks – coping with uncertainty». It has been chosen due to its importance in terms of both scientific challenges and pressing societal concerns. The specific topics to be addressed include: What is 'dangerous climate change?'; Emergent climate risks and vulnerability, From global climate change to regional impacts; Economics of climate change and adaptation, geo-engineering; Ethical aspects, policy choices and policy making. The Swiss Climate Summer School is open to young researchers from all fields of climate research (PhD students and Postdocs) worldwide, courses cover a broad spectrum of climate and climate impact research issues and foster cross-disciplinary links. Participation is highly competitive and limited to a maximum of 70 invited young researchers. Registration is open now at www.oeschger.unibe.ch

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