

Submitted Abstract

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Title	The Interplay Of Risk Knowledges For Adaptation Strategies: A Case Study In The Swiss Alps.
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Abstract

Several debris flows since 2005 shook up Guttannen and attracted attention far beyond the municipality. The mountain pass road, an international gas pipeline but also inhabited houses were affected and called for action. These events raised fear but also led to the need of actively searching pathways for resilience as climate change is about to enhance hazard exposure in the area.

Guttannen is a municipality located in the Aare River valley at 1057 m above sea level in the Swiss Alps. Its large territory (200 km²) consists mainly of rock and glacier areas. The local population is small with about 280 inhabitants, approximately 60-70% of whom are over 50 years old.

Since these debris flow events, several studies on natural hazards related to the municipality were carried out. An early warning system and a monitoring were installed, which caused resistance among some inhabitants. The municipality came into focus of the national and the regional government for climate change adaptation strategies. A participative process was initiated including natural hazard experts as well as three municipalities of the region that were represented by inhabitants. Interestingly, during the process, the focus of the strategy shifted away from natural hazards to a broader scope of regional climate change adaptation. In this context, the municipality of Guttannen itself started to cooperate with natural hazard experts as well as universities to work on topics of climate change and to develop projects promoting a positive image of Guttannen.

Being part of the network knowledgeforclimate.net the aim of our case study was twofold:

- 1) understanding the interplay of different knowledge at various scales, as well as processes of co-production of knowledge for the development of climate change adaptation strategies and
- 2) elaborating a case study for teaching co-production of knowledge for processes of climate change adaptation.

Here, we present the anthropological study within this framework that addresses local perceptions of risks and opportunities and related knowledge which is considered to be necessary at different scales for contesting climate change in the municipality. Therefore, we carried out semi-structured interviews and analyzed them following qualitative content analysis according to Mayring (2015). In a following step, we compared them to studies that calculated risks related to natural hazards on site. Our results show considerable differences concerning the magnitude of the perceived risks, the interlinkages between risks, and further risks, that measures may bring along according to different perspectives.