



Reconstruction of the perception of historical landslides on the Swabian Alb, Germany

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It is well known, that the Swabian Alb is one the regions in Germany which is intensively affected by landslide events. This is quite true also for historical times. At the moment there is only some data about the spatial distribution of landslide events, only a small number of events is dated.

In this study, which is related to the project *Integrative landslide risk analysis and risk evaluation on the Swabian Alb, Germany*, funded by the German Science Foundation, we try to find more material about dated historical events in archival sources.

The first aim of this project is to collect data about dated events to get a more realistic picture of their spatial and chronological distribution. The second aim is to learn more about the perception and the process of changing of attitudes towards this natural risk within a certain region. Learning more about this historical process is important, because perception is one of the main factors of risk awareness and planning of countermeasures. The second point is, that a good knowledge of the contemporary perception is an indispensable key for finding the right sources within a large number of files.

For this purpose we are investigating mainly archival collections within the Swabian Alb, in some town archives and the State archive of Baden-Wuerttemberg in Stuttgart.

One important discovery is, that most of the historic landslide events occurred in areas which were parts of the commons of the villages. So we are focussing our research on material which is dealing with the commons. Analyzing this material, it is possi-

ble to get much more information about single events which cannot be dated so far. That means also to get information of the extent and economic losses. Specially in the period from the 18th c. onwards some preliminary results show changing attitudes towards the commons and at the same time a conflict between the older regional knowledge of the landslide occurrence and the idea of the parcellation of the commons in order to intensify the agricultural land use. This give us an idea of the roots of the perception of risks in this area today.