

Artificial Snow: Quo vadis?

Press conference: Tuesday 15 April, 16:00-17:00

Oral session: CR11 Wednesday 16 April, 10:30-12:00, [Programme >>](#)

Artificial snow is increasingly being applied on ski slopes in the Alps and other mountain regions worldwide as natural snow is becoming rarer due to the global warming. This press conference will provide new insights into the social and economic impacts of artificial snow on Alpine communities.

Since the last press conference at EGU 2007, there has been considerable progress and diversification of results on the analysis of artificial snow in the Alps and other regions across the Mediterranean, including Bulgaria.

There is increasing recognition amongst scientists that a balance of physical, ecological, economic, social issues has to be investigated to better understand the integration and impacts of artificial snow in the local environment and at the long term. The first decision support tool for artificial snow has been developed in Switzerland.

There are growing concerns about the suitability of future snow making climatology under global warming, including local phenomena such as warm foehn winds. If climate change, with its clear trend of increasing temperatures in the mountains continues, less and less reliable snowmaking days will be available and some regions may gradually turn into unprofitable zones.

New insights into the seasonal effects of artificial snow on local hydrology are available as well as the more complex economical trade-offs between investments in artificial snow infrastructure and amortization. Results on the perceptions and preferences of ski tourists on natural versus artificial snow in small and large ski resorts are available.

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