



Perception of risk of natural disasters related to muddy flows by local actors of peri urban territories (Alsace - France)

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The knowledge of the risk perception for local actors in areas prone to muddy flows permit to understand what are the main social factors intervening in the management of such events. This understanding helps to explain why those disasters don't decrease although the physical processes are well known. Studies open then on the analysis of the agents' risk behaviours. Adequate information and prevention can then be carried out.

Our study is undertaken in several communes belonging to the same catchment. Perceptions in the source or target runoff areas appear different as well as expectations in terms of prevention or implementation of protective measures.

In this paper, we present the sampling strategy, based on a spatial distinction of runoff areas. This sampling plan is directly related to the identification of the various actors concerned by the risk management and by those directly stricken. Surveys results highlight differences in perception between various individuals, whether they have borne or do not have borne muddy flows. These individuals are differentiated in respect to their experiments relative to this kind of risks, and also by their location in the catchment area.

Key words: risk perception, stakeholders, muddy flows, surveys, socio-spatial analysis, geographical sampling plan

This study is integrated in an interdisciplinary research program called GERHICO (for Gestion des Risques et Histoire des Coulées de boue), which is focused on the comprehension of the management of muddy flows in Alsace from several scientific

points of view. This program federates economists, sociologists and geographers of the Louis Pasteur University (Strasbourg).