

Public relation projects in primary school and high school on „Dealing with Natural Hazards and Risks”

Project aim:

Dealing with natural hazards and risks not only consists in finding suitable technical measures for protection and prediction but also includes information and sensibilisation of the population. For this purpose the department of Hydraulic Engineering of the Autonomous Province of Bozen within the UE-Project of DisAlp started a project to work out a concept on how to mediate this difficult and specialized topic to the young generation of South Tyrol, by showing them that natural hazards make obviously part of the alpine life and can not always be avoided but the men has the possibility to prevent them or at least to minimise their intensity.

Activities in Primary school



Excursion to the Wieser Lahn

The activities in the primary school were intended to demonstrate the children in a very simple language the mechanisms and effects of the main hydrological and geological hazard of the alpine region, like floods, debris flow, rock falls and avalanches. Within an excursion to the famous and impressive debris flow of so called “Wieser Lahn” it was possible to show them the natural development of the landscape, and how natural hazards often have their origin in the geologic history. Through especially elaborated games we tried to give a better insight into the topic and to bring it closer by stimulating al different sense organs: seeing, touching, listening, tasting and touching (.... and laughing).

Activities in High School



During a workshop the students were first introduced into the different processes of the main natural hazard types of the alpine region, supported by slides and examples from events happened in south Tyrol and neighbour regions. The second part consisted in practical exercises on how to recognize potential risk and to get known different possible precursors of natural hazards. Furthermore a roll play was prepared where the students could get into the problematic of modern risk management: land-use planning and danger zones.



Results and Experiences



The excursion with the primary schools showed the big curiosity of pupils and teachers in the topic, especially after the flood events in North Tyrol during the last summer of 2005. We realised that the different classes had already worked on the argument and especially the children from the countryside knew a lot about different events of debris flow or rock falls happened in their neighbourhood. In the evaluation form the teachers remarked their interest in further activities between schools and experts.

Also the first experiences in the high school revealed the interest of the educational institutes in collaborating with experts.

