

Preface

Gravitational mass movements represent a major hazard in Austria, causing high numbers of damages and fatalities each year. Since its foundation in 1849, the Geological Survey of Austria (GBA) is putting high efforts in the research of gravitational mass movements and other hazardous processes.

The sound basis for this research is provided by GBA's continuous geo-scientific mapping program of Austria, within which the investigation of different types of mass movements and predispositional factors plays an important role. Furthermore research activities include the development and application of methods (e.g. neural networks, airborne geophysics and others) to delineate potentially susceptible areas. Concerning deep seated mass movements additional emphasize is laid on the development of mitigation measures like early warning systems.

In this respect it is important to point out the excellent cooperation between GBA, the Austrian Service for Torrent and Avalanche Control and the Federal State Governments of Austria, which is helping to progress the development of new methodologies in the area of natural hazard mitigation to the benefit of the Austrian society.

Governments across Europe are aware of the importance of research in the field of natural hazard and risk assessment and the need to develop and plan mitigation measures like continuous monitoring of endangered areas respectively. As a result leading scientific research institutions are combining their efforts and are creating multinational research groups exchanging their experience regarding this very important issue within the European project SafeLand.



We were glad to host the Workshop on **"Monitoring Technologies and Early Warning Systems – Current Research and Perspectives for the Future"** at our survey in Vienna and happy to have offered a platform to the group of international experts presenting leading edge technology and concepts in this field.

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