17th Conference of the EAWS, Barcelona
20 years of European Avalanche Danger Scale
(30 years of EAWS Working Group)

Results of the 17th Conference of the European Avalanche Warning Services (EAWS) Barcelona, October 2nd-3rd 2013

Patrick Nairz (AWS Tirol), Glòria Marti (IGC), Igor Chiambretti (AINEVA)

Organization: Glòria Marti, Carles García, and their team of IGC **(Thanks!)**

Participants: $\implies$ mail from Glòria Marti, Oct. 21st, 2013

6 Sessions: - *Opening:* Joint session 17th conference of EAWS and 20 years of European Avalanche Danger Scale
- *Session 1:* Avalanche Danger Scale
- *Session 2:* Data collection
- *Session 3:* Information for practitioners
- *Session 4:* Tools for operational forecast
- *Session 5:* Projects and collaboration
- *Session 6:* Avalanche forecasting & strategies for civil protections
- *Conclusions:*

Detailed program: $\implies$ mail fromGlòria Marti, Oct. 21st, 2013
Presentations: $\implies$ FTP: ftp.igc.cat;
FOLDER: /17_EAWS/
USER: rdallaus
PASSWORD: t874ts

Results Session 1:

Avalanche Danger Patterns:
- Use of patterns is optional, but highly recommended.
- Patterns should be placed near the top of the information-pyramid.
- We encourage to publizise patterns.
- For now no European unification

Avalanche Size Scale:
- Avalanche Size Scale will slightly be adapted.
- Use of the columns: "Size", "Name", "Destructive potential" and "Runout classification"
- Destructive potential as most important, runout-classification as additional criteria
- No use of intermediate sizes
- Installation of a picture catalogue in the glossary on www.avalanches.org
- Change of the names (size 1 = sluff and small avalanche; size 2 = medium avalanche; size 3 = large avalanche; size 4 = very large avalanche; size 5 = extreme avalanche) will be skipped for now. We start to communicate a possible change. Decision is possible during later conferences.
- Communication: use of numbers for experts; description for public

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Size	Name *(still in discussion)*	Destructive potential classification	Runout classification
Size 1	Sluff *(sluff and small avalanche)*	**Minimal danger of burying (danger of falling)**	**Snow relocation** stops typically before the end of a slope.
Size 2	Small Avalanche *(medium avalanche)*	Could bury, injure or kill a person	**Snow avalanche** stops typically at the end of a slope
Size 3	Medium Avalanche *(large avalanche)*	Could bury and destroy a car, damage a truck, destroy a small building or break a few trees	**Snow avalanche** could traverse flat **terrain** (considerably below 30°) over distances of less than 50 m
Size 4	Large Avalanche *(very large avalanche)*	Could bury and destroy a railway car, large truck, several buildings or a piece of forest	**Snow avalanche** traverses flat **terrain** (considerably below 30°) over distances >50m and can reach valley ground
Size 5	Very large Avalanche *(extreme avalanche)*	Could gouge the landscape. **Disastrous damage potential**	**Snow avalanche** reaches valley ground. **Largest runout distance** known

[Version: winter 2013-2014; (possible) changes in red]
Download: ⟹ www.avalanches.org at the beginning of winter-season 2013-2014
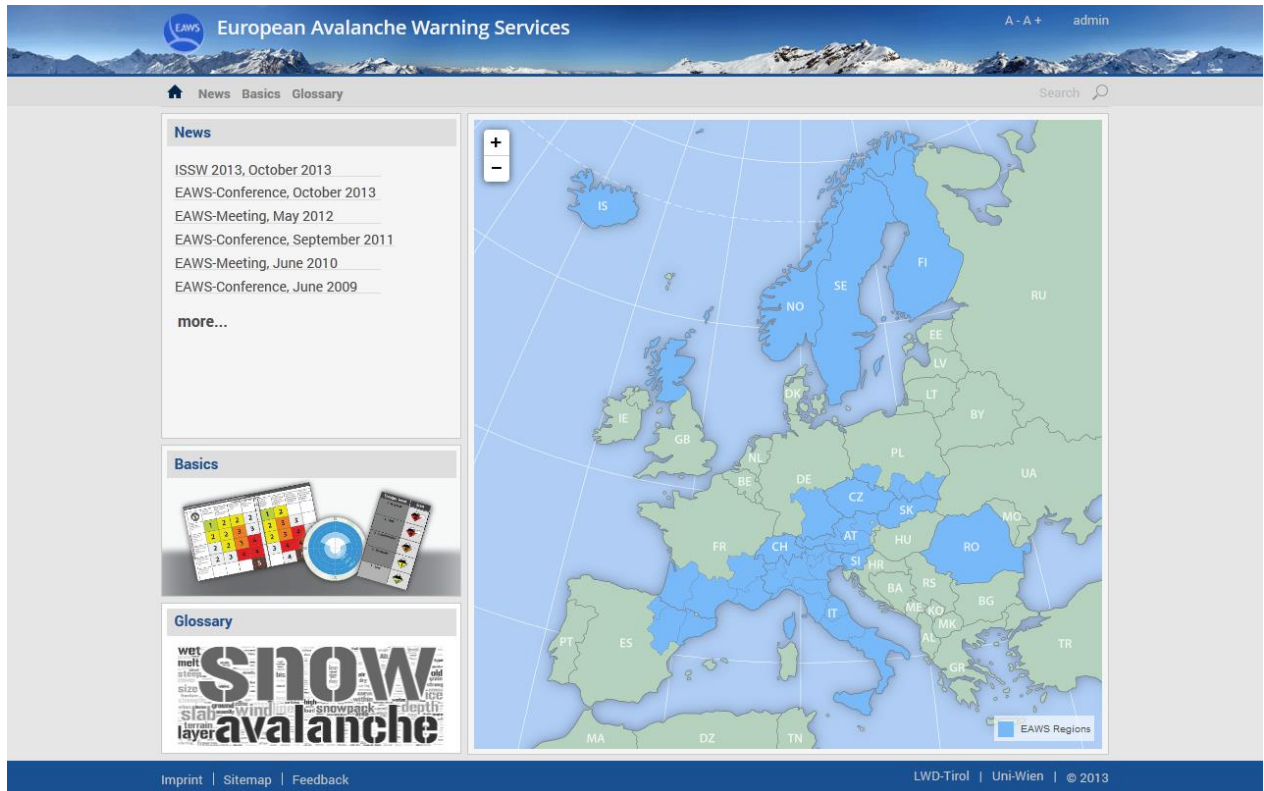
Results Session 2:

Data exchange:
- Important issue which will be enforced.
- Members of EAWS are invited to contribute
- Relevant information (e.g. educational tools, open-source, …) should be sent to AWS Tyrol lawine@tirol.gv.at.
- Implementation on www.avalanches.org which deals as central data-storage.
- Communication with other institutions (ICAR, NAC, UIAGM, EURAC)

Results Session 3:

www.avalanches.org
- Preliminary version is accepted
- Further adaptions / integrations: [map (Iceland, …); downloads (icons, pictures, articles, …); snow profiles and fatalities; internal area (contacts, minutes, car-pool, chat,.); glossary (e.g. avalanche-picture-catalogue); user administration]
- Suggestions will be sent to AWS Tyrol
- Members of EAWS put link to EAWS-page.
- Members of EAWS publizise EAWS-page

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(preliminary version: winter 2013-2014)

CAAML:
- CAAML is accepted as an international standard for data exchange of avalanche-relevant information.
- EAWS encourages to use CAAML (info: www.caaml.org)
- CAAML-file and list of all collected parameters for accidents will be sent to all members of the EAWS.
- A simplified version of CAAML for bulletins should be developed.

Icons:
- WG will deal with the adaption of icons:
  - inclusion of "-" / "+", e.g. "2+","3+" will be discussed
  - no info / no snow
  - Inclusion of arrows for increase / decrease
- WG will deal with the use of icons in case of a daily (am/pm) dependency (lowest, highest level, levels with arrows).

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Results – Session 4:

Online Snow Profile Program:
- Program and viewer will be accessible via www.avalanches.org before start of the winter season 2013-2014.
- supports CAAML and IACS-standard with different other functionalities (lemons, profile-types, multilingual, converters, import / export – functionality)
- Members of EAWS are invited to contribute.

Miscellaneous:

- New media will be used [Our app SnowSafe (www.snowsafe.at) can be used by all EAWS (free of charge). We just need your report in CAAML-format: Contact: AWS Tirol -> lawine@tirol.gv.at]
- Letter of support for Swedish AWS will be written and sent before Dec. 2013.
- WG will deal with regulations about becoming a member of EAWS
- WG will apply a further time for the COST project
- Patrick Nairz finished his time as leader of the WG of EAWS. Igor Chiambretti was elected as his follower, Glòria Marti as deputy.
- In future there will be always a leader and a deputy of the EAWS-WG, who will be elected for 4 years.
- Leader and Deputy will select members of the Working Group.
- Next conference will take part in May 2015 in Italy.