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**Ständiger Ausschuss der Alpenkonferenz**  
**Comité permanent de la Conférence alpine**  
**Comitato Permanente della Conferenza delle Alpi**  
**Stalni odbor Alpske konference**

**38**

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**09**

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**ANLAGE/ANNEXE/ALLEGATO/PRILOGA**

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## PLANALP Hotspot Paper

### Key messages to local authorities

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Over the last decade, protection against natural hazards has gained in importance following a series of natural disasters in the Alpine region, Europe and world-wide. Authorities at all organizational levels within the state are called upon to improve preventive work. Traditionally, this takes place in a close partnership between national, regional and local authorities. The key to the success of such endeavours ultimately lies with the local authorities. You are the ones who bear responsibility for the safety of local inhabitants and the local infrastructure.

- You must therefore also address the risks posed by natural hazards, such as flooding or avalanches. To prevent an increase in the scale of damage both today and in the future – and to reduce it where possible – you must take appropriate action on the planning, construction and organizational fronts. In doing so, you must also factor in future risks generated by climate change.
- Local authorities are the most important link in the chain of prevention. You must answer the following questions in a way that translates into action: What hazards and incidents might affect your area? How probable are such incidents? What are the consequences of such incidents? Do we need to take action?
- Local authorities in the Alpine region are called upon to conduct a risk dialogue concerning the questions asked above, and to implement the conclusions of such a dialogue in the context of integrated natural hazard risk management.
- There is always a great deal of uncertainty involved in assessing risks. Greater use should be made of local knowledge and experience in order to reduce these uncertainties. Disasters that may be thought impossible should also be factored in here.
- In areas in which hazard maps have not yet been drawn up or are out of date, local authorities are called upon to produce accurate maps as soon as possible and implement them in their land use planning. Hazard maps provide a basis for assessing hazards and potential damage, permitting integrated natural hazard and risk management that is appropriate to the given situation.

Local authorities will be supported in these highly responsible tasks by the corresponding higher-level specialist authorities.