



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



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

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

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

Participants: ⇒ mail from Glòria Marti, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013

6 Sessions:

- *Opening:* Joint session 17<sup>th</sup> 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: ⇒ mail from Glòria Marti, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013

Presentations: ⇒ FTP: [ftp.igc.cat](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](http://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 <i>(still in discussion)</i>	Destructive potential classification	Runout classification
Size 1	Sluff <i>(sluff and small avalanche)</i>	Minimal danger of burying (danger of falling)	Snow relocation stops typically before the end of a slope.
Size 2	Small Avalanche <i>(medium avalanche)</i>	Could bury, injure or kill a person.	Snow avalanche stops typically at the end of a slope
Size 3	Medium Avalanche <i>(large avalanche)</i>	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 <i>(very large avalanche)</i>	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 <i>(extreme avalanche)</i>	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](http://www.avalanches.org) at the beginning of winter-season 2013-2014

### Results Session 2:

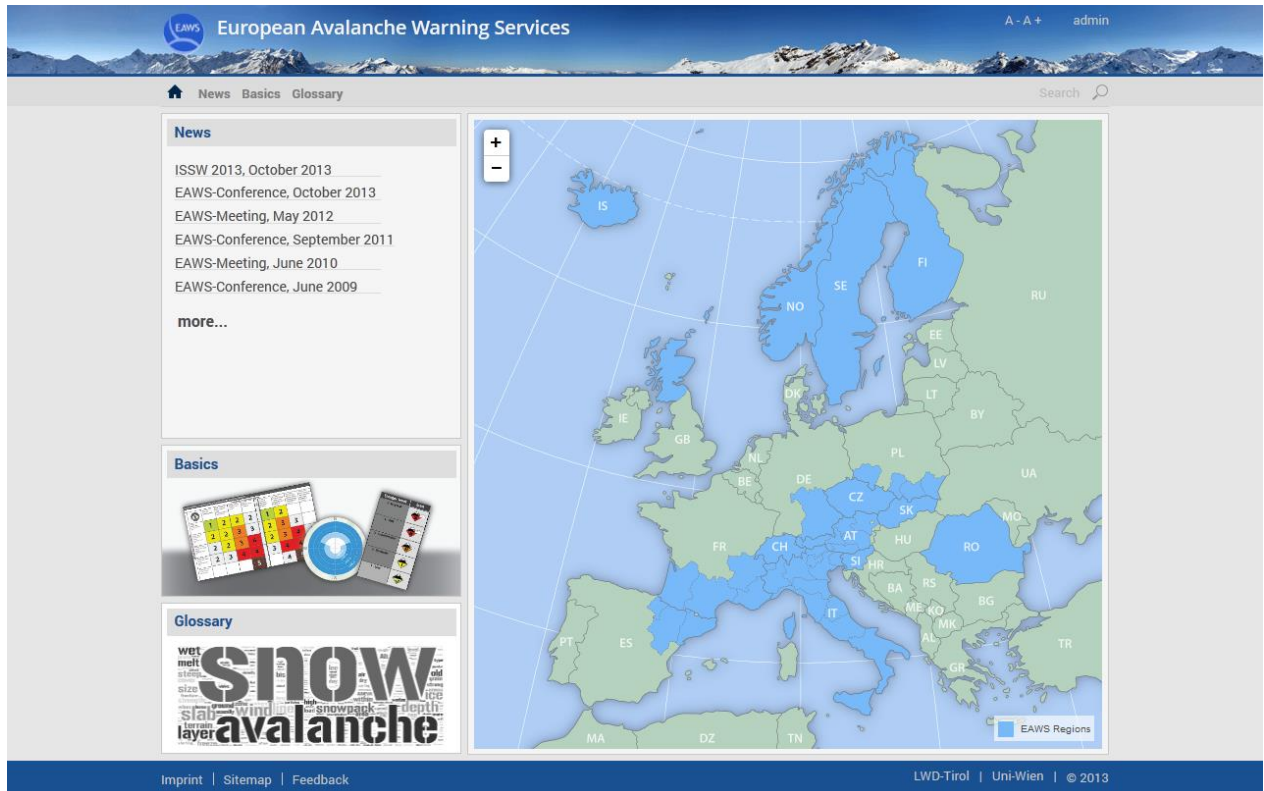
#### Data exchange:

- 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](mailto:lawine@tirol.gv.at).
- Implementation on [www.avalanches.org](http://www.avalanches.org) which deals as central data-storage.
- Communication with other institutions (ICAR, NAC, UIAGM, EURAC)

### Results Session 3:

#### [www.avalanches.org](http://www.avalanches.org)

- Preliminary version is accepted
- Further adaptations / 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 publicize EAWS-page



The screenshot shows the EAWS website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the EAWS logo and the text "European Avalanche Warning Services". Below this, there is a search bar and a menu with "News", "Basics", and "Glossary". The main content area is divided into three sections: "News" with a list of recent events, "Basics" with a graphic of avalanche danger scales, and "Glossary" with a word cloud. A large map of Europe is displayed on the right, with several countries highlighted in blue, indicating EAWS Regions. The footer contains "Imprint | Sitemap | Feedback" and "LWD-Tirol | Uni-Wien | © 2013".

(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](http://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](http://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.snowsafesafe.at](http://www.snowsafesafe.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](mailto: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.