

The working group #3 “local avalanche service” was assigned the following task at the General Assembly (GA) in Tutzing in 2017:

“Best practice in local avalanche warning. The goal is to review today's practice and to evaluate how the European avalanche danger scale is applicable in local avalanche warning. How to organize local services under EAWS?”

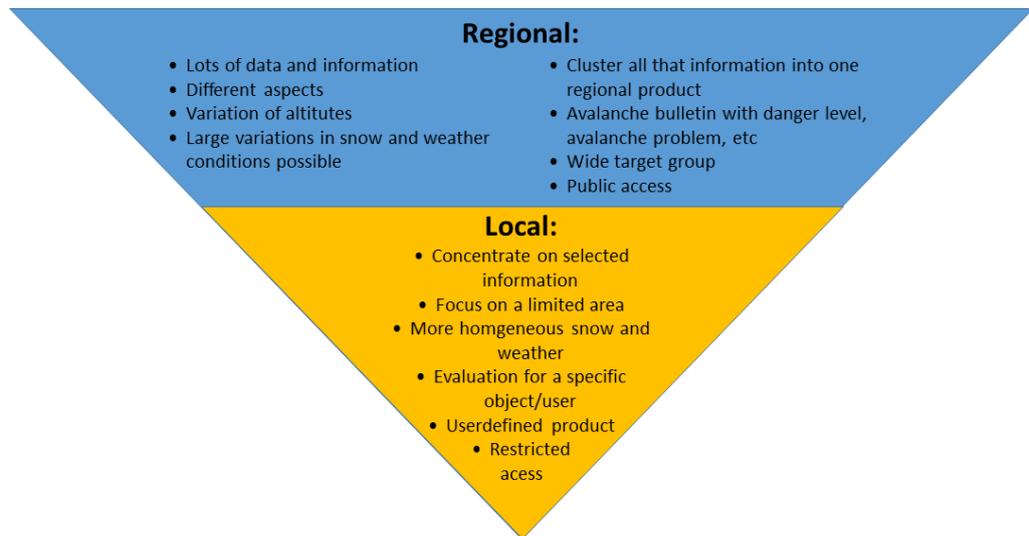
The work-group included the following members:

- Arnold Studeregger (group leader)
- Christian Jaedicke
- Fabiano Monti
- Paola Dellavedova
- Lukas Stoffel
- Sergio Azzarello
- Carles Garcia
- Toni Molné
- Guillem Martín Bellido

The working group “local avalanche service” presents the following results to the TAB:

- We had two Meetings in Innsbruck 2017, 2018 (during the ISSW)
- A questionnaire in six languages was circulated in Europe to target local avalanche services collecting more than 200 answers.
- Part analysis of the survey: Avalanche exposed settlements, communication lines, ski resort operations, construction sites, tourism and professional guiding are only few examples of activities in the mountains where an active risk management requires local avalanche warnings. While regional avalanche warning is somehow standardized by the rules and standards of the European Avalanche Warning Services (EAWS), local avalanche warning services use a great variety of methods and tools both in the avalanche hazard assessment and in the communication of the results. To gain an overview of the different practices in Europe, the EAWS established a working group on local avalanche warning. The aim of the working group is to establish a general definition of local and regional avalanche warning and to outline the state of the art in Europe. A questionnaire in six languages was circulated in Europe to target local avalanche services collecting more than 200 answers. The analysis of the survey shows a large variety between local avalanche services, very different set-ups and applied methods for assessing and communicating the local avalanche danger. Based on the results of the questionnaire, a first definition of local versus regional avalanche warning assessment was presented (see Poster ISSW 2018 Innsbruck).
- We had long and good discussions on the topic “what is local or regional warning”.
- The working group has agreed on a definition for local / versus regional warning:

What is regional, what is local?



- In the one and a half years it was not possible to edit further topics.

The following tasks/questions could not be answered so far:

- Provide best practice guidelines and recommendations from the EAWS for local warning services.
- Should local avalanche services take part in the EAWS? Organisational scheme to include the local services into the organisation (membership, voting, mandates, roles).
- Do we need to communicate the difference between local and regional avalanche warning as an EAWS message?

Given that the topic is followed up, Working Group 3 proposes the following steps:

- Quest for more data especially from organisations we know well, but that did not answer. Phone call interviews
- Engage a master student for analysis of the data from the survey
- Design a set of best practice guidelines for local services