

Excursion of the Swiss Young Geomorphologists (SGmS)

The 3rd Rhone correction: river management in a complex socio-environmental context

Friday 24 March 2023, Sion



Photo: © Jonathan Bussard, 2022

The Young Geomorphologists 2023 winter excursion will take place on the banks of the Rhone River (Valais), which is the object of Switzerland's largest flood protection project: the 3rd Rhone correction. Today, in the event of a major flood, the damage is estimated at around CHF 15 billion and about 100,000 people live and work in the danger zone. After major floods that occurred in 1987, 1993 and 2000, the Governments of Vaud and Valais adopted in 2016 the 3rd Rhone correction development plan, which aims to reinforce the safety of the plain through three types of measures: reinforcement of the dykes, lowering and widening of the river bed.

While anticipatory measures have already been implemented in Visp, further construction work is now being prepared in several sectors of the floodplain. During a one-day excursion along the Rhone in the central Valais, we will discuss some of the main issues related to the 3rd Rhone correction with Rudolf Pesch, the head of the Rhone and Lemman section of the Canton du Valais. We will also discuss some results of the research project *FluidGov - Towards a "fluid" governance: hydrosocial analysis of flood paradigms and management practices in Rhone and Ganges basins*.

Programme

Friday 24 March 2023

Meeting point in Ardon train station at **09:24**

(Train from Zurich at 6:32, Bern 7:34, Lausanne 7:50)

Walk along the Lizerne River to its confluence with the Rhone (1.5 km)

Presentation of the construction works planned in this area

Walk along the Rhone to “Les Iles” (3.5 km)

Lunch and general presentation of the 3rd Rhone correction project in the restaurant “Les Iles”

Discussion about the scenarios for the enlargement of the Rhone in “Les Iles” sector: possible futures and “fluid” governance

Bus from “Sion, Camping des Iles” to Sion train station around 16:00 and end of the excursion

Practical information

Cost The participation is free of charge

Included Visits, lunch

Not included Public transportation tickets

Registration is open until the 15 of March 2023 via the attached registration form that needs to be returned to young@geomorphology.ch (or julie.wee@unifr.ch and jonathan.bussard@unil.ch)

The excursion is limited to 20 participants. The registration is considered as soon as the application has been received (first come first served principle). Non-members of the SGmS are very welcome!

Organisers

Jonathan Bussard, Julie Wee, Chantal del Siro

Kindly supported by



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