

SUCCESS STORY

CHANGES / Changing Hydro-Meteorological Risks, as Analysed by a New Generation of European Scientists

Research area: FP7 – People / Marie Curie Action
Number of partners: 11 among which the University
of Lausanne (UNIL)

Start date – End date: 2011-01-01 to 2014-12-31

Duration: 48 months

Funding: € 3 671 703 / UNIL: € 238 460

Type of contract: Initial Training Network (ITN)



MICHEL JABOYEDOFF



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**“I hope to one day write
an essay on environmen-
tal risks, as the expertise
that we are developing
in this field strikes me
as quite original.”**

A PASSION FOR THE ENVIRON- MENT TO SERVE SOCIETY

Full Professor at the Institute of Geomatics and Risk Analysis (IGAR), which was merged in the autumn 2012 into a new entity – the Terrestrial Environment Research Centre (CRET) in the context of the Faculty of Geosciences and Environment’s restructuration, Michel Jaboyedoff is involved with his doctoral student Zar Chi Aye in CHANGES, a European project that benefits from a Marie Curie subsidy for the study of risks associated to floods and landslides.

How would you define yourself as a researcher?

I trained in the field of earth sciences, but I now define myself as an environmentalist. I love basic research, and yet we need to be able to draw useful applications from it. One of our institute’s concerns is to be involved in society. For example, the study report regarding detection, mapping and characterisation of slope movements handed by my group to the canton of Vaud was very useful. Norwegian and Argentinian geological services use the methods that we developed for this study.

How do you rate your laboratory in European research?

I believe that our lab’s participation in large-scale projects testifies to its label of scientific quality and places it next to the best European groups.

What is the topic of your CHANGES project?

Initially, it involves doing a risk analysis associated to floods and landslides, then to measure the impact of these dangers on populations and finally to implement suitable land planning, alert systems, etc. Our doctoral student at UNIL, of Burmese origin, is in charge of developing a web application indispensable to risk management, comprising several modules that will offer a mix of quantitative and qualitative approaches to support decision making.



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ABOUT THE PROJECT

The CHANGES project involves Terrestrial Environment Research Centre (CRET) in a study on a European scale. A network involving 15 young researchers from the continent. As regards UNIL, this research benefits from a grant of € 238 460. Its goals are, in particular, to provide high-level teaching and research in the management of natural hazards and risks in the field of global changes, to reduce the fragmentation of research on natural processes in Europe and to develop

a methodology framework combined with modelling tools for risks and multi-risks assessment.

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