

TOPIC AND SPEAKERS

- COORDINATOR OF MSCA ITN CHANGES PROJECT -

[HTTP://WWW.CHANGES-ITN.EU/](http://www.changes-itn.eu/)



CEES VAN WESTEN

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Prof. Dr. Cees van Westen received his Msc in Physical Geography from the University of Amsterdam in 1987, and his PhD in Engineering Geology from the University of Delft in 1993. He is expert on multi-hazard risk assessment in mountainous environments. He has carried out research on different hazard and risk related aspects: landslide hazard and risk, volcanic hazard and risk, and earthquake-induced hazards in different regions (e.g. European Alps, Central America, South America, Caribbean, Caucasus, Central Asia, Himalayas, China, India, Indonesia). He worked on national scale multi-hazard risk assessment projects in Central America, Caribbean, the Caucasus, Central Asia and Pakistan. He was involved in numerous advisory and capacity building projects, supervised more than 110 MSc students, and 20 PhD researchers. He published over 125 scientific papers. His current research interest is to develop methods for the analysis of changing multi-hazard risk. These changes can be abrupt, e.g. after major disasters (e.g. earthquakes, tropical storms, volcanic eruptions), or gradual (e.g. analysing how future scenarios of climate change, land use change and population change have an impact on risk) or as decision support tool for the planning of risk reduction measures.

CHANGES project. The CHANGES project was an EU FP7 Marie Curie Initial Training Network. The CHANGES network (Changing Hydro-meteorological Risks – as Analyzed by a New Generation of European Scientists) aimed to develop an advanced understanding of how global changes (related to environmental and climate change as well as socio-economical change) will affect the temporal and spatial patterns of hydro-meteorological hazards and associated risks in Europe; how these changes can be assessed, modelled, and incorporated in sustainable risk management strategies, focusing on spatial planning, emergency preparedness and risk communication. This resulted in the Ph.D. of Thea Turkington on the analysis of climate change for hydro-meteorological hazards in mountainous areas in the Alps.