

AVA Annual Report

20160920-AVA Dominique Létang, Commission President

Following, you will find how the avalanche commission did since our last congress in Bulgaria.

- Under the umbrella of ICAR, I sent letters to the Italian rescue authorities to ensure them from our support about the dramatic avalanche last winter (Rigopiano).
- I participated on a meeting in Milan (Italia) with UIAGM, UIAA, ENSA... regarding the Mountain Safety Knowledge Base (1 day)
- I attended the workshop in Chamonix (1 day) for an updating about "Best practice in avalanche rescue" and the MSKB.
- I attended our board committee in Zurich (August – 2 days)
- I participated on a meeting in Grenoble (UIAGM – ICAR) about MSKB and in order to prepare our avalanche schedule for Andorra.

Update of our working group:

- Implementation of translations and optimizations of art-work
- 4-day workshop in Chamonix (May 2017), hosted by ENSA in its function as scientific partner organization of the "Mountain Safety Knowledgebase"
- 4 more languages are being added to MSK: now 17 (implementation ongoing)
- full revision (fine-tuning) of the existing content based on the experiences made with the modified material in the 2016/2017 season
- one day of the work meeting was dedicated to the strategic planning of the "Mountain Safety Knowledgebase" in collaboration with UIAA and IFMGA
- all partner organizations of the "Mountain Safety Knowledgebase" were present: UIAA, IFMGA, ICAR as well as the two scientific partners ENSA and SLF.
- IFMGA was the first organization that did put cash on the table to support the meeting.
- IFMGA president again was very supportive and proofed his wisdom as a strategic leader
- UIAA delegates has discussed UIAA SafeCom link, which is now officially recognizes as MSK industry link.
- UIAA delegates have presented the newly revised CAI manuals and training materials as a demo case for the efficient application of MSK materials in an UIAA member federation.
- ICAR made a mediocre impression during the Chamonix coordination meeting: - UIAA and IFMGA were unimpressed about ICARs level of professionalism.
- The "Best Practice in Avalanche Rescue" workgroup has decided to meet next time the two days prior to the annual ICAR meeting in Andorra (Tuesday and Wednesday), arrival of the participants Monday. Some participants are asked to arrive earlier (weekend) to finish translation issues with the art-work staff of the workgroup.

- The "Best Practice in Avalanche Rescue" workgroup has decided to try to "freeze" modifications on level 1, 2, 2.5, 3, probing, deep burials, and Recco I and II by this fall for at least two seasons.
- Recco content has now full consensus with Recco AB (very much work was included, thanks to Gian Darms SLF (scientific partner of MSK) for the very active support)
- a new project including field test for next winter has been started by the "Best Practice in Avalanche Rescue" workgroup on the topic of pinpointing.

Dominique Létang
President of the ICAR Avalanche Rescue Commission
Chief of the French Avalanche Association (ANENA)