

What's new? What's coming?

What are the results of the 1st ASM:

The current membership structure remains unchanged, as there is no need or added benefit at this stage to distinguish between "simple" and "professional" members. It was also decided that no paying "partners" will be brought on board at the moment. A possible gradation of the membership fee for supporting members (so far only an option) and related services for the association will and should be possible in the future. The board of ÖGSL will actively look for funding from public authorities - especially for explicit funding of projects - for the association.

The lectures held during the schnee.semmelnar should be freely accessible for members in the future - overall, the ÖGSL supports an open data policy and the open source idea.

In the second part of the event the new goals and projects of the ÖGSL were presented, reported and hotly discussed.

- Harmonisation of technical training in the field of snow and avalanches

The so-called ÖGSL-Academy could offer workshops e.g. for multipliers and be a contact point for specific questions from the field. However, the offer should be very different from existing ones. Possible courses must be embedded in an overall concept for snow and avalanche training in Austria, with the ultimate goal of speaking a common language. However, non-objectives are to develop or provide a comprehensive overall concept for snow and avalanche training and to offer existing courses for "end users" (e.g. ski touring courses). In a first step, the ÖGSL plans an internal coordination regarding the training levels in the field of technical snow and avalanche training in order to be able to offer a concrete course (e.g. international standards in the recording of snow profiles and stability testing) at a high technical level.

- Manual on observations and measurements in the field of snow and avalanches

The aim should be to define a 'best practice' for Austria and thus to create the basis for a common language and uniform work. There is general agreement that the ÖGSL should take up the topic and that such a work is needed in Austria. The development should be started with a Wiki.

- Snow and avalanche data in Austria (data sources, availability, possibilities of a test area)

There is already quite a lot in this area, both nationally and internationally, but nevertheless there is still a lot of potential in this area in ÖGSL. As a first step, an overview of institutions and data sources in Austria should be compiled. ÖGSL could create an overview of who collects/has which data. The support of open source projects is encouraged by ÖGSL and should be included in the statutes.

- Other suggestions from attendees

The ÖGSL should work actively to ensure that it does not become the ÖGL and actively take up members and contributions on the subject of snow away from the avalanche world, as well as to spread its activities throughout the whole of Austria.

That was a short wrap-up of the 1st Annual Spring Meeting. It was a very successful event and it turned out that the ÖGSL consists of members who can discuss constructively and who want to form and develop the ÖGSL together. Many thanks for participating.