

New mobile and web-based services for backcountry skiers

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The WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research SLF developed White Risk mobile, an iPhone-application which was presented at the ISSW-Europe 2009 in Davos.

It provides weather, snow and avalanche information, as well as the opportunity to learn more about hazards and behavior in the hibernial backcountry.

A positive feedback on White Risk mobile inspired the SLF to extend its research in mobile and web-based platforms for planning and executing trips into the backcountry.

The University of Venice joined this project in order to investigate the applications interface design and didactical approach.

Aim of this collaboration is to develop a new Web-GIS-application which offers more map functions focusing the planning of a trip at home before executing it.

People will be able to draw their tour on a map, define a timetable, spot difficult passages, check the hill slope, altitude and exposition as well as include snow and weather prevision into their planning.

A mobile counterpart will enable skiers to access their saved trip and current data from measurements stations providing useful information for the decision making process in the field.

Designwise the aim is to create both a functional and inspiring application which stimulates skiers to use it. Another focus is to design a 'tangible' interface beeing in up with todays developments in 'touch-devices' and the way people get used to navigate digital contents.

During winter 2010/11 we will test the new web and mobile platform with a selective distribution to backcountry skiers.