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Comment

Interactive comment on “The dark side of risk and crisis communication: legal conflicts and responsibility allocation” by A. Scolobig

Anonymous Referee #1

Received and published: 19 May 2015

COMMENTS TO THE BRIEF COMMUNICATION:

TITLE: The dark side of risk and crisis communication: legal conflicts and responsibility allocation
AUTHOR: Anna Scolobig

GENERAL COMMENTS

The paper is very interesting. It addresses relevant scientific questions within the scope of NHESS. The title clearly expresses the content and the abstract provides a good summary of the treated topics. The length of the text is adequate to provide an exhaustive presentation of the issue. The paper presents a reflection on some important and current issues related to the risk communication and its legal consequences. In particular the author highlights the necessity to consider aspects as the development

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of effective communication protocols; the role, tasks and responsibilities of science advisors; and the collateral effects of practitioners' defensive behaviours. The paper is clear enough, easy to understand to a wide and diversified audience. The conclusions give to the readers some ideas for future research on the legal aspects of risk communication. Nevertheless, some inaccuracies and errors should be corrected. Moreover, some publications written on the same subject should be taken into consideration and included in the references. The paper can be accepted after minor revisions.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS

The description of the cases reported should be improved. Some information reported by the author are incorrect or inaccurate (see the cases of Sarno and L'Aquila). More details are indicated in the reviewed pdf file. The author should consider some works, written on the same issue, and in particular several publications referring to the L'Aquila earthquake case. These publications should be cited in the text and included in the references. I don't express my opinion on the quality of the English language, since I am not a native speaker.

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS

See also the reviewed pdf file, in which some modifications are suggested.

SARNO CASE

1) The definitive sentence (third level of judgment) in the Sarno case was on 2013, not in 2011. See the link to the newspaper and change the citation in the text:

<http://corrieredelmezzogiorno.corriere.it/salerno/notizie/cronaca/2013/27-marzo-2013/alluvione-sarno-quindici-anniconfermata-condanna-sindaco-basile-212373127131.shtml>

2) About the citation of the law 100/2012: you should explain how it is possible to convict a person on the basis of a law enacted 14 years after the alleged offense. Please, refer also to the previous law 225/1992.

L'AQUILA CASE

1) The information about the members of the Major Risk Commission is not correct: in 2009 Dr Giulio Selvaggi was not a member of the Major Risk Commission, but the Director of the Earthquake National Center of the Italian Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology. Please, see the members of the Commission at the time of the earthquake at the following link:

<https://processoaquila.wordpress.com/>

2) At the same link, please check that the other information on the L'Aquila case included in this paper are correct. Then, modify the text where necessary.

FURTHER PUBLICATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED IN WRITING THE TEXT AND TO BE INCLUDED IN THE REFERENCES.

- <https://processoaquila.wordpress.com/>

- Albarello D. (2015). Communicating uncertainty: managing the inherent probabilistic character of hazard estimates. First published on February 13, 2015, doi: 10.1144/SP419.9. In: Peppoloni S. and Di Capua G. (Eds.). *Geoethics: The Role and Responsibilities of Geoscientists*. Geological Society, London, Special Publications, 419.

- Geller R. J., 2015. *Geoethics, Risk-Communication, and Scientific Issues in Earthquake Science*. In: Wyss, M., Peppoloni S. (Eds.), *Geoethics: Ethical Challenges and Case Studies in Earth Science*. Elsevier, Waltham, Massachusetts, pp. 263–272.

- Papadopoulos, G.A., 2015. Risk management: roles and responsibilities in the decision-making process. In: Wyss, M., Peppoloni, S. (Eds.), *Geoethics: Ethical Challenges and Case Studies in Earth Science*. Elsevier, Waltham, Massachusetts, pp. 223–237.

- Dolce, M., Di Bucci, D., 2015. Risk management: roles and responsibilities in the

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decision making process. In: Wyss, M., Peppoloni S. (Eds.), *Geoethics: Ethical Challenges and Case Studies in Earth Science*. Elsevier, Waltham, Massachusetts, pp. 211–221.

- Cocco M., Cultrera G., Amato A., et al. (2015). The L'Aquila trial. First published on February 13, 2015, doi: 10.1144/SP419.13. In: Peppoloni S. and Di Capua G. (Eds.). *Geoethics: The Role and Responsibilities of Geoscientists*. Geological Society, London, Special Publications, 419.

- Mucciarelli, M., 2015. Some comments on the first degree sentence of the “L'Aquila trial”. In: Wyss, M., Peppoloni, S. (Eds.), *Geoethics: Ethical Challenges and Case Studies in Earth Science*. Elsevier, Waltham, Massachusetts, pp. 205–210.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<http://www.nat-hazards-earth-syst-sci-discuss.net/3/C720/2015/nhessd-3-C720-2015-supplement.pdf>

Interactive comment on *Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss.*, 3, 2739, 2015.

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