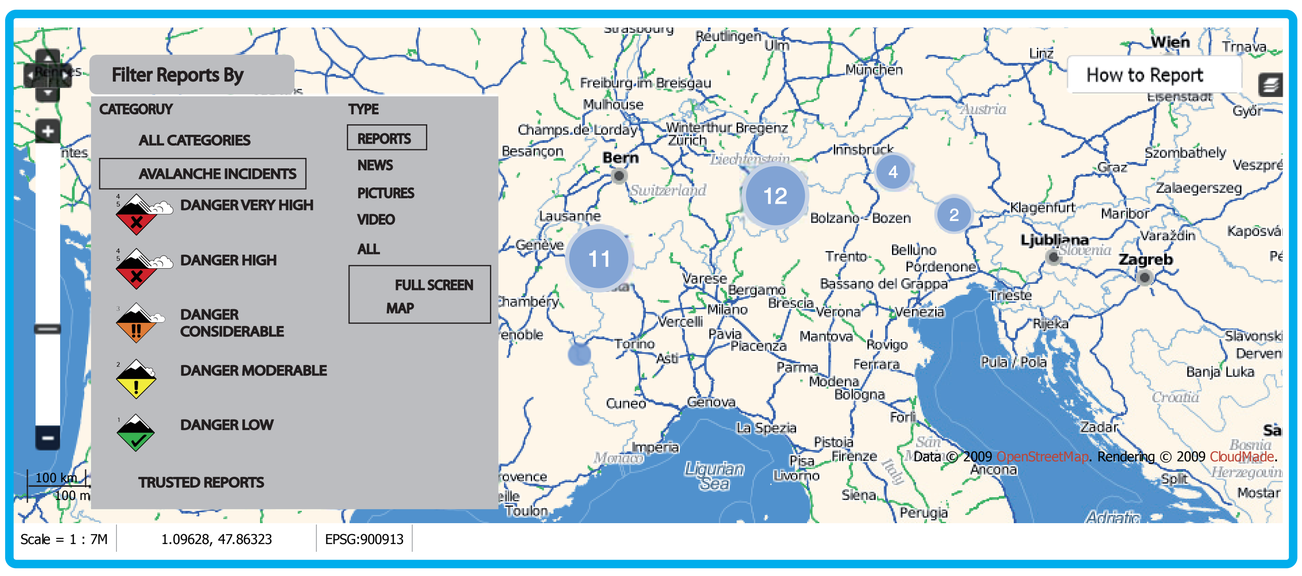
GEOAVALANCHE

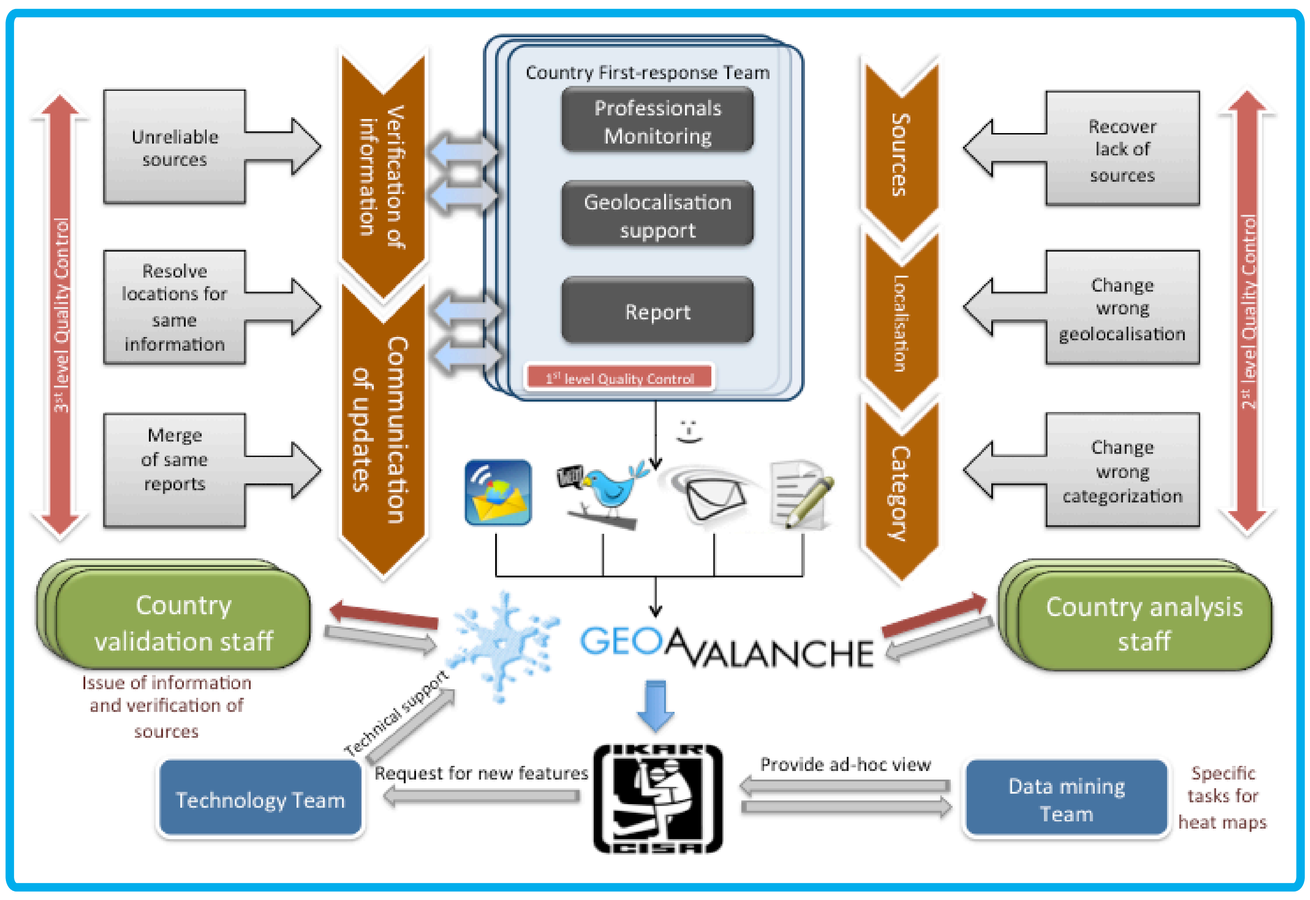
CROWDSOURCED AVALANCHE INCIDENTS

created by **Geobeyond**

Making Geospatial Happen

"Awareness is timeless"





Objectives

- We use the crowd to collect snow avalanche information
- Mountaineers are the first responders on the ground
- Rely on people that have credibility in such community
- Professionals are always on the snow and ready for a coordinated meaningful response
- Affected community gets engaged in the process because of their interest in the returned outcomes
- Safety is not a concept but rather a dogma
- Resilience is the base for preparedness
- Report critical snow conditions from the wilderness may affect the avalanche danger locally
- Get alerts for a determined zone could save lives
- Report incidents may result in caution and consequently improve the aware ness of avalanche risk
- Ushahidi is a powerful crowdsourcing tool combined with a secure approval workflow
- Open Data is the recipe for sharing knowledge
  The help of stakeholders is crucial for a long-term sustainable project

Story and results

The Geoavalanche project was conceived in the late 2011 by Geobeyond as an experiment of social mapping to learn the mountaineers' responsiveness to avalanches. Volunteers, mountaineers, and stakeholders collected, sorted, and reliably reported warnings, avalanches and related incidents in a worldwide map. The idea behind the project was to gather spatially-aware information about avalanches, and areas prone to incidents to support the crowd in a meaningful manner with the aim of putting information about the avalanche risk of the reported locations at the disposal of the official warning services. This allows fostering warning tools and raising the community's awareness of avalanche risk by using location-based alerts.

The application is available at http://incident.geoavalanche.org and it is even more usable from smartphones equipped with geolocalisation (App for iOS, Android, Windows Mobile). The user can also use social media by tweeting with the hashtags ***#geoavalanche****,* ***#avalreport****, and* ***#avalevent*** *to report information.*

This social model aims at affecting the sustainability of the initiative that is also enriched by the release of the whole dataset under an Open Data license for educational use. In a world where geographic information is not still diffused, the project leverages the common needs of mountaineers to overcome a real worldwide problem of making the mountain experience safer.

powered by **Ushahidi**

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