



# RACCE project: Newsletter #3



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NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF  
CRETE – UNIVERSITY OF CRETE

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*Cover photo: During the third meeting in National Polytechnic Museum in Sofia.*

## Progress so far

The first year of project implementation has passed, along with the first results on the project's goals. The first year was dedicated mainly on the recognition and identification of needs that the human kind has, especially children, concerning those two natural phenomena that RACCE is focusing on; Earthquakes and Volcanic Eruptions. Additionally, the background for the development of the educational activities has been set.

Partnerships have been established and meetings have been realised with experts, in order to fully cover all the dimensions of these really important phenomena and more specific their dangerous effects. The catastrophic events of the last years are a good motivation for people to be interested in those Natural Disasters and create a prosperous ground for RACCE to deal with the psychological effects on humans and especially on children.

Thus, the second year of the program is the year of finalization of educational products and the implementation, focused on the substantial interaction with public, adults and children. There will be training seminars informing adults how to prepare before a catastrophic event and what they can do to support children after the event, in a first level. Additionally, education programs will be implemented for children at the age of 6 until 13 years old in order to be more familiar with natural phenomena and to be prepared before, during and after a natural disaster. May the Implementation ...begin!!!

## Management Meetings

The **third**, management meeting took place in the meeting room of the National Polytechnic Museum in Sofia on 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> of January, 2012 and was organized by the Center for Educational Initiatives in Sofia, Bulgaria.

The meeting had the following objectives:

- Presentation of progress made so far Progress so far – implementation problems
- Final Discussion (Evaluation) on Needs Analysis study
- Discussion on draft Guidelines
- Presentation of draft ideas on mobile exhibition
- Discussion on draft Educational Project
- Management and Financial Issues
- Evaluation of project activities so far
- Presentation and organisation of future activities

According to the evaluation, meeting achieved all its goals and its main results can be summarized as follows:



*Presentation of RACCE at the Sismo Tour Exhibition at Digne les Bains by Reserve Géologique de Haute Provence*

- ✓ **Needs analysis** has been finalised (with the contribution of each partner) and is already printed and published to the web. In conclusion, after evaluating the Needs Analysis Study, it was recognised that there is a problem of different mentality in every country and there is a lack regarding the awareness of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.
- ✓ The principal **guidelines** on the procedures and the actions that have to be followed prior and during an earthquake or volcanic hazard in order to cope children emotion (CCE) will be identified and listed in a textbook. It is expected to: act as a tool to be used by various target groups to help palliate and cope undesirable emotions and behaviors of children; to cover the needs on that issue in each partner area.
- ✓ The first approach regarding the **travelling exhibition** was presented to the partners. It is scheduled to spread gained knowledge and information from former tasks to as many people as possible. It can be lend and used by schools, public institutions and bodies, groups of volunteers, and NGOs and help continuation of project's dissemination.
- ✓ The methodology and pedagogical approach of the **Educational Suitcase** was presented and all partners agreed on which activities will be included in order to have the desirable effects and results from the implementation of it.
- ✓ Two **Technical Reports** to EU have been accomplished in late September and February regarding project's progress and results.
- ✓ The **fourth project** meeting was decided to take place in Crete, Greece in June 2012.

## ***Designing the educational products...***

### **➤ *Mobile Suitcase***

The Mobile Educational Suitcase is one of the most important deliverables of RACCE. The experiential Educational Project will be connected with school curricula and it will be addressed to children, aiming to palliate the emotional burden and help them cope in case of a serious seismic hazard, by raising awareness and improving their knowledge on earthquake and volcanic disasters.

It will be realized as a Mobile Suitcase that will include a series of Educational Activities, supportive theoretical Handbooks and other relevant material (e.g. Models, presentations). Additionally, basic guidelines will be prepared, by an expert group, as an important source of the Suitcase that will refer to the identification of unexpected children emotions or behaviours and palliation responses to children's depression through edutainment activities in case of Seismic or Volcanic disasters. The pedagogical approach of the material is that of the Educational Pathway that helps classrooms to work individually and in various places the main topics of the deliverable, using various scientific and pedagogic tools.

This product is also addressed to children with movement disorders and for this reason RACCE is collaborating with specialists on Educational Approaches for children with special needs, in order to produce the appropriate material for cases where there is the need to support children with special abilities. The whole deliverable will be translated in Greek, Italian, Bulgarian and French and realised by all partners.

### **➤ *Travelling Exhibition***

The realisation of a Travelling Exhibition aims to serve information and dissemination purposes, which will include about 20 posters and static displays related to seismic and volcanic hazards and coping of unexpected emotions, with emphasis to the situation of each participating country.



*A preview of the semblance of the Exhibition*

Furthermore, accompanying educational material with activities addressed to children and a leaflet will be produced. The exhibition is scheduled to be lent and used by schools, public institutions and bodies, groups of volunteers, and NGOs.

The Exhibition will be composed from the 20 posters, as mentioned above, in such an order, that all the relative information will be emerged and will create the motivation and stimulation to the public to start dealing with such phenomena in a daily basis, which will create a concerned and secure environment for humans. It will also be translated in Greek, Italian, Bulgarian and French.

## Partner's Activities

### **Natural History Museum of Crete, University of Crete, Greece:**

During the first year of the program, NHMC has been involved in a series of speeches, seminars and events, where "Racce" was sufficiently promoted.

#### **Seminars and Training activities:**

- On February 2, 2012 a group of 25 members of the Hellenic Voluntary Rescue Team, Cretan dep. participated in a seminar at the NHMC earthquake simulator on earthquake prevention where RACCE was presented and a formal collaboration for the implementation phase has been agreed.



*From the seminar with Hellenic Rescue team in NHMC*

- On March 14, 2012, the RACCE team of the NHMC participated in an educational seminar for school Directors, organized by the Directorate of Primary and Secondary education of the Region of Crete, and the Center for environmental education of Heraklion. The seminar was titled "Seismic Protection and Education" and the main issues analysed were the ways a school needs to prepare in case of a natural disaster. Dr. C. Fassoulas

presented RACCE and its main deliverable and promoted the implementation phase and the training activities scheduled for summer and autumn times.

Simultaneously, Mrs Archontaki presented for the 1<sup>st</sup> School for Disabled Children of Rethimno the project developed by Mrs Kaspiri and Mr Bouralexis for earthquake prevention. The specific school is collaborating with NHMC under RACCE and already the school has visited the earthquake simulator of the museum. After a number of meetings the conclusion was that, children with movement disorders usually deal with other difficulties as well. In this case, the result of this collaboration is the suitable approach for children with movement disorders and more difficulties, to understand and learn how to react in a case of an earthquake.

- On the other hand, as the preparations for the educational products of the program have begun, a new collaboration has started with the Department of Preschool Education of the University of Crete. With the support of Mrs Ampartzaki, Lecturer of the Department and expert of RACCE, the educational activities that are intended for children at the age of 6-13 years old are being adjusted for younger children of Preschool Education. An experimental implementation has already taken place at the exhibition hall of the Museum, where children from a Kindergarten from Chania city of Crete actually felt a simulation of an earthquake at the seismic table and carried on with a series of activities concerning the perception of the phenomenon and how did the children understood the "shaking".



*Children draw what they felt, heard and saw during the earthquake simulation.*

#### Public talks:

- On December 28, a group of 40 members of the Heraklion Municipality Volunteers group participated in a seminar for cultural heritage protection in case of earthquake disaster organized by the PATCH project implemented by NHMC. During the seminar Dr C. Fassoulas presented the deliverables and philosophy of RACCE and the base for collaboration during the implementation phases was agreed.
- Dr C. Fassoulas presented RACEE on March 19, 2012 during a public talk for the earthquakes of Crete at the Cultural association of Malia area.

#### **Natural History Museum of Lesvos Petrified Forest, Greece:**

The Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest has designed and implemented a large number of dissemination activities, aiming to inform and sensitize the Lesvos inhabitants, and

#### Educational Project on simulator:

- A new educational project on the earthquake simulator has been developed by NHMC and is being implemented since December 2011 providing information on the earthquake phenomenon, the prevention and preparedness measures to be followed, with special emphasis on tsunamis and the recent 2011 earthquake and tsunami of Japan. Visitors of the simulator can simultaneously feel real earthquakes like the 2011 8,9 R quake of Japan. The program is also shared to Lesvos Petrified Forest Museum to use at their simulator.



*The new educational project on the earthquake simulator at NHMC.*

**([www.nhmc.uoc.gr](http://www.nhmc.uoc.gr))**

mainly children, on the issues of the seismic activity of the island and seismic protection.

- As the host of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the RACCE project in March 2011, the Museum organised a press conference on the 11<sup>th</sup> March, during which the project experts informed the public on the

project, its aims and its importance. The press conference was covered by all regional newspapers (Empros, Dimokratis, Ta nea tis Lesvou), radio stations (ERA Aigaiou, Archipelagos, Aeolos) and TV channels (Archipelagos TV, TV Mytilini), as well as regional and important national news portals (e.g. lesvosnews.gr, lesvosnews.net, polo.gr, otenet.gr, travellingnews.gr, ert.gr, ert3.gr).

- “Earthquakes, tsunamis and protection measures” was the name of the **interactive educational programme** and guided tours organised during the period 9 May - 5 June 2011, in the frames of the celebration of the European Geoparks Network Week 2011. Children and adults participated in the activities, which offered a fascinating journey into the world of the Earth’s movements and focused on earthquake preparedness. The especially designed guided tours for the wide public included exhibits and tools that explained difficult concepts such as faults, lithospheric plates, tsunamis and liquefaction. The most innovative activity of the programme was the experience of an earthquake through the use of the seismic table of the Museum, which simulates strong earthquakes that have occurred in Greece and also worldwide. This activity aims to the familiarization of the public with the earthquake phenomenon and the elimination of their sense of panic, through teaching and also practising in real conditions the right behaviour and actions during an earthquake. The activities during the EGN Week 2011 were covered by all regional media through press releases and reportages.

- Similar activities for the public and for schools of Lesvos were organised from the 10<sup>th</sup> till the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2011, in the frames of the celebration of the International Day of **Disaster Reduction**, on the 13<sup>th</sup> October. Educational

programmes and lectures introduced participants to the phenomenon of the earthquake and the right protection measures and the activities were covered by the local media. On the 13<sup>th</sup> October, the Director of the Museum, Assoc. Prof. Nikolas Zouros, gave an one-hour interview at the telecast of Ms Zoi Livaditou on the RACCE project, the importance of earthquake knowledge and the right preparedness measures. The interview was broadcasted live on the regional TV channel Archipelagos.



*Children on the seismic simulator of NHML*

- On the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011, the Museum organised a meeting with local policy makers, in order to discuss the **earthquake preparedness** measures on the island of Lesvos, also with the participation of representative of the Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization. The meeting was a very fruitful discussion during which the RACCE project, with its aims and activities, was presented. The meeting’s results were presented during a press conference which was live broadcasted by the regional TV channel Archipelagos.

**([www.petrifiedforest.gr](http://www.petrifiedforest.gr))**

## ***Earthquake Planning and Protection Organisation (EPPO), Greece:***

In the framework of the «RACCE» project, Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization (E.P.P.O.) implemented the following actions:

**a. Dissemination Activities.** Working towards arising the seismic awareness to the society in Greece, E.P.P.O. has implemented a dissemination activity program for RACCE according to the dissemination strategy of the project. The related activities that RACCE project was presented, are the following:

- **Informative Lectures to volunteers:** In the framework of the Program “Protecting myself and others”, RACCE was presented to about 380 volunteers at several regions of Greece (Heraklion Crete - 4-7/10/11 - about 120 volunteers, Heraklion and Moires Crete - 10-14/10/11 - about 110 volunteers, Exarcheia Athens - 26/10/11 - about 50 volunteers, Thrakomakedones Athens - 02/11/11 - about 100 volunteers).
- **Informative Lectures to teachers - public:** Almost 330 teachers and citizens were informed of the actions of RACCE (Alexandroupolis - 17/10/2011 - about 50 teachers, Heraklion Crete - 6/10/11 - about 100 teachers of the Municipality of Heraklion, Rethymnon Crete - 22/11/11 - about 180 citizens).
- **Informative Lectures to civil protection local authorities:** In the framework of E.P.P.O.'s Priority Action “Protection and Preparedness for the Seismic Risk Management” the progress and the RACCE activities were presented in four different cities of Greece (Ioannina - 24/10/11, Heraklion - 22/11/11, Mytilini - 30/11/11, Kalamata - 02/12/11).

**b. Educational Material.** E.P.P.O. has contributed to the first version of guidelines on Educational

Material and to the translation of the brochure of the general public on Greek language.

According to the implementation of the RACCE Travelling Exhibition, E.P.P.O. has contributed by preparing thematic posters as modules of the whole package. The themes of the posters were exclusively related to the earthquake protection measures (at school and at home), to the seismic protection policy in Greece, to earthquakes in past civilizations and in modern societies and to topics about earthquake and its forecasting.



*Educational Seminar for teachers at Heraklion Crete  
6/10/2011*

**c. Evaluation.** E.P.P.O. Education Expert Group has evaluated the proposed mobile educational package in order to fulfill the objectives of the project.

Also E.P.P.O. has submitted the first evaluation sheet for project's deliverables and activities, according to the Evaluation Strategy provided by Coordinator.

**d. Meetings.** E.P.P.O. members were participating to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting in Sofia that held in January 2012.

**([www.oasp.gr](http://www.oasp.gr))**

## ***Centre for Educational Initiatives (CEI), Bulgaria:***

At 17 October 2011 Tzvetan Tzvetanski took part in a discussion held at Bulgarian National Radio with the participation of experts from the Bulgarian Red Cross and NGOs that are involved in developing training programs for students at school for action during disasters. The discussion circled around the new plan of action for people in crisis situations and natural disasters developed by the Bulgarian government. Tzvetan Tzvetanski presented the RACCE project - goals, objectives and main activities - to a wide audience.

In December 2011 and January 2012 CEI held meetings with Mrs. Kastreva – Head of the Regional Inspectorate for Education in So\_a city. During those conversations the both parties discussed and agreed upon the possibility for certain schools to make use of the methodology and tools of the RACCE project, to incorporate them into their mandatory extracurricular activities and to apply for funding within the “USPEH” Project, sustained by the Bulgarian Ministry of Education, Youth and Science, which encourages out-of-class activities. Also, during this period CEI met with the headmasters of four schools in Sofia, Targovishte, Bourgas and Brezovo, who agreed to take part in the implementation phase and to host our traveling exhibition.

## ***Association pour la gestion de la Reserve Naturelle Geologique de Haute Provence, France:***

What's new with RACCE project in France since the last newsletter? The RNGHP' staff has worked mainly on the following topics:

### **Video dossier:**

Two videos from national expert's interviews have been elaborated. These interviews are in French language subtitled in English Interviews with:



*Information about earthquakes at schools*

In January 2012 CEI organized a media campaign, focused on the methodology of the educational suitcase, the implementation phase and the traveling exhibition. The following events were realized as part of the campaign – participation of Tzvetan Tzvetanski in the abovementioned radio show at Bulgarian National Radio; participation of education experts Emil Jassim and Dr. Dimitrov in a broadcast at Bulgarian National Television; journalists' reports in Bulgarian National Radio, Dnevnik newspaper and news agency Focus from our project meeting in Sofia.

***([www.cei-bg.org](http://www.cei-bg.org))***

- Olivier Bellier, researcher, specialized in tectonic and seismic risks
- Claire Arnal: In charge of major hazard prevention department for French government. Claire Arnal's main activity is to disseminate seismic hazard prevention.
- Expert interviews can be downloaded from Reserve's website and be viewed on YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g71K01dFsms>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yPxT022cEFg>

**Project brochure and website contribution:**

The English version of the brochure has been translated and adapted for a French version and has been sent to a lot of contacts.

**More external experts :**

Two external experts have joined Resrve's team to help to elaborate and evaluate educational tools (suitcases, books...). These experts are: Marc Nigita : In charge of major natural risk coordination for National education authority, and Nathalie Romeuf : Secondary school teacher, coordinator of CEFEG.

**Research and compilation for the Needs Analysis finalization :**

- Development of special tools and educational activities for children and parents learning how to deal with natural disasters. A panel to present RACCE project has also been prepared especially for that event.

- Formation of regional civil protection staff and school professor
- Conference « active tectonic and seismic risk in Provence »
- Round table « how to build earthquake resistant » with professionals of building. This manifestation has allowed increasing awareness of the population on seismic hazard topic.

**Participation in the Sismo Tour at Digne Les Bains:**

Reserve Geologique has participated at the very important event organized in Digne Les Bains as part of the national "Sismo Tour" activity. More than 3000 visitors (500 pupils among them) had the chance to learn about RACCE through the special poster that has been developed.

**Presentation of RACCE at UNESCO's Annual Meeting:**

Reserve Geologique through Guy Martini, took the chance to present RACCE project as a tool for supporting children and broader society to overpass the risks of an earthquake or volcanic disaster during the UNESCO's Annual meeting that took place in Paris in February 2012.



*The poster for the Sismo Tour event*



*Presentation of RACCE in UNESCO*

([www.resgeol04.org](http://www.resgeol04.org))

## **International Day for Disaster Reduction**

As it was mentioned in the previous newsletter, October 13<sup>th</sup> 2011 was the International Day for Disaster Reduction. This year emphasis was given to Children and Young People and thus the Partnership of RACCE actively participated with a full program of actions that were also hosted at the official web page of the Day. Some of the activities implemented were:

### **Natural History Museum of Crete, Greece:**

- Hosted of Day's logo at project's website
- Emplacement of Day's poster at the entrance of our Museum
- Public talk addressed to adults for the seismic risk of Crete while, children participated in an experiential activity "Facing the earthquakes"

### **Natural History Museum of Lesvos Petrified Forest, Lesvos, Greece:**

- Hosted of Day's logo at Museum's website
- On October 13, the participation of children in the earthquake awareness programs of the Museum was free of charge.
- Lecture and presentation on "EARTHQUAKES – The Earth in movement: The big Japan earthquake"
- Guided tour at the earthquakes temporary exhibition "Earthquake hazard in the Aegean"
- Educational activity on Earthquake recording. Observing the on-line actual recordings in the seismograph installed at the Museum. Presentation on the precaution measures to be taken in case of an earthquake.
- Simulation of the Japan earthquake and other major earthquakes from around the world at the Museum's earthquake simulator (seismic table) and learning how to face an earthquake.
- Projection of the documentary "March 2011: The earthquakes Japan earthquake and tsunami".



*Educational earthquakes at NHML*

### **Centre for Educational Activities of Bulgaria:**

- Hosted of Day's logo at Center's as well as stakeholder's websites

### **Centro Studi e Formazione Villa Montesca:**

- Prevention of the post-event trauma in children: The experience of the European Project

#### Speeches:

- Giuliano Granocchia, President of Centro Studi e Formazione Villa Montesca, partner of the RACCE project.
- Mauro Alcherigi, Councillor responsible for School by the Municipality of Città di Castello
- Fabrizio Boldrini, Scientific Director of Centro Studi e Formazione Villa Montesca and representative for the RACCE project.

### **Association pour la gestion de la Reserve Naturelle Geologique de Haute Provence:**

- Exhibition "Sismo-Tour" 3 to 9 November 2001 in Digne les Bains - Palais des congrès
- Conference " active tectonic and seismic risk in Provence " 4 November - Digne les Bains Palais des congrès
- Round Table "How to built earthquake resistant" with professionals of building - 7 November - Digne les Bains, Palais des congrès

## ***Find in our webpage***

The Official web site of RACCE provides a more comprehensive picture of the program and its deliverables in all participating countries' languages and English. You can find inside apart from information for the project and its deliverables, news related to partners activities and not only as well as links to download project's deliverables such as the presentations of the experiential project designed for seismic simulators, the video interviews produced by partners and the Needs Analysis study. Soon there will be also a children's section where our little friends are going to be able to play interactive games, to be informed about the dangerous phenomena and of course express their own emotions or ideas over them.

## ***What's Next***

- Realisation of the Travelling Exhibition
- Implementation of the Mobile Educational Suitcase
- Next project meeting will take place in the Natural History Museum of Crete in Greece at the end of June 2012, to discuss the implementation of the educational projects.
- Visit project's webpage (<http://racce.nhmc.uoc.gr>) to keep informed on deliverables, planned activities and news