



RACCE project: Newsletter #4



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**NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF
CRETE – UNIVERSITY OF CRETE**

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Cover photo: Implementation of educational project with teachers at NHMC

Progress so far

RACCE is currently at its second year and focuses now on the educational and training activities and workshops. This stage of Implementation is very important since the educational products are tested on their productivity and the achievement of the objectives.

This final task of implementation is related with the educational products that have been produced throughout the duration of RACCE. The first year was dedicated mainly on the recognition and identification of needs in each participating country and the design of Educational products, while the second year to the finalization of educational products and their implementation and testing, focused on the substantial interaction with public, adults and children.

Already training seminars and workshops have been realized and the first results for the evaluation of the deliverables are already collected.



Management Meetings

The **fourth**, management meeting took place in the meeting room of the Natural History Museum of Crete in Heraklion on 25th – 26th of June, 2012 and was organized by the Natural History Museum of Crete, in Iraklion, Greece.

The meeting had the following objectives:

- Presentation of progress made so far - Implementation problems
- Management and Financial Issues

- Discussion and finalisation of educational products
- Evaluation of project activities so far
- Presentation and organisation of future activities



During the fourth meeting at the seismic simulator of the Natural Museum of Crete.

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

- ✓ 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) have been identified and listed in a textbook and a leaflet. 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 **travelling exhibition** and especially the posters constituting the exhibition have been completed and have been sending to partners for translation and printing. Exhibition will spread the 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 **Educational Suitcase** and its activities were finalised at the meeting and will be used at the training workshops that the program will realise.
- ✓ The structure of the **Training Activities** were presented and categorised regarding the target groups.
- ✓ It has been decided to ask for a two months project extension to implement training activities.
- ✓ The **fifth** and final **project** meeting was decided to take place in Athens, Greece.

Additionally on June 20, 2012, within the dissemination actions and after the Sofia meeting all partners decided to create a Facebook account where all the actions are published and announced. So far it has proven a useful tool of dissemination for the RACCE project.

Implementation of the educational products...

➤ ***Educational Kit (Mobile Suitcase)***

The Mobile Educational Suitcase is one of the most important deliverables of RACCE .The experiential Educational Project is designed to 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.



A preview of the Greek Educational Kit (Suitcase)

➤ ***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 installation of the Exhibition

Partner's Activities

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

During the last months of the second year of the program, NHMC has been involved in a series of speeches, seminars, workshops and events, where "RACCE" promoted the educational products and urged the educators to use these tools.

Seminars and Training activities:

- On June 10, 2012, Mrs Archontaki with Mr. Tsoutsoudakis (external partner) participated on an open air event and presented on the annual Children's Festival in Agios Nikolaos the RACCE project and implemented activities and experiments regarding Earthquakes and Volcanic eruptions.
- On August 30, 2012, Mr. Tsoutsoudakis presented RACCE project and realised experiments regarding Earthquakes and Volcanic eruptions to Panormo's meeting of Physics Society, a village nearby Rethimno city in Crete.
- On October 20, 2012, Natural History Museum of Crete concluded the events based on RACCE Educational tools, for the celebration of the International Day of Natural Disaster Reduction, which is celebrated every year on 13 October by the UN.
- On November 8, 2012, Mrs Archontaki with Mr. Tsoutsoudakis (external partner) visited the 31st primary school of Iraklion and realized some of the activities designed for the purposes of the Educational Kit (suitcase). Additionally, experiments of physics that show the processes of an earthquake and volcanic activity.



During the implementation of the educational activities in the classroom

- On November 24,26,27 and 28th of 2012, almost 120 teachers of Primary and Secondary Level as well from the Preschool Education participated in the "Workshop and presentation of educational activities program "RACCE" for the psychological support for children in case of an earthquake or volcanic risk.", that was implemented for each educational level on a different approach.

The workshop was realized at the exhibition hall of the NHMC. The first day, 24th of November 2012, was common for all Education Levels since it was referring to the Theoretical background of the program. The next three days were divided in the three Educational Levels, Preschool, Primary and Secondary.



Identifying earth's internal from the second day of the workshop in NHMC

- Mr. Tsoutsoudakis visited the 7th and the 39th primary schools of Iraklion in Crete on the 14/11/2012 and 17/12/2012 respectively, and resented the experiments proposed in the Educational Kit in order for children to understand Earthquakes and Volcanic eruptions as natural processes.
- On 12th of January 2013 the museum realized a festive event with the main theme “Earthquakes and Children’s Emotions” in the honor of the association “Friends of the NHMC”, where presentations and activities from program RACCE were presented and implemented.



After an earthquake simulation, children guide their own parents outside the simulator, while the adults keep their eyes closed.

Natural History Museum of Lesvos Petrified Forest, Greece:

The Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest, utilising the results of the European Project RACCE, has realised a large number of educational activities, having attracted many schools of the island to the Museum’s premises in Sigri.

Between the 12th and the 26th of October, on the occasion of the celebration on the 13th October of the International Day for Disaster Reduction, the Museum organised a fortnight with events with the name “I study earthquakes - I learn how to be protected”. The activities were addressed to

Other actions:

- From December 2012, 39th and 20th primary schools, as well as 7th secondary school have started implementing the Educational Kit in elaboration with the RACCE Crete’s team.
- Preparation of a permanent exhibition at the Exhibition Hall of the NHMC that will include the posters of RACCE (permanent version), a seismograph, a large Tsunami simulator tank, a three-parameter sensor that allows children and visitors to make their own quake jumping on a platform, and an interactive screen that presents global earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. On this permanent exhibition, NHMC will produce an educational program for children, based on the useful outcomes and deliverables of RACCE.

www.nhmc.uoc.gr

the seismological station at Sigrí and study the Museum's interactive map of active seismicity in Greece. Participants at the events were also involved in empirical activities, including the implementation of protection measures during an earthquake, at the Museum's earthquake table, which simulates large earthquakes that have occurred in Greece and worldwide. Finally, the visitors had the opportunity to discuss with the scientific staff of the Museum on earthquake prevention and protection measures. The activities helped the public, and mainly children, to understand the earthquake phenomenon and to realise that the prevention of catastrophic effects comes with knowledge of the appropriate behaviour before, during and after an earthquake. The activities have been published on the website of the Disaster Reduction Community "Prevention Web"



Schoolchildren with their teachers having fun, while creating their own micro earthquake, at the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest, during the educational program: I study earthquakes - I learn how to be protected

The Educational Kit "Earthquakes and Volcanoes", which includes a large variety of educational activities addressed to children and a theoretical handbook addressed to adults all developed in the frames of the RACCE project, is the most important educational tool that the Museum acquired to help children familiarising with the disastrous natural

phenomena and protective measures. The material of the Kit, available in Greek, will hopefully travel to the schools of Lesvos, and also of all the countries participating in the RACCE project, to educate and at the same time entertain children of all ages and knowledge levels. The educational activities and tools included in the Kit will be officially introduced to the school teachers of Lesvos by the scientific staff of the Museum during a special seminar on the 26th of January, in the premises of the Museum in Sigrí. On the same day, the Museum will award the school children who have already participated in the educational activities "I study earthquakes - I learn how to be protected" with the special diploma of the "Young seismologist"!

The travelling exhibition and the educational tools designed in the frames of the RACCE project, combined with the seismic table installed in the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest, expect to attract in the near future all the schools of Lesvos to the premises of the Museum in Sigrí, where children will be educated on the natural phenomena of the earthquake and the volcanic eruption. At the same time, the travelling exhibition and the educational kit will be available for loan to all schools and institutions interested, as they are especially designed to travel everywhere needed!

(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. Implementation Activities**
 - E.P.P.O. implemented the printing of mobile poster sets of the RACCE travelling exhibition.
 - E.P.P.O. implemented two Training Courses "Seismic Risk Management at

Schools”, which took place at Thessaloniki (29-30 November 2012). These courses addressed to Directors of Primary Schools of East Thessaloniki area. In the framework of that courses approximately 300 teachers were informed about RACCE Project and its educational material.

- E.P.P.O. is preparing the Training Course “Seismic Risk Management at Schools”, which will be taken place on 24th of January 2013 at Athens. This course will address to Directors of Primary Schools of East Attica prefecture. In the framework of that course the teachers will be informed about RACCE Project and its educational material.

b. Dissemination Activities

Working towards arising the seismic awareness to the society in Greece and mitigation of seismic risk, E.P.P.O. has implemented a dissemination activity plan for RACCE project, as part of E.P.P.O.'s Educational Actions, as following:

- **Training Project for volunteers:**

In the framework of the National Project “Protecting myself and others” RACCE project was presented to more than 100 volunteers at Nea Smirni, Athens (13, 15 & 20/11/12).

- **Training Seminars for teachers:**

In the framework of EPPO's project “Seismic Risk Management at Schools”, almost 750 Directors of elementary and secondary schools have been informed about RACCE project and its activities (a. Lesvos island, 3-4/10/12, 130 teachers b. Kos island, 12/10/12, 65 teachers c. Rethymno Crete, 5/11/12, 120 teachers d. Thessaloniki, 29-30/11/12, 300 teachers e. Kilkis, 17/12/2012, 150 teachers).



- **Workshops for Emergency Planning to local civil protection 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 to the local civil protection authorities at Prefecture and at Municipalities level (a. Kozani, 19/10/2012 b. Heraklio Crete, 27/11/2012 c. Athens, 7/12/2012).



c. Meetings.

E.P.P.O. members participated to the educational workshops “Presentation and implementation of educational actions of RACCE for the psychological support of children in case of seismic or volcanic hazard”, that have been organized by Natural History Museum of Crete on 24 & 26 November 2012 at Heraklio Crete.

(www.oasp.gr)

Centre for Educational Initiatives (CEI), Bulgaria:

The main activities of the Centre for Education Initiatives in the period from August to the end of November were as follows:

1. Travelling Exhibition

A total of seven exhibitions have been realized, four of which in August during the city's street festival "София диша" (Sofia breathes). Besides enjoying the artistic expression of various performers, visitors have also appreciated the usefulness of the information provided by RACCE



to teachers, students and parents on how to prepare their class and how to prepare their family to meet disaster; and how to provide psychological support to children who were affected by the earthquake.



On September 12th, the exhibition moved to the National Polytechnical Museum and was first

visited by the teachers who participated in the training seminar on how to apply the products and tools for the project.

One month later, on October 12th, again at the Polytechnics Museum, the exhibition was re-opened and visited by students from various schools as part of the celebrations of the International Disaster Reduction Day.



On October 18th the exhibition travelled to visit 6th elementary school in Sofia and secondary school "Hristo Smirnenki" in Bresovo.



2. Teacher Trainings

Our wish was to start teacher trainings before the start of the new school year. Our first training was organised and conducted on September, 12th 2012. In this seminar 20 teachers from 5 towns, including the capital city of Sofia and Pernik (near

this city was the epicenter of the recent earthquake in Bulgaria with a magnitude 5.8 on the Richter scale), took part in lectures, discussions and games, while using RACCE's educational products. Host of this event was once again the National Polytechnics Museum in Sofia. This event coincided with the showing of the travelling exhibition.



3. Experimental phase – working with the Educational Suitcase

We work with two different target groups – first graders, aged 6 and 7 from Sofia and middle schoolers, aged 10-12 from Sofia and Bresovo. The activities take place weekly during the obligatory class teacher's time.



(www.cei-bg.org)

Association pour la gestion de la Réserve Naturelle Géologique de Haute Provence, France:

The RNGHP' staff has worked mainly on the following topics:



Exhibit: The French version of the RACCE exhibit composed of 20 panels is now ready and has been already presented to the public as part of the French national festival of sciences in October 2012 and during the RACCE workshop in December 2012. Some municipalities of the PACA region are already interested for hosting this exhibit during the year 2013.

Educational suitcase: Part of the French version of the RACCE educational suitcase, which is nearly finished, has been presented to the educational world during the workshop organised by the Réserve Géologique in December 2012. Teachers were really interested by this new tool which can illustrate some of the French national education curriculum.

Livrophone: Livrophone is a talking book in the same time audible and visual. Some french psychologist promotes the use of this special book with seniors and people with disabilities. We have developed this kind of tool in which we have included RACCE information to have a chance to reach people suffering from different kind of disability, en particular blind people or visually impaired and people with a mental disability.



(www.resgeol04.org)

RACCE temporary exhibition at NHMC

A new temporary exhibition has been recently established at the Natural History Museum of Crete based on the RACCE travelling exhibition. All posters have been printed again and are hosted at the hall, accompanying scientific and edutainment installations. Among them, visitors can find an educational seismograph that will be included in the IRIS school seismograph network soon, a display with global earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, a platform to produce our (visitor's) quake, and a big tsunami simulator to understand how tsunamis are generated.



The tsunami simulator with the designer Mr Tsoutsoudakis



Seismometer



"Make your quake"



RACCE temporary exhibition

RACCE facebook page

- You can also find RACCE on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/RACCEforkids>)

Find in our webpage

The next two months RACCE is on its final stage **and the final evaluation of all products and actions will be completed, until the end of February. The Educational Kit and the Travelling Exhibition are available on the website of the program and may offer useful educational tools for children and adults.**

What's Next

- Future workshops and events:

NHMC is preparing Workshops for Educators at the Environmental Educational Centers of Archanes and Anogia, villages of Crete in the middle and at the end of February 2013.

Additionally, on 23rd and 24th of January 2013, NHMC and National Greek Commission for UNESCO, Hellenic Geoparks Forum, are preparing a National Workshop and a Final Project presentation, with the participation of all RACCE partners.

E.P.P.O. is preparing the Training Course “Seismic Risk Management at Schools”, which will be taken place on 24th of January 2013 at Athens. This course will address to Directors of Primary Schools of East Attica prefecture. In the framework of that course the teachers will be informed about RACCE Project and its educational material.

Additionally, on 15th, 16th and 17th of January 2013, is going to realise Training Courses.

Villa Montesca and the Vesuvius Observatory are preparing national Workshops on early February 2013, in order to promote the Educational tools and train Educators to implement them.

- Realization of workshops and seminars by all partners regarding the Educational Suitcase and the promotion of the Travelling Exhibition
- Next project meeting will take place in Athens, Greece on 23rd and 24th of January 2013, to finalise the program and the final actions.
- Visit project's webpage (<http://racce.nhmc.uoc.gr>) to keep informed on deliverables, planned activities and news.