



On the EMSC and its roles in the Euro-Med region

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The Euro-Med seismological Centre (EMSC) is a scientific non-profit NGO created back in 1975 by the seismological community to collate data, make them available and provide earthquake information at a Euro-Med and global scales. The aim of this talk is to provide an overview of the EMSC's activities and its roles in the integration of the seismological community.

Its first activity has been rapid earthquake information on its web site (www.emsc-csem.org) as well as earthquake notification services (SMS, email) for potentially damaging earthquakes. More recently, online macroseismic questionnaires were introduced in more than 20 different languages as well as tools to collect pictures of the earthquake's effects from the public. An innovative way to map the area where an earthquake was felt within 5 to 8 minutes of its occurrence was developed. It plots the geographical origin of the observed surges of traffic following felt events. This method is now being implemented in several other institutes.

The Euro-Med seismological bulletin, which started in 1998, complements this service by offering a reference bulletin for the region. It significantly improved the data availability especially on the fringes of the region and the data collection is now comprehensive.

Thanks to its 84 institutes from 55 different countries, EMSC offers a significant networking capacity and it plays a significant role in the integration of our community in close collaboration with ORFEUS, the second European organisation in seismology. It devotes significant efforts to improve collaboration especially towards Northern Africa and the Middle East. For example, it recently led an EC-project to improve coordination of the earthquake surveillance of the Western Mediterranean region and improve data exchanges. It contributes to the initiation of the NERIES project. It is involved, within this framework, in improving accelerometric data availability, developing rapid loss estimates and it is in charge, jointly with ORFEUS to implement and host the portal to access and explore seismological data and products.