



Preliminary results from NERIES Broadband Ocean Bottom Seismometer deployment

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Off-shore of southern Europe is one of the most seismically active regions on the Earth. However, this region is mainly monitored using land seismic networks, leaving a large observational gap in the Mediterranean Sea and NE Atlantic. As a first step towards filling this gap, NERIES BBOBS Group (IPGP, INGV, AWI) has deployed three broadband ocean bottom seismometers (OBS) for three years, where the OBS are recovered and redeployed every year. One OBS was deployed in the Ligurian Sea (40° N, 6.5° E), between Balearic Islands and Sardinia, three in the Ionian Sea (36° N, 18° E), between Italy and Greece, and six near Azores at MOMAR site (2° N, 37° W). The first year of deployment and recovery completed in August 2008 and the BBOBS have been deployed for the second year. The 2007 year has been an year of several great earthquakes (Sumatra, Kuril Island, China), which were recorded by these OBS. Our OBS also recorded hundreds of local earthquakes of magnitude >2.5 along with regional earthquakes that were not identified by land network. At the end of each year of recovery, the data will be freely available to scientific community through ORFEUS, which is a great opportunity for seismologists to use these data for region and global studies.