



Historical seismicity research in Armenian Highland

H. Harutyunyan (1) and A. Antoneyan (2)

(1) National survey for seismic protection of RA, Yerevan, Armenia (harutunyanhh@hotmail.com, 374 1 366280), (2) National survey for seismic protection of RA, Yerevan, Armenia (president@nssp-gov.am, 374 1 366280)

Authors and the specialists of NSSP of RA, in 1997 performed the attempt for compile the historical strong earthquakes national catalogue. In this article the research methodology and historical sources has been revised thoroughly reflecting on the principal catalogues of historical earthquakes compiled up to date. On the basis of authentic analysis of an Armenian and foreign historical sources and existing modern methods (European [Grünthal, G. and Levret, A. (eds.) (2001). European Macroseismic Scale 1998 (EMS-98). Centre Européen de Géodynamique et de Séismologie, 103 pp., Luxembourg; Gasperini, P. and Ferrari, G. (2000). Deriving numerical estimates from descriptive information: the computation of earthquake parameters, Annali di Geofisica, vol. 43, N 4, 728-742, Bologna, Italy; Gasperini, P. and Valensise, G. (2000). From earthquake intensities to earthquake sources: extending the contribution of historical seismology to seismotectonic studies. Annaly di Geofisica, volume 43, N 4, Instituto Nazionale di Geofisica, Bologna, Italy]) an attempt to develop the historical seismicity multidisciplinary research and supplement the national historical catalogue [Pirousian, S.A., Balassanian, S.Y., Avanessian, A.S., Harutunian, H.H. and others (1997). The Catalogue of Strong Earthquakes in the Territory of Armenia and Adjacent Regions, Kluwer Academic Publishers, 313-331, Netherlands] compiled in the NSSP RA in 1997 based on authors individual studies has been made. Strong earthquakes ($Ms \geq 5.5$) occurred in Armenian Highland since the 6th century BC. Studying the long-term historical seismicity is immediately connected with long-term seismic hazard and with prognosis of the possible next strong seismic event. The new historical catalogue with critical analysis of reliability of the data received in the result of this suggested work allows to evaluate more precisely the long-term seismicity and probable seismic hazard.