



An educational seismicity map for the French schools

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Low hazard regions require specific communication. In such regions, the risk perception by the population is particularly low. The risk does not relate to concrete experiences or past events in personal's or family's memory. In mainland France, for example the last destructive earthquake occurred in 1909!

We created an education seismicity map in partnership with the Fondation MAIF (a foundation created by a French insurance company) for a national audience which is being distributed in French junior high schools. It aims to make the young aware of the level of hazard in France by putting it in perspective with well-known earthquakes people remember. Of course, this includes recent earthquakes such as l'Aquila (Italy) or Boumerdes (Algeria) but also Lisbon event in 1755 mentioned by Voltaire in several of his books. Are also explained the difference between hazard and risk, what is a magnitude, a macroseismic intensity and the magnitude distribution of earthquakes. It benefited from feedbacks of numerous actors involved in education initiatives in France.

This map was elaborated from the recent Euro-Med seismicity as described by the Euro-Med bulletin, where bulletins from 77 Euro-Med network operators are merged. It is a good example of how to use a scientific result for education purposes. It has been printed in paper copy (A0, encapsulated paper) and is available in electronic form at <http://www.citizensismology.org> A few paper copies are still available and can be obtained on request.

EMSC is currently looking for a partner to prepare and distribute a similar educational map in English.