



## **Key to sustainable seismic networks: Skills and operational funding more important than equipment**

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In many countries, both developing and developed, it is often easier to buy equipment than to obtain funding for sustained long-term operation. In practice, it happens that new systems get bought without the required skills to operate the network and to process the out-coming data, and without sufficient funding for operation. It is essential to prepare a budget for the operation of the network and to secure funding for this before buying the equipment. Turn key installations are often not a good way to get the staff involved, although it may look like an efficient and fast way to get the network up. Slower progress with more involvement and learning are more desirable with sustainability in mind.

After installation of the network, a common problem is to inadequately process the data implying little output from the network. It might be hard to get adequate software and seismological training from companies. Fortunately public domain software, covering the needs of most networks, is available. Training may be best provided by well established scientific institutions that should aim to be objective and it should be done before any equipment arrives. Well organized international training courses to provide such training do exist.