



W-SHAKE - the Waves that SHAKE our Earth, a Parents-in-Science Initiative

Francisco Rocha (1), Graça Silveira (2), Guilherme Moreira (1), Isabel Afonso (1), Susana Custódio (3), and Luís Matias (3)

(2) (ISEL/IDL) Instituto Superior de Engenharia de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal Portugal (mdsilveira@fc.ul.pt), (1) (CMC), Colégio Marista de Carcavelos, Parede, Portugal, (3) (UL/IDL), Instituto Dom Luiz, University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal

The catastrophes induced by earthquakes are among the most devastating, causing an elevated number of human losses and economic damages. In spite of being exposed to a moderate and large earthquakes, and as a result of the slow tectonic rates, the Portuguese society is, in general, little aware of the seismic risk.

Earthquakes can't be predicted and the only way of mitigating their consequences is to understand their genesis, propagation and their effects in society.

Children play a determinant role in the establishment of a real and long-lasting "culture of prevention", both through action and new attitudes. As adults they will have a greater knowledge of natural phenomena as well of the effects of human actions and their consequences.

Parents and other caregivers have a critical function in encouraging and supporting their learning at home, in school, and throughout community. Teachers also play an important role in this effort and can be valuable partners with parents in cultivating learning confidence and skills in school-age youth.

In this presentation we will give an overview of the project W-Shake, a Parents-in-Science Initiative to promote the study of seismology and related subjects. This project, supported by the Portuguese "Ciência Viva" program, results from a direct cooperation between the parents association, science school-teachers and the seismology research group at Instituto Dom Luiz.