



100 years after the Marsica earthquake: contribute of outreach activities

Giuliana D'Addezio (1), Azzurra Giordani (1,2), Veronica Valle (1,2), and Daniela Riposati (1)

(1) Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia, Rome, Italy , (2) Servizio Civile Nazionale

Many outreach events have been proposed by the scientific community to celebrate the Centenary of the January 13, 1915 earthquake, that devastated the Marsica territory, located in Central Apennines.

The Laboratorio Divulgazione Scientifica e Attività Museali of the Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia (INGV's Laboratory for Outreach and Museum Activities) in Rome, has realised an interactive exhibition in the Castello Piccolomini, Celano (AQ), to retrace the many aspects of the earthquake disaster, in a region such as Abruzzo affected by several destructive earthquakes during its history. The initiatives represent an ideal opportunity for the development of new programs of communication and training on seismic risk and to spread the culture of prevention.

The INGV is accredited with the Servizio Civile Nazionale (National Civic Service) and volunteers are involved in the project "Science and Outreach: a comprehensive approach to the divulgation of knowledge of Earth Sciences" starting in 2014. In this contest, volunteers had the opportunity to fully contribute to the exhibition, in particular, promoting and realising two panels concerning the social and environmental consequences of the Marsica earthquake. Describing the serious consequences of the earthquake, we may raise awareness about natural hazards and about the only effective action for earthquake defense: building with anti seismic criteria.

After studies and researches conducted in libraries and via web, two themes have been developed: the serious problem of orphans and the difficult reconstruction. Heavy snowfalls and the presence of wolves coming from the high and wild surrounding mountains complicated the scenario and decelerated the rescue of the affected populations. It is important to underline that the earthquake was not the only devastating event in the country in 1915; another dramatic event was, in fact, the First World War. Whole families died and the still alive infants and children were sent to Rome in hospitals and in other suitable structures. Many stories of poor orphans are known but we decided to outline stories that besides the drama had a happy ending. To understand the hugeness of the tragedy, we may consider that the number of towns and villages completely destroyed by the earthquake was more than fifty. The reconstruction was very difficult and slow also because of the war, and involved the relocation of settlements in different places. The first shelters to be reconstructed were those for survivors: very small shacks built with anti seismic criteria. They are still on the territory, to be a symbol of the reconstruction and a reminded evidence of the earthquake.