



Seismology@School - Nearly 20 years for the first experiences in Europe

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The original and innovative aspect of this programme stems from giving students the opportunity to install a seismometer in their school. The recorded signals, reflecting regional or global seismic activity, feed into an on-line database, a genuine seismic resource centre and a springboard for educational and scientific activities.

In the footsteps of the U.S PEPP project, we have started this experiment in Europe in order to see how we can confront high school students with the current practice of scientific data acquisition, and how we can establish a specific educational structure tailored to the European system.

The French network 'EduSismo' (numbering some hundred stations installed in metropolitan France, the overseas departments and territories and a few French high schools abroad) is the outgrowth of an experiment conducted some twenty years back.

Since then, the programme implemented has gone beyond simply acquiring seismic signals, which could have been procured by research and monitoring centres. By appropriating a scientific measurement, the student becomes personally involved and masters complex concepts about geophysics and geosciences. The development of simple devices and the design of concrete experiments associated with an investigative approach make it possible to instil the students with a high-quality scientific culture and an education about risks.

A lot of similar projects were run in Europe and more ... data streaming, database on line, examples of models ... are not the only link between schools. The European network stay alive with some events: 'EDUSEIS', 'NaRAS', 'O₃E', 'NERA' European programs, teachers/researchers workshops, school challenges, projects between schools, social network ... it was a great opportunity to share experiences with teachers and researchers through a huge worldwide network.

During the twenty last years, 'Seismology@school' concept has developed initiatives to link more people, and has provided more tools to teach geosciences in the high schools.

Keys words

Earthquake, seismology, network, teaching, education

Other readings...

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J. Virieux (2000) - Educational Seismological project: EDUSEIS, Seismological Research Letters, 71, 530-535.

Web sites :

“Sismos à l'École”, EduSismo network website : www.edusismo.org