

Earthquakes between 1350 and 1700 in southern Dalmatia and Montenegro

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The southern part of Dalmatia and the coastal area of Montenegro are known to catalogues to be prone to large earthquakes. However, the outline of the seismicity of the area as proposed by AHEAD (European Archive of Historical Earthquake Data, <http://www.emidius.eu/ahead/>) and SHEEC (SHARE European Earthquake Catalogue, <http://www.emidius.eu/SHEEC/>) testimonies that the background information on earthquakes in the time-span 1350 to 1700 is largely incomplete, the only exception being the recent study of the 1667 earthquake (Albini, 2015).

The earlier survey of the historical seismicity of this area (Albini, 2004) was revised and enriched, by means of documents collected since then, and mostly not taken into account - up till now - by other seismological studies. The lack of data before late 15th century - the earliest earthquake to appear in current catalogues is dated to 1472 - is partially amended with a handful of new, though unfortunately isolated, records for the 14th century. Anyway, this helps extending the catalogue back in time more than one century. For the period 1472 to 1639, the available testimonies increase in number and quality, making it possible a complete reappraisal, in terms of macroseismic intensity data, of at least three large earthquakes, so far nearly disregarded.

The newly interpreted records and the related macroseismic intensities enabled us to update the earthquakes' parameters, including those for the 1667 earthquake. These results contribute to putting into a substantially different perspective the actual knowledge of the seismicity of southern Dalmatia and Montenegro.