

## **Resilience and seismic risk perception: an educational path in Calabria, southern Italy**

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The first studies of resilience were aimed at understanding the process through which children who have had difficult experiences activate strategies which can help them reach a positive resolution of the stressful event. The longitudinal study carried out by Werner (1989) on the island of Kauai allowed certain typical characteristics of resilient children to be identified. These children appear to be active, autonomous, are of a “good” character and are able to establish positive relationships with others, look after the weak and make use of their own abilities.

This work aims at investigating the ability of humans to turn a potentially critical event in an occasion of growth, by converting that stressful event in a path of personal reconstruction. The experiment conducted in the primary and secondary school of Aiello Calabro (Calabria, southern Italy), starts from the belief that there is a close relationship between high levels of resilience and adequate perception of a risky situation, such as that of an earthquake. The goal of this study is to deepen our knowledge on the relationship that may exist, for primary and secondary school children, between resilience and a coping style leading to appropriate management of seismic risk.