

EDURISK, 15 years of risk education, state of the art

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Nowadays the impact of extreme natural events (earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, floods, landslides, etc.) shows a tendency to increase, on a global scale, on a par with the increase of demographic concentration in exposed areas and with the growth of urban, environmental and social vulnerability. It is therefore necessary to develop policies for risk reduction and preparedness to handle emergencies by enhancing the active role of society.

No effective reduction of risk levels can be effected without first reducing the environmental and social vulnerability, the latter being primarily determined by the social and personal choices that the citizens make (or do not make) before the occurrence of an extreme natural event.

The EDURISK project (Educational itineraries for RISK reduction - www.edurisk.it) is ongoing in Italy for 15 years. The project focus on (i) developing training courses and refresher courses for schoolteachers, held by researchers from several disciplines (seismology, geology, civil engineering, psychology) and dealing with the topic of seismic and volcanic risk reduction and (ii) by subsequently encouraging the teachers themselves to start ad hoc educational experiences with a strong multidisciplinary trend in their schools.

EDURISK has promoted over the years hundreds of projects in Italian schools, in very different contexts, such as recently in L'Aquila and in Emilia, before and after the earthquakes of 2009 and 2012. In particular have been developed projects that had the task of raising awareness and reducing risk through a process of discovery that provides a real and conscious assumption of individual and social responsibility of risk through self-education and peer education.

The scientific dissemination activity was mostly addressed to primary and secondary school students and therefore, indirectly, to their reference adults (parents and educators).