









EduSeismArtTec: Educational Seismology for the School and the Society: A Multidisciplinary approach through innovative theatre education methods and digital technologies

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The general context of the project is described as follows:

- The seismological institutions actively participate in raising awareness and popularizing the concepts for understanding the disastrous earthquake phenomenon in extended population groups;
- Students and teachers are population groups that can have a role in reducing the impact through the educational process and diffusion of knowledge;
- Earthquake protection measures are a set of rules that can be followed individually, with the Educational Seismology having a social dimension (in the short and long term);
- Educational Seismology is linked to Citizen Seismology, where a trained for earthquakes citizen becomes an observer and reports reliable information to scientists, who process them and provide valuable information to the State for immediate response to affected areas.

- Theatre in education, is already widely recognized as a mean for the formulation of individual human behaviour, the development of critical thinking and the human socialization; it enables a variety of experiential approaches to sensitive or demanding subjects and challenges.
- When drama is combined with the use of modern digital technologies, such as virtual reality or the combination of real actors and digital agents in hybrid events, it allows for innovative, multi-disciplinary approaches of education on the earthquake phenomenon and resilience, whereupon the school becomes a source of information for wider population groups.

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At this project, three research groups are involved, all with significant experience and expertise in specific knowledge areas, namely: the Institute of Geodynamics of the National Observatory of Athens (NOA-IG), the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering of the University of West Attica (UWA-DEEE) and the Department of Theatre Studies of the University of Peloponnese (UoP-DTS).





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The partners within the present project develop learning cultures, by exploiting innovative approaches (such as theatre education and use of digital, multimedia technology) and developing group culture within target population groups.

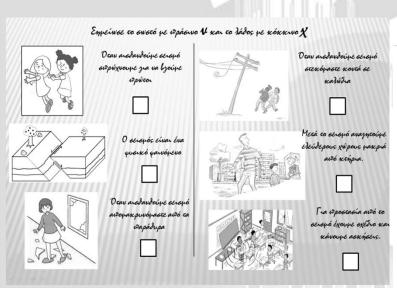
As 'EduSeismArtTec' completes two years of implementation, the activities and interventions carried out and the results obtained are presented here; future research steps are also outlined. More specifically and for indicative reasons:

- Development and improvement of educational tools and class activities.
- VR game development.
- Theatre pedagogy involvement in School Seismology.
- VR and digital technology in theatre activities.
- From School Seismology to Citizen Seismology with a web based macroseismic observation submission platform, combined with the strong motion network, strong motion data and macroseismic database.

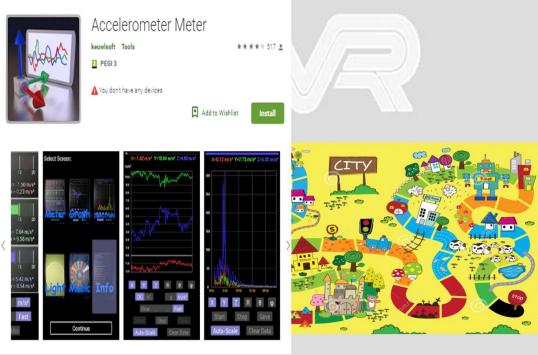
The experience with schools concerning the seismology terms popularization and the understanding of precaution measures, showed the value of the **educational tools**. Thus, a set of improved educational tools is prepared (posters, brochures, models using mainly cheap and easy-to-find materials) and is placed in a safe proof case, serving the aim of mobility and spread of the seismology







Simplified classroom activities were developed and are proposed to the school community: painting, preparing a first aid kit, making simple models, practicing readiness, multiple choice questions, use of smartphone as seismic recorder and "generate my own earthquake" etc.



Virtual Reality Environment for School Seismology



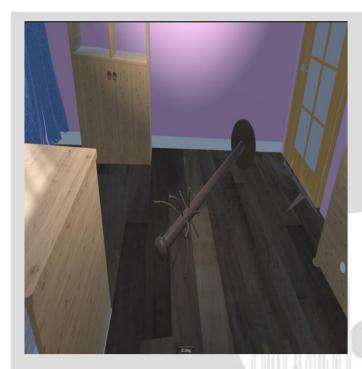
- Virtual reality and digital media have become important exciting educational tools.
- The surprise created by immersion in virtual reality, sharpens the user's attention resulting in a more efficient intake of information related to the various geological and geodynamic phenomena.
- Aiming to understand basic concepts of the seismic phenomenon and the causes that generate it, VR and digital products were planned and developed, being under improvement and enrichment.

Tools used: HTC Vive PRO VR **Headset**, VR ready **PC** (graphics card, RAM, etc..), **Blender** Modelling Software, **Unity 3D** game engine, **SteamVR** Unity plugin.

The scenario of the educational application is about a journey to the Center of the Earth inspired by Jules Verne's book.

The Virtual Tour of the observer starts from the space, and approaches the Earth at the vicinity of Crete. Following the subduction of the lithosphere, he enters the melted mantle at a depth of 150km and he emerges out at the vicinity of Thira after a volcanic eruption. During the narration, terms like lithospheric plates, crust and mantle, subduction zone, volcanic arc, etc. are mentioned and explained.





VR Quake: A virtual reality application on the earthquake phenomenon and the precaution measures.

The VR game will be demonstrated in Athens Science Festival, 21-23/10.

Objectives:

- To enable users to experience a virtual earthquake in a safe way and in a 360° immersive environment.
- To train users to be prepared properly in case of an earthquake.



- Development technology used: Unity3D game engine.
- Equipment: Head-mounted display (HMD) HTC VIVE Pro.
- Design Content: Immersive Virtual Reality game consisting of a total of 5 levels. In the first two levels the user is trained to move and interact within the virtual environment. In level 3 the user experiences a virtual earthquake, in level 4 the user has to place the objects, which are in a dangerous position in case of an earthquake, in a safe place and finally in level 5 the user has to choose which objects are useful in case of an earthquake.
- Purpose of the game: The user collects points by completing the requirements of each level.





In order to experimentally test and evaluate the **effectiveness of the approach via theatre pedagogy**, a drama-in-education intervention has been designed and implemented in an attempt to enrich the tools of Educational Seismology with those of drama-in-education methodology. The designed intervention has employed mainly the process drama approach (Bowell, & Heap, 2013; Schonmann, 2011; O'Toole, 1992). It has involved over 900 pupils of the primary education, over 140 pupils of the secondary education and over 60 students of the higher education, with strongly positive



Moreover, the "Beat the Quake!" theatre performance has been produced and staged (June 22, Piraeus Municipal Theatre), using the devised theatre (Oddey, 1994) and documentary theatre methods (Forsyth & Megson, 2009). Nine students of the Department of Theatre Studies of the University of Peloponnese, who volunteered as actors for this performance, took part in the collaborative invention of the play.











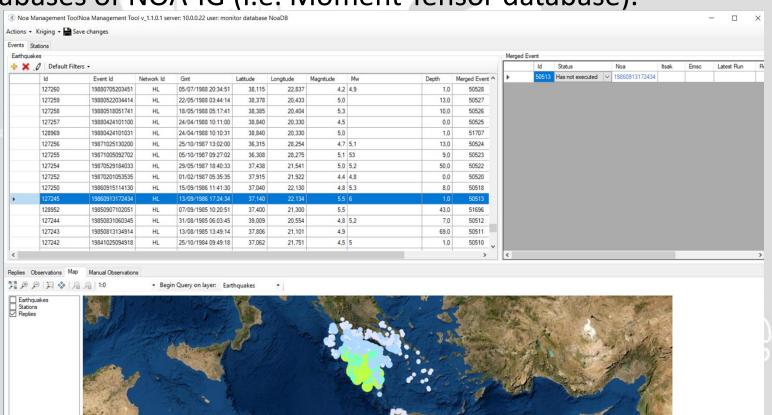
An interesting point of the performance is the combination of physical and digital aspects, through the use of virtual reality and holographic projection technologies. The target is to reach the wider audience and to develop a performative Citizen Seismology project, where the citizen is educated for resilience and becomes an active stakeholder both in prevention and in intervention regarding the earthquake.

Concerning the subject of Citizen Seismology, the development and improvement of a web platform for citizens to upload their observations for moderate / destructive earthquakes is ongoing. The platform should be able to handle observations / information in multiple forms (text, images, audio, mobile phone application products, etc.) and it should withstand heavy data traffic in cases of massive response from the public at the time of crisis.

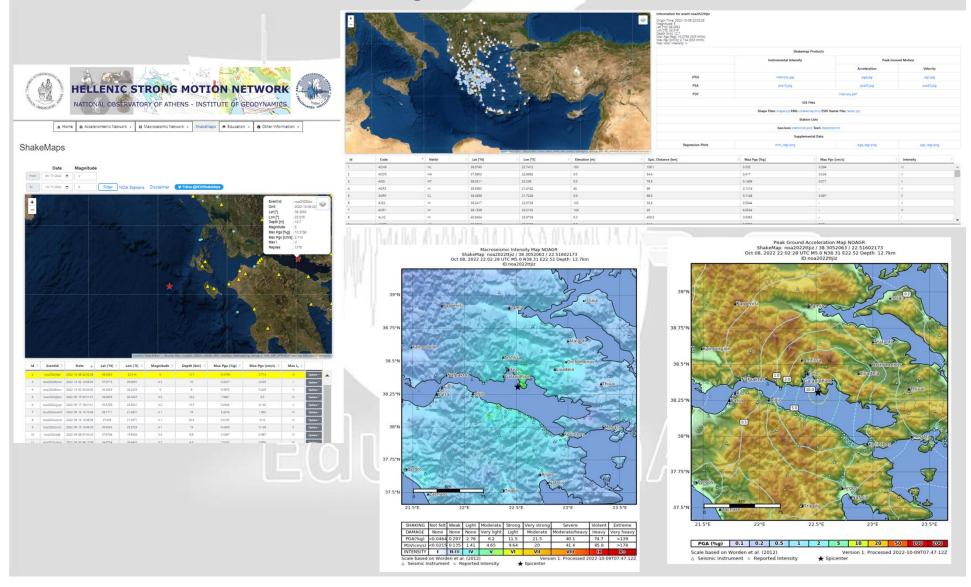
It is worth to mention, that the CSEM platform for observations (LastQuake app), as it is available on line, it is used to enrich the maroseismic data sources.



The platform via a management tool, which was developed, combines the operation of the strong motion network (station status and information), the strong motion database (records) and the macroseismic bulletins (archive information on important past earthquake events) and it will be connected to other existing databases of NOA-IG (i.e. Moment Tensor database).



Shake maps (Worden et al., 2020) of strong earthquakes are also connected with this platform as a result of the citizens' observations and the instrumental recordings.



Next Steps:

- A second theatre performance is scheduled at Nafplio by the end of this year, taking into account the review of the available questionnaires from the last June performance.
- Enrichment of VR and holographic material.
- Improvement of the Citizen Seismology Platform.
- Organization of a 1-day workshop for the results to be discussed and enriched by the participants.
- Publication of a book, including the project activities documentation, the evaluation of the results and the overall experience of all participants.

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Thank you for your attention

For more information:

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