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CONTRIBUTION OF THE SCIENTIFIC TEAM OF EPPO AFTER THE EGIO EARTHQUAKE (15-JUN-1995). RAPID COLLECTION SCIENTIFIC DATA ESTIMATION FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE DISASTER.

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The mission of the EPPO (Earthquake Planning Protection Organization of Greece) scientific team for earthquake emergencies includes the immediate mobilization and movement to the disaster place and the consequences mitigation of devastating earthquakes.

The EPPO's scientific team mobilized immediately after the Egio earthquake (03:16 a.m. on 15 June 1995). Within a very short time the team members met at EPPO's office and moved to the disaster place, after receiving the necessary instructions and relevant equipment. The team arrived at Egio at about 5:30 a.m.

The team's contribution and the scientific advice provided, referred to the:

- Rapid evaluation of the extend of damage, a first estimation of the human and material loss and a broad description of the area affected. Immediate reporting to EPPO as well as to the competent Governmental authorities and responsible persons was a first priority task.
- Information collection and cross checking with emphasis to the collapsed buildings locations as well as to their neighboring areas where the possibility of deaths and trapped persons was very high. Instructions and advice to the emergency services at the disaster scenes and coordination of the search and rescue operations were provided. Advice concerning the intervention into the collapsed buildings and debris, as well as the emergency support and repairs of heavily affected structures, were also given.
- Participation to search and rescue operations in terms of scientific support. Instructions to the EMAK (Fire Brigade) teams as regarding the selection and use of the appropriate means and technical equipment, were also offered.
- Advice and guidelines to the local authorities were provided concerning safety of population i.e. the isolation of disaster places, traffic control measures, relocation of coordination centers, etc.
- Estimation of the boundaries and extent of the area affected by the earthquake and description of the disaster impact, using helicopters. Reporting to the competent authorities.
- A first and broad estimation of the structures behavior and of the consequences of the strong ground motion were made.

Additionally, the following activities were carried out:

- Life lines status report. Problems identification and proposals for emergency repairs.
- Identification of seismic cracks which have followed the main shock.
- Primary reporting on the secondary geodynamic phenomena, like liquefaction, surface faults, coast-line changes etc. and their location.
- Rapid estimation of the seismological data for the evaluation of the earthquake series evolution. Correlation of the instrumental data with field data and on-site observations.

- Reception of the foreign rescue teams (French and Swiss) which arrived and operated at Egio. Coordination and task distribution among the several rescue teams.
- Presentation of the selected scientific information and data to Government officials and missions which visited the area. Problems identification and proposals for managing the emergency situation.
- Contribution to the selection of temporary housing sites after evaluating the existing data.
- Guidelines and advice to the local authorities for managing the post-disaster situation were also provided. They were based on previous experience and were adopted to the local conditions and peculiarities.

Following the experience gained by the EPPO's scientific team after the Egio earthquake, on emergency response improvement, it is proposed that:

- The team's technical equipment, should be completed, especially in telecommunication means.
- The central and local authorities should be better informed about the role and the mission of this team for a better coordination.
- The responsibilities of the team could be enforced and enlarged in disaster management issues.