

CERU Activities during 2013

During 2013 the CERU activities were primarily devoted to the organization and legalization of CERU structure and board composition.

With this aim the activities carried out by the CERU in 2013 can be summarized in the following topics:

- The 1st General Assembly of CERU was organized and took place on April 23rd. During this Assembly the governing bodies were elected: Chairman and Secretariat of the Assembly, Direction Board, Technical and Scientific Committee and Fiscal Council.
- Several contacts were made, to institutions and individual persons, trying to get new members for CERU.
- Implementation of a provisional CERU Web Page. At this moment the page is allocated in the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon server and is only available in Portuguese.
- Revision of CERU's Statutes. An Extraordinary Assembly took place on November 11th 2013 to approve a new version of the CERU's Statutes. The Statutes will be registered and published during 2014.

The CERU participated in some activities directed for the general public, concerning seismic risk, in collaboration with research institutes and Civil Protection services, devoted to call the attention for the occurrence of earthquakes. Several aspects concerning the earthquake phenomena have been addressed, during the first activity, and protection measures and how to react/ what to do during an earthquake were tested during the second activity:

- Participation in the activities of “Living Science during Summer” promoted by IDL (Associated Laboratory Instituto Dom Luiz): “Discovering the Earth: earthquakes and volcanoes”. These activities were directed to the general public, with the objective to present Science in a simple way, to be understandable by everyone. The activities consisted on a set of simple experiments and practical exhibitions, were performed at public places and had the collaboration of the Municipal Civil Protection of Lisboa, Cascais and Setúbal (the municipalities where the actions took place).
- Collaboration on the organization and evaluation of the national exercise “A Terra Treme” that consists of a training exercise on seismic risk, similar to the “Shake Out” performed in USA and New Zealand. This exercise took place in Portugal in October 11th, 2013, and was promoted and organized by the Portuguese National Authority for Civil Protection (ANPC). CERU participated as partner, being involved in the advertising of the exercise and in the development of a questionnaire to evaluate it. A preliminary analysis of the results was made.

During 2013 the scientific activities of CERU were limited to the project financed by the Council of Europe (EUR-OPA):

- Achievement and completion of VULRESADA project, performed in collaboration with the Morocco specialized center CEPRIS. This project concerned the study and evaluation of the vulnerability and resilience of coastal regions or localities and used as pilot sites 4 cities in Portugal and Morocco (Cascais, Lagos, Tanger and M'dieq). Several aspects were addressed, in particular the seismic structural vulnerability of the historical centers, the social vulnerability of the populations and the tsunami risk at each site. Governmental institutions and Municipal services collaborated in some studies. CERU performed the final report that is available for consulting.
- Preparation of the projects to be submitted to the Council of Europe for the biennium 2014-2015:

After some contacts with different EUR-OPA specialized centers, it was decided to propose a project for the continuation of the *VULRESADA* project. This new project is called *INsPIREd*, that is the acronym of *IN*form and involve the population in the *Pre*vention of seismic risk and tsunami, contributing to minimize damages and *In*crease the *RE*silience of the cities of Cascais and Lagos, in Portugal, and Tangier and M'Diq in Morocco. The project *INsPIREd* will focus on the way to inform population on auto-protection and safety measures, aiming at mitigating earthquake and tsunami risks. Special attention will be devoted to the most vulnerable groups, in particular, to handicap persons. *INsPIREd* will count with the collaboration of several associations, institutions, companies and authorities.

This proposal was submitted to the CE during the Annual Meeting of the Directors of Specialized Centers of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement that took place in Strasbourg on the 25th and 26th November, 2013. During this meeting the specialized center CUEBC (European University for the Cultural Heritage) showed interest in participating in this project and its collaboration was included. The CERU aims also to collaborate in other project, coordinated by the ECPFE (European Centre on Prevention and Forecasting of Earthquakes), concerning the vulnerability assessment of historical urban centers.

These proposals will be analyzed by the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement board. Funding will be allocated in accordance with the financial availability and the interest of proposals submitted by all specialized centers.

Besides these activities, the CERU is involved on the consortium created to honor Professor Mendes Victor, former President of CERU's Direction. Several actions will take place in 2014 and the CERU participated in several preparatory meetings during 2013.

The President of the Direction Board

Paula Teves Costa
2014.01.31

Annex files:

Projet CERU-CEPRIS 2014-15.pdf

Projet 2014-2015 CERU-CEPRIS-CUEBC.pdf

ECPFE_Proposal 2014-2015.pdf