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EXPERIENCES IN ADAPTING THE NEAMTWS INTERIM GUIDE IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

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The National Observatory of Athens, Institute of Geodynamics (NOA-IG) serves, officially appointed since September 2010, as the Hellenic National Tsunami Warning Centre (HLNTWC) under the NEAMTWS UNESCO/IOC/ICG system interim operations guide. HLNTWC has become Candidate Tsunami Watch Provider (CTWP) since August 2012 under NEAMTWS, providing service on a 24/7 basis to subscribed through IOC/UNESCO Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFP) and National Tsunami Warning Contacts (NTWC).

Continuous improvements to the provided operation service include: expansion of the seismic network, addition of accelerographic stations, deployment of new tide gauge stations and trial operation of software modules for rapid earthquake source estimation to feed the decision system prior to disseminating warning messages.

Alerting, following the NEAMTWS system, is mainly based on a Decision Matrix (DM) that has been empirically compiled on the existing historical tsunami catalogues. Another important issue, regarding the DM approach, concerns the earthquake magnitude estimated by the autolocation system in operation (i.e. SeisComP3 or Early-Est).

Through the European funded FP7 project ASTARTE, attempts have been initiated and presented here, leading to a proposed adaptation to the service provided by HLNTWC in particular. This could be also followed by the other operating CTWPs in NEAMTWS.

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