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School seismology network at the National Observatory of Athens

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The “Schools Study Earthquakes” (SSE) and “School Network Alerts Citizens” (SNAC) educational seismology projects have been coordinated by the Institute of Geodynamics (NOA) under the key action “Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices” of the EU Erasmus+ Program.

The target of both projects is to raise the interest and awareness in science and natural disaster mitigation and we approached this goal by establishing a school network of low cost seismometers that operate in real time for studying the seismic waves produced by the ongoing local and distant earthquakes. Traditional pendulum seismometers are used in elementary physics classroom lessons as well as in seismic wave data acquisition together with Raspberryshake sensors and data analysis software for educational purposes (SeisGram2k, AmaSeis, JamaSeis, SWARM).

The seismic activity during these years was rich in large, intermediate and small, magnitude seismic events with epicentral locations in SE Europe as well as major global seismic events. In addition, nuclear and missile explosions and anthropogenic noise during the 2020-2021 Covid lockdown quiescence were recorded and are available in our database.

In this presentation we will demonstrate the school network’s ability to detect and archive seismic events in real time with a SeisComp3 software plugin that has been designed to connect the low cost seismometers to traditional seismological observatories, an added value to the seismological community’s research on real time hazard evaluation and disaster mitigation. <https://snac.gein.noa.gr>