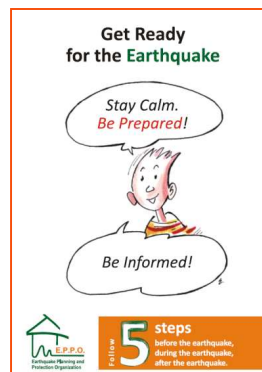


# Earthquake Raising Awareness Initiatives in Greece



**Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization of Greece (E.P.P.O.)**

Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks



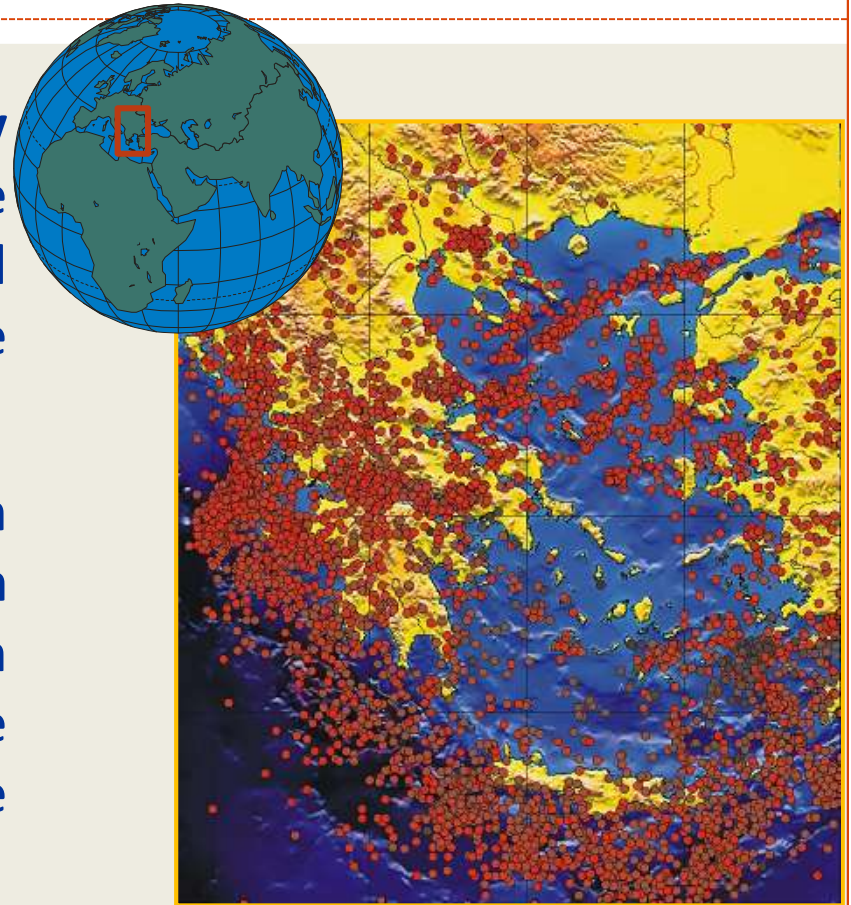
**Dr Asimina Kourou**  
**Head of Education and Information Department**  
e-mail: [akourou@oasp.gr](mailto:akourou@oasp.gr)

# Greece - Earthquakes

Greece is one of the most seismically active countries of the world. Some destructive earthquakes had caused deaths and important damages to the buildings in our country.

**Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization (E.P.P.O.)** was founded in **1983**, as the competent authority in Greece to process and design the national policy on earthquake protection.

E.P.P.O. is a Legal Entity of Public Law under the supervision of the Hellenic Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks.

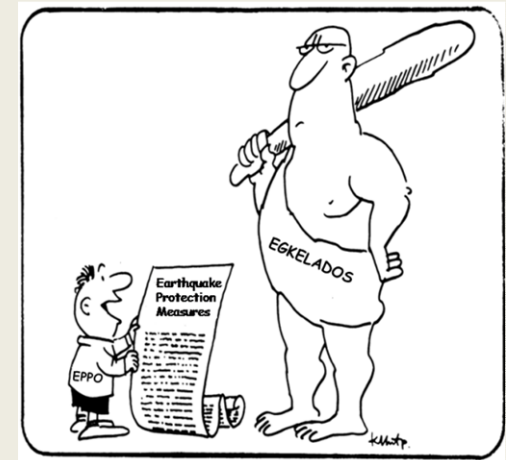


# Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization (E.P.P.O.)



E.P.P.O.'s Actions focus on the following subjects:

- Improving the seismic capacity of structures
- Providing knowledge of the earthquake hazard
- Arising awareness and educating the population
- Planning of preparedness measures
- Supporting the applied research
- Contributing in case of destructive earthquake





*“For a safer world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, one of the main goal of States is to build a culture of prevention” (UNISDR).*

*"We can replace material possessions, but we cannot replace people. I am repeatedly appalled at how many people die in disasters. The majority of victims are invariably the poor and vulnerable. **Let us move from a culture of reaction to one of prevention and build resilience by reducing loss of life.**" (UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon)*



# E.P.P.O.'s Actions: Information - Education



E.P.P.O. promotes a culture of earthquake-awareness and disaster reduction. That includes seismic prevention, mitigation and preparedness. In that framework E.P.P.O. develops practices and procedures in order to:

- **inform and familiarize the population** with earthquakes (school community, officials, staff of hospitals, museums and enterprises, volunteers, people with disabilities, tourists etc.)
- **help the citizens to update** their relative knowledge and to **develop skills** in order to cope in case of a strong earthquake
- **train specific target groups** responsible for emergency management.



# E.P.P.O.'s Actions: Awareness - Education



In the framework of awareness and education of the population, E.P.P.O.:

- studies and analyzes the needs of each target group
- identifies and implements best practices gained from previous experiences
- develops and realizes innovative initiatives and actions aiming to raise awareness of public and to empower people to prepare
- trains teachers, parents or other groups to be able to help children cope in case of an earthquake event
- evaluate its efforts
- disseminates and shares its results to potential beneficiaries on a constant base.





## Seismic Safety at Schools

The objective of this initiative is to develop disaster-resilient school communities through awareness, self-help, cooperation and education.

This initiative includes:

- collaboration with Hellenic Ministry of Education
- elaboration of E.P.P.O.'s educational project “Earthquake Protection at Schools” for teachers
- implementation of schools’ projects for students
- development of guidelines concerning the emergency plans and the earthquake drills
- publication of educational material for students and teachers.

# Awareness and Education of the Public and Officials

The education of the officials and the population is mainly based on:

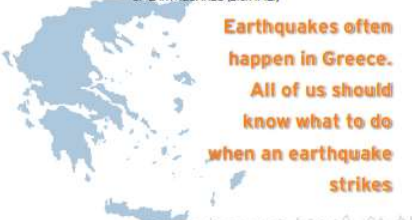
- implementation of seminars for different target groups (public or private services, enterprises etc.)
- publication of books, handbooks and pamphlets with guidelines for emergency plans etc. These are distributed for free through newspapers, the electricity company etc.
- development of TV social messages
- implementation of information campaigns
- website: [www.oasp.gr](http://www.oasp.gr).







MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT AND NETWORKS  
EARTHQUAKE PLANNING AND PROTECTION ORGANIZATION (E.P.P.O.)  
EUROPEAN CENTRE ON PREVENTION AND FORECASTING  
OF EARTHQUAKES (E.C.P.F.E.)



ATHENS 2014



ATHENS 2015



MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE,  
TRANSPORT AND NETWORKS  
EARTHQUAKE PLANNING AND  
PROTECTION ORGANIZATION (E.P.P.O.)



EUROPEAN CENTRE ON  
PREVENTION AND  
FORECASTING OF  
EARTHQUAKES (E.C.P.F.E.)

## People with Disabilities

People with disabilities and older persons should have full and effective participation on disaster management on an equal basis with others. EPPO in collaboration with experts on special needs education and disabled people implements the following:

- Training seminars addressed to disabled people, family members, teachers and educators.
- Booklets, posters and software tablet and i-phone applications using “easy-to-read” method.
- Earthquake Drills.



**Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization**





### Learning about Earthquakes and Protection Measures



Tourist Information



[www.oasp.gr](http://www.oasp.gr)

## Information of the Tourists

E.P.P.O. took the initiative to inform the hotels staff and the tourists – travellers on issues regarding preparedness and response with respect to earthquakes through specific lectures for hotels staff or embassies staff and the publication of a leaflet for tourists in Greek and 6 other languages.



**Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization**



# The Contribution of Volunteers

The role of volunteers in disaster management is of decisive importance. The educational project «Protect Myself and Others» is running since 2001 and aims to train citizens to develop skills on risk management and emergency response, as volunteers in a local level.

The thematology of this project is about earthquakes, fires, sea accidents, floods etc.

The duration of the training sessions comes up to 100 hours in 3 months. EPPO is responsible for the session of the earthquakes, which lasts 13 hours.

In the frame of this project, the last years 9000 volunteers from all over the country had been trained in their region. At the end of the project the volunteers receive a certificate of attendance.

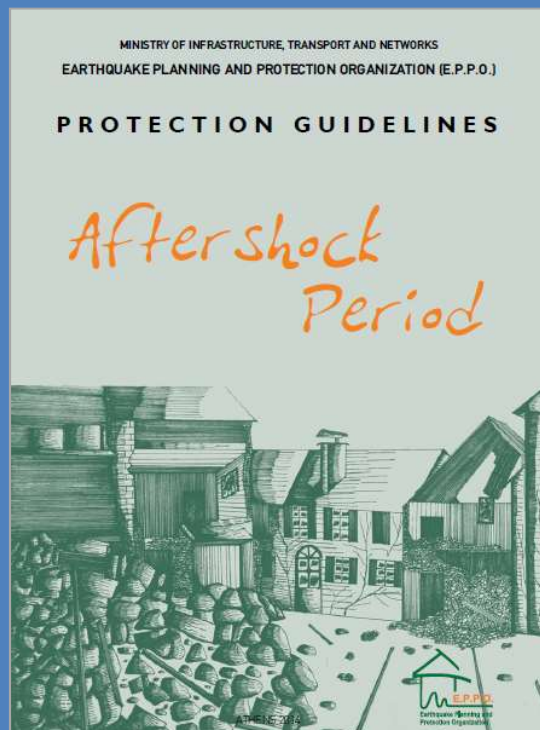




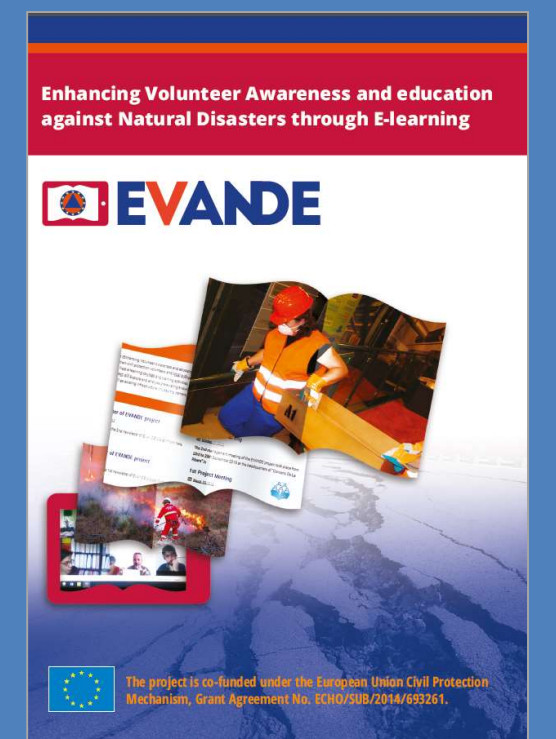
## E.P.P.O.'s Educational Actions: Aftershock Period

In case of a destructive earthquake, E.P.P.O.:

- is immediately activated and informs specific target groups of the local population (teachers, students, staff of hotels etc.) on earthquake protection issues at aftershock period.
- develops and publishes educational material with guidelines for the safety of people that have been affected by the earthquake.
- distributes leaflets to the population.







## E.P.P.O.'s Actions: EU Projects

E.P.P.O. participates to educational projects that are completely or partly funded by the European Union or international organizations, and national projects too.





# Summarizing...



- It is urgent to develop effective global and regional educational methods, tools and material in order to raise public awareness; promote a culture of disaster prevention and resilience; improve skills of population; change behaviors; and share experiences or best practices.
- Achieving improved disaster safety is not only a problem but also a challenge to prompt individuals and community engagement and action.
- In Greece, E.P.P.O. has stepped up its efforts to build up awareness, increase preparedness, and ensure emergency response of population, school community, volunteers etc., towards the safety and welfare of all.

# EPPO website <http://www.oasp.gr>

The screenshot displays the EPPO website interface. At the top, the header includes the EPPO logo, the title "ΟΡΓΑΝΙΣΜΟΣ ΑΝΤΙΣΕΙΣΜΙΚΟΥ ΣΧΕΔΙΑΣΜΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΠΡΟΣΤΑΣΙΑΣ" (Organization for Earthquake Planning and Protection), and the subtitle "ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΥΠΟΔΟΜΩΝ, ΜΕΤΑΦΟΡΩΝ & ΔΙΚΤΥΩΝ" (Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport & Networks). A navigation bar lists links: EPPO, Prepare now, Regulations, Research Programs, Preparedness, Publications, Useful links, and Communication.

The main content area features a large article titled "Form 'Protection Guidelines - aftershock Period'" with a text block explaining the EPPO's role in providing guidelines for protective measures and psychosocial support. To the right of this article is a search bar with a dropdown menu set to "Αγγλικά" (English) and a "Quest" button. Below the search bar is a "Like today ..." section with a list of dates: June 1, 1899; June 4, 1889; June 5; June 8, 2008; June 15, 1995; June 20, 1978; and June 20, 1990.

Below the main article is a row of small thumbnail images. Further down, there are two columns of content. The left column includes a "Videos" section with a video player showing the "IDIRA" logo and a description of the "Interoperability of data and procedures in large-scale multinational disaster response actions". Below this is a section titled "For small and large" with a cartoon illustration of people and buildings. The right column includes a "Calendar of Events" for June, a "FAQ for Earthquake" section with a cartoon character, and a "Santorini Volcano" section with a photograph of the volcano.

At the bottom of the page, there are several smaller sections: "Greece and Earthquakes" with a map of Greece, "Bull earthquake" with a photograph of a bull, "History of Events" with a list of past events, and "Check seismically" with a photograph of a building. The footer of the page includes the EPPO logo and the text "European Centre on Prevention and Forecasting of Earthquakes".

**Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization**





# Thank you for your attention!

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