



Improving geophysics education for schools in the museum of Osservatorio Vesuviano - INGV.

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The Osservatorio Vesuviano, section of the Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia (INGV), is the oldest vulcanological observatory worldwide, dating back to 1841. Its outreach activities pursued two main goals: dissemination of scientific knowledge about volcanoes and eruption forecasting, and the increase of the volcanic risk awareness among people living in high risk active volcanoes such as Vesuvius and Campi Flegrei. These activities are led by researchers and technicians working at Osservatorio Vesuviano - INGV. In its historical site, on Vesuvius, a museum has been established, with a permanent exhibition. The museum preserves valuable collections of rocks and minerals, historical scientific instruments, books and paintings. The exhibition, due to a strong cooperation with the Italian Civil Protection Department, brings the visitor along a pathway through the world of volcanoes, in particular Vesuvius. Different kinds of eruptions and related hazard are described. Two significant Vesuvius eruptions are illustrated by very impressive video footages. A computer simulation of a strongly explosive eruption at Vesuvius, obtained by mathematical models, is also shown, as well as how the monitoring system works. A big range of technologies and exhibition devices are used such as panels, films, real time seismic signals, historical scientific instruments, books, rocks and minerals, archaeological findings. The museum of the Osservatorio Vesuviano - INGV doesn't want to be a static entity, so it's continuously updated. Visitors are more than 10,000 / year and are mostly school groups. An accurate analysis of the public of this museum has been carried out in the last years, as well as a check of the activity. In the last year it has been found a general satisfaction of public, most comments of which have been focused on the request of a fair relationship between scientific community and public to keep people informed about volcanic activity in Neapolitan region.