



Strong Earthquakes and Tsunamis in the West Hellenic Arc and Trench System

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Data on earthquake and tsunami phenomena occurring in the West Hellenic Arc and Trench system from antiquity up to the present have been updated, critically evaluated and compiled in the standard GITEC format developed for the New European Tsunami Catalogue. Most of the tsunamis documented are caused by strong earthquakes occurring in the area offshore Crete to the NW of the island which is one of the most tsunamigenic areas in the entire Mediterranean Sea region. Particular attention is given to the major event of AD365 which appears to be the largest ever occurred in the Mediterranean in at least the last 2.5 millennium. The mean repeat time of strong tsunamis is calculated and probabilistic hazard assessment is performed (this is a contribution of the Projects SEHELLARC and TRANSFER, EU-DG Research).