



## **Prospective Testing of Earthquake Forecast Models in Europe: The CSEP Euro-Med Testing Center**

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Earthquake forecasting and prediction related research has been plagued by controversy, and progress over the past two decades has been slow. The international CSEP (Collaboratory for the Study of Earthquake Predictability, [www.cseptesting.org](http://www.cseptesting.org)) initiative is striving to accelerate progress in earthquake predictability related research by developing various laboratories with an adequate infrastructure capable to support a global program of predictability research. Currently, four regional CSEP centers are either operational or under development in California, New Zealand, Japan and Europe. Each testing center will support rigorous procedures for registering prospective forecast experiments on regional and global scales by (1) community-endorsed standards to assess probability-based and alarm-based predictions, (2) access to authorized data sets and monitoring products from designated testing regions, and (3) software to allow researchers to participate in forecast experiments and update their procedures as results become available.

Funded by national agencies and the EU FP6 projects NERIES and SAFER, European seismologists are currently building the Euro-Med node. This framework will consist of one central testing center hosted by ETH Zurich and a number of testing regions. Testing regions are to be defined based on the quality and consistency of seismic data, the availability of forecast models, and the commitment of network operators to provide their data in a timely and quality controlled fashion. The first region to become a testing region within the Euro-Med testing center is Italy, where initial data complete-

ness studies have been performed and a range of models are available for comparative prospective testing. This presentation will summarize the status and future plans for testing earthquake forecast models in Europe and beyond. CSEP is all about a community driven development, and we strongly encourage participation by individual researchers (models) or agencies (testing regions).