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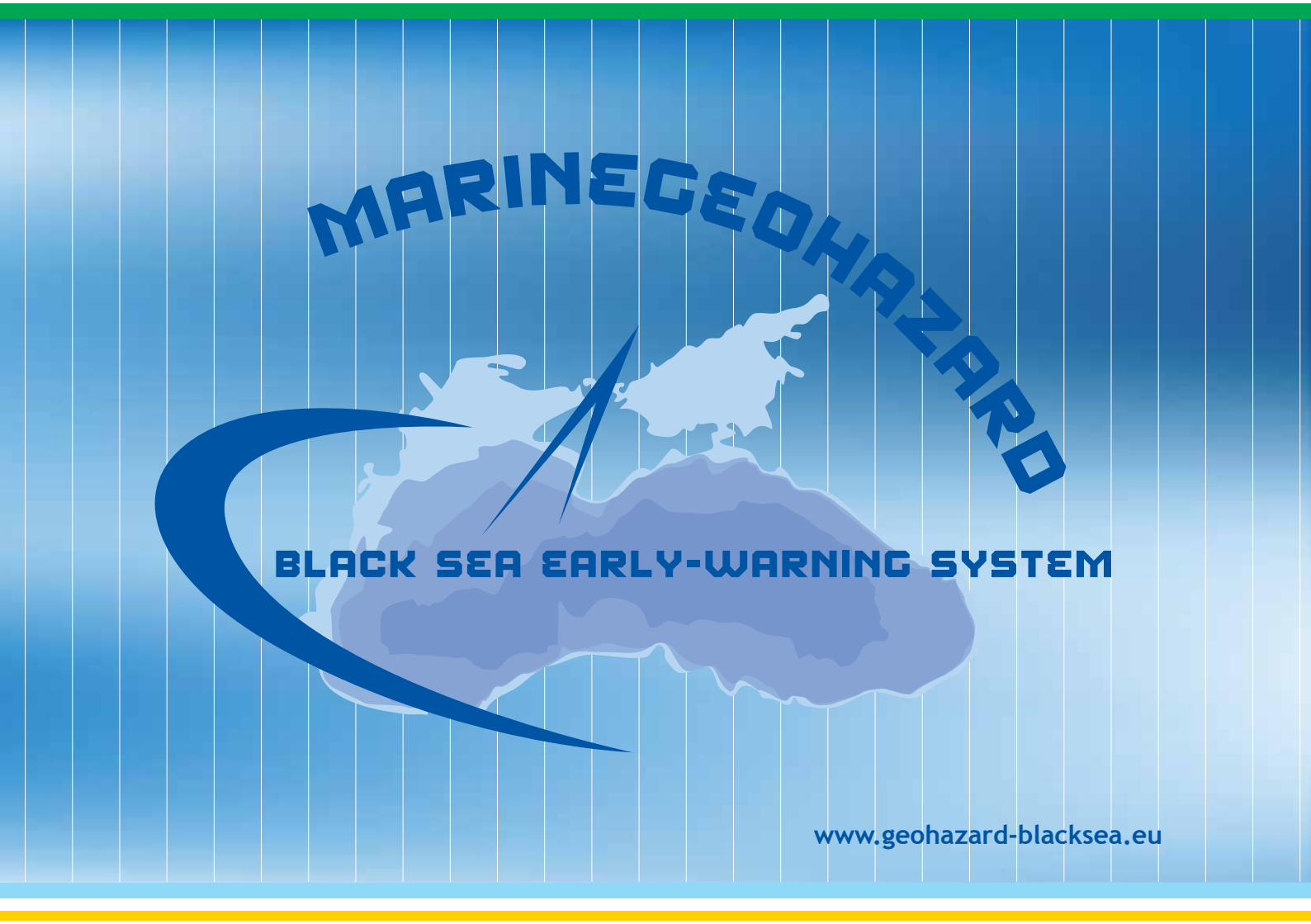
MARINEGEOHAZARD

Set-up and implementation of key core components of a regional early-warning system for marine geohazards of risk to the Romanian-Bulgarian Black Sea coastal area



Set-up and implementation of key core components
of a regional early-warning system for marine geohazards
of risk to the Romanian-Bulgarian Black Sea coastal area

Newsletter Issue No. 3 October 2011

MARINEGEOHAZARD
...an underway project

During July-August 2011, within MARINEGEOHZAZRD project were held a series of activities in which were involved, besides the project coordinator, National Rresearch and Development Institute for Marine geology and Geoecology - GeoEcoMar – Romania, the other two bulgarian partners, Institute of Oceanology of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Varna, Geological Institute of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, as well as the Romanian partner, The National Institute of Earth Physics, Bucharest.
Among the activities carried out, we have to mention two expeditions on the Black Sea, in which were conducted geophysical measurements of multibeam bathimetry, magnetometry and gravimetry. If, in June, we worked mainly in the northern part of the Romania's territorial waters, in July and August,the measurements were made in the territorial waters of Bulgaria, from the border with Turkey, to the north and, in the second half of September, was also covered the area remained unmapped. The works on the sea were made using the GeoEcoMar ' s multidisciplinary marine research vessel "Mare Nigrum".
Another activity developed within the MARINEGEOHAZARD project was the first auction held to purchase the equipme stipulated in the project, equipment necessary to achieve the early warning system which is going to be installed in the Black Sea, in order to ensure the protection of the coastal area against the negative effects of the marine geohazards. The auction will be held again for the remaining batches.

Between the project partners were held a series of meetings in which the discussions were focused particularly on technical issues of the project as well as on the impediments regarding the auctions development, arising between the project coordinator and the partners.

Also, a series of catalogues were made and dedicated to tsunami events and active faults from the western part of the Black Sea. A series of maps on spatial distribution of the earthquakes epicenters from the western basin of the Black Sea were finished as well as a sketch on main faults location.
Regarding the activities planned for the next quarter, a new meeting of the Steering Committee members is planned to take place in Bulgaria. There is also a number of issues to be updated, most of them due to the auction matter, which will be resumed soon. It will also be amended the project achievement plan, some terms should be changed, etc..

NEWSLETTER INTERVIU

MARINEGEOHAZARD, the warranty of a long term strategy on romanian and bulgarian coastal area protection, an interview with Prof. dr. ing. **Atanas PALAZOV,** Director of Institute of Oceanology of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Varna, Bulgaria.

Question: How important is the involvment of the institution you run in MARINEGEOHAZARD project?

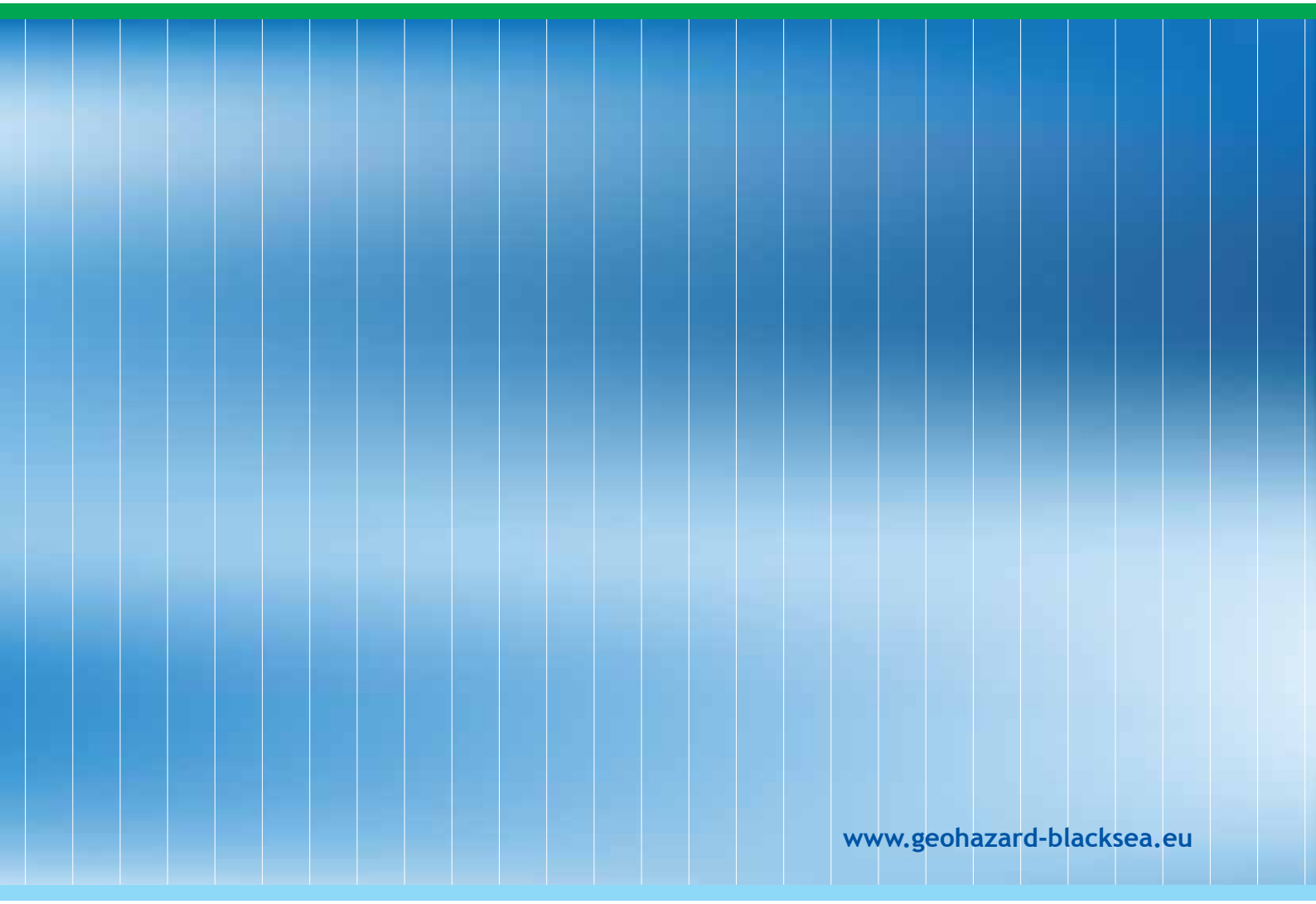
Institute of Oceanology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, is an institution which monitors the marine environment, in particular the part of aquatory covering the Bulgarian sector of Black Sea and the adjacent coast. It is quite natural this institution to do constant monitoring of the hazards of tsunami in Black Sea. The participation of the Institute of Oceanology-BAS in the project MARINEGEOHAZARD is important for us.

Question: What do you think will be the social perception (population and authorities) in implementing the project, MARINEGEOHAZARD?

Both population and authorities are scarcely acquaint with the dangers of tsunami in Black Sea. Therefore, the majority of the population and a part of the people working in the state institutions will not understand at once the necessity of the project. What has to be done is to explain its necessity. People working in the state institutions that may have a concern to the tsunami must be trained to use the early warning system.

Question: Do you think that the implementation of an early warning system dedicated to the marine environment may reduce some effects of possible earthquakes stronger than 6 on the Richter scale, which may affect the Bulgarian Black Sea coast?

It is absolutely certain that the application of early warning system will reduce the damage caused by earthquakes of magnitude greater than 6 on the Richter scale. This type of earthquakes on some occasions can cause tsunami. On the Bulgarian seaside there are towns, villages and resorts which can be seriously damaged if flooded by a tsunami. The danger is greatest for the city of Varna, in which tens of thousands of people live in areas that can be flooded by a tsunami. An important fact is that near these areas there are other areas that will not be flooded in case of tsunami, so people can move there and be saved. The proper use of the early warning system could save the lives of many of these people, and may be even of all of them.



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