Università degli Studi di Firenze

Dipartimento di Ingegneria Civile e Ambientale

International Course of Research
Doctorate
"Risk management on the built
environment"

SEMINAR

"Tsunamis in the Euro-Mediterranean region: From hazard and risk assessment to mitigation"

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Friday 12 June 11:00-13:00 Caminetto Room Faculty of Engineering Via S. Marta, 3, 50139 Florence

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Tsunamis are very rare occurrences that may have catastrophic impact not only in the source region, but also on remote coasts. Most occur in the Pacific Ocean, but the 2004 disastrous tsunami in the Indian Ocean has dramatically proven that also other basins can be affected by such events.

In the Euro Mediterranean region the examples of big historical tsunamis are numerous and may be found all along the southern European zone from west (e.g. the 1755 Lisbon tsunami) to east (e.g. the 365 AD Crete tsunami) passing through the central area (e.g. the 1908 Messina Strait tsunami).

Though the impact of tsunamis has been long and erroneously overlooked in Europe, since awareness of their damaging power was quite low, recently interest on tsunamis has very much increased and there is nowadays consciousness of the need for adequate plans of emergency responses, including early warning, and for mitigation policies in the long-term for all the exposed coastal regions.

In this context hazard, vulnerability and risk analyses based on observational data and simulations play a fundamental role. After the 2004 Pacific Ocean case, such studies received great impulse worldwide, but a unified consensus on the methodological aspects is still lacking. The seminar will critically highlight the most relevant adopted approaches in this matter and expose the progress and perspectives for the implementation of efficient Tsunami Warning Systems in the Euro-

