



A new way of telling earthquake stories: MOBEE - the MOBILE Earthquake Exhibition

Dragos Tataru, Dragos Toma-Danila, and Eduard Nastase

National Institute for Earth Physics, Seismology, Bucharest-Magurele, Romania (dragos@infp.ro)

In the last decades, the demand and acknowledged importance of science outreach, in general and geophysics in particular, has grown, as demonstrated by many international and national projects and other activities performed by research institutes. The National Institute for Earth Physics (NIEP) from Romania is the leading national institution on earthquake monitoring and research, having at the same time a declared focus on informing and educating a wide audience about geosciences and especially seismology. This is more than welcome, since Romania is a very active country from a seismological point of view, but not too reactive when it comes to diminishing the possible effect of a major earthquake. Over the last few decades, the country has experienced several major earthquakes which have claimed thousands of lives and millions in property damage (1940; 1977; 1986 and 1990 Vrancea earthquakes). In this context, during a partnership started in 2014 together with the National Art University and Siveco IT company, a group of researchers from NIEP initiated the MOBILE Earthquake Exhibition (MOBEE) project. The main goal was to design a portable museum to bring on the road educational activities focused on seismology, seismic hazard and Earth science. The exhibition is mainly focused on school students of all ages as it explains the main topics of geophysics through a unique combination of posters, digital animations and apps, large markets and exciting hand-on experiments, 3D printed models and posters.

This project is singular in Romania and aims to transmit properly reviewed actual information, regarding the definition of earthquakes, the way natural hazards can affect people, buildings and the environment and the measures to be taken for prevent an aftermath. Many of the presented concepts can be used by teachers as a complementary way of demonstrating physics facts and concepts and explaining processes that shape the dynamic Earth features. It also involves developing particular skills by getting in contact with exhibition elements and researchers.

In addition, what makes this exhibition and education tool different from other similar initiatives is the mobile and customizable character. Whether it will be hosted for a period in earth science museums, providing them with the tools and resources to turn their audiences into active advocates or used at public events (like Earth Day, Science kiosk or school events), MOBEE can be customized both in size, in presentation and composition. Thus each experience will be unique, perfectly adapted to the event, telling to real and virtual visitors a story about the Earth, earthquakes and their effects.