

Selected Papers from Workshop
on
**NATURAL DISASTERS IN
EUROPEAN MEDITERRANEAN
COUNTRIES**

Colombella, Perugia, Italy June 27th, July 1st - 1988

Co-Conveners

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Sponsor

U.S. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

**NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
Group for Prevention from Hydrogeological Disasters**

PREFACE

Natural disasters know no natural boundaries. Earthquakes, landslides, floods, droughts, volcanic eruptions, etc., all respond to the geology and climate of the region. In that respect European Mediterranean countries have a lot in common. That commonality motivated the International Workshop on Natural Disasters in European-Mediterranean Countries last June 26 - July 1, 1988, in Colombella, Perugia, Italy.

The objectives of the meeting included:

- bringing together experts of countries of the region to learn about and share experiences;
- to identify commonalities in problems and approaches to cope with natural hazards;
- to identify areas of needed research
- to provide the seed for national initiatives to participate in the International Decade for Natural Disaster Prevention.

It is the last point that made the participation and co- sponsorship of the United States interesting. The U.S. National Science Foundation and the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche in Italy are committed to increased understanding of natural disasters and to an international effort to address such problems. The two national research sponsors were and continue searching for points of collaboration and for increased definition of the research agenda of the future.

The participants of the workshop were delegates from Spain, Yugoslavia, France, Greece, Portugal, Italy and the United States. Each country was represented by five to seven delegates. Some additional number of observers, mainly from Italy and the United States, were also present. The natural disasters discussed were limited

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