

NEW DATA OF EARTHQUAKE RISKS FOR THE TOWN OF VARNA

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The town of Varna is located in a region where a series of destructive earthquakes have been registered. In 1994 a map of geological risks was drawn for the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Bulgarian part of the Black Sea region, where dangerous faults and earthquake epicentres, known by that time, were pointed. By the beginning of 2002, no systematic analysis had been carried out based on the information about active faults in the Bulgarian part of the Black Sea. As a result, based on the information available by that time, it had not been possible to define the active faults in the sea, and estimate their potentials to generate strong earthquakes.

For that reason, a team of scientists from the Institute of Oceanology – BAS, Varna, the Geological Institute – BAS, Sofia, and the Higher Military Naval School – Varna, performed a project on “Seismic stratigraphic segmentation, geotectonic and seismic tectonic analysis of the Quaternary and part of the Neogene depositions along the Bulgarian Black sea Shelf and the upper part of the continental slope”. The project was funded by the Municipality Council of Varna. The main objectives of the project were:

1. Improvement of the seismic tectonic model for the Bulgarian part of the aquatory of the Black Sea;
2. Substantiation of the present activity of some of the fault structures
3. Dating the activity of fault structures

For the time of running the project, the following thorough researches were performed, and scientifically grounded statement was presented, that the town of Varna is located on a territory, rated VIII – IX, but not VII, as per MSK – 64 scale in reference to the degree of possibility of seismic quakes, as it has been considered so far.

Key words: *earthquake, faults, seismic tectonic models*

