Since October 2011 a seismic swarm is affecting the Pollino mountain range, southern Italy. At 20.04.12 the sequence is still ongoing, with more than 750 events with M-1, at least 70 well perceived by the population and a maximum magnitude reaching 3.6. The area was hit by a magnitude 5.7 event in 1998 that caused one dead, some injured and widespread damage in at least six municipalities. The population main fear is that a large event could follow the seismic swarm as it occurred at L’Aquila in 2009.

Among the several initiatives taken by Civil Protection at national and regional level, it was decided to try to implement at local scale two communication projects that were thought for “peace time” and not for dissemination during a seismic crisis: the “Terremoto io non rischio - Earthquake I don’t risk” project for general public and the “EDURISK” project for educational activities had to be devised to meet the psychological needs and answer the numberless questions of the suffering population of Abruzzo region.

The EDURISK project is an educational joint venture of INGV and INOGS, fundend by the Italian Department for Civil Protection. The project started in the school year 2002-03. For almost six years from its inception, the EDURISK staff was mostly concerned with “laboratory work” - educational tools for the schools (from infant to secondary) were planned, developed and tested within the frame of a large-scale educational campaigns, involving about 2,600 teachers and more than 40,000 students from hundreds of Italian scholastic institutes.

The previous earthquake

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2) the Civil Protection volunteers could be a very effective mean to reach a large amount of the population, provided they are carefully trained especially when children are involved;
3) the expectations about earthquake prediction raised from media without any scientific support proved to be the most difficult to be tackled: to overcome this bias risk education in “peace time” is absolutely essential;

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