

PREFACE

This volume of Acta Geodynamica and Geomaterialia comes to present some research initiated during the European COST 625 action „3D monitoring of active tectonic structures“ which took place in the period 2000 - 2006. It was an interdisciplinary project that involved field investigations and installations, new monitoring techniques and time. The problem of time is very specific and is to be well understood because monitoring of tectonic structures should be done in respect of the geological time scale. Here is one important challenge of such a research. It is to deal not with seismic but with aseismic movements the rates of which must be evidently very low. Besides, structures, even if classified active, may also come to almost calm periods. Therefore, there is a general need of longer observation periods, notably of the order of decades, to come to more evident data that would allow for the monitoring to be interpreted clearly. This is then why a number of projects initiated in this COST action appear only in a progressing stage now, and some papers will be only informative as to methods and actions by co-ordinated international teams focussing to certain regional structures.

Nevertheless, it is believed that the work started during the action will be continued and monitoring brought to results of more than local importance. Studies into active tectonic movements deal with recent effects of global stresses and should provide data that will reflect mechanism involved in the processes of global tectonics. This is including earthquakes that appear so unfortunate force to be challenged by mankind.

Kind reader is therefore asked to be aware of this special aspect of our research carried out in our times when calls for scientific actions in hurrying trials to bring fast and economically attractive results, are so common.

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