

Task Team on Tsunami Ready

ICG/NEAMTWS XX Session

PARIS, 3-5 DECEMBER 2025

co chairs

ELENA DASKALAKI (GREECE)

MARIA ANA BAPTISTA (PORTUGAL)



Task Team on Tsunami Ready: Plan of Action for 2025



Co-chairs: **Maria Ana Baptista** (Instituto Superior de Engenharia de Lisboa, Instituto Politécnico de Lisboa, Portugal) and **Elena Daskalaki** (National Observatory of Athens, Greece)

Objectives		Activity	Target / Result Indicators
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Promote community preparedness.Support and promote Tsunami Ready programme in NEAM region.	Monitoring of TR projects in NEAM area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">TR initiatives already in place in NEAM region (TR indicators achievement).New TR candidates.Apply lessons learned through feedback and practical experience.
2	Encourage and support approval of NEAMTWS TR guidelines , as part of the downstream component of the ICG/NEAMTWS programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Establish communication with other ICGs TTs and WGs related to Tsunami Ready.Select key aspects and best practices of TR guidelines, such as the methodologies adopted by each TR communityFacilitate discussion and create a platform for exchanging improvements, ensuring a shared understanding of the methodologies used by each TR community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Meetings and webinars.Summary report.Organizing meeting with new candidates for TR.
3	Represent Tsunami Ready TT in ICG/NEAMTWS.	Represent TT-TR at meetings scheduled throughout the year 2025.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Participation to the SC meetingTT on TR presentations.
4	Cooperation with other Working Groups and Task Teams .	Supporting where appropriate and providing feedback .	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Participating in meetings and commenting on background documents as requested.Project Steering Committee of CW2.0



UNESCO-IOC TSUNAMI READY RECOGNITION PROGRAMME (TRRP)

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
www.ioc-tsunami.org



102 TSUNAMI READY COMMUNITIES

- 22 CARIBBEAN AND ADJACENT REGIONS**
- 23 PACIFIC**
- 51 INDIAN OCEAN**
- 6 THE NORTH-EASTERN ATLANTIC,
MEDITERRANEAN AND CONNECTED
SEAS**

The logo for "Tsunami Ready" features a stylized blue wave at the bottom, with three blue human figures standing on top of it. A large green checkmark is positioned to the right of the figures, all contained within a circular border.

 Tsunami Ready Website

 Tsunami Ready Viewer

October 2024

TT on TR, ICG/NEAMTWS XX session, Paris, 3-5 December 2025

NEAM Tsunami Ready Communities



Upcoming

(8 Member States, more than 25 communities)

- Cyprus - Larnaka
- France - Métropole Nice Côte d'Azur (MNCA), Marseille
- Greece - Methoni, Kalamata, Santorini
- Italy - Marzamemi-Pachino, Palmi, Otranto, Stromboli
- Israel
- Morocco - El Jadida, Larache
- Portugal - Quarteira and Cascais
- Spain - Cadiz
- Türkiye - Tuzla, Kartal, Seferihisar

Established

(6 Member States, 6 communities)

- Egypt - Alexandria
- France - Cannes
- Greece - Samos
- Italy - Minturno
- Spain - Chipiona
- Türkiye - Büyücekmece

NEAM Tsunami Ready Communities



Tsunami Ready Communities

[About](#)[English](#)

Updates from Member States



Upcoming TR Communities

Egypt

- **El Ras Bar:** High-level mission, awareness campaigns, historical quake modelling, first inundation map for Ras El Bar, and official evacuation map developed.

France

- **Métropole Nice Côte d'Azur (MNCA):** 7/8 municipalities validated, 35 maps approved, 780 signs ordered, SOP update 2026, 2 awareness events, survey done.
- **Marseille:** 110 assembly points identified, field visit done, validation pending for maps, SOPs updating, table-top exercise early 2026.

Italy:

- **Palmi (PREP-4):** 3 schools & municipality joined remote tsunami training; info shared via official channels, covered by local press, and highlighted by councilor & Civil Protection.
- **Stromboli (ASSESS & PREP):** Workshop on multi-hazard awareness (Oct 2025); INGV school program + 2002 tsunami witness video in progress.
- **Six** more new communities are interested in joining the programme (Marzamemi-Pachino, Otranto etc)

Updates from Member States



Upcoming TR Communities

Morocco

- **Larache**: Risk survey done, advanced COMCOT modeling, hazard & inundation maps, vulnerability assessment, evacuation maps.

Portugal *NTRB establishment underway*

- **Quarteira/Loulé**: TR indicators were fulfilled.
- **Cascais**: TR indicators were fulfilled, SOP workshop.

Spain

- **Cádiz**: Kick-off with stakeholders; PTHA-based inundation map; evacuation assessment (routes, assembly areas, timing, population, risk), full-scale exercise with vertical evacuation.

Türkiye

- **Tuzla, Kartal**: Risk surveys, trainings, awareness materials, SOP workshop, and community drills completed.
- **Seferihisar**: Hazard maps on the way.

Updates from Member States

Cyprus

- 📍 The **signs and guidelines** have been completed, providing essential information on tsunami preparedness and evacuation procedures.
- ℹ️ **Information panels** will be added shortly.
- 📢 **Approvals for sirens** have finally been obtained — installation will follow
- 📊 The **local decision matrix** is completed, moving into final alignment with the **national & local early warning system** of Civil Protection
- ✅ All sea level stations are now **online at IOC**.
- 📱 After integration with **112**, the public will also receive alerts directly on mobile phones.
- 🤝 Collaboration continues with **Civil Protection and the Municipality of Larnaca**



Updates from Member States

Greece



Initial Engagement: Dialogue has begun with local authorities and stakeholders in Methoni, Kalamata, and Santorini to explore the implementation of the UNESCO/IOC **Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme**.

Strategic Importance:

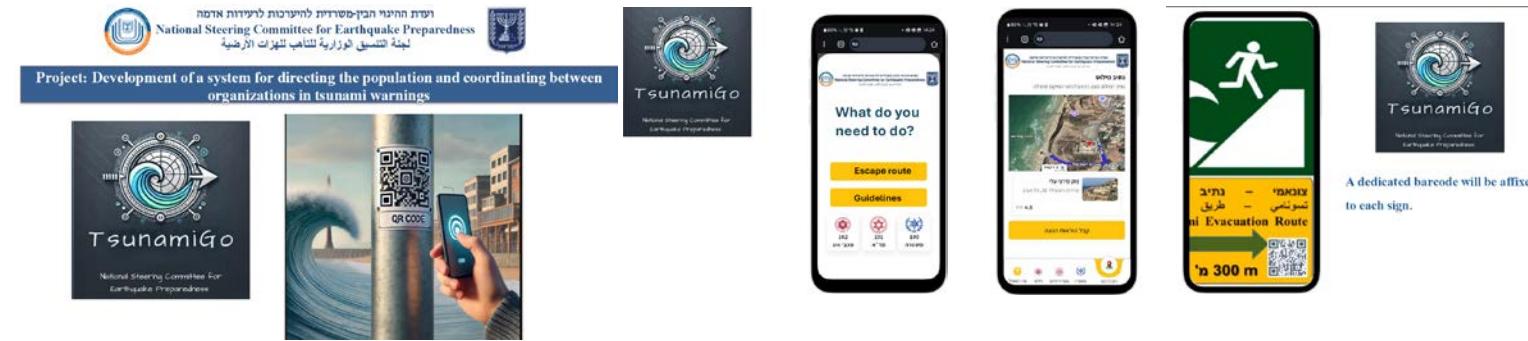
- ✓ *Methoni* — a historic coastal town with a strong cultural heritage, vulnerable to **seismic** sources.
- ✓ *Kalamata* — a larger **urban center** with significant **population density** and infrastructure requiring coordinated preparedness.
- ✓ *Santorini* — a volcanic island with unique hazards vulnerable to **seismic** and **non-seismic tsunami** sources, where tourism and local communities both need robust awareness and response strategies.

Updates from Member States



Israel

- ✓ Development of a new system to direct all population within the tsunami alert polygon to the assembly zones, using cell broadcast



- ✓ Application for the TRRP for entire coastline of the State of Israel: submitted to IOC-UNESCO.

*"In January 2025, we received updated folders and files from your office. A new review team was convened to assess the revised application. Given the **unique scope** of the submission—covering the **entire coastline of Israel** and the **absence** of any **established Tsunami Ready Local Committees** (TRLCs, MG 74, Section 5.2.3, p. 24) - the team determined that an expanded review process was warranted."*

*"As a result, the Secretariat decided to establish an **ad hoc NEAMTWS Regional Tsunami Ready Board** (RTRB) to evaluate this special case. The RTRB was constituted in accordance with the provisions of MG 74, with the specific **mandate** to review this application and provide **recommendations** to the IOC Technical Secretary."*

*"The Secretariat has carefully reviewed the submission and the review of the ad hoc RTRB. After due consideration, we conclude that the recognition of the entire coast of a country **does not fall within the framework of the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme (MG74)**, with the exception of smaller countries/territories seeking one recognition for the whole jurisdiction (item 5.2.4. MG74). Indeed, the Tsunami Ready recognition may be granted at the national/territorial level only in the case of **small countries and territories** (item 5.2.2., MG74), which is **not the case of Israel**. Therefore, we are not entitled to issue a certificate of Tsunami Ready Recognition for the entire coast of Israel."*

- ✓ **Noted** that Israel replied to the recommendations of the IOC UNESCO.

- ✓ Propose this discussion should be noted to the **TT on DMP** at the TOWs meeting the following February 2026.

Activities of 2024-2025



- ✓ **UNESCO-IOC Regional Tsunami Ready Training** for the North-eastern, Atlantic and connected Seas Region, 14-15 January 2025, under UNESCO-IOC DG ECHO CoastWAVE Project 2.0 (**Assess-2**: The number of people at risk in the tsunami hazard zone is estimated & **Prep-5**: A community tsunami exercise is conducted at least every two years.)
- ✓ Contributions were made at the **Inter ICG TOWS Task Team on Disaster Management and Preparedness** – IOC UNESCO 21 -22 Feb. 2024. (participated as an observer)
- ✓ UNESCO-IOC Expert Meeting on **Tsunami Sources Associated with Hellenic Arc and Azores–Gibraltar Fault Zone in the North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean, and Connected Seas (NEAM) Region**, 18-20 March 2025, Paris, France



✓ The TT Co-Chairs organized and participated in the **15th IDRiM2025** conference held in **Samos**, Greece from 28 September to 1 October, entitled: “Advancing Disaster Risk Reduction in Islands and Remote Areas,” where they led a special session titled **“Enhancing Tsunami Preparedness Through Community-Based Initiatives and Technology in the Northeastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Region.”**

- ✓ **National to Local Level Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Workshop** under UNESCO-IOC EU DG-ECHO CoastWAVE 2.0, 27-30 October 2025, Lisbon, Portugal.
- ✓ Participate in the SC of the UNESCO-IOC EU DG-ECHO CoastWAVE 2.0



Activities of 2024-2025



- ✓ An oral **presentation** at the EGU General Assembly, May 2025 and an accepted manuscript for publication at the International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction
- ✓ **Contribution to the IOC TS on TR Implementation in NEAM: Best Practices, Guidance, Challenges, Lessons Learned in Implementing UNESCO IOC**



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Recent Developments in Tsunami Preparedness in the Northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean Region: Challenges, Strengths, and Weaknesses

Eleni Daskalaki¹, Ignacio Aguirre Ayerbe², Maria Ana Baptista^{3,4}, Alessandro Amato⁵, Musavver Didem Cambaz⁶, Marinos Charalampakis¹, Lorenzo Cugliari^{5,7}, Suzan M. El-Gharabawy⁸, Amr Hamouda⁸, Hélène Hebert⁹, Nikos Kalligeris¹, Juan V. Cantavella Nadal¹⁰, Nurcan Meral Öznel⁶, Matthieu Péroche⁹, and Ahmet C. Yalciner¹²

¹National Observatory of Athens, Institute of Geodynamics, Athens, Greece (edaskal@noa.gr)

²IHCantabria - Instituto de Hidráulica Ambiental de la Universidad de Cantabria, Santander, Spain (aguirrei@unican.es)

³Instituto Superior de Engenharia de Lisboa, University of Lisbon, Lisboa, Portugal (mavbaptista@gmail.com)

⁴Instituto Dom Luiz - IDL, Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal (mavbaptista@gmail.com)

⁵National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology, Rome, Italy (alessandro.amato@ingv.it)

⁶Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute, Bogazici University, Istanbul, Türkiye (ozeln@boun.edu.tr)

⁷Department of Communication and Social Research, La Sapienza University, Rome, Italy (lorenzo.cugliari@ingv.it)

⁸National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Egypt (amr@nof-eg.com)

⁹CEA, DAM, DIF, F-91297 Arpajon, France (helene.hebert@cea.fr)

¹⁰Instituto Geográfico Nacional, Madrid, Spain (jvcantavella@transportes.gob.es)

¹¹LAGAM, Université de Montpellier Paul-Valéry, Montpellier, France (matthieu.peroche@univ-montp3.fr)

¹²Department of Civil Engineering, Coastal and Ocean Engineering Division, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Türkiye (yalciner@metu.edu.tr)

Tsunamis are among the most devastating and infrequent natural phenomena, capable of causing immense loss of life and property in coastal regions. While predicting the occurrence of tsunamis remains challenging, communities can take proactive steps to mitigate their impact. Local, national, and intergovernmental initiatives aim to provide a legal framework for strengthening community preparedness through a comprehensive approach that includes measures ranging from tsunami hazard and exposure assessments, generating evacuation maps, installing corresponding signage, and promoting education and capacity building of local stakeholders and population. It also involves the establishment of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to ensure a timely and effective end-to-end tsunami warning communication chain. This study presents an overview of the recent significant progress in tsunami preparedness across countries bordering the Mediterranean and North East Atlantic coasts.

Recent Developments in Tsunami Preparedness in the North-Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Region: Challenges, Strengths, and Weaknesses

Eleni Daskalaki¹, Ignacio Aguirre Ayerbe², Maria Ana Baptista³, Alessandro Amato⁴, Musavver Didem Cambaz⁵, Marinos Charalampakis¹, Lorenzo Cugliari⁶, Suzan M. El-Gharabawy⁷, Amr Hamouda⁸, Hélène Hebert⁹, Nikos Kalligeris¹, Juan V. Cantavella Nadal¹⁰, Nurcan Meral Öznel⁶, Matthieu Péroche⁹ and Ahmet C. Yalciner¹¹

Abstract

The onset of a tsunami is among the most dangerous and infrequent natural occurrences, which can result in loss of life and destruction of property in coastal areas. It is almost impossible to predict the occurrence of tsunamis. However, communities can take measures to decrease their impact. Local, national, and intergovernmental initiatives aim to establish a comprehensive legal framework for enhancing community preparedness through a multifaceted approach that encompasses measures such as tsunami hazard and exposure assessments, the generation of evacuation maps, the installation of corresponding signage, and the promotion of education and capacity building among local stakeholders and the broader population. In parallel, it encompasses the establishment of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), which ensure that an end-to-end tsunami warning communication chain is delivered correctly and promptly. This research describes the latest significant developments regarding preparedness for tsunamis in the Mediterranean and North-Eastern Atlantic bordering countries.

Keywords

Tsunami Preparedness; Community Resilience; Tsunami Ready

1. Introduction

Decisions and Recommendation from the 19th ICG meeting (27–29 November 2024)

- ✓ **Notes** the advice of the TT on TR to the ICG to establish the role of the National Tsunami Ready Focal Point (NTRFP). This will be further discussed during the next SC meeting; → *no need for establishing at the moment*
- ✓ **Appreciates** the newly recognized UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Communities in Egypt (Alexandria), France (Cannes), Greece (Samos), Italy (Minturno), Spain (Chipiona) and Türkiye (Büyükçekmece)
- ✓ **Encourages** other countries, in particular Cyprus (Larnaca), Israel (entire coast), Malta (Marsaxlokk) and Morocco (El Jadida) to finalize their efforts to complete the TRR process and application;
- ✓ **Encourages** the continued progress made towards establishing UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready communities ongoing communities in Italy (Palmi, Marzamemi, Otranto and Stromboli), and in Portugal (Loule);
- ✓ **Reaffirms** the target to have a total of 25 UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognized communities in NEAM countries by the end of 2026, further contributing to making 100% of communities at risk of tsunami prepared for and resilient to tsunami by 2030 through the implementation of the UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready Programme and other initiatives, as stated by the Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme;
- ✓ **Welcomes** the initiative to prepare a new Tsunami Ready Tool kit prepared by TICs to assist Member States in implementing the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme as per TOWS Task Team on Disaster Management and Preparedness' Decisions and Recommendations; → *in the process*

Terms of Reference of the ICG/NEAMTWS Regional Tsunami Ready Board (RTRB)



- The UNESCO/IOC. 2022. Standard Guidelines for the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme. Paris. ([IOC Manuals and Guides, 74](#)) provides guidance on the establishment of a National Tsunami Ready Board (NTRB).
- A **National Tsunami Ready Board** (NTRB) has to be **established**. The NTRB consists of designated representatives of the National Emergency Management Agency or Disaster Management Office (serves as Chair), NTWC, TNC, the scientific community, and other guests at the discretion of the NTRB Chair. The members of the NTRB are responsible for guiding the community and for the review and approval of the community's Tsunami Ready application. The establishment of the NTRB should be informed to the UNESCO/IOC ICG Technical Secretary of the region (Pacific, Indian, North-eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, and Caribbean) and the corresponding Tsunami Information Centre (TIC). The role of the NTRB is to oversee the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme, its administrative paperwork and implementation.
- It further outlines (5.2.2) that in case of **small countries and territories**, the Tsunami Ready recognition may be granted at the national/territorial level. For this case, the Regional Tsunami Ready Board (RTRB) would be responsible for reviewing and approving recognition. The RTRB for each region consists of the ICG Chair (serves as the RTRB Chair), TIC Director, ICG Working Group Chairs that cover the topics of tsunami warning and dissemination, disaster management, preparedness and risk reduction, the ICG Technical Secretary, and other guests at the discretion of the RTRB Chair.
- **Regional Tsunami Ready Board (RTRB):**
 - I. Responsible for general oversight of the ICG Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme.
 - II. Maintains guidelines.
 - III. Reviews existing and proposed changes to the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme Guidelines and publishes updates as needed.
 - IV. Reviews and approves Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme applications in case of small countries and territories, the Tsunami Ready recognition may be granted at the national/territorial level.
- **Membership:**
 - ICG Chair (Chair)
 - NEAMTIC Officer (UNECOSO /IOC ICG Technical Secretary
 - ICG Working Group Chairs that cover the topics of tsunami warning and dissemination, disaster management, preparedness and risk reduction
 - Guests at discretion of RTRB Chair, such as relevant regional organization(s), TSP(s).
- **Modus operandi**

The RTRB will mainly work by correspondence and if required, another one in preparation for the next ICG meeting

