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## **SEISMOCODE: a life long e-learning platform to help civil engineers keep pace with building codes evolution**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Within the preparation for the 2007 accession of Romania to the EU, a thorough process of harmonization of the national legal framework with the European counterparts was carried out. This process included the entire set of building codes and regulations, which were revised over the span of more than one decade, prior to the accession. Moreover, several European standards, among which the Eurocodes, were adopted as national standards. This radical change, performed in a relatively short interval, had a significant impact on the capacity of the civil engineering community to assimilate the new norms and to apply them in everyday practice. The case of the national code for the seismic design of buildings, P100, is illustrative for this situation. Issued in 2006 [1] and revised in 2013 [2], the code underwent substantial changes in comparison with its previous edition, being completely restructured and following closely the structure and content of Eurocode 8, Part I [3]. It also implemented results from earthquake engineering research performed in Romania in the previous years. Even though various initiatives were taken for the assimilation of this new code, many of its topics were still regarded by structural engineers as difficult to understand. The development of an online lifelong learning system, facilitating the assimilation of the new provisions, was found to be the most efficient solution. The SEISMOCODE platform [4], created in Romania within a recently finalized R&D project, is built around a body of knowledge with information on the seismic design of concrete structures according to the new norms. The platform also includes a Wiki system, several interactive e-learning modules for (self-)evaluation, a multimedia

collection and a user's forum. The platform is conceived in support to lifelong learning programs in civil engineering, as well as an auxiliary tool for graduate and postgraduate university courses.

#### REFERENCES

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