

THE LRG SOFTWARE FOR ASSESSING RISKS RELATED TO EARTHQUAKE-INDUCED LIQUEFACTION, MITIGATION PLANNING, AND DECISION SUPPORT

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Abstract: *In the framework of LIQUEFACT project, a multi-disciplinary research activity funded under the European Commission's Horizon 2020 program, LIQUEFACT Reference Guide (LRG) software has been developed, incorporating both data and methodologies collected and elaborated in the project's various work packages. Specifically, this refers to liquefaction hazard maps, methodologies and results of liquefaction vulnerability analysis for both building typologies and critical infrastructures, liquefaction mitigation measures as well as cost-benefit considerations. The software is targeting a wider range of user groups (urban planners, facility managers, structural and geotechnical engineers, or risk modelers) with different levels of technical background as well as requirements. In doing so, the LRG software shall allow users assessing the liquefaction-related risk as well as assisting them in liquefaction mitigation planning. Dependent on the users' requirements, the LRG software can be used to separately conduct the liquefaction hazard analysis, the risk analysis, and the mitigation analysis. At the stage of liquefaction hazard, the end-user can conduct qualitative analyses to identify how likely an individual building asset or a portfolio of spatially distributed buildings or infrastructure assets are susceptible to liquefaction. If the end-user wants to conduct a risk analysis as well, which is aimed to estimate the level of impact of the potential liquefaction threat on the asset and evaluate the performance, then a quantitative analysis of the liquefaction potential is required followed by structural response and damage analysis, and performance evaluation. For the Mitigation Analysis, the end-user can develop a customized mitigation framework based on the outcome of the risk analysis.*

Introduction

One of the key outputs from the LIQUEFACT project, funded under the European Commission's Horizon 2020 framework program, is the LIQUEFACT Reference Guide (LRG) software, a toolbox for liquefaction mitigation planning and decision support, able to estimate and predict the likely consequences of Earthquake-Induced Liquefaction Disaster (EILD) to the most vulnerable region of Europe (Meslem et al. 2017).

The development of the LRG software has been undergoing in two main phases: the first phase of the development process involves reviewing the various methodologies and procedures that are developed and suggested by the LIQUEFACT consortium partners. This activity has also included the examination of various potential challenges and issues in integrating the methodologies and procedures into a software toolbox. This has allowed to establish a common understanding of how the software will be used in practice and de-fine specifications of the data, tools and models to be developed in subsequent work packages in order to ensure their successful integration into the LRG software.

The second phase of the development process involves the design and development of protocols and modules where the various outputs from the LIQUEFACT consortium partners are integrated into the software toolbox that will provide civil engineers and relevant stakeholders guidance in

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making informed assessments on the feasibility and cost-benefit of applying certain liquefaction mitigation techniques for a given earthquake-induced liquefaction threat.

This report provides a description on the development process of the LRG software, illustrating the various steps and activities that have been undertaken in designing and developing an easy-to-use software toolbox that can provide guidance during the building design/assessment and implementation but also during the planning process at local and regional level. The report provides insights on how the various methodologies and different forms of data, provided by the other work packages, have been integrated, and illustrates the interaction between the various protocols of the hazard, risk and mitigation analysis, as well as the concept and the philosophy of analysis process that characterize the software.

This present paper provides a description on the development process of the LRG software, illustrating the various steps and activities that have been undertaken in designing and developing an easy-to-use software toolbox that can provide guidance during the building design/assessment and implementation but also during the planning process at local and regional level. The paper provides insights on how the various methodologies and different forms of data, provided by the other work packages, have been integrated, and illustrates the interaction between the various protocols of the hazard, risk and mitigation analysis, as well as the concept and the philosophy of analysis process that characterize the software.

Main concept of the LRG software

Earthquake-induced liquefaction damage assessment is a multi-process analysis that requires different types and forms of input data related to geology and seismology of the site, geotechnical data, and structure-foundation system characteristics of the asset under risk (Table 1). To this end, the LRG software has been designed in a way that EILD as-assessment is conducted at three independent protocol of analysis to provide more flexibility to the end-user’s requirements with respect to the level of analysis to be implemented and type of input data that are available (Meslem *et al.* 2017).

The three-independent protocol of analysis implemented in the LRG software are: the protocol for liquefaction hazard analysis, the protocol for risk analysis, and the protocol for mitigation analysis (see Figure 1). At the stage of liquefaction hazard, the end-user can conduct qualitative analyses to identify how likely an asset is susceptible to liquefaction. If the end-user wants to conduct a risk analysis as well, which is aimed to estimate the level of impact of the potential liquefaction threat on the asset and evaluate the performance, then a quantitative analysis of the liquefaction potential is required followed by structural response and damage analysis, and performance evaluation. For the Mitigation Analysis, the end-user can develop a customized mitigation framework based on the outcome of the risk analysis.

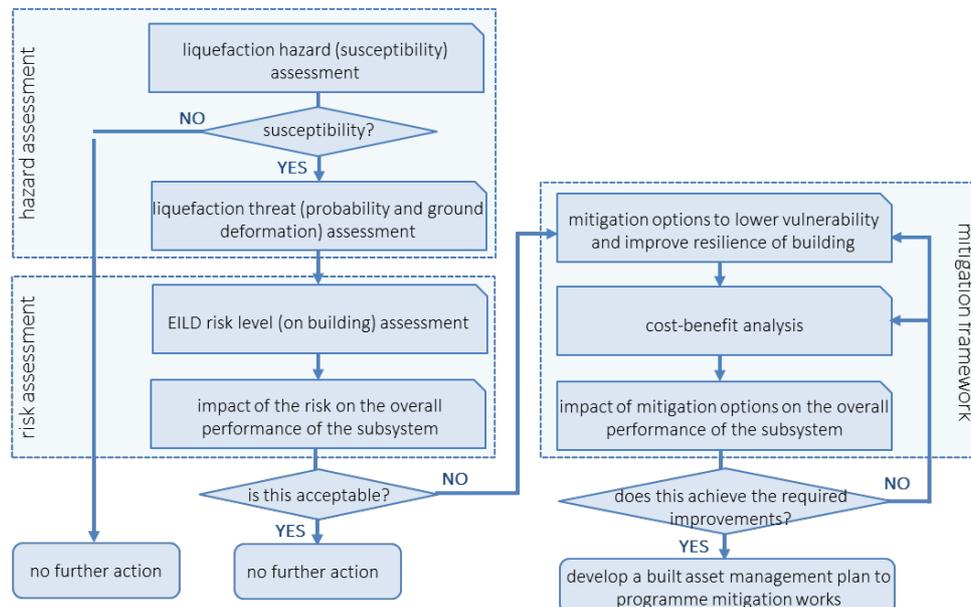


Figure 1. LRG software processing and analysis concept.

Type of Analysis	Data Requirement
hazard analysis – liquefaction susceptibility (qualitative analysis)	liquefaction hazard/susceptibility map
hazard analysis – probability and ground deformation (quantitative analysis)	geological and geotechnical data
EILD risk impact on the asset	structural characteristics-related data and vulnerability models
mitigation and cost-benefit analysis	library of liquefaction mitigation measures and cost-benefit data

Table 1. LRG software concept with respect to the type of analysis and data requirement.

Analysis processes

The LRG software has the following specifications and characteristics:

Stage 1: Assess liquefaction susceptibility

At the stage of the liquefaction susceptibility analysis, the assessment is conducted to identify whether an asset (e.g. individual building/CI asset, portfolio of buildings/distributed infrastructure assets, etc.) is located in a geographical area likely to be affected by an EILD event. The level of hazard is evaluated by considering the probability of an earthquake hazard and the susceptibility of the ground to liquefaction. This process consists in developing a Susceptibility Matrix (Bartolucci and Jones 2016) that relates earthquake characteristic to ground characterization in order to identify the level of hazard of the asset. The level of hazard is classified using qualitative labels ranging from “Very Low” to “Very High” that express the level of likelihood of the ground below the asset to liquefaction for any given earthquake characteristic. This analysis provides asset managers and other stakeholders with an assessment of the range of exposures that their asset(s) is/are likely to be susceptible to.

Stage 2: Evaluation of the level of liquefaction threat to be correlated with the asset response

To assess how the built/infrastructure asset is likely to be affected by an EILD event, liquefaction-induced ground deformation is correlated, by using intensity measure such as spectral acceleration $S_a(T1)$, Liquefaction Severity Number (LSN)...etc., with the asset response. This computation can be implemented using various approaches that were developed and integrated into the LRG software, depending on what type of soil profile data are available (CPT, SPT...etc.).

Stage 3: Impact of the EILD on the built or infrastructure asset

Through identifying the building/infrastructure typology using an integrated classification system (is likely to be a combination of construction and foundation type), and through the combination with the associated pre-defined vulnerability model (ground shaking and liquefaction fragility curves), the potential level of damage and vulnerability to the ground condition scenarios, identified in stage 2, are evaluated. For asset managers and other stakeholders, the result of this analysis of damage and vulnerability will be provided in form of a classification using qualitative labels ranging from “Very Low” to “Very High” (Bartolucci and Jones 2016).

Stage 4: Evaluate performance and functionality of the asset

The overall performance and functionality of the asset is evaluated on a case by case basis using the expert knowledge of the facilities manager and building users to interpret the impact the damage and risk (from Stage 3) will have on functionality and performance. The loss of functionality will be categorized using qualitative labels ranging from “minor non-structural damage” to “major structural damage” with the loss of performance being a further qualitative statement contextualizing the impact of the loss of functionality.

Stage 5: Impact of the EILD on the built or infrastructure asset

Once the level of loss of performance and functionality of individual building/infrastructure assets and the impact on the resilience of a community following an EILD event has been established, end-users will be directed to develop a customized mitigation measure. Based on the outcomes of the hazard-risk analysis (from Stage 1 to 4), a range of mitigation actions are to be identified, and the effect of each on the level of performance of individual buildings/infrastructure assets has to be evaluated. Two types of mitigation actions need to be considered: those that seek to reduce a building/infrastructure asset's vulnerability/increase its resilience; and those that seek to reduce

the hazard level. Mitigation options will be ranked according to their impact on the sub-system level and on their contribution to improving overall community resilience.

Technology in the LRG software development

The LRG software is entirely written in the C++ programming language (Stroustrup 2012) and is developed exploiting object-oriented methodologies and tools, a number of dependences on open-source libraries, and implementation of a wide set of state-of-the-art algorithms. The aim of the various choices undertaken was to ensure the creation of features that would allow end-users a better flexibility and control in terms of selection of assessment / analysis procedure to be implemented, how to view the various results of analyses, type of inputs that can be used/accepted by the software and type of outputs that can be obtained from the software allowing an easy reading and understanding for non-technical user (Figure 2).

The user interface has been developed using C++-based tools such as Qt (Rischplater 2014) which is a cross-platform application framework that is used for developing application software that can be run on various software and hardware platforms with little or no change in the underlying codebase, while still being a native application with native capabilities and speed.

Import of data into the LRG software will be based on tab-separated CSV files or SHAPE files that will be converted to SQLite database files in the project (through a data-base management system). Results can be exported to CSV or SHAPE, and be generated as 2D grids (e.g. ground shaking or liquefaction hazard maps) through a GIS interactive mapping system.

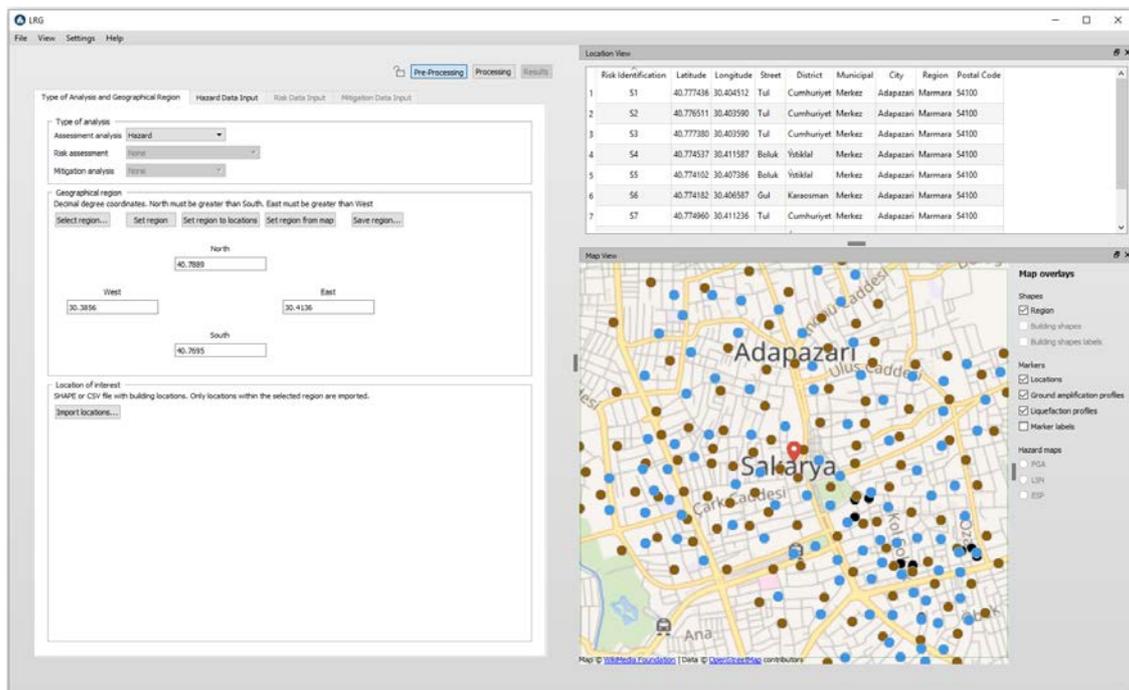


Figure 2. LRG Software - graphical user interface.

The LRG software uses Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology, allowing users to visualize the spatial relationships between various geographic assets or resources for the specific hazard being modeled, a crucial function in the planning process. Open Street Map (Bennet 2010) has been embedded in the Qt for the LRG map module, providing the following features:

- view individual buildings;
- view street names and other labels;
- allowing the overlay of input data (e.g. data on buildings, liquefaction profiles and ground shaking maps) on the LRG map;
- hide/show overlays of various types;
- obtain a street address from a location (latitude, longitude);
- obtain a location (latitude, longitude) from a street address;
- click on markers (building, liquefaction profile);
- zoom in and out, and translate the map;

- specify geographical region; and many more features...

Algorithms for liquefaction risk assessment and mitigation planning

The LRG software computes and analyses earthquake-induced liquefaction damage, the performance and impact for a specific affected property portfolio. The program can use seismic hazard maps (e.g. PSHA based for given return periods) or scenarios as earth-quake load inputs, and liquefaction hazard map. The Software consists of three protocols: Liquefaction Hazard Analysis Protocol, Risk Analysis Protocol, and Mitigation Analysis Protocol. Each protocol consists of an Input and a Results Module.

Protocol for liquefaction hazard analysis

The development of the Liquefaction Hazard Analysis Protocol in the LRG software has been conducted by the design and incorporation of: Sub-Protocol with modules for the evaluation of Liquefaction Potential (i.e. susceptibility and probability of liquefaction); and Sub-Protocol with modules for the evaluation of Liquefaction Demand.

The evaluation of potential liquefaction is a two-step process that involves: (a) the evaluation of liquefaction susceptibility of the soil at a specific location; (b) the evaluation of liquefaction probability for a given level of amplitude and duration of ground shaking (Lai *et al.* 2017).

Liquefaction demand expresses the liquefaction-induced ground deformation beneath an asset (individual building/CI asset, portfolio of buildings/distributed infrastructure as-sets, etc.). In the LRG software, the sub-protocol for liquefaction demand analysis is implemented by incorporating methodologies and the required parameters that allow the computation of ground deformation in terms of intensity measure such as $S_a(T_1)$, LSN, as well as in terms of modes of permanent ground displacement (Figure 3).

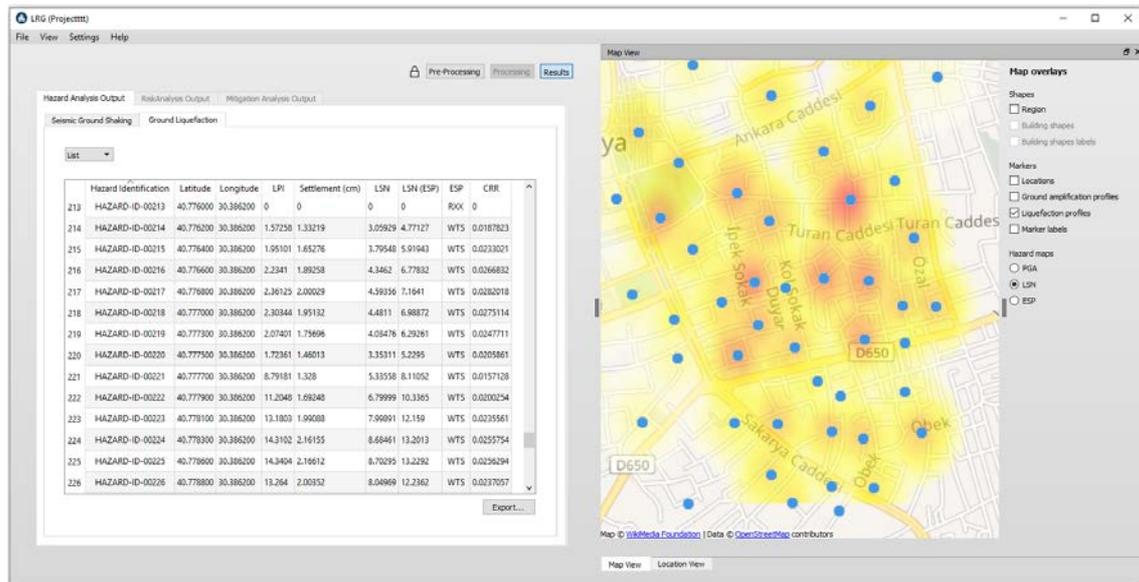


Figure 3. Liquefaction hazard assessment.

Protocol for risk analysis

The development of the Liquefaction Risk Analysis Protocol in the LRG software has been conducted by the design and incorporation of the followings:

- Sub-Protocol with modules for building response analysis to a defined liquefaction demand ($S_a(T_1)$, LSN, mode of liquefaction ground deformation, etc.), and evaluation of the various mechanisms of structural deformation;
- Sub-Protocol with modules for the ground shaking and liquefaction vulnerability models, and evaluation of structure performance to a defined liquefaction demand.

The Sub-Protocol for structure response to a defined liquefaction ground deformation is a two-step process that involves: (a) definition of structure-foundation system; (b) prediction of structural deformation mechanisms/response. The Sub-Protocol for asset damage and performance

evaluation is a two-step process that involves: (a) incorporation of fragility model for the defined asset class; and (b) methodologies for the evaluation of damage and the overall performance of the asset (Viana da Fonseca *et al.* 2017). Figure 4 illustrates the general steps of one of the procedures that are being integrated in the LRG soft-ware for liquefaction risk analysis. The procedure consists of 3 main steps (Viana da Fonseca *et al.* 2018): Step 1: is about generating an equivalent soil profile that will be used for the evaluation of liquefaction risk; step 2 uses of liquefaction soil profile criteria to identify the characteristics of the equivalent soil profile considering parameters of soil strength, thickness of liquefiable layer, depth of the liquefiable layer from the surface (Figure 5); step 3 combines the selected building/infrastructure in terms of its typology/class with the determined equivalent soil profile class to select the associated fragility curves for the computation of physical impact and the expected losses (Figure 6).

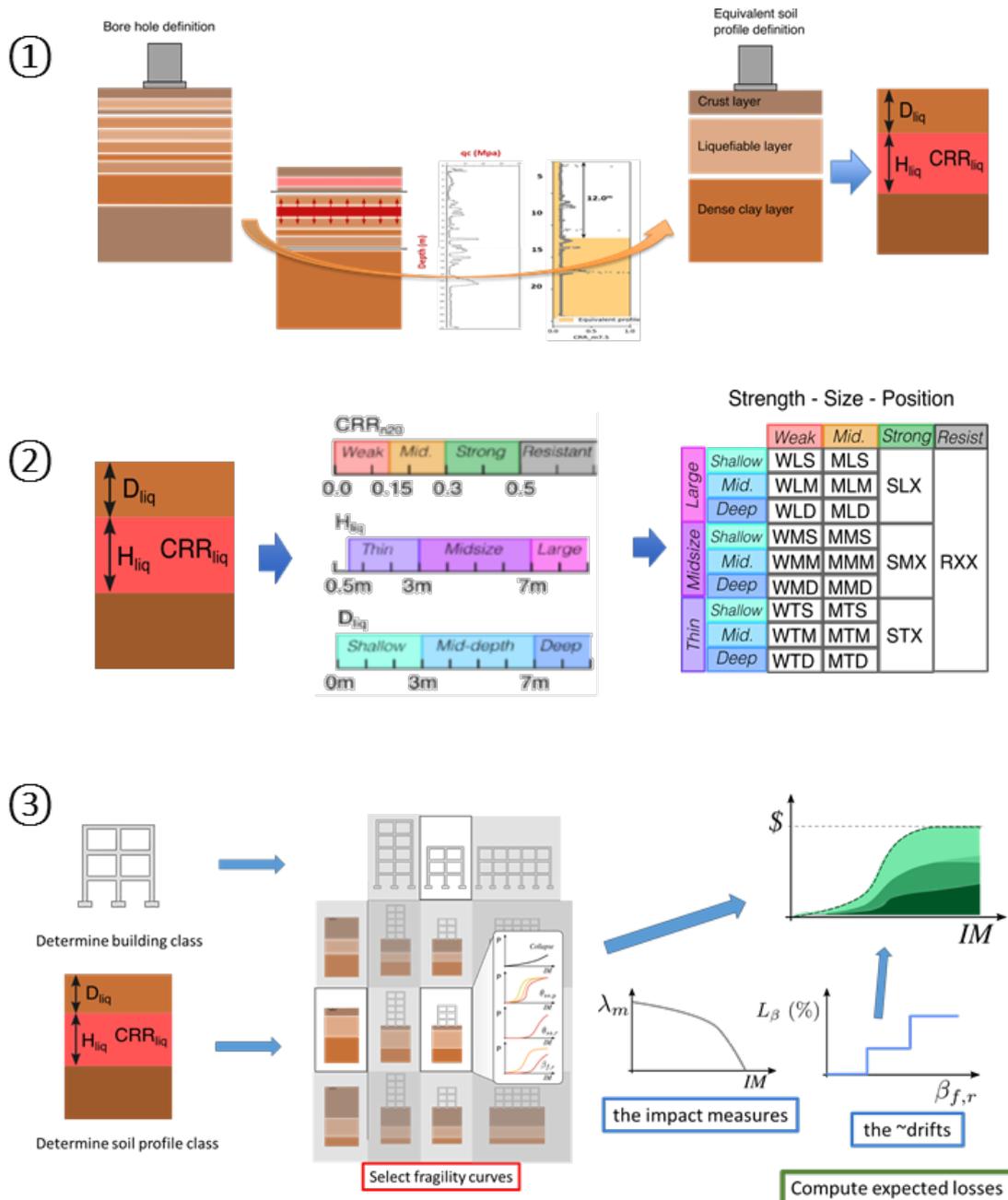


Figure 4. process of risk analysis implemented in the LRG software (Viana da Fonseca *et al.* 2018).

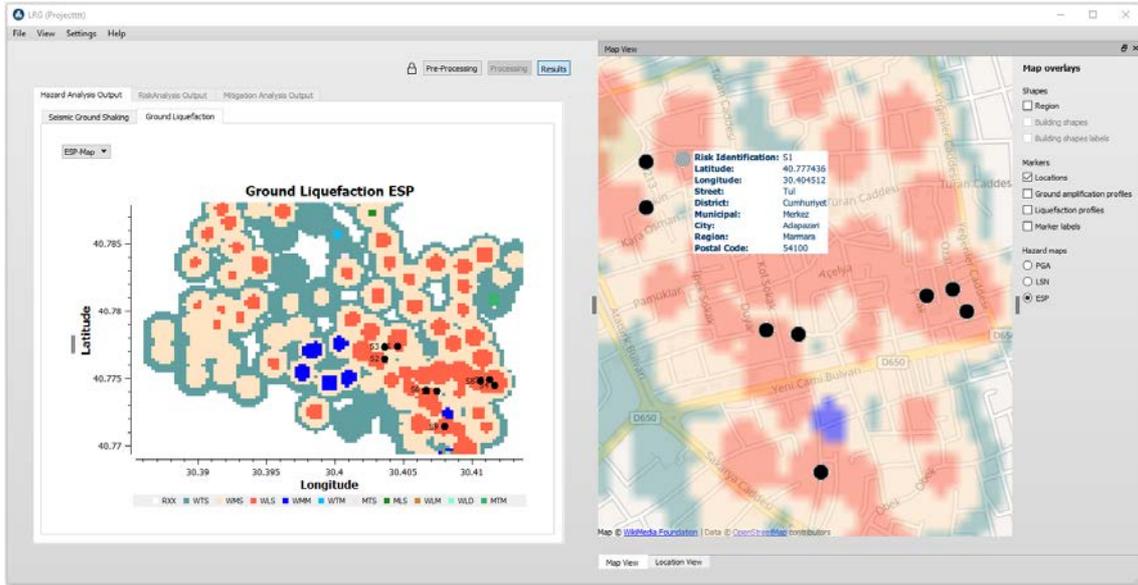


Figure 5. Generating Equivalent Soil Profile map.

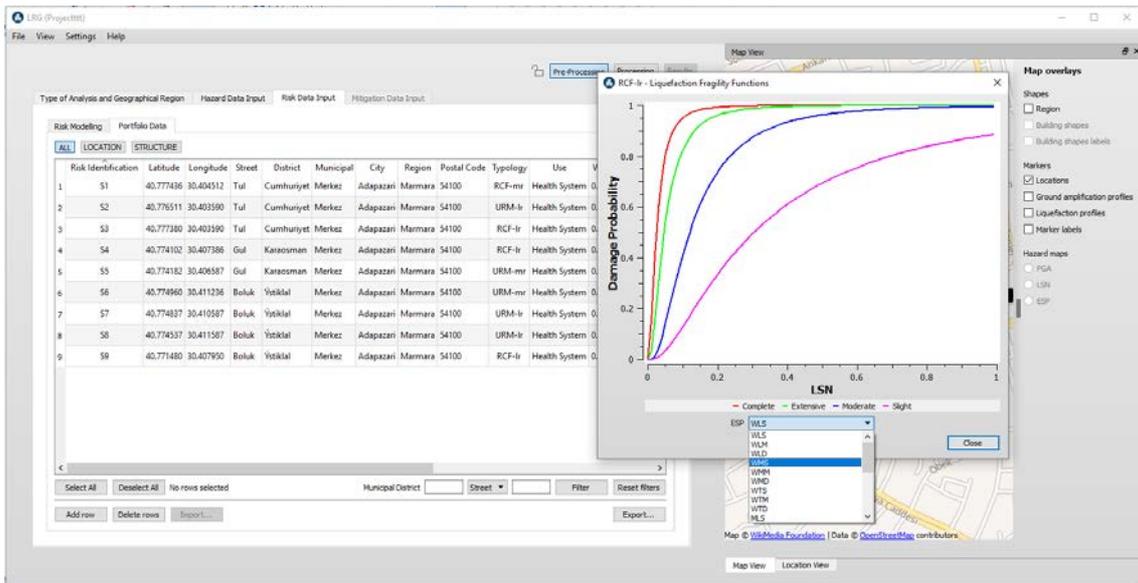


Figure 5. Combining the selected building/infrastructure in terms of its typology/class with the determined equivalent soil profile class to select the associated fragility curves for the computation of physical impact and the expected losses.

Protocol for mitigation measure selection

In the LRG software, the protocol for mitigation analysis is designed to include: a process for selecting an appropriate mitigation measure considering the actual in-site condition, and a process for cost-benefit analysis and socio-economic impact.

Liquefaction mitigation measures are categorized into two main groups: (a) measures and techniques applicable in a situation of an existing structure/infrastructures; and (b) measures and techniques applicable in a situation of a free-field condition site. The Protocol for Mitigation Analysis will include a module where end users can input site-specific information on the respective area under investigation to determine appropriate mitigation measures and present them to the user in a concise and helpful way.

The protocol for mitigation analysis also incorporates a cost-benefit analysis that is used to approximately estimate the cost of each mitigation technique.

Conclusion

This paper provides a description of the LRG software development process that has been undergoing through various development and improvement. The aim is to come-up with an easy-to use software application toolbox, wherein civil engineers and other relevant stakeholders involved in the design and implementation of a structure or infrastructure is guided to make informed assessments on the feasibility and cost-benefit of applying certain liquefaction mitigation techniques within specific European regions. The LRG soft-ware is designed to be applied for an individual level (individual structure or infrastructure) and for region/city level (i.e. in an urban area, GIS-based outputs) with procedures for calculating socio-economic impacts and proposing risk reduction and resilience improvement strategies. The various parts of the LRG software development presented in this paper are still work in progress which will be updated and amended throughout the duration of the LIQ-UEFACT project.

Acknowledge

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 700748.

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