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► **To cite this version:**

S. Gregersen, P. Wiejacz, W. Dębski, B. Domanski, B. Assinovskaya, et al.. The exceptional earthquakes in kaliningrad district, russia on september 21, 2004. *Physics of the Earth and Planetary Interiors*, 2007, 164 (1-2), pp.63. 10.1016/j.pepi.2007.06.005 . hal-00532118

HAL Id: hal-00532118

<https://hal.science/hal-00532118>

Submitted on 4 Nov 2010

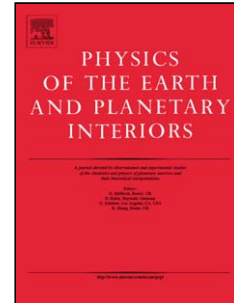
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Accepted Manuscript

Title: The exceptional earthquakes in kaliningrad district,
russia on september 21, 2004

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PII: S0031-9201(07)00124-0
DOI: doi:10.1016/j.pepi.2007.06.005
Reference: PEPI 4840

To appear in: *Physics of the Earth and Planetary Interiors*

Received date: 21-7-2006
Revised date: 25-5-2007
Accepted date: 11-6-2007

Please cite this article as: Gregersen, S., Wiejacz, P., Dębski, W., Domanski, B., Assinovskaya, B., Guterch, B., Mäntyniemi, P., Nikulin, V.G., Pacesa, A., Puura, V., Aronov, A.G., Aronova, T.I., Grünthal, G., Husebye, E.S., Sliapa, S., The exceptional earthquakes in kaliningrad district, russia on september 21, 2004, *Physics of the Earth and Planetary Interiors* (2007), doi:10.1016/j.pepi.2007.06.005

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1 **THE EXCEPTIONAL EARTHQUAKES IN KALININGRAD DISTRICT,**
2 **RUSSIA ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2004**

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23
24
25
26 **Abstract**

27
28 *The earthquakes of magnitudes M_w 5.0 and 5.2 in the Kaliningrad enclave of Russia on September*
29 *21, 2004 were unexpected in a low-seismicity area. The earthquakes caused moderate damage in the*
30 *Kaliningrad enclave, and smaller damage in northern Poland and in southern and western Lithuania.*

1 *The largest earthquake was the strongest ever recorded instrumentally in the region, and it was felt at*
2 *distances up to 800 km. In directions towards the west and south the perceptibility area is abruptly cut*
3 *off by the Tornquist-Teisseyre Zone, the south-west margin of the East European Craton. The*
4 *earthquakes are instrumentally located at depths 16-20 km under the central-northern part of the*
5 *Sambia Peninsula in the Kaliningrad enclave. For these events it is noted that the macroseismic*
6 *calculations of 10-19 km depths are in reasonable agreement.*

7
8 *The source mechanism of the largest earthquake was determined to be a right lateral strike slip on a*
9 *WNW-ESE near-vertical fault of orientation almost parallel to the Tornquist-Teisseyre Zone and to the*
10 *north coast of the Sambia Peninsula. Based on available stress information it is interpreted that the*
11 *underlying cause of the earthquakes is the absolute plate motion. Historical information is scanty. It is*
12 *suggested in an attempt to evaluate past seismic activity in the region, and to evaluate vulnerable*
13 *weakness zones in the geological structures.*

14
15
16 **Key words:** intraplate earthquakes, Kaliningrad, low-seismicity area, intensity maps, macroseismic
17 effects, Baltic area.

20 **Introduction**

21
22 The level of seismicity in the Baltic Sea region is low, with maximum earthquake magnitudes
23 well below 6. Earthquakes that occur in the area have been attributed to ridge push forces originating
24 from the Mid-Atlantic Ridge or to postglacial rebound (e.g., Lundqvist and Lagerbäck, 1976;
25 Lagerbäck, 1979; Gregersen and Basham, 1989; Slunga, 1989; Arvidsson and Kulhánek, 1994;
26 Nikonov, 2002; Uski et al., 2003; Husebye and Mäntyniemi, 2005). Seismic hazard in the area has
27 been considered low. The map of seismic zoning in Russia (OSR-97) showed very low earthquake
28 probability, although studies by Nikonov (2002, 2004) and other Russian authors recognized that
29 earthquakes similar to that in Osmussaar, Estonia in 1976 could also occur in other parts of the
30 eastern Baltic region. Studies by Schenk et al. (2001) and Guterch and Lewandowska-Marciniak

1 (2002) show that the maximum historical intensities range from 3 in northern Poland to 5 in
2 northeastern Poland, based on four earthquake reports in the catalogue of Pagaczewski (1972) within
3 the last 1000 years. Another catalogue of the area (Avotinia et al., 1988; Boborykin et al., 1993) does
4 not show any evidence of seismic activity in the present-day Kaliningrad enclave and Lithuania.
5 However seismologists in Russia, Belarus, Latvia and Ukraine had earlier noted zones of possible
6 earthquakes within the Kaliningrad-Lithuania area (Reisner and Loganson, 1993; Garetsky et al.,
7 1997). Forgotten historical descriptions of some past earthquakes in the broad area of interest have
8 also been recognized after the recent events (Nikonov, 2005a). He remarks that some earthquakes,
9 such as that felt in the town of Torun in 1572, may have destroyed a few houses. One important issue
10 is whether the rarity of earthquake reports between the 14th century and instrumental time indicates a
11 genuine absence of seismic events or rather a lack of reports due to large population migrations in
12 wars.

13 During the instrumental era only a few possible earthquakes have been recorded for the area
14 of interest. Meyer and Kulhánek (1981) investigated a sequence of minor events in the Gulf of Gdańsk
15 in the summer of 1980. The events occurred at a distance of about 50 km from Kaliningrad and were
16 assigned magnitudes between 2.5 and 3.0. No felt observations were made. Meyer and Kulhánek
17 (1981) were not able to conclude whether the sequence was composed of earthquakes or explosions.
18 The above-mentioned Osmussaar, Estonia earthquake of magnitude M_L 4.6, M_S 4.75 in the Gulf of
19 Finland in 1976 (Slunga, 1979; Nikonov, 2002) was regarded as distant from the Kaliningrad area.
20 Thus, the occurrence of the earthquakes on September 21, 2004 was a surprise not only to the local
21 population but to most seismologists as well.

22 The earthquakes on September 21, 2004 occurred in the territory of the Russian Kaliningrad
23 enclave and were felt as far as Norway and Belarus (Gregersen et al., 2005) and also in high-rise
24 buildings in St. Petersburg, Russia (Assinovskaya, 2005). They caused moderate damage in the
25 Kaliningrad district (Nikonov, 2005b; Aptikaev et al., 2005; Nikonov et al., 2005, 2006) and smaller
26 damage in northern Poland and in southern and western Lithuania. The first event occurred at 11:05
27 UTC, the second at 13:32 UTC, and a small aftershock followed the second event four minutes later.
28 There were four felt reports during the following night, but they have not been confirmed
29 instrumentally. The earthquakes were recorded at numerous seismic stations across the world.

1 However, there was no seismograph station in the Kaliningrad enclave, and the closest station was
2 Suwałki (SUW) in Poland 220 km away.

5 **Macroseismic observations**

6
7 The two first and largest Kaliningrad earthquakes on September 21, 2004 were widely felt in the
8 Kaliningrad enclave, northern Poland, and southern and western Lithuania, and felt observations were
9 made in all the countries surrounding the Baltic Sea and also in Belarus and Norway. The collection of
10 macroseismic data was carried out country-wise within the perceptibility area, but intensity
11 assessment was discussed and coordinated in a workshop in Tartu, Estonia in May 2005 (Jöeleht,
12 2005; Gregersen et al., 2005). This work was continued between representatives of Estonia, Latvia,
13 Lithuania and Belarus under Russian leadership. As a result, maps for the two largest events have
14 been compiled and isoseismals 2-6 contoured. The European Macroseismic Scale 1998 (EMS;
15 Grünthal, 1998) was chosen for evaluation of the intensity observations. For this study, it was decided
16 to attribute intensity 2 to observations “only felt by people in buildings higher than the second floor”,
17 i.e. not attribute intensity 3 (“felt indoors by a few”) to observations made in high-rise buildings.

18 Preliminary intensity maps for the near-epicenter area for the two largest earthquakes were
19 published soon after the earthquakes (Nikonov et al., 2005; Aptikaev et al., 2005). Personal contact to
20 sources of information has supplemented questionnaires in many places. Many site reports are
21 supported with photographs. The compilation of several regional maps of intermediate scale has been
22 coordinated across the borders for separate publications. For the present publication two small-scale
23 maps have been compiled with the total cross-boundary data set (Figures 1 and 2). These maps are
24 generalized intensity maps with smoothed and representative isoseismals.

25
26 <FIGURE 1 HERE>

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30 <FIGURE 2 HERE>

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The referred epicentral intensity of the larger earthquake was 6. In Kaliningrad one person died of a heart attack caused by fear, 20 people were seriously wounded by falling objects and about 2100 buildings suffered damages amounting to about \$5,000,000 (Nikonov et al., 2005; Aptikaev et al., 2005). The earthquakes initially caused great anxiety and rumors that the events were human-induced, in particular some people feared an accidental nuclear explosion. These rumors were soon stopped when the felt reports started flowing in from a relatively wide area.

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The earthquakes had some very spectacular effects (Nikonov 2005b; Aptikaev et al., 2005; Nikonov et al., 2006). At a distance of 25 km from the epicenter to the south-east a ground crack occurred of about 20 cm vertical displacement, and 10 cm horizontal displacement. It was observed near Veselovka village along two perpendicular banks and several meters from a small artificial pond. It was seen during the first shock and was enlarged during the second shock. The loose sediments in which this happened were saturated with water. Also a railway line collapsed over a length of 30 meters near Svetlogorsk town 40 minutes after the main shock, making this a delayed effect. This effect is attributed to failure of a nearby river embankment composed of soft sediments and of a railway bank made of mostly sand and clay. Both of the disturbances were surface effects due to local ground conditions. In Lithuania small sinkholes of a few meters size have been found in Sveksna cemetery. For both shocks local sea surface disturbances have been reported (Nikonov, 2005a) on the coasts of the area with intensities 5-6.

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In northern Poland, the larger earthquake caused minor damage to buildings in about 100 localities. In Lithuania there were many reports of intensity 5 (Sliaupa and Pacesa, 2005; Pacesa et al., 2005), and a few dozen reports of cracked walls and broken window panes. Also in Lithuania a few people were frightened and ran out of buildings, and some schools stopped teaching, sending the children home. Further to the north in Latvia, the intensity in isolated points reached 5. There were cracks in walls of several buildings (Nikulina, 2005). In Estonia, the shaking was of intensity 3 or less and no damage was reported (Vall et al., 2005). The larger earthquake at 13:32 UTC was felt as far away as in Norway and Finland, at distances up to 800 km. In Landskrona, southwestern Sweden the shaking was so violent that the town hall was evacuated for several hours. This is seen as an extreme high-building effect in connection with ground conditions.

1 Especially noteworthy in Figure 2 is the large felt area in the East European Craton (north-east
2 of the Tomquist-Teisseyre Zone, TTZ) in agreement with previous macroseismic observations (e.g.
3 Harboe, 1912) and with seismological observations of wave propagation (Gregersen, 1984;
4 Schweitzer, 1995). The second and largest earthquake of magnitude only 5.2 was felt at distances of
5 up to 800 km towards the north-west. Another interesting feature in Figure 2 is that the felt area is cut
6 off towards south-west. The details of this are influenced by the focal mechanism of the earthquake as
7 well as the regional geology. The broad-scale cause of this cut off is shown in Figures 1 and 2 as the
8 Tomquist-Teisseyre Zone, which constitutes the edge of cratonic, Proterozoic Europe towards
9 Paleozoic areas with different, thinner crust in the south-west. Actually the distant observations in
10 Denmark (500-700 km) and in Landskrona in Sweden (500 km) may well show some special edge
11 effect since they are located close to the TTZ at particularly sensitive places due to specific local
12 geological ground conditions. Concerning the Norwegian observations (800 km) of intensities 2-3 the
13 interpretation is that the shaking propagated effectively in the craton and that topography and loose
14 sediments magnified the shaking locally. The macroseismic observations show much similarity to the
15 pattern of the Oslo earthquake in Norway in 1904 (Harboe, 1912): the intensity distribution is much
16 elongated along the geological trend of the edge of the East European Craton marked by the TTZ.
17 The intensity distribution shown in Figure 1 is in many ways similar to that in Figure 2.

18 All three recorded shocks were accompanied by strong sound effects (e.g. Nikonov et al.,
19 2005). Hence the frequency of the ground vibration was very high, probably above 20 Hz. Those high
20 frequencies are not observed at the seismograph stations. They have been attenuated already at the
21 distance of the closest station.

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24 **Instrumental recordings**

25

26 The earthquakes were recorded at numerous seismic stations, also at teleseismic distances. However
27 the nearest station was surprisingly far away, considering the relatively dense distribution of seismic
28 stations in Europe. In the Kaliningrad enclave there was no seismic station at the time of the
29 earthquakes. The nearest station was Suwałki (SUW) in northern Poland some 220 km away. Two
30 other stations were within 300 km distance (Gorka Klasztorna, GKP - at 259 km and Warsaw, WAR –

1 at 299 km), five other stations were within a 400 km radius from the epicenters. Above 400 km
2 distance there is a plenitude of stations. The azimuth distribution of the seismograph stations is also
3 non-uniform, with much more stations to the west than to the east. This azimuthal bias, as well as the
4 inhomogeneous crustal and upper mantle structure of the TTZ located immediately southwest of the
5 source area, have to be accounted for in the study. Therefore the data from one of the seismic
6 stations of Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant (IIGN) in Lithuania, even though only short period single
7 vertical component, proved very valuable. Figure 3 shows a map of the area of interest with the
8 locations of the seismic stations and the TTZ marked schematically.

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10
11 <FIGURE 3 HERE>

12 13 14 **Ground motion**

15
16 The lack of near-epicenter stations causes limitations to the study of ground motions. The proximity of
17 some of the nearest stations (GKP, WAR, BSD) to the border of the TTZ complicates the matter
18 because of different geological structures. The TTZ is known for its special attenuation of earthquake
19 waves (Schweitzer, 1995).

20 The peak ground velocities (PGV) and peak ground acceleration (PGA) at the six nearest
21 seismic stations are given in Table 1. It is interesting that these values – especially the PGA – do not
22 seem to be related directly with distance. The epicentral distance of WAR and BLEU is similar but the
23 difference between the observed PGA values is enormous. The highest values are observed at SUW.
24 These values are extraordinarily high considering the small size of the earthquakes. High values are
25 also observed at BLEU which is located in azimuth nearly opposite that of SUW. The station GKP is
26 located in an azimuth perpendicular to that of SUW and shows low PGA/PGV. It therefore seems like
27 a strong dependence of PGA/PGV on direction. Small values on stations south-west of the TTZ
28 confirm the attenuating property of the TTZ.

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1 <TABLE 1 HERE>

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4 **Source parameters**

5

6 The source parameters were calculated by spectral analysis of 28 seismic station records within 600
7 km from the epicenter. The parameters were calculated on the basis of Pg and Sg/Lg wave pulses.

8 The signals contain an unusually strong component of high frequencies. No damping correction has
9 been used, since the spectra became unstable. Unfortunately SUW, the closest station to the
10 epicenter, exhibits an irregular spectrum and gives an exceptionally high seismic moment value.

11 Therefore SUW was removed from further consideration on source parameters.

12 The spectral parameters have been calculated using the method of Snoke (1987), i.e.
13 approximating the spectra by the pulse model of Brune (1970). Irregular spectra that did not resemble
14 the Brune spectra have been rejected. The source parameters have been calculated as an average of
15 the accepted station data. The source radius was calculated using the coefficient of Madariaga (1976)
16 while the seismic moment and spectral magnitude were calculated using the relations given by
17 Gibowicz and Kijko (1994). The source parameters were calculated for P wave velocity at source 6800
18 m/s, density of medium 2900 kg/m^3 and shear modulus $4.5 \cdot 10^{10} \text{ kg/ms}^2$, which are estimated from the
19 local structure model and the source depth (Grad et al., 1999; 2003). Stress drop, apparent stress and
20 average displacement are based on formulae of Snoke et al. (1983). The results are given in Table 2.

21

22

23 <TABLE 2 HERE>

24

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26 Both of the main Kaliningrad events have unexpectedly small and nearly identical source
27 radius of about 1 km despite the difference in magnitude. The corner frequencies are also almost
28 identical. The difference in size of the two quakes seems to be attributed simply to the difference in
29 stress drop, and hence the average displacement and radiated energy. The stress drops and average
30 displacements for both events are relatively high. In other words we claim that the unexpected high

1 stress drops and displacements make up for the unexpectedly small source radii. The two quakes are
2 on this account unique.

3 4 5 **Locations**

6
7 Quick epicenter locations of the earthquakes have been readily provided by services of seismological
8 datacenters such as the National Earthquake Information Center (NEIC) of the U.S. Geological Survey
9 and the European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre (EMSC). However, many of these solutions
10 are preliminary. In this study the nearest six seismic stations, which did not report on-line, were
11 included in the location attempts. Uncertainties in the local geological model and its complexity due to
12 the near border of the East European Platform in the TTZ combined with lack of seismic stations at
13 distances within 100 km have resulted in uncertainties of the locations. Numerical locations are based
14 primarily on the Moho-refracted Pn phases for which travel times vary with azimuth. Different teams of
15 scientists (e.g. Wiejacz, 2004, Nikonov et al., 2006) have obtained different locations of the events,
16 depending on velocity models, type of location algorithm, selection of data and assignment of weights
17 to the data. Final locations for the two earthquakes have been calculated as averages of the
18 instrumental solutions excluding the preliminary locations and the Harvard location that points to the
19 moment tensor centroid rather than to the beginning of the rupture. 9 location results go into the mean.
20 The standard errors of these solutions are less than 10 km. A list of the locations along with their
21 average is given in Table 3. Unfortunately most of the instrumental locations are obtained for a fixed
22 depth of 10 km, so it makes no sense to extract the mean estimate for depth.

23 Another possible approach is the probabilistic location method used by Wiejacz and Debski
24 (2005) as well as by Wiejacz (2006). The probabilistic solution is the most probable solution from
25 among a whole range of velocity models, taking into account possible grave errors of phase picks at
26 individual stations. The probabilistic location results are also shown in Table 3. The results of the
27 probabilistic locations and the instrumental averages are similar. For the larger, second earthquake
28 the origin times are equal while latitude and longitude are within error ranges of both methods. For the
29 first event the locations differ slightly, by about 5 km in longitude. The difference is most likely a result
30 of the earthquake being smaller, i.e. slightly fewer seismic stations have recorded it and phase picks

1 at those that did are not as accurate as for the second earthquake. The probabilistic locations give
2 interesting insight concerning the depths of the events, which were found to be 16 and 20 km.
3 Although these results are burdened with high maximum errors, they confirm the macroseismic
4 perception of the quakes over a large area and macroseismic depth estimation of 10-19 km (Nikonov,
5 2006).

6 Thus the results of the probabilistic location confirm the mean instrumental locations of the first
7 quake at 54.908N, 20.029E and of the second quake at 54.849N, 20.088E. The standard errors of
8 these locations are 4 km for the first event and 3 km for the second event, which must be considered
9 good in view of the fairly large distances to the seismic stations and the source size comparable to the
10 accuracy. The nine instrumental locations, their means and the probabilistic locations are shown on
11 maps in Figures 4 and 5.

12 The Geophysical Survey of the Russian Academy of Sciences (GSRAS) has additionally
13 calculated the instrumental location of the greatest aftershock that has taken place on 13:36:33.8 UTC
14 - at 54.87N, 19.99E, with a depth of 0.5 km +/- 3 km. The location of this event by the probabilistic
15 method is impossible due to an insufficient amount of data.

16
17
18 <TABLE 3 HERE>

19
20 <FIGURES 4 and 5 HERE>

21 22 **Magnitudes**

23
24 Magnitudes determined by different seismological agencies vary. EMSC determined $m_b=4.4$
25 and $m_b=5.0$ for the two events while NEIC gave the values $m_b=4.8$ and $m_b=4.9$. Harvard moment
26 magnitude for the second event is $M_w=4.7$. GSRAS obtained the values $M_s=4.1$ for the first shock,
27 $M_s=4.3$ for the second shock and $M_s=3.0$ for the third shock, and $M_w=4.8$ for the second shock. M_w
28 obtained from spectral analysis in this study are 5.0 and 5.2 (Table 2 after rounding).

29 Single station local magnitudes M_L can be calculated from Sg/Lg wave amplitude on
30 simulated Wood-Anderson display using the Seismic Handler program (Stammler, 1993). It must be

1 regionally corrected depending on period, by 0.2 to 0.4 units down, following Bormann et al. (2002)
2 and Wahlstrom and Strauch (1984). These M_L values range between 4.7 and 5.1 for the first event
3 and from 4.9 to 5.4 for the second, with the exception of station SUW where the values are especially
4 high at 5.3 and 5.9 respectively. Except for SUW, the individual station magnitudes in Poland are by
5 0.1 – 0.2 magnitude units higher than those reported by datacenters and this result is confirmed by the
6 value from VSU in Estonia. Husebye and Mantyniemi (2005) quote a similar scatter of single-station
7 magnitudes, ranging from 4.3 to 6.0 for the first and from 4.8 to 6.0 for the second earthquake. M_L
8 averaged over all stations within the 600 km applicability limit of the Gutenberg-Richter definition
9 results in 5.0 for the first and 5.2 for the second event.

10 The differences in reported magnitudes are the result of a combination of local conditions in
11 the propagation paths and at the stations and the directional radiation pattern. For the seismological
12 datacenters the averaging among a selection of stations is critical. Most of the stations reporting on-
13 line to the EMSC datacenter were in the southwestern direction where the seismic waves should be
14 systematically weakened by the TTZ along the way (Schweitzer 1995). However both large and weak
15 L_g waves, on which the M_L magnitude is based, were found south west of TTZ (Husebye and
16 Mantyniemi 2005). Also in Norway, which is on the same side of TTZ as the earthquakes,
17 observations show both large and small L_g amplitudes (Husebye and Mantyniemi 2005). In previous
18 investigations by Kennett et al. (1985) and by Kvaerna and Mykkeltveit (1985) it was shown that TTZ
19 north of Poland is only marginally a barrier for the L_g waves, and that the influence is frequency
20 dependent. TTZ is a barrier for the human perception of the shaking as seen in Figures 1 and 2, while
21 the picture is more complicated for the L_g waves on which local magnitude calculations are based.

22 We note that the averaged M_L magnitudes are in accord with the M_w values obtained from
23 spectral analysis, both methods giving magnitudes of the two main Kaliningrad earthquakes on
24 September 21, 2004 of 5.0 and 5.2 respectively.

27 **Focal mechanism**

28
29 The focal mechanism has been routinely calculated by moment tensor inversion at three seismological
30 centers: Harvard University, INGV-Mednet and the Swiss Seismological Service (ETHZ). The Institute

1 of Geophysics, Polish Academy of Sciences (IGF) calculated a fault plane solution (Wiejacz, 2004)
2 similar to earlier calculations for the 1992-1993 Krynica earthquakes (Debski et al., 1997) and later
3 has made a seismic moment tensor inversion using all available waveform data. The method was
4 basically the same as the one used in studying the 1995 Egon, Greece, aftershock sequence
5 (Gibowicz et al., 1999).

6 Despite the methodological differences and the IGF using more data from relatively near
7 stations all the focal mechanisms are similar with dominating strike slip. The source mechanisms of
8 the two events, as determined by IGF differ only in their size, while the angular parameters vary less
9 than 5 degrees – an effect that can easily be attributed to numerical stability. The INGV-Mednet, ETHZ
10 and Harvard University only determined a solution for the largest earthquake. The basic parameters of
11 the solutions are given in Table 4 and the mechanism plots according to Harvard and IGF solutions
12 are shown in Figure 6.

13
14 < TABLE 4 HERE >

15
16
17 < FIGURE 6 HERE >

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20
21 Of the two nodal planes, plane B looks like the better candidate to be the plane of rupture
22 whereas plane A is rather the auxiliary plane. One indication of this is tectonic as plane B is almost
23 parallel to the TTZ. Another indication is the lack of evidence of earthquakes along the direction of
24 plane A, relatively densely populated in comparison to the direction of plane B. A third indication is
25 found in the extremely high S-wave amplitudes southeasterly towards SUW and northwesterly towards
26 BLEU, which could be caused by rupture along a fault in this direction.

27 In contrast to the mechanism type itself and its angular parameters, the IGF moment tensor
28 solution yields somewhat larger seismic moment. The resultant moment magnitude for the second
29 event is 4.9, whereas it is 4.7 for the Harvard, INGV and ETHZ solutions. This difference can be

1 attributed to the same causes as mentioned above in the discussion of magnitudes. Our calculation of
2 the moment magnitude for the first earthquake is 4.5.

3 A source mechanism derivation by non-instrumental data has been made independently by
4 our Russian colleagues. It is reported separately by Nikonov (2005b) and by Nikonov et al. (2005,
5 2006). The data were gathered and analyzed separately for each of the first three shocks. Those
6 investigations have focused on the character of the oscillations, the direction of the rumble, and
7 oscillations in the proximal zone during each of the shocks.

10 **Discussion and conclusion**

11
12 The Kaliningrad earthquakes of September 21, 2004 occurred in an area previously considered
13 aseismic and were so unexpected that at first they were suspected of being human-induced.
14 Seismology provides evidence that the earthquakes were natural. The earthquake sources were
15 located at 16 - 20 km depth, and focal mechanisms of clear strike-slip type rule out blast as the cause
16 of the events.

17 The earthquake sources have been located under the Sambia Peninsula, about 20 km
18 northwest of Kaliningrad city. The calculated instrumental locations are in accord with the
19 macroseismic indications of depth of the events. Variations in the intensities close to the epicenters
20 are interpreted to be caused mainly by differences in local geological structures. The focal
21 mechanisms are right-lateral strike slip – most likely on a fault almost parallel to the TTZ. The
22 instrumental focal mechanisms are in disaccord with the macroseismic source mechanisms
23 determined by Nikonov (2006).

24 Magnitudes of the quakes have been established at 5.0 and 5.2 (M_L and M_W equal). For
25 quakes of this size, the source radii are small – of the order of 1 km. In contrast to the small source
26 size, the average displacements and stress drops are relatively large. The small source size and large
27 stress drop result in the seismic signal having considerable high frequency component, causing
28 serious macroseismic effects at relatively large distances, e.g. in the city of Suwalki, Poland about 200
29 km from the epicenter.

1 After evaluation of all the observations the discussion is still going on concerning the tectonic
2 origin of the events. The Kaliningrad region is far from tectonic plate boundaries and there is no known
3 seismically active fault. The TTZ 200 km south-west of the earthquakes has been a tectonic plate
4 boundary between geological terranes known as Baltica and Avalonia in late Paleozoic times, but it
5 appears to be inactive in the current geological epoch (Gregersen et al., 1995). Northeast of the TTZ,
6 the Baltic area is known for weak seismic activity caused mainly by plate motion and influenced by
7 post-glacial rebound (Gregersen, 2002). At this stage of investigations the Russian macroseismic
8 evaluations (Nikonov 2006) point to local faults along or parallel to the coasts of the Sambia
9 Peninsula. The strike-slip mechanism on the other hand shows release of horizontal compressional
10 stress oriented NNW-SSE and is in agreement with the regional stress field. This is dominated by
11 nearly horizontal NW-SE compression in the major part of the Fennoscandian Shield (Slunga, 1989).
12 Breakout studies in oil exploration wells in the southern part of the Baltic Sea (Polish offshore area)
13 indicate dominance of NNW-SSE orientation of the maximum horizontal compressive stress
14 (Jarosinski, 2005). NW-SE orientation is again identified in west Lithuania (Sliupa and Zakarevicius,
15 2000). Strike slip faulting is not too common in the vast Fennoscandian area. The predominant faulting
16 is thrust-type (Lundqvist and Lagerbäck, 1976; Lagerbäck, 1979). Gregersen and Basham (1989) and
17 Stewart et al. (2000) investigated this and found that post-glacial rebound does not rule out strike slip
18 mechanism. Mixtures of normal, thrust and strike slip faulting have been found in Norway (Hicks,
19 1996), Sweden (Slunga, 1989), Great Britain (Main et al., 1999), Greenland (Gregersen, 1989;
20 Johnston, 1989), and in the Gulf of Finland (Slunga, 1989; Nikonov, 2002) with mechanisms indicating
21 release of compression. A recent example of such strike slip faulting is the Dudley, UK, earthquake on
22 September 22, 2002, of magnitude 4.7 (Baptie et al., 2005). The strike slip motion must be seen as
23 release of regional stress on local faults. The tectonic stresses most likely come from ridge push
24 forces from the Mid-Atlantic Ridge (Gregersen, 2002; Nikonov, 2005a, 2006; Husebye and
25 Mäntyniemi, 2005) and forces inflicted on the Eurasian Plate by the African Plate pushing from the
26 south.

27 The occurrence of the September 2004 earthquakes indicated that the seismic potential of the
28 area may be larger than previously thought. A thorough investigation of historical documents reveals
29 remarks and observations that must be historically studied and analyzed to construct a seismicity
30 record of the region. These studies are difficult because of large population migration through history.

1 One of the most exciting results of this investigation is that concerning the wave propagation
2 from the Kaliningrad earthquakes. The seismic waves, exemplified by the S_g/L_g waves, propagate
3 extremely far in the Fennoscandian Shield, and the macroseismic area shows the same. The TTZ has
4 some attenuating effect on the seismic waves recorded on the seismograph stations. This is seen
5 beyond any doubt in the macroseismic intensity maps. These maps and the corresponding
6 instrumental information on the source parameters open a fantastic possibility of comparison with
7 older earthquakes in 1759, 1819, 1904 and possibly others in the East European Craton /
8 Fennoscandian Shield.

10 **Acknowledgements**

11
12 We thank the following scientists, technicians and students for their support in the gathering of
13 intensity data, evaluation of felt reports and comments on the manuscript: A. A. Nikonov, F.A.
14 Aptikaev, A.S. Aleshin, V.V. Pogrebchenko, O.Erteleva, O.Heinloo, C.Holmquist, W.Jankowska,
15 A.Kalle, V.V.Karpinsky, U.Kestlane, O.Kulhánek, T.B.Larsen, V.Lokutjevskis, R.Mokrik, A. Murnieks,
16 O.N.Ponomareva, J.Schweitzer, R.R.Seroglazov, K.Talts, T.Vall, A.Veske, P.Voss, R.Wahlström,
17 A.Zych. Discussions on data evaluations with A.A. Nikonov and F.A. Aptikaev have been especially
18 valuable. We also thank the National Earthquake Information Center of U.S. Geological Survey,
19 Harvard University, Swiss Seismological Service and INGV-Mednet for making their findings available.
20 We thank the Estonian Science Foundation for support of the International Tartu Workshop in MAY
21 2005 on the Kaliningrad Earthquakes, Grant no. 5817 to Vaino Puura.

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Figure captions

Figure 1. A generalized intensity map for the M_w 5.0 earthquake at 11:05 UTC on September 21, 2004 in the Kaliningrad enclave. Intensity values are given on the EMS-98 scale. The epicenter is denoted by a star.

Figure 2. A generalized intensity map for the M_w 5.2 earthquake at 13:32 UTC on September 21, 2004 in the Kaliningrad enclave. Intensity values are given on the EMS-98 scale. The epicenter is denoted by a star.

Figure 3. Kaliningrad enclave and adjacent areas. The yellow star denotes the epicenters of the two largest events that overlap. Seismograph stations providing waveform data are shown as red triangles, other stations as white triangles. The IIGN station is actually a small network of four stations. The Tornquist-Teisseyre Zone (TTZ) with the East and West European Platforms and the Carpathian orogen are also outlined.

Figure 4. Instrumental locations of the 11:05 UTC Kaliningrad earthquake according to agencies/scientific teams in Table 3.

Figure 5. Instrumental locations of the 13:32 UTC Kaliningrad earthquake according to agencies/scientific teams in Table 3.

1 Figure 6. Source mechanism diagrams according to the Harvard University (HRV) and Institute of
 2 Geophysics, Polish Academy of Sciences (IGF) moment tensor solutions of the second, bigger
 3 Kaliningrad earthquake of September 21, 2004.

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 8 **Tables and table captions**

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	Distance (km)	Azimuth (deg)	Event 1		Event 2	
			PGV mm/s	PGA mm/s ²	PGV mm/s	PGA mm/s ²
SUW	220	114.6	2.0	47.1	4.9	93.1
GKP	259	227.7	0.2	3.2	0.4	5.1
WAR	299	168.1	0.2	2.6	0.4	4.9
BLEU	313	302.2	0.8	34.5	2.4	62.2
GOTU	326	343.6	0.6	13.7	1.5	32.2
BSD	332	276.7	0.2	3.2	0.3	7.4

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 13 Table 1. Peak ground velocities (PGV) and peak ground accelerations (PGA) observed at the six
 14 seismograph stations nearest to the epicenters of the September 21, 2004 Kaliningrad earthquakes.

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	Event 1	Event 2
Seismic Moment	$5.0 \cdot 10^{16}$ N·m	$7.2 \cdot 10^{16}$ N·m
Magnitude M_w	5.04 ± 0.15	5.22 ± 0.15
P wave corner freq (Hz)	1.3 ± 0.4	1.3 ± 0.5

S wave corner freq (Hz)	1.1±0.4	1.1±0.5
Source radius (m)	962±360	945±336
Stress drop	24.6 MPa	37.4 MPa
Apparent stress	4.2 MPa	11.9 MPa
Avg. displacement (cm)	38.0	57.1
Seismic energy	4.3·10 ¹² J	2.2·10 ¹³ J

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2 Table 2. Source parameters of the September 21, 2004 Kaliningrad earthquakes.

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ID	Source	Event 1				Event 2			
		Time	Latitude	Longitude	Depth	Time	Latitude	Longitude	Depth
1	IGF	11:05:01.8	55.14N	19.88E	10 km	13:32:33.6	54.79N	20.14E	10 km
	IASP				fix				fix
2	IGF	11:05:04.5	55.00N	20.05E	10 km	13:32:32.5	54.86N	20.13E	10 km
	AK135				fix				fix
3	EMSC	11:05:04.3	54.91N	20.08E	10 km	13:32:30.8	54.89N	20.18E	10 km
					fix				fix
4	ORFEUS	11:05:08.7	54.8N	19.7E	10 km	13:32:29.2	54.8N	19.9E	10 km
					fix				fix
5	NEIC	11:05:03.2	54.858N	19.980E	4.1 km	13:32:30.8	54.841N	19.912E	10.0 km
6	ASS	11:05:04.6	54.85N	20.04E	6.6 km	13:32:30.8	54.88N	20.05E	8.4 km
7	GSRAS	11:05:05.0	54.84N	20.13E	21 km	13:32:31.3	54.84N	20.17E	17 km
8	MOS	11:05:02.0	54.843N	20.024E	10 km	13:32:28.3	54.896N	20.185E	10 km
					fix				fix
9	ISC	11:05:03.0	54.83N	20.04E	10 km	13:32:28.58	54.82N	19.96E	10 km
					fix				fix
0	IGF	11:05:01.6	54.924N	20.120E	16.0 km	13:32:31.0	54.876N	20.120E	20.0 km
	PROB	±1.4	±0.021	±0.050	±9.3	±1.3	±0.021	±0.055	±10.1

*	Mean	11:05:03.6	54.908N	20.029E	n/a	13:32:30.7	54.849N	20.088E	n/a
	instr.	±0.4	±0.036	±0.026		±0.5	±0.016	±0.031	

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3 Table 3. Instrumental location results for the two main Kaliningrad earthquakes of September 21,
 4 2004. IGF is the Polish Institute of Geophysics, using the IASPEI, AK135 models or probabilistic
 5 location, EMSC, ORFEUS and NEIC are self-explanatory, ASS is the Assinovskaya location, GSRAS
 6 is the Geophysical Survey of Russian Academy of Sciences, MOS is Moscow datacenter, ISC is the
 7 International Seismological Centre.

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	IGF f.p.	IGF Event 1	IGF Event 2	Harvard	INGV	ETHZ
Seismic moment 10^{16} Nm	-	0.57	2.13	1.40	1.20	1.38
Nodal plane A strike	211	202.0	204.7	205	211	206
Nodal plane A dip	88	89.2	84.3	78	81	86
Nodal plane B strike	301	111.7	113.4	297	300	294
Nodal plane B dip	82	73.7	77.3	80	81	64

13

14 Table 4. Source mechanism parameters of the Kaliningrad earthquakes resulting from IGF fault plane
 15 (f.p.) solution and moment tensor inversion. Except for IGF Event 1 all data pertain to the second,
 16 larger event. In spite of the apparent differences in the azimuth of nodal plane B all these solutions are
 17 similar, in case of the IGF moment tensor solutions the nodal plane B azimuth is complementary
 18 because of opposite direction of dipping of the nodal plane. Non-shear component of all moment
 19 tensor solutions is below 5%.

20

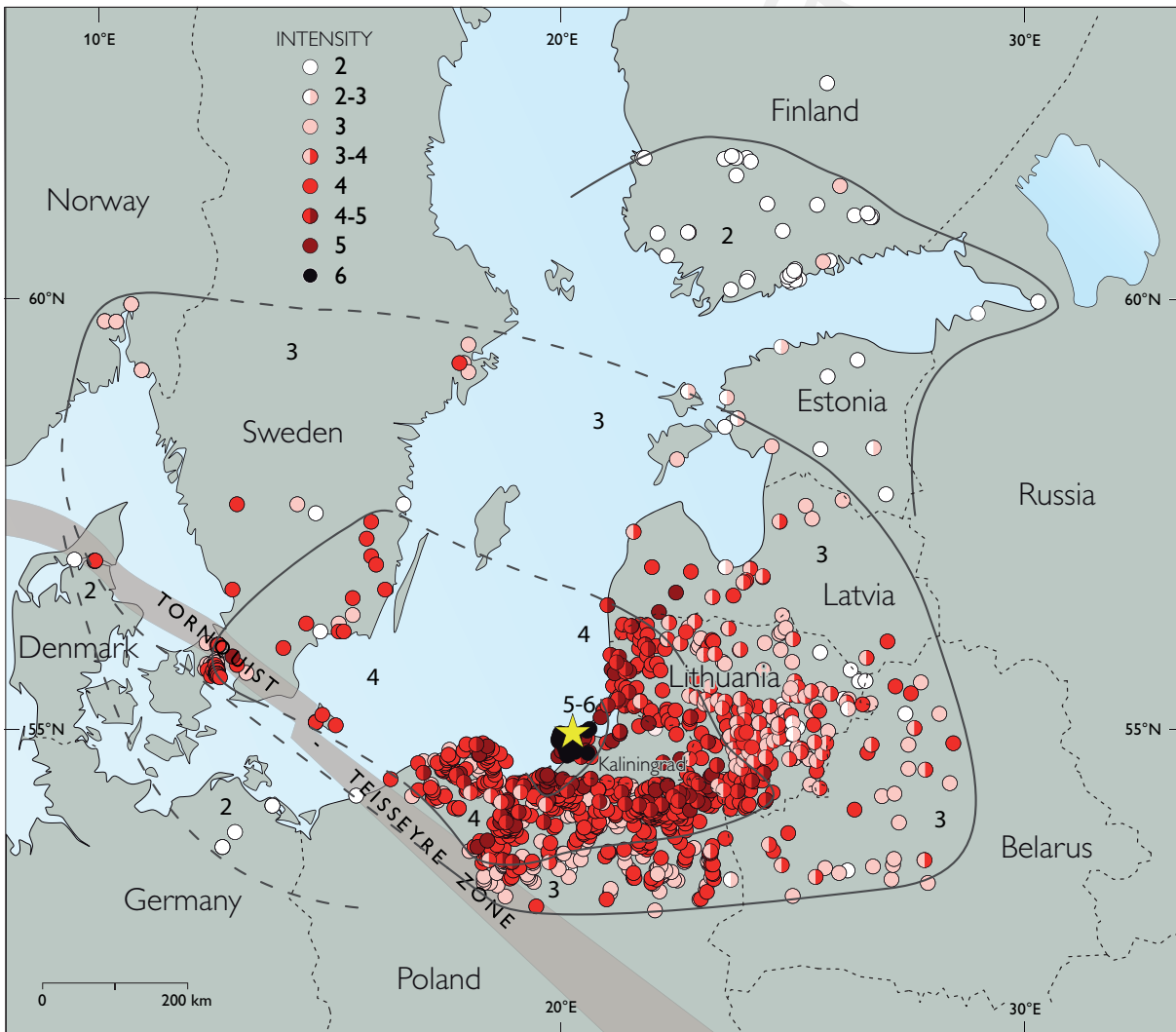
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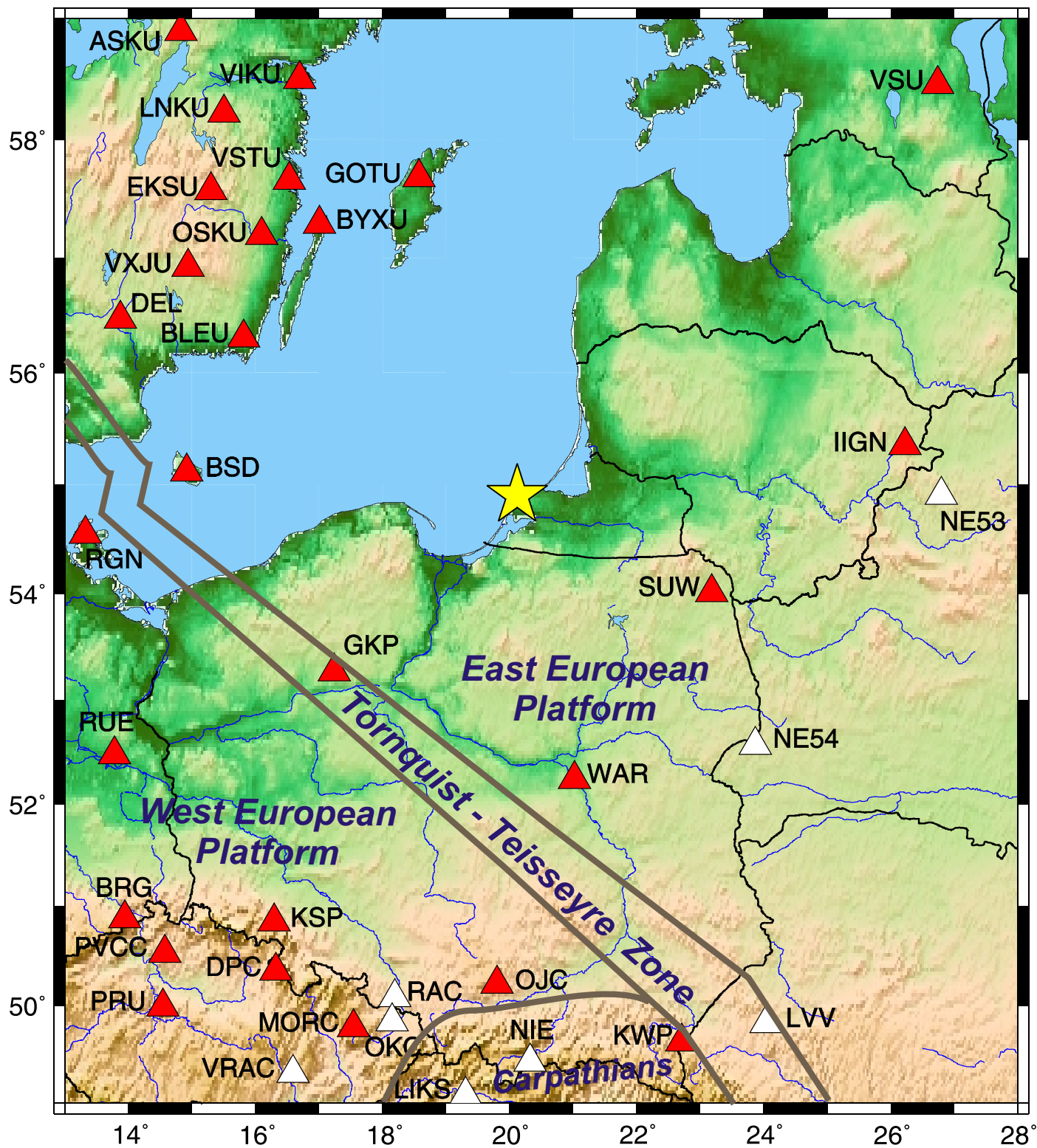
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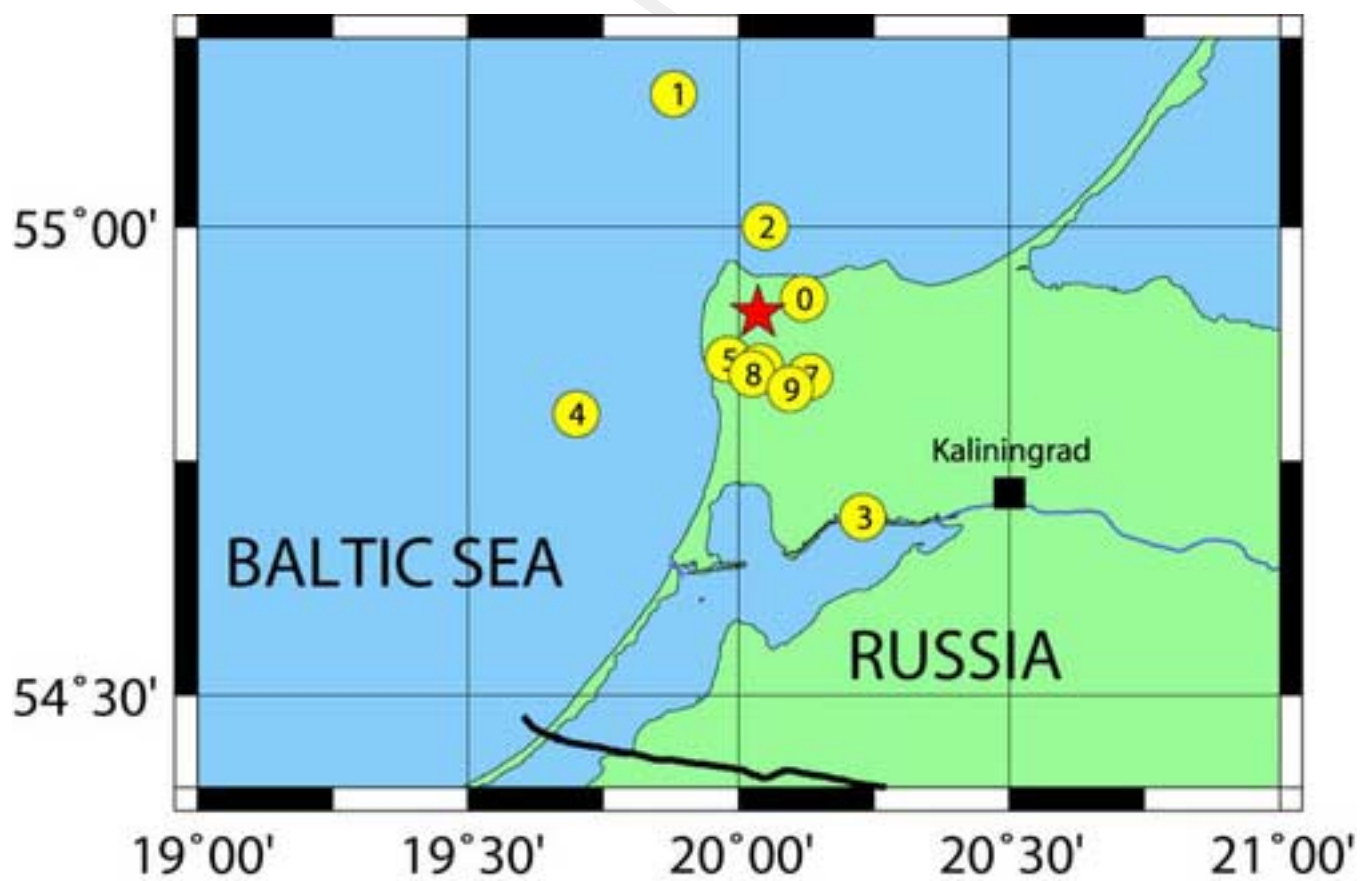
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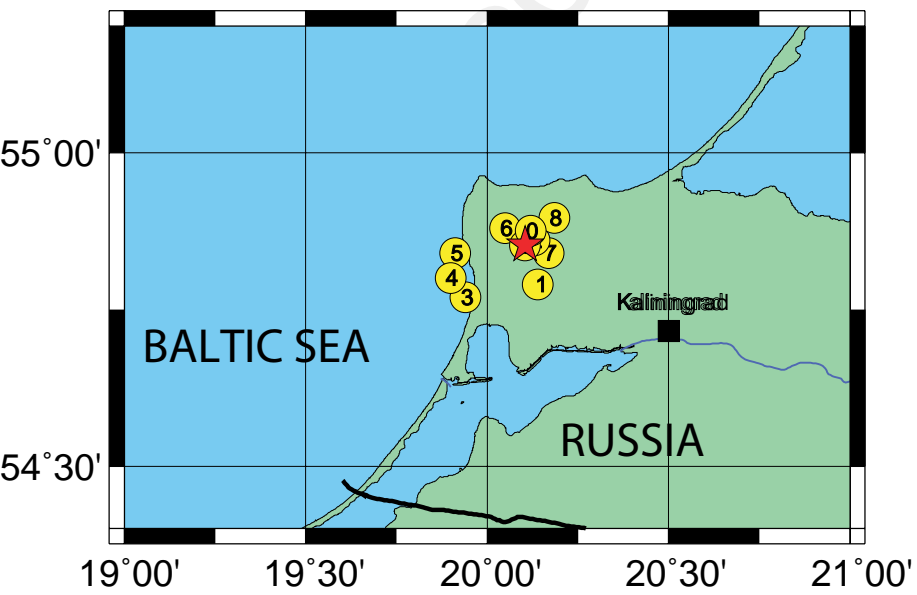


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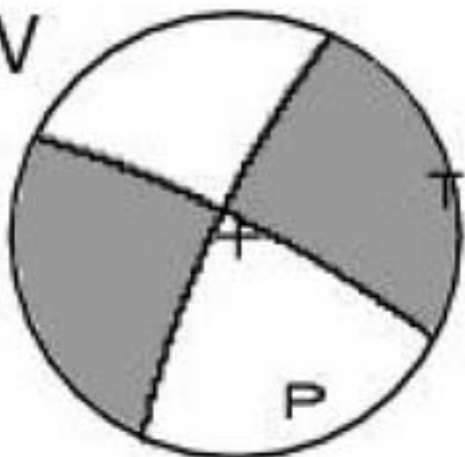






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IGF

