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1 Fault plane modelling of the 2003 August 14 Lefkada Island (Greece) 2 earthquake based on the analysis of ENVISAT SAR interferograms

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- 23
- 24 **Abstract**
- 25

26 On 2003 August 14, a $M_w = 6.2$ earthquake occurred offshore the Lefkada Island in the 27 eastern Ionian Sea, one of the most seismically active areas in Europe. The earthquake caused 28 extended damages in the island, and a number of ground failures, especially along the north-29 western coast. Seven ascending ENVISAT/ASAR images are used to process six co-seismic 30 interferograms. The ROI-PAC package is used for interferogram generation with the SRTM 31 DEM applied in a two-pass method. The formation of the co-seismic pairs is limited due to 32 the existence of one pre-seismic image only. Dense vegetation is covering the island, which is 33 an obstacle in getting good coherence, since C-band images are used. Nevertheless, ground 34 deformation, of more than 56 mm (two fringes) in the line of sight of the satellite, is detected 35 in all six co-seismic interferograms. By inversion of the data from the observed fringes, a best 36 fitting model of the activated fault is calculated assuming a dislocation in an elastic half 37 space. The inferred fault is a pure dextral strike-slip fault, dipping 59 ± 5 ° eastward, 16 ± 2 38 km long and 10 ± 2 km wide. It is located north of the fault of the $M_w = 6.5$ 2015 November 39 17 earthquake, and a 10-15 km gap remains between the two faults. The 2003 fault does not 40 reach the surface and its upper edge is at a depth of 3.5 ± 1 km. No evidence is found of slip 41 south of the Lefkada Island as suggested by some seismological studies.

- 42
- 43 **Keywords:** Earthquake dynamics, Seismicity and tectonics, Radar interferometry, Lefkada
- 44 45

46 **1. Introduction**

47

48 Greece is the country with the highest seismicity in Europe. The main crustal deformations 49 occur along the Hellenic Arc, as a result of the subduction of the African Nubian plate 50 beneath the Aegean plate (Le Pichon and Angelier, 1979; Ganas and Parsons, 2009a; Pérouse 51 et al., 2012). The Central Ionian region (Fig. 1) is one of the most active areas of shallow 52 seismicity in Greece (Benetatos et al., 2007) with an estimated full seismic coupling 53 according to Chousianitis et al. (2015). The Central Ionian Islands, Lefkada, Cephalonia, 54 Zakynthos, are located on the Aegean Plate between the Apulia – Eurasia continental collision 55 to the north and oceanic subduction to the south, with intensive surface deformations due to 56 ENE-WSW shortening (Ganas et al., 2013) with earthquake than can reach or exceed 57 magnitude 7 like in 1953 or 1983 (Papazachos and Papazachou, 1997). The plate boundary in 58 the Central Ionian Sea is defined by a major, right-lateral, strike-slip fault, the Cephalonia 59 Transform Fault (CTF) which is located at the western termination of the Hellenic subduction 60 zone, and is characterised by a bathymetric trough exceeding 3000 m depth. Strike-slip 61 faulting prevails in a large area to the east of the CTF reaching the western boundaries of the 62 Gulf of Corinth (Kiratzi et al., 2008; Ganas et al., 2009b; Serpetsidaki et al., 2014; Briole et 63 al., 2015; Chousianitis et al., 2015).

64

65 In terms of geology, the Ionian Islands are built with sedimentary rocks, mainly carbonates, 66 belonging to the so-called external Hellenides (Jacobshagen 1979; Underhill 1989). In 67 particular, the boundary between the two different geological zones, called Ionian and Paxos, 68 runs through this region and outcrops onshore Lefkada, forming the noteworthy Ionian Thrust 69 which is assumed to be the westernmost limit of External Hellenides chain (Lagios et al., 70 2007). The main part of the Lefkada Island is made of a carbonate sequence of the Ionian 71 zone, while the SW part of the island consists of limestone of Paxos geological zone 72 (Bornovas 1964; Pavlides et al., 2004).

73

74 This tectonic regime predetermines the high seismic activity in the area of Lefkada Island. 75 The island was affected indeed by several significant events in the past (Table 1). The two 76 most recent strong earthquakes are the $M_w = 6.2$ 2003 August 14 earthquake analyzed in this 77 paper and the recent Mw = 6.5 2015 November 17 earthquake (Ganas et al., 2016; 78 Chousianitis et al., 2016, Sokos et al., 2016). Both earthquakes occurred offshore the western 79 coast of Lefkada Island, causing severe damages around the whole island.

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82 **2. Seismicity in the area and Lefkada fault location**

84 According to the historical documentation of the last centuries several strong earthquakes 85 occurred since the $17th$ century in the area of Lefkada Island. During the instrumental era five 86 events with magnitude higher than 6 were recorded: one in 1914, two in 1948 (Fig. 2, Table 87 1), the 2003 event studied here, and the recent earthquake of 2015.

88

89 Taking into account 23 microseismic events recorded with portable seismographs by Hatzfeld 90 et al. (1995) during a 7-week experiment in the summer of 1989, available macroseismic data, 91 as well as the bathymetry change to a NNE direction northern of Cephalonia Island, Louvari 92 et al. (1999) identify an active seismic segment of the CTF offshore west of the coast of 93 Lefkada. The authors suggest that this northern segment strikes in a NNE-SSW direction, dips 94 to ESE, has strike-slip motion combined with a small thrust component (Table 2), and has a 95 length of ~40 km starting from the northern part of the Cephalonia Island. They interpret the 96 thrust component of the M = 5.8 1973 November 4 earthquake (Baker et al., 1997) as an 97 indication of the junction of the Albanian thrust belt with the Lefkada segment at the northern 98 end of the CTF. Pavlides et al. (2004) assumes a division of Lefkada segment into two smaller 99 segments separated by Sesoula Islet, west of Lefkada, striking at different directions, NNE-

100 SSW and NE-SW respectively for northern and southern sub-segment and behaving 101 independently.

102 103

105

104 **3. The 2003 August 14 earthquake**

106 On 2003 August 14 at 05:15 GMT a $M_w = 6.2$ earthquake occurred offshore the western coast 107 of Lefkada Island causing considerable damages (Fig. 3) in several settlements, all harbours 108 and the road network, as well as landslides, rock falls, soil liquefaction, subsidence, ground 109 cracks, especially along the north-western part of the island (Katopodi and Iosifidou, 2004; 110 Papathanassiou et al., 2005; Pavlides et al., 2004).

111

112 A maximum intensity of VIII in the town of Lefkada was observed, while elsewhere in the 113 island the intensity ranged from V to VII (Papadopoulos et al., 2003; Papathanassiou et al., 114 2005). The character and location of the damages are similar to those related to the previous 115 strong earthquakes of similar magnitude in the area. Compared to the past events, the intensity 116 decreased from X-XI, possibly due to the strict construction rules established after the last 117 destructive earthquake of 1948. Nevertheless, ~120 houses were destroyed almost half of the 118 buildings of the island were damaged in different degree (Pavlides et al., 2004).

119

120 Up to 2003 August 31 more than 470 aftershocks $(M > 1.5)$, concentrated in two clusters, 121 were recorded by the Patras Seismological Laboratory (Fig. 4), the strongest of which $(M_s =$ 122 5.25) occurred eleven hours after the main shock. Papadopoulos et al. (2003), Karakostas et 123 al. (2004) and Papadimitriou et al. (2006) consider the southern cluster, located close to the 124 north-western coast of Cephalonia Island, rather representing a triggered seismicity on the 125 Cephalonia segment, due to stress increase from the main shock, than typical aftershock 126 activity, and it has to be noted that the same area was also activated after the 2014 Cephalonia 127 sequence. On the contrary, Benetatos et al. (2005; 2007), Zahradník et al. (2005), Saltogianni 128 and Stiros (2015), Sokos et al. (2016) suggest a complicated fault geometry of Lefkada 129 segment, with two main sub-events and segmentation of the rupture in a double cluster. 130 According to this latter group of authors, the multiple source character of the main shock is 131 represented by two main sub-events along a N12 \degree E to N20 \degree E (depending on the authors) line 132 that ruptured Lefkada segment from north to south (Table 2, Fig. 4). The two sub-events are 133 separated in time and space at 14 s and ~40 km, respectively, have strike-slip focal 134 mechanisms and induced concentration of aftershocks in two clusters with mainly strike-slip 135 character along the NE-SW trending fault segment (Fig. 4). Thrust and reverse faulting 136 mechanisms also detected, mostly in the north and mainland parts of the island, indicate 137 possible activation of faults in adjacent areas, as the Ionian thrust zone.

138

139 The present investigation is concentrated on the deformations in the area of the main shock 140 (or first sub-event) and the following sequence of aftershocks on the Lefkada Island (Fig. 4).

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143 **4. InSAR processing and analysis** 144

145 In the catalogue of the European Space Agency (ESA), for the period between January 2003 146 and January 2008, we found 13 ascending and 20 descending ENVISAT/ASAR (C-band) 147 passes from track 458 and track 322 respectively, over the area of interest (Fig. 5). In both 148 cases of satellite viewing, only one of these scenes is pre-seismic: 2003 March 21 for the 149 ascending and 2003 June 25 for descending (Table 5). This limits the generation of co-seismic 150 pairs with only one master image.

151

152 In spite of this limitation, the choice of the scenes used in our investigation is made in such a 153 way that the image pairs formed have perpendicular baselines less than 200 m with respect to 154 the pre-seismic image. This requirement is valid for six ascending images, which form 6 155 ascending co-seismic and 15 ascending post-seismic interferometric pairs (Fig. 6, Table 4 and 156 Table 5), and 8 descending scenes, forming 8 co-seismic and 23 post-seismic interferograms 157 (Table 4 and Table 5).

158

159 Standard processing flow of differential (2-pass) method was followed to generate the 160 interferograms, using the Jet Propulsion Laboratory/California Institute of Technology open 161 source package ROI_PAC 3.0 (Rosen et al., 2004). The raw images (level 0) were provided 162 by ESA as well as the Doris precise orbit files, used for removing the orbital effects. To 163 eliminate the topographic effect, a simulated interferogram is generated from the SRTM 164 digital elevation model (DEM) version 4 (Jarvis et al., 2008). This DEM has 90 m resolution 165 and a nominal vertical error of less than 16 m. Nevertheless, thorough studies conducted by 166 Mouratidis et al. (2010) indicate that the actual absolute and relative errors (standard 167 deviation) are well bellow 10 m. Multilooking (4 looks in range and 20 looks in azimuth) was 168 applied to minimize the loss of coherence and reduce the speckle noise in the produced 169 interferogram.

170

171 With this operation, the original pixel size of 7.8 m in range and 4.6 m in azimuth was 172 averaged to 31.2 m and 91.4 m respectively. The Goldstein-Werner filter (Goldstein and 173 Werner, 1998), optional in ROI PAC package, was applied in the final stage of processing to 174 improve the quality of the interferogram. The results are geo-referenced to the coordinate 175 system of the used DEM (GCS/WGS84). Tacking into account the nominal accuracy of the 176 DEM (h_{DEM} = 16 m) and the altitude of ambiguity (h_a) for each interferogram, the maximum 177 expected error due to the topography is calculated (Table 4).

178

179 A main problem in our interferogram processing is the fact that the ENVISAT/ASAR images 180 are C-band, so the presence of vegetation has a strong influence on the coherence. The whole 181 island is indeed dense vegetated mainly with olive groves and pine forests, especially to the 182 east and south. This is probably the reason for coherence loss in all produced interferograms 183 (see the Appendixes). To illustrate better the regions where the received signal is more 184 reliable, a map of coherence is produced (Fig. 7) on a basis of all processed ascending 185 interferograms. The value of the coherence for every pixel from the map is calculated first as 186 a mean between the values of its neighbouring in the respective image and second the results 187 of the corresponding pixels from all interferogram are averaged. In this way the reoccurrence 188 in time and space of stable backscattered signal for each pixel is characterized. The areas with 189 better scattering capabilities on the produced map correspond to the not overgrown Stavrota 190 mountain (in the centre of the island), Kalavros to the north, big settlements like town of 191 Lefkada and Preveza, and plain areas around Voulkaria Lake in mainland north-eastern from 192 the island.

193

194 Examining the ascending data set, the interferogram which comprises the shortest time span

195 (174 days) and has only 35 m perpendicular baseline, namely 21.03.2003-12.09.2003

196 (interferogram No 1 – *ifg*1 in Table 4), is expected to have the best quality. Lagios et al.

197 (2007) analyse exactly this interferometric pair and describe 1 fringe in the northernmost part 198 of the island and 2 fringes in the western part. However, in the current investigation a wider

199 set of data is studied and it is found that the interferogram *ifg*5 (21.03.2003-5.11.2004), which 200 covers a longer period (592 days) and has a larger perpendicular baseline (88 m), shows much 201 better quality (Fig. 9 left) than the interferogram *ifg*1 (APPENDIX A). The fringes of the 202 21.03.2003-5.11.2004 pair are more sharpened, while the interferogram pattern of pair *ifg*1 is 203 strongly deformed. A possible explanation about this difference could be the lower percentage 204 of humidity and cloudiness during the acquisition of the slave image in the pair *ifg*5 (Table 5), 205 than the same weather characteristics in the day of the slave image of pair *ifg*1. Although, the 206 local disturbances and the local temporal differences in humidity level have more important 207 role in the phase de-correlation, even the homogeneous change in the atmosphere (pressure, 208 humidity, and temperature) can be revealed by a contrasted relief, which modulates the 209 thickness of the troposphere that the signal must cross (Massonnet and Feigl, 1998) since the 210 topography induces tropospheric delays. In the case of Lefkada Island the elevation varies 211 from sea level to 1160 m in the central part of the island, which is roughly the place where the 212 strongest distortions occur. From the data of this study and other recent data over Lefkada 213 Island, we estimate that tropospheric disturbances could be of \sim 1 C band fringe (28 mm of 214 delay) over the island.

215

216 No post-seismic deformation is observed in our interferograms (APPENDIX B) but we cannot 217 exclude the presence of a small amount of such deformation as it has been observed elsewhere

218 for strike-slip events of similar magnitude (e.g. Bürgmann et al., 1997).

219

220 The ascending co-seismic interferogram with the best quality (*ifg*5), covering the time period 221 between 2003 March 21 and 2004 November 5 (Fig. 9 left), shows at least 2 fringes in the 222 western part of the island. Since one fringe is equal to half the wavelength, which for 223 ENVISAT C-band is 28 mm, then these two fringes are equal to 56 mm of deformation of the 224 crust in the satellite line of sight (LoS). A verification in Table 4 shows that a very small part 225 of detected fringes could be attributed to errors due to the topography -4 mm, which is only 226 $1/7$ of the fringe.

227

228 In the case of descending co-seismic set of data, the deformations after the occurrence of the 229 strong earthquake are detected with significantly lower quality, mainly because of the look 230 direction of the satellite towards the highest mountains, so that the deformation pattern 231 appeared distorted. The descending co-seismic interferogram with the best quality is the one 232 with the smallest temporal separation (*ifg*22 – Fig. 8) and has a perpendicular baseline of 118 233 m (Table 4).

234 235

236 **5. Modelling**

237

238 The modelling and interpretation of the interferograms is made in three successive phases: 239 first we model the best ascending wrapped interferogram only, then we analyze the stacks of 240 unwrapped ascending and descending interferograms, and finally we perform a joint inversion 241 of ascending and descending data.

242

243 The fringes in the best ascending interferogram are sampled to 34 points which we found 244 sufficient to account for the level of quality of the data (using more sample points leads to the 245 same model). One value of slant range displacement is sampled every \sim 1 km (Fig. 9 left -246 inset). The descending interferograms are not used in this first analysis, due to their lower 247 quality. The Harvard CMT solution is used as initial parameters in inversion procedure (Table 248 2) fixing the strike angle to 18° and dip angle to 59° . The applied inversion algorithm was 249 developed by Briole et al. (1986), it is based on the least-square minimization approach 250 proposed by Tarantola and Valette (1982). The Okada (1992) formulation for rectangular-251 plane source in uniform elastic half-space is adopted for the dislocation source. The 252 parameters of the best fitting model (Fig. 9 right) are listed in Table 3. The epicentre is 253 located at the SW end of our modelled fault plane. If this is so the geodetic epicentre is offset 254 by about 6 km to the NE of the NOA epicentre.

255

256 The fringes obtained in the synthetic interferogram are in good agreement with the observed 257 ones, evident also by the residuals between the phase values of the fringe points from the 258 model and the same points in the real interferogram. The value of the mean is -0.9 mm and 259 the root-mean-square (r.m.s.) residual is 2.3 mm i.e. only 1/12 part of a fringe. The 260 concordance of the proposed modelled fringe points with the observed ones is manifested by 261 the distribution of the residual (Fig. 10 left), which is close to the normal one. Additionally, 262 since the number of the points is relatively small, a normal probability plot is presented (Fig. 263 10 right). This plot shows some outliers in both ends of the data set but still confirms the 264 normal distribution of the residuals.

265

266 In order to confirm the reliability of the proposed model of the fault, a series of inversions are 267 conducted with varying dip and length of the fault, taking into account the values proposed by 268 previous studies (Fig. 11). In both cases, while the different values for the dip and length are 269 tested, all the other parameters are left fixed. This investigation of the confidence of these 270 parameters shows that the best fitting model would be achieved at dip of 60° and length of the 271 faulting segment of 16 km. However, the r.m.s. difference for a model with dip of 60° and 272 59° , like the value proposed here, on the basis of Harvard CMT solution, is only 0.4 mm (1/70) 273 of the fringe), which is not significant.

274

275 The sensitivity of the model to the dip alteration is expressed by "pressing" of the fringe's 276 shape. In the case investigated here, the mean part of the outer fringe is not clearly outlined. 277 To increase the quality of the interferometric pattern and to improve the fringe shape, an 278 interferogram averaged from all the six co-seismic ascending interferograms is produced. As a 279 first step all of them are unwrapped using the SNAPHU software (Chen and Zebker, 2002) 280 (APPENDIX A). The stacking of all co-seismic ascending interferograms and the backward 281 wrapping (Fig. 12d) of the phases increased in some aspect the quality of the single wrapped 282 picture (Fig. 12a). The resulting field of deformation of the single interferogram (Fig. 12b) 283 shows maximum displacement toward the satellite in the range of 60 mm. The stacking of the 284 available interferograms (Fig. 12c) narrows the area of deformations and decreases its value 285 to $~50$ mm.

286

287 When the re-wrapped interferogram is superimposed over the topography (Fig. 12e), high 288 dependency of the local relief is revealed. In spite of the more homogeneous field of 289 deformation which is represented by the unwrapped stacked interferogram compared to the 290 interferogram with the best quality, the averaged unwrapped pattern also combines all defects 291 of the interferograms used in the stacking. This is illustrated by cross-sections through the 292 unwrapped interferograms in Fig. 13. The A'-A" profile is traced parallel to the strike of the 293 fault and is presented in the upper part of the figure, while the B'-B" profile passes through 294 the island and represents the area with the most pronounced crust deformation (bottom of the 295 figure). The corresponding local relief is plotted to the bottom of the profiles.

296

297 It is seen how a processing error during the unwrapping procedure (APPENDIX A) caused 298 distortion of the field of deformation of *igf*4 showed in the profile by dotted line (UWRI4 –

299 unwrapped real interferogram *ifg*4). If this interferogram is excluded of the averaging, the 300 middle part of the interferogram becomes more uniform (red line, UWSRI – unwrapped 301 **s**tacked **r**eal **i**nterferogram), but the level of deformation in the outlying areas vary 302 significantly in the A'A" profile. The abrupt change of the deformation line appeared in a 303 place of a steep topographic depression at the boundary between the Ionian and Paxos 304 geological zones, which could influence strongly the unwrapping process. Nevertheless, the 305 averaged interferogram shows high level of concordance to the modelled one (MI in Fig. 13), 306 even better that the single interferogram used for the modelling (UWRI5). The received field 307 of crustal deformations, excluding the wrong *ifg*4, shows a maximum in the range of ~60 mm 308 towards the satellite (Fig. 12f). The shift between the real and the modelled data in the right 309 part of the A'A" profile is again a consequence of the unwrapping defect in the area of the 310 Ionian Thrust like in the case of *ifg*4 but in the opposite direction. If the real data in this part 311 of the interferograms are shifted with the amount of exactly one fringe downward they will 312 correspond to the model. On the other hand, the left part of the B'B" profile shows a big 313 difference between the data and the model. Since the images used for producing these 314 interferograms are ascending, this area follows in the shadow of the high mountain in the 315 centre of the island looked from the satellite. Therefore, the signal in this area is in fact an 316 incoherent noise and the unwrapping procedure performs false information about the 317 deformation in this area. None conclusions can be made in this situation about the reliability 318 of the model in this area.

319

320 In order to find another confirmation about the agreement between the fields of deformation 321 revealed by the interferograms and predicted by the model, a comparison on a pixel level is 322 performed. The examination of the residuals between the real and the synthetic deformation 323 interferograms (Fig. 14) displays a high degree of correspondence between both patterns, 324 which is confirmed also by the histogram of the residuals (Fig. 15). It manifests very close to 325 the normal distribution, shifted by the mean value of 3.4 mm. The r.m.s. for the entire 326 examined pattern is 10.5 mm.

327

328 The stacking procedure is applied also to the descending set of data, so that the field of 329 deformation from the other point of satellite view could be gained. The stacked re-wrapped 330 interferogram shows one clear fringe (Fig. 16), but in the rest of the interferogram still high 331 level of noise presents (APPENDIX C).

332

333 Nevertheless, the averaged descending unwrapped interferogram will be used, together with 334 the ascending result, in a theoretical determination of the horizontal and vertical components 335 of the field of deformations. To define two of the three components of the LoS displacement, 336 an assumption for the third one should be adopted. Here, the northern component is equalised 337 for both satellite viewings, thus the displacement in up and east direction (Fig. 17) is extracted 338 using the parameters of the satellite geometry (Hanssen, 2001). The resulting pattern shows a 339 maximum vertical displacement of the Earth's crust in the range of \sim 50 mm in the western-340 central part of the island and eastward displacements in the western coast in the maximum 341 range of $~60$ mm.

342

343 Finally we make a model by jointly inverting ascending and descending data. The 344 combination of ascending and descending observations is potentially powerful to constrain 345 some of the fault parameters, in particular depth, location of the fault in the east-west axis, 346 and dip-slip component of motion. We use the two best interferograms (ascending *ifg5* and 347 descending *ifg22*, see Table 4), with the 34 picked values on two fringes visible on the 348 ascending interferogram (those already used before) and 20 picked values on the only clear 349 fringe of the descending one. The ratio 20/34 gives less weight to the descending data in the 350 inversion. This is consistent with the fact that, given its lower coherence, we are less 351 confident in this data than in the ascending one. Starting with the parameters of our preferred 352 model (IL16, Table 3) we first leave free all fault parameters in the inversion. Only two of the 353 fault parameters show significant changes: the depth of the upper edge of the fault that is 354 estimated deeper, at 4.5 km instead of 2.5 km, and the east coordinate of the fault that moves 355 westward in a correlated manner with the fault depth. The other parameters are not 356 significantly affected by the addition of the descending data. Another benefit of the joint 357 inversion of ascending and descending data is the fact that, because of the existence of two 358 opposite LoS, it is possible to seek for an optimum in the common mode offset to apply to the 359 picked value of the fringes. We tune the picked value so as to minimize the post-fit residuals 360 at a minimum value of 9 mm, and Table 7 and Table 8 contain the location and observed and 361 modelled value of our picked fringe points. In all inversions the component of dip-slip on the 362 fault plane remains close to zero, ranging from -18 mm (reverse) when the upper fault depth 363 was assigned to be 5 km to $+21$ mm (normal) when the upper fault depth was assigned to be 4 364 km. Table 9 contains the value of the two preferred models. In summary, the two main 365 constraints provided by the combination of the ascending and descending data are the 366 following: no significant component of dip-slip on the fault, an upper limit of the fault 367 possible deeper (4.5 km instead of 2.5 km with ascending only).

368 369

371

370 **6. Discussion and conclusions**

372 We examine fault size, geometry and its relation to earthquake magnitude and how this relates 373 to the historical seismicity record (Table 1). Our geodetic solution (Fig. 9) indicates that the 374 rupture length is \sim 16 km, a value close to that predicted by the empirical relationship of Wells 375 and Coppersmith (1994) (see Table 6), and much less than those predicted by the equations of 376 Papazachos and Papazachou (1997) and Konstantinou et al. (2005). The 2003 Lefkada event 377 occurred along one fault segment plane dipping to the east as suggested by the linear 378 inversion of the InSAR fringes. The earthquake was followed by numerous aftershocks on 379 neighbouring fault planes that are characterised as capable to produce moderate events 380 (Karakostas and Papadimitriou, 2010). The geodetically determined fault size is about half the 381 length of the Lefkada plate boundary segment defined by seismological data by Louvari et al. 382 (1999). In addition, Papadopoulos et al. (2003) have suggested that offshore earthquakes near 383 Lefkada follow the characteristic earthquake model, i.e. slip distribution and earthquake 384 magnitude are roughly constant. Our results indicate that, the 2003 earthquake ruptured only 385 the northern portion of the 50-km Lefkada segment of CTF, which is about 16 km long. 386 Assuming that the Lefkada segment of CTF comprises two seismic segments then, this 387 segmentation model predicts rupture lengths of the order of 15-20 km and maximum 388 earthquake magnitudes in the range 6.2-6.5. This suggestion has important consequences for 389 the seismic hazard of the area, as the earthquakes expected offshore Lefkada may reach $M_w =$ 390 6.5 like the 2015 November 17 southern Lefkada earthquake (Ganas et al., 2016). For both 391 the 2003 earthquake (this study; Fig. 9 right) and the 2015 one (Ganas et al. 2016; Fig. 4), 392 InSAR constrains well the spatial extend of the rupture along the axis of the CTF. We infer 393 from the two studies that a 10-15 gap remains between the 2003 and the 2015 fault planes. A 394 gap of such length corresponds to a potential earthquake of Mw \sim 5.7-6. Some authors 395 (Saltogianni and Stiros, 2015; Sokos et al., 2016) have suggested that the 2003 event also 396 broke a fault segment south of the 2015 fault, in front of the northern Cephalonia, in a very 397 unusual manner. We found no evidence of such southern segment in our 2003 interferograms. 398 Moreover, this hypothetical jump of the 2003 rupture over the 2015 fault should also jump

- 399 over the 10-15 gap located between the 2003 and 2015 faults. This corresponds to a distance 400 of ~40 km between the second hypothetical sub-event and the main shock of 2003, itself well 401 modelled from the InSAR data and with a good agreement between geodetic and 402 seismological moments.
- 403

404 The fault model we propose has a geodetic moment $M_0 = 3.6 \times 10^{18}$ N m which corresponds to 405 $M_w = 6.3$, greater than the seismic moment reported by the Harvard CMT solution which is 406 $M_0 = 2.98 \, 10^{18}$ N m or $M_w = 6.2$. The difference might be due to the influence of the two 407 larger shallow aftershocks, that occurred the same day as the main shock, with $M_w = 5.1$ and 408 $M_w = 5.5$ respectively.

409

410 The interferometric pattern, produced by ENVISAR/ASAR images, defines field of 411 deformations caused by the 2003 Lefkada earthquake, in the range of 60-70 mm in the line of 412 sight of the satellite. An attempt to determine the horizontal and vertical component of 413 displacement is performed. An uplift of about 50 mm in the central area of deformation is 414 calculated and deformations with eastward direction in the range of 60 mm in the western 415 coast of the island are estimated.

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417 The 2003 fault does not reach the surface. Its upper tip is located at a depth comprised 418 between 2.5 km (using ascending data only) and 4.5 km (using a combination of ascending 419 and descending). This is much deeper that the depth of the upper tip of the 2015 fault, 420 estimated to be \sim 1 km around the northern end of the fault according to Ganas et al. (2016). 421 The mode and timing of the deformation between that depth and the surface requires further 422 analysis. Is the uppermost part of the crust deforming continuously during the seismic cycle in 423 that segment or is there a possibility of very shallow and strong earthquakes? And why is the 424 2015 rupture shallower? In addition to SAR interferometry (which is insufficient for sampling 425 long time periods in areas of poor coherence), dense and permanent GPS will be important to 426 decipher the spatio-temporal behaviour of the uppermost crust along the Cephalonia 427 Transform Fault. The combination of ascending and descending InSAR observations indicates 428 that there is no significant component of dip-slip on the fault of this 2003 earthquake.

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431 **Acknowledgements**

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598 **FIGURES – FIGURE CAPTIONS**

601 Fig. 1. Left: Seismicity (M>4) in the Eastern Mediterranean since 1973 according to USGS. 602 Rectangle – the region of Central Ionian Islands. Right: Seismicity in the area of the Central

603 Ionian Islands. Fault geometry is adapted from Barrier et al. (2004).

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605 Fig. 2. Historical seismicity in the area of Lefkada Island according to Table 1. In inset the 607 location of the Lefkada Island in Eastern Mediterranean. In grey, the mechanisms of strong 608 historical events are marked, while in black – the mechanisms of most recent earthquakes 609 even though they were of smaller magnitudes. The mechanisms of the 2003 and 2015 610 earthquakes are plotted in red.

613 Fig. 3. Map of ground failures caused by the $14th$ August 2003 earthquake (after Pavlides et 614 al., 2004; Papathanassiou and Pavlides, 2007). On the background simplified geological map 615 of the Lefkada Island (Geological map of Greece 1963).

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619 Fig. 4. The 14th August 2003 Lefkada earthquake from different sources (Table 2) – the 620 notation is the same as the references notations in the table. Other fault plane solutions (Table 621 3) are also shown (the notation is the same as the references notations in the table): LOU99 – 622 typical focal mechanism obtained by waveform modelling of micro-earthquakes; PD02 – 623 stress evolutionary model; LAG07 – InSAR forward modelling; HOL08 – Okada model 624 based on co-seismic GPS measurements. Aftershock sequence from PSL is introduced with 625 coloured circles according to the depth. In the present investigation the Harvard solution for 626 the 2003 event (in red – HRV03) is taken as a basic in inversion process. The final solution of 627 our study is shown in brown (IL16) referred to the centre of the fault predicted by the fault 628 model. The Harvard solution for the 2015 event is shown (HRV15) with relocated epicentre 629 and modelled fault plane (red rectangle) from Ganas et al. (2016).

632 Fig. 5. ENVISAT/ASAR ascending footprint, track 458, frame 774, represented by red 633 dashed rectangle, descending footprint, track 322, frame 2821 – by blue dashed rectangle. 634 Location of $14th$ August 2003 earthquake from NOA is shown with red star and aftershock 635 sequence by PSL with red dots. The long red arrow represents the satellite flight direction and 636 short arrow is the satellite looking direction (LOS); black rectangle – the area of investigation 637 presented in the next figures; orange dashed line – generalized view of Cephalonia Fault 638 Zone; isobaths – generated from ETOPO1 (Amante and Eakins, 2009); topography – SRTM 639 v4.

641 Fig. 6. Available ascending scenes covering the Lefkada Island: with the red line – time of the $14th$ August 2003 earthquake, with grey lines – the generated interferograms, with blue line –

643 couple with the best quality (*ifg*5: 21.03.2003 – 05.11.2004).

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645 Fig. 7. Coherence map generated from 21 ascending interferograms, showing the mean level 647 of coherence on the territory of the island. The parts which return better signals are in the 648 central and northern part of the area as well as in the closest mainland.

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651 Fig. 8. Available descending scenes covering the Lefkada Island: with the red line – time of 652 the $14th$ August 2003 earthquake, with grey lines – the generated interferograms, with blue

653 line – couple with the best quality (*ifg*22: 25.06.2003 – 14.07.2004).

657 Fig. 9. SAR interferometry results for the Lefkada earthquake. Left: Differential ascending 658 interferogram – *ifg*5 (BL 88m). The star shows the main shock according to NOA; the arrows 659 – direction of ascending flight and side of looking of the satellite. An approximation of the 660 Cephalonia Fault Zone is presented by white dashed line. Inset: The observed fringes. Right: 661 Synthetic ascending interferogram obtained from inversion of the received observed fringes 662 (left). The rectangle represents the approximate model of the fault segment.

Fig.11. Dip and length confidence study by comparison with the values proposed by previous studies. The notations are the same as for Table 2 and Table 3. To the right:
must misitis plot for the dip and the length respecti Fig.11. Dip and length confidence study by comparison with the values proposed by previous studies. The notations are the same as for Table 2 and Table 3. To the right: rms misfits plot for the dip and the length respectively, inverted by the InSAR data. All other parameters are fixed (see the left of the figure)

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672 Fig. 12. Stacking of ascending interferograms. (a) The ascending interferogram with the best quality $(ifg5)$. (b) The same but unwrapped. (c) Average of the six ascending co-seismic 673 quality (*ifg*5). (b) The same but unwrapped. (c) Average of the six ascending co-seismic 674 unwrapped interferograms. (d) Re-wrapped stacked interferogram and draped (e) over the 675 Google Earth topography of the island. (f) Stacking of five unwrapped interferograms Google Earth topography of the island. (f) Stacking of five unwrapped interferograms 676 (without *ifg*4).

Fig. 13. Unwrapped phases over the profiles $A' - A''$ (up) and $B' - B''$ (down) (see Fig. 12).

683 Fig. 14. Residual interferometric pattern (right) compared to the real (left) and synthetic 684 (centre) ascending interferograms

693 Fig. 16. Stacking of the descending interferograms. (a) The descending interferogram with the 694 best quality (*ifg*22). (b) The same but unwrapped. (c) Average of the eight descending co-
695 seismic unwrapped interferograms. (d) Re-wrapped stacked descending interferogram. seismic unwrapped interferograms. (d) Re-wrapped stacked descending interferogram.

Fig. 17. Theoretical displacements in Up and East directions.

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Table 1. Historical and instrumental seismicity review. References: 1 – Papathanassiou et al. 704 (2005); 2 – Papazachos et al. (2000); 3 – Fokaefs and Papadopoulos (2004); 4 – Papazachos 705 and Papazachou (1997); 5 – Papadimitriou (2002); 6 – Papazachos et al. (1998); 7 – Louvari 706 et al. (1999); 8 – Baker et al. (1997). The intensity values are according to Papathanassiou et 707 al. (2005) except the event of 1630, whose value is taken from Fokaefs and Papadopoulos 708 (2004).

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711 **Table 2.** Published source parameters for the 2003 August 14 Lefkada earthquake (compared 712 also in Fig. 4). ms – main shock, s1 – sub-event 1, s2 – sub-event 2, av – averaged.

713 * HRV – CMT Harvard ; USGS – U.S. Geological Survey; MN – MedNet (Mediterranean 714 Very Broadband Seismographic Network – INGV) in Zahradník et al. (2005); ETHZ – Swiss 715 Federal Institute of Technology Zurich; NOA – National Observatory of Athens, Institute of 716 Geodynamics; PSL – Patras Seismological Laboratory; AUT – Aristotle University of 717 Thessaloniki; ZH05_1 and ZH05_2 – 1 and 2 sub-events in Zahradník et al. (2005); BT07_1 718 and BT07 $2 - 1$ and 2 sub-events in Benetatos et al. (2007); PD06 - Papadimitriou et al. 719 (2006).

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723 **Table 3.** Other fault plane solutions for Lefkada Segment of Cephalonia Fault Zone (compared also in Fig. 4). The coordinates are for the centre of the fault. $*$ estimated here: \degree -725 after Papazachos et al. (1998); # - centre of the fault; L – length; W –width; LOU99 – Louvari 726 et al. (1999); PD02 – Papadimitriou (2002); KK04 – Karakostas et al. (2004); LAG07 – 727 Lagios et al. (2007); HOL08 – Hollenstein et al. (2008).

730 **Table 4.** Details for the ascending (A) and descending (D) interferograms processed for this 731 study, where Ni – number of interferogram, B – perpendicular baseline (m), Days – offset 732 between acquisition of the two images; h_a – altitude of ambiguity; e^h_{max} – maximum error due 733 to the topography. The bold lines show the best ascending (A) and descending (D)
734 interferograms. interferograms.

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737 **Table 5.** ENVISAT images used in the research and the weather conditions during their 738 acquisitions according to the weather archives for Aktion Airport $(38°37'N 20°46'E)$ 739 (http://meteo.infospace.ru; http://www.tutiempo.net). The bold lines correspond to the dates 740 of acquisition of the images used for the best ascending and descending interferograms.

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Table 6. Comparison between Length-Magnitude empirical relations and calculated fault 745 dimensions

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754 755 Table 7. The 34 picked values on the two visible ascending fringes in the best ascending 756 interferogram. The origin for the LoS was estimated during the joint inversion process. The 757 coordinates are also given in UTM 34.

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775 Table 8. The 20 picked values on the visible fringe in the best descending interferogram. The origin for the LoS was estimated during the joint inversion process. The coordinates are also

777 given in UTM 34.

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781 **Table 9.** Comparison of the fault models from ascending interferograms only (IL16, see 782 Table 3) and from a combination ascending of descending interferograms. The coordinates are Table 3) and from a combination ascending of descending interferograms. The coordinates are 783 for the centre of the fault.

APPENDIX A. ENVISAT ascending co-seismic interferograms

787 Wrapped (top) and unwrapped (bottom) ascending co-seismic interferograms (numbers correspond to the interferogram number in Table 4)

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APPENDIX B. ENVISAT ascending post-seismic interferograms

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APPENDIX C. ENVISAT descending co-seismic interferograms

818 Wrapped (top) and unwrapped (bottom) descending co-seismic interferograms (numbers 819 correspond to the interferogram number in Table 4)

