

An implementation of rock engineering system (RES) for ranking the instability potential of slopes in Greek territory. An application in Tsakona area (Peloponnese - prefecture of Arcadia)

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Abstract

This paper presents an application of the Rock Engineering system (RES) in an attempt to assess the inherent instability potential of Tsakona landslide in the region of SW Arcadia, Peloponnese, Greece which happened on February 2003. The RE-System has been considered to fulfill the basic requirements to deal with landslide phenomena, as it combines objectivity and efficiency.

The main scope of RES application to landslide studying is to define the important causative and triggering factors responsible for the slope failures, quantify their interactions, obtain their weighted coefficients and calculate the instability index, which refers to the potential instability of the examined natural slope. In this study, the final implementation of the RES method is achieved through an interaction matrix, where ten principal parameters were selected as controlling factors for the landslide occurrence. It is concluded that RES could be a simple and efficient tool in calculating the instability index and as a consequence getting a prognosis of a potential slope failure regarding the land use and development planning processes in landslide susceptible areas.

Key words: *Interaction matrix, RES, instability index, landslide susceptibility, landslide parameters*

Περίληψη

Ο στόχος της εργασίας αυτής είναι η περιγραφή μιας μεθοδολογίας και η δυνατότητα εφαρμογής της στην πρόγνωση της κατολισθητικής επικινδυνότητας με στόχο τη διερεύνηση της αλληλεπίδρασης των παραμέτρων που οδηγούν στην εκδήλωση κατολισθήσεων και στον υπολογισμό ενός δείκτη αστάθειας. Για το σκοπό αυτό χρησιμοποιήθηκε η μέθοδος αναλυτικής προσέγγισης των προβλημάτων γεωτεχνικής μηχανικής που πρότεινε ο Hudson (1992), με τη μορφή

ΕΦΑΡΜΟΓΗ ΤΟΥ ROCK ENGINEERING SYSTEM ΣΤΗΝ ΒΑΘΜΟΝΟΜΗΣΗ ΤΗΣ ΔΥΝΗΤΙΚΗΣ ΑΣΤΑΘΕΙΑΣ ΠΡΑΝΩΝ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΕΠΙΚΡΑΤΕΙΑ – ΠΑΡΑΔΕΙΓΜΑ ΕΦΑΡΜΟΓΗΣ: ΤΣΑΚΩΝΑ Ν. ΑΡΚΑΔΙΑΣ

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μητρώου, που αποδόθηκε με τον όρο Μητρώο Αλληλεπίδρασης (Interaction Matrix). Το μητρώο αυτό βασίζεται στη μεθοδολογία σχεδιασμού αλληλεπίδρασης παραμέτρων που ο συγγραφέας ονόμασε Rock Engineering System (RES).

Στην παρούσα εργασία δημιουργήθηκε ένα πρότυπο Μητρώο για φυσικά και τεχνητά πρανή, έτσι ώστε να συμπεριλαμβάνει βαθμονομημένες παραμέτρους που σχετίζονται άμεσα με κατολισθήσεις. Οι παράμετροι αυτές θα συμβάλουν στην κατανόηση των μηχανισμών αλληλεπίδρασης μεταξύ τους και κατ' επέκταση στην προσπάθεια πρόγνωσης των αστοχιών στα πρανή, μέσω του προσδιορισμού του δείκτη αστάθειας.

Εφαρμογή της συγκεκριμένης μεθοδολογίας αποτέλεσε η αστοχία στην περιοχή Τσακώνα του Ν. Αρκαδίας, η οποία, στις αρχές Φεβρουαρίου του 2003, ύστερα από παρατεταμένες βροχοπτώσεις, διέκοψε τη συνέχεια της Νέας Εθνικής Οδού Τρίπολης – Καλαμάτας. Είναι από τις μεγαλύτερες κατολισθήσεις που έχουν εκδηλωθεί στο Ελληνικό οδικό δίκτυο και συνιστά το αποτέλεσμα της αλληλεπίδρασης γεωλογικών διεργασιών και ανθρώπινων παρεμβάσεων που εξελίχθηκαν σε βάθος χρόνου.

Εκτεταμένη γεωλογική και γεωτεχνική έρευνα που πραγματοποιήθηκε μετά την εκδήλωση των φαινομένων

(KEDE 2003; Sotiropoulos et al., 2004) κατέδειξε ότι οι παράγοντες που συνέβαλαν στην εκδήλωσή τους διακρίνονται σε αυτούς που:

- (α) δημιούργησαν το γεωλογικό πλαίσιο μίας ασταθούς, γενικά, περιοχής, η οποία έχει πληγεί από κατολισθητικά φαινόμενα στο γεωλογικό παρελθόν,
- (β) έδρασαν προσθετικά σε σύντομο χρονικό διάστημα και οδήγησαν στην τελική εκδήλωση της αστοχίας τη χειμερινή περίοδο του έτους 2003, όπως οι έντονες βροχοπτώσεις τον Ιανουάριο του 2003 στη συνέχεια εκτεταμένης περιόδου βροχοπτώσεων.

Με βάση τις παραπάνω γεωλογικές και γεωτεχνικές πληροφορίες, συντάχθηκε το μητρώο αλληλεπίδρασης για τη συγκεκριμένη περιοχή της Τσακώνας, στο οποίο υπολογίστηκε, με βάση τη μεθοδολογία RES, δείκτης αστάθειας (ίσος με την τιμή 71.88 (μέγιστο το 100), που αντιστοιχεί σε εξαιρετικά υψηλή τιμή δείκτη κατολισθητικής επιδεκτικότητας (Brabb et al., 1972) και επαληθεύει την εικόνα της αστοχίας που έλαβε χώρα στη συγκεκριμένη περιοχή μελέτης.

Τα πλεονεκτήματα χρήσης της συγκεκριμένης μεθοδολογίας RES είναι η δυνατότητα προσαρμογής στις τοπικές συνθήκες και στην εμπειρία του μελετητή, και η ελαχιστοποίηση της υποκειμενικής κρίσης του, δεδομένου ότι ελέγχει την ικανότητα των προτεινόμενων παραμέτρων και υπολογίζει τον σταθμικό συντελεστή για κάθε παράμετρο. Για τους λόγους αυτούς η χρήση του RES μπορεί να αποτελέσει ένα απλό και αποτελεσματικό εργαλείο για την πρόγνωση της δυνητικής αστάθειας φυσικών και τεχνητών πρανών και παράλληλα το ενδιαμέσο επίπεδο για το σχεδιασμό μέσω των Γεωγραφικών Συστημάτων Πληροφοριών, της ζωνοποίησης δυνητικά επικίνδυνων πρανών επιδεκτικών σε αστοχία.

Λέξεις κλειδιά: Μητρώο αλληλεπίδρασης, RES, δείκτης αστάθειας, κατολισθητική επιδεκτικότητα, παράμετροι κατολίσθησης

1. Introduction

The rapid increase in population world - wide, coupled with the migration from rural to urban areas, has meant that the creation of new settlement sites, mostly, in cities has become an urgent necessity. However, one major danger that comes out for satisfying the aforementioned need is that of landslides. For this reason, it is important that the selection of such sites should be based on geo-environmental criteria, taking into account both a sustainable environment and disaster sensitive planning (Dai and Lee, 2001).

Landslides are characterized by uncertainties, because of the difficulties of the variability of the causative and triggering factors, which make the analyses of such phenomena a very difficult task. To deal with such events, many researchers have developed ranking assessment tools (Cai et al., 1998, Benardos and Kalliampakos, 2004). Foumelis et al., 2004, Irigaray et al., 2006, Fountoulis et al., 2007, Ceryan, 2008, Rozos et al., 2008, Van Western et al. 2010, Rozos et al., 2011).

Rapid assessment methods to ascertain the suitability of a site/region for development are not available to planners, landowners and others and for this reason, there is an urgent need to demarcate regions susceptible to slope failure with a fixed set of relevant parameters.

These parameters usually provide to the engineering geology experts a cost and time effective toolbox for tracing the most critical slope sites (appropriate for land – use planning), which exhibit high inherent instability potential.

The Rock Engineering System (RES, Hudson, 1992) has been considered to fulfill the basic requirements for developing an analogous approach to deal with landslide phenomena, as it combines

objectivity and efficiency (Rozos et al., 2008).

Regarding the aforementioned, this paper presents an application of RES in an attempt to assess the inherent instability potential of Tsakona landslide in the region of SW Arcadia, Peloponnese, Greece which happened on February 2003.

The main scope has been defining the important causative and triggering factors responsible for the slope failures, quantifying their interactions, obtaining their weighted coefficients and calculating the instability index, which refers to the potential instability of the examined natural slope.

The selection of the appropriate parameters was based not only on valuable knowledge from literature and mainly on the overall experience gained from the study of landslide phenomena in Greek territory but also on their affinity with landslide occurrence in the study area.

The study concludes that RES could be a simple and efficient tool in calculating the instability index and as a consequence getting a prognosis of a potential slope failure regarding the land use and development planning (such as a highway) processes in landslide susceptible areas.

2. The Rock Engineering System Method

The interaction matrix is the basic tool for RES approach to geotechnical problems, representing the selected parameters as leading diagonal terms and their interactions (as off-diagonal terms). It could be mentioned that each matrix can be considered as a map (Hudson, 1992).

On Figure 1, regarding that P_i corresponds to a particular parameter; it is clear that the row passing through the

P_i represents the influence of P_i on all the other parameters in the system. Conversely, the column through P_i represents the influence of the other parameters (the rest of the system) on P_i (Fig.1).

To quantify the result of binary interactions, a semi-quantitative coding method has been used with values ranging from 0 to 4 corresponding to no (most stable conditions), weak, medium, strong and critical interaction (most favorable condition for slope failure), re-

spectively (Fig. 2).

Once the matrix has been numerically coded, the sum of each row and each column can be determined (Figs 1 and 2). If now, we think of the influence of P_i on the system, we can term the sum of the row values as the "cause - C" and the sum of the column values as the "effect - E", designated as co - ordinates (C, E). Thus, C represents the way in which P_i affects the system; and E represents the effect that the system has on P_i (Fig.1).

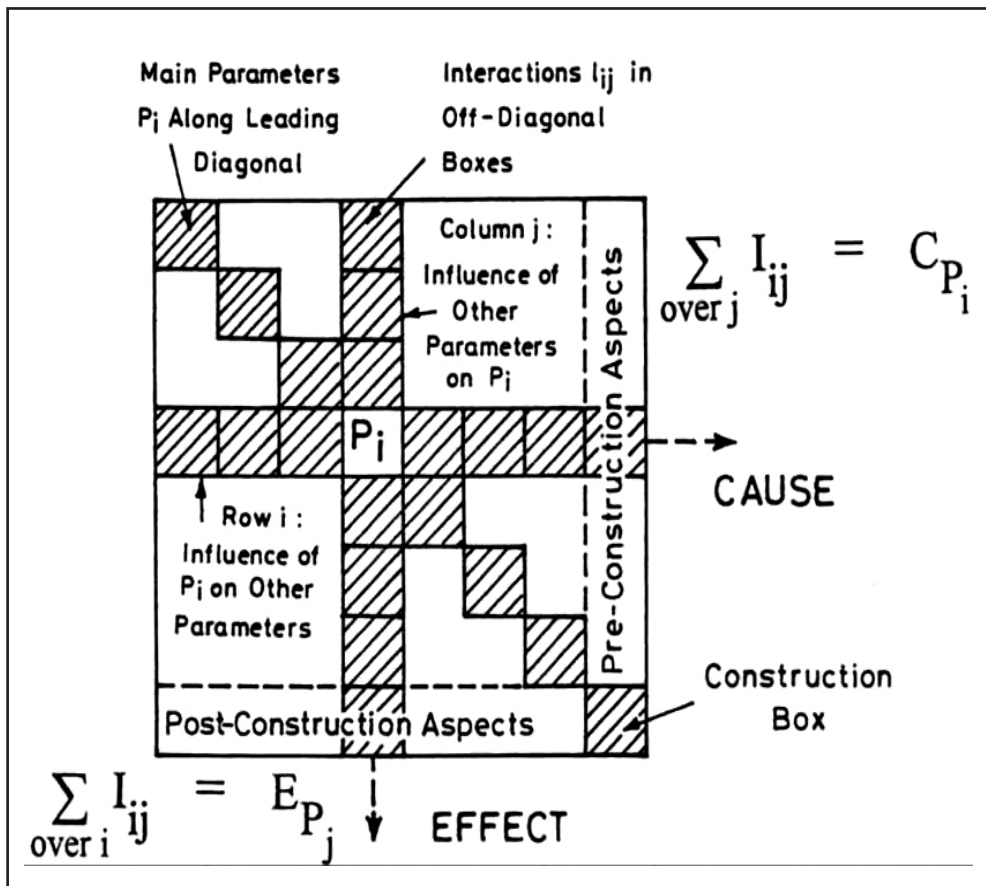


Fig. 1. Summation of coding values in the row and column through each parameter to establish the cause and effect co-ordinates (Hudson, 1992).

Εικ. 1. Άθροιση των βαθμονομημένων τιμών σε κάθε γραμμή και στήλη για τον υπολογισμό των τιμών των συντεταγμένων αιτίου και αποτελέσματος για κάθε παράμετρο.

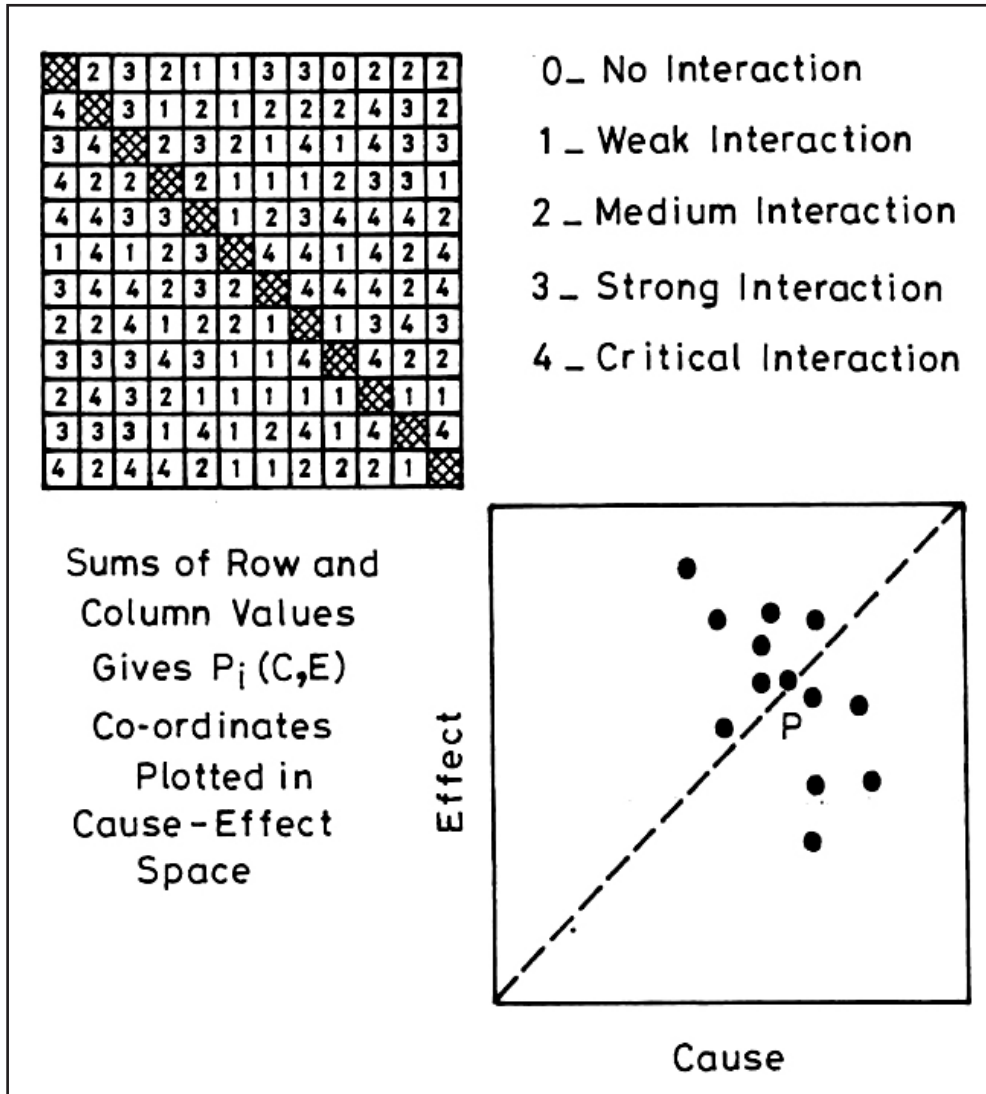


Fig. 2. Coding values for the generic slopes interaction matrix and the associated cause vs effect plot (Hudson, 1992).

Εικ. 2. Βαθμονόμηση τιμών για πρηνές (πάνω αριστερά) και το αντίστοιχο διάγραμμα αιτίου – αποτελέσματος (κάτω δεξιά).

By coding the interaction matrix components and then summing the values in the row and column through each parameter, “cause” and “effect” co – ordinates are generated, indicating a parameter’s interaction intensity and dominance. By this, we can consider

how to quantify parameter significance (Fig.3), through the two measures of parameter interaction which are intensity (as the distance along the diagonal) and dominance (the perpendicular distance from this diagonal to the parameter point).

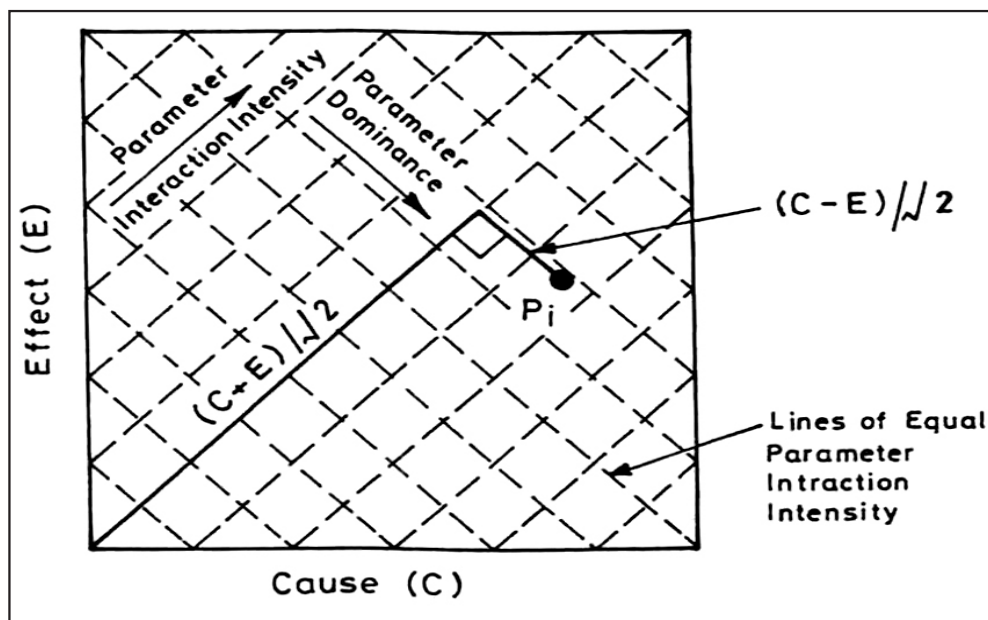


Fig. 3 Parameter interaction Intensity and Dominance (Hudson, 1992).

Εικ. 3. Διάγραμμα έντασης αλληλεπίδρασης και επικράτησης

According to Hudson (1992), there are many “constellations” that could occur, the two main ones being mainly along the $C=E$ line or mainly along a line perpendicular to it. If the parameter points are scattered along the $C=E$ line but fairly close to it, then they can be ranked according to their parameter interaction intensity; in other words, they can be listed in order of interactive importance (Fig.4). If, on the other hand, the parameter points are scattered about a line perpendicular to the $C=E$ line, they will have similar interaction intensities but widely differing dominance values. In the former case, it might be possible to use, say, five or six parameters in such a scheme; in the latter case, all the parameters would have to be used.

The influential role of each parameter on slope failure (weighted of coefficient influence) is revealed from a cause versus effect diagram (Fig.6), while the role of system's interactivity is expressed from

the histogram of the interactive intensity [cause (C) + effect (E)] against the parameters (Fig.7). These $C+E$ values (interactive intensity) will be transformed into a percentage form acting as weighting coefficients, which express the proportional share of each parameter (as a failure causing factor) in slope failure and normalized by dividing with the maximum rating (4), giving the $ai\%$ (Fig.7).

Alternatively, there is another method for presenting the previous information (Fig.5), which is analogous to the hydrostatic and deviatoric axes of stress analysis (Hudson, 1992). This is via the co-ordinates $(C+E, C-E)$, which are the sum and the difference between the totals of the row and column values passing through a leading diagonal parameter. This method is a more direct identification of the most interactive parameter (having the largest $C+E$ value) and most dominant parameter (having the largest $C-E$ value).

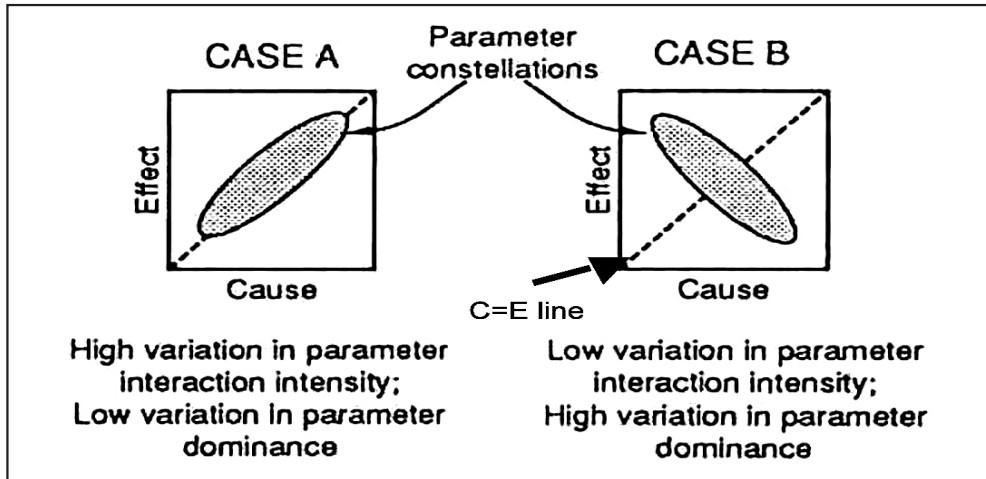


Fig. 4. The number of parameters required will depend on the form of the C vs E constellation. In case A (constellation along the C=E line), there is a wide range in parameter interaction intensity – so a few main parameters may be sufficient. In case B (constellation perpendicular to the C=E line), there is little range in parameter interaction intensity – so all the parameters will probably be required (Hudson, 1992).

Εικ. 4. Ο αριθμός των παραμέτρων που απαιτούνται εξαρτάται από τη συγκέντρωση του νέφους των συντεταγμένων αιτίου – αποτελέσματος. Στην περίπτωση A (συγκέντρωση νέφους κατά μήκος της C=E γραμμής), υπάρχει μεγάλο εύρος στην ένταση αλληλεπίδρασης, συνεπώς λίγες κύριες παράμετροι είναι αρκετές για τον υπολογισμό του δείκτη αστάθειας. Στην περίπτωση B (συγκέντρωση νέφους κάθετα της C=E γραμμής), υπάρχει μικρό εύρος στην ένταση αλληλεπίδρασης, έτσι θα απαιτηθούν όλες οι παράμετροι για την εύρεση του δείκτη αστάθειας.

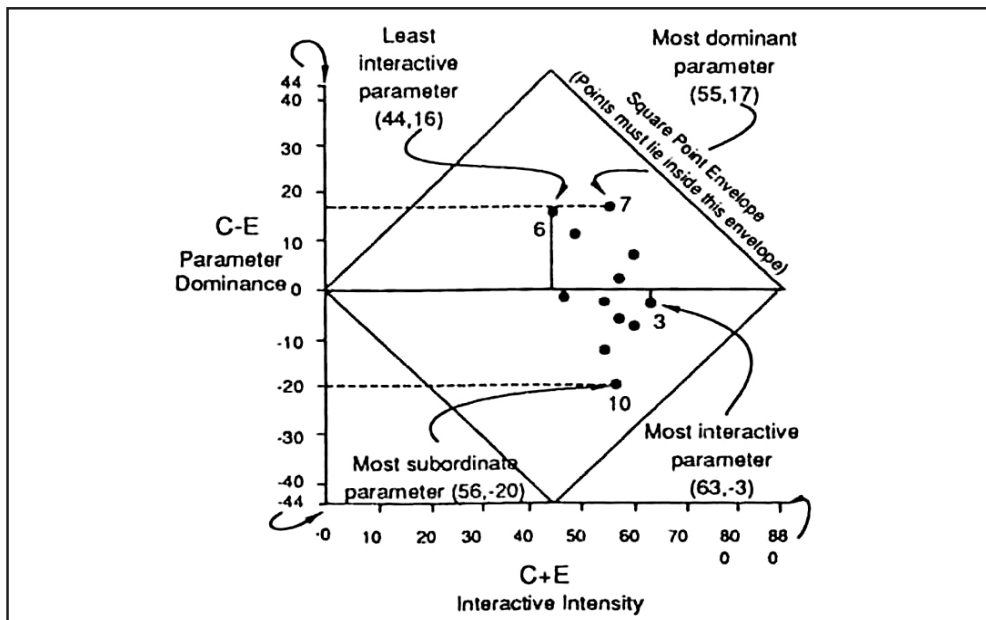


Fig. 5. Parameter points plotted in C+E, C-E space so that parameter interaction intensity and dominance can be seen directly (Hudson, 1992).

Εικ. 5. Αμεσότερη απεικόνιση της έντασης αλληλεπίδρασης και επικράτησης, υπολογίζοντας τις τιμές C+E, C-E για κάθε παράμετρο.

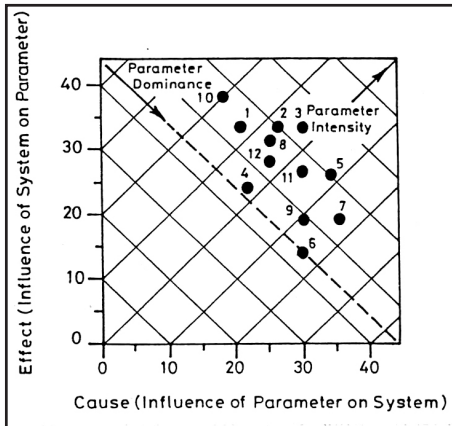


Fig. 6. Example of Cause vs effect plot [it refers to 12 parameters, (Hudson, 1992)].

Εικ. 6. Παράδειγμα διαγράμματος αίτιου – αποτελέσματος με εμφάνιση των τιμών των επιλεγμένων παραμέτρων (στη συγκεκριμένη περίπτωση δώδεκα παράμετροι).

The next step is to compute the instability index (Ii) for the considered slope, by using the following equation:

$I_i = \sum a_i \times P_{ij}$, where i refers to parameters (from 1 to 10), j refers to the examined slope and a_i is the weighting coefficient of each parameter given by the formula:

$a_i = 1/4 * [(C+E)/(\sum C + \sum E)]\%$, scaled to the maximum rating of P_{ij} (maximum value=4), P_{ij} is the rating value assigned to the different category of each parameter's separation which also fits better to the conditions related to the parameter in question regarding the examined slope failure (Rozos et al., 2008).

The instability index is an expression of the inherent potential instability of the slope, where the maximum value of the index is 100 and refers to the most unfavorable conditions. As it will be estimated later, utilizing RES method in the examined slope of Tsakona area, the calculated instability index value is 71.88, a value which according to Brabb et al., (1972) declares extremely high landslide susceptibility and this is confirmed from the slope failure that took place on February

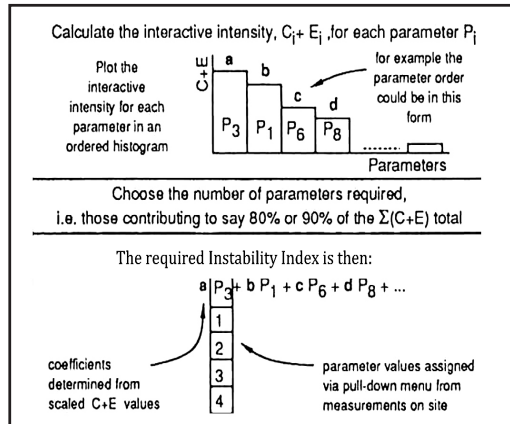


Fig. 7. Developing a slope instability index that takes into account the project objective and parameter interaction intensity (Hudson, 1992).

Εικ. 7. Υπολογισμός δείκτη ευστάθειας πρανούς, λαμβάνοντας υπόψη το σκοπό του έργου και την ένταση αλληλεπίδρασης των παραμέτρων.

2003 in the particular study area of Tsakona.

Based on the above, RES has been developed by Hudson (1992) to determine interaction of a number of parameters in rock engineering design and calculate instability index for rock slopes. In this paper, an attempt is made to prove, how RES can be implemented with the same success in landslides (i.e. the Tsakona one), which are associated with a variety of geomaterials (such as soils, rocks, weathering mantle, etc) selecting each time the wider appropriate parameters that are relevant to the ad hoc potential slope failure.

Moreover, RES has been used, in this paper, for evaluating landslide susceptibility by adopting parameters that can be quantified easily than those of time and money consuming ones (like strength, etc). Besides, Hudson's theory, describes that an interaction matrix can be further analyzed to many more sub matrices, which means that the study of a site (concerning matrix construction) depends on the degree of analysis we are about to execute.

3. Geological setting of study area and selection of the parameters controlling the slope failure

Tsakona landslide is the largest one that have ever affected the Greek National highway network as it entirely rubbed out the new Megalopolis – Kalamata highway at a length of 200m (Fig. 8). This landslide was manifested in a site,

where the tectonic deformation is very intense. There were old landslides before the activation of the last one and before the study and construction of the highway. The contractors as well as the consultant companies that studied the area did not take into account the already existed landslides (Fountoulis et al., 2007).

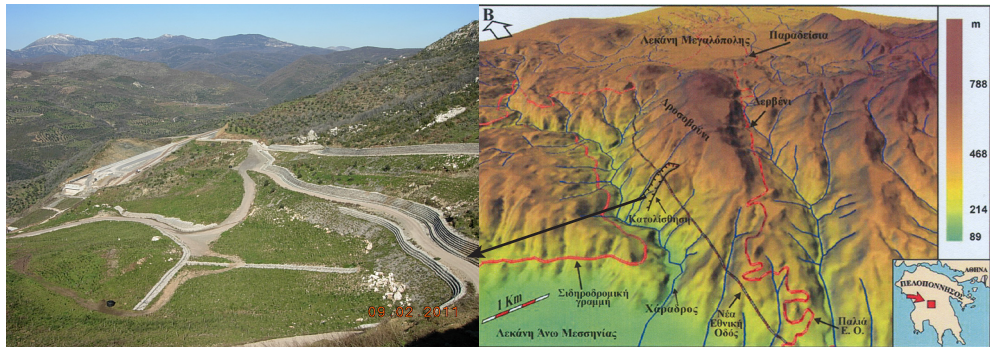


Fig. 8. Location map and shaded relief image showing morphology of the study area (Fountoulis et al., 2007).

Εικ. 8. Χάρτης θέσης και σκιασμένο ανάγλυφο της υπό μελέτη περιοχής.

The geo-environmental properties of the site were determined by the use of geological, hydrogeological, morphological, engineering and environmental data obtained from the studies carried out in the region (KEDE 2003; Sotiropoulos et al., 2004). From extensive geological and geo-technical investigation, it was revealed that two main categories of factors caused the slope failure were:

- a) those which contributed to an unstable geological environment resulted in historical landslides again in the past such as lithology, intensive tectonics, hydrogeology and morphology,
- b) those which triggered the landslide such as human intervention (concerning the construction of the National highway) and intensive rainfall during the winter

of 2003 (Hellenic National Meteorological Service, 2014).

In our case study area ten (10) parameters were selected as controlling factors for the landslide occurrence and each factor was classified into 4 classes. These factors which were utilized for the RES method are: (i) slope inclination, (ii) meteorological conditions (mainly rainfall), (iii) lithology, (iv) tectonic regime, (v) slope orientation (aspect), (vi) hydrogeology (vii), thickness of weathering mantle (viii) distance from roads, (ix) vegetation and (x) distance from streams. Besides, the rating of each parameter is based on different researchers' studies from Greece, but adjusted to the local conditions of Tsakona landslide (Nakos 1984; Koukis and Ziourkas, 1991; Sotiropoulos et al 2004; Fountoulis et al, 2007; Rozos et al., 2008; Rozos et al., 2011; Boutina

2012; River basin management plans, 2012; Farmakaki 2012).

i) Slope inclination:

The angle of the slopes has a great influence on the susceptibility of a slope to landsliding because they express the result of the combined influence of many factors such as the intensity of climatic conditions, the weathering processes and the internal geometry of geological formations (Rozos et al., 2008). To be more specific, slope gradient, at local scales, affects the concentration of moisture and the level of pore pressure, whereas at larger scales, it controls regional hydraulic continuity (Ayalew and Yamagishi, 2005). The morphology of the study area is characterized by a variety of types, which are associated with the intense tectonic regime of the surrounding area and the process of erosion taking place very close to the slope failure. Slope inclination which is determined by lithology, ranges between 5 to 10% (i.e. very close to the big Tsakona landslide), whereas the mean value slope inclination of the surrounding area is over 20% (Ministry of Public Works / Edafos Engineering Consultants S.A., 2003). The ranking of slope inclination is based on Koukis and Ziourkas (1991), and the slope inclination value for the study area has been decided to be 1 (16-30°).

ii) Meteorological conditions (mainly rainfall):

Rainfall is cited as one of the most common landslide-triggering mechanisms. It increases both the groundwater level and the pore pressure in a soil mass / weathered mantle or aquifer. It has been noted that 50-60 mm/h is sufficient to trigger a debris flow once the field capacity has been reached (Naga-

rajan, 2001).

Generally, high precipitation is characterized as the physical processes constituting the main triggering causal factors of landslides (WP/WLI, 1994). In the study area, during winter of 2003, there was an extensive rainfall period which was basically one of the two most triggering factors for causing the slope failure. It altered the morphology of the surrounding area to a great degree (Dounias et al., 2006). The rating has been decided to take into account the experience from the relevant, locally encountered conditions (Hellenic National Meteorological Service, 2014) and the valuable knowledge of literature (Koukis and Ziourkas, 1991, Boutina 2012, Farmakaki, 2012). Moreover, the meteorological station of Diavolitsi (which is very close to the Tsakona landslide) shows a mean annual precipitation ranging from 1000 to 1400mm. From the above, the assigned value for the study area was decided to be 4.

iii) Lithology:

The main source of data related to the geomorphology of a land is determined by the lithologic properties of it. Thus, lithology is one of the most important geological factors controlling landslide occurrence. It may be reasonably expected that ever since properties of the slope-forming materials such as strength and permeability are involved in the failure, that means are related to the lithology, which therefore should affect the likelihood of failure (Dai and Lee, 2002).

The study area is mainly covered by flysch, limestones, debris and earth fill deposits (Sotiropoulos et al., 2004). Particularly, the role of "schist-chert series", was crucial for the slope failure, since it contributed to the formation of a

weathered zone with poor geomechanical properties and thickness range between 3 and 12m. Studying the geological history of the specific area of Tsakona, it should be mentioned that the presence of previous instabilities demonstrated the crucial role of lithology to the slope failure. To be more specific, older slides which took place in the layer of first flysch, contributed to the huge accumulation of limestone debris to the main body of landslide from the upper limestone. As this limestone was eroded in different geological periods, an extensive series of rockslides took place (Sotiropoulos et al., 2004). According to Koukis and Ziourkas (1991), concerning the statistical contribution of lithology to landslides for the whole Greek territory, lithology includes six classes as follows: (a) volcanic rocks, (b) cherts, schists, (c) limestones, marbles, (d) metamorphic formations exhibiting schistosity, (e) loose soil formations (alluvial etc), (f) flysch. For the site specific area, the formation schist – chert was the representative class taking rate 1.

iv) Tectonic regime:

Tectonic structures, such as thrusts and faults, are usually associated with extensive fractured zones and steep relief anomalies. These zones present favorable conditions for landslides (Kouli et al., 2010). Therefore, major structural discontinuities produced by faults and fractures were included as a parameter in this study. It has generally been observed that the probability of landslide occurrence increases at sites close to faults, which not only affect the surface material structures (Gemitzi et al., 2011) but also selective erosion and movement of water along faults planes promote slope instability (Foumelis et al.,

2004). The role of tectonics in Tsakona landslide was very important because it caused deterioration on the mechanical properties of the flysch formation, altered the morphology, not to mention the hydrogeological equilibrium of the whole area (Sotiropoulos et al., 2004). Based on Rozos et al (2008), tectonic regime analyzed in five classes: i) *weak* is connected with not a significant tectonic event, ii) *moderate* with the presence of schistosity, iii) *strong* is associated with the presence of faults and discontinuities, iv) *very strong* with high-fractured zones. Finally, the category *intense* represents up thrusts and over thrusts. According to Fountoulis et al (2007), the representative class of the study area is the category *intense* which constitutes the class with the higher rating (4).

v) Slope orientation:

The aspect of a slope can influence landslide initiation. Moisture retention and vegetation is reflected by slope aspect, which in turn may affect soil strength and susceptibility to landslides. If rainfall has a pronounced directional component by influence of a prevailing wind, the amount of rainfall falling on a slope may vary depending on its aspect (Dai and Lee, 2002). Besides, certain orientations are associated with increased snow concentrations and consequently longer periods for freeze and thaw processes (Rozos et al., 2008). Based on technical reports (Ministry of Public Works / Edafos Engineering Consultants S.A., 2003), the orientations 0-45o and 135-225o, constitute the classes with the higher rating (4).

vi) Hydrogeology:

Generally, the infiltrated water increas-

es the pore water pressure, causes swelling of some clay minerals and increases the weight of an unstable earth mass. In addition, its movement causes internal erosion or leaching and on the sliding surface plays the role of a lubricating agent (Varnes, 1984). In Tsakona area, the permeability of earth fill deposits and limestone debris was the main reason for the infiltration of the rainfall water and since it crossed the impermeable flysch, caused an increase in the pore water pressure with the known devastating results. It is mentioned that the rating of geological formation's permeability was based on River basin management plans (Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change / Special Secretariat for water, 2012) and (Rozos et al., 2008). Thus, according to them, the representative class is rating 2 (moderate) which corresponds to alluvial deposits and carbonate formations having low to medium permeability.

vii) Thickness of weathering mantle:

Another evaluation that is important from lithological point of view is related to the weathering degree of the units. In a study area there might be different weathering degrees in the same unit. At the same time the depth of weathered material might vary in different areas (Yalcin and Buluf, 2007).

Thickness of soil affects the rate of infiltration and the nature of slope movement (Foumelis et al., 2004). Some rocks weather more readily than others due to their mineral components, physical structure and exposure to exogenic geomorphic processes that may make them more prone to slope failure. Different rock types also have different shear strength and permeability, two factors

that contribute to slope instability (Miller et al., 2009).

Weathered rocks and residual soils frequently contain montmorillonite, kaolinite and halloysite clay minerals, which result in fissuring within the soil. The thickness of the weathered zone determines the ground recharge and fluctuation in water level. Thick and compact weathering profiles lead to perched water tables and slope stability (Nagarajan, 2001).

Concerning the study area of Tsakona, tectonic disturbances and failures that had taken place in the past, were responsible in producing large quantities of debris geomaterial and formulating such surfaces where the rainfall water could be gathered and consequently was able to be a potential agent for destabilizing the area's stability. As it has already been mentioned, the formation of a weathered zone with poor geomechanical properties and thickness ranges between 3 and 12m and thus, the rating of the thickness of weathering mantle is four.

viii) Distance from roads:

Extensive excavation, application of external loads and vegetation removal are some of the most common anthropologically induced actions taking place along the road network slopes, during their construction. These attended actions are also responsible for the landslide triggering (WP/WPI, 1994). In addition, improper or uncontrolled discharge from sanitation or drainage works and water pipes, typically associated with human settlements and roads, especially in rural areas, which increase water infiltration in the slope, and possibly soil erosion at points of concentrated surface discharge are capable of causing landslides (Koumantakis, 2011).

An important parameter that controls the stability of a slope is the construction of a road and particularly the closeness of the slopes to the roads. A given road segment may act as a barrier, a break in slope gradient or a corridor for water flow. In addition a road constructed on the side of the slopes causes a decrease in the load on both the topography and on the heel of slope. As a result of an increase in stress on back of the slope because of changes in topography and decrease of load some tension cracks may be created. On the slope of the hill that is balanced before the road is constructed, instability may be observed because of some negative effects such as water ingress (Yalcin and Bulut, 2007). Studying the role of human intervention in Tsakona landslide, it can be mentioned that there were a historical record of smaller failures during the construction of the National highway at the beginning of 1990's. Those slope failures gathered to give the major slope failure on February 2003. Based on the above but also according to Rozos et al (2011), the most prone class to landslide is that of 0-50m, taking the highest rate (4).

ix) Vegetation:

Vegetation plays an important role in controlling soil erosion and can help stabilize the slope by providing mechanical strength to the subsoil (Singhal and Srivastava, 2004). It provides a protective layer on the earth and regulates the transfer of water from the atmosphere to the surface, soil and underlying rocks (Greenway, 1987). In general, the stability of slopes is very sensitive in changes on vegetation cover (Rozos et al,

2008). Taking into account the standard criteria used by the Ministry of Agriculture for the evaluation of different sites (Nakos, 1984) and field observations, the moderate – grassland class characterizes site specific area (rating 2).

x) Distance from streams:

The closeness of the slopes to the stream structures is an important factor in terms of the stability. Streams may adversely affect stability by eroding the slopes or by saturating the lower part of material until water level increases (Gokceoglu and Aksoy, 1996).

In addition, maximum infiltration is observed on slopes adjacent to streams where the materials have maximum permeability (fragmented rock/colluvial deposits). Generally, as the distance from drainage line increases, landslide frequency decreases. This can be attributed to the fact that terrain modification caused (for example) by gully erosion may influence the initiation of landslides (Dai and Lee, 2002). At the site specific area, very close to the landslide area (less than 50m), there is Xaradros river and the assigned value for the study area was decided to be 4.

The above aforementioned geodata were rated in order to be used in the construction of the interaction matrix. Studying the next table (Tabl.1), on the left side, each parameter rated from 0 to 4 and on the right side, it is mentioned where each parameter rating was based on.

RATING OF PARAMETERS		RATING	Notes - remarks
PARAMETERS			
1. Slope's inclination			Even though, based on Koukis - Ziourkas (1991), the higher landslide density is in the class of 16° - 30°, in this study the higher rating was given to the slopes with the higher inclination, due to the fact that in nature, slopes consisting of soil or hard soil to soft rocky formations and having high angle, fail almost immediately after the formation giving lower slope angles (Rozos et al. 2011).
0-5°		0	
6-15°		1	
16-30°		2	
31-45°		3	
>45°		4	
2. Rainfall			Based on Koukis - Ziourkas (1991), Boutina (2012), Farmakaki (2012).
<400mm		0	
400-600mm		1	
600-1000mm		2	
>1400mm		3	
1000-1400mm		4	
3. Lithology			Based on Koukis - Ziourkas (1991) for the period of 1949 - 1991.
Volcanic rocks		0	
Cherts, schists		1	
Limestone, marbles		1	
Metamorphic formations exhibiting schistosity		2	
Old landslide / disturbed geomaterial (alluvial, etc)		3	
Flysch		4	
4. Tectonic regime			Based on Rozos et al. (2008).
Weak		0	
Moderate		1	
Strong		2	
Very strong		3	
Intense		4	
5. Slope's orientation			Based on Rozos et al. (2008).
225° - 275°		0	
45° - 90°		1	
90° - 135°, 275° - 315°.		2	
315° - 0°		3	
0° - 45°, 135° - 225°		4	
6. Hydrogeology			Based on River basin management plans (Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change / Special Secretariat for water, 2012) and Rozos et al. (2008).
None		0	
Fractured formations characterised as having low to negligible permeability (Flysch, schists)		1	
Alluvial deposits, carbonate formations having low to medium permeability		2	
Debris with medium permeability		3	
Carbonate formations with medium to high permeability		4	
7. Thickness of weathering mantle			Based on Rozos et al. (2008).
None		0	
Very small (0.00-0.50m)		1	
Small (0.50 - 1.50m)		2	
Medium (1.5 - 3.0m)		3	
Significant (>3.00m)		4	
8. Distance from roads			Based on Rozos et al. (2011).
Distant (>200m)		0	
Moderately distant (151-200 m)		1	
Immediate (101 - 150 m)		2	
Less immediate (51 - 100m)		3	
Close (0-50m)		4	
9. Vegetation			Based on Nakos (1984).
No vegetation		0	
Nil		1	
Moderate - grassland		2	
Agriculture		3	
Intensive - agriculture		4	
10. Distance from streams			Based on Rozos et al. (2011).
Distant (>200m)		0	
Moderately distant (151-200 m)		1	
Immediate (101 - 150 m)		2	
Less immediate (51 - 100m)		3	
Close (0-50m)		4	

Table 1. The selected parameters and their rating.

Πιν. 1. Οι επιλεγμένες παράμετροι και η βαθμονόμηση τους

4. Results and discussion

In the present study, both geological and geotechnical information has been considered based on the previous ten (10) parameters and all the interactions that come out from this knowledge has been implemented through the interaction matrix. In the following session, the results of the application of RES method in Tsakona landslide are presented, such as the interactions of the examined principal parameters, the calculation of their weighting coefficients and finally the instability index accompanying with charts and tables which they decode and translate the aforementioned geodata.

Particularly, in Table 2, RES matrix for Tsakona landslide is given based on the rating of Table 1 and estimating the interactions among the examined parameters of the study area.

For example, let's take how rainfall affects hydrogeology. The runoff erodes the surface soil and weak rock formations. Also, the infiltrated water (water flow along discontinuities), increases the pore water pressure while affects the clay materials of the weathered mantle and consequently alters the hydrogeological properties of the existing geomaterials (rating: 4). On the other hand, hydrogeology does not influence rainfall at all (rating: 0).

The relation between interactive intensity against parameters is pictured in Fig.9, where it can be seen that lithology is the most interactive parameter ($C+E=38$), while the slope orientation is the less interactive, which proves that it does not depend on the rest parameters' influence but is an independent agent concerning the whole system. These are confirmed also in Fig. 4, but also by the outcomes of the extensive geological and geotechnical investiga-

tion that took place after the landslide during the winter of 2003.

In Figure 10, the form of C vs E constellation in relation to $C=E$ line, defines the number of crucial parameters that will be needed for calculating instability index. So, according to Cause – Effect diagram (Fig.10), the form of the C vs E constellation is perpendicular to the $C=E$ line, which means that (based on the aforementioned RES analysis) there is little range in parameter interaction intensity. On the contrary, there is a wide range in dominance (C-E values), so all the selected parameters will be required for the calculation of the instability index of the examined slope, which is the main goal for constructing the RES matrix.

Finally, in Figure 11, the results of interactive intensity – dominance diagram agree with the findings from the geotechnical investigation that was executed after the Tsakona slope failure. According to Figure 11, the most dominant parameter is the rainfall since it was the main triggering factor for causing the Tsakona devastating landslide, while the less one is the weathering mantle, which means that it is depend on the influence of the other parameters.

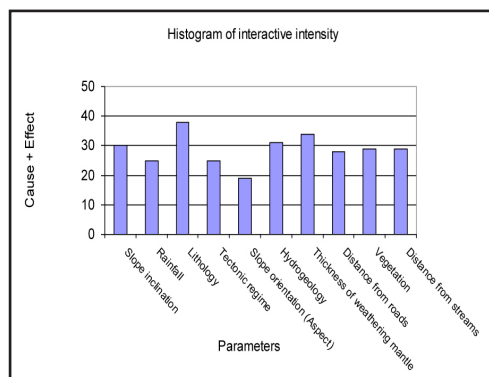


Fig. 9. Histogram of interactive intensity
Εικ. 9. Διάγραμμα έντασης αλληλεπίδρασης

Rock Engineering System (RES) - Tsakona Landslide																		
α/a	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	CAUSE - C	C+E	C-E	Parameters	$[(C+E)/\sum(C+E)]*100\%$	Maximum rating	weighted coefficient (a)	
1	Slope inclination	0	1	0	1	1	2	2	1	2	10	30	-10	Slope inclination	10.42	4	2.00	
2	3	Rainfall	2	0	1	4	4	4	4	3	25	25	25	Rainfall	8.68	4	2.17	
3	3	0	Lithology	2	3	4	4	4	4	3	27	38	16	Lithology	13.19	4	3.30	
4	3	0	4	Tectonic regime	4	4	3	1	0	4	23	25	21	Tectonic regime	8.68	4	2.17	
5	2	0	0	0	Slope orientation (Aspect)	0	2	1	2	1	8	19	-3	Slope orientation (Aspect)	6.60	4	1.65	
6	2	0	1	0	0	Hydrogeology	3	1	2	3	12	31	-7	Hydrogeology	10.76	4	2.69	
7	2	0	0	0	0	2	Thickness of weathering mantle	2	2	1	9	34	-16	Thickness of weathering mantle	11.81	4	2.95	
8	3	0	0	0	1	1	3	Distance from roads	3	1	12	28	-4	Distance from roads	9.72	4	2.43	
9	2	0	2	0	0	1	2	0	Vegetation	2	9	29	-11	Vegetation	10.07	4	2.52	
10	0	0	1	0	1	2	2	1	2	Distance from streams	9	29	-11	Distance from streams	10.07	4	2.52	
EFFECT - E	20	0	11	2	11	19	25	16	20	20		288			100.00			

Where, weighted coefficient (ai) = $1/4 * [(C+E)/(\sum C + \sum E)] * 100\%$

Table 2. Interaction matrix of the selected parameters of Tsakona landslide

Πιν. 2. Μητρώο αλληλεπίδρασης των επιλεγμένων παραμέτρων της κατολίσθησης Τσακώνας

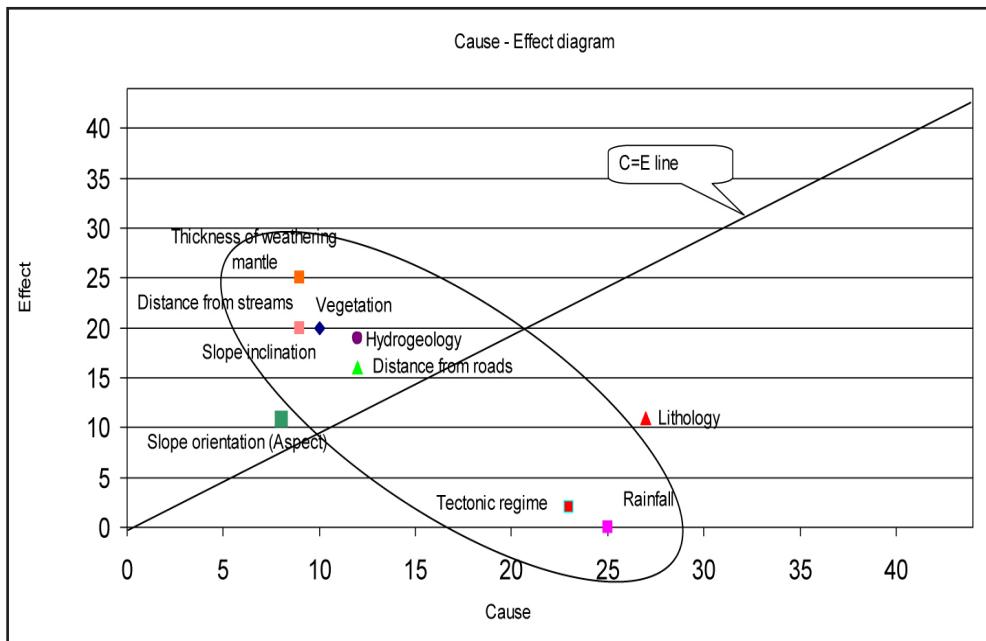


Fig. 10. Cause - Effect Diagram

Εικ. 10. Διάγραμμα αίτιου - αποτελέσματος

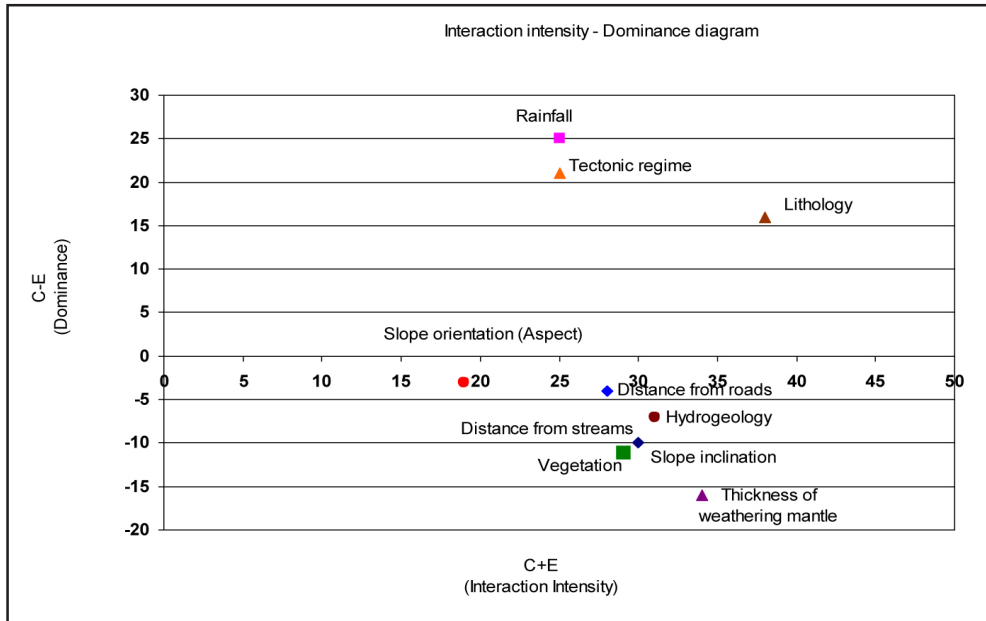


Fig. 11. Interactive intensity – dominance diagram

Εικ. 11. Διάγραμμα έντασης αλληλεπίδρασης - επικράτησης

Most interactive parameter	$(C+E)_{\max}$	38	Lithology
Least interactive parameter	$(C+E)_{\min}$	19	Slope orientation
Most dominant parameter	$(C-E)_{\max}$	25	Rainfall
Most subordinate parameter	$(C-E)_{\min}$	-16	Thickness of weathering mantle

Table 3. Maximum and minimum values of interaction intensity and dominance.

Πιν. 3. Μέγιστες και ελάχιστες τιμές έντασης αλληλεπίδρασης - επικράτησης

Supplementary, tables 4 and 5 decode and “translate” simultaneously the geo-data acquired from the extensive geological and geotechnical investigation

and contribute in giving the necessary objective answer to the prognosis of the potential instability of the examined slope of Tsakona landslide.

Calculation of Instability Index (Ii)											
Parameter	Slope inclination	Rainfall	Lithology	Tectonic regime	Slope orientation (Aspect)	Hydrogeology	Thickness of weathering mantle	Distance from roads	Vegetation	Distance from streams	Instability Index (Ii)
Rating examined slope of Tsakona	1	4	1	4	4	2	4	4	2	4	71.88
Maximum rating	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	
$[(C+E)/\Sigma(C+E)] \cdot 100\%$	10.42	8.68	13.19	8.68	6.60	10.76	11.81	9.72	10.07	10.07	100.00
Weighted coefficient (ai)	2.60	2.17	3.30	2.17	1.65	2.69	2.95	2.43	2.52	2.52	

Table 4. Calculation of Instability Index

Πιν. 4. Υπολογισμός δείκτη αστάθειας

where:

Instability Index (Ii) = $\sum a_i \times P_{ij}$, where i refers to parameters (from 1 to 10), j refers to the examined slope and a_i is the weighting coefficient of each parameter, Weighted coefficient (a_i) = $1/4 \times [(C+E)/(\sum C + \sum E)]\%$, scaled to the maximum rating of P_{ij} (maximum value=4), P_{ij} is the rating value assigned to the different category of each param-

eter's separation which also fits better to the conditions related to the parameter in question regarding the examined slope failure (Rozos et al., 2008).

In Table 5, an explanation of rating the examined parameters of Tsakona landslide is presented, the information of which has been gathered and analyzed by studying the outcomes from the geological and geotechnical investigation.

Parameter	Rating	Remarks
Slope inclination	1	(16-30°)
Rainfall	4	According to Farmakaki (2012) and meteorological data from Hellenic National Meteorological Service (2014)
Lithology	1	Schist –Cherts series: it was the most important lithology type that contributed mostly to the slope failure
Tectonic regime	4	Intense: represents up thrusts and over thrusts
Slope orientation	4	(0° - 45°, 135° - 225°)
Hydrogeology	2	Moderate: is associated with alluvial deposits, carbonate formations having low to medium permeability
Thickness of weathering mantle	4	Is bigger than 3m
Distance from roads	4	Close (0-50m)
Vegetation	2	Moderate - grassland
Distance from streams	4	Distance from streams: Close (0-50m)

Table 5. Explanation – description of rating the examined parameters of Tsakona landslide

Πιν. 5. Επεξήγηση – περιγραφή της βαθμονόμησης για κάθε εξεταζόμενη παράμετρο της κατολίσθησης Τσακώνας

To sum up, the cause-effect plot is helpful to understand the role of each factor within a project and could be used in the decision-making stage. The cause and effect values for each parameter are used as x and y coordinates to plot the parameters in a cause (C) versus effect (E) diagram. The more a system is interactive, the more the stability of a slope is low because there is more chance of a small variation in one parameter significantly affecting the system behavior. The computation of the level of interactivity via the C+E value may be an indicator for identifying parameters whose variation is likely to induce significant changes in the system (Ceryan and Ceryan, 2008).

Based on the above and the calculated instability index value, Tsakona land-

slide with $I_i = 71.88$ classified as (L – landslide) according to the classification for landslide susceptibility by Brabb et al. (1972), as it shown in Table 6. This is confirmed from the slope failure that took place on February 2003 in the particular study area of Tsakona. Concerning Brabb et al. (1972) classification, Chacon et al. (2006) wrote: *“there is a lack of internationally accepted classifications and conventions for maps of spatial and spatial-temporal incidence of landslides. A common standard would be highly valuable for comparing maps, and also to classify the landslide areas all around the world in a manner similar to that used in, for example, seismic areas. A simple classification of landslide susceptibility is the averaged percentage of landslide fail-*

ure areas per total area of the region, by lithological or geological units, as proposed in the relative susceptibility num-

bers of Brabb et al. (1972). This can give a simple scale".

% Failed area	0 - 1	2 - 8	9 - 25	26 - 42	43 - 53	54 - 70	100
Relative Susceptibility	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	L
	Negligible	Low	Middle	High	Very high	Extremely high	Landslide

Table 6. Classification for relative landslide susceptibility proposed by Brabb et al. (1972)

Πιν. 6. Ταξινόμηση της σχετικής κατολισθητικής επικινδυνότητας προτεινόμενη από τους Brabb et al. (1972)

5. Conclusions

The implementation of the RES method has been achieved through an interaction matrix and it is believed it could be a very useful toolbox that can alert the designer to many mechanisms which previously might not have been taken into account. The study indicates that the interaction matrices methodology can be used to analyze the interactivity of numerous parameters which are factors in landsliding on slopes of various geological conditions in complex natural environments and has developed a procedure for the rapid assessment of the instability index. The validity of this approach was tested using the important landslide which happened on February 2003 and took place at Tsakona area of Prefecture of Arcadia which belongs to Region of Peloponnese. It is suggested that this procedure could be used in other regions. As it can be deduced from the process presented above, the advantages of the RES technique are: a) its adaptability to local conditions and to the given characteristics of existing geodata and expert's (geologist, civil engineer) knowledge and b) its ability to eliminate the exclusively subjected and arbitrary way regarding the selection of the parameters and the weighting coefficients by an expert, as it is the practice associated to other existing evaluation techniques (Rozos et al., 2008).

Although not demonstrated in the present paper, the method could be used in conjunction with Geographical Information Systems (GIS) approach which facilitates the manipulation of numbers of thematic map layers and can be useful in decision making, regarding the land use and development planning processes in landslide susceptible areas and thus providing a tool for zoning landslide hazard.

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