PERIADRIATIC COASTAL LOWLAND (ALBANIA) AND ITS LANDSLIDE HAZARDS

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The structure of Periadriatic Depression are built by two marine molasses cycles:The Middle - Upper Miocene molasse cycle, and,The Pliocene one.The Quaternary sediments, horizontally overlying on Mio - Pliocene folded sediments, are largely developed on the Periadriatic Depression.Depending on engineering geological assessment of soils and on their natural hazard, three soil categories for building sites are classified within Periadriatic Depression.Generally we can say that the Miocene molasse soils, with the exception of clayey packets, present stable and suitable molasse soils for building sites and may be classified in the first soil category of building sites.The Pliocene molasse soils, taking place generally in the hilly western coastal part of Periadriatic depression, consist of basal conglomerates or sandstones in the section base, following by clays with rare siltstone and sandstone interbeds, passing upwards in the sandstone-conglomerate sediments with rare clayey alternations. frequently are observed landslides within Pliocene sediments. The Piocene soils are less stable than the Miocene ones and are classified in the second soil category of building sites.The Miocene-Pliocene potent clayey packets must be considered as unfavourable soils for building sites.The Quaternary deposits, taking place on plains, are lagoon marine sediments at the near to shoreline zone and continental alluvial ones eastwards along Mio-Pliocene subsiding synclines.The Quaternary lagoon marine loose deposits are characterized by sands, silts and clays and somewhere by placers of heavy minerals, while the alluvial ones represent coarse gravels with clayey and sandy alternations.On the uplifting terrains, along the valleys of Erzen, Tirana and other rivers, usually two levels of river terraces, are found.The Quaternary alluvial deposits, although with up to land surface underground water level, are included into the third soil category of building sites, while the lagoon-marine loose deposits should be considered as unfavourable sites for building.We have to say that unfavourable sites from engineering geologic and seismic viewpoint are classified as out of three building site categories. But, when it is necessary to use them as building site, must be performed the special engineering geological studies in order to take additional measures in basement and construction strenthening.