

FULL PAPER

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# A new GIS-based tsunami risk evaluation: MeTHuVA (METU tsunami human vulnerability assessment) at Yenikapı, Istanbul

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## Abstract

Istanbul is a mega city with various coastal utilities located on the northern coast of the Sea of Marmara. At Yenikapı, there are critical vulnerable coastal utilities, structures, and active metropolitan life. Fishery ports, commercial ports, small craft harbors, passenger terminals of intercity maritime transportation, waterfront commercial and/or recreational structures with residential/commercial areas and public utility areas are some examples of coastal utilization that are vulnerable to marine disasters. Therefore, the tsunami risk in the Yenikapı region is an important issue for Istanbul. In this study, a new methodology for tsunami vulnerability assessment for areas susceptible to tsunami is proposed, in which the Yenikapı region is chosen as a case study. Available datasets from the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and Turkish Navy are used as inputs for high-resolution GIS-based multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) evaluation of tsunami risk in Yenikapı. Bathymetry and topography database is used for high-resolution tsunami numerical modeling where the tsunami hazard, in terms of coastal inundation, is deterministically computed using the NAMI DANCE numerical code, considering earthquake worst case scenarios. In order to define the tsunami human vulnerability of the region, two different aspects, vulnerability at location and evacuation resilience maps were created using the analytical hierarchical process (AHP) method of MCDA. A vulnerability at location map is composed of metropolitan use, geology, elevation, and distance from shoreline layers, whereas an evacuation resilience map is formed by slope, distance within flat areas, distance to buildings, and distance to road networks layers. The tsunami risk map is then computed by the proposed new relationship which uses flow depth maps, vulnerability at location maps, and evacuation resilience maps.

**Keywords:** METU tsunami human vulnerability assessment (MeTHuVA), Tsunami risk analysis, Geographic information systems (GIS), Multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA), Analytical hierarchical process (AHP), Tsunami, Istanbul, Yenikapı

## Introduction

Tsunamis are the giant waves mostly triggered by earthquakes and/or submarine landslides. Despite the rare occurrence of tsunamis, they have been of interest to worldwide media since the early twenty first century with the repetition of mega earthquakes (Cartwright and Nakamura 2008; Mas et al. 2014). There are many associations researching and developing models to forecast

tsunamis and create tsunami inundation and evacuation maps all over the world. The scientific and technical approaches for tsunami risk assessment are still in development despite the progress made after the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004. In the last two decades, there have been considerably more studies related to hazard, risk, and vulnerability (Alexander 2000; Wisner et al. 2004). Many models have been developed to understand, assess, and map these three concepts (Fischer et al. 2002; Gambolati et al. 2002; Cheung et al. 2003). Validation of these models is required in order to make an accurate estimation of the real effects of natural disasters. The requisite of validation of hazard, risk, and vulnerability

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models is crucial, as the models based on these will form the foundation of the outputs used to define land use zoning and planning, emergency response actions, disaster planning, and insurance premiums (Tüfekci 1995; Jenkins 2000; Dominey-Howes and Papathoma 2007). Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are used in vulnerability assessment models for many types of natural or industrial hazards. Starting with the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, different methodologies have been developed to evaluate vulnerability to various types of natural hazards, including tsunamis (Papathoma et al. 2003; Ghobarah et al. 2006; Dominey-Howes and Papathoma 2007; Reese et al. 2007; Taubenböck et al. 2008; Dall'Osso et al. 2009a, b; Koshimura et al. 2009a, b; Wood 2009; Omira et al. 2010; Pendleton et al. 2010; Atillah et al. 2011; Leone et al. 2011; Murthy et al. 2011; Sinaga et al. 2011; Valencia et al. 2011; Eckert et al. 2012; Ismail et al. 2012; Suppasri et al. 2012a, b; Tarbotton et al. 2012; Usha et al. 2012; Suppasri et al. 2013; Santos et al. 2014; Benchekrone et al. 2015). In order to create appropriate models for hazard assessments, GIS tools are required for analyzing large amounts of data while generating thematic maps. The integration of various data sources can be performed, and the results obtained from the models can be presented as integrated with spatial and thematic data of selected region. In coherence with this approach, GIS tools are used in this study for further generating vulnerability assessment models while analyzing and integrating the results of numerical models.

The aim of this study is to further develop existing approaches, yielding a new methodology for GIS-based tsunami risk analysis, and thereby (i) to use high resolution (1 m) GIS-based data in tsunami numerical modeling and inundation analysis (hazard assessment), (ii) propose a new human vulnerability assessment method by further improving known vulnerability assessment aspects (locational vulnerability) and introducing new resilience assessment features (evacuation resilience), and (iii) propose a further developed tsunami risk evaluation equation by integrating the result of meter-size gridded high-resolution tsunami numerical models of different scenarios in the Yenikapı region in Istanbul, in order to obtain human vulnerability assessments.

### **Study area: the sea of Marmara and Yenikapı**

Apart from its amazing historical sites and natural attractions, Turkey has a crucial geopolitical position with economically significant places. Turkey is surrounded by seas on three sides and is shaped by active faults, resulting in inevitable interactions, yielding tsunami potential. Some of those active faults are in the Sea of Marmara. Istanbul is one of the most important metropolitan cities in the world, and is located near the faults in the Sea of

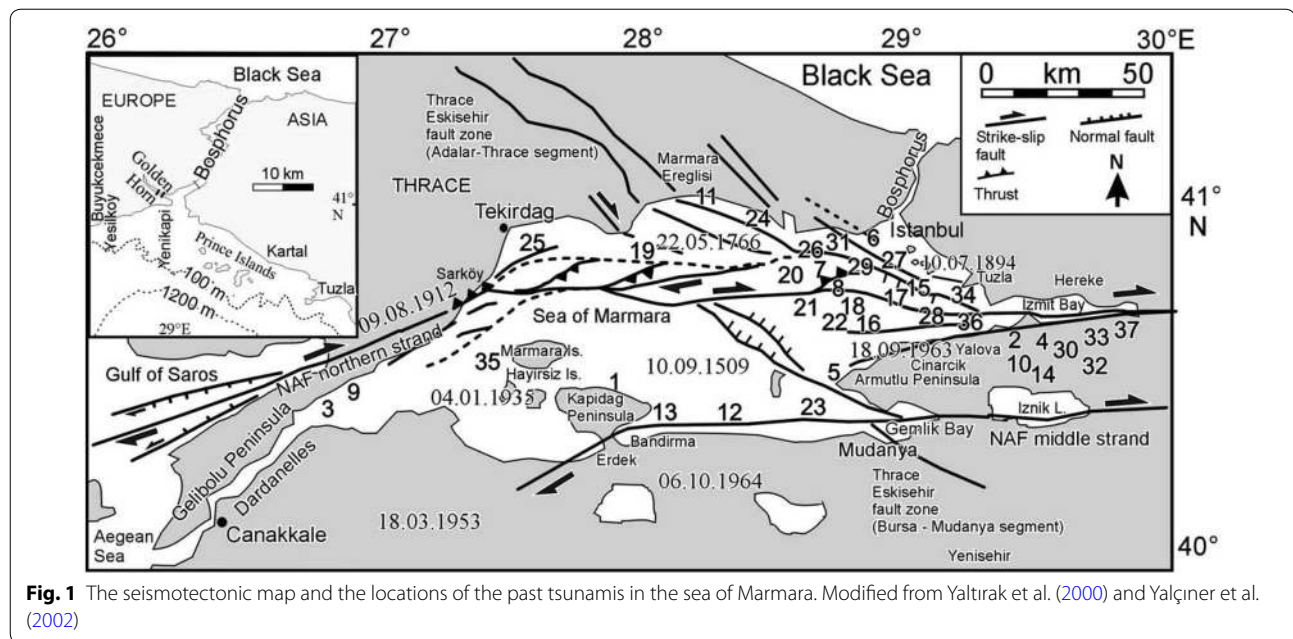
Marmara. Based on Altınok et al. 2011, there were more than 134 tsunamis impacting Turkey and its surrounding coasts from the seventeenth century BC to 1999 AD. Those tsunamis were triggered by earthquakes and/or submarine landslides. The Sea of Marmara is an inland sea which connects the Black Sea to the Aegean Sea, and also separates Asia from Europe. It is connected to the Black Sea by the Bosphorus strait and to the Aegean Sea by the Dardanelles. It occupies an area with the approximate dimensions of 275 km (E–W direction) and 80 km (N–S direction). The maximum depth reaches around 1200 m; it is a large-scale intercontinental sea (Smith et al. 1995; Yalçiner et al. 2002). The locations of the historical tsunamis (120–1999 AD) in the Sea of Marmara are shown in Fig. 1, in which the numbers are in chronological order.

As shown in Fig. 2, Yenikapı, which is in the Fatih district, is located in the southern part of Haliç, the European side of Istanbul. One of the ancient city walls of Istanbul is located on the Yenikapı coast. Yenikapı station hosts a suburban railway, subway line, and undersea railway connection (Marmaray) between Europe and Asia. The entrance to the Eurasia Undersea Highway Tunnel on the European side is also located near the coast of Yenikapı.

### **Tsunamigenic scenarios and numerical modeling**

Mitigation of tsunami impact can be achieved by providing faster evacuation for humans and by increasing the resistivity and performance of structures against tsunamis. Tsunami modeling is one of the important phases of tsunami hazard assessment. The source mechanisms, bathymetric, and topographical data in adequate resolution, as well as selection of probable tsunami scenarios, are used in tsunami numerical modeling (Aytöre et al. 2014; Aytöre 2015; Aytöre et al. 2015).

In this study, the critical tsunami scenarios that may be effective for Yenikapı are selected from different reports and papers considering seismic mechanisms (Yalçiner et al. 2002; Hebert et al. 2005; OYO-IMM Report 2008; Ayca 2012). However, the origin of tsunami waves due to submarine landslides and turbidity currents, especially along the steep submarine slopes north of Yalova and south of Yenikapı may be a considerable threat to the Istanbul coast, which have not included in this study. In terms of seismic activity, there are six potential sources that may be responsible for the generation of tsunamis in the Sea of Marmara. They are the Prince's Islands (PI) (oblique-normal) fault, Prince's Islands (PIN) (normal) fault, Ganos (GA) (oblique-normal and oblique-reverse) fault, Yalova (YAN) (oblique-normal and normal) fault, Central Marmara (CMN) (normal) fault, and the combination of PI and GA. Among these, the PIN and YAN are selected as critical sources that may cause tsunamis



with higher water levels, flow depth, and strong current velocities at Yenikapi. The rupture parameters of each segment of PIN and YAN are given in Table 1 (Ayca 2012; Özdemir 2014).

Tsunami source PIN is the normal component of the first four oblique-normal segments of tsunami source PI. In the simulations, it is assumed that four segments of PIN rupture have been broken entirely and generated the tsunami source. Tsunami source YAN consists of eight segments, of which three are oblique-normal and five are normal faults. In the simulations, it is assumed that eight segments of YAN have been broken entirely and generated the tsunami source.

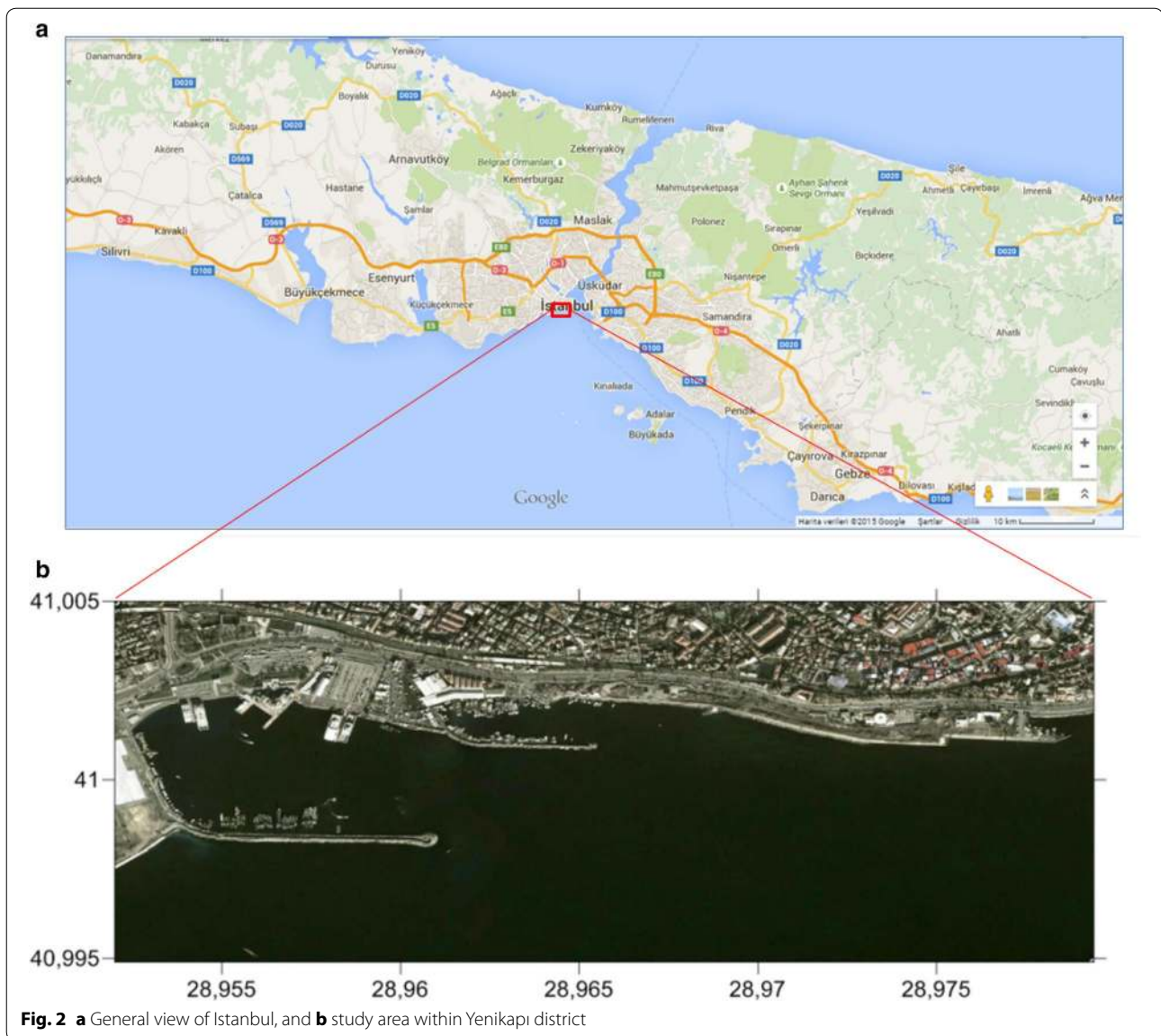
Tsunami numerical simulations are performed using the NAMI DANCE code (NAMI DANCE 2015). The model solves nonlinear forms of shallow water equations with a friction term. The duration of simulations used is 90 min, and the time step is set as 0.005 s. Since the largest tsunami waves hit the study area in the first 50 min, the 90 min simulation duration is sufficient to obtain the major tsunami impact in Yenikapi, including additional reflections from all boundaries. In this study, the bottom friction coefficient is taken as zero in order to be on the safe side in the vulnerability analysis, which computes further inundation.

The nested domains are created to be high resolution, covering the Yenikapi region and surroundings. Three nested domains (from large to small B, C, and D) are selected with different resolutions. The corner coordinates of each domain is given as 40.210°–41.260°N, 26.542°–30.020°E; 40.971°–41.041°N, 28.920°–29.045°E;

and 40.9949°–41.0050°N, 28.9520°–29.9794°E for B, C, and D, respectively. The largest domain (B) covers the whole Marmara with a resolution of about 90 m, the medium domain (C) covers the Yenikapi region with a resolution of 30 m, and the smaller domain (D) with a resolution of 10 m.

Since the tsunami computational tool NAMI DANCE allows a grid nesting ratio of three, at least five domains should be created for the high-resolution analysis ( $90 > 30 > 10 > 3.3 > 1.1$  m). This process takes a very long computational time (up to a few months) even with a 64 processor computer. In order to save time, it is preferred to run the tsunami numerical model once for the nested domains (B, C, and D) and to obtain the water level change at the border of the smallest domain (Domain D). Afterwards, a very high resolution (1 m grid size) Domain D is developed using GIS implementation considering buildings, transportation networks, and infrastructure. At the final stage, a single domain (Domain D with 1 m grid size) simulation using the wave input from the border (computed from nested simulations) is applied.

In order to perform higher-resolution numerical modeling, necessary implementations for the dataset are performed. Two different types of data are used in this study. They are: (i) the topographical data in XYZ (longitude, latitude, and elevation) format made of 5 m spaced points to construct the natural topography of the Istanbul region and (ii) the building and infrastructure vector data with elevations to construct the metropolitan topography. A very high-resolution metropolitan digital elevation model with 1 m grid size is constructed by



combining these two data sources, which are then joined with high-resolution bathymetry data to produce a seamless bathymetry and land topography input for detailed tsunami numerical model runs.

Two preliminary tsunami simulations are performed considering PIN and YAN earthquake sources (Table 1). The nested domains are created with high resolution (1 m), covering the Yenikapı region and environs. Three nested domains (from large to small B, C, and D) are selected in different resolutions. The grid model of the smallest domain (D) for simulations of tsunami propagation in the European part of Istanbul from Yenikapı to Kumkapı extends from 40.9949°N to 41.0050°N and from 28.9520°E to 29.9794°E. The distribution of maximum

water elevations in domains B and C at the end of the 90 min simulation and the tsunami sources PIN and YAN are presented in Fig. 3.

Then, the high-resolution (1 m grid size) single domain simulations are conducted. The water level change at the southern border of Domain D computed from nested simulations for PIN and YAN sources separately are given in Fig. 4. The wave at the border of Domain D from source YAN (red line) has a leading depression characteristic; however, the wave coming from source PIN (blue line) has a leading elevation characteristic.

The wave input to domain D (1 m grid size) is simulated for a duration of 90 min, and all necessary tsunami parameters (mainly maximum water elevations,

**Table 1** Estimated rupture parameters and initial wave amplitudes for tsunami sources PIN and YAN (Ayca 2012)

Fault	Type	Longitude (ED_50)	Latitude (ED_50)	Depth from sea bot- tom	Strike	Dip	Rake	Length	Width	Vertical dis- placements	Initial wave amplitude	
		Degree	Degree	m, GL-	Degree	Degree	Degree	m	m	m	Max (m)	Min (m)
PIN	Normal	29.12942	40.75691	744	108.15	70	270.00	8753	17.027	5.00	1.05	-2.57
		29.06928	40.78610	740	123.15	70	270.00	6024	17.027	5.00	0.94	-2.41
		28.99465	40.81653	779	118.85	70	270.00	7148	17.027	5.00	0.98	-2.47
		28.90432	40.87251	1210	129.90	70	270.00	9834	17.027	5.00	0.92	-2.36
YAN	Oblique- normal	29.47103	40.72115	1978	257.96	70	195.00	7058	17.027	5.00	0.49	-1.56
		29.38946	40.7075	1960	261.14	70	195.00	6873	17.027	5.00	0.6	-1.65
		29.30920	40.69751	1823	260.98	70	195.00	10.952	17.027	5.00	0.92	-2.35
	Normal	29.18143	40.68121	1681	262.35	70	270.00	4448	17.027	5.00	0.52	-1.55
		29.12936	40.6755	1557	273.96	70	270.00	4562	17.027	5.00	1.03	-2.51
		29.07551	40.67791	1252	283.78	70	270.00	10.021	17.027	5.00	0.53	-1.79
		28.96007	40.69843	1219	294.84	70	270.00	3154	17.027	5.00	0.56	-1.77
		28.92602	40.71005	1178	284.90	70	270.00	14.043	17.027	5.00	0.78	-2.15

maximum current speed, maximum flow depth, and maximum fluxes) are computed separately for Yenikapı using NAMI DANCE. Among those parameters, flow depth is one of the major parameter for risk analysis. It is plotted in Fig. 5 as the results of simulations using the PIN and YAN tsunami sources.

As seen in Fig. 5a, maximum flow depth exceeds 6 m near the shoreline east of the Yenikapı Fishery Port; it is represented in purple according to the simulation of the PIN source. Figure 5b shows the distribution of flow depth computed by simulation of the YAN source. In this simulation, the flow depth exceeds 6 m not only near the shore, but also in front of the high historical city wall which prevented water flow and caused accumulation of water volume in front. Hence, higher flow depths are observed in front of the historical city wall.

When the results of simulations of PIN and YAN sources are compared, it is observed that tsunami source YAN causes relatively longer inundation distances and higher flow depths at Yenikapı than tsunami source PIN. Therefore, results of the simulation of the YAN source (Fig. 5b) are reliable for use in the tsunami vulnerability analysis. These results are used as hazard intensity input in the next steps of this study.

### Tsunami human vulnerability assessment at Yenikapı region

#### Datasets used to compute vulnerability at location and evacuation resilience

There are two datasets available to use in the determination of tsunami human vulnerability at Yenikapı. The first one is the vector dataset of the entire Istanbul region, prepared by the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality

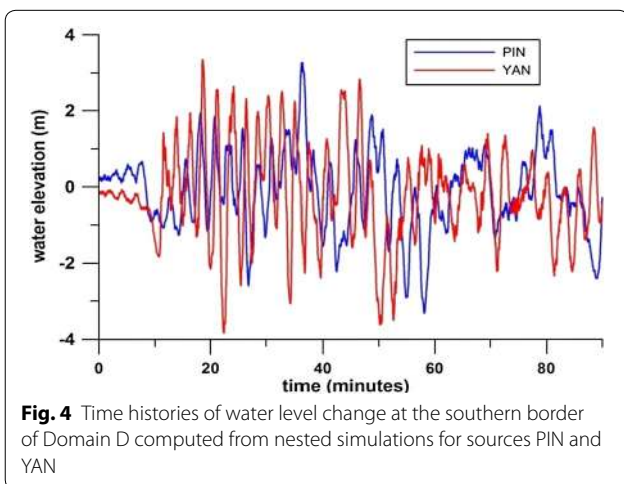
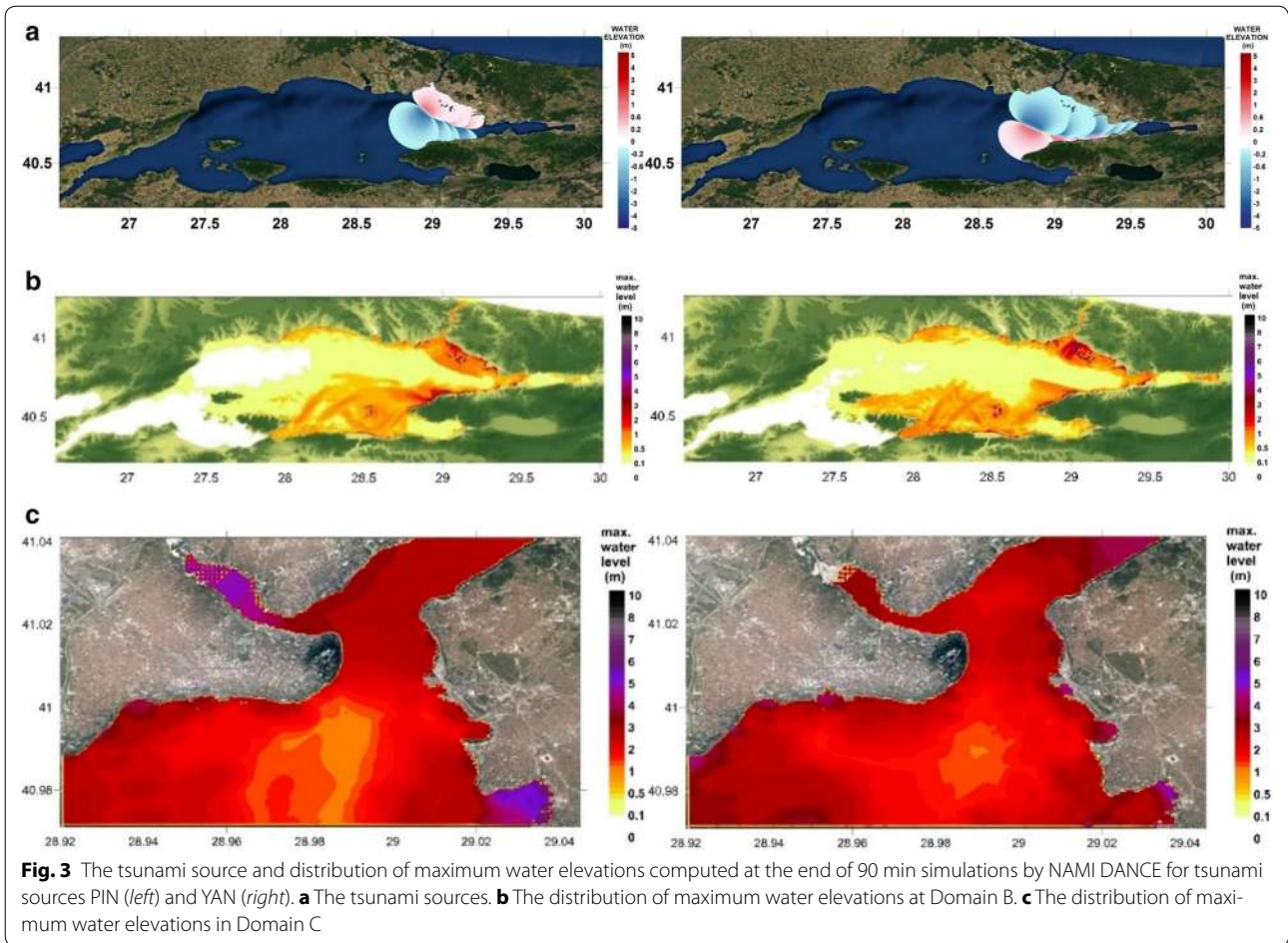
(IMM), and dates back to 2006 (Fig. 6). This raw dataset is composed of hundreds of points (e.g., utilities, single graves, billboards), polylines (e.g., retaining walls, walking-tracks, scarps), and polygons (e.g., decorative pools, greenhouses, penthouses) representing all available metropolitan structures and infrastructure, with their elevations. The second available dataset is a DEM with 5 m resolution, created from aerial photogrammetric techniques based on 2006 data, also obtained from IMM (Fig. 7).

In the context of the two available sources, it was decided to produce eight parameters as vulnerability and resilience related layers for MCDA. Two different categories were produced from eight parameter layers. They are (i) the spatial distribution of vulnerability due to distance to shoreline, geology, elevation, and metropolitan use, and (ii) the spatial distribution of resilience based on ease of evacuation because of distance to buildings, slope, distance to road networks, and distance to flat areas. The hierarchical structure used to prepare the tsunami human vulnerability assessment map is given in Fig. 8. It was used to allot weight and rank values to the layers and classes of each thematic map in the AHP method.

#### Assumptions for vulnerability at location and evacuation resilience assessments

In order to make the models more realistic yet simple enough to solve the case, a number of practical assumptions were made throughout the MCDA implementations:

- The earthquake is assumed to be a precursor to a tsunami, which warns people to consider the imminent



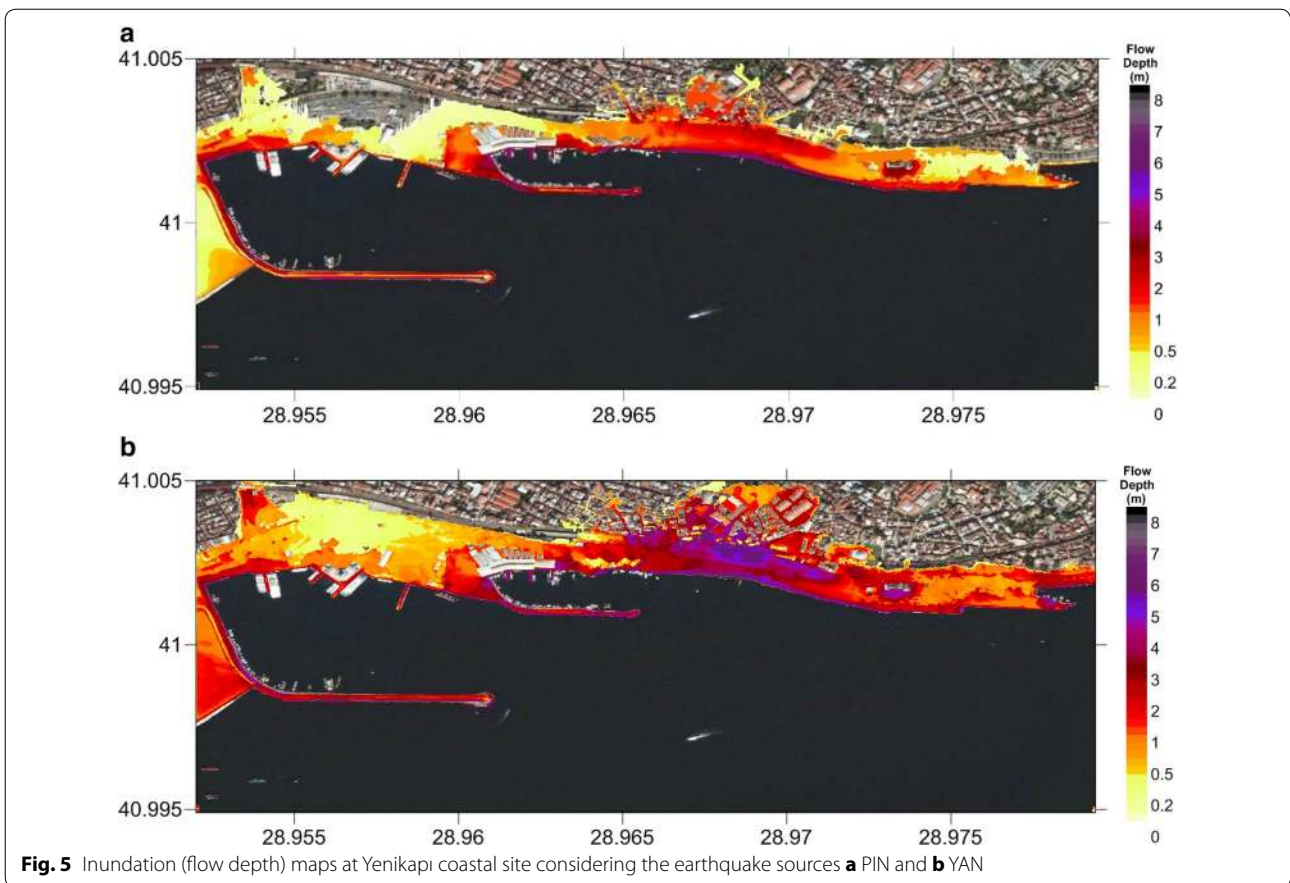
arrival of a tsunami (with enough time to move to safer locations).

- Buildings are considered rigid and undamaged by tsunamis.

- It is assumed that vertical evacuation is possible in every building, and the number of floors are greater than one, except prefabricated buildings.
- Day and night populations are assumed to be constant.
- It is supposed that tsunami waves arrive at the same time at all locations on the Yenikapı shoreline in the study area (an approximately 2 km segment of the Yenikapı shoreline).
- The duration of inundation is governed by the period of the tsunami wave.
- According to the results of simulations using a critical scenario in a deterministic approach, the period of tsunami waves is estimated to be approximately 10–15 min. In the vulnerability analysis, the duration of the tsunami inundation is sufficiently long.

#### Vulnerability analysis at location

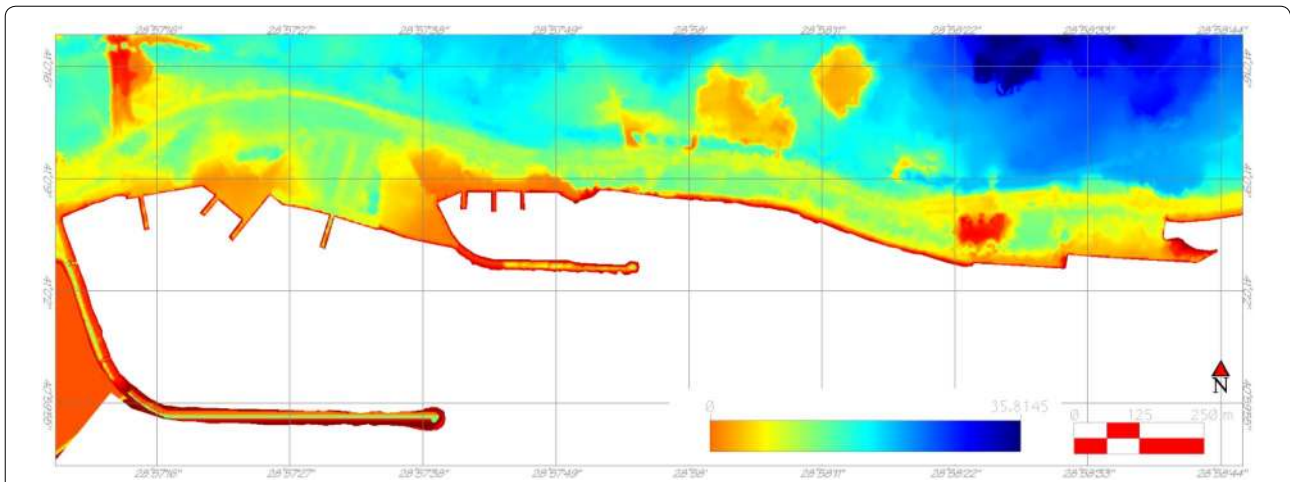
The tsunami vulnerability at location in Yenikapı is assessed by integration of metropolitan use, geology, elevation and distance from shoreline layers. These layers are produced from their raw data and combined in



the previously decided MCDA framework. The input data and their relevant parameter maps/layers are as follows:

**a) Metropolitan use layer**

All the attributes of metropolitan use vector data are analyzed and grouped into meaningful units by gathering



**Fig. 7** Digital elevation model (DEM) of Yenikapi with 5 m resolution



**Fig. 8** The hierarchical structure used in the preparation of the vulnerability maps



similar metropolitan use polygons. Here, 23 descriptive units are aggregated in an attribute table, which includes all buildings and structures, grouped into five main metropolitan use groups against tsunami vulnerability. These are extremely important places, such as prefabricated buildings, gas stations, electricity transformers, pedestrian underpasses, the İDO-Istanbul Sea-bus Terminal (the glass-wall building), the entrance to the Eurasia (Avrasya) Undersea Highway Tunnel, ruins, assembly areas (e.g., religious facilities, sports facilities, schools, wedding halls), flat areas (e.g., asphalt roads, suburban railways, parking spaces, green fields, and medians), cultural heritage sites (e.g., stationary city walls, demolished city walls, historical places/buildings), and buildings (e.g., factories, small-scaled production centers, buildings under-construction, residential areas/private homes, commercial buildings).

The type or usage of each building is also considered separately while categorizing built-up environments and their relationship to vulnerability. In the ranking process, the possibly high occupancy of locations such as assembly areas is also taken into account in estimating the vulnerability score of the selected area. According to observations from the site visit, there are very few wooden buildings located near the suburban railway, and there are five prefabricated buildings located behind the glass-wall building. This is why it is not feasible to classify the buildings according to their construction materials or to their resistivity to waves, as in previous TVA studies. The map of metropolitan use is presented in Fig. 9a, where red, blue, green, purple, and yellow represent extremely important places, assembly areas, cultural heritage sites, flat areas, and buildings, respectively. The critical areas are prefabricated buildings, gas stations, electricity transformers, pedestrian underpasses, the glass-wall building and the entrance to the Eurasia Undersea Highway Tunnel, and historical ruins.

#### **b) Geology layer**

Tsunamis are mostly generated by earthquakes at interplate subduction areas. Once the stability of geological units is altered by lateral or vertical forces, unwanted slope instabilities, ground deformation, and liquefaction may occur. Furthermore, the geotechnical properties influencing local site conditions, and thus earthquake ground motion, may influence building damage and stability after stronger earthquakes, and thus building resistivity to waves in case of high energetic tsunami waves.

Geological units in the study area are classified according to their lithologies and ages. There are two formations older than the Quaternary: the Carboniferous Trakya and Miocene Çukurçeşme formations outcropping around Yenikapı. Furthermore, around the Yenikapı port, in addition to valley-filling alluviums, part of the sea has

been filled with anthropogenic Quaternary fill (Fig. 10). The geology layer is created by grouping the formations according to their behavior during earthquakes. Their geotechnical behaviors during an earthquake have been intensively studied in various IMM studies, yielding the result that the Carboniferous Trakya formation is favorable, while the Miocene Güngören Formation possesses different geotechnical problems during an earthquake. On the other hand, all natural or anthropogenic unconsolidated deposits in the Quaternary alluvium are classified as unfavorable ground (Fig. 9b).

#### **c) Elevation (DEM) layer**

When a tsunami reaches land, standing on higher ground will keep coastal buildings, structures and infrastructures safe, compared with being at low elevation near the shore. Not only elevation, but also the distance from the shoreline is also used in the numerical computation of inundation parameters. These are the two basic vulnerability parameters of inundation that should have to be taken into account, regardless of the type of marine-induced hazard.

The natural terrain elevation dataset was produced by aerial photogrammetric techniques in 2006 by IMM with a 5 m pixel size. The pixel size is reduced to 1 m by resampling the DEM in order to make it coherent with the building (metropolitan) topography that was used to calculate the numerical tsunami models. Based on regional tsunami records and previous expertise, the elevation layer is divided into four classes: elevations lesser than 3 m, 3–5 m, 5–8 m and elevations higher than 8 m. The generated parameter layer is shown in Fig. 9c.

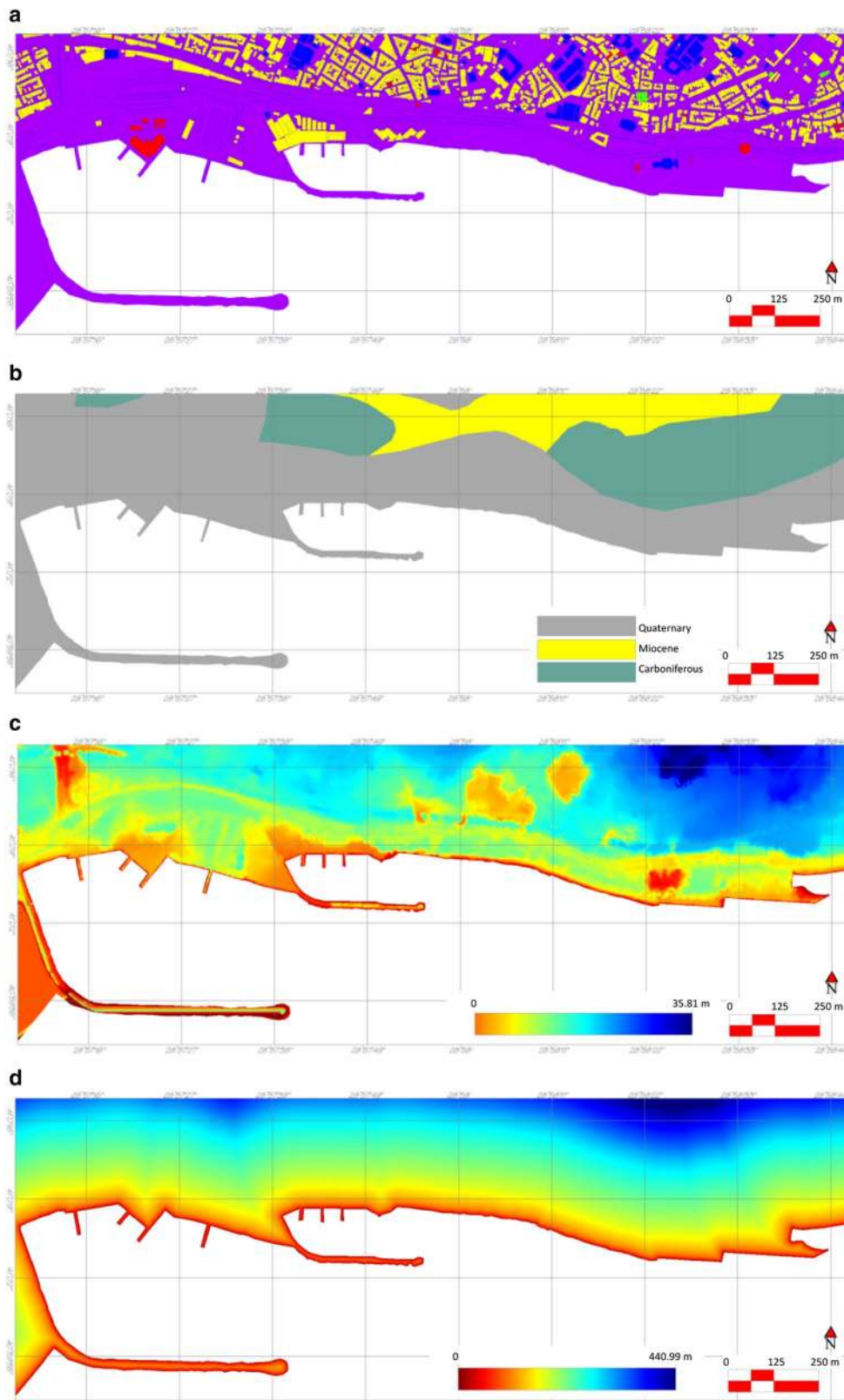
#### **d) Distance from shoreline layer**

In case of any tsunami threat, it would be good to be away from the shoreline. Structures near the shoreline would be in danger. Independent of the resistivity of the buildings and/or structures depending on material type, proximity to the shore increases the probability of being close to or within inundation, which would affect vulnerability negatively. Hence, distance from shoreline is taken as a parameter to determine vulnerability (Çankaya 2015).

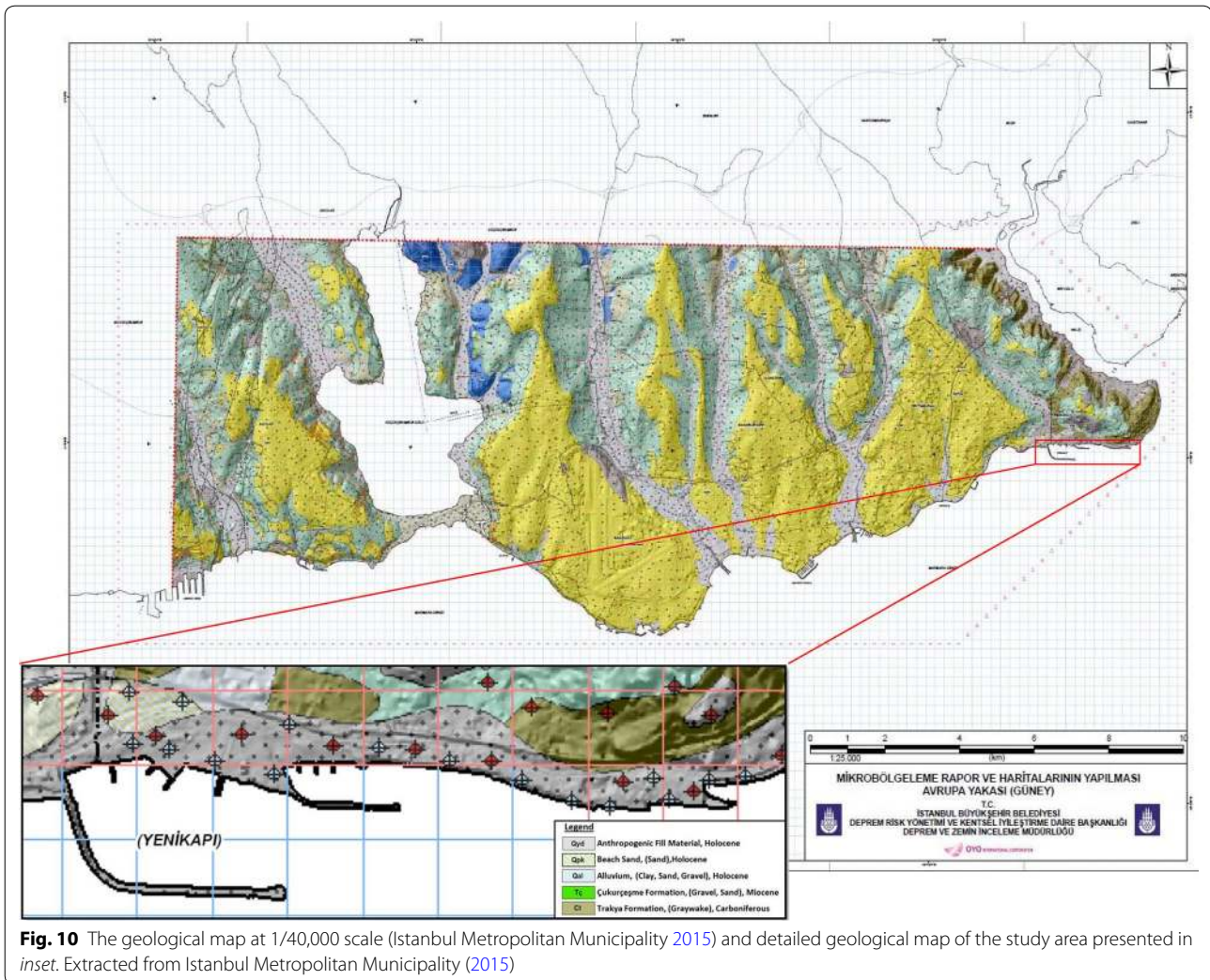
This layer is calculated as the nearest perpendicular distance of each 1 m raster cell from the shoreline vector (Fig. 9d). The computed continuous raster is then divided into five classes: distances less than 50 m, 50–100 m, 100–200 m, 200–300 m and distances greater than 400 m.

#### **Evacuation resilience analysis at Yenikapı region**

Recently, research has indicated that a key concept in the assessment of tsunami events is resilience. As previously introduced, there are four layers in this group: distance to buildings, slope, distance to road networks, and distance within flat area layers. The MCDA framework is created



**Fig. 9** Parameter maps of vulnerability at location: **a** parameter map of metropolitan use layer: extremely important places (red), assembly areas (blue), cultural heritage sites (green), flat areas (purple), buildings (yellow); **b** Parameter map of geology layer; **c** The elevation DEM layer; **d** Parameter map of distance from shoreline layer



**Fig. 10** The geological map at 1/40,000 scale (Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality 2015) and detailed geological map of the study area presented in inset. Extracted from Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (2015)

to calculate the resilience score for evacuation of places that may be exposed to tsunamis (Fig. 8).

#### a) Slope layer

Slope is an important parameter for tsunami evacuation, as it directly affects the speed at which pedestrians can escape (Graehl and Dengler 2008). When a tsunami propagates inland, gentle slopes in the coastal region will make evacuation easier. The land slope layer is calculated from the resampled high-resolution (1 m) DEM (Fig. 11a). The continuous raster slope layer is then re-classified into five classes: slopes less than 2°, 2°–4°, 4°–6°, 6°–10°, and slopes steeper than 10°.

#### b) Distance within flat areas layer

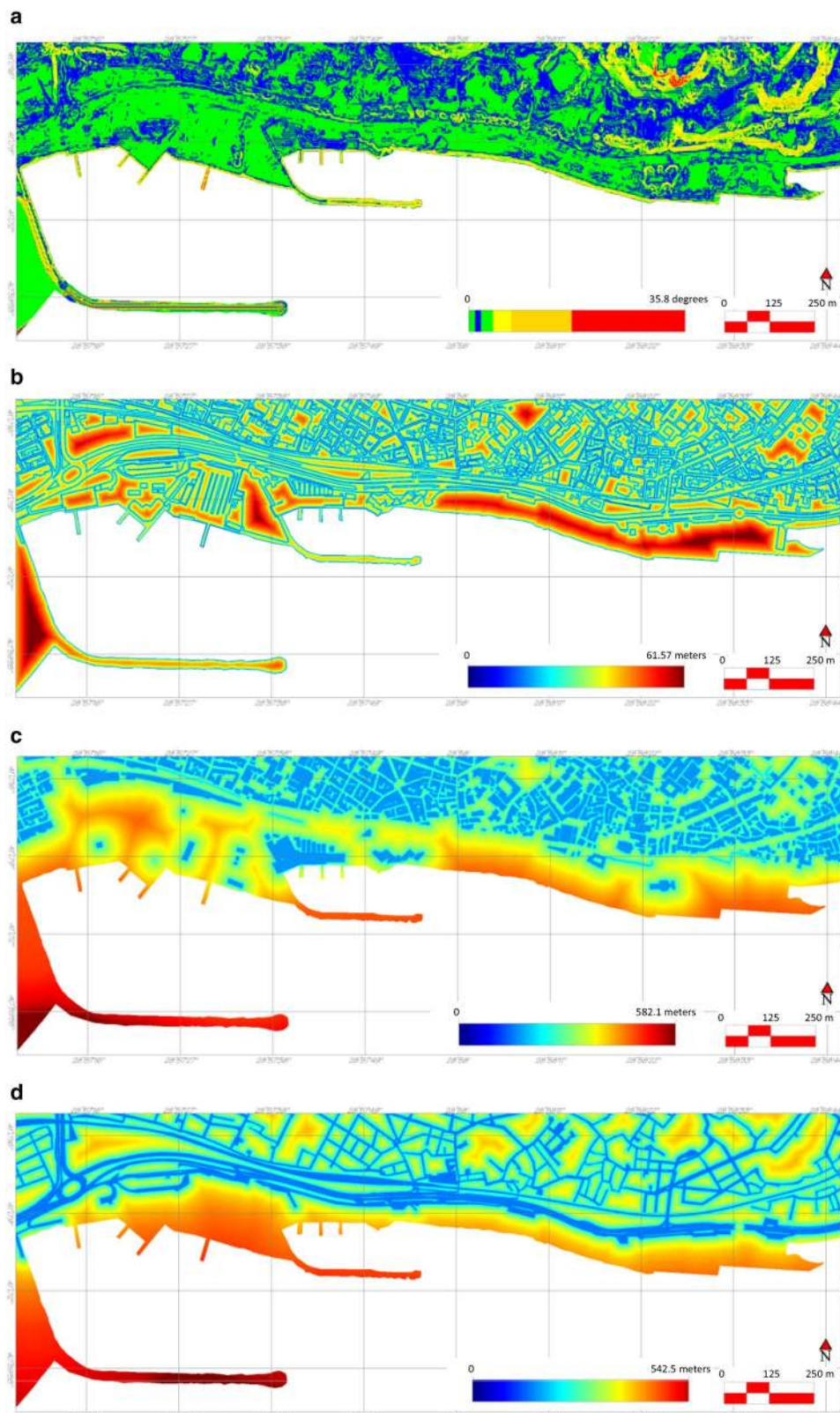
Although open areas are safer locations during an earthquake, lack of shelter and absence of vertical evacuation make open areas susceptible to tsunamis. Hence, the

distance within an open area limits the evacuation potential (Çankaya 2015). For producing this layer, the metropolitan use layer is used as input to select flat areas from available attribute tables. Parking lots and other open spaces (including green fields and public squares) are selected, and the nearest perpendicular distances within these units are calculated (Fig. 11b). Distances within flat areas layer are divided into three classes: nearer than 10 m, 10–30 m, and farther 30 m.

#### c) Distance to buildings layer

The number of the floors in a building should be considered in calculating evacuation resilience of residents. However, when buildings are low and evacuation in the vertical direction is not possible, injury and death will be inevitable (Dominey-Howes and Papathoma 2007).

It is accepted that where vertical evacuation is possible, residents are able to evacuate from the tsunami disaster



**Fig. 11** Parameter maps of evacuation resilience: **a** The parameter map of slope layer, **b** the parameter map of distance within flat areas layer, **c** the parameter map of distance to buildings layer, **d** the parameter map of distance to road networks layer

easily (Mas et al. 2014), thus preventing risk of injury and death. All types of buildings in the attribute table of the metropolitan use layer are integrated to generate the parameter layer for buildings. The nearest perpendicular distances to the building polygons from any location on the map are calculated for every 1 m pixel (Fig. 11c). The distance to the buildings layer is divided into five classes: less than 10 m, 10–50 m, 50–100 m, 100–250 m, and greater than 250 m.

**d) Distance to road networks**

The location of residents in the area during a tsunami is critical. In most cases, there is a warning and alert system at locations that have been exposed to tsunamis. Evacuation signs and routes produced by local officials are available in such places. Tsunami evacuation routes/roads guides coastal residents to safer locations in case of natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis. Evacuation signs are placed along routes to mark the direction inland or to higher elevations. If the coastal area does not have any evacuation routes, the main roads should be considered for escape when a tsunami approaches inland. In tsunami-flooded flat areas, it is very difficult to reach safer places on high ground and away from the shoreline.

The metropolitan use layer is used to select suburban railways and asphalt roads as potential escape corridors. The nearest perpendicular distances to these corridors are calculated, and distances to the road network layer are presented in Fig. 11d. The distances to the road network layer are then classified into five classes: less than 5 m, 5–10 m, 10–20 m, 20–50 m, 50–100 m, 100–250 m, and greater than 250 m.

**Creating AHP framework and final map production for vulnerability at location and evacuation resilience scores**

The generated parameter maps are used in the MCDA process to calculate the vulnerability at location and evacuation resilience maps. AHP provides a basis to compare decision-making alternatives in a mathematical structure. The relative vulnerabilities of eight layers in two groups are identified comparatively and separately according to expert opinion, considering the intensities of the weight values on Saaty’s rating scale (Table 2). While assigning weight values to each layer, pairwise comparisons are performed for each group (Fig. 12). The rank values within each layer are given by experts according to their appropriate tsunami vulnerability conditions.

The weight values for vulnerability at location are computed, and the consistency ratio is estimated to be less than 0.10 with the value of 0.0255 by AHP calculations. Likewise, the same procedure is applied for evacuation resilience, and the consistency ratio is estimated to be 0.0843, which is less than 0.10; therefore, it is compatible for use in

the AHP method. For vulnerability at location, the classes and their rank values are presented in Table 3, and the vulnerability map of each parameter is also given in Fig. 13. The same process is performed for evacuation resilience and weight, and rank values are given in Table 4, while vulnerability maps for each parameter are presented in Fig. 14.

Based on the weightings of layers and rankings of classes in Tables 3 and 4, the final maps of vulnerability at location and evacuation resilience are calculated and presented in Fig. 15.

**Tsunami risk analysis**

This study presents a new approach for tsunami risk evaluation regarding the association of vulnerability at location, evacuation resilience, and numerical computation of tsunami inundation depth result. The tsunami risk analysis is proposed to follow a new equation, presented in Eq. (1).

$$\text{Risk} = (H) \times \left( \frac{VL}{nRE} \right) \tag{1}$$

where *H* is the hazard value (maximum flow depth in inundation zone during tsunami), and VL and RE are the vulnerability at location and the evacuation resilience, respectively. VL and RE are calculated to be in the range of 0–1. The location vulnerability and evacuation resilience are inversely proportional, as given in Eq. (1). VL increases with increasing vulnerability, and RE decreases with increasing evacuation resilience of the location. The overall vulnerability decreases with increasing resilience of evacuation, whereas it increases with any rise in locational vulnerability. This relationship is scaled up with a constant *n* (awareness parameter), denoting the level of awareness and preparedness of the community to tsunami waves. In the equation, the parameter *n* is the only parameter that can be controlled by increasing community awareness. A typical value of *n* for non-resilient communities is assumed to be around unity, whereas for well-prepared hazard-aware (tsunami ready) communities, this value can reach up to ten. According to our

**Table 2 Saaty’s (1990) rating scale**

Weight/rank	Intensities
1	Equal
3	Moderately dominant
5	Strongly dominant
7	Very strongly dominant
9	Extremely dominant
2, 4, 6, 8	Intermediate values
Reciprocals	For inverse judgments

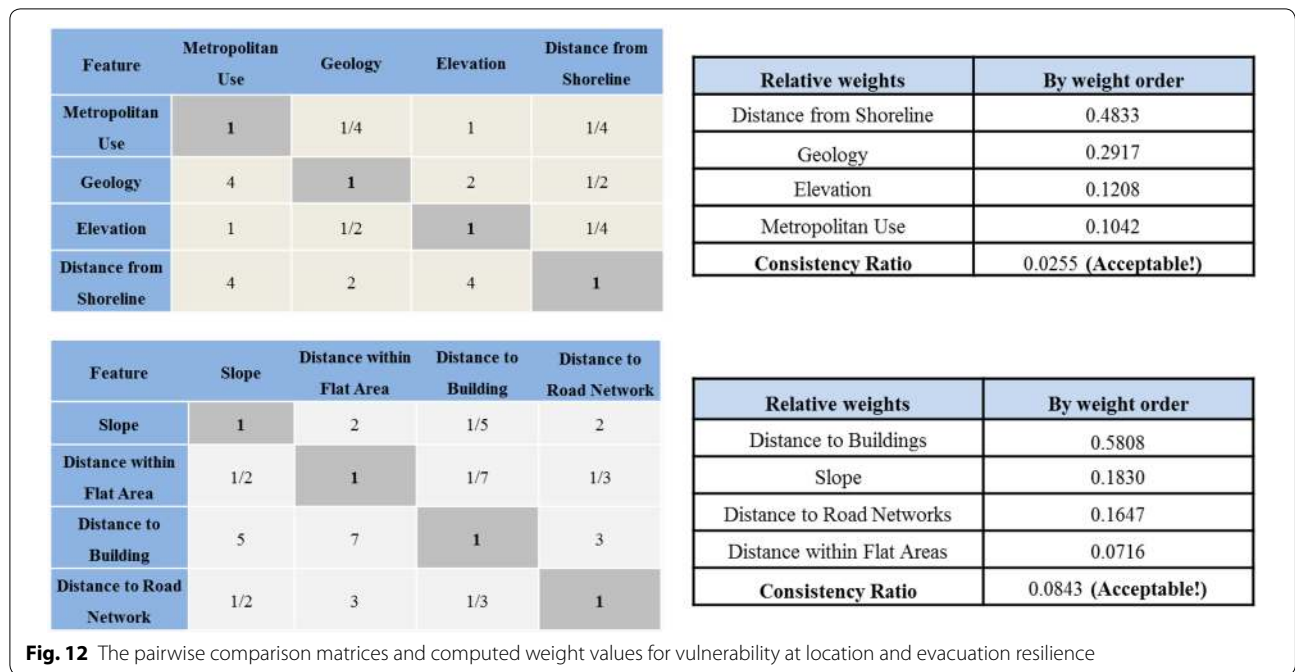


Fig. 12 The pairwise comparison matrices and computed weight values for vulnerability at location and evacuation resilience

Table 3 The computed weight and rank values of vulnerability at location

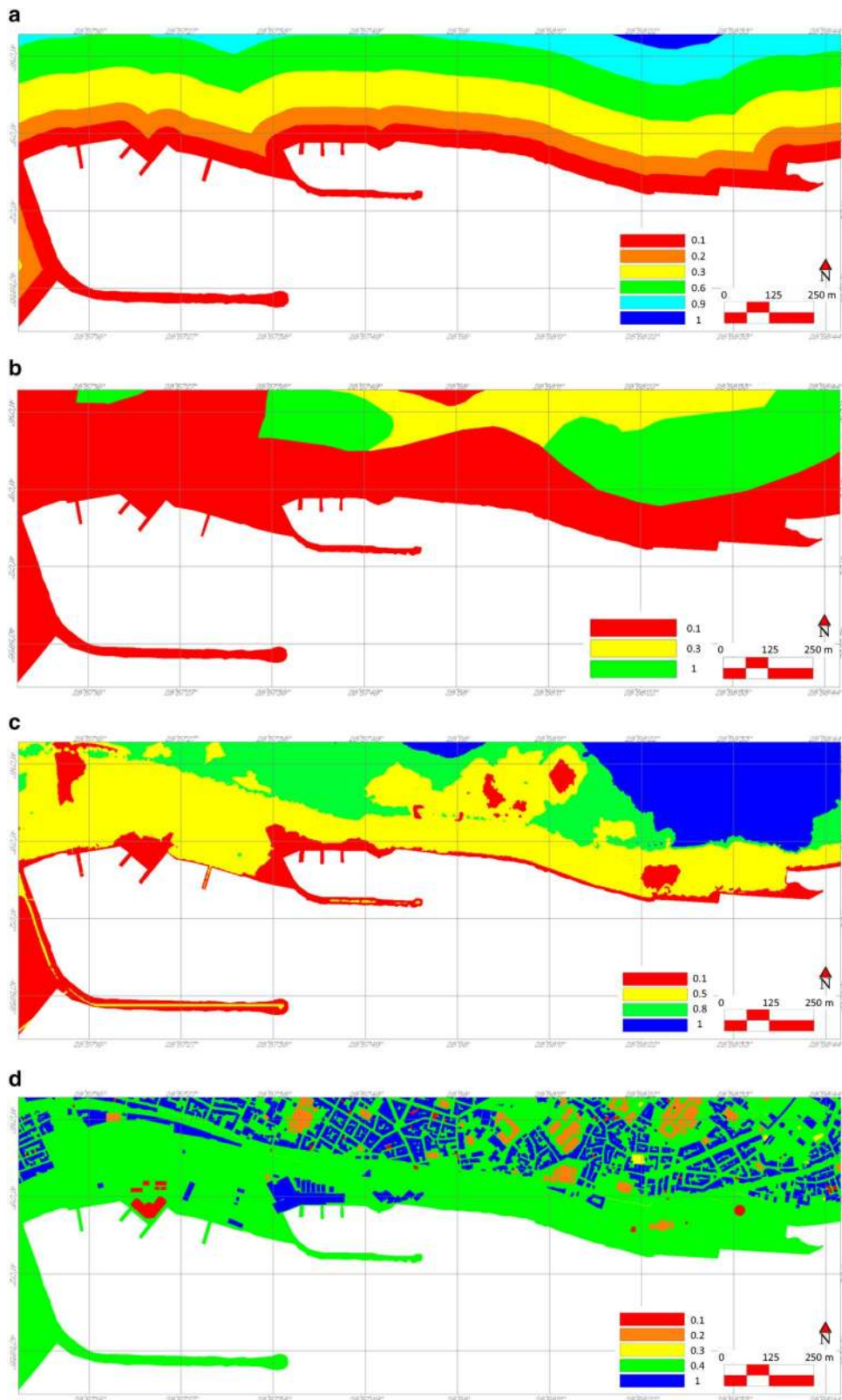
Layers	Weight	Classes	Ranking	Rank (standardized)	Weight x rank
Distance from shoreline	0.4833	<50	1	0.1	0.04833
		50–100	2	0.2	0.09666
		100–200	3	0.3	0.14499
		200–300	6	0.6	0.28998
		300–400	9	0.9	0.43497
		≥400	10	1	0.48330
Geology	0.2917	Quaternary	1	1	0.02917
		Miocene	3	0.3	0.08751
		Carboniferous	10	0.1	0.29170
Elevation	0.1208	<3	1	0.1	0.01208
		3–5	5	0.5	0.06040
		5–8	8	0.8	0.09664
		≥8	10	1	0.12080
Metropolitan use	0.1042	Extremely important places	1	0.1	0.01042
		Assembly areas	2	0.2	0.02084
		Cultural heritage	3	0.3	0.03126
		Flat areas	4	0.4	0.04168
		Buildings	10	1	0.10420

experience comparing the awareness and preparedness of communities, in this study we use  $n = 3$  for Istanbul. When  $H = 0$  at any point in the study area, the value of tsunami risk will be zero. This means tsunami waves will not reach that location on land. In any other case (when  $H > 0$ ), the relative risk can be calculated at locations where there is a flow depth in inundation zone. The final

maps representing the relative risk at each location in Yenikapı are generated using Eq. (1) and are presented in Fig. 16.

### Results and discussion

A new approach to tsunami risk analysis via preparation of vulnerability and evacuation resilience maps for the



**Fig. 13** Ranked maps of **a** distance from shoreline layer, **b** geology layer, **c** elevation layer, **d** metropolitan use layer

**Table 4** The computed weight and rank values of evacuation resilience

Layers	Weight	Classes	Ranking	Rank (standardized)	Weight × rank
Distance to buildings	0.5808	<10	10	0.1	0.58080
		10–50	9	0.2	0.52272
		50–100	3	0.3	0.17424
		100–250	2	0.6	0.11616
		≥250	1	0.9	0.05808
Slope	0.1830	<2	10	1	0.18300
		2–4	7	0.7	0.12810
		4–6	4	0.4	0.07320
		6–10	2	0.2	0.03660
		≥10	1	0.1	0.01830
Distance to road networks	0.1647	<5	10	1	0.16470
		5–10	9	0.9	0.14823
		10–20	7	0.7	0.11529
		20–50	5	0.5	0.08235
		50–100	3	0.3	0.04941
		100–250	2	0.2	0.03294
Distance within flat areas	0.0716	<10	10	1	0.07160
		10–30	5	0.5	0.03580
		≥30	1	0.1	0.00716

Yenikapı coastal region, combining tsunami numerical modeling and GIS-based MCDA, is presented.

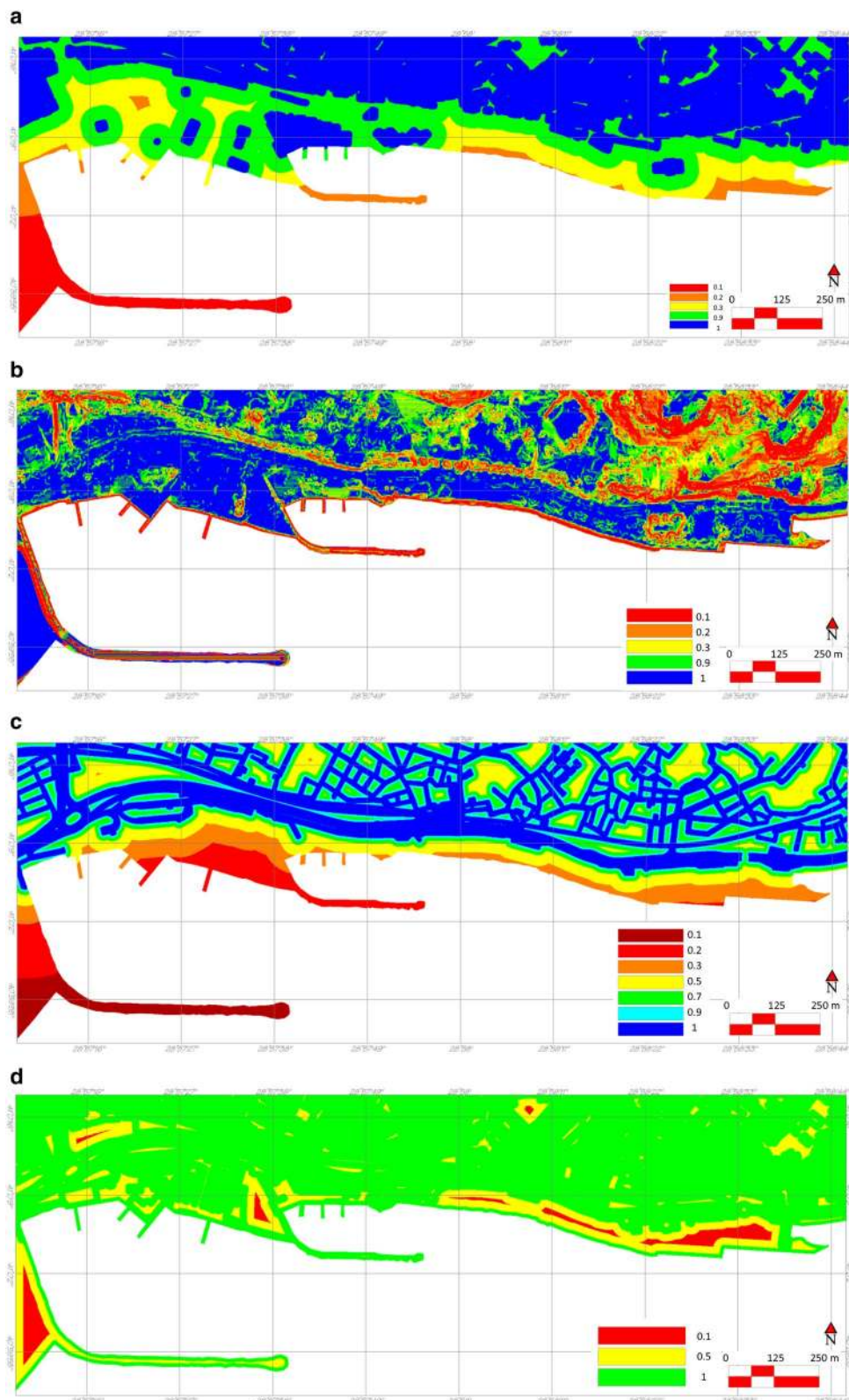
The maximum flow depths and inundated area based on simulations of the PIN and YAN tsunami sources are obtained, and the inundation maps are plotted. The inundation maps produced by simulation of these two tsunami sources are compared. According to the generated inundation maps, the tsunami source YAN is found more critical than the tsunami source PIN, since it causes greater flow depth and longer inundation distance.

The map of vulnerability at location is derived by combining the parameter layers using MCDA methods in a GIS environment. The map of vulnerability at location map is produced by evaluating four parameters simultaneously in a single process. The most effective parameter layer is observed as the distance from shoreline with a weight of 0.4833, which is the most dominant parameter compared to the other parameter layers. In Fig. 17, dark red represents the more vulnerable places. According to the results in Fig. 17a, the safest areas are defined as the locations that are at least 10 m from the shoreline or near any building. Vertical evacuation is possible in the majority of buildings in Yenikapı. The prefabricated buildings located behind the glass-wall building are single-story structures, and are not resistant enough to tsunami

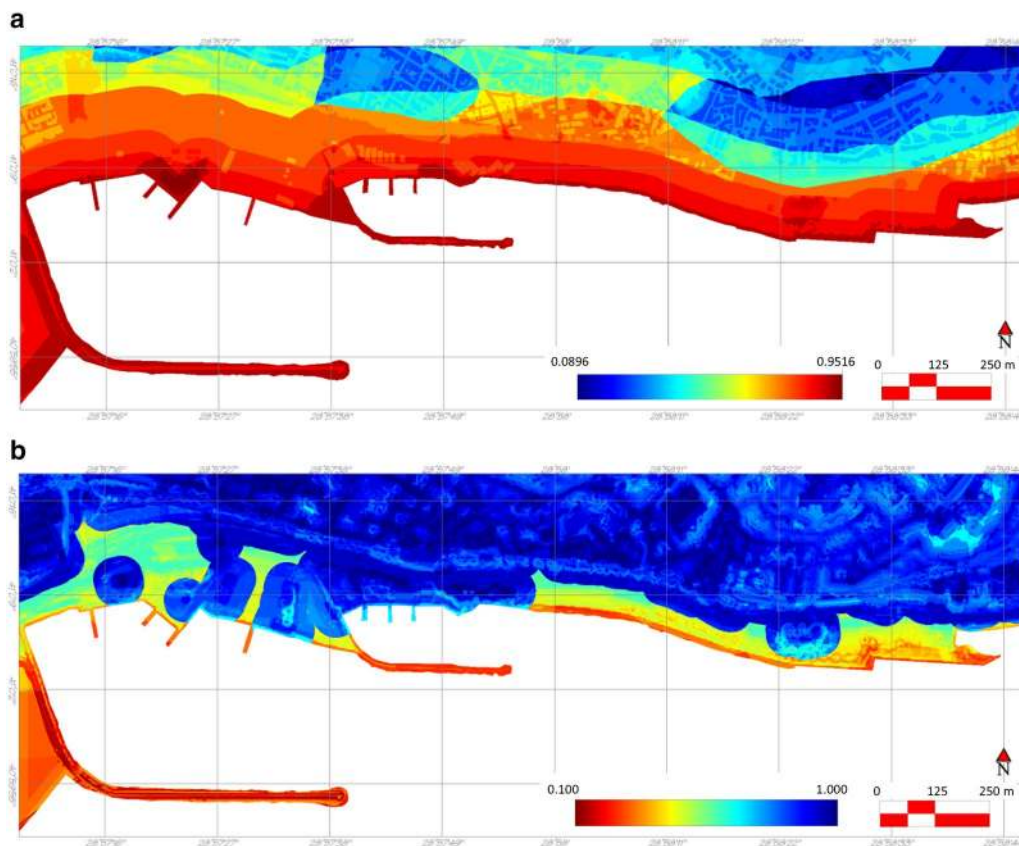
waves. As also seen in Fig. 17a, there is a color tone difference between the glass wall building and the prefabricated buildings. This is because, although both are grouped in extremely important places, with the effect of other parameters, the glass-wall building is dark red, and the prefabricated buildings are red.

The map of evacuation resilience is given in Fig. 17b. The buildings are obviously the most resilient places, since it is assumed they allow vertical evacuation. In contrast, the breakwaters are the least resilient places because of their proximity to the sea and escape routes. The more resilient places, including buildings, structures, road networks, and flat areas are colored blue. The less resilient areas for evacuation are places near the shore, west of the Yenikapı Fishery Port. The reason for this is the existence of fish restaurants, which are assumed to be rigid and not easily damaged. Likewise, depending on the evacuation resilience map, the glass-wall building is represented in blue as a safer place because it allows to vertical evacuation, thus its locational vulnerability is decreased. When the study area is visited, it is noted that the buildings mostly consist of more than one story in the Yenikapı region. The dominant effect of the building layer with the weight of 0.5808 is seen in the evacuation resilience map.





**Fig. 14** Ranked maps of **a** distance to buildings layer, **b** slope layer, **c** distance to road networks layer, **d** distance within flat areas layer



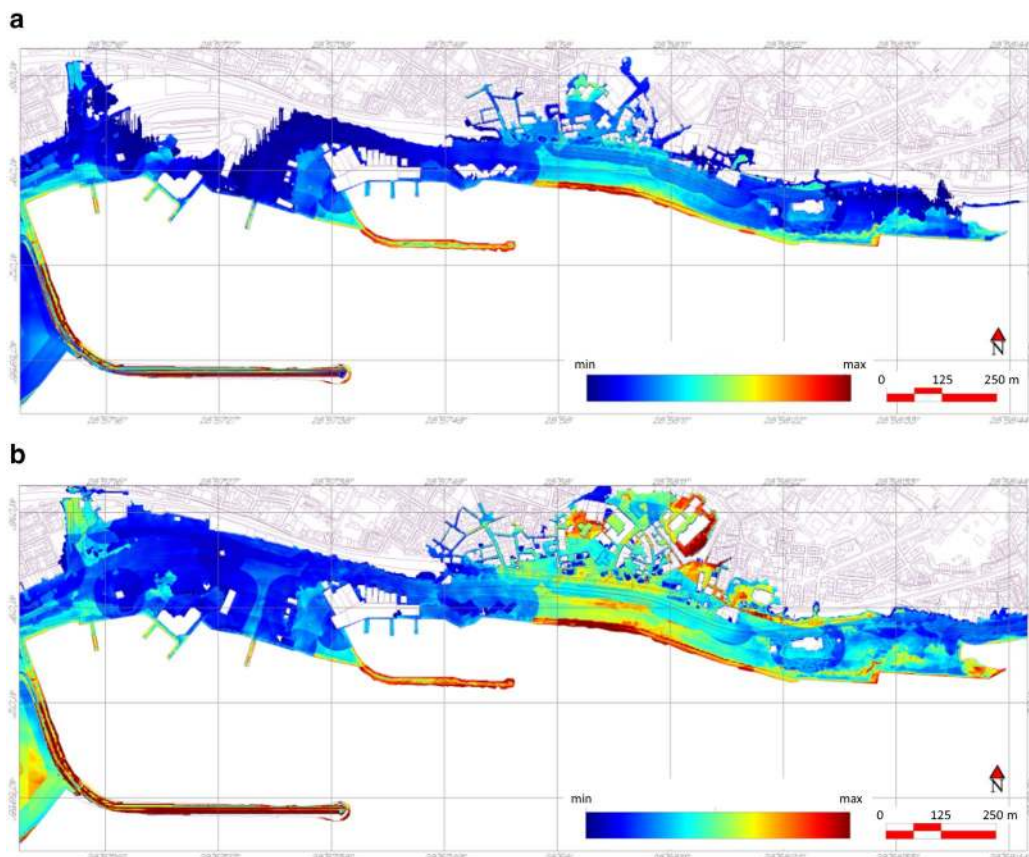
**Fig. 15** The calculated maps of vulnerability at location (a) and evacuation resilience (b)

The vulnerability and evacuation resilience maps are combined for two critical tsunami sources, PIN and YAN, separately. For these two sources, the risk maps are produced using proposed Eq. (1). The vulnerability and evacuation resilience are relatively defined for each pixel in the study boundary. The values of vulnerability and evacuation resilience maps are in the range of 0–1. In the risk maps, blue represents the relatively safer places, whereas the more hazardous places are depicted in red. White pixels represent the value of zero because of no tsunami effect (in other words, flow depth is equal to zero). Tsunami risk increases from the blue to red-colored areas. According to the colors in the maps, the less hazardous places near shoreline are the İDO-Istanbul Seabus Terminal (ignoring the construction material), the restaurants behind the Yenikapı Fishery port, and the wedding hall located west of the study area, near the shore. The relative vulnerability east of the Fishery Yenikapı port is at a maximum because of the gates of the ancient city walls. A small part of the meeting area west of the study area is seen an important place because of tsunami impact. The

entire meeting area must be considered in tsunami risk analyses, and the necessary precautions should be taken accordingly before facing a tsunami disaster.

In this study, the main road in the study area runs parallel to the coastline, which is not convenient for evacuation when a tsunami occurs. The places assigned as extremely important places (the prefabricated buildings, the glass wall building, the entrance to the Eurasia Undersea Highway Tunnel, ruins, the entrance to pedestrian underpasses, gas stations, electricity transformers) are more vulnerable considering vulnerability at location and evacuation resilience. Some car underpasses on the main road in Yenikapı would cause penetration of water inland, which would probably make evacuation more difficult.

The snapshot methodology of this study is summarized in three steps. The first step covers the tsunami numerical modeling and production of tsunami inundation maps which provides the Hazard intensity value  $H$ . In the second step, the GIS-based MCDA method is used to produce the necessary parameters, to determine the



**Fig. 16** The risk maps derived from the proposed Eq. (1): **a** for Prince's Islands normal (PIN) fault and **b** Yalova normal (YAN) fault

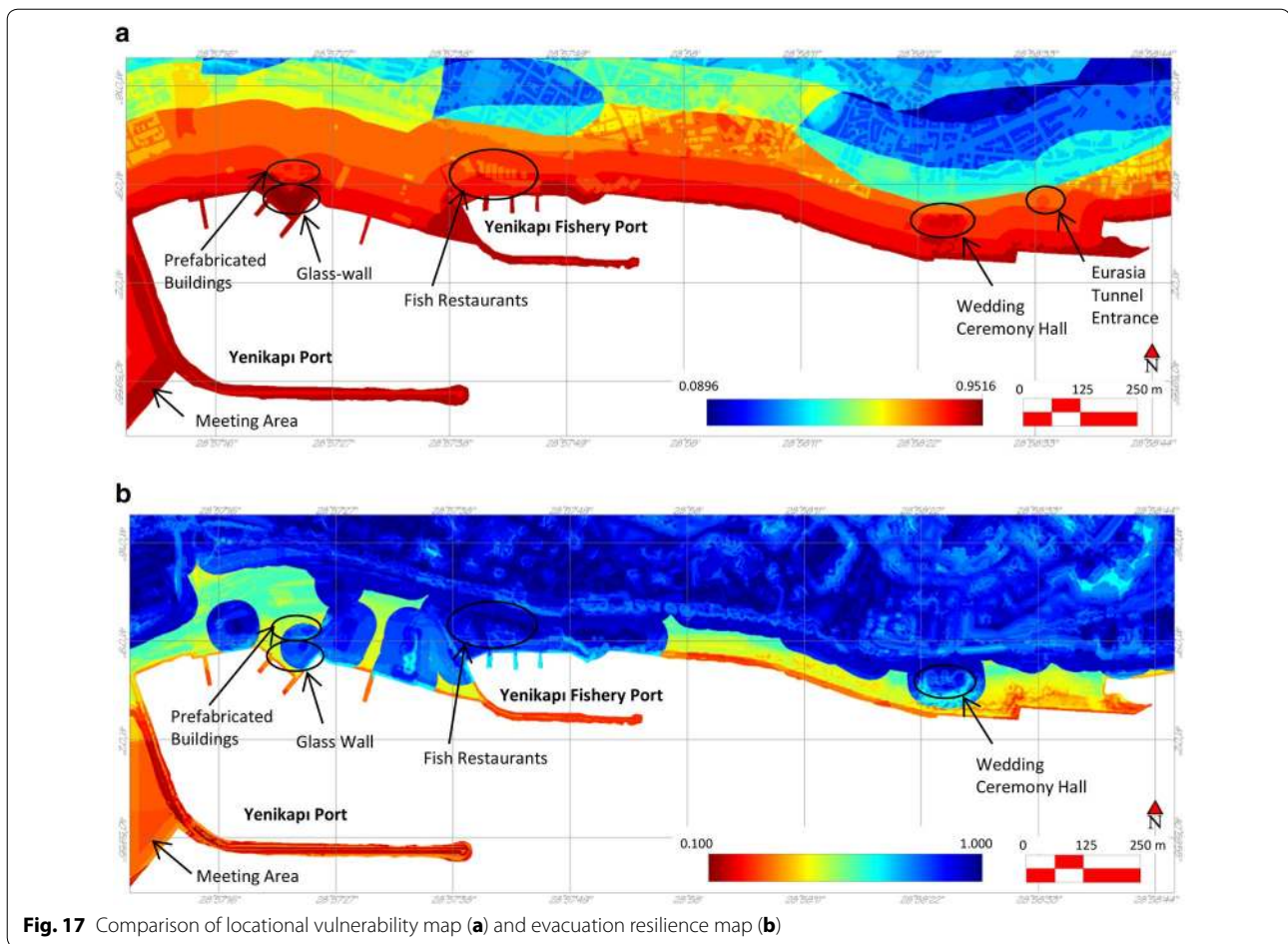
weight/rank values, and to produce the final vulnerability at location and evacuation resilience maps by combining related parameters. The third step is to produce and evaluate risk in the selected study area, Yenikapı, using the new proposed Eq. (1) (Fig. 18).

## Conclusion

In this study, a new approach is applied to define tsunami human vulnerability parameters, and a new model for high-resolution tsunami risk analysis based on tsunami numerical modeling and GIS-based MCDA is proposed.

According to results obtained from the above summarized studies the main concluding remarks are listed below.

1. There is tsunami potential in the Sea of Marmara, and tsunami risk analysis, including detailed vulnerability, hazard, and risk analysis are necessary. A new approach is presented and tested with the case study for the Yenikapı region in Istanbul.
2. Determination of the tsunami sources affecting the study area is one of the main requirements of tsunami numerical modeling. These sources must be analyzed and compared to determine the critical deterministic tsunami scenarios for the study area. A valid and verified numerical model is necessary for detailed computation of tsunami parameters (such as inundation, maximum positive amplitudes, flow depths, and maximum currents) near shore and over land. The inundation map, including the flow depth (depth of overland tsunami flow), must be calculated.
3. High-resolution bathymetry, topography, and vector data of metropolitan use are the main requirements for the proposed, detailed and proper vulnerability, resilience, hazard, and risk analyses.
4. A relationship for tsunami risk analysis is proposed (Eq. 1) considering hazard intensity, vulnerability of location, evacuation resilience, and the community's degree of tsunami preparedness.
5. The flow depth in Yenikapı exceeds 6 m near the shore, and between the historical city walls behind the Yenikapı Fishery port and the shoreline, because of the accumulation of water volume. The inundation

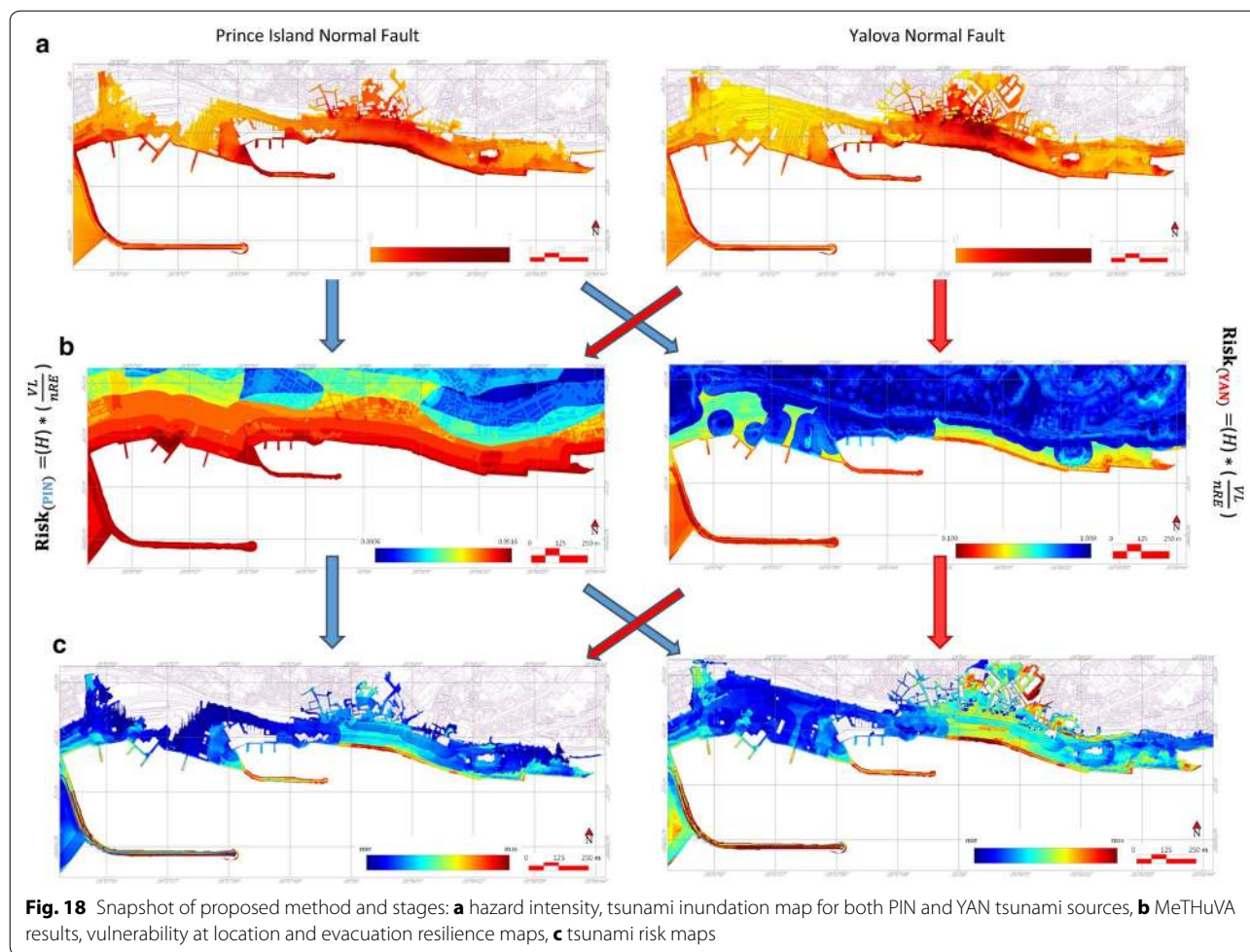


distance reaches 200 m inland, depending on the YAN source simulations by tsunami numerical modeling.

- Vulnerability and evacuation resilience mapping are conducted, and inundation is assessed using GIS-based MCDA. The AHP method is used to assign weight values to parameter layers and rank values to the classes. Four parameter layers (distance from shoreline, geology, elevation, metropolitan use) are prepared and used to produce the locational vulnerability map. Four other parameter layers (distance to buildings, slope, distance to road network, and distance within flat areas) are prepared and used to produce the evacuation resilience map. The weight/rank values for these parameters are revealed using the AHP method, and combined accordingly to produce vulnerability at location and evacuation resilience maps for the Yenikapi region. In the calculation of the vulnerability score at location, the distance from the shoreline layer is the most influential layer depending on its weight value (0.4833), whereas the least influ-

ential layer is the metropolitan use layer based on its weight value (0.1042). The most effective parameter for evacuation resilience is found to be the distance to buildings layer with the value of 0.5808, whereas the least effective is the distance within flat areas layer with the value of 0.0716.

- Two tsunami risk maps are generated by combining the results of tsunami numerical models of two different sources, and GIS-based MCDA method results (vulnerability map and evacuation resilience map) in the new proposed tsunami risk map Eq. (1). For the Yenikapi region, the tsunami source YAN is selected as the most critical source, since the results of the simulations for YAN give higher flow depths and longer inundation distances. Therefore, the risk map obtained by combining the results of YAN source simulations, vulnerability at location, and the evacuation resilience is presented to be considered in the tsunami disaster mitigation system.



#### Authors' contributions

ZCC compiled the data and carried out MeTHuVA procedure. She also made tsunami numerical simulations for Yenikapi and prepared M.Sc. thesis which was the main starting document of this paper. MLS developed MeTHuVA procedure, supervised M.Sc. thesis, and assessed the quality of the compiled data. ACY, developed the tsunami numerical model with AZ, commented on development of MeTHuVA, co-supervised M.Sc. thesis, monitored the simulations and checked the quality of outputs and the figures of simulation outputs. CK implemented MCDA procedure, and compiled the data. AZ developed the tsunami numerical code NAMI DANCE with ACY, and developed necessary modules in the code to output required tsunami parameters for the paper. BA made tsunami numerical simulations from the source to Yenikapi and reviewed the processed (mainly bathymetry) data and applied to the numerical model. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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#### Acknowledgements

This study was partly supported by a Japan–Turkey Joint Research Project of JICA on earthquakes and tsunamis in the Marmara region by MARDim SATREPS; EC project ASTARTE—Assessment, Strategy And Risk Reduction for Tsunamis in Europe-FP7-ENV2013 6.4-3, Grant 603839; UDAP-Ç-12-14 project

granted by Disaster Emergency Management Presidency of Turkey (AFAD), the RAPSODI (CONCERT\_Dis-021) project in the framework of CONCERT-Japan, Research and Innovation Joint Call for connecting and cooperating European Research and Technology Development with Japan and TUBITAK 113M556 and 108Y227 Projects. The authors also thank Duygu Tufekci, Rachid Omira, and the anonymous reviewers for their valuable and constructive comments.

Received: 28 December 2015 Accepted: 6 July 2016

Published online: 22 July 2016

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