

In this manuscript, the authors attempt to obtain the earthquake forecasting model for Albania by area source and smoothing approaches. The study purpose is good, however, both data and result may not be sufficient. Major revision of this manuscript is required. I recommend the authors to use the English proof-reading service. Some questions and comments are listed as following:

1. The author claims that the seismicity in Albania is high, however, the 60-yrs seismicity shown in Fig. 1 does not support this statement. This is the important issue that, after decluster procedure for the  $M \geq 4.0$  catalog, few events remain. Furthermore, the author divides the study area into 20 sub-regions, which means the investigated events for each sub-region is very few. For such statistical analysis, the results in the work is questionable.
2. In p.2, the author mentioned three depth ranges, which is very confusing.
3. Line 49, please list "previous studies".
4. Line 50-51, how does the author determine the time periods of learning and testing?
5. Please add a plot to show the yearly cumulative event number before and after declustering.
6. Line 155-157, I don't understand this sentence.
7. For Table 1, please also show the dimension and total event number of each ID.
8. Line 196-197, I don't understand this sentence.
9. In Figure 3, does the author set the criterion of calculation? What is the minimum number for the sufficient result?
10. Line 208, what is "completeness year"?
11. Line 214, what is "correlation distance"?
12. Line 217-218, the sentence is inconsistent with Fig. 4.
13. Fig.4 and Line 215-216, 316, the difference of forecasted rate changes for 25 km and 50 km is very small, why not use 25 km to show more detailed pattern?
14. Line 263-266, the description is not well written.
15. Line 268-270, the description is inconsistent with Fig. 5.
16. Line 274, I don't see it is more suitable for large events, since the fraction of failure is bigger than that of alarm-occupied.

17. Fig. 5, please check and correct the color and marker.
18. Line 309-311, the title is specific for "Albania", however, the analyzed area is more than Albania. So, when the author mentions some locations, I feel confused. For example, where is the "inner part"?
19. Line 312-313, please check and correct the reference style.
20. Line 317-318, I don't understand this sentence.
21. Line 325-326, I can't tell the result of  $M > 5.0$  is better than that of  $M > 4.1$ .
22. Line 327-330, the description is not well written.
23. Line 328, there are two black stars in Figs. 3 and 4, which one is the November 26, 2019 ( $M_w 6.4$ ) event?