In the past few years the historical seismograms have acquired increasing importance in the study of the earthquakes. Since Italy boasts a long tradition of instrumental earthquake recording, in 1999 INGV started the SISMOS project for the research, the recovery, the reproduction, the preservation and the study of these important scientific data. SISMOS operates on a potential of some millions of seismograms (1886-1984), 200,000 of which have been already digitally scanned. Thanks to the EuroSeismos project (2002- ) about 30,000 seismograms of the most important 20th Century Euro-Mediterranean earthquakes have been collected from 34 countries partner and scanned at SISMOS. The scientific use of seismograms requires also some complementary documentation (seismic bulletins, articles in scientific journals, station notebooks, etc.) to extract the instrumental constants that SISMOS search and scan. For the vectorisation of the seismograms, the Teseo2 software has been developed by SISMOS and allows for the manual and automatic follow-up of the seismogram, resampling and alignment, curvature correction and time realignment, along with the saving of the results in different formats. The new SISMOS Information System freely distributes about 200,000 seismogram rasters, about 100,000 pages of complementary documentation (raster and OCR version) and Teseo2. In SISMOS also two restoration laboratories operate: one for seismograms and another for instruments. A test-site for dynamic calibration of mechanical historical instruments is being planned. The project has increased the number of researchers involved in these studies and has already made possible the instrumental study of some of the most important historical Euro-Mediterranean earthquakes.