



Learnings and facts from the 5 year long educative program "Canary Islands: A volcanic window in the Atlantic Ocean"

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Abstract: The Canary Islands are the only land in Spain that hosts active volcanism, as it was clearly stated last year 2011 when a submarine eruption took place offshore El Hierro island. In the last 5 years, ITER as well as INVOLCAN have been performing an educative program focused on teaching the benefits of a volcanic territory, the different volcanic hazards, how to reduce volcanic risk and the management of that risk in the Canary Islands. This educative program has been roaming all around the 88 municipalities of the archipelago and the audience gets bigger. When this initiative started back in 2008, We got a total of 3.003 people attending the program. Since then, the increase has been constant, with annual percentages of 7.83, 17.13 and 20.89 respectively. This trend shows that we are on the right way and that people is really interested about their environment, as well as about the threats they should face in case of emergency. Despiting the heterogeneity of the audience, we have to say that our main audience is clearly that related to the population aged from 45 in advance. That should be related to the memories of the eruptions in La Palma island, back in 1949 an 1971. About the audience interest, there is a big coincidence when the questions are raised: Teide volcano and La Palma alleged future collapse are the most common of them. In addition, a volcanic trivial is provided to the people before the program starts. They have to fill it both before and after, so we can estimate the impact of the program. We have learnt that after the program is given, the rate of success in the answers sharply increase. Regarding the timing, this program is made through three consecutive days, the first two dedicated to the IAVCEI/UNESCO videos "Understanding Volcanic Hazards" and "Reducing Volcanic Risk" and the third one dedicated to the management of volcanic risk in the Canary Islands, as well as some other aspects.