Onshore-offshore insights of multi-event oceanic island landslides: (El Hierro Island, Canary Archipelago)

Ricardo Leon (1), Ander Biain (1), Roger Urgeles (2), Luis Somoza (1), Mercedes Ferrer (1), Jesus Garcia-Crespo (1), Jose-Francisco Mediato (1), Teresa Medialdea (1), Ines Galindo (1), Jorge Yepes (3), and Julia Gimenez-Moreno (1)

(1) Instituto Geologico y Minero de España, Madrid, Spain (r.leon@igme.es; anderbiain@gmail.com; l.somoza@igme.es; m.ferrer@igme.es; t.medialdea@igme.es; garcia.crespo@igme.es; jf.mediato@igme.es; i.galindo@igme.es; j.gimenez@igme.es), (2) Institut de Ciències del Mar (CSIC), Barcelona, Spain (urgeles@icm.csic.es), (3) Department of Civil Engineering, IOCAG, Las Palmas, Spain (xurxoyepes@gmail.com)

Based on the re-interpretation of a vast onshore-offshore data base in the El Hierro island (Canary Archipelago, Spain), a new onshore-offshore morpho-structural characterization of the El Golfo giant landslide is presented. Offshore data from multibeam echosounders, chirp sub-bottom profiles and multichannel seismic reflection data and onshore data coming from water wells and galleries have been analyzed in order to determine its multi-event nature. The subaerial headscarp shows a non-continuous arcuate profile formed by two nested semi-circular amphitheaters that extend offshore along a smooth chute, suggesting the occurrence of at least two large retrogressive events. Channels/gullies and escarpments developed along the submarine sector of the scar also indicate smaller-scale events and predominance of sediment bypass. In the lower slope, two subunits of submarine mass transport deposits (MTDs), debris avalanche, are identified on multichannel seismic reflection profiles with a total estimated volume of 318 km3: ~84 km3 and ~234 km3, for the younger and older MTDs respectively. Data from wells and galleries show abrasion platforms with beach deposits at sea-level (0 masl) formed after the landslide scar and buried by the post-collapse El Golfo lavas infill, suggesting an age at least older than 23.5-82.5 Ka for the landslide.