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Project acronym: **Volcanoes' Night**

Project full title: **"La Noche de los Volcanes – an awareness raising night for the work of volcanologist and geologist scientists"**

**Seventh Framework Programme
THEME FP7 – PEOPLE – 2012 – NIGHT**

Deliverable D2. Report on the activities of the night (PU)

Due date of deliverable: last month of the project
Actual submission date: together with the draft management report

Start date of the project: 01.05.2012.

Duration: 7 months

Coordinator: La Palma Research Centre S.L.

The objective of the Night was to enhance the public recognition of volcanologist and geologist scientists and to improve the understanding of the impact of their work on citizen's daily life by providing the public with an opportunity to explore the "human face" of research through direct exchanges between "people of the street" and these scientists.

During the precise definition of the programme the following specific objectives were also taken into account at large extent:

- Tackling the existing stereotypes about researchers and their work by showing their "ordinary" character and everyday life;
- Raising public awareness about geology related science;
- Everyday use of geology by highlighting connection between science and innovation;
- Pointing out the European cooperation and support in favour of research and thus stimulating young people to embark on scientific carriers (Researchers' mobility).

The project created a new, truly alternative programme for "a Friday night out" (compared to typical local events), where everyone can find something interesting for themselves from families with kids, through "knowledge-seekers" to the older generation.

The detailed description of the activities can be found below (in chronological order, indicating the location and an estimate on the number of attendees).

Preparatory activities

Drawing Competition

The Advisory Board recommended the following schedule of the drawing competition taking into account the holiday season as well as the occupancy of teachers:

- A one-page announcement introducing the project, explaining the idea of the competition as well as the overall timeframe, rules and project contacts was sent to out to all schools (by email and by fax) on the island during last week of May and the very first week of June.
- Afterwards the art and natural science teachers were called by phone and were explained the idea another time to promote their participation.
- Those schools, which were excited to take part in the competition, were resent a concise manual (prepared as a joint effort of the organisers and volcanologists) describing the method of the competition during the first week of September.
- The collected drawings (72, ages of 9-11) were evaluated by a jury composed of 3 of the invited scientists (Carmen Romero, Samara Dionis and Gladys Melian) and were all exhibited during the event, starting from 16:00 in the Cultural Centre of the town.
- The awarding ceremony took place during the night, right after the My Day presentations (at 19:15). The first three awards were received children books and gadgets (MP3 player, e-book etc.) offered by one of the project collaborators, Amynet SA.

I. Prize: Diego Hernández Camacho – C.E.I.P. Los Canarios

II. prize: Mariana Gómez Lorenzo – C.E.I.P. Princesa Arecida, Villa de Mazo

III. Prize: Shaira Lorenzo – C.E.I.P. Los Canarios

The other two, optional longer routes were as follows: a gentle route down to the lighthouse and a track up to the Volcán Tenegía.



Conversation in group 3 lead by Cayetano Guillén

Main event

All programmes for the main event had to be organised inside, due to the unexpected and completely non-typical rainstorm that hit the island on the very day of the event.

Just before the event organisers and many of the invited scientists were interviewed by the press, including the local TV channel, Canal 11 (the full version is available in DVD).



Prof Simon Day from University College London is giving an interview to Canal 11



Prof. Konradin Weber from The University of Applied Sciences Dusseldorf answering to questions

The official part of the event started at 18:00 (in an attempt to attract more people by adjusting to the late working hours) with an Opening Ceremony, where besides the organisers, the Vice-president of the Island Government, the Cabildo, the Mayor of Fuencaliente and the scientists were also presented.



The vice-president of the Cabildo, the island government is welcoming the audience (sign-language interpretation was provided)

My Day presentations, Town Cultural Centre Assembly room, 18:30 – 19:15

As first in order to warm up the audience, 3 scientists: Carmen Romero, Luis Gonzalez de Vallejo and Pedro Hernandez introduced the different aspects of their work – from a typical day to field missions, laboratory experiments as well as volcanic risk management & science communication – also with reference to their free-time activities. Their speech was accompanied by illustrating videos and photos. Participants were motivated by to ask questions and “interrupt” any time, furthermore scientists also “provoked” them by asking their opinion on certain topics related to their job.



Carmen Romero during her My Day presentation speech



Pedro Hernandez during his “My Day” presentation

Volcanic recollections, Town Cultural Centre, Assembly room, 19:15 – 21:00

This activity started with the projection of 2 commemorating DVD-s compiling the memoirs of people witnessed the eruption of San Juan, 1949 and eruption of the Teneguia Volcano, 1971. These recollections were followed by memories of three event participants*, who were talking about their personal experiences with the eruptions on the spot. Their speech, also with reflections on what was seen and listened in the videos, was commented by a volcanologist, Carmen Romero, who provided a scientific context to their stories. This activity was especially popular among the older generation, members of several local Associations of Neighbourhood** were presented.

* The event organisers placed high emphasis on this programme element as a way to attract the members of the older generation. Therefore, during awareness campaign, several calls on the radio and newspaper notices were announced to promote the application of witnesses.

** These associations all received personal invitation to the event, together with the detailed agenda.

Movie Theatre, Town Cultural Centre Assembly room 21:00 – 24:00

Digital compilation of the below documentaries and movies were projected and "scientific scenes" were explained in detail and further commented by volcanologists namely by Pedro Hernandez and Cayetano Guillén, who also answered the questions raised by the audience.

- Documentary "Hawaii" (45min.)
- Documentary "Krakatoa" (45 min.)
- Película "Un pueblo llamado Dantes Peak" (110 min.)

This activity attracted many people, from youngsters (who came around after visiting the EU & Industry Corner) and older generation, who stayed in the room after the recollection had ended. Approximately 120 – 150 visitors estimated to attend throughout the 3 hours duration.



The movies are over...

Science Cafés & Volcano Clubs, Wrestling Arena 21:00 until app. midnight

As to crown this fun-learning scientific programme a science workshop was organised with a series of presentations lead by famous Spanish and also invited foreign volcanologist and geologist scientists, who explained different natural phenomena and hot research topics as well as presenting the scientific methods and equipment used to investigate them. Speakers for all topics were asked to use plain phrasings and to adjust their presentations in a way that includes personal elements with special focus on their first-hand experience. The unique venue, the Wrestling Arena of the town and the casual setting provided a very relaxing atmosphere to these talks emphasising their informal nature and thus preparing the floor for questions. Visitors were encouraged to raise questions thought the programme by the professionals themselves and by the moderator, Nemesio M Perez as well. Presentations and/or talks were held on the following topics:

- "Large gravitational landslides at the Cumbre Vieja: what can be done to better understand the risks?" by Prof. Simon Day (University of College London) – held in English with simultaneous translation into Spanish;
- "The air traffic disruption due to volcanic eruptions: How monitoring volcanic ash clouds could minimize its impact?" by Prof. Konradin Weber (Fachhochschule Düsseldorf, FB4) – held in German with simultaneous translation into Spanish;
- "What do we know about the great landslides and tsunamis in the Canaries?" by Prof. Luís González de Vallejo (Universidad Complutense de Madrid) – held in Spanish;
- "What do we know about the historical volcanism in the Canary Islands?" by Carmen Romero (INVOLCAN-Universidad de la Laguna) – in Spanish;
- "How monitoring the volcanic activity could improve the early warning system?" by Dr. Nemesio M. Pérez (INVOLCAN-ITER) – held in Spanish.



Scene from the Science Café – Carmen Romero is answering a question



Scene from the Science Café – Prof. Simon Day presented the topic of possible large gravitational landslides

Right after the Science Café as a “relieving” activity live broadcasts to “Volcano Clubs” took place. Volcanologists and geologist scientists were contacted via Skype from around the world to have couple of minutes conversation about the actual volcanic activity as well as the general characteristics of the volcano phenomenon of their country/region. These conversations were broadcasted on real time to the VOLCANOES' NIGHTS participants between 23:00 until midnight (app.). Unfortunately there were some break-ups in the connection caused by the stormy weather conditions.

In spite of the late hour, these two activates turned to be very successful ones, with the participation of families, “science-seekers”, and thanks to the offered language opportunities the significant involvement of foreign residents and tourists (mainly German, English and Dutch). Approximately 120 to 150 people participated.



Flags of Volcano Clubs

Industry Corner & EU Project Corner, Town Cultural Centre, continuously between 18:30 – 21:00

Due to their interconnected nature e.g. exhibition of findings of research projects and its materialized outcome such as geological commercial equipment etc., these two activities were jointly organised at the same venue (in a room close to the entrance, right next to the official EU Corner). Posters, brochures, promotional and other materials were displayed (mainly in Spanish) all focusing on findings of (mainly regional and national) research projects and demonstrating the commercial use of science and innovation, the strong link and the importance of cooperation in between the two sectors.

The following companies presented their promotional materials:

GTMH Anufra S.L., Barcelona – www.anufra.com

EGM Estudios Geológicos y Medioambientales S.L. Granada – www.egmweb.es

GRAFCAN, Tenerife – www.grafcan.com

Ingenieros Asesores de Construcción, Asturias – www.ingenierosasesoresdeconstruccion.com

Geotecnia Civil 98, Asturias – www.geocivil98.com

M&M Consultoría Tecnoambiental, Ceuta – www.mymtecnoambiental.com

The below two projects were presented in person and scientists were available for questions throughout the three hours duration:

- MAKAVOL project (MAC 2007-2013 Transnational Cooperation) was presented by Maria Dolores Peraza
- TROOPS project (FP7 Cooperation) coordinated by The Oceanic Platform of the Canary Islands (PLOCAN) was presented by Jose Joaquin Hernandez Brito – www.troposplatform.eu

By visiting this corner participants could gain first-hand examples on the outcome of regional and national research projects as well as information on how their findings are used by different segments of industry. This activity also provided additional information on how the knowledge of geologist scientist contributes to our everyday life. To highlight one great example a mainland company, GeotecniaCivil 98 (<http://www.geocivil98.com>) illustrated in detail how the main tunnel of the island of La Palma was planned and built and how geologist contributed to this work at each phase. Contact points for all companies were displayed to allow visitors to ask further questions after the event as well. Due to the schedule of these programme elements is hard to judge the exact number of attendees, however, it is estimated from the amount of promotional material that was taken during the day by the visitors that almost all people who visited the next-room EU Corner passed by, approximately 300 – 400 persons.

EU Corner, Town Cultural Centre, continuous 18:30 – 21:00

People living on the Canary Islands, in an outermost region of Europe, have relatively limited knowledge on the research & innovation programmes offered by the union; therefore project organisers put high emphasis on the quality and quantity of activities and material offered by the EU Corner. Altogether, the EU Corner of Volcanoes' Night incorporated the following three "subsections":

European Corner organised by a project co-organising partner, Consulta Europa, Brussels. The representative of the company, Michelle Perello offered first-hand advice in Spanish and in English (for residents and foreigners), all based on real life experience on the following:

- Tips and hints on successful project application under European programmes with special attention to possibilities offered for outermost regions;
- Information on the mobility of people, including the mobility of researchers and students;
- Information material in three languages (Spanish, English and German) non-exhaustively on the following issues: water scarcity and drought in the European Union, traineeship opportunities, travelling in Europe etc.;
- Booklets for kids in Spanish, English and German;



Even the younger ones could find something interesting to read...

Europe Direct Las Palmas: two representatives of the nearest, regional division of Europe Direct office were also represented, who among others provided information material (in Spanish) on the EU as well as gadgets for children.



The representatives of the nearest regional Europe Direct Office, Las Palmas

Games for children about the EU e.g. games with flags, fun activity with a map of Europe, identifying countries based on describing their specify products and or famous buildings, persons etc. Two animators were contracted to carry out this task.

As a rough estimate around 350 – 400 people visited the three corners and took part the organised activities had discussions and exchanged ideas with scientists and the represented “European contact points”.

Activities for children – “Children Corner”

In order to attract the younger generation and facilitate the attendance of families a particular corner was set up offering specific activities for kids. During the VOLCANO Handcraft Activity children played with dough and could express freely their imagination making their own volcano. The produced artworks were commented by volcanologists. Due to the bad weather this activity was moved from open air and took place in the Wrestling Arena instead of the outside tents. In total, 72 children coming from all over the island including northern municipalities such as Tijarafe (some of them German) participated at these activities in three rounds (starting at 18:30 and 19:20 and 20:10).



Children forming their own volcano

Side events

Some of these activities were initiated by local people and were promoted together with the main programme making the Night’s agenda even more colourful and attractive for a Friday-night out.

Wine tasting with a volcanologist at Bodegas Teneguia

Participants of this side-event had a truly original experience by taking part in this non-usual wine-tasting, "The Perfect Symbiosis", organised by one of the wineries of Fuencaliente. The programme started with a visit to the wine cellar, lead by the technician Francisco Camacho and Juan Jose Santos, who gave a LIVE introduction on how wines are produced at the cellar. Afterwards an interactive presentation on the correlation between the chemical composition of soil and wine quality was held by a volcanologist, David Calvo (a member a wine-maker family himself). This was followed by a discussion where David Calvo together with the winemaker of the cellar, Carlos Lorenzo exchanged ideas on the role of volcanism in wine quality. All this was accompanied by in-situ testing of samples of local wine (Albor, Negramol and Sabro). In total, 3 sessions were held starting at 18:30 (in Spanish), 20:00 (with translation into German) and 21:30 (in Spanish). As a whole 122 people participated at this activity. Due to the nature of this activity a symbolic entrance fee of EUR 5/participant was charged by the cellar.



One of the groups is visiting the Wine cellar.

Voyage in the Solar System, held at "Casa de Los Volcanes"

The participants of this side-event had an informative talk about volcano activities of other planets followed by projections, where they visited the volcanoes of Mercury, Venus, Mars and some moons. Four sessions of 30 minutes were held (all in Spanish) starting at 20:30, 21:00, 21:30 and 22:00 h, in groups of 30 people. The participants were offered an optional tasting of traditional cuisine including a thematic dish. The activity ended with a telescope observation from 22:30h onward in which the constellations could be observed. They also had the chance to see and touch samples of meteorites. This activity attracted over 120 participants despite the bad weather conditions.



Meteorites and observation of the moon

Photo exhibition – “Caprichos de Vulcano”, La Sala de los Volcanes from 16:30 until 23:00

During this spectacular exhibition visitors had a chance to view numerous photos composed of a series of macrophotographs of a number of tiny particles of volcanic material - piroclastos - photographed with a surface of between 1 and 5 mm. Volcanologists and geologist scientists also visited the gallery and were truly amazed on how already a piece of volcanic rock could reflect forms that could be seen during eruptions. This side event provided a truly originally view on how science and art could be related. Estimations are that this exhibition directly attracted about 250-300 participants, and several others visited the exhibition during their walk between the different event locations.



Visitors examining 'volcano photos' in the Art Gallery