



The U-Geohaz project: Sentinel-1 to support geohazards early warning systems and impact assessment

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UCPM-2017-PP-AG – 783169 U-Geohaz

Project Co-financed by the EU-Union Civil Protection Mechanism

EGU 2019, Vienna, 10 April 2019



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01/01/2018 – 31/12/2019

- **Policy area:** Prevention
- **Priority covered:** Projects focusing on improving urban resilience by addressing cascade effects and the resilience of urban infrastructure.
- **Total Cost:** 989,504.16 € (EU contribution = 742,128.13)
- **Project Coordinator:** Oriol Monserrat, Centre Tecnològic de Telecomunicacions de Catalunya (CTTC)

<https://u-geohaz.cttc.cat/>

MAIN TARGET

Providing maps, based on **Sentinel-1 6-days ground deformations monitoring**, to assess continuously the **potential impact of geohazard activity** to urban areas and critical infrastructures and to be used as key inputs to **support early warning**.

Sentinel-1



- Regular worldwide acquisition
 - Regional Scale
- High temporal sampling (6/12 days)
 - Free data

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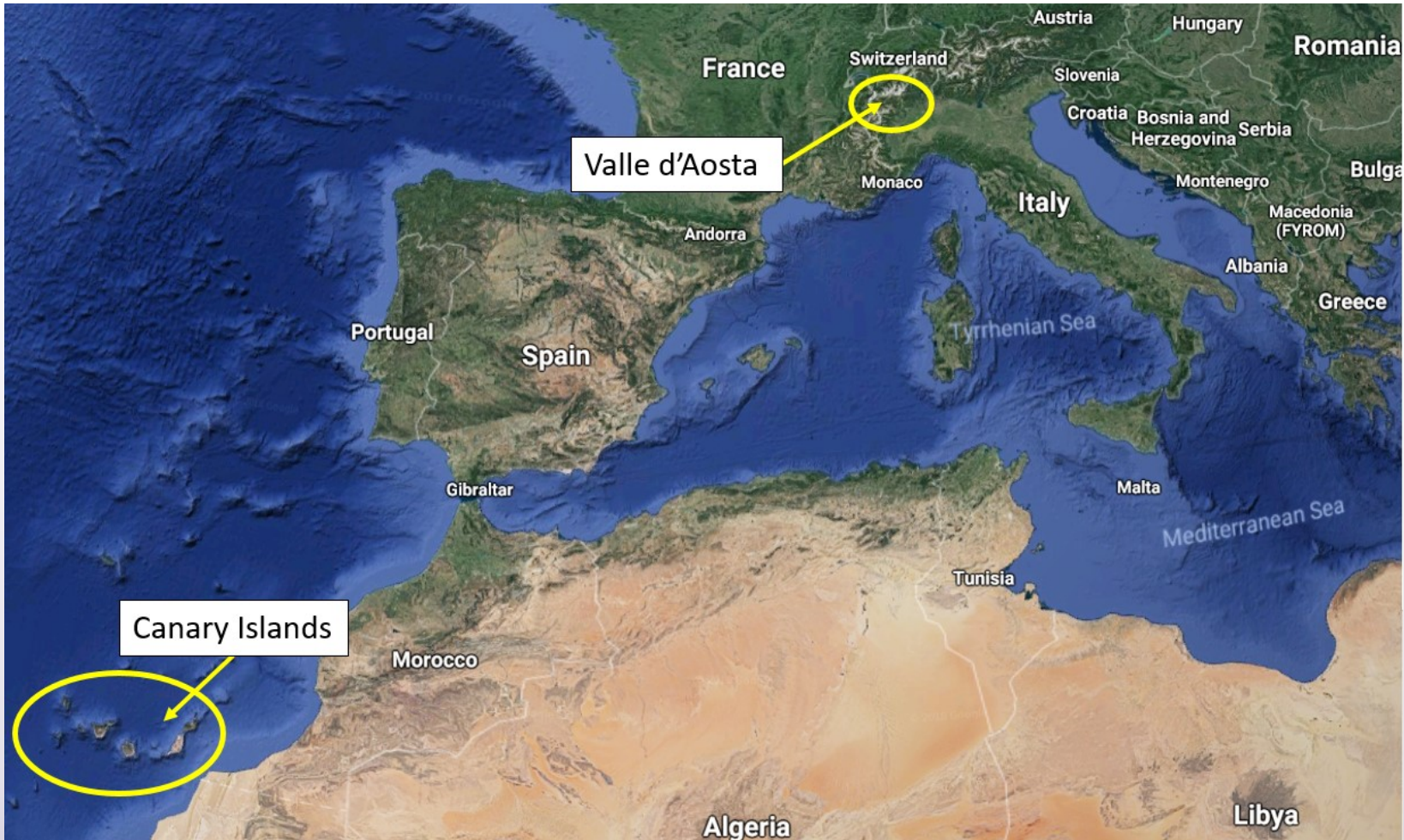
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U-Geohaz test sites



U-Geohaz test sites



U-Geohaz Consortium



Number of beneficiaries: 18
11 countries - 12 Geological Surveys - 3 CPAs



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Laboratório Nacional de Energia e Geologia, I. P.



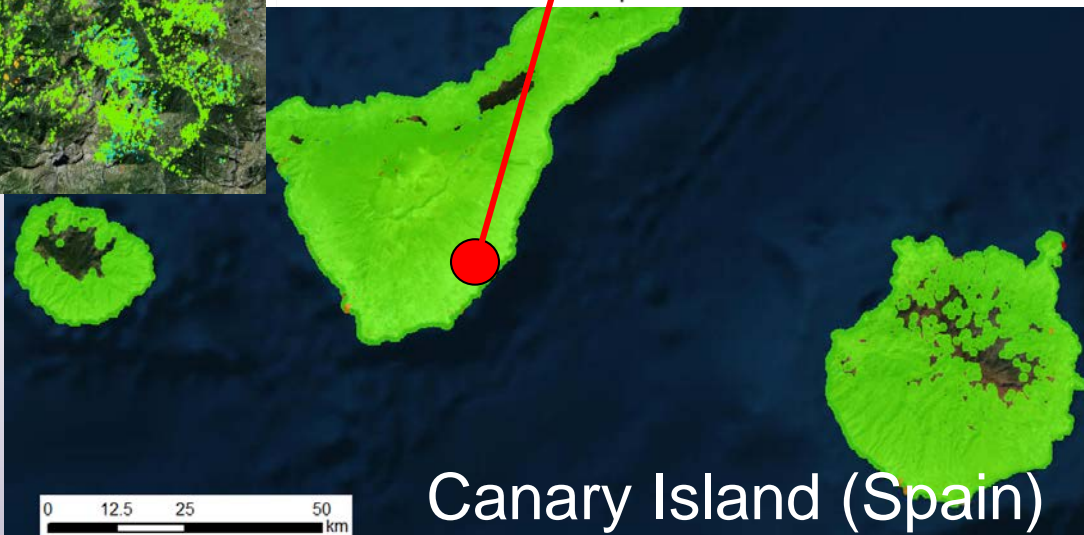
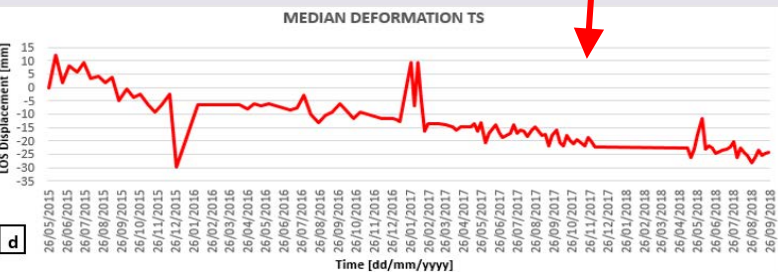
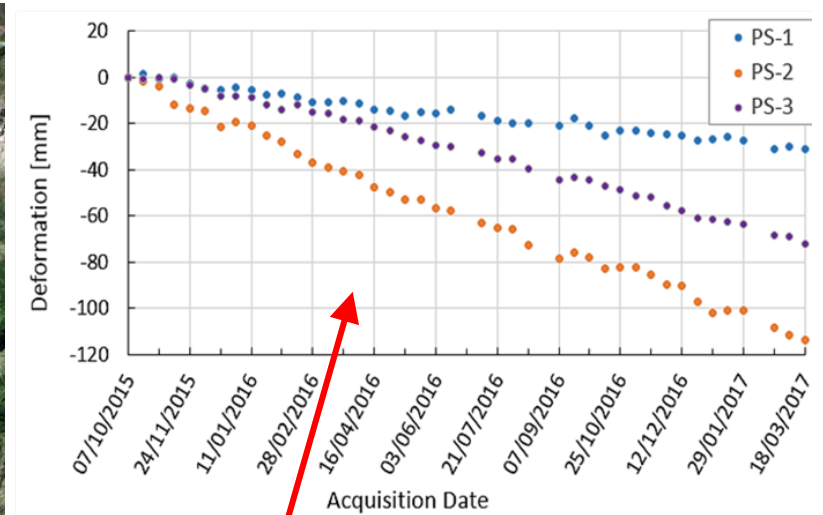
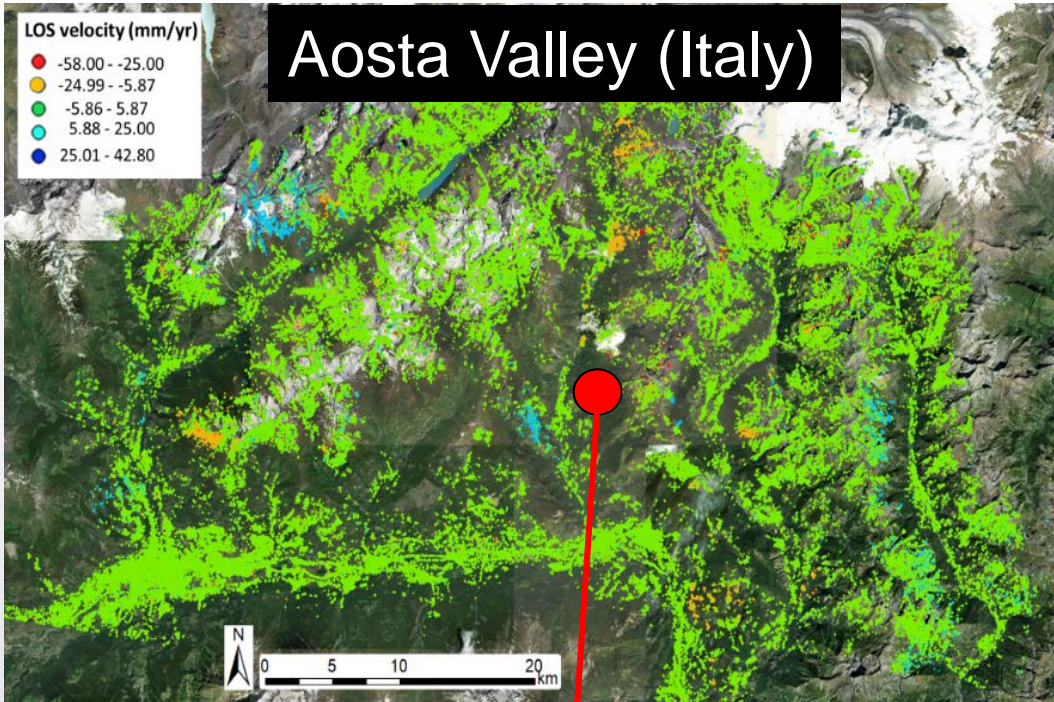
GeoZS
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Regione Autonoma Valle d'Aosta



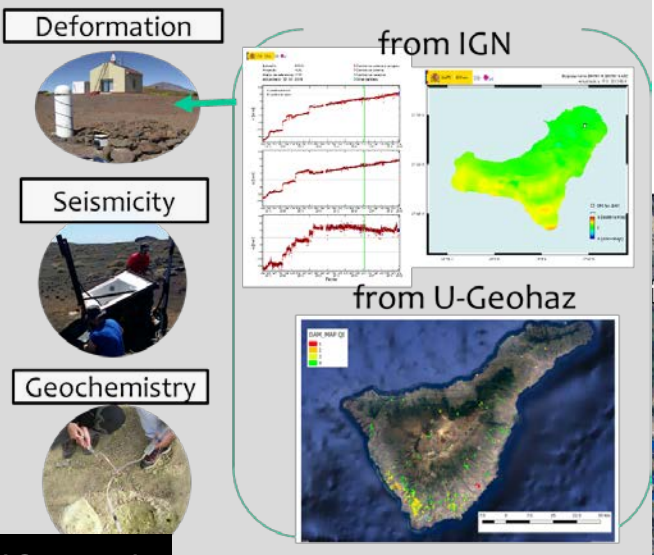
Geoscience for a sustainable Earth
brgm



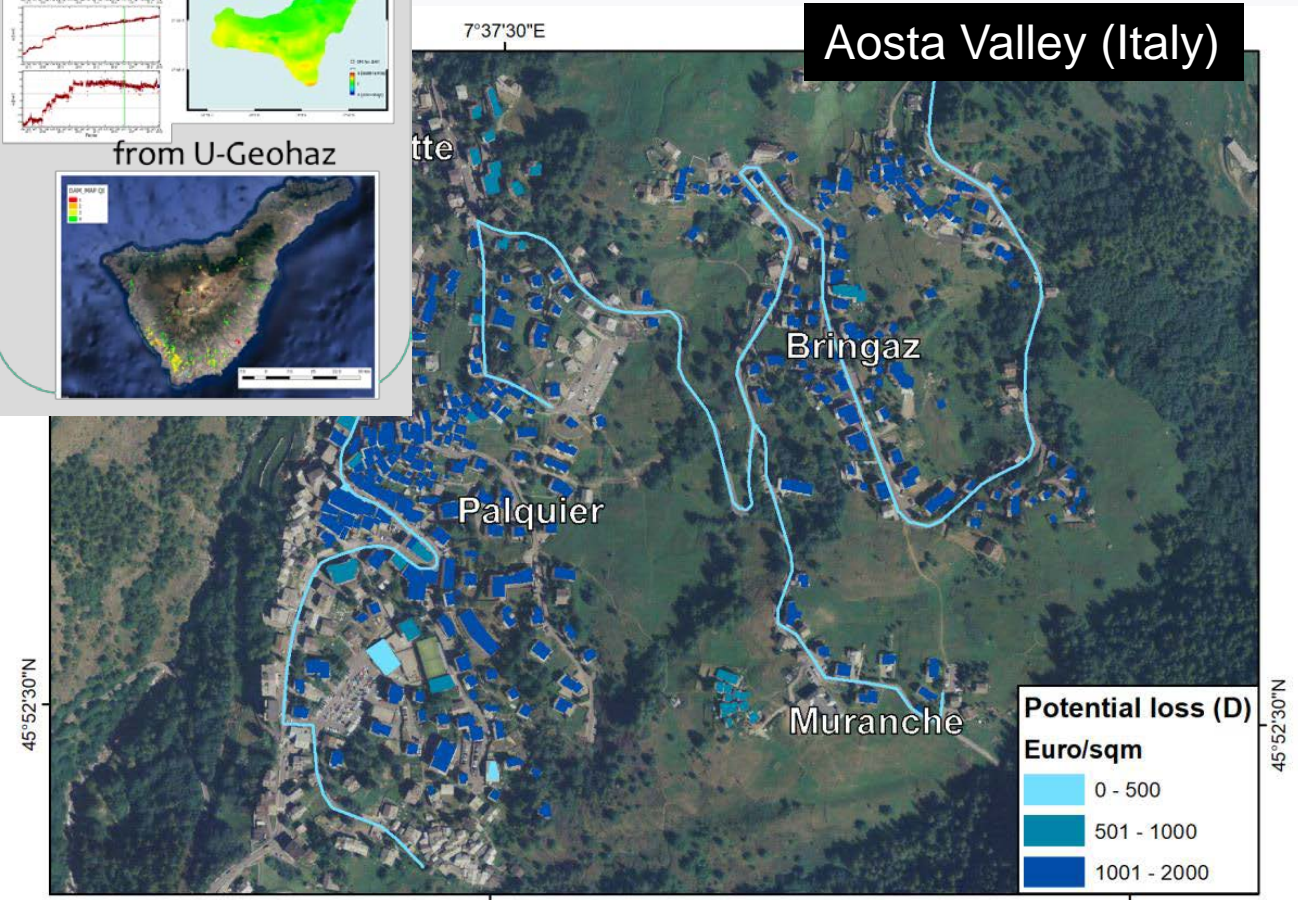
Deformation + other data → potential impact, early warning

Volcano Monitoring System and Alert

Improve
FORECAST



Canary Island (Spain)



Thanks for your kind attention!



By  U-GEOHAZ team



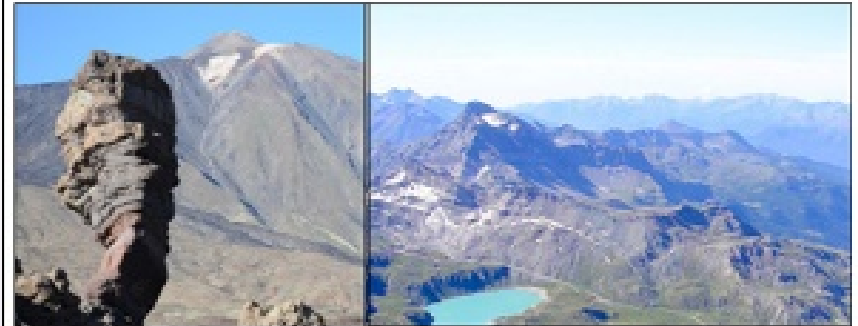
MAIN MENU

About U-Geohaz

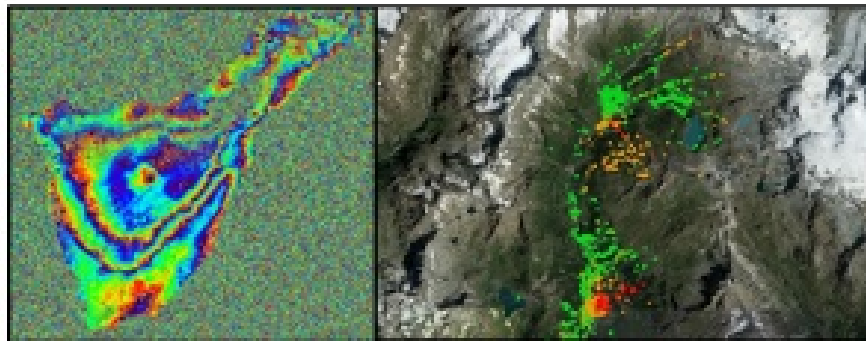


Geohazard impact
assessment
for urban areas

Test-sites



Results



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un solo pueblo

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INSTITUTE OF GEOLOGY & MINERAL EXPLORATION
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IGR

LITHUANIAN GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
LITUVOS GEOLOGIJOS TARYBA

CZECH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
1919

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U-Geohaz Background



**Sentinel-1 for Geohazard regional
monitoring and forecasting**

ECHO/SUB/2015/718679/Prev02-SAFETY

<http://safety.cttc.cat/>

01/01/2016 – 31/12/2017

U-Geohaz is the natural extension of the previous ECHO project Safety. U-Geohaz goals will be achieved by fully exploiting the results obtained in SAFETY. In particular, U-Geohaz aims to advance with respect to SAFETY. The project will provide tools to support early warning (EW) systems for landslides and rock-falls, and an EW system for volcanic geohazard.

[See more about Safety](#)

[Main goals of U-Geohaz](#)



Sentinel-1 for Geohazard regional monitoring and forecasting

ECHO/SUB/2015/718679/Prev02-SAFETY

<http://safety.cttc.cat/>

01/01/2016 – 31/12/2017



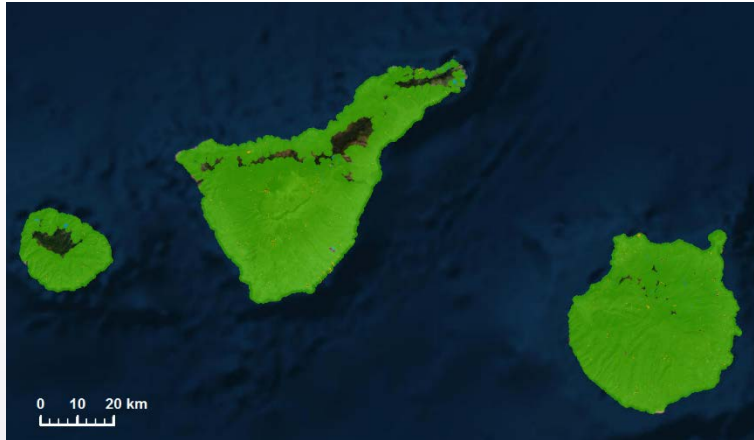
Main Target of Safety

Developing and testing a procedure to provide Civil Protection Authorities (CPA) with the capability of periodically evaluating and assessing the potential impact of geohazards (volcanic activity, landslides and subsidence) on urban areas and infrastructures, over regional areas.

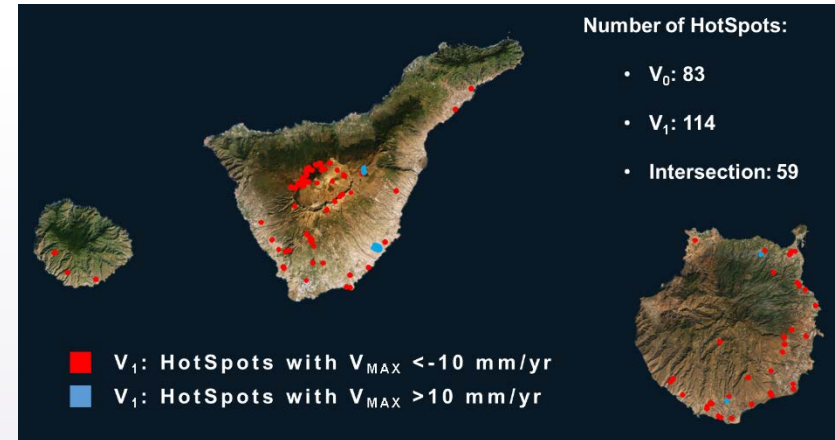
Safety Consortium



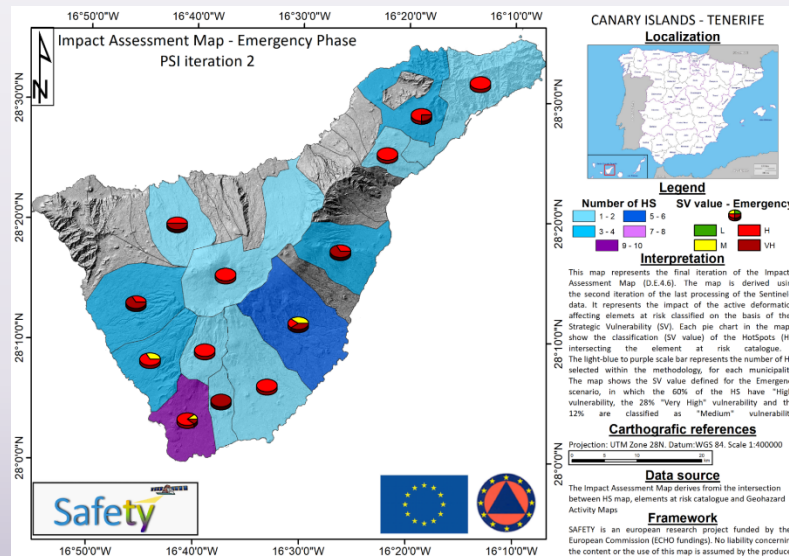
Deformation Activity Map



Active Deformation Areas map



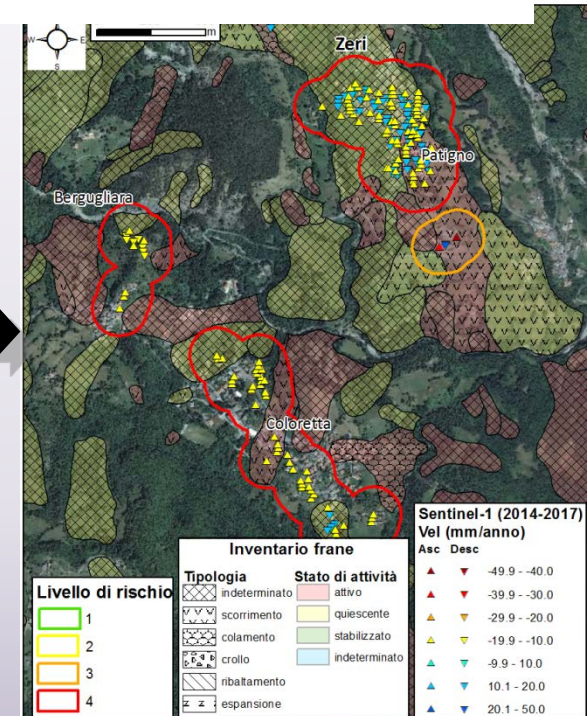
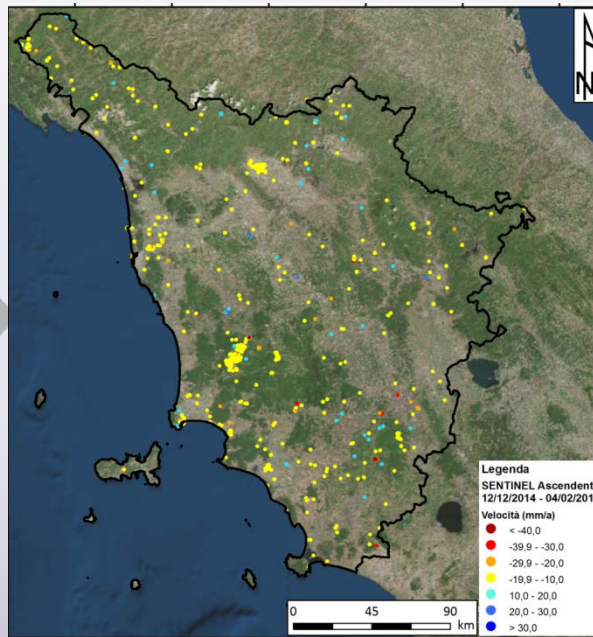
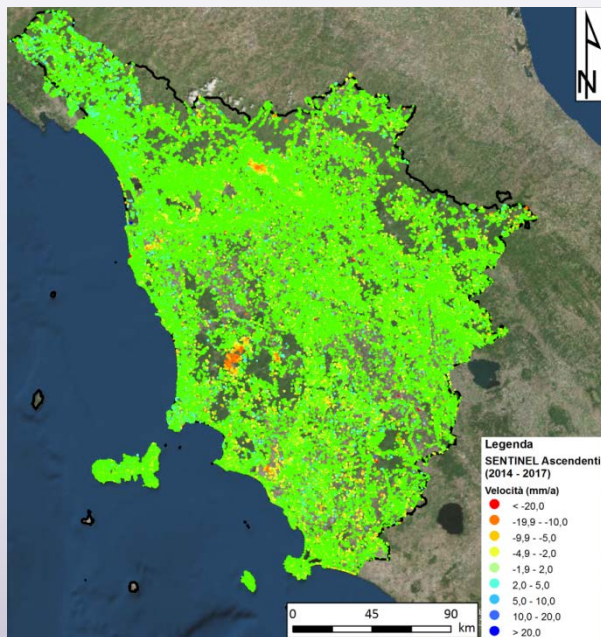
Vulnerable Elements Activity Map



Barra A, Solari L, Béjar-Pizarro M, Monserrat O, ... & Moretti S. (2018). A Methodology to Detect and Update Active Deformation Areas Based on Sentinel-1 SAR Images. Remote Sens. 9:1002.

Solari, L., Barra, A., Herrera, G., Bianchini, S., Monserrat, O., Béjar-Pizarro, M., ... & Moretti, S. (2018). Fast detection of ground motions on vulnerable elements using Sentinel-1 InSAR data. Geomatics, Natural Hazards and Risk, 9(1), 152-174.

- The tools developed in Safety have been implemented in the Volcanic monitoring centre of the IGN, in charge of the Volcanic alerts in Spain.
- We have implemented the tools at the Geological Survey of Spain which has a strong interaction with Spanish CPA for landslide geohazard purposes.
- UNIFI is developing a project for the Italian CPA on Tuscany Region (Italy) based on the SAFETY approach.



Why U-Geohaz?

Goal 1



At the start of Safety:

- Sentinel-1 was not yet operational
- We had not experience with the Sentinel-1 data
- There were a lot of potentialities but also a lot of doubts

At the end of Safety:

- Sentinel-1 is fully operational
- The Sentinel-1 system have widened the range of applications of SAR interferometry.
 - from “measurement” to “monitoring”

U-Geohaz GOAL 1: to develop tools based on Sentinel-1 to support early warnings systems for landslides and volcanic activity. (WP2 and WP3)

How to reach goal 1?



U-Geohaz GOAL 1: to develop tools based on Sentinel-1 to support early warnings systems for landslides and volcanic activity. (WP2 and WP3)

- Implementing and test a procedure to fully exploit the 6 day repeatability of the Sentinel-1 constellation.
- Integrating these data with other existing data to continuously assess the potential impact of the landslide and volcanic activity.

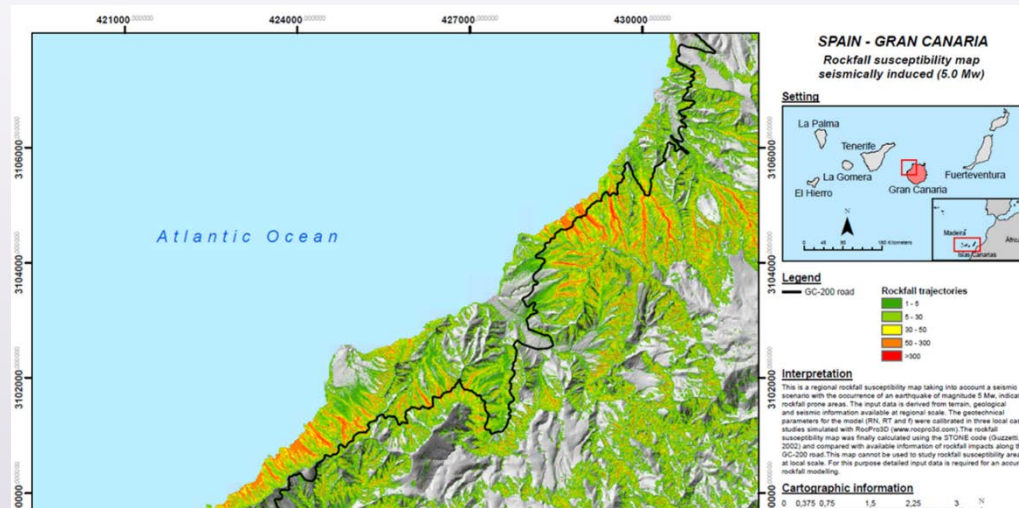
Why U-Geohaz?



Goal 2

Safety included two main results in Rockslide applications:

- Tuning of existing free tools for susceptibility mapping and trajectory estimation.
- Implemented a protocol at Canary Island CP to collect key information for each event in order to improve the database in a reliable way.



U-Geohaz GOAL 2: to develop an early warning system for rock fall geohazard. (WP4)

How to reach goal 2?



U-Geohaz GOAL 2: to develop an Early warning system for rock fall geohazard. (WP4)

- Exploiting all the work done in Safety.
- Tailoring tools and methods developed in previous projects to address two key issues:
 - Improvement of the capability to recognize rockfall source areas.
 - Definition of empirical rainfall thresholds.

Why U-Geohaz?

Goal 3



- Safety aimed to implement the developed procedure at the CPA. But unfortunately, this was not fully achieved.
- One of the gaps detected by Safety project was related to the real capability of the CPAs to produce the developed products.

U-Geohaz GOAL 3: to strengthen the interaction between CPAs and Geological Surveys in Europe. with the aim of contributing to improve their cooperation. (WP5)

How to reach goal 3?



U-Geohaz GOAL 3: to strengthen the interaction between CPAs and Geological Surveys in Europe. with the aim of contributing to improve their cooperation. (WP5)

- To this purpose we have involved 12 geological surveys with direct relation with their corresponding CPAs.
- We are going to evaluate the integration of geohazard into urban planning to increase urban resilience in Europe.
- Provide a better understanding of the relations between GSs and the corresponding CPAs in the different European countries.
- Demonstrate the U-Geohaz products performance to the GSs and the CPAs from the participating countries.

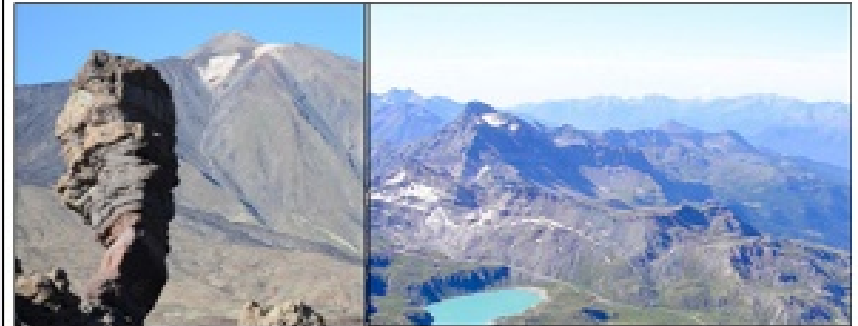
MAIN MENU

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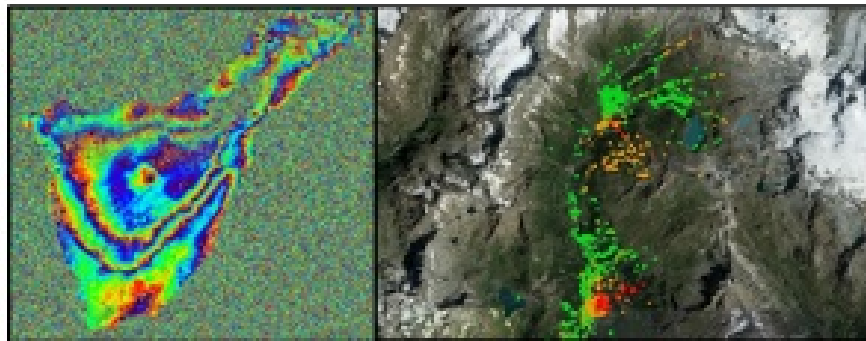


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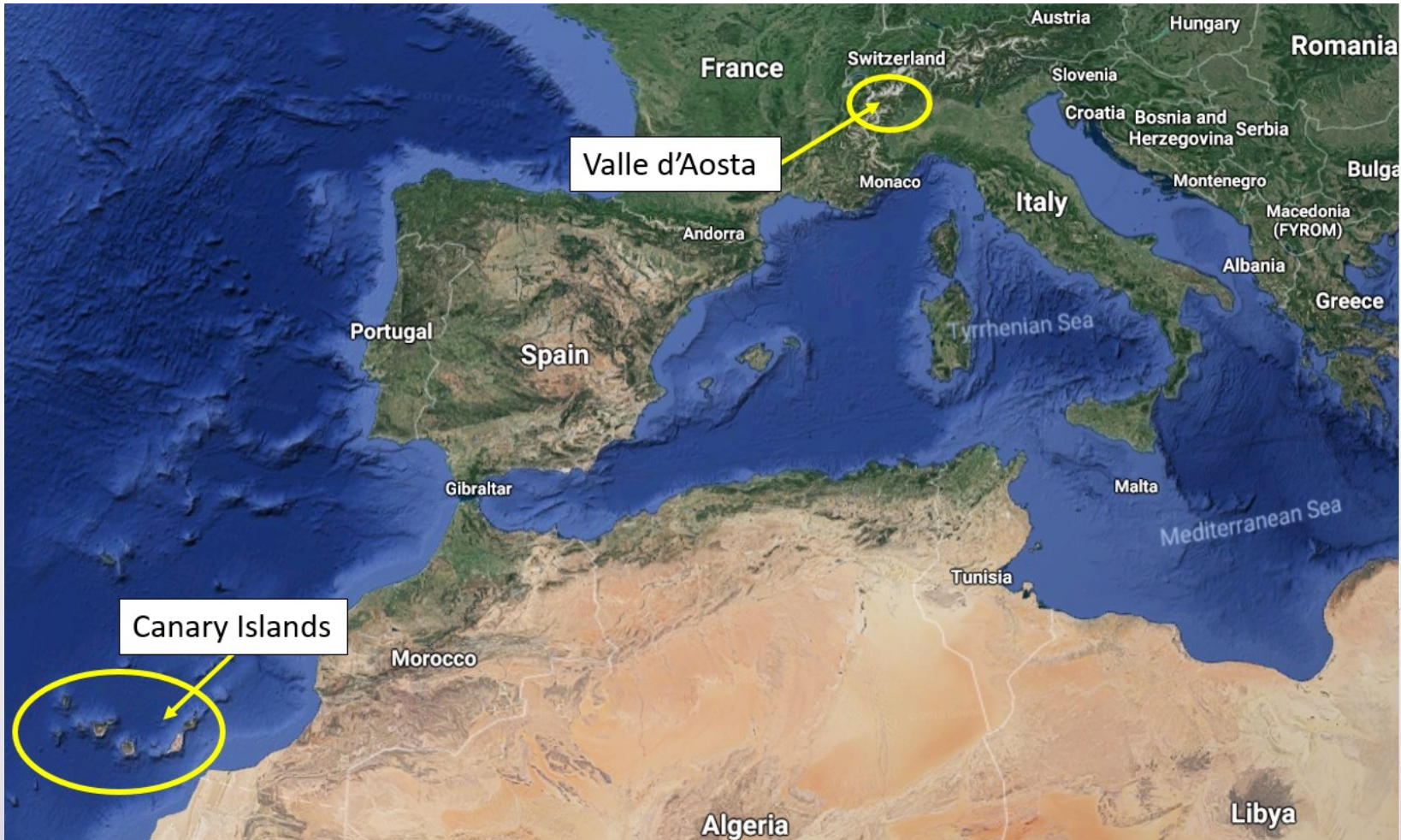
Test-sites

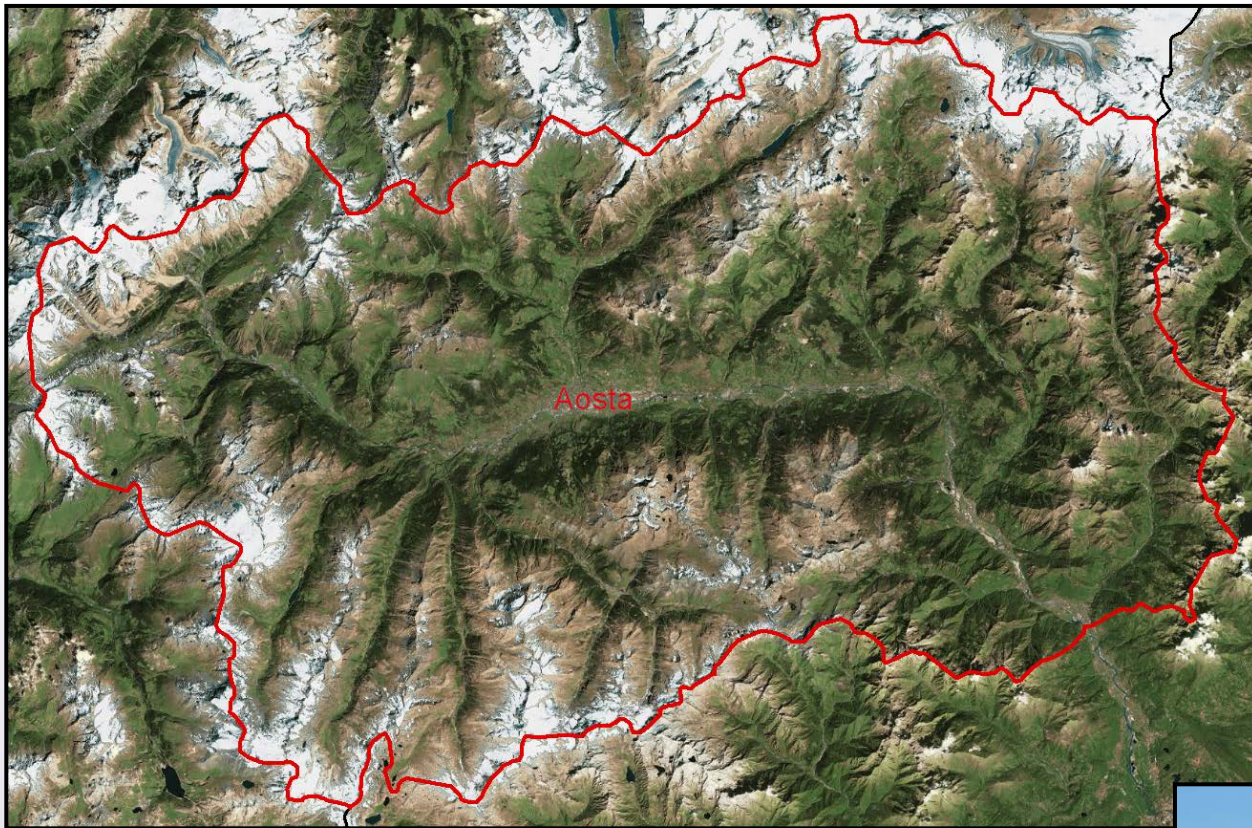


Results



U-Geohaz test sites





Surface = 3260 sqkm

Population = 126.687

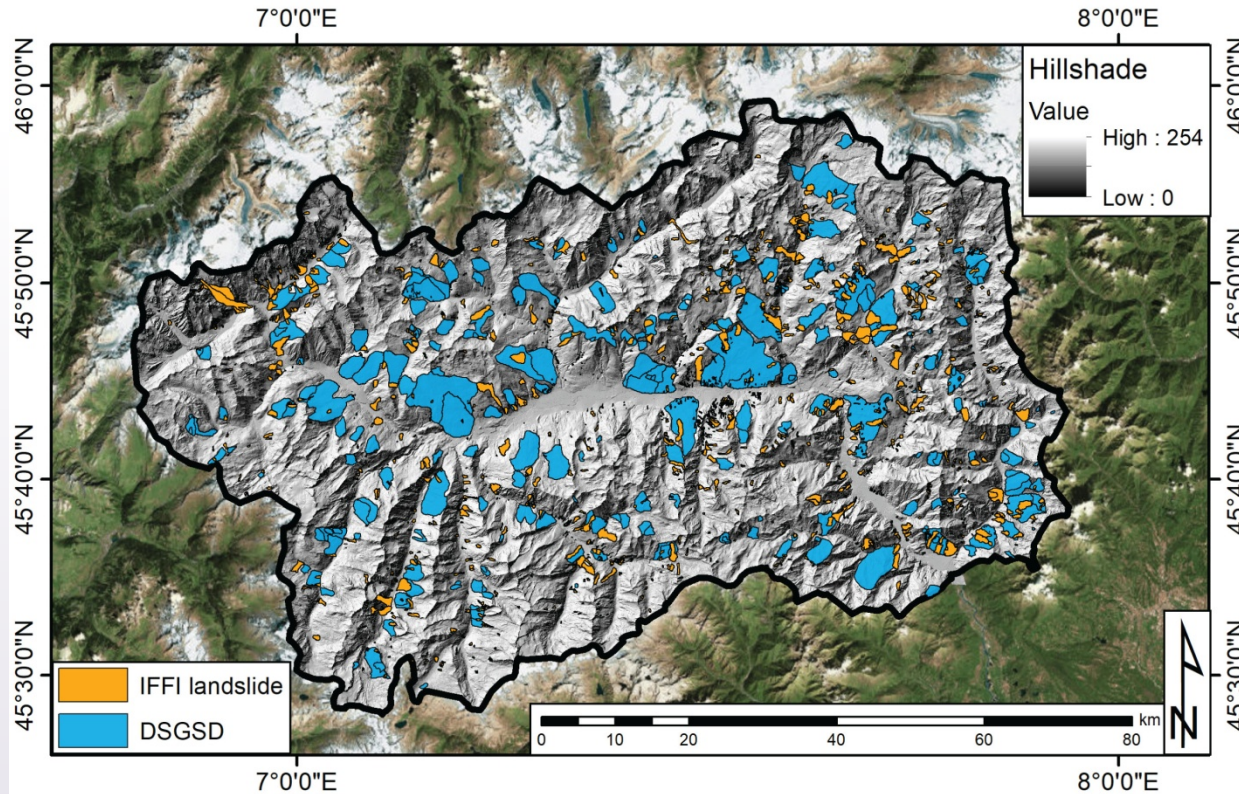
Municipalities = 74

>50% of the territory is
above 2000 m a.s.l.



Test sites: Valle d'Aosta Region

Landslide risk



“La Saxe” landslide



“Champlong” landslide

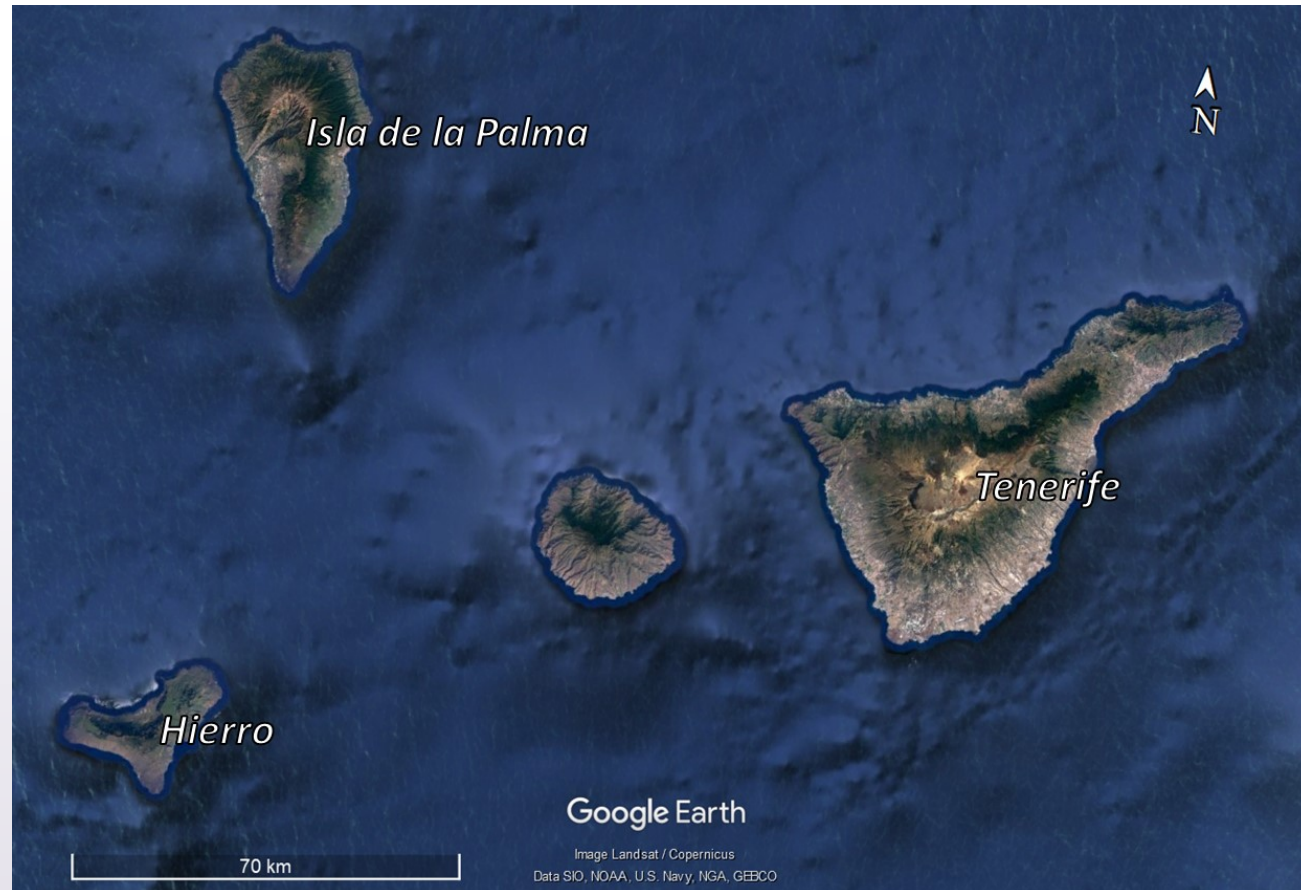
4400 landslides

134 landslides/100 sqkm

520 sqkm affected by landslides
(16% of the total)

Rockfalls, complex and rotational landslides are common

Test sites: Canary Island Volcanic risk



The **volcanic risk assessment and monitoring activities** of Canary Islands, is assigned to the National Geographic Institute (Instituto Geográfico Nacional - IGN), which is also in charge of transferring information to the Civil Protection authorities in the country. The IGN Volcano Monitoring System (VMS) includes permanent geophysical and geodetic stations, temporal stations and field campaigns. Nowadays, IGN is using Sentinel-1 data.

Test sites: Canary Island Rock fall risk



Rockfalls are the most frequent and damaging landslide type in the archipelago, in the past decade the Emergency Services from Gran Canaria and Tenerife Island accumulate more than 7000 rockfall events producing damages to communication networks. In this context, a set of tools to support an early warning system for rockfalls, which is relevant for the Canary Island CP, will be developed in U-Geohaz.

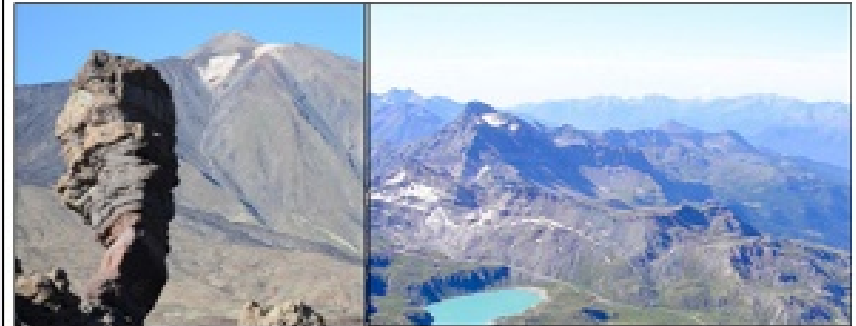
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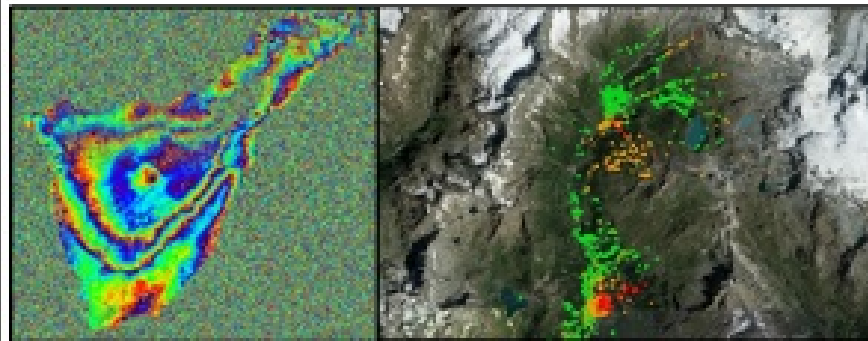


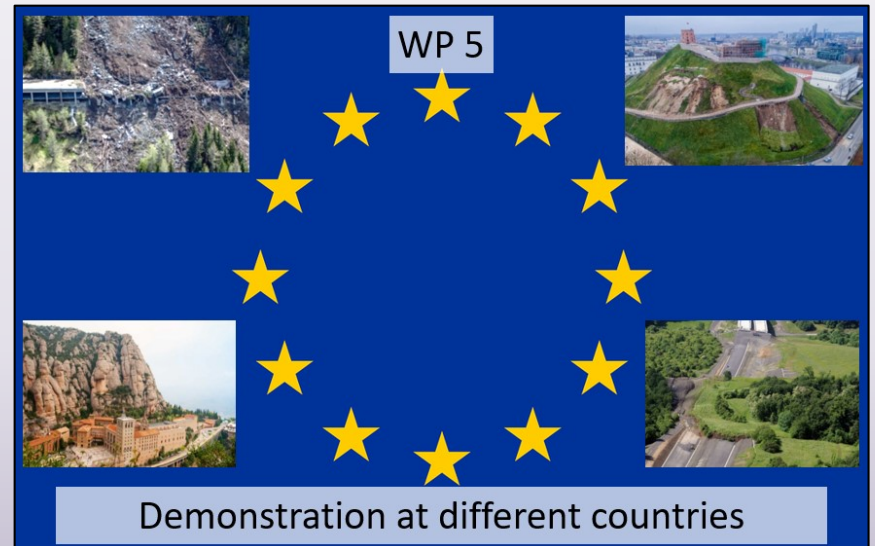
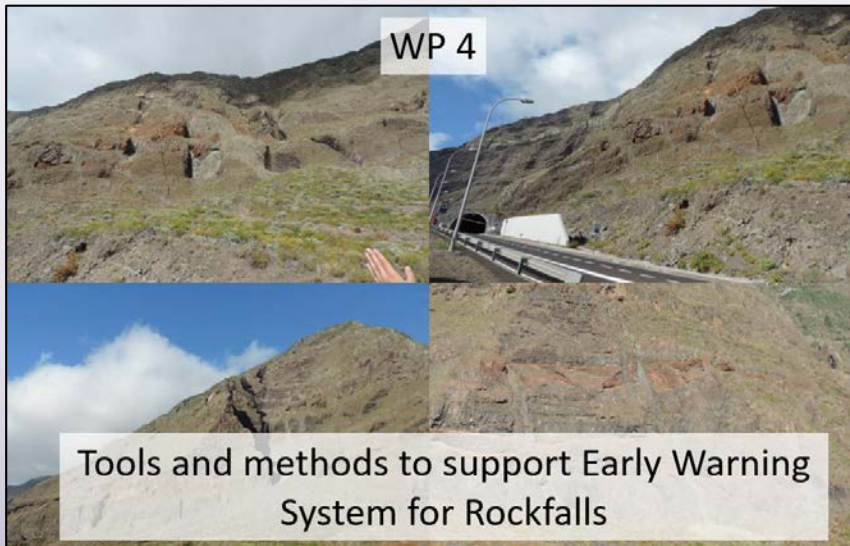
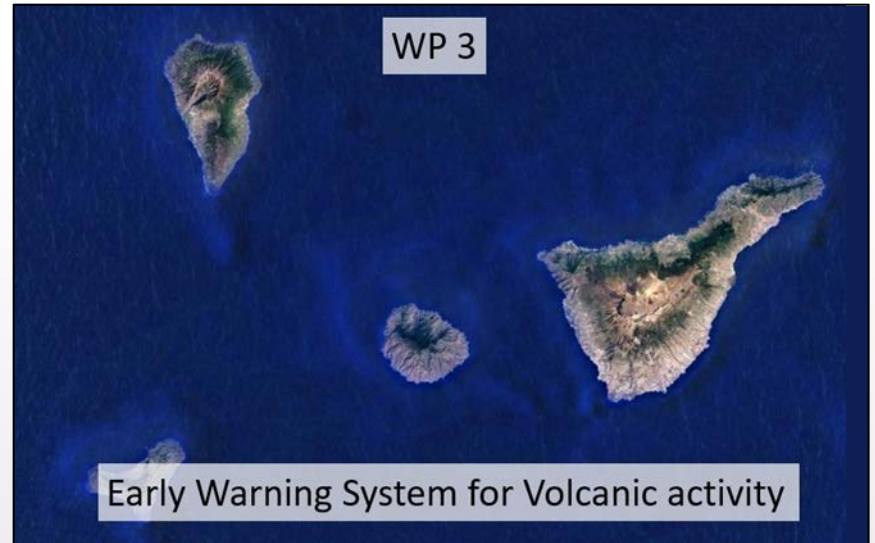
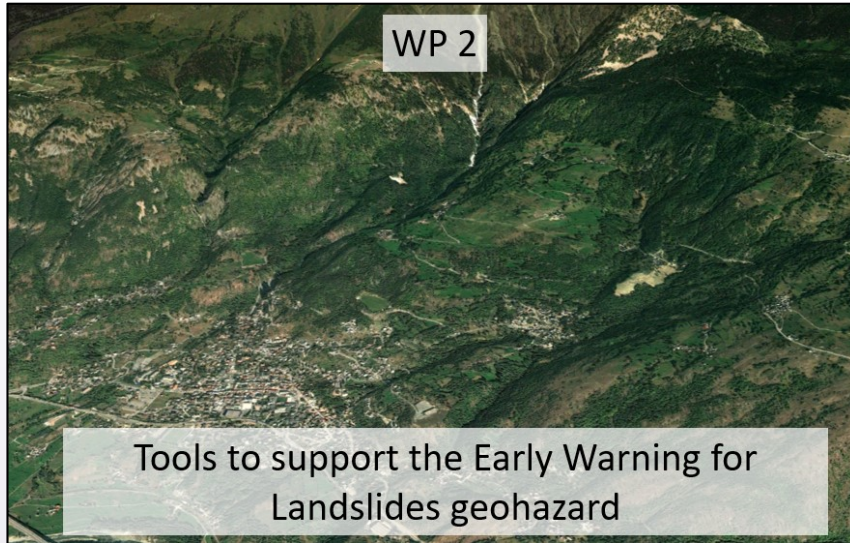
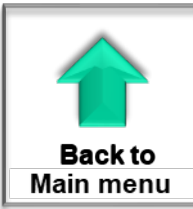
Geohazard impact
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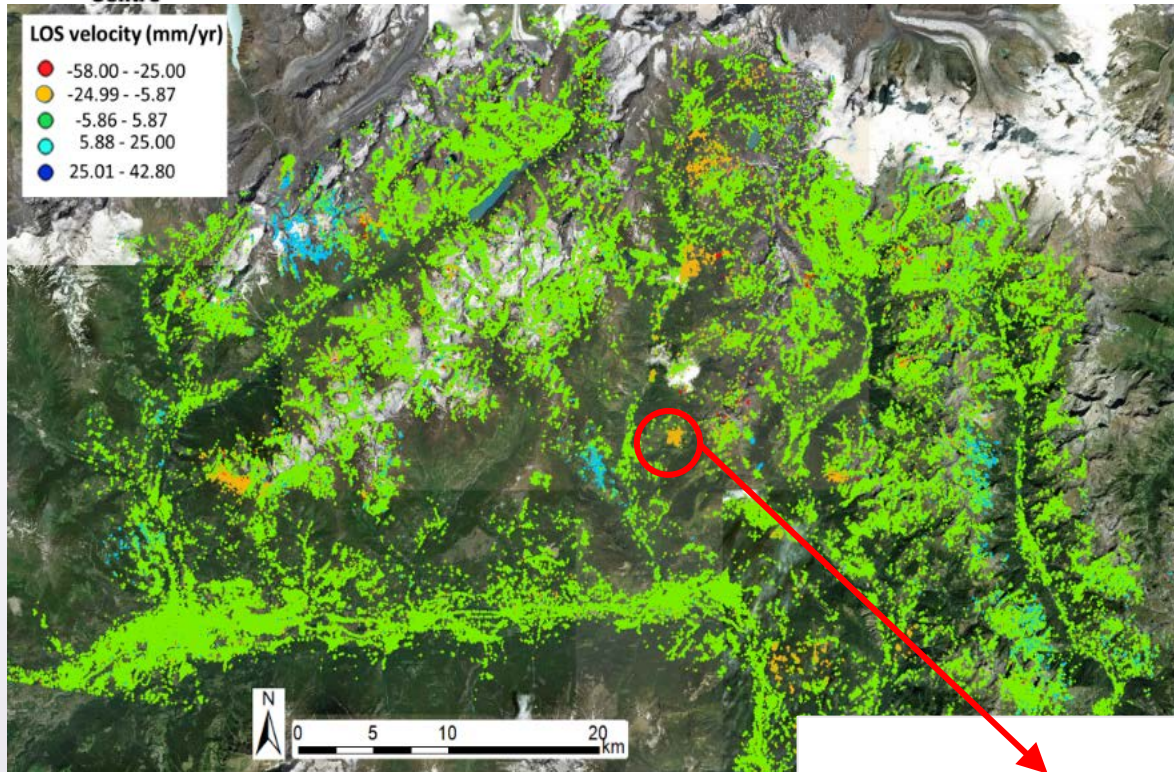
Test-sites



Results





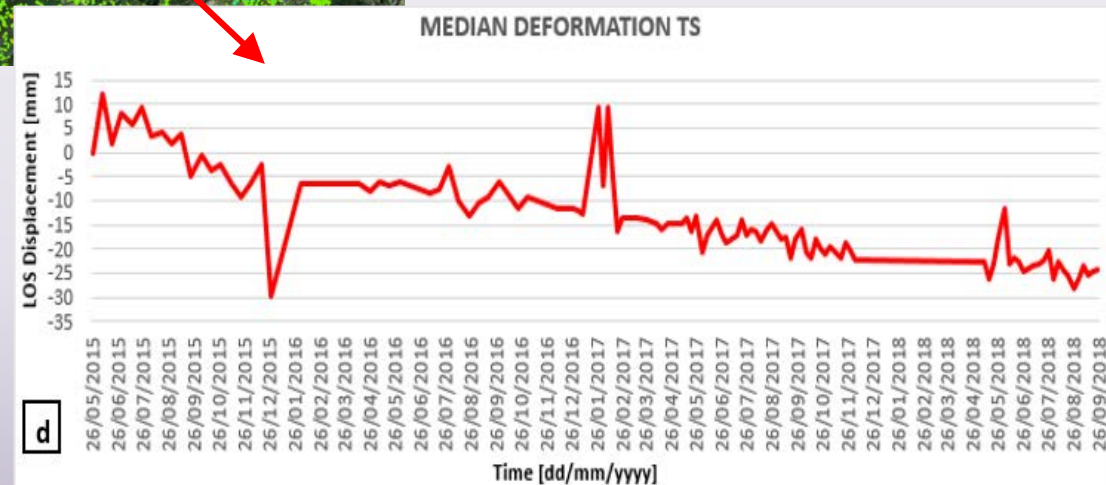


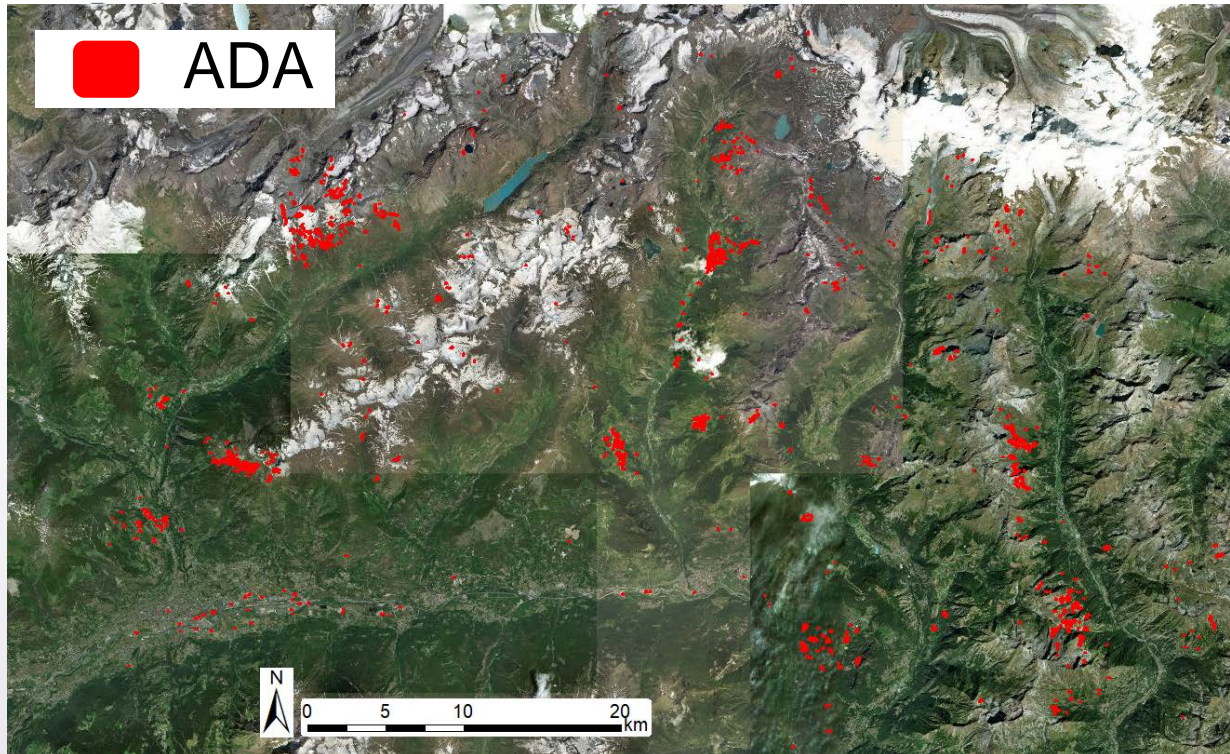
InSAR processing of Sentinel-1 images

Problematic aspects:

- Snow coverage
- Strong atmospheric component
- Phase unwrapping (aliasing)

We are testing and tuning different processing approach in order to improve both the coverage and the quality of the results.





InSAR processing:
derived map

ADA RESUMED INFORMATION:

LOCALIZATION
ACCUMULATED DEFORMATION
MEAN VELOCITY
MAXIMUM VELOCITY
MINIMUM VELOCITY
MEAN DEFORMATION
VELOCITY CLASS
QUALITY INDEX

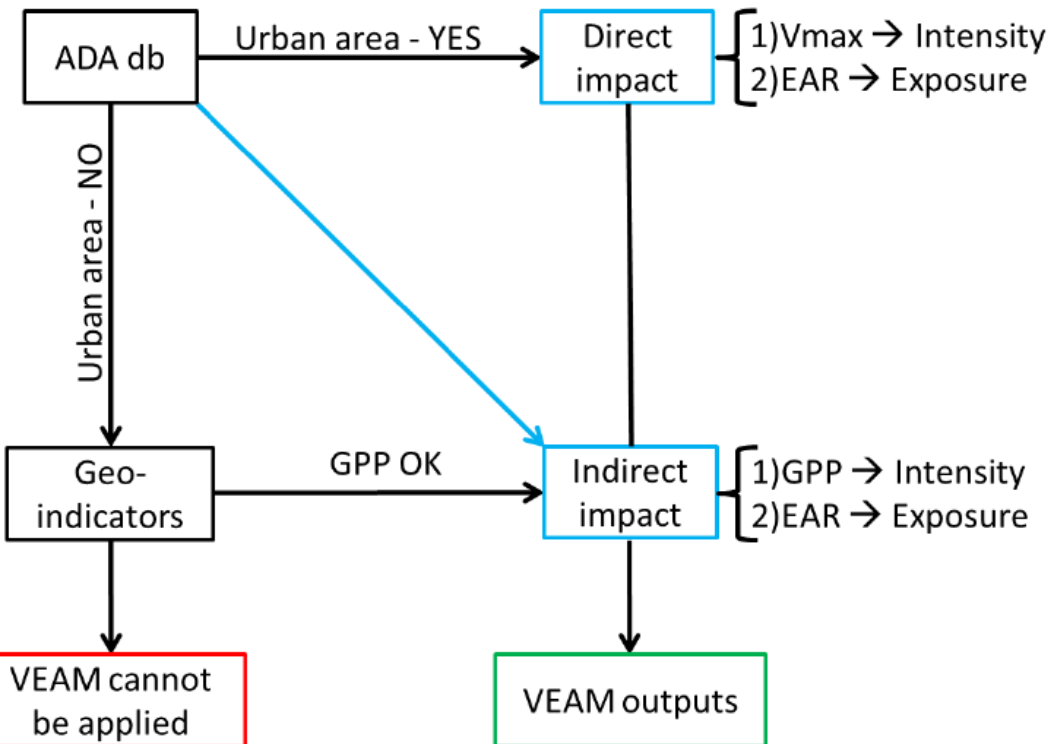
ADAFinder: automatic Active Deformation Areas extraction

Barra A, Solari L, Béjar-Pizarro M, Monserrat O, .. & Moretti S. (2018). A Methodology to Detect and Update Active Deformation Areas Based on Sentinel-1 SAR Images. Remote Sens. 9:1002.

For not expert users involved in risk management:

- Simplify the readability of PSI results
- Avoid misunderstanding interpretations
- Fast focusing over the most interesting active areas

Vulnerable Element at Risk Map (VEAM): methodology



- Vulnerability depends on Intensity & Element At Risk (EAR)
- Exposure: economic value of EAR (elements at risk) classes
- Intensity: 2 different procedures for:
 - \rightarrow **Direct impact** (based on ADA V_{max})
 - \rightarrow **Indirect impact** (based on GPP - Gravitational Process Path - model)



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Vulnerable Element at Risk Map (VEAM): methodology

Direct impact

- overlapping between ADA and EAR
- vulnerability is estimated as a value (ranging 0 - 1) as a function of intensity and building/road typology
- intensity is derived from ADA average velocity value as:
 1. average velocity < 16mm/yr
 2. 16 mm/yr < average velocity < 32 mm/yr
 3. average velocity > 32 mm/yr

Indirect impact

- no overlapping between ADA and EAR
- geo-indicators (debris cover or known debris flow)
- runout model → GPP (Gravitational Process Path)
- intensity derived from the number of trajectories, using natural breaks distribution (3 classes)

WP 2: Tools to support the Early Warning for Landslides geohazard

| Type of building/infrastructure | Vulnerability for I=1 | Vulnerability for I=2 | Vulnerability for I=3 | Exposure (€/m ²) |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Abandoned/ruined building | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 10 |
| Building under construction | 0.15 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 100 |
| Campground/resort | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 100 |
| Cemetery | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 80 |
| Private house | 0.2 | 0.35 | 0.6 | 700-4300 |
| Hydroelectric power plant | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 5000 |
| Hospital | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 4000 |
| Hotel | 0.15 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 2000 |
| Industrial/commercial building - factory | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 1000 |
| Local road | 0.6 | 0.8 | 1 | 50 |
| Monument | 0.15 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 100 |
| Power station/power substation/power shed | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 2000 |
| Provincial road | 0.5 | 0.8 | 1 | 50 |
| Public/social/administrative building | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 3000 |
| Railway/railway station | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 2000 |
| Religious building | 0.15 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 4000 |
| School complex | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 4000 |
| Shed | 0.15 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 100 |
| Silo | 0.15 | 0.4 | 0.50 | 10 |
| Sport facilities | 0.1 | 0.25 | 0.5 | 100 |
| Stable/barn/breeding farm | 0.15 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 10 |
| State highway/provincial highway | 0.4 | 0.6 | 1 | 100 |
| Toll road/highway | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 200 |

Vulnerability= f(intensity, EAR)

Potential worth of losses = vulnerability * exposure



U-Geohaz Results



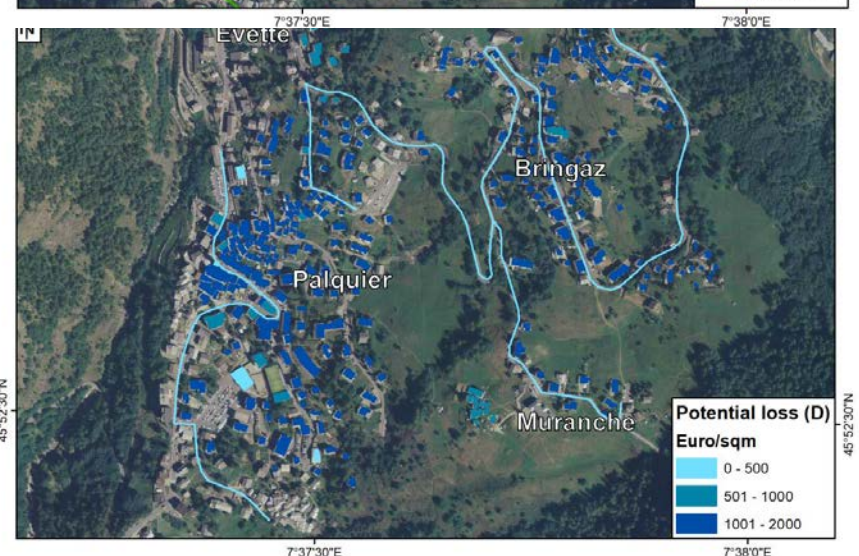
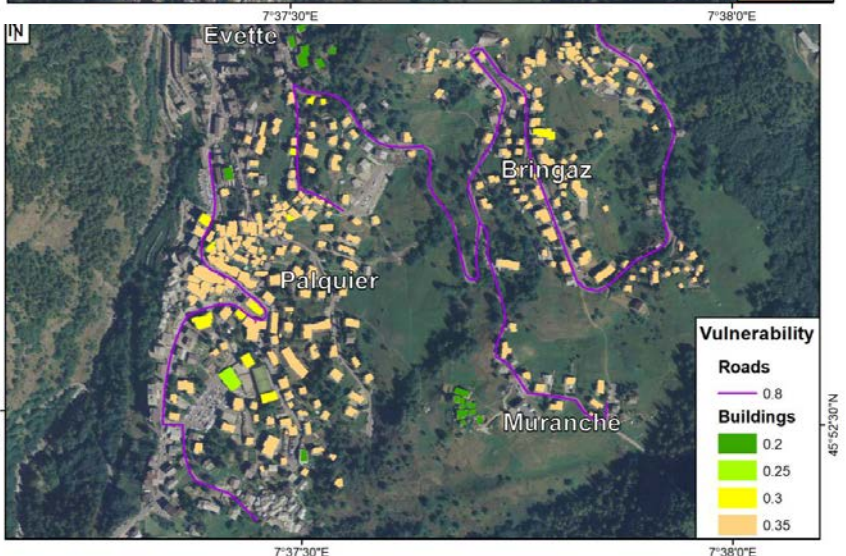
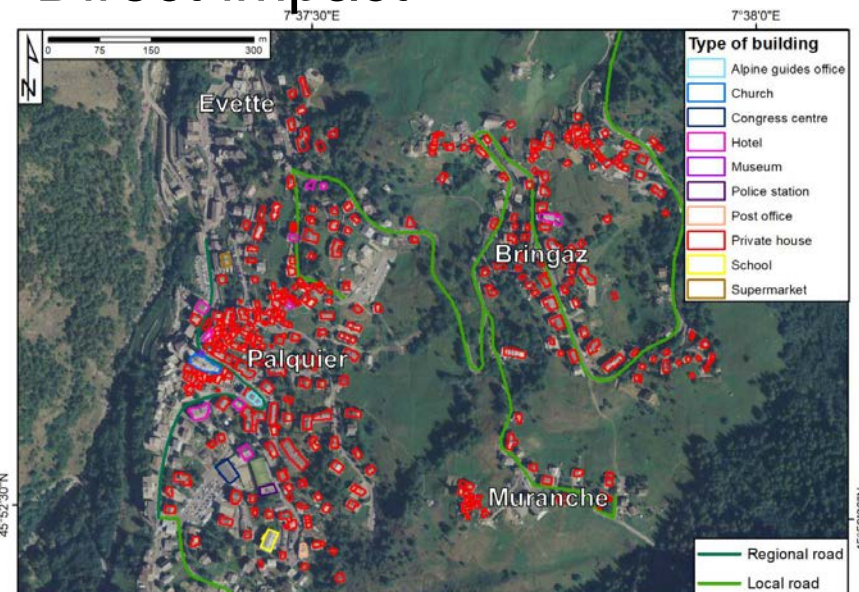
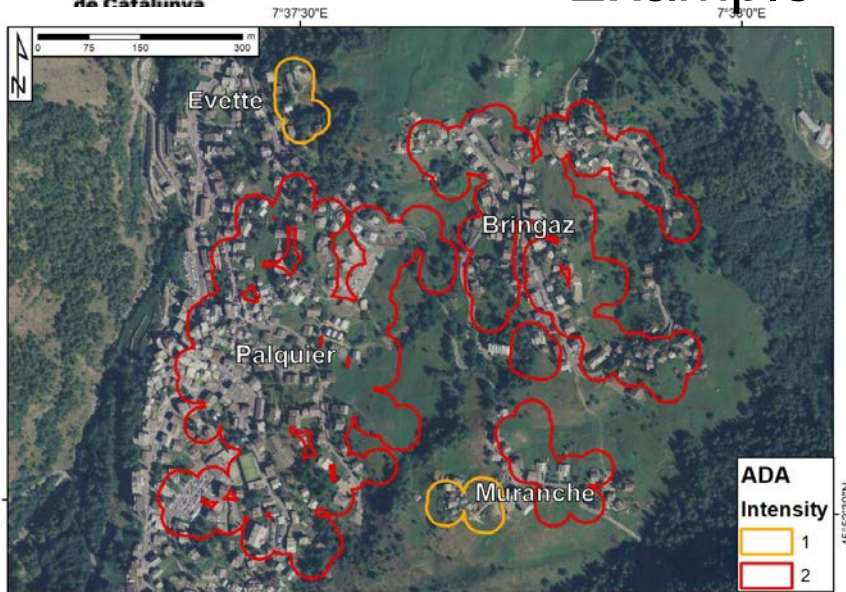
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WP 2: Tools to support the Early Warning for Landslides geohazard

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Example 1 – Direct impact





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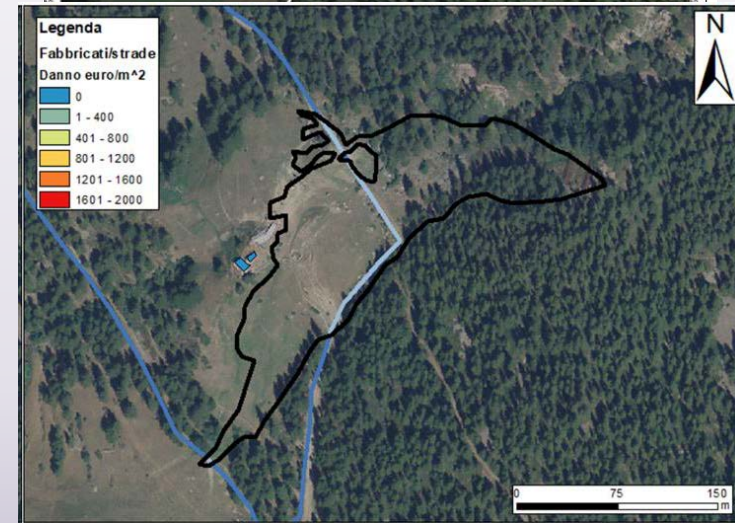
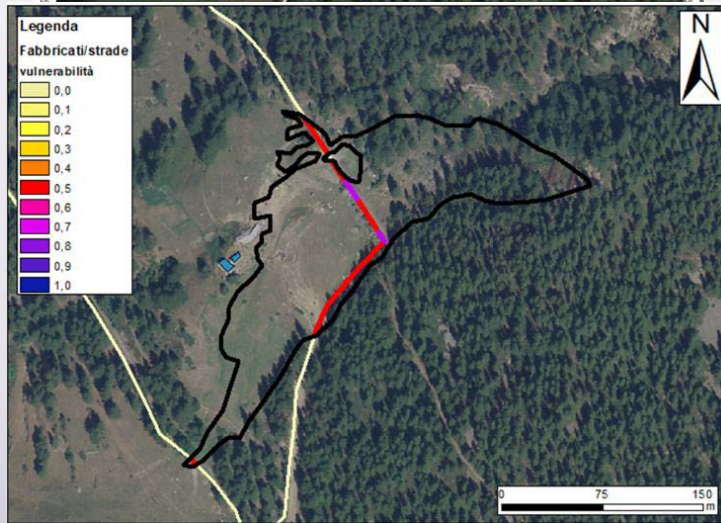
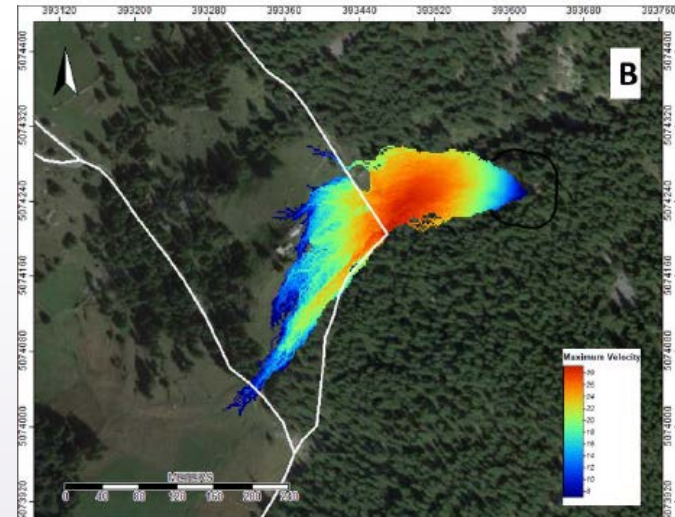
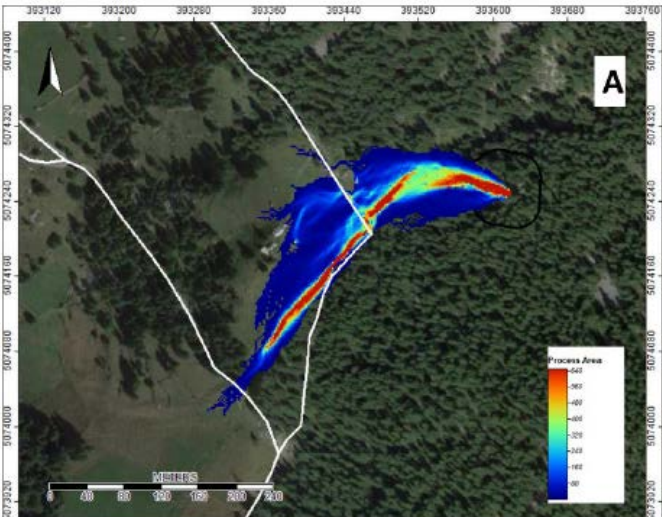
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Back to
Results menu

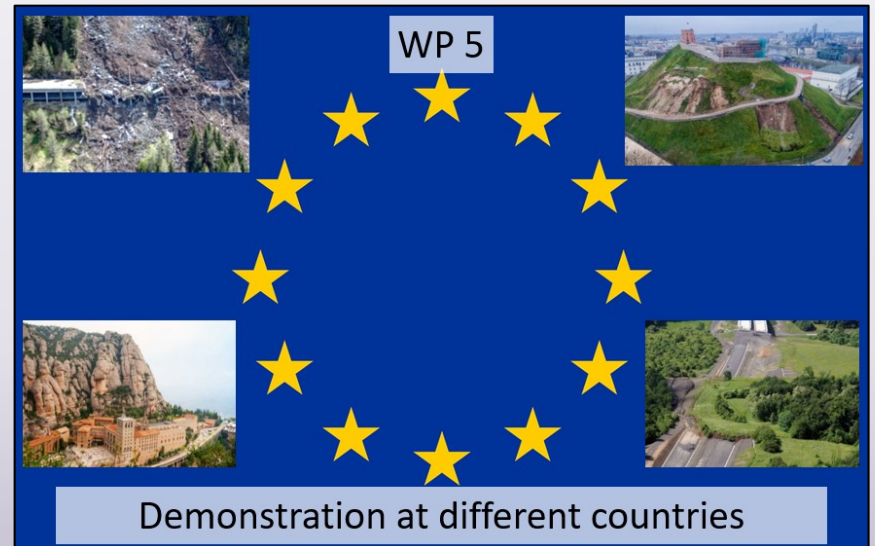
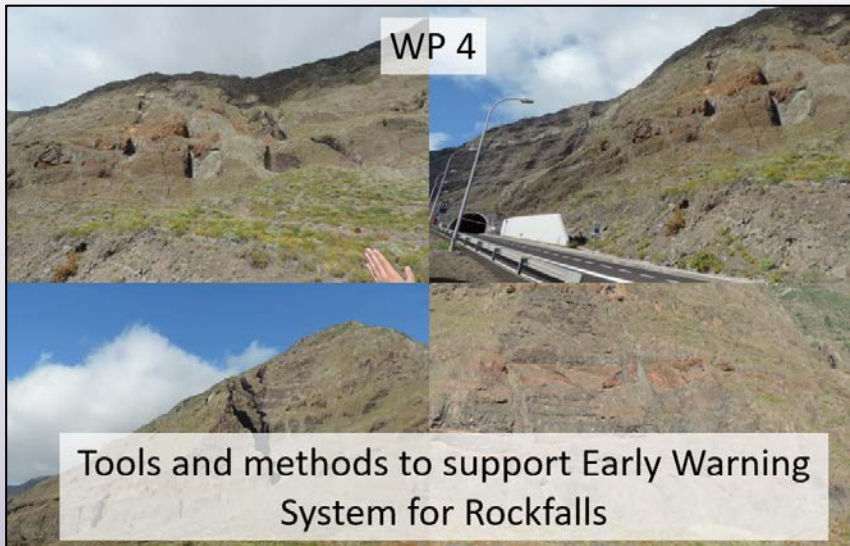
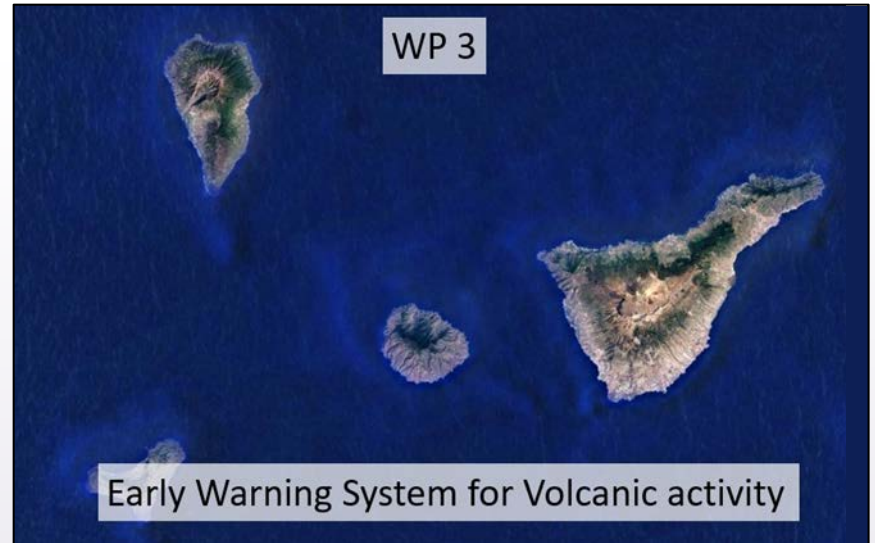
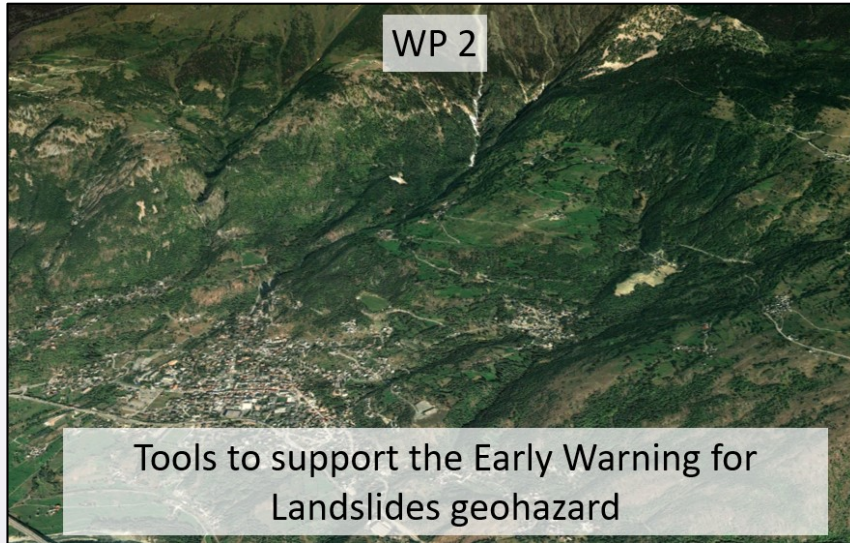
WP 2: Tools to support the Early Warning for Landslides geohazard

Example 2 – Indirect impact



Vulnerability map

Potential worth losses map



WP 3: Early Warning System for Volcanic activity

WP Leader: IGN-CNIG

- Identification of user needs
 - User assessment
 - Deformation Activity Maps
 - **Volcanic Early Warning (VEW) system implementation**
 - VEW validation
 - Integration of VEW in CPAS
- 2018
&
2019
- 2019

Deformation activity maps

InSAR processing of Sentinel-1 images

The main goal of this activity is the generation of the deformation activity maps (DAM) in the Canary Islands test site with a 6-day temporal repeatability.

→ We want to provide an approach able to produce a reliable deformation activity map each 6 days.

The main output of this action will be a 6-day updated ADA over the Canary Islands test site, during 12 months.

WP 3: Early Warning System for Volcanic activity

InSAR processing of Sentinel-1 images

El Hierro

Deformation_Velocity Hierro mm/yr

- -93.4000 - -30
- -30 - -11.6
- -11.6 - 11.6
- 11.6 - 30
- 30 - 105.0000

2.5 0 2.5 5 7.5 10 km



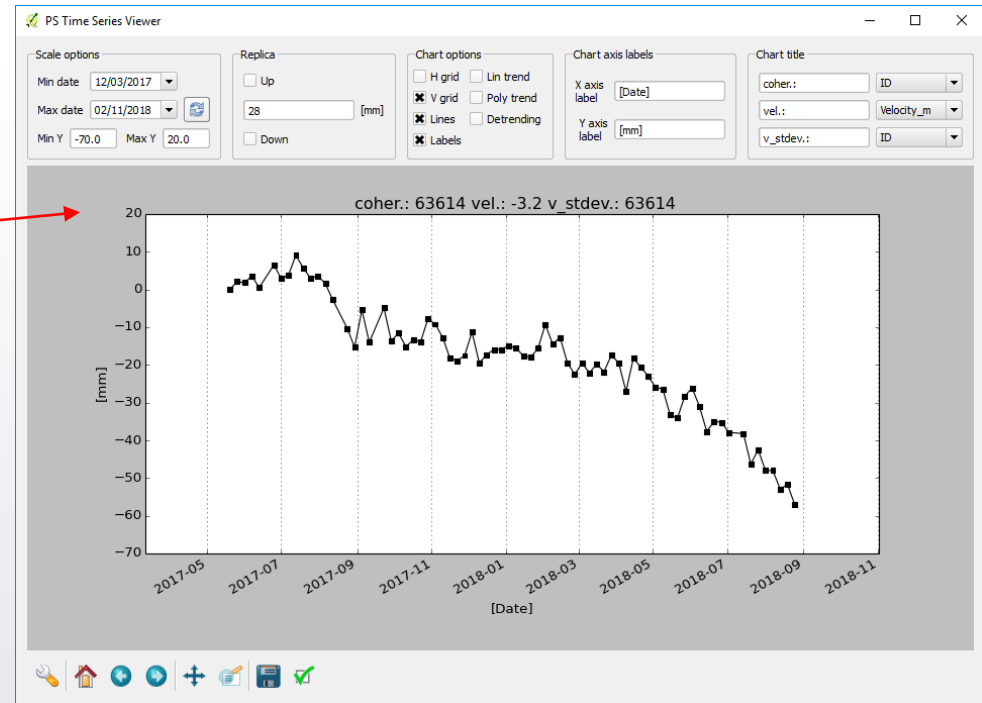
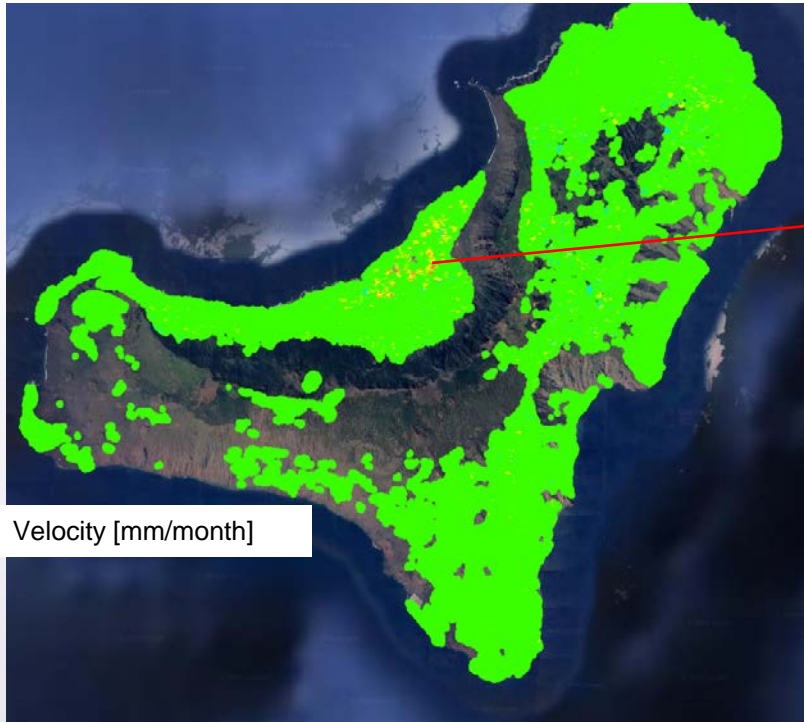
First approach

Velocity [mm/month]

Second approach

We are testing and tuning different processing approach in order to improve both the coverage and the quality of the results.

InSAR processing of Sentinel-1 images

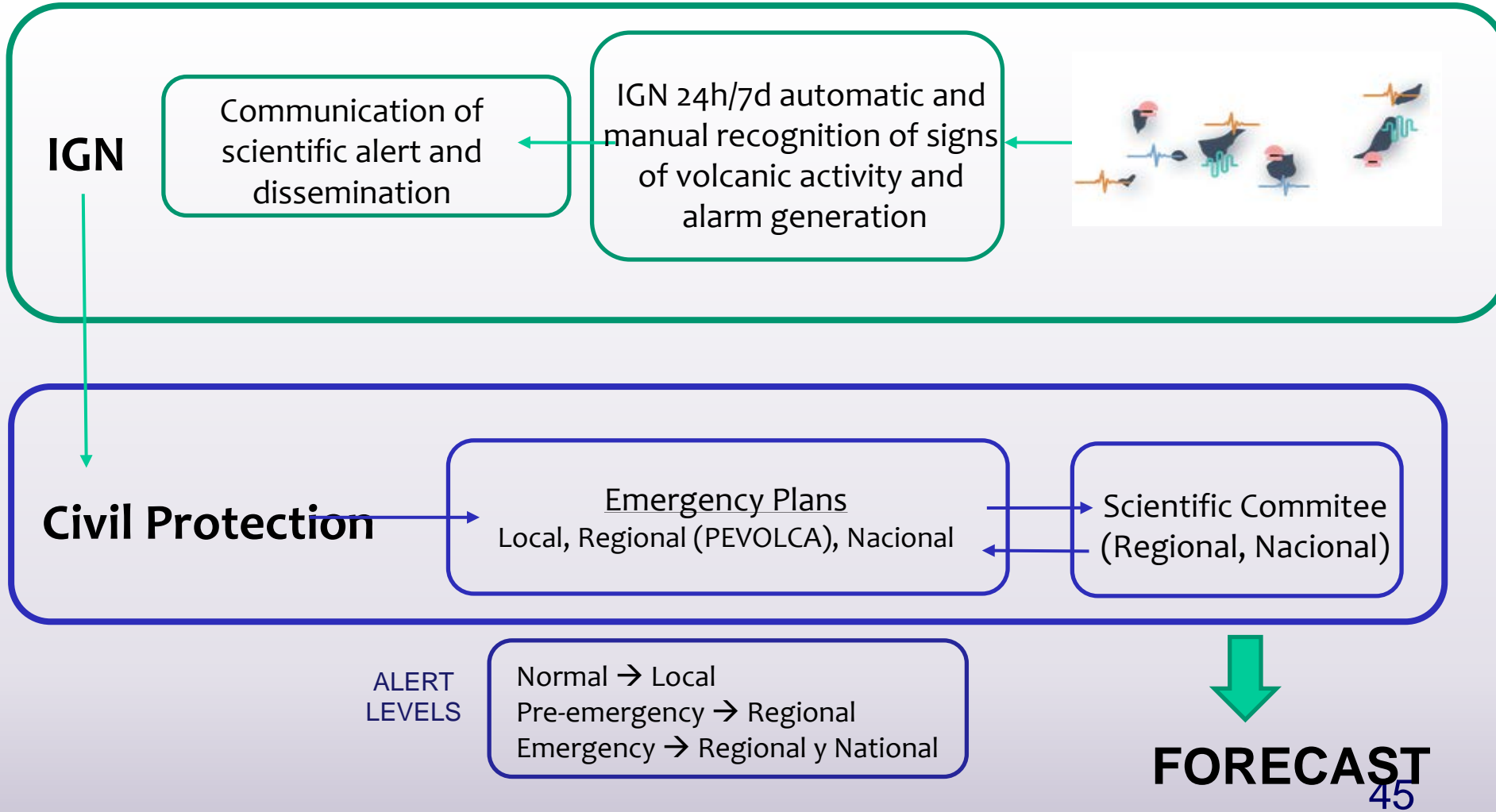


Second approach:

- We have developed the Direct integration algorithm.
- It has been tested with relative success but....
- Some critical issues raised up: “false” trends, APS filtering

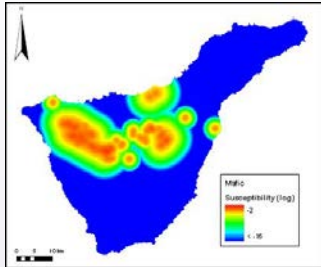
The next steps: Improve pixel selection in order to discriminate “good” from “bad points”; Test different approaches to remove the APS; Validation for potential false trends; Extend the analysis to La Palma and Tenerife (ongoing); Develop a tool to automatically update the dataset (ongoing)

IGN Volcano Monitoring System and Alert



IGN Volcano Monitoring System and Alert

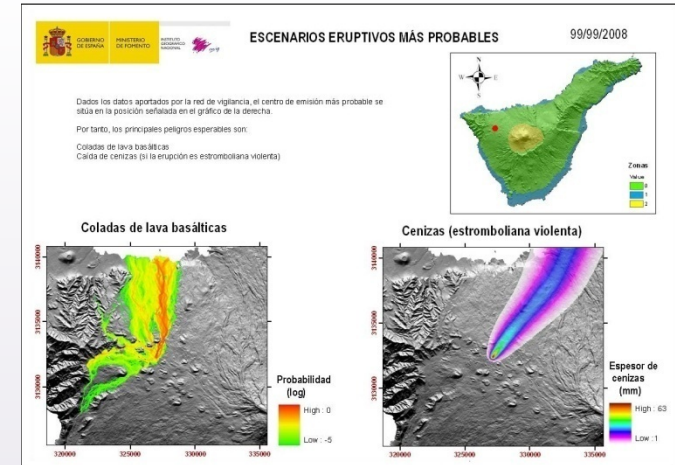
Susceptibility



where?

Event Tree
how? (typology)

Scenarios



how? (area affected)

FORECAST

when? where? how?

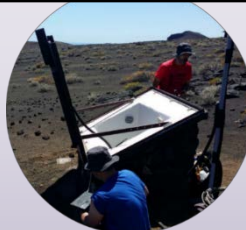
Deformation



GPS

InSAR

Seismicity



Geochemistry



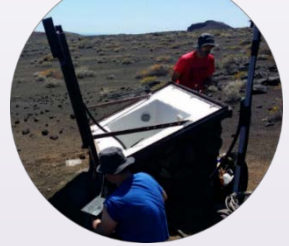
Monitoring
Networks

IGN Volcano Monitoring System and Alert

Deformation



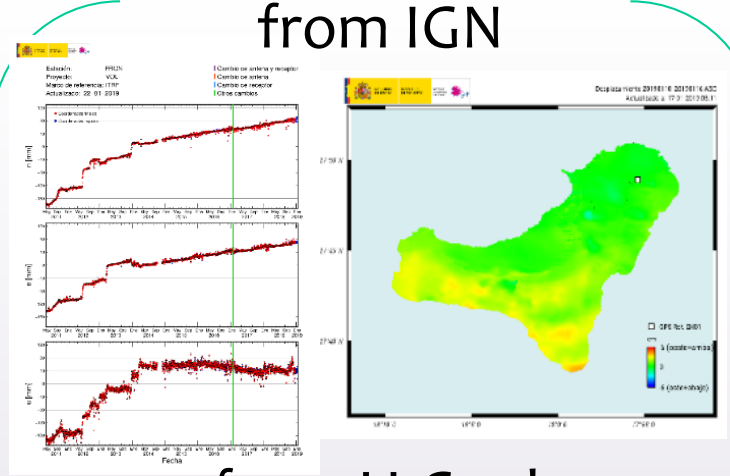
Seismicity



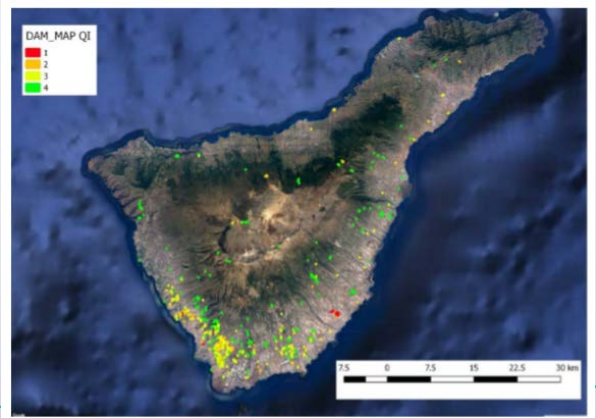
Geochemistry



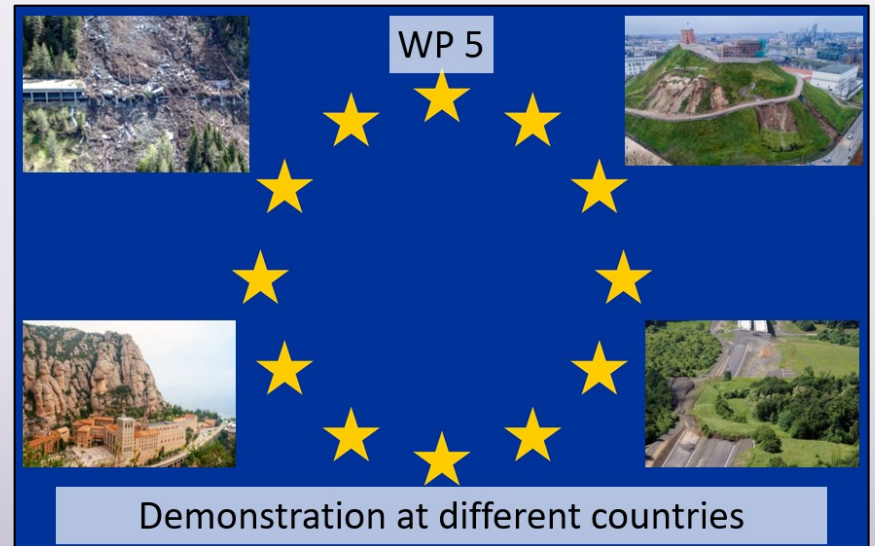
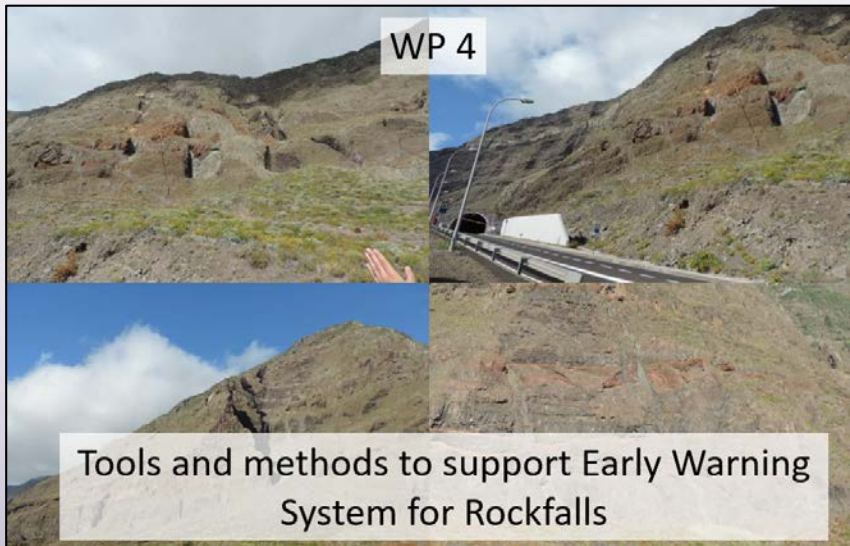
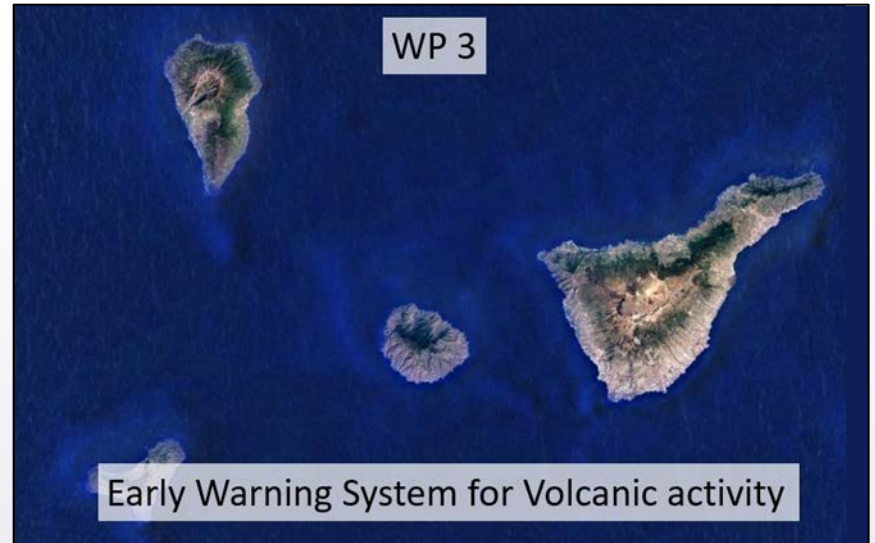
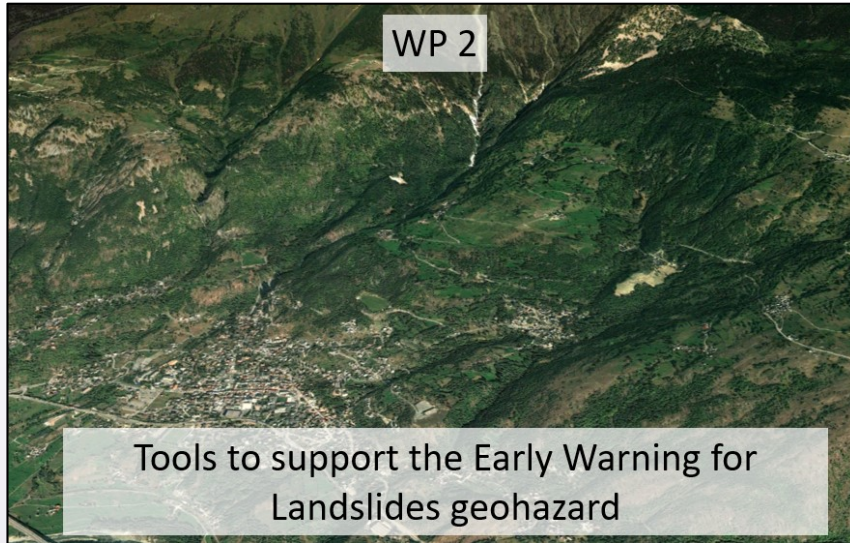
Improve
FORECAST

from U-Geohaz



Implemented: a methodology and data model necessary to integrate IGN deformation data with InSAR DAM and ADA



WP 4: Tools and methods to support Early Warning System for Rockfall

The main goal of WP4 is to tailor tools and methods to generate information **to support early warning systems for rock falls**. Information and methods will be implemented starting from the results of LAMPRE and SAFETY projects.

The activities are mainly focus to:

- i) Implement a Data Collection System
- ii) Improve the capability to recognize rock fall source areas
- iii) Improve the definition of empirical rainfall thresholds for the possible initiation of rock falls.

WP 4: Tools and methods to support Early Warning System for Rockfall

Implemented a data collection system: it will permit to collect and update the necessary input information in order to enable the periodic assessment of rockfall hazard.



WP 4: Tools and methods to support Early Warning System for Rockfall

ROCKFALL MODELLING: source areas identification

For the **probabilistic identification** of rockfalls source areas, we have used a combination of **multiple statistical models**. The proposed approach requires

- 1) a map of the **observed source areas** as dependent variable
- 2) a set of **independent thematic information** (e.g., morphometric indicators derived from DTM, lithological information that explicitly consider the mechanical behavior of the rocks, vegetation information).

The resulting map describing the probability of a pixel being a source areas will be the input for the rockfall modelling (i.e., STONE).

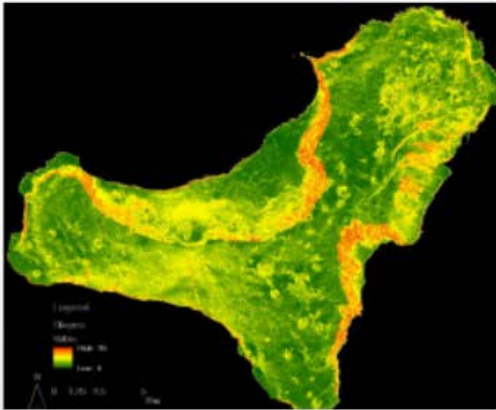
WP 4: Tools and methods to support Early Warning System for Rockfall

ROCKFALL MODELLING: source areas identification

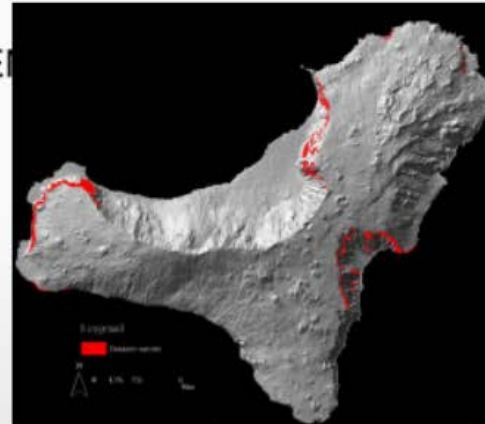


Rockfall modelling – Test site data

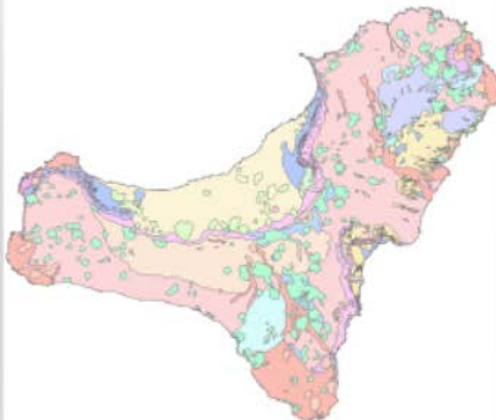
El Hierro



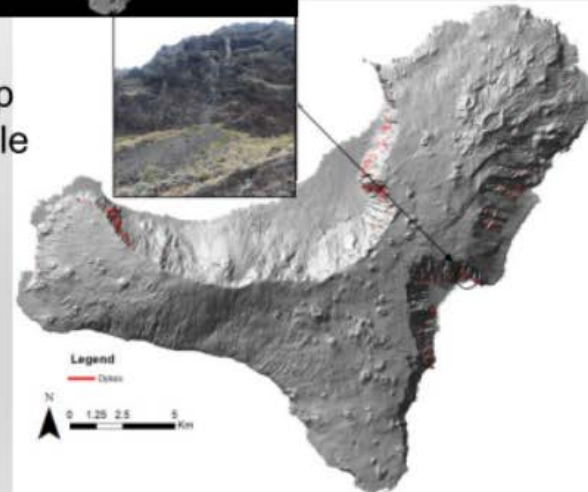
DEM



Source areas obtained with orthophotos interpretation and field surveys



Geological map at 1:25000 scale



WP 4: Tools and methods to support Early Warning System for Rockfall

ROCKFALL MODELLING: source areas identification

To evaluate the spatial probability of rockfall source areas, we used **LAND-SUITE** selecting pixels as mapping units. We proceeded stepwise.

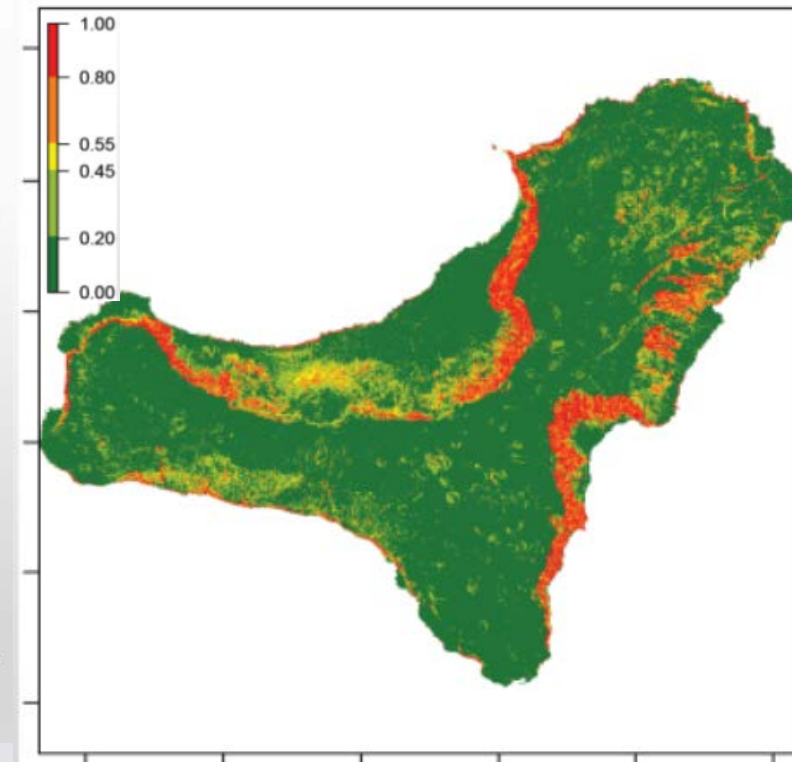
1. we **identified the dependent variable** from the observed locations of rockfall source areas. We then derived the independent variables from slope, curvature, density of dykes and lithology maps.
2. we set up **LAND-SIP** to produce a balanced (equal number of 1/0) training map with an equal number of pixels with/without source areas information and a validation map corresponding to the whole island
3. we evaluated the training dataset with **LAND-SVA** to estimate:
 - i) pair-wised correlation analysis of the input variables;
 - ii) multi-collinearity test of the input variables.
4. we applied **LAND-SE** selecting a logistic regression approach, to obtain the probabilistic map of source areas.

WP 4: Tools and methods to support Early Warning System for Rockfall

ROCKFALL MODELLING: source areas identification

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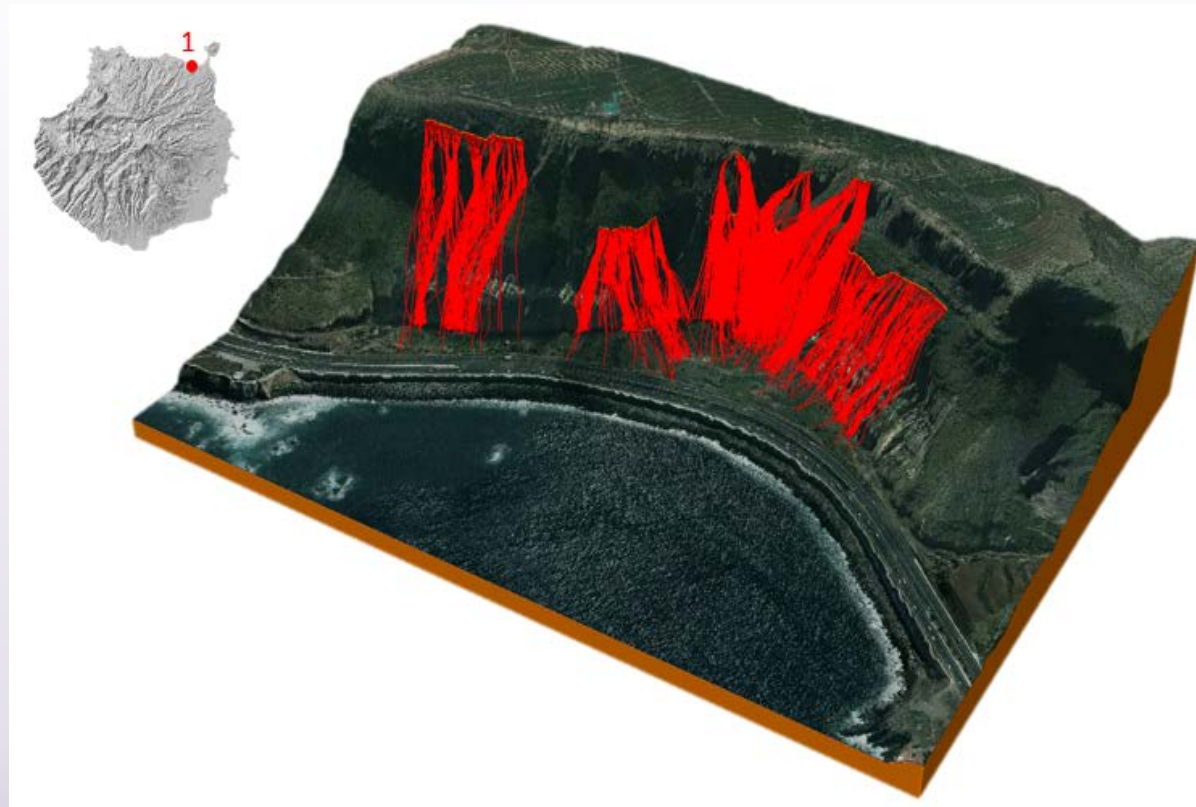
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Map of the probabilistic rockfall source areas

WP 4: Tools and methods to support Early Warning System for Rockfall

ROCKFALL MODELLING: Simulated trajectories

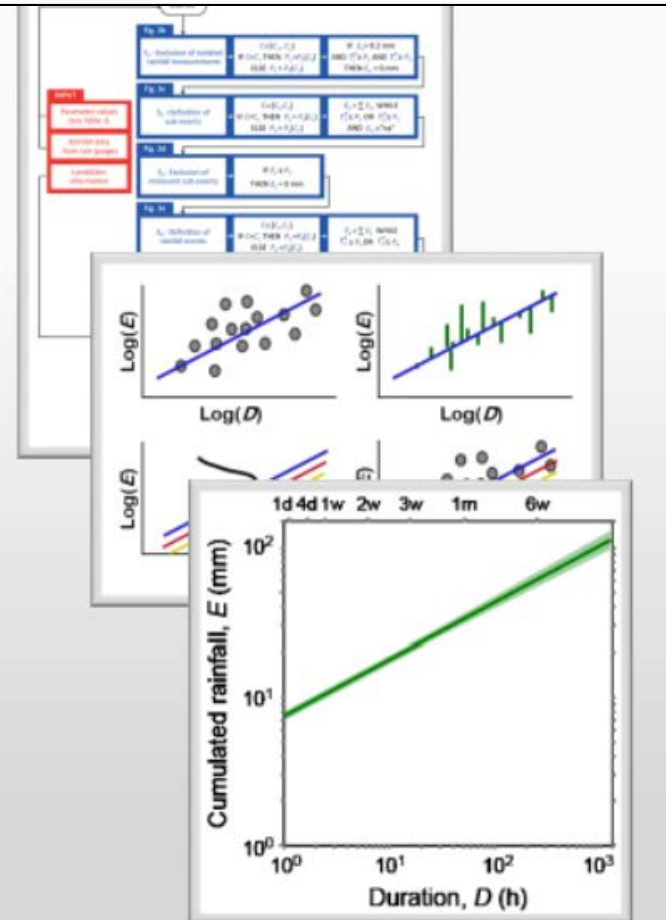


WP 4: Tools and methods to support Early Warning System for Rockfall

RAINFALL THRESHOLD

Define empirical rainfall thresholds for the possible initiation of rock falls

- Definition of **rainfall events** with **landslide**
- Definition of reproducible **rainfall thresholds**
- Evaluation of the **uncertainty** of the **thresholds**





U-Geohaz Results



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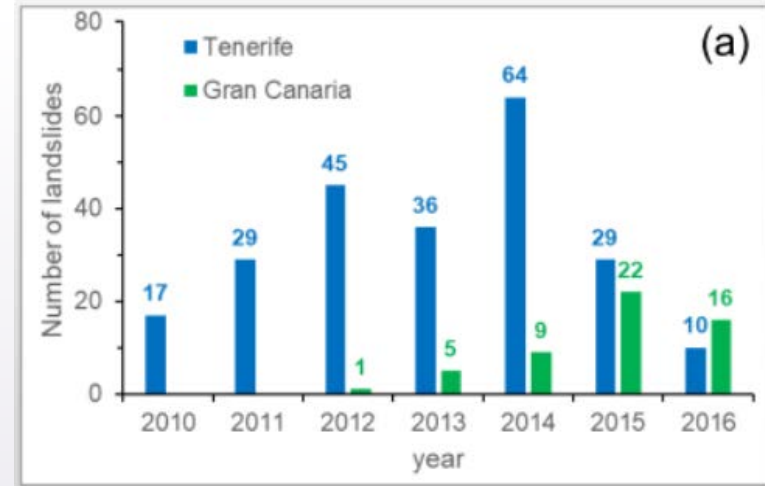
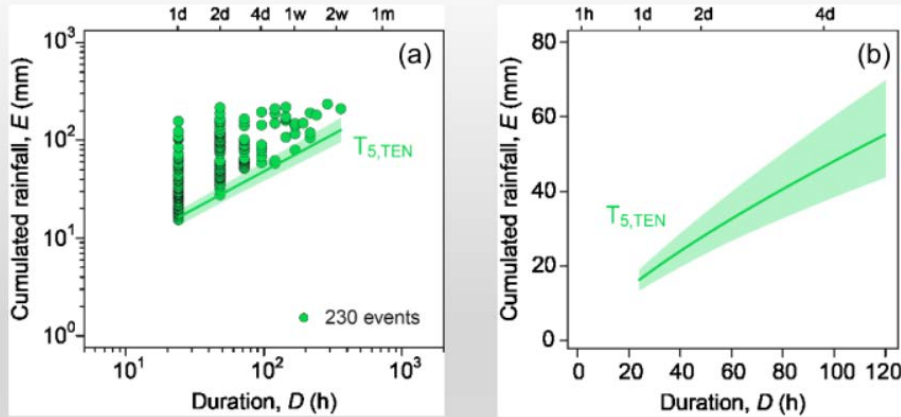
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WP 4: Tools and methods to support Early Warning System for Rockfall

RAINFALL THRESHOLD: preliminary results

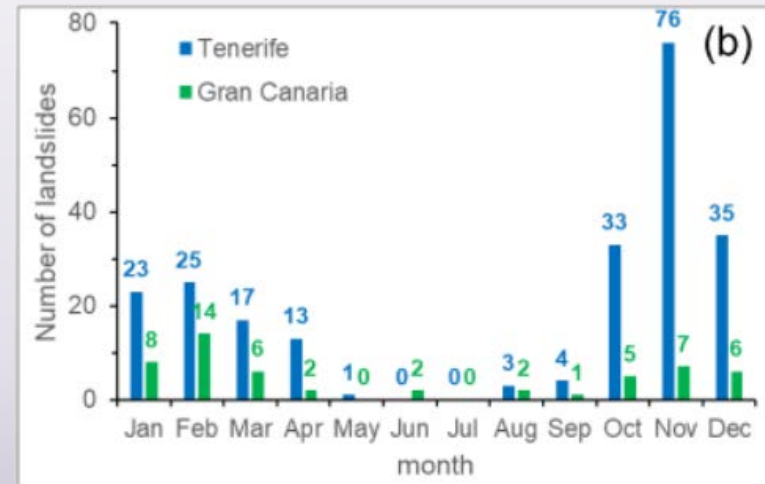
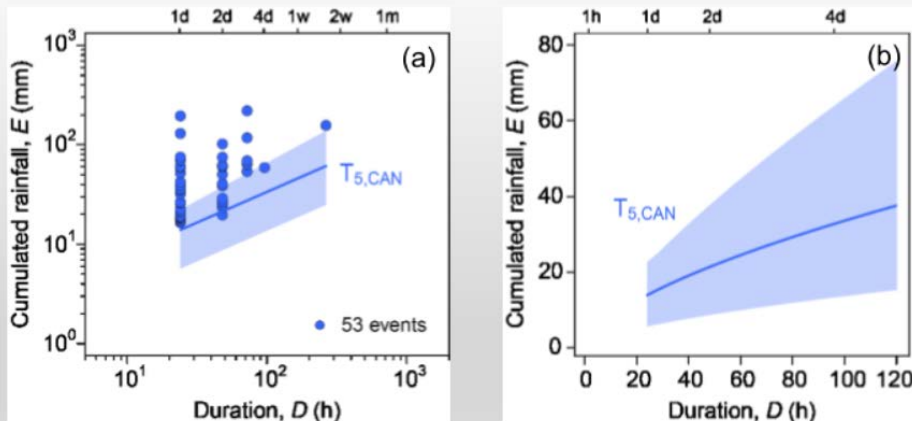
Rainfall thresholds in bi-logarithmic (a) and linear (b) coordinates. The green shaded area is the uncertainty associated with the threshold.

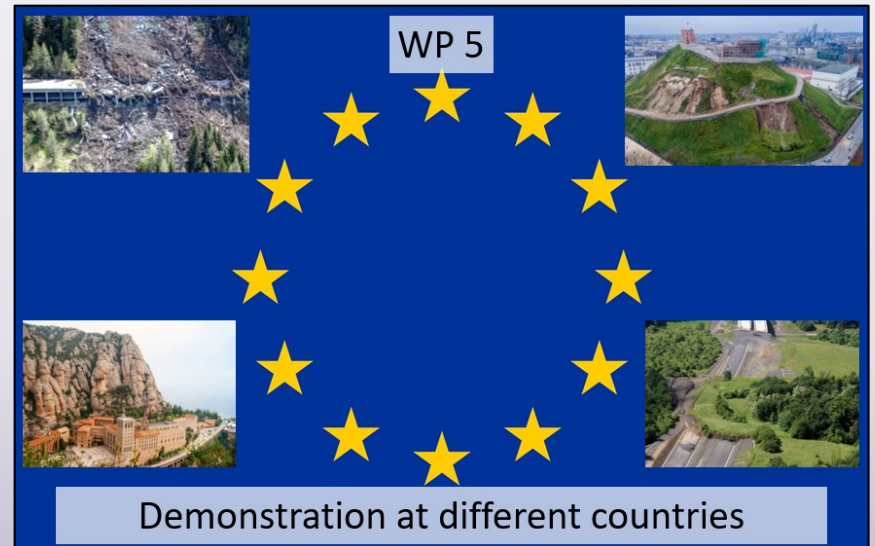
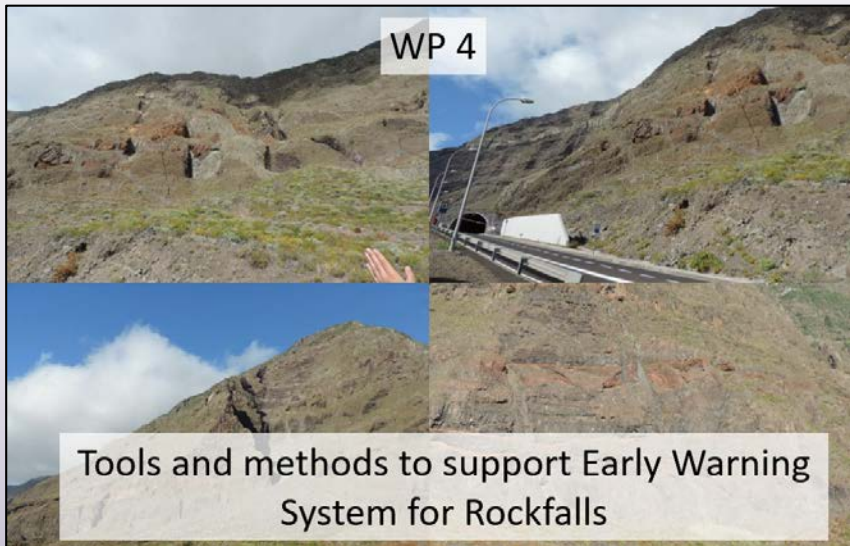
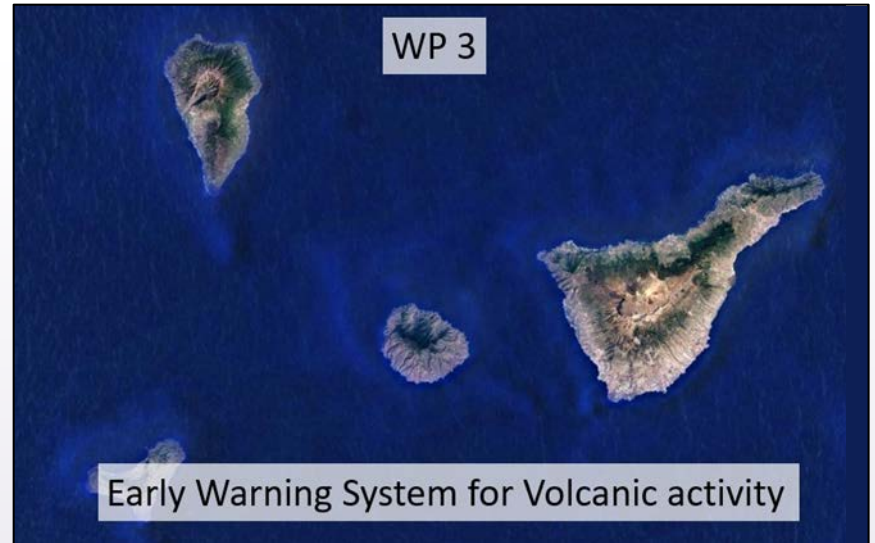
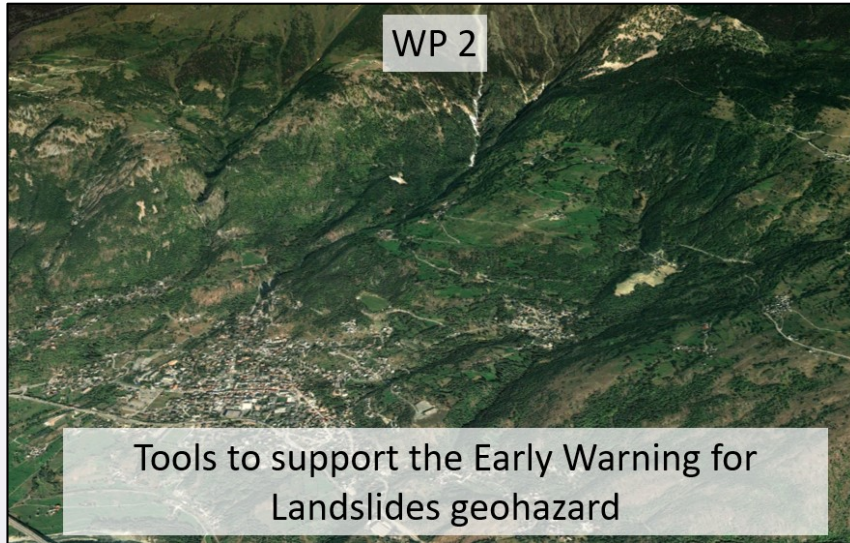
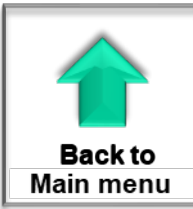
Tenerife



Rainfall thresholds in bi-logarithmic (a) and linear (b) coordinates. The blue shaded area is the uncertainty associated with the threshold.

Gran Canaria







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U-Geohaz Results



WP 5: Demonstration at different countries

Main tasks:

- Evaluate the integration of geohazard into urban planning to increase urban resilience in Europe.
- Provide a better understanding of the relations between GSs and the corresponding CPAs in the different European countries.
- Demonstrate the U-Geohaz products performance to the GSs and the CPAs from the participating countries.

How?

The consorsrtium includes 12 geological surveys with direct relation with their corresponding CPAs.



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METHOD: THE EOEG QUESTIONNAIRE

Within the framework of the European Geological Surveys (EGS), the Earth Observation and Geohazards Expert Group (EOEG) has carried out a survey at the beginning of 2018 through a questionnaire that was circulated among its members. Twenty one National Geological Surveys have participated:

Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom, as well as six regional Geological Surveys: Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Hessen, Lower Saxony and Saxony Anhalt in Germany, and Catalonia in Spain.



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METHOD: THE EOEG QUESTIONNAIRE

The questionnaire contains a list of 30 questions divided into 4 main sections:

1. The impact of landslides in the country
2. Landslides in the Geological Surveys (GSs) of Europe.
3. Landslides in the legislation.
4. Landslide awareness and preparedness

In a fifth stage, a participatory exercise was developed to analyze in detail cases of bad urban practices on landslide prone zones across Europe. Nine countries have reported calamitous examples: Spain, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Poland and Romania. Every case was discussed to determine what failed and why?

WP 5: Demonstration at different countries

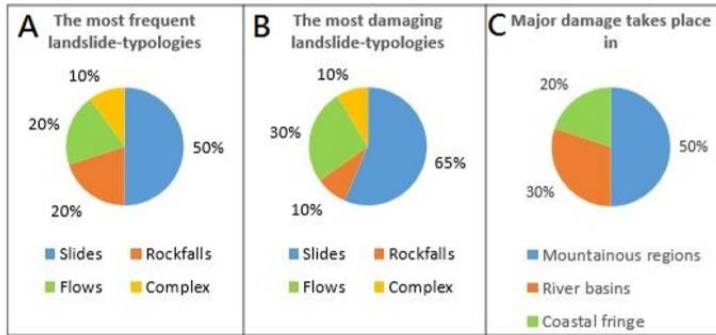


Figure 2 Statistical diagrams referring to section 1: impact of landslides in Europe: A) Frequency of landslide typologies; B) the most damaging landslide typologies and C) where major damage takes place

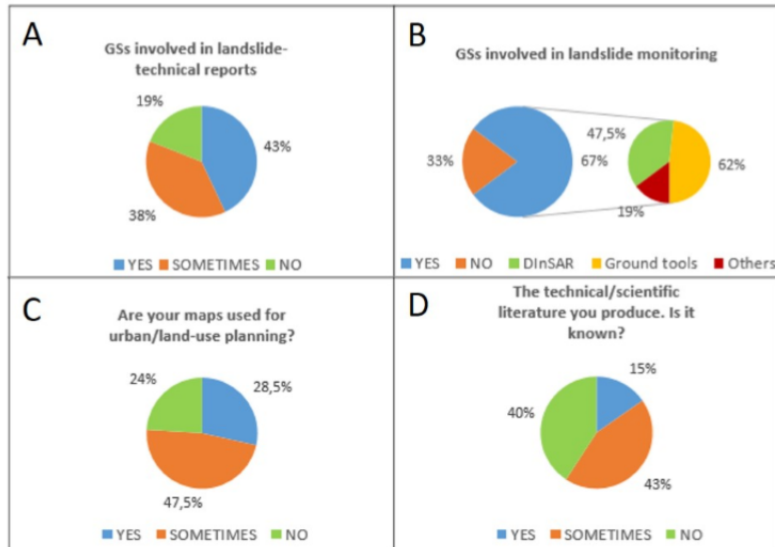


Figure 6 Statistical diagrams referring to section 2: landslides in the EGs: A) percentage of GSs involved in the elaboration of technical reports; B) percentage of GSs involved in landslide monitoring (types); C) the use of the maps elaborated by GSs for urban/land-use planning and D) the social knowledge of the technical/scientific literature generates by the GSs

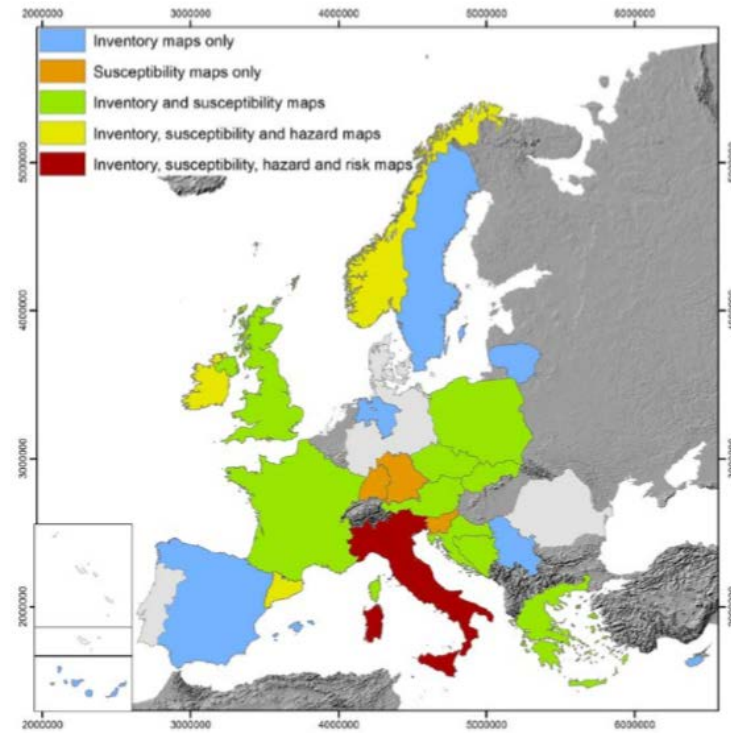


Figure 5 Types of landslide maps produced by the participant National and regional Geological Surveys

WP 5: Demonstration at different countries

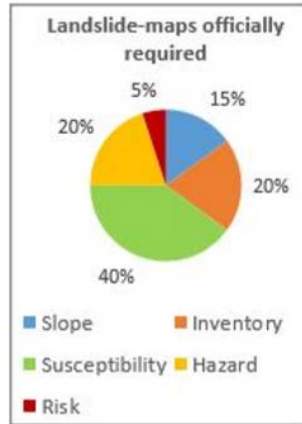


Figure 8 Landslide maps officially required by the legislations in force. 55% of the countries only required slope/susceptibility maps

See more here:
<https://u-geohaz.cttc.cat/>

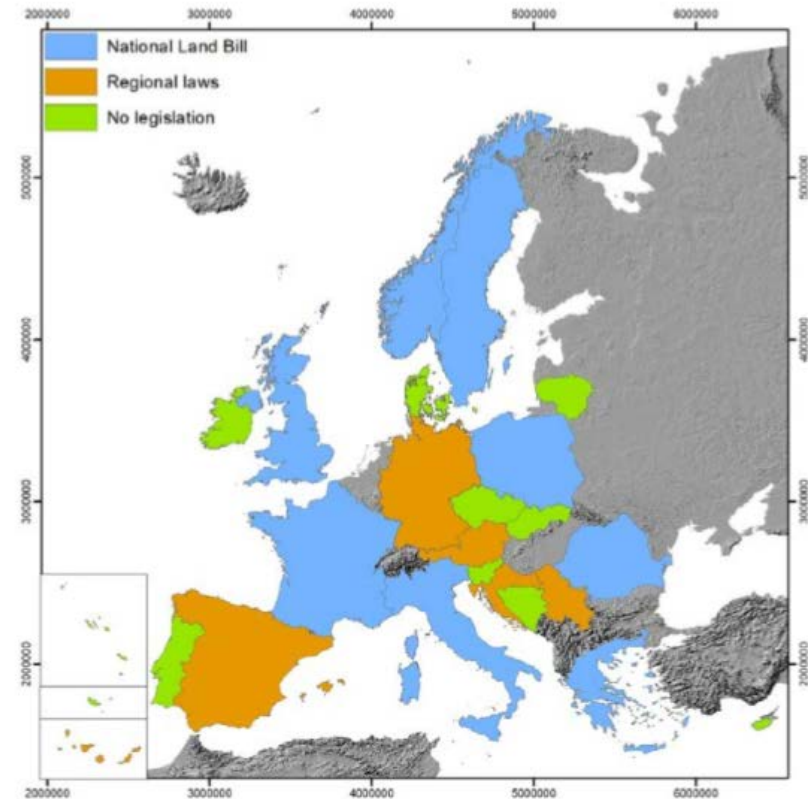


Figure 7 Legislation: how landslides are integrated into urban/land-use planning. 43% of the countries currently have no legal measures at all

WP 5: Demonstration at different countries

The **U-Geohaz Training** will be held the 3th and 4th of June in Athens. The training event is aimed at delivering the U-Geohaz tools and methods and transferring the basic knowledge to the Geological Surveys (GSs) in order to make them able to develop the U-Geohaz products and to provide them to the Civil Protection Authorities (CPAs). The training will be addressed to the 13 national and regional Geological Surveys of 12 EU countries, which are included in the consortium.