

Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss., editor comment EC1  
<https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-2020-375-EC1>, 2021  
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## Comment on **essd-2020-375**

Christian Voigt (Editor)

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Editor comment on "The first pan-Alpine surface-gravity database, a modern compilation that crosses frontiers" by Pavol Zahorec et al., Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-2020-375-EC1>, 2021

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Dear authors,

Thank you very much for your manuscript on the pan-alpine gravity database. As you can see both referees agree that your work is very important and should be published in ESSD. In addition, both referees state that the large amount of detailed background information could or should be condensed. While the first referee accepts the manuscript in its present form, the second one strongly recommends to shift large parts into an appendix.

My own opinion is that these two different decisions reflect the wide range of opinions of future readers interested in using your manuscript. While more experienced readers will not be willing to read 72 pages, young PhD students might be very grateful about all the details. As ESSD is the right platform to present a complete documentation on a published data set, I suggest keeping the information but dividing your manuscript into two parts:

- Condense your manuscript and write a concise version on max 15-20 pages to keep it attractive to every reader, while considering the rules of writing a good scientific manuscript.
- Refer the interested reader to a greatly expanded appendix.
- For the guidance of the reader, a table of content might be helpful.

One final remark: Most of the authors should be familiar with the European Gravimetric Quasigeoid project (EGG) by the IAG:

<https://com2.iag-aig.org/sub-commission-24>

The compilation and homogenisation of the European gravity data sets has been done since decades and is documented e.g. in

Denker, H.: Regional gravity field modeling: Theory and practical results, Monograph in: Xu G. (ed.), Sciences of Geodesy – II, Chapter 5: 185-291, Springer, Berlin, Heidelberg, doi: 10.1007/978-3-642-28000-9\_5, 2013.

So, I would like to give thought to whether your title on the "first ... surface-gravity

database..." and expressions such as "the first compilation..." are justified. At least this work has to be addressed.

Best regards,

Christian Voigt

(Topical Editor of ESSD)