

Geosci. Commun. Discuss., author comment AC1
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Reply on RC1

Sara Pasqualetto et al.

Author comment on "How to get your message across: designing an impactful knowledge transfer plan in a European project" by Sara Pasqualetto et al., Geosci. Commun. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/gc-2021-29-AC1>, 2022

Thank you for taking the time to read our paper and contribute to making it a useful contribution to the community. We will address the comments individually and provide our ideas for how to implement them in the text.

"The authors describe that APPLICATE was a collaboration among fifteen research institutions, universities, and national weather centers from eight European countries and Russia. The work performed with regards to knowledge transfer was primarily performed within work package 7. For a better understanding of the relative weight that was given to project management/knowledge transfer activities compared to the overall size of the project, it might be useful to see a diagram of the structure of the project and get some insight into the size of the team working on WP7. I believe this would be of interest, in particular, going forward with developing common best practices for future projects as well as giving the funding agencies insight into whether the size of the team and expertise within WP7 was sufficient or should be expanded."

This is a valid point that was raised by the other referee as well. Adding more information on the project structure will help contextualize the project's breadth and relative effort from the various WPs, and an analysis into whether the project could have benefited from a bigger (or smaller) team will be added.

A paragraph and a graph (attached) to introduce the project's structure will be added:

"The project was researching Arctic transformations and their impact on lower latitudes by approaching the issues from different sides: nine work packages were established to answer and find solutions to critical questions related to, among others, model evaluation and development, predictive capacity, the Arctic observing system etc. The graphic below illustrates the topics and composition of the various work packages. (see figure attached) It is important to point out, however, that for work packages 7 and 8, although the coordinating aspects were curated by the members and institutions illustrated in the graphic, every person participating in any form to the project was asked to contribute to the KT and clustering efforts of APPLICATE."

"Related to the topic of team composition, it might be interesting to hear more details on what kind of expertise/background team members had and whether there is a need for not only expanding the team size and/or expertise of team members (e.g., social science, statistics, web metrics, search engine optimization for the website) but also developing

more training opportunities for future project managers to fulfill the demands of outreach/communication activities on a project."

Thank you for this suggestion. Text will be added to the paragraph introducing APPLICATE's knowledge transfer activities to present the team's expertise:

"These activities were carried out within the Work Package 7 (WP7), although each work package was required to contribute to the efforts of disseminating results and engage in outreach and education efforts. The team of WP7 included both social and natural scientists, with expertise in communication and outreach strategies, co-production of climate services and training in research."

"In my opinion, it would also be of interest to elaborate more on how much of the activities within WP7 were self-directed by the team vs. prescribed by the funding agencies. The authors describe how important it is for the projects to develop plans to address the four focus areas of KT and ideally, funding agencies can give clear direction and support from the start to help with formulating plans and how to implement best practices that lead to project success. I believe it will be crucial as more and more large-scale scientific projects are created for the funding agencies to sufficiently support project management activities and also give more guidance and support for impact assessments and defining project success."

Thanks for highlighting this point, which is very crucial for our analysis. The relation with the funding agencies, especially in the context of European projects, is fundamental and should be pivotal in developing a successful strategy of impact assessment. We briefly mention how some of the activities and tracking methods have been suggested by the funding agency, but we can expand on where the support could be stronger and which aspect would need more structure.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<https://gc.copernicus.org/preprints/gc-2021-29/gc-2021-29-AC1-supplement.pdf>