

Geosci. Commun. Discuss., referee comment RC2
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Comment on gc-2022-5

Nicholas Kinar (Referee)

Referee comment on "A snapshot sample on how COVID-19 impacted and holds up a mirror to European water education" by Benjamin M. C. Fischer and Alexandru Tatomir, Geosci. Commun. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/gc-2022-5-RC2>, 2022

Review by Dr. Nicholas J. Kinar
University of Saskatchewan

This is a landmark paper that clearly indicates how the COVID-19 pandemic affected educational hydrology-related initiatives in a European context. The historical importance of this paper cannot be understated, since the authors carefully and methodologically indicate why changes occurred and how the pandemic both identified and created rifts and challenges for both instructors and students. The paper indicates that fieldwork and other in-person opportunities were influenced and provides the start of a foundation for other papers related to geoscience communication. This is a good paper that I anticipate citing in the context of my own work, and I recommend only some minor revisions before publication. I thank the authors for documenting and identifying challenges and opportunities; this is an excellent paper that is a good contribution to the research on the scholarship of teaching and learning over the past few years.

The authors should consider defining in the abstract what is meant by "holds up a mirror" to educational opportunities.

Line 26: A "spirit of optimism" is not clear. Please re-write this sentence to indicate what is communicated by this term.

lines 35-36: What are the types of challenges as per Wagener et al. (2012)?

line 54: What is meant by "flooded by jargon"?

line 91: "make the hydrology alarm bells ring" is unclear and please re-write this sentence.

Section 2 Methods: What was the survey methodology used for survey design? Gideon (2012) might be useful to cite here.

Gideon, L. (Ed.): Handbook of survey methodology for the social sciences, Springer, New York, 520 pp., 2012.

line 124: What is "googleForm"? Is this the Google Forms product from Google?

line 146: What is meant by "response rate" in this context? Is this a percentage as per the total number of universities or people who received the survey?

line 164: What is meant by "state-of-the art"?

line 212: What is meant by "CATs"? Do these involve "clicker" hardware and software?

line 266: Please provide more context on Bloom's taxonomy. Not all readers are immediately familiar with this taxonomy.

line 268: What is meant by "damage" in this context?

The authors should provide all of the survey response data as Supplementary information so that the readers of the paper can better understand how the survey was conducted.

Figure 4: What is meant by "exotic" teaching methods? The difference between methods (traditional, practical and exotic) should be clearly outlined in the text.

All figures involving word clouds: Please discuss in the text how the word cloud contributes to the presentation of the research in the paper. What is the meaning of larger words relative to smaller words.