

Solid Earth Discuss., author comment AC1  
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## Reply on RC1

Manuel I. de Paz-Álvarez et al.

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Author comment on "Virtual field trip to the Esla Nappe (Cantabrian Zone, NW Spain): delivering traditional geological mapping skills remotely using real data" by Manuel I. de Paz-Álvarez et al., Solid Earth Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/se-2021-110-AC1>, 2021

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Thank you very much for your positive review of our manuscript, we really appreciate it. Below we answer to your helpful comments for the improvement of the contribution.

### **Specific Comments:**

**Comment:** *At several points in the paper it states or infers that 5 days/ 40 hours were allocated to the virtual course -to replicate 8x 5 field days; elsewhere it is stated that students had 20 days before electronic submission (p. 10 line 206); it would help to clarify how long the students were expected to spend on the virtual fieldwork (e.g. 5 consecutive timetabled days?) and how long was allocated to 'writing up' results, including drawing sections, finalizing map etc.*

**Answer:** Overall, the students had 20 days to produce their reports. But the amount of work expected from them was in the order of 40 hours, which they could freely distribute among the 20 days provided. Ideally, the intention was for the students to spend 8 hours for 5 days in order to reproduce as closely as possible the workflow used in the residential fieldtrip. Nonetheless, given the exceptional circumstances, and being unaware of the personal circumstances of the students during lockdown, it was decided that they should be given an ample deadline so that they could work on the project whenever they chose to.

There was not a clear instruction on the time allocated to producing the report in itself, since they were expected to do part of it daily (e.g. completing a field notebook and the geological map). Once all data was reviewed, then they had to do the rest: stratigraphic column, cross-sections and stereonet. They were expected to do everything in 40 hours. Nonetheless, the reviewer's comment is very helpful for future runs of the exercise in case the reports need to be as thorough as during the years 2020 and 2021: it is a good point that students should have at least an approximate notion of the time available for that purpose.

**Changes:** In section 2.7, the following sentences have been added for clarification: *Students were expected to work on the project for about 40 hours, which is a similar amount as during previous years' residential fieldtrip. The deadline of 20 days was given in order to ensure all students had enough time to adequately complete the exercise bearing in mind their different personal circumstances during lockdown.*

### **Technical corrections**

- (L 29) Replace 'transversal'; should it be 'transferrable'?

To our knowledge, those are synonyms, but a quick online survey shows that indeed, transferable is more common. We have modified it in the text.

- (L 73) Replace 'these trainings' training not generally used in plural; 'these approaches' or these courses might be appropriate

We have modified it in the text.

- (L 95) 'sub-greenschist' add hyphen.

We have modified it in the text.

- (L 299-300) 'During year 2020-2021, students....' Rewrite – during the 2020-21 version of the course

We have rewritten that sentence.

- (L 318) "In our view, this data and material abundance is a crucial bottleneck decisive for a successful implementation" Rewrite – I don't fully understand.

We have modified the sentence as follows: *In our view, this data and material abundance is a decisive factor for a successful implementation of a similar virtual mapping exercise in any other area.*

### **Figures:**

*Figure 5 – Violin plots. Is label on first histogram correct? "How did the time to complete EMP adjusted to the students?" Likewise blue label on final histogram needs word order changing and spelling correction- "How useful an extra mapping day would have been to improve the map?" and grey label on same histogram (word order).*

We have modified the first label: *Was the available time enough to complete the EMP successfully?*

The final blue label: *To what extent would an extra mapping day have improved the map?*

The final grey label: *To what extent would a day of physical mapping have improved the map?*

We are happy to answer any other questions or comments about the manuscript.

Kind regards,

*The authors*