

***Interactive comment on “Brief Communication:
“An inventory of permafrost evidence for the
European Alps”” by E. Cremonese et al.***

Anonymous Referee #1

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The manuscript is concise, well-written and shows the necessary information for the understanding of the general structure of the database. The "Inventory of permafrost evidence for the European Alps" will become an important data archive and its open usage is extremely important. The variables are balanced considering the heterogeneity of regional/local databases and encompass the most significant geographical, geological/geomorphological, topographical and technical attributes.

I would recommend including borehole width as one of the necessary fields, as well as, at least a photograph or link to a photograph of the borehole location.

I congratulate the authors for this initiative and hope that such a complete archive structure could be the basis for other regional or global permafrost archives.

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I suggest the manuscript to be published following the minor comments indicated below.

Technical comments and suggestions

p.1203, line 27 - replace "from numerous European Alpine countries have contributed" with "...from several European Alpine countries have contributed.."

p. 1204, line 25 - replace DinSAR with DInSAR

p. 1206, line 13 - consider replacing "quite" by "very" in the degrees of certainty. i.e "quite likely" would become "very likely"

p. 1027, line 24 - it would be interesting to see here some statistics about the evidence for permafrost absence.

p. 1027, line 25 - data is not available at the website (18 May 2011)

Figure 1 - include scale bar. Legend: indicate period of the evidence included in the map (older evidence - more recent evidence). Indicate in the map the name of countries represented.

Figure 2 - b) using bar width does not allow to see what evidence is present in Germany. I suggest indicating in the legend what appears in Germany or use a different graphical solution. Remove frame around legend and move legend to under the graph. Include in figure caption the meaning of GP, GST, etc...

p.1210, line 13 - When restricted use is indicated, what is the legal protection that the data owner should expect after entering data in the archive? Please explain better the publication policy in the paper, since this might be central to the success of the inventory.