

Interactive comment on “Learning risk management of geohazards in practice with free and open-source web-GIS based platform: RISKGIS” by Zar Chi Aye et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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Dear authors

the manuscript ‘Learning risk management of geohazards in practice with free and open-source web-GIS based platform: RISKGIS’ describes and provides an overview of an teaching project with students at bachelor and master level. The web-GIS based platform aims that students learn and understand environmental systems with a focus on geohazards and risk as well as to get familiar with different expert approaches applied in Switzerland. The platform should also allow the lecturer to evaluate the performance of the students and the web-tool. The platform is tested and illustrated by three different examples applied in courses of the University of Lausanne presenting different settings such as bachelor and master level, individual task for students or

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group work, and high and low number of students. The main results of this study are the evaluation by the students of the different courses using the platform.

The idea of the web-GIS platform in teaching and preparing students for their applied work after university has a high potential and is attractive for students by using the approach 'learning by doing'. However, the presentation of this study in the manuscript is a detailed description of the teaching projects, yet it lacks of new scientific insights in the field of education, web-GIS based platforms or risk analysis considering also the existing publication of this project (Aye et al 2016c). For example section 2 highlights some pedagogical concepts and aims, however the questions of the courses evaluation answered by students is not clearly related to these concepts and seems to be strongly based on the standard lecture/exercise evaluation at universities. I miss a clear and structured approach to evaluated a) pedagogical concept/aim of the project and b) the usability of the web-platform. I cannot recommend the current version of the manuscript for publication due to the missing added value for the scientific community as described above. Furthermore, I would recommend re-structuring the manuscript according to focused research questions, considering a clear structure for methods, results and discussion (e.g. questions of the evaluation are part of the methods section) and re-writing a critical discussion section according to the new research questions and highlighting the pro and cons of the web-GIS platform in education. Moreover, I suggest language editing and check used technical terms according the consistency within the manuscript. Some further comments are highlighted in the attached file.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<http://www.nat-hazards-earth-syst-sci-discuss.net/nhess-2017-85/nhess-2017-85-RC2-supplement.pdf>

Interactive comment on Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., doi:10.5194/nhess-2017-85, 2017.