We thank the reviewer for the constructive and detailed comments. All of them were used to improve the manuscript. Specific answers to comments are included below.

The manuscript focuses on analyzing drought in Europe in the period 1902-2019 by means of the CRU TS v4.04 dataset. The paper is very interesting and presents a good analysis, however, in my opinion there are a few drawbacks in the paper, which can be eliminated by carrying out some minor revisions following the list of comments below.

My main concern refers to the use of the CRU TS v4.04 dataset for the period 1902-2019. The numbers and locations of stations contributing to any grid cell of the dataset changed over time, especially in the first half of the past century. Can the authors provide a map showing the evolution of the stations' density in the study area? Can the authors provide a comment on how station distribution could influence the analyses shown on the maps?

We agree with this concern. In the revised version of the manuscript we will add some paragraphs regarding the distribution of the stations in the CRU TS 4.04 dataset over Europe. Unfortunately we do not have access to the distribution of the stations to make our own figure, but we can definitely refer to the Harris et al. (2020) paper for an overview of the station distribution for precipitation (Figure 1 in their paper) and temperature (Figure S1 in their paper). As clearly shown also in their paper the stations distribution over Europe is relatively homogenous even at the beginning of the 20th century, thus we believe that our results are robust throughout the analyzed period.

In the trend analysis the authors identified significant changes but they must specify the significance level considered.

We will add this information in the revised version of the manuscript.

Line 301: Figures 6-8 should be Figure 8

We will modify the text accordingly.

Finally, in the conclusions the authors added a discussion to underline the added value of their work compared to other similar in the same area, but some important comparison with drought analyses performed with gridded databases are missing. For example, in my knowledge, gridded data sets have been used for drought analyses in Europe producing maps of the self-calibrating Palmer Drought Severity Index (van der Schrier et al. 2006 doi: 10.1175/JCLI3734.1) or maps of the SPI trend at different timescale (Caloiero et al. 2018 doi: 10.3390/w10081043).

We will add the aforementioned references in the revised version of the manuscript and we will integrated the comparison with them throughout the text.