

Interactive comment on “10 years with planet Earth essence in the primary school children drawings” by Giuliana D’Addezio

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This manuscript describes the 10 year history of Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia’s (INGV) calendar competition run for school children. The competition has a different Earth-based theme each year, and children are invited to submit drawings on that theme. Winning entries are then included in the calendar. The author and INGV should be commended for this scheme that clearly engages many children (from where the numbers of drawings were provided, this totals >7,500), and encourages them to think about the world and their environment around them.

However, I was underwhelmed by the paper which is mostly descriptive - I really wanted to read more about what has been learnt through doing the project and what lessons

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are transferable. Consequently, I struggle to place the manuscript in either of the journal’s two categories of research article or review article.

On several occasions the author correctly asserts that children’s drawings can be used to determine attitudes on subjects, yet there is little evidence provided that this has been done despite the huge potential in the dataset of >7,500 drawings. For example, the summary of the findings of the Rubbia et al 2015 paper based on a subset of the 2011 competition was interesting and useful information. Outside this one year, any analysis of the drawings is anecdotal.

I would encourage the author to revise this manuscript in the following ways -

• An introduction to the INGV, stating the purpose of its work and why it has a strong track record of dissemination. Why does it run museums and these competitions? What are the objectives of the dissemination, ie, how is it judged to be successful or not?

• A more in depth rationale for the calendar project - clearly state the objectives for the project and how it has been evaluated to be successful. Is this merely numbers involved? Is there a greater body of literature that could be referenced here to frame the project in context?

• Make more use of the drawings and the analysis of them. A brief methodology in how drawings can be used to extract information on attitudes might be useful. For each year in the calendar provide more evidence, if available, of the analysis of the drawings and what that tells us about children’s attitudes about the topic.

• Finally, summarise general patterns emerging over the ten years. What research has emerged from it? Are there patterns that can be seen year on year, or have attitudes changed over time? How has the calendar projects helped achieve INGV’s dissemination goals? What lessons are there to learn for others wanted to do similar? What is the contributions to the wider science communication body of research?

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If the author is able to make these changes then this would be an interesting and useful article for the readers of Geoscience Communication.

Other comments:

The manuscript title does not reflect the paper well - Maybe something like "Summarising 10 years of the Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia's Calendar Competition."

Some of the language throughout is unclear and would benefit from some editing.

Line 8 - The reader at this point does not know what INGV is - expand and provide a brief description here.

Line 25 - Expand INGV.

Lines 53-60 - The section is not relevant and the space could be better used to describe the objectives of the competition and how you will evaluate it.

Figure 1 - if the faces of the children are supposed to be anonymised this is not very strong and the children could be easily recognised from the images. This could be a safeguarding issue.

Line 229 - Who suggested the mission? Was it designed by the children or presented to the children?

The author should provide a statement on the availability of the data from the project - is it possible to see a record of submitted drawings and/or analysis thereof?

It would be of interest to see an ethics statement from the author about how they handled the submitted drawings as research data, although I appreciate this isn't a requirement for the journal.

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