



# 1 A snapshot sample on how COVID-19 impacted 2 and holds up a mirror to European water 3 education

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## 8 Abstract

9 COVID-19 caused many disruptions, not only in society but also in education and teaching  
10 environments, including for hydrology and water-related sciences. Taking part in an academic teaching  
11 training course at Uppsala University during COVID-19 we got curious about how COVID-19 might  
12 impact European water education. The aim of this paper is to communicate the results and reflect on  
13 how the teaching of hydrology and water-related sciences changed due to COVID-19. We observed that  
14 overall water education changed throughout Europe due to COVID-19. A literature review of the  
15 common teaching techniques in the field and our survey indicates that hydrology educators use  
16 preponderantly conservative teaching styles, i.e., classical lectures, and therefore these were rather  
17 easily moved online during the pandemic. Overall, the COVID-19 crisis impacted student learning  
18 negatively (reported by 67% of the respondents) while only 16.7% responded that the impact was  
19 positive. The online interaction made it more difficult for the teachers to assess the achievement of the  
20 learning outcomes. As most of the respondents (i.e., > 40%) reported that they do not use classroom  
21 assessment techniques, the students' performances and whether students reached their learning  
22 outcomes during distance teaching were largely unknown. Most affected learning activities were the  
23 ones that could not be moved to online teaching, such as laboratory and field work. Hence, the important  
24 knowledge of process understanding in hydrology will be missing for generations of hydrologists. In  
25 this way, COVID-19 caused a secondary effect on society which needs skills to solve future challenges



26 e.g., water management in a changing climate. Next to all of the negative aspects, a spirit of optimism,  
27 time of change, and community initiatives could be noticed. COVID-19 made it necessary to explore,  
28 improvise and develop novel teaching methods that could be used to modernize education and make  
29 practical and “exotic” teaching formats accessible for all hydrology and water students.

## 30 1. Introduction

31 Hydrology and water-related sciences cover among others: water engineering, hydraulics, hydropower,  
32 groundwater engineering, water supply and water treatment, hydrogeology, fluid mechanics, ecology,  
33 biology and social science. Hydrology and water-related sciences study the occurrence, circulation, and  
34 distribution of water for a sustainable use in a changing climate (Foley et al., 2011; Seibert et al., 2013;  
35 Beven, 2016; Blöschl et al., 2019). To address these challenges university-level education of water-  
36 related sciences is needed (Wagener et al., 2012).

37 The university education system we know today evolved over centuries and optimized its pedagogical  
38 approaches which initially focused on a few elite scholars to the current massive market-driven  
39 integrated learning with student mobility across Europe and the world (Forest et al., 2006). Water-  
40 related sciences are generally considered applied sciences and are taught to a student audience with  
41 different educational backgrounds (e.g. engineering, natural or social science) in different departments  
42 and institutions (e.g. engineering, biology, geology, environmental science or geography) each with a  
43 variety of educational foci (Gleeson et al., 2012; Wagener et al., 2012; Seibert et al., 2013). The special  
44 issue “Hydrology education in a changing world” (Seibert et al., 2013) discusses in 28 papers the variety  
45 across hydrology education and different pedagogical approaches up to the year 2012. The pedagogical  
46 approaches ranged from teaching and learning activities using physical models in the classroom to  
47 explain the physical processes (Rodhe, 2012), teaching hydrological modelling (Seibert and Vis,  
48 2012b), learning theoretical physical processes complemented with experimental work in the laboratory  
49 and field (Gleeson et al., 2012; Lyon et al., 2013). General aspects such as the implementation of  
50 integrative curricula (Blöschl et al., 2012), addressing transboundary socioeconomic water issues  
51 (Douven et al., 2012) and different levels from education at the secondary school level (Reinfried et al.,  
52 2012) to post-graduate education and continued learning for practitioners (Kaspersma et al., 2012).



53 Contemporary water education has a high complexity and involves multidisciplinary topics and is as  
54 Venhuizen et al. (2019) describe “flooded by jargon”. Hence, it requires a broader academic education  
55 as well as continuous professional development of modern-day engineers and water professionals with  
56 uneven backgrounds (Popescu et al., 2012; Wagener et al., 2012). Students require strong skills in basic  
57 subjects like math, physics, soil, ecology, and social sciences which should be taught in well-structured  
58 courses which indicate the connections across disciplines (Wagener et al., 2012; Seibert et al., 2013).  
59 According to Seibert et al. (2013) the teaching methods should be “rooted in the scientific and  
60 quantitative understanding of hydrologic processes, providing flexible hydrologic problem-solving  
61 skills that can evolve when new insights become available, and which can be adapted to provide  
62 solutions for new problems and to understand new phenomena”. Seibert et al. (2013) suggest that the  
63 educational system of hydrology must undergo a paradigm shift away from the current practice. The  
64 authors recognize that the current needs of hydrologists to account, for instance, the impact of global  
65 and local environmental change, do not necessarily match the training. In water education, new skill  
66 sets should be included to read, interpret, and learn from patterns in the landscape, conduct comparative  
67 studies to supplement learning through case studies, understand the time-varying characteristics of  
68 hydrological systems, use of space for time substitutions, and the modeling of interacting processes  
69 such as human-nature interactions and feedbacks.

70 Next to traditional methods in classroom environments, novel teaching methods are explored. With the  
71 development of the internet and digital technology, in recent years education can take a step away from  
72 campus teaching by exploring the novel virtual learning. Examples of virtual learning environments are  
73 massive open online courses on learning platforms (e.g., edX, [www.edx.org](http://www.edx.org); for courses overview use  
74 search and keywords hydrology or water; Coursera, [www.coursera.org](http://www.coursera.org), for courses overview use search  
75 and keywords hydrology or water; or CUASHI, [www.cuahsi.org/education/cuahsi-virtual-university](http://www.cuahsi.org/education/cuahsi-virtual-university))  
76 and e-learning using e.g. virtual classrooms (Berry, 2019). While classroom lectures were optimized  
77 over the centuries, as Berry (2019) described it is necessary to develop different strategies for e-learning  
78 that allow students to develop structure, a sense of learning community and social interaction in the  
79 virtual environment (Lehman, 2006; Berry, 2019).



80 In addition to classroom lectures, it is necessary to teach field and laboratory experiences which  
81 stimulate hypothesis testing and develop hydrological theories (Kleinhans et al., 2010; Blume et al.,  
82 2017) and prepare students to cope with all challenges in their professional life (John and Khan, 2018).  
83 Students should not only get a wet hands-on experience but also practice tinkering with electronics to  
84 sense their environment (Hut et al., 2020; Kinar, 2021). Adding electronics to the curricula, not only  
85 empowers but also facilitates students hydrological learning and process understanding (Kinar, 2021)  
86 and can act as a stepping stone to collect scientific spatiotemporal hydrometeorological data (Hut et al.,  
87 2010; Hund et al., 2016; Assendelft and van Meerveld, 2019; Wickert et al., 2019; Karachalios et al.,  
88 2021). Unfortunately, due to a generalized trend of decreasing in funds allocated to water education and  
89 increasing the number of students, field activities are being more and more reduced. The cuts have  
90 “reached crisis proportions in many universities” (Nash et al., 1990; Eagleson, 1991; Wagener et al.,  
91 2012) and should make the hydrology alarm bells ring (Kleinhans et al., 2010; Vidon, 2015; Blume et  
92 al., 2017).

93 Since 2019, the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the entire world and also the educational systems at all  
94 levels. In an attempt to stop the spread of the disease, many countries decided to close the schools and  
95 universities in a total lockdown (Schleicher, 2020). Typical measures included preventive measures  
96 such as social-distancing and self-isolation. It might be due to the aforementioned technical  
97 developments and first steps in virtual education which saved and allowed Universities to continue  
98 teaching during the disruptive COVID-19 pandemic. Schaepli (2021) summarizes nicely a teacher’s  
99 perspective with all challenges involved due to the sudden shift to distance teaching: “*timing was*  
100 *perfect: start of the semester, start of online teaching, video conference infrastructure unavailable,*  
101 *three kids at home and me, a hydrology teacher who has never produced any kind of video exceeding a*  
102 *20s cell phone video*”. Not only that little time was available to prepare high-quality teaching material  
103 for distance teaching but also the lack of experience in distance teaching. Despite the large effort and  
104 creativity to keep up the water education, a survey among Swedish Universities by Fischer (2020)  
105 revealed that important elements in water education such as field excursion were canceled and the  
106 contact between teachers and students got lost, affecting the knowledge transfer.



107 Taking part in an academic teaching training course at Uppsala University during COVID-19 we got  
108 curious about how COVID-19 might impact European water education. Consequently, we chose to  
109 investigate this in the mandatory project of the course by conducting an online survey (November 2020  
110 to March 2021) which focused on 1) common teaching methods and classroom assessment and  
111 examination techniques in pre-COVID-19 times and 2) how did these education methods and  
112 techniques change during COVID-19. In the spirit of “*it takes a community to raise a hydrologist*”  
113 (Wagener et al., 2012) during the pandemic and beyond, the aim of this paper is to communicate and  
114 potentially learn from the results of our survey.

## 115 2. Methods

116 To investigate the effect of COVID-19 on water education a survey was developed consisting of 30  
117 questions (Table A1) which should take approximately 10 minutes to answer. The survey was aimed to  
118 source information from teaching and course administrative staff working in European universities  
119 including student assistants, Ph.D. students, lecturers/teachers, (assistant) professors, course  
120 administrators, and researchers.

121 The survey (see Appendix) was set up as different sections to get an overview of the respondents, pre-  
122 COVID-19 teaching activities, and during COVID-19 teaching and challenges and solutions enabling  
123 teaching during COVID-19 see Table 1.

124 The survey was set up as a web form using googleForm and it was sent by email to more than 200  
125 contacts of the wider network of the authors, all part of different Universities in water education across  
126 Europe (Berlin, Göttingen, Stuttgart, Bucharest, Hamburg, University of Zürich and ETH Zürich,  
127 University of Freiburg iBr., Tu Delft, VU Amsterdam, Wageningen, Florence and the EU-Cost “WATER  
128 isotopeS in the critical zONe” consisting of more than 110 colleagues and further to 5 random people).

129 The email with a link to the form was sent in November 2020 with a reminder in March 2021. In  
130 addition, a post with the link to the survey was posted on the Facebook Hydrology group. The authors  
131 of this group did not participate in the survey.



132 The obtained answers were summarized and presented in different graphs using MATLAB R2021a  
133 (MathWorks). The number or percentage of respondents for a given question or answer was represented  
134 as a bar or pie chart. More qualitative open questions were represented as a word cloud or included as  
135 text.

### 136 3. Results and discussion

#### 137 3.1 Snapshot overview of water education in Europe

138 Twenty-eight respondents working at Universities across Europe (Figure 1) in the field of hydrology,  
139 geohydrology, chemistry, fluid dynamics, soil mechanics to environmental and civil engineering  
140 (Figure 2a) answered the survey “how the European water education got impacted due to COVID-19  
141 measures”. The respondents consisted of researchers, lecturers, different levels of professors to course  
142 administrators (Figure 2b) who teach a wide variety of hydrology and water-related courses from  
143 bachelor to Ph.D. graduate school level (Figure 3a & b). Similar to the observations made by Wagener  
144 et al. (2007) the number of students per course ranged between 10 to more than 40 students per course  
145 (Figure 3c).

146 The response rate to the survey was 14%, some European countries are missing and only a few  
147 universities per country responded to the survey. However, the results are of interest as they give a first  
148 impression, similar to a snapshot sample campaign, on the state of hydrology and water education across  
149 Europe as a result of COVID-19 pandemic (a snapshot sampling campaign is a common and useful  
150 method to infer spatial process within a catchment, e.g., Likens and Buso (2006); Temnerud et al.  
151 (2007); Fischer et al. (2015); Floriancic et al., (2019)).

#### 152 3.2 Water education in pre-COVID-19 times

153 In pre-COVID-19 times lectures were the most common teaching format used by the respondents, (27  
154 out of 28 respondents) followed by seminars (Figure 4a). Laboratory, experimental, and field work were  
155 used by less than 50% of the participants as teaching format. Peer teaching, role-play, group discussion,  
156 and video recording seem the more “exotic” and less practiced teaching formats in water education.



157 Classroom assessment techniques (CAT) are useful tools to give student feedback and gauge student  
158 performance during a lecture (Goldstein, 2007). The majority of the respondents did not use or answer  
159 that they are not familiar with CATs (Figure 4b). The respondents who indicated using CATs used  
160 specific software/tools ranging from questionnaire survey style to quizzes or peer review techniques  
161 (Figure 4b). To assess whether students achieved the learning goals of a course the written closed-book  
162 exams and project work were the most common formats while some participants used oral and take-  
163 home exams (Figure 4c).

164 Seibert et al. (2013) showcased the state-of-the-art in water education and Kleinhans et al. (2010);  
165 Wagener et al. (2012); Vidon (2015) and Blume et al.(2017) warned that more practical components  
166 are needed in the hydrological curriculum. Despite some novel teaching examples (Rodhe, 2012; Rusca  
167 et al., 2012; Seibert and Vis, 2012a, b; AghaKouchak et al., 2013; Lyon et al., 2013; Kinar, 2021) and  
168 exploring virtual learning environments (e.g., edX, Coursera and CUASHI), a decade after these calls,  
169 it seems that traditional classroom lectures are still the dominant method of teaching. Methods to gauge  
170 students' performance are purely focused on the final exam while other methods seem to be less known  
171 to improve the students' performance. Hence, these results give the impression that hydrology and water  
172 education use rather conservative teaching methods and is far from the needed paradigm shift proposed  
173 by Seibert et al. (2013).

### 174 3.3 Water education during COVID-19

175 The beginning of 2020 came as a shock when campus-based university education came to a halt.  
176 COVID-19 acted as a catalyst that forced a move from classroom lectures to teaching lectures online at  
177 distance (Figure 4a). Although teaching online was a new experience for most of the teaching staff and  
178 students, the teaching format of lectures remained unchanged while practical teaching methods, so  
179 important for hydrology were terminated (Figure 4). Instead, an increase in the use of exotic teaching  
180 formats could be noticed such as prerecorded videos and group discussions.

181 The cancellation of the physical classes implied that online learning became the critical method of  
182 education which perhaps was only possible because of the digital tools and technical infrastructure  
183 available (Figure 5). Despite the available tools, the teaching material was tailored for classroom



184 teaching and needed to be suddenly adjusted to online distance teaching. Generally, when teaching a  
185 course for the first time, the preparation ranges between 3 to 5 hours for a one-hour course, while  
186 teaching the same course in subsequent years only requires 1 to 2 hours of preparation (Wagener et al.,  
187 2007). Similarly, teaching during COVID-19 required extra time was needed for teaching preparation,  
188 as well as, for holding and wrapping up teaching activities (Figure 6). The extra time is comparable  
189 with the teaching load when preparing a new course. The only notable difference is that when preparing  
190 a new course one can plan ahead, while during the COVID-19 pandemic, it became necessary to  
191 improvise and rapidly change from classroom to online teaching. The initial time investment for the  
192 preparation and development of the new distance teaching methods was high, but it is expected to  
193 decrease the longer the COVID-19 situation lasts. The survey focused mainly on the beginning of the  
194 pandemic period. Meanwhile, after the finalization of the survey, additional hybrid formats appeared  
195 (e.g., students attending lectures in class and online). Such hybrid formats require other skills compared  
196 to on-campus or distance teaching only and require further research. Next to the time aspect, common  
197 challenges respondents faced/ noticed

- 198 • Rethinking the organization of the learning process and designing a new time plan - when  
199 moving the classes online, teachers need additional training, extra budget, new devices, stable  
200 internet connections, getting accustomed to new digital tools and the virtual learning  
201 environment. Some required personal gadgets, e.g., laptops, tablets with pens, video cameras,  
202 microphones and headsets, lights etc.
- 203 • Acquiring computer literacy – learning to deal with different platforms, and solving various  
204 computer problems with different degrees of difficulty with no support (e.g., installing  
205 software, driver conflicts when attaching new devices)
- 206 • Adjusting of the online courses to students with visual or hearing problems
- 207 • Change from student-focused to teacher-focused surface learning
- 208 • Data privacy and cyber security for students and staff

209 Despite the effort and extra time, it might be that the overall quality of education might have decreased  
210 due to COVID-19. The respondents indicated that students were less focused during the lecture (Figure





211 6d) and it is difficult to tell whether students reached their learning goals (Figure 6e). However, since  
212 the majority of the respondents did not use CATs during pre-COVID-19 teaching and likely also not  
213 during COVID-19, in combination with the lost student-teacher interaction makes it is hard for teachers  
214 to give student feedback and gauge the student performance (Figure 6d-f). The examination changed  
215 from the written exam (open- and closed-book) on campus to open book take-home exams(Figure 4c  
216 and 6b). Respondents indicated extra effort to prepare exams, trusting students to not cheat (which is  
217 hard to control) up to lowering the level of exams.

218 The loss in human interaction is a largely known secondary effect of the COVID-19 pandemic.  
219 Traditional classroom teaching involved student-teacher interaction and during breaks social student-  
220 student interaction. The lack of interaction is an important psychological factor that is affecting  
221 students' metacognition, where students indicated a loss of self-motivation (personal communication  
222 with students) showing that they were not fully aware of their limits, boundaries, and obligations making  
223 learning their own. At the base, it might be the loss of inter-human interaction between students and  
224 teachers and students and students in combination with the isolation, which is leading both teachers and  
225 students to have a negative experience (Figure 6c and g, Figure 8). Ultimately, such negative experience  
226 could lead to depression which was observed in a survey conducted by Uppsala University e.g.  
227 (Ljunghammar and Waxell, 2020).

228 Half of the respondents perceived a difference in teaching between the 2020 spring and autumn semester  
229 (Figure 7h) which is likely due to the different governmental-imposed infection control measures by  
230 which pre-COVID-19 teaching styles were possible (campus teaching including field or laboratory  
231 work).

## 232 Concluding remarks and outlook

233 The presented results are only a first snapshot overview of how COVID-19 affected water education  
234 throughout Europe. The presented results cover Europe and only a short period of time during the multi-  
235 peak pandemic. Therefore, the long-term effect on global water education needs to be seen. However,



236 similar to a snapshot sampling campaign, these results can be extremely relevant to form an impression  
237 on how water education was impacted.

238 During pre-COVID-19, conservative classroom lectures and to a minor extent field- and laboratory-  
239 work were common teaching formats that were examined mainly in closed-book exams.

240 Overall, the majority of the respondents reported that the COVID-19 crisis impacted student learning  
241 negatively up to very negatively. The online interaction was more difficult and costed extra time.  
242 Teachers lost student contact and it was difficult to assess whether students achieved the learning  
243 outcomes. However, most of the respondents reported that they do not use classroom assessment  
244 techniques. The most affected learning activities were the ones that could not be moved to online  
245 teaching, such as laboratory and field work (Figure 8). As discussed by (Wagener et al. 2012), field and  
246 laboratory exercises were already downscaled from the teaching curricula in many universities in pre-  
247 COVID-19 times, reaching a critical level. Hence, due to COVID-19 the important knowledge of  
248 process understanding in hydrology will be missing for at least several cohorts of hydrologists.  
249 Transferring hydrological knowledge and passion for water got disrupted affecting generations of  
250 students. In this way, COVID-19 caused a secondary effect on society, a loss of knowledge and skills,  
251 which are needed to tackle the existing and future local and global environmental challenges. This  
252 highlights that COVID-19 added a new layer of complexity on top of the challenges already existing in  
253 hydrological education (Wagener et al., 2012).

254 In the open feedback, respondents expressed their frustration. However, next to all the COVID-19  
255 misery, a spirit of optimism and time of change could be noticed. COVID-19 made it possible to  
256 explore, improvise and use novel teaching methods. Positive aspects were bottom-up initiatives sharing  
257 knowledge and resources on different social media and websites (Table 2). Such efforts highlight that  
258 even during extremes such as COVID-19, with imagination, improvising, and by sharing as a  
259 community it is possible to teach hydrology and overcome limitations during a pandemic, and with  
260 potentials for beyond. It needs to be evaluated and studied what worked, which elements are valuable  
261 to keep, and whether we as a community want to go back to the more conservative teaching styles in



262 post-COVID-19 hydrology and water education. Or take the opportunity and finally make the next step  
263 in teaching hydrology and water education. Especially the range of practical and exotic teaching formats  
264 indicated in Figure 4a, using improvised low-budget or high-cost materials and thought at distance e.g.  
265 Hut et al. (2020), could be an add on to classical classroom teaching. Such activities promote learning,  
266 by not only stimulating the lower two-third of Bloom’s taxonomy (remember, comprehend, apply and  
267 analyze water facts and concepts) but also to evaluating and discussing water concepts which facilitate  
268 to produce new original work. Even more, it could be a solution to repair the damage in hydrology and  
269 water education by making practical and exotic teaching formats accessible for all hydrology and water  
270 students. The aforementioned initiatives showcase that hydrology is not only a scientific community  
271 effort but above all it needs “a hydrological community to raise a hydrologist” (Wagener et al., 2012)  
272 who can solve old (Blöschl et al., 2019) and pose new questions of hydrology.

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- 405



406 Tables

407 *Table 1 The different sections of the survey.*

<b>Information on respondent</b>
Field of hydrology
Role and courses thought
Class size
<b>Water education in preCOVID-19 times</b>
Teaching learning activities
Classroom assessment techniques
Type of examination
<b>Water education during COVID-19</b>
Which measures did the University take to guarantee the educational continuity
Was more time needed to prepare, hold and wrap up lectures
Teaching aids to continue teaching
Teaching learning activities
Classroom assessment techniques
Type of examination
Was it necessary to adjust learning outcomes and student assessment
Perception of the situation by students and the teaching staff
Did students reach the learning objectives
Was there a difference between spring and autumn
Which part in knowledge and skills in water education got lost due to COVID-19?
Open feedback

408



409 **Table 2** *Overview of different positive novel teaching methods and resources (see link in bibliography for more content).*

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Potential and message</b>
Distance field-lab work	Movie exercise	(Stocker, 2020)	Make field work or excursions accessible for a wider educational public
Distance field-lab work	Course design	(Mayer and Hug, 2020)	Distance field work could be offered as add on to traditional teaching
Distance field-lab work	Course design	(Hut et al., 2020)	Make field work or excursions accessible for a wider educational public
Teaching material	Collection of material	(Sprenger, 2020)	Community platform with different educational material
Teaching material	Sharing	(Schaepli, 2021)	Sharing most important then quality
Classroom assessment technique	Circus/ dance and movie	(Brandimarte, 2021)	Think out of the box and develop novel ways of learning useful to stimulate creativity, learning and outreach activities
Virtual meetings	Best practice	(Gurung, 2020)	Organize distance meetings
Blog	Blog post	(Nassar, 2021)	Sharing experience through social media

410





411 Figures



412

413 *Figure 1 Schematized map of Europe where respondents to the survey are indicated as water droplets.*

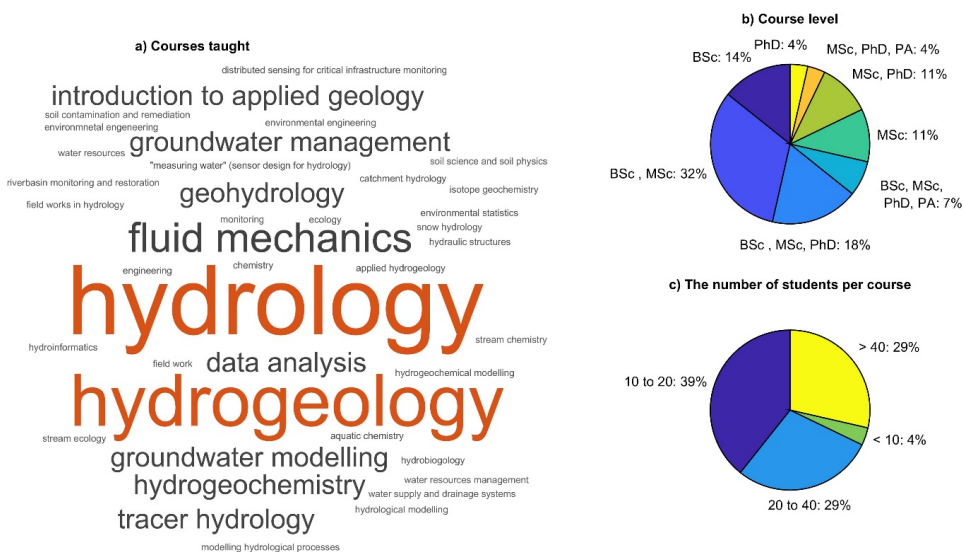
414



415

416 *Figure 2 respondents indicated in which part of water science they work in (a), represented qualitatively as a word cloud.*  
417 *The larger the font, the more respondents indicated to feel connected to and work in (multiple answers were*  
418 *possible). The different roles (levels) in water education indicated by the respondents given as percentage (b).*

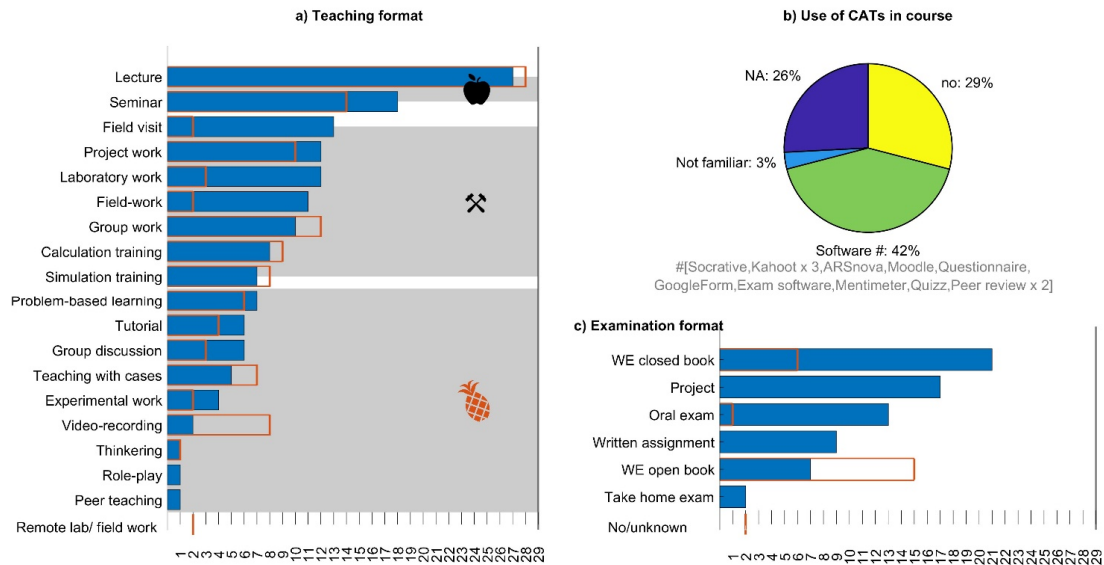
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420

421 **Figure 3** respondents indicated which courses they taught, represented as a word cloud (a). The larger the font, the more  
 422 respondents indicated to teach the course (multiple answers were possible). The percentage of respondents  
 423 teaching BSc to PhD level or post academic (PA) courses (b). The percentage of respondents indicated to have  
 424 had <10 up to >40 students in their course (c).

425



4

427 **Figure 4** traditional, practical and exotic teaching formats indicated as 🍎, 🛠️ or 🌐 respectively used by the  
 428 respondents before preCOVID-19 measures (blue bars) and during COVID-19 measures (orange bar) where  
 429 the x-axis indicates number of respondents (a). Percentage of respondents indicate to use classroom assessment  
 430 techniques (CAT) using including a specific software/tool, not answered (NA), not, not familiar (b). The  
 431 respondents indicated to use different examination formats before preCOVID-19 measures (blue bars) and  
 432 during COVID-19 measures (orange bar) where the x-axis indicates number of respondents (c).

**a) Covid measure to continue teaching**



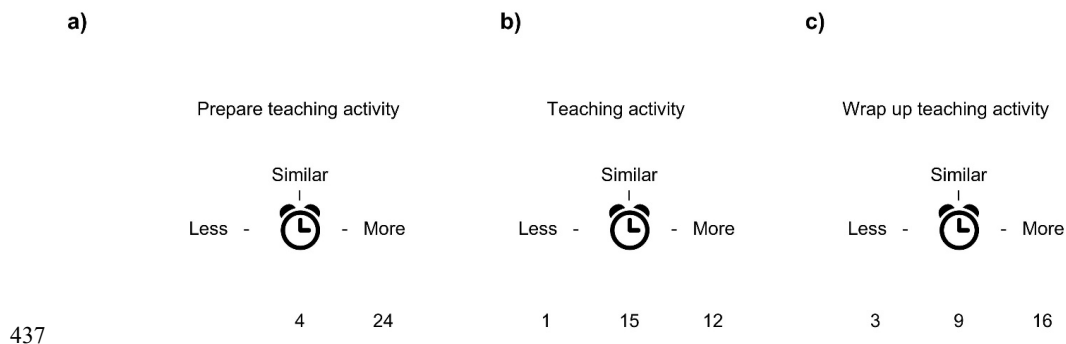
**b) technical aids did you use to continue teaching**



4

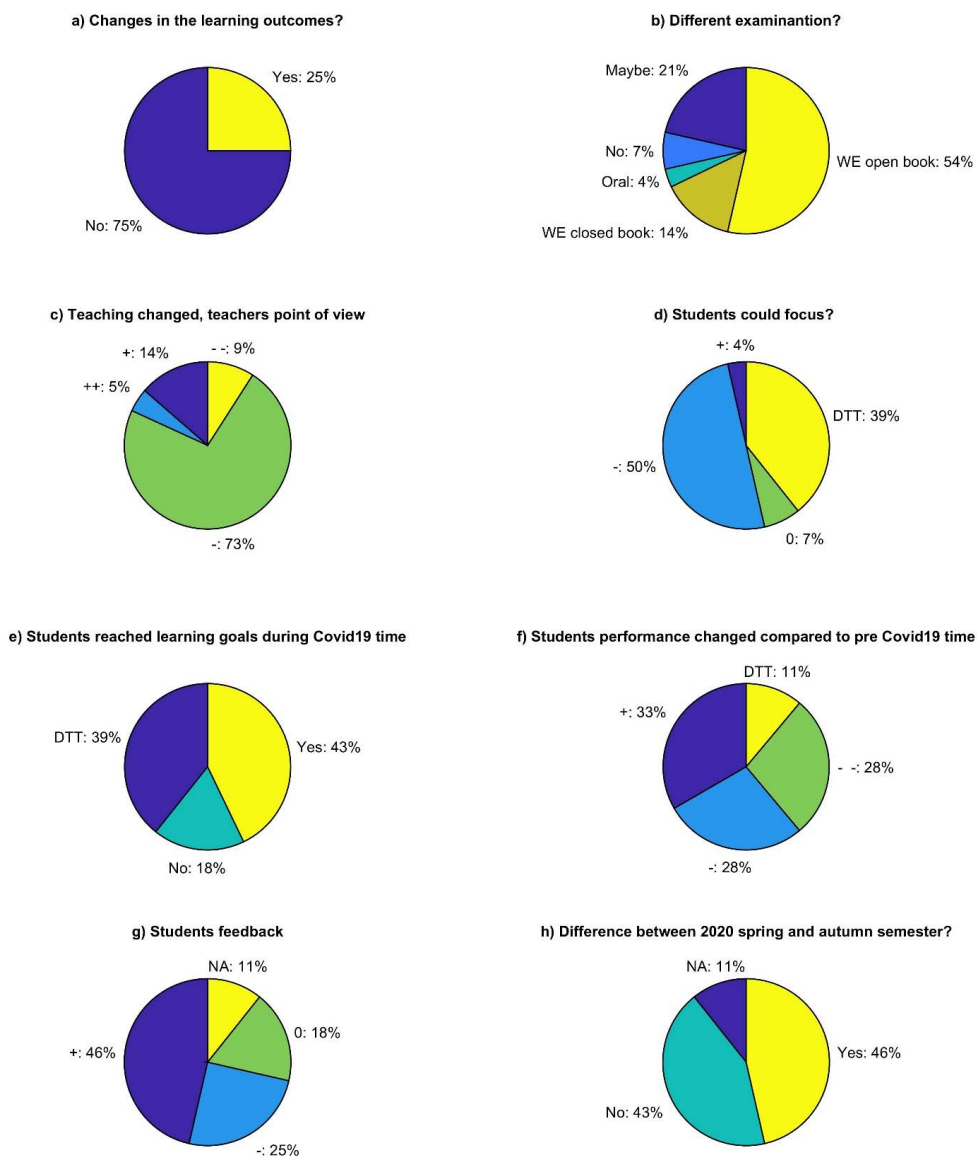
434 **Figure 5** Measures (a) and technical aids (b) used by the respondents to continue teaching. The larger the font, the more  
 435 respondents indicated to use the measure or aid (multiple answers were possible)

436



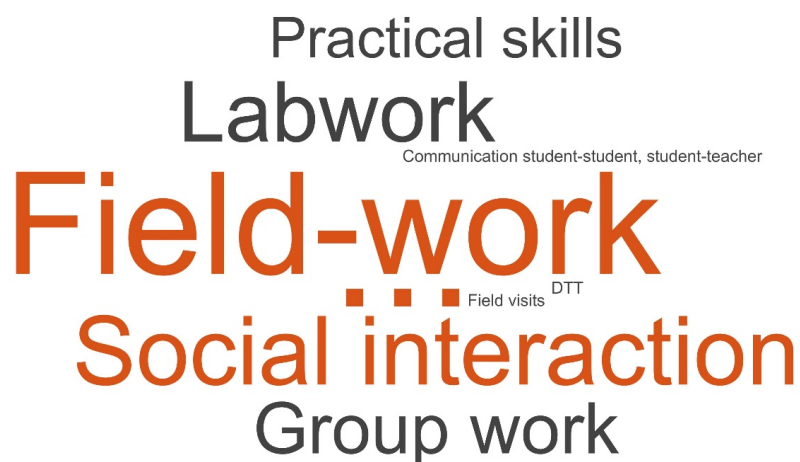
438 *Figure 6 The amount of time (less, similar or more) the respondents indicated to have spent compare to pre-COVID-19*  
 439 *measures preparing the teaching activity (a), during the teaching activity (b) and wrapping up the teaching*  
 440 *activity (c). The numbers indicate the number of respondents.*

441



444 **Figure 7** The percentage of respondents indicated that (a) the learning outcomes changed, (b) different examination  
 445 were used (written exam as WE), (c) teaching changed from a teachers point of view, (d) students could focus (e),  
 446 students could reach learning goals during COVID-19 measures (e), students' performance changed compare  
 447 to COVID-19 measures (f), the student feedback (g) and if there was a difference in teaching between the 2020  
 448 spring and autumn semester? With positive or more (+), neutral (0), negative (-), very negative (--) and difficult  
 449 to tell (DTT).

450



4

452 **Figure 8** Which part in knowledge and skills in water education got lost due to COVID-19 indicated by the respondents.  
453 The larger the font, the more respondents indicated to use the measure or aid (multiple answers were possible).



454 **Appendix**

455 **Table A1** *Questions from the survey “The effect of COVID-19 on water education”*

#	Question
1	At which University do you teach?
2	Please specify the country of your university where you are teaching at
3	What is the field are you are working in (e.g., hydrology, engineering, ecology, water manager, sociology ...)?
4	What is your role in teaching? (Multiple options possible)
5	Which level do you teach? (Multiple options possible)
6	Which courses do you teach (hydrology, ecology ...)?
7	How many students do you have on average in your courses? (One options possible)
8	Which format do you generally teach in your lectures (during non COVID-19 times)? (Multiple options possible)
9	Do you use classroom assessment techniques (kahoot, mentimeter, muddiest point, peer review...) in your course(s)? If so, please specify below which (ones) are:
10	Which type of examination do you generally use to (test) asses the knowledge of students (more options possible)
11	Describe shortly which measures your university took during COVID-19 to guarantee the educational continuity.
12	How much time did you spend to PREPARE the teaching and learning activities compared to the pre-COVID-19 measures?
13	How much time did you spend DURING teaching and learning activities compared to the pre-COVID-19 measures? (e.g., extra time needed to explain concepts or give support to students)
14	How much time did you spend to AFTER the teaching and learning activities compared to the pre-COVID-19 measures? (Examination, wrap up of course, ...)
15	Which technical aids did you use to continue teaching (e.g. computer programs ... )?
16	Which teaching formats did you use to continue teaching? (Multiple options possible)
17	Did you need to make changes in the learning outcomes?
18	If you selected in question Qv17 yes, please specify how:
19	Did the assessment/ examination of the course(s) change due to COVID-19?
20	If you selected in question Q19 yes, please specify how:
21	If the way of teaching changed, was this a positive or negative development from a teacher’s point of view?
22	In case of negative development, what could be done to overcome these limitations?
23	Please fill in: Students were able to focus during the lectures:
24	Did you have the feeling that students could reach the learning objectives despite the Covid-19 measures?
25	If the way of teaching changed, how was the student feedback?
26	In case students had negative experiences, what could be done to overcome these limitations?
27	From your teaching experience, how good did students achieve their learning outcomes of the course(s) compared to pre-COVID-19 situation? The students performed
28	Was there a difference between the 2020 spring and autumn semester?
29	Which part in knowledge and skills in water education got lost due to Covid-19?
30	Open feedback (you can write here additional information you want to share concerning teaching during COVID-19)

456