

## ***Interactive comment on “A new model for intra- and inter-institutional soil data sharing” by José Padarian and Alex B. McBratney***

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Thanks for your feedback.

Regarding your comment:

**I think the election process described by the authors is of difficult implementation, not technically but more socially or institutionally.**

We agree. Centralised data sharing is easier. You provide your data and then most things are out of your control. Participation requires involvement. We assume that a group of parties willing to start a consortium wants to participate and that the benefits outweigh the extra time required. The main point to consider is that a centralised solution might work. The problem is when it does not work. The consequences can be

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very serious. We believe that if we have the option to implement a solution that helps minimise the impact of a problem, we should do it.

**I could not find mention on how to ensure a minimum data quality (e.g. standardisation, names encoding, laboratory quality). I understand this may be outside the scope of the paper, but I think some discussion about it could be useful.**

We will add some sections to discuss topics that might be somehow independent of the system in place (decentralised or not). How to initiate the consortium (see the response to Dominique Arrouays), define names encoding, how to standardise data, etc. are steps that no system can replace. The solution that we propose can help to enforce some of those decisions but also tries to promote the involvement of the different parties in a more democratic system.

**Re data quality: would be possible to use his system to “grade” the quality of the data? i.e. use different types of institutional keys for different quality of data**

Although it is technically possible to have multiple institutional keys, it is better to avoid that since the idea of having a keys is to identify a party. Nevertheless, having different quality tiers is completely possible. Any information that the consortium decides to add can be added as metadata of a specific data asset.

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