

PermaCOST: New International Research Network for Coordinated and Standardised Monitoring of Permafrost Response to Climate Change

Line Rouyet, Coline Mollaret, Filip Hrbacek, Cécile Pellet, Ylva Sjoberg, Flavius Sirbu, Mohammad Farzamian, Jan Blöthe, Francesco Brardinoni, Andreas Kellerer-Pirklbauer, Manja Zebre, Bernd Etzelmüller, Alina Milceva

Leading team for Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland

PermaCOST

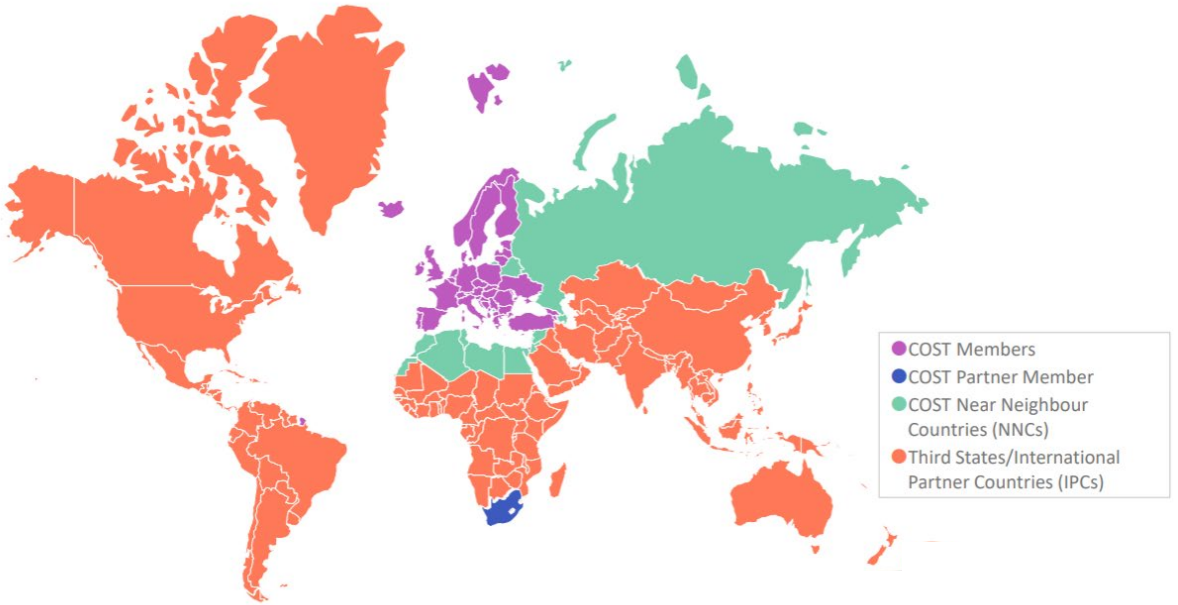
cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Funded by the European Union

permacost.eu & cost.eu/actions/CA24157

What is PermaCOST?

- PermaCOST is funded by the **European Cooperation in Science & Technology** (COST programme)
- 4-year project (2025-2029) supporting **international scientific collaboration** and **networking activities**
- Budget of 1st year: **130 k€**
  (average COST budget for four years: 600 k€)
- Budget mostly for **direct costs**, i.e. support to meetings, workshops, training schools, grants for conferences, research visits and dissemination activities



Meetings, workshops conferences, and conference grants

Short-term scientific missions

Training schools

Dissemination activities

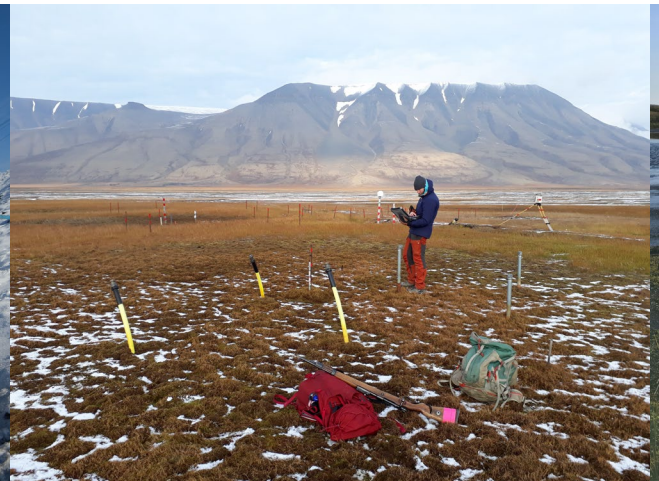
Virtual mobility grants

What is PermaCOST?

PermaCOST

PermaCOST Action **brings together European permafrost researchers, stakeholders, and practitioners** with expertise in different measurement techniques and permafrost conditions to work towards a **coordinated and standardised monitoring of permafrost response to climate change**.

Our goal is to facilitate an overall comparability of data sets and time series of various permafrost variables for a **better characterisation of the long-term permafrost evolution on the global scale**.



Who are we?

PermaCOST

Core Group (Executive Committee)



Coline Mollaret
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Email Address
Switzerland



Filip Hrbacek
Action Vice-Chair
Masaryk University, Brno
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Czechia



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Grant Holder Scientific Representative & WP5 leader
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Switzerland



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WG2 Leader
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WP4 Leader
Alma Mater Studiorum – Universita di Bologna, Bologna
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Italy

Additional roles (co-leadership and management)



Alina Milceva
Grant Holder Manager
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WG1 Co-Leader
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Austria



Bernd Etzelmüller
WG4 Co-leader
University of Oslo
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Norway

Management committee (Legislative Body):

1-2 representatives/country.

Currently: 38 people. 26 countries.

The MC keeps growing.

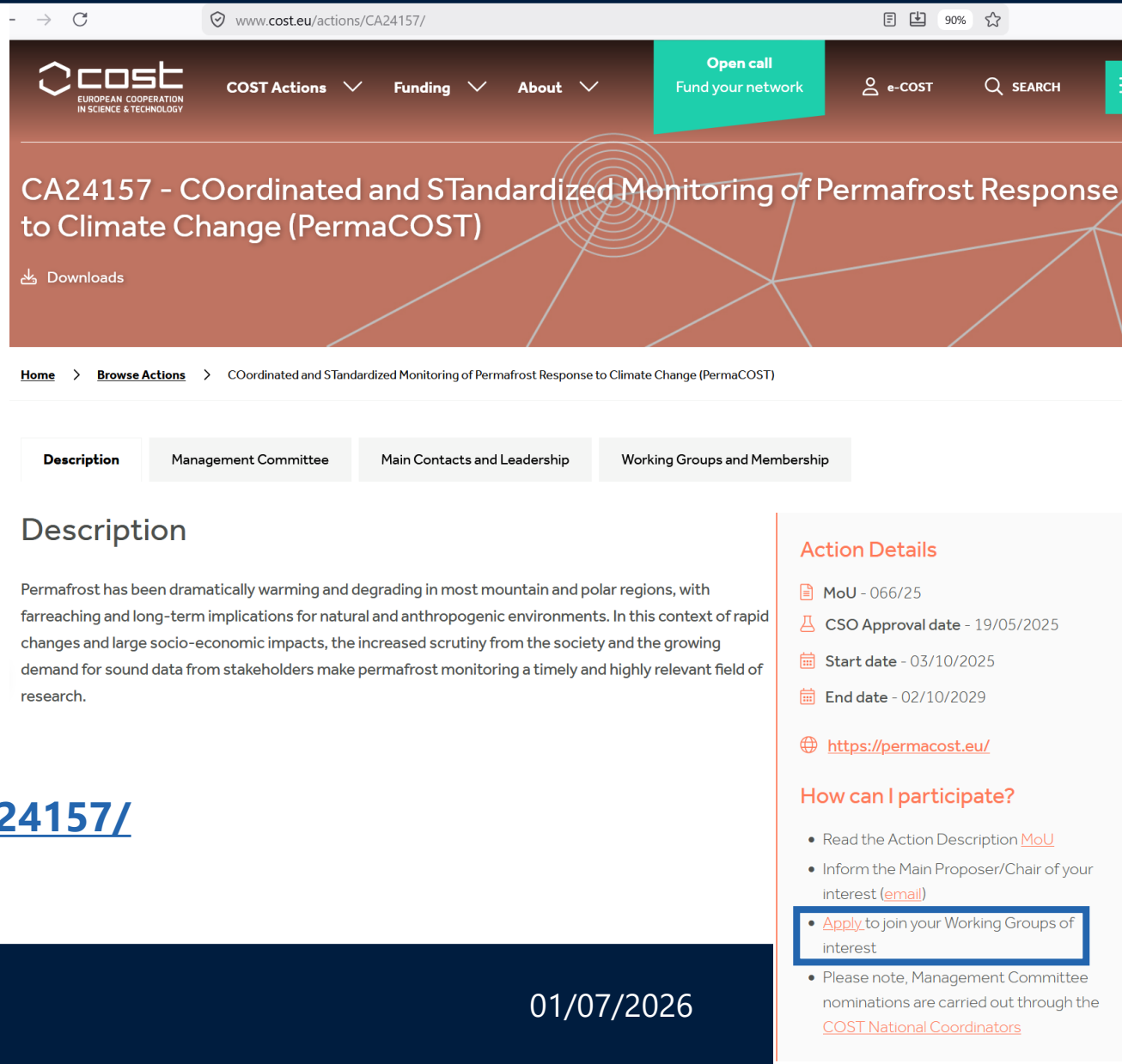
Who are we?

PermaCOST

PermaCOST is much bigger than the leading group.

Any permafrost researchers, stakeholders, and practitioners can join the working groups!

- PermaCOST has **>180 members**! (regularly new applications)
- Representatives from **40 countries** (33 European countries).
- **56 %** of the members are **≤ 40 years old**.
- **36 %** of the members are **women**.
- **33 %** of the members are from **ITC** (Inclusiveness-Targeted Countries).



Join the network on **https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA24157/**

PermaCOST Working Groups

- **WG1**: Identify the **key monitoring parameters and methods** complementary to permafrost temperature and active layer thickness for the assessment of permafrost state and evolution.
  - ➢ Community overview and assessment, review paper, definition of sub-groups for WG2-4
- **WG2**: Compile and homogenize **permafrost data acquisition standards** for the parameters and methods identified in WG1.
  - ➢ Common guidelines, field tests and training schools for implementation
- **WG3**: Compile and homogenize permafrost **data processing standards** for the parameters and methods identified in WG1.
  - ➢ Common guidelines/tools, intercomparison exercises and training schools for implementation
- **WG4**: Compile a **European-wide assessment of permafrost state and evolution** building on the results of WG1-3.
  - ➢ Regional permafrost products, multi-method synthesis and community publication
- **WG5**: Promote and support the development of **new operational monitoring networks**
  - ➢ Coordination between existing networks, toolkit and support for new networks

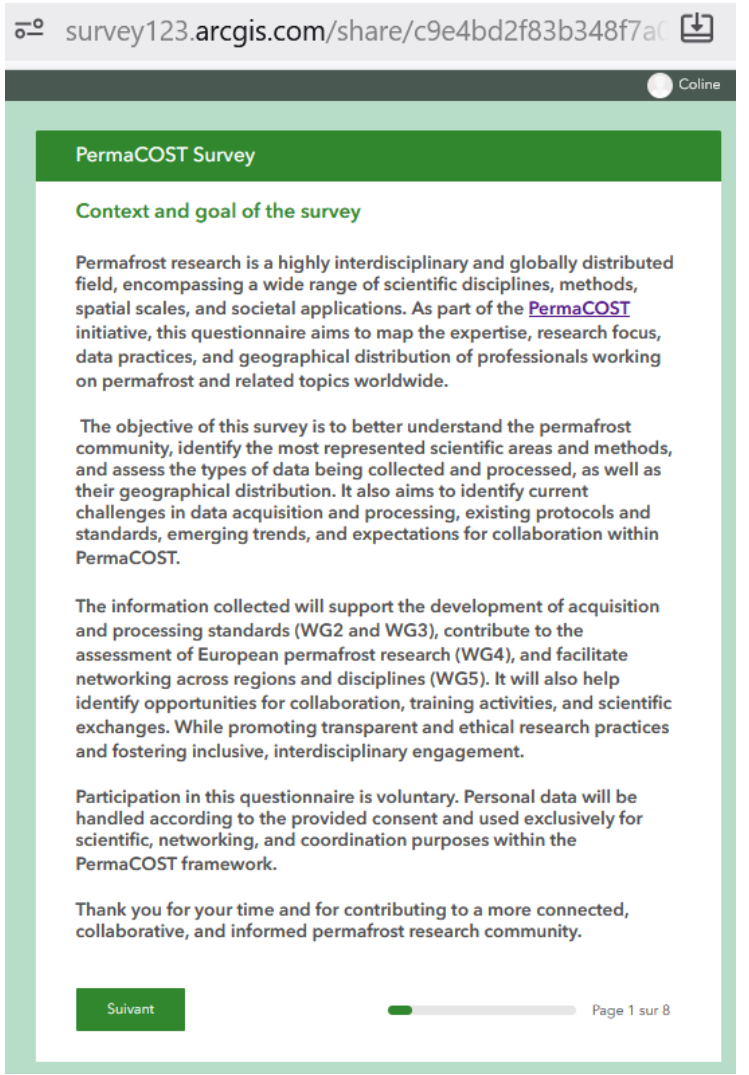
PermaCOST Community Survey

Survey objectives:

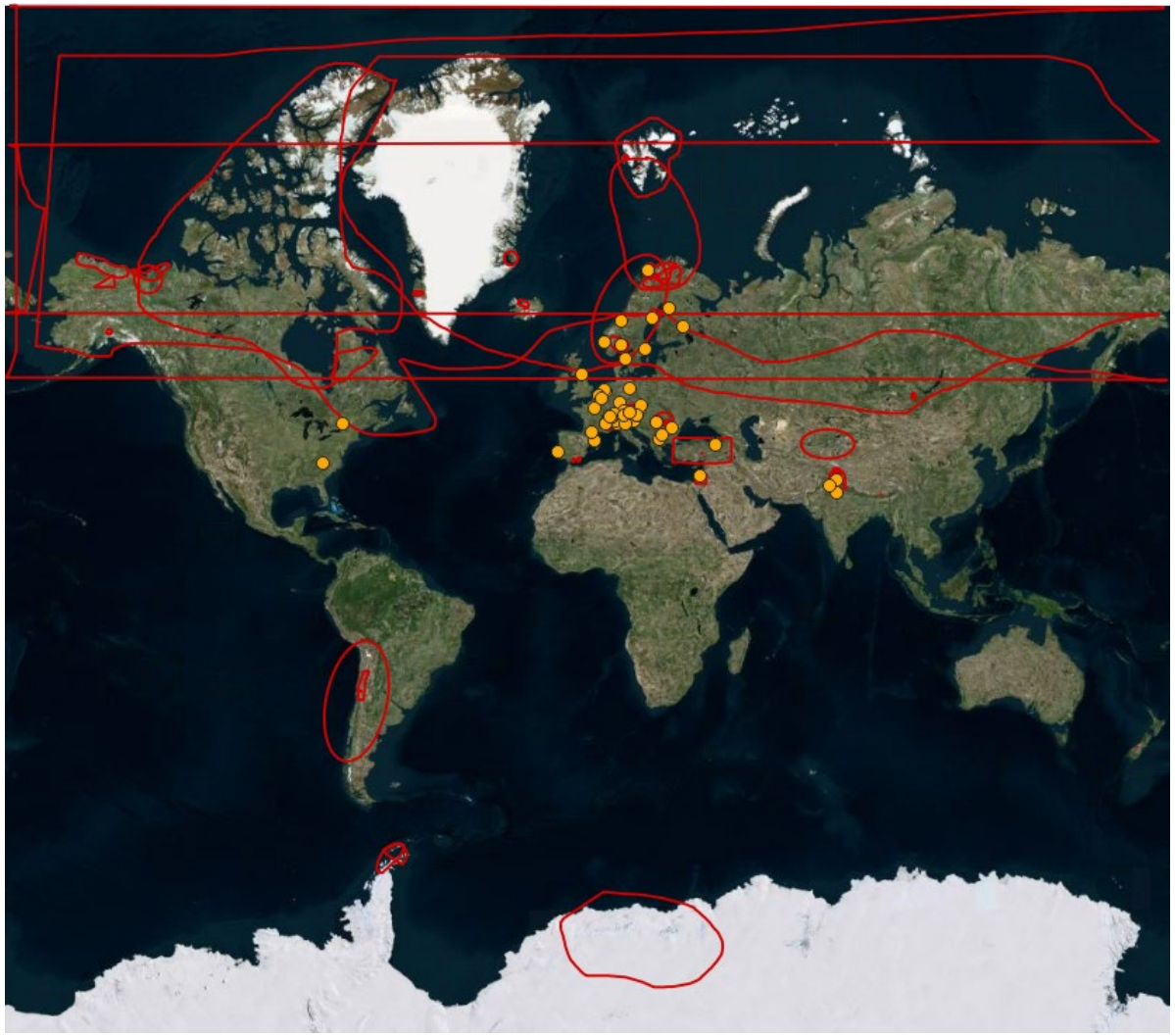
- **Understand** the diversity of the permafrost community.
- **Map** the expertise, research focus, data practices, and geographical distribution of professionals working on permafrost.
- **Identify** the current challenges in data acquisition and processing, the existing protocols and standards, the emerging trends, and the expectations for collaborations within PermaCOST.
- **Collect** key information to support the work planned in the other Working Groups (WG2-5).

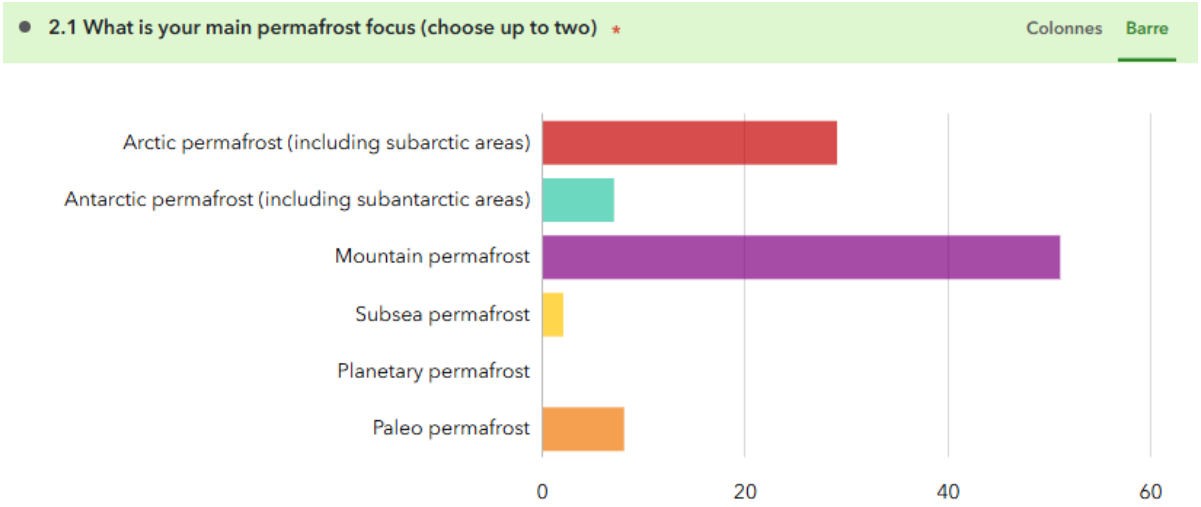
Launched in Spring 2026. **74** participants so far. **We need more!**

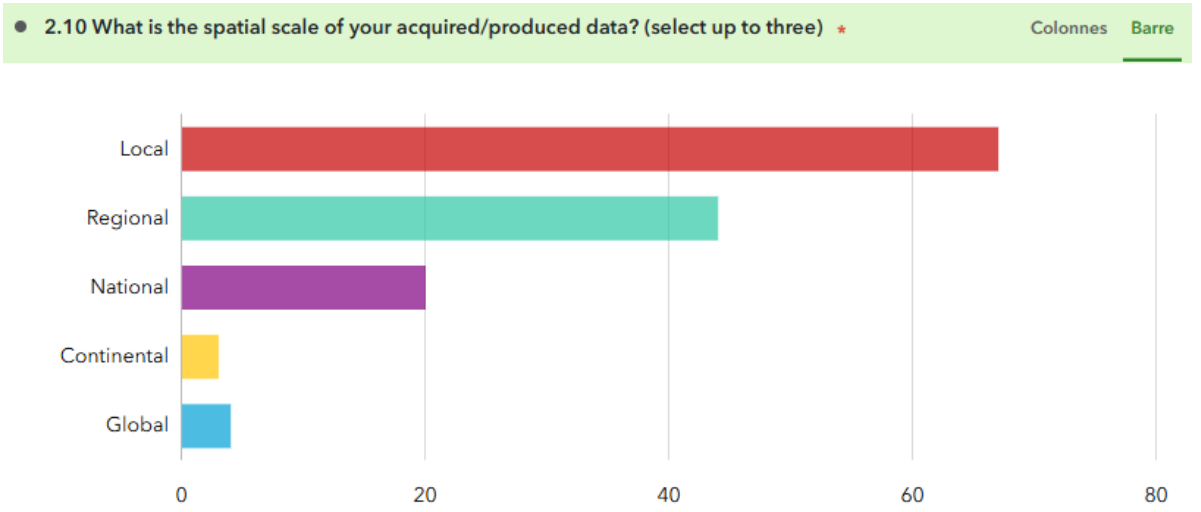
Link to Survey: **https://permacost.eu/wg1/**



PermaCOST Community Survey

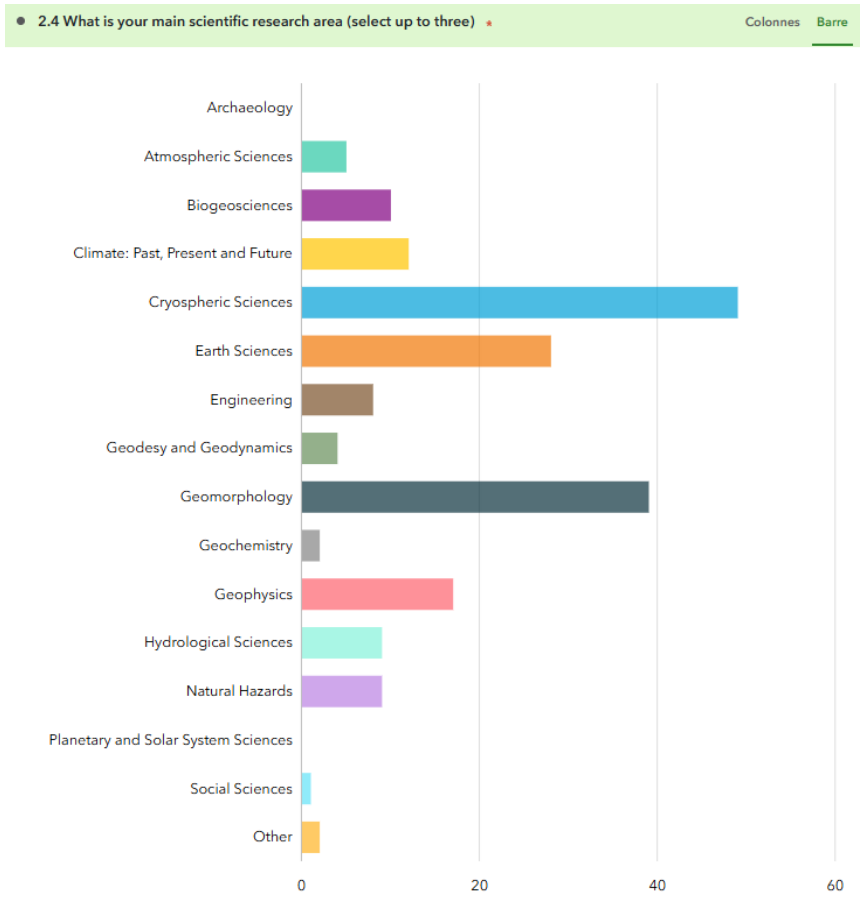


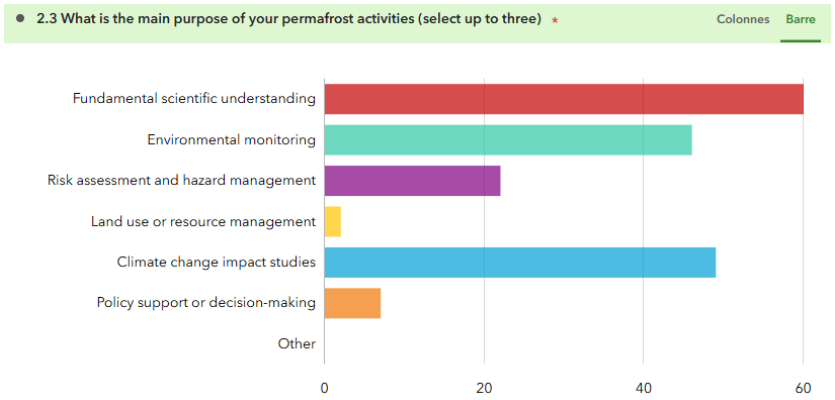


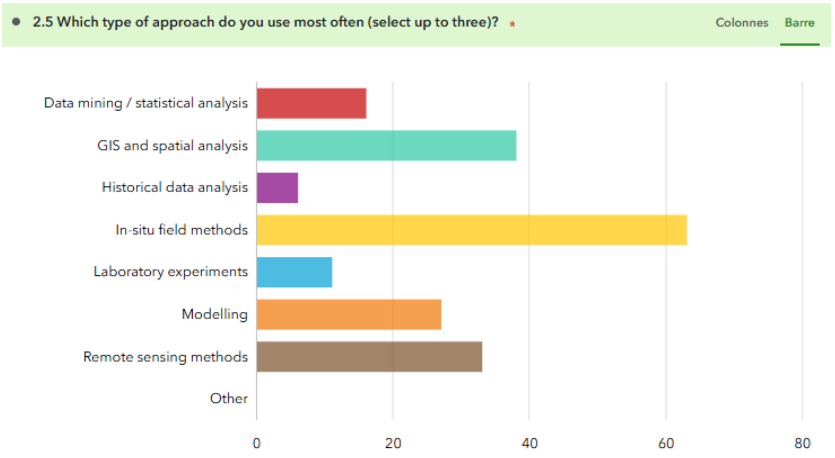


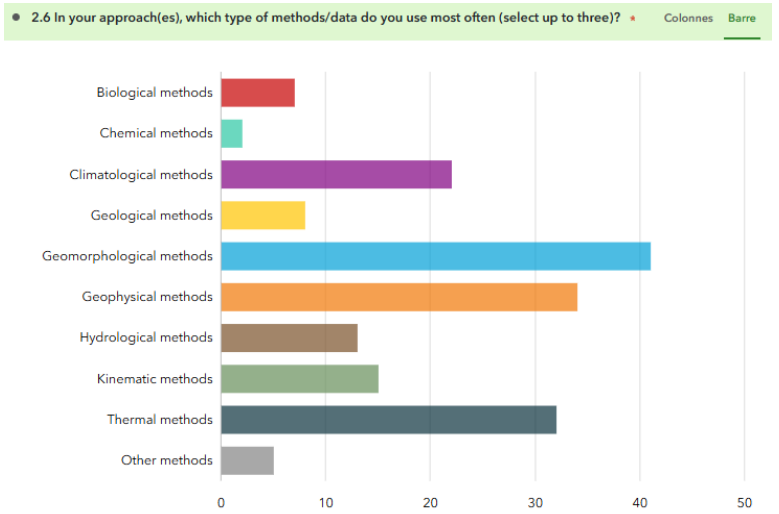
PermaCOST Community Survey

Wide range of information that will be comprehensively analysed by WG1 in the Fall.









Grants https://permacost.eu/grants/



Call for applications for short-term scientific missions (STSM)

PermaCOST members are invited to apply for financial support to short-term scientific missions (STSM) fulfilling the PermaCOST mission and Working Groups objectives. A short-term scientific...



2026 Call for ITC/NCC Conference Grants

These grants support Action participants with a primary affiliation in an institution located in Inclusive Target Countries (ITC) and Near Neighbour Countries (NNC), participating...



2026 Call for YRI Conference Grants

These grants support young Action participants (under 40 years of age) to present an in-person presentation or poster at a high-level conference fully organised...

Events https://permacost.eu/news/



First PermaCOST General Meeting

On January 20 and 21, 2026, PermaCOST held its first General Meeting in Potsdam, Germany. In total, 35 people participated on site, and 12...



PhD Training School on Tools for Tracking Periglacial Change: From Local to Regional Approaches

Trafoi, Autonomous Province of Bozen, Italy, August 31 - September 7, 2026



The PermaCOST ERT Workshop

On June 01-04, 2026, a PermaCOST workshop on 'Electrical Resistivity Tomography (ERT) Surveying on Permafrost' was conducted at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. The...



Thanks for your attention! Questions?

Анхаарал тавьсанд баярлалаа! Асуух зүйл байна уу?

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