Dear DeepSoil2100 members,

We are pleased to report that we have the core components of a database for our network of deep soil warming experiments. However, we need YOUR help for the next phase of the synthesis project---we need data! We are very excited about the potential for the database and we assume you are also excited. We look forward to sharing an initial version of the database (soil temperature and moisture data only), but, of course, the timeline for this depends on when we receive the data.

Now that we have reached the point of contributing data to a shared database, it is essential to establish community guidelines for data sharing and database governance. While we commend the shift towards a [FAIR](https://www.go-fair.org/fair-principles/) data sharing model, we recognize that sharing data before the data creators have ample time to process and publish them is not a fair approach.

We have three requests here:

1. Identify two primary contact people (names & emails): one for data access, i.e., who makes the decisions for the site, and one for management, i.e., who will actually furnish the data and can field questions about it
2. Data sharing preferences (see next paragraph)
3. Data (soil temperature and moisture)

Depending on the data contributed, we envision a more open tier of data sharing for published data, e.g., CC-BY-4.0 (as adopted by [ISRaD](https://soilradiocarbon.org/database/), [Ameriflux](https://ameriflux.lbl.gov/data/data-policy/), etc.) combined with a more restrictive approach in which data are only shared internally. In the latter case, we would need to establish co-authorship guidelines for publications involving non-public data, and potentially an embargo period after which the data would be make public. In both cases, we would require data users to cite a database DOI, the initial database launch publication (hopefully coming soon!), and citations of site-level data DOIs (as available, vis. Ameriflux).

Currently the database consists of site-level data, which we consider the “core” data. Each site is associated with three core data tables that provide:

1) metadata (overview of site infrastructure),

2) site data (site characteristics, including soil, vegetation, and long-term climate data),

3) plot data (experimental design)

Measurement data are subordinate to the core data. The database is designed to be maximally flexible, with each submitted dataset consisting of a simple data table of measurements/sensor data arrayed vertically with time stamp, depth, and plot information, accompanied by an information table defining the variables used in the data table, and a metadata table providing the data provenance information, i.e., who is responsible for data management, who collected the data, sensor information, and any DOIs associated with the data.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you in Vienna at this year’s EGU conference.