

## ***Interactive comment on “Virtual laboratories: new opportunities for collaborative water science” by S. Ceola et al.***

### **Anonymous Referee #2**

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The paper presents the main results of an innovative collaborative work on virtual laboratories for hydrological science within the framework of the EU funded project SWITCH-ON.

The topic is of interest for HESS readers and the paper is very well written, presented and structured. After reviewing the paper, I strongly support its final publication in HESS.

I only would like to suggest two ideas which in my opinion could improve the paper.

1. The title of the paper states “new opportunities for collaborative water science”. Nevertheless, the focus of the paper (or at least, the case study presented) is on hydrology as the two main questions to be addressed (page 13448 lines 21-23) point out. Have

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the authors considered a more concise title, writing “hydrological science” instead of “water science”? In my opinion, even if the general framework could be useful for other water science experiments, the focus of the paper is on hydrology.

2. 15 catchments have been considered to develop the experiment. According to data provided in Table 1, mean catchment annual rainfall correspond to wet or very wet conditions and mean catchment temperatures to cold or very cold climates. Do the authors think that this homogeneity could influence the results? Would a much varied range of catchment conditions imply a lower reproducibility?

Typographic errors

1. Page 13454, line 7. Is superscript “-1” correct after “years”? 2. Page 13454, line 26. Is superscript “-1” correct after “years”?

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