

RGIK General Assembly Meeting 2026

2024-2026 RGIK ExCom: Francesco Brardinoni, Diego Cusicanqui, Yan Hu, Kaytan Kelkar, Cécile Pellet, Ben Robson, Line Rouyet, and Mishelle Wehbe
(alphabetically)

1) Welcome

Aims of the General Assembly Meeting

- Report on the RGIK development since the last GA meeting
- Introduce the ExCom candidates for the new term and the e-vote procedure
- Present and discuss activities and events planned for the coming year
- Open the floor for questions and comments from the Community

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. RGIK background and activities since the last General Assembly
3. Overview of the RGIK working groups
4. Upcoming RGIK events and activities
5. Feedback from Advisory Board
6. ExCom candidate presentation and info on the e-vote procedure
7. Varia and open questions
8. Group picture and wrap-up

2) General Background

RGIK IPA Action Group (2018-2023):

- Led by Reynald Delaloye, the Action Group was launched at EUCOP5 in Chamonix (2018) with the objective *"to sustain the first steps toward developing of a network dedicated to rock glacier inventorying (mapping) and worldwide rock glacier monitoring, along with the definition of standards."*
- In 5 years, RGIK developed key reference documents (guidelines) for promoting the generation of comparable Rock Glacier Inventory (RoGI) and Rock Glacier Velocity (RGV) products. It has been regularly used as Action Group success story by the IPA Council!
- The Action Group formally ended at EUCOP6 2023 in Puigcerdà (June 2023).



2) General Background

Transition period (2023-2024):

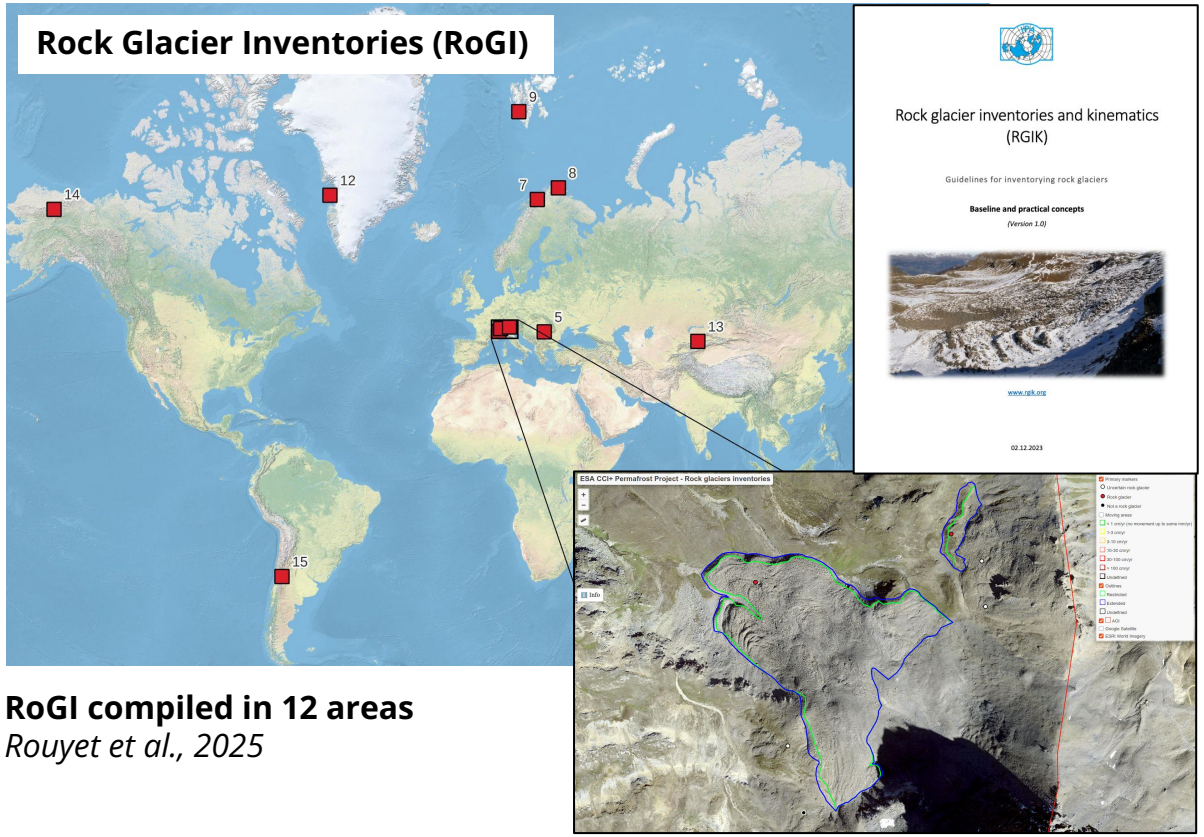
- June 2023: **Puigcerdà Commitment** (EUCOP2023): Intention to foster the RGIK activities and lay the foundation of a sustainable structure within the IPA
- Early 2024: Kick-off of the **Interim Executive Committee** to transition to an IPA Standing Committee.
- 29.05.2024: First RGIK **General Assembly Meeting**.
- 06-07.06.2024: Electronic vote on **Bylaws** and election of **ExCom** members.
- 16.06.2024: RGIK is unanimously approved as **Standing Committee** by the IPA Council, at the 12th International Conference on Permafrost (ICOP24) in Whitehorse, Canada.

Find our **Bylaws** on the website: https://www.rgik.org/about-rgik/

2) RGIK Mission

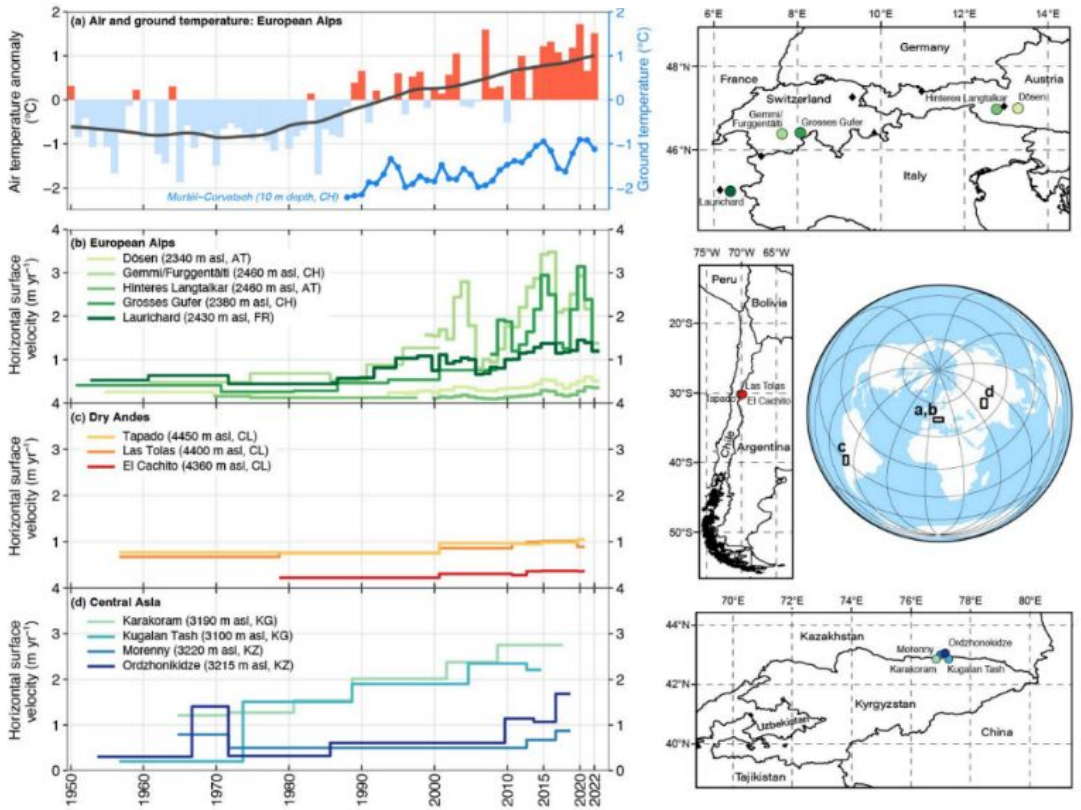
- The mission of RGIK is to coordinate the global compilation of **standardised rock glacier products**, and to foster **international collaboration** and advancement in the **understanding of rock glaciers**.
- Focus on two main products: **Rock Glacier Inventory** (RoGI) and **Rock Glacier Velocity** (RGV).

Rock Glacier Inventories (RoGI)



RoGI compiled in 12 areas
Rouyet et al., 2025

Rock Glacier Velocity (RGV) as ECV Permafrost Quantity



RGV chapter in BAMS, *Pellet et al., 2023*

2) RGIK 2024–2026 Leading Team

The RGIK Executive Committee (ExCom) is the governing body of RGIK.

The RGIK Advisory Board (AB) is the counselling body providing advice to the ExCOM.

ExCom



CÉCILE PELLET
CO-CHAIR, SWITZERLAND



FRANCESCO BRARDINONI
ITALY



DIEGO CUSICANQUI
FRANCE



YAN HU
CHINA



LINE ROUYET
CO-CHAIR, NORWAY



KAYTAN KELKAR
USA



BEN ROBSON
NORWAY



MISHELLE WEHBE
CANADA

AB



LUKAS ARENSON
CANADA



REYNALD DELALOYE
SWITZERLAND



LIN LIU
CHINA



SHELLEY MACDONELL
NEW ZEALAND

2) RGIK 2024–2026 main activities

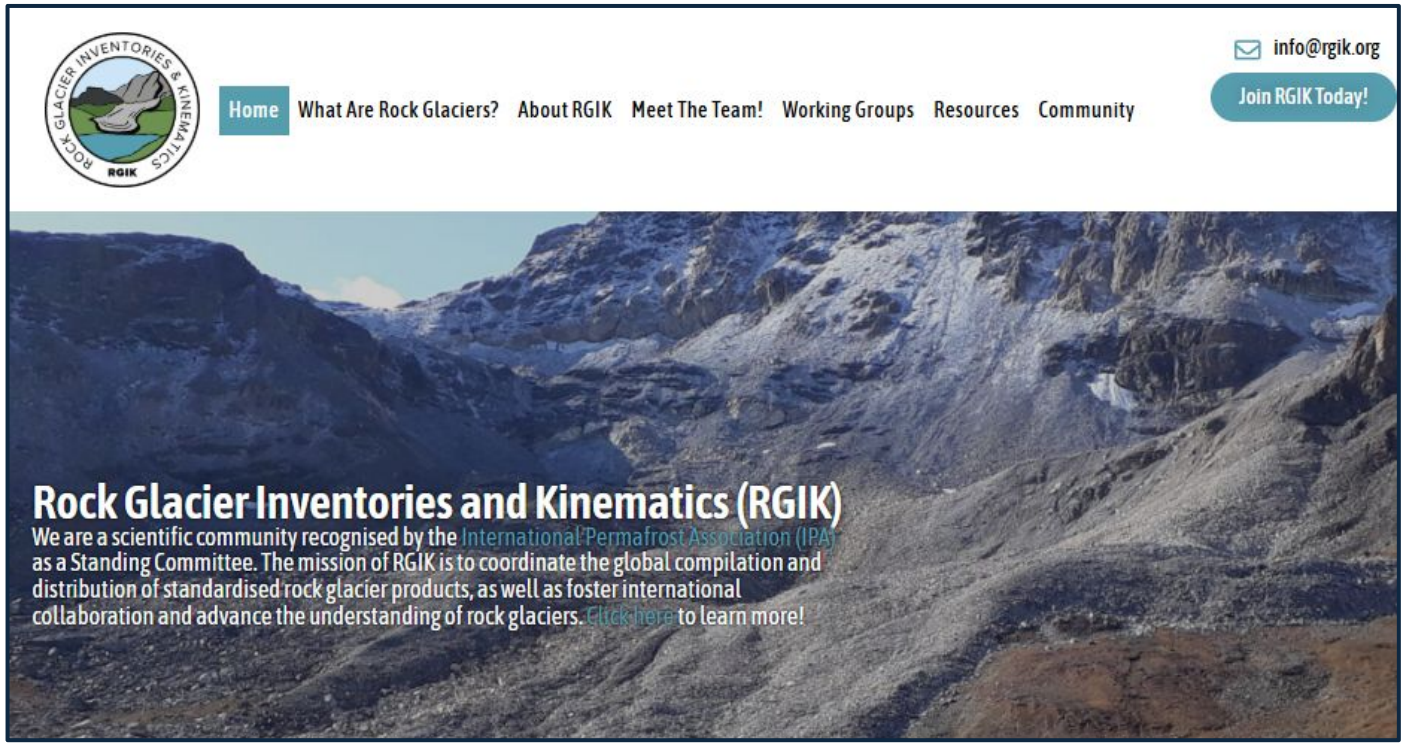
- **Growing community:**
  - From 229 members from 29 countries (2024)
  - To 262 members from 33 countries (2025)
  - Today: 286 members from 33 countries (2026)



- Annual General Assembly meetings in May - June
- **RGIK promotion at conferences** :
  - ICOP2024: rock glacier session and side event
  - EGU2025: joint rock glacier session, social event and join course with GTN-P
  - RCG2025: rock glacier session
  - IAG2026: rock glacier session
  - DACH2026: collaboration on PermaCOST workshop

2) RGIK 2024–2026 communication

Community : 01 June 2025

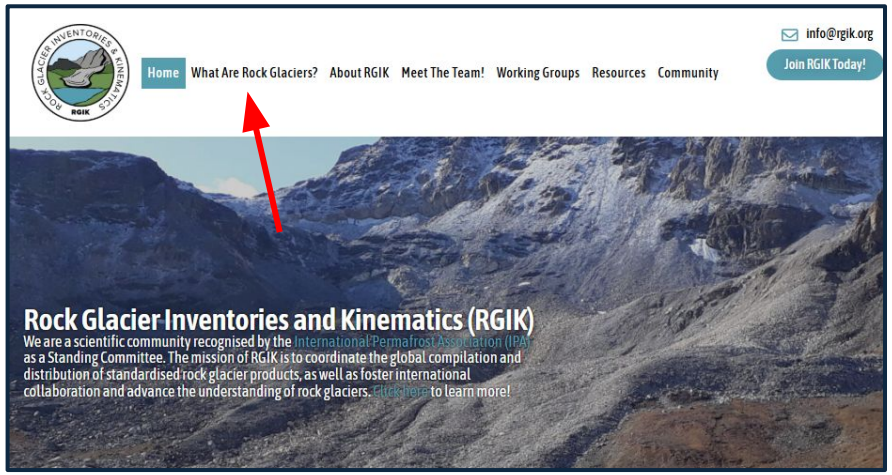


www.rgik.org

- **About RGIK**
  - Mission + Objectives
  - Our History + Timeline
  - Projects Supporting RGIK Activities
  - Constitution, Bylaws & Addendum
- **Meet The Team!**
  - Executive Committee
  - Advisory Board
- **Working Groups**
  - RoGI
  - RGV
  - Machine Learning
  - EDI
  - Data Management
- **Resources**
  - Baseline Concepts and Guidelines
  - QGIS Tools
  - Relevant Publications
- **Community**
  - News & Events Calendar
  - RGIK Seminar Series + Archive
  - RGIK Community Surveys
  - RGIK Member Login
    - Community Forum
    - Member Directory

2) RGIK 2024–2026 communication

What Are Rock Glaciers? Page





RGIK Community Member Forum

Viewing 5 topics - 1 through 5 (of 5 total)

Topic	Voices	Posts
Private: Job/Opportunity Postings Started by: rgikorg	0	1
Private: General Discussion Started by: rgikorg	0	1
Private: Machine Learning (ML) Started by: rgikorg	0	1
Private: Rock Glacier Velocity (RGV) Started by: rgikorg	0	1
Private: Rock Glacier Inventory (RoGI) Started by: rgikorg	0	1

PLEASE NOTE: To make an account, your email address being used to sign up must match the mailing list email address you have provided RGIK. If this has changed, or if you would like to verify what your email address is currently with RGIK, please contact Mishelle Wehbe at maewehbe@gmail.com, or in the RGIK Slack Channel to update this. Your account will not be approved if it does not match the mailing list (for security and spam reasons).

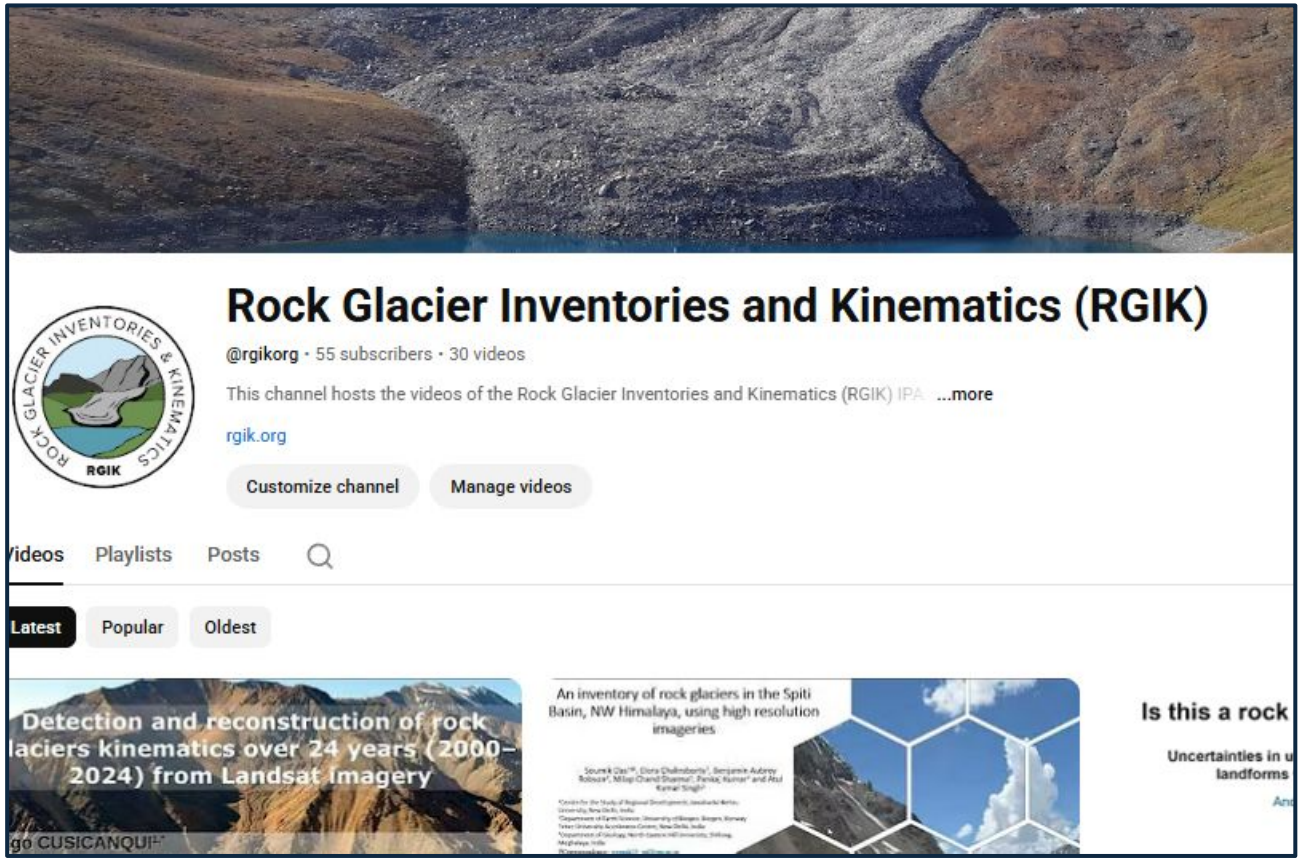
2) RGIK 2024–2026 communication

Official Launch: 01 June 2025

- RGIK Seminar recordings
  - Archive of past recordings organised by calendar year.
  - Future recordings shared here immediately after each seminar.
- Training videos, other relevant videos, etc.

Subscribe to our YouTube channel!

WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@RGIKORG



2) RGIK 2024–2026 main outcomes

Updated RoGI template and GIS exercises

Under **Resources > QGIS tools** on RGIK website: https://www.rgik.org/resources/

RGIK Community Papers

- Hu, Y. et al. (2025). **Rock glacier velocity: An essential climate variable quantity for permafrost**. *Reviews of Geophysics, 63,* e2024RG000847. https://doi.org/10.1029/2024RG000847.
- Rouyet et al. (2025). **Rock Glacier Inventories (RoGI) in 12 areas worldwide using a multi-operator consensus-based procedure.** *Earth System Science Data, 17(8).* https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-2024-598.
- Brardinoni et al. (2026). **RGIK guidelines for compiling consistent rock glacier inventories.** *Geomorphology*, 492(1). https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geomorph.2025.110050.

RGIK Contribution to International Reports

- WMO (2024). **Guide to Instruments and Methods of Observation (WMO-No. 8)**. Volume II.
- Pellet et al. (2025), **Rock Glacier Velocity**. In *State of Climate 2024* (Vol. 106, p. 48-49). https://doi.org/10.1175/BAMS-D-25-0102.1.

3) RGIK Working Groups

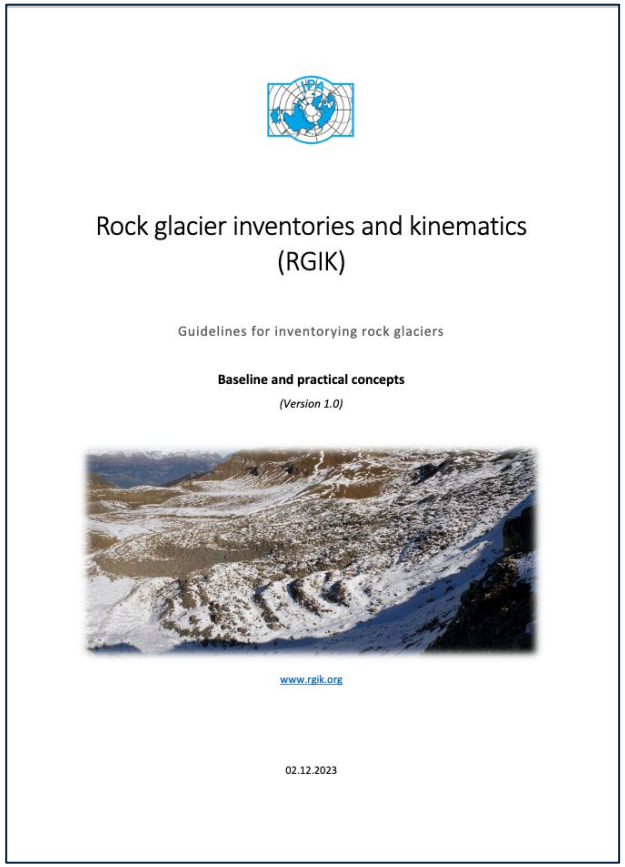
Working groups are the core of RGIK activities. They are smaller groups focused on specific aims and dedicated to concrete outcomes such as documents, tools, procedures, scientific support, etc. Currently five WG are ongoing or planned.

- **Rock Glacier Inventory (RoGI)** ExCom coordinators: Yan Hu (test panel and technical team), Mishelle Wehbe (annexe team), Francesco Brardinoni (training school)
- **Rock Glacier Velocity (RGV)** EXcom coordinator: Line Rouyet
- **Machine Learning (ML)** ExCom coordinator: Ben Robson
- **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)** ExCom coordinator: Mishelle Wehbe
- **Data Management (DM)** ExCom coordinator: Cécile Pellet

Interested in taking part of one working group? Please contact the Excom coordinator! **To propose a new working group please contact info@rgik.org !**

3) RGIK Working Group – RoGI

- **Role in RGIK**
  - RoGI WG supports consistent global rock glacier inventory production through guidelines, training materials, and database integration.
- **Activity overview since GA-2025**
  - Updated and new GIS exercises/templates released and tested and discussed by RoGI Test Panel.
  - Technical group at UniFr preparing RoGI database.
  - Appendices panel working on concise summary sheet/checklist, further examples of RG (active, transitional, relict) with varying spatial resolutions, similar landforms, and then completing an exercise that has lower resolutions be tested (leading organizer: Mishelle Wehbe)
  - Training school in preparation (leading organizer: Francesco Brardinoni)


Rock glacier inventories and kinematics (RGIK)

Guidelines for inventorying rock glaciers

Baseline and practical concepts

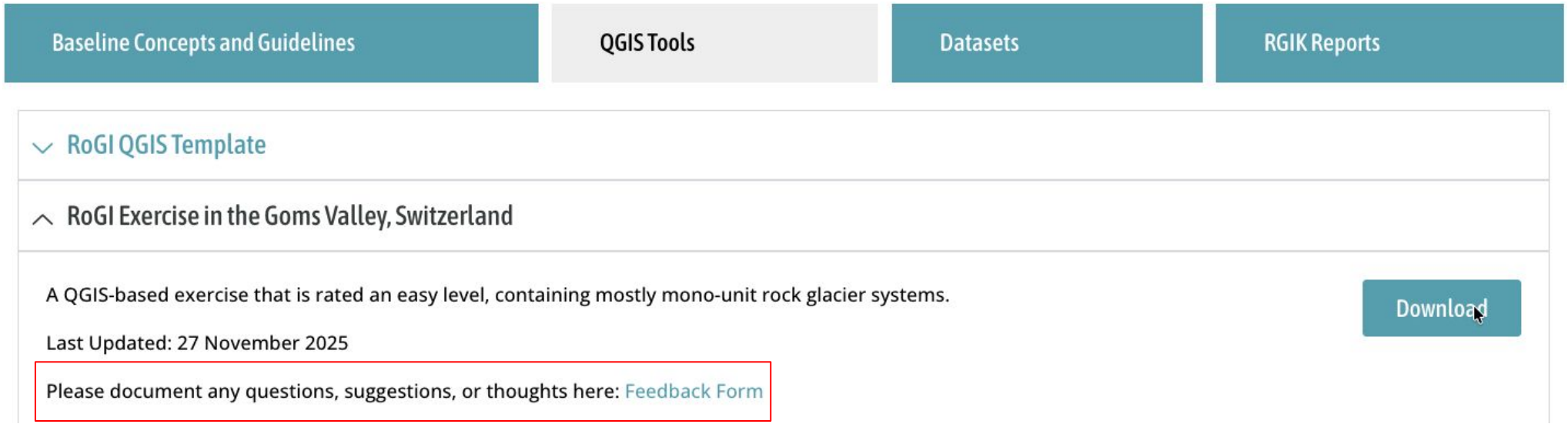
(Version 1.0)

www.rgik.org

02.12.2023

3) RGIK Working Group – RoGI

- **RoGI Tools:** Updated RoGI exercises in Switzerland https://www.rgik.org/resources/



- **RoGI database** in prep
- **Publication:**
  - Rouyet, L., Bolch, T., Brardinoni, F., Caduff, R., Cusicanqui, D., Darrow, M., et al. (2025). Rock Glacier Inventories (RoGIs) in 12 areas worldwide using a multi-operator consensus-based procedure. *Earth System Science Data*, *17*(8), 4125–4157. https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-17-4125-2025
  - Brardinoni, F., Vivero, S., Barboux, C., Bodin, X., Cicoira, A., Echelard, T., et al. (2026). RGIK guidelines for compiling consistent rock glacier inventories. *Geomorphology*, *492*, 110050. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geomorph.2025.110050

U:/base de donne/rogi_portal_app - Shiny

http://127.0.0.1:4982 | Open in Browser | Publish

RoGI Portal

permafrost cci

Filters

Inventory name (optional)

All inventories

Inventory name field not available in current data source.

Region / Country

Landform

✓ rock glacier | ✓ uncertain rock glacier | ✓ not rock glacier

Outlines

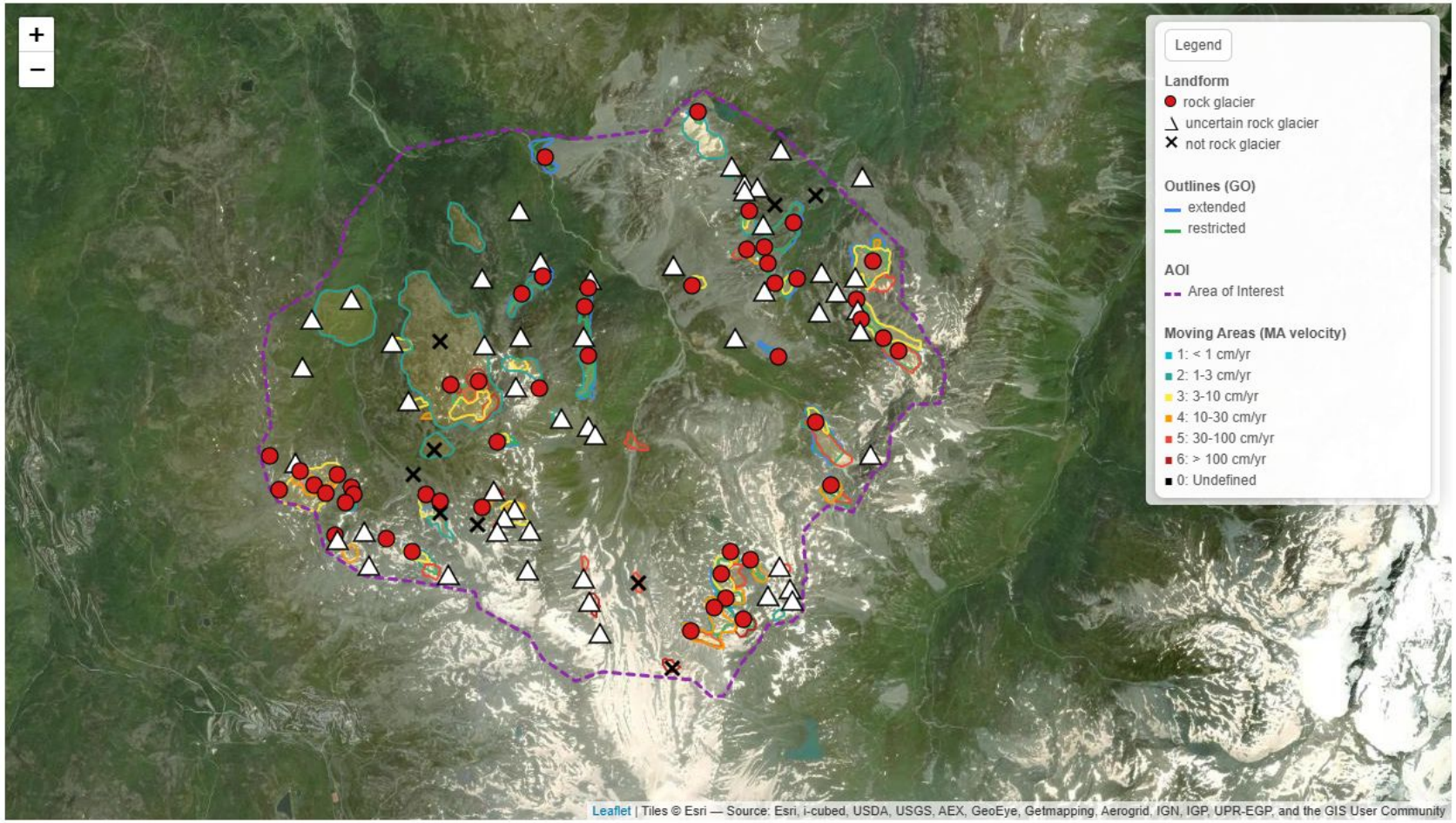
✓ Show AOI

✓ extended | ✓ restricted

MA velocity class

✓ Show Moving areas

✓ 1: < 1 cm/yr | ✓ 2: 1-3 cm/yr | ✓ 3: 3-10 cm/yr | ✓ 4: 10-30 cm/yr | ✓ 5: 30-100 cm/yr | ✓ 6: > 100 cm/yr | ✓ 0: Undefined



Show attribute table: Primary markers | Show attribute table: Outlines | Show attribute table: Moving areas | Hide table | Export current table (CSV) | Download GPKG

Tip: click any row in the table to zoom to the object on the map.

Attribute table: Outlines

Show 10 entries

Search:

▸ Region / Country

▾ Landform

✓ rock glacier | ✓ uncertain rock glacier | ✓ not rock glacier

▾ Outlines

✓ Show AOI

✓ extended | ✓ restricted

▾ MA velocity class

✓ Show Moving areas

✓ 1: < 1 cm/yr | ✓ 2: 1-3 cm/yr

✓ 3: 3-10 cm/yr | ✓ 4: 10-30 cm/yr

✓ 5: 30-100 cm/yr | ✓ 6: > 100 cm/yr

✓ 0: Undefined

▾ Activity class

1. Active | 2. Active uncertain

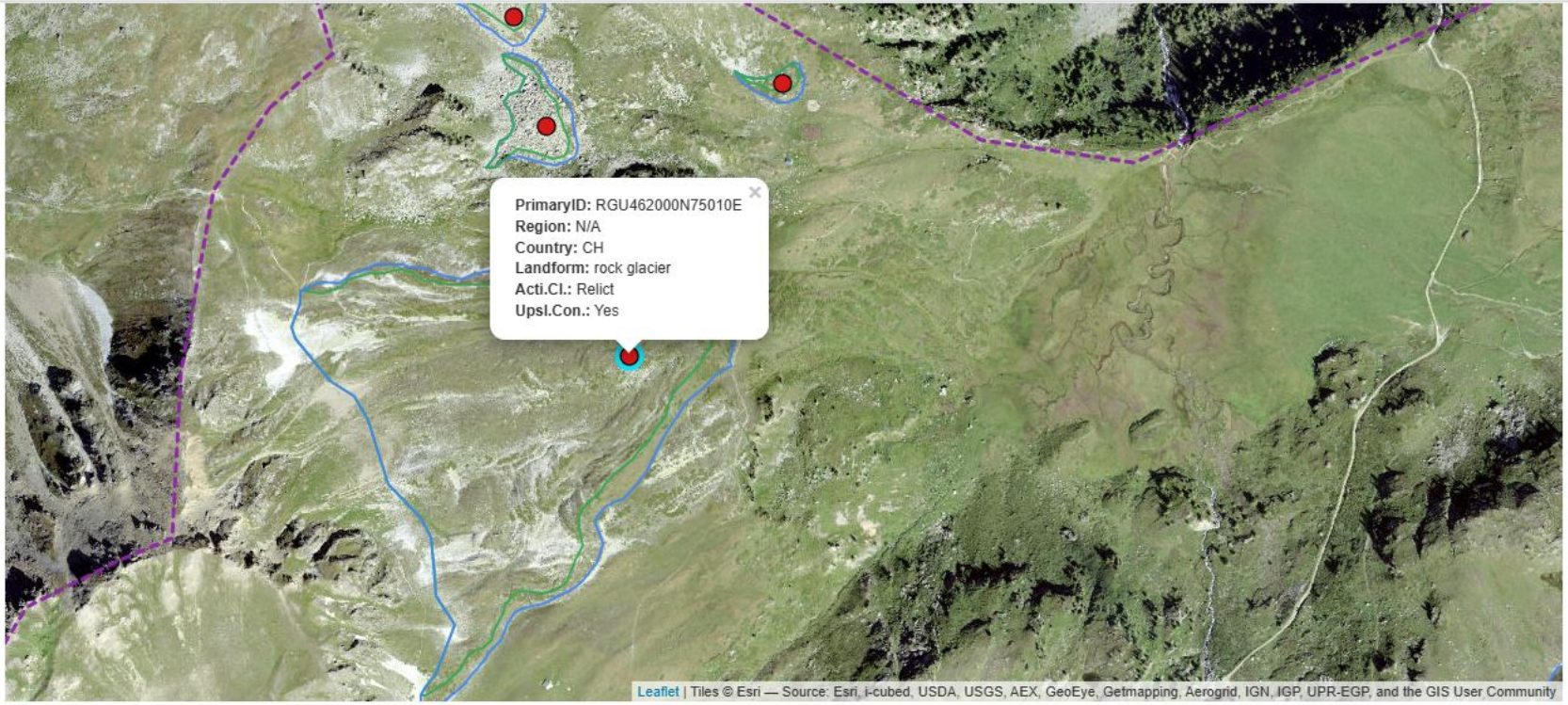
3. Transitional | 4. Relict uncertain

5. Relict | 6. Uncertain

▾ Upslope connection (Upsl.Cur)

1. Yes | 2. No

3. Uncertain | 4. Unknown



Show attribute table: Primary markers | Show attribute table: Outlines | Show attribute table: Moving areas | Hide table | Export current table (CSV) | Download GPKG

Tip: click any row in the table to zoom to the object on the map.

Attribute table: Primary markers

Show 10 entries Search: RGU462000N75010E

fid	Landform	workingid	lat	long	PrimaryID	alterid1	alterid2	assocrgs	rgsprimar	morpho	c
	All	All	All	All	All	/	/	All	All	A	
596	1	42	46.20005006932637	7.501662318655895	RGU462000N75010E			Mono-unit RGS		Complex	1

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries (filtered from 1,008 total entries) Previous 1 Next

U:/base de donne/rogi_portal_app - Shiny

http://127.0.0.1:4982 | Open in Browser | Publish

RoGI Import Tool

Upload files

Primary Markers (.gpkg)

Browse... RoGI_PrimaryMarkers_Vanoise_final.gpk

Upload complete

Outlines (.gpkg)

Browse... RoGI_Outlines_Vanoise_final.gpkg

Upload complete

Moving Areas (.gpkg)

Browse... RoGI_MovingAreas_Vanoise_final.gpkg

Upload complete

Area of Interest (.gpkg, optional)

Browse... No file selected

Metadata (.xlsx or .csv)

Browse... RGIK_meta_data_form_cp.xlsx

Upload complete

Target DB schema

test_CCI_dataset

Metadata table name

rogi_metadata

☐ Replace mode (dangerous)

Validate (dry-run) | Run import

Status

```
Validation completed.
```

Run log

```
[VALIDATE] 2026-05-12 17:14:50
 SUCCESS
[LINK_CHECK] GO linked PrimaryID values: 98 | MA linked Ref.PrimaryID values: 0
[DATASET] dataset_id not resolved
[PM] 109 features ready (25 columns) - DRY RUN
[GO] 98 features ready (13 columns) - DRY RUN
[MA] 72 features ready (10 columns) - DRY RUN
[AOI] skipped (source missing)
[rogi_metadata] skipped (metadata csv is empty)
```

Notes

- Use Validate first. It does not write to DB.
- Run import writes data to DB.
- If metadata is .xlsx, it is auto-converted to temporary CSV before import.

3) RGIK Working Group – RoGI

- **Next steps:**
  - Release new regional RoGI exercises. *12-region exercises to be released soon!* (Rouyet et al., 2025)
  - Support user/test panel feedback.
  - Develop RoGI database and plan for future maintenance.
  - Appendices/checklist panel
    - Finalize checklist summation sheet
    - Compile dataset of RGs and landforms
    - QGIS training exercises with high & low resolution
  - PermaCOST 2026 Training School
    - Building on RGIK RoGI tools
    - Opportunity to test the tools with a wide audience of students
    - Opportunity to design alternative material (video tutorial)



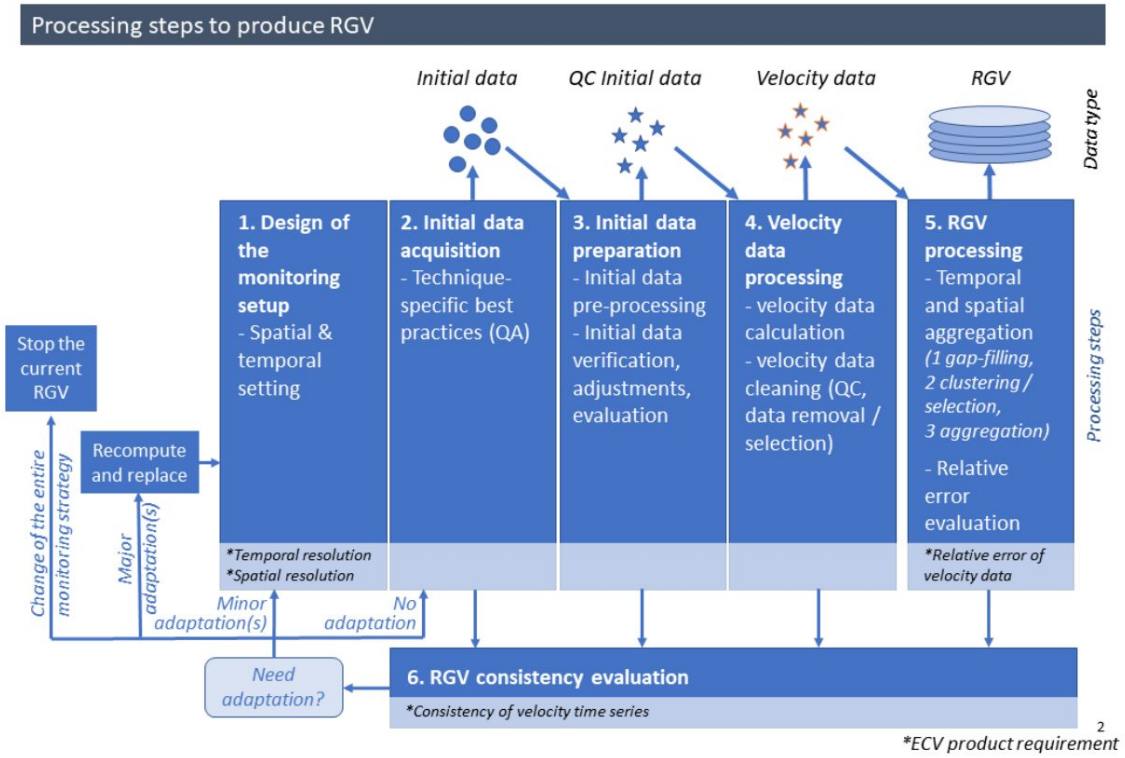
3) RGIK Working Group – RGV

What is RGV?

- Rock Glacier Velocity (RGV) is a **time series of annualized surface velocity values** expressed in m/y and measured/computed on a rock glacier unit or a part of it.
- RGV is an **Essential Climate Variable Quantity for Permafrost**.

General goals of the RGV WG:

- Develop guidelines, best practice and processing tools for the production of the new ECV associate parameter RGV.
- Enhance the systematic production and data compilation of long-term velocity time series on rock glaciers, to be used as a climate change indicator.

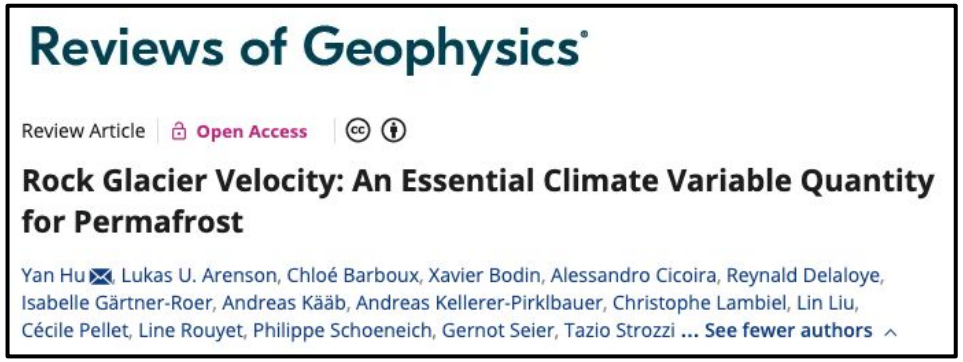


Processing steps to produce RGV from the RGV practical concepts (RGV Practical concepts - RGIK, 2023)

3) RGIK Working Group – RGV

Key documents:

RGV ECV review paper:


Reviews of Geophysics

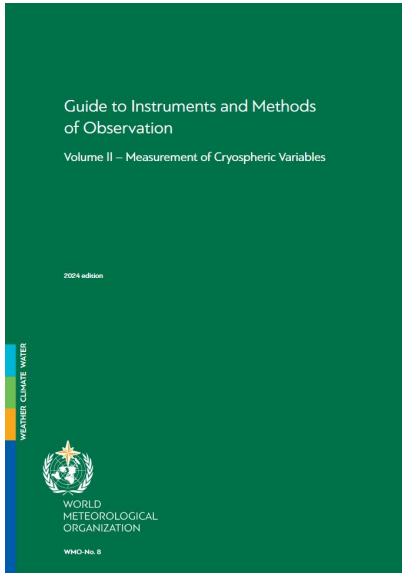
Review Article | Open Access

Rock Glacier Velocity: An Essential Climate Variable Quantity for Permafrost

Yan Hu, Lukas U. Arenson, Chloé Barboux, Xavier Bodin, Alessandro Cicoira, Reynald Delaloye, Isabelle Gärtner-Roer, Andreas Kääb, Andreas Kellerer-Pirklbauer, Christophe Lambiel, Lin Liu, Cécile Pellet, Line Rouyet, Philippe Schoeneich, Gernot Seier, Tazio Strozzi ... See fewer authors

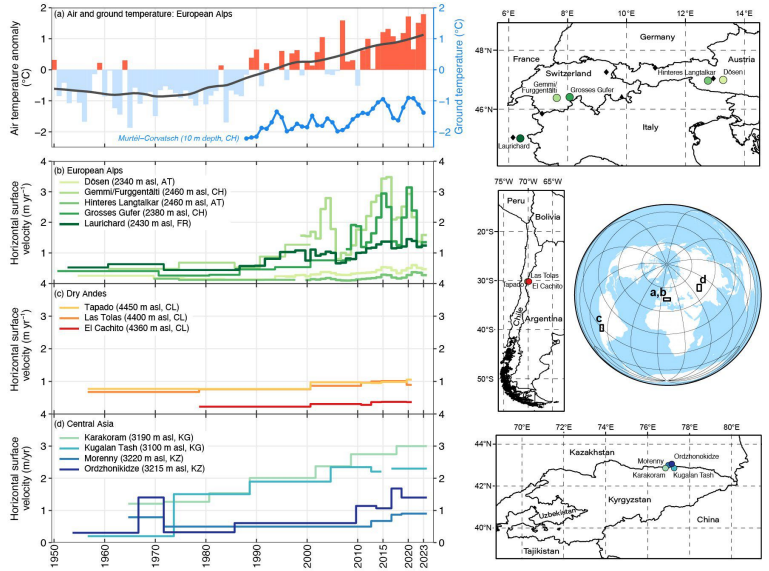
Hu, Y. et al. (2025). **Rock glacier velocity: An essential climate variable quantity for permafrost**. *Reviews of Geophysics, 63,* e2024RG000847. https://doi.org/10.1029/2024RG000847.

WMO Guide:



WMO (2024). **Guide to Instruments and Methods of Observation (WMO-No. 8)**. Volume II.

BAMS annual chapter:



Pellet et al. (2025), **Rock Glacier Velocity**. In *State of Climate 2024* (Vol. 106, p. 48-49). https://doi.org/10.1175/BAMS-D-25-0102.1.

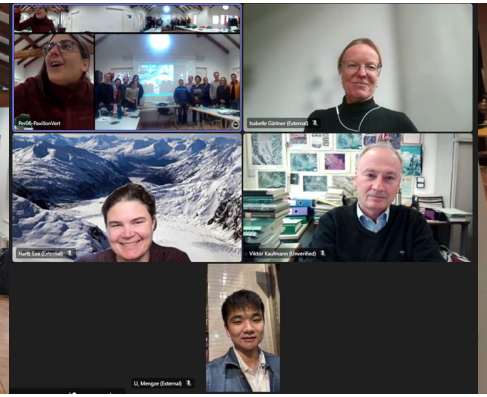
3) RGIK Working Group – RGV

- First Workshops in November 2024: discussing results of an intercomparison exercise for RGV production. 19 participants (16 people on site).



- Second Workshop in December 2025: further drafting RGV technical guidelines.
  22 participants (17 people on site).






3) RGIK Working Group – RGV

2026: RGV guidelines finalisation

- Finalise the **Best Practice documents for the 3 techniques**
- **Adjust** the generic RGV guidelines and **merge** them with technical Best Practice
- Open a **community review** of the complete/merged RGV guidelines

2027: From guidelines to production

- Final guideline adjustment and approval (similar process as for RoGI guidelines)
- Spread the adjustments to related docs (GCOS/GTN-P ECV requ. / WMO guidelines)
- Promotion of the guidelines to **enhance the production**
- **Database development**, in dialogue with GTN-P
- **Larger compilation of RGV and further use as climate change indicator**

3) RGIK Working Group – Data Management

- This working group aims to **develop solutions for managing rock glacier data according to the FAIR principles**.
- **Currently working in collaboration with RoGI and RGV working groups**
- The tasks of the Data Management working group are
  - Defining a RGIK data policy
  - Setting up a RGIK database for centralizing rock glacier data (RoGI and RGV to start)
  - Developing strategies and procedure for the data upload, download and visualisation
  - Developing open access tools for the standardized processing of rock glacier data
  - Coordinating the RGIK data management activities with other networks such as GTN-P
- **Next steps:**
  - 2026: Definition of the RGIK data policy
  - 2026-2027: Finalization of the RGIK database and data visualization platform

3) RGIK Working Group – Machine Learning

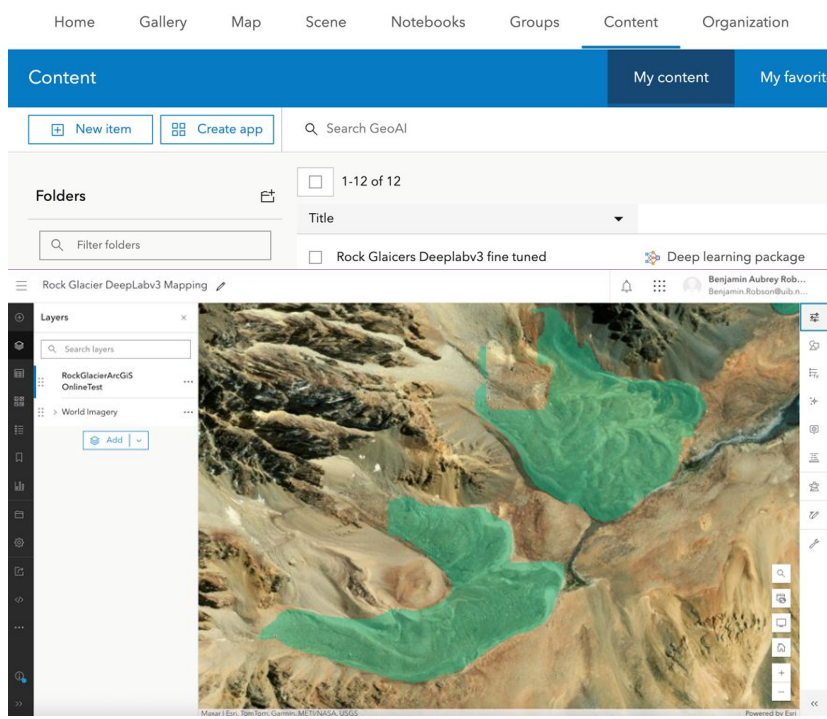
On standby: Looking for coordinator and collaborators.

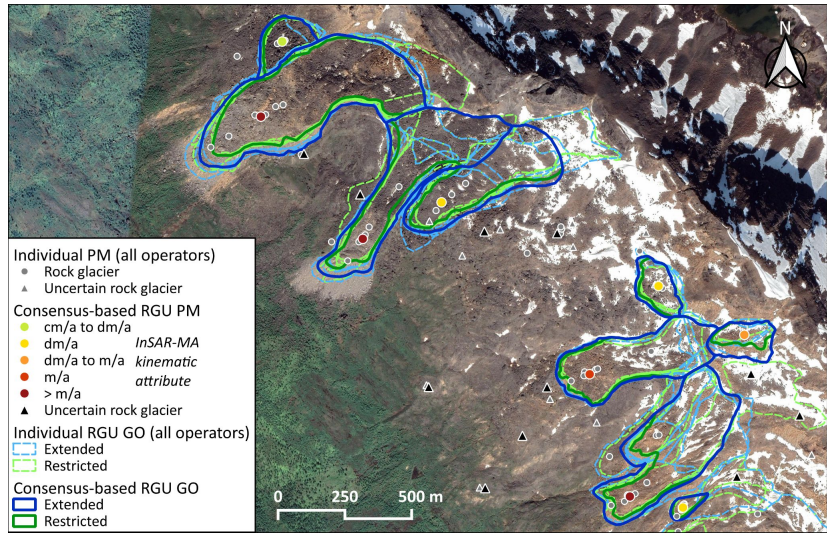
Background:

- Current workflow typically require extensive computational infrastructure. High technical threshold to apply ML.
- General lack of guidelines, tutorials and tools to train the community to use ML for rock glaciers.
- Variable practice. Variable data quality. Variable level of experience for rock glacier applications.

Ideas for future work and cooperation:

- Test sharing pre-trained machine learning models to collaborate and involve more users (e.g. in ArcGIS Online).
- Work on a set of guidelines, tutorials, and tools for mapping RGs with ML.
- Evaluation of multi-operator subjectivity when RoGI results are used for ML training: exercise to test the impact of operator variability on ML results.





Interested to initiate this work?

Take contact with **info@rgik.org**

3) RGIK Working Group – EDI

Objectives:

- Dedicated to fostering **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)** principles and values within the RGIK community, ensuring that diverse voices and perspectives are heard and integrated into our research and initiatives.

- Encourage equitable participation in the RGIK community through initiatives that support the growth and development of early-career researchers, underrepresented groups, and those facing systemic barriers.

- Aspire to establish clear policies and frameworks for promoting inclusivity, addressing potential issues of harassment or bylaw violations, and fostering collaboration across diverse geographical and socio-economic barriers.

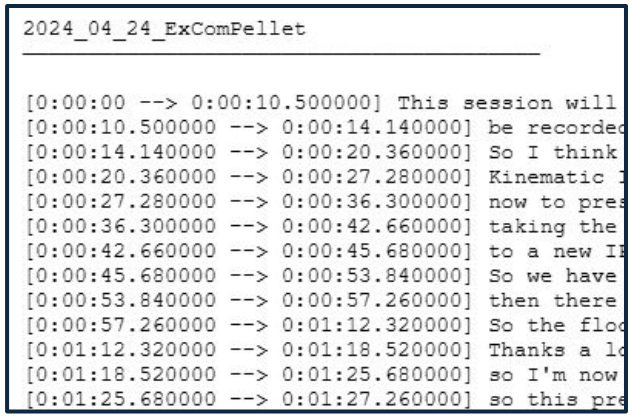
Participants:

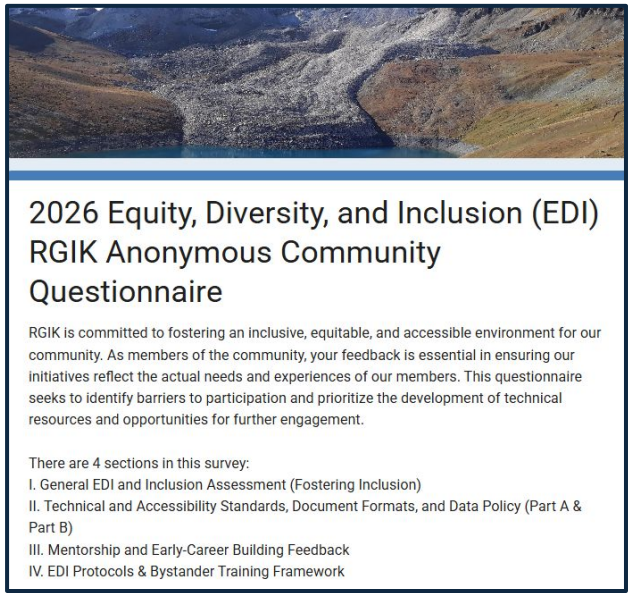
Mishelle Wehbe, Line Rouyet, Varun Khajuria, Xin Guo

3) RGIK Working Group – EDI

Activities until now:

- Facilitated the creation and maintenance of the YouTube Channel for equitable access to webinars and RGIK recordings.
- Creating targeted materials and webinars for Early-Career Researchers
- Transcribed first draft of all webinars with time stamped text and captions for equitable access.
- Created the first draft of the Incident Response and Resolution Protocol (IRRP) for bylaw violations and complaints of harassment, discrimination, etc.
- Finalised EDI Anonymous Community Questionnaire to be sent to the community. **(Please fill this out when you receive it!!)**





Upcoming Goals:

- Sending of the EDI Community Questionnaire.
- Finalising the transcribed webinars and posting them on website.
- Ensuring an operational and finalised version of the IRRP is completed by End of 2026.
- Creating actionable items based on community feedback and ensuring follow through.
- Plain language summation documents for remaining guidelines and practical concepts.

Interested in joining the EDI initiatives?

Please contact Mishelle Wehbe at maewehbe@gmail.com or in the RGIK Slack channel!

4) RGIK Suggested Priorities 2026 onwards

- **Wrapping up the development and release of key standards, guidelines and tools**
  - **Outcomes:** RoGI alternative training tools; RGV technical recommendations; Update of GCOS/GTN-P RGV ECV requirements; RoGI/RGV database development.
- **Main objectives of the next term:** Enhance the systematic **production** of RG standardised data. Launch the **operational phase**, focusing on the **concrete applications** of the standards.
  - **Outcomes:** RoGI/RGV database release; RGV/RoGI production and compilation; Systematic use and interpretation for mountain permafrost assessment of state and evolution.
- **Network development and communication:**
  - Continue regular monthly **webinars**, with special series targeting **early-career skill development**.
  - Set up **regional working groups** with contact persons and expert panels, for national/continental promotion, conference representations and support to user uptake.
  - Organise a **large RGIK workshop in 2027**, focusing on **1)** promoting the main achievements to new users, **2)** enhancing the actual data production and compilation (**hackathon?**). **To be discussed.**

4) RGIK Suggested Events/Activities 2026 onwards

Conference Participations

- **ACOP26:** RG session, social event.
- **AGU26:** RG session, workshop, social event.
- **ICOP 2028:** RG session, side-meeting, social event.
- **38th IGC 2028:** RG session, side-meeting, social event.

Synergies with Funded Projects

- **PermaCOST** (2026 training school in Italy, events on permafrost data standardisation/ compilation).
- **ESA CCI Permafrost** (support for RoGI/RGV database and RGV Best Practice development).

Collaboration with the IPA

- Events supported by the IPA
  - RGV workshop in 2025.
  - **RGIK Workshop/Hackathon in 2027 ?**
- Dissemination of the results using the IPA newsletter and reports (Frozen Ground)
- Organisation of sessions, side-meetings and/or social events at IPA conferences

5) Words from the Advisory Board

The Advisory Board highly commends RGIK for its **successful transition** into a formal IPA Standing Committee and its **remarkable achievements** during the 2024–2026 term. Led by the inaugural Executive Committee and driven by the contributions of many members, RGIK has successfully fostered a **transparent, international, and collegial community**. Working groups covering key aspects of rock glacier inventory and kinematics have laid a **solid foundation for standardized data production**, while the **highly attended monthly seminar series** has elevated RGIK's visibility by highlighting exciting frontier research from bright early-career scientists. These combined efforts position RGIK as a **vital player** in the global permafrost and cryosphere research landscape.

As RGIK moves toward a **more operational phase** focused on large-scale data production and the implementation of standards, **clearer governance structures** and **broader community involvement** will be essential. Furthermore, **enhanced collaboration with other organizations** (including IPA, GTN-P, and related yet unexplored international programs such as the International Association of Geomorphologists and the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists) will be important to ensure **long-term sustainability** and **maximize global scientific impact**.

6) 2026-2028 RGIK ExCom Nominees



Francesco Brardinoni

Department of Biological, Geological and Environmental Sciences, University of Bologna
Italy

Background: My research interests mainly focus on mountain geomorphology. I started working on rock glaciers in 2012, with the compilation of a geomorphologic RoGI across the Lombardy region, Italy (Scotti et al. 2013). This effort was followed by a study on the post-LGM geomorphic response glacial and periglacial landforms to deglaciation by means of 10Be, Schmidt hammer and geomorphologic mapping (Scotti et al. 2017). Subsequently, I have addressed the questions of uncertainty and variability in the compilation of RoGIs (Brardinoni et al. 2019). More recently, I have been involved in: (1) the RGIK action group, contributing to the drafting of the relevant baseline and practical concepts; (2) the ESA CCI Permafrost project, first as an external partner (Phase I) and later as partner of Option 9 (Phase II). CCI Permafrost has led to the publication of two papers, one on incorporating an InSAR kinematic attribute in RoGIs (Bertone et al. 2022), the other on the integration of geomorphological mapping and InSAR-based kinematic information (Bertone et al. 2024). I am currently PI of WP4 in PARACELSO, funded by the Italian Space Agency. WP4 aims to the kinematic classification of RGs in Valle d'Aosta, Italy. At ICOP24, I will co-chair a RG session.

Vision and Motivation: I have enjoyed being an active member of the RGIK initiative, back from the Evolène meeting onward, and through the hurdles of the COVID experience. My main motivation for candidacy is to warrant some continuity to the collaborative effort started in 2019, through fostering international interaction in an informal, easy-going fashion. In this context, I will bring in my landscape-scale approach to mountain environments, promoting the incorporation of RG investigations in the broader context of glaciated (or formerly glaciated) drainage basins in a changing climate. In my view, looking at RGs within the broader hydro-geomorphic sediment cascade, will allow our community to build stronger ties with glaciologists, hydrologists, engineering geologists and ecologist, but also with practitioners outside of the academic world. I believe this will provide increased visibility to our community both from a basic and from an applied point of view.

6) 2026-2028 RGIK ExCom Nominees



Diego Cusicanqui

CNRS, Univ. Grenoble Alpes
France

Background: I am a geographic engineer interested in understanding the physical processes and environmental controls that drive mass movements in mountainous regions. My research has focused on glacier–permafrost interactions, periglacial dynamics, and the interpretation of surface deformation as an indicator of landscape response to climate and geomorphic change. I completed my PhD at the University of Grenoble Alpes, where I investigated glacier–permafrost interactions through a multidisciplinary framework, with particular attention to long-term rock glacier dynamics and Rock Glacier Velocity (RGV). My current work, funded by the French National Centre for Scientific Research, focuses on the combination of advanced remote-sensing techniques, field observations, and spatial analysis to identify and investigate mountain slope instabilities. I work with both optical and SAR-based approaches, including spaceborne and airborne photogrammetry, optical feature tracking, and InSAR, to detect and interpret surface displacement in periglacial and high-mountain environments. This multi-sensor perspective is particularly relevant for rock glacier studies, as optical imagery allows the reconstruction of long-term kinematics, while SAR/InSAR provides complementary information on surface deformation and activity patterns across broad regions. I am especially interested in periglacial environments in the context of mountain permafrost degradation and changing climatic conditions. Through my research, I aim to connect process understanding, geomorphological interpretation, and operational monitoring. I am now co-chairing RGIK, which gives me the opportunity to contribute directly to the development of common standards, comparable datasets, and coordinated workflows for rock glacier inventories and RGV products.

Vision and Motivation: My motivation for being part of the RGIK Executive Committee is to continue contributing to the international coordination of rock glacier research while strengthening the visibility and participation of South America within the RGIK community. The Andes contain extensive periglacial environments and rock glacier systems, yet South American regions remain underrepresented in global inventories, methodological discussions, and long-term monitoring initiatives. I would like to help ensure that the scientific needs, data limitations, and geomorphological diversity of these regions are better integrated into RGIK priorities. My vision is to support RGIK as a collaborative platform where methodological rigour, regional diversity, and operational applicability come together. I am particularly interested in advancing the integration of optical imagery and SAR/InSAR techniques for RGV estimation and rock glacier activity assessment. Rock glacier velocity is increasingly recognised as a climate-relevant quantity for mountain permafrost monitoring, and international efforts are moving toward more standardised, comparable, and reproducible products. As an ExCom member, I would aim to promote three priorities: improving multi-sensor workflows for RGV production, encouraging stronger participation from South American researchers and institutions, and supporting practical guidelines that are useful across different mountain contexts. I believe RGIK has an important role in bridging scientific innovation and community-based standardisation. My motivation is therefore both scientific and regional: to help improve how rock glacier dynamics are monitored globally, while ensuring that South American experiences, challenges, and datasets contribute actively to the future development of RGIK.

6) 2026-2028 RGIK ExCom Nominees



Yan Hu

University of Fribourg
Switzerland

Background: I am currently a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Fribourg, where I work in the Swiss National Science Foundation project RoDynAlpS, investigating rock glacier dynamics in the Swiss Alps through data synthesis and numerical modelling. Previously, I was a postdoctoral researcher at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, where my work centered on rock glaciers of the Tibetan Plateau and surrounding mountain regions. My research has addressed several complementary aspects of rock glacier study. I have contributed to large-scale rock glacier inventories using remote sensing and deep learning, including work on the Tibetan Plateau, and have quantified rock glacier kinematics using InSAR. I have also developed rheological approaches to estimate ground ice content and simulate rock glacier dynamics in the Nepal Himalaya. In addition, my work has used kinematic analysis to classify periglacial landforms and investigate permafrost creep processes, and more recently I contributed to advancing Rock Glacier Velocity as an Essential Climate Variable quantity for permafrost. Beyond research, I have been actively involved in the rock glacier community through the IPA Action Group and now RGIK. I currently serve on the RGIK Executive Committee as Asia regional representative and RoGI working group coordinator. These roles, together with my experience across both Alpine and Asian mountain environments, have strengthened my commitment to international collaboration, standardization of data products, and supporting the next generation of researchers in rock glacier science.

Vision and Motivation: I am motivated to continue serving on the RGIK Executive Committee because I see RGIK as a unique international platform that connects researchers, practitioners, and early-career scientists working on rock glaciers across different regions and disciplines. Having already served on the current Executive Committee, I would like to help ensure continuity while also supporting the next phase of RGIK as a mature, active, and globally connected community. My vision for RGIK for 2026–2028 is built around three priorities. First, I would like to support closer integration of regional efforts into global products and guidelines, especially through continued coordination of inventories, kinematic datasets, and standardized approaches that make cross-regional comparison more robust and useful. Second, I would like RGIK to remain an open and welcoming community for early-career researchers and students. Mentoring, visibility, and opportunities to contribute meaningfully to working groups are essential for sustaining the field. Third, I would like to strengthen connections between observational, methodological, and theoretical perspectives, so that RGIK continues to advance both scientific understanding and practical relevance in permafrost research.

6) 2026-2028 RGIK ExCom Nominees



Ajay Kumar

Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
India

Background: My academic and research background is rooted in remote sensing, geospatial analysis, and cryospheric science, with a specific focus on periglacial landforms such as rock glaciers. During my PhD, I have developed a strong interest in understanding the distribution, dynamics, and climatic sensitivity of rock glaciers using multi source remote sensing approaches. My doctoral research primarily involves the integration of optical, thermal, and microwave datasets to investigate high mountain environments. I have worked extensively with satellite data from Landsat, Sentinel 1, and Sentinel 2, along with high resolution digital elevation models, to map geomorphic features and characterize terrain attributes. A central component of my work is time series analysis, which I use to detect surface displacement patterns and evaluate landform activity, particularly for identifying active and inactive rock glaciers. I have applied advanced techniques such as interferometric SAR, object based image analysis, and spectral index based classification to improve feature detection and mapping accuracy. These methods have allowed me to extract permafrost related indicators and assess their spatial variability across different climatic and topographic settings. My experience also includes the use of cloud based platforms such as Google Earth Engine for large scale data processing and analysis. In addition to remote sensing, I have strong expertise in GIS based spatial analysis, terrain modeling, and data visualization. I regularly use tools such as QGIS, SNAP, and Python to process and analyze geospatial datasets. I also recognize the importance of integrating field observations with remote sensing outputs to validate interpretations and reduce uncertainties in classification. Beyond my PhD, I have contributed to projects involving land cover mapping, environmental monitoring, and hazard assessment, which have further strengthened my analytical and technical skills. Overall, my background provides a solid foundation for studying rock glaciers, particularly in mapping their distribution, monitoring their dynamics, and understanding their response to climate variability. I am particularly interested in advancing automated detection methods and improving multi sensor data integration for rock glacier research. Further I aim to expand my research by incorporating machine learning and deep learning techniques for automated rock glacier detection and classification. I am also interested in coupling remote sensing observations with climate datasets to better understand long term trends and future projections of permafrost dynamics. This interdisciplinary approach will allow me to contribute to improved assessments of mountain hydrology and related hazards. Finally I seek to collaborate with international researchers working on cryosphere studies globally.

Vision and Motivation: My motivation for applying to RGIK stems from a strong commitment to advancing the scientific understanding of rock glaciers and their role within high mountain cryospheric systems. Rock glaciers are critical indicators of permafrost presence and climate change, yet significant uncertainties remain in their global distribution, activity status, and long-term evolution. I see RGIK as a unique platform to contribute to and benefit from a collaborative, interdisciplinary effort aimed at addressing these knowledge gaps. Through my background in remote sensing and geospatial analysis, I aim to support RGIK's objectives by contributing to improved mapping, monitoring, and characterization of rock glaciers across diverse mountain regions. I am particularly motivated to work on standardizing methodologies for rock glacier inventory development using multi-sensor datasets, including optical, SAR, and topographic data. I believe that harmonized approaches are essential for generating consistent, comparable datasets at regional to global scales. My vision includes advancing automated and semi-automated techniques, incorporating machine learning and cloud-based geospatial platforms, to enhance the efficiency and accuracy of rock glacier detection and classification. I am also interested in integrating kinematic information derived from time-series analysis to better distinguish between active, inactive, and relict rock glaciers, thereby improving their value as climate indicators. Beyond technical contributions, I am eager to engage in knowledge exchange and collaborative research within RGIK. I value the opportunity to learn from experts working in different geographic and disciplinary contexts, and to contribute my own experience in remote sensing workflows and data integration. I am particularly interested in contributing to open-access datasets and reproducible research practices that can support the broader scientific community. In the long term, I envision my involvement in RGIK helping to bridge the gap between scientific research and applied outcomes, such as hazard assessment and water resource management in mountain regions. By improving our understanding of rock glacier dynamics and their response to climate variability, I hope to contribute to more informed decision-making in vulnerable high-altitude environments. Overall, my candidacy is driven by a desire to actively contribute to RGIK's mission while further developing my expertise within a collaborative and globally connected research network focused on the cryosphere.

6) 2026-2028 RGIK ExCom Nominees



Tyler Meng

Washington University in St. Louis
USA

Background: I am currently a postdoctoral research associate in the Department of Earth, Environmental, and Planetary Sciences at Washington University (WashU) in St. Louis. As a geophysicist by training, I have extensive experience integrating field data acquisition with remote sensing. I became interested in rock glaciers during my PhD research in Planetary Sciences at the University of Arizona, where I applied surface processes of the alpine cryosphere as terrestrial analogs to mid-latitude ice units on Mars. This research involved eight field campaigns to four rock glaciers in Alaska, Wyoming, and Colorado, USA, where we acquired geophysical and kinematic data using ground-penetrating radar and UAV surveys. I have published four papers presenting the results of these field campaigns, ranging from subsurface composition and structure to the dynamic response of rock glaciers to surface strain. My postdoctoral research in the WashU Radar Interferometry and Geospatial Science Laboratory is primarily focused on integrating InSAR-derived surface motion measurements with photogrammetric change detection and field-based geophysics to maximize the monitoring capabilities for rock glacier inventories. I have also led one field campaign during my postdoctoral appointment; our team collected GPR, photogrammetric data, and terrestrial LiDAR scans at two rock glaciers in Colorado's San Juan Mountains during the summer of 2025. As a member of the permafrost sub-group on the NASA Surface Topography and Vegetation Science Team and a collaborator on a Mars Data Analysis grant investigating the Martian cryosphere, I remain active in the Earth and Planetary science communities. Overall, my rock glacier research stems from my interest in applying geophysical and remote sensing methods to characterize and monitor cryospheric processes in societally consequential mountain environments.

Vision and Motivation: As an early-career American geoscientist, the past several years have been devastating—particularly during the COVID era and the recent months spanning back to January 2025. I am not alone in the significant sorrow experienced while witnessing our policymakers undermine public trust in the sciences, dismantle established research programs, and degrade confidence in the US commitment to international collaboration. During the 2026–2028 RGIK term, I am eager to play a role in ensuring continuity of American participation in global scientific collaboration by building and strengthening relationships with fellow rock glacier scientists who represent diverse geographic regions and populations. During this period of service, I envision myself contributing to the progress that the RGIK community has already made in consolidating and standardizing regional rock glacier inventories and their attributes in an accessible, centralized format. I will work with the US Intermountain West Rock Glacier Research Group, of which I am a member, to revise the existing rock glacier inventory for the lower 48 contiguous US states to comply with the RGIK guidelines. I plan to add this inventory to the web-based rock glacier and permafrost databases hosted by the University of Fribourg and the Alfred Wegener Institute, respectively. I will also contribute new entries to a kinematic rock glacier inventory for Southeast Alaska, which will complement the existing inventories in the Brooks Range and the Canadian Rockies. I am interested in contributing to each of the RGIK working groups, and I believe my experience is especially well-suited to advancing the Data Management group's goals in support of standardized documentation for RoGI and RGV datasets. Finally, I strongly believe in the importance of effective outreach and science communication to include the diverse perspectives of all stakeholders impacted by rock glacier science. I will work to coordinate seminars to bolster connections within the RGIK community, and I hope to develop educational materials accessible to the general public to increase awareness and support for the study of permafrost as an essential climate variable. My long-term goal is to promote EDI within RGIK and broader science communities in order to encourage ongoing international collaboration and informed policy decisions.

6) 2026-2028 RGIK ExCom Nominees



Cécile Pellet

University of Fribourg
Switzerland

Background: I am a senior researcher at the Department of Geosciences of the University of Fribourg in Switzerland with a background in Physical geography. My research focuses on mountain permafrost, assessing its evolution over the last decades and understanding the physical processes driving it. I mainly used in-situ observation methods (i.e. applied geophysics, temperature, and soil moisture monitoring) and numerical modelling approaches. Currently, I co-coordinate the Swiss Permafrost Monitoring network PERMOS, where I oversee the rock glacier velocity and electrical resistivity observations. My work focuses on the long-term collection of robust and standardized data to assess understand the relation between climate forcing, permafrost temperature evolution and rock glacier velocity.

Vision and Motivation: I have been involved with the RGIK initiative since the beginning contributing to the guidelines compilation and supporting the development of the various activities through my participation to the RGV committee and since 2024 to the executive committee. Lively discussions, intense scientific exchanges and common projects are the backbone of the RGIK community, which I hope to continue develop in a second term as ExCom member. My aim for the next two years is the setup of a dedicated data management system for rock glacier products, facilitating the compilation, centralization and dissemination of RoGI and RGV products in all regions worldwide. I am looking forward to continuing serving the RGIK community and contributing to further advance rock glacier research.

6) 2026-2028 RGIK ExCom Nominees



Line Rouyet

NORCE Research AS and University of Fribourg
Norway and Switzerland

Background: I have a MSc in geosciences from the University of Lausanne in Switzerland and a PhD in geosciences from UiT The Arctic University of Norway in Tromsø. I am currently working as a senior researcher with a double affiliation in the Earth Observation Group of NORCE Research AS and in the Department of Geosciences at the University of Fribourg. My research focuses on the use of remote sensing for the documentation and understanding of periglacial processes in the Arctic and in high mountains. I am specialised in the use of Synthetic Aperture Radar Interferometry (InSAR) to detect, map and monitor ground movement related to various thermal, hydrological and gravitational processes in permafrost terrain. I have used InSAR to assign kinematic attributes in rock glacier inventories and to document rock glacier velocity changes, in combination with other data sources and measurement methods. I am involved in the ESA CCI Permafrost project aiming to develop ECV quantities primarily based on satellite remote sensing. I am coordinating the CCI Permafrost mountain permafrost component focusing on RoGI/RGV production. Since 2024, I am co-chairing the RGIK Standing Committee, to support the development of standards and tools for the compilation and dissemination of comparable rock glacier products at the global scale.

Vision and Motivation: Since the start of RGIK, the main objectives have been to define international standards for the generation of comparable rock glacier inventories (RoGI) and rock glacier velocity (RGV) products, to develop tools to compile such data, and to coordinate/promote the production effort worldwide. We are gradually working in the right direction to fulfil these objectives. The past years, our focus was to foster the network, to set up the organisation of the standing committee, communicate our initiative to a wider audience, and further the advances of the main working groups. However, there are still many important tasks on the to-do list to fulfil the initial objectives. My main motivation to continue in the ExCom is that I have the feeling we are not far from achieving most of them and I believe that I can make a contribution in that direction. Here are the current priorities to my opinion: 1) finalise the work on the RGV guidelines (incl. technical recommendations targeting specific methods), 2) coordinate and promote the systematic production of RGV and its use as ECV quantity, 3) set up and release operational databases for both RoGI/RGV, 4) diversify our training material and member involvement strategies to enhance the user uptake (e.g., GIS exercises, video tutorial, regional working groups). These four points are to my opinion the main properties of RGIK in the coming years.

6) 2026-2028 RGIK ExCom Nominees



Mishelle Wehbe

University of Ottawa | Université d'Ottawa
Canada

Personal Identity Self-Declaration: I am a neurodivergent (autism), Muslim, cis woman of Sicilian-Mediterranean heritage identifying within the asexual (demi) spectrum. My identity is also deeply shaped by my role as a mother to a neurodivergent child and a spouse to a Veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces with Lebanese heritage. This multifaceted identity defines my unwavering dedication to intersectional equity and a global perspective, which drives my commitment to inclusive, equitable, and community-centered scientific and philanthropic initiatives.

Background: Since 2017, I have been actively engaged in researching rock glaciers and Geomorphic Features of Interest (GFIs) (debris-covered glaciers, embryonic rock glaciers, protalus ramparts, etc.) that started as my undergraduate research study and has evolved as independent research that will branch into future work for my academic journey. Currently, I am a Co-Primary Investigator in the Canadian Rock Glacier Inventory (CanRoGI) initiative which seeks to create the first national-level database of rock glacier distribution, geomorphometric quantification, and kinematic investigations using the RGIK Guidelines and methodology (Brardinoni, 2026; RGIK, 2023). This research will eventually integrate comprehensive geophysical investigations as well to analyze the complex relationship between hydrological processes, ground ice distribution, and permafrost conditions in these regions, ultimately providing a high-fidelity inventory that serves as a foundation for long-term monitoring and mountain permafrost analysis on a global scale. Since the inception of the RGIK IPA Action Group, I have been actively involved within the RGIK community and have continually supported various initiatives. My involvement grew to committee member with the Rock Glacier Inventory (RoGI) part of the Action Group in 2022, where I contributed to editing the merged baseline/practical guidelines, attended workshops, and participated in the ESA CCI Permafrost RoGI initiative in the Andes and Bhutan. In the extension phase of this initiative, I will be leading the Canadian contribution by serving as the Regional Principal Investigator and Project Partner for Canada. I also bring a repertoire to the team that is shaped by multi-faceted life experiences, as identified in my personal identity self-declaration, and my experience as Director of Academia Initiatives at a Canadian museum where I created and led multiple interdisciplinary educational and research initiatives. In this role, I built and scaled an academic partnership framework that facilitated many Work-Integrated Learning placements and graduate level research studies for post-secondary students across Canada. I also created and led a robust volunteerism program that allowed for professionals to contribute to the overall goals of the museum. I also directed these teams, comprising the students, volunteers, 3D modellers, web developers, archivists, and curators, to assist with the development of immersive digital museum exhibits showcasing Hispanic-Latin American heritage in Canada, effectively bridging the gap between complex academic research and public engagement. I have a unique determination and resilience that is a catalyst to my commitments to rock glacier research, as well as fostering inclusive and supportive research environments for all members, particularly those facing marginalization or barriers.

Vision and Motivation: Given my background, my dedication to equity and intersectionality shapes and drives each professional and personal initiative I undertake. I wish to continue as an Executive Committee member for 2026-2028 to further support initiatives that expand RoGI and RGV compilation regionally and globally. As the North American Regional Representative, I will remain committed to using RGIK guidelines and tools to either refine existing inventories or compile new ones, ensuring high-fidelity data across the continent. To ensure this initiative spans the Americas, I intend to work closely with the South American Regional Representative to foster a unified approach that prioritizes the inclusion of marginalized voices and equitable representation. My current leadership and drive within the ExCom extend across several pillars: I lead the EDI working group and a specialized initiative within the RoGI working group, serve as Webmaster, and oversee most of the RGIK Office tasks, as well as organizing the Webinar Series. Driven by my dedication to global representation, I recently facilitated the submission of a rock glacier session and technical workshop for AGU26. I pledge to continue to organize these sessions and workshops annually to ensure regionality and community visibility. A core focus of my next term will be the promotion and creation of standardized RoGI and RGV products. To support this, I will continue developing accessible, downloadable materials for the RGIK website, empowering researchers worldwide and advance intersectional equity within our community. Within the RoGI working group, I am leading the creation of supplemental appendices to support RoGI compilation, providing diverse regional examples of different activity levels to improve identification in satellite imagery or varying spatial resolution, alongside materials to help researchers discern rock glaciers from similar features. Looking forward, I believe we crucially need a defined approach to measure in-field components to validate findings, particularly as we position rock glaciers as Essential Climate Variable (ECV) proxies for permafrost. I have been approached by members of the community regarding this gap, and I intend to advocate for new guidelines covering geophysical, climatic, and hydrological investigations. I plan to coordinate with the ExCom to determine the best technical approach, whether through a dedicated working group or a new RGIK framework, to provide the tools needed to link field observations with remote sensing. Aspiring to foster a robust understanding of the cryospheric continuum.

6) Election and Voting Procedure: 21 - 23 May 2026

How the Voting Process Works

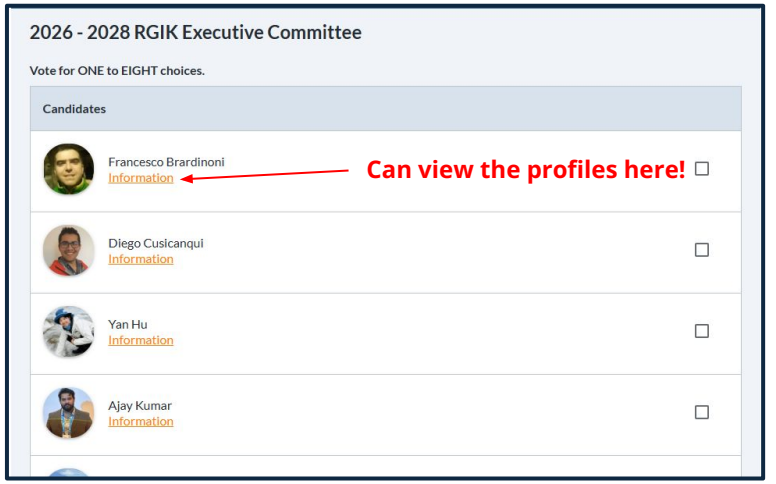
- RGIK uses ElectionBuddy for confidential voting; your email validates your membership, but **selections are strictly anonymous.**

- The ballot includes profiles for all 8 Executive Committee nominees.
  - You may vote for up to 8 candidates for the 2026-2028 ExCom, or abstain.

- **Voting opens at 12:00 CEST on 21 May 2026**. Members on the RGIK mailing list will receive a unique, one-time access link from ElectionBuddy.
  - If you don't receive the email, check spam/junk, then contact Mishelle at info@rgik.org or maewehbe@gmail.com immediately.

48-Hour Window

- The ballot is open for exactly **48 hours** for timezone fairness, **from 12:00 CEST on 21 May 2026 until 12:00 CEST on 23 May 2026**.



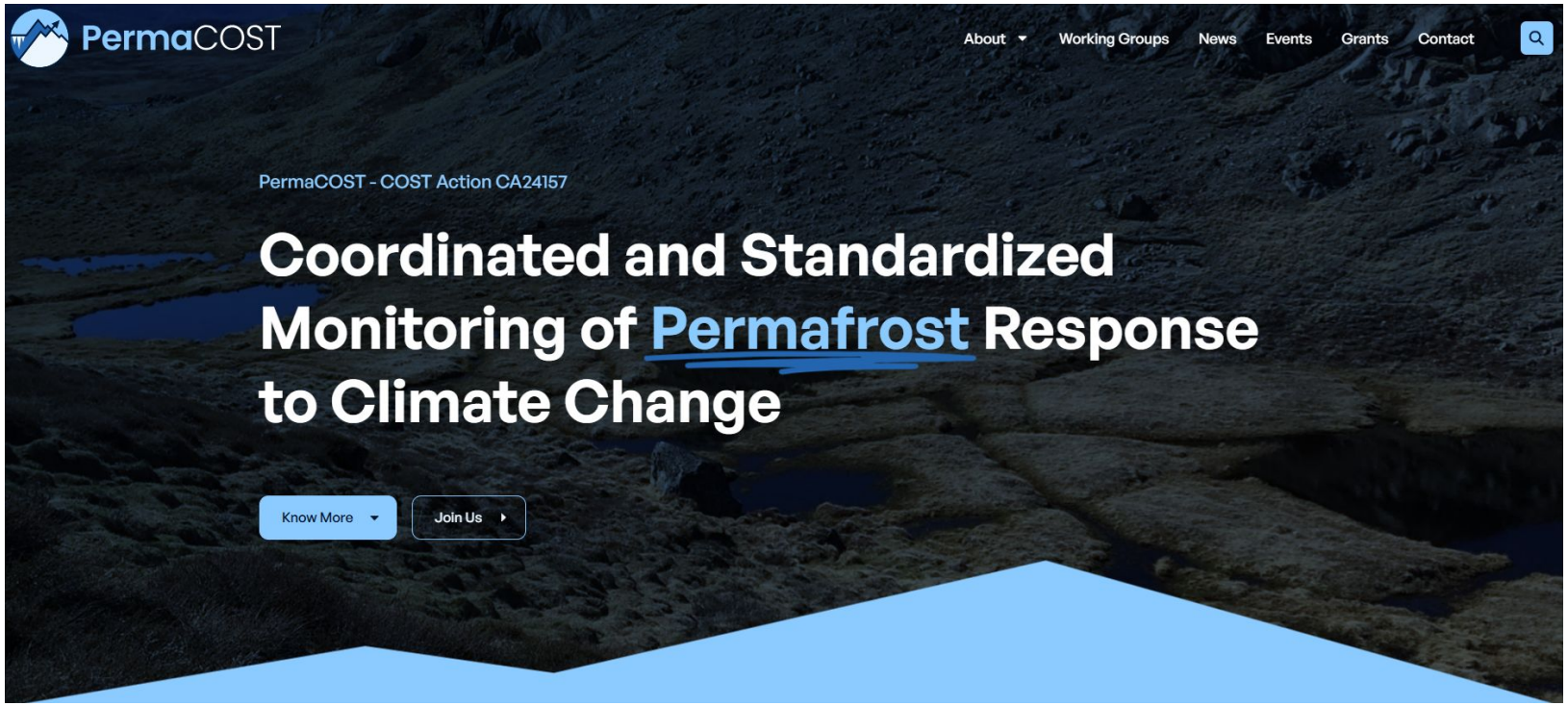


7) Varia: PermaCOST

Networking project providing several funding and training opportunities for European researchers, especially for early career.

Please visit the website (https://permacost.eu/)

Let us know if similar initiatives exist elsewhere, we can advertise them via RGIK member list.





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...

7) Varia and Open Questions

- **Any question or comment? The floor is open!**
- Additional communication or information from your side?
  - Upcoming conferences or workshops?
  - Local or regional initiatives of interest for the community?
- Suggestions for additional activities?
  - Willing to be more involved?
  - Ideas of working groups or events?
- General propositions for improvement?
  - Is the way with communicate to all members appropriate?
  - Are you missing some key information or resources?