<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item No</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Manuscript</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title and abstract</strong> 1</td>
<td>(a) Indicate the study’s design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract</td>
<td>See title and abstract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found</td>
<td>See title and abstract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong> 2</td>
<td>Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported</td>
<td>See Background section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objectives</strong> 3</td>
<td>State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses</td>
<td>See Background section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Methods</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Study design</strong> 4</td>
<td>Present key elements of study design early in the paper</td>
<td>See Methods section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Setting</strong> 5</td>
<td>Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection</td>
<td>Included. Data collection given by the EWCS methodology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Participants</strong> 6</td>
<td>(a) Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants</td>
<td>Included. See also flow diagramme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Variables</strong> 7</td>
<td>Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable</td>
<td>Included. Diagnostic criteria not applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Data sources/measurement</strong> 8*</td>
<td>For each variable of interest, give sources of data and details of methods of assessment (measurement). Describe comparability of assessment methods if there is more than one group</td>
<td>All variables were collected by EWCS survey methodology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bias</strong> 9</td>
<td>Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias</td>
<td>Crude and fully adjusted models were estimated. Several known confounders were included. See Background section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Study size</strong> 10</td>
<td>Explain how the study size was arrived at</td>
<td>See flow diagramme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quantitative variables</strong> 11</td>
<td>Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why</td>
<td>See Table 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Statistical methods</strong> 12</td>
<td>(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding</td>
<td>See Methods section</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**STROBE checklist for cross-sectional studies -**

Upper body and lower limbs musculoskeletal symptoms and health inequalities in Europe. An analysis of cross-sectional data

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<tr>
<th>Item No</th>
<th>Recommendation (b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions</th>
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<td></td>
<td>(c) Explain how missing data were addressed</td>
<td>Only complete case observations were included. The number of missing data for the dependent variable is very low in comparison to sample size, see Table 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(d) If applicable, describe analytical methods taking account of sampling strategy</td>
<td>A nested random-effects structure by sampling units and countries was defined. See Methods section</td>
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<td>(e) Describe any sensitivity analyses</td>
<td>Crude and fully adjusted models were compared</td>
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**Results**

**Participants**

(a) Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study—eg numbers potentially eligible, examined for eligibility, confirmed eligible, included in the study, completing follow-up, and analysed

(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage

(c) Consider use of a flow diagram

13* | Included in Table 2 | Included |

**Descriptive data**

(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders

(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest

14* | Included in Table 2 | Included |

**Outcome data**

(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest

15* | Included in Table 2 | Included |

**Main results**

(a) Give unadjusted estimates and, if applicable, confounder-adjusted estimates and their precision (eg, 95% confidence interval). Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and why they were included

(b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized

16 | Included in Table 3 (crude estimates) | Not applicable |

**Other analyses**

(c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period

17 | Not applicable | Not applicable |

**Key results**

Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses

18 | See Discussion section | See Discussion section |

**Limitations**

Summarise key results with reference to study objectives

19 | See Limitations in the Discussion section | See Limitations in the Discussion section |
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<td>Generalisability</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence</td>
<td>See Discussion and Conclusion sections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other information</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results</td>
<td>See Discussion and Conclusion sections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Give the source of funding and the role of the funders for the present study and, if applicable, for the original study on which the present article is based</td>
<td>Included in the Competing interests and Acknowledgements sections</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>