Reviewer's report

Title: The future prospects of Lithuanian family physicians: a 10-year forecasting study

Version: 1 Date: 16 August 2005

Reviewer: Tit Albreht

Reviewer's report:

The authors present an interesting paper on the topic of manpower planning in the field of primary health care, more precisely in General practice. The issue is a very challenging one for all transition countries. Inspite of there not being a single solution to the problem, the paper brings an interesting concept, whose limitations are mostly defined by the stakeholder setting in Lithuania that still appears to depend a lot on the state. In view of the difficulties in obtaining reliable data, the results are quite impressive and offer a good base for policy decisions. Although medical workforce was very strong in the former socialist countries that in itself did not provide enough supply for some crucial services, like general or family practice, best evidenced by the findings of this study.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

None

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

None

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

I would suggest authors to formulate their final recommendations a bit more firmly and more concisely as I believe there is enough evidence in their work to support that. That is important since there will obviously be a gap between the real projections and needs expressed also by the demographic changes.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.