Reviewer's report

Title: Evidence-based development of school-based and family-involved prevention of overweight across Europe: The ENERGY-project's design and conceptual framework.

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Reviewer: Benoit Salanave

Reviewer's report:

I thank the authors for their responses. Most of my questions have been clarified. I have 2 additional points that I will consider as "Discretionary Revisions" so that the authors can choose to ignore them.

1) In page 12 of the manuscript, the revised sentence "Within each province three municipalities with > 20,000 inhabitants will then be randomly selected" means in my understanding that rural areas are excluded. This is inconsistent with the aim for inclusion of urban and rural schools as mentionned in the following sentence at the end of the same page "Recruitment of schools, children and parents is conducted according to a standardized stepwise approach ensuring comparable samples in all countries, aiming for inclusion of urban and rural schools, and lower and higher socio-economic position groups". I suggest to remove "urban and rural schools, and ".

2) This point concerns the 6th comment of my previous review for which no revision has been made in the manuscript.

My question:
In "Discussion - 3rd §", the authors consider comparisons in EBRB between European countries but they doesn't seem to envisage the fact that EBRB (or their determinants) could be different between country. In this case, is it relevant to test the same intervention in each country ? Has the project planned to test different interventions considering specific EBRB in each country ? How will the results be interpretated if EBRB differ between countries ?

Your response:
This is another important point raised by the reviewer. The importance of EBRB may indeed differ between countries. Some preliminary evidence suggests for example that soft drink use is much lower and may be less important in a country like Norway compared to, for example, the Netherlands or the UK. These possible differences will be used in the intervention design, i.e. that the focus in one country is more on some behaviours, while in another country on others. This is exactly how the cross sectional study and the reviews will inform the intervention development, as briefly described in the Discussion paragraph.
I can't understand how the same intervention will be assessed in five different countries, if the focus on specific behaviours can be different in each country?

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.