Reviewer's report

Title: The association of education with body mass index and waist circumference in the EPIC-PANACEA study

Version: 2 Date: 22 February 2011

Reviewer: Benoit Salanave

Reviewer's report:

The authors have answered most of my previous comments.

Discretionary Revisions

1) I continue to think that it would have been necessary to give more details, in the manuscript, on age range by country to be able to better explain and understand differences between country (idem for inclusion procedures). I'm not sure that the reference to the paper by Riboli et al will be sufficient and very helpfull to the readers.

2) Materials and Methods / Population and study design / 2nd paragraph: "..., we excluded subjects with missing information on dietary and non-dietary variables (n=6,675) ..." Sorry to insist, but for me, "dietary and non dietary variables" includes all variables. Well, it wasn't. All subjects with missing information on at least one variable have not been excluded. I think that the authors'answer is more informative and I suggest to include it in the text as: "Of the total cohort of 519,931 apparently healthy subjects, we excluded subjects who did not fill in the dietary questionnaire and/or the core lifestyle questionnaire (n=6,675), subjects with missing information on BMI (n=4,011), or education (n=20,170), subjects ...".

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.