Reviewer's report

Title: Population-level effects of the national diabetes prevention programme (FIN-D2D) on the body weight, waist circumference, and the prevalence of obesity

Version: 1 Date: 23 November 2010

Reviewer: ATHANASIOS RAPTIS

Reviewer's report:

This is an original manuscript that provides data about the effects of the national diabetes programme in Finland (FIN-D2D) on obesity among Finns aged 45 – 74 years during 2003 – 2007. Obesity and mean body weight decreased in both the FIN-D2D and the control areas revealing for the first time a trend for stabilization of the obesity epidemic in Finland. The results concerning the mean waist circumference and the prevalence of morbit obesity favored the FIN-D2D area indicating a positive influence of the population strategy of FIN-D2D.

Major compulsory revisions: none

Minor essential revisions:
1) Title: "...waist circumference ..."# "...the waist circumference ..."
2) Affiliations : No 2 "... Department Chronic Disease ..." # "... Department of Chronic Disease ..."
3) Background , page 4, paragraph 2. line 1 : "... is to prevent diabetes ..." # '... is to prevent the onset of diabetes ..."
4) Background , page 4, paragraph 2. line 8 : "... the economic burden is big already.." # "... the economic burden is already big..
5) Background , page 5, paragraph 2. line 2 : "... among 45-74 year old.." # "... among 45-74 years old..
6) Background , page 5, paragraph 2. line 3-4 : "... whether these effects differ from changes in body weight among Finnish population ..." # "... whether these effects differ from the respective changes among Finnish population ...

Discretionary revisions:
1) We would like to ask the authors whether the dietary habits are similar between the regions include in the study.
2) Individuals that consisted the several age groups were different between the beginning and the end of the project. Are there any data examining the same individuals at the beginning and at the end of the project as this approach would permit a more accurate assessment of changes between FIN-D2D and control groups?
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests