Reviewer's report

**Title:** What do parents think about parental participation in school-based interventions on energy balance-related behaviours? A qualitative study in 4 countries

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 21 August 2011

**Reviewer:** Armando Raimundo

**Reviewer's report:**

- **Major Compulsory Revisions**

a) The description of the groups on the second paragraph on Methods, is not related with the information on table 1.

On participant recruitment the first group is the one with parents with high involvement in parent committees, while on the table 1 is a Involvement (don’t specify if high or low) and a medium-high SES. Second group was described as a low interest in nutrition, PA and SB group, whereas on the table 1 is a high involved and a medium-high SES. The third group was a group with parents with different SES backgrounds and different levels of involvement in schools activities, however on the table 1 has a low/medium SES (no reference about involvement). The last group included parents from low and medium SES backgrounds, meanwhile on the table 1 is described as a group with low interest and low-medium SES.

b) On the text, several times the authors referred a lower SES group (e.g. on the sub title “Facilitating factors of parental participation in school-based intervention activities”, first and second paragraph). Should be changed to lower/medium SES?

c) Discussion, second paragraph – The authors referred that “No clear differences in opinions and preferences were found between parents with different SES or involvement in school activities indicating a general agreement on the issues among all parents.” The results presented on the manuscript do not support this statement. Many times the authors reported that some focus groups had different ideas.

d) The purpose of this study pretends to get insight into the determinants of and perspectives on parental participation in school-based interventions on energy balance-related behaviours. The conclusion also focuses this aspect. However, the authors also had studied home-based activities. Should not be also a purpose of this study?

e) In conclusions on the abstract, the authors refer that “Parents want to be involved in activities related to energy-balanced behaviours if this implies ‘doing things together’ with their child at school or at home.” However, when the authors...
present the results about the motivation to parents participate in school-based interventions. Hungarian and Norwegian parents reported not wanting to be involved in promotion of healthy eating, and the majority of parents (Belgium, Hungary, and Norway) mentioned being not motivated to participate in activities to promote PA and SB. Will not be in contradiction?

f) The scarce number of elements in some of the focus groups (some groups included only 2 persons) should also be considered a limitation of the study.

- Minor Essential Revisions

a) Results – third and eighth paragraph should not be aligned (advance the same space used on the others paragraphs).

b) Results – change the type of letter on the sub title “Promotion of physical and prevention of sedentary behaviour”

c) References – on the 12rd one, title of the paper should be in bold and the name of the journal in italic.

- Discretionary Revisions

a) On Methods in the Abstract, could change SES for social economic status (will help to understand the lector).

b) Conclusion – Should emphasize that the findings are specific for the sample collected in these four countries because of very important limitations that the authors reported

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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