Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Associations between obesity (BMI and waist circumference) and socio-demographic factors, physical activity, dietary habits, life events, resilience, mood, perceived stress and hopelessness in healthy older Europeans

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 22 March 2012

**Reviewer:** Awat Feizi

**Reviewer’s report:**

I reviewed the revised version of manuscript entitled: "Associations between obesity (BMI and waist circumference) and socio-demographic factors, physical activity…."

Majority of the requested revisions have been applied by the authors, however some points were not considered:

- In first round of review the following comment was suggested:
  “Regarding to PSS instrument: if you extracted two factors you should compute factor scores for each one and use them separately as predictor variables.”

And the response of authors is as follows:

“To clarify, the 4 items were summed and entered as 1 variable. This has been amended accordingly”

Because this instrument contains two factors (as the authors did for FFQ with three factors!!) these factors should be separately scored and used (‘emotional stress’ and ‘stress control”) as the predictors variables in regression models (exactly the same as FFQ instrument!)

In this regard, also it should be noted that the extracted factors must be orthogonal (i.e. uncorrelated) accordingly the correlation between two factors i.e. 0.397 is high!

- Regarding to fitting multivariate multiple regression, the authors should be noted that the fitting of this appropriate model does not affect the clinical and health aspects of studied subject, it just appropriately model two studied response variables as the function of predictors.

**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