Reviewer's report

Title: Association of smoking, physical activity, and dietary habits with socioeconomic variables: a cross-sectional study in adults on both sides of the Hungarian-Romanian border

Version: 3 Date: 18 October 2011

Reviewer: Rik Crutzen

Reviewer's report:

The authors' efforts in revising the manuscript are highly appreciated. Nevertheless, some concerns remain.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. Please elaborate on why the border region is of importance (e.g., How distinctive this is from the rest of Hungary and Romania?; if not – why not; if so – what are differences and why this region).

2. Please elaborate WITHIN THE MANUSCRIPT why analyses were conducted separately for the Romanian and Hungarian sample? Given the aim mentioned in the reply (Our aim was to characterize the population at risk of chronic diseases in Hungarians and Romanians living on both sides of the border.), it would be more logical to include country of origin as a predictor.

3. Were the physical activity questions previously used/validated?

4. It seems as if SINGLE item measures were used primarily. This is a limitation of the study that needs to be addressed in the Discussion section, since the use of SIMPLE items is now discussed.

5. Please classify effect sizes instead of only stating that associations are significant. How strong/weak were these associations? Adding a 95% CI does not tell anything about the strength/weakness of an association, only about its significance.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.