Author's response to reviews

Title: Estimating the size of the MSM populations for 38 European countries by calculating the survey-surveillance discrepancies (SSD) between self-reported new HIV diagnoses from the European MSM Internet Survey (EMIS) and surveillance-reported HIV diagnoses among MSM in 2009

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Editors,

we have made the following changes in the revised manuscript:

1) We have included a slightly more detailed summary on the EMIS methods in the Methods section (page 6, paragraph 2, 3, and 4), and we added an annex to the manuscript (pages 23-31), in which network establishment, questionnaire development, recruitment methods and data cleaning are described in detail. We have clearly described that this annex is an excerpt of a manuscript describing the EMIS study methodology which is part of another submission and under independent review. If this other manuscript is accepted for publication, the other manuscript will be cited as the primary reference for the methods.

I hope this is what you intended with your suggestion. If we have interpreted your suggestion wrong, please let us know and we can change it according to your wishes.

2) We included information on the ethics statement in the Methods section (page 6, second last paragraph).

3) We included references to our previous related publications in BMC Public Health on page 4, second last paragraph.

Sincerely yours

Ulrich Marcus