Reviewer’s report

Title: Smorgasbord or Symphony? Assessing public health nutrition policies across 30 European countries using a novel framework: A mixed methods study

Version: 2 Date: 4 July 2014

Reviewer: Ivan Perry

Reviewer’s report:

Major compulsory revisions
The paper addresses an important and topical issue and the findings will inform public health nutrition policy.

However the presentation of the work in the current format is unwieldy (42 pages of text, a series of chaotic tables and three lengthy appendices). In my view it is unwise to present the findings from the policy mapping exercise, the policy interviews and the rapid scoping review in a single paper. It is arguable that each of these elements of the current paper merit a separate, short and well focused paper.

The authors should consider the use of a scoring system, ideally weighted, to summarize the findings from the mapping exercise.

The design of Tables 2-4 need further work

The findings from the policy interviews are somewhat repetitive. They are well summarized in the paper and I am not sure that appendix 3 is necessary. This material would also benefit from some reflection on the political and ideological barriers to the implementation of effective policies.

I would also suggest dropping Appendix 1, the rapid scoping review

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' below