Author's response to reviews

Title: Blood donors motivation and attitude to non-remunerated blood donorship in Lithuania

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Response to the reviewers' reports.

First and foremost, we would like to thank the reviewers for the time spent on reading our paper and giving us some most valuable comments on it, which have provided us a possibility not only to see the weak points of the paper, but some new insights as well. We do appreciate their kind advice on the paper.

In response to the reviewers' reports, the paper has been revised, and a number of respective changes and corrections have been made, which are as follows:

1. Relatively small number of non-remunerated donors in the sample (10.1 per cent). This figure corresponds to the overall national paid and non-paid donor ratio according to the official statistics of 2004.
2. Sample selection based on one company donors. The selected company is one of the three non-hospital affiliated centres comprising the National Blood Centre. It operates in 10 Lithuanian regions covering 34 per cent of the country's overall population. Besides the ratio of the company's paid and non-paid donors corresponds to the national donor distribution. Sample selection explanation was provided in Methods/Sampling part.
3. The aim of our paper was to look into the possibilities of shifting from remunerated donation system to non-remunerated one, thus it was essential to examine blood donation motives in each of the donor groups. Respectively our result analysis focused on the differences between the two groups. We have also taken into consideration the reviewers' comments on the application of Chi-square test. In the revised paper we have chosen to test data significance based on df and p criteria.
4. In response to the reviewer's comments on insufficient data on other countries' experience in the transition from a remunerated to non-remunerated blood donation system, we have provided additional information on blood donation systems in other European countries in the Background part. Besides we added more information about the German experience in the transition period.
5. Data presentation. In response to a reviewer's remark, we have transformed all figures into tables (see Table 2).
6. As to a reviewer's comment, we have developed literature review part with some additional literature sources, which are also discussed in the Discussion part. Respectively our research results are compared to those provided in the literature review.
7. Based on a reviewer's remark, we have also added a section on blood donation management and promotion in Lithuania.
8. To improve the quality of the English language, a British professor has revised the paper.

Should the reviewers have more comments, we will readily respond to them with respective alterations.

Sincerely,
Authors