Reviewer's report

Title: Survey of public knowledge about Echinococcus multilocularis in four European countries: Need for proactive information

Version: 2 Date: 4 January 2008

Reviewer: Patrick Giraudoux

Reviewer's report:

No articles of such kind have ever been published in the field of E. multilocularis epidemiology and transmission. This article has a real practical importance in the context of the emergence of Alveolar Echinococcosis in Europe and can help pushing decision makers to give a better attention to people information.

- Major Compulsory Revisions

1/ I have a concern about how questionnaires have been translated into different languages. For instance, the expression â##fox tape wormâ##, a literal translation from German to English, if translated â##vers du renardâ## in French would not be understandable by most people in this language. This could strongly bias results. I strongly suggest that the authors provide additional information about how the questions (especially technical words) have been translated into German, French and Czech.

2/ Another concern is the way questionnaire weights have been taken into account to analyse data. To my understanding, the questionnaires which were not in the proportion of fixed age and sex quota were weighed to compensate unbalanced sampling. However, this should have consequences further in variance/deviance estimation (e.g. a weight = 3 attributed to n questionnaires is not the same as having 3 x n questionnaires). The author should address this question.

- Minor Essential Revisions

2 page 8 line 9 : change â##Franche-ComptÄ@## into â##Franche-ComtÄ@##
3 page 11 line 7 : change â##Every forth personâ## into â##Every fourth personâ##

- Discretionary Revisions

none

The *What next?* section below is a bit binary, and I would write my recommendation as: 'Likely accept after the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions and proceeded to minor essential revisions.'
What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

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