Author's response to reviews

Title: Sugar-added beverages consumption among kindergarten children of Crete: effects on nutritional status and risk of obesity

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Response to reviewers
The authors would like to thank the reviewers for their comments and would like to inform them that the manuscript has been reviewed and edited by a native speaker and therefore there are structural changes in the manuscript.

1st reviewer: Phyllis J Stumbo
All corrections have been accepted and corrected accordingly (corrections are highlighted in the text)

2nd Reviewer: F.Bellisle
Major revisions
1. Mean age of children is given in the abstract and in table 1 (from 4 to 7 years old). With the term ‘pre-school’ authors refer to children attending kindergarten, therefore the term ‘pre-school’ has been replaced by ‘kindergarten’ in the title and throughout the manuscript. These children were found to be from 4 to 7 years of age, whereas their mean age was 5.6 years of age as shown in table 1. In Greece children of this age could be registered in physical activity classes like ballet, track field, karate lessons etc. In order to clarify the age range this information is now added in the methods.

2. Both introduction and discussion refer mainly to the effects of sweetened beverages including soft drinks and commercially available fruit juices with added sugar. The authors believe that the aim of the paper is thus clear

Minor revisions
3. The amount of intake that is considered high is now added in the abstract.

4. The authors could not find the reviewer’s remark on page 5. The authors believe that the reviewer refers to page 8. Figure 1 shows that very high intake (>250g/day) is associated with obesity and this is statistically significant (p=0.023). Similar are the findings with waist circumference levels >90th percentile and very high intake (>250g/day). The reason the authors focus on the association of very high intake of beverage consumption and risk of obesity is the statistical significance found.

5. Page 6. The term ‘obesity’ has been replaced by the ‘adiposity status’ as suggested by the reviewer.

6. Page 7 , line 7. Following the reviewer’s remark, the paragraph has been rephrased in order to make the meaning more clear.

7. The authors believe that adding F and X^2 values will not provide significantly more information. However, if the editor agrees to add F and X^2 values in the manuscript the authors have no problem doing so.

In table 2, the age of children in each intake group has not been presented because there is no statistical difference within these values, and because ‘age’ is used as a covariate in the analysis. Below the individual values of age are presented as mean ± SD.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>&lt;125 g/day</th>
<th>125-250 g/day</th>
<th>&gt;250 g/day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-consumers</td>
<td>5,3 ± 0,6</td>
<td>5,4 ± 0,6</td>
<td>5,4 ± 0,5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. The authors believe that making a general observation in the last sentence is acceptable.
9. In table 1 footnote number 1 refers to the format N (%) and number 2 refers to the format Mean ±SD (N). Wherever these formats are used they mean the exact same thing and thus these footnotes have been added in the rest of the table.

10. Figures. The titles of figures have been corrected and are now in agreement with the titles given in page 14.