Author’s response to reviews

Title: European network for promoting the physical health of residents in psychiatric and social care facilities (HELPS): background, aims and methods

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Version: 3 Date: 11 August 2009

Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear Natalie Pafitis:

thank you for your advices concerning the HELPS manuscript. We have revised the manuscript according them, and herewith we provide the point-by-point response to the concerns:

(1) According to your advice we completed the method section and add within the method section the specific name of the ethics committee which approved the method of conducting focus groups within the HELPS project.
(please, see revised manuscript, page 16)

(2) Also within the method section, now we offer explanation and references for the number of focus groups to conduct. In case of the HELPS project, we regret, a power calculation to determine the sample size couldn’t provide. The collection of qualitative data by focus groups has been determined by a combination of the following methodological and practical considerations: type and purpose of focus group research (exploratory), type of participants and the level of segmentation of the study population (service users [patients/residents] and staff members), and by the diversity of information on the research topics gained to reach information saturation, the point at which group discussions no longer generate new information.
(please, see revised manuscript, page 15)

Furthermore we checked the revised manuscript with regard to the journal style of BMC Public Health and corrected where necessary.

We hope the revised HELPS manuscript meet your demands. Please don't hesitate to contact me if there are further questions or advices regarding the HELPS manuscript.

Respectfully yours,
Prisca Weiser