Reviewer's report

Title: Cross-cultural validation of the Educational Needs Assessment Tool in RA in 7 European countries

Version: 2 Date: 6 April 2011

Reviewer: Åsa Lundgren-Nilsson

Reviewer's report:

The authors have answered all the questions satisfactorily and have improved their manuscript in a satisfactory way.

However I have two concerns that need to be addressed before the paper can be published.

1. Conclusions in the abstract: It needs to be clear that the ENAT is only cross-cultural valid if DIF is dealt with.

2. In the answer to my question 10 concerning thresholds, You state that when items are made into testlets that ".. threshold ordering is no longer an issue..". This is not correct. Disordering of thresholds is important and needs to be addressed; however under the testlet solution thresholds cannot be analyzed/interpreted. The answer to question 10 needs to be re-written in a way to make this clear and to avoid misunderstandings of the importance of threshold disordering.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.