Reviewer's report

Title: Trust increases Euthanasia Acceptance: A Multilevel Analysis using the European Value Study

Version: 2  Date: 24 September 2014

Reviewer: simona giordano

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions

This paper, in my view is publishable but a number of important points need to be addressed. I put major revisions because, though the points are raised are not many or will not involve major re-working of the article, without these amendments I cannot see the paper achieving what it proposes.

The analysis of the data proposed for publication goes beyond my expertise. Other reviewers should hopefully be able to comment on these. I will comment on the addition to the knowledge in bioethics.

This paper can be in principle published, but the authors should clarify a number of points.

1. The word "trust" is not qualified at the start of the paper. It gets qualified later, in the course of the paper, but that qualification should come at the start. In particular, the authors should answer the question: what do they mean by 'trust'?

2. Similarly, what exactly do they mean by 'positive attitudes' to euthanasia? 'agreement with the idea that euthanasia should be legalised, or decriminalised'? Or what else? Whatever it is that the authors mean, should be clearly explained at the start of the paper.

3. Line 73-74: how are 'individualists' and 'authoritarians' defined?

4. lines 75-82: unclear sentences. In particular, what does it mean 'people consenting to moral relativism'?

5. Lines 317-322: unclear sentences

6. p.398-413, all the terms used need to be explained for multidisciplinary audience: example: interclass correlation coefficients, null model predictor vairables random country effect...etc. All these terms will not be understandable to a large number of scholars in bioethics, many of whom have a law, philosophy or medicine background.

7. Line 432-435 Explain: sentences unclear

8. The authors should explain more clearly why is it that trust in healthcare providers in some ways reduces people's positive attitudes to euthanasia, and in some ways increases it. This point needs further clarification.
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests