Author's response to reviews

Title: Estimation of the real population and its impact on the utilisation of healthcare services in mediterranean resort regions: an ecological study

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1.- The methods used to calculate MSW ratios and to argue for the selection of the most appropriate ratio seem appropriate. The authors then move on to correlate these figures with the use of hospital emergency services throughout the year by "registered" and "unregistered" populations. I am unclear if the latter correlation is completely acceptable as, for example, either of these populations might seek other sources of care. The use of other health care facilities in primary care or the private sector might be alternative routes to care by these populations and should be commented on by the authors. The statistical analysis seems appropriate.

This phrase has been added in "Discussion":

On the other hand, either of these populations (registered or unregistered) might seek other sources of care; the use of other health care facilities in primary care or the private sector might be alternative routes to care by these populations.

2.- Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? Yes. The authors might consider widening the discussion to explore the implications of their methodology for other parts of the EU, given the availability of EU MSW data within the EUROSTAT system.

This phrase has been changed in "Conclusions":

Such an estimation method is of interest for the planning and dimensioning of the supply of healthcare services, and could be used in other countries in the UE, given the availability of UE MSW data within the EUROSTAT system.