Author's response to reviews

Title: Public health research systems in the European Union

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Version: 2 Date: 7 September 2011

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We accept the commentary that the data are not fully validated. Our earlier work for SPHERE showed that ministries of health did not hold this information. We developed an alternative system of web-based search complemented by national informants. As the referee suggests, we have revised the description in the methods, and brought these issues of quality together in a new section of the Discussion.

We also value our referee’s justifiable commentary for Finland. We have reviewed the data for Table 4, and have corrected discrepancies for several countries while maintaining a judgement about what constitutes a ‘strategy’. We agree also that the Finland Academy of Sciences is now the country’s research council, rather than a science performer, and have removed it from the Table.