Reviewer’s report

Title: Study approach and field work procedures of the MentDis_ICF65+ project on the prevalence of mental disorders in the older adult European population

Version: 1 Date: 26 Jun 2017

Reviewer: Dorina Cadar

Reviewer's report:

This paper describes the study approach and the field work procedures of the MentDis_ICF65+ project on the prevalence of mental disorders in the elderly European population. The authors indicate that the manuscript contains detailed information on the adaptation, feasibility and psychometric properties of the instrument and detailed results on the sampling, final sample characteristics and representativeness as well as field procedures and that these procedures and findings have not been previously reported.

However useful this paper may be regarding the description of the MentDis_ICF65+ study protocol (ref 17); it is unclear to me what else this article adds to the literature on its own. Perhaps the authors should make that clear in the text.

Furthermore, the authors should state clearly which mental disorders will be considered. For example, I thought that dementia would be considered in this population of 65+; however, they describe later in the study how the participants with cognitive impairment and MMSE lower than 18 will be excluded. In a sense, it seems like a missed opportunity of investigating dementia prevalence too.

In terms of presentation, the writing style could be greatly improved.

My other comments are the following:

- Abstract/ Results

The only information I gather here is N=3,142 with a mean response rate of 20% which is very low.

- Background

The authors talk about old age. However 65 is younger old age (lines 57-58). However, they further describe advanced age (ref 9 & 10) without providing the age brackets.
- Methods/ Survey procedure.
I suggest renaming this subsection into "procedure".
Move lines 215-218 after the next paragraph on data quality (lines 219-225)

- Table 1.
I suggest deleting the row indicating number of stages - it is evident from the next two rows below (avoid repetition)

- Table 2.
I suggest deleting the 2nd row indicating the contact to the sample - as a note or in text or as appendix

- Table 4.
Remove shading from table
The authors should highlight and summarise the main findings in abstract and in conclusion before highlighting what the study could add in the future.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:
Acceptable

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