Reviewer's report

Title: Is a ten-year trend (2000-2010) in prevalence of excessive weight among the Balearic Islands’ women associated with socioeconomic factors?

Version: 2 Date: 15 April 2015

Reviewer: Franziska Grosssschaedl

Reviewer's report:

Dear Dr. Josep A. Tur,
Dear Editors,

An interesting paper in a field that is well examined for most countries. The investigation of excessive weight and associated socioeconomic factors is important to define risk groups and derive Public Health recommendations. To my knowledge outcomes about that issue are lacking for the Balearic Islands. Therefore, this paper could be an valuable contribution.

However, there are many comments, which should be considered in a revision:

Major Comulsory Revisions:

# The chronic diseases you mentioned in line 6 are mainly associated to obesity (also see obesity paradoxon). In my opinion it would be altogether more interesting to make the analyzes separately for obesity and overweight and not for both ('excessive weight')

# Methods section: The sampling should be described in much more detail. Were men and women investigated in the two surveys? If yes, why were only women included in the study sample? Were subjects aged older than 55 years also investigated? What were the exact inclusion and exclusion criteria? Is the data collection of the first survey comparable to the second one? Were the same questionnaires used for collecting socioeconomic data? How was the educational level measured? As the highest school level reached? It is an limitation to join the low and medium educational level. I recommend to investigate the three educational levels separately. Subjects with low educational level more often suffer from obesity compared to those with high and medium educational level. Therefore it would be important to make differences between these groups.

# I would strongly recommend to include the limitations of this study in the discussion part.

# Recommendations for further research and for Public Health should be integrated in the conclusion part of the paper.

Minor Essential Revisions:

# It should be mentioned in the title, that young and middle-aged women constitute the sample. This is an important information.
Abstract: It should be included how the data were collected. Please indicate that measured data from Nutritional Surveys were analyzed. Where the data comparable? Furthermore, derived recommendations from your results should be included in the conclusions part.

# page 4, line 27: ...increased risk in non-Spanish women: the OR is very close to 0.

# page 8, origin: It would be interesting if you would shortly describe the origin of the migrants. The origin of the migrants might be dicisive for obesity. Migrants from poorer countries might be rather have lower SES, and therefore more often suffering from stronger body weight.

# the references list must be unified (ref. no 3, 18, 59)

Discretionary Revisions:

# page 5, line 31-32: the outcomes for the ORs are in the tables. It does not have to be that these are reproduced in the text.

# page 7, line 5: ... incrased prevalence of obesity in YOUNG AND MIDDLE-AGED women.

# table 1: unify the font size ***, please include also the definition for overweight and obesity, describe the +- as standard deviation

# tables 2,3,4: the column for the outcomes of BMI<25 n(%) can be saved

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

Quality of written English:Acceptable

Statistical review:Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests