Reviewer's report

Title: Need for ensuring cultural competence in medical programmes of European universities

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Reviewer: Dario Cecilio-Fernandes

Reviewer's report:

The goal of this paper was to describe a survey regarding culture competence. Examining whether medical curricula explicitly teach culture competence may shed a light under this unexplored field. Although it may be an interesting topic for the BMC Med Educ readers, this study has many limitations (see below).

Overall the article is clear and well written.

The Introduction section is clear and well written. Although the authors build up their introduction nicely, a proper research question is lacking. It is not clear how this research question relates to their introduction. From the introduction, is already clear that a culture competence training is lacking. Thus, their research question was already answered by previous research.

The Methods section is clear and well written. However, the sample size is very small and it cannot be representative of all the medical schools. Furthermore, it is not clear their data analysis, especially regarding the qualitative analysis. Although the authors stated that they coded and analyzed the data, it is not clear how they performed. More importantly, there is no information regarding the psychometric properties of their scale. Was the scale used before? I would recommend the authors to include information regarding the psychometric properties of their scale.

The authors also stated that ethical approval and consent form was not necessary. Also, that the questionnaires were not anonymized. The lack of ethical approval, consent form and anonymization is a big problem, especially when looking at BMC Medical Education Guidelines. Furthermore, their justification regarding Availability of data and material is not clear as well.

The results section is clear and structured. However, the authors do not present their coding or any kind of qualitative analysis.
In the Discussion section, the authors overstate their findings. For example, the following statement cannot be based on their findings, since the sample is very small.

"Our findings suggest that CC is not adequately included in EU medical educational programmes, students are not evaluated on CC, most medical programmes do not offer CC training for teachers and resources spent on initiatives related to CC are few."

The conclusion is too extensive. In addition, the authors bring new concepts like curriculum change in their conclusion.

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

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