Reviewer’s report

Title: DIET@NET: Best practice guidelines for dietary assessment in health research

Version: 0 Date: 16 May 2017

Reviewer: Carl Lachat

Reviewer's report:

The present manuscript provides useful guidance to improve the nutrition research and the assessment of diet in particular. My comments are mainly minor.

In the background, some evidence regarding misuse or poor use of dietary assessment would be helpful to understand the critical issues to date. Such evidence would be helpful to understand how the guidance provided will help improve findings regarding human health in general.

Has any benchmarking been conducted to assess improvements? Perhaps key issues from reference 7 could be summarised for this purpose?

It would be helpful to define early on what types of dietary assessment research is included in the guidance. Are more qualitative approaches or checklists such as diet diversity score also concerned here?

Although the research is appropriately framed in the context of public health, perhaps some reference to human diet in a more ecological and planetary health point of view would improve the paper. Understanding dietary patterns is key to draw up interventions and strategies for sustainable development and a main challenge for nutrition research in the next decade. Relevant to the purpose of this manuscript, a useful document to acknowledge here is FAO Bioversity Int (2017) Guidelines on Assessing Biodiverse Foods in Dietary Intake Surveys. (FAO, Bioversity, Rome). http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6717e.pdf

Page 14. Reference to the Serra-Majem review. Could the authors identify the key issues in the papers that led to the poor quality of validation research? This would probably be more informative then the scale used in the review.

In the discussions, it would be useful how the usefulness and adherence of the Diet@net guidance will be assessed and monitored. Although the guidelines were developed by experts, this does not warrant correct understanding and use by researchers. The online platform will be key to deliver these recommendations.

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Acceptable

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