Reviewer’s report

Title: Influence of demographic changes on the impact of vaccination against varicella and herpes zoster in Germany - a mathematical modelling study

Version: 1 Date: 15 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Alberto d’Onofrio

Reviewer's report:

Dear Authors and Editors,

The revised manuscript is very good apart a point, maybe for my fault!

Indeed I explicitly asked to the authors

" in my opinion the authors ought to explore a fourth scenario

Where a SECOND similar pulse is included in a random year between 2018 and 2060,

Let us say in 2030. Even better, the impact of the year of occurrence of such an impulse

Should be analysed".

It seemed to me quite clear that I was requiring a second simulation of a *** second *** (thus, additional) virtual immigration influx in a year T, where T is a parameter for sensitivity analysis.

However, maybe my final phrase ("even better...") was ambiguous and the authors read it as follows: "perform the simulation of a single migratory flux in two or three time points, in order to see what changes".

Thus, on the one hand I ought to ask that the author perform also the simulations of the second immigration influx. On the other hand I am very sorry that my ambiguous writing mislead the authors.

As a consequence, my final suggestion is "optional minor changes"

Regarding the comments from referee#3, I think that you captured the essential of the “scientific message” sent by my colleague and that, according to it, you also adequately modified you work in many points and with good detail. Thus I confirm my positive evaluation of your paper.
Kind regards,

Alberto d'Onofrio

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.

Unable to assess

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
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I recently applied to H2020 program with an application also concerning modeling of HZ, but if accepted I will start modeling the disease spread and control next year and with different mathematical tools.

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