Reviewer’s report

Title: The experience of a nationwide Community of Practice to set up Regional Prevention Plans in Italy

Version: 1 Date: 12 Apr 2017

Reviewer: Paolo Villari

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript describes the methodology used and the results obtained of a training exercise to support Italian Regional Planners in the set up of Regional Preventions Plans within the general framework of the Italian National Prevention Plan developed centrally by the Ministry of Health for the period 2010-2013. The paper addresses a topic - the Italian experience of prevention planning - that surely is of interest for an international audience. It is nicely written and for sure deserves publication. I have only an important comment reported below.

The authors quote in the Discussion the paper by Rosso et al (reference 16) that describes in detail the results of an appraisal of the Regional Prevention Plans. There are at least other three papers by the same research group published internationally that address various aspects of the Regional Prevention Plans. Together these papers represent an extensive analysis of Regional Prevention Plans, that are the product of the training exercise described in the manuscript. I strongly recommend that the authors dedicate a significant part of the Discussion to comment the results of these evaluations of Regional Prevention Plans, in light of the training exercise performed. This could be an unique opportunity to identify strengths and weaknesses of the training process developed.

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