Reviewer’s report

Title: The burden of chronic diseases across Europe: what policies and programs to address diabetes? A SWOT analysis

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Reviewer: Adam Kamenetzky

Reviewer's report:

The authors present the use of SWOT analysis as a means to describe national strategies for the prevention of diabetes across a range of European countries. They note the wider context of this work to promote 'exchange, transfer and implementation of good practices' as part of a European Joint Action on Chronic Diseases and Promoting Healthy Ageing across the Life Cycle (JA-CHRODIS).

They describe their approach to analysing data obtained via a range of participatory methods from stakeholders representing national diabetes prevention initiatives of 11 countries, and note appropriate use of the COREQ criteria for reporting the results of qualitative research.

Their results succinctly highlight features of policy and programme design and delivery that feel intuitively useful for those who may be in a position of developing high-level disease prevention strategies. In particular, by taking a balanced approach that encourages reflection on what is not working (i.e. weaknesses and threats) they describe specific aspects of diabetes prevention programmes that would benefit from further action to address. The wider context of how policies and programmes play out in practice, and factors helping or hindering this, feel thorough and well mapped out.

The main text has a few minor copy edits required to correct use of language but is otherwise well written. The authors may also want to consider rewording (or perhaps providing a subtitle?) to Figure 2, to clarify the link between the different categories and the coding tree used as part of the qualitative analysis.

Overall I found the article informative and would recommend it to those who are considering how to embed reflective practice into the processes of health and care policymaking at a national level.

Level of interest

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published
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