Reviewer's report

Title: Migrant Health in Italy: a better health status difficult to maintain. Country of origin and assimilation effects studied from the Italian Risk Factor Surveillance data.

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Reviewer: Elena Riza

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting work on migrant health. However, it refers to a highly selective sample of migrants and its findings cannot easily be generalised, not to the migrant population from other European countries and certainly not to migrants from other parts of the world. Moreover, the authors refer to public health interventions taking into account different cultures, but no specific examples are given.

What is necessary to understand is why it seems that the migrant populations tend to adopt the bad health habits of the native population despite the fact that all health promoting actions point toward an integrated approach.

It would also be interesting to refer specifically to the cultural differences of the European migrants the paper is looking at, as these may not be all that great compared to the native population, at least not enough to explain the prevalence of the risk factors included in the analysis. It should be made clear that the paper is looking at economic migrants from European countries to distinguish from other migration groups with much different health priorities.

Another rather weak point is the fact that the data analysed refer to the period 2008-2013 and the situation of migration in Europe and in Italy is completely different now, where the reasons of migration are totally different and along this the health profile of the migrants.

Finally, it should be made clear that there are assumptions made i.e. the language competence does not necessarily mean integration and that there are other factors that have not been considered in assessing the well-being of the migrants such as employment and family status that may affect the health behaviour of the individuals.

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Needs some language corrections before being published
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