Author’s response to reviews

Title: Do the key functions of an intervention designed from the same specifications vary according to context? Investigating the transferability of a public health intervention in France

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Author’s response to reviews:

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Dear editor,

Thank you for your comments on our paper, which we have answered carefully point by point below.

1. Regarding the description of the qualitative method used, we used the "COREQ" guide to specify and detail the methodology used. Our original co-construction method can be enhanced by following these criteria, however, we cannot respond to all of them since our approach differs from ethnographic or interview-style qualitative methods.

Hence, we clarified:

- The name and credentials of the researcher who led interviews and workshop meetings (Page 7, line 195).
- The relation between the researchers and participants, and the fact that they were aware of the project goals and methods (Page 7, line 195).
- The mode of selection and way the participants were approached (Page 8, line 198-200).
- Places and duration of interviews and working groups (Page 8, line 200-201)
• The fact that interviews and working groups were audiorecorded and transcribed (Page 8, line 219-221).

Questions regarding saturation of the data or using of a coding tree were not applicable in the case of our project, since we did not conduct an ethnographic or interview-based study. Our co-construction method is described in the paper, explaining that respondents worked with the researcher to describe their action through a defined framework (“FIC” description referenced in the paper). These co-constructed frameworks contain the data on which the analyses for this paper were carried out.

2. The methodological material and data used in this research can be provided by the authors on request. They cannot be made available directly in the paper since they consist of text written in French, and the nature of the data would compromise the anonymity of the research participants. However, we may share these with bona fide researchers requesting access on a case by case basis.

3. Regarding your comment on the grounding of our research in social network analysis, we added a specification on this in the discussion section (Page 15, line 403 to 406) regarding the fact that our results confirm the importance of considering health interventions not only as behavior change actions but as a means to enhance people’s capacity to build supportive social network and the implications of this. Notably, longer interventions, adaptive evaluation methods, consideration of local actors. However, we did not introduce the notion of social network analysis from the start of the paper since it emerged as a perspective of our findings, something we had not anticipated a priori.

We remain available for any further questions, and look forward to hearing from you.

With kind regards,

Melanie Villeval, Michelle Kelly-Irving et al