**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** European Health Examination Surveys - a tool for collecting objective information about the health of the population

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 17 Oct 2017

**Reviewer:** Susan Picavet

**Reviewer's report:**

It is not a classical paper with a research question, description of methods, results and discussion. However, the topic of this paper is very relevant for public health. The paper describes the European work to establish a framework for HES. The HES is essential for specific health data that can not be derived from other sources, and, in combination with other sources provide relevant material for both public health and scientific research. The HES is a basic part of a National and International (European) health data infrastructure.

- In general I think the why of the paper can be more specific. Also: what is the key message? Is it to make the HES more knowledgeable, or is it mainly an appeal for investments and standardization? I also miss a reflection on innovation in this field
- The readability of the paper is limited due to a large use of abbreviations, a large focus on political phrases, enumerations and repetitions.
- I would appreciate a list of HES measures in a table with indicated what the status of standardization is.
- The maps of Europe are attractive, but maybe too much? (and: are you sure these figures are complete, maybe there were much more local initiatives …) What was included in those early HES? (to give an idea of development).
- Many times the EHES Pilot project is mentioned, sometimes referred to as 'pilot project' (is that the same?), is this project ongoing or finished?
- The results of the questionnaire on the relevance of EHES should not be presented by %, it is not acceptable to do that with 17 responders. One solution is to present the arguments in fig 3 in order of usefulness (remark: I could not see the differences in grey shading).
- The text should be checked for typo's.
- The examples of uses of HES data are nice.
- I miss a discussion of limitations, challenges and a perspective on innovations.

**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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