

Peer Review Report

Review Report on Health outcomes in EU cross border regions: a scoping review

Review, Public Health Rev

Reviewer: José Chen-Xu

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EVALUATION

Q 1 Please summarize the main theme of the review.

This scoping review aims at exploring comparisons in health outcomes between regions in Europe.

Q 2 Please highlight the limitations and strengths.

Such analysis has not been done before, and might bring important insights on trans-national and European cooperation with implications for European legislation on public health cross-border threats. Limited information; might be present as well in national reports in their own languages.

Q 3 Please provide your detailed review report to the authors, structured in major and minor comments.

- 1) The understanding of "regions" across the paper can be confusing. As described in the methodology, the review focused on cross-border NUTS-3 areas, which can also be named "subnational". Please revise the manuscript and clarify these concepts as suitable.
- 2) Elaborate on the search strings utilised in each of the databases - add a general string / concept in main-text and detailed information as Supplementary Material.
- 3) Please elaborate on the implications for European Policy (in health or other relevant areas) or subnational/regional/national level interventions. Also check relevant to discuss the recent serious cross-border threats to health Regulation.
- 4) Please verify reference "21. Hidden due to anonymisation". Either utilise a proper reference or replace for another source.
- 5) Verify references 24-26 and others as these are scientific articles with assigned doi and not Internet sources.
- 6) Add specific mention about likelihood of excluding national reports that contain information on cross-border health threats.

PLEASE COMMENT

Q 4 Does the reference list cover the relevant literature adequately and in an unbiased manner?

Yes

Q 5 Does this manuscript refer only to published data? (unpublished data is not allowed for Reviews)

Yes.

Q 6 Does the manuscript cover the issue in an objective and analytical manner

Yes.

Q 7 Was a review on the issue published in the past 12 months?

Yes.

Q 8 Does the review have international or global implications?

The review has implications on the European region.

Q 9 Is the title appropriate, concise, attractive?

Yes.

Q 10 Are the keywords appropriate?

Yes

Q 11 Is the English language of sufficient quality?

Yes

Q 12 Is the quality of the figures and tables satisfactory?

Yes.

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Q 13 Quality of generalization and summary



Q 14 Significance to the field



Q 15 Interest to a general audience



Q 16 Quality of the writing



REVISION LEVEL

Q 17 Please take a decision based on your comments:

Minor revisions.