

Review of: "Barriers to quitting smoking – a survey among 1000 adult cigarette smokers in Germany"

Andrijana Milošević Georgiev¹

¹ University of Belgrade

Potential competing interests: The author(s) declared that no potential competing interests exist.

The work is very interesting. The data can provide very significant guidelines for further research. Methodologically, it is not sufficiently clearly explained how the respondents were selected. The paper repeatedly mentions "less harmfulness" tobacco-free products, but no concrete scientific evidence for this is given anywhere.

In the „**Fig. 5: Barriers to quitting smoking cigarettes by level of quit motivation**“ lists the percentages, but it is not indicated whether they refer to the total sample or to the 4 subcategories. It is assumed that the respondents could have circled several answers to this question (but this was not emphasized). Since motivations for quitting smoking are examined, it is important to also examine the reasons for starting smoking.

I see the biggest shortcoming in the work due to the conflict of interests. It is unacceptable that this type of research is funded by the tobacco industry. The title of the work should have been focused on the consumption of e-cigarettes and other products (which appears to be a hidden goal in the work) rather than on motivations for quitting smoking.