

Belgian Network of Researchers in Global Health – Health Policy and Systems (BNR-GH-HPS)

Newsletter 1

June 2020

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Introduction

We are happy to present you the first newsletter of the 'Belgian Network of Researchers in Global Health – Health Policy and Systems'. In this newsletter we will try to keep you up-to-date on the work of the members of our network and upcoming events, which we hope you will all participate in.

We hope that the next event will be a network event somewhere in October. We aim to invite a grant writing consultant who will give us a presentation on the tips and tricks in relation to grant writing, collaboration among institutes and financial management. We will also give the opportunity to network members to shortly present their research and future collaborations can be discussed over a nice lunch. We will also have an interesting discussion on how the Covid-19 pandemic effects health systems worldwide, and part of the researches conducted by some of our members on this burning topic.

We truly hope that the pandemic does not ruin our plans, and that we can hold this meeting in real-life. Hope to see you there.

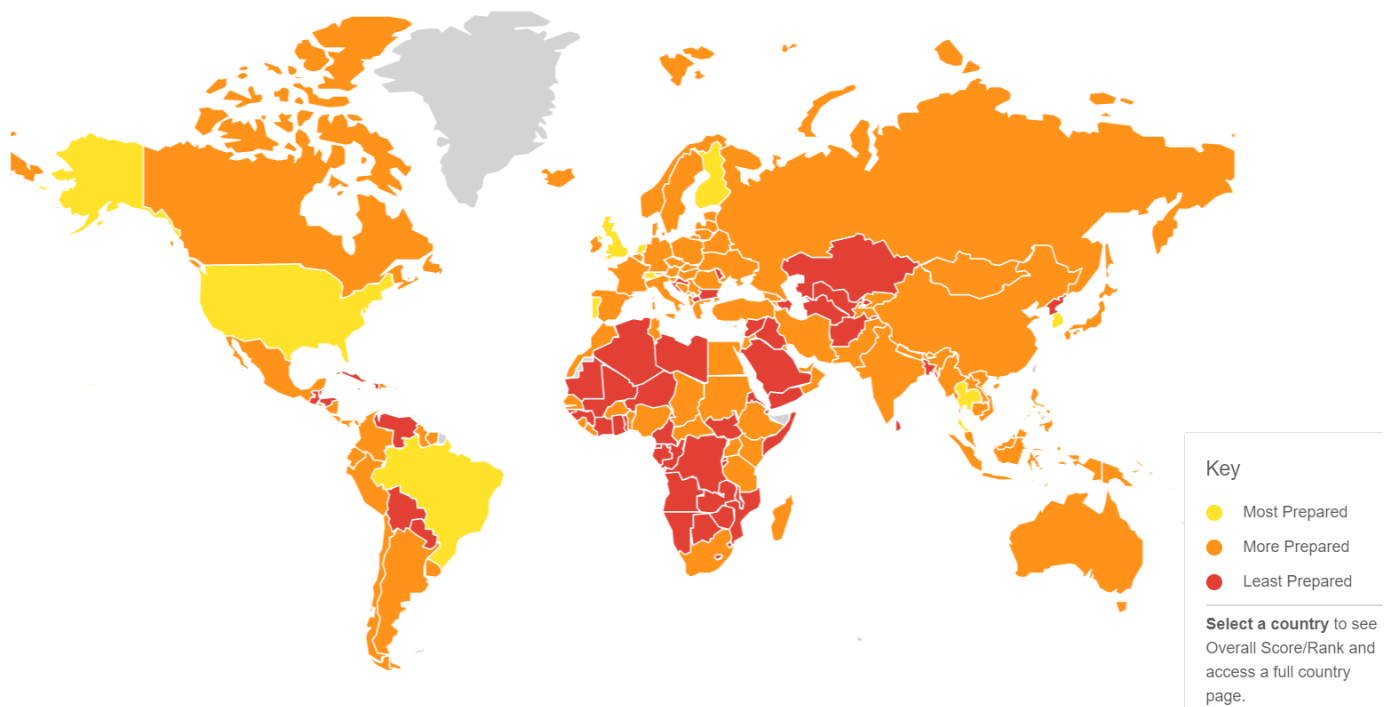
Elisabeth and Dimitri

Food for thought

The map below shows the preparedness of countries to respond to an epidemic according to the [Global Health Security Index 2019](#). The countries in yellow (i.a. US, UK, Brazil) were rated as the most prepared, however, the current pandemic showed ... Well, I think you know what it showed!

But what does this actually say about knowledge systems in Global Health?

"Global health will never be the same after COVID-19—it cannot be. The pandemic has given the lie to the notion that expertise is concentrated in, or at least best channelled by, legacy powers and historically rich states. We must move quickly, for our own security, beyond the rhetoric of equality to the reality of a more democratic, more multipolar, more networked, and more distributed understanding and operation of global health." (Dalglish 2020)



Source: <https://www.ghsindex.org/>

PhD in the spotlight

Bo Verberckmoes, PhD candidate UGent

ELEVATE: Early dEtECTION of cerVical cAnCER in hard-to-reach populations through portable and point-of-care HPV TEsting

Can you shortly present yourself?

I am Bo Verberckmoes, female and 29 years young. I have a master in medicine and am currently a senior year resident in obstetrics and gynecology. I started as a doctoral student about a year ago at the International Centre for Reproductive Health (ICRH) in Ghent, working on the ELEVATE-project. Besides that, I work in the Women's Clinic at the University Hospital of Ghent as a gynecologist in training with a special interest in pelvic oncology.

What is your PhD research about?

I'm doing my PhD on the **ELEVATE-project**, an international Horizon 2020 funded project. ELEVATE stands for 'EarLy dEtECTION of cerVical cAnCER in hard-to-reach populations through portable and point-of-care HPV TEsting'. This study brings together an international team of researchers, including medical doctors, public health researchers, economists, biological engineers, and technology developers from several European and Latin American countries.

The aim of the ELEVATE project is the development of a user-friendly portable, point-of-care HPV self-testing device that yields rapid, easy-to-understand results, and does not require any electrical outlets or specialized health personnel. The test will detect and identify both the human papilloma virus and cancer biomarker proteins to obtain a more complete and specific view on the risk of developing cervical cancer, so that a clear follow-up path can immediately be defined.

The new HPV self-testing tool will be piloted among hard-to-reach populations in a variety of countries (Belgium, Brazil, Ecuador and Portugal): by using a community-based participatory approach the study will test the user acceptability and the cost-effectiveness of the new screening tool.

How do you hope that your study will positively affect health systems around the world?

Ultimately, all acquired knowledge allows for optimized screening initiatives that will enhance participation among hard-to-reach women, and will feed into further refinement of national health strategies for cancer prevention in Latin-America and Europe.

The development of a portable cervical cancer screening tool, based on self-sampling, with high sensitivity and specificity is a major breakthrough in the cervical cancer screening landscape. The implementation and the roll-out of a screening strategy offering the ELEVATE self-sampling test to women in low- and middle income countries holds great potential in reducing the burden of cervical cancer worldwide.

Is there North-South and/or South-North learning embedded in the study? And if so how?

Bi-directional learning is an important part of the ELEVATE project. Project partners share and understand the needs and requirements for a screening test and device from low resource settings (located in the North and the South). We also learn about the relative success of different screening strategies in different cultural contexts. This helps us adapt our approaches to the unique groups of women that we're addressing in each country. We've actually collected the expertise in our group to write a soon-to-be-published paper about refocusing universal cervical cancer care on underserved women. That's just one example of how diversity and North-South/South-North learning is integral to our project.

For more information: <https://elevate-hpv.com>

Publications

COVID-19

[Paul, Elisabeth](#), Garrett W. Brown, Valéry Ridde

COVID-19: time for paradigm shift in the nexus between local, national and global health.

BMJ Global Health

5:e002622.

doi: 10.1136/bmjgh-2020-002622

Newton, Paul N, Katherine C Bond, 53 signatories from 20 countries, among which [Rafaella Ravinetto](#)

COVID-19 and Risks to the Supply and Quality of Tests, Drugs, and Vaccines

Lancet Global Health

8(6): e754-e755.

doi: 10.1016/S2214-109X(20)30136-4

[Van de Pas, Remco](#)

Globalization Paradox and the Coronavirus Pandemic

Clingendael Research report

[Van de Pas, Remco](#)

The Coronavirus pandemic and the irrelevance of the SDGs.

Ghent Centre for Global Studies

[Paul, Elisabeth](#), Valéry Ridde

Évaluer les effets des différentes mesures de lutte contre le Covid-19, mission impossible ?

The Conversation (*in French*)

Performance-based financing

[Paul, Elisabeth](#), Garrett W. Brown, Tim Ensor, Gorik Ooms, [Remco van de Pas](#), Valéry Ridde

We shouldn't count chickens before they hatch: Results-based financing and the challenges of cost-effectiveness analysis.

Critical Public Health.

doi: 10.1080/09581596.2019.1707774

UHC

[Paul, Elisabeth](#), Fabienne Fecher, Céline Deville, Youssoupha Ndiaye, Farba Lamine Sall, N'koué Emmanuel Sambiéni, Remo Meloni and Denis Porignon

Long Way to Universal Health Coverage (UHC): Are Policy Dialogue Processes Appropriate to Negotiate Trade-Offs in Africa? The Cases of Benin and Senegal.

CIRIEC Working Paper No. 2020/05

Health System strengthening

[Acoe, Kirsten](#), [Bruno Marchal](#), Gnokane Yahya, Dieng Abdellahi, [Paul Bossyns](#), [Bart Criel](#)

Action research and health system strengthening: The case of the health sector support programme in Mauritania, West Africa

Health Research Policy and Systems

18(1):1-13

doi: 10.1186/s12961-020-0531-1

[Criel, Bart](#), Maria-Pia Waelkens, Fulbert Kwilu Nappa, Yves Coppieters, Samia Laokri

Can mutual health organisations influence the quality and the affordability of healthcare provision? The case of the Democratic Republic of Congo

PLOS ONE

Doi: [10.1371/journal.pone.0231660](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0231660)

Angweyi, Vibian, Carolien Aantjes, Joske Bunders-Aelen, [Bart Criel](#) and Jeffrey V. Lazarus

Context matters: a qualitative study of the practicalities and dilemmas of delivering integrated chronic care within primary and secondary care settings in a rural Malawian district

BMC Family Practice

21:101

Quality of care

Schiavetti, Benedetta, E. Wynendaele, V. Melotte, J. Van der Elst, B. De Spiegeleer, [R. Ravinetto](#)

A simplified checklist for the visual inspection of finished pharmaceutical products: a way to empower frontline health workers in the fight against poor quality medicines

Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice

13:9

Doi: [10.1186/s40545-020-00211-9](https://doi.org/10.1186/s40545-020-00211-9)

International Organizations

[Nebot Giralt, Ariadna](#), Maya Ronse, [Raffaella Ravinetto](#)

A survey of nongovernmental organizations on their use of WHO's prequalification programme

Bulletin of the World Health Organization

98: 413–419

doi: [10.2471/BLT.19.233882](https://doi.org/10.2471/BLT.19.233882)

Mental health

Sow, Abdoulaye, Jeroen De Man, Myriam De Spiegelaere, Veerle Vanlerberghe, [Bart Criel](#)

Integration of mental health care in private not-for-profit health centres in Guinea, West Africa: a systemic entry-point towards the delivery of more patient-centred care?

BMC Health Services Research

20:61

Climate change

Harmer A, Eder B, Gepp S, Leetz A, [van de Pas R.](#)

WHO should declare climate change a public health emergency

BMJ

30:368.

Upcoming events

- *Network event BNR-GH-HPS
October 2020
To be confirmed*