

Care, buffering effects, and well-being at the time of the pandemic and after (BE-WELL)

Stakeholders kick-off meeting, 27/3/2024



[POST-COVID]

Today program

From 8:30am	Registration and Coffee
9:00-9:10	Presentation of the Team and of participants
9:10-9:30	Presentation of the project
9:30-9:50	Discussion WP2 - Leaving the parental home or boomeranging
9:50-10:10	Discussion WP3 - Caregiving practices, digital media use and well-being
10:10-10:30	Discussion WP4 - Family and non-family ties of older people
10:30-10:50	Discussion WP5 - Unmet (mental) health care needs
10:50-11:10	Coffee break
11:10-12:00	Discussion of the impact plan
12:00	Lunch

BE-WELL team

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Prof. Bruno Arpino
(International Partner,
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Aims of the project

Analysing well-being (before, during, and after the COVID-19 crisis) from a comparative **life-course perspective**:

- Young adults' leaving the parental home or returning (WP2)
- Caregiving practices, digital media use and well-being (WP3)
- Family and non-family ties of older people (WP4)
- Unmet healthcare needs (WP5)

Cross-cutting themes

- Well-being and health
- Care
- Life-course
- Intersectionality
 - Gender
 - Migration background, race/ethnicity
 - Socio-economic conditions
- Social networks
- Welfare policies



Multi-dimensional nature of well-being

- Subjective well-being
 - Happiness
 - Life satisfaction
- Psychological well-being
 - Quality of life (e.g. CASP-12 scale)
 - Life purpose
 - Positive social relations (e.g. confident network)
- Physical and mental health
 - Subjective (e.g., self-reported general health, etc.)
 - Objective (e.g., chronic conditions, depression, muscular strength, etc.)
 - Access to healthcare
- Cognitive abilities
 - (e.g., executive functioning, impaired orientation in time, short- and long-term memory, verbal fluency, etc.)



Data

Administrative data

- Statbel (National Register, Census, Tax-register)
- InterMutualistisc Agency (IMA-AIM)

Survey data

- The Survey on Informal Care in Flanders
- European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC)
- The Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE)



Leaving the parental home or boomeranging (WP2)

Leaving the parental home or boomeranging (WP2)

Background

Pandemic-induced:

- Economic uncertainties
- Campus closure
- Job loss



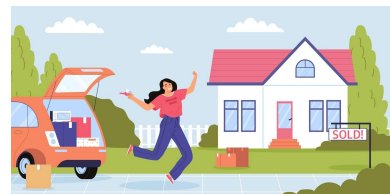
Parents role

- Parental resources help [residential transition](#)
- Parental home serves as a safety net when [young adults boomerang back](#).



Research questions

- How did leaving and returning to the parental home [evolve](#) during the pandemic in Belgium and other European countries?
- And by [gender](#), [SES](#), [migration background](#), (or [race/ethnicity](#))?
- Impact on the [well-being](#) of young adults and parents?



Population of interest

- Young adults [aged 15 to 35](#) and their parents.

Importance for policies:

- Identify [profiles](#) that need residential and financial support.



Data

Data	(+)	(-)
Belgian register data from Statbel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cover Belgian population aged 15 to 65 from January 1st, 1992, up until to 2023 Living arrangement, gender, date of birth, educational level, cohabitation and marriage status, individual income, labor market participation, and nationality of origin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No well-being
European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Details about previous household members Longitudinal data Cross-national comparasion Well-being of respondents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No detailed geographic localisation



Questions and comments?



Caregiving practices, digital media use and well-being (WP3)

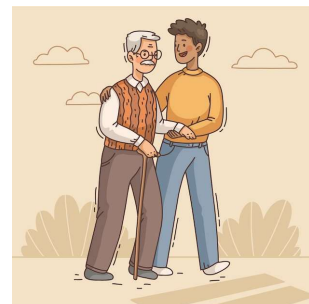
Caregiving practices, digital media use and well-being (WP3)

Background:

- 2 dimensions of caregiving:
 - Relational
 - Doing care
- The group of **young caregivers** overlooked

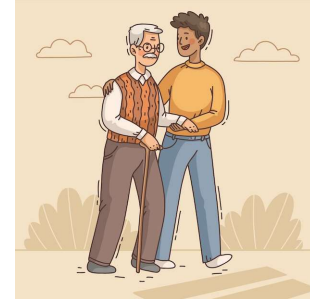
During the pandemic:

- **Change in informal care**
 - Increase help from adult children to parents
 - Increase help from non-kin
 - Decrease 1 year after the beginning of the pandemic
- Role of **digital technologies** and improvement in use



Research questions

- How did relationships and care **evolve** during the pandemic?
- What was the impact on **caregivers' well-being** (satisfaction, feeling of burden by the care relationships, etc.)?
- To what degree did caregivers used **digital media**? Which **type** (internet, social media)? What is the association with **caregivers' wellbeing**?
- **Gender, SES, migration background**?



Importance for policies

- **Profiles** of the most vulnerable caregivers
- How to **support caregivers** and/or improve their **digital literacy**.



Data

Data	(+)	(-)
The survey on Informal Care in Flanders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted in 2021 (May-July) • Highlights the age group of 18 to 25 years • Module focusing on the impact of the COVID-19 • Caregivers and receivers satisfaction or dissatisfaction with care • Detailed measures on digital literacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only Flanders
Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aged 50+ • Longitudinal • Cross-national survey • Two special COVID-19 telephone surveys • Measures on well-being and care relationships. • How well the respondents can use computers and the Internet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No detailed measures on digital literacy



Questions and comments?

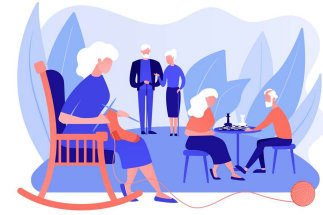


**Family and non-family
ties of older people
(WP4)**

Family and non-family ties of older people (WP4)

Background:

- Family- and non-family-based social networks are critical factors affecting health and well-being (e.g., Berkman et al., 2000)
 - **COVID-19 pandemic:**
 - Physical distancing policies and social isolation
 - Reduced practical and emotional support
- Profound consequences on (mental) well-being

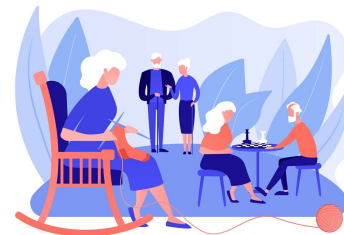


Research questions:

- What is the influence of both types of social ties (i.e., familial and non-familial) on **health, well-being** and **cognitive functioning**?
- Heterogeneity by **gender, SES, migration background** (or **race/ethnicity**)?
- How did this influence vary across different **institutional contexts**?

Importance for policies

- **Profiles** of vulnerability identified by combining gender, SES, and social network configurations.



Data

Data	(+)	(-)
Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social network (SN) module • Multiple dimensions of health and well-being • HCAP module 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social network (SN) module in a limited number of waves



Questions and comments?



Unmet healthcare needs (WP5)

Unmet healthcare needs (WP5)

Background

- During the pandemic, **healthcare utilization** decreased by about a third.
- **Renounced** or **postponed** medical care
- Causes:
 - **Fear**
 - Absence of **transport**
 - **Compliance** with lockdown
 - **Financial difficulties**
 - Lack of **health care professionals**
 - Lack of **space for care**



Research questions

- How do people's unmet healthcare needs vary accounting for the **type of disease**, in particular **mental health**?
- By **gender, SES, migration background**?
- Buffering effect of on-family and family **networks**?
- **Role of welfare regime**?



Importance for policies

- The knowledge about the type of unmet healthcare **to expand points of access to healthcare** during a pandemic.
- **Profiles at higher risk** of unmet needs in healthcare

Data

Data	(+)	(-)
Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depressive symptoms, diagnosis of a chronic illness, and medications. • Contacts with a medical doctor, or specialists, is available • Healthcare forgone, postponed, or denied and satisfaction with the treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No detailed geographic localisation.
Belgian health data from Inter Mutualistic Agency (IMA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population database • Health care database • Pharmaceutical database. • Seven Belgian healthcare insurers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No information regarding medical diagnoses. • Only cover healthcare that is reimbursed by health insurance.

Questions and comments?



Impact plan

Social impact goal

- Several measures of **well-being**
- **Pandemic** and **post-pandemic** period
- **Profiles** of vulnerability by gender, SES, migration background (and race/ethnicity)
- Identify **buffering factors**



- Implementing **well-being policies** in times of crisis
- Together with the **containment measures**



Stakeholders

1. Organizations involved with **occupational integration of young people**
2. Organizations that **sustain health and long-term care systems**
3. Organizations that **favor intergenerational relations**
4. Associations that **maintain social networks** at different level:
 - Familial + non-familial
5. **Health professionals**
6. Networks specialized in **disseminating information** on family and well-being to various audiences
7. Stakeholders accustomed to **interacting with federal authorities**
 - To prepare studies, projections and evaluation
8. **Federal authorities.**



Aim of stakeholder involvement

- Receive **feedback on research questions** to improve their social relevance.
- Receive **feedback on data** features and availability.
- Account for **stakeholders' needs**.
- Co-design **policy recommendations**.
- To favour **collaboration**.
 - Publications
 - Further projects



Communication with Stakeholders

- Communication **personalized**
 - **Comprehensive analysis of needs** of different stakeholders
- **Early Stakeholder Involvement**
- Results resumed in **policy briefs** for feedback
- Results discussed in **yearly meetings** for feedback



Stakeholders' meetings

- **Beginning of the project**
 - Stakeholders' kick-off meeting
 - Feedback concerning the research questions
 - Take a shared decision about the organization of the further meetings.
- **End of the first year**
 - First intermediate stakeholders' meeting
 - Discuss preliminary results
- **End of the project**
 - Second intermediate stakeholders' meeting
 - Discuss final results



- **Implementation plan period**
 - Co-design policy recommendations
 - Final stakeholders' meeting
 - Share conclusions at different levels



Impact plan

	2024												2025												2026													
	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S							
Stakeholders' kick-off meeting	█																																					
First intermediate stakeholders' meeting													█																									
Second intermediate stakeholders' meeting																																						
Final stakeholders meeting																																						
Final exhibition																																						



Organisation of meetings

- BE-WELL team will send **policy briefs** before the meetings
- We will shortly summarize and discuss **policy briefs** during the meeting
- To moderate the discussion, the team will prepare **5-6 questions** for a round table with stakeholders.



Final exhibition

- **What:** Presentation of main results with **posters** or **backlit photo steles**.
- **Place:** Forum des Halles (Louvain-la-Neuve train station).
- **How:**
 - Vernissage of the exhibition
 - Team will show main findings
 - Steles will give further details in a way close to people's everyday life.
- **How long:** The exhibition will run for **one month** and researchers will be available for discussion at specific times of the day.



<https://population-europe.eu/network/news-network/impressions-population-europe-exhibition-hague>

Questions and comments?

Thank you!

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