

# Cross-border Covid-19 control

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## START OF THE PANDEMIC IN THE REGION 1

- **Thread from Wuhan**
- **Carnival festivities end of February**
- **25 February 2020:  
First case in Heinsberg,  
Selfkant, Germany**
- Close to border – 3km
- **Many German and Dutch  
contacts** during carnival  
activities
- Heinsberg closed schools

## START OF THE PANDEMIC IN THE REGION 2

- **3rd March: First case Limburg (NL) - man Geleen** after holiday in Italy (**7 days later**)
- GGD: **testing ill patients** –mostly travellers – **source and contact tracing**
- **Daily contact** with Gesundheitsamt Heinsberg and Aachen





## START OF THE PANDEMIC IN THE REGION 3

- **4 days later: 7th March**
- **Many patients in first long-term care facility (NL) Hoogstaete in Sittard**
- Close to **German border**
- No sources traceable
- **Same virus as region Heinsberg**  
- cross-border transmission likely
- **Only tip of iceberg** – many hidden cases – strong measures necessary
- Start **intelligent lock down**

**BESMETTING CORONAVIRUS**  
**ZORGCENTRUM SITTARD** 11 maart 2020  
**Aantal zieken in Hoogstaete loopt op**

**BESMETTING CORONAVIRUS**  
**SITTARDS VERPLEEGHUIS** 12 maart 2020  
**Zeven nieuwe gevallen van corona in Hoogstaete**

**Weer zeven nieuwe coronabesmettingen in verpleeghuis Hoogstaete in Sittard**  
11-03-2020 om 17:02 door Serge Sekhuis



omstandigheden goed, ze hebben relatief milde klachten." Volgens Jongen doet iedereen zijn uiterste best om de zaak snel beheersbaar te krijgen, maar loopt het contactonderzoek van de GGD – die zoekt naar de bron van de besmetting – uiterst moeizaam. „Begrijpelijk, het is ook enorm ingewikkeld. Een verpleeghuis is een open systeem, mensen lopen in en uit. Medewerkers, maar ook bezoekers die wellicht net carnaval hadden gevierd. Het zou zomaar kunnen dat iemand van huis

## CORONA RESEARCH LIMBURG 1

- Cross-sectional observational study
- 10.000 inhabitants of Limburg (18+)



- Aim: examine determinants associated with positive SARS-CoV-2 antibody test:
- symptoms, exposure, cross-border



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## CORONA RESEARCH LIMBURG 2

1. Did you visit family/friends/acquaintances across the border in February and March 2020?

- Yes, in Belgium
- Yes, in Germany
- Yes, in both Belgium and Germany
- No, I did not visit them
- No, I do not have family/friends/acquaintances across the border

2. How many times did you visit family/friends/acquaintances across the border in February and March 2020?



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# EUPREVENT COVID-19 EUREGION INTERREG PROJECT 1

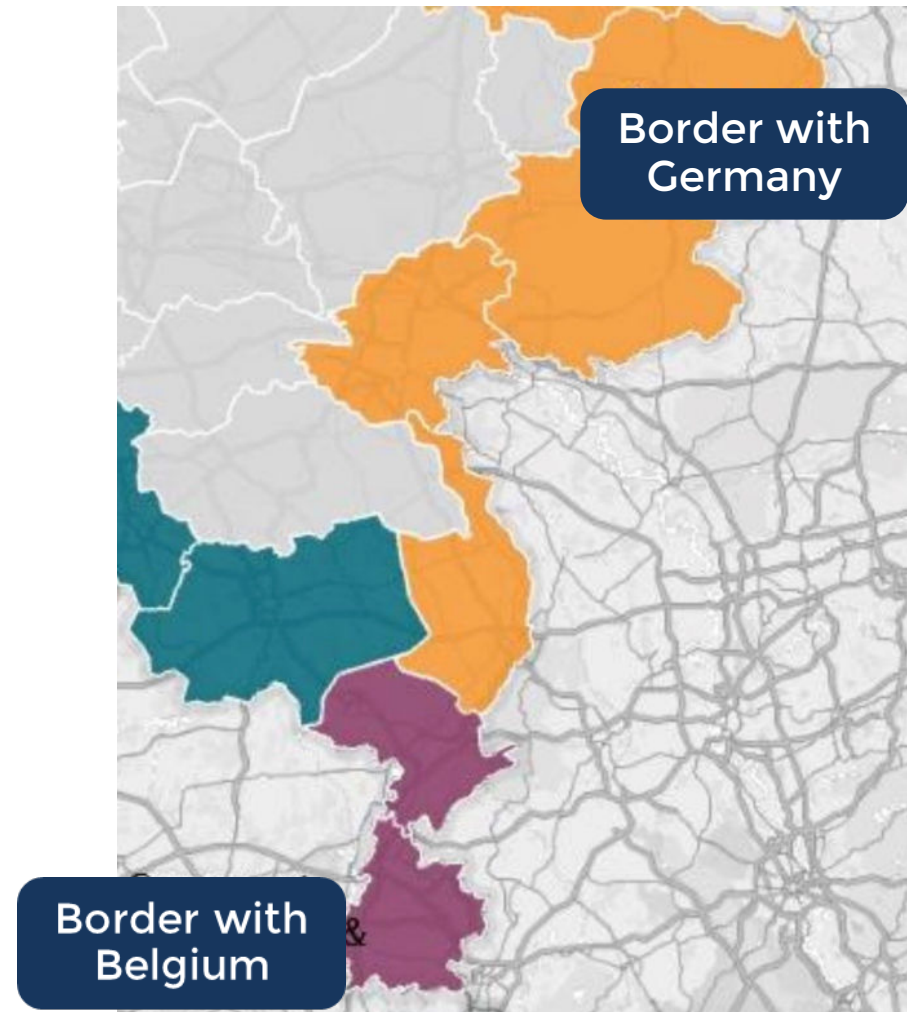
- Euregional project: 8-2020 till 12-2021
- 3 countries – 2 measurements
- Self-obtained blood sample + online questionnaire
- Aim: cross-border comparison of Covid-19 positivity, vaccination status, compliance measures, social network, longCOVID





## EUPREVENT BORDER COVID-19 PROJECT

- **Aim: What is the role of the border in Covid-19 transmission + control?**
- **Interviews with experts in the field** (10 NL, 10 D and 5 B)
- **Mapping of Covid-19 in the border region**
- **Supported by Dutch Provinces and German state North Rhine-Westphalia**





THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



**Let's Fight Covid-19  
Together!**

Stay safe and healthy!