

**General Practice Research Networks in Belgium: Development, Context and their
Contribution to the Monitoring of Sexually Transmitted Infections
Table of contents**

Chapter		Page
	Acknowledgements	5
	Preface: Structure of the thesis	7
1.	General introduction	11
2.	Main part 1: The historical development of the three Belgian GP research networks within the Belgian health care context	17
2.1.	Conceptual framework, research objectives, methods and sources	17
2.2.	Important aspects of the Belgian health care context for general practice network development	25
2.2.1.	The position of the GP within the respective health system	25
2.2.2.	The pace of GP computerisation and the standardisation of GP EHR software system	26
2.2.3.	The establishment of LINH in the Netherlands and attempts to establish a nationwide EHR-based GP network in Belgium	30
2.2.4.	The Belgian State Reforms with decentralisation of legal competencies in health care from the Federal to the Federated entities	42
2.3.	The historical development of the Dutch Sentinel General Practice Network from a paper-based into a digital primary care monitoring system	45
2.4.	The development of the Belgian Sentinel Network of General Practices	75
2.4.1.	Background, origins, foundation period and consolidation	75
2.4.2.	Opposing trends during the 1990s	82
2.4.3.	European projects with SGP leadership, participation or expertise 1987–2006	84
2.4.4.	The third period from the turn of the millennium until the transition towards Healthdata.be	91
2.5.	The foundation and development of the Flemish morbidity registration network Intego	99
2.5.1.	The founding period of Intego and struggles during the 1990s	99
2.5.2.	Intego development from the turn of the Millennium until 2015	104
2.6.	The development of FMM Monitoring Chart data collection	111
2.6.1.	The context: positioning, development and recognition of Integrated Primary Health Care Centres	111
2.6.2.	IPHCCs and FMM embracing the role as health observatories	115
2.6.3.	The mission of the IPHCCs to serve as health observatories: assignments of Belgian Regional francophone governments	117
2.6.4.	Prerequisites for the development of the Monitoring Chart	119
2.6.5.	Setting up the Monitoring Chart, goals, functions and variables	121

2.6.6.	Prospectives of the Monitoring Chart	126
2.7.	The development of the three GP networks within the context of the Belgian health system: discussion	129
3.	Main part 2: Missions, research activities and organisation of the three GP networks today in comparative perspective	135
3.1.	Research objectives and methods	135
3.2.	Results	135
3.2.1.	Missions and research activities of the three GP networks	135
3.2.2.	Organisation of the three GP networks	139
3.3.	Discussion: Characteristics and complementarity of the three GP research networks, future opportunities	151
4.	Main part 3: Control of STIs as areas of public health efforts: the Belgian HIV Plan 2014-2019 and case studies within the context of the Belgian health system	159
4.1.	Introduction	159
4.2.	The Belgian HIV Plan	167
4.2.1.	The development of a national HIV Plan in Belgium: Achieving consensus despite institutional complexity	167
4.2.2.	The implementation of the Belgian HIV Plan since 2013 and features relating to general practice	179
4.3.	Exploratory STI case studies in general practice in cooperation with Intego	189
4.3.1.	Gonorrhoea and syphilis epidemiology in Flemish general practice 2009-2013: Results from a registry-based retrospective cohort study compared with mandatory notification	191
4.3.2.	Prescription of antibiotics to treat gonorrhoea in general practice in Flanders 2009-2013: A registry-based retrospective cohort study	217
5.	Final discussion and concluding remarks	233
6.	References	245
7.	Abbreviations	273
8.	Annexes	281
8.1.	Annex 1: The retrospective exploratory study on FMM network STI data registered in EHR software system Pricare	281
8.2.	Annex 2: A tool for FMM IPHCC self-evaluation to diminish the potential loss of STI cases	287
8.3.	Annex 3: Supplementary material: Extraction of diagnostic codes from the Intego database	289
8.4.	Annex 4: ATC groups of antiinfectives selected for extraction from the Intego database	295