



Centre for Public Health in Economics and Business (CPHEB)

Newsletter

September 2026

In this monthly newsletter, the CPHEB keeps you informed about recent and upcoming events. If you have a contribution to the newsletter, please let us know at cpheb@rug.nl. You can also find us on [LinkedIn](#).

In this newsletter:

- Announcements
 - News
 - Upcoming events
 - Spotlight
 - Publications
 - Calls
-

Announcements

Changes in CPHEB Board

With the start of the new academic year there have been some changes in the composition of the CPHEB Board. Jenny van Doorn has left the CPHEB Board and we thank her for her invaluable contributions over the past years. This year, the CPHEB Board consists of Jana Holthöwer (Marketing, until November 2026), Stefan Pichler (EEF), Gerdien Regts (OPERA), Gerard van den Berg (EEF), and Caitlin Kiernan (EEF, until December 2026).

Vacancy PhD position on CPHEB Board

We are looking for an enthusiastic PhD student with an interest in health-related research to fill the PhD position on the CPHEB board starting January 1, 2027. The ideal candidate has strong organizational and communication skills and is willing to contribute to the growth and strengthening of the CPHEB. The student is ideally currently a second or third year PhD student.

Tasks include:

- Attending CPHEB Board meetings
- Attending and facilitating CPHEB seminars and events
- Compiling the monthly newsletter

Conditions:

- Starting date: January 1, 2027
- Duration: 1 year
- Compensation: 0.05 FTE.

If you are interested in the position, you can apply by sending an e-mail with your CV and a short motivation to Stefan Pichler (s.pichler@rug.nl) by September 30, 2026. If you would like to know more about the position or tasks, feel free to contact Caitlin Kiernan (e-mail: c.k.kiernan@rug.nl or stop by 5412.0731).

CPHEB Half-Day Workshop October 20th

On October 20th, the CPHEB Funding and Collaboration Workshop will take place from 13.00-17.00. This workshop will bring together research and practice across the CPHEB subthemes and will include a keynote presentation and networking opportunities. During interactive sessions, you will have an opportunity to collect challenges from practice and develop project ideas, which can then be linked to funding opportunities. Please register by September 20 using the following [form](#).

Call for contributions to newsletters

We always try to do our best to make the newsletter informative and relevant to CPHEB members. However, we rely on your input too, as we can't always see everything that is happening across FEB. If you have any health research-related news, events, achievements, media appearances, or anything else you would like to share, please let us know by e-mailing cpheb@rug.nl. Your contribution can help make the newsletter a reflection of the CPHEB community!

News

CPHEB - ZEW Mannheim Public Health in Economics and Business Workshop

In June, the second joint workshop between the Centre for Public Health in Economics and Business and [ZEW - Leibniz Centre for European Economic Research Mannheim](#) took place. The workshop led to engaging discussions at the intersection of labour markets and social insurance, with health very much at the centre of many of the contributions. A recurring theme was how strongly economic and social factors shape health outcomes —from inequalities in health and access to care, to retirement decisions, sick leave, and broader well-being over the life course. Alongside this, we also had great exchanges on labour market dynamics, migration, and the implications of AI and technological change for work, productivity, and skills.



Thesis defence Laura Jansen

On June 25, Laura Jansen (EEF) successfully defended her thesis Disability Insurance Design with Employer and Employee Behavior (Promotors: Prof. V. Angelini and Dr. M. Groneck, co-promotor: Dr. R. van Ooijen). Laura recently started a new position as postdoctoral researcher at the Economics Department of Leiden University. The full thesis can be found [here](#).

CPHEB members at EuHEA 2026

In July, many health researchers from the CPHEB attended the European Health Economics Association Conference in Rotterdam. It was a fantastic opportunity to present our research, learn from outstanding colleagues, engage in inspiring discussions, and strengthen collaborations with researchers from across Europe and beyond. We return with new ideas, valuable connections, and fresh inspiration for our research.



NEVI and KBL funding awarded for research on youth care and the social domain

Aline Seepma was awarded €10.000 by NEVI to appoint a research assistant to support Debora van Tricht's PhD research on public procurement and collaboration in youth care. In addition, Networkorganization KBL (Kwaliteit en Blijvend Leren) has approved €130.000 funding for the project "Van Markt naar Mens", a collaborative project with Hanze University of Applied Sciences and partners from practice that explores how municipalities can move from transactional towards more relational ways of organizing care and support in the social domain.

Upcoming events

September 17, 2026 11.00 - 12.00 5419.0009	CPHEB Monthly Seminar Michael Pen Distributional Effects of the ACA: Hospitalizations and Median Household Income Across U.S. Counties We investigate the effects of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on hospitalization rates per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries and median household income at the county level. Rather than focusing on changes in conditional means, we estimate distributional treatment effects by comparing the marginal distributions of treated counties under treatment with their counterfactual distributions in the absence of treatment. We further estimate the joint distribution of hospitalizations and household income to examine treatment effects on their dependence structure, including Spearman's and Kendall's rank correlations and upper and lower tail dependence. We use data from the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, supplemented with information from other data sources. Our results suggest that ACA implementation reduced hospitalization rates, while increasing the dispersion of median household income. However, these effects are not statistically significant at most quantiles of the respective distributions. The joint distribution results indicate a stronger negative association between hospitalization rates and household income following ACA implementation, suggesting an increased socioeconomic gradient in hospitalizations. Evidence on changes in upper and lower tail dependence is less conclusive.
October 1, 2026 12.45 Academy Building	Thesis defense Anna Tort Carrera. Title: Place, Peers and Mental Health: A Life Course Perspective on Neighbourhood and Social Interaction Effects in the Northern Netherlands. Promotores: Prof. J.P. Elhorst and Dr. G.E. Bijwaard.
October 9 , 2026 9.30 - 17.15 Oldenburg	Cross-border Health Meet-up: Prevention without borders Join us at the next Cross-border Health Meet-up: Prevention without borders: Tackling health disparities in the Dutch-German border region together During this event, we will explore the role of prevention in reducing health inequalities and improving health outcomes for communities across the Dutch-German border region. Through inspiring keynotes, practical examples, and interactive discussions, we will share knowledge and strengthen cross-border health collaboration. Keynote speakers include

	Prof. Dr. Gabriele Bolte (Universität Bremen) and Prof dr. Oscar H. Franco (Utrecht University and UMC Utrecht). For those travelling from the Netherlands, we have arranged a bus from Groningen to Oldenburg and back. If you would like to make use of the bus, you can indicate this when registering for the event. Registration and more information: https://www.rug.nl/aletta/innovation/health4de-nl/calendar/cross-border-health-meet-up-2026?lang=en
October 20, 2026 13.00 - 17.00 Pavilion Duisenberg Building 5433.0209B	CPHEB Half-Day Workshop October 20th The workshop will bring together research and practice across the CPHEB subthemes and will include a keynote presentation and networking opportunities. During interactive sessions, you will have an opportunity to collect challenges from practice and develop project ideas, which can then be linked to funding opportunities. Please register by September 20 using the following form.

Spotlight

FEBlog

Albert Boonstra, Nicolai Fabian, David Langley and Edin Smailhodžić: [The role of social media in helping patients navigate healthcare](#)

Caitlin Kiernan: [Decentralization of youth care: the impact of municipal policy on child and adolescent well-being](#)

Publications

Jolly, S.P., R. Biesma, R. Lensink, M.K. Bhuyan, K. Afsana, and J. van der Schans (20206). Women's Empowerment, WaSH, and Child Feeding: Implications for Childhood Stunting in South Asia. Maternal & Child Nutrition, forthcoming. <https://doi.org/10.1111/mcn.70223>

Nikolova, M. (2026). Let Me Check on You: Worker Well-Being Under AI and Human Health and Safety Monitoring. Journal of Wellbeing Economics, forthcoming.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/29782244261475886>

Xu, S.Y., L. Mulder, and F. Rink (2026). Highlighting the Collective Harm: Socially framed Appeals Decrease Intention to Use Drugs Among People Who Use Drugs. FEBRI Working Paper [2026003-OB](#):

Calls

NWO: Onderzoek op routes door consortia 2026

Theme: Smart technological infrastructure for sustainable and customised prevention of multimorbidity

Deadline: October 6, 2026 at 14.00 | More information: <https://www.nwo.nl/calls/onderzoek-op-routes-door-consortia-2026>
