

# ONE WORLD, ONE HEALTH, ONE SOCIETY

How can we combine medical, health and societal goals

**Christian LEONARD**

# UTILITARIANISM & COVID-19

*Number of beds  
occupied in  
Intensive Care  
Units*

*Degree/Level of Utilitarianism  
of the measures*

# UTILITARIANISM & COVID-19

*Number of beds  
occupied in  
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**Utilitarianism** means  
the **Maximization** of  
the **Sum of Utilities**  
(Income, Welfare,  
Health ...)

*Degree/Level of Utilitarianism  
of the measures*

# UTILITARIANISM & COVID-19

*Number of beds  
occupied in  
Intensive Care  
Units*

*Lockdown  
Priority to 'Covid  
patients'*



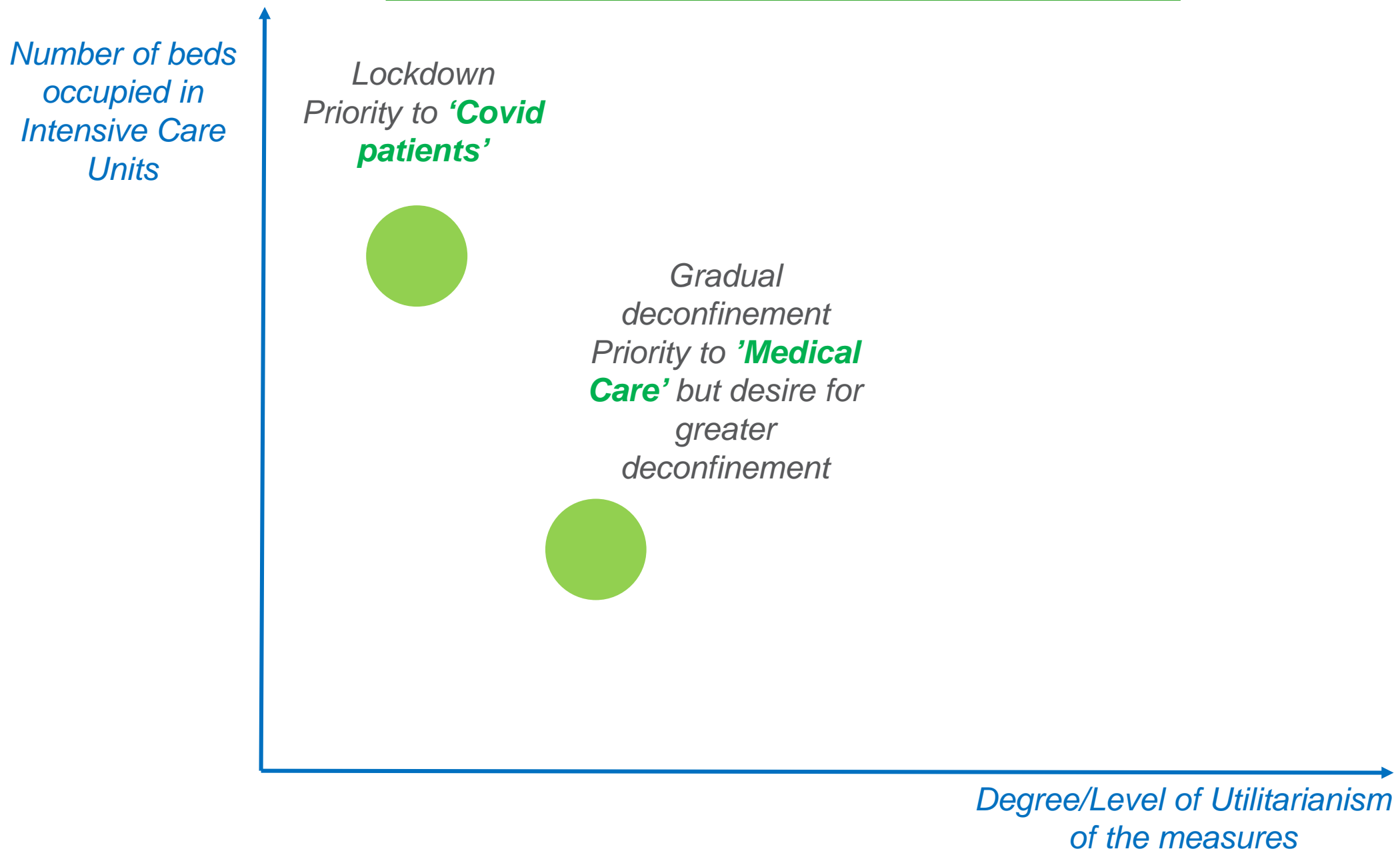
*Degree/Level of Utilitarianism  
of the measures*

# *Lockdown - Priority to 'Covid patients'*

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- One priority: **save** lives
- **Limit** contamination – contacts
- **Preserve** capacities of intensive care units
- **No maximization** of 'something' (health)
- **Kantian** approach : dignity of life and no instrumentalization of human life
- Large **consensus** (with some exceptions)

# UTILITARIANISM & COVID-19

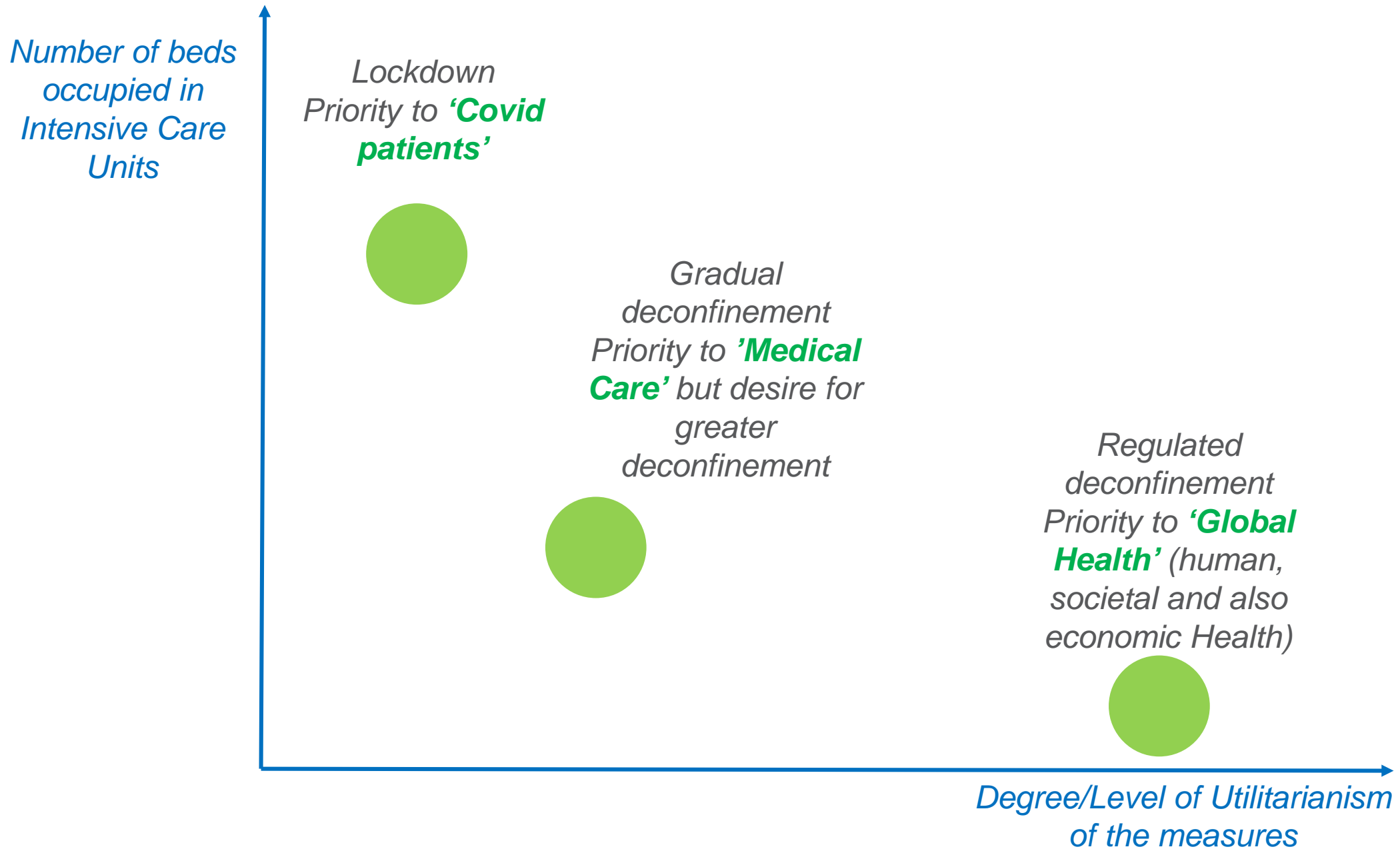


## *Gradual deconfinement - Priority to '**Medical Care**' but desire for greater deconfinement*

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- **'Better'** situation in intensive care units
  - **'Broader'** definition of medical care
  - **Other** pathologies – diagnostics – follow-up
- More **freedom** was asked
- Certain level of utilitarianism
  - **Maximization** of some kind of 'Health'
  - **'Compensation'** between different kinds of care
- Use of the concept of **'Essential Goods'** (= values)

# UTILITARIANISM & COVID-19





# *Regulated deconfinement Priority to 'Global Health'* (human, societal and economic health)

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- **Smaller** number of occupied beds in ICU
  - **Less** Health risks
  - Several different voices about the **needs** of society
- How to **mix** them?
  - Which kind of **freedom** to defend?
  - Which (clear and robust) **criteria** to use?

# ***Is Utilitarianism unavoidable?***

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- **Choices, renunciations** and opportunity **costs**
- Most important **side effect** of the maximisation: **sacrifices** (victims – weakest)
- **Priorities** : a necessity
  - For now and tomorrow
  - In ‘Peace’ and ‘war/crisis’ times
- Define the most important **criteria** (values, preferences) for the Belgian population = ‘**preparedness**’ : **HOW?**

# How to define priorities? A fruitful example

KCE REPORT 234



Federaal Kenniscentrum voor de Gezondheidszorg  
Centre Fédéral d'Expertise des Soins de Santé  
Belgian Health Care Knowledge Centre

## INCORPORATING SOCIETAL PREFERENCES IN REIMBURSEMENT DECISIONS RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF DECISION CRITERIA ACCORDING TO BELGIAN CITIZENS



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QUALITY  
OF LIFE!



# ***New slogan***

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**CONNECTS HEALTH, SCIENCE AND SOCIETY**

**UNIT SANTÉ, SCIENCE ET SOCIÉTÉ**

**VERBINDT GEZONDHEID, WETENSCHAP EN SAMENLEVING**

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