In many low income countries, thousands of data from diagnostic tests are unexploited. Most of the time these data are paper-based collected, physically transferred to the regional office, and then merged together to the national database. This lengthy and error prone process delivers its information months after the tests have been performed.

The loss of data during the transfer, the non-systematic process in the data collection and the loss of time due to the manual data encoding at the end of the chain doesn't facilitate the management and the understanding of medical information nor improves the patient care.

“We have to transcribe each test in the Register for declaration of tuberculosis. Every month we have to summarize the data on an excel file, print it at our laboratory and send it to the NTP (National Tuberculosis Program) by postal service”, says a nurse in a peripheral laboratory.

To improve the situation, Savics was created in March 2016. It is a social startup based in Brussels which aims to help the tuberculosis (TB) healthcare stakeholders in their quest to eliminate TB.

What does Savics do?

In response to the above mentioned facts, Savics connects laboratories and provides analytical expertise to increase the impact of diagnostic technologies on the fight against TB and to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Savics offers technical expertise to provide to all stakeholders (local laboratories, regions, countries and international organizations) acting in the fight against TB, the opportunity to extract most of the value out of the available data in order to improve their responses to the TB
epidemic. **SAVICS** works side by side with many organizations to develop a tailored data management tool: the DataToCare software1 (figure 2.).

DataToCare ([http://www.savics.org/datatocare/](http://www.savics.org/datatocare/)):

- Collects patient personal information and medical history in real-time
- Secures the data, respects data protection and privacy thanks to the encryption of all data sent
- Works in areas without internet access by using the SMS network
- Is multi-lingual: English and French already available, ready for any language
- Customizes the data capture to each country’s needs
- Sends tests results via SMS to the prescriber or any other person
- Takes 15 min to install – can be done by a non IT person
- Doesn’t require maintenance, except to charge remotely the USB Modem SIM cards

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1 DataToCare is the new version of GenXchange, software that has been developed and financed by UCLouvain and the NTP from DRC in 2014.
The data collected in the regional and peripheral laboratories of a given country are transferred either via Ethernet or SMS technology and stored in a national database installed at the PNLT (figure 3.)

Figure 3. Savics’ process to centralize patient personal and medical data.

What did Savics achieve?

Savics successfully installed the GenXchange software on 3 GeneXpert machines in Benin for the NTP to test the connectivity concept.

As soon as the new software DataToCare became available, we implemented it on 10 different machines through the country in Ivory Coast and installed the program on one machine in Cameroun to perform pre-installation tests.

Further installations are envisaged in many different countries on various continents.

During our last mission in Ivory Coast in July, we went in 5 different cities (Abengourou, Yamoussoukro, Bouake, Man and Abidjan) to connect 10 machines and 2 servers.

We offered to laboratory's managers, physicians, biologists, nurses, and technicians a training to ensure the correct use of the software (figure 4.). We also discussed with all these stakeholders to receive their feedbacks, collect their needs and get their advices. These clues
and insights coming from the field are taken into account to improve our service quality. We also carefully observed the local environment in order to tailor our tool to their local conditions.

![Image](Figure 4. Software use training.)

Today, our main focus is the global roll-out of DataToCare on the GeneXpert-TB RIF automates in low- and middle-income countries. In September, the software will integrate a dashboard to enable better data visibility (figure 5. shows the dashboard). Before year-end, we will integrate the collection of cultures test results to extend the global screening of the epidemic. Next year we will integrate the data capture of further tests like LPA, other assays and other sicknesses.

![Image](Figure 5. Dashboard of DataToCare.)
Savics is a four months old startup, very active, which is already supported by many international organizations such as the WHO, the UNION, USAID, ASLM, ERS, GLI Africa, UCLouvain, ITM Antwerp, and many other organizations. Do not hesitate to contact us. Check us out at www.savics.org