



**World Health
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**Technical briefing on the response
to antimicrobial resistance
Lessons learned from multidrug-resistant tuberculosis**

**Wednesday, 13 September 2017
13:00–14:15, Bartók**

Background

1. At the 61st session of the Regional Committee for Europe in September 2011, the 53 Member States of the European Region adopted the European Strategic Action Plan on Antibiotic Resistance (2011–2020) and the Consolidated Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Multidrug- and Extensively Drug-resistant Tuberculosis in the WHO European Region (2011–2015). The aim of both Action Plans is to comprehensively address the complex factors related to bacterial resistance. The implementation of the two Action Plans has been initiated, facilitated and supported by the WHO Regional Office for Europe through a large number of activities at the country level.
2. In May 2015, the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly adopted the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance. The goal of the Global Action Plan is to ensure, for as long as possible, continuity of successful treatment and prevention of infectious diseases with effective and safe medicines that are quality-assured, used in a responsible way and accessible to all who need them. The Global Action Plan covers antibiotic resistance in detail, but also refers to existing action plans for viral, parasitic and bacterial diseases, including tuberculosis, HIV and malaria.
3. The 65th session of the Regional Committee adopted the Tuberculosis Action Plan for the WHO European Region 2016–2020, which defines strategic directions and describes activities to be carried out by stakeholders based on lessons learned in implementing the Consolidated Action Plan, in September 2015. Both the Consolidated Action Plan (2011–2015) and the Tuberculosis Action Plan (2016–2020) are in line with the Global End TB Strategy, approved by the Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly in May 2014.
4. Although it predates the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance by four years, the objectives of the European Strategic Action Plan adopted in 2011 are fully aligned with those of the Global Action Plan. The ongoing implementation of the European Action Plan therefore paves the way for Member States in the Region to implement the Global Action Plan. The efforts of the Regional Office and its partners have guided and inspired global activities and initiatives, supporting the development and implementation of the Global Action Plan.

Objectives

5. The objectives of this technical briefing are:
- to discuss the implementation of the European Strategic Action Plan on Antibiotic Resistance (2011–2020);
 - to make use of the lessons learned from addressing multidrug-resistant tuberculosis and antibiotic resistance through the implementation of the European Strategic Action Plan on Antibiotic Resistance (2011–2020) and the Tuberculosis Action Plan for the WHO European Region 2016–2020 by sharing experiences from Member States; and
 - to learn from the experience of partner organizations and to apply those lessons to the strategic actions on antimicrobial resistance in general and on multidrug-resistant tuberculosis in particular.

Expected outcomes

6. The main expected outcome of the technical briefing is to improve the understanding of the regional Action Plans and to discuss commonalities in the key strategic directions and objectives of the Plans. Participants will be updated on the progress of the implementation of the European Strategic Action Plan on Antibiotic Resistance. Lessons learned from implementing the Action Plans in Member States, such as key bottlenecks and proposed actions to facilitate implementation, will be presented and discussed.

7. The final outcome is to engage Member States in cross-linking these two Action Plans to capitalize on common elements and lessons learned at the country level, such as implementing national antimicrobial resistance surveillance systems, improving diagnostic capacity, raising awareness among professionals and the general public, and engaging multiple stakeholders in implementation activities.

Provisional programme

Time	Topic/speaker
10 min	Welcome and briefing by the WHO Regional Office for Europe
5 min	Intervention by the European Commission and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (to be confirmed)
5 min	Intervention by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (to be confirmed)
30 min	Panel discussion with Member States <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the key issues and challenges for implementation of the regional action plans for antimicrobial resistance and multidrug-resistant tuberculosis? • Based on the discussion of lessons learned, what factors could improve implementation? • What additional support could the Regional Office provide to Member States to address the challenges and obstacles?
20 min	General discussion with audience, guided and moderated by the facilitators
5 min	Summary and next steps by the facilitators