



Technical Advisory Group on Tuberculosis (TAG-TB) for the WHO European Region

TERMS OF REFERENCE

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Objectives

The overall objective of the Technical Advisory Group on Tuberculosis (TAG-TB) for the WHO European Region is to provide an independent review and expert technical opinion on the prevention and care of TB, drug-resistant (DR) TB and HIV-associated TB (TB/HIV) to the Regional Director of the WHO Regional Office for Europe.

The specific objectives of TAG-TB are to:

1. provide technical advice and recommendations that would help the WHO Regional Office for Europe with strengthening regional and country specific interventions to support national efforts through quality implementation of the End TB Strategy.
2. provide technical advice and recommendations on strengthening health systems and public health, and address challenges to universal access to evidence-based TB prevention, control and care.

Modus operandi

- TAG-TB is comprised of individual members with substantial technical expertise and experience in areas related to TB and TB/HIV prevention and care (including public health, epidemiology, health systems, medical products and technologies, surveillance, related communicable and non-communicable diseases, social science, and civil society, among others). Members are nominated based on their individual capacity, rather than on their affiliation to an organization or institution.
- Members are appointed for a maximum period of three years in order to address the evolving needs, while ensuring the continuity of the group's activities. Members are expected to dedicate an equivalent of four working days per year to TAG-TB work. Travel related costs of TAG members are covered by the WHO Regional Office for Europe. Members are requested to declare any conflicts of interest in writing before each meeting.
- The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson are selected from among the TAG-TB members and elected by them. They can serve for a maximum period of four years. The Chairperson

represents TAG-TB in different meetings, when appropriate and if required. The Vice Chairperson assists the Chairperson in his/her duties, as required.

- Based on the needs, temporary advisers may be invited to present and address specific topics at TAG-TB meetings. Representatives of WHO and global committees and bodies, as well as key technical and financial partners, can participate as observers.
- TAG-TB meets annually. Ad hoc meetings may be convened, as required. Teleconferences, videoconferences or other means of remote communication may be conducted to discuss special issues.
- The WHO Regional Office for Europe functions as the Secretariat, providing support and assistance to TAG-TB's work, including a meeting rapporteur. The Secretariat drafts specific questions for TAG-TB and sends them along with the background documents at the latest two weeks prior to the meeting. Each specific topic is assigned to a discussant chosen from among the TAG-TB members, who will review the related background documents and additional publications or data in advance, and elaborate the topic for discussion at TAG-TB.
- A report on the TAG-TB meeting is presented to the Regional Director of the WHO Regional Office for Europe and after internal clearance, distributed to all interested parties by the Secretariat within three months of the meeting.