

WHO/Europe TB and M/XDR-TB quarterly newsletter – March 2013

FEATURE

World Tuberculosis Day 2013

Member States throughout the Region are organizing awareness-raising activities to mark World Tuberculosis Day in the week of 18–24 March 2013. The Regional Office will kick-off this effort with the following events:

- launch of the new WHO/ECDC report [Tuberculosis surveillance and monitoring in Europe 2013](#);
- opening of a photo exhibition “[Faces of Tuberculosis](#)” on 20 March in the European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium, under the patronage of Glenis Willmott, Member of the European Parliament;
- a joint WHO/ECDC twitter chat on tuberculosis in the European Region on 22 March, from 11:00 to 12:00 CET ([#TBchat](#)).

Press release: [Adequate treatment essential to stop tuberculosis across Europe - WHO/ECDC new report](#)

NEWS

[Slovakia moves towards TB elimination](#)

11–14 March 2013

After successfully reducing the tuberculosis rate to 6.4 cases per 100 000 population, Slovakia is now moving into the elimination phase. WHO/Europe and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) therefore conducted a joint review of existing policies and plans for tuberculosis (TB) elimination in the country.

[Belarus applies for funding to further strengthen its TB control programme](#)

1 March 2013

Belarus has submitted a funding renewal application to the Global Fund for continued collaboration with WHO/Europe in strengthening the national TB control programme.

COUNTRY IN FOCUS: KYRGYZSTAN

Kyrgyzstan is among the 27 multidrug-resistant (MDR) TB burden countries in the world. Adherence to MDR-TB treatment is a challenge, and monitoring and evaluation of drug-resistant TB cases needs to be improved. The country has a low MDR-TB detection rate because of limited laboratory capacity.

Substantial financial gaps exist, especially with regard to the complex and costly interventions of drug-resistant TB management. About 44% of funds for TB control activities are contributed by foreign aid, including the Global Fund, making Kyrgyzstan dependent on external support and threatening sustainable TB interventions.

[WHO evaluates tuberculosis control programme in Kyrgyzstan](#)

Tuberculosis country work summary: "[Kyrgyzstan](#)"

RECENTLY PUBLISHED

[Tuberculosis surveillance and monitoring in Europe 2013](#)

WHO/Europe and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) collect, analyse and publish TB surveillance and monitoring data on an annual basis. WHO-ECDC have just released their fourth joint surveillance report.

[Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis in Belarus: the size of the problem and associated risk factors](#)

Bulletin of the World Health Organization 2013; 91:36-45.

[Multidrug resistance in new tuberculosis patients: burden and implications](#)

Royce S, et al., International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, Volume 17, Number 4, 1 April 2013

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Progress of implementation of concerted action plans to prevent and combat M/XDR- TB](#)

12th WHO National TB Programme Managers' Meeting and 16th Wolfheze Workshops, jointly organized by WHO/Europe, ECDC and KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation.

Provisional programme now available.

29–31 May 2013, The Hague, Netherlands

Workshop on coordinating tuberculosis control in Romania

19–21 March 2013

The Romanian ministries of health and defence are conducting this workshop together with the United States European Command (USEUCOM), Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center (AFHSC) and Embassy in Bucharest. The workshop focuses on treatment protocols, infection control best practices, social support for TB patients and TB surveillance programmes.

Roundtable discussion on implementing national PAL in Belarus

9 April 2013

Members of the national working group on Practical Approach to Lung Health (PAL) and international experts will discuss the results of the piloting phase of a WHO-supported PAL project in Ostrovets district (Grodno region) and will finalize national PAL guidelines before a country-wide roll out. The WHO/Europe-facilitated roundtable is funded through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) grant "Enhancement of the STOP TB strategy in Belarus, 2010–2013".

RECENT EVENTS

[Romania moves toward centralized procurement of medicines](#)

1 March 2013

[WHO mission to develop a protocol for outpatient care in Uzbekistan](#)

21–27 February 2013

[WHO/Europe conducts external review of the National Tuberculosis Programme in the Republic of Moldova](#)

4–15 February 2013

[Slovakia hosts study tour for Ukrainian TB experts](#)

27 January to 2 February 2013

[WHO assists Uzbekistan in development of a national TB laboratory strategy and training for rapid TB diagnosis](#)

10–21 December 2012

Regional Interagency Collaborating Committee on Tuberculosis Control and Care (RICC-TB)
4 December 2012, Copenhagen, Denmark

At this first meeting of the RICC-TB, Committee members discussed the following main focus areas and key objectives: advocacy and improved awareness of TB and MDR-TB, sharing of best practices, sharing of best practices, engaging civil society, engaging the specialized/professional societies. A detailed report of the discussions and plans for future steps will soon be available on the WHO/Europe web site.

7th meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on Tuberculosis Control (TAG-TB)
3 December 2012, Copenhagen, Denmark

TAG-TB provides advice to the WHO Regional Office for Europe on strategic directions and specific technical areas related to TB prevention, control and care. The objectives of the December 2012 meeting were to review progress and discuss and propose specific measures to improve TB surveillance, introduction of new medicines, drug management and supply and cross-border TB control in the WHO European Region. A report of the meeting's conclusions and recommendations will soon be available on the WHO/Europe web site.

[WHO and ECDC recommend immediate resumption of BCG vaccination programme against tuberculosis in Romania](#)

26 November 2012

QUICK FACT

The incidence of TB in prisons ranges from 5 to 70 times higher than within the general population.

More information: [Time to act and prevent and control tuberculosis among inmates.](#)

A statement of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, January 2013.

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

Stay connected – [join the TB chat](#) from 11:00 to 12:00 CET on 22 March 2013 (#TBchat).

CONTACT US - Please note our new address as of 2 April 2013

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