

## FEATURE

### **A tribute to Iulian - an XDR-TB patient from Romania**

Dear colleagues and friends,

The second edition of the WHO/Europe quarterly TB and M/XDR-TB newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Iulian, an XDR-TB patient from a village in Dambovită, Romania, who died on 5 May 2012, aged 42. Iulian was among the few who have spoken out about their experiences living with this disease. He contributed to a better understanding of the impact of tuberculosis with vivid statements, including one incorporated in the WHO brochure "Time to Act". His words shall inspire us to work harder and fight tuberculosis until it is eliminated.

Dr Masoud Dara  
On behalf of the WHO/Europe TB and M/XDR-TB programme  
Regional Office for Europe

[More information courtesy of Jonathan Stillo](#)

## NEWS

### [European health authorities discuss essential steps to curb the TB and MDR-TB epidemic](#)

WHO/Europe organized the 11th National TB Programme Managers Meeting on 2–3 July 2012 in London, back to back with the 6th Conference of the Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) Europe Region

### [Tuberculosis country work summaries](#)

Summaries of the epidemiological situation, the main challenges with regard to TB control and the work performed in the country by WHO are now available for the following 12 of the 18 high TB priority countries in the European Region: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

### [European Tuberculosis Laboratory Initiative core group members selected](#)

Eight individuals have been selected to represent the core group of the European Tuberculosis Laboratory Initiative (ELI).

### [Annual TBTEAM meeting of the WHO European Region countries](#)

The second annual TB Technical Assistance Mechanism (TBTEAM) meeting of the countries of the WHO European Region took place on 2 July 2012 in London, United Kingdom.

### [Workshop to analyse the results of a nationwide anti-tuberculosis drug resistance survey in Uzbekistan](#)

This workshop was held 4–6 June 2012 in Copenhagen, Denmark, to analyse and discuss with national and international partners the results of the survey conducted in Uzbekistan in 2010–2011.

### [WHO/Europe and ECDC TB teams conduct joint country visit to Hungary](#)

At the request of the Ministry of National Resources of Hungary, WHO/Europe and ECDC organized a joint country visit 22–25 May 2012.

### [Review of the national tuberculosis programme in Kazakhstan](#)

The WHO/Europe TB and M/XDR-TB programme in collaboration with partners conducted an extensive review of TB prevention, control and care in Kazakhstan, 9–18 May 2012.

### [Review of the national tuberculosis programme in Azerbaijan](#)

With financial support from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) and in collaboration with partners, the WHO/Europe TB and M/XDR-TB programme conducted an extensive review of TB prevention, control and care in Azerbaijan, 11–18 April 2012.

### [Workshops to update national M/XDR TB response plans](#)

Turkmenistan, Armenia, Ukraine and Belarus have conducted workshops to update their national M/XDR TB response plans. The plans will soon be finalized and submitted to the respective ministries of health for approval.

## **COUNTRY IN FOCUS: UZBEKISTAN**

### [United Nations Joint Programme: Sustaining Livelihoods Affected by the Aral Sea Disaster](#)

WHO is contributing to this United Nations project to help alleviate the health impacts of the Aral Sea environmental disaster, including the spread of tuberculosis.

### [Tuberculosis country work summary: Uzbekistan](#)

## **RECENTLY PUBLISHED**

### [Epidemiology of tuberculosis in WHO European Region and public health response](#)

European Spine Journal, 2012: Masoud Dara, Andrei Dadu, Kristin Kremer, Richard Zaleskis and Hans H. P. Kluge

### [A rapid assessment of the accessibility and integration of HIV, TB and harm reduction services for people who inject drugs in Portugal](#)

Final Study Report, April 2012

### [Time to act: Save 120 000 lives and US\\$ 12 billion by 2015 with...The Consolidated Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Multidrug- and Extensively Drug-resistant Tuberculosis in the WHO European Region 2011–2015](#)

WHO/Europe brochure, 2011 (PDF) 1.73 MB

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### [Global Conference of the European Respiratory Society](#)

Vienna, Austria, 1–5 September

### **Regional TBTEAM workshop on MDR-TB national plans**

Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, 8–12 October 2012

### [Calendar of events 2012](#)

## **RECENT EVENTS**

### [Annual meeting of joint ECDC/WHO surveillance network for tuberculosis](#)

Stockholm, Sweden, 12–13 June 2012

## [Modern health care technologies in diagnosis, treatment and follow up of patients with tuberculosis](#)

Conference organized by the Belarus Ministry of Health and Belarusian Respiratory Society, Minsk, Belarus, 7–8 June 2012

## [Workshop on developing national MDR/XDR-TB operational plan in Ukraine](#)

Led by WHO with support from PATH, Kiev, Ukraine, 25–27 April 2012

## **QUICK FACT**

**Treatment success rates for new and previously treated TB cases in the WHO European Region fell from 72% and 50% in 2005 to 69% and 48% in 2010, respectively.**

Source: Joint ECDC and WHO/Europe publication [Tuberculosis surveillance and monitoring in Europe 2012](#)

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