

BRINGING CIVIL SOCIETY TOGETHER TO END THE TUBERCULOSIS EPIDEMIC

TB Europe Coalition

Strengthening the role of civil society within the TB
response in Europe



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Why you should be worried about TB?

- WHO Europe region has highest rates of MDR-TB among new TB patients in the world! 15 of the 27 DR-TB high burden countries globally are in the WHO Europe region (5 EU MS);
- Decline in international funding for middle income countries (though often the only source to finance programmes targeting vulnerable groups and key affected populations);
- Weak national health systems – cost effective and people centered ambulatory care models, clear legal framework to allow social contracting of NGOs – all to be introduced;
- Stigma - disease of “poverty”, fear of being “found out”, shame.



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Who are we?

TB Europe Coalition - informal network of CSOs and individuals working on TB;

Founded in 2009, currently TBEC has 350 members;

TBEC governance structures include Steering Committee and Secretariat (divided between London, Brussels and Kiev);

Key activities:

- Engagement with TBEC members (country visits, advocacy trainings, webinars, mentoring, communication via TBEC website in EN/RU, newsletters and listserve);
- Engagement with international and regional decision makers and civil society networks such as EU, WHO Europe, Global Fund, Union, STOP TB Partnership, EHRN among others via participation in international conferences, meeting groups, round tables and via publishing various policy reports, papers and resources;



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What are our objectives?

- Ensure evidence and rights based quality policies are in place and are implemented at national level;
- Build the capacity of CSOs and affected communities in TB advocacy and provision of quality people centered care;
- Provide functioning regional coordinating body, uniting and responding to the needs of TB advocates in the region;



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What we did in 2016?

In 2016, key success included contribution to:

- establishment of **TB People** – first Russian-speaking network of TB survivors in the region;
- launching of the **TB REP project** (TB in Eastern Europe and Central Asia on Strengthening Health Systems for Effective TB and DR-TB Control), which is implemented with the financial support of the Global Fund;
- strengthening of the Global TB Caucus **Eurasian Parliamentary group**;



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Which are the areas of work of your project where there is most potential/need for further work?

- Creation of **strong coalitions of CSOs** working in health advocacy in each TBEC country (WHO Europe region), with experience in power mapping, budget cycle analysis and advocacy. CSO coalitions at national level, which would be able to act as a good partner and watchdog at the same time, would be a key to influence health system and health finance reforms.
- **Integrated EU policy framework on HIV, TB and Hepatitis C**
- **Transition to national funding** (sustainable, evidence-based, long-term plan, case of Romania);
- **Shift to people-centred TB treatment** (psychosocial wellbeing of patients, patient and public safety, cost-effectiveness and better treatment outcomes, less stigma);
- **Antimicrobial resistance** (currently MDR-TB up to 200x more expensive and effective only in 50% of cases, investment in R&D);



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What is the perspective for establishing and continuing working relations with other EU co-financed actions?

- Revamping strategy and governance structures in February;
- Disease specific international and regional funding coming to an end, but still much to be done to fulfil the SDGs and achieve UHC;
- TBEC wants to work with HIV, harm reduction and hepatitis movement to create wider coalitions and to increase our impact on health policies, and ultimately help formulate better laws for marginalised populations and better services for everyone;



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Thank you!



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