

**Meeting on TB Regional EECA Project on
Strengthening Health systems for
Effective TB and DR-TB prevention and
care at 67th session of the World Health
Organization Regional Committee for
Europe**

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**13 September 2017
Budapest, Hungary**

Original: English

Background

Despite notable progress in the past decade, TB is still a public health concern in the WHO European Region, which bears the brunt of multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB), with rates more than twice as high as those in any other WHO region in both new and previously treated patient cohorts. Of the 30 countries considered to have a high burden of MDR-TB globally, nine are in the WHO European Region.

The emergence and persistence of DR-TB is a direct consequence of failings in the health care system. In particular, it is the result of gaps between different parts of the system – notably between the health and prison sectors – and of a lack of adequate infrastructure such as laboratory facilities and challenges in ensuring continued access to appropriate, high-quality anti-TB medicines. These challenges, when further complicated by weak psychosocial support systems result in the delivery of inappropriate or interrupted treatment, especially for those who are most vulnerable.

Many EECA countries are changing health systems from vertical models – where interventions were largely delivered by hospitals – to more coordinated models, with strengthened primary health care. This transition, however, requires mechanisms to overcome the legacy of fragmented governance structures, finance systems that often create a set of perverse incentives, outdated service delivery approaches, weak infrastructure and inequitable distribution of staff, notably in rural areas. Additional factors contributing to challenges in service delivery include low motivation among health workers and relatively few incentives to encourage skills development.

TB REP Project funded by the Global Fund and implemented by PAS as a Principal Recipient and WHO Regional Office for Europe as one of the key technical partners, has been supporting eleven EECA countries to address outdated models of TB care to tackle high burden of TB and MDR TB, and related to those health systems' barriers, such as inefficient and fragmented health financing and lack of strategic human resources planning. This project aims to support countries to implement effective and efficient TB service delivery systems with sustainable financing.

Objectives:

- To review project's updates and key progress in implementation of the project.
- To present and discuss activity plans till end of 2018 and next steps after for fostering sustainability of project deliverables.

Expected outcomes:

- Participants updated on the progress of the regional project
- Good practices in implementation of reform of models of care and financing of services presented
- Key bottlenecks and suggestions for actions with regards to the implementation of the TB Action Plan 2016-2020 are presented to the extent relevant for the project.

Suggested agenda:

Ministerial Breakfast Meeting will be organized in a roundtable format with all eleven Ministers of Health or their representatives, Global Fund, PAS and WHO EURO and possibly representatives of Ministries of Finance and other relevant institutions.

08:00-08:50	Speakers/Facilitators
Welcome and introduction	Dr Hans Kluge (WHO), Dr Dumitru Laticevschi, Global Fund EECA Regional Manager, Dr Stela Bivol (PAS Center)
Panel discussion with Ministers of Health	Dr Masoud Dara (WHO)
Towards Amsterdam AIDS Conference, TBREP role in health system approach to HIV (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands)	TBC
Closing Remarks	Dr Hans Kluge and Dr Nedret Emiroglu (WHO)