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Message of Thanks

The TB Europe Coalition would like to thank all of the individuals and organisations working in TB control and international development who have provided information, guidance and support throughout the year.

Particular thanks to RESULTS UK & Global Health Advocates who provide support and host the TBEC Secretariat and to the EC and ACTION for providing financial support.

In addition, thank you to TBEC members for their continued support and dedication to the fight against TB.
Annual Report 2016

TB Europe Coalition: overview

TBEC is an informal advocacy alliance that shares a commitment to raising awareness of tuberculosis and to increasing the political will to control the disease throughout the WHO Europe Region and worldwide.

TBEC was formed in 2009 by a group of TB activists from the WHO European Region as a response to address two major concerns. First, the spread of resistant forms of TB (Multi-Drug Resistant TB and Extremely Drug-Resistant TB) in several countries of the European Region and the concentration of about a quarter of the global burden in the region. Eastern Europe and Central Asia, in particular, had (and continue to have) the world’s highest rates of new TB patients with MDR-TB. Second, high-rates of MDR-TB were coupled with low awareness among general population and policy-makers about this problem. This was especially due to a scarce number of civil society organizations working on TB in the region and almost none capable of advocating for TB at national or regional level. The geographic reach of the network includes EU/EEA countries, Eastern Europe and other neighbouring countries, Central Asia and the Russian Federation.

With these concerns in mind, TBEC was formed to bring together national organisations and individuals capable of raising awareness about TB and advocate for bolder policies to fight this disease at all levels.

Vision

TBEC’s vision is a world without tuberculosis. In the immediate term, TBEC envisions the prioritisation of an effective response to the TB epidemic in the region, through:

- A strong social response to the epidemic via the involvement and empowerment of affected communities and civil society organisations in TB prevention, care and control.
- Increased political will to control the disease across the entire region;
- Sufficient investment in research and development (R&D) to develop new and improved, safe and effective, accessible and affordable vaccines, diagnostics, drugs and regimens for TB and multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB);

Mission

TBEC’s mission is to strengthen the role and contribution of civil society organisations (CSOs) and affected communities within a sustainable and effective response to TB across in the region by:

- Providing a coordinating body that unites TB advocates across the region, in order to disseminate information, promote collaboration and learning, and share best practice;
- Building the advocacy capacity and coordinate the strategies of TB advocates and CSOs across the region;
- Leveraging the political and financial commitment necessary to eliminate TB in the WHO European Region and worldwide.

Objectives

- Increase the capacity of civil society across the WHO European Region to advocate for a more effective response to the TB epidemic.
• Strengthen the voice of civil society within an effective response to TB in the WHO European Region.
• Build a wide reaching, stronger and more effective network to adequately serve civil society.

**TBEC activities in 2016**

In 2016 TBEC continued to strengthen its position as a key civil society network, working on TB issues in EECA region. The continuous financial support from the EC allowed TBEC Secretariat and Steering Committee members to actively engage with various international and regional stakeholders such as Eurasian Harm Reduction Network, the Union, International AIDS and TB conferences, WHO Europe Regional Collaborative Committee on TB Control and Care and various EU institutions. However, the key achievements this year was: first of all, establishment of TB People – a Russian-speaking network of TB survivors that with TBEC support successfully convened in Bratislava alongside Union’s regional conference; secondly, participation in 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 to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia through 2016-2018. With the primary recipient of the Global Fund being PAS Center, Moldova, and under the technical leadership of WHO EURO a wide range of partners are involved in the TB-REP project implementation. TBEC, with international charitable foundation “Alliance for Public Health” (Ukraine), as a technical implementer is responsible for supporting the civil society organizations in their grass-root advocacy efforts in the TB-REP countries through capacity development, progress monitoring and information exchange.

Throughout the year, TBEC continued the effective engagement with EU, WHO and Global Fund on shaping TB policy, including transition, ambulatory care and antimicrobial resistance through participation in meetings and conferences, as well as publishing policy reports. Furthermore, TBEC Secretariat members continued to chair the WHO Regional Collaborative Committee (RCC) on TB, continuously increasing collaboration with WHO Europe and other technical partners. TBEC has also closely worked with the Global TB Caucus in order to strengthen ties between the CSOs and the parliamentarians, who are part of Global TB Caucus in EECA region.

**Country Visits**

The country visits in 2016 included **Romania, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan**.

The visits were set to include CSOs advocacy capacity building, facilitating linkages between civil society and national and international stakeholders on TB in the countries as well as to document the successful practices and lessons learnt within the implementation of CSOs advocacy activities.

**Communication**

• The number of TBEC network members reached 342 by December 2016, and has increased by 14% from 2015;
• TBEC website was continuously updated in EN and RU throughout the year, with 50% increase in numbers of website users, and around 452 returning visitors (TBEC target audience have doubled in size since January);
• TBEC monthly newsletter in EN and RU was regularly sent to all TBEC members, remaining very popular, with approximately 99% opening rate;

• TBEC continued to engage on social media accounts on Facebook and Twitter*.

• 2 sets of webinars in RU and EN were carried out during months of October and December – one webinar focused on the access to the EU funding, and the second one on the engagement with the Global TB Caucus and engagement with members of parliament;

• 2 case studies of successful practices in Romania (project encouraging journalism on TB issues) and Ukraine (establishment of national network of persons who recovered from TB) were published in EN and RU on website;

• Annual TBEC member survey† was conducted in November with an objective to make the TB Europe Coalition more responsive to membership needs by offering technical support, training and workshops, providing up to date information, news and other activities that better meet your interests;

Conferences and consultations

TBEC Steering Committee members were involved throughout 2016 in policy consultations and participated in main conferences:

• WHO Regional Collaborative Committee on TB Care and Control Meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, November 15;

• Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) Regional Consultation on Expanding Access to Affordable and Quality Assured Antiretroviral and Anti-tuberculosis medicines, Minsk, Belarus, November 2-3;

• 47th Union conference on Lung Health in Liverpool, UK, October 26-30;

• Regional TB REP meeting in Kiev, Ukraine, September 14-16;

• Regional Green Light Committee for the WHO European Region face-to-face meeting in Copenhagen, August 4-5;

• 21st International AIDS conference in Durban, South Africa, July 18-22;

• TB 2016 conference in Durban, South Africa, July 16-17;

• Regional Union conference (Europe) in Bratislava, Slovakia, June 22-24;

• EU/EAA TB Surveillance Network and WHO/Europe National TB Programme Managers meeting in Bratislava, Slovakia, June 21;

• Inter-country high-level meeting on health systems strengthening for enhanced tuberculosis prevention and care: Regional Eastern European and Central Asian Project (TB-REP) in Copenhagen, Denmark, April 26-28;

• Health Working Group’s of the European Parliament Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Security (ENVI) workshop on EU response to communicable diseases, Brussels, Belgium, February 17;

• Eurasian Harm Reduction Network meeting “National Partner Harm Reduction Networks and Organisations” in Vilnius, Lithuania, February 1-2;

* For more analysis on communication, please see Annex 2;
† For detailed survey result charts, please see Annex 1;
Eurasian Harm Reduction Network
TBEC secretariat attended the meeting of EHRN’s “National Partner Harm Reduction Networks and Organisations” in Vilnius, Lithuania. The EHRN members from 27 countries of the region and partners including Harm Reduction International, the Global Fund, UNODC & the Open Society Foundation joined to discuss ways for the EHRN network to collaborate in advocacy for the programmatic and financial sustainability of harm reduction, HIV and TB programmes and reform of policies. The meeting focused on transition to government funding of harm reduction, HIV and TB programmes from Global Fund grants and sharing country experiences of the consequences of Global Fund exit. In April in 2016, TBEC Steering Committee member attended EHRN meeting on social contracting and budget advocacy.

European Parliament Health Committee
On 17th of February 2016, the Health Working Group of the European Parliament Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Security (ENVI) organised a workshop on EU response to communicable diseases. The panel included representatives from the EC, ECDC, TBEC and the WHO. Overall, there was a consensus among the panellists that the growing epidemic of HIV/AIDS, MDR-TB and Hepatitis C across the European region is alarming. The response to the three diseases has slipped down the political agenda of the European Commission: there are still major gaps in EU strategies, action plans and guidelines to address the epidemics.

The Union Regional Conference (Europe) on Lung Health
TB Europe Coalition members and secretariat attended the 7TH Conference of the Union Europe Region 22-24 June 2016 with the theme “Know – Share – Act in the fight against TB and lung disease” in Bratislava, Slovakia. Although primarily with a very scientific focus, the conference this year focused on community and civil society engagement as well as political with greater emphasis, mostly due to the increased presence and advocacy by TBEC and its members as well as the Global TB Caucus. This included TBEC facilitating the final plenary on community and political will to end TB as well as the GTBC German parliamentarian speaking at the closing ceremony.

International AIDS and TB conference
TB Europe Coalition members attended the 21st International AIDS and TB Conferences (AIDS 2016) July 18-22 2016 in Durban, South Africa. The IAS conference is held every two years, and is an opportunity for those working in the field of HIV, TB, policy makers, technical agencies, people living with HIV and with experience of TB as well as civil society. This year over 18,000 people gathered in Durban to attend the conference. TBEC hosted three events in both the TB HIV and European networking zones, on donor withdrawal of financing in our region and the need to engage politicians and policy makers in the response to TB and HIV.

TB-REP
TBEC is a formal partner of the TB REP project, the first ever GF regional grant on TB for the European region and will receive about 25% of the funds (more than €1,5m) to devise regional advocacy strategies and run a small grants programme for national NGOs in 11 Eastern Europe and Central Asian countries to facilitate the transition to the people centred models of TB care with the focus on service provision in the ambulatory settings. On 14-16 September 2016, Kyiv hosted the first regional meeting of the advocacy partners with TBEC members present and actively involved in advocacy training and education.
The Union World Conference on Lung Health
TBEC sponsored Steering Committee members and several community representatives from Romania to attend the Union Conference in Liverpool in order to share their experiences regarding transition from international to national funding. They also actively participated in the sessions in the community corner of the Union and the TBEC Steering Committee annual meeting. Furthermore, during conference TBEC Secretariat and Steering Committee members actively engaged in discussions regarding civil society engagement and contribution to TB treatment in various community sessions.

RCC-TB
The RCC-TB is the Regional Collaborative Committee on TB Control and Care and provides an interactive opportunity for all stakeholders including community and patient representatives, donors, technical agencies, civil society and professional societies to come together, exchange information and advocate for action. This year, the members discussed challenges and progress regarding the TB Regional Project for EECA (TB-REP) and the challenges surrounding defining what exactly we mean by quality ambulatory care. The network also discussed further the synergies that can be made in the RCC regarding sustainability of health services and programmes in the WHO European Region in the context of donor withdrawal.

EU Advocacy Tour
From 5th to 7th December, TBEC conducted annual EU advocacy tour, bringing Mr Momchil Baev, a member and a representative of National Patient Organisation in Bulgaria, to Brussels for numerous meetings with Bulgarian members of the European parliament and Permanent Representation to the EU in advance of Bulgaria’s presidency of the Council of the EU in January-June 2018. The key issues discussed during the meetings concerned sustainability of health systems in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, integrated EU policy framework on HIV, TB and Viral Hepatitis, as well as how to improve access to innovative medicines in the EU.

Reports and publications
In 2016 TBEC published:

- Policy paper on “Transitioning from donor support HIV and TB programmes in Eastern Europe and Central Asia: challenges and effective solutions” was launched in spring 2016. The report illustrates the devastating impact of donor withdrawal from TB programmes in EECA countries on people affected by TB and MDR-TB, and advocates for sustainable process where international funding is step-by-step replaced with national resources. The report advocates for more predictability and effectiveness of transition process, involvement of all stakeholders, and guidance to national governments.

- Report on “How to leverage European Union funding for health in Eastern Europe and Central Asia” focuses on various EU funding instruments available to civil society in the EU and EECA regions. The report was launched in spring 2016, and has been used in webinars on the access to the EU funding later in the year;

- Joint TBEC and Global TB Caucus resource on parliamentary engagement. The resource provides practical advice on how to successfully engage with national members of parliaments;
### TBEC funding

**January – December 2016**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income source</th>
<th>Amount (EUR)</th>
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<tr>
<td>The European Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACTION</td>
<td>53,290.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Together</strong></td>
<td><strong>133,090.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Annex 1: TBEC member survey 2016

Chart 1: Survey participants by country.

- Armenia: 2%
- Azerbaijan: 7%
- Belgium: 2%
- Bulgaria: 2%
- Estonia: 2%
- Georgia: 5%
- Kazakhstan: 12%
- Kyrgyzstan: 16%
- Netherlands: 5%
- Moldova: 2%
- Macedonia: 5%
- Romania: 12%
- Sweden: 2%
- Tajikistan: 7%
- Ukraine: 7%
- UK: 7%

Chart 2: On an overall basis, how satisfied you are with the TB Europe Coalition?

- Extremely satisfied: 17
- Very satisfied: 13
- Moderately satisfied: 2
- Not so satisfied: 0
- Not at all satisfied: 0
Chart 3: How adequate the TB Coalition represents Civil Society Organisations across your region?

- Not at all adequate: 1
- Not so adequate: 11
- Moderately adequate: 10
- Very adequate: 17
- Extremely adequate: 4

Chart 4: How satisfied are you with information resources, advocacy tools and training provided by TB Europe Coalition?

- Extremely satisfied: 5
- Very satisfied: 11
- Moderately satisfied: 9
- Not so satisfied: 15
- Not at all satisfied: 0
Chart 5: How well does TB Europe Coalition website and social media meets your needs?

![Bar chart showing feedback on website and social media satisfaction.]

Chart 6: How satisfied are you with TBEC monthly newsletter?

![Pie chart showing feedback on newsletter satisfaction.]

- Extremely satisfied: 24%
- Very satisfied: 47%
- Moderately satisfied: 5%
- Not so satisfied: 24%
- Not at all satisfied: 5%
Annex 2: Communication analysis

Chart 1: Social Media – Facebook

Chart 2: Social Media – Twitter

Chart 4: Website – Visitors