The fourth meeting of the European Tuberculosis Research Initiative (ERI-TB) Core Group
Venue: web-based videoconference hosted in UN City, Marmorvej 51, 2100 Copenhagen, Denmark
Time: Friday 23, August 2019 14:00-17:00 (CET)

SCOPE AND PURPOSE

BACKGROUND

The World Health Organisation (WHO) European Region (the Region) incorporates 53 Member States and has a reported incidence of tuberculosis (TB) that ranges from near eradication to rates exceeding 100 per 100,000 population. The Region includes 18 high priority countries to End TB in WHO European Region, 9 of which are top rated globally as having the highest burden of multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB).

The Strategic Development Goals (SDG) target for TB is to "end the epidemic" by 2030. At the Sixty-Seventh World Health Assembly, the End TB Strategy was adopted. This comprised high-reaching targets of ending the TB epidemic by (i) eliminating catastrophic expenses due to TB, (ii) achieving a 90% reduction in TB deaths and (iii) an 80% reduction in TB incidence by 2030 compared with 2015. The third pillar of the End TB Strategy – research and innovation – pursues operational research for the design, implementation, and scaling-up of innovations and calls for an urgent boost in research investments, so that new tools are developed, and made rapidly available and widely accessible in the next decade.

Acting in accordance with the Roadmap to implement the TB action plan for the WHO European Region 2016-2020: towards ending tuberculosis and multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (TB Action Plan 2016-2020), which was developed to operationalize the Global End TB Strategy in the regional context, the WHO Regional Office for Europe launched in 2017 the European Tuberculosis Research Initiative (ERI-TB) to support the scale-up of TB research in the Region. The primary aims of the ERI-TB are (i) to define priority research areas and questions to countries in the Region, (ii) to catalyse capacity building on a country level, and (iii) to facilitate and promote collaboration between research institutions and relevant stakeholders.

Over the last three years a number of steps have been undertaken by ERI’s TB Secretariat, promoting research in the Region and capacity building at country level. The time has come to sum up current achievements, identify additional needs and opportunities and update ERI-TB vision for the future.
OBJECTIVES
1. To sum up current scope of work and key achievements of ERI-TB;
2. To present DR TB research subgroup;
3. To share provisional plans of ERI-TB for the next year (including plans to support Member States on introduction of all-oral shorter treatment regimen for MDR-TB under operational research conditions and to discuss, 2nd cohort of Structured Operation TB Research Training (SORT-TB), collaboration with TDR focusing on vulnerable groups and engagement of civil society in TB research);
4. To discuss additional areas and opportunities for ERI-TB to focus on (including intercountry study on latent TB infection etc).

EXPECTED OUTPUT
This meeting will:
• Provide the latest updates on ERI-TB scope of work for core group members;
• Serve as a platform for identification of new challenges and opportunities for ERI-TB;
## PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Title of talk</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14:00</td>
<td>Introduction of participants <em>(10 min)</em></td>
<td>Sevim AHMEDOV</td>
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<tr>
<td>(90 min)</td>
<td>Agenda of the meeting <em>(5 min)</em></td>
<td>Sevim AHMEDOV</td>
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<td>Regional TB Activities: Progress within Regional TB Action Plan 2016-2020 and intersectoral collaboration. <em>(10 min)</em></td>
<td>Masoud DARA</td>
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<td>Global Strategy for TB Research and Innovation. <em>(10 min)</em></td>
<td>Matteo ZIGNOL</td>
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<td>Operationalisation at Regional Level: follow up on the European TB research Initiative, <em>(10 min)</em></td>
<td>Andrei DADU</td>
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<td>Structured Operational Research Training of the European TB research Initiative (ERI SORT-TB): Achievements and Prospective Plans, +Q&amp;A <em>(15 min)</em></td>
<td>Oleksandr KOROTYCH</td>
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<td>Update on DR TB Research Group, +Q&amp;A <em>(15 min)</em></td>
<td>Martin VAN DEN BOOM</td>
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<td>Launch of Intercountry Research on Shorter All Oral Regimens (mSRT) Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis (DR TB), +Q&amp;A <em>(15 min)</em></td>
<td>Askar YEDILBAYEV</td>
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<td>15:30</td>
<td>Break <em>(15 min)</em></td>
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<td>15:45</td>
<td>Staying Resilient for The Future: Revising Terms of Reference <em>(10 min)</em></td>
<td>Masoud DARA</td>
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<td>(75 min)</td>
<td>Panel discussion: Brainstorming on Focus Areas and Opportunities for ERI-TB <em>(40 min)</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>ERI TB Core Group Membership Rotation Plans <em>(10 min)</em></td>
<td>Andrei DADU</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Conclusions and Meeting Adjourn <em>(15 min)</em></td>
<td>Sevim AHMEDOV</td>
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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Members of the Core Group of the European Tuberculosis Research Initiative

1. Dr AHMEDOV, Sevim (Chair of the ERI-TB)  
   Senior TB Adviser, United States Agency for International Development (United States of America)
2. Dr CHEMTROU, Daniel  
   Department of TB & AIDS, Division of Epidemiology, Public Health Services, Ministry of Health, (Israel)
3. Dr CIRILLO, Daniela Maria  
   Director, WHO Collaborating Centre for TB Laboratory Strengthening (Italy)
4. Dr DUCROS, Philipp  
   Head of Manson Unit, Médecins Sans Frontières (United Kingdom)
5. Dr GELIUKH, Evgenia  
   TB/HIV Programme Manager, Alliance for Public Health (Ukraine)
6. Dr HOVHANNESYAN, Arax  
   Health Adviser, World Vision South Caucasus (Armenia)
7. Dr KUZIN, Ihor  
   Head, Monitoring and Evaluation Centre, Ukrainian Centre for Socially Dangerous Disease Control of the Ministry of Health (Ukraine)
8. Dr MIHAILESCU, Lucia  
   Coordinator, Tuberculosis Programme in Prisons and Global Fund projects (Romania)
9. Mr NAIMOV, Safarali  
   Secretary, STOP TB Partnership, Tajikistan, focal point for Global Coalition of TB Activists (European Region), and former MDR-TB patient (Tajikistan)
10. Dr SKRAHINA, Alena  
    Deputy Director, Republican Research and Practical Centre for Pulmonology and TB (Belarus)
11. Dr SOLOVIC, Ivan  
    Chief, Clinic for TB and Lung Diseases, Slovak Medical University (Slovakia)
12. Dr TIBERI, Simon  
    Infectious Diseases Consultant, Newham University and Royal London Hospitals, United Kingdom (United Kingdom)
13. Dr TOMSON, Göran  
    Senior Professor International Health Systems Research  
    Global Health, Health Systems and Policy group  
    Karolinska Institutet and Swedish Institute for Global Health Transformation, SIGHT,  
    Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm (Sweden)
14. Dr VASILYEVA, Irina  
    Director, Research Institute of Pulmonology, I.M. Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University, and Chief TB Expert, Ministry of Health (Russian Federation)
15. Dr ZENNER, Dominik  
    Head of TB Screening, Centre for Infectious Disease Surveillance and Control Colindale, Public Health England (United Kingdom)

WHO headquarters

16. Dr GRZEMSKA, Małgorzata  
    Coordinator, Technical Support Coordination unit, Global TB Programme
17. Dr ZIGNOL, Matteo  
    Unit head, chief scientist, Global TB Programme
18. Dr ZACHARIAH, Rony  
    Scientist, Communicable Diseases Department (CDS), Special programme for research and Training in tropical diseases (TDR)

WHO Regional Office for Europe

19. Dr DARA, Masoud  
    Acting Director, Communicable Diseases Department (CDS), Division of Health Emergencies and Communicable Diseases (DEC)
20. Dr KUCHENMÜLLER, Tanja  
    Unit head, Knowledge Management, evidence and research for policy-making (KER), Division of Information, Evidence, Research and Innovation (DIR)
21. Dr YEDILBAYEV, Askar  
    Unit head, TB, Joint Tuberculosis, HIV and viral Hepatitis Programme (JTH), Communicable Disease Department (CDS)
22. Dr SEGUY, Nicole Simone
Unit head, HSV, Joint Tuberculosis, HIV and viral Hepatitis Programme (JTH), Communicable Disease Department (CDS)

23. Dr DADU, Andrei
Medical Officer, CDS/JTH/TB

24. Dr GOZALOV, Ogtay
Medical Officer, CDS/JTH/TB

25. Dr HASANOVA, Sayohat
Technical Officer, CDS/JTH/TB

26. Dr KUCHUKHIDZE, Giorgi
Epidemiologist, CDS/JTH

27. Dr MOZALEVSKIS, Antons
Medical Officer, CDS/JTH

28. Dr SEGUY, Nicole
Unit head, HIV and viral Hepatitis, Joint Tuberculosis, HIV and viral Hepatitis Programme (JTH), Communicable Disease Department (CDS)

29. Dr VAN DEN BOOM, Martin
Technical Officer, CDS/JTH/TB

30. Dr VOVK, Elena
Technical Officer, CDS/JTH

31. Ms OYEDOKUN, Ayodele
Programme assistant, CDS/JTH

Consultant

32. Ms CLAPIER, Léa
WHO consultant

33. Ms GEMELLI, Vittoria
WHO consultant, intersectoral collaboration

34. Mr KOROTYCH, Oleksandr
WHO consultant, research and development

35. Dr NAVEIRA, Marcelo
WHO consultant

36. Dr NIKSINS, Sergejs
WHO consultant

37. Dr GRöSCHEL, Matthias
WHO consultant

38. Mr TRAN, Richard
WHO consultant, research and development

39. Mr GAVRY, Zachary
WHO consultant
REFERENCES (List of background documents)


