Tuberculosis (TB) is a serious and sometimes lethal infectious bacterial disease which most commonly affects the lungs. When the infection occurs somewhere other than the lungs, the disease is called extrapulmonary tuberculosis.

The proportion of extrapulmonary tuberculosis among all tuberculosis varies significantly across the European Union (EU). Main reasons are different risk factors for extrapulmonary TB, under-diagnosis or under-reporting.

Tuberculosis cases are decreasing, but extrapulmonary TB does not show the same downward trend. As a result, the proportion of extrapulmonary TB patients increased from 16% in 2002 to 22% in 2011.

1 in every 5 tuberculosis patients has extrapulmonary tuberculosis.