

ECDC DIRECTOR'S PRESENTATION

World Tuberculosis Day 2014 Progress towards TB elimination in the EU

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World Health Organization, Regional Office for Europe, 24 March 2014, Copenhagen

Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues,

I am pleased to have been invited to Copenhagen today, on World TB Day, to talk about the progress of TB elimination in the EU.

And I would like to thank Zsuzsanna Jakab and the WHO Regional Office for Europe for organising this event today where focus will be on the important issue of multidrug-resistant TB.

Today we also highlight the launch of our joint report on Tuberculosis Surveillance and Monitoring in Europe 2014, which you can find on both our web sites.

In 2012, just over 68.000 TB cases were reported in the 29 EU and EEA countries.

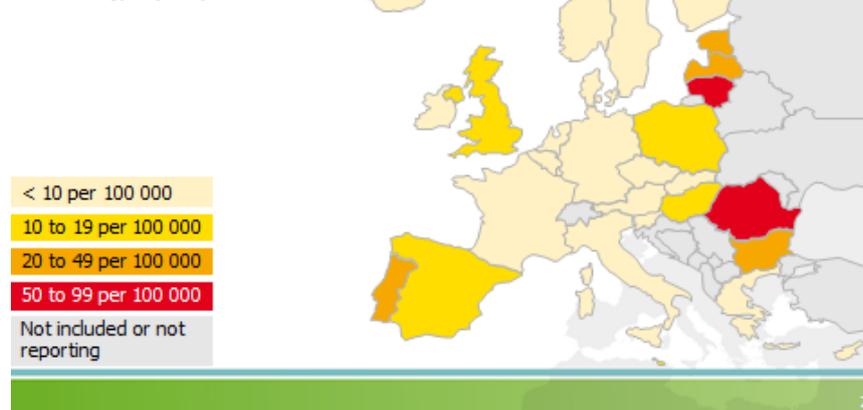
This is a decrease of 6% compared to the previous year, and reflects a decline in 19 reporting countries.

The notification rate for the EU/EEA countries was 13.5 per 100 000 population.

TB notifications by country

In 2012, 68 423 TB cases were reported in the EU/EEA.
The notification rate was 13.5 per 100 000 population
(range 3.4–85.2).

Figure 1: TB notification rate per 100 000 population by country, EU/EEA, 2012



And if we look at the trend in the EU, we see that over a 5-year period (2008-2012) there has been a slowly declining trend in the TB case notification rate.

21 out of 29 reporting EU and EEA countries met the target of a mean declining trend in their country over this period.

Indicator 1: Trends in TB case notification rate 2008–2012



Target: Mean declining trend over the previous five years

Status 2012: 21 countries met the target



This is all of course good news. But there is no time for complacency and many challenges still remain in order to control TB and to achieve TB elimination in the EU.

Multidrug-resistant TB poses a serious threat to progress towards TB elimination.

Like for other bacterial infections, resistance develops because drugs and treatment regimens are not given, or taken, properly, or because the quality of the drugs is not good enough.

MDR TB is, therefore, a manmade phenomenon.

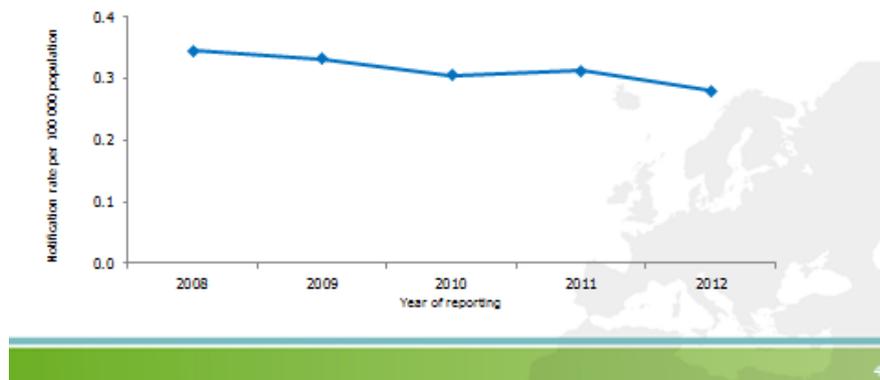
On this slide we see the trends for multidrug-resistant TB case notification rate in the EU and EEA countries over a period of 5 years.

Indicator 2: Trends in multidrug-resistant TB case notification rate



Target: Mean declining trend in MDR TB over the previous five years

Status 2012: 7 countries met the target



Merely 7 out of 21 countries reported a maintained mean five year decline of MDR TB.

And an even greater concern is the treatment success rate of MDR TB in the EU.

According to our most recent monitoring data, only one in three patients in the reporting EU and EEA countries finished MDR TB treatment successfully!

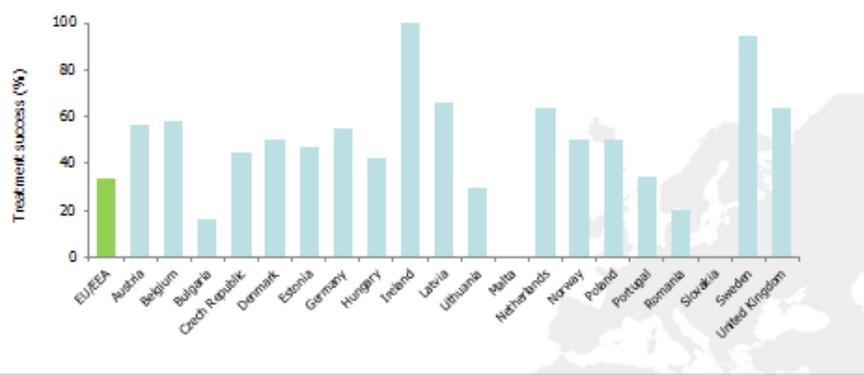
Of the remaining patients, roughly 20% are estimated to die, 20% fail treatment and 20% 'default' from treatment (they are lost to follow-up).

This is unacceptable!

Treatment success rate in multidrug-resistant TB*



The treatment success rate for all multidrug-resistant TB cases notified in 2010 was 33.6% (range 0–100.0%).



* Slovenia reported zero MDR TB cases in 2010, 9 Member States did not report treatment outcome data for MDR TB cases

So how are the EU countries progressing towards TB elimination?

In the ECDC Framework Action Plan launched in 2008, a set of indicators and targets were developed in order to monitor this progress.

In my two previous slides, I mentioned the target of a mean five year decline of TB and MDR TB notification rates. These two targets were met, as we saw.

The other two epidemiological targets relate to ratio of child-o-adult notification and the mean age of TB cases. And here EU countries failed both targets.

Regarding the core indicators, news is even less encouraging

– none of these targets were achieved at the EU/EEA level.

I will not go into more details now, but invite you to take a closer look in the joint ECDC and WHO report on Tuberculosis Surveillance and Monitoring in Europe 2014.

Progressing towards TB elimination: how's the EU doing?



INDICATORS	MET ✓ / NOT MET ✗ at EU LEVEL
Epidemiological Indicators reflect both trends in disease burden and in the level of transmission	
Trends in TB case notification rate	✓
Trends in MDR-TB case notification rate	✓
Trends in child-to-adult ratio of notification rates	✗
Trends in mean age of TB cases	✗
Core Indicators are related to the 8 strategic areas of the Framework Action Plan	
Availability of a national TB control plan	✗
Availability of guidelines for implementing the national TB control plan	✗
Percentage of National TB reference laboratories achieving adequate performance in the external quality assurance scheme	✗
Availability of a strategy for introducing and implementing new tools for TB control	✗
Percentage of new pulmonary TB cases confirmed by culture and percentage of new cases tested by DST for first-line drugs	✗
Percentage of Member States reporting treatment success rate	✗
Treatment success rate	✗
Percentage of TB patients for whom HIV-status is known	✗

For TB elimination, we need:

Early and rapid detection of all TB cases, and in particular of MDR TB cases;

As well as prompt and adequate treatment.

In the future, we also need to aim for the development of new tools, such as new diagnostics, new drugs and effective vaccines to test for TB disease, to treat, and to prevent TB disease.

And we need to develop new tools for better diagnosis and shorter and simpler treatment of latent TB.

MDR and XDR TB patients face longer treatment, have to take more drugs and suffer from more side effects.

Progressing towards TB elimination:



1. What do we need to do now?

- Early diagnosis
- Adequate treatment (timely and successful)

2. What do we need to aim for?

- New tools for TB disease (new diagnostics, new drugs and effective vaccines)
- New tools for latent TB (better diagnostics & shorter and simpler treatment)

If we are not able to diagnose and treat patients with MDR TB early and successfully, this puts not only patients' lives at risk, but also paves the way for XDR TB.

MDR TB needs to be diagnosed timely through increased uptake of rapid molecular testing.

The interaction between healthcare workers and patients is a key factor in the successful treatment of MDR TB.

Healthcare workers across Europe should support all MDR TB patients during the full course of treatment, and make sure that they finish treatment successfully.

This also involves taking into account the patient's social needs, such as housing, as well as their clinical needs, like co-management of substance dependencies and other co-morbidities.

In addition, efficient cross-border management of multidrug-resistant TB cases between countries is crucial in the progress towards TB elimination in the EU!

Thank you for your attention.