



BRINGING CIVIL SOCIETY TOGETHER
TO END THE TUBERCULOSIS EPIDEMIC
WWW.TBCOALITION.EU
@TBEOALITION TBEUROPECOALITION



Regional
Expert Group
on Migration and Health

Migration and Health Webinar Series

TB Europe Coalition (TBEC) and the Regional Expert Group on Migration and Health (REG) are coordinating a series of 3 webinars on TB and migrant health. The webinars will address the barriers migrants face when accessing TB and healthcare services across the WHO Europe region and the challenges for service delivery. The first webinar will focus on TB and migrant health within an Eastern European and Central Asian (EECA) context, the second will focus on a Western European and EU Member State context, and the third will focus on service delivery.

Internal and international migration are both very common today; in particular the rate of migration has drastically increased in the past 10 years in the WHO Europe region which is host to over 72.5 million migrants and represents 8.7 per cent of the total population.

In Europe and Central Asia migrants represent one of the key groups vulnerable to TB, as well as other infectious diseases such as HIV and hepatitis. Migrants face many barriers to accessing adequate healthcare services, both during migration and once they have arrived in a host country. This includes, but is not limited to, language barriers, cultural barriers, stigma and discrimination as well as poverty, which can have a significant impact of their physical and mental health and wellbeing. Female migrants are particularly vulnerable to specific health challenges such as gender-based violence and reproductive and sexual health issues.

Furthermore, the challenges many migrants face while in transit increase their vulnerability to ill health. This is particularly true for those who migrate involuntarily, fleeing natural or man-made disasters. In much of the region, the response to migrant health needs has not been appropriately incorporated in the design and delivery of health and wellbeing services in the host country.

Promoting the rights of migrants is key to achieving the sustainable development goals, and ensuring that “no one is left behind” irrespective of their migration status. Migration issues are cross-cutting; economic and social policies, human rights and equity issues, development agendas, and social norms are all relevant to migration health. Therefore, it is essential that any policies aimed at addressing the needs of migrant communities are multisectoral.

We hope these webinars will present an opportunity to discuss the range of challenges faced by migrants in accessing health services, to help inform evidence-based advocacy and increase the engagement of CSOs in decision making process regarding migration and health policies in the EU and EECA regions.

Please find more information [here](#)/below. The webinar will take place in Russian and English, with simultaneous translation.



BRINGING CIVIL SOCIETY TOGETHER
TO END THE TUBERCULOSIS EPIDEMIC
WWW.TBCOALITION.EU
@TBCOALITION TBEUROPECOALITION



Regional
Expert Group
on Migration and Health

Migration and Health in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Wednesday 3rd March 2021, 12pm – 13:30 EET

Eastern Europe and Central Asia accounts for some of the world's largest international labour migration trends, particularly among Central Asian countries and Russia, including both legal and irregular migration.

The EECA Region also has the highest rates of drug-resistant TB in the world, accounting for over 25% of the world's MDR-TB cases. Migrants are particularly at risk of acquiring TB due to poor living and/or work conditions, limited access to diagnosis and treatment, late presentation due to fear of being deported, and high mobility due to temporary and seasonal migration patterns.

Migrants in EECA are faced with limitations or denials of their basic rights on a regular basis, and many of the countries in this region have policies in place for mandatory TB and HIV testing for arriving migrants, thereby ostracising them. The WHO and European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control strongly advise against mandatory HIV testing for these groups but support routine offering of testing services and linkage to treatment and care.

There is still a long way to go to secure the rights to health for migrants in Europe and Central Asia. Ensuring the human rights of migrants can not only bring positive economic development to host countries, but is also essential to tackling the TB epidemic and achieving targets set out during the UN high level meeting on TB in 2018.

Please join TBEC and REG for the first in our series of webinars on TB and migrant health in EECA. In this session we will be joined by the WHO Regional Office for Europe and IOM Tajikistan to discuss the challenges migrants in EECA face in accessing health services in their host countries. The line-up for speakers and registration is below. Please register to receive a zoom link.

Registration: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PV6gmi1eQgu6SZBXXYodNw

Agenda:

1. Introduction (Paul Sommerfeld, TBEC Chair)
2. Overview of barriers and coping strategies in EECA, (Daniel Kashnitsky, Regional Expert Group on Migration and Health)
3. TB and Migration in EECA - online course (Mari Chokheli, TB People)
4. Essential package of TB services among migrants in EECA: Policy framework and its implementation in the practice (Masoud Dara, WHO Regional Office for Europe)
5. Transborder cooperation between sending and receiving countries to provide migrants access to TB care (Rukhshona Qurbonova, IOM Tajikistan)
6. Questions & Answers