

Concept note:

TB and Migration | Global TB Caucus members to hold forum on the case of TB care for migrants

01 Background

Growing migration in Europe is an overall global trend but the numbers have rapidly increased due to the war in Ukraine, making even more urgent the need to prioritise access to healthcare for refugees and migrants. Due to causes such as adverse living conditions, close contact, poor nutrition, and mental and physical stress, refugees and migrants are at increased risk of acquiring a range of infectious diseases: diarrheal diseases, hepatitis, arthropod-borne and waterborne parasitic diseases, and respiratory tract infections including TB.

The combination of these risk factors and poor access to TB health services particularly increases refugee vulnerability to TB infection, which progresses to TB disease. Additionally, delays in diagnosis results in poor treatment outcomes and continued transmission in the community.

In this regard legislation changes are needed as well to provide a sustainable protection for refugees, who are affected by TB. Prof. Brian Citro will present guidelines for people-centred, rights-based public health legislation to the existing legislative frameworks in the EECA region with a focus on TB and where suitable COVID-19. Such guidelines were developed within the TB legislation campaign in EECA region (September 2021 - December 2022) Focus issues will include: liberty restrictions; privacy and confidentiality, including for digital health data during public health interventions such as contact tracing; disease-based stigma and discrimination; access to new health technologies such as vaccines, diagnostics and medicines; participation of civil society and affected communities in legislative and policymaking processes; access to remedies for rights violations; and transparency, oversight and accountability in lawmaking.

The upcoming event aims to discuss how migration affects the health of People with TB (PWTB) and their access to healthcare. Its focus will be on what should be done to support them, especially taking into account the current humanitarian crisis in the Eastern European region.

02 Activities for the campaign on TB and migration

This campaign will comprise both global and regional discussions, given the issue's extensive reach. It will initially roll out in subsequent regional discussions and then culminate globally later on:

1) Pre-launch:

- The webinar "TB care for Refugees and Migrants in Europe" on 29/03/2022

2) Regional Forum

- EECA and WE regions to hold an on-line forum with members of the GTBC, focal points and other partners and sign the Joint statement of intent to help migrants affected by TB conducted by members of the Global TB Caucus, Regional expert group on migration and health and other civil society

organisations.

3) Global Culminating Event

- Platform of Experts session:
Discussion of results and learnings;
- Regional implementation of the Joint statement of intent to help migrants affected by TB conducted by members of the Global TB Caucus, Regional expert group on migration and health and other civil society organisations.

03 Purpose and Objectives of the Forum on TB and migration

- To strategise on possible opportunities for collaboration between parliamentarians from regions to mitigate against the impact of COVID-19 on TB migrants;
- To discuss the progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the UN HLM Declaration in terms of protecting rights of labour migrants;
- To present the evidence of how migration affects the health of TB patients, understand the current state of response (particularly in political advocacy and in Ukraine), and discuss ways to support their access to healthcare;
- To share global standards and best practices, new research, clinical and public health expertise, and priorities for TB laws in the EECA region.

04 Expected Outcomes of the Forum on TB and migration

- Strengthened political cooperation between regions on issues of TB care for migrants;
- Adoption of the Joint statement of intent to help migrants affected by TB conducted by members of the Global TB Caucus and civil society organisations;
- Articulated next steps in the implementation of provisions in the Joint statement of intent to help migrants affected by TB conducted by members of the Global TB Caucus and civil society organisations.

05 Participants of the Forum on TB and migration

- WE region MPs, FPs and partners
- EECA region MPs, FPs and partners
- WHO Euro office
- Representatives of the organisation "TB people"
- Global Fund representatives

06 Date and Time, working language, duration of the Forum on TB and migration

Date: 27th of June, 14.00 pm CET

Language: English, Russian

Duration: 1 hour 20 min

07 Agenda of the Forum on TB migration

Duration	Presentation	Speaker
15 min	Welcome Remarks Presentation of objectives	Co-chairs of the EECA and WE Region
8 min	Overview on TB migration in Ukraine	Ms Iana Terleeva, Ukrainian NTP manager
8 min	TB prevention and control across the borders in the WHO European region	Dr. Askar Yediilbayev, TB Team Lead, WHO Regional Office for Europe
8 min	Presentation of TB legislation report	Prof. Brian Citro, Human Rights Lawyer and TB Legislation Expert
3 min	Presentation of the Declaration of People Affected by TB	Timur Abdulaev, Board member, TBpeople Global
5 min	GFATM support in Ukraine	Scott Boule Senior Specialist, Parliamentary Affairs Donor Relations Department External Relations & Communications Division
8 min	Presentation of the "Statement of intent on TB care for migrants"	Alesia Matuskevych ECA and CSO Manager; and Daniel Kashnitskiy Academic Relations Coordinator, Regional Expert Group on Migration and Health
20 min	Discussion: Parliamentarians on ways to better policy coordination in the region	MPs
5 min	Closing and next steps	Co-chairs of the WE and EECA region and regional managers of the GTBC