



TB EUROPE COALITION

BRINGING CIVIL SOCIETY TOGETHER
TO END THE TUBERCULOSIS EPIDEMIC

Standards and Access to TB Care

Good Practices that are Enhancing the Contribution and Take-up of Civil Society Services

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Standardised Package of TB Care provided by Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)

- CSOs are an under-utilised resource in TB care, often for lack of local funding. Grants help but are occasional and uncertain.
- An output from TBEC with PAS and WHO during the Global Fund TB-REP2 programme was a fully developed *Standardised Package of Care* in TB to be provided by CSOs.
- This makes contracting possible ie Paying for defined services, for example by national insurance agencies - a real route to sustainable and regular funding. Especially important in countries not eligible for Global Fund support.
- Contact rabinova@tbcoalition.eu for more detail.

OneImpact and TB People Ukraine

- *OneImpact* – A digital platform being used by TB services in several countries, and especially effectively in Ukraine.
- Combines 3 tools to enhance community engagement, empowerment and community led monitoring.
- TB People Ukraine, a TB survivor led CSO, in 2022 received through *OneImpact*, 1800 requests relating to discrimination, money difficulties, treatment problems, and violations of rights
- These were dealt with both individually and used as evidence in advocating for change to legislation and procedures.
- *OneImpact* could be useful also for TB services across EU and Western Europe

Use of Hand-held X-ray equipment by CSOs

- Hand-held X-ray equipment, enhanced by AI, is new technology that can be used by CSOs in the field.
- It links an important new diagnostic tool for TB with the ability of CSOs to reach out into the community
- Effective examples in Romania and Azerbaijan
- Of course, reading the results remains a prerogative of medically qualified personnel and local arrangements for that need to be made.

Achieving treatment Continuity for Refugees with TB

- Among the many Ukrainian Refugees, are some who were already under treatment for TB.
- Brokered by WHO Europe, a system was set up for linking doctors of refugees with TB in the West, with doctors of those individuals back in Ukraine.
- The National TB Programme of Ukraine receives requests from doctors of refugees, and links them to the doctor in Ukraine who was previously treating the same individual

Access to New TB Drugs blocked in Western Europe

- This is an exciting time for action against TB. New drugs and diagnostic tools are becoming available.
- BUT in Western Europe, because the incidence of TB is low and the market for TB drugs is small, the producers are reluctant to incur the costs of licensing. Examples are:
 - a) Child formulations of the regular TB drugs – available elsewhere in the World for the past 10 years
 - b) Rifapentine, important for treating latent TB and a component in the first WHO approved 4 month regimen, a 2 month reduction on the current length of treatment

Recommendations for EU and Western Europe

- Encourage use by authorities purchasing health services of the *Standardised Package for TB Care by CSOs*
- Introduce *OneImpact* to local TB-NGOs and TB services
- Enhance TB action by using CSOs with Hand-held X-ray equipment
- Collaborate to find a way to make drugs available for diseases with only a small market in the West.



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Thank you!
UNITED TO END TB

Paul Sommerfeld, Chair, TB Europe Coalition



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