



## Early Detection and Integrated Management of Tuberculosis in Europe

PJ-03-2015  
Early diagnosis of tuberculosis

### D2.4

### Policy brief – Early diagnosis and Case holding of TB

#### WP 2 – Dissemination

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**Lead beneficiary** UNIBS

**Last editor** Susanna Capone

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## History of the changes

Version	Date	Released by	Comments
1.0	11-10-16	Ibrahim Abubakar (UCL)	First draft circulated internally to UNIBS and UCL
1.1	16-11-16	Alberto Matteelli (UNIBS)	Addition of UNIBS input
1.2	17-11-16	Pauline Chetail (UCL)	Second draft formatted into deliverable layout
1.3	14-12-2016	Susanna Capone (UNIBS)	Final draft for circulation/approval

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## 1. Background

### 1.1. Policy brief Context and objectives

The E-DETECT TB project uses policy brief as a marketing tool, to convince the target audience of the urgency of the problem of tuberculosis in vulnerable populations in Europe, and to serve as an impetus for action.

The first policy brief is a concise description of the E-DETECT TB objectives, actions, and expected results that also describes Consortium Members. It will be complemented by regular issues developed upon requirement, focusing on the implementation phase of the project that highlight achievements as well as challenges and possible way forward.

### 1.2. Target audience and Dissemination

The target audience of the policy-briefs consists of health staff in participating countries (public health and clinical staff), scientific societies and communities, international organizations and agencies, representatives of the civil society (including representatives of vulnerable groups, TB activists, TB survivors representatives, community health workers, social assistants, representatives from the school-system and local authorities), NGOs, and the European Union.

Dissemination will be achieved through a multichannel strategy that includes the website, newsletters, and a dedicated mailing list of the representatives of the target audience.

## 2. Full Policy Brief

### POLICY AREA: Health Briefing: Tuberculosis

**Project title:** Early DETECTION of tuberculosis consortium (E-DETECT TB).

**Date:** 01/10/2016

**Author:** Professor Ibrahim Abubakar, Coordinator, E-DETECT TB on behalf of the dissemination work package

### Project background

#### Key facts and background

Tuberculosis (TB) is a major public health priority in the 30 EU/EEA countries. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control reported 64844 TB cases in 2013, a rate of 12.7 per 100,000. 4.1% was multidrug resistant (MDR) TB, an emerging epidemic which cumulatively takes more lives than all deaths from the recent outbreaks of Ebola fever.

- Most of those affected are adults, who present with pulmonary tuberculosis, but about 4% of cases in high incidence countries are under 15 years old.
- The overall trend and the stagnant/rising rates in many countries is in sharp contrast to the global target of a 10% annual decline and the eventual World Health Organization goal to end the TB epidemic by 2035.
- The EU and neighbouring European countries also have a high burden of MDR TB. Extensively drug-resistant (XDR) TB was reported for 17.5% of 963 MDR TB cases tested for second-line drug susceptibility, and 4.9% of all TB cases with a known HIV status were co-infected.
- The current overall impact of M/XDR TB on European health systems is substantial and will progressively enlarge unless novel diagnosis and care pathways are implemented.

To address the high disease burden of TB in vulnerable EU populations we have formed the Early DETECTION of tuberculosis consortium (E-DETECT TB).

### The E-DETECT TB Consortium

The E-DETECT TB consortium is an EC co-funded group which brings together world leading TB experts in national public health agencies (Swedish, United Kingdom, Dutch, Italian and Romanian), with industry (Delft diagnostics) and major academic centres (UCL, Karolinska, SMI, OSR, UNIBS), and reflects the incidence of TB in different European countries.

The overall objective of the consortium is to contribute to a decline, and the eventual elimination of TB in the EU.

## Programme/interventions

The programme is organised in six work packages:

1. **Coordination:** Ensure the delivery of the benefits of the work programme within time and budget
2. **Dissemination:** Lead the effective sharing of the outputs of this work with intra and inter member state organisations and communities.
3. **Evaluation:** Assess progress, effect and value of the work programme
4. **Early diagnosis** using an outreach service with a mobile x-ray screening van combined with social support to ensure care integration in Romania and Bulgaria
5. **TB in migrants**
  - a. Implement and evaluate migrant TB detection in Italy
  - b. Collate, analyse and evaluate multi-country data on TB in immigrants to low incidence countries to inform effective strategies for early diagnosis of active and latent TB
6. **Support the strengthening of national TB programmes**

## Major challenge(s) and potential impact

We have brought together a multidisciplinary, multi country consortium of tuberculosis expert investigators who play a major role in several Europe wide policy and delivery groups; our outputs will therefore have direct relevance to EU member states over and above any project that can be achieved in an individual member state.

The high burden of MDR-TB in Europe and the associated challenges linked to the movement of populations into Europe and between member states pose specific challenges to which we will aim to provide innovative solutions as part of this work programme.

We will collate and package best practice in tuberculosis control and disseminate this to member states through policy briefings, meetings, e-media and civil society advocacy.

