Cities join the fight to #EndTB

5 December 2019, Kyiv, Ukraine – Five cities from Europe and Central Asia joined the Zero TB Cities initiative expanding the list of urban areas joining the initiative launched in 2016 by the Stop TB Partnership and partners to support urban areas that are committed to achieving a rapid reduction in the number of people suffering from TB in line with the global TB strategies and the UN High-Level Meeting on TB targets.

Representatives of Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, Kyiv, Ukraine, Osh, Kyrgyzstan and Svetlahorsk, Belarus signed the Declaration of Interest to join the initiative during the Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) City Health Leadership Forum held in Kyiv, Ukraine on 6 December. Georgia’s Batumi joined the effort one week later.

The Forum, organized by the Alliance for Public Health Ukraine within the Global Fund EECA Regional Project ‘Fast Track Cities to Fight HIV and TB,’ brought together also mayors and vice-mayors of nine other cities: Kyiv and Odesa (Ukraine), Bern (Switzerland), Chisinau and Balti (Moldova) Bishkek and Osh (Kyrgyzstan), Svetlohorsk and Solihorsk (Belarus) joined by local NGO project partners from within the region, international partner agencies, including the Stop TB Partnership represented by the Executive Director, Dr. Lucica Ditiu.

The Forum focused on discussing the regional context, sharing successful tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS response models, and facilitating movement towards ending these diseases in EECA cities. It included the mayors’ high-level panel discussion, presentations of successful city responses and innovations to fast-track cities, which featured the inclusion of key populations in the cities’ responses.

The Forum gathered over 150 delegates from 20 countries of the EECA region.