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The Stop TB Partnership for Europe was launched in October 2006. It is a regional-level group established under the umbrella of the Global Partnership to Stop TB.

In October 2006, we identified 3 aims and a ten point Action Plan for the partnership in the initial phase:

3 Aims

- 1. Build political commitment to ensure sustainable funding for full implementation of the Global Plan to Stop TB 2006-2015 by:
 - o collecting information on resource flows for TB control in the region
 - o identifying gaps and priorities for TB control in the region
- 2. Facilitate coordination of TB stakeholders in the region by:
 - o identifying strategic partnerships and actions
 - o engaging new partners in TB control
 - o joint messaging and advocacy
- 3. Mobilize and build capacity for active participation of civil society, patients and affected communities.

10 Point Action Plan

- 1. Develop a strategy and operations plan to support a European ministerial forum on TB planned for the second half of 2007;
- 2. Organize a World TB Day 2007 event in the European Parliament in Brussels;
- 3. Map services and resources in the European region;
- 4. Draft a capacity-building plan to enable greater participation of civil society in TB control activities;
- 5. Develop a strategic plan for a media campaign to raise awareness among relevant decision-makers;
- 6. Map media and advocacy groups in the region and develop a long-term plan to scale up media coverage of TB and related issues in affected countries;
- 7. Undertake outreach activities to broaden the membership base of the Stop TB Partnership in Europe;
- 8. Disseminate and promote best practice models for TB control in Europe;
- 9. Engage relevant European and national decision-makers;
- 10. Build collaborative mechanisms with HIV/AIDS and other relevant organizations.

Governance & Structure

At the moment, the European partnership is made up of 2 bodies: the Executive Committee and a Coordinating Office.

- The Executive Committee is the partnership's governance body, comprised of representatives of the partnership's core constituencies. It has three main functions: 1) to formulate priorities for action by the partnership; 2) to approve and monitor the work plan and budget of the Coordinating Office; and 3) to coordinate resource mobilization for activities of the Partnership and to support TB control in the region.
- 2. The Coordinating Office is currently hosted by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (Health & Care Department) in Geneva. It aims to support the activities of the Executive Committee and coordinate the work of partners in implementing the Executive Committee's policies and work plans.

Board Composition

Wherever possible, the composition of the Executive Committee is supposed to be made up of the component "constituencies" of the Partnership and reflect the national, cultural and geographic diversity of the European Region.

The following members have agreed to serve an interim term until the first Partnership meeting in Riga in June 2007:

Multilateral agencies

- Richard Zaleskis, Regional TB Advisor
 WHO Regional Office for Europe, Copenhagen
- John O'Toole, (Chair), External Relations and Country Support European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, Stockholm

Red Cross/Red Crescent

 Bengt Westerberg, Vice President, European Region, and President, Swedish Red Cross, Stockholm

Donor organizations

Mick Matthews, Civil Society Officer
 The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, Geneva

Technical agencies

 Robert Loddenkemper, Secretary General German Central Committee Against Tuberculosis, and former President, European Respiratory Society, Berlin

Private sector (alternates)

- Matti Ojanen, Director, International Affairs and Public Policy AstraZeneca International, London
- Patrizia Carlevaro, Head, International Aid Unit Eli Lilly and Co, Geneva

Endemic countries

Archil Salakaia, Executive Director
 National Centre of TB and Lung Disease, Tbilisi, Georgia

Affected communities

Paul Thorn, TB/HIV Advisor
 East European and Central Asian Union of PLWA Organizations, London

Advocacy NGOs and networks

 Sheila Davie, National Director RESULTS UK, Leamington Spa

Ex officio members

- Bruce Eshaya-Chauvin, Head, Health & Care Department International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Geneva
- Marcos Espinal, Executive Secretary Global Partnership to Stop TB, Geneva

CRITICAL ISSUES for DISCUSSION

1. Agenda for Riga

The 10 point Action Plan –update participants on progress. Breakout sessions on specific areas.

Vision – Overall document/discussion to present vision & mission (including how the European Partnership relates to the Global Partnership etc).

Election of the New Executive Committee/Governance issues. Reflecting the diversity of Europe and bringing in representation from the East.

Prioritization –Ministerial Forum and beyond

- 2. EU Action Plan
- 3. Ministerial Forum challenges and opportunities