

WHO and Stop TB Partnership Joint Webinar on TB and COVID-19

# Experience sharing: challenges and solutions at national and regional level: Experience from the WHO European Region

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# COVID-19 situation in the WHO European Region

data as of: 30 April 2020, 10:00 (CET)

## More information

WHO Global Situation [Dashboard](#)  
WHO/Europe COVID-19 [website](#)



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## Countries

(7 days)\*

Total

Russian Federation	(43,725) ● 70%	106,498
United Kingdom	(31,726) ● 24%	165,221
Turkey	(18,915) ● 19%	117,589
Italy	(16,264) ● 9%	203,591
Spain**	(12,723) ● 6%	212,917
Germany	(11,073) ● 7%	159,119
France***	(9,291) ● 8%	128,442
Belgium	(5,970) ● 14%	47,859
Belarus	(5,900) ● 81%	13,181

Sort by 7 day total cases

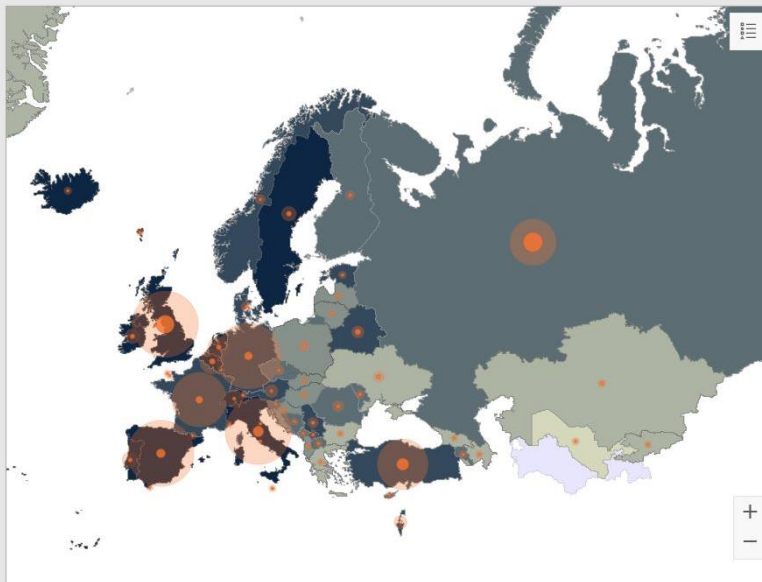
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## Territories

Kosovo[1]	(169) ● 27%	799
Jersey	(29) ● 11%	284
Gibraltar	(8) ● 6%	141

● < 50% ● 50% - 99% ● ≥ 100%

\*percentages indicate change in cumulative cases



Orange circles represent total cases. Solid inner circles represent the last 7 days.  
Cumulative incidence per 100 000 population indicated by dark blue (higher) to light yellow (lower).

Total confirmed cases

1,436,021

Total confirmed deaths

135,994

Cases last 7 days:

191,572

Deaths last 7 days:

22,185

Crude cumulative incidence

154.3

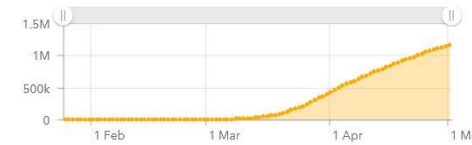
(per 100 000 population)

Crude cumulative deaths

146.1

(per 1 000 000 population)

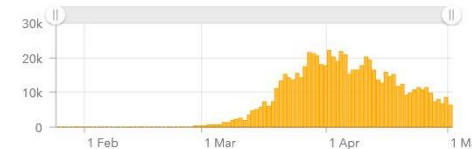
## Cumulative confirmed cases



Cumulative cases

Cumulative deaths

## Confirmed cases by date of report



# Regional challenges

- National level:
  - Risk of acquiring COVID-19, especially in congregated settings (hospitals, prisons), both for patients and medical workers;
  - Increased workload on medical workers, availability of PPE, tests for COVID-19;
  - NTPs involved in response to COVID-19, with personnel, some reported that facilities were reprogrammed;
  - Ensuring proper monitoring of patients and DOT is challenging with discharge of larger number of TB patients;
  - Ensuring adequate treatment monitoring throughout TB therapy;
  - Active case finding is affected, decrease in case detection due to lockdown;
  - Programmatic disruptions are possible: transportation of sputum, biosafety, use of GX for COVID-19 testing, monitoring visits to regions, trainings, provision of psychosocial support;
  - Disruptions of distribution of medicines were not reported so far;
- Regional level:
  - Availability of diagnostic materials for TB and medicines for TB and DR-TB – no major risks so far;
  - Procurement of diagnostic materials for TB and medicines for TB and DR-TB – no major risks so far;
  - Evidence on potential drug-drug interactions between experimental therapies for COVID-19 and TB;
  - Technical assistance through in-country missions is problematic and virtual/remote support not always possible.

# WHO EURO actions to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on TB prevention, diagnosis and treatment

2020

March

April

May

Regular coordination with WHO HQ, STOP TB Partnership and Global Drug Facility (EECA group)

Country support through regular calls with NTP of TB high priority and MDR-TB high burden countries

rGLC calls with NTP to provide remote technical assistance to MDR-TB high-burden countries

Online expert consilium for TB/MDR-TB and COVID-19 coinfectd patients (UKR, AZE) with rGLC

Technical support to 11 EECA countries on introduction of fully-oral modified shorter treatment regimens for MDR-TB  
Virtual 3-5 day workshops for NTPs (AZE, ARM, BLR, UZB, MDA as of May 1, 2020)

Technical support and revision of country funding requests to GFATM application windows 1 and 2 (TJK, KGZ, AZE, KOS, UKR, MDA) and response to COVID-19

March 24 – European Laboratory Initiative (ELI) core group meeting on use of COVID-19 cartridges for GeneXpert

April 1 – ELI's Rapid communication on the role of the GeneXpert® platform for rapid molecular testing for SARS-CoV-2 in the WHO European Region

April 29 – Introduction through OpenWHO platform of ELI's course on Drug-resistant tuberculosis: how to interpret rapid molecular test results

May: Assessment of use of digital health solutions for TB. Rapid communication on VOT for TB is in progress

May: RCC-THV statement of partners and civil society on response to COVID-19, TB, HIV and VH

May 18-20: 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Technical Advisory Group on Tuberculosis

June: Workshop for new rGLC consultants on new WHO TB consolidated guidelines