The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe have jointly launched the sixth report on surveillance and monitoring of tuberculosis (TB) in Europe [1]. The report indicates that, in spite of notable progress in the past decade, TB is still a public health concern in many countries across Europe. High rates of multidrug-resistant (MDR) TB outside the European Union (EU)/European Economic Area (EEA) are of particular concern. Meanwhile EU/EEA countries themselves have a significant number of TB cases among vulnerable population groups, such as people of foreign origin and prisoners.

An assessment of progress towards TB elimination for the four epidemiological indicators and eight core indicators defined in the report ‘Progressing towards TB elimination: A follow-up to the Framework Action Plan to Fight Tuberculosis in the European Union’ [2] showed that none of the core indicators was achieved at EU/EEA level.

Notwithstanding this, since 2001, TB incidence has been falling at an average rate of 5.0% per year, which is the fastest decline in the world.

ECDC and WHO/Europe have coordinated the collection and analysis of TB surveillance data across the countries of the WHO European Region (except Liechtenstein, Monaco and San Marino) since 2008.

References