Tuberculosis (TB) is a serious and sometimes lethal infectious bacterial disease which most commonly affects the lungs. It is usually caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis.

One untreated person with TB can infect 10–15 other individuals per year.

To treat TB, it takes at least 6 months and 4 different drugs. To treat MDR TB, it takes at least 18 months with on average 8 drugs.

187 people in the EU are diagnosed with TB every day. TB cases decreased 5% over the last 5 years.

Notification rate per 100,000 population:
- 2008: 16.6
- 2009: 15.8
- 2010: 15.0
- 2011: 14.3
- 2012: 13.5

1 500 cases are reported in the EU every year.

MDR TB treatment causes substantial side effects like vomiting, deafness, blindness, depression and fatigue.

MDR TB is resistant to even more drugs than MDR TB and therefore extremely difficult to treat.

**Treatment**
- **Successful**: 34% MDR TB, 13% TB
- **Not Successful**: 57% MDR TB, 77% TB

**Costs for treatment of multidrug-resistant TB are 5x higher than for TB**

Average cost per MDR TB case in the EU, 2012: 33,000 €

Only 25% of all patients with extensively drug-resistant TB finish treatment successfully.

**XDR TB**
Extensive drug resistance: XDR TB is resistant to even more drugs than MDR TB and therefore extremely difficult to treat.