One third of the world's population is infected with tuberculosis (TB) and, despite valiant efforts to combat it, TB continues to pose a serious threat to individuals and public health around the world. 1.3 million people die each year. New treatments and an effective new vaccine would be efficient tools to help reduce the suffering of millions of people.

Tuberculosis (TB) is not only a problem in the one third of the world's population carrying *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the 9.6 million people developing the disease this year, or the 1.5 million individuals dying from it. It is a threat for each one of us, not least because of the alarming rise of the multi-drug resistant form of TB (MDR-TB).

To reach the new WHO End TB goals of a 95% reduction in TB deaths and a 90% reduction in TB cases by 2035, a comprehensive approach is needed that includes new and more effective vaccines, as well as improved diagnostics and treatment. The Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine developed in 1921 is still the only available vaccine against TB. Unfortunately, BCG is only partially effective: it provides some protection against severe forms of paediatric TB, but it is unreliable against adult pulmonary TB. There is therefore an urgent need for better treatments, and for new, safe and effective vaccines that protect against all forms of TB, including drug-resistant strains, in all age groups, and including people with HIV.

Horizon 2020 has addressed the global TB emergency by investing € 26.2 million from the Societal Challenge for Health, Demographic Change and Wellbeing in two important projects developing more effective vaccines against TB. TBVAC2020 is a consortium of 40 partners, aiming at advancing novel and promising TB vaccine candidates from discovery to preclinical and early clinical development. The consortium members are also working intensively on clinical trials of the first-generation TB vaccine candidates emerging from earlier Framework Programme projects. The EMI-TB project is complementing these efforts by taking an innovative approach of eliciting mucosal immunity in TB.

Members of the FP7 consortium, More Medicines for Tuberculosis (MM4TB), have discovered a new and extremely promising antibiotic against tuberculosis, which is especially effective against the multi-drug resistant strains of the disease now on the rise in Europe. The drug called PBTZ169 can take down even the most resistant strains of TB bacteria. The researchers have formed the iM4TB Foundation, which aims to bring the new treatment to the market. The drug has just entered clinical development.

In addition, the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP), a joint initiative of the Commission, the Member States and African countries, has supported clinical trials and capacity building on tuberculosis in sub-Saharan Africa to the tune of € 73 million.

As early as 1993, WHO declared tuberculosis a global emergency. The theme for World TB Day 2016 is "Unite to end TB". The European Commission is working together with public and private partners to support development of new treatments and better vaccines against TB.