

## THE UNION EUROPE REGION IN 2015: BRINGING THE UNION CLOSER TO YOU

### FROM EVIDENCE TO PUBLIC HEALTH ACTION

Since our founding as a global scientific organisation in 1920, The Union has drawn from the best evidence and expertise to advance solutions to public health challenges affecting people living in poverty.  
**KNOW. SHARE. ACT.**

### KNOW

- Union tobacco control expert Angela Jackson-Morris and Paula I Fujiwara, the Union's Scientific Director, published an article in the *International Journal on Tuberculosis and Lung Disease*, calling for urgent action to integrate anti-smoking strategies into TB and HIV care (2015 Sep; 19(9): 1003-6).

### SHARE

- 12 participants completed the fifth Union/MSF operational research course in Paris. From this course, 12 papers were submitted to peer-reviewed journals and as of 30 September 2015, four had been accepted for publication.
- 16 participants from seven countries attended the 20<sup>th</sup> *International Training Course on Tuberculosis Control* in Tartu, Estonia in August. Union experts joined teams from Finland, Estonia, Russia and the WHO Europe Office to build capacity in TB control in the region.
- The Union Europe Office spoke to delegates and encouraged new members to join The Union during the Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) UK conference in Edinburgh in June.
- The Union Europe office has been collaborating with organisations in Brussels to support countries to fulfil their obligations under the European Union (EU) Tobacco Taxation Directive. In Georgia, health authorities are now collaborating with the Ministry of Finance on a tax policy that will comply with both WHO FCTC and the EU Directive – The Union is supporting this work.
- The Department of Tobacco Control published two discussion papers: on sustainable funding models for tobacco control and international trade agreements and their impact on tobacco control policies.

### ACT

- The Union continued collaboration with the United Kingdom's All Party Parliamentary Group on Global TB and the Global TB Caucus, an international network of parliamentarians who are committed to the fight against tuberculosis.
- The Union, in partnership with the Russian Ministry of Health, organised several World No Tobacco Day events and celebrating Russia's first full year with a national smokefree law. The Union supported development and implementation of this law, which now reports 90% compliance.
- Runners and walkers took part in the Seven Hills Challenge, a 24k route around Edinburgh, to raise funds for The Union's Centennial Campaign.



### MYANMAR DELEGATION HOSTED BY THE UNION TO OBSERVE PROGRESSIVE TOBACCO CONTROL IN SCOTLAND

The Union's Department of Tobacco Control hosted a high-level delegation of ministers, diplomats and academics from Myanmar in Edinburgh, Scotland in August this year. The delegation visited with experts in healthcare, policy development and tobacco control and observed Scotland's progressive and innovative tobacco control laws in action.

The visit consisted of presentations on Scotland's strategy to create a tobacco-free generation, international perspectives on the tobacco epidemic and the impact of tobacco control globally.

The visit resulted in several concrete outcomes which will pave the way for tougher tobacco control in Myanmar, where currently 44% of men and 8.5% of women smoke, and 62% of men and 24% of women consume smokeless tobacco products.

The health minister committed to introducing graphic health warnings covering 75% of the packaging for both cigarette and smokeless tobacco packs, in line with the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) strongest recommendations. The University of Medicine Yangon committed to collaboration with The Union to develop e-learning courses in tobacco control for Masters in Public Health students, building capacity amongst academics to sustain tobacco control work into the future. The health minister also pledged to work with the Ministry of Finance on increasing tobacco taxes – tobacco control's highest impact strategy.

- ★ 2 Union offices
- Union member countries
- i Technical assistance
- 📖 Courses & conferences
- 🔍 Research

Activities as of 31 December 2014,  
membership as of 30 September 2015

