

WESTERN-EASTERN EUROPEAN  
PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE  
ON HIV, VIRAL HEPATITIS AND TB



## WEEPI newsletter, September 2025

### Welcome to the First Edition of the WEPI Foundation Newsletter

We are excited to launch the inaugural edition of the WEPI Foundation newsletter! This quarterly update will keep you informed about our ongoing projects, recent results, foundation activities, calls for proposals, and opportunities to engage with our work.

### About WEPI

The WEPI Foundation is dedicated to supporting innovative public health research and interventions across Eastern Europe and neighbouring countries. Our mission is to improve the health and well-being of vulnerable populations through evidence-based projects that address infectious diseases, health system gaps, and social determinants of health.

Since our inception, WEPI has supported 30 projects across 10 different countries in central and eastern Europe, fostering collaboration among researchers, clinicians, and community organizations.



### New Projects Launched

In March 2025, we launched three new Stage 2 projects:

**Management of Latent Tuberculosis in People Living with HIV in**

**Understanding the barriers of state HBV program enrolment among**

**Drug consumption rooms as facilitators for testing, prevention and treatment for**

## Central and Eastern Europe

*Led by the ECEE Network, Poland*

This project aims to improve TB screening and treatment among HIV-positive individuals in the region.



## HIV risk populations and improvement of program update

*Led by Health Research Union, Georgia*

The team is investigating obstacles to hepatitis B program uptake in Georgia and developing strategies to enhance enrolment.



## HCV for PWID - longitudinal follow-up of DCR impact

*Led by Spolecnost Podane ruce, Czechia*

This longitudinal study explores the impact of drug consumption rooms on hepatitis C outcomes among people who inject drugs.



## Outcomes of the third Funding wave

In July 2025 WEEPI launched its third call for applications. Following an in-depth review process, eight Stage 1 projects have been approved for funding with anticipated start dates in October 2025. These projects aim to improve the quality of TB and HIV services across the spectrum of care, ranging from disease prevention, integrated care, self-testing and stigma related to HIV and evaluation of shorter treatment regimens and improved care for TB.

## Acknowledge Ukrainian contributions

The WEEPI Foundation wants to give a big shout-out to research colleagues in Ukraine for their remarkable achievements under the ongoing difficult working conditions. Within a highly competitive grant funding process, it is notable that half of the successful application came from Ukraine. Clearly, our Ukrainian counterparts have existing and well-functioning research infrastructure, that the WEEPI Foundation is proud to support.



## Publications Spotlight

We are proud to support the dissemination of WEEPI-funded research findings through peer-reviewed publications. Two recent highlights include:

- *"Informed Implementation Practice – Formative Research of a Mobile Drug Consumption Room in Brno, Czech Republic"*  
Published in Harm Reduction Journal  
[Read the article](#)
- *"The Infectious Disease Burden Among War-Related Internally Displaced People in the Lviv Region of Ukraine"*  
Published in Germs  
[Read the article](#)
- *"Continuity of HIV and hepatitis C care in times of war – Five Times Ninety project"*  
published in Journal of Infection and Public Health  
[Read the article](#)

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## Stay Connected

Visit our new website [www.weepi.org](http://www.weepi.org) to learn more about the foundation, our projects, and how you can get involved. [Sign up for our newsletter](#) and [follow us on Facebook](#) for updates and stories from the field.

We invite you to support our mission by making a [voluntary donation](#) through our website. Your contribution helps us fund impactful research and interventions that make a difference.

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At the heart of the WEEPI Foundation lies a bold mission: to transform healthcare related to HIV, viral hepatitis, and tuberculosis (TB) in Eastern Europe. Established in October 2018, the WEEPI Foundation was founded on the belief that research, innovation and collaboration can overcome the region's most pressing health challenges.  
<https://weepi.org/>

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