



Increase climate resilience / Work area 7

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Working Group on Water and Health
Geneva, 16-17 April 2024

Protocol on Water and Health



#ProtocolWaterHealth

1. Progress made since 2022

- Webinar - "Financing adaptation to climate change in drinking water supply and sanitation in the pan-European region", organized by the Netherlands (Online, 15 June 2023)
- Strategic Roundtable on Climate Change (Geneva, 13-14 November 2023)
- Project Supporting Policy Regulations and Interventions to Negate aggravated Global Diarrheal Disease due to future Climate Shocks (2024-2028) - Workshop on WSP and quantitative microbial risk assessment in Romania in collaboration with WA5
- Strategic paper on strengthening climate resilience in the drinking water and sanitation sector

1. Progress made since 2022

Webinar - "Financing adaptation to climate change in drinking water supply and sanitation in the pan-European region"

15 June 2023

Over 80 participants

Objective

- introduce parties to the state of the art in financing climate resilience.

Outcome

- overview of key resources on climate finance for water, sanitation and hygiene



1. Progress made since 2022

Strategic Round Table on Increasing Resilience to Climate Change under the Protocol on Water and Health

Geneva, 13-14 November 2023

Over 100 participants, including representatives of 28 countries and experts.

Key conclusions

- The importance of inter-sectoral collaboration
- The need for more evidence
- Understanding trade-offs and co-benefits
- Financing climate actions

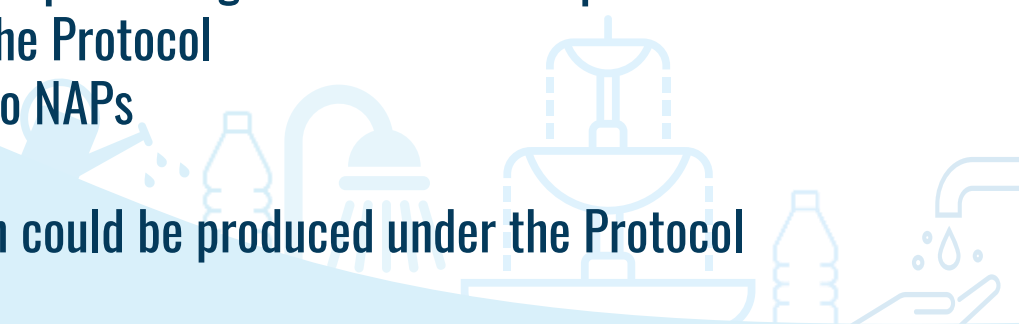


1. Progress made since 2022

Strategic Round Table on Increasing Resilience to Climate Change under the Protocol on Water and Health

Key recommendations

- Convening stakeholder discussions and promoting intersectoral cooperation
- Setting targets and reporting under the Protocol
- Linking the work under the Protocol to NAPs
- Compendium of adaptation actions
- Additional guidance documents which could be produced under the Protocol



1. Progress made since 2022

Strategic paper on strengthening climate resilience in the drinking water and sanitation sector

Topics covered:

- Climate change and water and sanitation – state of the art and key concepts
- Options for Action
- Regulatory actions required for climate change
- The role of the Protocol on Water and Health

Expected final document: Upcoming

07/11/2023

Strengthening climate resilience in the drinking water and sanitation sector through the Protocol on Water and Health

Draft Strategic paper prepared by the University of Bristol, with support of the UNECE-WHO/Europe secretariat


Executive summary

Climate change poses substantial new challenges for water and sanitation services across the pan-European region. Increasing threats of floods, droughts, increased temperatures, wildfires, storm surges and loss of glaciers risk damage to infrastructure and auxiliary services, interrupting access to water and sanitation, and deteriorating water quality, increasing the risk to human health. Building the resilience of water and sanitation services is therefore critical.

At the same time, water and sanitation services are themselves sources of the greenhouse gases that cause climate change, with methane in particular being of concern. Actions to reduce emissions as part of strategies to achieve net zero carbon are being developed and offer opportunities to yield multiple benefits.

Actions are already being undertaken to build resilience. Integrating climate change considerations into water safety plans and sanitation safety plans are widely promoted as effective mechanisms to understand and manage risk. Improving water efficiency, reducing leakage, the reuse of treated wastewater and developing investment strategies linked to climate threats all build resilience. Nonetheless, further action is required to develop adaptive management strategies and scenario-based planning. The use of climate risk narratives may support utilities in identifying and planning for future risks.

2. Plans for future work in this area

- Analysis and recommendations on relation between NDCs, NAPs and Protocol targets (2024)
 - National activity in Montenegro: setting climate sensitive targets and linking to global processes (2024)
 - National activity on setting climate sensitive targets and linking to global processes in the Republic of Moldova (2024-2025)
 - Subregional workshop in Portugal, with focus on accession, targets and climate (4-5 June 2024)
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2. Plans for future work in this area

- World Health Assembly Resolution on Climate Change and Health initiated by Peru, Fiji, the United Kingdom, Kenya and Barbados, the Netherlands (Kingdom of the) to be adopted at the WHA (May 2024)
- COP-29 in Baku (November 2024)
- Global workshop on climate, jointly with Water Convention (March 2025)
- Guidelines/collection of good practices on strengthening climate resilience of water and sanitation sector and across other relevant sectors (2025/2026)
- Strengthening relationships/cross-sectoral activity with WA5 (WSP and SSP approach)

Thank you for your attention!

