



## **Promoting best practice to manage drinking water quality effectively**

Date: Tuesday, 23 November 2010  
Time: 13.15- 14.45  
Venue: I.C. Bratianu Hall, Parliament House, Bucharest  
Languages: English/Russian with a simultaneous translation  
Organizer: Romanian Water Association/IWA Danube – Black Sea Regional Office, in co-operation with the Ministry of Environment and Forest of Romania

### ***Scope and aim of this side event***

Health-based targets are common component of the widely accepted concept for water quality management. The advantage of this harmonised approach to water quality management comes to expression through the combined experiences in drinking-water quality, safe use of the wastewater and safe recreational water. Measuring the impact of risk management measures in relation to health-based targets becomes increasingly complex as the indicator for the safety in the overall chain of events.

Managing drinking water, from catchment to consumer, is a responsibility that all water operators have to bear. The Water Safety Plan (WSP) concept was first promoted by the International Water Association (IWA) during the Conference held in Berlin in 2001, and then by the IWA Bonn Charter, in 2004. The technical support is given by the WHO guidelines on Drinking Water Quality, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition and by the WHO, and IWA Water Safety Plan Manual - Step-by-step risk management for drinking-water suppliers, ed. 2009.

The side event organised by the Romanian Water Association (RWA) and International Water Association Regional office Danube-Black Sea, in co-operation with the Ministry of Environment and Forests of Romania, is aimed to promote the stakeholders' dialogue and good practices at international and national level. The implementation of the health-based targets through WSPs is an effective tool to maintain a safe supply of drinking water to the public, and it is a priority for all water operators.

The Romanian water supply sector faces a range of problems, both for urban and rural areas, and the elaboration and implementation of WSPs, tailored for small, medium and large water supply systems, is considered to be a tool for improving the current situation. Each water supply system is unique as size and complexity and has specific requirements. This is why, RWA in partnership with IWA is involved in promoting WSPs concept, and in giving support to the water operators in preparation of their tailored plans.

The side event brings to the audience's attention, the Romanian experience where the link between the Protocol setting target process, and the tools to promoting best practice to manage drinking water quality effectively, is highlighted.



## AGENDA

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**Side event Chair** – Vasile Ciomos, President of the Romanian Water Association

#### Key note address:

- **Overview of the IWA involvement in promoting best practices to manage drinking water quality for public health.**

*Paul Reiter, Executive Director of the International Water Association*

#### Presentations:

- ***Water and Health in Rural Areas of Romania***

*Dr. Mihaela VASILESCU, Associated Professor, Ecological University Bucharest, Faculty of Ecology and Environmental Protection*

- ***Progress in preparing Water Safety Plan in Romania for a large public water supply system: Case study Ploiesti***

*Dr.eng. Adriana PIENARU, Lecturer, Faculty of Land Reclamation and Environmental Protection*

#### Discussions