The UNECE/WHO-EURO Protocol on Water and Health:

A regional response to global challenges and a practical tool to implement water-related Millennium Development Goals

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The Protocol on Water and Health

The world’s only legal treaty designed to reduce water-related deaths and diseases through improved water management putting water and health at the core of development

A practical instrument to achieve water-related MDGs and implement the human right to water and sanitation
The Protocol on Water and Health

- Adopted in 1999 by 36 countries
- Entered into force in 2005
- Currently ratified by 25 countries

Status of ratification

- Signatories
- Parties
- Towards accession
Objectives

Promote at all levels, nationally, transboundary and internationally, the protection of human health and well-being by:

(a) Effective protection of water related ecosystems and sustainable use of water resources

(b) Providing access to safe drinking water for everyone

(c) Providing adequate sanitation for everyone

(d) Safeguarding human health against water-related diseases

(e) Monitoring outbreaks and incidents of water-related diseases
Protect human health and well being by better management of water resources

Environmental Management

- Effective protection of water related ecosystems and sustainable use of water resources
- Provision of safe drinking water and adequate sanitation

Health Outcomes

- Prevention, control and reduction of water-related diseases
- Monitoring outbreaks and incidents of water-related diseases

Drinking water quality

Environmental quality

Legal framework

Health outcome
The Protocol on Water and Health

Scope – Entire water cycle

- Coastal and estuarine waters
- Surface waters
- Wastewater collection, transport, treatment, discharge, reuse
- Water during abstraction, transport, treatment and supply

Water supply → Sanitation

- Access to drinking water (article 6 (2) (c))
- The levels of performance for water supply (article 6 (2) (e))
- The quality of the drinking water supplied (article 6 (2) (a))
- Access to sanitation (article 6 (2) (d))
- The levels of performance for sanitation (article 6 (2) (e) cont’d)

Water resources

- Quality of waters which are used as sources for drinking water (article 6 (2) (j), first part)
- Effectiveness of management, development, protection and use of water resources (article 6 (2) (m))
- Quality of waters used for bathing (article 6 (2) (j), second part)
- Quality of waters used for aquaculture and shellfish (article 6 (2) (j), third part)
- Application of good practice to the management of enclosed waters (article 6 (2) (k))
- Occurrence of discharges of untreated wastewater (article 6 (2) (g) (ii))
- Occurrence of discharges of untreated storm water overflows (article 6 (2) (g) (iii))
- Quality of discharges of waste water (article 6 (2) (h))

Application of good practice to the management of water supply (article 6 (2) (f))

Identification and remediation of particularly contaminated sites (article 6 (2) (f))

Disposal or reuse of sewage sludge (article 6 (2) (i), first part)

Quality of waste water used for irrigation purposes (article 6 (2) (i), second part)
Set targets, target dates and review progress

- Water supply and sanitation
- Water management
- Health protection

Within 2 years of becoming a Party, each country sets and publishes targets, and dates for achieving them.

Parties:
- collect and evaluate data
- publish results
- review progress
- provide summary reports

MOP evaluate progress in implementation
Systems for surveillance and control of water-related diseases

- Preventive and remedial actions
- Public information of threat
- Public authorities notified
- Capacity strengthened to implement contingency plans
- Water-related outbreaks or threats identified
- Contingency plans timely prepared
- Responsive Health Systems
International cooperation

Parties shall cooperate and assist each other to implement the Protocol:

- **Joint and Coordinated international action**
  - Commonly agreed targets, indicators
  - Joint or coordinated surveillance and early warning systems
  - Mutual assistance in responding to disease outbreaks and incidents
  - Integrated information systems; Notifications

- **Cooperation on transboundary waters**
  - Exchange information, share knowledge, Joint or coordinated water-management plans

- **International support for national action**
  - Water-management plans and schemes to improve water supply and sanitation in transboundary, national and/or local contexts
  - Education and training, Research on disease prevention, Monitoring
Products and Guidance Materials

- Guidelines on the setting of targets, evaluation of progress and reporting under the Protocol
- Small-scale water supplies in the pan-European region
- Guidance on water supply and sanitation in extreme weather events
- No one left behind. Good Practices to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation (to be launched at World Water Forum, March 2012)