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**WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION
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**Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health to
the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary
Watercourses and International Lakes**

Working Group on Water and Health

Fifth meeting

Geneva, 11-12 October 2012

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Information paper 2

INFORMATION PAPER: ATLAS ON WATER AND HEALTH

BACKGROUND

Under the Protocol on Water and Health, countries of the WHO European region have undertaken the legal obligation to set targets concerning access to safe water and sanitation, the reduction of water-related diseases, and to monitor and report progress towards these targets.

The development and management of complex monitoring systems in different domains as specified in Article 6 Para 2 of the Protocol on Water and Health remains an unresolved problem in some countries.

The Ministers of Environment and Health of the European Region adopted the Parma Declaration on Environment and Health and Commitment to Act (2010), which is currently being monitored through the European Environment and Health Information System (ENHIS).

Development of a web platform for reporting under the Protocol on Water and Health was proposed in the program of work for 2011-13 under the Protocol. A web-based Geographic Information Systems (GIS) coupled with electronic data storage provides compliance with the obligations of Arts 7 and 10 of the Protocol and enables Parties to access the collected data as well as assess the progress achieved (Art 7 § 4).

THE ATLAS ON WATER AND HEALTH

The Atlas on Water and Health (Atlas) is a data management tool using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology and aims to serve as a one-stop-information source on sustainable use of water resources and reduction of water-related disease. It was originally developed in 2010 by the WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Promoting Water Management and Risk Communication at the University of Bonn presented at the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in Parma, 2010.

The WHO European Center for Environment and Health in Bonn has been supporting development and update of the Atlas through the project *Monitoring Water Supply and Sanitation in the European region* funded by the Government of Germany.

In view of above, the initial Atlas version was reviewed and an interactive Atlas Version 2 has been proposed. New techniques to present multi-dimensional data including animation over time will raise interest of different audiences. They can be used to transport complex messages in an understandable way and show linkages between water, sanitation and health outcomes, therefore, identify actions needed.

Version 1 of the Atlas can be accessed via: www.waterandhealth.eu. It presents available country information on water and health that are essential in the context of the Protocol on Water and Health.

For both versions, the following data sources are considered:

- Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP)
- Health for All database (HFA-DB)
- Centralized Information System for Infectious Diseases (CISID)
- Water Wiki

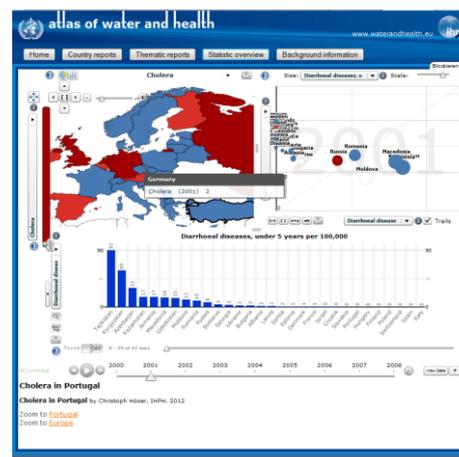
Atlas Version 1 vs. updated Version 2

A comparison of the two versions is given below:

Version 1



Updated Version 2



Version 1	Updated Version 2
<p>Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Background data (e.g. area, population, urbanization, Human Development Index) - Water data (e.g. available water resources, drinking water coverage, sanitation coverage) - Health outcome data (e.g. Cholera, Hepatitis A, Campylobacteriosis, Typhoid fever) 	<p>Content will be extended to meet the needs of the countries.</p> <p>The list of indicators will be discussed and agreed during the Regional Consultation meeting in the end of October 2012</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Static presentation of single themes - Single theme displayed as a map or a list of values. Each available year will produce a single map without animation. No Figures or graphs, no export option for maps. - Does not allow seeing progress over time and possible linkages between different data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interactive presentation of multidimensional data - Presentation of multidimensional data including animation over time: a single illustration may include different themes. - Allow looking at possible causes and linkages between different data. - The additional application of time animation shows the progress over time.
<p>Depth of explanation</p> <p>Country data on water and health visualized as maps or facts sheets.</p>	<p>Depth of explanation</p> <p>Combination of single visualizations (maps and/or graphs) with an explanatory text (e.g. the reasons of extreme values or best practices).</p>
<p>Fixed data background</p> <p>Data collection was finished in 2009.</p>	<p>Up-to-date data background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update of the content and design of the Atlas based on needs assessment - A strategy to obtain data from available sources and databases on a regular basis will be defined. - Harmonization with existing information systems. - Regular update to enable availability of the latest information.

The scope and design of the updated Atlas on Water and Health will be reviewed by the country representatives at the Regional meeting on Monitoring Water supply and Sanitation to be held on 29-30 October 2012. The regional consultation will provide guidance to upgrade the Atlas and its application in the year 2013 and beyond. In addition, the Atlas will be further enhanced building on the outcomes of the post 2015 development framework and reflect new monitoring indicators and targets.