



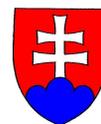
United Nations Economic  
Commission for Europe



World Health Organization  
Regional Office for Europe



Ministry of Environment  
of the Slovak Republic



Ministry of Health  
of the Slovak Republic



**Workshop on water and health in Central Europe: sharing experience on the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia**

**Bratislava, 8 – 9 May 2012**

**International Water Assessment Center at the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute,  
Jeseniova 17**

**SESSION 4 - Outcome Group Work Hungary**

**1. What kinds of measures are mostly being implemented in your country to improve water and health?**

- The programme for monitoring, delineation and protection of vulnerable water resources is going on. After a transitional break new funding sources (KEOP i.e. Environment and Energy Operative Programme) have been offered for application by the affected municipalities.
- The Drinking Water Quality Improvement Programme turned into the final stage with good by the deadline set earlier. The target set for 2010 has already been accomplished and the prospect of achieving the next target i.e. 96 percent of the population is to be supplied with good quality drinking water by 2015 is good.
- Another segment of the drinking water quality problems is also under control by the implementation of the so-called Nitrite-action. It is meant to co-operate with the affected suppliers to prevent the dangerous nitrite levels to develop due to nitrification in the distribution network.
- A couple of measures implemented to safeguard water quality in our major lakes and still waters used for recreation and protected by the law (L. Balaton and Velencei, Tisza-lake and Danube branch Ráckeve-Soroksár) achieved good results and as a result of them the bathing water quality is stabilized on good to very good level.
- Bathing water profiles have been prepared and published for each bathing waters and considerably improve the access of the public to information and offer ways of involvement.
- Access to sanitation is progressing according to the requirements of the UWWT Directive 91/271/EC: advanced (tertiary) sewage treatment for the communities over 10000 PE had been accomplished by 2010, and for those between 2000 to 10000 it will possibly be achieved by 2015 according to the target set.

**2. Are measures closely related and consistent?**

Yes.

**3. Are the remaining challenges well addressed? Which additional measures would be needed?**

- Connection to existing (new) sewer systems is improving and is 85 to 100 percent proportion depending on the size of the settlement. The issue is drawn under the effect of the new Water Utility Act that requires complete connection rate by 2013 at existing systems and that after max. 1 y delay at new sewer systems.
- small drinking water supplies and sanitation systems. The former are going to be addressed under the effect of the new Water Utility Act that will achieve considerable improvement by the reducing the number and raising the service quality of drinking water suppliers. The latter which is out of the scope of the EU directive is at present at halt in the lack of funding but there is conceptual planning and funds will be raised to address environment friendly solutions to locally treat sewage produced by very small communities.
- artificial recreational water environment. The amendment of the relevant legislation is a critical issue. New regulation is foreseen to be adopted very soon.

**4. How can the implementation of the Protocol further strengthen action on water and health issues?**

By providing a framework of focusing attention and gaining political support for targets which are clearly identified based on expert opinion but are not covered under other legal obligation.

**5. What needs to be done in your country to improve the implementation of the Protocol?**

In order to enable consequent pursuance of the targets set and their necessary revisions the body established for the horizontal cooperation of the governmental departments and other stakeholders affected has to be provided with new and reinforced mandate to reflect the recent changes in the governmental and public administration structure.