

# Advancing water, sanitation and hygiene in schools

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Protocol on Water and Health



# Mandate from the Parma Declaration

## Regional Priority Goal 1 **Ensuring public health by improving access to safe water and sanitation**

- \* “We will take advantage of the approach and provisions of the **Protocol on Water and Health** as a rationale and progressive tool to develop integrated policies on water resource management and health, addressing the challenges to safe water services posed by climate change, with clear targets and objectives, working in partnership with all concerned sectors.”
- \* “We will strive to provide **each child** with access to **safe water and sanitation** in homes, **child care centres, kindergartens, schools**, health care institutions and public recreational water settings by 2020, and to revitalize hygiene practices.”

# WASH in schools in the Sustainable Development Goals



**Target 3.3:** End waterborne disease

**Target 3.9:** Reduce non-infectious disease from water pollution



**Target 4.A:** Safe, child sensitive learning environment



**Target 6.1:** Universal and equitable access to safe drinking water

**Target 6.2:** Adequate and equitable sanitation for all, special attention on girls' needs

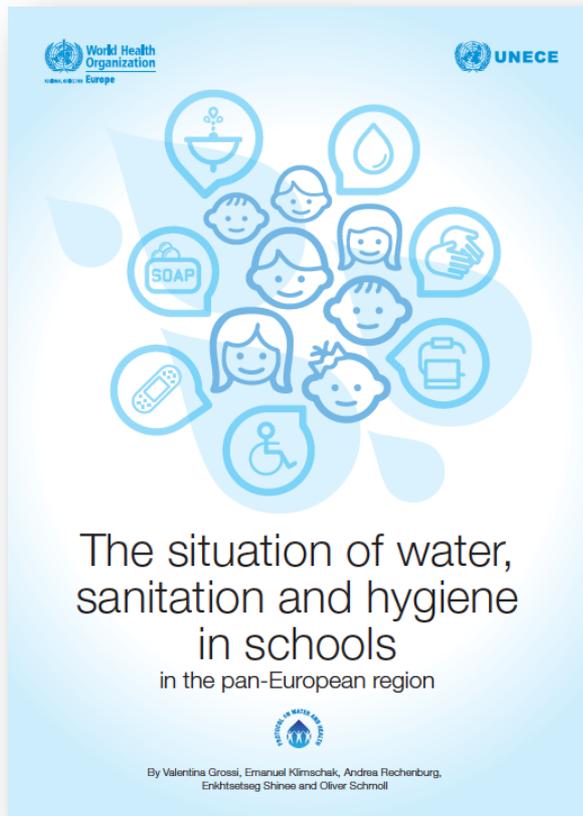
# Activities 2014-2016



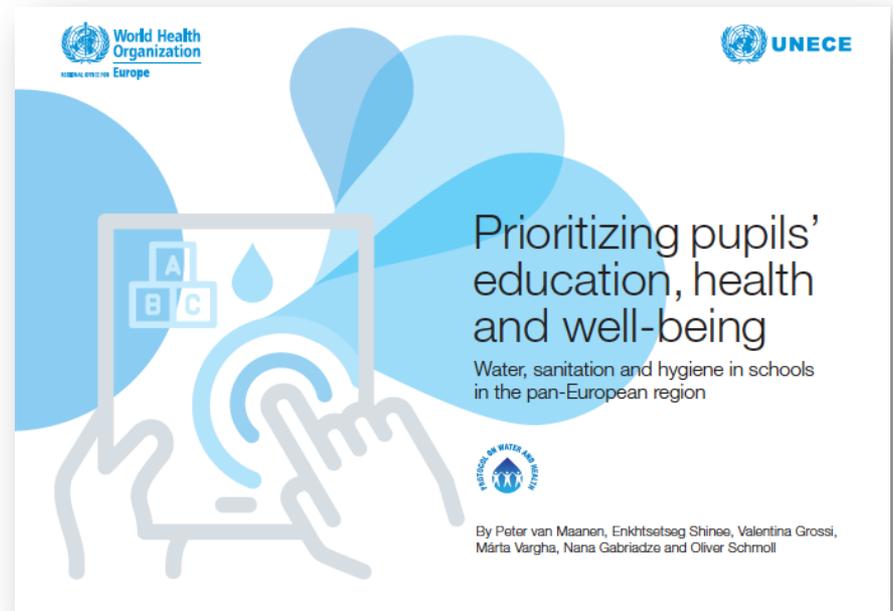
# Main achievements

- \* **First forum** to address WASH in schools in the European Region
- \* **Strong convening power** – concern to all
- \* Cross-sectoral cooperation: the work involved a **wide range of participants**, many of them outside the usual Protocol community:
  - \* Educational sector
  - \* UNICEF
  - \* Implementation and support agencies
  - \* NGOs

# Outputs

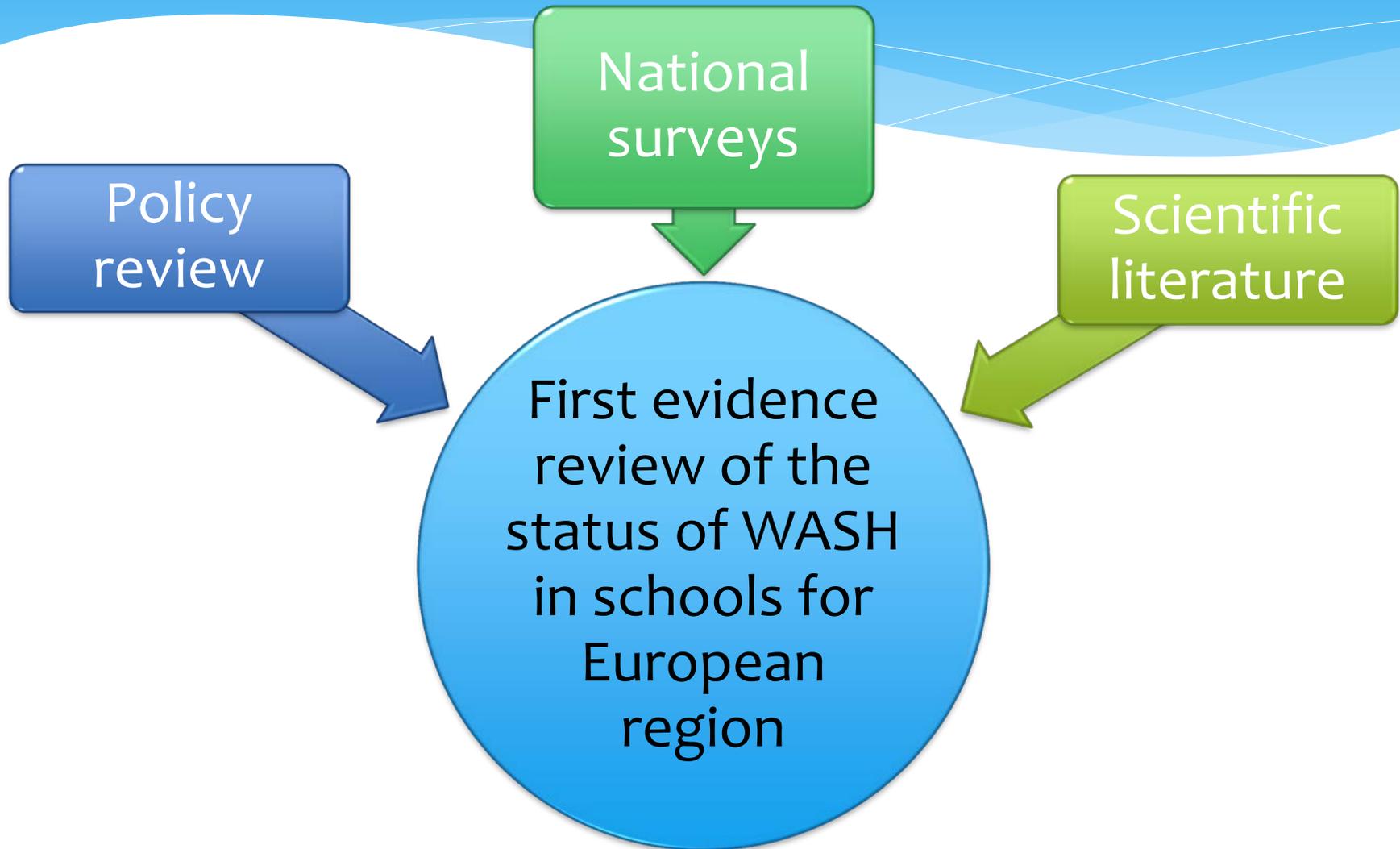


“Landscape document”



“Advocacy document”

# Landscape document



# Key findings

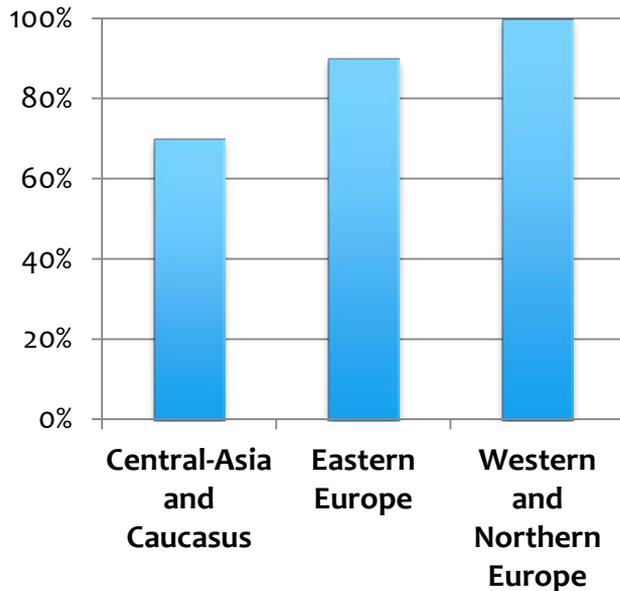
- \* Policies are in place but do not always address all aspects of WASH and the enforcement mechanism is not efficient.
- \* WASH in schools is still a challenge in the entire region, though problems are diverse.
- \* Operation, maintenance and acceptability are common concerns regardless the economy of the country.
- \* Adverse effect of poor WASH on health and learning outcomes was confirmed.



Photo: Andrey Egorov

# School toilets

Available ✓



Adequate sanitation facility

Accessible ?

1:10  
1:20  
1:50  
1:400

Examples of toilet to pupil ratios

Acceptable ✗

France

Never defecates in school:



Croatia

Uses school toilets regularly:



UK - Scotland

Never uses school toilets:



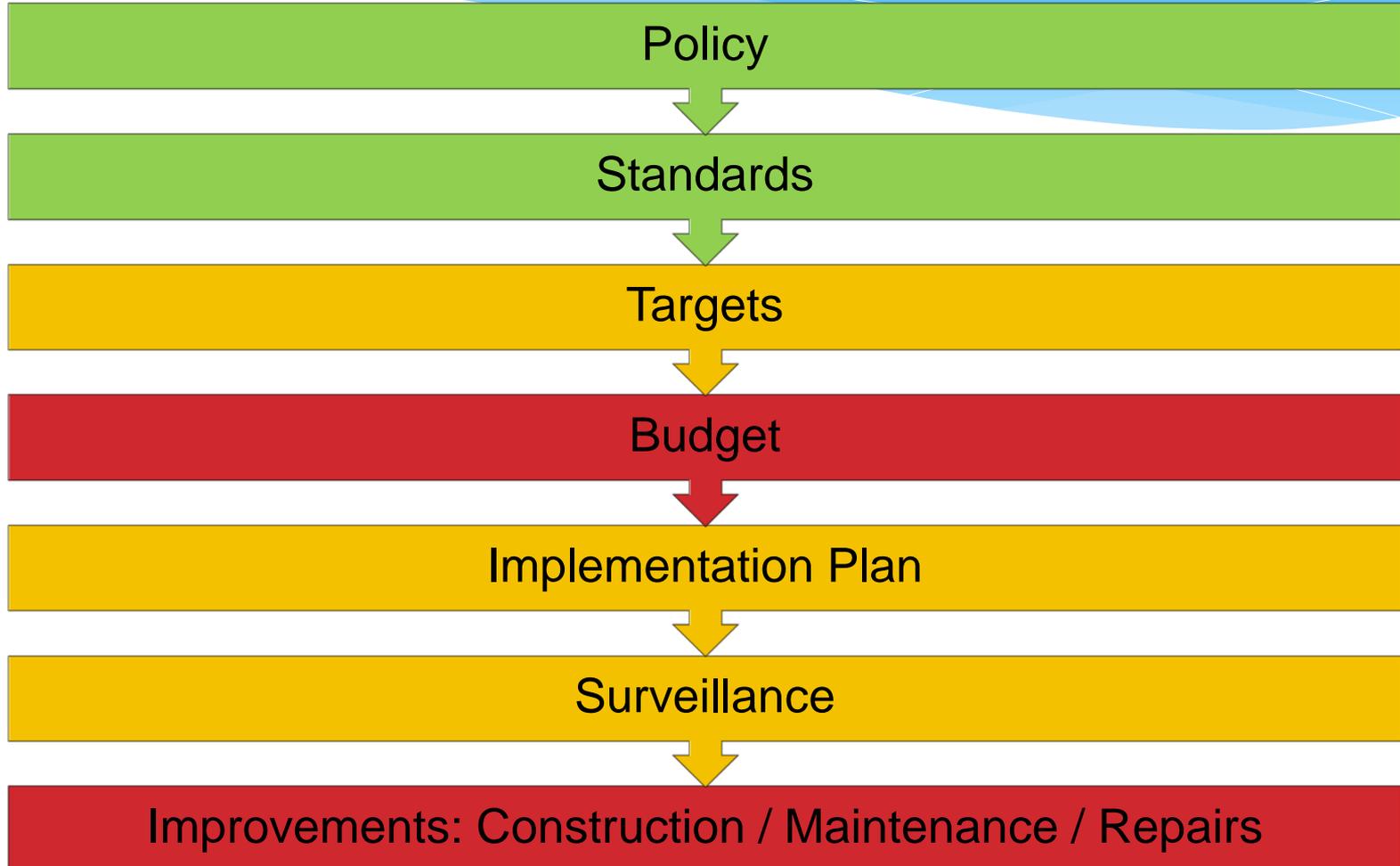
# Health and educational outcomes

* Hydration	&	Cognitive performance
* Handwashing	&	Gastrointestinal and respiratory symptoms and absence rates
* Avoidance/accessibility of toilets	&	Urinary tract infections and constipation
* Menstrual hygiene management	&	Health and well-being of girls
* Poor sanitation and hygiene	&	Helminthic infections
* Safe WASH	&	Opportunities for combined health interventions and sustained positive change in pupils' behaviour

# Advocacy document



# Identifying bottlenecks



# Lessons learnt for future work

- \* Problems are often invisible on the decision-making level, but very apparent in real life: strong policy advocacy and efficient surveillance are needed
- \* The leadership of education sector is mandatory in advancing WASH in schools: need for continuous and increasing involvement in the future
- \* Youth involvement

# Suggested future work: WASH in schools

- \* a) Conduct **regional and subregional workshops** to disseminate available evidence on WASH in schools, promote leadership and cooperation between the education and health sectors, facilitate the sharing of good practices and support target setting and policy uptake of WASH in schools
- \* (b) Develop a **practical tool for public health authorities** to improve surveillance and adequate monitoring of WASH in schools, specifically taking into account children's needs and perceptions to assess baseline situations and track incremental improvement
- \* (c) Develop a **“WASH toolkit” for school administrations** to promote good practices and improve operation and maintenance of WASH facilities in schools

# Rationale for extension work to health care facilities (HCF)

- \* WASH services in HCF are limited in some parts of region
- \* Consequences include health care acquired infections, preventable maternal and newborn deaths and poor uptake of services
- \* Underlying problems: lack of leadership, limited monitoring, weak or absent national standards and policies
- \* Global action plan
- \* Need for regional leadership, advocacy and capacity building



# Suggested future work: WASH in health care facilities

- \* (a) **Baseline analysis of the situation** in two countries to inform national target setting and action planning
- \* (b) **Regional workshop** to raise health sector leadership and to call for national action to address WASH in health-care facilities and support uptake in target setting and policies
- \* (c) Support **pilot projects** in selected health-care facilities with a focus on application of a **WHO risk-based tool for improving and maintaining WASH services** and the development of improvement plans for further scale-up across the pan-European region