

European Environment and Health Process (EHP)

Elizabet Paunovic
WHO European Centre for Environment and Health

Fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties
Geneva, 14-16 November 2016



The European Environment and Health Process (EHP)

- * In **1989** WHO together with the partners launched a process to eliminate the most significant environmental threats to human health
- * Progress towards this goal is marked by a series of **Ministerial Conferences** held every five to seven years
- * The Conferences bring together **Ministers of Health** and **Ministers of Environment** to shape European policies and actions on the protection human health from environmental impacts

EHP Conferences

Adoption of
Protocol on Water and Health



1989
Frankfurt

1994
Helsinki

1999
London

2004
Budapest

2010
Parma

2017
Ostrava



Parma Declaration:
Focus on children's health
RPG 1 on water and sanitation

Parma Declaration:

Protecting children's health in a changing environment

- * **Regional Priority Goal 1:** Ensuring public health by improving access to safe water and sanitation:
*“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**.”*
- * Reference to **Protocol on Water and Health** as policy instrument for implementation

Preparatory process towards 6th MC

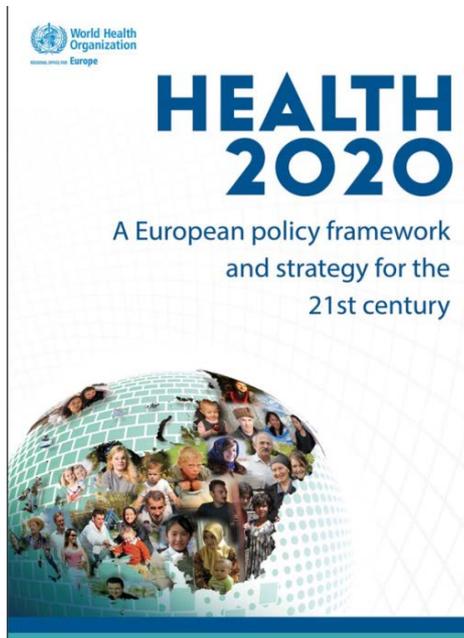
Ostrava, 13-15 June 2017

Policy process
to identify and
negotiate commitments
and targets in the
declaration

6 MC

Consultative process
to identify and frame
issues in environment
and health of relevance
in the 21st century

Achieving SDGs and Health 2020



Conference commitments under discussion

1. Achieving environmental sustainability of health systems
2. **Ensuring safe and sustainable water and sanitation for all**
3. Improving air quality
4. Making European cities environmentally sustainable and resilient to global environmental change
5. Reducing waste and pollution in the transition to a circular economy
6. Strengthening resilience to climate change
7. Promoting chemical safety

Preparatory process

- * European Environment and Health Task Force (EHTF) oversees preparatory process
- * Mid-Term Review (Haifa, Apr 2015) and 5th meeting of EHTF (Skopje, Nov 2015) broadly confirmed:
 - * **Water, sanitation, hygiene and health remains a relevant priority in the pan-European region**
 - * **Important role of legal multilateral instruments: Protocol**
- * 6th meeting of EHTF (Vienna, 29-30 Nov 2016)

Outcome document

- * Ministerial Declaration focusing on strategic matters
 - * **Annex I: Implementation plan, including proposals for concrete commitments on water, sanitation, hygiene and health**
 - * Annex II: Future EHP institutional arrangements
- * Protocol is invited to contribute and suggest commitments
- * 9th meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health (Geneva, June 2016) supported **three pillars**

Proposed pillar 1

A commitment towards ratification of the Protocol by all Member States that have not yet done so:

- * Reinststate the importance of the Protocol as the prime internationally binding instrument in the pan-European Region to progressively achieve regional and global commitments in water and sanitation
- * Translate and operationalize the ambitions of 2030 Agenda into specific national targets and action plans
- * Make reference to the substantive priorities identified under the programme of work for 2017-2019

Proposed pillar 2

A vitalizing recall of RPG 1 to provide each child with access to safe WASH at home and all institutional settings

- * Encourage all Member States to accelerate their efforts towards meeting RPG 1 by 2020
- * Programme of work for 2017-2019 strongly supports the attainment of RPG 1 with its emphasis on institutional WASH, safe management of water and sanitation services and equitable access to such services

Proposed pillar 3

A new regional commitment

to address the sustainability of water resources and climate resilience of water and sanitation services

- * Roots in water-food-energy-climate change nexus
- * Responds to global change (urbanization, climate change)
- * Addresses long-term availability and quality of freshwater resources and safe drinking-water
- * Focuses on emerging patterns (reuse) and linkages to other sectors (agriculture/food) and the possible implications on human health and the water environment