



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS
SVEIKATOS APSAUGOS MINISTERIJA

Implementation of Water and Health Protocol in Lithuania

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Water and Health situation in Lithuania

- * Groundwater is the source of drinking water supplies
- * 80 percent of population are connected to centralized water supply system in 2015. (Water Sector Development Programme for 2017-2023)
- * 72 percent of population that are connected to centralized sewer systems in 2015. (Water Sector Development Programme for 2017-2023)



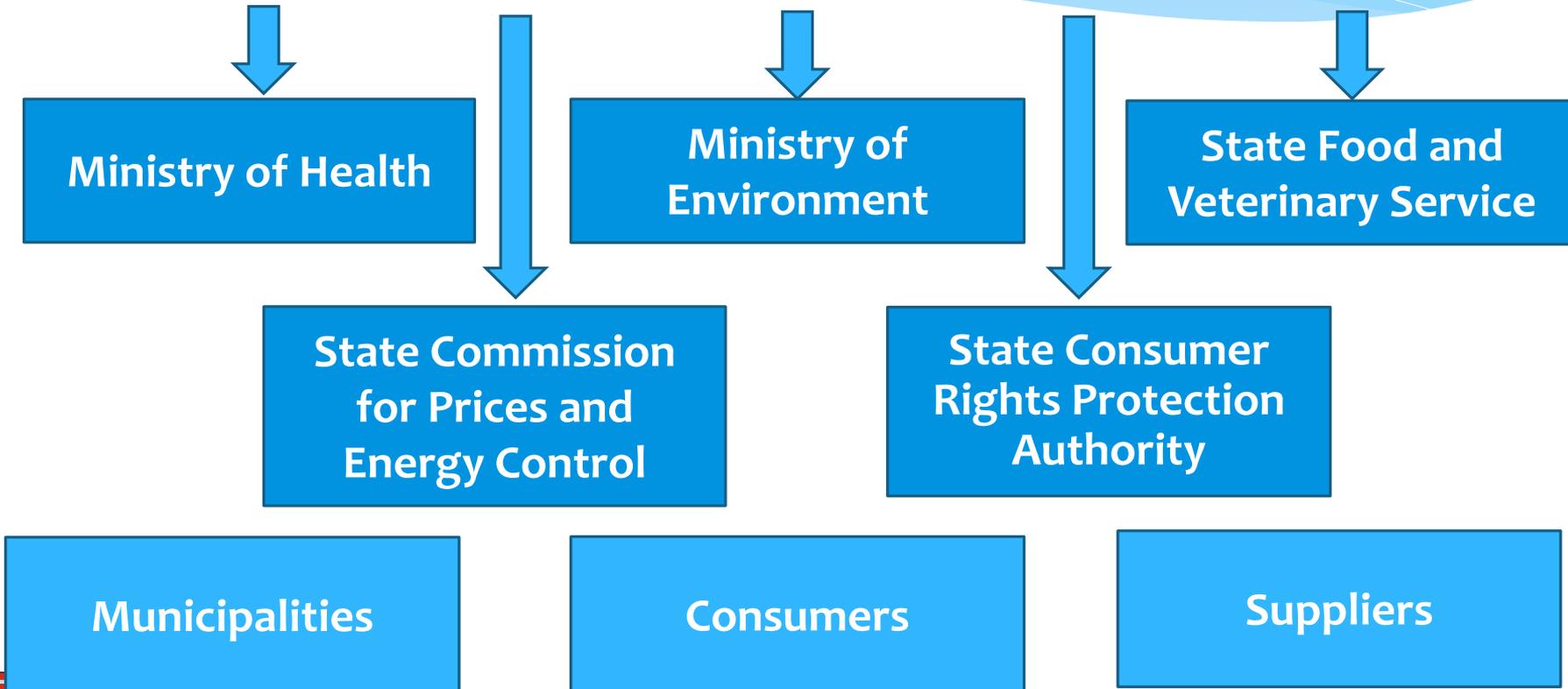
Dug wells water

- * About 700 000 inhabitants (mostly in rural areas and suburbs) use groundwater from dug wells for food. Well water is often polluted and does not meet drinking water safety and quality requirements.
- * It is the only source of drinking water for the inhabitants. It is dangerous, first of all, due to the bacterial contamination (50% of dug wells) and high contents of nitrates (40%). Usually well water is shallow groundwater (mostly at depths of 5-15 m deep), thus farming is very important for the quality of this water. Well water quality depends on the location of the well, its installation of maintenance. As small garden-plots are used for intensive farming, it is impossible to find a remote place for a well. Redundant fertilizers, which are not absorbed by the plants, pass into groundwater and contaminate the drinking water supplies by nitric compounds and bacteria.
- * According the order of Minister of Health, "Diagnostics and prophylaxis for the water pollution with nitrites and nitrates" the National Public Health Center examine and control water from dug wells in the places where pregnant women and babies (until 6 months) are living and using water from wells.



Sector of Drinking Water

Republic of Lithuania government



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Republic of Lithuania Law on Drinking Water (7 July 2001, No. IX-433).

Republic of Lithuania Government Resolution No. 1386 of 3 September 2002 on Approval of the List of Hazardous Occupations (Official Gazette, 2002, No. 87-3751).

HN 24:2003: Safety and quality requirements of drinking-water (Official Gazette, 2003, No. 79-3606; 2007, No. 127-5194).

Relevant institutions in the area of water and health (1)

Ministry of Health

Legislation for drinking water, bathing water and indoor water; derogations for drinking water; official control of bathing water and indoor water.

Ministry of Environment

Groundwater resources, wastewater, legislation for water supply, water management and wastewater treatment services.

State Food and Veterinary Service

Official control of drinking water quality.



Relevant institutions in the area of water and health (2)

Municipalities

- Organization and coordination of water supply and wastewater treatment services, bathing water monitoring.

State Commission for Prices and Energy Control

- Coordination of prices of water supply and wastewater treatment services.

State Consumer Rights Protection Authority

- Protection of consumer rights.



Coordination across institutions in the field of Protocol

- * Ministry of Environment provides information on water to the Ministry of Health;
- * Ministry of Health provides the data about the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health and about the progress achieved in Lithuania to the secretariat;
- * State Food and Veterinary Service is responsible for water control and for reporting about drinking water quality to EU Commission under Directive 98/83/EC. State Food and Veterinary Service submit information to the Ministry of Health.



Water and Health Protocol implementation

- * To facilitate and coordinate the implementation of the Protocol the **Lithuanian Coordination group** under the leadership of the Ministry of Health was established by the order of the Minister of Health and the Minister of Environment on 21 June 2004;
- * Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Food and Veterinary Service, State Geology Service, Environmental Protection Agency, Communicable Diseases and AIDS Centre, Health Emergency Situation Centre, Centre for Health Education and Diseases Prevention, National Public Health Surveillance Laboratory, Vilnius Public Health Centre took part in the preparation of **Lithuanian Summary Report under the Protocol**;
- * All Stakeholders involved have to determine their responsibilities of Protocol fields (the 6 article items) and to take part into Report preparation using **the Guidelines on the setting of targets, evaluation of progress and reporting**



Target –setting, monitoring and achievement (1)

10 targets was approved by Minister of Health and the Minister of Environment on January 12, **2005**:

1. To create legal, administrative and economic provisions that would be stable and would promote the implementation of the targets;
2. To establish national arrangements for coordination between the competent authorities and for relations maintained with other states at the intergovernmental level;
3. To develop programs or incorporate the means in other relevant programmes which are being drawn up for other purpose;
4. With the aim to supply high quality drinking water to improve and maintain a legal and organizational framework for monitoring and enforcing standards for the quality of drinking water;
5. To develop a system of indicators designed to identify observe and control the spreading of water-related diseases;



Target –setting, monitoring and achievement (2)

6. To establish preventive, surveillance systems for the outbreaks of water-related diseases;
7. To develop water management plans at the transboundary and national level. Such plans may be incorporated in other relevant plans, programs or documents drawn up for other purposes;
8. To review national trends in changes of water and health indicators and to carry out a comparative analysis on the territory basis;
9. To collect and evaluate data concerned with the implementation of the Protocol and to assess the progress achieved;
10. To provide to the secretariat data about progress achieved.



- 17 targets were setting in the Lithuanian Summary Report under the Protocol on Water and Health in 2016 (*Part Three*);
- 6 targets were setting in different documents that have been approved/adopted by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. Targets and targets' dates showed in the table are being renewed periodically in 2017.



Relevant National targets of Lithuania in respect of the Protocol on Water and Health

Protocol reference	National target	Deadline	Target indicator
6.2.b	Reduce the negative effects of environmental factors, unsafe products (products and services) and the health risks of the population.	2019 -30 % 2023- 50 %	Percentage of the population who are informed about environmental risk factors and their potential adverse health effects.
6.2.c	Increasing percentage of population supplied with drinking water conforming to requirements.	not provided	At least 95 percent of consumers at public drinking water supply area should be publicly supplied by drinking water, which meets safety and quality requirements.



Relevant National targets of Lithuania in respect of the Protocol on Water and Health

Protocol reference	National target	Deadline	Target indicator
6.2. d	All generated wastewater is collected and managed in conformity with the established requirements.	2030	100%
6.2. f	To ensure a good status of all water bodies.	Untill 2030	100 %



Relevant National targets of Lithuania in respect of the Protocol on Water and Health

Protocol reference	National target	Deadline	Target indicator
6.2. j	Water quality at bathing areas meets the requirements of the directive 2006/7/EC.	2020	Bathing water shall qualify as at least sufficient by the end of the bathing season 2017 and the number of bathing waters classified as “excellent” or “good” shall increase from the bathing season 2020.
6.2. n	To provide to the public in the flood area all necessary information on water-born infectious diseases and appropriate prevention measures in case of flood.	In case of Flood	Provided information



Protocol implementation and EU legislation

- * Many of the activities under the Protocol are related to the implementation of the EU directives on drinking water, bathing water, urban waste water and water resources management;
- * The main qualitative target is to achieve the quality of drinking water for all urban and rural inhabitants to be in compliance with Lithuanian Hygiene Norm HN 24:2003 „Safety and quality requirements of drinking water“ and EU requirements;
- * The main quantitative target is „95% inhabitants of municipal public water services territory should be provided with public water services“. This target will be used to measure progress defined in the Law of Republic of Lithuania on Supply of Drinking Water and Waste Water Management.



Response measures in case of emergency and public information

The biggest natural disaster, which could make an influence on drinking water quality in some Lithuanian regions, is flood. Institutions organize activities according to the State Emergency situations management plan, which is confirmed by Governmental decision on 20 October 2010:

- * Municipalities are responsible for flood warning for its citizens, evacuation from flood zone, accommodation and providing of drinking water if necessary. Public Health Bureaus of Municipalities are responsible for public information about communicable water-related diseases and appropriate preventive health measures;
- * The quality of drinking water in Lithuania (in flood area as well) is controlled by the State Food and Veterinary Service;
- * National Public Health Centre are responsible for epidemiological surveillance and control of water-related communicable diseases.
- * Health Emergency Situations Centre of the Ministry of Health prepares information about negative flood impact to health and how to reduce it and announces updated recommendations and advice for public and general practitioners.



Inter-State cooperation in connection with Water and Health

- * The Nordic/Baltic network meeting on water and health (NWH) has been held sixth times now, annually. The sixth network meeting in Vilnius took place on 23-24 November 2017. This meeting has provided great opportunity to have **pre-consultation meetings** with countries having identical or almost identical Protocol implementation problems
- * **The Consultation meetings** (6 March 2018 and 5-6 November 2018) will helped to map the common challenges and find the solution of targets setting, implementation and progress evaluation.



Main challenges

- * Technical challenges since the Protocol implementation is additional function of institution;
- * Environmental challenges and EU legislation;
- * Inter-sectoral, inter-level coordination challenges;
- * Financial challenges;
- * Health challenges.



Specific needs and specific expectations

- * To identify the gaps of implementation;
- * Targets in respect of national legislation;
- * Discussion about target-setting process;
- * The best practices examples and lessons learned on target setting;
- * Advices regarding to the situation in Lithuania.



Thank you for your attention!

