



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

Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting

Tenth meeting

Geneva, 24 and 25 April 2018

**Protocol on Water and Health and the 2030 Agenda:
a practical guide for joint implementation**

- **Draft** -

Prepared by the joint secretariat

At its fourth session (Geneva, 14-16 November 2016), the 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 (Water Convention) highlighted the role of the Protocol as a powerful tool to promote and operationalize the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (see ECE/MP.WH/13-EUPCR/1611921/2.1/2016/MOP-4/06).

At its ninth meeting (Geneva, 5 May 2017) and following the workshop on setting targets under the Protocol to support implementation of the SDGs (Geneva, 4-5 May 2017), the Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting confirmed the need to prepare a comprehensive and practical guide for joint implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health and the 2030 Agenda and agreed to prepare a draft outline for submission to the tenth meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health (Geneva, 15-16 November 2017).

At its tenth meeting, the Working Group agreed on the outline, messages and content of the Guide and entrusted the Task Force and the drafting group specifically established for this purpose with further development of the document.

The Task Force is invited to:

- (a) Review the document and provide comments on the structure, content, main messages and timeline for its finalization;
- (b) Provide comments and propose additional case studies to be included in the document by 31 May 2018;
- (c) Entrust the drafting group to finalize the document for its submission to the eleventh meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health (Geneva, 7-8 November 2018).

PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH AND THE 2030 AGENDA: A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR JOINT IMPLEMENTATION

PART ONE INTRODUCTION

1.1 Objectives

The main objective of the *Protocol on Water and Health and the 2030 Agenda: A Practical Guide for Joint Implementation* (the Guide) is to provide step-by-step guidance on how to establish and operationalize links between the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) - World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (the Protocol) and the water, sanitation and health related targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) to support effective implementation at country level. The 2030 Agenda is an important global commitment, while the Protocol is a legally binding tool available in the pan-European region that will continue beyond 2030. With many synergies and common characteristics, it is natural to implement the Protocol and the water, sanitation and health related targets of the 2030 Agenda in an integrated way. This Guide illustrates how countries can achieve that through providing brief examples and case studies.

The primary audience of the Guide is government officials involved in the implementation of the water, sanitation and health related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the national focal points under the Protocol. The Guide will also serve as a source of information for other stakeholders including national decision makers mandated with programming and policy development in water, sanitation and health sectors; the United Nations (UN) and other international agencies supporting SDG implementation; water and sanitation service providers; the private sector, civil society organizations and the donor community.

Question: Should the target audience be broader or kept limited?

1.2 Protocol on Water and Health

The objective of the Protocol is to promote at all appropriate levels, nationally as well as in transboundary and international contexts, the protection of human health and well-being, both individual and collective, within a framework of sustainable development, through improving water management, including the protection of water ecosystems, and through preventing, controlling and reducing water-related disease (Article 1). Adopted in 1999 at the third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (London, 16–18 June 1999), the Protocol is the first international agreement of its kind designed specifically to attain an adequate supply of safe drinking water and sanitation for everyone, and effectively protect water resources. The Protocol urges countries to approach water, sanitation and health in a holistic manner. Therefore, the Protocol is, in many respects, a precursor of SDG 6 on water and sanitation.

The implementation of the Protocol is intersectoral by nature. It encourages governments to take a whole-of-government approach and fosters substantive interaction between different sectors such as water, health, environment, education, agriculture, finance and others to work together to achieve the national targets set under the Protocol. The Protocol also empowers civil society to contribute in a meaningful way to target setting and implementation and to take action. The objectives of the Protocol align closely with the objectives of the 2030 Agenda and the Protocol has been a precursor of several SDG requirements.

According to its article 6, the Protocol requires countries to establish national and local targets, to

implement measures to ensure they are met, and to regularly review and report on progress achieved. The Protocol target areas are detailed below:

Target Areas (according to Article 6.2 of the Protocol)

- (a) The quality of the drinking water supplied, taking into account the Guidelines for drinking-water quality of the World Health Organization;
- (b) The reduction of the scale of outbreaks and incidents of water-related disease;
- (c) The area of territory, or the population sizes or proportions, which should be served by collective systems for the supply of drinking water or where the supply of drinking water by other means should be improved;
- (d) The area of territory, or the population sizes or proportions, which should be served by collective systems of sanitation or where sanitation by other means should be improved;
- (e) The levels of performance to be achieved by such collective systems and by such other means of water supply and sanitation respectively;
- (f) The application of recognized good practice to the management of water supply and sanitation, including the protection of waters used as sources for drinking water;
- (g) The occurrence of discharges of:
 - (i) Untreated waste water; and
 - (ii) Untreated storm water overflowsfrom water collection systems to waters within the scope of this Protocol;
- (h) The quality of discharges of water from waste water treatment installations to waters within the scope of this Protocol;
- (i) The disposal or reuse of sewage sludge from collective systems of sanitation or other sanitation installations and the quality of water used for irrigation purposes, taking into account the Guidelines for the safe use of waste water and excreta in agriculture and aquaculture of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme;
- (j) The quality of waters which are used as sources for drinking water, which are generally used for bathing or which are used for aquaculture or for the production or harvesting of shellfish;
- (k) The application of recognized good practice to the management of enclosed waters generally available for bathing;
- (l) The identification and remediation of particularly contaminated sites which adversely affect waters within the scope of this Protocol or are likely to do so and which thus threaten to give rise to water-related disease;
- (m) The effectiveness of systems for the management, development, protection and use of water resources, including the application of recognized good practice to the control of pollution from sources of all kinds;
- (n) The frequency of the publication of information on the quality of the drinking water supplied and of other waters relevant to the targets in this paragraph in the intervals between the publication of information under article 7, paragraph 2.

Such targets must be tailor-made, reflecting the country's socioeconomic and environmental health conditions, as well as its needs and priorities in the water, sanitation and health sectors. A realistic plan for improvement, with prioritized time-bound targets adapted to the national situation, must be elaborated. This approach lies at the core of the Protocol's planning, performance and accountability framework. The progress in setting targets and implementing the Protocol is assessed on the basis of summary reports provided by countries. According to article 7 of the Protocol, countries shall collect and evaluate data on their progress towards the achievement of the targets and on indicators designed to show how that progress has contributed towards preventing, controlling or reducing water-related disease. The full text of the Protocol can be accessed via <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2000/wat/mp.wat.2000.1.e.pdf>.

The body that supports countries in setting their targets under the Protocol is the Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting. To this end, the Task Force elaborated the 2010 *Guidelines on the setting of targets, evaluation of progress and reporting under the Protocol* (Target Setting Guidelines)¹ and more recently the 2016 *Collection of good practices and lessons learned on target setting and reporting under the Protocol on Water and Health*² (Collection of Good Practices). Moreover, the Task Force developed the format of the reporting mechanism under the Protocol. The current Guidelines and template for summary reports in accordance with article 7 of the Protocol were adopted at the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (Geneva, 14–16 November 2016).³



With regard to compliance with the obligations under the Protocol on Water and Health, Article 15 of the Protocol, requires the Meeting of the Parties to establish arrangements for reviewing compliance. The objective of the compliance procedure established in 2007 is to facilitate, promote and aim to secure compliance by Parties with the obligations under the Protocol, with a view to preventing disputes. The Committee's functions include considering submissions, referrals or communications from the public relating to specific issues of compliance; preparing, at the request of the Meeting of the Parties, a report on compliance with or implementation of specific provisions of the Protocol; and monitoring, assessing and facilitating the implementation of and compliance with the reporting requirements under article 7, paragraph 5, of the Protocol. In 2010, the Committee also developed the terms of reference of the so-called consultation process which aims at assisting Parties in implementing the provisions of the Protocol by developing an accurate analysis of their situation, providing advice and recommendations to enable them to set and implement targets under the Protocol and assisting in seeking support from donors, specialized agencies and other competent bodies.

¹ United Nations sales publication, No. Sales No. E. 10.II.E.12. Available from <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=11644>.

² United Nations publication, Sales No. E.16.II.E.20. Available from <http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/pub.html>.

³ Available from http://www.unece.org/env/water/pwh_work/tsr.html.

Protocol on Water and Health and the human rights to water and sanitation

The Protocol on Water and Health is a special instrument in that it has both an inter-state regulatory dimension and a human rights one. The rights to water and sanitation and the specific obligations arising from them are addressed in detail through a combination of techniques. Unlike a typical human rights instrument that formulates a right and leaves the obligations implicit, the Protocol requires Parties, in essence, to exercise due diligence in ensuring access to water and sanitation and protecting water bodies within their jurisdiction spelling four clusters of obligations: (a) to set targets relating to water, sanitation and health, and to monitor them; (b) to develop systems to respond to emergencies; (c) to gather, develop and provide relevant information to the public; and (d) to cooperate with other Parties to the Protocol in these matters.

1.3 The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals

On 25 September 2015, the 193 countries of the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Development Agenda titled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."⁴ The 2030 Agenda covers seventeen Sustainable Development Goals, reflecting a significant broadening of the scope of the previous eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Half of the Goals address various aspects of environmental sustainability, indicating a shift to a more comprehensive development paradigm.

The references to human rights and non-discrimination, both in the preamble and declaration, and to the concepts of universality, substantive equality for women and girls define strong principles for implementation. "Leaving no one behind" means that no goal will be met unless it is met for everyone, which emphasizes the need to reach out to the most disadvantaged groups.

The 2030 Agenda is of unprecedented scope and significance: it is relevant to all countries, regardless of their level of development and it is accepted by all countries and is applicable to all, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development. This includes developed and developing countries. The breadth and complexity of issues embedded in the SDGs seek to respond to the urgent social, environmental and economic challenges of our time. However, this complexity also increases the challenges of SDG implementation, follow-up and review.

While the SDGs are not legally binding, governments are expected to take ownership and establish national frameworks for the achievement of the 17 SDGs: "The Sustainable Development Goals and targets are integrated and indivisible, global in nature and universally applicable, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. Targets are defined as aspirational and global, with each Government setting its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national circumstances. Each Government will also decide how these aspirational and global targets should be incorporated into national planning processes, policies and strategies. It is important to recognize the link between sustainable development and other relevant ongoing processes in the economic, social and environmental fields."⁵ Countries have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review of the progress made in implementing the Goals, which will require quality, accessible and timely data collection. Regional follow-up and review will be based on national-level analyses and contribute to follow-up and review at the global level.

1.4 Water, sanitation and health related Goals and Targets under the SDGs

⁴ Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015, available at

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E

⁵ Para. 55, Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015, available at

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E

Water and sanitation is central to sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda, with strong linkages to many of the other proposed Sustainable Development Goals. SDG 6 is the main Goal related to water and sanitation and aims to *ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all*. SDG 6 has eight targets and 11 corresponding global indicators, many of which overlap with Protocol targets and indicators. Reflecting the entire water cycle, the targets within Goal 6 are interlinked with all other Goals and across sectors, including poverty reduction, equality and governance (Goals 1, 10 and 16 respectively), agriculture (Goal 2), health (Goal 3), education (Goal 4), gender (Goal 5), energy (Goal 7), the economy and infrastructure (Goals 8–12), climate change and resilience (Goal 13) and the environment (Goals 14 and 15).

Question: Is the graph sufficient or does this part of the publication require more practical and technical discussions including an overview and discussion on the linkages of the various SDG goals/targets with water and sanitation?



1.5 Follow-up and Review Processes for the Protocol and the SDGs

1.5.1 The High-Level Political Forum and the UNECE Regional Forum on SDGs

The High-Level Political Forum⁶ (HLPF) is the main UN platform on sustainable development and it has a central role in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs at the global level. As part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, the 2030 Agenda encourages member states to “conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven” (paragraph 79). These voluntary national reviews (VNR) are expected to serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the HLPF.

⁶ The establishment of the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) was mandated in 2012 by the outcome document of the [United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development \(Rio+20\), "The Future We Want."](#) The format and organizational aspects of the Forum are outlined in [General Assembly resolution 67/290](#). The Forum meets annually under the auspices of the [Economic and Social Council](#) for eight days, including a three-day ministerial segment and every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the [General Assembly](#) for two days.

The VNRs are state-led, involving ministerial and other relevant high-level participants, and provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of [major groups and other relevant stakeholders](#).⁷ The VNRs aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The VNRs also seek to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the SDGs.⁸

This will provide Member States with an opportunity to report on achievements, challenges and lessons learned related to water and sanitation within the framework of the VRN, using experiences from implementation of the relevant SDGs related to water and sanitation as well as experiences gained through implementation of the Protocol, thereby achieving greater coherence and coordination. During implementation of the SDGs, SDG 6 will be included in the reporting framework a number of times. There will also be opportunity to report on water related targets under other Goals, as described above under 1.3.

A Handbook for the Preparation of Voluntary National Reviews can be accessed via https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/17354VNR_handbook_2018.pdf.

The Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD) follows up on and reviews the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the UNECE region. Focusing on practical, value-added and peer learning, it creates a regional space to share policy solutions, best practices and challenges in SDG implementation and helps to identify major regional and sub-regional trends. As an intergovernmental mechanism, the Regional Forum is convened by UNECE, in close cooperation with the regional UN system. It is open to the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including international and regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector.

1.5.2 Reporting on global indicators

A robust follow-up and review mechanism for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires a solid framework of indicators and statistical data to monitor progress, inform policy and ensure accountability of all stakeholders. The global indicator framework was adopted by the General Assembly on 6 July 2017 and is contained in the Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The UN Statistical Commission requests custodian agencies to provide a list of national entities, which provide data to the international system, and to share their data collection calendars (i.e. periodicity of the data collection). To fulfil this request, custodian agencies provide information on their data collection processes and also nominate a focal point for each of the indicators concerning questions on definitions, methods of computation, data or other issues. The information provided for the data collection processes and focal points can be accessed via <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataContacts/>. The data collected is compiled into an annual report, which highlights the gains and challenges of full realization of the 2030 Agenda, based on the latest available data. The annual reports can be accessed via <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/>.

1.5.3 UN Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6

UN-Water coordinates the efforts of UN entities and international organizations working on water and sanitation issues. One of UN-Water's main objectives is to provide coherent and reliable data and information on key water trends and management issues. To meet the needs of the 2030 Agenda, UN-Water has launched the [Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6](#), building on and expanding the experience and lessons learned during the MDG period. All the [custodian agencies](#) of the [SDG 6 global indicators](#) have come together under the initiative, which includes the work of [WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene \(JMP\)](#), the inter-agency initiative [GEMI](#) and [UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water \(GLAAS\)](#).

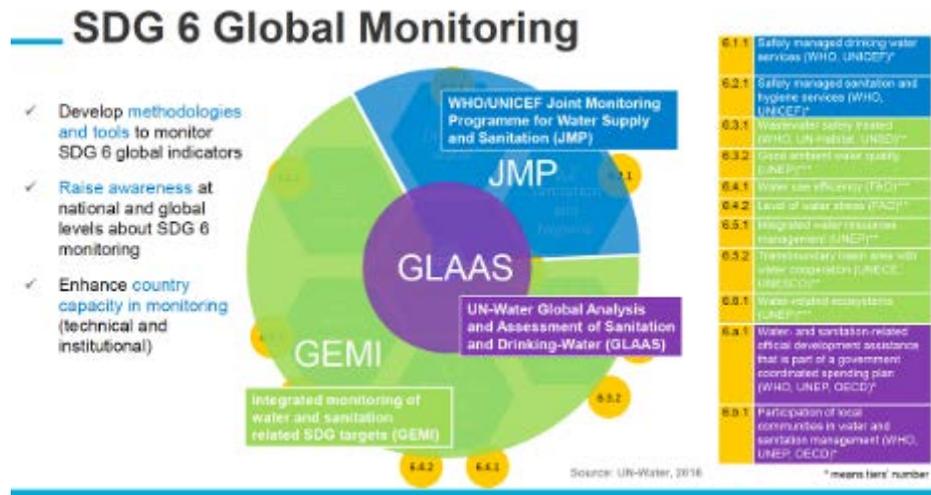
⁷ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2017>

⁸ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>

UNECE together with UNESCO are custodian agencies for the indicator 6.5.2. The objectives of the UN-Water [Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6](#) are to:

- Develop methodologies and tools to monitor SDG 6 global indicators
- Raise awareness at national and global levels about SDG 6 monitoring
- Enhance technical and institutional country capacity for monitoring
- Compile country data and report on global progress towards SDG 6

The chart below illustrates the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative and its components.



Question: Should the above section include a description of all water, sanitation and health related indicators? Should this section also include a box on each of the monitoring features – JMP/GEMI/GLAAS?

1.6 Synergies between the Protocol on Water and Health and the 2030 Agenda

The joint goals and aims of the Protocol and the 2030 Agenda are universality, safety, intersectorality, and increased commitment to achieving the targets set. This also includes strengthening, empowering and involving civil society. Similarly to the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda, the Protocol activities have already defined and detailed some of these aspects such as “safely managed” through water safety plans (WSP) and sanitation safety plans (SSP), equitable access, access in institutional settings, etc. Both procedurally and substantially, there are some differences but also many common characteristics:

Protocol



SDGs

Achieving **safe drinking water** and adequate **sanitation for everyone**

Equitable access to water and sanitation
Safe and efficient management of water supply and sanitation
Prevent and control water-related diseases

Focal points and coordination mechanisms
Baseline analysis
Setting national targets
Mandatory reporting system

Ensuring availability and sustainable management of **water and sanitation for all**

Universal and equitable access to water and sanitation
Safely managed water and sanitation services
Combat waterborne diseases
Reduce deaths and illnesses from water contamination

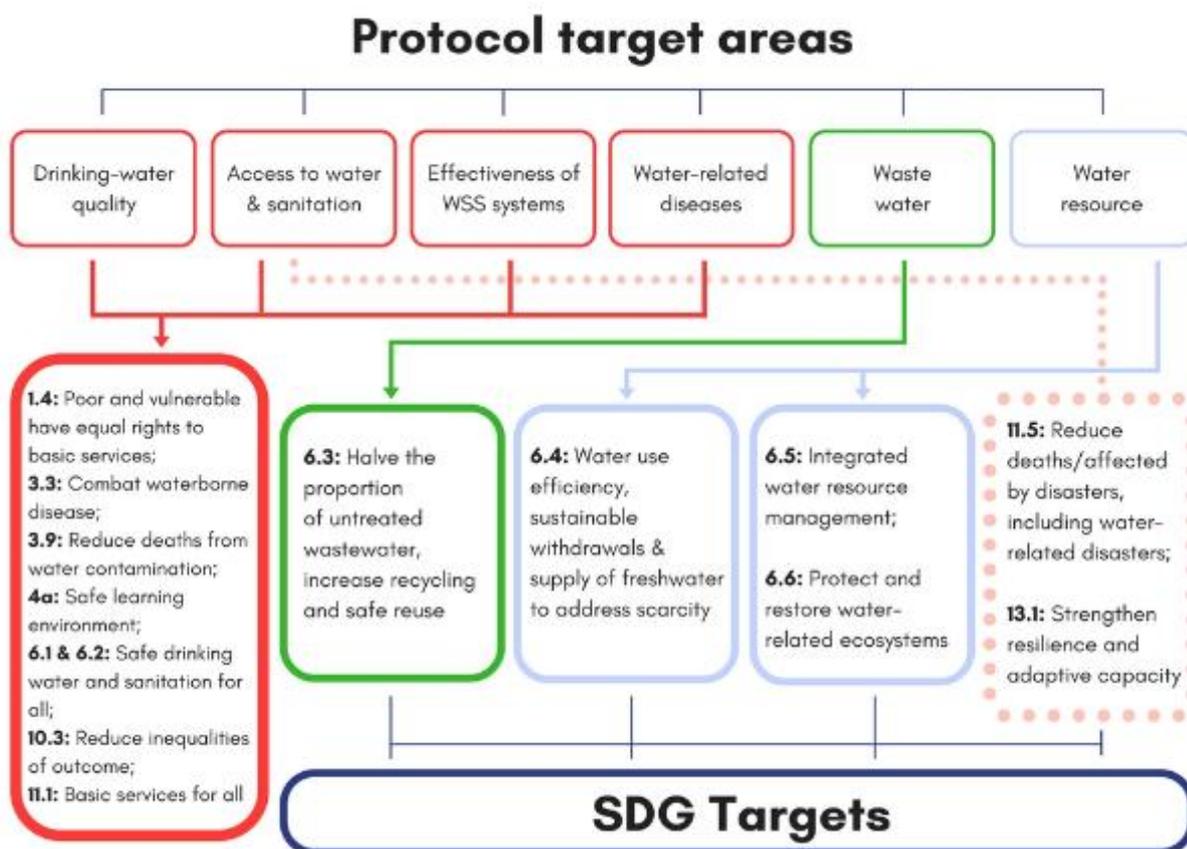
Focal points and coordination mechanisms
Data collection
Establishing national frameworks
Global monitoring and voluntary national reviews

The Protocol on Water and Health has a key role to play in promoting and operationalizing the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in national and regional contexts, by providing valuable experience, concrete tools and a successful regional platform to help propel the implementation of the SDGs forward in an inclusive manner. At the same time, the 2030 Agenda provides momentum for strengthening Protocol work. While the 2030 Agenda provides a strong call for action, the Protocol is a legally binding tool that will go beyond 2030. Given their complementary aims, there is a clear added value in joint implementation. The Protocol's planning and accountability approach – through baseline analysis, target setting and reporting – offers a practical framework for countries to translate the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda into specific national targets and actions.⁹ Moreover, the Protocol's focus on integrated and intersectoral approaches and coherent policies, in particular with regard to setting targets, is also consistent with the 2030 Agenda. The Protocol's legally binding nature is also an important asset for channelling and sustaining the long-term efforts needed to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Finally, the Protocol's intergovernmental framework and the different activities that constitute its programme of work offer a pan-European platform for all relevant stakeholders to build evidence, strengthen political commitment, develop policy and technical guidance, build in-country capacities, and share experiences and good practices for attaining the 2030 Agenda targets on water, sanitation and health.

The extensive overlap between the Protocol and the SDGs and corresponding targets relating to water and sanitation indicate the added value of joint, streamlined planning and implementation. Addressing and mitigating risks and challenges in an integrated manner will avoid duplications, make intersectoral cooperation more effective and will facilitate data collection and use, thereby maximising financing and ensuring policy integration. Along with a programme of work that aligns very well with the SDGs, the Protocol also offers many practical tools, which will assist with their achievement.

⁹ http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/water/mop4/Informal_doc/1623256_E_FinalWeb_rev.pdf

The illustration below shows how the Protocol target areas and SDG targets are interrelated:



Communicating progress, achievements and remaining challenges to the public and other stakeholders is crucial in raising awareness on water, sanitation and health issues. The momentum provided by the 2030 Agenda can be capitalised upon to raise awareness of the central position of water, sanitation and health to achieving many other development goals. The Protocol and the 2030 Agenda provide an opportunity for joint promotion, as well as the possibility of bringing the Protocol to the attention of high-level decision-makers.

Raising awareness among politicians about the Protocol and 2030 Agenda is crucial to ensure the requisite political support for its implementation. Horizontal information channels within and between State bodies responsible for implementation of the Protocol and the SDGs are important. National summary reports prepared every three years under the Protocol are a good tool for promotion and engaging the public, particularly if they contain success stories on implementation of the targets. They can be used as an opportunity for joint reporting and promotion. These regular reporting exercises under the Protocol represent an opportunity for the countries to review and self-evaluate their achievements. It is useful to revise current priorities and indicators according to the findings of the review.

PART TWO

COMPONENTS FOR JOINT IMPLEMENTATION

Coordination mechanisms

While the SDGs are not legally binding, governments are expected to take ownership and establish national frameworks for the achievement of the 17 Goals and set their own national targets taking into account national circumstances and the existing national planning processes, policies and strategies. The Protocol

similarly requires countries to establish national or local arrangements for coordination between their competent authorities. To this end, the Protocol has developed guidance on how to establish national coordination mechanisms to coordinate water, sanitation and health issues, available in the Target Setting Guidelines and the Collection of Good Practices.

The Protocol should be promoted as a mechanism to establish national targets and actions towards SDG implementation in the area of water, sanitation and health. To that end, it is important that the Protocol technical experts make an effort to establish communication channels with the SDG focal points in order to promote the Protocol and how it can assist in SDG implementation. It is equally important for the SDG focal points to seek out good communication mechanisms with the Protocol focal points to discuss synergies and potential collaboration as well as information and data exchange.

If a platform to implement the Protocol already exists, this could be built upon to integrate SDG implementation, to avoid duplication and ensure policy coherence. If a platform does not currently exist, one can be established, which will coordinate both the Protocol and the water, sanitation and health related SDGs implementation. It is crucial that the platform is inter-sectoral and involves all concerned national authorities, (not only water, environment and health but also finance, education, rural development, infrastructure, etc.), water operators, private sector, civil society, academia, etc. A formal structure will help mobilize the involvement of other relevant ministries and authorities in the process (e.g. finance, education, rural development). This will be crucial to securing support during the target setting and implementation process. If two coordination platforms exist it is key that they establish good communication channels and share information and data.

Bringing together the Protocol and the SDGs

Portugal: One of the main challenges to bring together the Protocol and the SDGs is to raise awareness of the Protocol to the SDG6 implementation body. In Portugal, this was done at technical expert level, during the target setting process, when the Protocol working group introduced the benefits of using the Protocol tools to the responsible SDG6 implementation body. Since some of the experts of the working group of the Protocol were also cooperating with the SDG6 implementation body, this facilitated the establishment of a more straightforward communication mechanism between focal points. Creating a direct communication channel between the working groups allowed both parts to be aware of the mutual benefits and to establish concrete points where both instruments should be linked, e.g. articulation of the Protocol indicators and those already identified for monitoring SDG6.

Hungary: case study to be provided on bringing together the Protocol and the SDGs

There are many different ways to involve political leaders through separate consultation and approval processes, however if a common platform for joint political and technical implementation is developed, the platform should involve higher management in ministries and departments at the technical level (e.g. heads of department), in addition to political leadership. This will allow for coping with political changes and easing bottlenecks. The involvement of dedicated members with personal commitment and leadership (e.g. national focal points) in the Platform is also highly productive.

Formal, accountable and continued cooperation in the platform can also be ensured through the use of existing national coordination mechanisms and platforms, such as Steering Committees under the National Policy Dialogues, National Water Councils and/or intersectoral task groups mandated with the development of National Environmental Health Action Plans (NEHAPs). The use of such structures can expedite the working process of the National Coordination and Implementation Platform due to well established cooperation, regular communication and long-standing relationships within the group. This also reduces the burden of Protocol and SDG implementation.

Establishment of an integrated inter-sectoral mechanism on water issues (National Water Council) in Albania

Since 2016, Albania has started to work towards an integrated approach for water governance, as reflected in the National Sector Programme for Integrated Water Management (the Programme), developed by the Technical Secretariat of the National Water Council. It is the result of close cooperation between the ministries whose area of responsibility is related to the water sector, development partners, local government units and academics. The mechanism of Integrated Management Policy Group and the establishment of 4 sub-thematic groups - Water for people, Water for food, Water for industry and Water for environment, by a Decision of the National Water Council, has been an important step forward. The 2030 Agenda was used as a reference and oriented high level document to integrate the national goals and objectives with global policies. These sub thematic groups are chaired by the line ministries and are composed of representative of ministries that crosscut the sector, development partners, local government and NGOs. They serve as a consultation and transparent instrument at a high level. The sub thematic group Water for people is one inter institutional platform that can be used for different issues on water supply and sanitation processes, that include more than one institution.

Challenges

Different interests and priorities during discussion were resolved by integrating all proposals taking in focus the same priorities at the national level.

Successes and Lessons Learned

The success factors of this approach are integration on different levels of governance, harmonisation of different objectives and platforms in one whole single document. Improved planning process and preparation of midterm budget. Avoiding overlaps and fragmentation and improving efficiency.

NB: This case study is awaiting revision regarding links to the Protocol and who is responsible for the Protocol in Albania, as well as elaboration of the challenges.

Inter-ministerial cooperation on equitable access to water and sanitation in Hungary

Hungary has a relatively high connection rate to public water supply (95%) and sanitation (75%). However, to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation, the identification of groups without access or vulnerable from the aspect of equitable access was one of the targets set under the Protocol during the revision of the targets in 2010. The target was implemented through performing an assessment in 2015/2016 using the Equitable Access Scorecard.

The implementation of the Protocol in Hungary was initially coordinated by the Water and Health Special Committee, which brought together all involved government organisations and NGOs, such as professional associations (e.g. the Hungarian Water Utility Association). The Special Committee was lead by the National Health Institute. Though the Special Committee no longer has an official mandate, it still retains its former commitments and cooperation on water and health issues as an interministerial network of experts. The Scorecard exercise was carried out through this network. The results of the Scorecard assessment were used as a baseline in setting new targets under target areas Art. 6. 2 c) and d). The resolutions based on the assessment were to close data gaps regarding the unserved population and the reasons behind their lack of access, to create an enabling legal environment to support equity, and to develop a policy and funding scheme for alternate means of drinking water supply and/or sanitation where public utilities are unavailable. The above resolutions also support meeting SDG 6.1 and 6.2. National implementation of the SDGs is the responsibility of the Interministerial Coordinating Committee of International Development Cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Specific tasks related to SDG 6 were delegated to the involved ministries, which are also part of the interministerial expert network under the Protocol.

Challenges

The key challenge in the process was to obtain official approval of all involved ministries for the participation of the experts in the exercise, in spite of the already existing working relations between the stakeholders. A technical difficulty arising during the process of the Scorecard assessment was the

difference in the use of some basic definitions (e.g. safe drinking water, safely managed services, access to public supply) between the participating organisations, resulting in different interpretation of the same values.

Successes and Lessons Learned

The human rights element was critical for the success of the exercise: the participation of the ministries was facilitated by the Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights. The well-established working relations of the involved experts from the different ministries improved the flow of information and data sharing both for the Scorecard assessment and in the development of indicators for the goals SDG6.1 and 6.2. The definitions of the important terms, harmonised during the assessment will be used in reporting on the SDGs. The previous work under the Protocol support (1) assessment on the current status (2) communication between the involved stakeholders (3) planning steps towards achieving and (4) reporting of SDGs 6.1 and 6.2.

NB: This case study is awaiting revision regarding clarification of the institutional arrangements, and how the Protocol was used to implement the SDGs in Hungary.

Assessing the situation for informed planning and reporting

Prior to setting targets under both the Protocol and the SDGs, it is important that countries thoroughly assess the national situation. A key tool for informing planning and promoting discussion of the targets is undertaking a baseline analysis. Data gathering at the national level is beneficial in itself during this process, while regional information may also inform the national level. The work done under the Protocol provides valuable data on gaps at the regional level, for example on equitable access and small-scale water supplies and sanitation.

Situation assessment to improve data and situation of access in rural areas (draft)

Improving the situation of small-scale water supply and sanitation systems is one of the priority work areas under the Protocol on Water and Health. As part of this activity, a regional [survey on small-scale water supplies](#) was conducted. It showed on the one hand the significance of addressing small systems, as an estimated 23% of the European population receives their drinking-water from small supplies, 7% of them from private wells, however, it also showed important data gaps. For example, comprehensive information on small-scale water supplies is typically not readily available at the national level, especially when it comes to the very small systems. This is also relevant for the SDG process, as SDG 6.1 calls for universal and equitable access to safe drinking water for all, however, information on the safety of the services especially from very small systems may not be available for reporting. Such information collected under the Protocol at the regional level may support countries in identifying areas for action, based on regionally prevailing issues, even if baseline data is not (yet) available on the respective subjects at the national level. In order to close the knowledge gap about small systems, rapid assessments of drinking-water quality (RADWQ) and risk factors were conducted in [Georgia](#) and [Serbia](#). Applying the rapid assessment of drinking water quality and sanitary conditions of small-scale water supply systems in rural areas in Serbia closed the knowledge gaps and informed decision makers, particularly from local self-governments, including from local bodies responsible for SDG implementation at the local level (Green Councils). The results of such assessment were used to raise awareness of local SDG communities about the roles and responsibilities of all main actors in achieving universal and equitable access to safe drinking water and decreasing urban to rural disparities in this field. A number of [tools and good practices](#) have been applied across the European Region already in order to improve the situation of small-scale water supply and sanitation systems, which can be used as inspiration should countries wish to take action in order to improve the situation as identified in data gathering exercises on small systems, for example as part of their national and local frameworks for the achievement of the SDGs.

NB: This case study is awaiting revision regarding the value of these exercises for Georgia in informing target setting and action planning.

The Protocol and its process of target setting offers a framework for such an in-depth analysis as a pre-requisite for establishing targets in fulfilling the Protocol objectives and related SDGs. Analysis of data on the water, sanitation and health situation should help to identify specific problematic areas that require focus and attention. A preliminary assessment of key issues and problems should be made for each specific target area mentioned in Article 6 of the Protocol, based on the results of the baseline analysis. A baseline analysis could also be undertaken by countries that are in the process of revising their targets.

Additional case studies needed

SDG focal points could make use of the existing baseline analysis carried out under the Protocol if such an analysis has already been conducted. If not, conducting a baseline analysis could be done in an integrated manner and/or information and data should be shared.

Setting targets

One of the unique aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals is that national governments will implement them through setting national targets and developing national implementation plans, which are tailored to their priorities and capacities, in conjunction with establishing monitoring and reporting frameworks, governance mechanisms and partnerships for implementation.

The Protocol has long-standing experience in target setting – a process that each Party is required to go through upon ratification and that many other countries that work in the framework of the Protocol are following. Transparency, accountability and public participation are building blocks of this process. The Protocol guides Parties through a progression of steps that is comprehensive, consultative and inclusive. With this the Protocol provides a clear framework for translating and operationalizing global commitments into national contexts. The Protocol’s target-setting framework has resulted in successful implementation with positive results towards improving water, sanitation and health.

The Protocol’s programme of work, which is adopted every three years, provides guidance documents and tools to better understand, assess and address the challenges related to water and sanitation. The areas of the programme of work and activities that are outlined below had been identified as core priorities in the area of water, sanitation and health in the pan-European region and therefore inform target setting under the Protocol:

Programme of work of the Protocol for 2017-2019

Areas of work and activities

A. Programme area 1 — Improving governance for water and health: support for setting targets and implementing measures

1. Setting targets and implementing measures
2. Strengthening reporting capacity

B. Programme area 2 — Prevention and reduction of water-related diseases

1. Strengthening capacity in surveillance of water-related diseases and outbreak management
2. Strengthening capacity in uptake of risk-based approaches in drinking water quality surveillance

C. Programme area 3 — Institutional water, sanitation and hygiene

1. Strengthening water, sanitation and hygiene in schools
2. Strengthening water, sanitation and hygiene in health care facilities

D. Programme area 4 — Small-scale water supplies and sanitation

1. Strengthening capacity for policy development

2. Improving the evidence base and implementing field demonstration projects
3. Regional networking

E. Programme area 5 — Safe and efficient management of water supply and sanitation systems

1. Scaling-up the adoption of water and sanitation safety plans
2. Focusing policy attention and technical efforts on sanitation

F. Programme area 6 — Equitable access to water and sanitation: translating the human right to water and sanitation into practice

1. Enhancing knowledge of the situation of equitable access to water and sanitation through assessments and awareness raising
2. Fostering the adoption of measures to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation

G. Programme area 7 — Increasing resilience to climate change

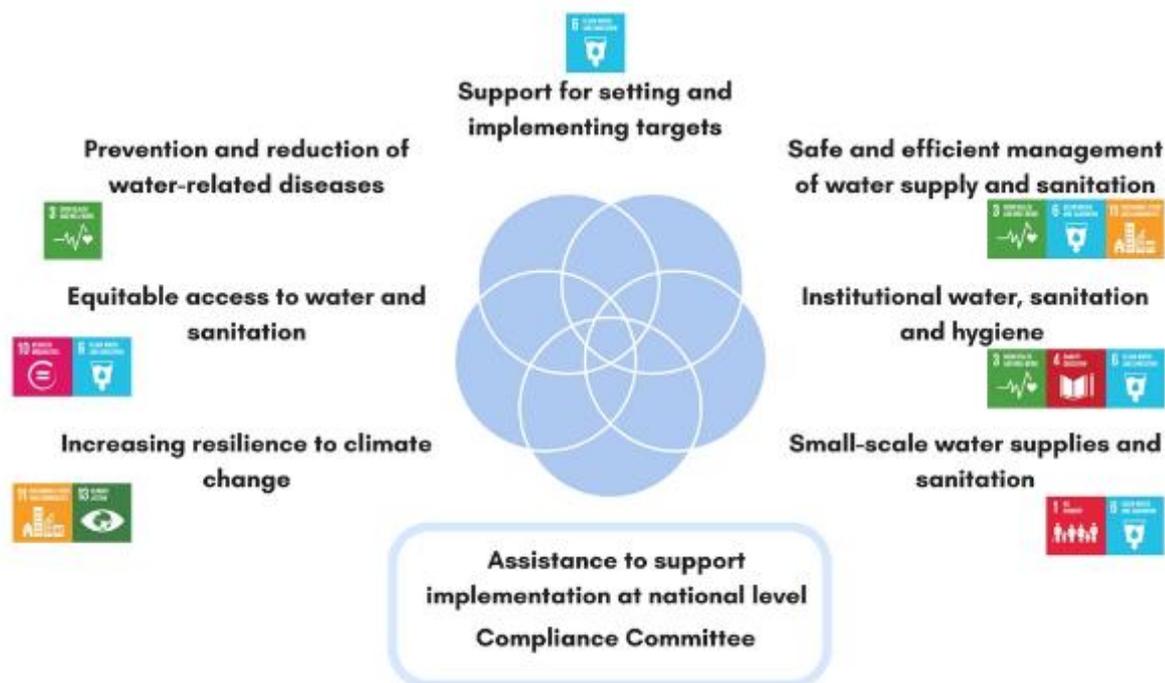
1. Building capacity to deal with water scarcity and its health impacts
2. Exchanging experience on building resilience to climate change in urban areas

H. Programme area 8 — Assistance to support implementation at the national level

1. Using existing platforms to promote the Protocol
2. Support to accession, target setting and implementation

I. Programme area 9 — Compliance procedure

Programme of work for 2017-2019



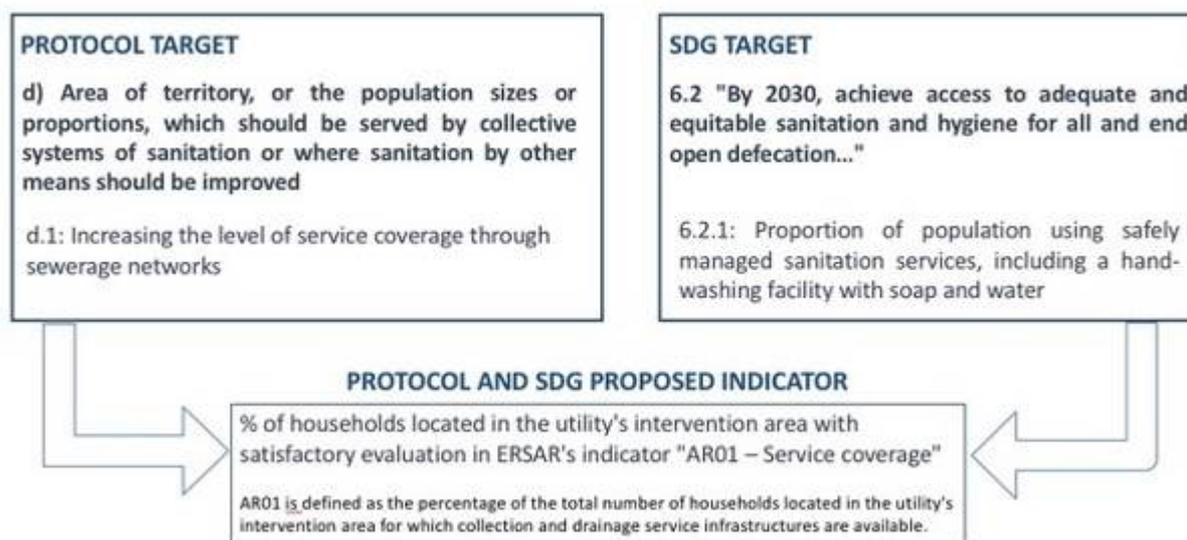
If

targets have been set under the Protocol, countries should rely on these when setting their national targets for SDG 6, 3 and others. Protocol target areas are broader than the SDG indicators related to water, sanitation and health so countries should be encouraged to be ambitious when setting their national targets in order to cover the entire water cycle and not to limit themselves to the water, sanitation and

health indicators of the 2030 Agenda. At the same time, the 2030 Agenda offers the opportunity to review Protocol targets, to check their relevance, comprehensiveness and appropriateness and to update priorities in the context of the SDGs and other relevant global and regional commitments. SDGs stimulate countries to look beyond sectoral approaches, which also supports Protocol implementation (e.g. education, climate resilience). Table 1 contained on page 25 of the *Collection of Good Practices and Lessons Learned on Target Setting and Reporting*, accessible via https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/water/mop4/Informal_doc/1623256_E_FinalWeb_rev.pdf illustrates the overlaps of different areas between the Protocol and the SDGs highlighting those specifically relevant for the Protocol through providing examples of targets set by different countries.

Question: Should the above table on relationship between the Protocol and 2030 Agenda with examples of targets be included or simply referenced here?

The following image provided by Portugal illustrates how to relate the Protocol and SDG targets:



Question: Should this illustration be made broader and country-neutral? Is the text too generic? Would it be helpful to include a table matching Protocol and SDG targets in addition to the illustrations already provided?

The final, agreed targets and target dates should be endorsed at the appropriate political level (e.g. by government decision or by council of ministers or Parliament, depending on the national situation). The agreed targets, target dates and action plan for their implementation should be published and brought to the attention of all stakeholders, at the national, provincial and local levels, as well as to the population. For this purpose, the Internet, relevant newspapers or television and other media should be used. Relevant local and national organizations can also play an important role in disseminating and publicising targets, target dates and monitoring programmes.¹⁰

Public participation will enhance the social acceptance of the targets, contribute to a relevant and realistic outcome of the target-setting process and ensure that there are partners, such as NGOs, for the implementation of the action plan.

¹⁰ Collection of Good Practices and Lessons Learned on Target Setting and reporting under the Protocol on Water and Health, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, World Health Organisation Regional Office for Europe, November 2016, available at https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/water/mop4/Informal_doc/1623256_E_FinalWeb_rev.pdf

How to integrate target setting processes under the Protocol and the SDGs: Portugal

The Portuguese strategy for target setting under the Protocol was based on national legislation, National Strategic Plans and particular consideration was given to the SDGs (mostly SDG6). Where possible, indicators used for target measuring under the Protocol were the same as the targets established for the SDGs. As an example, the indicator established for the Target d) under the Protocol - "d.1: Increasing the level of service coverage through sewerage networks" is the same as that proposed for monitoring SDG6 Target 6.2.1 - "Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water." The proposed indicator is *% of households located in the utility's intervention area with satisfactory evaluation in the indicator "AR01 – Service coverage through sewerage networks,"* which is a Water and Waste Regulation Authority (ERSAR) indicator. The target setting process under the Protocol, which took place during 2017, and the SDGs were almost simultaneous processes. Additionally, some of the working group on the Protocol, particularly members from ERSAR and from the Portuguese Environmental Agency (APA), took part of the working group of the SDG6 implementation body, coordinated by the Ministry of the Environment. This proved to be very useful since it benefits both processes by avoiding duplication of information, i.e. both the Protocol targets and SDG6 targets have the same indicators, same reporting information and data treatment. It was also important for the existing national frameworks. At the same time, there is enforcement of both policies.

Challenges

The main challenges included an initial lack of awareness of the Protocol by all key external stakeholders and ensuring their commitment to effectively become part of the target setting mechanism. Strengthening the engagement of high-level decision-makers during the process allowed us to tackle these constraints. Furthermore, raising awareness on the Protocol and its benefits was facilitated through the responsible SDG6 implementation body during the target setting process, which also provided an opportunity to transfer Protocol best practices on target setting to the SDG6 implementation. It was recognised that the SDG6 implementation body should try to align the monitoring indicators, reporting calendar and entity responsible to supply the information with the Protocol working group.

Successes and Lessons Learned

Ensuring common needs and challenges to achieve targets for both the Protocol and SDGs was crucial to accelerate the target setting process and to provide more visibility to the Protocol. The Protocol is a complementary enforcement tool for other policy tools such as the 2030 Agenda, contributing to the success of both governance instruments.

Importance of involving the public at all stages of the Protocol and SDGs implementation, particularly with regard to the intersectoral mechanism and promotion: Ukraine

In 2016 the official SDG adaptation process was launched by the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade (MofEDT). The open and inclusive process gathered around 800 experts on SDG areas, including representatives of authorities, international and non-government organizations, business and academia and civil society. In July – August 2016, two drafting group meetings on SDG6 were organized by the MofEDT. In May 2017 the national targets for the SDGs were approved and in September 2017 the National Report "SDGs: Ukraine" was published. During 2015-2016 the Country Water Partnership (CWP) of Ukraine (supported by the Global WP) organized 3 national events: workshops- stakeholders' consultations to raise awareness on SDG6 and discuss national goals, targets and indicators with stakeholders. More than 100 representatives of national authorities, water professionals, academia, educational institutions, water utilities and managers, NGOs took part in these consultations. The national targets set in 2011 to the Protocol and Ukrainian Summary reports 2013 and 2016 were used as a basis for CWP's consultations and development of stakeholders' recommendations for national targets and indicators for SDG 6.1 and 6.2, published in GWP-UA 's brochure "Rethinking of water security for Ukraine." These stakeholders' proposals on national SDG 6.1 and 6.2, were based on national targets for the Protocol with some amendments of the indicators, and were delivered in written form to the SDGs drafting group and the National Focal points to the Protocol and presented at the SDG6 Drafting group meetings. The proposals of the National Focal points to the Protocol provided by the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Health on national SDG6

were fully based on Protocol national targets. As a result of the stakeholders consultations the approved national SDG6 targets 6.1 and 6.2 and indicators set are more comprehensive and detailed in comparison with the Protocol targets, and they include criteria on the quality and affordability of services. Ukraine, in turn, is now revising the national targets under the Protocol and has to consider the national SDG targets and their indicators, at the same time the national Protocol targets on school access to WASH have to be revised by updating their indicators.

Challenges

SDGs monitoring is a challenge for the responsible authorities for data collection, as the needed data is not officially reported yet. The Protocol reporting process has to be adapted and used to serve both the Protocol national targets and SDG 6.1-6.2 progress reporting.

Successes and Lesson Learned

Successes include the Protocol national targets developed in 2011; stakeholder Involvement via consultations; SDG6 and Protocol awareness raising among stakeholders; and the contribution of GWP-UA and other NGOs in the SDG adaptation process.

NB: This case study is awaiting revision to confirm whether the national events held in 2016 were a precursor to identify SDG targets.

Using the Protocol target setting process as a way to align national and international water-related health policy in the Netherlands

Overall The Netherlands complies with the requirements of the Protocol on Water and Health. However despite the high level of achievement on drinking water and sanitation, new challenges require further attention, for example with regard to climate change, emerging substances (including pharmaceuticals) and microbiological risks. The development of strategies to deal with upcoming issues are in hand. The current national targets under the Protocol do not completely reflect these challenges. The revision of the Protocol targets will be related to SDG6 and other water-related SDG implementation as there is a clear relation. The Netherlands will also link the revision to the Ostrava Declaration under the European Environmental Health Process where Water and Health was identified as one of the priority areas for which countries are expected to develop national portfolios. Currently there is work in progress with regard to mapping the objectives of the water-related SDGs, the Protocol goals, the Ostrava Declaration and European and national policy and targets. The target setting process is as a chance to strengthen interrelations of several legal sustainable water management frameworks at the national, EU and UN level. The process is expected to raise awareness of stakeholders about the existence of the Protocol as a complementary tool for SDG6 implementation. Several Ministries will be involved and public participation will be part of the process. The revision is foreseen for the next reporting cycle in 2019.

DRAFT Case Study – Using targets under the Protocol to implement SDGs in the Republic of Moldova

The Republic of Moldova has considerable experience with the target setting process for the Protocol on Water and Health. The process was initiated in 2008, culminating with the adoption of 34 targets in 2010 by a joint order of the ministries of Health and of Environment. Practice showed good progress in the implementation of the majority of targets, but not for all at the same level. Taking into consideration that responsibilities for implementation belong not only to the above-mentioned ministries, it was decided to develop a standalone National Programme for Protocol for implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health for 2016-2025. The National Programme adopted by a Government Decision in 2016 contains revised targets for almost all 20 areas. At the moment of adoption of the Programme, the national authorities initiated a national dialogue for SDG transposition into national policies, using the Programme as a framework for approaching SDG targets on water and sanitation. Among the adopted national targets and indicators five SDG indicators coincided with indicators of the National Programme. According to the situational analysis for 2017, there was an increase of 3% compared with 2016 in the proportion of the population with access to safely managed drinking water and sanitation services.

Challenges

The main challenge is the capacity of the country to concentrate available resources to ensure 100% access of the population to safely managed drinking water and sanitation services according to the 2030 Agenda, taking into account the existing gap. The National Programme is the best platform for progress. Another challenge is that the National Programme does not provide activities to improve some environmentally related indicators on water efficiency as required by the SDGs. This situation can be solved by initiating a new process for amendments and completion of the National Programme to be completed with specific targets and actions in line with the SDGs.

Successes and Lessons Learned

The National Programme creates a good policy framework for implementation of most SDG targets on water and sanitation in the absence of a national SDG implementation body. Good results achieved under the Protocol means also good achievement of the SDGs. The established monitoring and reporting mechanism for the National Programme will provide more visibility to the Protocol and at the same time offer a practical instrument to achieve the SDG targets.

Implementation of the targets

In order to implement the targets, it is important to have a detailed action plan, which will translate the targets into actionable activities. Target setting and the development of measures and action plans should be an integrated process, designed to establish a realistic and achievable set of targets. Tangible progress can be made when there is political will combined with an integrated, intersectoral strategy. Countries can develop integrated action plans with adequate resource allocation, using Protocol tools for implementation, such as the equitable access score-card, water safety plans (WSP) and sanitation safety plans (SSP). Good practices developed under the Protocol can be used to elaborate action plans for implementation, combined with resource needs.

Question: How can this section be elaborated to reflect the overall enabling environment for implementation, including finances, institutional arrangements, legal instruments etc. How can this whole section be linked more closely with SDG implementation?

Developing detailed action plans is useful to guide state fund allocation as well as donors support. The Protocol allows for setting and implementing targets at the subnational level.

Setting national and subnational targets in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

In 2016, the Health and Environment Committee evaluated the draft Action Plan for Health and Environment for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which is part of the Health 2020 Strategy. The objectives of the Action Plan for Health and Environment are *Strengthening capacities for creation and implementation of policies in the field of health and environment, setting an intersectoral approach; Introducing an effective model for identifying the pressures on the environment and preventing and / or reducing their harmful effects on health and well-being of the population in general, and specifically on certain vulnerable groups; and Defining implement cost-effective intersectoral actions directed to all levels of environmental pressure and health of the population.* SDG6 has been developed with several goals and targets including on the provision of safe drinking water, improving the quality of drinking water, on the preservation and improvement of physical and mental health of children and youth and their well-being by improving sanitary and hygiene conditions in educational institutions, and on providing improved sanitation. The Ministry of Health and Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning have started the procedure for signing the Protocol on Water and Health, and to include the already prepared targets under SDG6. In ten municipalities in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia local action plans have been drafted for the provision of Equitable Access to Water Supply and Sanitation. The recently elected mayors are expected to include these in their Municipal Action Plans. Promotional workshops on local action plans on Equitable Access to Water Supply and Sanitation have been organized in those municipalities with relevant stakeholders. In addition, in December 2017 a National workshop on Equitable Access to Water Supply and Sanitation was organized.

NB: This text is awaiting revision to confirm the link between the Action Plan for Health and Environment, the SDGs and the Protocol.

The Protocol also provides a platform for regional exchange on the implementation of the targets, thus countries that are active under the Protocol can report on these activities under SDG 6.a *By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies*. All targets set under the Protocol are also publicly available on the UNECE website allowing for cross-fertilization of ideas on targets to be set (http://www.unece.org/env/water/pwh_targets_set.html).

Developing a dynamic action plan to implement the targets: Norway

Having set national targets on water and health, the Norwegian Ministry of Health and Care Services, as lead ministry for Protocol implementation, developed an action plan to achieve them. The action plan was designed to be a dynamic document subject to regular reviews to ensure that the most efficient measures were taken to reach the targets. While the Norwegian targets are set at a general level, the action plan describes a flexible system with specific and realistic measures to be achieved within a shorter time frame, easing the review and evaluation of progress. The action plan also defines the concrete responsibilities of the different authorities concerned, waterworks and other bodies, which ultimately increases commitment and a sense of ownership. The action plan is structured around six thematic lines: government follow up, information, organizing and competence, knowledge obtaining and research, international cooperation, and documentation.

How to replicate this practice

- Make the plan short and simple with a focus on the main challenges.
- Set realistic and short deadlines as these make progress more visible.
- Pursue continuous progress to avoid having to restart the process.
- Evaluate the action plan regularly and adjust when necessary, such as when new funding becomes available or new knowledge gaps are identified.

From setting national targets to developing an action plan for implementation: Republic of Moldova

Moldova formally adopted national targets under the Protocol in 2010. The adopted document contained the targets set, target dates and the responsible institutions. The review of progress made in implementing the targets and reporting under the Protocol revealed a need to elaborate a more concrete and well-defined action plan to ensure efficient achievement of the targets. The responsible institutions decided that the action plan should include concrete measures, allocate responsibilities and estimate costs for achieving those measures, and establish procedures for monitoring progress and evaluation. The institutions responsible for developing the action plan and the individual experts were the same as those initially involved in the target setting, which proved highly beneficial for the process.

How to replicate this in practice?

If possible, ensure that the experts/professionals initially involved in the target-setting process are also responsible for the development of the action plan.

Ensure that all institutions ultimately responsible for implementing the measures are involved in the elaboration of the action plan or are regularly consulted during the process.

Make a financial evaluation, estimating the costs of measures and source of financing, as this information will be necessary to set and revise realistic targets and target dates.

Remember that prioritizing measures can be achieved by phasing their implementation.

Ensure that approval of the action plan is made at the highest possible political level, establishing procedures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting on achieved progress

Make sure that the action plan is officially adopted, as this can attract additional funding for the implementation of specific measures.

For more efficient implementation, an inter-sectorial coordination mechanism should be established.

Question: Would it be useful to aggregate the lessons learned and how to replicate in practice sections, and analyse and elevate them to the main body of the text in terms of good principles that the document wishes to communicate?

Monitoring, follow up and review

The mandatory reporting system under the Protocol supports the monitoring of water and health related targets of the 2030 Agenda. It has the added value that the Protocol goes beyond the global SDG indicators and allows more in-depth tracking in a tailored manner of progress at the national level. Under the Protocol, countries are obliged to report on a 3-year cycle. They are expected to collect and evaluate data on their progress towards the achievement of the targets as well as on indicators that are designed to show how far that progress has come.

Countries report in accordance with the *Guidelines and template for summary reports under the Protocol on Water and Health* adopted at the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. The reporting template starts by requesting an overall evaluation of the progress achieved in implementing the Protocol during the reporting period, including main steps taken, important achievements, key challenges, success factors and concrete good practice examples. Part One of the template relates to general aspects such as if and when targets were set, if they have been published, whether the country has established national or local arrangements for coordination between competent authorities for setting targets; whether a programme of measures or action plan to support implementation of the targets has been developed; and what has been done to ensure public participation. Part Two is focused on targets and target dates set and assessment of progress in the areas mentioned in Article 6.2 of the Protocol. Part Three relates to common indicators and in particular the quality of the drinking water supplied; the outbreaks and incidence of infectious diseases related to water; access to drinking water; access to sanitation; and effectiveness of management, protection and use of freshwater resources. Part Four of the reporting template relates to water-related disease surveillance and response systems. Part Five requests information on progress achieved in implementing articles 9 to 14 of the Protocol (such as public participation, cooperation between States, etc.). Finally, Part Six of the template is a thematic part linked to priority areas of work under the Protocol which currently include water, sanitation and hygiene in institutional settings, safe management of drinking-water supply and equitable access to water and sanitation. The full reporting template can be accessed via http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2016/wat/11Nov_14-16_MOP4_PWH/Documents/ece_mp.wh_2016_4_english.pdf. Copies of all the summary reports submitted so far are available via https://www.unece.org/env/water/pwh_work/tsr.html

While the reporting procedures are slightly different between the Protocol and the SDGs (for example, reporting under the Protocol is done through the focal points, whereas it is done through Statistical Offices for the SDGs), it is advisable to avoid the burden of multiple reports as well as to ensure the consistency of the data. It is recommended that SDG focal points check the data that is available under the Protocol, to avoid duplication of work and to ensure that conflicting information is not reported. By using the Protocol, countries can go beyond the SDG global indicators and report through the VNRs or Regional Forum on Sustainable Development using the data collected under the Protocol.

Using review of progress and reporting on the targets set under the Protocol for reporting on the SDGs implementation in Norway

In Norway, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs coordinates the overall SDG reporting, and has delegated to the Ministry of Climate and Environment to coordinate the reporting on SDG 6. The Ministry of Health and Care Services contributes with updated information regarding SDG 6 to the Ministry of Climate and

Environment. Since the Ministry of Health and Care Services, also coordinates and follows the work under the Protocol on Water and Health closely, the links between the water, sanitation and health related SDGs and the Protocol are clear. These interlinkages have been utilised to benefit both processes. For example, in the Norwegian report on the 2030 Agenda Goal 6 reference can be made to the on-going work under the national goals set under the Protocol on Water and Health: *"Norwegian drinking water and sewage pipes are aging and the renewal rate has not been adequate. Increased renewal rate is the main Norwegian target under the WHO/UNECE Protocol on Water and Health."* Another example is that under SDG 6.A, as regards "expanding the international cooperation and capacity-building support", again reference can be made to the work under the Protocol; *"Norway plays an active role in cooperation in the pan-European region under the WHO/UNECE Protocol on Water and Health."*

Challenges

The main challenges were how to link the Protocol reporting process with the SDG reporting routine and how to use the Protocol targets for SDG reporting. The Ministry of Health was approached by the Ministry of Climate and Environment, who asked if the Ministry of Health could take responsibility for reporting on the SDG's related to drinking water. Then the Ministry of Health suggested that progress made under the Protocol targets, which were already accepted by the government, and therefore needed no new decisions or approval, could be used as a basis for reporting. The suggested reporting items from all involved ministries were then adopted in a Government decision.

Successes and Lessons Learned

The fact that Norway already had an existing Protocol framework, adopted national targets and action plans involving relevant national agencies, saved time and made it easier to propose that the targets were used for SDG reporting because they already had political attention within the Government.

NB: This case study is awaiting revision for further analysis of the alignment between the Protocol and targets/reporting, together with additional examples.

Possibly another case study to be included

VNRs in particular provide countries with an opportunity to report on achievements, challenges, lessons learned related to water and sanitation using experiences from implementation of the relevant SDGs related to water and sanitation as well as experiences gained through implementation of the Protocol, thereby achieving greater coherence and coordination.

Preparation on Voluntary National Review on SDG 6 using the Protocol Water and Health framework in Romania

The Protocol is a strong tool for the preparation of the High Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development 2018. The reporting process under the Protocol and activities developed in the framework of the 2030 Agenda are proving to be very useful in the process of developing Romania's Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2018. The elaboration of the VNR started in September 2017 within an Open Working Group (OWG) coordinated by the Ministry of Environment. The Ministry of Waters and Forests is part of the OWG and has contributed in compiling the Matrix for the VNR with Protocol related data. For example, it is reported in the Matrix that the Protocol forms part of the Multi-sector Environment Agreement that supports implementation of SG6. Effective data from the Protocol reporting in 2016 has also been used. Targets have been set and approved under the Protocol, and this has been built on in setting national targets for SDG 6 and others, as well as in the VNR. For example, the Protocol Reporting 2016 on target dates set and assessment of progress on "quality of the drinking water supplied (art. 6, para 2(a)) was also used in the VNR Matrix in relation to "Achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all." Concurrently, the VNR process is important in preparing the Protocol report in 2019. The VNR offers the opportunity to review Protocol targets, to check their relevance, comprehensiveness and appropriateness and to update priorities in the context of the 2030 Agenda and other relevant global and regional commitments.

Successes and Lessons Learned

The success factors are to combine the basic data from the reporting cycle and activities of the Protocol, with information about programmes, strategies, policies and the legal framework, already set in the VNR Matrix. The VNR will be presented at the HLPF 2018 and will increase political attention on the Protocol. The Protocol proved that it is an important mechanism to advance and operationalize progress on the SDGs. Close cooperation between the main stakeholders is essential in the process of implementation of the SDGs and the Protocol.

“Taking SDGs to the streets” and the involvement of citizens and civil society is a critical aspect of the 2030 Agenda. Monitoring is much more relevant to citizens if it is done at the local level. In order for citizen involvement to be effective, partnerships with government entities whose data would be strengthened by the collaboration are essential. The intelligence also must be gathered under a rigorous and transparent methodology that safeguards privacy. Further, support systems should be in place to educate and encourage people to use online information portals.

Public Involvement in Monitoring and the use of ICTs in Bulgaria

Water supply operators in Bulgaria continue to neglect measures to ensure the constant water supply to their clients. Water supply companies are obliged to inform the population of planned activities that would interrupt the supply, however this tends to be done in an inefficient manner whereby the public are not adequately informed. In addition, water operators do not inform their clients about emergency interruptions to the water supply, which can happen frequently. For example, in Dobrich, a town in NE Bulgaria, the company handles an average of 6 emergencies per day. ZaraLab from Stara Zagora, Bulgaria, IT gurus and enthusiasts, solved this problem by developing a free App that links the smart phone of the registered consumer with the website of the water operator and alerts automatically as soon as warning information appears on the website of the company. In this way, not only is the consumer alerted to take measures of precaution but also he/she may use the data as evidence in court in case a warning was not issued or the interruption of supply was longer than 8 hours and meanwhile the company did not offer an alternative supply. In addition, utilizing IoT (Internet of Things) technology and LoRa Smart City technology, ZaraLab develops Apps for remote real time and in-pipe monitoring and assessment of parameters such as water pressure, water quality (biological and chemical pollutants such as E. coli, **pH, dissolved oxygen (DO), oxidation-reduction potential (ORP), conductivity (salinity), turbidity, temperature and dissolved ions (Fluoride (F⁻), Calcium (Ca²⁺), Nitrate (NO₃⁻), Chloride (Cl⁻), Iodide (I⁻), Cupric (Cu²⁺), Bromide (Br⁻), Silver (Ag⁺), Fluoroborate (BF₄⁻), Ammonia (NH₄⁺), Lithium (Li⁺), Magnesium (Mg²⁺), Nitrite (NO₂⁻), Perchlorate (ClO₄⁻), Potassium (K⁺), Sodium (Na⁺), etc.**). The objective is that every consumer has real time information about the quality of water offered for consumption in sampling points of his/her choice and interest.

Why joint action is important

The Protocol and the 2030 Agenda are mutually reinforcing. While the Protocol is a legally binding tool that goes beyond the SDGs and will continue after 2030, the momentum of the SDGs can be used to promote accession to the Protocol and its implementation, at national, regional and global level (through the UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and HLPF, respectively).

All countries can use and benefit from the tools and methodologies that have been developed under the Protocol, irrespective of whether they are Parties to the Protocol or not. The tools and methodologies are publically available and can be used to attract attention and raise awareness of the water, health and sanitation related SDGs.

For countries that are Parties, they could revise their Protocol national targets in line with the SDGs to further raise awareness of the Protocol.

Opportunities for joint promotion of the SDGs and the Protocol should be harnessed. These can be carried out through different communication channels and should make maximum use of modern IT tools, social

media platforms and internet resources, including twitter, Facebook, Instagram, as well reaching the public through smart phones and tablets, developing e-platforms, social networks and utilising all kinds of digital devices.

Question: Should this section be moved to the beginning of the document and further extended to become an executive summary/call for joint action with key big picture messages?

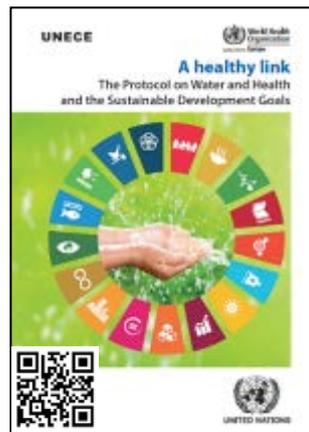
Useful links

[Focal points under the Protocol on Water and Health](#)

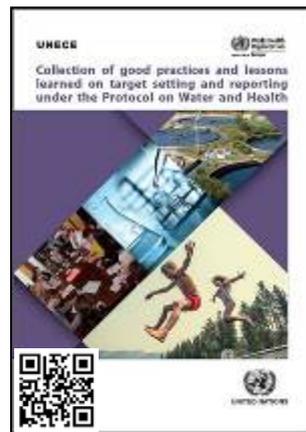
Relevant publications



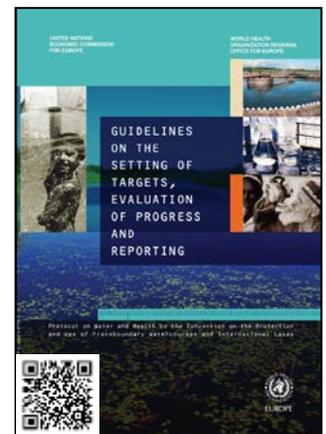
[The UNECE/WHO Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes](#)



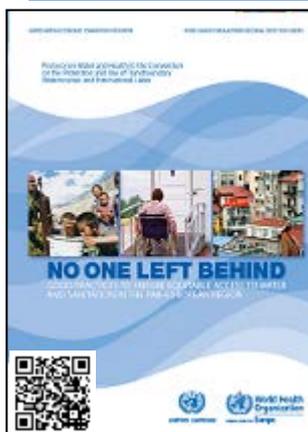
[A healthy link: The Protocol on Water and Health and the Sustainable Development Goals](#)



[Collection of good practices and lessons learned on target setting and reporting under the Protocol on Water and Health](#)



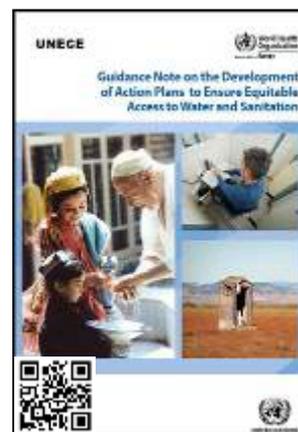
[Guidelines on the setting of targets, evaluation of progress and reporting under the Protocol on Water and Health](#)



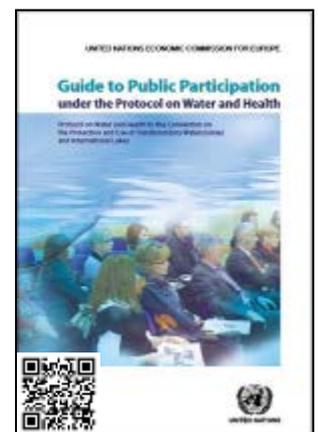
[No one left behind: Good practices to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation in the pan-European region](#)



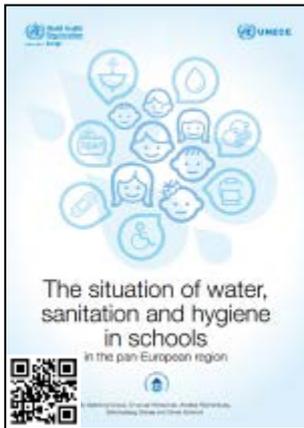
[The Equitable Access Score-card: Supporting policy processes to achieve the human right to water and sanitation](#)



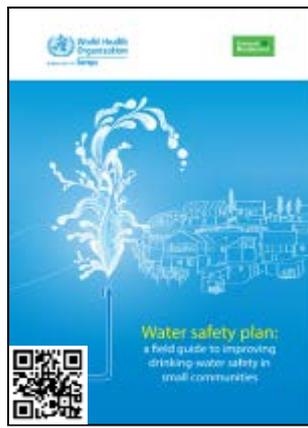
[Guidance Note on the Development of Action Plans to Ensure Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation](#)



[Guide to Public Participation under the Protocol on Water and Health](#)



[The situation of water, sanitation and hygiene in schools in the pan-European region](#)



[Water safety plan: a field guide to improving drinking-water safety in small communities](#)



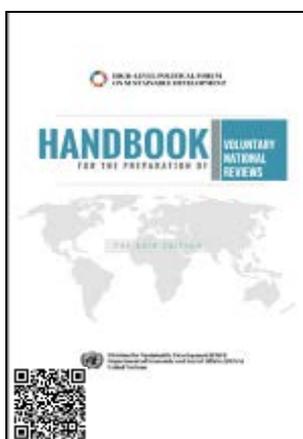
[Taking policy action to improve small-scale water supply and sanitation systems. Tools and good practices from the pan-European Region](#)



[Status of small-scale water supplies in the WHO European Region. Results of a survey conducted under the Protocol on Water and Health](#)



[Integrated Monitoring Guide for SDG 6. Targets and global indicators](#)



[Handbook for preparation of Voluntary National Reviews](#)

Other publications to be included:

Risk-based surveillance

WHO relevant publications