Public Participation
for a successful implementation
of the Protocol on Water and Health
and Sustainable Development Goals

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1. Summary

* Guide to Public Participation under the Protocol, 2013
  * developed under the lead of UNECE secretariat, Romania and WECF with the financial support of Norway and adopted at the 3rd MOP, Oslo, 2013,

* Collection of good practices and lessons learned on target setting and reporting under the Protocol, 2016
  * 7 - Public involvement in the process of setting targets
  * 11 - Increasing political awareness, communication and promotion

* Report of the Compliance Committee to 2016 MOP – “… within the 3rd reporting cycle ...
  ... the involvement of non-governmental stakeholders in preparing the summary reports has improved compared with the previous reporting cycle” BUT “it notes with concern that the involvement of the public in the preparation of the reports is still missing in the majority of cases”.

* Application of PP Guide: in the process of setting and revised targets during the 3rd reporting cycle

* Promotion of Protocol and PP Guide: websites of institutions; meetings of the River Basin Committees; dissemination at counties/water companies level.
2. Lessons learnt and challenges

* We still have **work to do**
* **Protocol:** valuable experience on public participation to be transferred to the 2030 Agenda implementation; working jointly
* A continuous involvement within the process – role of authorities and broader public/stakeholders/NGOs
* Sharing experiences and lessons learnt on public participation process
* Dissemination of information to facilitate public involvement
* Securing human and financial resources - avoiding overlapping of different processes
* Involve public and stakeholders from the beginning of the process
3. Plans for future work

- Fourth reporting cycle under the Protocol (2019)
  - at national level: - translation of the Guide into national languages for wide dissemination of the document, including to the public; - using of PP Guide to help improve the planning and carrying out of the public participation process

- Public participation in light of the SDGs in Romania, including Voluntary National Review on SDG6
  - Public debates (seminars) on revision of National Strategy on Sustainable Development 2013 – 2020 – 2030 of inclusion of 2030 Agenda and its SDGs – organised at development region level by Department for Sustainable Development at the level of Prime-Minister Office – November and December 2017, February and March 2018
  - Open Working Group “RNV România 2018“ under Interministerial Committee (September 2017) - Academic area (A.R., Economic Study Academy, Biology Faculty), non-government associations (Youth, Environment ONG, Social ONG, Business Environment (UN Global Compact Romania, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Romania)
  - Debates-Conferences ”RNV România 2018“ - November 2017, January 2018
  - A close cooperation between the main stakeholders is essential in the process of implementation of the SDGs and PWH in RO.