



The Lithuanian experience from the 6th Nordic-Baltic meeting in Vilnius

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The Nordic/Baltic network meeting on water and health (NWH) has been held seven times now, annually:

1. First meeting was held in Oslo, Norway in 2012
2. The second - in Uppsala, Sweden in 2013;
3. Oslo, Norway in 2014;
4. Tallinn, Estonia in 2015;
5. Helsinki, Finland in 2016;
6. Vilnius, Lithuania in 2017;
7. Uppsala, Sweden in 2018;
8. Riga, Latvia in 2019 (12-13 December).

The Nordic/Baltic network meetings

- The network consists of representatives from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, the Faeroe Islands and Finland.
- According to the mandate for the Nordic/Baltic network for water and health (NWH) the hosting of the annual network meeting should rotate.
- At the meeting in Helsinki in 2016, it was proposed that Lithuania should seek opportunities to host the meeting in 2017.
- **6th Nordic and Baltic drinking water and health network meeting 23-24 November 2017, Vilnius, Lithuania.** The 6th NWH meeting is organized by the Ministry of Health in Lithuania and the Centre for Health Education and Diseases Prevention. The Norwegian Ministry of Health and Care Services and the National Food Agency of Sweden cooperate in the meeting arrangements and the Nordic Council of Ministers has granted funds for the meeting.

**6th Nordic and Baltic drinking water and health network meeting
23-24 November 2017, Vilnius, Lithuania**

The countries in our geographical region, the Nordic/Baltic region, face many common challenges:

- We are particularly interested to discuss how countries can cooperate to improve their situation on small-scale water supplies as well as target setting under the Protocol on Water and Health since these topics are relevant not only to Lithuania but to our neighboring countries as well.
- With this meeting we used the opportunity to engage in a constructive discussion on the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in group of Parties having identical or almost identical implementation problems using the discussions with our colleagues from Nordic/Baltic countries, with the Compliance Committee on the opportunities offered by the Consultation Process and with the experts from the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

**6th Nordic and Baltic drinking water and health network meeting
23-24 November 2017, Vilnius, Lithuania (continuation)**

- This 2 days meeting focused on facilitating how countries can cooperate to improve their situation on small-scale water supplies as well as target setting under the UNECE/WHO Protocol on Water and Health
- and that future challenges are handled in collaboration when appropriate. The purpose is also to seek to identify common challenges and give recommendations on how to encounter them.

Meeting participants



Meeting room and audience



Useful presentations were held at this meeting:

- Discussion on the benefits of implementing the Protocol in the EU countries (moderated by Kjetil Tveitan);
- Clarifying legal obligations under the Protocol on Water and Health (moderated by Jorge E. Viñuales);
- Core obligations under the Protocol – why is it important to set national targets on water and health (Jorge E. Viñuales, Kjetil Tveitan);
- Opportunities of setting targets on small-scale systems under the Protocol on Water and Health and examples of targets (Enkhtsetseg Shinee);
- Pre-consultation discussion about Protocol on Water and Health implementation with Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania about . (Chair of the Compliance Committee of the Protocol on Water and Health, Professor Jorge E. Viñuales);
- Other specific topics presented by country representatives.

Discussions were held at this meeting about Possibilities on setting specific targets on small-scale systems in the context of the Protocol (continuation)

3 working groups

- Question 1: Water Safety Plan related targets
- Question 2: Surveillance related targets
- Question 3: Education/qualification of small-system operators

It is expected, that the meeting and the results of it lead to:

- improved knowledge among members of the network;
- dissemination of new knowledge nationally and internationally;
- application of the knowledge that was gained;
- strengthened collaboration and networking between network members.



Thank you for your attention!

