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5th session
MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE
PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH

19-21 NOVEMBER 2019 | BELGRADE | SERBIA

SIDE EVENT

**10 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENTS IN IMPROVING GOVERNANCE FOR WATER AND
HEALTH UNDER THE EUROPEAN UNION WATER INITIATIVE NATIONAL POLICY
DIALOGUES**

**ADDRESSING CHALLENGES THROUGH SETTING NATIONAL TARGETS UNDER
THE PROTOCOL TO PRODUCE BENEFITS FOR CITIZENS**

Date and time: 19 November 2019, 1:45-2:45 pm

Location: Yugoslavia Room

Organizers: EU, UNECE, OECD, UBA (Austria), IoW (France)

Host country: Republic of Serbia

Languages: English-Russian with simultaneous interpretation

Background

Within the framework of the National Policy Dialogues (NPDs) on Integrated Water Resources Management under the European Union Water Initiative (EUWI), support has been provided over the past decade to countries in the EU Eastern Neighbourhood region and Central Asia in identifying challenges and improving governance for water and health through setting, implementing and reporting on targets under the Protocol on Water and Health. 2019 also marks the 10-year anniversary of the EU Eastern Partnership. More recently EU has supported the work under the Protocol in the Eastern Neighbourhood region through the EUWI+ programme and in Central Asia the EU and Finland supported several national and regional actions.

Objectives, scope and expected outcome

The side event will reflect on the achievements in improving governance through target setting, implementation and reporting and will showcase selected good practice examples including on how the target setting and implementation of targets under the EUWI NPDs have supported the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals for the benefit of citizens in the past 10 years and established links with relevant EU water Directives. The event will also provide an opportunity to discuss remaining challenges.

Specifically, the event will address the following questions:

- How baseline studies for setting the Protocol targets contribute to identifying water and health challenges at the national level?





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- What is the role of the public in identifying priorities and making sure that no one is left behind?
- How the national targets help in improving water and health governance and how do they contribute in the attainment of SDGs?
- What concrete benefits for citizens were achieved in terms of access to safe drinking water and sanitation thanks to enhanced intersectoral cooperation under the NPDs?

Provisional Programme:

Moderator: Alisher Mamadzhanov, UNECE

- **Opening words and introduction**
 - Ms. Päivi Sillanaukee, Director General, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Finland; WHO Executive Board member (2018-2021); Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Keynote speech
 - Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary, UNECE, Opening statement
 - Mr. László Borbényi, State Councillor, Coordinator of the Department for Sustainable Development, Romania, Opening remarks
- **Moderated panel discussion on 10 years of achievements in improving governance for water and health under the National Policy Dialogues on IWRM within the EU Water Initiative: Achievements, lessons learned and remaining challenges**
 - Ms. Natalia Zhukova, Deputy Minister of Health, Chief State Sanitarian, Belarus
 - Ms. Sharifa Khudobakhsh, Deputy Minister of Energy and Water Resources, Tajikistan
 - Ms. Leyla Taghizade, Ministry of Health, Azerbaijan
 - Mr. Oleksandr Bon, Ministry of Energy and Environmental Protection, Ukraine
 - Ms. Serafima Tronza, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, Republic of Moldova
- **Statements from NPD coordinators and partner organizations on the role of the NPDs in securing public participation in the target setting and revision process:**
 - Ms. Nataliia Zakorchevna, NPD coordinator, Ukraine
 - Ms. Emma Anakhasyan, NGO AWHHE, Armenia
- **Follow-up questions and short summary from the Moderator**
- **Videos (produced within the EUWI+ and the UNECE/WHO campaign)**
- **Questions from the floor**
- **Closure of the event by the Chair**

