



5th Session

MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH

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Tools for safe management of small-scale water supplies in the pan-European region

Concept note

Who said small supplies can't be safe? Enjoy not just theory, but practical demonstrations of tools that countries have developed to make sure also rural populations have safe water!

Background

The WSP approach is a risk-assessment and risk-management approach recommended by the WHO Guidelines for drinking-water quality. It has been adopted in many countries across the pan-European region, including in small-scale water supplies. Globally, WSPs are being implemented to varying degrees in 93 countries, with nearly 75% of countries also implementing WSPs in rural areas.

Benefits of WSP implementation include health gains, a reduction in water quality incidents, fostering of due diligence, improved cooperation between stakeholders, identification of short-term improvements and mapping of needs for long-term investment.

Objectives, scope and expected outcome

Guidance on this approach for small systems has been published by WHO for small systems with a manual and a practical field guide. Particularly for small supplies, it is important that guidance is provided in national languages, and in non-academic diction that is easy to understand. Hands-on electronic WSP tools are valuable in supporting operators of small supplies as well as surveillance agencies with assessing systems and making them safe.

A lot of experience already exists within the pan-European region with developing and applying tools to support the safe management of small-scale water supplies. The objective of the event is to present practical examples of such tools and WSP success stories from the region, and to inspire policy makers to develop or adapt similar tools. Participants are invited to actively contribute to the panel discussion with questions and remarks on success factors and challenges to inform their country activities.



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Programme

Moderators: Dragana Jovanovic, Institute of Public Health of Serbia; Bettina Rickert, German Environment Agency

(1) Introduction to the topic (Shinee Enkhtsetseg and Oliver Schmoll, WHO EURO)

(2) Stations for demonstration of tools from

- Finland: Heli Härkki, Pöyry, on behalf of Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Richard Phillips of the Drinking Water Inspectorate, England and Wales
- Luxembourg: Luc Zwank, Administration de la gestion de l'eau. Water Management Agency
- Germany: Bettina Rickert, German Environment Agency (practical exercise from WSP training materials)

(3) Panel discussion on success factors and challenges in developing tools

