

# The UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health:

## Its main obligations & implementation, with focus on target setting

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21 October 2013



# Why a treaty to manage water resources and prevent water-related diseases ?

- In the European Region, poor-quality drinking-water causes over 13 000 deaths from diarrhoea among children aged 0–14 years (5.3% of all deaths in this age group) each year
- 19 million people still do not have access to improved water sources and 67 million people lack access to improved sanitation facilities in the pan-European region
- Inequalities rise: in Caucasus and Central Asia, 22% of the rural population lacks access to improved drinking-water sources as opposed to only 4% of urban dwellers
- 71% of the rural population lacks access to piped water on premises, compared to 16% in urban areas
- Overuse, pollution, extreme weather events affect water resources

# The Protocol on Water and Health



The world's only legal treaty designed to reduce water-related deaths and diseases through improved water management

A practical instrument to achieve water-related MDGs and implement the human right to water and sanitation

Key objectives:

- (a) Access to drinking water for everyone and
- (b) Provision of sanitation for everyone

# Objectives

(a) Access to drinking water for everyone and

(b) Provision of sanitation for everyone

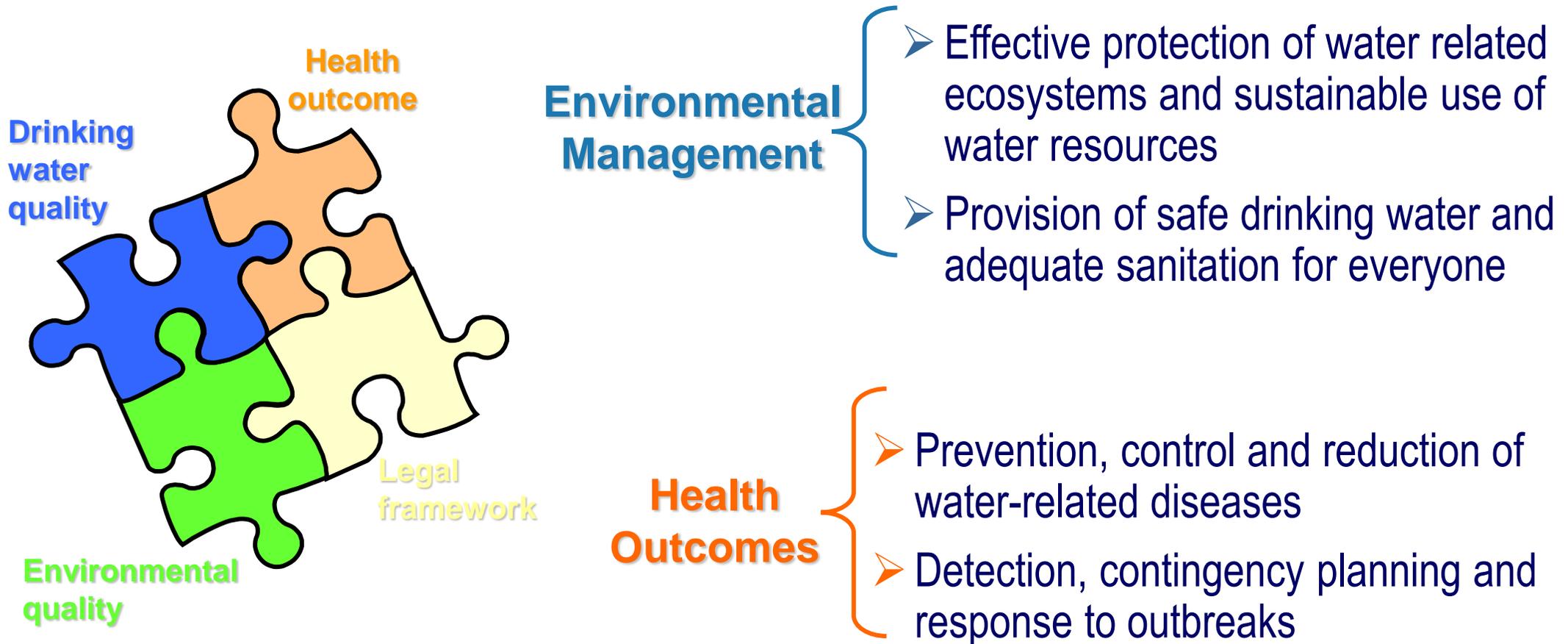
=> Focus on sustainable development and MDGs, beyond MDG 7, target 10

=> framework for implementing the human right to water and poverty reduction – UN GA and UN HRC resolutions

⇒ focus on governance, integration of policies and on cooperation

⇒ tool to implementation future water and health related SDGs

# Goal: Protect human health and well being by better management of water resources



# .. beyond water and health sectors

The bottlenecks in addressing these problems often occur beyond the purview of the water and health sectors.

- They lie in the formulation and implementation of policies;
- The effectiveness of institutions and the arrangements between them;
- The translation of political will into action;
- The allocation of resources at national and international level; and
- The capacity of countries.

# Scope

Costal and estuarine waters



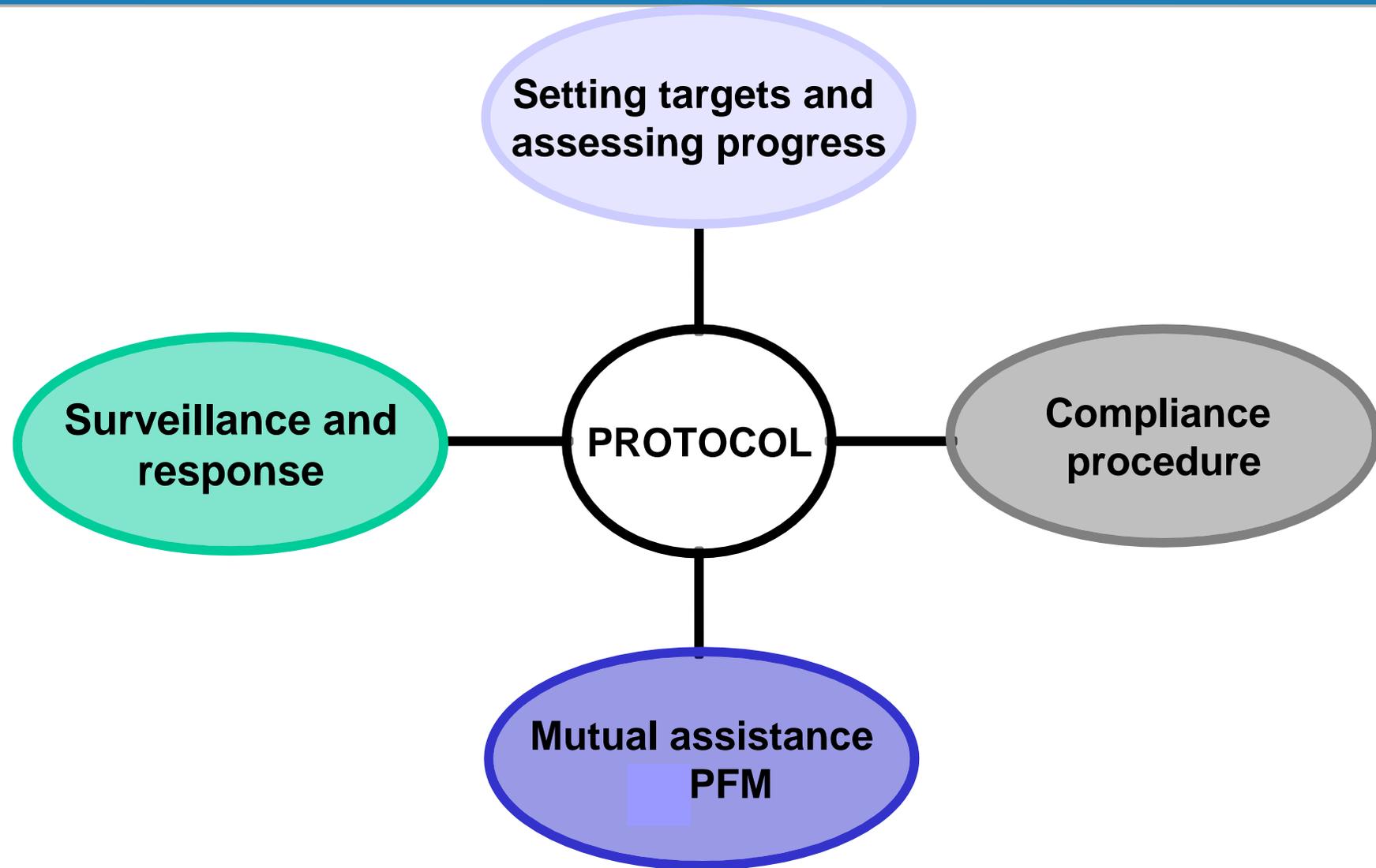
Surface waters

Water during abstraction, transport, treatment and supply



Wastewater collection, transport, treatment, discharge, reuse

# How the Protocol works: its 4 pillars



# Setting targets and measuring progress

## DECLARE TARGETS

- Water supply and sanitation
- Water management
- Health protection

## SET DATES

Within 2 years of becoming a Party, each country sets and publishes targets, and dates for achieving them

## REVIEW PROGRESS

### Parties:

- collect and evaluate data
- publish results
- review progress
- provide summary reports

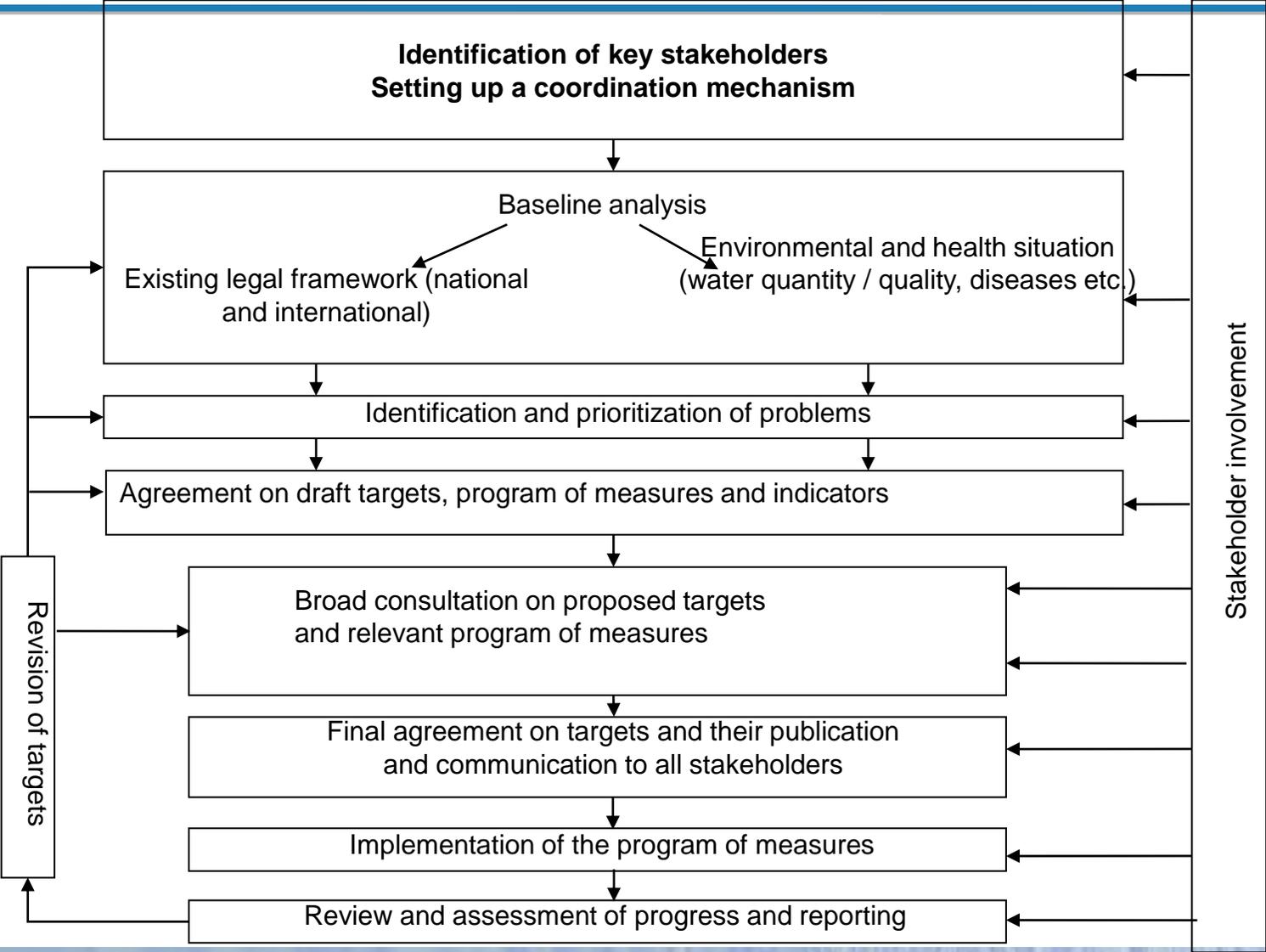
## EVALUATE

MOP evaluate progress in implementation

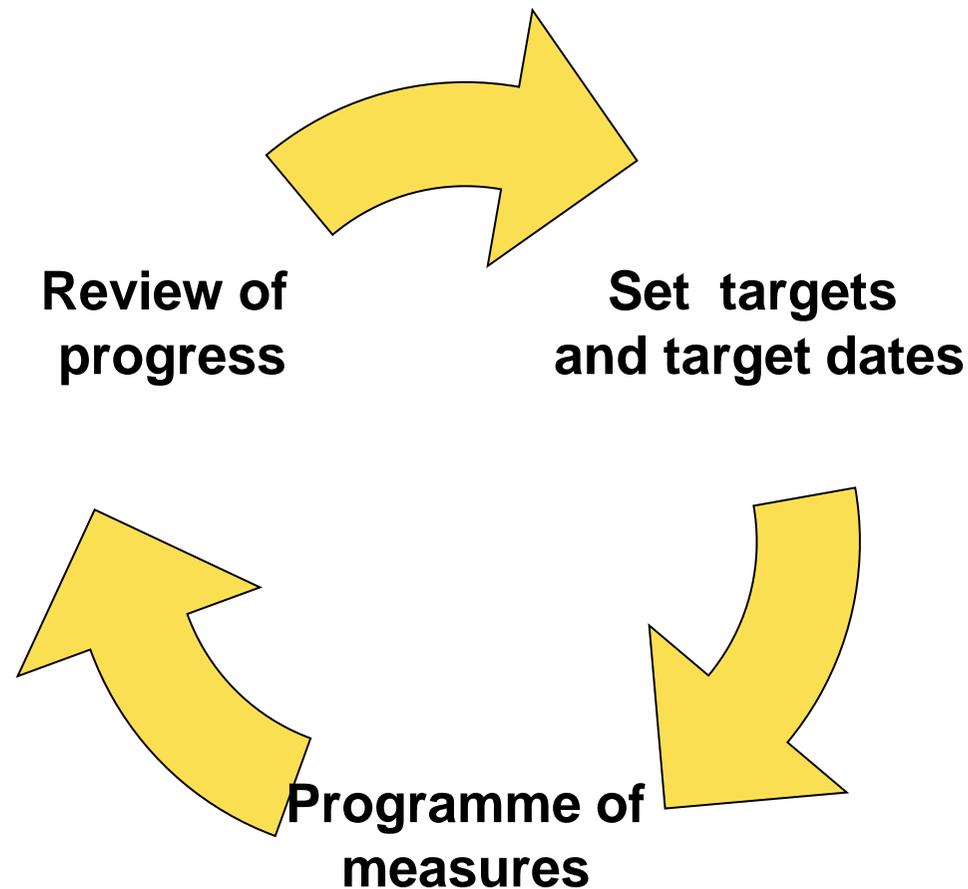
# Target setting areas



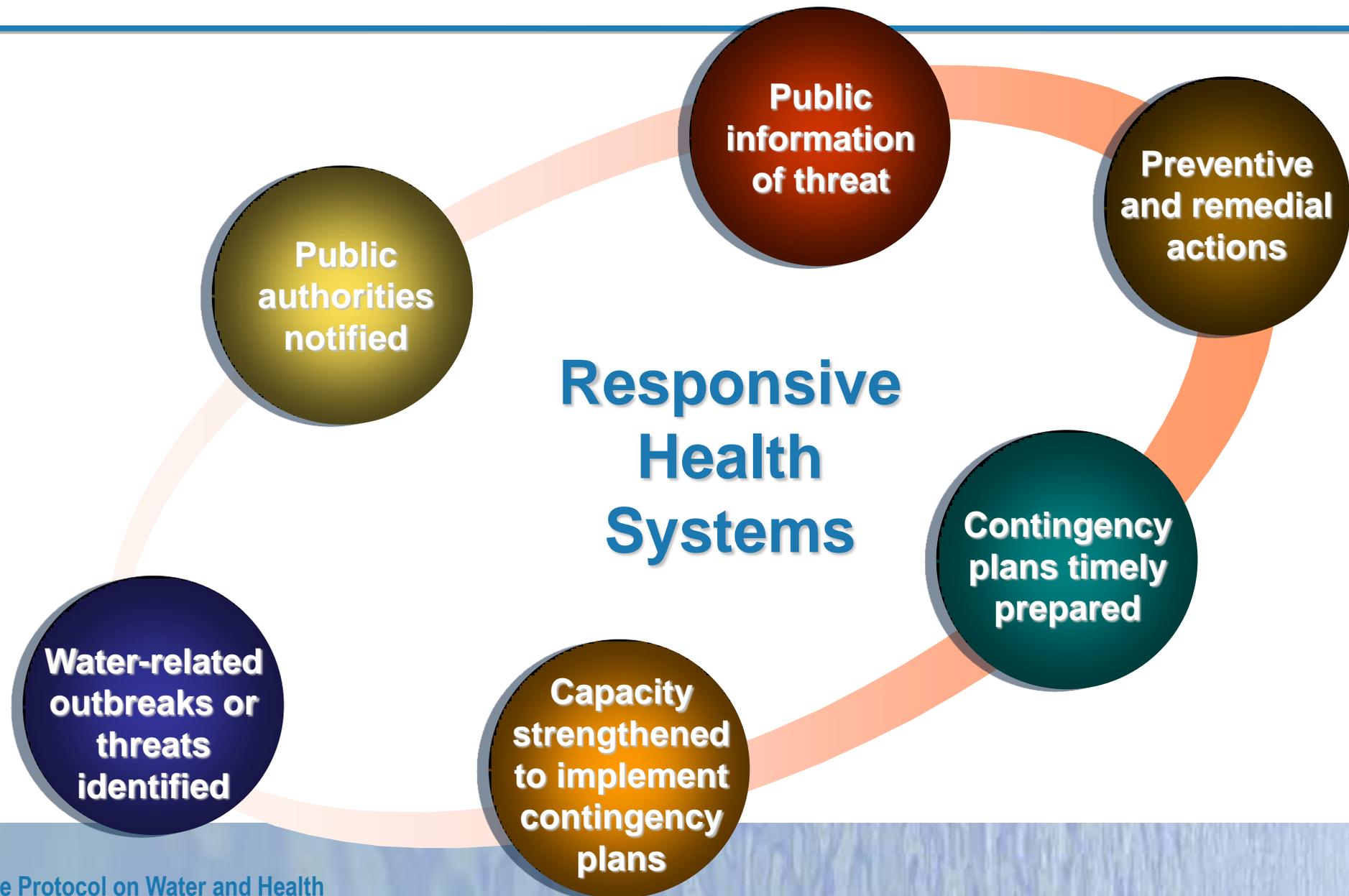
# Process of setting targets at national level



# Progressive and continuous action



# Establish systems for surveillance and control of water-related disease



# Assistance tools

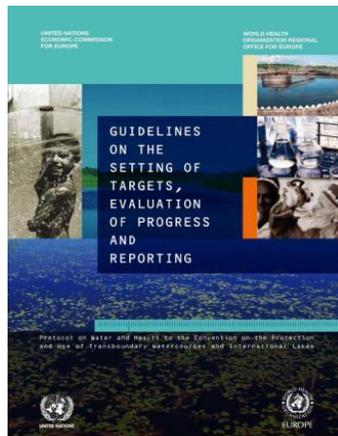


Compliance  
Committee



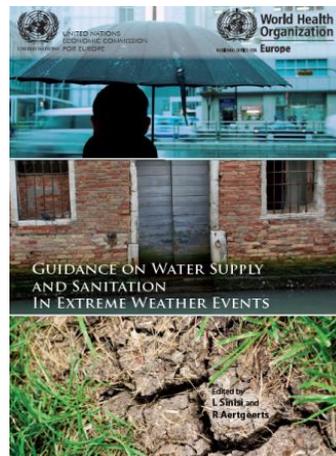
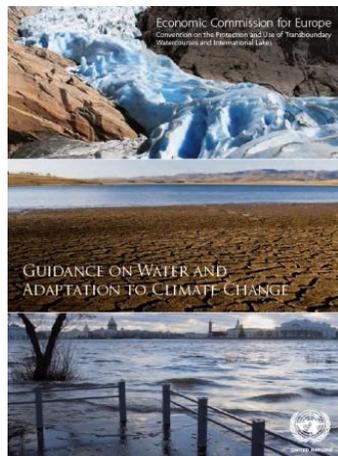
Project Facilitation  
Mechanism

# Guidance materials



➤ Guidelines on the setting of targets, evaluation of progress and reporting under the Protocol

➤ Small-scale water supplies in the pan-European region



➤ Guidance on water and adaptation to climate change

➤ Guidance on water supply and sanitation in extreme weather events

➤ No one left behind. Good practices to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation in the pan-European region.

# Advantages to work on the basis of the Protocol

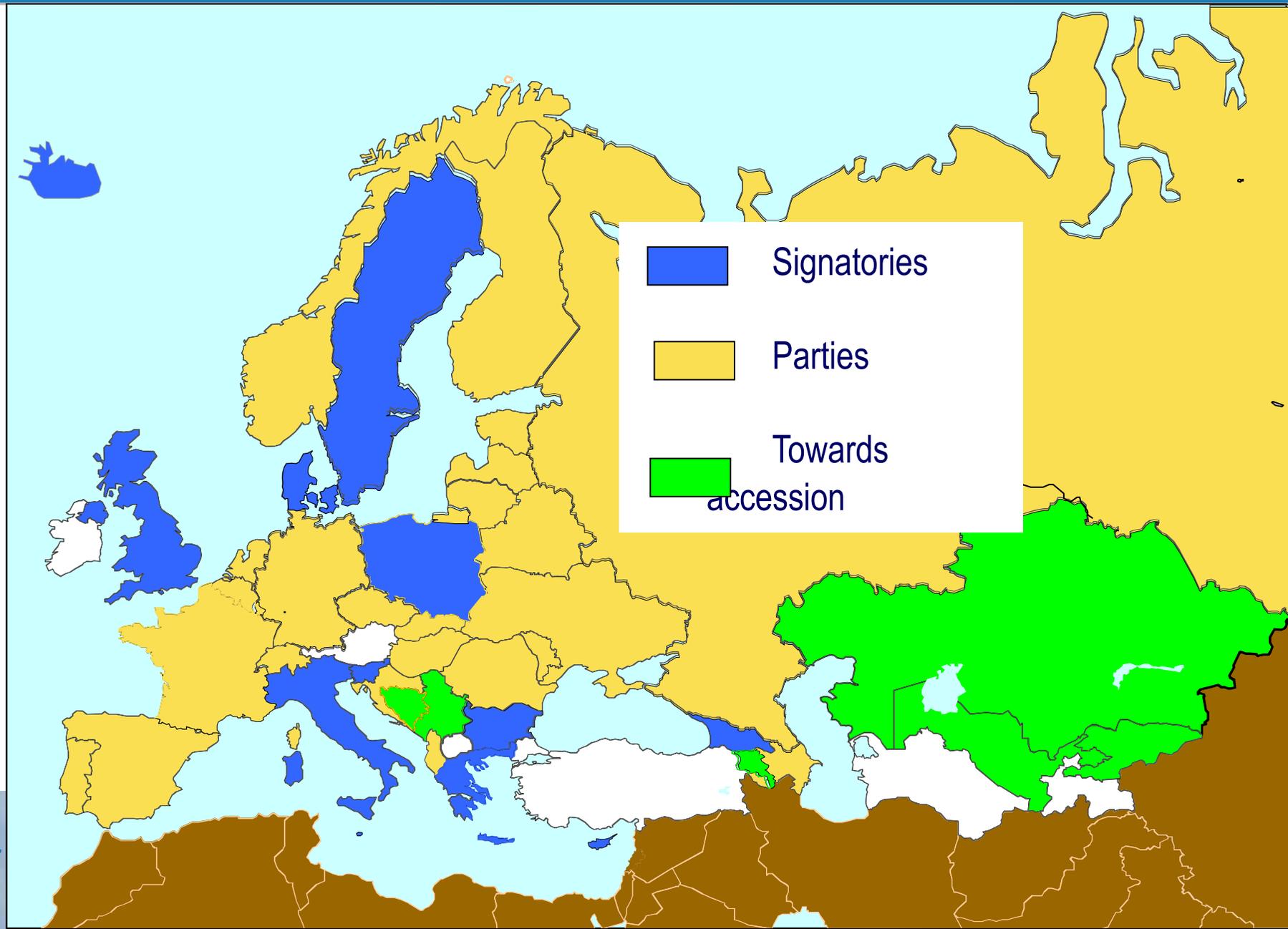
- ✓ Requires political commitment but is also a powerful framework to generate it
- ✓ Legally binding => ensures long-term perspective and forms a basis for improved regulatory environment
- ✓ Designed to support continuous progress with pace and objectives tailored to countries' priorities and capacities
- ✓ Measurable targets
- ✓ Reporting to public and to MOP

# Status of ratification

Adopted in  
1999 by 36  
countries

Entered into  
force in 2005

Currently  
ratified by 26  
countries



# Status of implementation

- Most Parties have initiated the process of target setting:
  - Setting up coordination mechanisms
  - Conducting baseline analysis
  - Establishing first draft targets, Consulting the public on these
- 8 Parties have completed the process of target setting in the main areas stipulated by the Protocol
- 23 out of 26 Parties submitted their national reports in 2013 and 3 non-Parties
- EU countries: synergies and complementarities with EU legislation

# Status of implementation in Central Asia

Country	Ratification	Targets
Kazakhstan	NO, WG studies benefits of accession	NO
Kyrgyzstan	NO	Officially adopted in June 2013
Tajikistan	NO, submitted report in 2013	Draft finalized in May 2013, not adopted
Turkmenistan	NO	NO
Uzbekistan	National process ongoing, submitted report in 2010	NO

# Status of implementation and remaining challenges

- Significant progress achieved, especially in access to water
- Challenges remain, in particular with regard to:
  - Rural areas: Access to safe water and adequate sanitation, quality aspects, hygiene, performance
  - Poverty
  - Small scale water supplies and sanitation
  - Climate change impacts such as extreme weather events
  - Wastewater treatment and discharges of untreated wastewater

# Status of implementation and remaining challenges

- Institutional challenges:
  - Setting targets is a challenge for countries as it confronts governance inadequacies
  - Sustained cooperation amongst Ministries of health, environment, agriculture, economy, finance,...
  - Cooperation between governmental authorities and NGOs
- Securing funds for the implementation of the follow up programme of measures
- Mobilizing more political attention – MOP-3 great opportunity for that!
- Importance of attending at high-level (especially ministerial segment)

*www.euro.who.int/watsan*

*www.unece.org/env/water*