World Health Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR Europe

Organisation mondiale de la Santé
BUREAU RÉGIONAL DE L' Europe

Weltgesundheitsorganisation
REGIONALBÜRO FÜR Europa

Всемирная организация здравоохранения
Европейское региональное бюро

Introduction to the Protocol on Water and Health and its main obligations

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Protocol on Water and Health

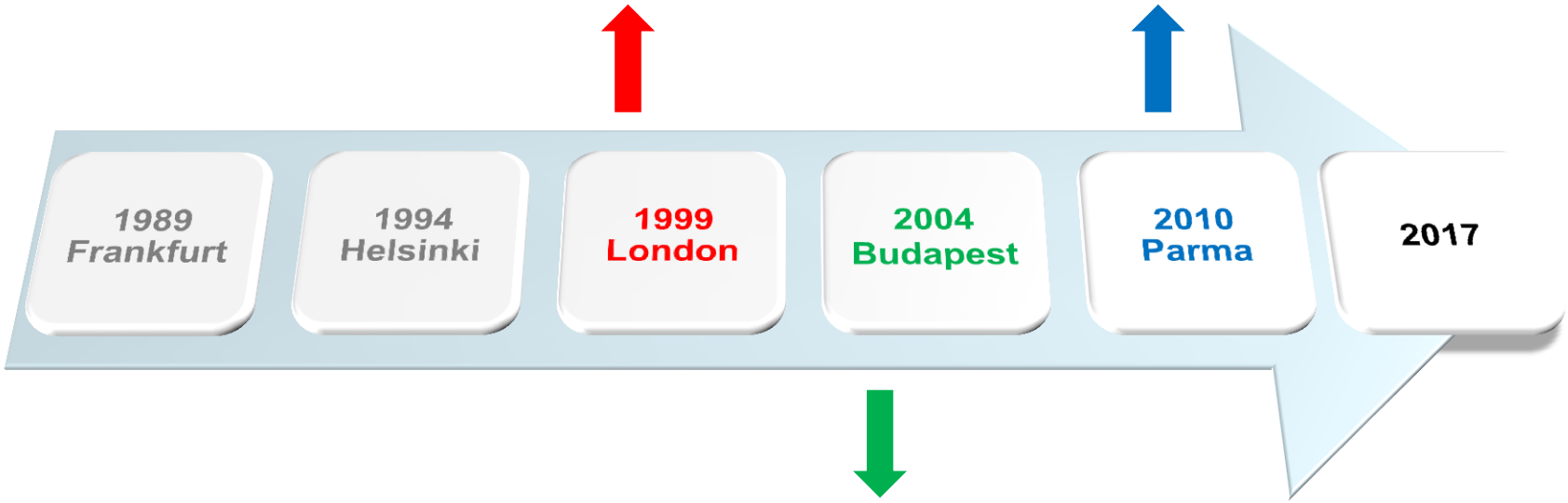
- First and only **multilateral agreement** addressing protection of human health and well-being through linking **sustainable water management** with prevention, control and reduction of **water-related disease**:
  - 26 Parties and 36 Signatories
  - 60% of European population covered
  - Serbia most recent Party

Primary policy instrument in water & health

European Environment and Health Process

Adoption of
Protocol on Water and Health

Parma Declaration:
Focus on children's health
RPG 1 on water and sanitation



Budapest Declaration:
Focus on children's health:
RPG 1 on water and sanitation

General provisions

- Adequate supply of wholesome **drinking-water**
- Adequate **sanitation** that protects health and the environment
- Effective protection of drinking-water **water resources**
- Safeguards against water-related disease arising from the use of **recreational waters** and **wastewater/sewage sludge** in agriculture
- Effective systems for **monitoring and response**

Scope

- **Freshwater** (surface water and groundwater)
- **Coastal waters** which are used for recreation or for aquaculture
- **Enclosed waters** generally available for bathing
- **Drinking-water supply chain** (abstraction, transport, treatment or supply)
- **Wastewater** throughout the course of collection, transport, treatment and discharge or reuse

Core provision: target setting

Articles 6 and 7

ESTABLISH TARGETS

- Water supply
- Sanitation

SET DATES

- Within 2 years of becoming a Party

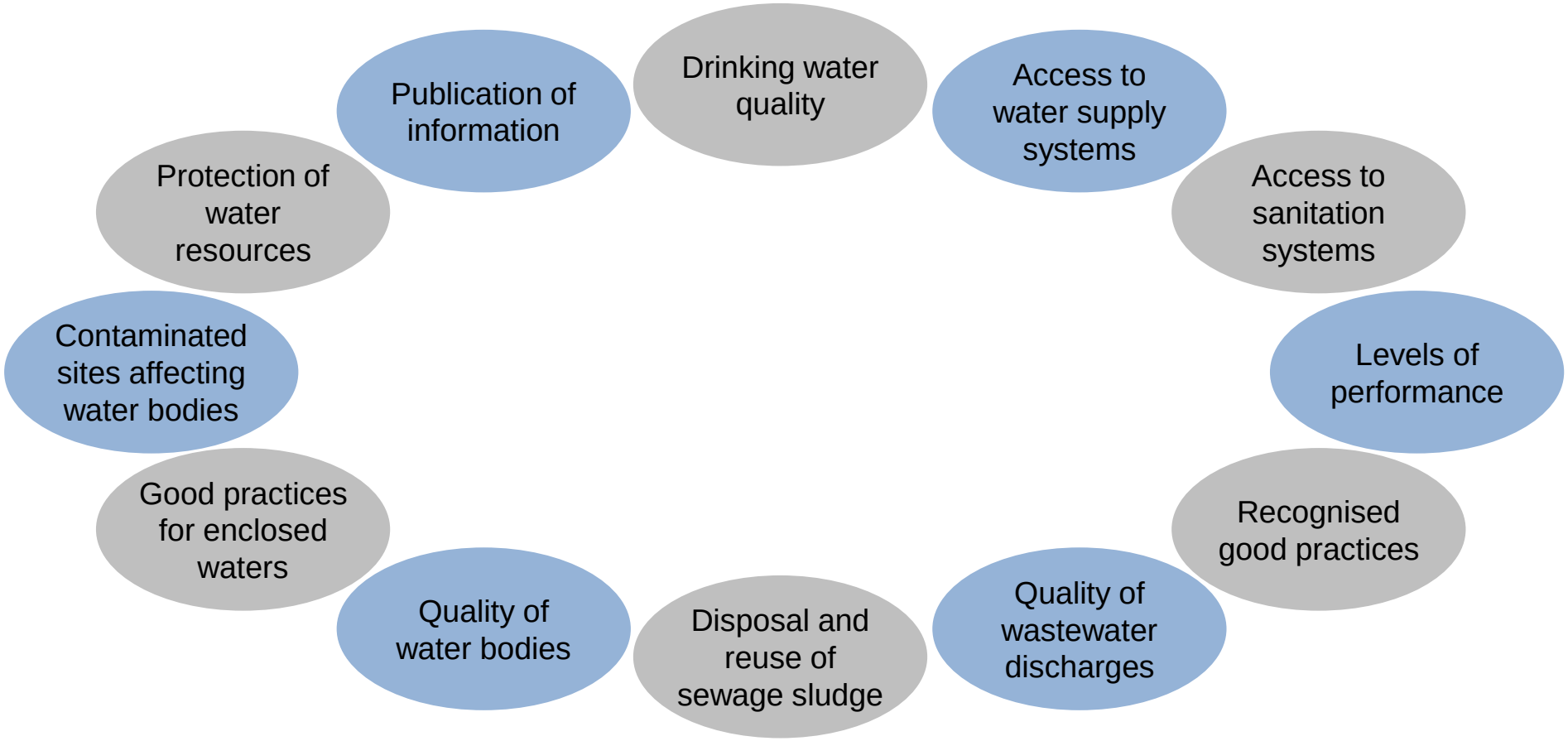
REVIEW PROGRESS

- Collect and evaluate data

Targets to be tailored to the Party's social, economic and environmental conditions, needs, priorities and available resources

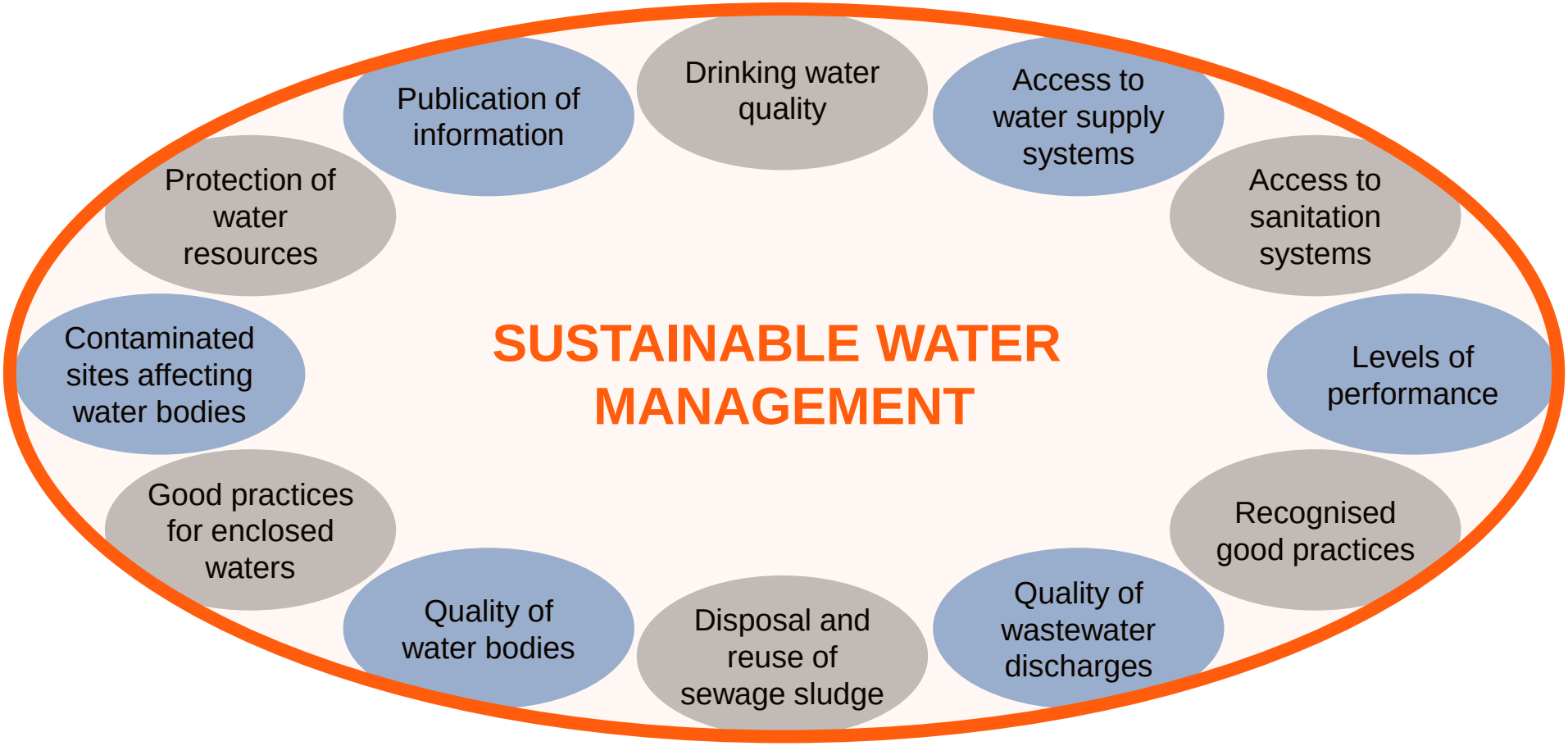
Core provision: target setting

Target areas



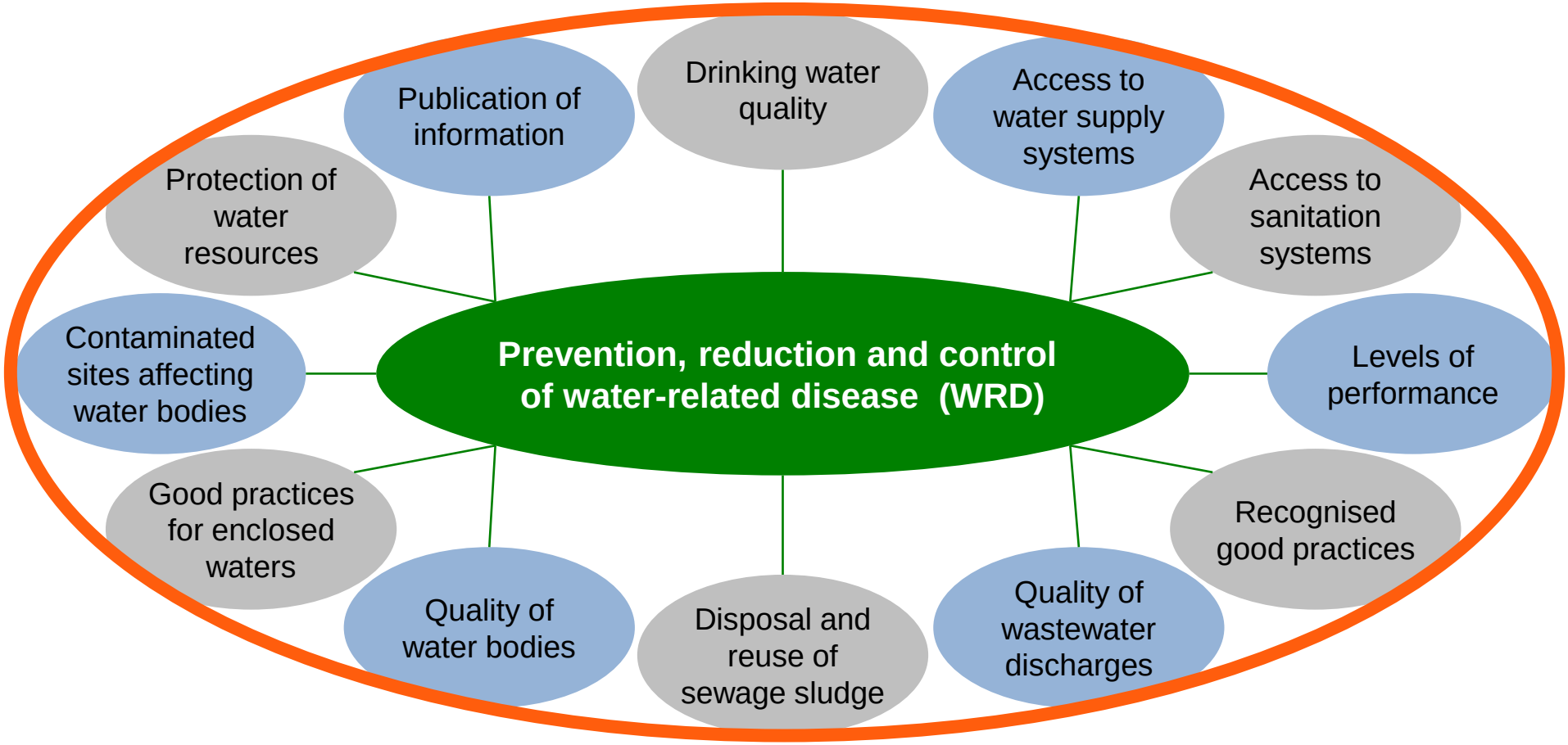
Core provision: target setting

Target areas



Core provision: target setting

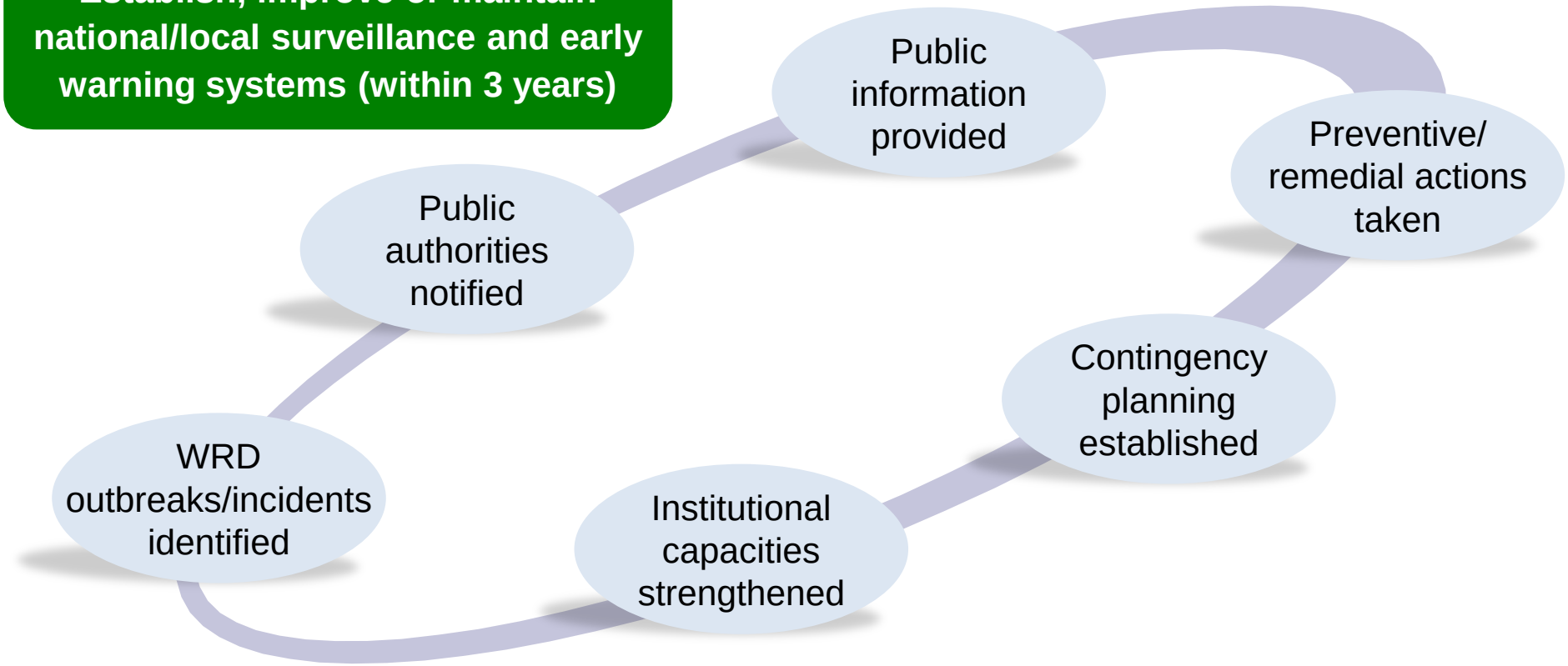
Target areas



Core provision: health systems

Article 8

Establish, improve or maintain national/local surveillance and early warning systems (within 3 years)



Further provisions

- Joint and coordinated **international action** (Article 12):
  - Establish joint or coordinated surveillance and response systems to outbreaks and incidents of WRD
  - Mutual assistance in responding to outbreaks and incidents
  - Focus on water-pollution incidents or extreme weather events

- **Public awareness and education** (Article 10)
- **Public information** (Article 11)

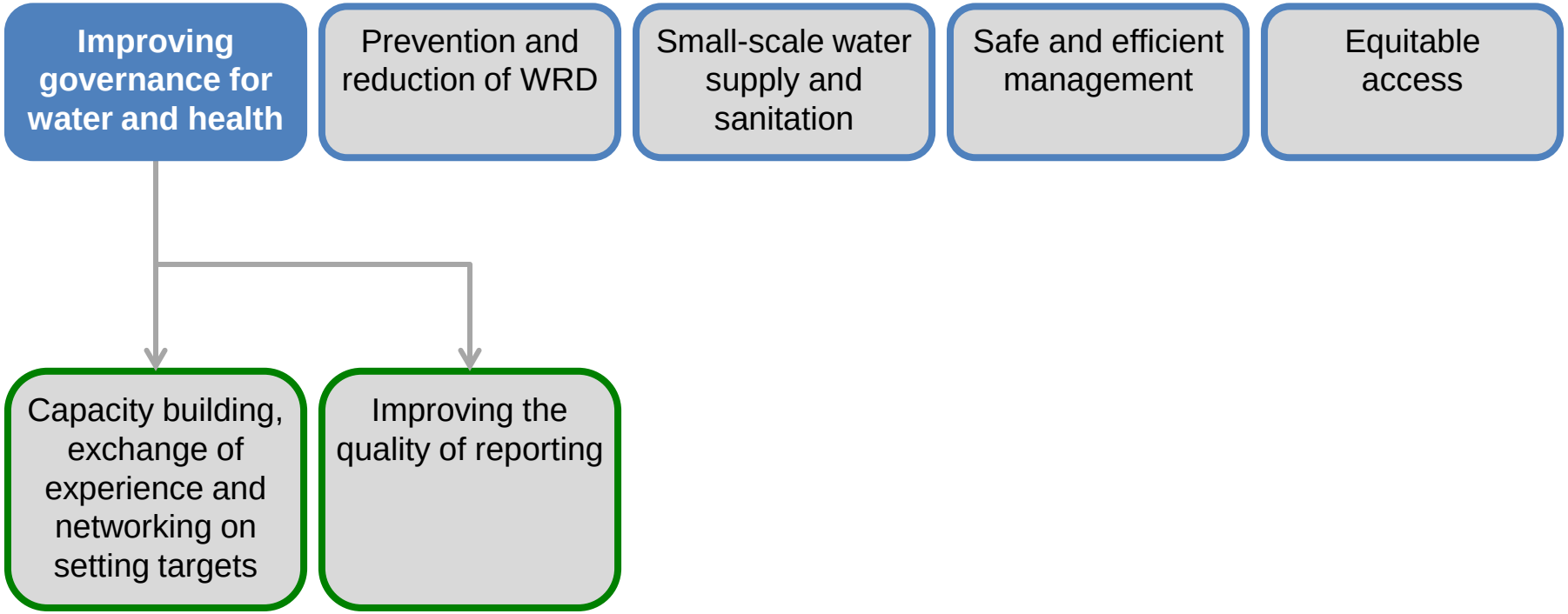
Protocol bodies

- Meeting of the Parties *(triannually)*
- Bureau *(typically twice a year)*
- Working Group on Water and Health *(annually)*
- Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting *(annually)*
- Compliance committee *(typically twice a year)*
- Technical expert groups *(on demand)*

The Oslo 2014-2016 programme of work

- Improving governance for water and health
- Prevention and reduction of WRD
- Small-scale water supply and sanitation
- Safe and efficient management
- Equitable access

The Oslo 2014-2016 programme of work



The Oslo 2014-2016 programme of work

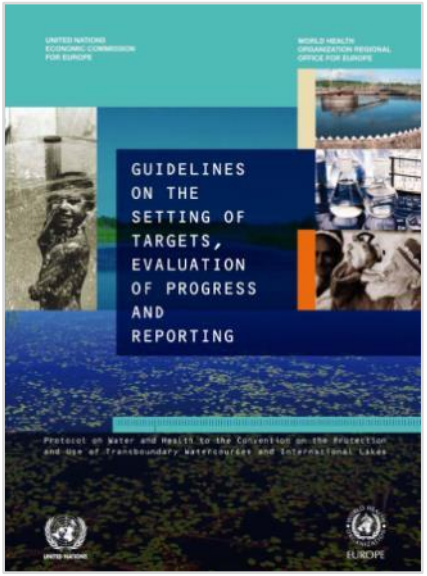
Improving governance for water and health

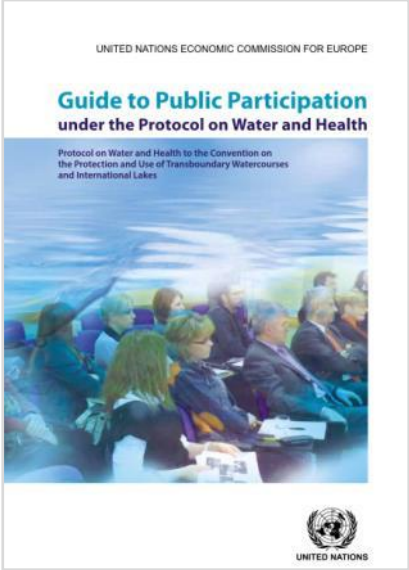
Prevention and reduction of WRD

Small-scale water supply and sanitation

Safe and efficient management

Equitable access





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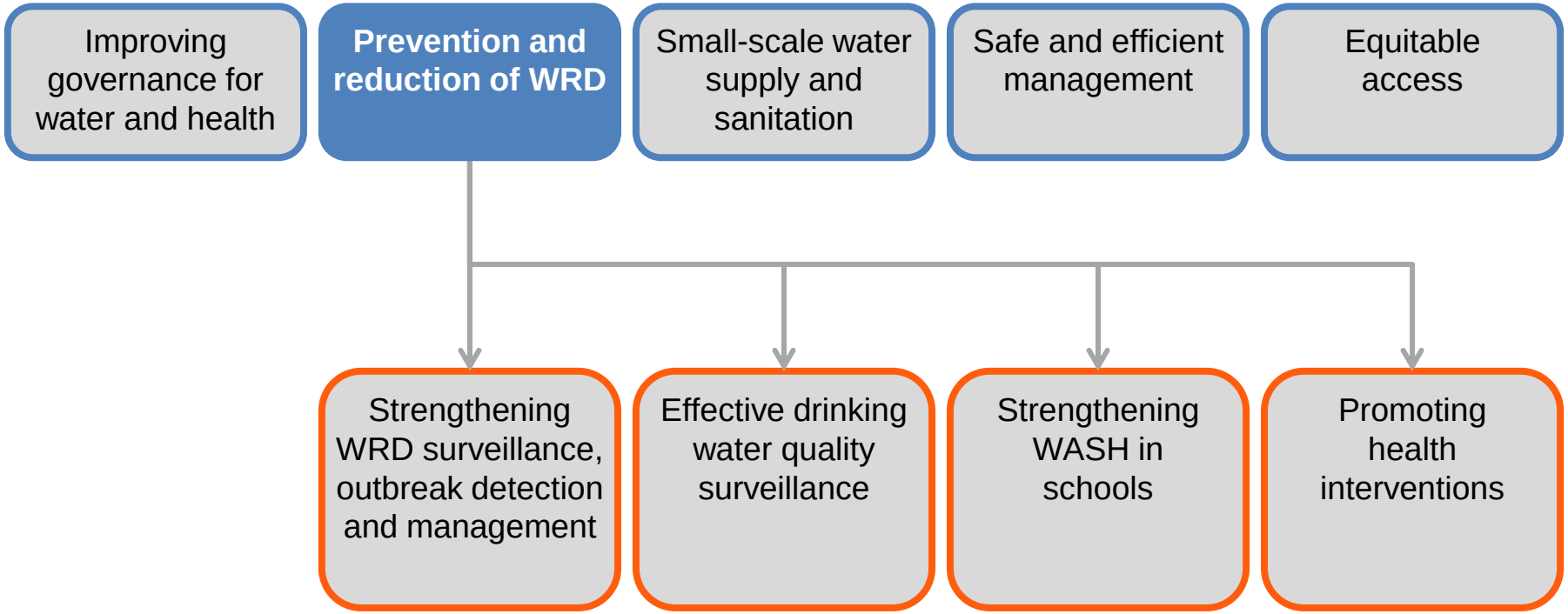

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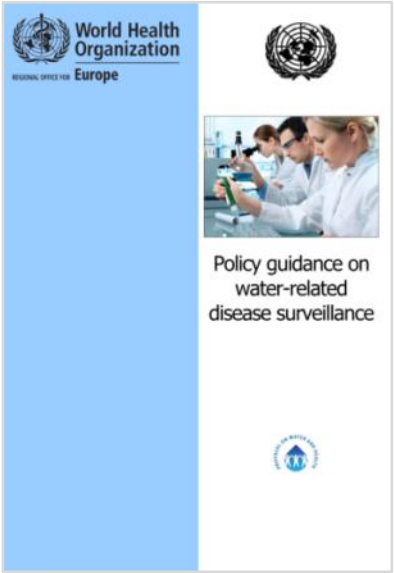

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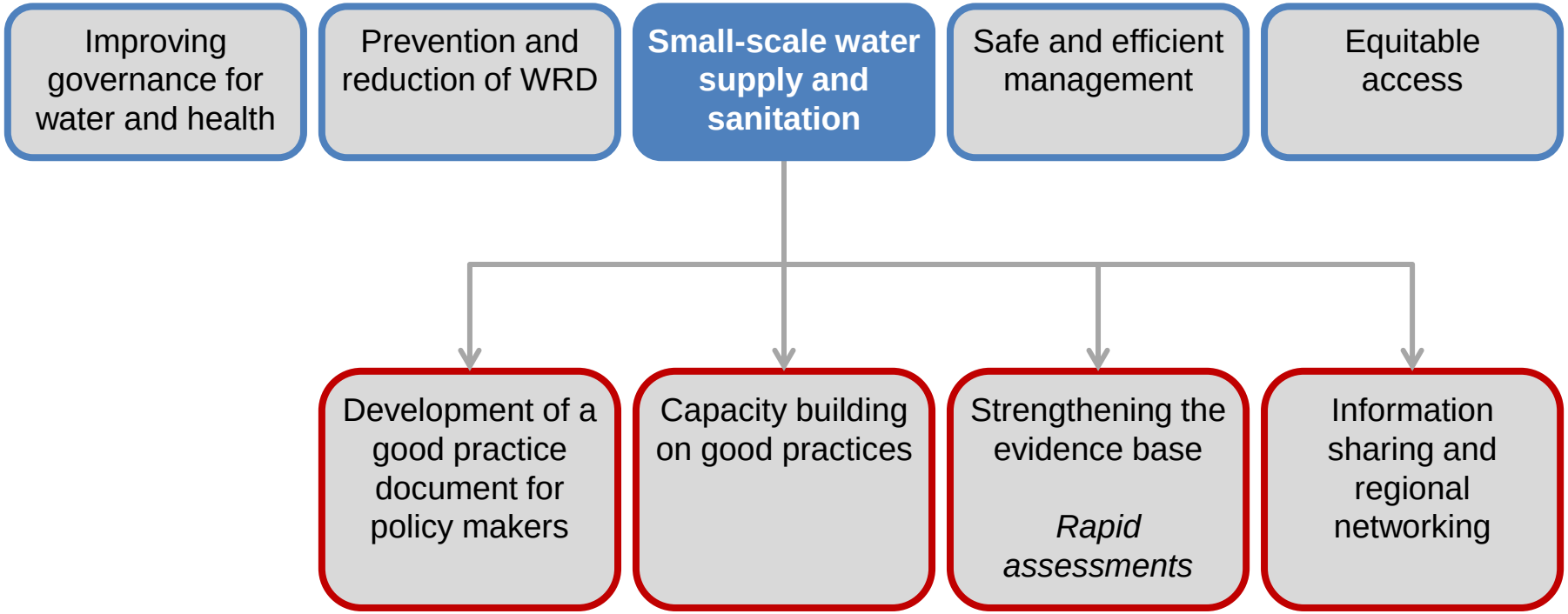

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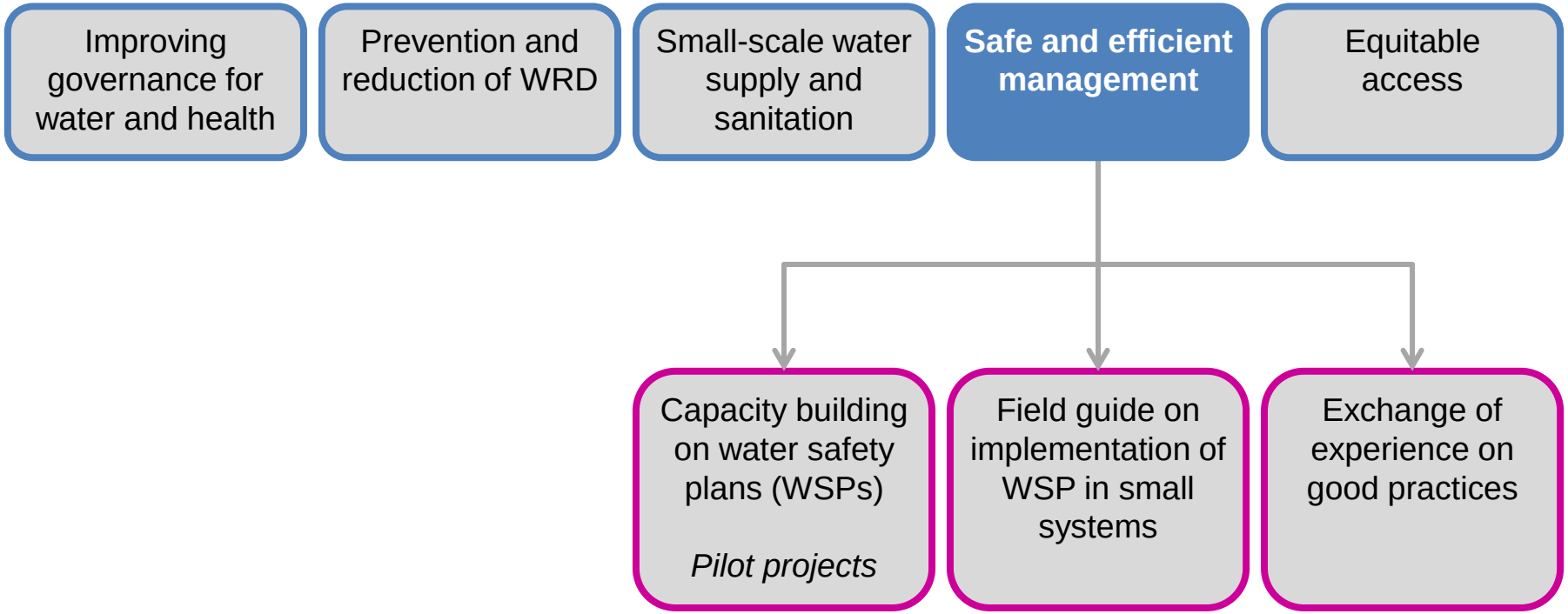

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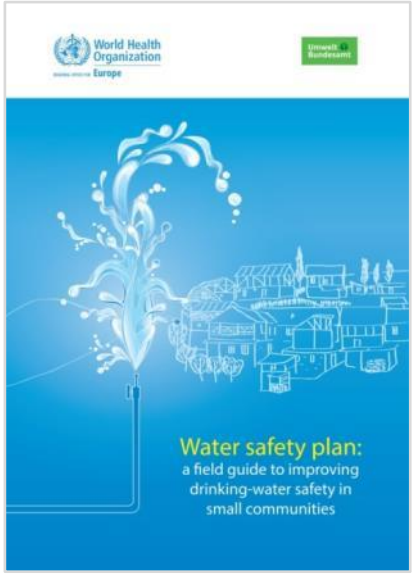

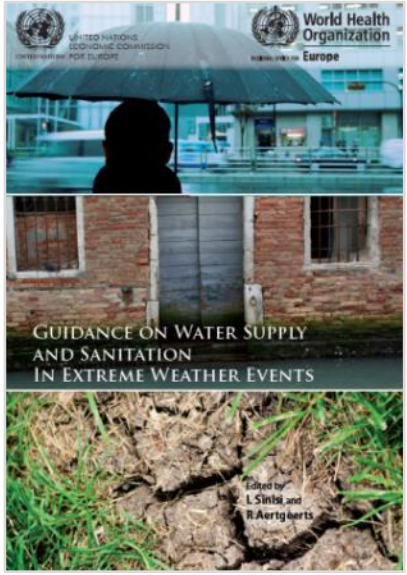

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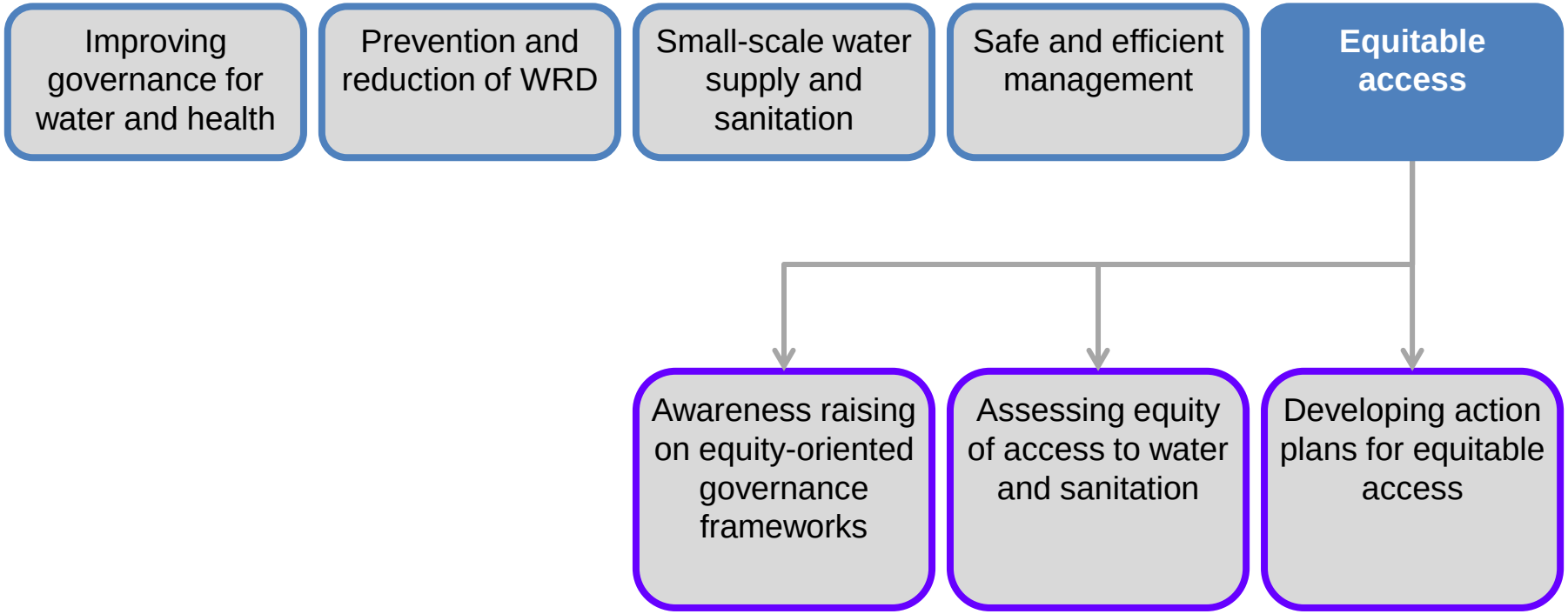

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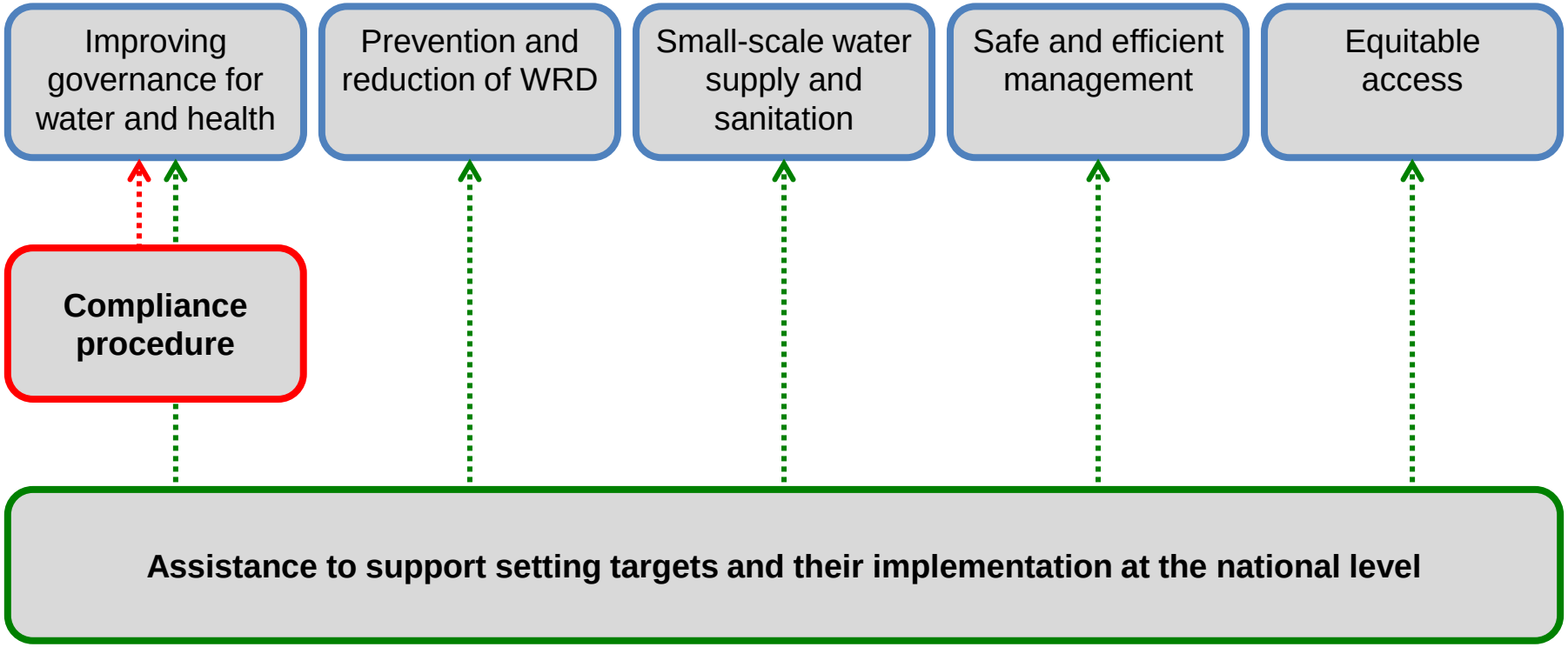

Added value of Protocol

- **Flexible approach** allowing focus on countries' challenges, needs and resources
- Mechanism for **intersectoral cooperation**
- Preparing for **EU legislation** but also "going beyond"
- Instrument for fulfilling **international commitments:**
  - E.g. human right to water and sanitation
  - E.g. sustainable development goals
  - E.g. Parma committments
- Regional hub for **mutual assistance and cooperation**

Thank you
Хвала

Source: Rod Shaw