

**National targets of Latvia for Article 6 of Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992  
Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary  
Watercourses and International Lakes**

**No.1.**

**Protocol reference: 6.2 c)**

The area of territory, or the population sizes or proportions, which should be served by collective systems for the supply of drinking water or where the supply of drinking water by other means should be improved

**National target**

To increase the percentage and number of population supplied with drinking water thus increasing access to safe and monitored drinking water

**Substantiation**

According to the UN and WHO, access to safe drinking water is one of the basic human rights. Sustainable development goal 6 also requires ensuring access to water and sanitation for all. In Latvia, development of urban wastewater collection and drinking water infrastructure was one of the main environmental investment priorities since the mid-1990s. Since that time over 1 billion euros (71% of total environmental investment in Latvia) were invested in the development of water services in urban areas. These investments mainly supported construction and reconstruction of wastewater treatment plants and sewerage networks, drinking water preparation stations and water supply systems.

In 2012 82% of population in Latvian agglomerations was provided with access to drinking water supply that corresponds to the requirements of the legislation. Latvian Environmental Policy Strategy 2014-2020 sets relevant targets, which must be achieved by 2023.

**Responsibility**

Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia

**Target indicators and deadlines**

- 1) The percentage (%) of population in agglomerations provided with access to drinking water supply that corresponds to the requirements of the legislation - 95.4% in 2023.
- 2) The growth of number of population served by improved drinking water supply – additional 77 600 inhabitants in 2023.

**No.2.**

**Protocol reference: 6.2. d)**

The area of territory, or the population sizes or proportions, which should be served by collective systems of sanitation or where sanitation by other means should be improved

**National target**

To increase the percentage and number of population having access to waste water collection and treatment services that corresponds to the requirements of the legislation

**Substantiation**

Safe collection and treatment of waste water is important both for human health and environmental protection. Sustainable development goal 6 also requires ensuring access to water and sanitation for all. In Latvia, development of urban wastewater collection and drinking water infrastructure was one of the main environmental investment priorities since the mid-1990s. Since that time over 1 billion euros (71% of total environmental investment in Latvia) were invested in the development of water services in urban areas. These investments mainly supported construction and reconstruction of wastewater treatment plants and sewerage networks, drinking water preparation stations and water supply systems.

In 2012, 79% of population in Latvian agglomerations had an access to centralized sewerage networks. Latvian Environmental Policy Strategy 2014-2020 sets relevant targets, which must be achieved by 2023.

**Responsibility**

Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia

**Target indicators and deadlines**

- 1) The percentage (%) of population in agglomerations provided with access to centralized wastewater collection and treatment services that correspond to the requirements of the legislation - 95,9% in 2023.
- 2) The growth of number of population served by centralized wastewater collection and treatment services – additional 116 400 inhabitants in 2023.

**No.3.**

**Protocol reference: 6.2 j)**

The quality of waters used for bathing

**Subject**

To promote healthy and safe recreational environment

**National target**

To increase the number of bathing sites where bathing water quality is tested

**Substantiation**

There are more than 2000 lakes of natural origin and more than 12 000 rivers in Latvia. Beside inland bathing waters, Latvia has approximately 500 km of coastline. A large part of these water bodies is used for recreation and swimming. The results of the water quality analysis are used to provide information to the public on the quality of water in the bathing sites. To further improve public health due to bathing water quality number of bathing sites needs to be increased.

**Responsibility**

Ministry of Health, Health Inspectorate

**Target indicators and deadlines**

- 1) Number of bathing sites where bathing water quality is tested to be increased from 50 (2013) to 110 in 2019.
- 2) Number of bathing water samples tested for quality to be increased from 260 (2013) to 580 in 2019.

**No.4.**

**Protocol reference: 6.2 n)**

The frequency of the publication of information on the quality of bathing waters relevant to the targets set out in paragraph 6 of the Protocol

**Subject**

Availability of information on safety of drinking water and bathing water, on negative impacts on health of contaminated water and individual possibilities of dealing with the contaminated water.

**National target**

To inform public on safety of drinking water and bathing water and on negative impacts on health of contaminated water

**Substantiation**

It is important that information on drinking and bathing water quality is regularly provided to local municipalities and to the public through mass media and internet.

**Responsibility**

Health Inspectorate

**Target indicators and deadlines**

- 1) To inform public on safety of drinking water and bathing water and on negative impacts on health of contaminated water regularly until 2020.