

## LITHUANIA

### **TEMPLATE FOR REPORTING PROGRESS ON SETTING TARGETS AND TARGET DATES ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 6 OF THE PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH**

According to the Protocol on Water and Health, within 2 years of becoming a Party, each Party shall establish and publish targets referred to in paragraph 2 of article 6, and target dates for achieving them.

Parties and, if relevant, Signatories, to the Protocol on Water and Health are invited to answer the following questions to allow exchange of experience at the first meeting of the Task Force on Indicators and Reporting (Geneva, 10-11 March 2008).

Replies should be sent not later than **25 February 2008** to the UNECE secretariat ([protocol.water\\_health@unece.org](mailto:protocol.water_health@unece.org)).

**1. Briefly describe your national process to set targets and target dates in accordance with article 6 of the Protocol on Water and Health. Please include information on the institutions involved, approach adopted, steps identified and agreed timeline, as well as ways and means to involve stakeholders, including the public. Include both information on progress achieved to date as well as future plans.**

To facilitate and coordinate the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health the working group under the leadership of the Ministry of Health was established by the order of the Minister of Health and Minister of Environment on June 21, 2004. Invited organisations into Working group:

- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Health
- State Food and Veterinary Service
- State Geology Service
- State Public Health Centre
- Institute of Hygiene
- National Nutrition Centre
- Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control Centre
- Health Emergency Situation Centre
- The association of Local authorities in Lithuania
- Water Supply Company „Vilniaus vandenys”

The working group prepared the Outlines for the Implementation of the Protocol on Water and health that was approved by the Order of the Minister of Health and the Minister of Environment on January 12, 2005.

**2. List the target set in your country in accordance with article 6 of the Protocol, as well as the target dates for achieving them.**

Stage One:

Data 2005 -2008

1. to create legal, administrative and economic provisions that would be stable and would promote the implementation of the targets of this Framework;
2. to establish national arrangements for coordination between the competent authorities and for relations maintained with other states at the intergovernmental level;

3. to develop programs or incorporate the means in other relevant programmes which are being drawn up for other purpose;

4. with the aim to supply high quality drinking water to improve and maintain a legal and organizational framework for monitoring and enforcing standards for the quality of drinking water;

5. to develop a system of indicators designed to identify observe and control the spreading of water-related diseases;

6. to establish preventive, surveillance systems for the outbreaks of water-related diseases which would include:

- monitoring of water-related diseases and their out-breaks;
- giving notification to the state authorized institution about the outbreaks of water-related disease and a significant threat of the spreading of diseases;
- information made available to the public about such outbreaks of water-related diseases and information about the means to be in order to avoid damage to their health or its reduction;
- rendering information to the relevant state authorities and, if necessary, to the public about preventive and remedial actions taken to improve the emerging situation.

Stage Two: starting with the year 2009

1. to develop water management plans at the transboundary and national level. Such plans may be incorporated in other relevant plans, programs or documents drawn up for other purposes;

2. to review national trends in changes of water and health indicators and to carry out a comparative analysis on the territory basis;

3. to collect and evaluate data concerned with the implementation of the Protocol and to assess the progress achieved;

4. to publish periodically the results of this progress assessment. The frequency of such publication is established by the Meeting of the Parties.

**3. If the process of target setting is still ongoing, briefly list the relevant national and international obligations, existing reporting mechanisms and other standards which you propose to use for the purpose of target setting.**

New Law of Water Services, which came into force on the 1 st of January 2007, determines that 95% inhabitants of municipal public water services territory should be provided with public water services until the end of 2014. New Law of Water Services implements the reform of water services management. One of the main purposes of this reform is to achieve that 95% inhabitants of municipal public water services territory should be provided with public water services resulting in promotion of equitable access to water supply and sanitation for all inhabitants.

Reporting obligations under Directive 2000/60/EC (WFD). It should be stressed that all these activities are highly related with the implementation of the EU Water Framework directive where the main obligation is to reach good status of water bodies by the year 2015 using integrated river basin management approach. End of 2015 (interim target date: end of 2010)

Decree on the protection of groundwaters - The programme on Groundwater Resource Evaluation and Usage for Drinking Water Supply for 2007-2025 was approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania in June 2006. Directive 71/676/EEC (Nitrate Directive) and Directive 80/68/EEB implemented.

Hygiene Norm of Lithuania “HN 92:2007 “Beaches and Bathing water quality“ adopted and reporting mechanism under Directive 2006/7/EC. According to the data of the Institute of Hygiene, observation of the quality of water in the bathing-places within the year 2006 covered all the bathing-places at the seaside, rivers, lakes, ponds and pits, located at the territory of Lithuania. It included the seaside - 10%, rivers - 19%, lakes - 48%, ponds, pits and dikes - 23% of bathing-places. All 149 objects were selected with taking into consideration the workload (not less than 100 people during the bathing season). The microbiological, chemical and physical tests are periodically carried out during the bathing season (from May 15 till September 15). Reporting obligations to EU Commission.

To achieve that quality of drinking water for all urban and rural inhabitants be in compliance with standards of Lithuania (Hygiene Norm of Lithuania “HN 24:2003. Safety and Quality Requirements of Drinking Water”) and EU requirements. State Food and Veterinary Service is responsible for reporting to EU Commission under Directive 98/83/EC.

Please fill the name of the contact person for this questionnaire

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