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LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SVEIKATOS APSAUGOS MINISTERIJA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

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cc. Joint Secretariat to the Protocol
on Water and Health

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Lithuania to
the United Nations Office and Other International
Organizations in Geneva

WHO Country Office in Lithuania

**REGARDING NATIONAL TARGETS OF LITHUANIA IN RESPECT OF THE
PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH**

Your Excellency,

Protocol on Water and Health has been ratified by the Parliament decision No IX-1863 on 2 December 2003 in Lithuania. To facilitate and coordinate the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health the Lithuanian Coordination group (hereinafter- The Coordination Group) under the leadership of the Ministry of Health was established by the order No. V-452/D1-346 of the Minister of Health and the Minister of Environment on 21 June 2004.

The Coordination Group prepared the Outlines for the Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health, which were approved by the order No. V-14/D1-22 of the Minister of Health and the Minister of Environment on 12 January 2005. 10 national targets were approved: 1. To create legal, administrative and economic provisions that would be stable and would promote the implementation of the targets. 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 programs 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; 7. 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); 8. To review national trends in changes of water and health indicators and to carry out a comparative analysis on the territory basis; 9. To collect and evaluate data concerned with the implementation of the Protocol and to assess the progress achieved; 10. To provide to the secretariat data about progress achieved.

Currently national targets are being revised due to the change of legislation. After the adoption of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Drinking Water Supply and Waste Water Management, all related national legislation was reviewed and changed. The progress evaluation and reporting under the Protocol is possible using the targets related to water quality which have been set in strategic documents: National Public Health Development Program 2016-2023, National Strategy of Environment Protection, Law of the Republic of Lithuania on of Drinking Water Supply and Waste Water Management, Water Sector Development Programme for 2016-2023, etc.

Please find main revised Lithuanian targets enclosed. The Coordination Group has prepared them jointly. We would be grateful for your kind assistance in providing any comments and suggestions.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Minister



Aurelijus Veryga

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National targets of Lithuania in respect of the Protocol on Water and Health

These targets are set in different documents that have been approved/adopted by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. Targets and targets' dates showed in the table are being renewed periodically.

Protocol reference	National target	Reasoning	Deadline	Responsibility	Target Indicator
6.2. b	Reduce the negative effects of environmental factors, unsafe products (products and services) and the health risks of the population.	National Public Health Development Program 2016-2023 approved by the Governmental decision No. 1291 on 09.12.2015 set the main health targets. This targets is a priority for Lithuania. According to the WHO, access to safe drinking water is essential for health. Control of chemical and microbial hazards must always be of the highest importance and health risks should never be compromised.	2019 - 30 % 2023- 50%	Ministry of Health	Percentage of the population who are informed about environmental risk factors and their potential adverse health effects.
6.2.c	Increasing percentage of population supplied with drinking water conforming to requirements.	The Law on Drinking Water Supply and Waste Water Management approved by the Parliament decision No XII-939 on 12.06.2014, and Lithuanian Hygiene Standard HN 24:2003 " Safety and quality requirements of drinking-water" approved by the Minister of Health of the Republic of Lithuania on 23.07.2003(31.12.16) by Order No. V-445. One of the goals is to protect legitimate interests of drinking water consumers, drinking water suppliers	not provided	Government of the Republic of Lithuania, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Health, State Food and Veterinary Service, National Control Commission for Prices and Energy, State Consumer Rights Protection Authority, Municipalities.	At least 95 percent of consumers at public drinking water supply area should be publicly supplied by drinking water and provided with wastewater management services, which meets safety and quality requirements.

		and waste water managers.			
6.2. d	All generated wastewater is collected and managed in conformity with the established requirements.	National Environmental Protection Strategy approved by the Parliament decision No. XII-1626 on 16.04.2015. Improving sanitation is known to have a significant beneficial impact on health both in households and across communities. The maintenance of hygienic conditions, through services such as wastewater disposal helps to protect public health and prevent diseases.	2030	Ministry of Environment	100%
6.2. f	To ensure a good status of all water bodies.	National Environmental Protection Strategy approved by the Parliament decision No. XII-1626 on 16.04.2015 set the policy agenda and set targets on water infrastructure development in Lithuania.	Untill 2030	Ministry of Environment	100 %
6.2. j	Water quality at bathing areas meets the requirements of the directive 2006/7/EC.	Lithuanian Hygiene Standard HN 92:2007 "Beaches and bathing water quality" approved by the Minister of Health of the Republic of Lithuania on 21.12.2007 by Order No. V-1055. This Standard implements the provisions of the directive 2006/7/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 February 2006 concerning the management of bathing water quality and repealing directive 76/160/EEC. In Lithuania, bathing	2020	Municipalities, which have beaches in their administrative territory, Ministry of Health, Centre for Health Education and Disease Prevention.	Bathing water shall qualify as at least sufficient by the end of the bathing season 2017 and the number of bathing waters classified as "excellent" or "good" shall increase from the bathing season 2020.

		water quality is observed according to the list of Lithuanian monitored bathing sites approved by the Minister of Health of the Republic of Lithuania on 20.02.2012. The recommendations for establishing profiles of bathing water were approved by the Minister of Health of the Republic of Lithuania on 28.03. 2011 by Order No. V-302.			
6.2. n	To provide to the public in the flood area all necessary information on water-borne infectious diseases and appropriate prevention measures in case of flood.	State Emergency Management Plan approved by the Governmental decision N° 1503 on 20.10.2010. There are no outbreaks of diseases due to drinking water.	In case of Flood	Municipal Administration, Centre for Communicable Diseases and AIDS, National Public Health Centre, Health Emergency Situations Centre under the Ministry of Health.	Provided information