



## LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SVEIKATOS APSAUGOS MINISTERIJA

### MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

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#### **Joint Secretariat to the Protocol on Water and Health**

14-04-2016 No. (A.A.20)10-3438  
Re: 27-11-2015

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe  
Palais des Nations,  
1211 Geneva 10, **Switzerland**

WHO Regional Office for Europe  
WHO European Centre for Environment and  
Health Water and Sanitation Programme (WSN),  
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1,  
53113 Bonn, **Germany**

cc:

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

WHO Country Office in Lithuania

#### **SUBJECT: LITHUANIAN SUMMARY REPORT UNDER THE PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH**

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are pleased to submit the Summary Report under the Protocol on Water and Health prepared within obligations of Lithuania as a Party to the Protocol on Water and Health and using the format outlined in the Guidelines for summary reports in accordance with article 7 of the Protocol on Water and Health.

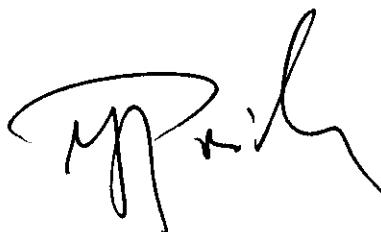
In accordance with the Outlines for the Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health, which were approved by the Order of the Minister of Health and the Minister of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania on January 12, 2005, Nr. V-14/D1-22 the Ministry of Environment provides information on water to the Ministry of Health. The responsibility of the Ministry of Health is to provide to the Secretariat the data about the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health and progress achieved in Lithuania.

Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Food and Veterinary Service, State Geology Service, Environmental Protection Agency, Communicable Diseases and AIDS Centre, Health Emergency Situation Centre, Centre for Health Education and Diseases Prevention, National Public Health Surveillance Laboratory, Vilnius Public Health Centre took part in the preparation of Lithuanian Summary Report under the Protocol on Water and Health. Ministry of Health has co-ordinated preparation of the Summary Report and has developed it in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania, Association of Water Suppliers, Water Supply Company „Vilniaus vandenys“, Public Establishment “Water Club”.

ENCLOSURE: Summary Report, 38 pages.

Yours faithfully,

Minister



Juras Požela

# Lithuanian Summary Report under the Protocol on Water and Health

## Part One General aspects

1. Were targets and target dates established in your country in accordance with article 6 of the Protocol?

*Please provide detailed information on the target areas in Part Three.*

YES ☐ NO ☐ IN PROGRESS ☒

*If targets have been revised, please provide details here.*

**Targets are being revising now due to the changing of legislation: The National Strategy of Environment Protection, adopted in 2015; the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on of Drinking Water Supply and Waste Water Management, which new wording came into force in the end of 2015, set the policy agenda and set targets on water infrastructure development in Lithuania. The project of Water Sector Development Programme for 2016-2021 is drafted and measures concerning drinking water supply and wastewater management are proposed. It is planned that the programme would be adopted in the first half of 2016. After adoption of the new wording of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on of Drinking Water Supply and Waste Water Management, all related governmental legislation was reviewed and changed.**

2. Were they published and, if so, how?

*Please explain whether the targets and target dates were published, made available to the public (e.g. online, official publication, media) and communicated to the secretariat.*

**The Outlines for the Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in accordance with article 6 were approved by the Order of the Minister of Health and the Minister of Environment on January 12, 2005, Nr. V-14/D1-22 (Official Gazette, 2005, No. 11-348) and were published in official publication. The approved Outlines set forth the objectives, directions for action and stages for the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health. There were 10 targets. Targets will be revised due to changes of legislation.**

3. Has your country established national or local arrangements for coordination between competent authorities for setting targets? If so please describe, including information on which public authority(ies) took the leadership and coordinating role, which public authorities were involved and how coordination was ensured.

**To facilitate and coordinate the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health the coordination group under the leadership of the Ministry of Health was established by the order of the Minister of Health and the Minister of Environment on December 14, 2015. The active coordination group is established for bringing together representatives of the different institutions. In accordance with the Outlines for the Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health the Ministry of Environment provides information on water to the Ministry of Health. This is the responsibility of the Ministry of Health to provide to the Secretariat data on progress achieved and the Protocol implementation in Lithuania.**

4. Which existing national and international strategies and legislation were taken into account?

*Please briefly mention the most relevant national and international strategies and instruments that were taken into account when setting targets (only a limited number of references are required under this question; indicatively, five references are considered appropriate, but the number will depend on your national situation).*

**Many of the activities under the Protocol are related to the implementation of the EU Directives on Drinking Water, Bathing Water, Urban Waste Water. Future plans are closely related to implementation of Water Framework Directive, preparation of River Basins management plans. The progress evaluation and reporting under the Protocol is possible using the targets related to water quality which have been set in Lithuanian legislation: 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 2016-2021, etc.**

5. Was cost-benefit analysis of targets set performed, and if so how?

*Alternatively, please explain to what extent financial implications were taken into account when setting targets.*

6. What has been done in your country to ensure public participation in the process of target setting in accordance with article 6, paragraph 2, and how was the outcome of public participation taken into account in the final targets set?

**There were consultations with Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania, Association of Water Suppliers, Water Supply Company „Vilniaus vandenys“, Public Establishment “Water Club”- “Vandens namai”.**

7. Provide information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on which public authorities had the main responsibilities, which other stakeholders were involved, etc.

**The coordination group has been established for report preparation. The Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Food and Veterinary Service, State Geology Service, The Environmental Protection Agency, Centre for Health Education and Diseases Prevention, Communicable Diseases and AIDS Centre, Health Emergency Situations Centre, National Public Health Surveillance Laboratory, Vilnius Public Health Centre, Public Establishment “Water Club”- “Vandens namai” took part in the preparation of Lithuanian Summary Report under the Protocol on Water and Health. We distribute the responsibilities of Protocol fields, all coordinating group’s members have to determine the targets to every item of the 6 article of the Protocol on Water and Health using the Guidelines on the setting of targets, evaluation of progress and reporting. The Ministry of Health has coordinated preparation of the Summary Report and has developed it in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Statistics Lithuania, Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania and Association of Water Suppliers.**

8. Report any particular circumstances that are relevant for understanding the report, e.g., whether there is a federal and/or decentralized decision-making structure, or whether financial constraints are a significant obstacle to implementation (if applicable).

**The report represents national circumstances and national decision-making structure.**

9. Please describe whether and, if so, how emerging issues relevant to water and health (e.g., climate change) were taken into account in the process of target setting.

**New aspect was taken into account in the process of target setting - preparation the drought management plan(s) according national specifics and integration them into river basin management plans (RBMP)**

## Part Two

### Common indicators<sup>1</sup>

#### I. Quality of the drinking water supplied

##### A. Context of the data

*Please provide general information related to the context of the data provided under sections B and C below:*

1. What is the population coverage (in millions or per cent of total national population) of the water supplies reported under this indicator?

*The rationale of this question is to understand the population coverage of the water quality data reported under sections B and C below. Please describe the type of water supplies for which data is included in the following tables, and the population share covered by these supplies. Please also clarify the source of the water quality data provided (e.g., data from regulatory authorities).*

**In parts B and C information is provided on drinking water quality in water supply zones exceeding 1000 m<sup>3</sup> per day as an average or serving more than 5000 persons. Drinking water is supplied to the population of over 1.9 million.**

2. Do the water supply systems reported here supply the urban population only or both the urban and rural populations?

**Water is supplied to urban and rural population.**

3. Specify where the samples/measurements are taken (e.g., treatment plant outlet, distribution system or point of consumption).

*The rationale behind this question is to understand where the samples were primarily taken from for the water quality data reported in sections B and C below.*

**Samples of drinking water are taken in the distribution system and points of consumption. Information is prepared on the basis of the annual report on the monitoring of drinking water carried out by the water suppliers.**

4. In the reports, the standards for compliance assessment signify the national standards. If national standards for reported parameters deviate from the WHO guideline values, provide information on the values (standards) used for calculation.

**Samples of drinking water are taken in accordance with the ISO 5667 standards.**

##### B. Bacteriological quality

Indicator to be used: WatSan\_S2: The percentage of samples that fail to meet the national standard for E. coli and the percentage of samples that fail to meet the national standard for Enterococci.

*Please comment on the trends or any other important information supporting interpretation of the data.*

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<sup>1</sup> In order to allow an analysis of trends for all Parties under the Protocol, please use wherever possible 2005—the year of entry into force of the Protocol—as the baseline year.

*Please comment on the trends or any other important information supporting interpretation of the data.*

<i>WatSan_S2</i>	<i>Year 2005</i>	<i>Year 2010</i>	<i>Year 2013</i>
E. coli	0	0	0
Enterococci	0	0	0

**In Lithuania, groundwater is the source of drinking water supplies. Groundwater from deep horizons to which environmental pollution does not have any substantial effect is used for public supply. Suppliers of drinking water annually perform over 50 thousand tests within the framework of a drinking water surveillance programme. The tests with non-compliant results account for 0.6%. A tendency for the improvement of water quality is observed: in 2005 tests with non-compliant results accounted for 0.67%, in 2010 – 0.66% while in 2013 – 0.61%.**

**Microbiological qualities of such water are usually good. In the large drinking water supply areas the supplied drinking water at the places of consumption is in conformity with the set microbial indicators. In 2013, nearly 10000 tests of microbial indicators (E. Coli and intestinal enterococci) were performed in these drinking water supply areas. All the test results were in conformity with requirements.**

### **C. Chemical quality**

Indicator to be used: WatSan\_S3. All countries shall monitor and report on the percentage of samples that fail to meet the national standard for chemical water quality with regard to the following:

- (a) Fluoride;
- (b) Nitrate and nitrite;<sup>2</sup>
- (c) Arsenic;
- (d) Lead;
- (e) Iron.

Parties shall also identify up to five additional physico-chemical parameters that are of special concern in their national or local situation (e.g., pesticides).

*Please comment on the trends or any other important information supporting interpretation of the data.*

<i>Substance</i>	<i>Year 2005</i>	<i>Year 2010</i>	<i>Year 2013</i>
Fluoride	18,9	11,9	8
Nitrate	0	0	0
Nitrite	0	0,3	0
Arsenic	0	0	0
Lead	0	0	0

<sup>2</sup> As defined in the WHO Guidelines for drinking-water quality.

<i>Substance</i>	<i>Year 2005</i>	<i>Year 2010</i>	<i>Year 2013</i>
Iron	8,3	4,7	5,9
Additional physico-chemical parameter 1: <u>Ammonium</u>	1,2	1,4	1,6
Additional physico-chemical parameter 2: <u>Manganese</u>	11,7	3,4	7
Additional physico-chemical parameter 3: <u>Oxidisability</u>	1,9	0,2	0
Additional physico-chemical parameter 4: <u>Sulphate</u>	2,9	5,9	6,5
Additional physico-chemical parameter 5: <u>Turbidity</u>	0,1	0,2	0.45

In most cases the drinking water is safe with the exception of the North Western part of Lithuania where the exceeded levels of fluorides in the groundwater can pose a risk to the health of consumers. The quality of the groundwater is usually worsened by the levels of iron, manganese, sulphates, ammonium, and increased turbidity. Problems related to the safety and quality of drinking water are solved through restructuring the water management sector towards the enlargement of companies; modernisation of water supply, installation of water improvement equipment, use of other water sources; installation of individual facilities by consumers for the preparation of drinking water.

The figures presented in the table (the percentage of non-compliant tests) does not reflect the tendency for the improvement of the current situation as the numbers of tests for drinking water within the framework of the surveillance programme performed by suppliers of have substantially decreased in the reference year – from 105 to 73 thousand, for example, in 2005, 9566 tests for the detection of ammonium were performed out of which 115 were not in conformity with requirements; in 2010, 7089 tests for the detection of ammonium were performed out of which 101 were not in conformity with requirements, in 2013, 6047 tests for the detection of ammonium were performed out of which 96 were not in conformity with requirements.

## II. Reduction of the scale of outbreaks and incidence of infectious diseases potentially related to water

In filling out the following table, please consider the following points:

(a) For reporting outbreaks, please indicate if the numbers reported are related to all exposure routes or only related to water (i.e., for which there is epidemiological or microbiological evidence for water to have facilitated infection);

(b) For reporting incidents:

(i) Please report cases per 10,000 persons;

(ii) Please differentiate between zero incidents (0) and no data available (-);

(iii) If possible, please distinguish between autochthonous and imported cases.

*Please consider extending the list of water-related diseases to cover other relevant pathogens (e.g., enteric viruses, Cryptosporidium, Giardia, Legionella).*

Please indicate how the information is collected (e.g., event-based or incidence based).

Please comment on the trends or any other important information supporting interpretation of the data.

	Incidence			Number of outbreaks		
	Baseline (specify the year)	Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify the year)	Current value (specify the year)	Baseline (specify the year)	Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify the year)	Current value (specify the year)
	2005	2012	2015	2005	2012	2015
Cholera	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bacillary dysentery (shigellosis)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enterohaemorrhagic E. coli.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Viral hepatitis A	0	0	0	0	0	0
Typhoid fever	0	0	0	0	0	0

### III. Access to drinking water

Please comment on the trends or any other important information supporting interpretation of the data.

Percentage of population with access to drinking water	Baseline value (2005)	Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2012)	Current value (2013)
<b>Total</b>	66 %	76 %	76 %
Urban	No data	No data	No data
Rural	No data	No data	No data

Please specify if the above data is based on national estimates or estimates provided by the WHO/United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply and Sanitation.

If national estimates are provided, please specify how access is defined and estimated in your country.

The numbers in the table reflect the percentage of population that are connected to centralized water supply systems.

Source of data – Environmental Protection Agency. Data on connection to drinking water supply systems are provided by companies of drinking water supply and wastewater management according the order of the minister of environment.

JMP definitions and categories are available at <http://www.wssinfo.org/definitions-methods/watsan-categories>.

#### IV. Access to sanitation

*Please comment on the trends or any other important information supporting interpretation of the data.*

<i>Percentage of population with access to sanitation</i>	<i>Baseline value (2005)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2011)</i>	<i>Current value (2013)</i>
<b>Total</b>	58 %	67 %	67 %
Urban	No data	No data	No data
Rural	No data	No data	No data

*Please specify if the above data is based on national estimates or estimates provided by JMP for Water Supply and Sanitation.*

*If national estimates are provided, please specify how access is defined and estimated in your country.*

**The numbers in the table reflect the percentage of population that are connected to centralized sewer systems or wastewater is collected by other means e.g. wastewater transportation services.**

**Source of data – Environmental Protection Agency. Data on connection to sewer systems are provided by companies of drinking water supply and wastewater management according the order of the minister of environment.**

*JMP definitions are available at <http://www.wssinfo.org/definitions-methods/watsan-categories>.*

#### V. Effectiveness of management, protection and use of freshwater resources

##### Water quality

On the basis of national systems of water classification, the percentage of the number of water bodies or the percentage of the volume (preferably) of water<sup>3</sup> falling under each defined class (e.g., in classes I, II, III, etc. for non-EU countries; for EU countries, the percentage of surface waters of high, good, moderate, poor and bad ecological status, and the percentage of groundwaters/surface waters of good or poor chemical status).

## For European Union countries

### Ecological status of surface water bodies

<i>Percentage of surface water classified as:</i>	<i>Baseline value (for the period of preparation of 1<sup>st</sup> RBD management plan (2005-2009))</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2013 - for the period of preparation of 2<sup>nd</sup> RBD management plan (2010-2014))</i>	<i>Current value (2015 - for the period of preparation of 2<sup>nd</sup> RBD management plan (2010-2014))</i>
High status	24	Not available	8
Good status	25	Not available	44
Moderate status	43	Not available	32,5
Poor status	7	Not available	11
Bad status	1	Not available	4,5
<b>Total number/volume of water bodies classified</b>	1183	Not available	1185
<b>Total number/volume of water bodies in the country</b>	1183	Not available	1185

The information about baseline values of ecological and chemical status of surface water bodies for the period 2005-2009 is provided from the first River Basin District management plans, prepared according the requirements of Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EB. The information about current values of ecological and chemical status of surface water bodies for the period 2010-2014 is provided from the second River Basin District management plans, prepared in 2015.

### Chemical status of surface water bodies

<i>Percentage of surface water bodies classified as</i>	<i>Baseline value (for the period of preparation of 1<sup>st</sup> RBD management plan (2005-2009))</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2013 - for the period of preparation of 2<sup>nd</sup> RBD management plan (2010-2014))</i>	<i>Current value (2015 - for the period of preparation of 2<sup>nd</sup> RBD management plan (2010-2014))</i>
Good status	99	Not available	99
Poor status	1	Not available	1
<b>Total number/volume of water bodies classified</b>	1183	Not available	1185
<b>Total number/volume of water bodies in the country</b>	1183	Not available	1185

### Status of groundwaters

<i>Percentage of groundwaters classified as</i>	<i>Baseline value (2010)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2012)</i>	<i>Current value (2015)</i>
Good quantitative status	100 %	100 %	100 %
Good chemical status	100 %	100 %	100 %
Poor quantitative status	0 %	0 %	0 %

<i>Percentage of groundwaters classified as</i>	<i>Baseline value (2010)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2012)</i>	<i>Current value (2015)</i>
Poor chemical status	0 %	0 %	0 %
<b>Total number/volume of groundwater bodies classified</b>	20	20	20
<b>Total number/volume of groundwater bodies in the country</b>	20	20	20

Please provide any needed information that will help put into context and aid understanding of the information provided above (e.g., coverage of information provided if not related to all water resources, how the quality of waters affects human health).

### Water use

Please provide information on the water exploitation index at the national and river basin levels for each sector (agriculture, industry, domestic), i.e., the mean annual abstraction of freshwater by sector divided by the mean annual total renewable freshwater resource at the country level, expressed in percentage terms.

<i>Water exploitation index</i>	<i>Baseline value (2005)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2011)</i>	<i>Current value (2013)</i>
Agriculture	0,32 %	0,24 %	0,29 %
Industry <sup>a</sup>	14,68 %	10,78 %	12,84 %
Domestic use <sup>b</sup>	0,58 %	0,48 %	0,64 %

<sup>a</sup> Please specify whether the figure includes both water abstraction for manufacturing industry and for energy cooling. **Data includes cooling.**

<sup>b</sup> Please specify whether the figure only refers to public water supply systems or also individual supply systems (e.g., wells). **Data does not include individual supply systems.**

## Part Three

### Targets and target dates set and assessment of progress

*For countries that have set targets and target dates, please provide information specifically related to the progress towards achieving them. If you have not set targets in a certain area, please explain why.*

*For countries in the process of setting targets, please provide information on the relevant target areas (e.g., baseline conditions, provisional targets, etc.)*

*Suggested length: one page (330 words) per target area.*

## **I. Quality of the drinking water supplied (art. 6, para. 2 (a))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Describe the target, target date and baseline conditions. Please include information on whether the target is national or local, and intermediate targets as relevant. Also include information on the background and justification for the adoption of the target.

**The main quantitative target is “not less than 95% inhabitants of municipal public water services territory should be provided with public water services”. This target will be used to measure progress defined in the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on of Drinking Water Supply and Waste Water Management. The main qualitative target is to achieve the quality of drinking water publicly supplied to be in compliance with Lithuanian Standard (Hygiene Norm of Lithuania) HN 24:2003: Safety and quality requirements of drinking-water and EU requirements.**

2. Describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic and informational/educational, including management measures) to reach the target, having regard to article 6, paragraph 5, and, if applicable, the difficulties and challenges encountered.

**The National strategy of environment protection, adopted in 2015 and the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on of Drinking Water Supply and Waste Water Management, which new wording came into force in 2015, set the policy agenda and set targets on water infrastructure development in Lithuania. The project of Water sector development programme for 2016-2021 is drafted and measures concerning drinking water supply and wastewater management are proposed. It is planned that the programme would be adopted in the first half of 2016. The investments over the period 2007–2013 years resulted in significant progress and modernization of the water services and infrastructure. Measures planned for investment period 2014-2020 will contribute achieving the goals, especially in settlements having 200-2000 inhabitants: investments in these settlements will be promoted by larger subsidies from EU funds. The main challenges are related to particularities of small settlements: low density of inhabitants, old and broken-down infrastructure, decreasing number of inhabitants etc.**

3. Assess the progress achieved towards the target.

**After adoption of the new wording of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on of Drinking Water Supply and Waste Water Management, all related governmental legislation was reviewed and changed. New provisions include requirements and methodologies for evaluation of present situation in small settlements as well as mechanism for evaluation of possible technical solutions and adoption of the optimal one.**

4. In the review of progress achieved towards the target, has it appeared that the target and target date need to be revised, e.g., in the light of scientific and technical knowledge? If so, and if the revised target and target date have already been adopted, please describe them.

5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **II. Reduction of the scale of outbreaks and incidents of water-related disease (art. 6, para. 2 (b))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Describe the target, target date and baseline conditions. Please include information on whether the target is national or local, and intermediate targets as relevant. Also include information on the background and justification for the adoption of the target.

**The main aim of the Centre for Communicable Diseases and AIDS is to reduce incidence of and mortality from communicable diseases, and to prevent the outbreaks.**

2. Describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic and informational/educational, including management measures) to reach the target, having regard to article 6, paragraph 5, and, if applicable, the difficulties and challenges encountered.

**Epidemiological surveillance of the communicable diseases including the water-borne infections is implemented following the Law on Prevention and Control of Human Communicable Diseases and other laws. All documents are available on the Centre website: [www.ulac.lt](http://www.ulac.lt). The Centre for Communicable Diseases and AIDS is constantly accumulating data on communicable diseases and their agents in the National Information System of Communicable Diseases and Their Agents; performs annual epidemiological analysis of human communicable diseases; evaluates epidemiological situation; provides the prognosis, conclusions, proposals; develops information, methodical materials; organizes scientific-practical seminars, conferences, trainings on issues of epidemiological surveillance and prevention of communicable diseases for personal and public health specialists. The Centre provides methodological support in eliminating outbreaks of infectious diseases; educates the general population via mass media, public events, etc.**

**According to the data of epidemiological surveillance of communicable diseases, gastrointestinal communicable infections are spread by food and or household contacts. Causes of this spread prove that we do not face any big problem of drinking-water quality, especially in case of centralized water supply.**

3. Assess the progress achieved towards the target.

**Since 2005 no cases of the water-related infectious diseases have been reported.**

4. In the review of progress achieved towards the target, has it appeared that the target and target date need to be revised, e.g., in the light of scientific and technical knowledge? If so, and if the revised target and target date have already been adopted, please describe them.

5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

### **III. Access to drinking water (art. 6, para. 2 (c))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Describe the target, target date and baseline conditions. Please include information on whether the target is national or local, and intermediate targets as relevant. Also include information on the background and justification for the adoption of the target.

**The main quantitative target is “not less than 95% inhabitants of municipal public water services territory should be provided with public water services”. This target will be used to measure progress defined in the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on of Drinking Water Supply and Waste Water Management.**

2. Describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic and informational/educational, including management measures) to reach the target, having

regard to article 6, paragraph 5, and, if applicable, the difficulties and challenges encountered.

**The development of the drinking water supply and waste water management sector in the territory of municipalities shall be carried out in compliance with the water supply and waste water management infrastructure development plans. Centralized drinking water pipes, individual domestic wells, sewage treatment plants, etc. must be selected after the assessment of local environmental conditions, population density etc. All municipalities already have approved water supply and waste water management infrastructure development plans, nevertheless these plans will have to be reviewed in accordance to the changes in legislation. A water supply and waste water management infrastructure development plans shall be reviewed and updated in accordance with the procedure established by the Law on Territorial Planning.**

**Water suppliers must provide information to citizens (consumers); Obtain, store, process and supply drinking water that meets the public health safety and quality requirements and other parameters set out in legal acts; Ensure the quality and uninterrupted supply of drinking water and other water supply requirements.**

**Law of the Republic of Lithuania on of Drinking Water Supply and Waste Water Management sets the provision that the costs of water services in urban and rural areas can not exceed 4 percent of family income.**

**Financial instruments:**

**Being member of the European Union, Lithuania has the possibility to use European Union funds for drinking water supply and wastewater management infrastructure development and reconstruction.**

**Difficulties:**

**Many water utilities (especially small) work at a loss, unable to self-invest (borrow), many of them are unable to ensure the quality of services and development.**

3. Assess the progress achieved towards the target.

**After adoption of the new wording of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on of Drinking Water Supply and Waste Water Management, all related governmental legislation was reviewed and changed. New provisions include requirements and methodologies for evaluation of present situation in small settlements as well as mechanism for evaluation of possible technical solutions and adoption of the optimal one. Also mechanism of the licences is aimed at ensuring profitability of water utilities and the quality of services.**

4. In the review of progress achieved towards the target, has it appeared that the target and target date need to be revised, e.g., in the light of scientific and technical knowledge? If so, and if the revised target and target date have already been adopted, please describe them.

5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

#### **IV. Access to sanitation (art. 6, para. 2 (d))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Describe the target, target date and baseline conditions. Please include information on whether the target is national or local, and intermediate targets as relevant. Also include information on the background and justification for the adoption of the target.

**The target is to create favourable conditions to increase the coverage of sanitation services and to improve their management capacity. The goal is that availability of public wastewater management service to consumers would be not less than 95 percent (Law of the Republic of Lithuania on of Drinking Water Supply and Waste Water Management). Availability of wastewater management services is very uneven in Lithuania. This indicator is very different in urban and rural areas.**

2. Describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic and informational/educational, including management measures) to reach the target, having regard to article 6, paragraph 5, and, if applicable, the difficulties and challenges encountered.

**After adoption of the new wording of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on of Drinking Water Supply and Waste Water Management, all related governmental legislation was reviewed and changed. New provisions include requirements and methodologies for evaluation of present situation in small settlements as well as mechanism for evaluation of possible technical solutions and adoption of the optimal one. Also mechanism of the licences is aimed at ensuring profitability of water utilities and the quality of services.**

**Financial instruments:**

**When Lithuania became an EU member, the primary support tool for PHARE program, which has largely been set for technical assistance and consultation. The second source of support was the ISPA program.**

**Measures for the implementation of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (construction and reconstruction of wastewater treatment facilities, construction of new sewerage networks and reconstruction of the old ones) in 2007-2013 have been provided for in a list of national projects:**

**List of National Projects No. 1 under Measure No VP3-3.1-AM-01-V Renovation and development of water supply and wastewater management system (Official Gazette, No. 47-1882, 2009);**

**List of National Projects No. 2 under Measure No VP3-3.1-AM-01-V Renovation and development of water supply and wastewater management system (Official Gazette, No. 24-1145, 2010).**

**In the period 2014-2020 EU funds for water sector projects will be allocated on the basis of regional planning, i.e. priorities for projects will be given by municipalities.**

3. Assess the progress achieved towards the target.

**After adoption of the new wording of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on of Drinking Water Supply and Waste Water Management, all related governmental legislation was reviewed and changed. New provisions include requirements and methodologies for evaluation of present situation in small settlements as well as mechanism for evaluation of possible technical solutions and adoption of the optimal one. Also mechanism of the licences is aimed at ensuring profitability of water utilities and the quality of services.**

4. In the review of progress achieved towards the target, has it appeared that the target and target date need to be revised, e.g., in the light of scientific and technical knowledge? If so, and if the revised target and target date have already been adopted, please describe them.

5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **V. Levels of performance of collective systems and other systems for water supply (art. 6, para. 2 (e))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Describe the target, target date and baseline conditions. Please include information on whether the target is national or local, and intermediate targets as relevant. Also include information on the background and justification for the adoption of the target.

**The target is to improve water services quality. The goal is to ensure that all publicly served drinking water meet safety and quality requirements (Law of the Republic of Lithuania on of Drinking Water Supply and Waste Water Management). In order to improve drinking water quality in the area, taking advantage of EU structural funds and the municipal budget, the construction / reconstruction of water treatment facilities in various Lithuanian cities and towns is planned.**

2. Describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic and informational/educational, including management measures) to reach the target, having regard to article 6, paragraph 5, and, if applicable, the difficulties and challenges encountered.

**Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Water regulates the main water resource management, protection etc.**

**Law of the Republic of Lithuania on drinking water supply and waste water management establishes the principles of the state management and regulation of drinking water supply and waste water management and regulate legal relationships between water suppliers and subscribers (consumers).**

**Drinking water quality indicators are: the drinking water supply and drinking water pressure, drinking water quality, quality of services. The water suppliers must ensure a continuous supply of drinking water according the order of the minister of environment No D1-639 Requirements of quality for public water supply and wastewater management services.**

3. Assess the progress achieved towards the target.

**Water supply service coverage 76 percent of total population.**

4. In the review of progress achieved towards the target, has it appeared that the target and target date need to be revised, e.g., in the light of scientific and technical knowledge? If so, and if the revised target and target date have already been adopted, please describe them.

5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **VI. Levels of performance of collective systems and other systems for sanitation (art. 6, para. 2 (e) continued)**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Describe the target, target date and baseline conditions. Please include information on whether the target is national or local, and intermediate targets as relevant. Also include information on the background and justification for the adoption of the target.

**The target is to collect and treat 100 % of wastewater in accordance with established norms (National strategy of environment protection). In order to improve wastewater collection and management in the area, taking advantage of EU structural funds and**

**the municipal budget, the construction / reconstruction of water treatment facilities in Lithuanian cities and towns is planned.**

2. Describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic and informational/educational, including management measures) to reach the target, having regard to article 6, paragraph 5, and, if applicable, the difficulties and challenges encountered.

**In addition to the information provided in previous chapters, the state management and regulation objectives of water supply and waste water management shall be as follows (Law of the Republic of Lithuania on drinking water supply and waste water management):**

**1. to ensure that all citizens would be supplied with drinking water that meets public health protection requirements and to be provided with waste water management services in accordance with the environmental requirements;**

**2. to ensure that public water supply in the whole territory of the country is carried out in compliance with the legal requirements;**

**3. to improve the efficiency of the public water supply sector and to carry out uninterrupted and long-term water supply and waste water management in the whole territory of the country;**

**4. to develop price regulation system for water services that would ensure the optimal price for subscribers (consumers) and recovery of costs that are necessary for the proper carrying out of public water supply as well as the implementation of the principle “polluter pays”;**

**5. to ensure the protection of legitimate interests of subscribers (consumers) and water suppliers and to protect consumer rights.**

**Regulation on Wastewater Management, approved by the Minister of Environment in 2006, sets the basic environmental requirements for waste water collection, treatment and discharge to environment from pollution.**

3. Assess the progress achieved towards the target.

**96 % of collected wastewater is treated in accordance with established norms.**

4. In the review of progress achieved towards the target, has it appeared that the target and target date need to be revised, e.g., in the light of scientific and technical knowledge? If so, and if the revised target and target date have already been adopted, please describe them.

5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **VII. Application of recognized good practices to the management of water supply, (art. 6, para. 2 (f))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Describe the target, target date and baseline conditions. Please include information on whether the target is national or local, and intermediate targets as relevant. Also include information on the background and justification for the adoption of the target.

**The target is to promote good practices and optimal technical alternatives to the management of water supply.**

2. Describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic and informational/educational, including management measures) to reach the target, having

regard to article 6, paragraph 5, and, if applicable, the difficulties and challenges encountered.

**One of the priorities of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for 2012-2016 is promotion of cleaner production methods, which are based on innovative and effective technologies, which will enable more cost-effective use of water resources and reducing the pollution effect.**

**According to the provisions of the Programme of the Government, Ministry of Economy provides financial support to small and medium-sized enterprises for the costs of environmental management systems certification.**

**An enterprise or institution, being certified under the ISO 14001 standard for environmental management system, declares or informs interested parties that its activities are based on cleaner production techniques, BAT and good practice.**

**In order to increase the use of cleaner production and to promote environmental management the requirements for firms, whose environmental management system certified according to ISO 14001 standard or the EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS), IPPC permits are simplified**

**Order of the Minister of Health, Minister of Environment, Minister of Agriculture Order No.. 612/564/411 "Good laboratory practices for monitoring and evaluation procedures" (Official Gazette, No. 102-3643, 2001; No.152-5561, 2004) approved on 23 November of 2001, sets the requirements for laboratories carrying out monitoring, management of chemical substances must comply with good laboratory practice.**

**National Accreditation Bureau is responsible for the accreditation of laboratories, inspection bodies, employees, products, management system's certification bodies and EMAS verifiers and carries out their supervision, as well as controls good laboratory practice compliance. In order to the provided functions, the National Accreditation Bureau carries out the periodically checks, whether the company properly complies with good laboratory practice and its other obligations. The list of authorized laboratories is publicly available at National Accreditation Bureau website - laboratories authorized to carry out measurements at sources of pollution , pollutant elements in environment and tests list.**

3. Assess the progress achieved towards the target.
4. In the review of progress achieved towards the target, has it appeared that the target and target date need to be revised, e.g., in the light of scientific and technical knowledge? If so, and if the revised target and target date have already been adopted, please describe them.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **VIII. Application of recognized good practice to the management of sanitation (art. 6, para. 2 (f) continued)**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Describe the target, target date and baseline conditions. Please include information on whether the target is national or local, and intermediate targets as relevant. Also include information on the background and justification for the adoption of the target.

**See the preceding art. 6, para 2 (f).**

2. Describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic and informational/educational, including management measures) to reach the target, having

regard to article 6, paragraph 5, and, if applicable, the difficulties and challenges encountered.

3. Assess the progress achieved towards the target.
4. In the review of progress achieved towards the target, has it appeared that the target and target date need to be revised, e.g., in the light of scientific and technical knowledge? If so, and if the revised target and target date have already been adopted, please describe them.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## IX. Occurrence of discharges of untreated wastewater (art. 6, para. 2 (g) (i))

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Describe the target, target date and baseline conditions. Please include information on whether the target is national or local, and intermediate targets as relevant. Also include information on the background and justification for the adoption of the target.

**All collected wastewater must be cleaned up to the standards before discharge to environment.**

2. Describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic and informational/educational, including management measures) to reach the target, having regard to article 6, paragraph 5, and, if applicable, the difficulties and challenges encountered.

**Approved requirements for effluent quality; establishing of environmental liabilities; possibilities to use structural funds, etc.**

3. Assess the progress achieved towards the target.

**Domestic and industrial wastewater cleaning (percentage)**

Indicator/year	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Cleaned up to standards	14.1	67.0	67.10	69.15	72.37	88.86	90.58	92.66	97.23	95.60
Insufficiently cleaned	84.2	32.6	32.52	30.51	27.32	11.09	9.38	7.31	2.75	4.39
Uncleaned	1.8	0.4	0.39	0.34	0.31	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.01

4. In the review of progress achieved towards the target, has it appeared that the target and target date need to be revised, e.g., in the light of scientific and technical knowledge? If so, and if the revised target and target date have already been adopted, please describe them.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **X. Occurrence of discharges of untreated storm water overflows from wastewater collection systems to waters within the scope of the Protocol (art. 6, para. 2 (g) (ii))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Describe the target, target date and baseline conditions. Please include information on whether the target is national or local, and intermediate targets as relevant. Also include information on the background and justification for the adoption of the target.
2. Describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic and informational/educational, including management measures) to reach the target, having regard to article 6, paragraph 5, and, if applicable, the difficulties and challenges encountered.
3. Assess the progress achieved towards the target.
4. In the review of progress achieved towards the target, has it appeared that the target and target date need to be revised, e.g., in the light of scientific and technical knowledge? If so, and if the revised target and target date have already been adopted, please describe them.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

**Not relevant for Lithuania. Collection systems for storm water and municipal wastewater are separate. Combined collection systems that were installed few hundred years ago are still operating in old town of few cities. Nevertheless occurrence of overflows is very uncommon.**

## **XI. Quality of discharges of wastewater from wastewater treatment installations to waters within the scope of the Protocol (art. 6, para. 2 (h))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Describe the target, target date and baseline conditions. Please include information on whether the target is national or local, and intermediate targets as relevant. Also include information on the background and justification for the adoption of the target.

**All collected wastewater must be cleaned up to the standards before discharge to environment.**

2. Describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic and informational/educational, including management measures) to reach the target, having regard to article 6, paragraph 5, and, if applicable, the difficulties and challenges encountered.

**Approved requirements for effluent quality; establishing of environmental liabilities; possibilities to use structural funds, etc.**

3. Assess the progress achieved towards the target.

**Pollutant discharges from point sources to surface water bodies (tons)**

<b>Pollutant/Year</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
BOD7	6084,7	3818,3	3421,7	3576,4	1784,8	1839,9	1797,2	1414,4	1524,3

Total nitrogen	3695,4	2837,6	2819,2	2743,8	1978,8	1919,9	1964,0	1768,8	1801,7
Total Phosphorus	653,5	355,3	336,8	302,7	186,5	167,4	149,9	133,8	139,5

4. In the review of progress achieved towards the target, has it appeared that the target and target date need to be revised, e.g., in the light of scientific and technical knowledge? If so, and if the revised target and target date have already been adopted, please describe them.

5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **XII. Disposal or reuse of sewage sludge from collective systems of sanitation or other sanitation installations (art. 6, para. 2 (i), first part)**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Describe the target, target date and baseline conditions. Please include information on whether the target is national or local, and intermediate targets as relevant. Also include information on the background and justification for the adoption of the target.

**All sewage sludge must be treated and disposed or used in a way that is safe for humans and environment.**

2. Describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic and informational/educational, including management measures) to reach the target, having regard to article 6, paragraph 5, and, if applicable, the difficulties and challenges encountered.

By 2005, Lithuania had no strategy for sludge processing, therefore about 80 - 90 percent of sludge generated in urban wastewater treatment plants was stored in sludge sites or disposed in landfills.

The main target of sewage sludge management - sewage sludge shall not be waste, but it shall be the product, and, after appropriate treatment, sewage sludge can be used as fertilizers in agriculture, energy as a fuel (either directly or as feedstock for biogas production).

The requirements for sewage sludge usage in agriculture, set in Directive 86/278/EEC, were transposed into national legal framework and approved by the Order D1-575 of the Minister of Environment dated 28 November 2005 (LAND 20-2001 "Requirements of using sewage sludge as fertilizer", the new version).

In order to comply with the legal requirements EU and in order to solve the problem of excess sewage sludge, the feasibility study "Investment program of sludge management in Lithuania" was prepared in 2006.

The feasibility study "Investment sludge management program in Lithuania" evaluated the optimal sewage sludge management practices and proposed sludge management options for different regions of Lithuania. Using the Cohesion Fund, the regional sludge management system was developed: the sludge processing units were constructed and are operating in Kaunas, Utena, Panevezys, Vilnius, other cities' projects of sludge treatment are also implemented or implementation is about to finish.

3. Assess the progress achieved towards the target.

**The planned sludge treatment infrastructure is almost in place.**

4. In the review of progress achieved towards the target, has it appeared that the target and target date need to be revised, e.g., in the light of scientific and technical knowledge? If so, and if the revised target and target date have already been adopted, please describe them.

5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

### **XIII. Quality of wastewater used for irrigation purposes (art. 6, para. 2 (i), second part)**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Describe the target, target date and baseline conditions. Please include information on whether the target is national or local, and intermediate targets as relevant. Also include information on the background and justification for the adoption of the target.

2. Describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic and informational/educational, including management measures) to reach the target, having regard to article 6, paragraph 5, and, if applicable, the difficulties and challenges encountered.

3. Assess the progress achieved towards the target.

4. In the review of progress achieved towards the target, has it appeared that the target and target date need to be revised, e.g., in the light of scientific and technical knowledge? If so, and if the revised target and target date have already been adopted, please describe them.

5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

**Not relevant for Lithuania, wastewater is not used for irrigation. Furthermore in some regions of Lithuania agricultural activities can become available only after reclamation of soil.**

### **XIV. Quality of waters which are used as sources for drinking water (art. 6, para. 2 (j), first part)**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Describe the target, target date and baseline conditions. Please include information on whether the target is national or local, and intermediate targets as relevant. Also include information on the background and justification for the adoption of the target.

**The Lithuanian Geological Survey uses integrated environmental geological mapping techniques to examine the quality of groundwater supplied to the population and the sources of contamination. In response to water-related health risks, a programme that evaluates these risks and the use of groundwater resources for the drinking-water supply in Lithuania for 2007–2025 had the following main targets: (a) evaluate groundwater resources (2007–2009); (b) prepare measures that protect drinking-water resources and improve drinking-water quality (2007–2011); and (c) establish an integrated information system between the administrations involved. It is also worth mentioning that water safety plans that follow the WHO novel approach to drinking-water safety and health are being introduced in two Lithuanian cities: Klaipėda and Neringa.**

2. Describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic and informational/educational, including management measures) to reach the target, having regard to article 6, paragraph 5, and, if applicable, the difficulties and challenges encountered.

According to the data of State Food and Veterinary Service, about 30 % of the Lithuanian population use self-supplied drinking water. In most cases shallow groundwater from dug wells and from shallow bores is obtained. Unfortunately shallow groundwater is not safe to use because in this case water comes to shallow wells and shallow bores from the nearest ground-level aquifer thus its quality depends on the location of the well, equipment and maintenance of the water supply unit and, naturally, on economic activity. The biggest polluter of ground water is farmland fertilization with organic and mineral fertilizers, as well as low farming culture.

In 2013, water of 93 wells was analysed (186 samples were taken). Water of 30 wells (32 %) was not in conformity with requirements for chemical indicators: 269 chemical tests were carried out (nitrites, nitrates, ammonium were tested) out of which 30 tests were not in conformity with requirements including ammonium in 10 cases, nitrates in 19 cases. Water of 49 wells (53 %) was not in conformity with requirements for microbiological indicators: 250 tests were carried out (*E. coli*, intestinal enterococci, *Clostridium perfringens*) out of which 89 tests were not in conformity with requirements including 44 cases of intestinal enterococci, 227 cases of *E. Coli*.

3. Assess the progress achieved towards the target.

It should be noted that compared against the data of analyses for water in shaft wells carried out by the SFVS in 2010–2013 the situation has improved, however, the problem persists, the ground water is not safe for consumption. In 2013, the chemical indicators for drinking water were not in conformity with requirements in average in 3 wells out of 10 tested wells while the microbiological indicators – in 5 wells out of 10 tested wells. The SFVS, in view of the situation, continued the planned tests of shaft wells in 2014–2015 and is planning to further carry them out in the future.

4. In the review of progress achieved towards the target, has it appeared that the target and target date need to be revised, e.g., in the light of scientific and technical knowledge? If so, and if the revised target and target date have already been adopted, please describe them.

5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **XV. Quality of waters used for bathing (art. 6, para. 2 (j), second part)**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Describe the target, target date and baseline conditions. Please include information on whether the target is national or local, and intermediate targets as relevant. Also include information on the background and justification for the adoption of the target.

**The main national target is to assess bathing water quality and ensure the monitoring of bathing waters quality in order to preserve and improve the state of bathing water and make safe conditions for human health.**

**In Lithuania, the bathing water quality requirements, the methods of measurement of bathing water quality parameters, the monitoring of bathing water quality, the bathing water quality assessment and classification and quality status of bathing waters are regulated according to the Lithuanian Hygiene Standard HN 92:2007 “Beaches and bathing water quality” approved by the Minister of Health of the Republic of Lithuania**

on 21 December 2007 by Order No. V-1055 (Official Gazette, 2007, No. 139-5716). 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 accordance with the Lithuanian Hygiene Standard HN 92:2007 "Beaches and bathing water quality" water quality, the safety, hygiene requirements and usage of beaches as well as the monitoring of bathing water quality are the responsibility of the authorities administering beaches and bathing waters, i.e. of the municipalities whose territory the beaches are in.

The Health Education and Disease Prevention Center is charged with assessing the quality of bathing waters and carrying out in the classification; in order to avoid the hazards to bathers health, especially in cases of predictable short-term pollution or abnormal situations, it shall provide timely information to the public and the Government agencies by publishing the information on bathing water quality in the Internet.

The recommendations for establishing profiles of bathing water were approved by the Minister of Health of the Republic of Lithuania on 28 March 2011 by Order No. V-302 (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 39-1897).

A bathing water profile is the basis for management measures which help ensure the quality of bathing water, foresee all possible risks and protect the public from permanent or accidental contamination. A bathing water profile is intended to gain an understanding of the faecal sources and routes of pollution, and focuses on the indicators for faecal pollution: either *Escherichia coli* (*E.coli*) and intestinal enterococci or thermotolerant bacteria of the coli group and faecal streptococci.

2. Describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic and informational/educational, including management measures) to reach the target, having regard to article 6, paragraph 5, and, if applicable, the difficulties and challenges encountered.

In Lithuania, bathing water quality was observed according to the list of Lithuanian monitored bathing sites approved by the Minister of Health of the Republic of Lithuania on 20 February 2012 (Official Gazette, 2012, No. 24-1132) which can be changed if needed. Evaluating bathing water quality according to the number of microbiological analyses, numbers for the coastal water samples were: for 2013-111, for 2014-104, for 2015-107, of them, only 1.8 percent did not meet the hygiene requirements in 2013 and 2.8 percent in 2015; the numbers for fresh waters were as follows: for 2013-807, for 2014-771, for 2015-783; the numbers which did not meet the requirements for 2013-1.9 percent, for 2014-3.1 percent, for 2015-1.9 percent. While evaluating the monitored waters with short-term pollution according to the requirements of the national legal acts, the short-term pollution was observed in 14.2 percent of waters in 2013, 15.1 percent in 2014, 11.6 percent in 2015, when the number of intestinal enterococci or *E.coli* exceeded the limit values established by the Lithuanian Hygiene Standard HN 92:2007.

3. Assess the progress achieved towards the target.

*Results of bathing water quality in Lithuania. Assessment under Directive 2006/7/EC*

Quality/ Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Excellent (%)	73,6	71,9	83,9	85,7	88,4
Good (%)	8,0	14	12,5	11,6	8,0
Sufficient (%)	5,3	4,3	0,9	0,9	0

<i>Poor (%)</i>	0	0	0	0	0,9
<i>Closed (%)</i>	0	1	0,9	1,7	0,9
<i>New (%)</i>	4	4	0,9	0	1,8

4. In the review of progress achieved towards the target, has it appeared that the target and target date need to be revised, e.g., in the light of scientific and technical knowledge? If so, and if the revised target and target date have already been adopted, please describe them.

**The directions of the implementation of the Protocol concerning the improvement of the indexes that help to assess, observe and control the spread of the water-related diseases and the establishment of the system for the monitoring and prevention of the outbreaks of water-related diseases are not envisaged in Lithuania's legal acts.**

5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **XVI. Quality of waters used for aquaculture or for the production or harvesting of shellfish (art. 6, para. 2 (j), third part)**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Describe the target, target date and baseline conditions. Please include information on whether the target is national or local, and intermediate targets as relevant. Also include information on the background and justification for the adoption of the target.

2. Describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic and informational/educational, including management measures) to reach the target, having regard to article 6, paragraph 5, and, if applicable, the difficulties and challenges encountered.

3. Assess the progress achieved towards the target.

4. In the review of progress achieved towards the target, has it appeared that the target and target date need to be revised, e.g., in the light of scientific and technical knowledge? If so, and if the revised target and target date have already been adopted, please describe them.

5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

**The provisions of Council Directive 2006/113/EC on the quality required of shellfish waters are transposed into national law framework:**

**1. Quality assurance procedures for the shellfish waters (Official Gazette, 2004, No. 52-1742);**

**2. Information procedure on sea water shellfish, the quality of the provision of the European Commission (Official Gazette, 2004, No. 68-2377).**

**Lithuanian marine waters have low salinity and the salinity does not meet the recommended and mandatory values for shellfish harvesting. Crustaceans and molluscs in Lithuanian marine waters are not used for food production. There are no distinguished marine areas that are appropriate for shellfish breeding.**

## **XVII. Application of recognized good practice in the management of enclosed waters generally available for bathing (art. 6, para. 2 (k))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Describe the target, target date and baseline conditions. Please include information on whether the target is national or local, and intermediate targets as relevant. Also include information on the background and justification for the adoption of the target.

**The main target is to ensure the water quality in the swimming pools which is up to the standards described in the Lithuania Hygiene Norm HN 109:2005 “Swimming pools. Installation and maintenance of health safety requirements”. By keeping this standard of quality we are protecting swimming pool service users from adverse health effects, reducing side effects of disinfectants used in swimming pool maintenance and reducing the spread of communicable diseases prevalent in swimming pool areas.**

2. Describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic and informational/educational, including management measures) to reach the target, having regard to article 6, paragraph 5, and, if applicable, the difficulties and challenges encountered.

**Lithuanian Hygiene Norm HN 109:2005 “Swimming pools. Installation and maintenance of health safety requirements” regulates swimming pool installation, maintenance and standards of water and service quality which are mandatory to all public use swimming pools, except for personal swimming pools.**

**All the essential requirements and standards are provided by the legislation which include information on swimming pool design, water treatment and supply, chemical and microbiological hazards associated with biocides and communicable diseases, necessary staff know-how information for swimming pool upkeep, personal hygiene requirements, mandatory staff training for hygiene and first aid.**

**To further ensure that we achieve this goal we are planning to organize a working group which will review the national legislation on swimming pools - the Lithuanian Hygiene Norm HN 109:2005 “Swimming pools. Installation and maintenance of health safety requirements“. The review process will be done according to the newest recommendations and practices from scientific institutions and other countries.**

**Estimated implementation of the reviewed legislation is 2017. We are not foreseeing any interim targets during the process.**

**After updating Lithuanian Hygiene Norm HN 109:2005 we are planning to organize a cycle of seminars, consultations for architects, engineers and swimming pool maintenance staff to ensure correct implementation of the reviewed legislation.**

**The whole process of swimming pool construction starts with preparation of swimming pool design. If the design is up to the standards then a permit for construction must be obtained. After the construction is completed it has to be inspected by the authorities in order to evaluate whether it matches the proposed design or not. In stages mentioned above a lot of public authorities are involved, one of them are authorities on public health. The supervision on design and construction of swimming pools is regulated by Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Construction and Technical Construction Regulations of Minister of Environment. What is more there are 36 Lithuanian Standards which regulate general requirements for swimming pool equipment, chemicals, design and maintenance.**

According to the Law on Public Health article 21 paragraph 4 before opening a public swimming pool it is mandatory to obtain a permit-hygiene passport. Permit-hygiene passport procurement procedure is regulated by Order of the Minister of Health amending Order No V-632 of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Lithuania of 13 July 2010 „On Permit-Hygiene Passport Issuing“.

Lithuanian Hygiene Norm HN 109:2005 also includes a regulation on mandatory periodical lab test program for water quality in swimming pools for chemical, microbiological and parasite pollutants.

Regional public health institutions periodically conduct governmental control of swimming pools.

Currently Lithuania has 161 public swimming pools who have permit-hygiene passport. During 2015 governmental public health control process, it was estimated that there were 630 chemical, 803 microbiological, 224 parasite lab tests done. Samples were taken in accordance to Lithuanian Standard LST EN 25667-2:2001 „Water quality. Sample extraction. Part 2“. All the tests were carried out in the accredited laboratories.

3. Assess the progress achieved towards the target.

During the process of revision the working group will assess the information provided in Guidelines for safe recreational water environments. Volume 2L „Swimming pools and similar environments“, WHO, 2006; European manual for hygiene standards and communicable diseases surveillance on passenger ships, 2011; EWGLI Technical Guidelines for the investigation, control and prevention of travel associated legionnaires disease, version 1.1., 2011.

The reviewed document will ensure that all non-public health regulations and regulations which do not imply under Ministry of Health of Republic of Lithuania field of work will be removed from the final version. The reviewed version will ensure that safety and hygiene standards are up to date which will ensure further well-being of whole business sector.

In determining specific requirements in reviewed version of the regulation for swimming pools, the maintenance staff will ensure that all the swimming pool equipment will be operated and maintained properly so that the risk of Legionella would be reduced.

The reviewed version will have swimming pool safety and quality standards set in accordance to recent scientific data so that adequate public health safety could be ensured.

4. In the review of progress achieved towards the target, has it appeared that the target and target date need to be revised, e.g., in the light of scientific and technical knowledge? If so, and if the revised target and target date have already been adopted, please describe them.

5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **XVIII. Identification and remediation of particularly contaminated sites (art. 6, para. 2 (l))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Describe the target, target date and baseline conditions. Please include information on whether the target is national or local, and intermediate targets as relevant. Also include information on the background and justification for the adoption of the target.

From the end of 2008 to 2011, the Geological Survey of Lithuania implemented project Impact Assessment of Contaminated Sites in Lithuania. The project activities were financed by the budget of Lithuania and the European Union. The project had as its main goal a preliminary survey (inventory) of potentially contaminated sites in 39 districts (39 300 km<sup>2</sup>) of the country. After its completion, for the time being the data base of Geological Survey has information about more than 11 000 places where dangerous chemical substances were used in the past or are used today. The result from the preliminary survey was compilation of maps for districts where the survey was carried out. The maps and information about contaminated sites were provided to district authorities. In the frame of project, 100 most “risky” sites (after ranking) were investigated. The preliminary investigation included soil and groundwater sampling. After the evaluation of results obtained in the stage of preliminary investigation, detailed investigations further were carried out in 50 most highly contaminated sites.

Since 2008 when the new order for ecogeological research came into effect, about 950 preliminary and detailed ecogeological investigations and about 70 contaminated sites remediations were performed. 2009-2015 most ecogeological investigations – 250 preliminary and 100 detailed site assessments, were part of the project, financed by European Union funds and led by Lithuanian Geological survey (LGS) „Assessment of impact of contaminated sites“. The goals of this project were to make an inventory of potentially contaminated territories, to do their investigations and to prioritize them for remediation. Investigations in the realm of this project were carried out in areas with abandoned, inactive objects on national grounds, which threaten environment, health and distort the landscape. Successful completion of this project in the end of 2015 resulted in determination of potentially contaminated and contaminated territories in Lithuania, prioritization of sites for cleaning. Also the results of the project will be used for further development of Contaminated Land Management Strategy and to plan financial resources necessary for implementation.

2. Describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic and informational/educational, including management measures) to reach the target, having regard to article 6, paragraph 5, and, if applicable, the difficulties and challenges encountered.

The generalized data show that in 86 sites soils on an average area of 2572 m<sup>3</sup> are polluted by hydrocarbons, in 11 sites (the average area of 2262 m<sup>3</sup>) soils are polluted by persistent pesticides and in 4 sites by heavy metals. Similar situation was found in groundwater, where concentrations of hydrocarbons were beyond the allowable limits. In 8 cases, oil seepage was reported. High concentrations of pesticides were found in the groundwater of 6 sites. Limited investigations carried out in the frame of the project proved that in 35–45% of cases, the soil and the groundwater are contaminated by chemical substances. In general, the received results suggest that there may be about 3000–4500 sites across Lithuania dangerous to environment and humans. Their investigation and remediation should be of priority importance for the environmental sector.

3. Assess the progress achieved towards the target.

From 2007 to 2015 approximately 1750 hectares of Lithuania’s territory has been investigated. Preliminary investigations have been performed in an area of 1750 ha, detailed – 277 ha. It is estimated, that the area of polluted soil, that requires cleaning covers the area of approx 68 hectares.

4. In the review of progress achieved towards the target, has it appeared that the target and target date need to be revised, e.g., in the light of scientific and technical knowledge? If so, and if the revised target and target date have already been adopted, please describe them.

**On the base of information collected, the Order of Minister of Environment was issued: "Plan of management of contaminated sites for 2013-2023 (St. gazette, 2012, No. 115-5842).**

5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **XIX. Effectiveness of systems for the management, development, protection and use of water resources (art. 6, para. 2 (m))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Describe the target, target date and baseline conditions. Please include information on whether the target is national or local, and intermediate targets as relevant. Also include information on the background and justification for the adoption of the target.

**One of the most important goals of water management in Lithuania is to prevent deterioration of the status of surface and ground water bodies and to achieve the objective of at least good water status until 2027.**

**This goal is set in the Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, which Lithuania as the Member of European Union must implement.**

2. Describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic and informational/educational, including management measures) to reach the target, having regard to article 6, paragraph 5, and, if applicable, the difficulties and challenges encountered.

**The status of water bodies is determined mainly by human economic activities. Therefore, the extent of diffuse pollution from agriculture; point-source pollution by organic substances, nitrogen and phosphorus compounds; river straightenning; hydropower plants and international pollution loads from neighbour states was estimated.**

**When the state of surface and ground water bodies was assessed, the pressures determining the state of water bodies evaluated, measures to reach good water status were established.**

**One group of measures deals with additional research, studies and investigations. It is applied to water bodies where it is not clear if there is a problem (dubious modelling results etc.), what kind of the problem is and what the reason is behind the problem. There are also some small scale pilot projects planned aimed at investigation of their applicability for wider use in future in terms of their cost-effectiveness and practical implementation.**

**For point source pollution abatement there are measures to upgrade waste water treatment technologies in smaller settlements having significant pressures on water bodies (bigger ones are handled by basic measures).**

**Legal and financial encouragement/compensation measures are planned for diffuse source pollution reduction. Legal ones are aimed at putting stricter requirements for application of fertilizers (both organic and mineral). Financial encouragement/compensation measures are oriented toward introducing changes into Rural Development financing schemes for activities, that would reduce agricultural impact in strongly affected areas.**

**For morphologically affected rivers the construction of fish-passes is planned where fish migration is impeded. Changes in law will be made to improve the controll of the owners of hydropower plants. For improvement of transitional waters and marine ecosystems macrophyte harvesting is envisaged as well as the creation of methodology to track invasive species etc.**

**Also many public awareness raising activities are foreseen aimed at effective implementation of measures.**

3. Assess the progress achieved towards the target.

**Measures with constant implementation mechanism such as public awareness measures are being implemented steadily. A part of legal/regulatory measures have already been implemented. New measures in reviewed River Basin Management Plans will be approved as a part of Water sector development programme for 2016-2021.**

4. In the review of progress achieved towards the target, has it appeared that the target and target date need to be revised, e.g., in the light of scientific and technical knowledge? If so, and if the revised target and target date have already been adopted, please describe them.

**The review of targets are done preparing the second River basin management planing stage, according the Directive 2000/60/EC and will be approved in Water sector development programme for 2016-2021.**

5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **XX. Additional national or local specific targets**

*In cases where additional targets have been set, for each target:*

1. Describe the target, target date and baseline conditions. Please include information on whether the target is national or local, and intermediate targets as relevant. Also include information on the background and justification for the adoption of the target.

**The main target is to prepare the drought management plan(s) according national specifics and integrate them into river basin management plans (RBMP)**

2. Describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic and informational/educational, including management measures) to reach the target, having regard to article 6, paragraph 5, and, if applicable, the difficulties and challenges encountered.

**In 2013-2015 Global Water Partnership (GWP) together with World Meteorological organization (WMO) run a joint Integrated Drought Management Programme to improve monitoring and prevention of droughts in the Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). Lithuania participated in this programme together with the other 9 CEE countries. The main expectations of the programme were: a) Guidelines for preparation of the drought management plans within river basin management plans according to European Union Water Framework Directive; b) National consultation dialogues to discuss preparation of drought management plans; c) Compendium of good practices; d) Drought information exchange platform; e) Demonstration projects**

**testing innovative solutions for better resilience to drought; f) Capacity building trainings and workshops on national and regional levels.**

**The guidelines for preparation of the drought management plans were prepared in 2015 and translated into national languages. The drought related database as well as demonstration projects for better resilience to drought were also completed in 2015. The national consultation dialogues concerning preparation to drought measures performed regularly, at least once per year.**

3. Assess the progress achieved towards the target.
4. In the review of progress achieved towards the target, has it appeared that the target and target date need to be revised, e.g., in the light of scientific and technical knowledge? If so, and if the revised target and target date have already been adopted, please describe them.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **Part Four**

### **Overall evaluation of progress achieved in implementing the Protocol**

In this part of the summary report, Parties shall provide an analysis and synthesis of the status of implementation of the Protocol. Such an overall evaluation should not only be based on the issues touched upon in the previous parts, but should also include, as far as possible, a succinct overview of implementation of activities related to, for example:

- (a) Response systems (article 8);
- (b) Public awareness, education, training, research and development and information (article 9);
- (c) Public information (article 10);
- (d) International cooperation (article 11);
- (e) Joint and coordinated international action (article 12);
- (f) Cooperation in relation to transboundary waters (article 13);
- (g) International support for national action (article 14).

This analysis or synthesis should provide a succinct overview of the status of and the trends and threats with regard to waters within the scope of the Protocol sufficient to inform decision makers, rather than an exhaustive assessment of these issues. It should provide an important basis for planning and decision-making as well as for the revision of the targets set, as needed.

Suggested length: up to 3 pages

#### ***Response systems***

**The biggest natural disaster, which could make an influence on drinking water quality in some Lithuanian regions, is flood. Nemunas River is the largest river in Lithuania. Floods happen every year in lower Nemunas River and delta. A big flood in these places occurs approximately every 12-15 year. Silute District Municipality is one of 60 municipalities in Lithuania, which is known for spring floods when ice on Neman River starts melting. This is the only municipality in Lithuania that gets flooded on regular basis. Every year a flood in Silute's region floods about 300 meters of the Silute – Rusne road and water on the road raises until 140 centimeters. A flooded road blocks a transport communication with Rusne's island in which live about 2500 people. Furthermore, flood makes big influence to small-scale water supplies in rural areas.**

**In accordance with the procedure laid down by the Lithuanian Law on Drinking Water (Article 12), the quality of drinking water in Lithuania (in flood area as well) is controlled by the State Food and Veterinary Service, which annually announces data on water quality to the Ministry of Health and informs general public.**

**Institutions organize activities according to the State Emergency situations management plan, which is confirmed by Governmental decision, Nr. 1503 on 20 October 2010:**

**- Municipalities are responsible for flood warning for its citizens, evacuation from flood zone, accommodation and providing of drinking water if necessary. Public health bureaus of Municipalities are responsible for public information about communicable water-related diseases and appropriate preventive Health measures.**

- Public health centers are responsible for epidemiological surveillance and control of water-related communicable diseases.

- Health Emergency Situations Centre of the Ministry of Health prepares information about negative flood impact to health and how to reduce it and announces updated recommendations and advice for public and general practitioners on the website <http://www.essc.sam.lt>

#### *Public information and public participation*

The importance of up to date information on the quality of drinking, bathing and pool water can not be underestimated. This information is easily available for public in different ways such as leaflets, newspapers and Internet. Severe problems are duly informed in the media.

In accordance with the procedure laid down by the Law on Drinking Water, adopted on 10 July 2001, the quality of drinking water in Lithuania (in flood area as well) is controlled by the State Food and Veterinary Service, which annually announces data on water quality.

Information on drinking water supply and waste water management for subscribers (users) assigned to water suppliers. According to the Order of the Minister of Environment water suppliers must inform the subscribers (users) of drinking water quality deterioration, accidents, planned potable water supply and waste water management services interruptions and other changes that may affect the retail (consumer), water use, safe and efficient water supply infrastructure, the development of water pricing, and retail (consumer) services, outreach plan for the creation and enforcement of the provision of information to subscribers (consumers) in accordance with their requests.

The Ministry of Environment publishes background information, relating to water quality management through the telecommunications equipment (mainly the Ministry of Environment website), where is placed:

- The European Union and national legislation and other documents, related to the management of the water quality;
- The documents, strategy, action plan and program, which are related to the Baltic Sea protection and policy;
- Other relevant public information (about individual water management, etc.).

Environmental Protection Agency provides information on water quality and human activities on surface water status in Lithuania. Every year, Agency prepares and releases statistical information brochure - "State of the Environment 20XX. Only Facts", where the most pressing and important environmental issues and the country's direction on this review, an analysis of findings are published. Furthermore, approximately every five years the LEPA produces a more in-depth publication on the state of the environment, which encompass longer trends, time-period for the assessment and more detailed and complex analysis. According to 1991 21 May Council Directive 91/271/EEC, concerning urban waste water treatment, every two years Environmental Protection Agency submits a report to inform the public about waste water and sludge management in Lithuania. The Lithuanian Environmental Protection Agency also is administrating web pages [www.gamta.lt](http://www.gamta.lt) and [aplinka.lt](http://aplinka.lt) where information/data on water issues (monitoring of water bodies, data on water use or wastewater and so on) can be found. Information on water bodies and their physical characteristics is placed on the River, Lake and Reservoir Cadastre webpage (<https://uetk.am.lt>). In order to raise public awareness and improve its involvement in water management, in 2012 the timetable for the elaboration of River Basin

Management Plans, according to which they are now prepared (project - part of Water Sector Development Programme for 2016-2021), has been renewed and made available for the public.

Currently, the public can obtain information on water quality in the presence of assessing the economic impact on the environment, spatial planning, delivery notes and suggestions for new legislation. Communities could be created and represent their views, volunteer water monitoring could be carried. There are allowed for public to access accepted reporting procedures.

Furthermore, the information about the Protocol implementation is posted on the web side of the Centre for Health Education and Diseases Prevention. ([www.smlpc.lt](http://www.smlpc.lt)).

#### *Joint and coordinated action*

For 3 decades Lithuania has made great efforts to improve and preserve the water quality. After the Protocol was ratified (2004), the stakeholders concerned with the Protocol attended an initial meetings to share information and opinions on the Protocol on Water and Health. Closer collaboration between different institutions began in 2011 in order, on the one hand, to prepare the Summary Report and, on the other, to launch the target-setting process. The future implementation of the Protocol will be discussed in the oncoming meetings of coordination group.

Setting targets in relation to water is not new for Lithuania – targets and requirements are embedded in the legislation. What is new about the strategy of the Protocol for Lithuania? The Protocol promotes cooperation between the relevant stakeholders concerned with water and provides the option of enforcing the setting of targets or of lending greater weight to certain targets. The Protocol on Water and Health provides the opportunity to develop or extend national databases in order to produce a central overview of the water quality of the water resources and drinking water. Such an overview, in turn, will form the basis for future decisions and strategies designed to achieve further improvements in water quality.

#### *Cooperation in relation to transboundary waters, International support for national action*

Lithuania has been raising the issues regarding effective water management and protection of water resources since 2009, when plans of Belarus and Russian nuclear power plants became officially known. Sufficient water resources are needed at Kaliningrad and Belarus NPPs not only to cool down reactors in the course of normal operation, but also to contain nuclear fires and reduce the leakage of nuclear contaminants into the atmosphere in the case of an accident. The water that the Belarus plant will be drawing to cool down its reactors will be from Lithuanian river Neris (the largest tributary of the Nemunas and the second largest river in Lithuania). Meanwhile, Russia is planning to divert part of the sizeable Nemunas River to fill the cooling basin of Kaliningrad NPP. Worth mentioning that 72 % of the total area of the Nemunas River Basin is situated in Lithuania.

Lithuania is concerned over the potential environmental damage the Nemunas delta may be subjected to during the plants' operation, including the thermal impact of the service water, but also radioactive and chemical contamination. It is certain that any down-flowing return of contaminated water from the NPP into the river Nemunas would seriously endanger the downstream part of the entire river basin and the inhabitants living along its shores. Consequently, Lithuania has been raising this issue at international, regional and bilateral meetings and forums.

**Target 1: Raising the issues of effective water management on international level.**

During the meeting of the Parties to the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, which took place on 17-19 November, 2015 in Budapest, Lithuania stressed the importance of sustainable planning, building and operating of water and energy infrastructure and systems while preserving and improving water resources and the functioning of life supporting ecosystems. Lithuania also encouraged its neighbouring countries to establish, implement and further strengthen cooperative legal and institutional frameworks for effective management of transboundary water basin.

Water security issues have been touched upon during Informal High Level Meeting of the Water Agenda at the World Economic Forum on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2016 in Davos. Lithuania's President Dalia Grybauskaitė emphasized that transboundary water cooperation should be based on the international conventions and agreements on water resource use, management and protection also on transboundary environmental impact assessments. She also added that no country should unilaterally implement large scale energy and hydro projects without taking into the consideration the possible consequences for its neighbours, since unsafe projects put at risk too much. In case of the nuclear disaster, water, food and agriculture chain would be contaminated with the harmful levels of radiation.

**Target 2: Raising the issues of effective water management on European level.**

In 2013 the EU Council adopted conclusions on water diplomacy. The conclusions stress water security challenges including: climate change; economic development; population growth; and the balance between water uses such as water and sanitation, agriculture, industry and energy. The conclusions acknowledge the commitment of the EU to address causes of water insecurity including through water and sanitation programmes designed to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In addition, the conclusions encourage promotion of international water cooperation agreements such as the legal frameworks established by the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (UNECE Water Convention) and the UN Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (UN Watercourses Convention).

In accordance to the conclusions, Lithuania focuses on the main principles of water diplomacy and systematic promotion of those principles as the basis for addressing water security issues and for the development of regional and bilateral river basin agreements.

**Target 3: Raising the issues of effective water management on bilateral level.**

The 1992 UNECE Helsinki Convention obliges Parties to prevent, control, and reduce transboundary impact, use transboundary waters in a reasonable and equitable way and ensure their sustainable management. Parties sharing the same transboundary waters shall cooperate by entering into specific agreements establishing joint bodies. Consequently, Lithuania has been making efforts to sign the agreement on the cooperation in management Nemunas River Basin District with Russia and Belarus since 2003. However, after Lithuania joined to the EU, Russia resigned the negotiation on the agreement.

30-31 October 2014, the project of bilateral Technical protocol on Cooperation in the Protection and Use of Water Resources in the Transboundary Nemunas River Basin between Lithuania and Belarus was agreed during expert meeting in Vilnius. The protocol has been one of the priority issue of bilateral agenda between Lithuania and Belarus. However, Belarus has not signed it yet.

## Part Five

### Information on the person submitting the report

The following report is submitted on behalf of **Lithuania** [name of the Party or the Signatory] in accordance with article 7 of the Protocol on Water and Health.

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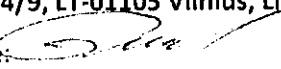
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## **Submission**

Parties are required to submit their summary reports to the joint secretariat, using the present template and in accordance with the adopted guidelines on reporting, by **18 April 2016**. Submission of the reports ahead of this deadline is encouraged, as this will facilitate the preparation of analyses and syntheses to be made available to the third session of the Meeting of the Parties.

Parties are requested to submit, to the two addresses below, an original signed copy by post and an electronic copy either on a CD-ROM or by e-mail. Electronic copies should be available in word-processing software, and any graphic elements should be provided in separate files.

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