

Process of preparation of the reports:

Cooperation among institutions/stakeholders involved, and data gathering

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BACKGROUND

- Protocol signed by Finland 6/1999
- Preparations for the ratification of the Protocol were started practically immediately thereafter by a working group set up by Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. All relevant ministries and institutes participated in the work
- Ratification took place 3/2005

PREPARATORY WORK FOR SETTING OF TARGETS AND DATES

- Responsibility for the defining of targets and dates was entrusted with the aforementioned working group
- Points in article 6 were scrutinized in detail and national targets as well as target dates were delineated
- Grounds for above mentioned proposals were explained (i.e. legislation and local (national) circumstances)
- Proposals of the group were published on the web pages of the Ministry. They were also sent to the stake-holders for their comments.

MINISTERIAL DECISION

- Public hearing was organized by the Ministry for more than 40 representatives of various stake-holders and of interested parties.
- Final version of the Ministerial Decision was prepared after the hearing. The Decision was promulgated 15.12.2008.
- Basic elements on which the Decision is based and derived from:
 - Existing national and EU-legislation
 - Principles of the protection of Finnish watercourses
 - Program for the protection of Baltic Sea
 - Any other relevant strategies, programs and decisions

PILOT REPORTING

- The above working group led by the Ministry has the responsibility to prepare the documents for pilot-reporting
- Workload is shared between all responsible stakeholders. Subdocuments will be assembled into the pilot-report.
- The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health will submit the report to the secretariat by the end of March 2010

COMMENTS

- Indicators used in pilot-reporting are workable
- Availability of data determines the choice of the reference year. All indicators are not necessarily based on the same year.
- It is important that the definition of indicators is done as early as possible; this will guarantee the uniformity of subsequent reports and safeguard the conformity and comparability of reports (even with different countries at least to some extent).
- Commitment and joint evaluation of the targets by various operators in individual countries may bring forward development needs which otherwise might not have been detected.

REQUIREMENTS

- The fulfillment of the requirements of the Protocol is challenging and steps to be taken are numerous
- Logistic systems for the collection, storing and analyzing of the data of water quality, quantity and epidemics etc. are of critical importance.
- Prioritization of measures to be taken is unavoidable. Everything can not be accomplished at once.
- Monetary and professional as well as manpower constraints may effectively limit and slowdown the implementation of targets irrespective of their importance to the improvement of water quality, quantity and sanitary measures.