Water and Health Protocol
Progress in preparation of National Report
Lithuania

The Protocol on Water and Health

was ratified on **March 7, 2004**

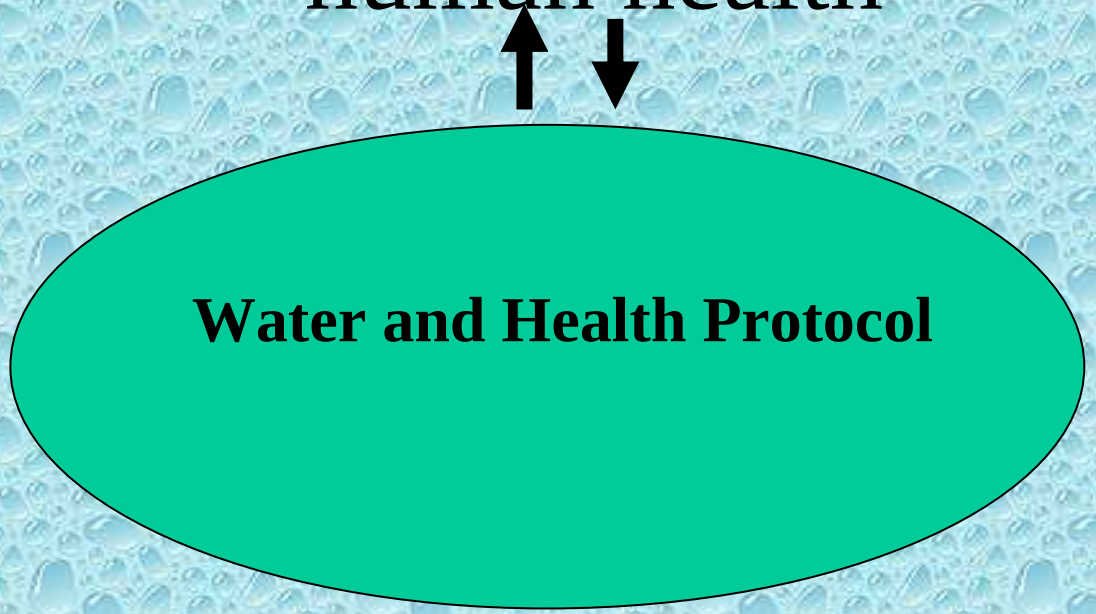
in Lithuania

Why Protocol is important for us?

The Protocol is important for us:

- in case of transboundary rivers (with Belarus and Latvija) and Baltic Sea.
- in context of co-operation in health aspects and environmental related to management of tranboundary waters
- in increasing the population proportions served by collective systems of drinking-water supply and sanitation
- in tackling water supply and sanitation problems in rural areas.

To plan some actions it needs to be taken into account any potential impact of this action on human health



First Stage

- To facilitate and coordinate the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health the **working group** under the leadership of the Ministry of Health was established by the order of the Minister of Health and Minister of Environment on June 21, 2004.

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

There were 10 targets:

- **1**. to create legal, administrative and economic provisions that would be stable and would promote the implementation of the targets

- **2**. to establish national arrangements for coordination between the competent authorities and for relations maintained with other states at the intergovernmental level;

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

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

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

- **6.** to establish preventive, surveillance systems for the outbreaks of water-related diseases

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

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

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

- **10**. to provide to the secretariat data about progress achieved

(this is the responsibility of Ministry of Health)

Legislations

Water quality

- Law on Drinking Water, 2001
- Order of Minister of Health "Diagnostics and prophylaxis for the water pollution with nitrites and nitrates“, 2002.
- Order of director of State Food and Veterinary Service "State Order of drinking water quality control“, 2003.
- Lithuanian Standard (Hygiene Norm of Lithuania) HN 24:2003 “Safety and Quality Requirements of Drinking Water, 2003
- Lithuanian Standard (Hygiene Norm of Lithuania) HN 43:2005 “Dug wells and sources: equipment and supervising safety requirements, 2005
- Programme for the evaluation and use of groundwater resources for drinking-water supply for 2007–2025, 2007

Sanitation and sewage

- **Law on Supply of Drinking-water and Wastewater Management, 2006**
- **Strategy of development on supply of drinking-water and wastewater management 2008–2015, 2008**
- Regulation on wastewater management, approved by Order D1-515 of the Minister of Environment, 2007

Bathing water quality

- Lithuanian Hygiene Standard HN 92:2007: Beaches and their bathing water quality, 2007
- National Programme on the Monitoring of Bathing Water Quality 2009–2011, 2009

Swimming pool water quality

- Swimming pools. Installation, surveillance, requirements of health and safety, 2005

The most important is:

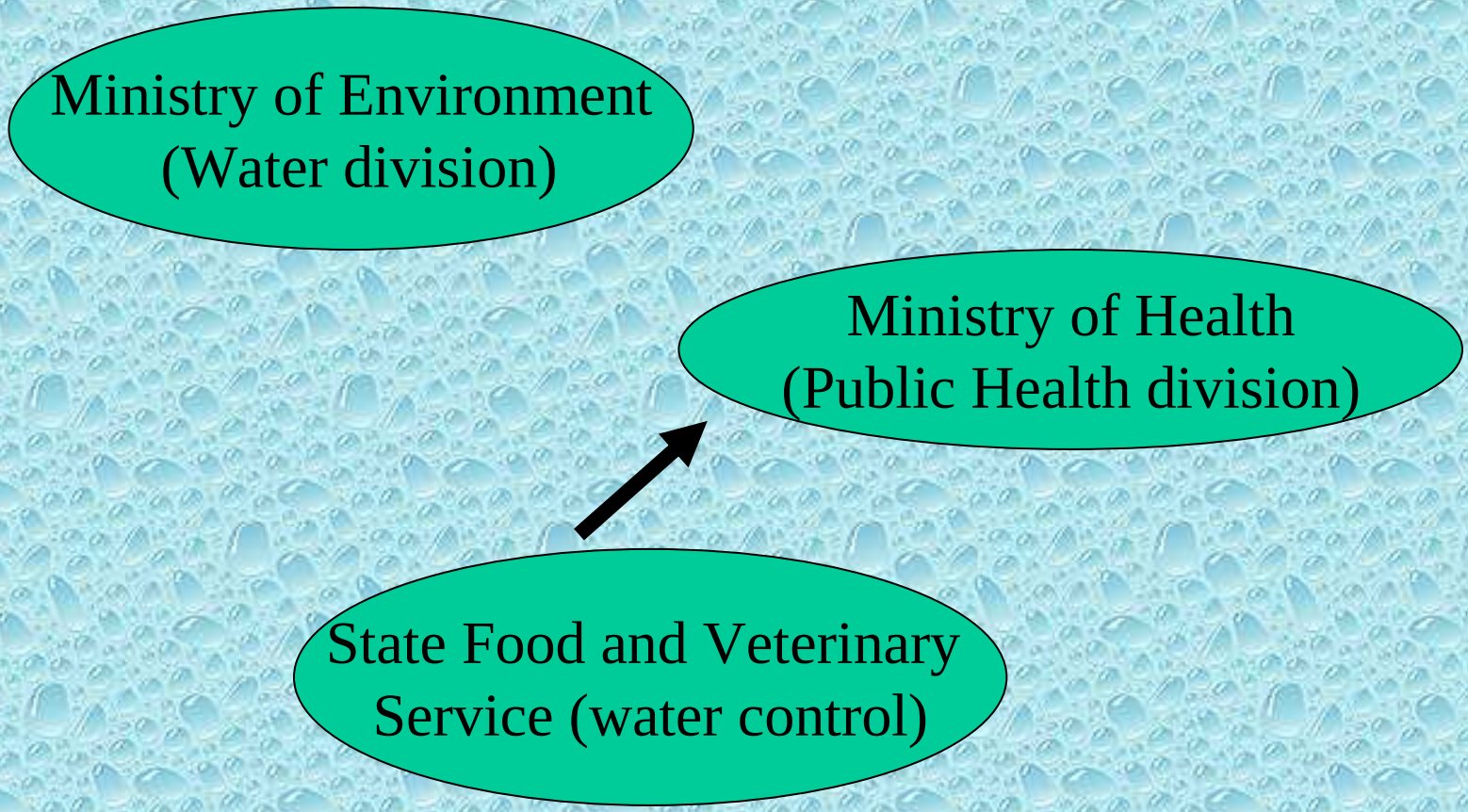
- **The strategy of development on supply of drinking- water and wastewater management (2008–2015)**

Targets and actions for each year are included in this strategy

Second stage

Preparation of National Report

Who takes part in current reporting?



Who must be responsible for report?

Minister of Environment

Minister of Health

(Enforcement of reporting →

Two ministers received official letters from UN EC , WHO)

Ministry of Health (Public Health division)

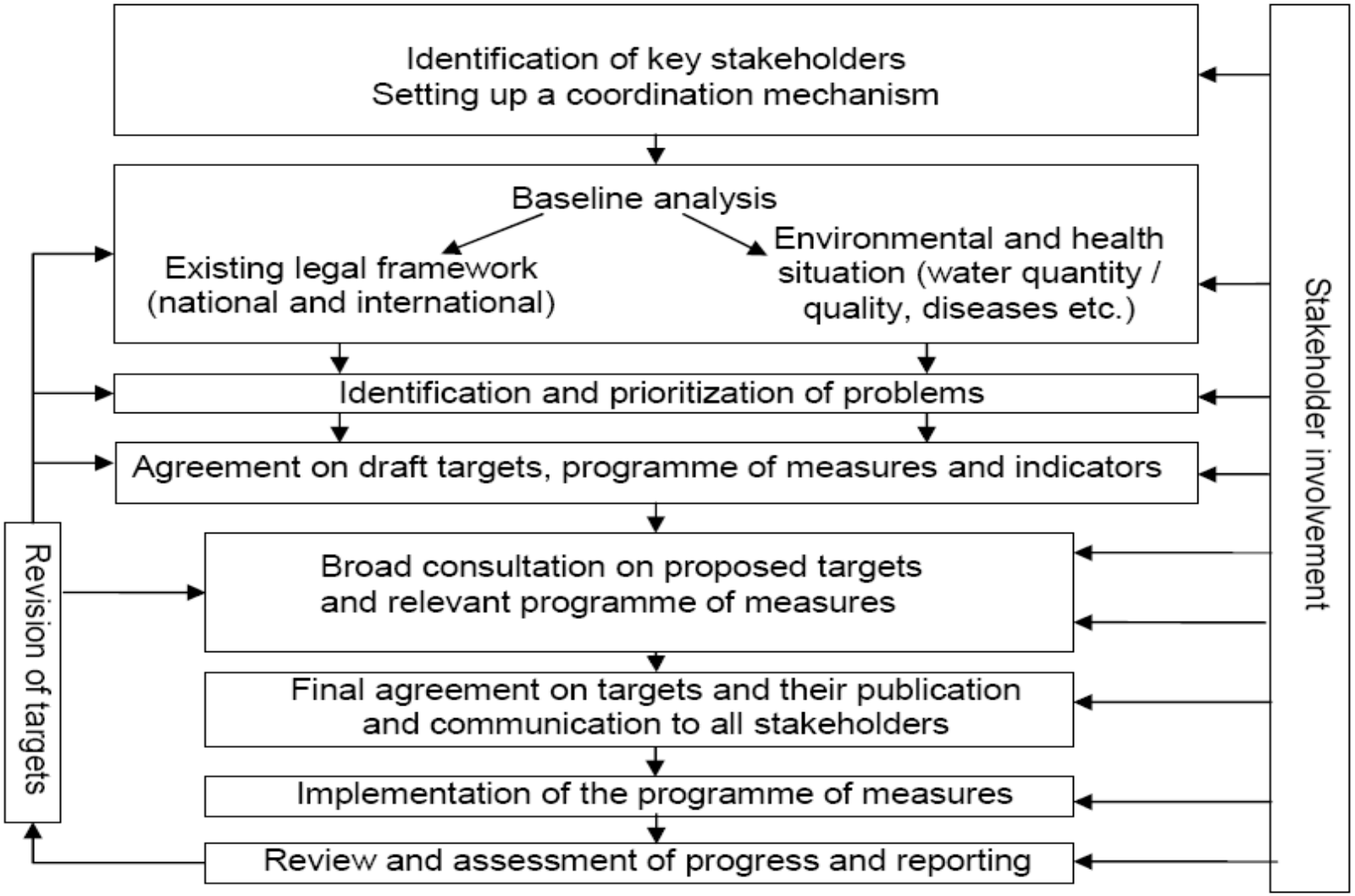
- *Institute of Hygiene*
- *Communicable Diseases and AIDS centre*
- *State Environmental Health Centre*

Ministry of Environment
(Water division)

- *State Geology Service*
- *The Environmental Protection agency*

The role of agencies other than the Ministries of Health and the Ministries of the Environment needs to be recognized

Figure II. Logical framework for the process of setting targets



Framework for the process of setting targets in our practice

- 1. Setting up a coordination mechanism.
- 2. Baseline analysis (Existing legal framework, Environmental and health situation). Identification and prioritization of problems.
- 3. *Preparation of National strategy.*
- 4. Implementation of National strategy, National programmes. Review and implementation of the National measures. *Determination of targets.*
- 5. Preparation of National report.
- 6. Baseline analysis (water quantity /quality, diseases etc.)
- 7. The gaps identification
- 8. Targets revision

Problems in the preparation of National report

- *1. There is no separate financial support for target setting and for Protocol implementation in Lithuania.*
- *2. The cooperation between different institutions involved is no sufficient.*
- *3. Structural reorganization and changes*

COMMON INDICATORS

- **Analysis of data**

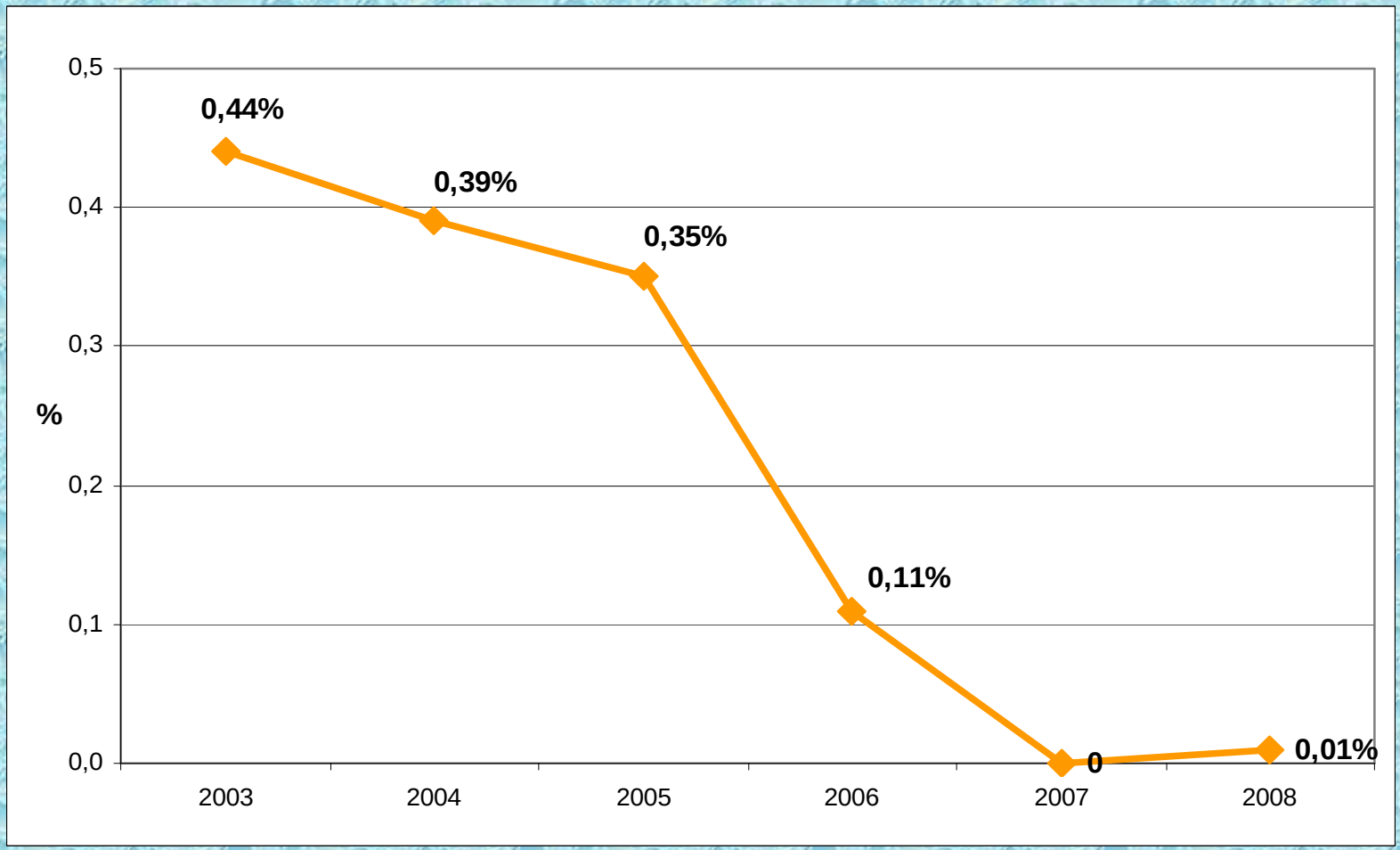
  State Food and Veterinary Service collects and analyzes the data about drinking water quality and supplies it to Ministry of Health.

FORMAT FOR SUMMARY REPORTS UNDER THE PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH

- **PART TWO: COMMON INDICATORS**[1]

[1] WatSan_S2:

Figure 1. Proportion of drinking water samples with E.coli or with faecal streptococci exceeding the guideline value of 0/100 ml water over time period.



FORMAT FOR SUMMARY REPORTS UNDER THE PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH

- **PART TWO: COMMON INDICATORS**[1]

[1] WatSan_S3:

Figure 2. Proportion of the drinking water analyses with chemical parameters exceeding the respective Lithuanian threshold values over a given time period.

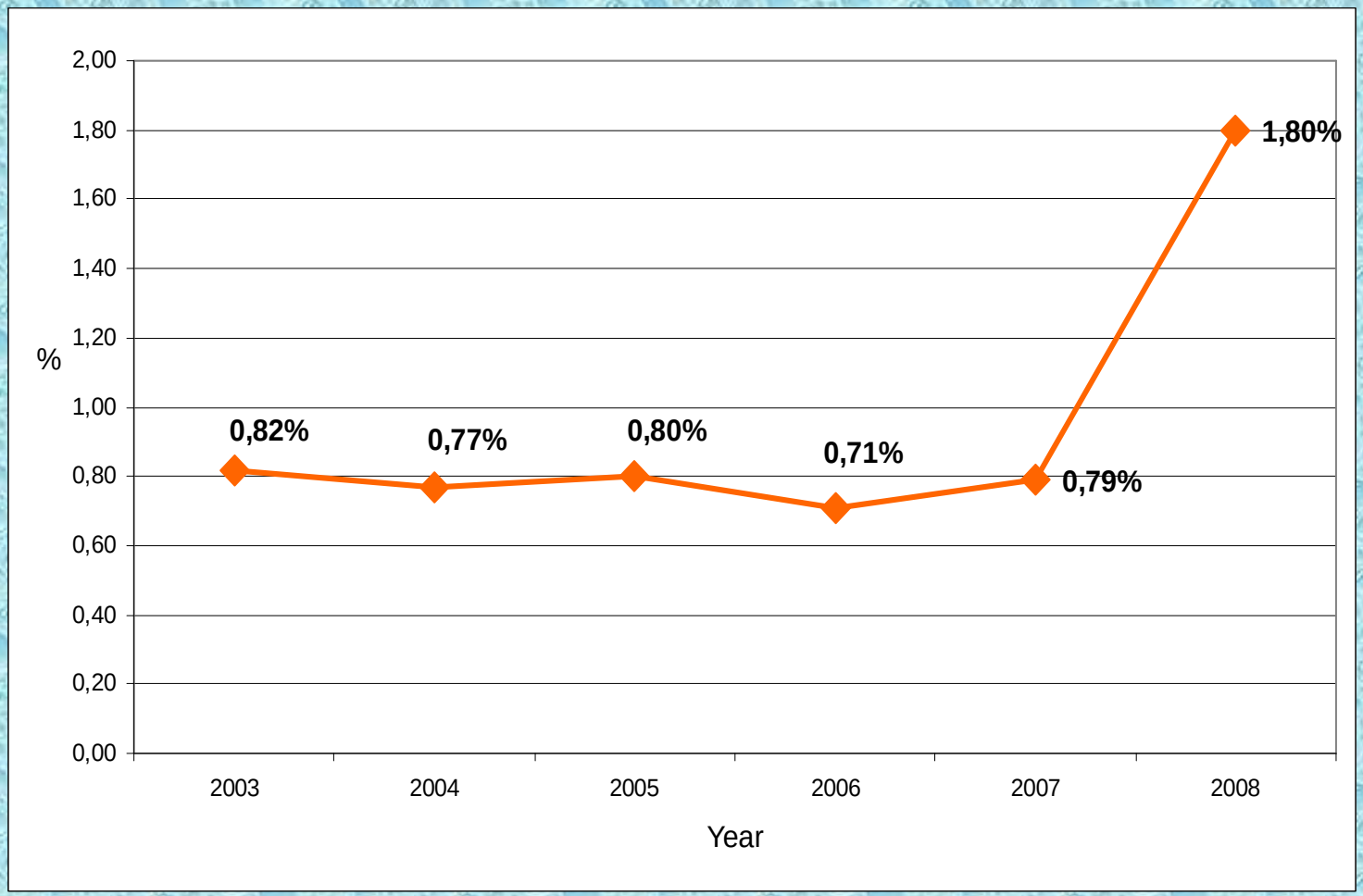
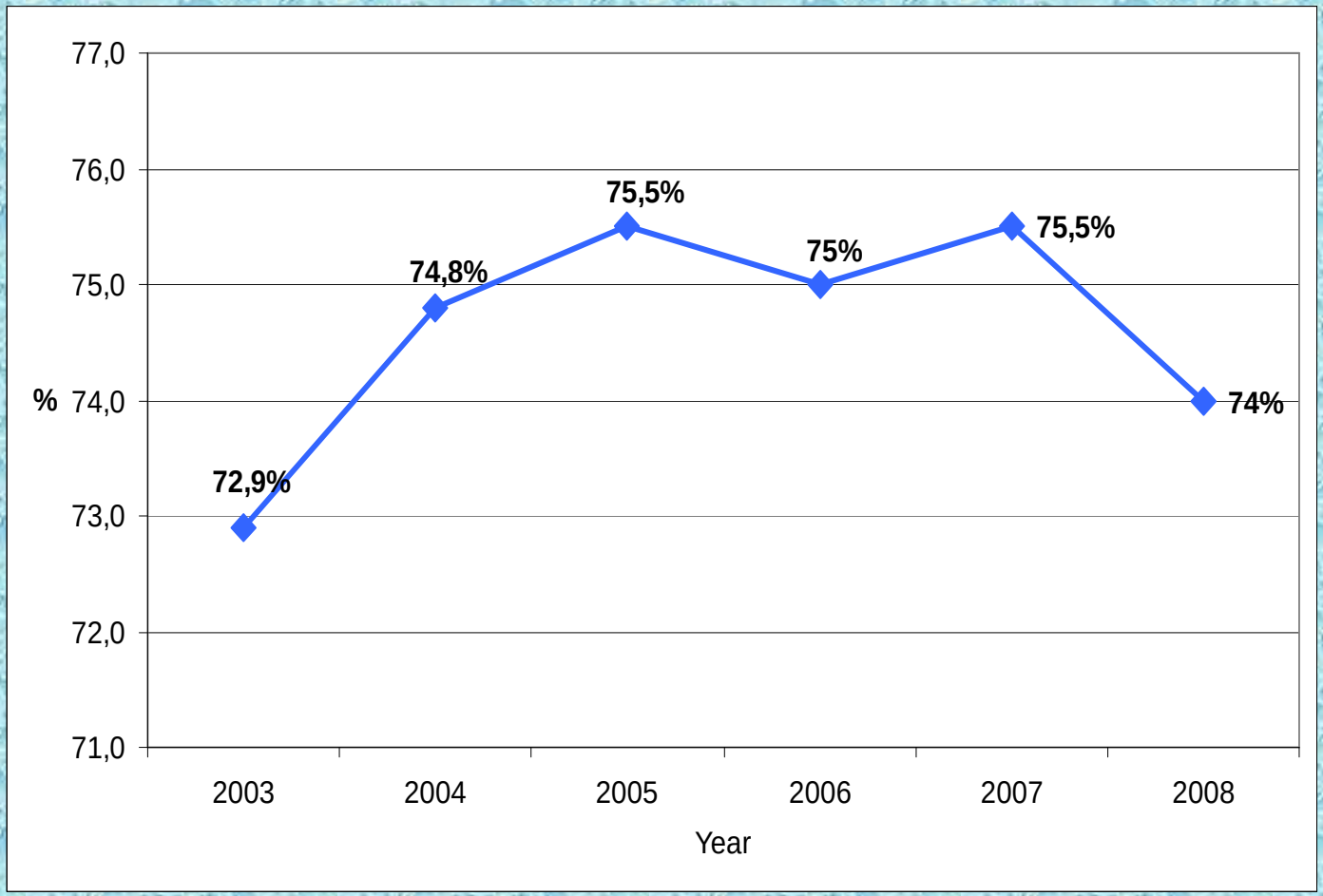


Figure 3. Percentage of the population with continuous access to safe drinking water in the home, in Lithuania in 2003 – 2008.



No data about Dug wells water

- How much? Monitoring ? Quality?
- According the order of Minister of Health, "Diagnostics and prophylaxis for the water pollution with nitrites and nitrates“ the municipal Public Health Centers examine and control water from dug wells in the places were pregnant women and babies (until 6 months) are living and using water from wells.

Dug wells water ?

- About 1 million inhabitants (mostly in rural areas and suburbs) use groundwater from dug wells for food. Well water is often polluted and does not meet drinking water safety and quality requirements.
- It is the only source of drinking water for the inhabitants. It is dangerous, first of all, due to the bacterial contamination (50% of dug wells) and high contents of nitrates (40%). Usually well water is shallow groundwater (mostly at depths of 5-15 m deep), thus farming is very important for the quality of this water. Well water quality depends on the location of the well, its installation of maintenance. As small garden-plots are used for intensive farming, it is impossible to find a remote place for a well. Redundant fertilizers, which are not absorbed by the plants, pass into groundwater and contaminate the drinking water supplies by nitric compounds and bacteria.

Fluoride

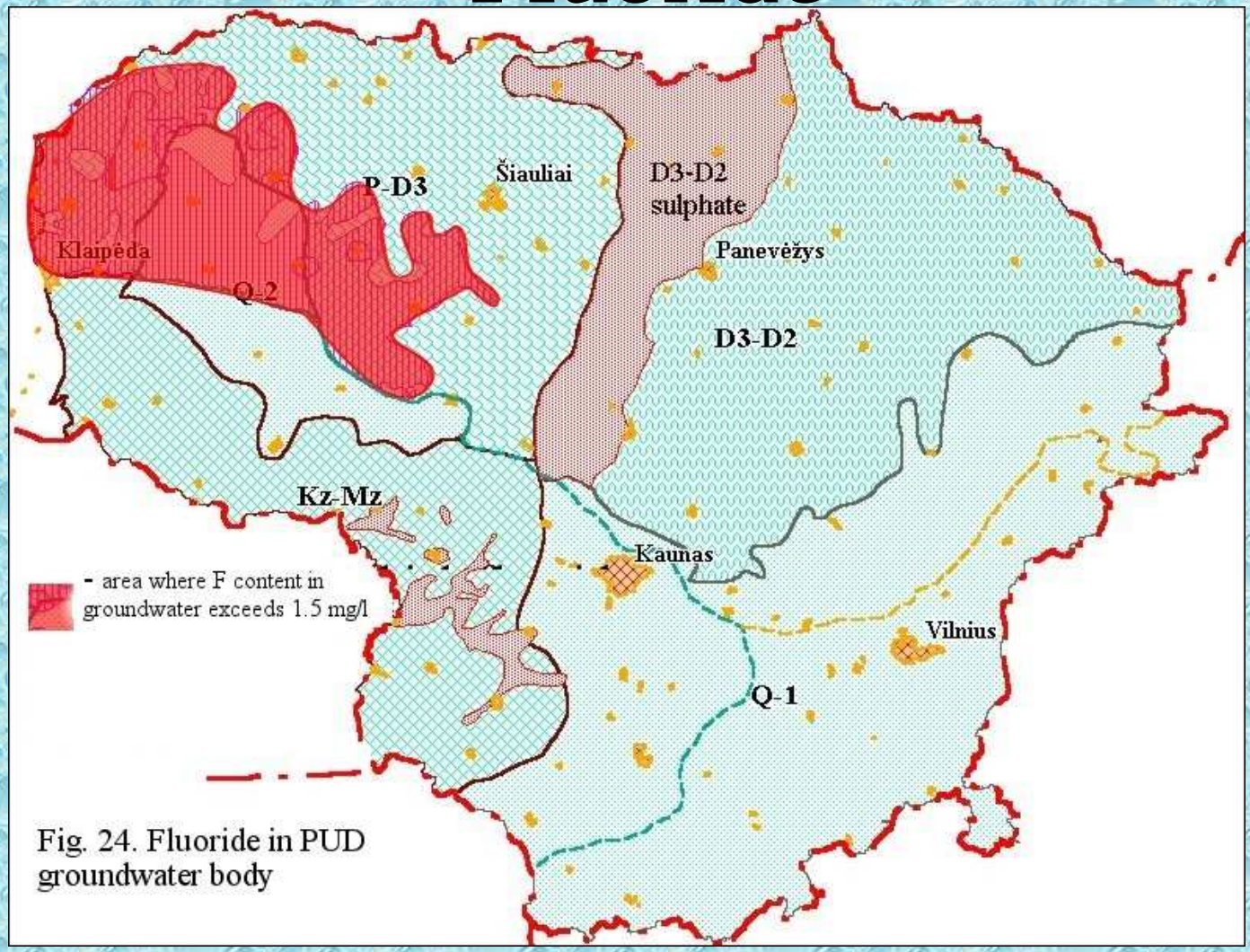


Fig. 24. Fluoride in PUD groundwater body

Conclusion

Plan of actions:

- To focus on the process of interinstitual collaboration
- To identify the gaps in data collection and evaluation of indicators
- To identify the gaps of Strategy and programmes.
- To attend to include the public into the process

- To establish new active working group for bringing together the ongoing activities
- To do the presentation and explanation of guidelines
- Discussion about this items is need
- To pay attention to importunacy of training programmes in Lithuania

Contact information

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Thank you for your attention!