

Workshop on setting targets and reporting under  
the Protocol on Water and Health,  
10-11 February 2009, Geneva, Switzerland

# Progress achieved by Parties and Signatories in setting targets under the Protocol on Water and Health

*Based on the survey conducted prior to the Workshop  
and the 1<sup>st</sup> Task Force Meeting on Indicators and  
Reporting (10-11 March 2008)*

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# Survey

## Objectives:

- To provide an overview of the current status of the processes on setting targets under the Protocol on Water and Health
- To support discussion during the workshop
- To share information among Parties/Signatories/Interested countries

## Method:

Templates disseminated among Parties and Signatories

## Responses received:

Total: **23**

Parties: **16**

Signatories: **2**

Other countries: **5**

## Status of the target setting process

Finished: **4**

Ongoing: **16**

Planned: **3**

# Targets, general characteristics 1

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- Mixture of different aspects (not necessary all areas under Art.6 of the Protocol covered) measured by quantitative and qualitative indicators
- The number of targets and the level of details vary significantly (from general statements e.g. increase access to water without indicators, to very detailed targets with sophisticated indicators)
- Only a few countries reported having a specific approach, adopted for formulating targets; often a list of national actions, legislative acts and/or lists of EU obligations were provided, without references to the Protocol

# Targets, general characteristics 2

- In few cases only “environmental targets” were set, without input from the health sector, in one case two separate templates (from environment and health) were provided to the secretariat
- The main focus for countries with economies in transition is on access to water and sanitation (building new, or improvement of existing infrastructures)
- Number of countries highlighted special needs for local/rural areas
- For European countries the main and source of inspiration and reference is EU legislation (mainly compliance with WFD and Drinking Water Directive), usually the timetable and indicators of progress are in line with the those applied for EU
- Among non - EU members, a frequent reference to WHO guidelines is made

# Institutions/Coordination mechanisms

- The main drivers of the process: Ministries of Environment and Health
- Other Ministries involved: Foreign Affairs, Administration, Agriculture, Economy and Public Finance, Interiors and Administrative Reform, Social Affairs
- The task of setting targets is given to institutions working under the umbrella of the Ministries: state agencies, committees, scientific community, (institutes for hygiene/health, environment), water associations, NGO's
- Parties which set the targets or well advanced in the process, reported having an inter-ministerial coordinating body at the national level, at the local level existing structures (River Basin Committees) are involved
- Good cooperation between different authorities and clearly divided responsibilities is crucial (painless process of setting targets)

# Public Participation

- In majority countries the public is informed through websites, newsletters issued by the relevant ministries, articles in press (with documents and drafts available for the public to comment on during the whole process)
- A few countries referred to their national and international (Aarhus Convention) obligations to inform the public about the state, measures taken/programmers developed in the field of environment
- Forms of public involvement included: public hearing, workshops and campaigns
- One country reported a very low interest of NGO's and the general public in participating and providing input to the process, although targeted letters/e-mails, invitations were disseminated
- In couple of cases the responses were not given

# Financing

- No separate budget created, in vast majority of countries the funding for setting targets comes from regular ministry(ies) budget's)
- International organizations, and funds, grants, bilateral agreements, projects between countries
- EU pre-accession funds (ISPA, SAPARD, SAMTID, PHARE)
- In-kind contributions from individually invited experts, research institutes

# Challenges in setting targets

- The extensive division of tasks between different authorities
- Lack of awareness among the NGO's, the general public, but also among the governmental authorities
- No separate funding (especially for the public hearings, meetings with stakeholders)
- Lack of, or not sufficient cooperation among institutions involved, in some cases power-struggle between Ministries of Health and Environment
- Weak administrative capacity on the national and local levels
- No existing (definite) mechanism and indicators to measure progress towards prevention of water related diseases

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***THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION***

<http://www.unece.org/env/water/welcome.html>