

# Public participation in the targets setting process

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# Aarhus Convention

***“in the field of the environment, improved access to information and public participation in decision-making enhance the quality and the implementation of decisions, contribute to public awareness of environmental issues, give the public the opportunity to express its concerns and enable public authorities to take due account of such concerns”.***

# Protocol on water and health

**Promotes the Aarhus principles and develops norms by setting the requirements to enhance the awareness of all sectors of public on water and health issues, to provide the public access to information, to involve public into the targets setting, evaluating and reporting process, Art. 6, p.29 and Art.10.**



# Protocol on water and health

Protocol is aimed to improve the access to safe water and to guarantee the right to water for everybody and for future generations.

Public is a key actor in the water sector – as a water consumer - polluter

Public involvement and participation is an important condition for Protocol implementation. Stakeholders, including public have to be involved at all stages of the process

# Public participation

- Why it is important?
- Who can be involved?
- How to organize?

# Public involvement- Why it is important?

- to raise public awareness on Water and Health problems and solutions of them
- To inform about the aim of the Protocol and to get a common understanding and public support of the Protocol implementation
- To identify and to range/ prioritize the WH problems
- to set realistic targets and develop realistic programs of measures
- to share the responsibility for the implementation.
- To monitor the progress.

***Involvement public into targets setting can contribute***

- ***into information exchange on current local water and health situation***
- ***by knowledge of the local specifics and traditions to translate national –local targets.***
- ***into implementation of the programs at individual-local level***

# Who can be involved?

Public means all population as everybody is water consumer .

- The education tasks: the Protocol is focus on broad public and setting the adequate educational program for all groups of the public.
- For targets setting it is important to involve the representatives of the main stakeholder groups. Usually public is represented by NGOs, associations of water consumers, charity funds, water associations of professionals, river basin councils, river NGO-networks and others

# **NGOs the most active and the best organized part of the public**

actively work:

- on public informing and education on the water problems and solutions;
- to promote the dialogue between stakeholders (state authorities, water utilities, science, business and public) and to represent public concern;
- to protect the rights of the citizens to a healthy environment and consumers' rights to clean and affordable water;
- to protect water resources and promote economical use of water.

# How to involve public?

There are several instruments which have to be put in time and in place during the Protocol implementation from the initial stage on targets setting process

- Awareness raising campaign on PWH
- Public informing about the TS process tasks and procedures (early informing by using all possible instruments), targets setup and implementation progress achieved
- Involvement public representatives into work of the coordination mechanism and specific sub –groups to it
- Organization of broad public consultations on targets and action programs and
- participation into the Protocol implementation:

# 1 Example: Targets Setting in EECCA policy-making processes

2000: European ECO-Forum with a support of EAP TF organized 3 regional seminars and public consultations on WS reforming in NIS .

- Rural water sector was recognized by public as a priority for NIS WSS reforming, which has to be on the agenda of the Almaty process.
- *“NGOs are able to play a greater role in the process of drafting, implementing and monitoring water reform plans at all levels. NGOs can explain to the public the necessity of reforming the water sector, disseminate information on the reforms underway and promote the dialogue..”* “Joint Conclusions of Almaty Ministerial Consultation”, Kazakhstan, October, 2000

2007-2008: financial strategies for rural sector reforming are on the agenda of the National Policy Dialogues in Moldova, Armenia, Georgia.

# Example 2: MAMA-86's study of nitrates contamination of wells

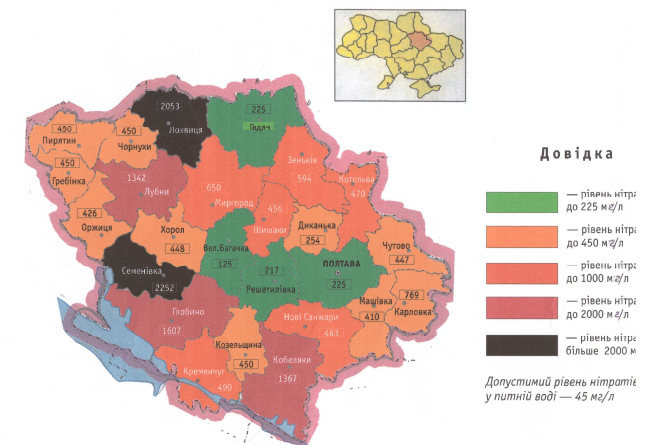
- Initiated by MAMA-86- Poltava in 2000 by studying of “blue baby syndrome” and wells water contamination in Poltava oblast of Ukraine.
- in 1998-2000 annually 10-13 babies died in Poltava oblast because of nitrates acute intoxication related to drinking water.



2001-2003 the Public awareness raising campaign on nitrates contamination and water, mapping of the contamination wells pilots implementation: WS rehabilitation in 3rayons: 8000 villagers of 6 villages improved the access to W.

2004-2006 - 4 MAMA-86 branches involved nitrates in wells study

Показники найвищого рівня нітратів у воді шахтних колодязів індивідуально та громадського користування по районах Полтавської області (дані за 1998-2000 рр.)



# Example 2: MAMA-86's study of nitrates contamination of wells (continuation)

2004-2006: MATRA Project  
in cooperation with WECF

3 children water projects were  
implemented in 3 villages : mapping of  
the contamination wells and public  
awareness raising,

2008 – in 9 regions the wells monitoring  
was done. Results were used for  
public informing and awareness  
raising campaign



## Example 3: Drinking Water Law of Ukraine: Public consultations

- 1999-2001 MAMA-86 initiated the public consultations and hearings of the Draft Law.
- 150 public amendments and comments were gathered and half of them were incorporated into the Law.

## Example 4: Program “Drinking Water of Ukraine”: Public consultations and participation in implementation

2004 – public consultations, lobbying the redrafting of the Program with incorporation of rural WSS into the scope of the Program

2003-2006 implementation of MATRA project in partnership with WECF on improvement access to safe water and sanitation in 3 villages

***2700 villages in 3 villages improved access to safe drinking water by wells cleaning and connection to WS.***

# main lessons of public involvement into decision-making process at local-national level

Democracy has no traditions in our society and democracy building is a long term process.

Public involvement needs resources (human, time, financing and others) as well as knowledge how to organize it. Lack of understanding the need on PP into the decision making, economical problems and lack of knowledge lead to simplification, manipulation or ignorance of public participation in decision making and replacement PP on top down decision making process.

Examples of positive practices on PP and Public involvement into targets setting, other water related decision making process ( Public consultations in context of River Basin action plan will be helpful as well as an examples from EECCA regions.

NGOs can contribute a lot into targets setting at local-national level and

NGOs, their partnership and networks play an important role into the public education and informing, organization of public involvement into Protocol implementation, including targets setting process.

**Thank you for attention!**

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