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Thank you, Chair, for giving me the floor to brief the audience about one example of activity on water and health implemented by NGO.

Working on water and health definitely means dealing not only with drinking water but also with proper management of waste and grey water, human waste, as well as hygienic habits and behaviour, hygienic practices.

Our NGO works in rural areas of Bulgaria building ecological sanitation systems (urine-diverting dry toilets and planted soil filters) for private houses and public buildings.

42 % of the Bulgarian population lives in rural villages and towns. Only 2.1 % of this population has access to sewage systems, the others rely on toilets in the back yard and on pits for their wastewater.

It is great to have good political documents but the real change and improvement of the lives of people occurs only when these decisions are implemented in the places where people live and work, study, relax.

NGOs, together with other stakeholders have an important role to play so that the Protocol on Water and Health reaches the real people on the ground and makes their lives better.

At the moment our NGO works in two villages, we are building ecosov toilets and planted soil filters in households and in the village cultural centre. We see the immediate change and satisfaction, especially of women and youth.