



## Uncomfortable but important: getting sanitation and transboundary issues higher on the water agenda – examples from Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova and Tajikistan

**Date:** Wednesday, 16 November 2016

**Time:** 13.00-14.00

**Venue:** Salle XVII (Emirates Hall)

### Objective:

The main objective of this side event is to outline the target-setting work in Kyrgyzstan, demonstrate practical examples of how access to water and sanitation can be increased in rural areas in Tajikistan, as well as to highlight the important steps taken in the implementation of the Protocol in the Republic of Moldova. The side event will dive deeper into best practices and concrete examples than what has been heard in the MOP4 under Agenda item 6g.

### Programme:

13.00 - 13.05 Opening remarks  
*Mr. Renne Klinge, Minister, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Finland*

#### Session 1

Moderator *Ms. Tatiana Siniaeva, Eco-TIRAS, the Republic of Moldova*

13.05 - 13.15 Setting targets and using the Protocol as a tool to put sanitation onto the agenda  
*Ms. Bubujan Arykbaeva, Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic and Ms. Anna Kirilenko, BIOM NGO*

13.15 – 13.25 Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation in Tajikistan: Where National Sector priorities meet the Protocol on Water and Health  
*Ms. Nazokat Isaeva, National Programme Manager in Tajikistan, FinWaterWEI II Programme*

#### Session 2

Moderator *Ms. Saija Vuola, Project Manager, FinWaterWEI II Programme, International Affairs Unit, Finnish Environment Institute SYKE*

13.25 – 13.35 Action plan on the implementation of the Protocol in the Republic of Moldova  
*Mr. Ion Salaru, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Moldova and Ms. Serafima Tronza, Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova*

13.35 – 13.45 Necessity of transboundary cooperation under Article 13 of the Protocol  
*Ms. Tatiana Siniaeva, Eco-TIRAS NGO, the Republic of Moldova*

13.45 – 14.00 Questions and answers

### Background:

The UNECE/WHO-Europe Protocol on Water and Health has been negotiated specifically to ensure, by linking water management and health issues, the supply of safe drinking water and adequate sanitation for everyone. The Protocol takes a human-rights based approach, also a key feature in Finland's development policy. Putting sanitation on the agenda is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Protocol provides tools for enhancing policy work which aims at ensuring equitable access to water and sanitation. Despite the fact that Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan have not ratified the Protocol, they have within the National Policy Dialogues (NPD) agreed to apply this frame. In the Kyrgyz Republic, targets on water and health were set and adopted in 2013, providing a reference for other countries in the region.



In the Republic of Tajikistan, the targets were drafted for the application of the Protocol on Water and Health in 2012-2013, yet their adoption is still pending. The Programme for Finland's Water Sector Support to Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (FinWaterWEI II) supports a UNECE-led project which aims at assisting Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in revising and meeting these targets.

The Kyrgyz Republic will share its experiences in the target-setting process, especially how the Protocol has been used as a tool to bring different actors together. Kyrgyzstan is currently revising the targets to better fit with the existing reality. The Republic of Tajikistan will highlight practical experiences from the ground, as implemented by its development partners. These include sanitation training and building dry toilets, setting up Water Trust Funds and funding rural water schemes in mountainous regions, as well as a WHO-led project introducing Water Safety Planning in rural Tajikistan.

The Republic of Moldova is a Party of the Protocol on Water and Health from 2005. Since 2009, with the assistance from the Swiss Government and UNECE, the Republic of Moldova is realizing a project on the Protocol implementation. Within the project, the analysis of the situation on national level was done and priority target dates were developed in all 20 target areas of the Protocol (2009-2010). On October 20, 2010, ministers of environment and of health issued joint order by which the national target dates were approved and published. The permanent national Steering Committee composed from representatives of state agencies and public was established for coordination of activities on Protocol implementation.

As a next stage the National Program on Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health for 2016-2025 was developed with UNECE assistance and approved by Governmental regulation on September 16, 2016. The Program includes middle term and long term actions on implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health until 2025 such as prevention of water-related diseases, insurance of potable water quality and sustainable long-term management of water resources. In parallel several normative documents were developed and approved. Among them are the national norms on constructed wetlands as small facilities for waste sewage water purification in rural areas and on dry toilets construction and management. These technical documents were approved in 2016.

The Republic of Moldova and Ukraine have a positive experience of transboundary cooperation on the Dniester River basin in accordance with Article 13 of the Protocol, which is also a duty of Parties and is very important for the successful implementation of the Action Program to achieve its goals.