

**"Water scarcity and drought, the impact on human health
Can we manage?
Still a challenge?"**

Date: Monday, 14 November 2016, 13.30- 14.30, meeting room E1014/16

Organizers: The Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests in co-operation with National Meteorological Administration from Romania; and Joint Secretariat UNECE–WHO Regional Office for Europe Protocol on Water and Health;

Co-organizers: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Covasna, Romania, Ministry of Health and National Institute for Health, Italy, Dirección General del Agua, Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente, Spain.

Description: The side event will introduce WATER CoRe project made by the INTERREG IVC programme financed by the European Union's Regional Development Fund, under the theme "Water management in the context of climate change". WaterCore project on water scarcity and droughts has been developed by 7 EU Member States and provided an exchange platform for water scarcity and drought issues on regional and local level for all European regions.

The side event brings to the audience's attention also, the Romanian experience on the link between future activities under the Protocol water and health umbrella, and the tools for promoting best experience in water scarcity and drought related at human health, as well as the implementation of the adaptation measures which will have a major public health policy impact as countries take concrete actions to reduce climate change impacts.

Environmental health-risks related to climate change, water and sanitation in Italy are also shared within the side-event, together with specific actions under development to improve climate risk analysis for water resources and drinking water chain and to enlarge the long-term adaptation scenario, particularly focusing on resiliency of water service providers and on safe water reuse.

Spain will share their methods for anticipating responses to climate variability and approaches and measures to insure safe water provision to populations as well as approach to safe water reuse.

Objectives: The side event organised by the Romanian Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests in co-operation with the National Meteorological Administration, is aimed to promote the stakeholders' dialogue on good practices in various topics such as the demand-side of water management, managing drought events, climate change effects, public awareness and participation, to exchange information within the partnership, regional action plans and to transfer experiences between regions particularly in Central, Southern and Eastern Europe.

Summary for promotion use: Climate change, water scarcity and drought are one of the most challenging issues for water and health at the global level, problems that we are facing. Population safety and security, water and food security, economic growth and sustainable development, increasing prosperity, enhancing resilience to disasters and climate change, and improving public health, are issues of fundamental importance of every government.

Programme and speakers:

13.30-13.45

- Elena MATEESCU, Executive Director, National Meteorological Administration, Romania

13.45-14.00

- Luca LUCENTINI, Director of Section of Inland Water Hygiene, National Institute for Health, Italy

14.00-14.15

- Josefina MAESTU, Coordinadora de Análisis Económico del Agua, Dirección General del Agua, Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente, Spain

14.15-14.30

- Comments, Debates, Remarks



Moderators:

Ranieri GUERRA, Director General of Preventive Health at the Ministry of Health of Italy

Gheorghe CONSTANTIN, Director, Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests