Workshop on public participation, information and education in water and health related issues
General framework

- The communication process is essential for the public awareness regarding the activities developed within the Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (London, 17 June 1999).

- The objective is to promote a better understanding of the Protocol provisions and of the actions/initiatives carried out by the different bodies under the Protocol (Bureau, Task Forces, etc) under the Protocol’s programme of work.
The workshop on public participation, information and education in water and health related issues will take place on April – May 2010 in Bucharest, Romania.

The meeting will be held within the framework of the Programme of Work of the UNECE/WHO-EURO Protocol on Water and Health and jointly organized by the Government of Romania, UNECE, and WHO-EURO, and additional partners: international NGOs, the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice (Aarhus Convention).
Draft Communication Plan

- The workshop is addressed:
  - to all those who are involved in specific public awareness, education, training, research and development and information activities - in particular on water and health – at the local, national and international level, including governmental representatives, public authorities, international bodies, donors, academia, mass-media and non-governmental organizations.
The workshop will consist of the following sessions:

- (a) Access to information, public participation and education;
- (b) Benefits and challenges of public participation in policy planning;
- (c) Mechanism and tools for public participation under the Protocol;
- (d) Internal (inter-ministerial) and external (to the public) communication.
Working Group on Water and Health is invited to advise on:

- (a) Objectives and deliverables of the workshop;
- (b) Method of work, themes and issues to be dealt with during the workshop;
- (c) Speakers and experts who could be invited;
- (c) Potential partners who could be involved in the workshop organization.
Objectives and deliverables of the workshop

- Everybody invited in Geneva has to say his/her opinion on the objectives enumerated at point number 2 of the official material.

- Romanian part will appreciate very much everybody input in order to improve the issues stated as objectives as well as the language used to formulate them.
Method of work, themes and issues to be dealt with during the workshop

- Regarding the method of work we can propose:
  - lectures, study cases, discussions, education & awareness movies presentation, exhibition with materials already used by governmental and non/governmental parts, and field visit (maybe at Black Sea to see the advertising regarding bathing water quality, as well as the information for public).
Speakers and experts who could be invited

- The list of Romanian speakers is in progress based on preliminary contacts already established, and the aim is to involve as many stakeholders as possible (governmental institution, academic universities, professional associations, consumers’ associations, NGOs working in this field, media).

- Romania waits suggestions for the international speakers to be invited.
Potential partners who could be involved in the workshop organization.

- Responsible ministries (Environment, Health, Administration and Interior) ARA (Romanian Water Association), University (to be decided) and NGO who can present successful study cases already implemented.
The workshop aims

- Raise awareness on the linkage between the people’s health and water management;
- Exchange of countries experiences and lessons learned on sharing information, education and public participation;
- Analyze possible tools for the National Focal Points to promote and better communicate the provisions of the Protocol between sectors (e.g. water, environment and health sector), to other public authorities (e.g. tourism, development) and to the general public;
- Develop a set of recommendations on public participation, information, education in water and health related issues.