



# The Protocol on Water and Health and Public Participation



Chantal Demilecamps  
UNECE secretariat

# The Protocol on Water and Health: Protecting human health by better managing water resources



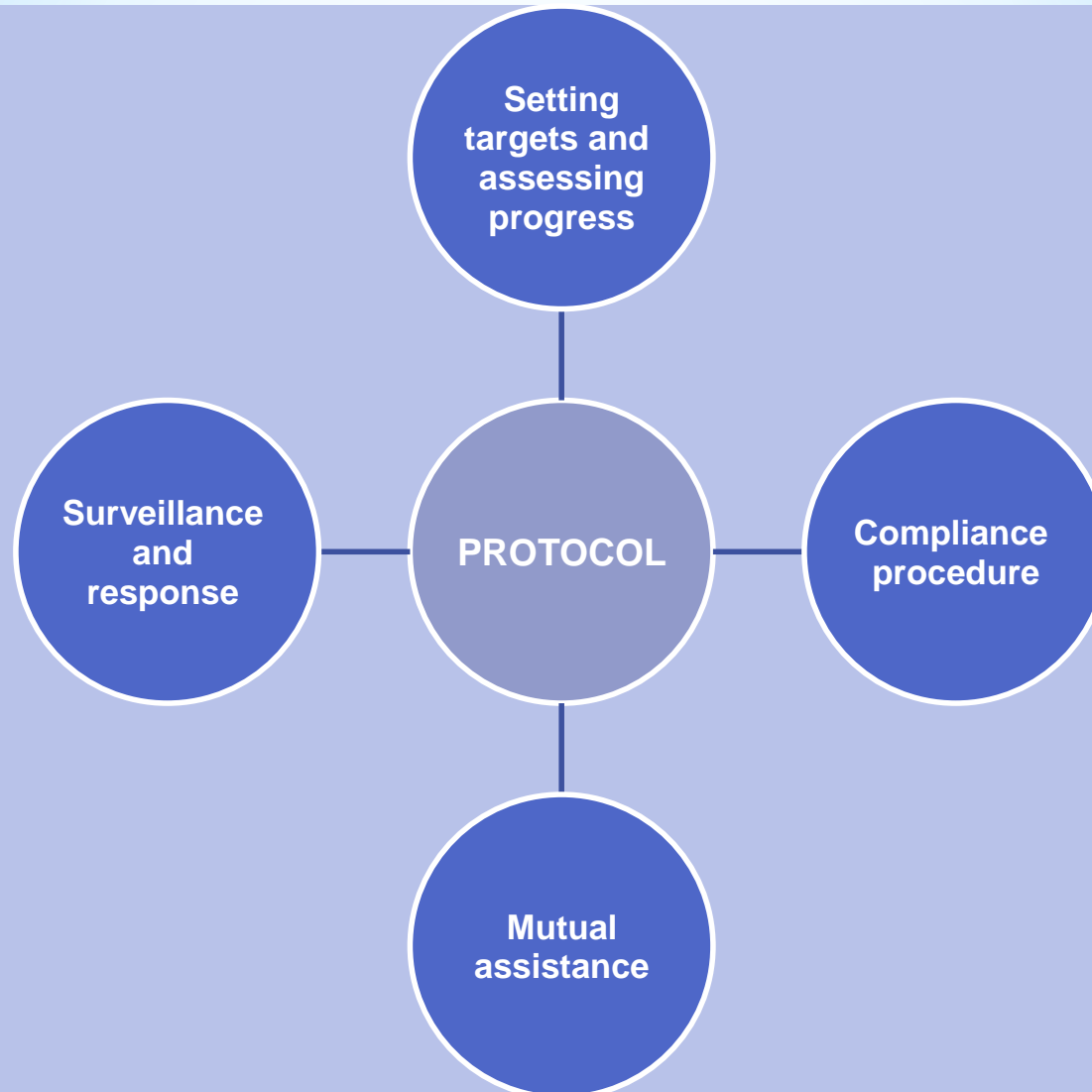
## Environmental Management

- Effective protection of water related ecosystems and sustainable use of water resources
- Provision of safe drinking water and adequate sanitation for everyone

## Health Outcomes

- Prevention, control and reduction of water-related diseases
- Detection, contingency planning and response to outbreaks

# The 4 pillars of the Protocol on Water and Health



# General principles for public participation under the Protocol on Water and Health

“Access to information and public participation in decision-making concerning water and health are needed, inter alia, in order to enhance the quality and the implementation of the decisions, to build public awareness of issues, to give the public the opportunity to express its concerns and to enable public authorities to take due account of such concerns” (art. 5 (i))

“ In implementing this Protocol, due account should be given to local problems, needs and knowledge” (art. 5 (n))

«Moral obligation (of the public) to contribute to the protection of the water environment» (art.9.1 (b))



# “Operational Articles” on public participation under the Protocol on Water and Health

Parties are required to:

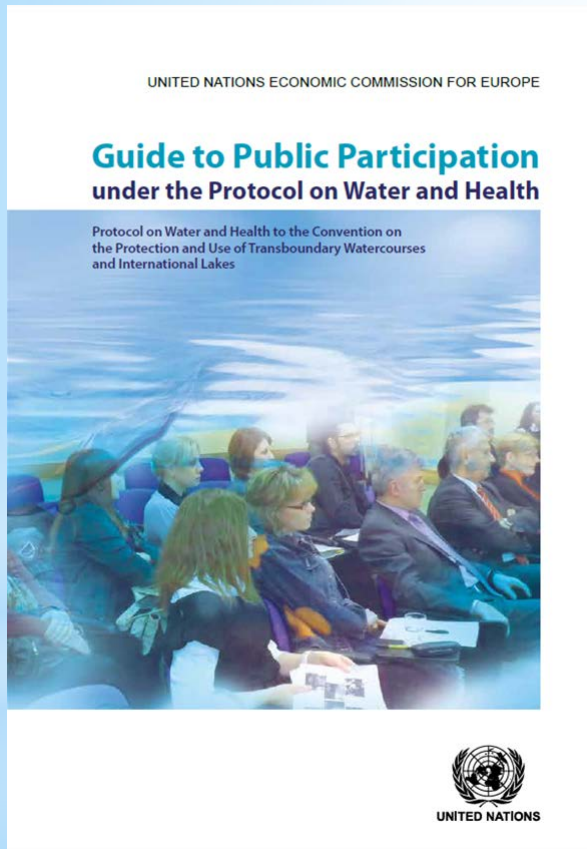
- Create frameworks, in which the public can contribute towards the improvement of water management for the purpose of preventing, controlling and reducing water related diseases” (art. 4 (5))
- Make appropriate practical and/or other provisions for public participation, within a transparent and fair framework, and ensure that due account is taken of the outcome of the public participation, in the process of setting targets and developing water management plans (Art. 6 (2) and 6 (5b))
- Make appropriate arrangements for public involvement in the review of compliance (Art.15)

... but numerous challenges faced.





# The Guide to Public Participation under the Protocol on Water and Health



- Support public authorities in exercising their obligations to ensure public participation in implementing the Protocol
- Provide means and knowledge to the public, NGOs and representatives of civil society to exercise their rights and obligations
- Assistance to Signatories and non-Parties to raise awareness of the Protocol and ensure public information

→ A tool to help improve the planning and carrying out of public participation process



# Involving the public at different stages of the Protocol's implementation

## ... in the process of setting target and developing measures

- Identification of stakeholders and baseline analysis
- Notification and sharing of information
- Involvement of the public
- Taking outcomes of PP into account

## ... in the reporting under the Protocol

## ... in international cooperation

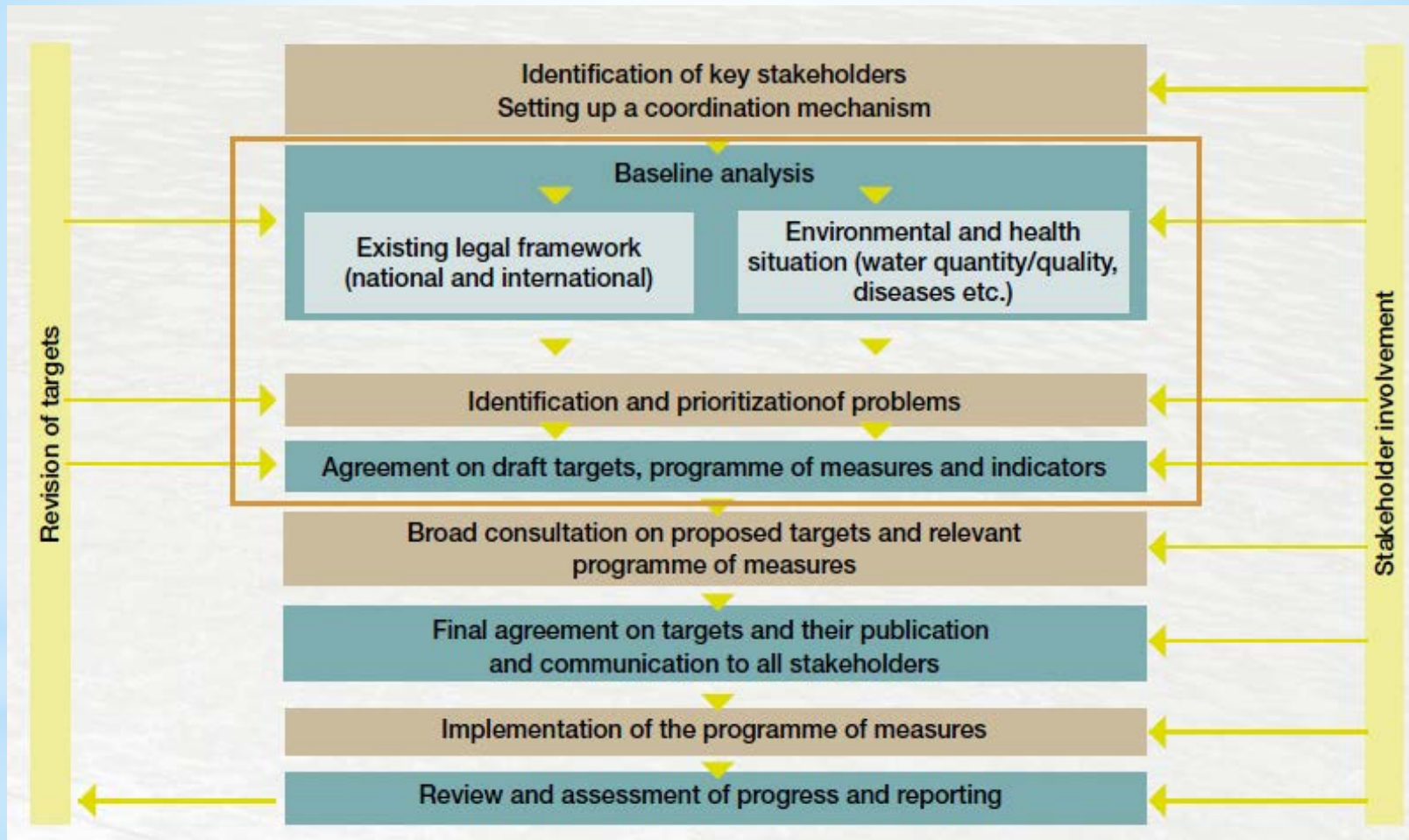
- Ensure PP in activities of joint bodies

## ... in the review of compliance

- Communication from the public
- Observer status



# Setting targets, evaluating and reporting under the Protocol



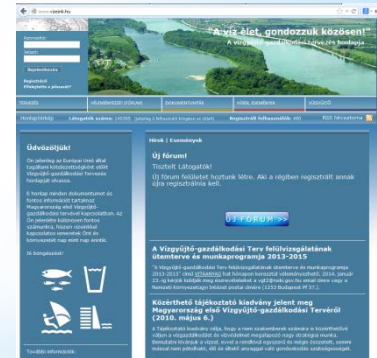


# Public participation to improve the implementation of the Protocol : some examples



Serbia: Awareness-raising campaign about the Protocol's importance and benefits

Hungary: a dedicated website to inform and consult the public on water and health related issues



Ukraine: Public participation process in the target-setting process (baseline analysis and consultation of the draft national targets)

