

# Public awareness, access to information and public participation

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# Background



- **Protocol on Water and Health:** art. 9 and 10
- Work Programme 2007 – 2010:  
Programme Area I: Implementation
- 1.4. – Public awareness, education, training, research and development and information
- Lead Party: Romania
- Objective: provide assistance to Parties in implementing art. 9 and 10

## Work accomplished: Workshop on information and public participation in water and health related issues, Bucharest, 15 – 16 June 2010 (1)



- Jointly organized by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Ministry of Health of Romania and UNECE, in cooperation with WHO-EURO, WECF
- Co-funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and the German Environment Agency
- Global Water Partnership Romania
- 60 participants from more than 20 countries
- Governmental authorities, non-governmental organizations, academia, media and international organizations

# Workshop on information and public participation in water and health related issues, Bucharest, 15 – 16 June 2010 (2)



- Overall aim: enhancing capacity of public authorities and non-governmental actors to cooperate for the implementation of the Protocol.
- Review obligations and opportunities under the Protocol related to access to information and public participation
- Exchange practical experience and lessons-learned
- Overview existing tools and mechanism for promoting access to information and public participation
- Discuss means and ways for raising awareness – linkage between human health, water management and other relevant sectors (e.g. agriculture, rural and urban development)
- Discuss future needs/possible actions under the Protocol

# Results of the workshop



- Case studies and practical examples for public participation
- Basis for the development of the Concept note on access to information and public participation under the Protocol on Water and Health
- Input for activities in the next programme of work

# Proposed activities under the Programme of Work 2011 – 2013



- Area 7 “ Public awareness, access to information and public participation”
- Lead Party: Romania
- Objective: provide assistance to Parties in the implementation of art. 9 and 10 of the Protocol and promoting public participation in the process of establishing targets in accordance with art.6.

# Proposed activities



- Trainings on public participation, in cooperation with Aarhus Convention, in particular its Task Force on Public Participation
- Developing mechanism/manual/recommendations for involving public in consultation and decision-making process, in cooperation with Aarhus Convention
- Sessions on public participation during subregional workshop with the aim to exchange experience and strengthen the implementation of Protocol at national level
- Projects on public participation on water and health
- Workshop on public awareness, education, training, research and information on water and health

# Working Group on Water and Health



- Will examine the need for further provisions on access to information, public participation in decision-making and public access to judicial and administrative review of decisions within the scope of the Protocol, in the light of experience gained in these matters in other international forums and
- Will prepare a proposal for consideration by the Parties at their third meeting.

Main partners: the Aarhus Convention and relevant non-governmental organizations

- Parties are welcome to join and support the activities





# THANK YOU

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Second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health

(Bucharest, Romania, 23 – 25 November 2010)