

# How to better promote the Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health: a guide for focal points

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# Why promotion?



- The Water Convention and Protocol on Water and Health are unique instruments for improving water management- but they are little known
- A lot of experience and guidance material have been developed under the Protocol and the Convention which should be shared
- Focal points should disseminate information about the Protocol, its products and meetings at the national and sub-national level
- But obstacles such as lack of time, knowledge

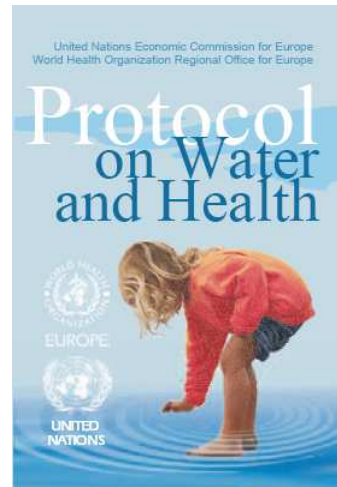
# The Guide



- Guide for focal points developed by chairpersons to Water Convention and Protocol on Water and Health (ECE/MP.WAT/2009/13 )
- Adopted at the fifth session to the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention in November 2009
- Interesting interactive session for exchanging experience between focal points on their promotion efforts held at the WGIWRM meeting in July 2010 in Geneva

# Tools to use

- Protocol text
- Brochures
- Publications, guidelines, studies etc.
- Presentations
- Websites



# Whom to address?



- Policy-makers
- National authorities
- Donors
- Media
- NGOs and other bodies
- General public
- Scientists

# Opportunities for promotion



- Right to water recognized as human right
- Water, sanitation and water-related disease reduction
- MDGs
- Climate change
- Natural disasters
- Accidental water pollution
- EU-Water Initiative for EECCA-countries
- Central Asia

# What to do



- including references to it in relevant legislation
- including information on the Convention and Protocol on the ministry website
- drafting articles for newspapers and magazines
- distributing brochures
- informing colleagues about outcomes of meetings and publications developed under the Convention
- organizing awareness-raising workshops
- Etc...

# Examples: articles



Wasserwirtschaft, Meeresumweltschutz

## UNECE-Wasserkonvention stellt Weichen für die Zukunft

Ergebnisse der 5. Vertragsstaatenkonferenz

Vom 10. bis 12. November 2009 fand die 5. Vertragsstaatenkonferenz des Übereinkommens zum Schutz und zur Nutzung grenzüberschreitender Wasserläufe und internationaler Seen der UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe – Wirtschaftskommission der Vereinten Nationen für Europa) im Palais de Nations in Genf statt. Fast 200 Vertreterinnen und Vertreter aus 37 Staaten und internationalen Organisationen wie UNESCO, UNFCCC oder OSCE sowie Nichtregierungsorganisationen wie



Global Water Partnership, MAMA 86 und WWF diskutierten drei Tage lang über zahlreiche wasserwirtschaftliche Themen. Die kontinuierlich steigende Zahl der Teilnehmenden an diesen Konferenzen, auch von Nicht-UNECE-Staaten wie die Mongolei und Afghanistan, verdeutlicht das erhöhte Interesse an dem Übereinkommen und an Fragen der grenzüberschreitenden integrierten Gewässerbewirtschaftung.

Die Konferenz, die in einer erstaunlich offenen und konstruktiven Arbeitsatmosphäre verlief, wurde von Deutschland geleitet. Damit endete der dreijährige deutsche Vorsitz. Neues Vorsitzland ist die Schweiz.

Am Rande der Konferenz fanden erstmals mehrere Side Events statt, die unter anderem über die Erfahrungen europäischer internationaler Flussgebietskommissionen, den Petersberg und Athen Prozess sowie die erfolgreichen National Policy Dialogues im Rahmen der European Water Initiative informierten.

### Konferenzergebnisse

Während der Vertragsstaatenkonferenz wurden mehrere Leitlinien verabschiedet und Weichenstellungen für die Arbeit in den nächsten drei Jahren getroffen.

### Umsetzung des Übereinkommens

Das Interesse an der UNECE-Wasserkonvention als dem bisher einzigen in Kraft befindlichen internationalen Instrument für die grenzüberschreitende Wasserbewirtschaftung steigt. Auf Grund der vermehrten Nachfragen interessierter Beitrittskandidaten und von Vertragsparteien wurde ein Leitfaden für die Umsetzung und für die Ratifikation des Übereinkommens von Fachleuten erstellt, der die wesentlichen inhaltlichen Vorgaben der Konvention verständlich und mit Beispielen unterlegt, erläutert.

Die Konferenz bewertete diesen Leitfaden als wichtiges strategisches Instrument für die künftige Arbeit. Der Leitfaden soll in den nächsten Jahren erprobt und bei Bedarf fortgeschrieben werden.

Um den sich häufenden Fragen zum Übereinkommen Rechnung zu tragen, hat das Legal Board den Auf-



United Nations

## UNECE Weekly

Economic Commission for Europe

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### MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO DISCUSS PROGRESS REGARDING WATER AND HEALTH IN THE PAN-EUROPEAN REGION

At present, nearly 140 million people – 16 percent of Europe's population – still live in homes that are not connected to a drinking-water supply and about 85 million people do not have access to adequate sanitation. According to the best estimates of the World Health Organization (WHO), more than 13,000 children under the age of 14 die every year from water-related diarrhoea, mostly in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Thus, contrary to common perceptions, access to safe drinking water and to improved sanitation remains a challenge in several countries of the UNECE region, with some of them actually regressing instead of progressing towards the Millennium Development Goals. Mortality and morbidity related to unsafe water and inadequate sanitation remain unacceptably high and water resources are often used in an inefficient manner. Also in the Western part of the region where access to water and sanitation are of lesser concern, a range of pollutants, including nutrients, metals, pesticides, microbes, industrial chemicals and pharmaceutical products have adverse effects on freshwater ecosystems or raise concerns for public health.



The UNECE/WHO-EURO Protocol on Water and Health is the first international legal agreement adopted specifically to protect human health through the prevention, control and reduction of water-related disease, the improvement of water management and the protection of ecosystems. It aims to attain access to safe drinking water and provision of sanitation for everyone.



The second session of the Meeting of the Parties will take place on 23-25 November 2010 in Bucharest, at the invitation of the Government of Romania. Five years after the entry into force of the Protocol, the Meeting will mark an important milestone in the evolution of this instrument and in the improvement of water and health in the pan-European region. It will provide an opportunity to review progress achieved so far and to reflect on and plan for the challenges that lie ahead. A wide variety of topics that have been the focus of work over the past three years will be discussed, including ratification and implementation of the Protocol; equitable access to drinking water; and access to information and public participation under the Protocol.

### HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER AND SANITATION

Access to water and sanitation is no longer a purely technical problem. On 28 July 2010, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution declaring that access to clean water and sanitation is a human right. Less than month ago, the UN Human Rights Council has - by consensus - adopted a decision affirming this right. The Protocol on Water and Health embodies the close linkages between human rights, health, environmental protection and sustainable development. The Protocol guides its Parties on how to translate the human right to water into practice, and how safe, acceptable, affordable, accessible and sufficient water can be provided, in accordance with the principles of non-discrimination and of transparency of information. In Bucharest, Parties will discuss future activities to promote the exchange of experience on measures supporting equitable access to water and thus addressing affordability issues and access in remote communities.



Not an official record - For information only

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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)



# National websites and press releases



Federal Office of Public Health - Protocol on Water and Health - Mozilla Firefox

http://www.bag.admin.ch/themen/lebensmittel/04858/04864/04905/index.html?lang=en

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Administration admin.ch  
Federal Department of Home Affairs DHA  
Federal Office of Public Health FOPH

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**Protocol on Water and Health**

Reporting for Switzerland under the Protocol on Water and Health 2010

In this report the Party to the Protocol Switzerland describes the results of a review of the existing situation for water management and quality, the targets that have already been set and the challenges and obstacles encountered in implementing the Protocol. This report does not focus so much on the progress that has been made in achieving the listed targets since most of these have been formulated independently of the Protocol. The aim of this reporting is, on the one hand, to promote the sharing of experiences with the other Parties and Signatories to the Protocol and, on the other, to create a basis for defining future targets for Switzerland.

Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH)  
[Contact](#) | [Legal framework](#)

MAMA-B6 - National Conference on the Protocol on Water and Health - Mozilla Firefox

http://mama-b6.org.ua/index.php/en/watersan/watersan-news/101-2009-12-03-11-28-06.html

Home | Projects | Contacts | Blogs | Newsletter | Reports | Old Site | E-mail | Entrance

News | Ecologization | Drinking Water and Sanitation | Chemical Security

**National Conference on the Protocol on Water and Health**

Friday, 06 November 2009 16:55

In September — October 2009 NGO "MAMA-B6" organized a seminars — working conferences dedicated to the impleme Water and Health in Ukraine.

Regional working conferences were held:

- on September 18 in Feodosia, Crimea,
- on September 24 in Mykolaiv,
- on October 8 in Yaremche, Ivano-Frankivsk oblast
- on October 16 in Poltava.

National Working Conference was held on October 27 in Kiev and summarized the regional discussions an the Protocol at national level.

National working conference program. (Ukrainian)

Ukraine participated actively in Protocol working on process and it was among first countries that ratified it in the Protocol is to promote at all levels the protection of human health and well-being through improving wat preventing, controlling and reducing water-related.

Conferences participants - representatives of different stakeholders groups had the opportunity to discuss t Protocol implementation, analyze and present the current situation with the legal framework and water and l national levels; prioritize problems and discuss possible targets and actions to address them under the Prc

Conferences results were included in the final document - Resolution of the National Working Conference a meeting of the Steering Group of senior level at the National policy dialogue on integrated water resources r October 29, 2009.

Activities went under the logo "Water supply, Sanitation and Hygiene for all in Ukraine!" (WASH) and were su Water Partnership (the Netherlands) and Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC), with Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment of the Netherlands (VROM) and WSSCC.

Presentations and reports of the participants:

- Larissa Yurchak. "Protocol on Water and Health implementation in Ukraine". (Ukrainian)

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# Conclusion



- Promotion is important:
  - To raise awareness about the importance of transboundary water cooperation and human and health issues;
  - To foster a better understanding of the opportunities offered by the two treaties, and;
  - To support their implementation in the region and beyond.
- Promotion of the Convention and the Protocol is a major responsibility of focal points
- The Guide offers important advice and should be used as much as possible by focal points and others
- Sharing of experience between focal points could be helpful