

**MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNECE/ WHO-EURO
PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH**

Second session, Bucharest, Romania, 23-25 November 2010

STATEMENT

Republic of Macedonia is not yet a signatory to the Protocol on Water and Health, but has already made preparatory work in order to be ready for signing of the Protocol.

The new Law on Water, that is proscribed in 2008 would start with total implementation since 1st January 2011, and one of the main changes will be transfer of responsibility about the environmental protection of water resources from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy to the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning. Monitoring of drinking water quality is responsibility of the Ministry of Health.

There has been a working group relating to coordination activities for the needs of signing of the Protocol on Water and Health between the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning.

It has been nominated a National Water Council. One of its member is nominated by the Ministry of Health.

Nevertheless, that we are not yet Party of the Protocol, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning has already done a lot of work for capacity building and integrated river basin management according to the WFD. Also, the Ministry of Health has fully harmonized the drinking water quality legislation to the Council Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption, as a Candidate country to the EU.

Also, we have already translated into Macedonian the WHO's Water Safety Plan – Manual.

There has been introduced since the beginning of 2010 the HACCP approach in the Drinking water treatment plants in Macedonia.

The access to safe drinking water and to improved sanitation is constantly increasing due to efforts done by the National as well Local Self-Government.

Education has included the issue on drinking water quality, sanitation and water related diseases at the formal educational process at the Medical Faculty for under and postgraduate students.

The surveillance system on water related diseases has been already implemented following the ALERT approach recommended by WHO. There were not recorded outbreaks due to water related diseases recently.

These issues are also part of the Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan to Crises of the Health Sector, made by the Ministry of Health in 2009.

**Focal Point from the Ministry of Health
to WHO regarding Protocol on Water and Health**

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