



Advocacy for the adoption of pool and  
spa related activities into the  
programme of work

Isabel B. Pereira, Luís Simas, Mihály Kádár



# Why to care about pools and spa?

- Mass recreation environment
- Transboundary implications possible
- Environmental hazards concerned by WHO
- Issue spotted by Protocol in art. 6 para. 2
- Right to environmental information
  - microbial risks related to improper water treatment
  - microbial risks related to contact infection
  - physical risks of injury
  - chemical risks from disinfection byproducts via ingestion, inhalation and dermal absorption

## Main hazard sources

- Swift advance of entertainment technology in water recreation without due care for possible health implications
- Overwhelming market dominance without proper surveillance and consumer protection
- Competition driven conduct of management
- Weak preparedness of the authorities
- Consumers' ignorance and carelessness

## **Main tools of risk treatment**

- Consumer and health protection on the level of product and service authorization
- Broad resort to international standards and informed implementation thereof
- Comprehensive training of supervisory authorities
- Well designed surveillance system
- Encouraging third party pool safety appraisal
- Consumer information and education

# Options for the Protocol Parties

*(an ideal subject for international action)*

- Raising the level of understanding
- Transfer of information (technical, scientific, administrative) via networking and conferences
- Cooperative research initiatives and fundraising
- Harmonization of national approaches
- Involvement in the international standardisation
- International education and training

## Who can do what for how much?

The backbone has been existing for five years: biannual pool and spa conferences since 2005 – at no additional cost

Networking was planned by UK (University of Swindon)

Further developments depend on a critical level of activity (COST and EU R&D projects, cooperative exercises of professional national associations, cooperation of national authorities and consumer protection bodies, etc.)

Hungary is ready to take a catalytic role but partners are needed – a letter inquiring readiness to participate arrives soon!

## **Next (4th) Pool and Spa Conference**

**Porto, 15 – 18 March, 2011**

**<http://www.isep.ipp.pt/swimmingconference>**

The Portuguese organisers are also committed to the advocacy for the Protocol of the issues of the pool and spa related risk management and they are to use the event for this purpose

## General aims of the Portuguese organisers for the follow-up activities of the Conference:

- to create in Portugal a national group with similar objectives to those of PTWAG, with a special concern of health protection
- to establish dialogue with National Responsible Institutions and European Commission, in order to promote the development and publication of specific regulation and standards
- to act in the implementation of good practices for all public and private installations that use water for health or well being purposes
- to organise further activities (after the 2011 Conference) such as seminars, workshops, conferences, meetings with international partners, specific training schedules
- to promote activities that may result in the development of analytical procedures relevant for laboratories that are in charge of water and air monitoring of manmade aquatic environments
- to promote regular technical and scientific publications



**Thank You For Your Attention!**

