



Third Meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health under the framework of the Protocol on Water and Health

The Task force on Extreme Weather Events: outputs and the way ahead



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Outputs and the way ahead

Main activities carried out by the TFEWE

- outcomes of the second session of the Task Force
- contribution to the workshop on water supply and sanitation in adaptation policies (Bucarest, Nov. 09) and to the EUREAU expert meeting on climate change (London, Jan. 10)
- the draft guidelines on water supply and sanitation in extreme weather events

Future activities: some proposals

Outcomes of the second session of the Task Force

- Lessons learned on cooperation and synergies with the Task force on Surveillance under the Protocol and with the Task Force on Water and Climate under the Convention: work on specific issues
- Difficulties in the guidance development: shortness of time, new approach, need to balance technical and institutional measures, language barrier
- “Home works”: to expand the review process and contribute case studies, to enhance institutional cooperation with all involved decision makers and utility managers

Workshop on water supply and sanitation in adaptation policies and the EUREAU expert meeting on climate change: synergies to work on

- Fostering the involvement of countries from Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA)
- Enhancing cooperation with other important initiatives in the field, led by European Union and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- Strengthening the involvement of water utilities managers

The draft Guidance on water supply and sanitation in extreme weather events

- The executive summary of the Guidance provides an overview of challenges in the pan-European region that the future work programme could address
- The involvement of all stakeholders, both public and private, makes the Guidance a unique document and a valuable contribution to the overall goals of the Protocol and to the climate change work in particular
- Environment and health approach

The draft guidelines on water supply and sanitation in extreme weather events: key messages

- Threats to the availability of safe water posed by the dramatic rise of the number of extreme events in the presence of lacking or low performing water supply and sanitation systems
- Integrated risk management needs in terms of cooperation framework among relevant stakeholders such as environmental, climate and health professionals and utilities managers
- Need to include water supply and sanitation risk management in adaptation strategies and long-term integrated water resource management
- Need to include a risk communication strategy in the disaster risk management and adaptation plans

The draft guidelines on water supply and sanitation in extreme weather events : key messages (cont.)

- Vulnerability of many countries in terms of lack of access to drinking water, sanitation provision and coping capacity with recurring extreme weather events
- Need of actions in rural areas or areas served by small suppliers
- Need to provide tools to assist countries to improve vulnerability assessments, strengthen coping capacities and assess and improve resilience against the impacts of climate change on water supply and sanitation systems
- Need for expertise from many disciplines, such as climate and early warning and water supply and sanitation provision management

Some proposals for future areas of works

- Capacity building and training (e.g. on risk awareness)
- Development of knowledge and decision support tools (e.g. environmental monitoring in extreme weather events)
- Organization of subregional workshops (e.g. case studies/best practices)