

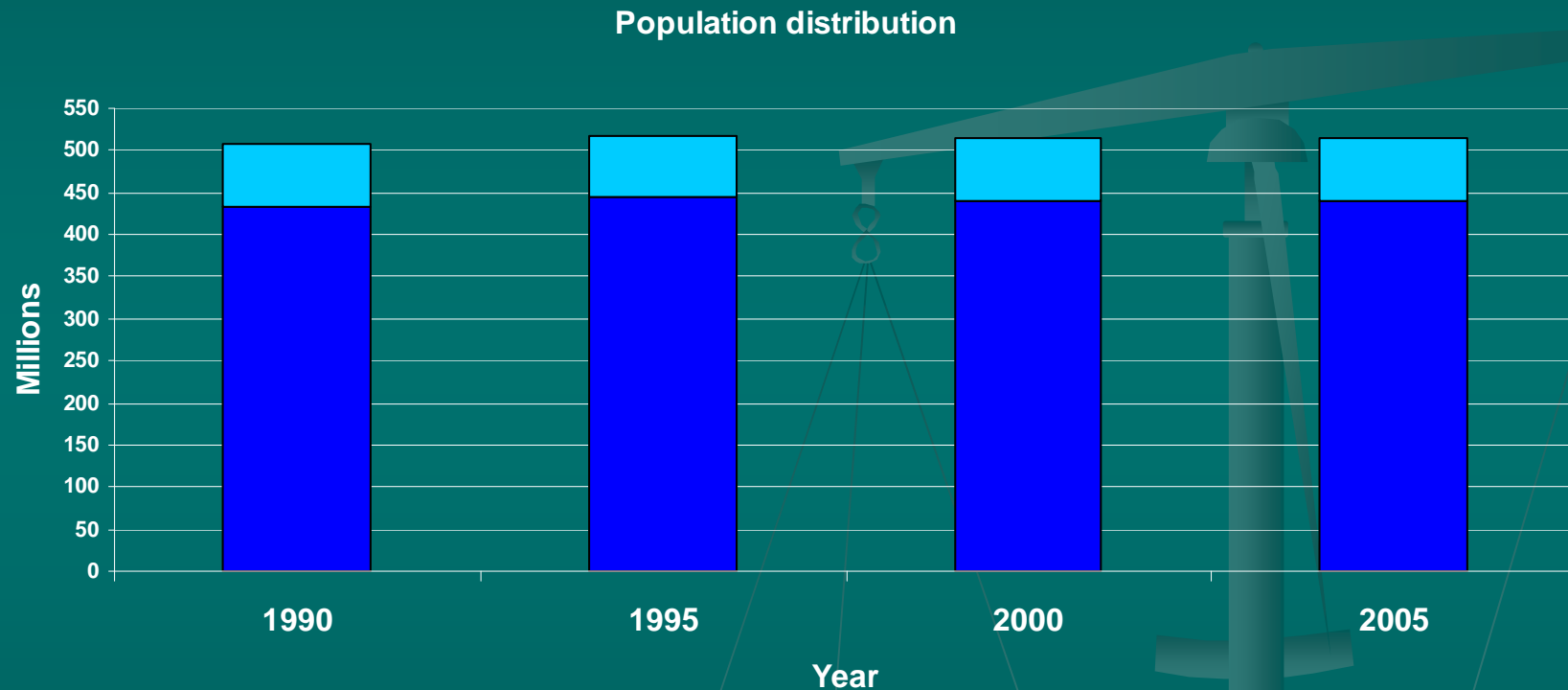
Youth involvement in water and health

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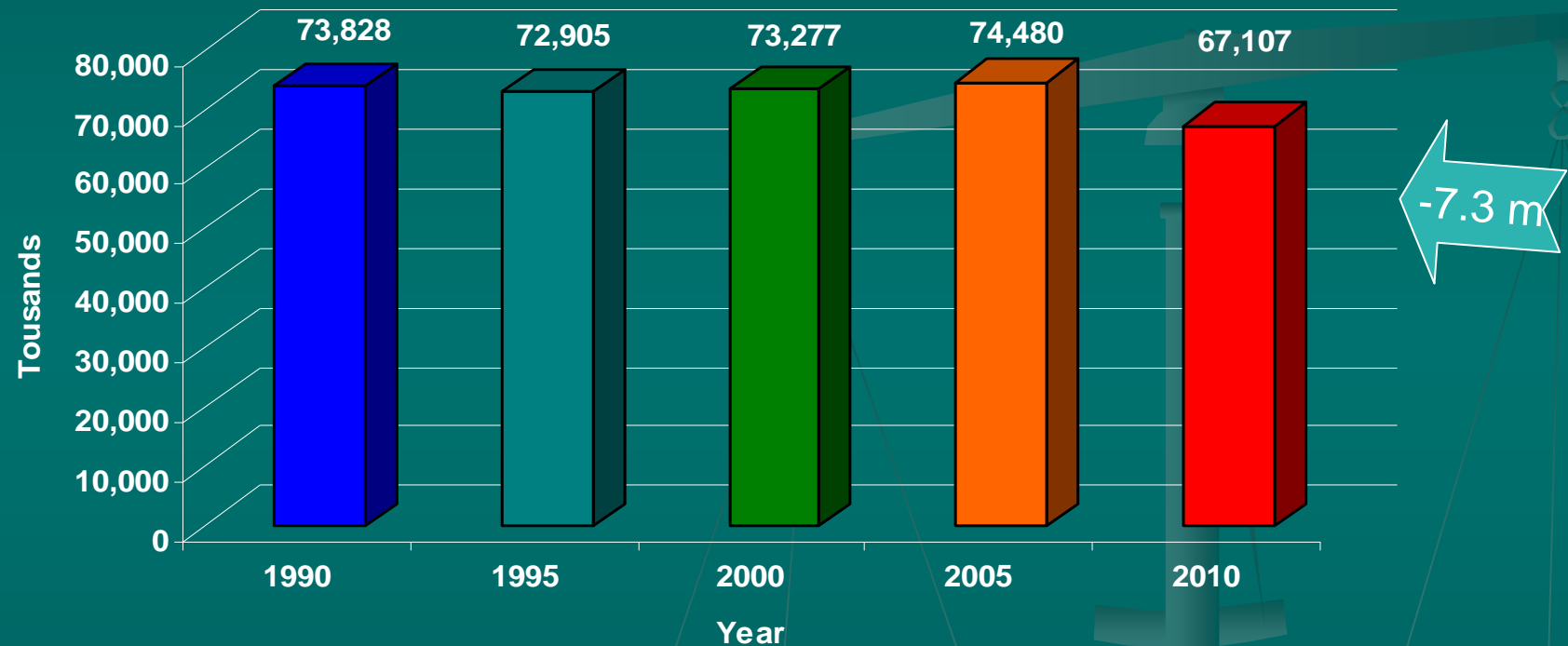
Youth: 17% of the population



Approximately 75 million people in the 24 Protocol Countries → basic democracy demands that their voice be heard!

Youth: increasingly scarce

Population aged 15 - 24 in Parties



Increased competition for talent: how attractive is the water and health sector?

Motivate, then educate - not the other way round!

Need for improved scientific awareness in the general population

Intergenerational partnerships

- Science informs policy, but isn't determinating. Policy is about informed value judgments
- Water resources are the *common property* of different generations
- Latency takes time. Decisions by present generations can affect the possibility of use by future generations, or the quality of the resource and hence the quality of life of future generations
- Therefore, **decisions** on the management, and use of the aquatic resources belongs to the different generations **in concert**
- People evaluate the **presenter**, not the **message. Let the youth carry our message to the youth**

BASIC PREMISE

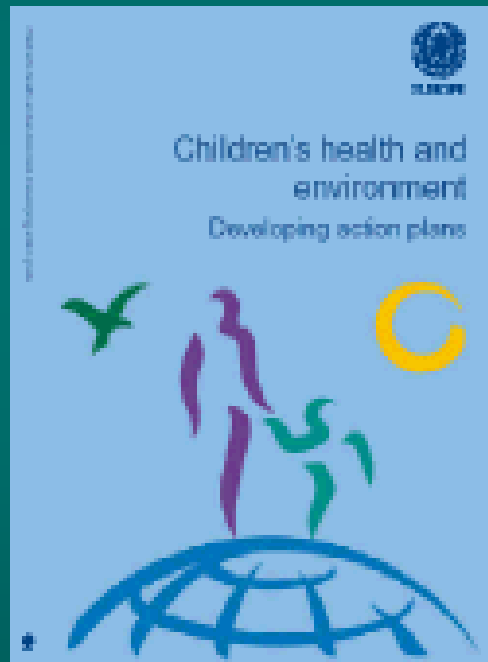


Youth participation in the planning and implementation of a policy and strategy in any area of health and environment **is not negotiable.**



Young people have a fundamental role to play in the formulation of policy on health and environment, and in the building of a healthier and more sustainable world.

OUR HISTORY AND GOALS



■ HISTORY

- 4th Min Conference Environment and Health (Budapest, 2004) committed to youth becoming involved monitoring policy development and implementation of CEHAPE.
- 2007. CEHAPE Youth Network created by WHO.

■ MAIL GOAL

- **Represent the voice of Youth at national and international levels where protecting children's health is discussed.**



LOOK AT US NOW!

- 70 National CEHAPE Youth Representatives from 36 countries
- 4 elected Int. Youth Representatives participate on behalf of the Network in:
 - EEHC meetings,
 - CEHAPE Task Force
 - other international meetings
- Provide model for collaboration with the Protocol Parties



CEHAPE Youth representatives are presently at work in 36 countries

- Thirteen (13) PARTY COUNTRIES: Croatia, Estonia, Finland; France, Hungary, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Russian Federation, Switzerland and Ukraine
- Five (5) SIGNATORY COUNTRIES : Georgia, Italy, Poland, Slovenia, Sweden
- Several of the key **EECCA** and **SEE** countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan
- And also in: Andorra, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Denmark, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Kosovo, Malta, United kingdom

OUR NETWORK IS ALREADY PRESENT IN YOUR REGION ... USE IT, LET IT CONTRIBUTE

WATER AND HEALTH ISSUES ARE STILL IMPORTANT TO US!

- Access to clean water is the most basic human need!
- Basic sanitation and access to clean water are considered to be a basic human right!
- Pay more attention to prevention!
- Unacceptable inequality in European Region.



IS IT HARD TO FIND OPEN EARS?

We have recognized following problems as crucial:

1. Not enough attention is being paid to illnesses caused by poor water quality and bad sanitation.
2. There is a lack of youth awareness on water conditions.
3. In too many places basic toilet facilities are not provided.
4. There is not enough clear information about sanitation and hygiene.

We successfully obtained policy support for the Parma Youth Declaration at the 5th Min Conf Environment and Health (Parma, 2004)

3.0 Access to clean water is the most basic human need. In some parts of the region we still find homes and schools without clean running water. This is a gross inequality. We expect technologies to be used to improve access to water, conserve water use and enhance sanitation. We urge Governments to work with us in finding solutions to the impact of climate change on our future water supply and to the use of science and technology to support our efforts.

IT IS NOT THE END, WE HAVE JUST STARTED!

- We believe that all policy must be sustainable, promoting a high quality of life for the people of Europe!
- Policy makers must stop thinking outside a 3 or 5 years cycle and **focus on longer time cycles, bringing in new generations.**
- Our main concern is not just our health but also the health and lives of future generations.
- Outcomes of your decision will be our inheritance so we are calling our policy makers to account for their actions.



WE SHARE OUR GOALS, WE NEED YOUR POLITICAL WILL!

We call for:

- Equitable access to clean water for everybody, including poor, vulnerable and socially excluded people
- installation of up-to-date water treatment systems and sanitation,
- reduction in wasteful water consumption,
- special attention to be given to contaminated areas,
- encourage evidence-based good practice in the field of water safety education,
- raise public awareness, access to information and public participation in water and health activities,
- improvement in regional and sub-regional cooperation
- measures to mitigate risk to fresh water due to climate change,
- work together in the promotion and implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health.

We call on Governments and Parties to collaborate with us towards these common goals

HOW CAN YOUTH CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROTOCOL?

- **It is absurd** when adults talk about youth problems and issues that impact young people **without having Youth** among them!
- Yes, we can sometimes be naïve and have unreal ideas, opinions and expectations, **but Youth have new energy and our views are certainly innovative, enthusiastic and modern.**



WE LOOK AT THE WORLD FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE!

- In every country we have young people who do not accept poor health and polluted environment and want to make the situation better. **We can implement policy and make positive changes** only if we **join our efforts** and start doing more and more efficiently.
- Let's try to solve all problems related to EH issues with the help of the youth!



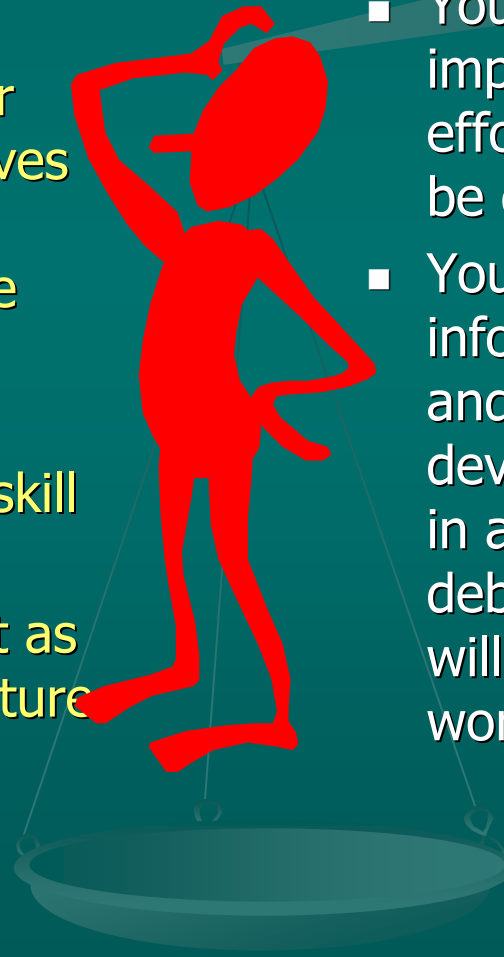
HOW CAN THE PARTIES ENABLE YOUTH PARTICIPATION?

■ Elements of the 2011 – 2013 work plan

- Include participation for two Youth representatives in the sessions of the Governing Bodies of the Protocol
- Support Youth network meetings and regional skill building workshops
- Recognize such support as an investment in the future

■ Rationale

- Youth involvement is an important but voluntary effort – only costs need to be covered
- Youth needs to be informed of new policies and technology development to participate in a meaningful way in the debates: informed inputs will contribute to the policy work of the Protocol



YOUTH WANT REAL ACTION!

Thank you for your attention!

visit our blog

www.env-health-youth.blogspot.com

