



**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE**

**Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health to the
Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses
and International Lakes**

Working Group on Water and Health
Geneva, 27–28 May 2010
Item 16 of the provisional agenda

Information paper 12

Proposal by WHO-EURO on additional activities in the work-plan 2011-2013, on advanced data
management tools (GIS) and Youth involvement

Introduction

The World Health Organization wishes to enter two items for discussion which result from the preparatory and plenary work of the 5th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (Parma, Italy, 10 – 12 March 2010): participation of Youth in the decision-making bodies of the Protocol on Water and Health, and use of advanced data management tools under Programme Area I: Target setting and indicators.

Delegates are invited to consider the proposals and instruct the secretariat to include these as elements in the proposed workplan 2011-2013 for submission to the Meeting of the Parties (Bucharest, Romania, 23 – 25 November 2010).

ITEM 1: YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

Reference

Document ECE/MP.WH/WG.1/2010/L-3 – EUR/10/56335/XI
Programme of work for 2011 – 2013
Annex 1 sub I Bodies to implement the programme of work sub Working Group on Water and Health

Background

WHO has long recognized that the voice of Youth needs to be heard more clearly in the design and implementation of international programmes related to environment and health. Following the 4th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (Budapest, Hungary, 23 – 25 June 2004) a special Youth network was created which now has

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representatives in 30 countries of the European region. The Youth Network participated actively to the 5th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (Parma, Italy, 10-12 March 2010 and delivered the Youth Declaration¹ in which they addressed issues such as the universal access to safe water and sanitation, the impact of climate change and the need to strengthen education.

Rationale for Youth Involvement in the Protocol

The Parma Declaration on Environment and Health² commits States “to act on the key environment and health challenges of our times. These include:

- (a) the health and environmental impacts of climate change and related policies;
- (b) the health risks to children and other vulnerable groups ... (especially the lack of water and sanitation)
- (c) concerns raised by persistent, endocrine-disrupting and bio-accumulating harmful chemicals and (nano)particles; and by novel and emerging issues

Decisions taken by the Parties on mitigation and adaptation to extreme weather events and the impacts of climate change, ensuring the needs of children to safe water and sanitation, and the ways to address concerns of endocrine-disrupting and bio-accumulating harmful chemicals will impact the lives of the current Youth cohort (16 – 24 years old) long after the present decision-makers have left the scene. It is therefore appropriate and fitting that the voice of Youth be heard, and that they be empowered and enabled to make their voice heard.

Resource requirements

Enabling Youth to participate in the work of the Protocol would require modest resources mostly to support travel costs of youth representatives to attend governance meetings of the Protocol and catalytical support to enable them to define their position in a democratic manner.:

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE WORK PROGRAMME: AFTER I Working Group on Water and Health

During the 2011 – 2013 intersessional period, Parties will welcome Youth participation in the work of the Meeting of the Parties and the subsidiary Bodies of the Protocol, particularly the Working Group on Water and Health.

To facilitate this participation, Parties will provide support for two Youth representatives to participate in these meetings and enable Youth the prepare their participation

Estimated costs

- Travel support to enable two Youth delegates to participate in the meetings of the Working Group on Water and Health and the 3rd Meeting of the Parties USD 16,000
- Support to national meetings of the Youth Network (USD20,000 – USD60,000 over three years)
- Consultant time 0.03 (WHO/EURO P-3 level) person per year over three years USD10,800

¹ Parma Youth Declaration at URL: <http://www.euro.who.int/document/e93617.pdf>

² Parma Declaration on Environment and Health at URL:

http://www.euro.who.int/document/ceh/parma_eh_conf_edoc05-1rev2.pdf

ITEM 2: ADVANCED DATA MANAGEMENT TOOLS

Programme Area I: Target setting and reporting

Reference

Document ECE/MP.WH/WG.1/2010/L-3 – EUR/10/56335/XI
Programme of work for 2011 – 2013
Annex 1 sub II Programme area I: Target setting and reporting

Background

The WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Promoting Water Management and Risk Communication, Bonn, Germany, launched an Atlas on Water and Health at Protocol Day (Parma, Italy, 9 March 2010). The Atlas offers thematic maps in water resources, drinking-water and sanitation coverage and mortality as well as morbidity of water-related diseases. The associated inter-active database can be queried by country, resulting in country fact sheets on water resources, water supply and sanitation and water-related diseases for all countries of the WHO European region, but can also be queried on a selected topic resulting in thematic information for all countries in the European region.

The reporting obligations under the Protocol result in a very substantial amount of information. Preparation of one summary report for use by the Meeting of the Parties would deprive the Parties, and the Secretariat, of a valuable tool in the promotion of sustainable water resources management and water-related disease reduction.

Rationale

Web-based Geographic Information Systems (GIS) coupled with electronic storage of data would support compliance with the obligations of Arts 7 and 10 of the Protocol by allowing Parties access to data collected and evaluated and the assessment of progress achieved (Art 7 §4 refers).

The development of an online user interface would facilitate data entry for the Parties and serve as a reporting instrument (Art. 7 §5 refers). Continuous integrating, processing and managing of data provided by the Parties could also be provided by the WHO CC.

The GIS tool would also support the obligation of public authorities to make additional information available to the public within a reasonable time, and reduce the costs of this services (Art 10 §3).

Data quality control and data management would be a continuous function during the intersessional period, rather than an *ad hoc* labour-intensive and costly consultancy assignment in the months prior to the Meeting of the Parties.

Moving to electronic data management would also allow the storage in easily accessible form of supporting documents, such as national and/or regional legislation and regulation, which in turn could form a valuable resource on comparative jurisprudence for all Parties to the Protocol, and others.

Resource Requirements

Resource requirements would be shared, with Parties supporting human resource needs and the WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Promoting Water Management and Risk Communication, Bonn, Germany, providing hardware, software licence and operational support

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE WORK PROGRAMME:

AFTER ITEM II Programme area I: Target setting and reporting B. Exchange of experience

The management of the information gathered by the reporting exercises will be improved through the use of advanced electronic data management systems, allowing on-line access of quality-controlled information and geographic representation of key numeric data.

Estimated costs

Staff time: 0.33-0.5 WHO staff time per year for three years USD 81,370-123,288