

5/11-12

## REVISED PROGRAMME

### Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> of November

#### 09.30 – 10.00 Registration and coffee

#### 10.00 – 10.30 Opening remarks and introduction

- Deputy Secretary Mrs. Nina Tangnæs Grønvold, the Norwegian Ministry of Health and Care Services
- Introduction of all participants

#### 10.30 – 12.45 Session 1: Presentation of the Nordic and Baltic countries' challenges/sharing of experience on the area of drinking water and sanitation

Representatives of Nordic and Baltic countries will share information on the water and health challenges in their countries: how is the field of drinking water and sanitation organised in the different countries, how does intersectoral coordination work, what are the vulnerability risks for the water supply systems, climate change impacts, Water Safety Plans implementation, health surveillance and combating illnesses caused by polluted drinking water etc.

- 10.30 Norway
- 10.50 Sweden
- 11.10 Iceland

#### 11.30 SHORT BREAK

- 11.45 Finland
- 12.05 Estonia
- 12.25 Lithuania
- 12.45 Latvia

#### 13.05 LUNCH

#### 14.15 – 17.00 Session 2: How the Protocol on Water and Health might assist in working to remedy the challenges in this area.

- 14.15 Introduction to the Protocol on Water and Health

(By Mr. Roger Aertgeerts, former Programme Manager Water supply and Sanitation and Co-Secretary Protocol on Water and Health at WHO-Europe)

Improving water and health through the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health; its main obligations, in particular related to setting targets and target dates and surveillance of water-related disease.

#### 15.00 SHORT BREAK

- 15.15 The Protocol on Water and Health and the EU *acquis communautaire*

(By Dr. Mihaly Kadar, Member of the Bureau of the Protocol on Water and Health and Counsellor at the National Institute of Environmental Health, Hungary)

How the Protocol on Water and Health and EU regulations can work together in reaching their common aims.

- 15.45 The Protocol and small scale water supply and sanitation facilities

(By Mr. Roger Aertgeerts, former Programme Manager Water supply and Sanitation and Co-Secretary Protocol on Water and Health at WHO-Europe)

How the work and the products developed under the Protocol can assist countries in better dealing with the challenges of small scale water supply and sanitation facilities.

- 16.00 The Protocol on Water and Health as a political tool in aid policies

(By Carola Beatrice Bjørklund, Coordinator for Council of Europe/Ambassador, The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.)

- 16.40 Water & health challenges in Ukraine, Kirgizstan and Tajikistan: three countries setting targets with Norwegian assistance

(By Harsha Ratnaweera, PhD, Professor on Water and Wastewater Technology, Dep. of Mathematical Sciences & Technology (IMT), Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB.no))

#### 17.00 End first day

#### 18.30 Welcome drink in the Hotel bar followed by dinner (arranged by the organizers)

### Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> of November

#### 09.00 – 09.10 Introduction to the day

#### 09.10 – 11.00 Continuing session 2: How the Protocol on Water and Health might assist in working to remedy the challenges in this area.

- 09.10 Status of implementation of the Protocol and measures implemented in different countries to improve water and health and achieve the Protocol's targets, including financing aspects.

Short presentations of 5 minutes will be expected from Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania and Norway, who are all Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health, on their implementation of the Protocol, in particular vis-à-vis target setting; as well as from Iceland and Sweden on their future plans regarding Protocol ratification and implementation.

- 10.30 Next steps: preparing for the second reporting under the Protocol on Water and Health building on the experience of the first reporting exercise. (By Nataliya Nikiforova, UNECE secretariat of the Protocol on Water and Health.)

10.45 SHORT BREAK

**11.00 – 17.00 Session 3: Discussion/ team work: The way ahead/What do we do now? Benefits from cooperating**

- 11.00 Team work. Participants will be divided into groups with national stakeholders from each country. Each group will discuss the following questions:
  - *Are the water and sanitation challenges well addressed in your country? Which additional measures would be needed?*
  - *Benefits in creating a Nordic/Baltic network?*
  - *How can the implementation of the Protocol further strengthen action on water and sanitation issues?*

13.00 LUNCH

- 14.00 Report on the outcomes of the discussions in each group. What are the thoughts on creating a Nordic/Baltic network on drinking water and sanitation?

15.30 SHORT BREAK

- 15.45 Participants are invited to give their views on creating a Nordic/Baltic network and proposals for a next meeting and/or other forms for cooperation.
- 16.45 Summing up

**17.00 End of seminar.**