



United Nations Economic  
Commission for Europe



World Health Organization  
Regional Office for Europe



Ministry of Environment  
of the Slovak Republic



Ministry of Health  
of the Slovak Republic



**Workshop on water and health in Central Europe: sharing experience on the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia**

**Bratislava, 8 – 9 May 2012**

**International Water Assessment Center at the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute,  
Jeseniova 17**

**PROGRAMME**

**Tuesday, 8 May 2012**

**9.30 – 10.00 Registration and coffee**

**10.00 – 10.45 Opening remarks and introduction**

**Moderator:** *Boris Minarik, Director, International Water Assessment Centre and Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute*

- *Ms. Katarína Halzlová, Head of Environment and Health Department, Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic*
- *Dr. Pavol Nejedlík, Director General, Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute*
- *Mr. Boris Minarik, Director, International Water Assessment Centre and Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute*
- *Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Co-secretary, UNECE – WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health, UN Economic Commission for Europe*
- *Ms. Darina Sedláková, Head, WHO Country Office in Slovakia*
- Introduction round of all participants

**10.45 – 11.20 Session 1: Improving water and health through the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health**

**Moderator:** *Boris Minarik, Director, International Water Assessment Centre and Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute*

- Introduction to the Protocol on Water and Health, its main obligations, in particular related to setting targets and target dates, and its implementation in the UNECE region  
*Ms. Franziska Hirsch, Secretariat to the Protocol on Water and Health, UNECE*
- The Protocol on Water and Health – Guidance provided by WHO to support implementation, including on its obligations related to surveillance  
*Ms. Darina Sedláková, Head, WHO Country Office in Slovakia*

## **11.20 – 13.30 Session 2: Sharing of experience on the water and health situation in Central Europe and on the implementation of the Protocol**

Representatives of Central European countries will share information on the water and health challenges in their countries, as well as on their status of implementation of the Protocol and the targets set.

*Moderator: Ms Zdena Kelnarova, Ministry of Environment, Slovakia*

Presentations by country representatives, addressing the following issues:

- *What is the situation of water and health in your country? What are the main challenges?*
- *Who is responsible for the Protocol's implementation? Is there a mechanism for intersectoral cooperation between water and health in the country?*
- *How was the process of setting targets organized or planned to be organized?*
- *What targets have been set or are being considered so far and why? What are the targets dates?*
- *How were the targets adopted and how are they followed up?*
- *Are the targets well designed to address the existing challenges?*
- *What are the lessons learned from the target setting process? What are the remaining challenges?*

- The implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in Hungary  
*Ms. Zsuzsanna Steindl-Kereks, Ministry of Rural Development, Hungary*

- The implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in Romania and related challenges  
*Mrs. Andreea Hârceag, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Romania*

- Target setting under the Protocol on Water and Health in Slovakia  
*Ms. Eva Kosorinova, Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic*

- Water and Health challenges and the progress towards ratification of the Protocol on Water and Health in Slovenia  
*Mr. Martin Kavka, Public Health Directorate, Ministry of Health, Slovenia*

## **13.30 – 14.30 Lunch break**

## **14.30 – 17.00 Session 3: Measures implemented to improve water and health and achieve the targets, including financing aspects**

*Moderator: Ms. Francesca Bernardini, UNECE*

Presentations from different countries on the measures implemented to achieve the targets, including the relationship with EU obligations, the economic analysis of the targets set and the needed measures, as well as financing aspects.

- Relationship of the Hungarian targets set under the Protocol on Water and Health with EU legislation  
*Mr. Mihaly Kadar, National Institute of Environmental Health*

- Implementation of related water and health legislation: Act on Public Water and Sanitation Supply Services in Hungary  
*Mr. László Vojtila, Hungarian Office of Energy*
- Financing of measures to address water and health issues in Romania  
*Mrs. Ana Drapa, Ministry of Environment and Forests of Romania*

**15.50 – 16.10 Coffee break**

- Economic analysis of measures to implement the Protocol on Water and Health in Slovakia  
*Mr. Boris Minarik, International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC)*
- Measures and interventions needed in the water and health sectors and how could the Protocol help in ensuring investments  
*Mr. Martin Kavka, Public Health Directorate, Ministry of Health, Slovenia*

**17.00 – 18.00 Session 4: How the Protocol's implementation can better serve the improvement of water and health**

*Moderator: Ms. Andrea Majovska, IWAC*

Participants will be divided into four groups with national stakeholders from each country. Each group will elect a moderators and rapporteur and discuss the following questions:

- *What kinds of measures are mostly being implemented in your country to improve water and health?*
- *Are measures implemented and targets set under the Protocol closely related and consistent?*
- *Are the remaining challenges well addressed? Which additional measures would be needed?*
- *How can the implementation of the Protocol further strengthen action on water and health issues?*
- *What needs to be done in your country to improve the implementation of the Protocol?*

**Wednesday, 9 May 2012**

**9.30 – 10.30 Session 4 (continued): How the Protocol's implementation can better serve the improvement of water and health**

- Reports from the rapporteurs and plenary discussion

**10.30 – 11.00 Coffee Break**

**11.00 – 12.45 Session 5: Specific water and health related issues**

*Moderator: Franziska Hirsch, UNECE*

This session will discuss through a series of short presentations and plenary discussions, specific areas of work under the Protocol, including:

- Surveillance of water-related disease  
*Ms. Franziska Hirsch, Secretariat to the Protocol on Water and Health, UNECE*
- Small scale water supplies and sanitation  
*Ms. Marta Vargha, National Institute of Public Health, Hungary*
- Equitable access to water and sanitation  
*Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Co-secretary to the Protocol on Water and Health, UNECE*

#### **12.45 – 14.00 Lunch break**

#### **14.00– 15.10 Session 5: Specific water and health related issues (continued)**

- Public participation under the Protocol on Water and Health  
*Ms. Ana Drapa, Ministry of Environment and Forests of Romania*
- Facilitation of public participation in the framework of the promotion of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) – Activities and means of the Global Water Partnership, Central and Eastern Europe (GWP-CEE)  
*Mr. Liviu Popescu, GWP-Romania*

#### **15.10 – 15.55 Session 6: Reporting under the Protocol – experiences and relation to EU and other international reporting obligations**

*Moderator: Ms. Andrea Májovská, Deputy Director, International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC)*

- The first reporting exercise under the Protocol on Water and Health: process, lessons learned and next steps  
*Ms. Francesca Bernardini, UNECE*
- Discussion on the experience of the first reporting exercise under the Protocol, lessons learned and ways and means to ensure synergies with EU and other international reporting obligations.

#### **15.55 – 16.30 Session 7: Workshop conclusions and recommendations**

*Moderator: Ms. Francesca Bernardini, UNECE*

- Discussion of the main conclusions and on possible next steps/follow up actions in implementing of the Protocol on Water and Health, both linked to national activities in the four countries as well as activities under the programme of work of the Protocol.
- Evaluation of the event, lessons learned for future similar events.
- Closure of the workshop.