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Third Session: Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health, Programme Area 7: Public Awareness, Access to Information and Public Participation

Guide to Public Participation

Activity under the Programme of Work 2011 - 2013 by Romania and WECF

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Purpose

- Assistance to Parties to comply with obligations related to public participation (PP)
- Support public authorities in exercising PP related obligations
- Assistance to Signatories and non-Parties to raise awareness of PWH and ensure public information
- Provide means to the public, NGOs and representatives of civil society to exercise their rights and obligations



Description of the Guide

Guidance on how to comply with obligations to ensure PP in implementing the Protocol:

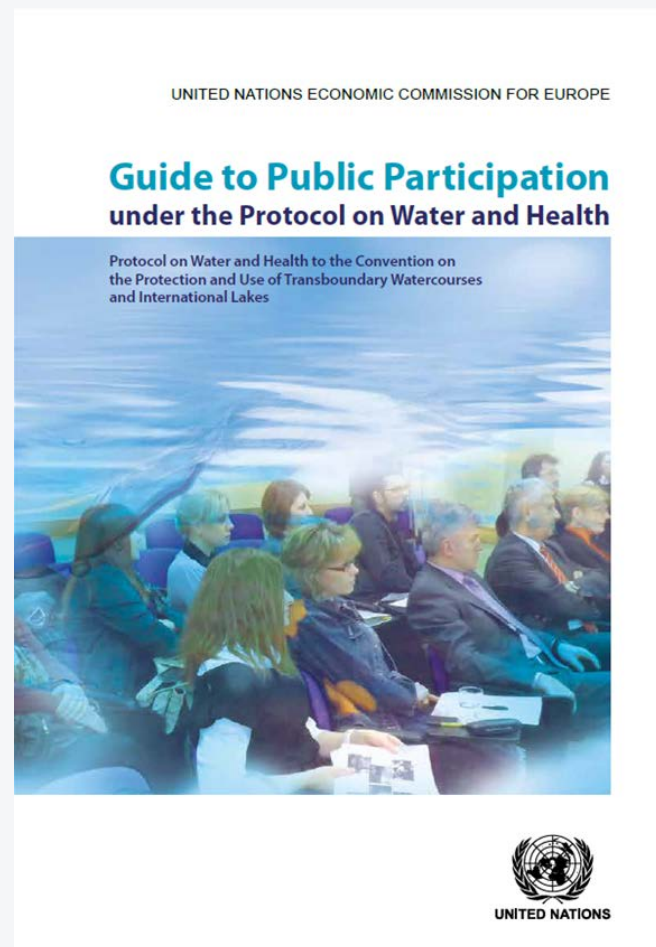
- Concrete recommendations and case studies
- Tools, measures and steps (beyond required standards)
- Reference to existing guidance (in particular re Aarhus Convention)



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Content

- I. Cornerstones of PP
- II. PP under the Protocol – General Aspects
- III. PP under specific provisions of the Protocol
- IV. Tool Box





Key Messages

- PP has to be ensured when implementing the Protocol's provisions (art. 6.2, 6.5, 11 to 14 and 7.5)
- PP process requires institutional arrangements
- Cost, time and human resources are important factors
- Information provision lies within responsibility of public authorities
- Setting of time frames requires flexible approach
- "Taking into due account" is a legal obligation
- Tools of PP vary according to the purpose



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Thank you!

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