

The UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health:

Its main obligations and the status of implementation

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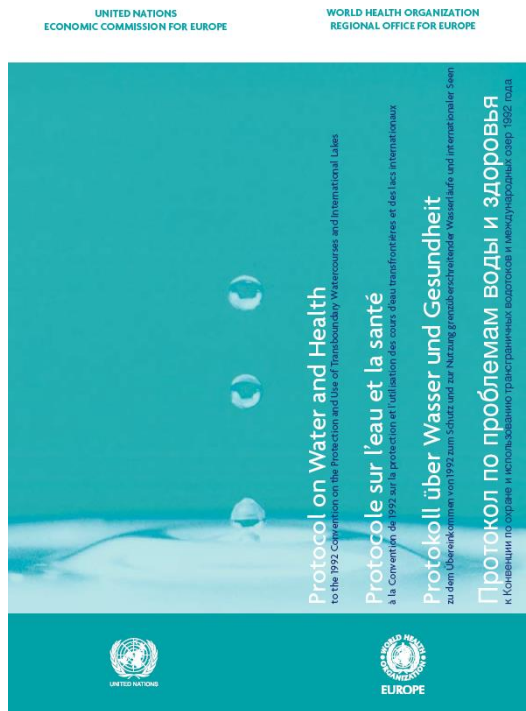
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Why a treaty to manage water resources and prevent water-related diseases ?

- In the European Region, poor-quality drinking-water causes over 13 000 deaths from diarrhoea among children aged 0–14 years (5.3% of all deaths in this age group) each year
- 19 million people still do not have access to improved water sources and 67 million people lack access to improved sanitation facilities in the pan-European region
- Inequalities rise: in the Caucasus and Central Asia, 22% of the rural population lacks access to improved drinking-water sources as opposed to only 4% of urban dwellers
- 71% of the rural population lacks access to piped water on premises, compared to 16% in urban areas
- Overuse, pollution, extreme weather events affect water resources

The Protocol on Water and Health



The world's only legal treaty designed to reduce water-related deaths and diseases through improved water management

A practical instrument to achieve water-related MDGs and implement the human right to water and sanitation

Key objectives:

- (a) Access to drinking water for everyone and
- (b) Provision of sanitation for everyone

Objectives

(a) Access to drinking water for everyone and

(b) Provision of sanitation for everyone

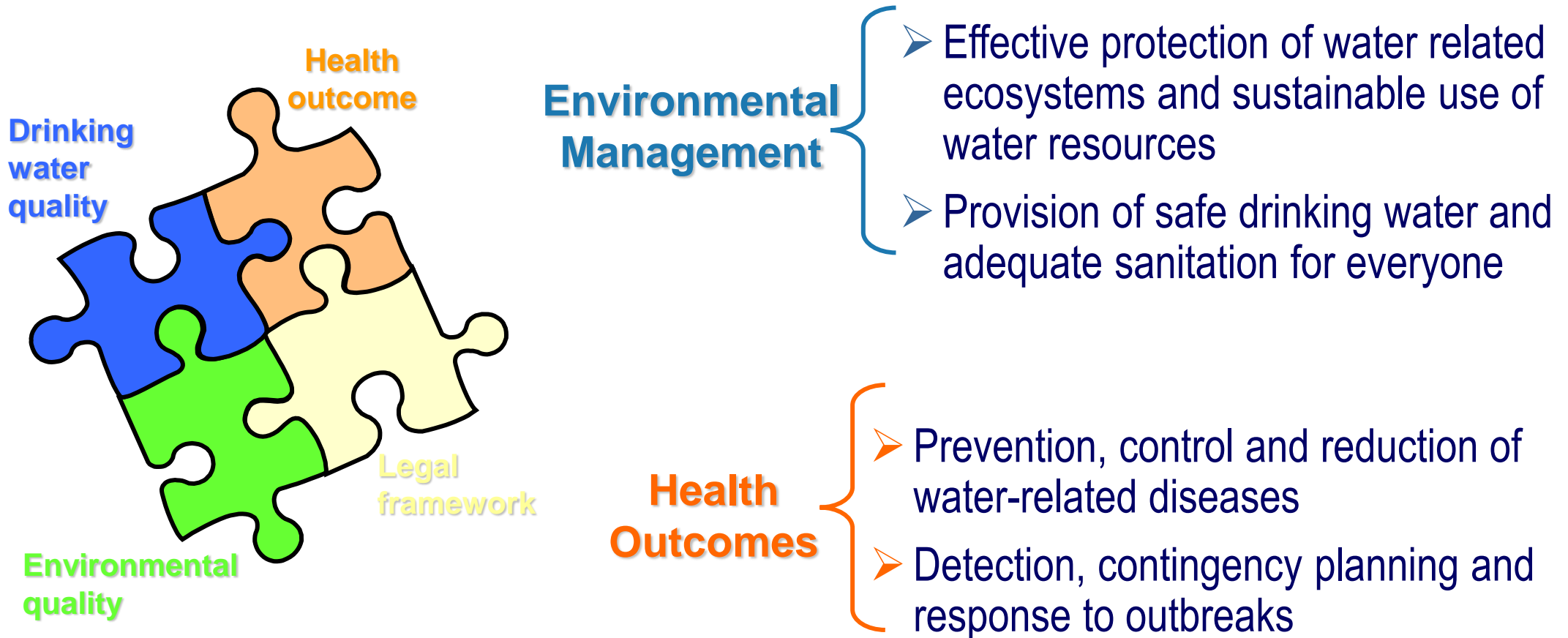
=> Focus on sustainable development and MDGs, beyond MDG 7, target 10

=> framework for implementing the human right to water and poverty reduction – UN GA and UN HRC resolutions

⇒ focus on governance, integration of policies and on cooperation

⇒ tool to implementation future water and health related SDGs

Goal: Protect human health and well being by better management of water resources



.. beyond water and health sectors

The bottlenecks in addressing these problems often occur beyond the purview of the water and health sectors.

- They lie in the formulation and implementation of policies;
- The effectiveness of institutions and the arrangements between them;
- The translation of political will into action;
- The allocation of resources at national and international level; and
- The capacity of countries.

Scope

Costal and estuarine waters



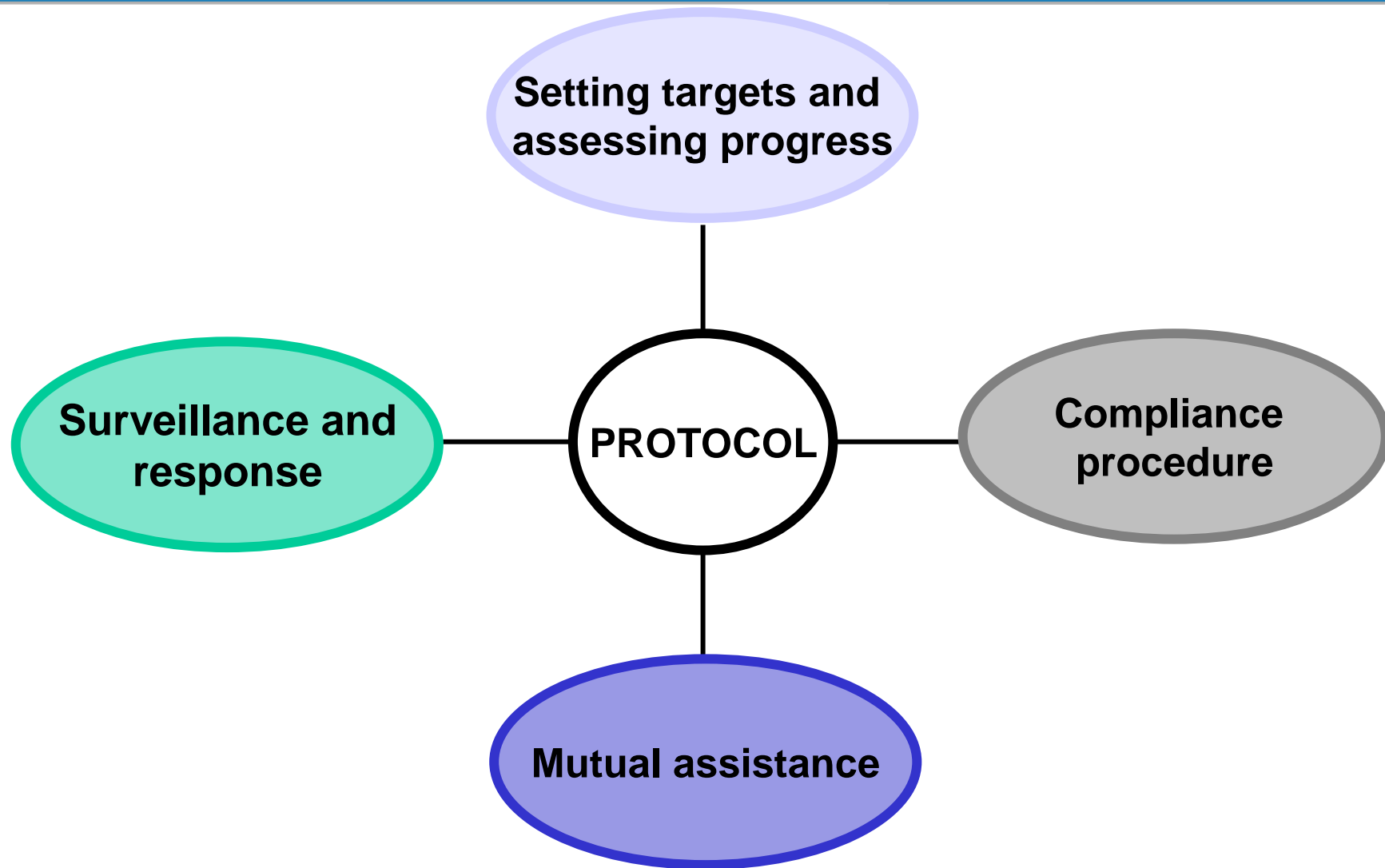
Surface waters

Water during abstraction, transport, treatment and supply



Wastewater collection, transport, treatment, discharge, reuse

How the Protocol works: its 4 pillars



Setting targets and measuring progress

DECLARE TARGETS

- Water supply and sanitation
- Water management
- Health protection

SET DATES

Within 2 years of becoming a Party, each country sets and publishes targets, and dates for achieving them

REVIEW PROGRESS

Parties:

- collect and evaluate data
- publish results
- review progress
- provide summary reports

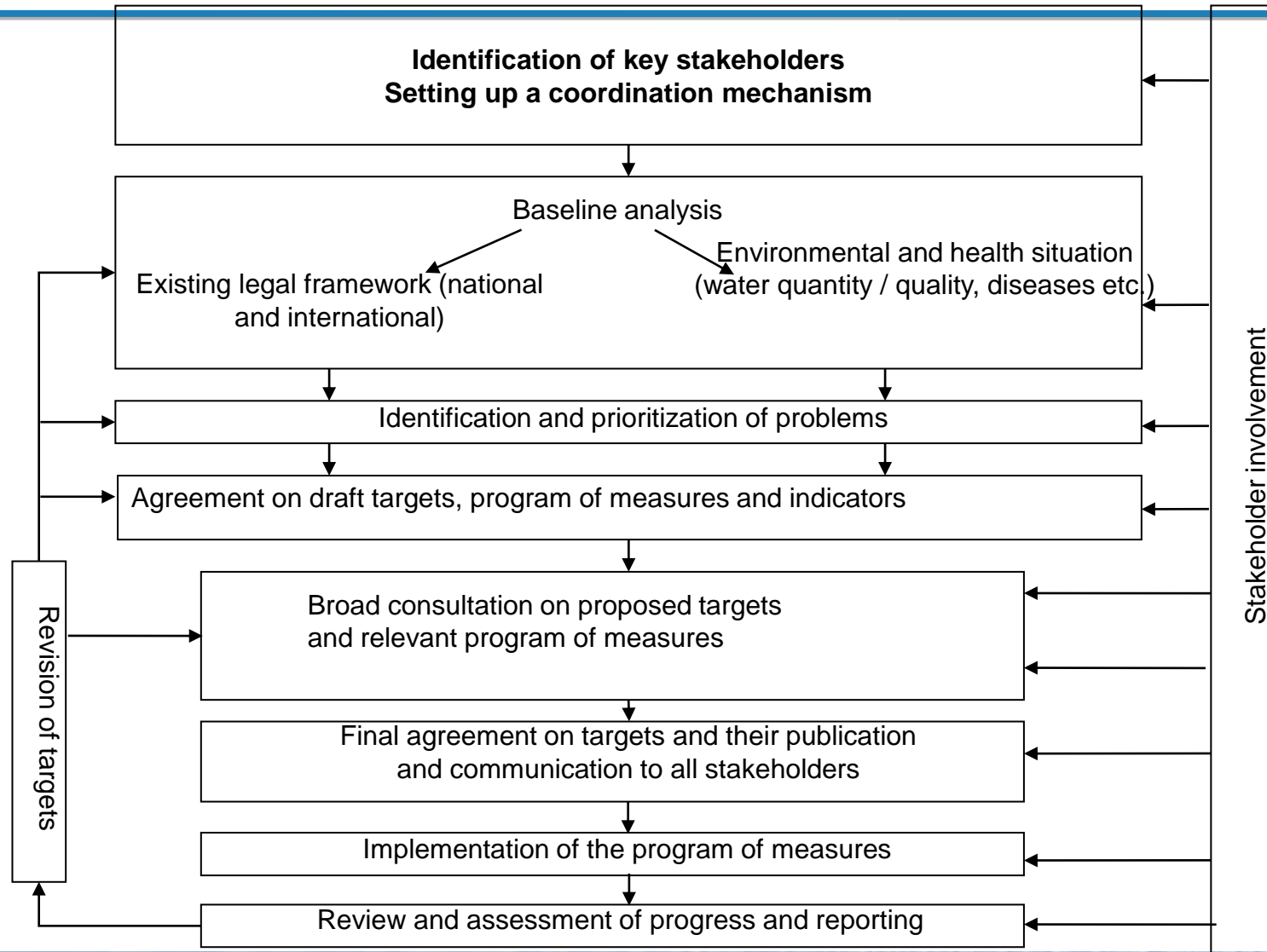
EVALUATE

MOP evaluate progress in implementation

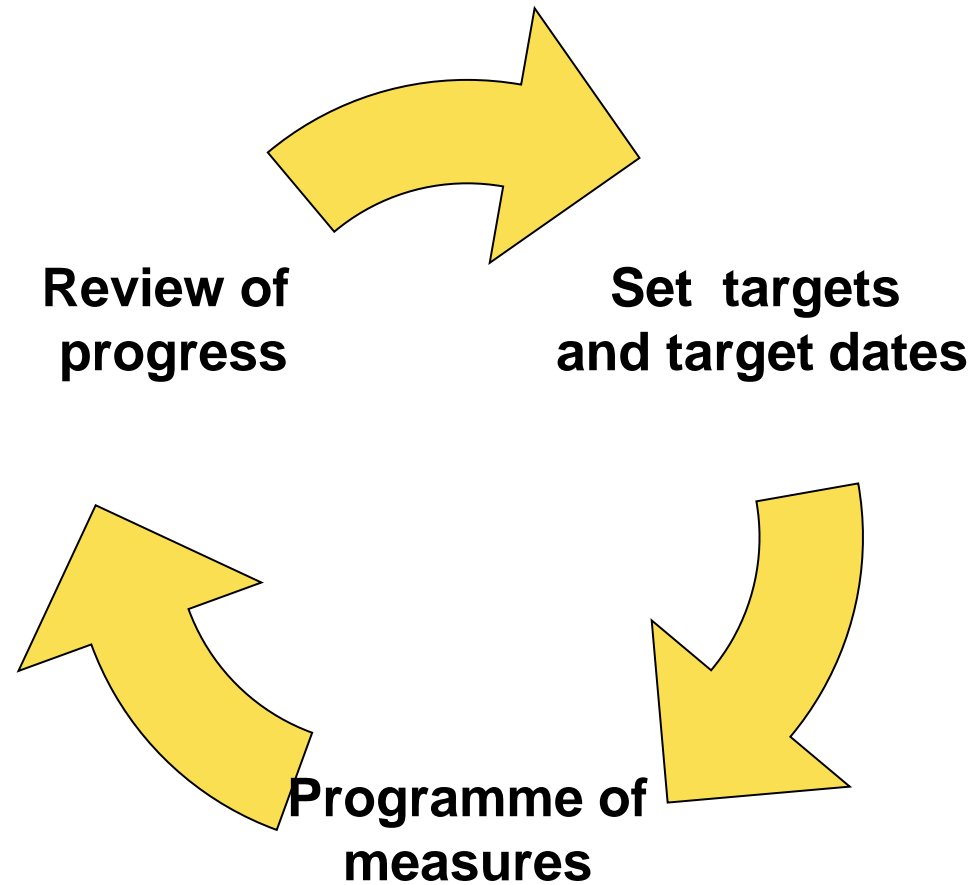
Target setting areas



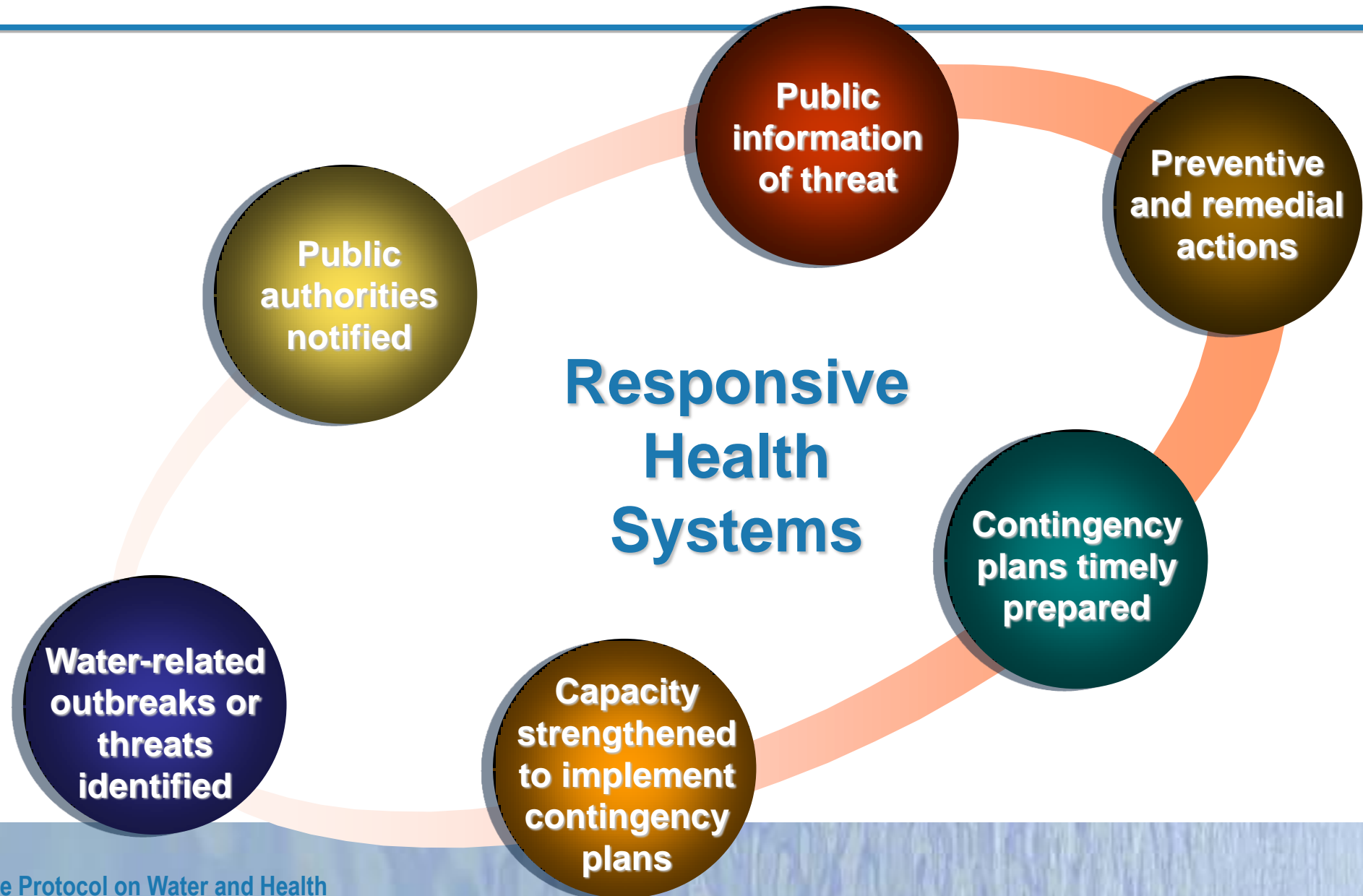
Process of setting targets at national level



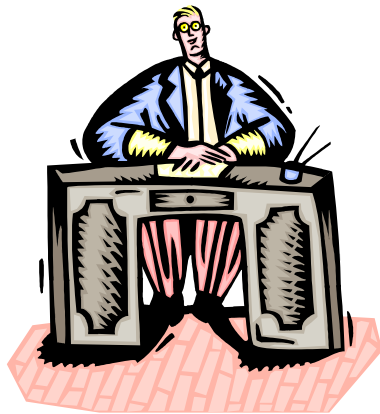
Progressive and continuous action



Establish systems for surveillance and control of water-related disease



Assistance tools

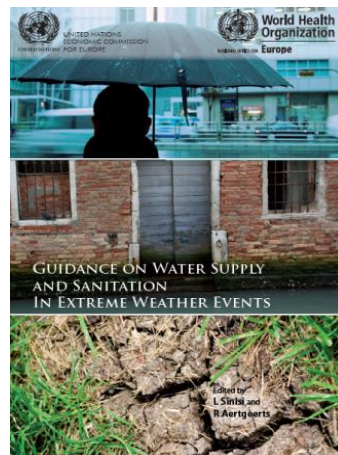
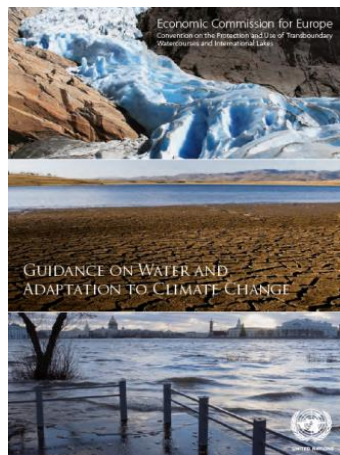
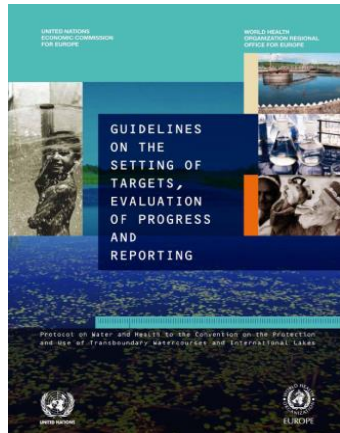


Compliance
Committee



Mutual assistance

Guidance materials



- Guidelines on the setting of targets, evaluation of progress and reporting under the Protocol
- Scorecard on equitable access
- Guide to Public Participation
- Small-scale water supplies in the pan-European region
- Guidance on water and adaptation to climate change
- Guidance on water supply and sanitation in extreme weather events
- No one left behind. Good practices to ensure equitable access

Advantages to work on the basis of the Protocol

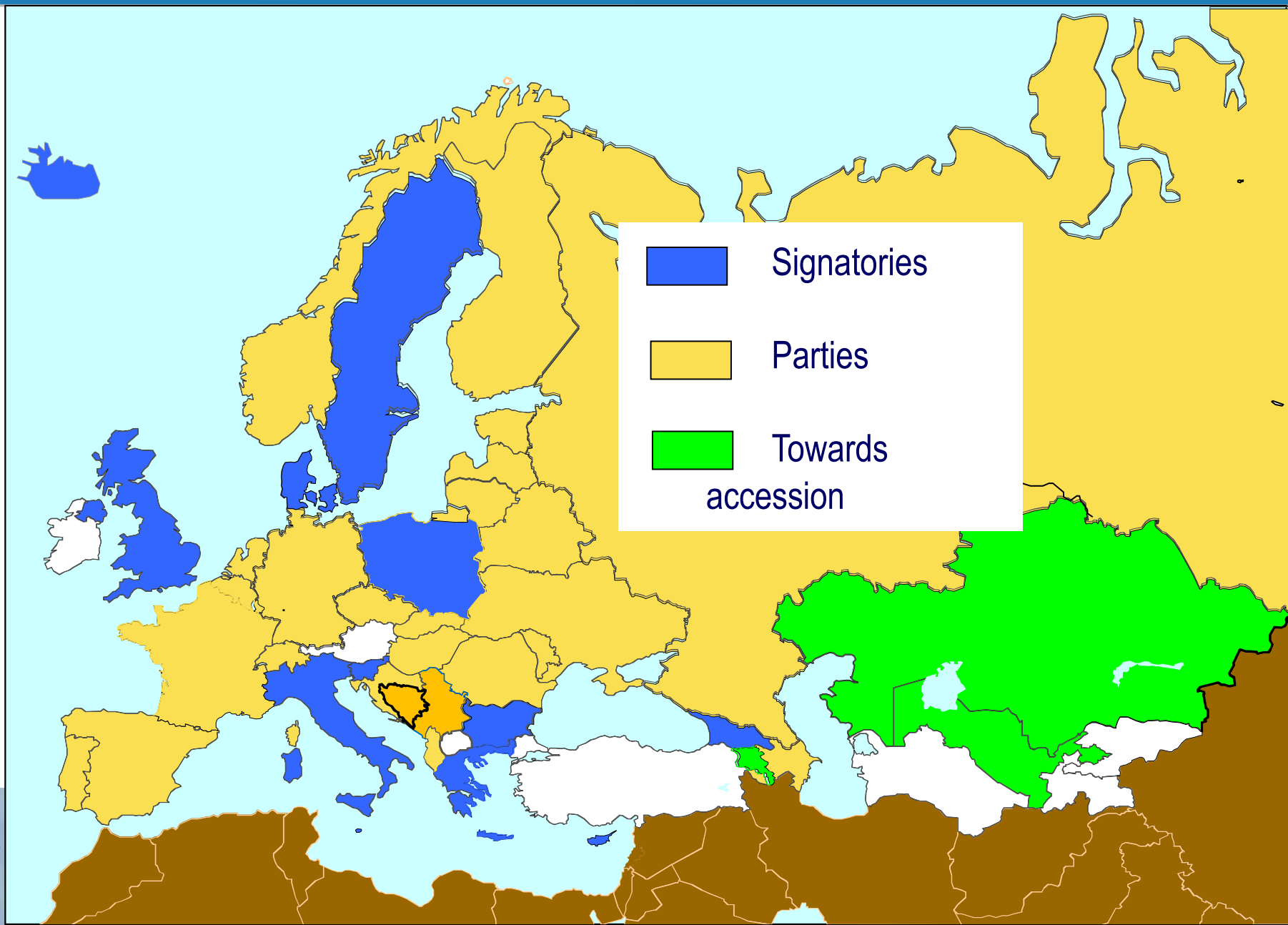
- ✓ Requires political commitment but is also a powerful framework to generate it
- ✓ Legally binding => ensures long-term perspective and forms a basis for improved regulatory environment
- ✓ Designed to support continuous progress with pace and objectives tailored to countries' priorities and capacities
- ✓ Measurable targets
- ✓ Reporting to public and to MOP

Status of ratification

Adopted in
1999 by 36
countries

Entered into
force in 2005

Currently has
26 Parties



Status of implementation

- Most Parties have initiated the process of target setting:
 - Setting up coordination mechanisms
 - Conducting baseline analysis
 - Establishing first draft targets, Consulting the public on these
- 9 Parties have completed the process of target setting in the main areas stipulated by the Protocol
- 23 out of 26 Parties submitted their national reports in 2013 and 3 non-Parties
- EU countries: synergies and complementarities with EU legislation

Status of implementation and remaining challenges

- Significant progress achieved, especially in access to water
- Challenges remain, in particular with regard to:
 - Rural areas: Access to safe water and adequate sanitation, quality aspects, hygiene, performance
 - Poverty
 - Small-scale water supplies and sanitation
 - Climate change impacts such as extreme weather events
 - Wastewater treatment and discharges of untreated wastewater

Status of implementation and remaining challenges

- Institutional challenges:
 - Setting targets is a challenge for countries as it confronts governance inadequacies
 - Sustained cooperation amongst Ministries of health, environment, agriculture, economy, finance,...
 - Cooperation between governmental authorities and NGOs
- Securing funds for the implementation of the follow up programme of measures
- Mobilizing more political attention – MOP-3 helped in this

www.euro.who.int/watsan

www.unece.org/env/water