

# European Environment and Health Process (EHP)

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# The European Environment and Health Process (EHP)

- \* In **1989** WHO together with the partners launched a process to eliminate the most significant environmental threats to human health
- \* Progress towards this goal is marked by a series of **Ministerial Conferences** held every five to seven years
- \* The Conferences bring together **Ministers of Health** and **Ministers of Environment** to shape European policies and actions on the protection human health from environmental impacts

# EHP Conferences

Adoption of  
**Protocol on Water and Health**



**Parma Declaration:**  
Focus on children's health  
RPG 1 on water and sanitation

# Parma Declaration:

Protecting children's health in a changing environment

- \* **Regional Priority Goal 1:** Ensuring public health by improving access to safe water and sanitation:  
*“We will strive to provide **each child** with access to **safe water and sanitation** in homes, child care centres, kindergartens, schools, health care institutions and public recreational water settings **by 2020**, and to revitalize **hygiene practices**.”*
- \* Reference to **Protocol on Water and Health** as policy instrument for implementation

# Preparatory process towards 6<sup>th</sup> MC

Ostrava, 13-15 June 2017

**Policy process**  
to identify and  
negotiate commitments  
and targets in the  
declaration

**6 MC**

**Consultative process**  
to identify and frame  
issues in environment  
and health of relevance  
in the 21st century

# Achieving SDGs and Health 2020



# Conference commitments under discussion

1. Achieving environmental sustainability of health systems
2. **Ensuring safe and sustainable water and sanitation for all**
3. Improving air quality
4. Making European cities environmentally sustainable and resilient to global environmental change
5. Reducing waste and pollution in the transition to a circular economy
6. Strengthening resilience to climate change
7. Promoting chemical safety

# Preparatory process

- \* European Environment and Health Task Force (EHTF) oversees preparatory process
- \* Mid-Term Review (Haifa, Apr 2015) and 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of EHTF (Skopje, Nov 2015) broadly confirmed:
  - \* **Water, sanitation, hygiene and health remains a relevant priority in the pan-European region**
  - \* **Important role of legal multilateral instruments: Protocol**
- \* 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of EHTF (Vienna, 29-30 Nov 2016)



# Outcome document

- \* Ministerial Declaration focusing on strategic matters
  - \* **Annex I: Implementation plan, including proposals for concrete commitments on water, sanitation, hygiene and health**
  - \* Annex II: Future EHP institutional arrangements
- \* Protocol is invited to contribute and suggest commitments
- \* 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health (Geneva, June 2016) supported **three pillars**

# Proposed pillar 1

## **A commitment towards ratification of the Protocol by all Member States that have not yet done so:**

- \* Reinststate the importance of the Protocol as the prime internationally binding instrument in the pan-European Region to progressively achieve regional and global commitments in water and sanitation
- \* Translate and operationalize the ambitions of 2030 Agenda into specific national targets and action plans
- \* Make reference to the substantive priorities identified under the programme of work for 2017-2019

# Proposed pillar 2

## **A vitalizing recall of RPG 1 to provide each child with access to safe WASH at home and all institutional settings**

- \* Encourage all Member States to accelerate their efforts towards meeting RPG 1 by 2020
- \* Programme of work for 2017-2019 strongly supports the attainment of RPG 1 with its emphasis on institutional WASH, safe management of water and sanitation services and equitable access to such services

# Proposed pillar 3

## A new regional commitment

### **to address the sustainability of water resources and climate resilience of water and sanitation services**

- \* Roots in water-food-energy-climate change nexus
- \* Responds to global change (urbanization, climate change)
- \* Addresses long-term availability and quality of freshwater resources and safe drinking-water
- \* Focuses on emerging patterns (reuse) and linkages to other sectors (agriculture/food) and the possible implications on human health and the water environment