

The Protocol on Water and Health

A scenic view of a river flowing through a lush green landscape under a blue sky with white clouds. The river is the central focus, reflecting the sky and the surrounding greenery. The banks are lined with dense trees and grassy fields.

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*Joint Secretariat of the Protocol
on Water and Health*

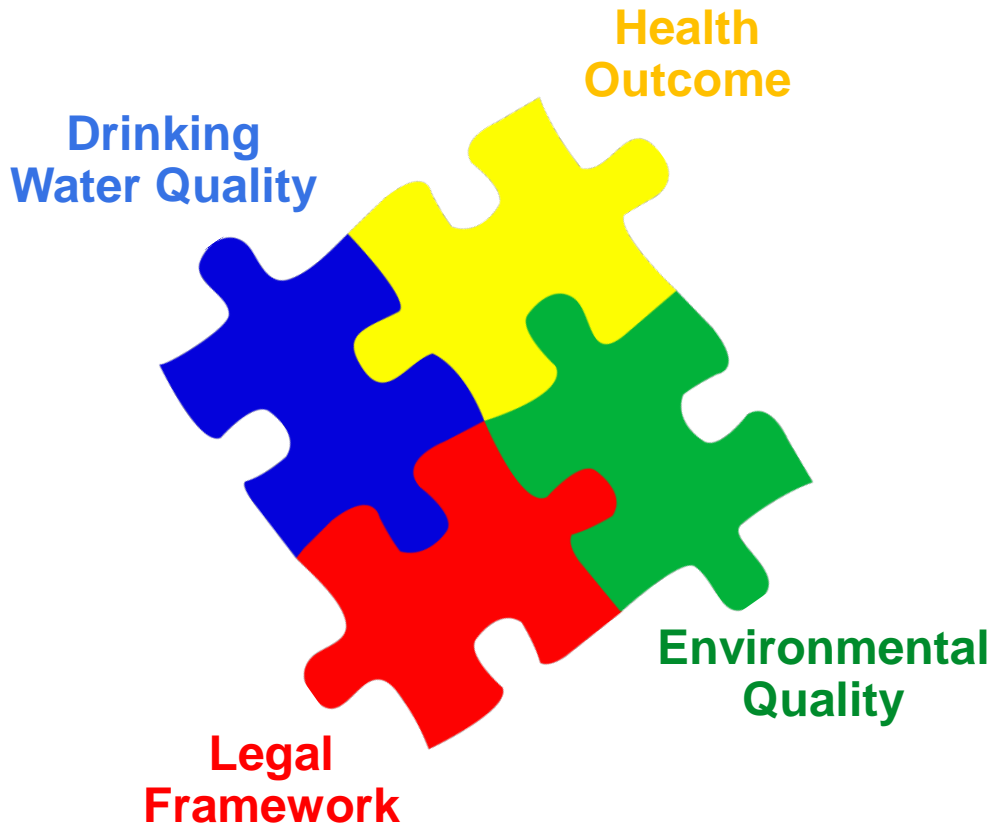
Aims & Benefits

The Protocol on Water and Health



- A multilateral environmental agreement for the pan-European region
- It is the world's first legal treaty designed to reduce water-related deaths and diseases through improved water management
- Done in 1999, entry into force: 2005
- 36 signatories
- 26 countries are Parties to the Protocol

The Protocol's goal is achieved through 4 entwined outcomes



Environmental Management

Effective protection of water related ecosystems and sustainable use of water resources

Provision of adequate supplies of wholesome drinking water

Health Outcomes

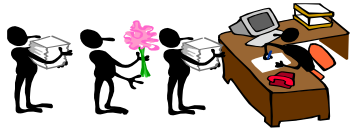
Prevention, control and reduction of water-related diseases

Detection, contingency planning and response to outbreaks

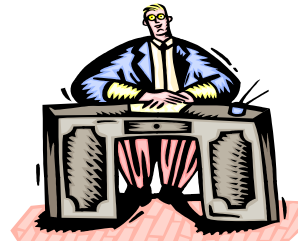
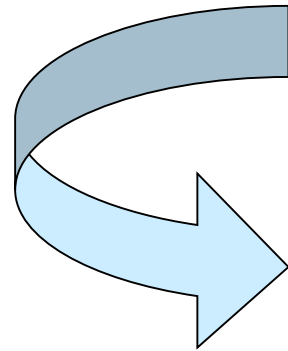
How does the Protocol function?



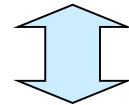
Meeting of the Parties (MOP)



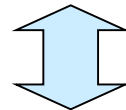
Compliance Committee



Bureau

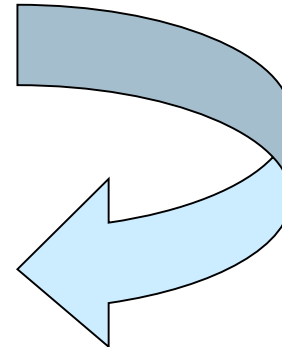


Working Group on Water and Health



Joint Secretariat

UNECE & WHO Regional Office for Europe



- Task Force Surveillance
- Task Force on Target-setting and Reporting
- Expert Group on Equitable Access

Parties to the Protocol benefit from its Institutional framework



- When a country becomes a Party to the Protocol, it also becomes «their» Protocol:
 - Take decisions at the meeting of the Parties and the Working Group
 - Shape the Programme of Work
 - Take on formal roles in bodies of the Protocol
 - Bureau Member
 - Lead party
 - (Co-)Chair of task forces, working group, meeting of the Parties
 - Submit nominations for the compliance committee
 - Work closely with secretariat, receive support for implementation

Exchange of experience, foster collaboration with other Parties and Non-Parties



The Protocol addresses the main challenges with a chain of support activities



Strengthening political commitment for long-term impact

Evidence

Guidance

Capacity

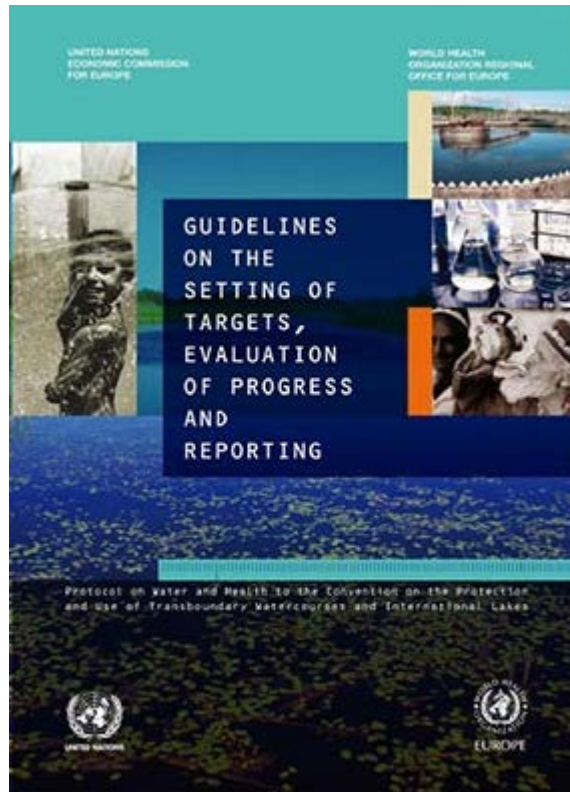
Setting targets

Assistance to implementation

Parties benefit from setting targets – an obligation under the Protocol



- Time-bound targets to improve the situation on of water, sanitation, health and environment set according to countries needs, priorities and capacities.



**Forthcoming Publication:
How to align target-setting
under the Protocol with
setting national targets for
the Sustainable
Development Goals**

Why should a country join the Protocol? (1)



- The Protocol is a legally binding framework agreement:
 - It is up to the countries to translate its legal provisions into the reality of greater access to safe water and improved sanitation
- Forms a basis for an improved regulatory environment
- Financial implications resulting from ratification are voluntary and modest
- The Protocol fosters international partnership

Why should a country join the Protocol? (2)



- Offers a basis for interdepartmental cooperation in national, regional and local governments
- Increases inter-sector partnership and coordination between environment and health policies
- The Protocol calls for a holistic approach
 - Fosters implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Acceding to the Protocol presents a long-term commitment to improving the water and sanitation situation



Thank you!

<http://unece.org/env/water>

